

A Contribution to the History of Health Services in Split

Ljubomir Kraljević, Srđan Boschi, Damir Sapunar

Split Branch of the Zagreb School of Medicine, Split, Croatia

Abstract. Palace of Diocletian contained a temple dedicated to Aesculapius at the beginning of the fourth century. The statute of the city of Split from the Middle Ages, among other matters, defines the rights and wages of physicians and pharmacists. Almshouses and leper hospitals are mentioned already in the 14th century. Numerous plague epidemics resulted in building of one of the largest lazarets in the world in 1592. The regional hospital for soldiers and sailors was founded in Split in 1657. The Ergovac hospital, the first regular hospital, was built in 1792. It functioned on the same location until 1976, when it was moved to the new complex on Firule. Study of Medicine started developing in 1792; Jakov Mirković Živković drew up the first plan for the foundation of a School of Medicine. His project was realized in 1806 in Trogir. Numerous medical institutions and a modern study of medicine exist in present-day Split.

Key words: history of medicine; lazaret; Split; study of medicine

*The history of mankind has left its trace on the medical history as well. Thus, if history is called *magistra vitae*, history of medicine can rightfully be named *magistra medici*, teacher of physicians (1).*

Lavoslav Glesinger, 1972.

temple of Ianus (6). In 1957, it was established that three small temples existed east of the Peristyle (5,6). The majority of experts believe that the square temple was dedicated to Aesculapius (2,4-11).

The Roman Times

Around year 295, in the place of an older palace or a temple, the Roman emperor Gaius Aurelius Valerius Diocletian, from Salona or its surroundings, built a luxurious villa and a fortified camp, known as Palace of Diocletian (2-8). About year 300, a Peristyle flanked by a monumental mausoleum in the east and three temples of traditional Roman gods in the west, was built within the Palace walls (9, Figs. 1 A-C). According to Toma Archidjakon, the Palace of Diocletian had three temples: Jouis, Asclepii and Martis (9), while Antonio Proculian states that there were four temples: the southern, round temple, dedicated to Cybele, the corner-temple dedicated to Venus, the octagonal temple dedicated to Jupiter and the square

The Middle Ages

The first statute of the city of Split, the so called *Capitularium*, was written by the order of the mayor, Ancona nobleman Gargano de Arscinidisa, as early as 1240. Another statute, drawn by potestas Percevalus, son of Ivan from Fermo (13), was passed by the Big City Council of Split in 1312. Neither the *Capitularium* nor the statute of Split survived as original documents to our times. Luckily, numerous copies and revisions of the statute (from 1333, 1336, 1367, 1385) were preserved (13,14).

A text on physicians' wages and a prohibition of unions of physicians and pharmacists can be discerned from the facsimile of the Split statute from 1312 (13).

There is little data on the existence and functioning of almshouses and hospitals over the past six cen-

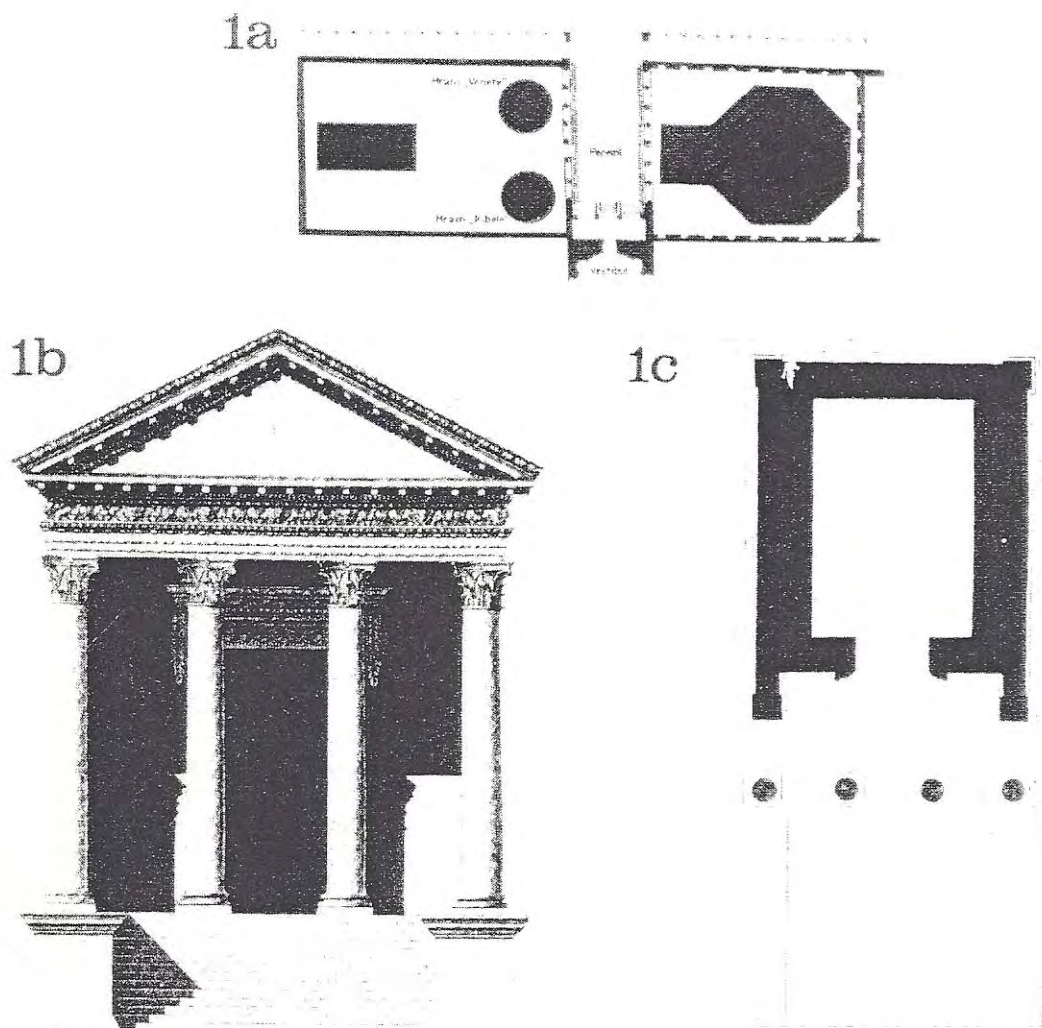


Figure 1. Location of temples in Palace of Diocletianus (1A lower case), front of the temple of Aesculapius (1B lower case) and ground-plan (1C lower case).

turies, but there is no doubt that they existed under various names (15-18). As early as 1347, *Domus hospitalis Sancti Johannis Jerosolimitani* is mentioned in a document, while along with a leper hospital, a hospital for the poor, *Ospectale del poveri*, is mentioned in 1439 (15,16).

In 1682 the Split archbishop Cosmi writes about a hospital for poor citizens (*Hospitalis proximae pauperum cuiusvis usui destinata*) run by the Brotherhood of the Holy Ghost. In 1683, Cosmi mentions that there used to be a hospital for the poor (*prope quam olim erat Domus hospitalis pro pauperum leprosis*) by the church of St. Lazarus and Mary Magdalene in Varoš (15,16). Books of the Council of Noblemen from 1683 record discussions on the wages of the hospital physician (*il salario del Publico Hospital*; refs. 15,16).

Records from 1698 testify that the Split bishop Stjepan Cupili took particular interest in patients in Split hospitals (*all' assistenza spirituale degl' infermi negli spedali*), which indirectly confirms that there were more than one hospital in Split (15,16).

June 26, 1704, general commissioner Marin Zanu founded Cosmi's home for foundlings (*pro infantibus derelictis et expositis*). The institution, later called *Ospedale di bastardelli*, was located between the Cathedral and the Church of St. Phillip (15,16).

The military hospital in Split is mentioned for the first time in 1657 (*d' un hospitale nella plaza di Spalato per solevo delle milizie*; 18) and later in the Split Council of Noblemen in 1699 (*ospitale di queste milizie*). In 1712 the hospital for sick soldiers is mentioned again (*Est hospitalis Domus pro milibus infirmis*; 16).

In the time of the big plague epidemics in 1784, five improvised hospitals with 613 patients are mentioned in Split. Four of them were on land: St. Stephen, Capogrosso, Varoš and Lučac, while one was located on an anchored galley in the Split harbor (8).

The word *Ospedale* (hospital) was written on the building of the Split vicarage. Therefore, we can presume that in the 18th century the Hospital Academy was located in the building of the Ilirian Academy, founded in 1703 in Split (16).

Towards the Modern Age

The Lazaret

Ever since the third century lepers and others suffering from contagious diseases were isolated in leprosaria. The plague or the Black Death, advancing from the East towards the West, took about 25 million lives in 1347. In an attempt to fight the plague and save the trade activities in the region, the Senate and the Big Council of Dubrovnik founded the first quarantine in Cavtat and Mrkan on July 23, 1377. The institution of quarantine became generally accepted in the world as the basis of plague prevention.

Between 1348 and 1815, thirteen plague epidemics raged in Split (in 1348, 1360, 1420, 1456, 1526, 1572, 1607, 1731, 1732, 1763, 1764, 1784, 1815). On several occasions they caused death of 50% of the population. During the 1526 epidemics 6,000 people of 10,000 population died while 250 houses burned down. When the Turks attacked Split in 1572 a new plague epidemics appeared. Epidemics were always accompanied by hunger, disease, looting, murders and other criminal activities.

The end of the 15th and the beginning of the 16th century is the time of the poet and philosopher Marko Marulić and sculptor and constructor Juraj Dalmatinac. Their age is characterized by the development of culture and art. However, it is also the beginning of the immediate danger of the Turkish conquest; the Turks were close to Split, they seized the fortress on Klis and entered Solin (8).

Split was under Venetian rule for four centuries, but still retained a strong autonomy. It belonged to the

group of small and highly civilized European centers with communal and private physicians, mostly educated in Padua. Although the living conditions were very difficult, the people of Split worked hard on the development of their city into a trade center. In 1578, the Split Jew Daniel Rodriga proposed to the authorities in Venice to establish a trade ferry line which would take on the main part of the trade between the East and the West (19-23).

In spite the fact that almost all the people of Split, together with their prince Loredano, were against the building of the Lazaret, the Venetian Senate chose a site in Split and ensured funds for the construction which started in 1581. Lack of financial means stopped the construction. However, the Government in Venice decided to make Split a first-rate trade harbor with a big lazaret. Daniel Rodrigo was sent back to Split to work on the project. Already in 1592 one of the largest lazarets in the world was opened in Split (Figs. 2,3a). Building of the Lazaret was financed by the state, the Split authorities and numerous owners of private businesses (19-23).

During the following 55 years (1592-1647), the Lazaret was widened and new parts were added to the original building. The sequence of works is best seen on the blueprint of the military architect Josip Santini from 1666. The front of the Lazaret was more than 250 meters long. With high walls and three towers it could also serve as a fortress. The building itself was long and low, not competing with the looks of Palace of Diocletian. L. F. Cassas, who made a picture of the Lazaret in 1782, claimed that it was the most beautiful building of the kind in Europe (24,25).

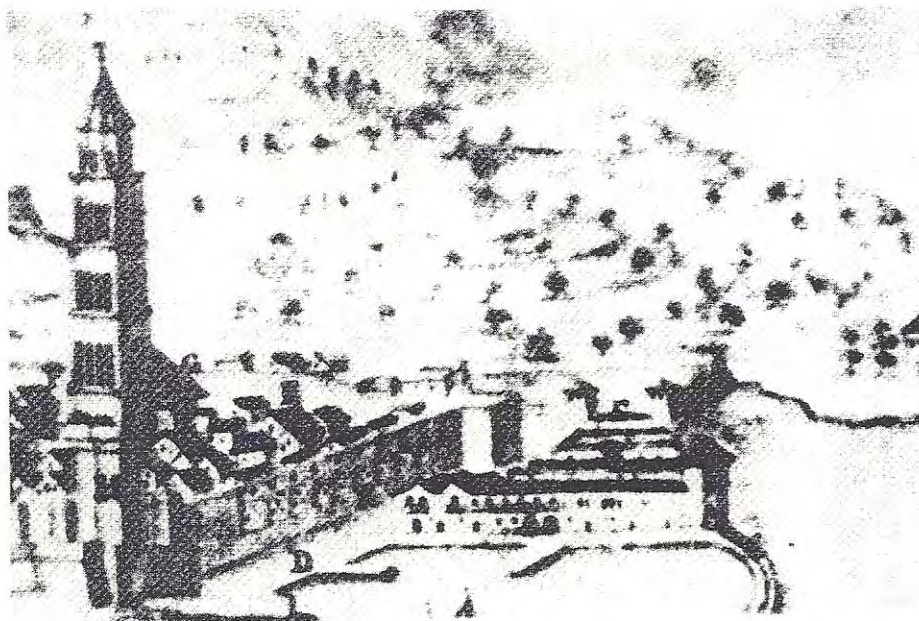


Figure 2. The Split Lazaret (Juster G, 1708).

The Former Military Hospital

During the Kandija War (1648-1669), general Foscolo, heading a large army, seized Klis and drove the Turks away. Venice regained its strategic advantages in Dalmatia. The newly elected general governor of Dalmatia, Antonio Bernardo, ordered building of the city walls and two fortresses, *Gripe* and *Bačvice*. April 13, 1657, by his decree a military hospital for the needs of soldiers and sailors of Split, Trogir, Klis and Omiš was founded. Alvizio Maletti was appointed head of the hospital, provided that his work was supervised by his experienced and deserving father, Antonio Maletti. As far as we know, this was the first military hospital in Split. It was situated near the Church of the Holy Ghost, in the place of a workhouse and hospital for the poor. The chief physician was experienced Juda Lambroso (18). Detailed data on the work of the hospital in 1657 do not exist.

The young and inexperienced head Maletti was replaced by Ivan Bomparo. Due to the difficult situation in Split, the general governor Antonio Priuli transferred the hospital to a better, but to us unknown location. John the Baptist Bocis was appointed head of

the hospital. The Military Hospital in Split city maps from 1708 to 1800 is placed by the outer side of the eastern wall of Palace of Diocletianus (Figs. 3a,3b). It is mentioned under the names of *Quartieri* (1708), *Casarne S Dominique* (1790), *Ospedale pub e Quartieri* (1790) and *Spitali* (1792, 1798, 1800; refs. 8,18).

From 1797 to 1817 the Military Hospital was located in the civil hospital of the Ergovac brothers (15,16).

From 1817 till the end of World War II, the Military hospital was located in the Benedictine monastery by the northern wall of Palace of Diocletian under the names: *Militari Spital St. Rainerio* and *Milit Spital* (8,18). During the Italian occupation (1941-43) it served as the Italian Military Hospital. The Italian Military Hospital also took up a part of the Split seminary and held it until the fall of Italy in 1943 (25).

After the entrance of the national liberation army into Split, a part of the hospital of the 8th corps moved from Hvar to the present-day Institute of Marine Sciences, while the other part moved to Nehaj in the village of Kaštel Štafilic. In 1946, the Navy Hospital moved from Vis into the Split seminary. The

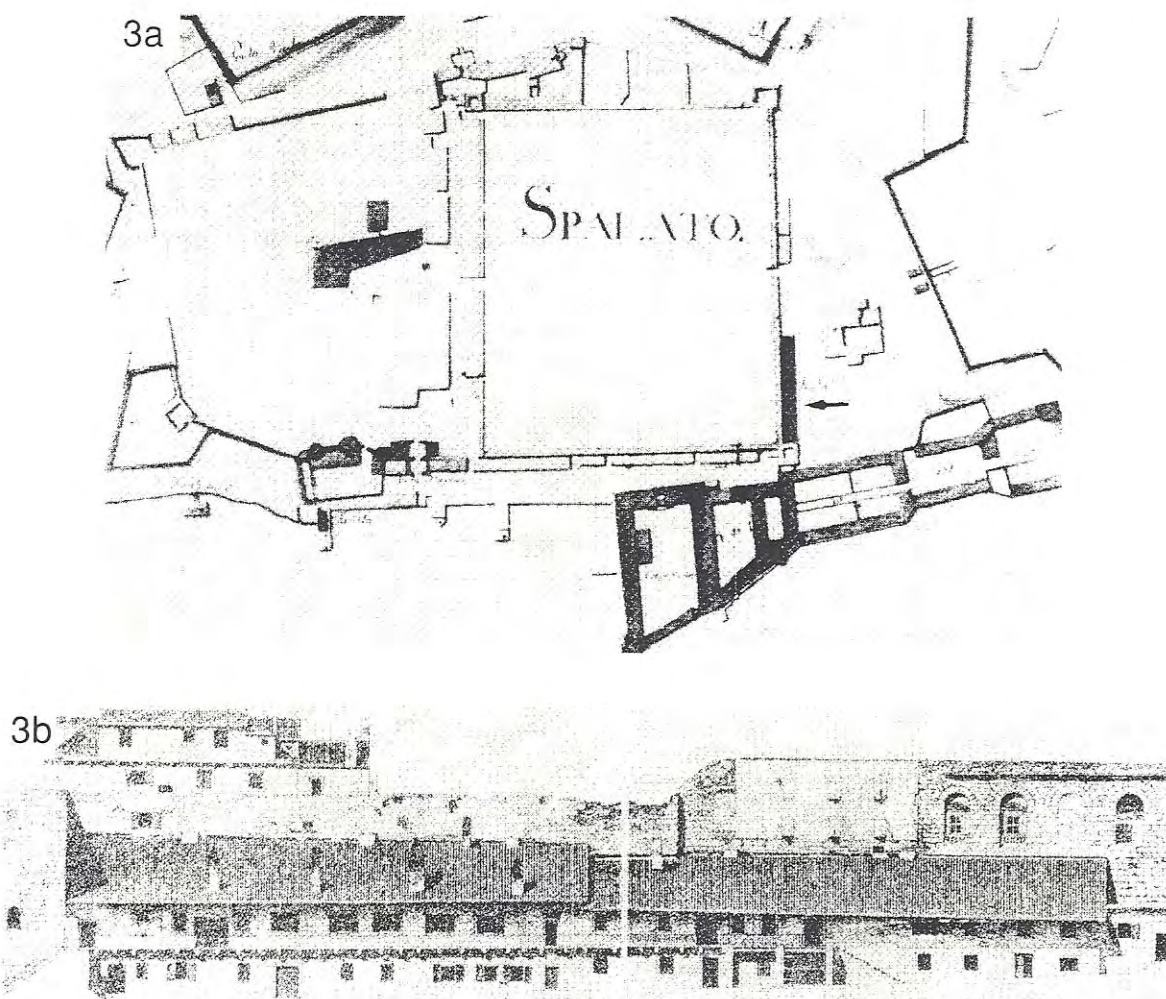


Figure 3. Split city map from the 18th century with the exact location of the Military Hospital, *Spital* (5A). View of the south part of Palace of Diocletian and the Military Hospital (5B).

hospital further developed into the Navy Medical Center. The Center, together with the Military Hospital *Izidor Perera Matić*, Institute of Maritime Medicine, the Recruitment Center and the Pharmacy moved to the new hospital complex on Firule in 1966 (26,27).

The Hospital had 450 beds and 11 departments (surgery, otorhinology, ophthalmology, neuropsychiatry, dermatovenerology, infectious diseases, transfusiology, physical therapy, anesthesiology, a central intensive care unit and radiology). Joint services of the hospital were the polyclinic, the dissecting room,

laboratories, pharmacy, library, first aid station, boiler room and various workshops.

During the Croatian liberation war, on September 19, 1991, the Hospital became Croatian Navy Hospital, and in 1992 a civil hospital.

Since 1974, together with the Institute of Maritime Medicine, the Hospital has been serving as a University hospital for undergraduate and postgraduate education of Split students of medicine (26).

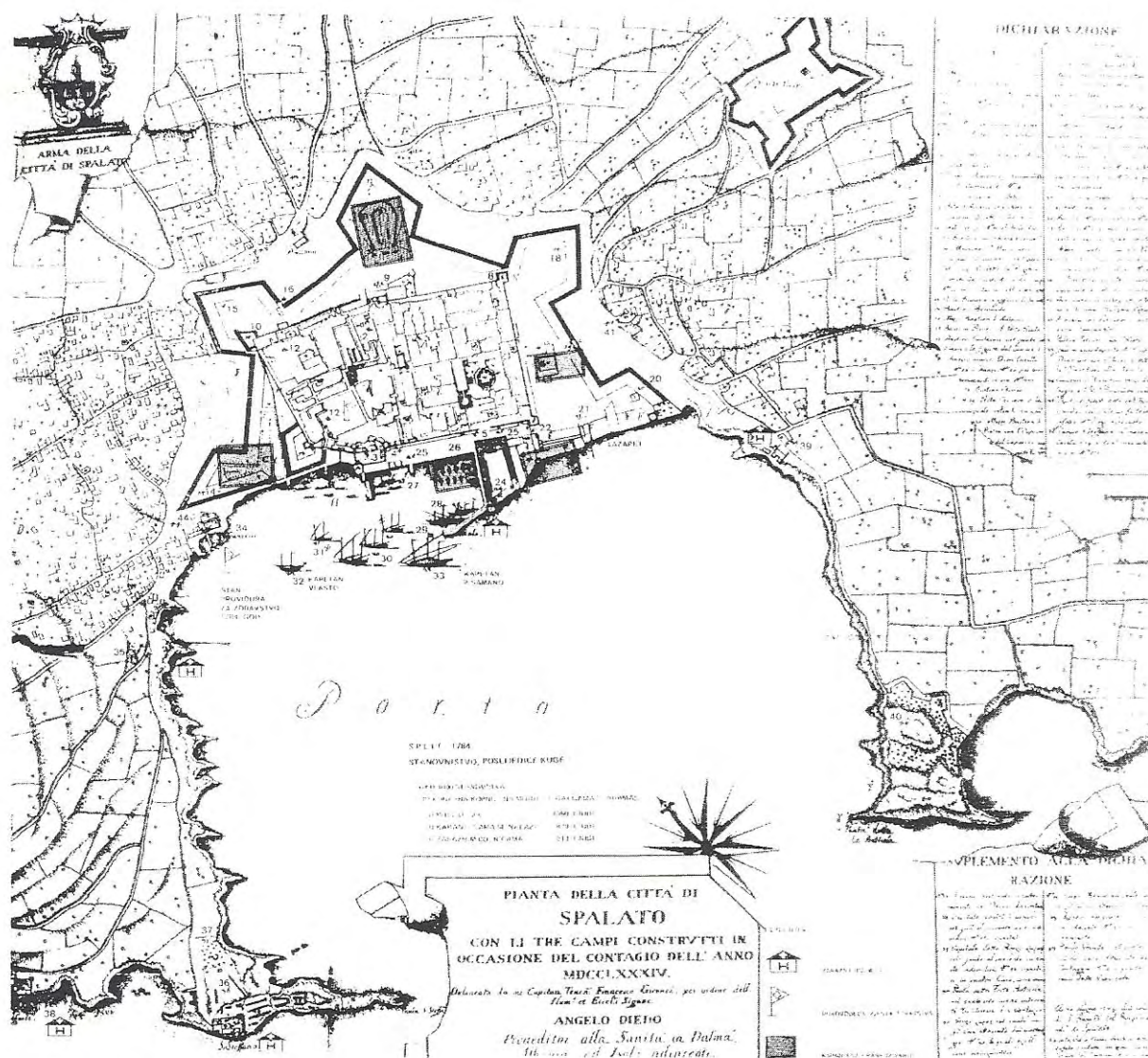


Figure 4. Split city map presenting the measures of plague prevention from 1784. Split population was 4,000, of which 1,060 people died (879 people in quarantines and 613 in hospitals). The legend: (2) New city with 184 healthy persons, scattered over their 146 houses in both cities. There is data that there were 425 infected houses and 90 very or little suspicious houses, without Geta there was a total of 661 infected houses; (7) Small gates of St. Dominik and the monastery with 41 infected persons; (11) Small gates called *la Brechia*, the monastery of healthy nuns and the field (C) with 7 shacks, *caselli*, and 90 containers, *tinazzi*, for disinfection; (12) the Health office; (17) Contarini bastion with the ground-plan of the field of St. Arneri (D) with 60 shacks and 60 containers for disinfection; (21) the gate of Lazaret through which Turkish caravans entered the city; (22) lodgings of the Turk Lemni (all infected); (24) general's offices with 171 healthy persons from various houses in the city; (25) the location of "Obala" with 56 healthy persons; (26) 9 ships with 80 infected persons; (27) four armed ships for transport of the infected and suspicious; (28) a ship with infected soldiers (131 person); (29) three galleys serving as hospitals for soldiers; (33) galley of the harbor supervisor with signs of the chief health officer; (35) hospital Varoš; (36) fields of St. Stephen with 124 shacks and 510 infected; (37) cemetery for persons who died of plague; (38) hospital Capogrosso with 150 infected; (39) hospital Lučac with 88 infected persons; (40) cape Bačvice, cemetery for plague victims; (41) suburb of Lučac with 20 houses that need to be disinfected; (42) suburb of Manuš in which there are no cases infection.

The City Hospital

Building of the Ergovac hospital in 1792 was preceded by a plague epidemics (1784) which took more than 1,060 lives over two months (30% of the Split population). Improvised health service functioned very well on land and 30 ships and galleys anchored in the Split harbor. Five makeshift hospitals for contagious diseases functioned at the time: St. Stephen, Capogrosso, Varoš, Lučac and one more on a galley. Altogether 613 people died in the hospitals. Beside the infectious hospitals, 879 people died in five quarantines (four on land and one aboard a ship) (Fig. 4; ref. 8).

During the plague epidemics of 1792, public benefactors, the Ergovac brothers, repeatedly supplied the poor of Split with money and free wheat. The will of Ante Ergovac, written in 1783, states: "I leave 1,000 of gold pieces to the poor of the city of Split, to be invested into building of a hospital". After the death of Ante Ergovac in 1786, his brothers Frane and Petar requested the Dalmatian governor to determine the site for the hospital construction. The chosen site was under the Corner bastion, facing the monastery of Benedictine nuns of St. Armir. Brothers Frane and Petar supplied additional 3,000 gold pieces, started a foundation and deposited 1,500 as capital stock (5% interest for the maintenance of the hospital). The city architect and surveyor, Petar Kurir, drew up plans for the hospital in 1787 and later supervised its construction (15,17,28). The Ergovac Hospital is presented on 200 years old city maps (Fig. 5; ref 27).

After the Hospital had been built, the Split prince Francesco Pizzamano appointed a council of 40 persons, representatives of the nobility, common people and tradesmen to run the Hospital. The Hospital was opened and its statute and regulations passed in 1794. The Great Council of Split granted the Ergovac brothers aristocratic title and membership in the City Council in 1794.

The Hospital, built in the shape of a horse-shoe facing the South, had 200 beds. There was a cistern in its yard. The left wing of the first floor housed the home for foundlings, the middle part was occupied by psychiatric cases, while the right wing contained the mortuary. Bathroom, toilets and the administration offices were situated in a separate building in the garden. Patient rooms and operation theaters were on the second floor.

The Hospital was shaped like a horse-shoe until 1872 when a new wing was built and the old building reconstructed according to the plan of either Dr. Ivan Lucchini or the Trogir architect Josip Slade Šilović. Reconstruction of the Hospital was ordered by the Dalmatian Council in 1871 (28). The new wing was built in the South, while four corners were added to the old building; the hospital building closed a square yard (28).

1868 saw two new projects for enlargement of the Hospital, one drawn by Emil Vecchietti, the other by Periklo Koludrović. Koludrović envisaged a new, large, three-story building, 110 meters long, 52 meters wide, with 400 beds and total area 13,000 m². The

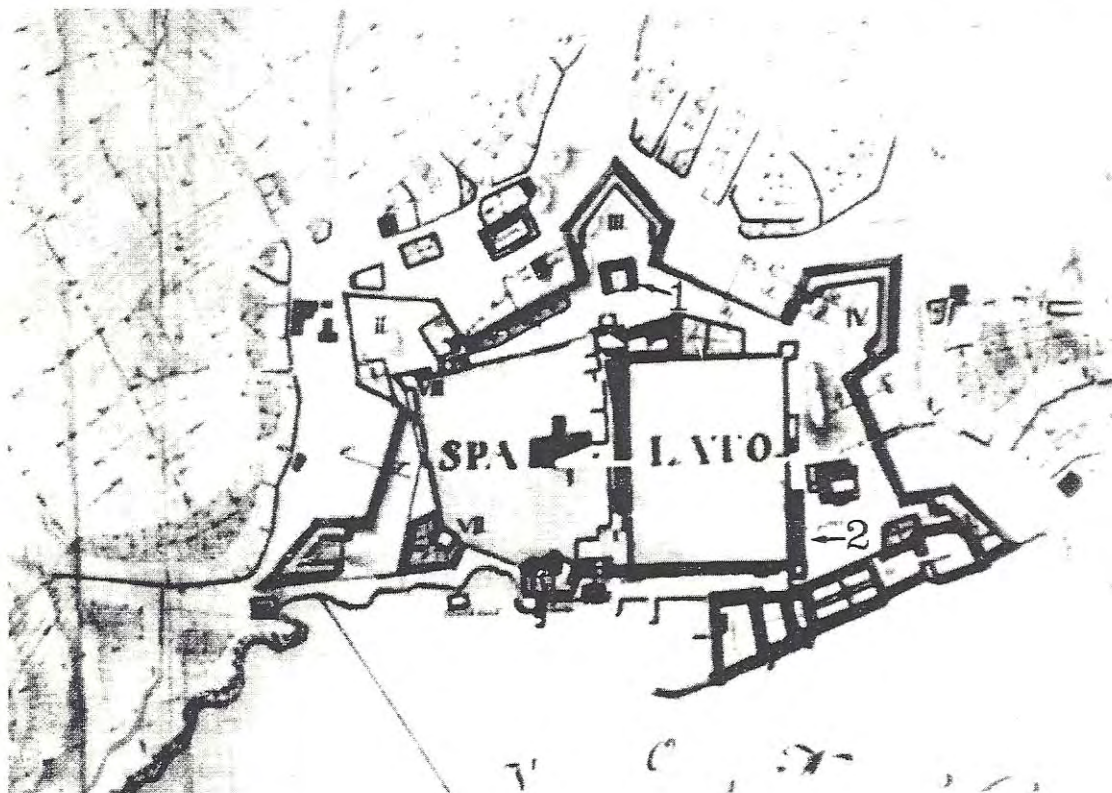


Figure 5. Split city map from 1792 with Ergovac (1) and Military Hospital (2) marked.

building was to have an elaborate facade with decorated columns and two gables with sculptures. Administrative and steward's offices, the kitchen, laboratory, pharmacy and a large pool for physical therapy would be on the first floor. Departments of internal medicine (107 beds), pediatrics (24 beds), infectious diseases (47 beds) and psychiatry (32 beds) would be on the second floor. The third floor would contain the department of surgery with a surgery theater and rooms for post-operative treatment (110 beds), ophthalmology department (32 beds) and dermatovenereology (48 beds) (8,28). This short description of the plan which was never realized due to the lack of funds reveals an up-to-date conception of a modern and expensive hospital.

The Ergovec Hospital housed three institutions: the hospital, home for foundlings and maternity hospital. At the time, 400-500 patients, 90-100 foundlings, and 30-40 women in childbed passed through the Hospital yearly. Head of the Hospital at the time of its reconstruction was Dr. Franjo Bratinić. At the end of the 19th century, the Hospital became too small. Consequently, in 1905 the Dalmatian Council decided for the building of a new hospital. However, in 1921, several smaller buildings were built in the old Hospital's yard to house dermatology and venerology department, the home for foundlings, and the morgue. In the same year the Hospital was renovated and electricity introduced. In 1923, after all reconstructions, the Hospital had only 185 beds. Construction works for the new hospital on Firule started in 1931. The first building with 76 beds became the Department of Contagious Diseases and accepted patients suffering from contagious diseases from Osamnica on Pojišan, a kind of quarantine founded in 1904. Surgery pavilion with 150 beds and modern operation theaters was completed before World War II, but the Department of Surgery was not moved to the new building since

the kitchen and theaters were not finished (8,15-17,28).

During World War II, the City Hospital and the new complex on Firule played an important role in the organization of health services in special conditions.

Immediately after the war, in 1945, the Department of Gynecology and Maternity Ward with School for Midwives, moved into the renovated building of the old high school in Nodilova street, and in 1953 to an adapted area of 3,200 m² in Maksima Gorkog Street.

The architectural firm *Dumengjić* from Zagreb, specializing in hospital construction, finished the plan of the new hospital on Firule in 1954 (29).

Construction works on Firule proceeded slowly. Consequently, the old building in the city had to be repaired and renovated until the hospital moved to Firule. Particular departments from the old City Hospital moved to the new location as their respective pavilions were completed. Surgery Department was the last to move.

The old hospital building was turned into the Museum of the National Revolution in 1976.

The pavilion of the Pulmology Department was completed first, in 1956. It had 135 beds and an area of 5,652 m². The polyclinic, hospital ward with 700 beds, buildings for auxiliary medical services, Center for Oncology and Radioteraphy, administrative offices, laundry, central sterilization unit and the patoanatomical complex were built subsequently.

Presently, the Clinical Hospital Center *Split* has 1,200 beds and over 2,000 employees. The Center performs three basic functions: curative, educational and scientific. Clinical Hospital Center *Split* is the scientific and educational basis for education and specialization of all profiles of undergraduate and postgraduate students attending the Split Branch of the Zagreb School of Medicine (Fig. 6).

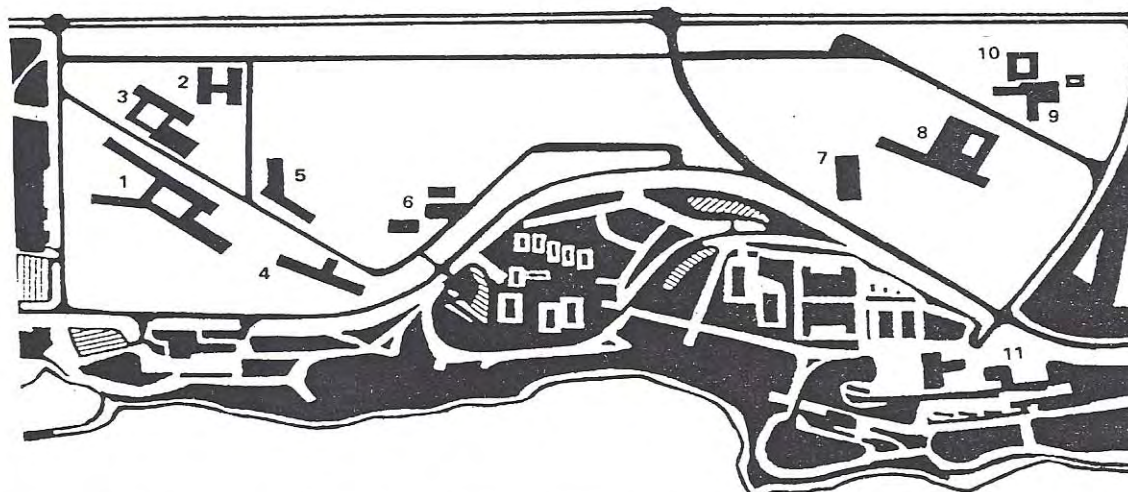


Figure 6. Clinical Hospital Center *Split*. (1) The main building of the Clinical Hospital Center Split; (2) pathology and anatomy building; (3) emergency and polyclinics; (4) Department of Pulomology and Department of Dermatovenereology; (5) Oncology Center; (6) helicopter platform; (7) Study of Medicine; (8) Clinical Hospital Center Split - Križine; (9) Institute of Marine Sciences; (10) stable for experimental animals; (11) Split Hotel.

Study of Medicine

Health conditions in Split at the end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th century were very poor. Beside lazarets, hospitals and poor-houses, there were only about 70 physicians, 25 pharmacists and 50 military medical officers in the whole of Dalmatia (15,16).

The problem far bigger than the inadequate number of physicians was their poor education. The majority of them were educated in Padua, where they were granted their diplomas under the condition that they would practice medicine only in Dalmatia (30).

Doctor Jakov Mirković Žarković, born in 1748 on the island of Vis, a surgeon and obstetrician, head of the contemporary military hospital, the Nestor of Dalmatian physicians, member of the University of Venice and other academies, lover of books and science, sent his first project report on the foundation of the Study of Medicine in Split to Padua in 1792 (30-39). His report stresses the reasons for ignorance of Dalmatian physicians; "the only reason is the privilege of students from Dalmatia to obtain the doctor's hat in Padua without first having to complete the studies." Doctor Mirković also pointed out that poor families from Dalmatia could not afford to send their sons to Padua and that a Study of Medicine in Split, "at patient's bedside", is a must. He proceeds: "concerning the city of choice for the foundation of a theoretical and practical school of medicine, it is my opinion that Split would best serve both public and private purposes. Split has the central position in the region and a seminary where literature and science are taught. It swarms with young men from all parts of the region. Moreover, Split has a military hospital, which was generously put into my care by the state. Soon, Split shall have another, even larger hospital for treatment of the poor..." (30,37). The authorities paid no attention to his petition and Dr. Mirković repeated it on several occasions until 1806 (30,37).

Struggle for the improvement of the health and educational conditions in Dalmatia continues during the rule of the governor De Goess between 1802 and 1804. However, his endeavors could not develop beyond the state of plans and projects (37).

The turning point in the development of health services and education in Dalmatia was the short period of French rule between 1806 and 1813. The new French administration promptly founded new medical and educational institutions all over Dalmatia (37,40).

The general governor Vincenzo Dandolo (1758-1819), a naturalist, pharmacist and writer came to Dalmatia on July 3, 1806 and established a health and educational commission. He also studied the possibility of founding a Scientific Academy in Zadar. Governor Dandolo passed a regulation aimed at improving the quality of teaching at St. Lazarus course of studies in Trogir, and raising it to the level of a University school.

Article 13 of the regulation states: "there is a school of medicine which provides education in the

fundamentals of medicine, together with surgery, obstetrics and several classes of theoretical chemistry." Article 14 continues: "professor of these sciences is Mr. Jakov Mirković, protomedicus of Trogir, with a yearly pay of 200 florins." The document also settles the matter of the school costs. The opening ceremony of the College of St. Lazarus took place on November 5, 1806. The first anatomy lecture was given on November 15, 1806 by Dr. Jakov Mirković, while the first anatomy exams were taken on July 20, 1807 by students Franjo Barbijeri, and Ivan and Josip Monti. Thus, years-long endeavors of Prof. Dr. Jakov Mirković were realized. Unfortunately, already on February 17, 1809, the College of St. Lazarus was abolished, together with the Study of Medicine and Trogir students of medicine went to the *Liceum* (boarding school) of the Central School (university) in Zadar (37,40).

A month after the foundation of the College of St. Lazarus in Trogir, a *Liceum* was founded in Zadar. It offered the following courses and studies: Latin and Italian grammar, natural and civic law, literature, philosophy, medicine, history, natural science, botany and agronomy. Documents on the foundation of the *Liceum* report that the School of Medicine offered lessons in the fundamentals of medicine, surgery, obstetrics and theoretic chemistry. Professor of the above listed medical courses should have been Prof. Giacomo Tommasini from Parma, receiving 800 florins yearly for his work. Comparison of the Zadar and Trogir Studies of Medicine reveals that they were conceived as equal. The Zadar *Liceum* gradually evolved into a Central School which granted seven academic titles: physician, surgeon, pharmacist, architect, geodesist, lawyer and theologist. The first diplomas were granted on August 5, 1811. On that occasion, 22 candidates were granted academic titles: Giulio Pini, a physician, Mihovil Beričić and Gaetano Brizzi, pharmacists, 14 lawyers, 3 geodesists, 1 architect and 1 theologist (32-39).

Zadar Central School was abolished in 1811, but the majority of the professors of medicine stayed in Dalmatia (41). The sole successor of the Zadar Study of Medicine was a School for Midwives, opened in Zadar on October 31, 1820, thanks to the efforts of Prof. Dall'Oro. School of Medicine in Zagreb was opened a whole century later, in 1917 (40). During that period there are no data on the existence of a Study of Medicine in Split (8,37).

During World War II, by the decree of March 31, 1944, Schools of Medicine were founded in Split and Sarajevo. Unfortunately, this decision was never realized (42,43).

Zagreb University School of Medicine founded a two-year Study of Medicine in Split in 1974, and introduced a five-year program in 1979 (37). Presently, Study of Medicine in Split employs 72 teachers who altogether published 51 scientific papers cited in Current Contents of 1990.

Health Services in Split during the 1991/1992 War in Croatia

The events of the Autumn of 1991 did not come as a surprise to Split health workers. Ever since 12 Croatian policemen had been killed in an ambush in Borovo Selo on May 21, 1991, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia, started a large campaign for collection of medical data. Parallely, a plan for transformation of a peace-time, civil health system into a military, war-time organization was devised (43). These preparations did not leave Split out.

Even before the first attacks in the area, in May 1991, Medical Headquarters of the Republic of Croatia for the area of Northern and Southern Dalmatia was formed in the Clinical Hospital Center Split, after the recommendation of the Central Medical Headquarters of the Republic of Croatia. The primary task of the regional Medical Headquarters was organization of mobile surgical teams and dislocated hospitals (44). Mobile surgical teams comprised a surgeon, anesthesiologist, nurse and transfusiologist (45). Such teams became an inseparable and crucial part of combat units of the Croatian Army. They treated and saved numerous wounded. Their work stands out as one of the best segments of our defense.

An important part of the work of the Medical Headquarters was admission of the wounded and supply of combat units with medical material. This task was made difficult by the fact that, prior to the aggression on Croatia, the Serbian leadership and the Yugoslav Federal Army (YFA) stole medical commands (43), and that they took with them a large quantity of medical supplies when they left the area. Still, some devices and medical material from the so-called field hospitals were saved.

The Medical Headquarters for Northern and Southern Dalmatia also organized and prepared clinics and other health institutions for work in war conditions. Courses and seminars on specific war-related medical topics and care of refugees and displaced persons were organized in the Health Center *Petar Vitežica* (46). City Health Secretariat, the city pharmacy, and Institute for Protection of Health, the Split spa and other health institutions helped the activities in the Clinical Center.

Institute for Protection of Health organized preventive medical protection of the population of Split, Croatian Army units, displaced persons and refugees. Clinical Hospital Center *Split* and the School of Medicine collaborated on the foundation of a health-informational system which, via Zagreb, connected all hospitals in Croatia. The system proved irreplaceable in documentation of all the victims of war (42).

During August 1991, a short handbook "Fundamentals of the Treatment of Wounded" was prepared at Split School of Medicine. It was the basis of a series of lectures held during September of the same year. Beside their educational work, students volunteers participated in work with displaced persons and

children from the Center for Handicapped Persons from Vrlika. A number of students entered units of national defense, while others helped at surgical emergency admission. Student groups on duty played an important role in hospital evacuation during air raids.

After the withdrawal of the YFA from Split, on September 18, 1991, the Military Hospital became Hospital of the Croatian Navy. Employees of the former Military Hospital who decided to stay in Split joined the work of the Medical Headquarters for Northern and Southern Dalmatia in January 1992. In 1992, the Military Hospital became part of the civil hospital center.

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Correspondence to:
Dr. Damir Sapunar
Department of Histology
Clinical Hospital Center Split
Spinčićeva 1
58000 Split
Croatia