



# The oldest apothecaries of the Serbian Armed Forces

## Najstariji apotekari srpske vojske

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history, 19th century; history of medicine; history of pharmacy; military medicine; pharmacists; military personnel; serbia.

### Ključne reči:

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### Introduction

After the Sultan's second Hatt-i Sharif in 1830, the emerging young Serbian state gained the right to establish and develop health facilities. Soon after, in the following years, the first pharmacy facilities were founded. In Belgrade in 1830, Matija Ivanović from Zemun opened a private pharmacy on the first floor of a building that exists to this day – tavern “?” (“Question Mark”). In Kragujevac in 1836, Pavle Ilić from Veliki Bečkerek (Zrenjanin today) opened a state pharmacy “For the Prince and the Guard”, which also supplied medicine to a small guard's hospital. The pharmacy was moved to Belgrade in 1839 for a short time (for one year) and then permanently in 1841, under a changed name, “Government Pharmacy”. It continued working as such until June 10, 1859, supplying medicines to the Military Hospital. After that, it was sold to a natural person (MPharm Teodor Sekulić), and Pavle Ilić was appointed state chemist and manager of the State Chemical Laboratory. Anton Delini, an empiricist from Zemun, had his pharmacy shop for the medicine trade and sold medicines to the people of Belgrade. In 1844, Delini tried to open a pharmacy shop for the medicine trade in Dorćol, but he only succeeded in 1860 when his son Andrija returned from Vienna with a master's degree in pharmacy. Before all of them, Prince Jevrem Obrenović opened a pharmacy in Šabac in 1826, where MPharm Jovan Mioković worked. Until these pharmacies were opened, the few doctors who were active in Serbia used their own private medical kits supplied from neighboring Austria, while various herbs and mixed chemicals were sold to the people by merchants, usually Greeks, Cincars, and Jews. In addition, the people were treated by various herbalists, healers, and soothsayers.

### Uvod

Mlada srpska država u nastajanju, posle drugog sultanovog hatišerifa iz 1830. godine, stekla je pravo da osniva i razvija zdravstvene ustanove. Ubrzo, tokom sledećih godina, u njoj se osnivaju prve apotekarske ustanove. U Beogradu 1830. godine, Matija Ivanović iz Zemuna otvara privatnu apoteku na prvom spratu zgrade koja i danas postoji (kafana „?” – „Znak pitanja”). U Kragujevcu 1836. godine, Pavle Ilić iz Velikog Bečkereka (današnji Zrenjanin) otvara državnu apoteku („Knjaževska i gvardejska”) koja je snabdevala lekovima i malu gvardejsku bolnicu. Ova apoteka je 1839. godine prvobitno na kratko (godinu dana), a zatim 1841. godine za stalno prešla u Beograd pod izmenjenim imenom „Praviteljstvujušća apoteka“. Kao takva, radila je do 10. juna 1859. godine, snabdevajući lekovima Vojnu bolnicu. Nakon toga, prodata je privatnom licu (mrfarm. Teodor Sekulić), a Pavle Ilić postavljen je za „državnog kemika“ i upravnika Državne hemijske laboratorije. Anton Delini, empirik iz Zemuna, imao je svoju trgovinu lekovima i prodavao lekove Beograđanima. Delini je pokušavao da otvori trgovinu lekovima na Dorćolu 1844. godine, ali mu je to uspelo tek 1860. godine, kada mu se sin Andrija vratio iz Beča sa diplomom magistra farmacije. Pre svih njih, knez Jevrem Obrenović je u Šapcu 1826. godine otvorio apoteku u kojoj je radio magistar Jovan Mioković. Do otvaranja tih apoteka, ono malo lekara koje je bilo aktivno u Srbiji koristilo je svoje privatne priručne apoteke kojima su se snabdevali iz susedne Austrije, dok su narodu razne trave i smučkane hemikalije prodavali trgovci, obično Grci, Cincari i Jevreji. Pored njih, narod su lečili raznorazni travari, hećimi i bajalice.

As for the Army, that is, at the beginning of the so-called Guard, after the imposition of the "Turkish" Constitution in December 1838, the first National Army was formed. It was an embryo that would only later, during the time of Prince Mihailo, gradually develop and become the real People's Army with a small core of permanent members. Its first military doctors, doctors of medicine, and masters of surgery will manage in the same way as their civilian counterparts – by using, among other things, the help of these rare pharmaceutical institutions.

In 1839, a constitutional military organization was established with 17 infantry companies and one half-battery of artillery, in which, by the Prince's Decree of July 18/31 of the same year, Dr. Emmerich Lindenmayer from Banat Swabia was appointed as a member of the Main Military Staff and Staff Doctor, i.e., the first head of military health, who served in Kragujevac together with the Prince. Soon after, the patron of surgery, Moritz Fiedler, a long-time Austrian military doctor, was appointed as his apprentice for the Belgrade garrison and hospital. Shortly after Fiedler's death, the master of surgery and pharmacy, Florian Birg, a Hungarian, was appointed as the "first staff surgeon of the army" on October 17, 1841. Until then, Birg was a doctor of the Belgrade city service of public health, and since then, he has been the doctor of the Belgrade garrison and its hospital.

According to his schooling and 16 years of practice before coming to Serbia, Birg would have been the first trained apothecary in the Serbian military service, although it remains questionable whether he effectively performed that service together with the medical (military medicine), which, according to the available data, was prevailing. If, due to this fact, he is not taken into account, the first effective apothecary of the Serbian Army would be MPharm Josif Katrain, and the first person who raised military pharmaceuticals to higher levels, introducing more serious and high-quality laboratory-diagnostic activity into it, would undoubtedly be master of pharmacy and chemistry, Jaroslav Helih.

As the limit for the title "oldest military apothecaries of the Serbian Armed Forces", we took the year 1876, the beginning of the First Serbian-Ottoman War. During the war itself, in addition to a large number of medical personnel, a considerable number of pharmacists also rushed to Serbia, some of whom remained in Serbia even after the war. In this way, we thought the eight people we are portraying would get their rightful place in the history of Serbian military medical services. In addition, we have to mention that it is surprising that the Serbian military pharmacy as a whole has not received more research attention. So far, the most famous book on this topic was written in 1977 by Professor Dragan Stupar, "Military Pharmacy of Serbia in the 19th Century", which stems from his doctoral dissertation defended at the Faculty of Pharmacy in Belgrade in 1975<sup>1-4</sup>.

Što se tiče vojske, tj. u početku gvardije, nakon nametnutog „turskog“ Ustava iz decembra 1838. godine došlo je do formiranja prve narodne vojske tj. nekog embriona koji će tek kasnije postepenim razvojem, u vremenima Knjaza Mihaila postati prava narodna vojska sa malim jezgrom stajaće vojske. Njeni prvi vojni lekari, doktori medicine i magistri hirurgije, snalaziće se na isti način kao i njihove kolege iz građanstva – koristeći, između ostalog, i pomoć ovih retkih apotekarskih ustanova.

Godine 1839, ustanovljena je Ustavna vojna organizacija sa 17 pešadijskih četa i jednom polubaterijom artiljerije, u kojoj je Knjaževskim ukazom od 18/31 jula iste godine banatski Švaba dr Emerih Lindenmajer postavljen za člana Glavnog vojnog Štaba i štab-doktora, tj. prvog šefa Vojnog saniteta koji je stolovao u Kragujevcu pored Knjaza. Uskoro je za njegovog pomoćnika za beogradski garnizon i bolnicu bio imenovan patron hirurgije Moric Fidler, dotle dugogodišnji austrijski vojni ranar. Ubrzo posle Fidlerove smrti, za „prvog štab hirurga vojninstva“ primljen je 17. oktobra 1841. godine magistar hirurgije i farmacije Florijan Birg, Mađar, dotle lekar beogradskog fizikata, a od tada beogradskog garnizona i njegove bolnice.

Po školskoj spremi i 16-godišnjoj praksi pre dolaska u Srbiju, Birg bi bio prvi školovani apotekar u srpskoj vojnoj službi, mada ostaje upitno da li je on tu službu efektivno i vršio zajedno sa medicinskom (vojnolekarskom), koja je, prema raspoloživim podacima, bila preovlađujuća. Ukoliko se zbog te činjenice on ne uzme u obzir, prvi efektivni apotekar srpske vojske bio bi mr farm. Josif Katrain, a prva ličnost koja je vojnu farmaciju uzdigla na više vrednosti, unoseći u nju i ozbiljniju i kvalitetniju laboratorijsko-dijagnostičku delatnost, bio bi, nesumnjivo, mr farm. i hemije Jaroslav Helih.

Kao granicu oznake „najstariji vojni apotekari srpske vojske“ uzeli smo 1876. godinu do početka Prvog srpsko-turskog rata. U toku samog rata, u Srbiju je, pored velikog broja medicinskih ličnosti, pohrlilo i znatan broj farmaceuta, od kojih su se neki zadržali u Srbiji i posle rata. Smatrali smo da bi na ovaj način osmorica koje prikazujemo dobili svoje pravo mesto koje im u istoriji srpskog vojnog saniteta pripada. Uz to, mora se napomenuti da je začuđujuće da srpsko vojno apotekarstvo, u celini gledano, nije dobilo više istraživačke pažnje. Do sada, najpoznatija je knjiga prof. Dragana Stupara „Vojna farmacija Srbije u XIX veku“ iz 1977. godine, koja proističe iz njegove doktorske disertacije, odbranjene na Farmaceutskom fakultetu u Beogradu 1975. godine<sup>1-4</sup>.

**Florian Birg – “Cvetko” (Pest?/Szegeđ! 1801 – Belgrade, October 13, 1865)**

It is not clear what Florian Birg's place of birth was – his conduit list from 1844 speaks of Pest, where to the question: “Where are you from?” he answered: “From Pest”, and the information from the Register of Deaths of the Roman Catholic Apostolic Church in Belgrade indicates that Szegeđ was his place of birth. Anyhow, he completed elementary school and a six-year gymnasium in his hometown and “philosophy” in Pest (seventh and eighth grade of the higher gymnasium), where he also obtained his master's degree in medicine, surgery, and pharmacy. Following these events, for 16 years, he was a private apothecary in Pest, and then, in 1837, he came to Belgrade to serve in the Turkish garrison as “the second doctor and apothecary in the hospital pharmacy”. Two years later, on February 14, 1839, he transferred to the Serbian service in the position of the Belgrade primary supervising physician. Later, as mentioned above, after the death of the first staff surgeon, Moritz Fiedler, Florian Birg took his place on October 17, 1841.

Birg remained in the position of the first staff surgeon until 1859. In all likelihood, he was a kind of medical “two-headed” and perhaps “multi-headed” mythical creature, serving as both a physician's apprentice and apothecary and working in Kragujevac and Belgrade. For his first service as a physician's apprentice, there are several written proofs, such as the one of Dr. Vladan Đorđević in his first book, “History of Serbian Military Health”, from which it can be seen that Birg treated sick soldiers and submitted reports about it. For his second service as an apothecary, we cannot find any confirmation, although we consider it logical and true, bearing in mind his pharmacy diploma and 16 years of experience, as well as the weak staffing opportunities that prevailed in Serbia at that time. Perhaps this is supported by the fact that on November 15, 1847, he resigned from the military service and at the same time begged for any other service “because he had too little reward and too much work” without specifying anything further. Nevertheless, his service in Serbia was primarily a medical one, as evidenced by the fact that when his request was finally granted in 1859, he was appointed again as the primary supervising physician of the Belgrade district, a position he held until his death. He was also the acting manager of the Psychiatric Hospital “*Dom za s'uma sišavših*” from its establishment on August 3, 1861, as can be seen from his application for the payment of fees (in the Review of Government Affairs from 1867, Dr. Mladen Janković appears in that position). Upon his return from exile, Prince Miloš promoted him to the rank of staff captain, which was announced in “*Novine serbske*” on April 18, 1859. Finally, as early as 1844, together with Dr. Lindenmayer, Birg founded the “Museum of Rarities” in one wing of the old Palilula barracks, which can be considered the first natural history and medicine museum in Serbia.

According to his official assessment entered in the military conduit list for 1844, he was “naturally gifted, good, sociable, polite, rather strict, quite agile, punctual, diligent, with a small body, and of good health”.

**Florijan Birg – „Cvetko” Pešta?/Segedin! 1801 – Beograd, 13. oktobar 1865)**

Nije jasno koje je mesto rođenja Florijan Birga – za Peštu govori njegova konduit lista iz 1844. godine, gde na pitanje „Odakle je?”, on odgovara „Iz Pešte”, a da se rodio u Segedinu govori podatak iz Matične knjige umrlih apostolske rimokatoličke misije u Beogradu, u kojoj je kao mesto rođenja upisan Segedin. U svakom slučaju, u rodnom mestu je završio osnovnu i šestorazrednu gimnaziju, a u Pešti „filosofiju” (sedmi i osmi razred više gimnazije), kao i magistarske, mediko-hirurške i apotekarske studije. Potom je u Pešti bio 16 godina privatni apotekar, da bi 1837. godine došao u službu turskog garnizona u Beogradu kao „drugi lekar i apotekar u bolničkoj apoteci“. Nakon dve godine, 14. februara 1839. godine, prešao je u srpsku službu na mesto beogradskog fizikusa. Kasnije, kao što je rečeno, po smrti prvog štab-hirurgu Morica Fidlera, na njegovo mesto prešao je Florijan Birg, 17. oktobra 1841. godine.

Na položaju prvog štab-hirurgu ostao je do 1859. godine. Po svoj prilici, Birg je bio neka vrsta medicinskog „dvočlavo“, a možda i „višeglavog“ stvorenja, vršeci službu i lekarskog pomoćnika i apotekara, radeći i u Kragujevcu i Beogradu. Za prvo imamo na više mesta pisanje dr Vladana Đorđevića u njegovoj prvoj knjizi „Istorija srpskog vojnog saniteta”, iz kojeg se vidi da je lečio obolele vojnike i o tome podnosio izveštaje. Za drugo ne nalazimo potvrde, iako smatramo logičnim da je tako i bilo, imajući u vidu njegovu apotekarsku diplomu i 16-godišnje iskustvo, kao i slabe kadrovske mogućnosti, koje su tada bile priustne u Srbiji. Možda u prilog tome govori činjenica da je 15. novembra 1847. godine podneo ostavku na vojnu službu i pri tome molio za ma kakvu drugu službu „jer ima isuviše malu nagradu, a suviše veliki posao”, ne navodeći pri tome ništa bliže. Ipak, njegova služba u Srbiji bila je prevashodno lekarska, o čemu govori i činjenica da je, kada je najzad udovoljeno njegovoj molbi, 1859. godine, ponovo postavljen za fizikusa beogradskog okruga, mesto na kome je ostao sve do smrti. Bio je i vršilac dužnosti upravnika psihijatrijske ustanove „Dom za s'uma sišavših“ od osnivanja 3. avgusta 1861. godine, što se vidi iz njegove molbe za isplatu honorara (već 1867. godine se na tom mestu u državnom šematizmu pojavljuje dr Mladen Janković). Knjaz Miloš ga je po povratku iz egzila unapredio u čin štab-kapetana, o čemu je u „Srbskim novinama” izašla anonsa 18. aprila 1859. godine. Najzad, još 1844. godine, Birg je zajedno sa dr Lindenmajerom osnovao u jednom krilu stare palilulske kasarne „Muzeum retkosti”, što se može smatrati prvim prirodnjačko-medicinskim muzejom u Srbiji.

Prema njegovoj službenoj oceni upisanoj u vojnoj konduit listi za 1844. godinu, bio je „prirodni darovanija dobri, druževan, učtiv, dosta strog, dosta okretan, točan, prilježan, tela po malenog i zdravlja dobrog”.

He died in Belgrade on October 13, 1865. He was married twice. With his first wife, Pulherija, who died while he was still in Turkish service (1838), he had a daughter, Persida. With his second wife, Ana, he had a son, Ljubomir, who changed his religion to Orthodox, and after changing his surname to Birgović, Ljubomir became a professor of natural sciences at Serbian gymnasiums in Užice, Svilajnac, and Čačak, where he also held the position of the high school director\*<sup>5-10</sup>.

**Dorđe Dorđević (Fourka/Epirus, February 15, 1814 – Belgrade, January 7, 1896)**

Dorđe Dorđević was of similar fate as Florian Birg in terms of bivalent service. Although he was a trained empiricist, physician, and apothecary's apprentice, he was far more famous as the father of one of the greatest Serbian military and civilian doctors, mayor of Belgrade, law writer, ambassador, minister, and prime minister, Dr. Hipokrat (Vladan) Dorđević.

In his hometown, he completed "three grades of Greek school", then he apprenticed in pharmacies in the Turkish Empire, learning the trade. In Constantinople, he worked for seven years, first as a civilian, then in a military pharmacy. Following his destiny, he finally came to Belgrade, where he felt at home, married the beautiful Maria of the Cincar family Leko, and built a house on Gospodska Street (now Brankova). He worked in the Turkish service in a pharmacy located in the Belgrade fortress. After that, on July 10, 1845, he joined the Serbian Army as a garrison apothecary and continued serving in the Belgrade and Kragujevac garrisons until May 1854, when he resigned. In one source, he states: "My first appointment in 1849 was changed to the position of a chief servant, and for that, my future was placed in the greatest uncertainty". In another source he states: "Due to the process that was conducted by the Ministry of the Interior Affairs against the head of health during my absence, I had my own pharmacy in Sarajevo for two years and five months". The pharmacy, which he and his brother Nikola named "The Lion's Pharmacy", is considered the first modern pharmacy in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 1857, he entered the military service again. From then until his retirement, he did not leave it ever again. During the wars, he served in the reserve Military Hospital in Čuprija (1876), Smederevo (1877/78), and in the Belgrade City Command (1885), although he was already an old man and was retired at the age of 71. Officially, he was a medical second lieutenant from September 21, 1859, medical apprentice first

\*The given notes exist in the Serbian Biographical Dictionary, published by Matica srpska, Novi Sad, 2004, 550–551. Birg's biography was written by Dr. Teodor Kovač and MPhil Milica Bujas, according to whom he became a master of the science of childbirth and veterinary medicine during his studies. For the latter, they refer to the work of the famous historian of medicine and veterinary medicine, Dr. Dragoljub Divljanović, "Veterinary personnel in Serbia 1800–1918", Belgrade, 1974, p. 23. By the way, according to them, he was born in Pest in 1805, which is an incorrect date, considering his conduit list from 1844, according to which he was 43 years old at that time.

Umro je u Beogradu, 13. oktobra 1865. godine. Bio je dva puta ženjen. Sa prvom suprugom Pulherijom, umrlom još dok je bio u turskoj službi (1838), imao je ćerku Persidu. Sa drugom suprugom, Anom, imao je sina Ljubomira, koji se pokrstio i kao Birgović kasnije bio profesor prirodnih nauka po srpskim gimnazijama u Užicu, Svilajncu i Čačku, gde je bio i direktor<sup>† 5-10</sup>.

**Dorđe Dorđević (Furka/Epir, 15. februar 1814 – Beograd, 7. januar 1896)**

Dorđe Dorđević bio je slične sudbine kao Florian Birg po bivalentnoj službi. Iako priučeni empiričar, lekarski i apotekarski pomoćnik, Dorđe Dorđević je daleko više poznat kao otac jednog od najvećih srpskih lekara, vojnih i građanskih, gradonačelnika Beograda, zakonopisca, ambasadora, ministra i predsednika vlade, dr Hipokrata (Vladana) Dorđevića.

U rodnom mestu je završio „tri razreda grčke škole“, zatim je šegrtovao po apotekama u turskom carstvu, učeći zanat. U Carigradu je radio sedam godina, prvo u građanskoj, a potom u vojnoj apoteci, da bi najzad došao, sledeći sudbinu, u Beograd, gde se brzo odomaćio i oženio lepom Macom iz cincarske porodice Leko i okućio, ozidavši kuću u ondašnjoj Gospodskoj ulici (sada Brankova). Radio je u turskoj službi u beogradskoj tvrđavi u apoteci, odakle je u srpsku vojsku stupio 10. jula 1845. godine kao apotekar garnizona i nastavio da služi u beogradskom i kragujevačkom garnizonu do maja 1854. godine, kada je dao ostavku. U jednom izvoru navodi „što prvašnje naimenovanje moje od 1849. godine u ono glavnog poslužetelja preobraćeno i čez toga budućnost moja u najveću neizvesnost stavljena je“. Na drugom mestu kaže „zbog gonjenja načelnika saniteta pri popečiteljstvu vnutreni dela, za vreme odsustvovanja bio sam sobstveni apotekar u Sarajevu dve godine i pet meseci“. Apoteka, koju su on i njegov brat Nikola krstili „Apoteka kod lava“, smatra se prvom savremenom apotekom u Bosni i Hercegovini. U vojnu službu je ponovo stupio 1857. godine. Od tada, do penzije, nije iz nje izlazio. Za vreme ratova služio je u rezervnoj Vojnoj bolnici u Čupriji (1876), Smederevu (1877/78) i u Komandi grada Beograda (1885), iako već starac i penzioner, u 71-oj godini. Zvanično, bio je sanitetski potporučnik od 21. septembra 1859. godine, lekarski pomoćnik prve klase od 1. januara 1866. godine, a u čin poručnika preveden 1. marta 1876. godine.

† Navedeni podaci postoje u Srpskom biografskom rečniku, Matica srpska, Novi Sad, 2004, 550–551, Birgova biografija koju su pisali dr Teodor Kovač i mr fil. Milica Bujas, po kojoj je on tokom studija postao i magistar babičluka i veterine. Za ovo poslednje se pozivaju na rad poznatog istoričara medicine i veterine veterinara dr Dragoljuba Divljanovića „Veterinarski kadrovi u Srbiji 1800–1918“, Beograd, 1974, 23. Usput, prema njima, on se rodio u Pešti 1805. godine, što je netačan datum, imajući u vidu njegovu konduktlistu iz 1844. godine po kojoj je tada imao 43 godine.

class from January 1, 1866, and was promoted to the rank of lieutenant on March 1, 1876.

Agile and resourceful, educated for the bazaar of the time (he spoke Serbian, Greek, Vlach, Cincar, Turkish, and “honorably German”), and he did well in the army, as can be seen from the official evaluation given to him by the assistant chief of the Serbian health department, Dr. Filip Taisić: “He is (naturally) gifted, very bright, and understanding. In his duties, he is capable, very useful, and reliable... he is an empiricist, skilled in the dispatch of medicines, and does the job of a medical apprentice very well. In his service, he is very zealous, accurate, and attentive.” This can be seen from the awards he received: the 5th Order of the Cross of Takovo, Silver Medal for Zealous Service, and Red Cross Medal of Merit.

He died in Belgrade, having lived to see the glory of his only son, whom he was proud of <sup>11-15</sup>.

#### **Josif Katrain (Vinkovci, February 11, 1823 – Belgrade, July 16, 1872)**

Josif Katrain was born in a large family (three male and two female children) to father Ivan, a carpenter, and mother Katarina, born Presnek. After finishing elementary school and a six-grade gymnasium in his hometown, he completed two years of pharmacy studies, probably in Pest or Prague. His name was first mentioned in Serbia in 1855 in Review of Government Affairs as the first apprentice of the apothecary Pavle Ilić (the second was Radosav Šimić) in the “Government Pharmacy”, a pharmacy under the Administration of the city of Belgrade, until June 10, 1859, when it was sold to MPharm Teodor Sekulić and Pavle Ivić was moved to the position of state chemist fifth class in the chemical laboratory at the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA). That is not mentioned in the Review of Government Affairs for 1860 and 1861. However, that information appears in the writings by Dr. Lindenmayer during the Turkish bombardment of Belgrade on June 3–5, 1862, when a crisis headquarters was formed, the medical part of which comprised the chief of health, unassigned at the time, Dr. Emmerich Lindenmayer, and the Belgrade supervising physician, Dr. Jovan Mašin, who, among other things, had the task of organizing a medical facility and a hospital with 500 beds for the wounded. Then, with the knowledge of the Minister of Defence Monden, it was decided “that without hesitation and delay, a military pharmacy with a large stock should be established and that Josif Katrain, a well-known apothecary in Belgrade with a degree, should be positioned in it.” That situation was later made official on August 28, 1862, when Katrain was appointed by the Prince’s Decree as a temporary military apothecary in the Belgrade Military Hospital, a position where he would remain until his untimely death. After obtaining Serbian citizenship on April 1, 1865, he was appointed as an executive apothecary second class and promoted on December 1, 1871, to an apothecary first class. He brought order to the military pharmacy and can be *de facto* considered the first real educated and permanent Serbian military apothecary. Due to his early

Okretan i snalažljiv, za tadašnju čaršiju učen (govorio je srpski, grčki, vlaški, cincarski, turski, a „od časti nemecki“) i u vojsci se dobro snalazio, što se vidi i iz službene ocene koju mu je dao pomoćnik načelnika srpskog saniteta dr Filip Taisić: „Dara je (prirodnog) dobrog, vrlo je bistar i s(h)vatljiv. U dužnosti je sposoban i vrlo upotrebljiv i pouzdan... empiričar je, vešt za ekspediciju lekova i vrlo dobro otpravlja posao pomoćnika lekarskog, u službi vrlo revnostan, tačan, pažljiv“. To se vidi i iz odlikovanja koja je dobio: Takovski krst 5. reda, Srebrna medalja za revnosnu službu i Medalja Crvenog Krsta.

Umro je u Beogradu, doživlevši da vidi slavu svoga sina jedinca kojim se ponosio <sup>11-15</sup>.

#### **Josif Katrain (Vinkovci, 11.02.1823 – Beograd, 16. juli 1872)**

Josif Katrain rođen je u mnogočlanoj porodici (tri muška i dva ženska deteta) od oca Ivana, tesara i majke Katarine, rođene Presnek. Posle završene osnovne škole i šestorazredne gimnazije u rodnom mestu, završio je dvogodišnje studije farmacije, verovatno u Pešti ili Pragu. Njegovo ime u Srbiji se prvi put pominje u Državnom šematizmu za 1855. godinu kao ime prvog pomoćnika (drugi je bio Radosav Šimić) kod apotekara Pavla Ilića u apoteci Uprave varoši Beograda „Praviteljstvujuća apoteka“ do 10. juna 1859. godine kada je prodana mr. farm. Teodoru Sekuliću, a Pavle Ivić prešao na mesto državnog kemika pete klase u hemijsku laboratoriju pri Ministarstvu unutrašnjih dela (MUD). U Šematizmima za 1860. godinu i 1861. godinu se to ne pominje. Međutim, ta informacija se pojavljuje u spisu dr Lindenmajera, u vreme turskog bombardovanja Beograda 3–5. juna 1862. godine, kada je obrazovan krizni štab, čiji medicinski deo su bili načelnik saniteta na raspoloženju dr Emerih Lindenmajer i beogradski fizikus dr Jovan Mašin koji je između ostalog imao zadatak da organizuje sanitet i bolnicu od 500 kreveta za ranjenike. Tada je, uz znanje vojnog ministra Mondena odlučeno „da se bez oklevanja i odugovlačenja obrazuje vojna apoteka sa velikim zalihama i da se u njoj postavi Josif Katrain, dobro poznati u Beogradu diplomirani farmaceut“. To stanje je kasnije ozvaničeno 28. avgusta 1862. godine kada je Katrain Knjaževim Ukazom postavljen za privremenog vojnog apotekara u beogradskoj vojnoj bolnici, mestu na kome će ostati do svoje prerane smrti. Po prelasku u srpsko državljanstvo 1. aprila 1865. godine postavljen je za dejstviteljnog apotekara druge klase, a unapređen 1. decembra 1871. godine za apotekara prve klase. Uveo je red u vojnoj apoteci, te se *de facto* može smatrati za prvog pravog školovanog i trajnog srpskog vojnog apotekara. Zbog prerane smrti, o njemu je sačuvano malo podataka, koji se, pojedinačno, nalaze na više strana. Čak i dr Vladan Đorđević, koji je, pišući svoje knjige o istoriji srpskog vojnog saniteta, imao na raspolaganju celu dotadašnju netaknutu vojnu arhivu, našao je o njemu samo jedan dokumenat.

death, little information about him has been preserved and can be individually found on several pages. Even Dr. Vladan Dorđević, who, when writing his books on the history of Serbian military health, had the entire previously untouched military archive at his disposal, found only one document about him.

According to the Catholic Church's Register of Deaths, he died after a short illness from "inflammation of the brain". He was married to Ana, born Šefer<sup>16-23</sup>.

**Mihailo Birg (Dunaföldvár, January 29, 1809<sup>‡</sup> – Belgrade, exact date unknown, 1880/81)**

No further family information is known, nor where Mihailo Birg completed his primary and secondary education. He completed his studies for the title of Master of Pharmacy in Pest in 1835, and after that, he worked as an apothecary in Szeged until he came to Serbia when he was already 55 years old.

He came to Serbia on November 8, 1864, and on November 20, he was appointed apothecary at the Military Hospital in Kragujevac. In 1873, he was transferred to the same duty in the Belgrade Military Hospital, where he worked until the end of his service in 1880, unassigned for the last two years. On November 30, 1875, he received the rank of second lieutenant and lieutenant in 1878 (according to the conduit list).

During the Serbian-Ottoman wars of 1876 and 1877/78, he continued working in the hospital. According to the official assessment given in his personal file in 1874 by Major Filip Tajsić, assistant to the head of health, he is "weak and silent because of his age, skilled and useful in pharmacy work. In his service, he is very zealous, punctual, durable, and diligent. He is not a good economist and does not know how to distribute his salary; because of this, he has deductions from his salary. He should be unassigned."

He spoke Serbian, Hungarian, German, and Latin. He was married and had one daughter<sup>24-28</sup>.

**Miloš Mihailović/Mihajlović (Novi Sad, December 22, 1822 – Kragujevac, November 17, 1887)**

Miloš Mihailović obtained primary and secondary education in his hometown, Novi Sad, and received education in medical and pharmaceutical sciences in Vienna. Before he came to Serbia, he was an "apprentice in civic pharmacies".

He joined the Serbian military service as a foreign citizen on June 25, 1865. When he received Serbian citizenship after seven years, he was transferred to permanent service on November 20, 1872, as an apothecary's apprentice second class, and on May 1, 1875, as an apothecary's apprentice first class. In March 1876, when military ranks were introduced in the health department, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant.

Prema katoličkoj crkvenoj knjizi umrlih, umro je posle kraćeg bolovanja od „zapaljenja mozga“. Bio je oženjen Anom, rođenom Šefer<sup>16-23</sup>.

**Mihailo Birg (Dunaföldvár, 29. januar 1809<sup>§</sup> – Beograd, tačan datum nepoznat 1880/81)**

Nisu poznati bliži porodični podaci, niti gde je Mihailo Birg završio osnovno i srednje obrazovanje. Studije za zvanje magistra farmacije završio je u Pešti 1835. godine i posle toga je radio kao apotekar u Segedinu, sve do dolaska u Srbiju, kada je već imao 55 godina.

U Srbiju je došao 8. novembra 1864. godine i 20. novembra je bio postavljen za apotekara pri Vojnoj bolnici u Kragujevcu. Na istu dužnost u beogradskoj vojnoj bolnici premešten je 1873. godine i u njoj radio do kraja službe 1880. godine, pošto je poslednje dve godine bio na raspoloženju. Dobio je čin potporučnika 30. novembra 1875. godine, a 1878. godine čin poručnika (prema conduit-listi).

Za vreme srpsko-turskih ratova 1876. godine i 1877/78. ostao je na radu u bolnici. Prema službenoj oceni koju je u njegovom personalnom kartonu dao 1874. godine major dr Filip Tajsić, pomoćnik načelnika saniteta, on je „zbog starosti slab i ćutljiv, u apotekarskom poslu vešt i upotrebljiv. U službi je vrlo revnostan, tačan, izdržljiv, marljiv. Nije dobar ekonom i ne ume da raspoređuje platu, zbog ovoga mu se odbija od iste. Valjalo bi ga staviti u stanje pokoja.“

Govorio je srpski, mađarski, nemački i latinski. Bio je oženjen i imao jednu ćerku<sup>24-28</sup>.

**Miloš Mihailović/Mihajlović (Novi Sad, 22. decembar 1822 – Kragujevac, 17. novembar 1887)**

Miloš Mihailović u rodnom mestu Novom Sadu, stekao osnovno i srednje obrazovanje, a u Beču znanje medicinsko-farmaceutske nauke. Pre nego što je došao u Srbiju bio je „asistent u građanskim apotekama“.

U srpsku ugovornu vojnu službu kao strani državljanin stupio je 25. juna 1865. godine. Kada je posle sedam godina dobio srpsko državljanstvo preveden je u stalnu službu 20. novembra 1872. godine u zvanju apotekarskog pomoćnika druge klase, a 1. maja 1875. godine u apotekarskog pomoćnika prve klase. Marta 1876. godine, kada su u sanitet uvedeni vojni činovi, preveden je u čin poručnika.

Prvih sedam godina je radio u beogradskoj Vojnoj bolnici, a zatim je premešten u kragujevačku vojnu bolnicu i u njoj ostao do penzije 1887. godine. Tamo je radio u miru i tokom srpsko-turskih ratova 1876. godine i 1877/78. godine, dok je u Srpsko-bugarskom ratu 1885. godine, iako već u godinama, bio apotekar u sanitetskoj četi pri zavojištu Šumadijske divizije. Odlikovan je Srebrnom medaljom za

<sup>‡</sup>In Military Review for 1874, p. 171, it is written that he was born on January 7, 1807.

<sup>§</sup>U Vojnom šematizmu za 1874, str. 171, piše da je rođen 7. januara 1807. godine.

For the first seven years, he worked in the Belgrade Military Hospital, and then, he was transferred to the Kragujevac Military Hospital and continued working there until his retirement in 1887. He worked there in peace and during the Serbian-Ottoman wars of 1876 and 1877/78, while in the Serbo-Bulgarian War of 1885, although already in his old age, he was an apothecary in the medical company for first-aid medical treatment of the Šumadija Division. He was awarded the Silver Medal for Zealous Service. In the official evaluation for 1874 given by the head of the Serbian military medical service, Lieutenant Colonel Dr. Karlo Beloni, it is written: "Strong and sturdy, capable of service in the field, reliable in his word. A good and accurate apothecary, punctual and diligent in his service. Gentle and polite to the younger ones, respectful to the equals, attentive and considerate to the older ones. In service, serious and useful, out of it, of pure character, very peaceful. Socializes with his equals. Deserves to be promoted."

He died, just retired.

In addition to the Serbian language, he spoke German, Hungarian, and Latin. Family information is unknown<sup>29-39</sup>.

#### **Mihailo Herman (Novi Sad, September 22, 1822 – Belgrade, after 1888)**

Mihailo Herman was born to father Mihail and mother Elizabeth, born Gross. He completed primary school and a six-grade gymnasium in his hometown. He studied pharmacy at the University of Pest and obtained the title of Master of Pharmacy.

After graduating, he worked in pharmacies in Vienna and Pest. In 1859, as a military apothecary, he participated in Austria's war with the French and Italians on the Italian side.

He came to Serbia at the beginning of 1868, and on January 25, he was accepted into military service as a contract apothecary apprentice in the Belgrade Military Hospital. On November 30, 1875, he was promoted to the rank of second lieutenant and, as such, participated in the wars with Turkey in 1876 in the West-Moravian Division that fought on the western part of the front. In 1877/78, he served in the IV Field Hospital of the Moravian Corps when he was awarded the Silver Medal for Zealous Service. When the Great Niš Military Hospital was founded, he was transferred to work there. After the wars ended, he returned to his old service in the Belgrade Military Hospital. On May 21, 1881, he became a lieutenant. In the Serbian-Bulgaria War in 1885, he was an apothecary in the medical company for first-aid medical treatment of the Danube Division. After 1888, no information can be found on him in the Reviews of Government Affairs.

As for the official grades, he was given the first one in 1874 by Major Dr. Filip Tajsić, who says: "He is of ordinary talent, usable for the field service. Diligent and punctual in his service, although non-permanently and unwillingly. Dishonest towards his superiors and of a pliable and unstable character. He is serious in his service, but outside of it, he behaves irresponsibly towards his position, he is a bad economist, and he abuses medicines." Nevertheless, he was kept in the service. Two wars in which he participated have passed, and in 1879, Major Dr. Mihailo Marković, the future head of military health, wrote a new evaluation for him, saying: "He is of quiet nature, good in

revnosnu službu. U službenoj oceni za 1874. godinu koju je dao načelnik srpskog vojnog saniteta potpukovnik dr Karlo Beloni piše: „Snažan i krepak, sposoban za službu u polju, pouzdan u svojoj reči. Dobar i tačan apotekar, u službi tačan i revnostan. Prema mlađima blag i uljudan, prema ravnima pristojan, prema starijima pažljiv i smotren. U službi ozbiljan i koristan, van nje karaktera čistog, vrlo miroljubiv. Družuje se sa sebi ravnima. Zaslužuje da se unapredi.”

Umro je tek penzionisan.

Pored srpskog govorio je nemački, mađarski i latinski. Porodični podaci nepoznati<sup>29-39</sup>.

#### **Mihailo Herman (Novi Sad, 22. septembar 1822 – Beograd, posle 1888)**

Otac Mihaila Hermana bio je Mihail, a majka Elizabeta, rođena Gros. U rodnom mestu završio je osnovno i šestorazredno gimnazijsko obrazovanje. Studirao je farmaciju na peštanskom univerzitetu i stekao zvanje magistra farmacije.

Po diplomiranju je radio po apotekama u Beču i Pešti. Godine 1859. je kao vojni apotekar učestvovao u Italiji, u ratu Austrije sa Francuzima i Italijanima.

U Srbiju je došao početkom 1868. godine i već 25. januara primljen u vojnu službu kao ugovorni apotekarski pomoćnik u beogradsku vojnu bolnicu. U čin potporučnika unapređen je 30. novembra 1875. godine i potom učestvovao u ratovima sa Turskom 1876. godine u Zapadno-moravskoj diviziji koja se borila na zapadnom frontu. Zatim je 1877/78 služio u IV poljskoj bolnici Moravskog korpusa, kada je odlikovan Srebrnom medaljom za revnosnu službu. Pri osnivanju Velike niške vojne bolnice premešten je na rad u nju. Po završetku ratova vraćen je na staru službu u beogradsku vojnu bolnicu. Poručnik je postao 21. maja 1881. godine. U srpsko-bugarskom ratu 1885. godine bio je apotekar u sanitetskoj četi pri zavojištu Dunavske divizije. Posle 1888. godine ne nalazi se u šematizmima.

Što se tiče službenih ocena, u prvoj koju mu je dao 1874. godine major dr Filip Tajsić navodi se da je „običnog dara, upotrebljiv za poljsku službu. U službi je revnostan i tačan, no ne trajno i voljno, prema starešinama je neiskren, karaktera povodljivog i nestalnog. U službi je ozbiljan, a van nje se ponaša neodgovorno prema svome položaju, rđav je ekonom, pravi zloupotrebe sa lekovima.” Ipak je ostavljen u službi. Prošla su dva rata u kojima je učestvovao i 1879. godine mu novu ocenu piše major dr Mihailo Marković, budući načelnik vojnog saniteta, koji kaže: „tihe naravi, dobar u struci, tačan i revnostan, radi sa voljom, učtiv, vrlo dobrog vladanja u i van službe, dobar ekonom. Zaslužuje preporuku!” Sličnu ocenu mu je dao 1880. godine i vojni apotekar kapetan prve klase dr Alojz E. Helih.

Bio je oženjen i bez dece<sup>40-49</sup>.

his profession, punctual and zealous, works with will, polite, of very good behavior in and out of service, good economist. He deserves a recommendation!" A similar assessment was given to him in 1880 by the military apothecary Captain First Class, Dr. Alojz Helih.

He was married with no children <sup>40-49</sup>.

**Hristifor Dimitrijević (Novi Bečej, July 21, 1829 – Belgrade, November 9, 1896)**

After completing elementary school in his hometown and a six-grade gymnasium in Novi Sad, Hristifor Dimitrijević went to Vienna to study pharmaceuticals, where he completed the pharmaceutical course. After completing his education, he worked as a civil apothecary in various places.

He came to Serbia at the beginning of the war year of 1876 and entered the military medical service on March 10 of the same year as a contract second lieutenant. He kept that position until his death without changing his citizenship. His first job was in the Belgrade Military Hospital. At the beginning of the war with Turkey in 1876, he was the operator of the pharmacy depot in the Timok Division, for which we assume that it was in Zaječar. When Zaječar was abandoned, and the entire Active Army was reorganized after suffering losses into the Morava-Timok Army under the command of General Chernyaev, until the end of the war, Hristifor was assigned as an apothecary at the field hospital of the Lukovo Corps in the village of Krivi Vir, whose head of health was Major Dr. Stevan Nedok. In the 1877/78 war, he was an apothecary at the III Field Hospital of the Šumadija Corps, and after the armistice, he worked at the Great Niš Military Hospital. After the end of the war, from November 5, 1878, until 1887, he remained in the Military Hospital in Niš. During the Serbo-Bulgarian War in 1885, he stayed in Niš, first in the reserve medical company at the Supreme Command, and after the armistice, he returned to the Niš Military Hospital. In 1887/88, he had a break in service for eight months and eight days, and after that, until his death, he maintained the service in Belgrade, either in the Military Hospital or in the main warehouse of medical supplies. Judging by this, it seems that he died while still active in the service. For his participation in wars, he was awarded the Silver Medal for Zealous Service. On September 13, 1880, he was promoted to the rank of apothecary first class.

In the official evaluation from 1879, written by Captain Dr. Jovan Porubović, it is stated: "naturally gifted, physically strong, of open and venturesome character, and gentle nature. Capable of the position he is in, even for a higher one. He is very zealous in performing his duties, which comes from his own personality. He is considerate and attentive to the seniors, and towards the younger ones, he behaves like an elder. His behavior is serious and exemplary. He is a good economist. Deserves a higher rank".

He was educated [he spoke, read, and wrote in German, Latin, Vlach (Romanian), and Hungarian]. He was a widower with one female child <sup>50-65</sup>.

**Hristifor Dimitrijević (Novi Bečej, 21. juli 1829 – Beograd, 9. novembar 1896)**

Posle završene osnovne škole u rodnom mestu i šestorazredne gimnazije u Novom Sadu, Hristifor Dimitrijević otišao je u Beč na studije farmaceutike i tamo „svršijo farmaceutske kurs”. Posle završenog školovanja radio je kao građanski apotekar u raznim mestima.

U Srbiju je došao u početku ratne 1876. godine i stupio u vojni sanitet 10. marta iste godine, u svojstvu ugovornog potporučnika. U tome stanju ostaje sve do svoje smrti, ne menjajući državljanstvo. Prvo radno mesto bilo mu je u beogradskoj vojnoj bolnici. U početku rata sa Turskom 1876. godine bio je rukovalac apotekarskog depoa u Timočkoj diviziji (pretpostavljamo da je to bio Zaječar). Kada je Zaječar bio napušten, a celokupna dejstvujuća vojska posle pretrpljenih gubitaka reorganizovana u moravsko-timočku vojsku pod komandom generala Černjajeva, zatekao se i bio tu do kraja rata u selu Krivi vir na mestu apotekara poljske bolnice Lukovskog korpusa, čiji je načelnik saniteta bio major dr Stevan Nedok. U ratu 1877/78. godine bio je apotekar III poljske bolnice Šumadijskog korpusa, a po primirju je radio u Velikoj niškoj vojnoj bolnici. Posle završenog rata, od 5. novembra 1878. godine pa sve do 1887. godine ostao je u stalnoj niškoj vojnoj bolnici. U vreme srpsko-bugarskog rata 1885. godine ostao je u Nišu, prvo u rezervnoj sanitetskoj četi pri Vrhovnoj komandi, a po primirju se vratio u nišku vojnu bolnicu. Imao je prekid u službi osam meseci i osam dana 1887/88. godine, a posle toga, sve do smrti, bio je sa službom u Beogradu, bilo u vojnoj bolnici ili u Glavnom slagalištu sanitetskog materijala. Sudeći prema ovome, izgleda da je umro još aktivan u službi. Za učešće u ratovima odlikovan je Srebrnom medaljom za revnosnu službu. U zvanje apotekara prve klase preveden je 13. septembra 1880. godine.

U službenoj oceni iz 1879. godine, koju je pisao kapetan dr Jovan Porubović, stoji: „prirodnog dara običnog, telesno krepak, karaktera otvorenog i preduzimljivog, naravi blage. Sposoban za položaj u kome je, a i za veći. U vršenju službe vrlo je revnostan i to dolazi od njegove sopstvenosti. Prema starijima je smotren i pažljiv, a prema mlađima ponaša se starešinski. Vladanja je ozbiljnog i primernog. Ekonom je dobar. Zaslužuje veći čin”.

Bio je obrazovan [govori, čita i piše nemački, latinski, vlaški (rumunski) i mađarski], udovac, sa jednim ženskim detetom <sup>50-65</sup>.

**Alojz E. Helih (Pođebradi, Češka, 7. juni 1843 – Beograd, 9. mart 1902)**

Alojz E. Helih bio je najvažniji i najspremniji vojni apotekar srpske vojske XIX veka, njen glavni apotekar. Dospeo je, izuzetno, do ranga potpukovnika (viši intendant druge klase).

Njegov otac, Emanuel, bio je apotekar u mestu Pođebradi/Češka. Alojz je u rodnom mestu učio osnovnu školu i punu gimnaziju, a na Univerzitetu u Pragu završio je četvorosemestralno školovanje (1865/66) za magistra



**Alojz E. Helih (Poděbrady, Czech Republic, June 7, 1843 – Belgrade, March 9, 1902)**

The most important and prepared military apothecary of the Serbian Army of the 19th century was Alojz E. Helih, who was also the chief apothecary of the Serbian Army. Uncommonly, he reached the rank of lieutenant colonel (senior quartermaster second class).

His father, Emanuel, was an apothecary in Poděbrady, a town in the Czech Republic. Alojz completed elementary school and an eight-grade gymnasium in his hometown, and at the University of Prague, he studied for four semesters (1865/66) for a master's degree in pharmacy. Then, as an imperial scholarship holder, he spent two more years (1867 and 1868) training in the University Chemical Laboratory and became a chemist. Before coming to Serbia, he worked in Germany and Austria in pharmacies and chemical factories, among other things, in a factory for gunpowder production.

He came to Serbia following a competition at the beginning of 1872 and started working in the State Chemical Laboratory at MIA, of which he was also the director for a short time. On November 10, 1872, he transferred to the contract military service as an apothecary of the Belgrade Military Hospital and manager of the Main Pharmacy Depot. Until September 20, 1874, he was in service by contract as a foreign citizen. Uncommonly, before the usual duration period of seven years, he was granted Serbian citizenship on April 18, 1874, and became a permanently employed civilian in the Army. On May 1, 1875, according to the new Law on Army Organization, he was already promoted to the rank of medical captain first class, the highest rank for military apothecaries that existed in those times. On September 2, 1883, as a sign of honor and respect but contrary to the law, he was promoted to the rank of medical major, and on December 6, 1884, he received the title of senior quartermaster second class, which was equal to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

In 1884, using his earlier experiences from a gunpowder factory in Austria, he examined the purity of the saltpeter produced in the military gunpowder factories in Stragari and Obilicevo near Kruševac. He determined the impurities, simultaneously devising a procedure for their removal. He checked his results at the University Chemistry Laboratory in Stuttgart, which he announced in a published paper in a chemical magazine. That contributed to the improved properties of gunpowder, primarily to its chemical stability, because until then, it was chemically unstable, which led to spontaneous self-ignitions.

From the position he was in, he tried to ensure that the Serbian Army was supplied as much as possible with medical supplies and medicines, which was not always easy due to the poverty of the young country. With the obtained knowledge and a lot of will and energy, he managed the Serbian pharmacy throughout the three wars that Serbia fought in the 19th century, and many wounded or sick people had to thank him for saving their lives. His enormous effort is best expressed by the words of Dr. Vladan Đorđević during the Serbo-Bulgarian War in 1885: "On the very first day (of taking office as the Chief of Medical Services of the Supreme Command), I

farmacije. Potom se kao carski stipendista još dve godine (1867. i 1868) usavršavao u Univerzitetnoj hemijskoj laboratoriji i postao diplomirani hemičar. Do dolaska u Srbiju radio je u Nemačkoj i Austriji u apotekama i hemijskim fabrikama, između ostalog i u fabrici za proizvodnju baruta.

U Srbiju je došao po konkursu početkom 1872. godine i započeo rad u Državnoj hemijskoj laboratoriji pri MUD, čiji je kraće vreme bio i upravnik. Desetog novembra 1872. godine prešao je u ugovornu vojnu službu na mesto apotekara Beogradske vojne bolnice i upravnika Glavnog apotekarskog depoa. Do 20. septembra 1874. godine bio je, kao strani državljanin, u ugovornoj službi, a pošto je, izuzetno pre sedmogodišnjeg roka, 18. aprila te godine prihvaćen u srpsko državljanstvo, postao je „dejtivitelni“ (stalni) vojni službenik. Već 1. maja 1875. godine je, po novom Zakonu o ustrojstvu vojske, unapređen u čin sanitetskog kapetana prve klase, tada najviši čin za vojne apotekare. Zatim, 2. septembra 1883. godine, u znak počasti i poštovanja, mimo zakona, unapređen je u čin sanitetskog majora, a 6. decembra 1884. godine dobio je zvanje višeg intendanta druge klase, što je bilo ravno činu potpukovnika.

Godine 1884, koristeći svoja ranija iskustva iz fabrike baruta u Austriji je ispitivao čistoću šalitre koja se proizvodila u vojnim fabrikama baruta u Stragarima i Obilicevu kod Kruševca i utvrdio nečistoće, smislivši istovremeno postupak za njihovo uklanjanje. Svoj rezultat je proverio u Univerzitetnoj hemijskoj laboratoriji u Štutgartu, što je saopštio i u objavljenom radu u poboljšanju časopisa za hemiju. Time je doprineo poboljšanju svojstava baruta, pre svega njegovoj hemijskoj postojanosti. Do tada je barut bio hemijski nestabilan, što je dovodilo do spontanijih samozapaljivanja.

Sa položaja na kome se nalazio, Alojz E. Helih se trudio da srpska vojska bude što bolje snabdevena apotekar-skim i medicinskim materijalom i lekovima, što, zbog siromaštva mlade države nije bilo uvek lako. Imajući znanje, volju i energiju vodio je srpsko apotekarstvo u sva tri rata koja je Srbija vodila u XIX veku i, zahvaljujući njemu, mnogim ranjenicima i bolesnicima su sačuvani životi. Koliko se on trudio, najbolje govore reči dr Vladana Đorđevića za vreme Srpsko-bugarskog rata 1885. godine: „Odmah prvog dana (stupanja na dužnost načelnika saniteta Vrhovne Komande) potražio sam podatke kako stoji vojska sa lekovima, zavojnim priborima, instrumentima i ostalom opremom sanitetskih trupa... Istoga dana (19. septembra 1885. godine) dobio sam od majora Heliha ovakav izveštaj: vojne apoteke u Nišu i Kragujevcu snabdevene su tako da u mirno doba imaju dosta za šest meseci. Osim neznatne nabavke pogdekojeg leka ima u područnom mi glavnom apotekarskog slagalištu dovoljno lekova da se sve poljske apoteke napune i da još beogradska vojna apoteka ne oskudeva. Držim da sada imamo u zemlji dovoljno lekova da podmirimo sve potrebe naše vojske i u vanredom stanju najmanje za dva meseca.“ Na ovo dr Vladan zaključuje da se za ovakvo stanje „ima zahvaliti jedino

looked for information on how the Army was doing with medicines, bandages, instruments, and other broken equipment of the medical troops... On the same day (September 19, 1885), I received the following report from Major Helih: the military pharmacies in Niš and Kragujevac are supplied so much that there would be enough supplies for six months in peacetime. Apart from the insignificant procurement of some medicine, there is enough medicine in our regional main pharmacy warehouse to fill all field pharmacies, and, even then, the Belgrade military pharmacy would not be lacking any supplies. I believe that we now have enough medicine in the country to meet all the needs of our army even in a state of emergency for at least two months." On this, Dr. Vladan concluded that for this state of affairs "...we have to thank only the foresight and energy of the chief military apothecary who, in peacetime, did not forget the first rule of every military administration – it is in peacetime that war is prepared for". Here is the assessment given to him in 1880 by the director of the Belgrade Military Hospital, Lieutenant Colonel Dr. Josif Holec: "Very gifted and bright, with an open character, venturesome, quiet. Healthy, agile, and persistent. A highly educated apothecary, as well as a chemist and microscopist, follows the progress of those sciences. A very reliable and accurate administrator and a caring teacher to his younger associates. Excellent in every respect (in the service), performs all tasks with great will, carefully and accurately. Very respectful and polite towards the elderly, gentle and moderately strict towards the younger ones. In general, he is very pleasant, showing everywhere a very large level of acquired education. He is very modest, but he lives decently. According to these virtues, which distinguished him in his difficult and long-lasting service, it is just to say that he deserves to be promoted."

Alojz E. Helih was the chief apothecary of the Serbian Army, a member of the Military Medical Committee until his death, and a teacher to many generations of military apothecaries. He died in active service, and the following year, his only son, Lieutenant Dr. Jaroslav Helih, a Serbian military scholar who brilliantly completed his medical studies in Prague, died at a very young age (Belgrade, December 1, 1874 – Zaječar, November 15, 1903). Besides his son, with his wife Božena, born Bouček, he also had a daughter, Ludmila (Belgrade, September 27, 1876 – Belgrade, date of death unknown), later known as Ruža (her baptized name perhaps), who became the director (1924–1931) of the Belgrade "School for Nurses" of the Red Cross Society.

Lieutenant Colonel Helih was the holder of many military decorations: Cross of Takovo V Order (1878), IV Order (1889), III Order (1893), Order of Saint Sava III Order (1894), Gold Medal for Zealous Service (1895), Cross of the Society of the Red Cross (1878), Memorials of the Wars 1876, 1877/78, 1885<sup>66-84</sup>.

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uvidavnosti i energiji glavnog vojnog apotekara koji ni u najdubljem miru ne zaboravljaše na prvo pravilo svake vojne administracije, a to je da se baš u mirmodopsko vreme valja spremati za rat". Evo ocene koju mu je 1880. godine dao upravnik beogradske vojne bolnice, potpukovnik dr Josif Holec: „Vrlo darovit i vrlo bistar, otvorenog karaktera, preduzimljiv, tih. Zdrav, okretan i izdržljiv. Vrlo izobražen apotekar, kao i hemičar i mikroskopičar, prati napredak ovih nauka. Vrlo pouzdan i tačan administrator, brižljiv učitelj svojih mlađih. (U službi) u svakom pogledu odličan, vrši sve poslove sa osobitom voljom, smotreno i tačno. Prema starijima vrlo učitiv i pristojan, prema mlađima blag, umereno strog. Uopšte je vrlo prijatan drug, pokazujući svud vrlo veliki kapital izobraženja. Vrlo je skroman, no živi pristojno. Prema ovakvim vrlinama, kojima se u teškoj i višegodišnjoj službi odlikovao, pravedno je da već zaslužuje unapređenje.“

Alojz E. Helih bio je glavni apotekar srpske vojske, član Vojno-sanitetskog komiteta do smrti, učitelj mnogih generacija vojnih apotekara. Umro je u aktivnoj službi, a naredne godine umro je njegov sin jedinac, mladi poručnik dr Jaroslav Helih (Beograd, 1. decembar 1874 – Zaječar, 15. novembar 1903), srpski vojni stipendista, koji je briljantno završio studije medicine u Pragu. Pored sina, sa suprugom Boženom, rođenom Bouček imao je i ćerku Ludmilu (Beograd, 27. septembar 1876 – Beograd, datum smrti nepoznat), kasnije poznatu kao Ruža (moguće pokršteno ime), koja je kasnije (1924–1931) bila direktorka beogradske „Škole za nudiľje" Društva Crvenog Krsta.

Potpukovnik Helih bio je nosilac mnogih vojnih odlićja: Takovski krst V reda (1878), IV reda (1889), III reda (1893), Orden Svetog Save III reda (1894), Zlatna medalja za revnosnu službu (1895), Krst Društva Crvenog Krsta (1878), Spomenice ratova 1876. godine, 1877/78. godine, 1885. godine<sup>66-84</sup>.

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