

Abstract

The motivation behind this work is my interests of palliative care in times before establishing today health centers. This interest has its source in my long work in a hospice. This has motivated me to search information about the beginning of creating the idea of hospice in a medical literature in XIX century.

This work deals with periods from the half of XIX century to the beginning of the First World War. However, for better description of all problems connected with establishing first institutions I have alluded to their beginnings which happened to be few centuries ago. It especially concerns a Saint Lazarus hospital, which had an interesting history of establishing.

Interesting in case of a service for patients was work done by Sisters of Mercy. Which was almost unnoticed because of other huge problems connected with maintaining hospitals funds. I showed the development of the initiative, which led to establishing a new care institution for those who has cancer. I presented that in the light of overcoming difficulties such as: looking for help among the reach philanthropists, benefitting from the support of influential people, teaching and accustoming to the everyday job and girls that were willing to help that created an organization of Franciscan Sisters of suffering. In that time of complicated political situation and poor living conditions came into existence protective activity of those sisters which was an answer for such need in the society.

I tried to show problems of the people in Warsaw in such aspects like political, social, cultural, and financial. I related those aspects to the situation of incurable ill, which could only look for a help from the government, and those, which were devoid of any support and to their attitude to death.

Valuable source of my work were journals (not only medical ones), which widely discussed many problems of the society. In those articles, there have been described efforts of charity associations, doctors, which supported medical institutions and difficulties with educating medical support personnel. There were presented many postulate, which supposed to improve medical care in that time and reduce social pathologies, however, their realization was distant in time.