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## TO THE HISTORY OF DOMESTIC DENTISTRY: THE SECOND MOSCOW DENTAL CLINIC

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**ABSTRACT.** Based on archival materials, this article describes the short history of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Moscow Dentistry Clinic — a former Moscow dental school of privat-docent G.-Z.I. Vilga, transformed in 1918 by a decision of the People's Commissariat of Health into an educational and auxiliary institution at the odontology department of the medical faculty of Moscow University. Such reorganization of the system of dentistry on the basis of dental schools and in the country as a whole was caused by the reforms proposed by P.G. Dauge, a graduate of the 1<sup>st</sup> Moscow Dentistry School of Dr. I.M. Kovarsky. The article provides a detailed schedule of the newly formed 2<sup>nd</sup> Moscow Dental Clinic, which functioned both as an educational institution and as a clinic for treatment dental diseases. It is shown that the schedule additionally includes a new subject — public dentistry, whose teacher, according to the decision of the United Pedagogical Council meeting, was later proposed by K.S. Ginzburg. However, the authors of this article provide ample arguments in favor of the worsening of the quality of education provided by dental schools-clinics after such perturbations in the habitual system: the graduates of the Moscow dental clinics of 1919 could obviously have had great problems with the practical skills in dentistry. Revision of the curriculum and lack of teachers was the reason that by the beginning of September 1919, when it was already time to take the final examinations, most students could not get the planned number of practical classes and thus could not be admitted to pass the final exams. However, by order of the Dentistry subsection of the People's Commissariat for Health, most of the graduates were still allowed to take them. And even for those students who were not able to pass state examinations, the way to dentistry was not closed: by the decision of the board of the Dentistry sub-section in October, 8–10, 1919 they could be permitted to work in dental outpatient clinics as unskilled workers. The authors of the article describe the changes in the educational process in such details that the only conclusion is unequivocal: the quality of the education received was greatly worsening. In addition to the changes in the educational process, the article examines changes in the financing of such newly-formed institutions: if before the revolution training of future dentists in a private dental school was quite expensive, and the dental care provided by teachers with the participation of students brought the schools a small but stable additional income, after the victory of the revolution both training of students and treatment of patients in need of dental care became free of charge. All this affected the basic mechanisms of supplying schools-clinics with the necessary materials for work and training, and added to the paperwork and bureaucracy. This detailed example of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Moscow Dentist Clinic shows that the attempt to transform the flourishing private dental schools into state dental clinics under conditions of teacher shortage and lack of sufficient funding could not be successful and led only to a reduction in the quality of students' education. The article is written on the basis of archival sources, which are introduced into scientific circulation for the first time.

**KEY WORDS:** history of dentistry; dental clinic; G.-Z.I. Vilga.

## К ИСТОРИИ ОТЕЧЕСТВЕННОЙ СТОМАТОЛОГИИ: ВТОРАЯ МОСКОВСКАЯ ЗУБОВРАЧЕБНАЯ КЛИНИКА

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**РЕЗЮМЕ.** В статье на основании архивных материалов описана недолгая история 2-й Московской зубоучебной клиники — бывшей московской зубоучебной школы приват-доцента Г.-З.И. Вильга, решением Народного комиссариата здравоохранения превращенной в 1918 году в учебно-вспомогательное учреждение при одонтологическом отделении медицинского факультета Московского университета. Причиной подобной реорганизации системы зубоучебания на базе зубоучебных школ и в стране в целом стали реформы, предложенные П.Г. Дауге, выпускником 1-й Московской зубоучебной школы доктора И.М. Коварского. В статье приводится подробное расписание новообразованной 2-й Московской зубоучебной клиники, которая функционировала и как учебное заведение, и как клиника для лечения зубных болезней. Показано, что в расписание дополнительно вводился новый предмет — общественное зубоучебание, преподавателем которого, по решению заседания Объединенного педсовета, впоследствии был предложен К.С. Гинзбург. Тем не менее авторы статьи приводят достаточно аргументов в пользу ухудшения качества получаемого образования в зубоучебных школах-клиниках после таких пертурбаций в привычной системе: с практическими навыками зубоучебания у выпускников московских зубоучебных клиник 1919 года явно были большие проблемы. Пересмотр программы обучения и нехватка преподавателей привели к тому, что к началу сентября 1919 года, когда пора было уже сдавать выпускные экзамены, большинство учащихся не смогли пройти запланированное количество практических занятий, таким образом, не могли быть допущены к выпускным экзаменам. Однако, по распоряжению Зубоучебной подсекции Наркомздрава, большая часть выпускников все же была к ним допущена. И даже для тех учащихся, кто не смог выдержать государственные экзамены, дорога к зубоучебанию не была закрыта — решением коллегии Зубоучебной подсекции от 8–10 октября 1919 года их можно было допустить к работе в зубоучебных амбулаториях в качестве подсобного персонала. Авторы статьи так подробно рассказывают об изменениях в учебном процессе, чтобы можно было однозначно сделать один вывод: качество получаемого образования значительно ухудшалось. Помимо изменений в учебном процессе в статье рассматриваются изменения в финансировании такого рода новообразованных заведений: если до революции обучение будущих зубных врачей в частной зубоучебной школе стоило довольно дорого, а оказываемая преподавателями при участии обучающихся зубоучебная помощь населению приносила школам небольшой, но стабильный дополнительный доход, то после победы революции и обучение слушателей, и лечение нуждающихся в зубоучебном пособии пациентов стали бесплатными. Все это повлияло на основные механизмы снабжения школ-клиник необходимыми материалами для работы и обучения, добавило бумажной волокиты и бюрократии. На таком подробном примере 2-й Московской зубоучебной клиники показано, что попытка превратить процветающие частные зубоучебные школы в государственные зубоучебные клиники в условиях нехватки преподавателей и при отсутствии достаточного финансирования не могла быть успешной и привела лишь к снижению качества получаемого образования учащимися. Статья написана на основе архивных источников, впервые вводимых в научный оборот.

**КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА:** история стоматологии; зубоучебная клиника; Г.-З.И. Вильга.

The history of modern Russian dentistry began on 11th July 1918, the day when the Council of People's Commissars decided to establish the People's Commissariat of Health. A week later, the regulations of the People's Commissariat of Health were approved, at which the Medical Section was established and the Dental Sub-Section was included in it. Pavel Georgievich Dauge (1869–1946), a dentist who took an active role in the revolutionary movement, was appointed head of this section on the recommendation of V.I. Lenin.

Dental education in pre-revolutionary Russia could be obtained either by mentoring, which allowed to obtain the title of dentist (the second way of obtaining specialists had been abandoned by that time), or in private dental schools, which produced dentists. A graduate of the 1st Moscow dental school of Dr I.M. Kovarsky, P.G. Dauge was a principal opponent of such school education. "The main reason for the imperfection of dental schools in Russia should be sought in the fact that all without exception dental schools are private educational institutions, not organically connected with the medical faculty and do not have the necessary scientific facilities — physical, chemical, bacteriological laboratories, anatomical theatre, etc." — he said in his keynote address after his appointment as the chief dentist of the country<sup>1</sup>.

The plan of the forthcoming reforms P.G. Dauge agreed in advance with V.I. Lenin, and on the 1st of October 1918 the corresponding decree of the People's Commissariat of Health and the People's Commissariat of Education "On the reform of dental education" was published: dental schools were closed, but some, the most successful, were to be used as educational and auxiliary institutions at the newly opened odontological departments of medical faculties of universities. The duration of education at the dental schools was 2.5 years — 5 semesters of half a year each. After the closure of the schools, the students of the 5th and 3rd semesters were given the right to complete their education at the same departments created from the previous schools. Students who had completed the full course of dental schools were allowed to take the final examination for the title of dentist at the newly organised odontological departments [2].

<sup>1</sup> State Archives of the Russian Federation (hereinafter SA RF). F. A482. Op. 1. D. 12. L. 1–5.



Fig. 1. Gilyar-Zdislav Ivanovich Vilga (1864–1942). From the collection of the Museum of the History of Medicine at Moscow State Medical University named after A.I. Evdokimov

Рис. 1. Гилярий-Здислав Иванович Вильга (1864–1942). Из собрания музея истории медицины МГМСУ им. А.И. Евдокимова

The plan of action was reported by the former director of the Moscow dental school, a docent of the Moscow University Gilyary-Zdislav Ivanovich Vilga (Fig. 1) at the meeting of the Scientific Odontological Commission on 2nd September 1918. The programme of theoretical courses remained the same for the 3rd and 5th semesters, it was only necessary to improve the practical classes as much as possible; examinations for the 3rd and 5th semesters in each of the non-closed schools were to be conducted by the same teaching staff; the term of examinations was fixed from September 15th to October the 1st with the right to fix additional examinations from October the 1st to October 15th. Both rooms of the non-closed dental schools were required for the needs of teaching; lecturers and leaders of practical works were to be preferably recruited from among teachers. In the clinic of dental diseases, one demonstrator was to serve no more than 10 chairs, in prosthetic technique on phantoms he could supervise a group of 30–40 students, in the fabrication of prostheses —





Fig. 2. The outside look of the Moscow Dental School of Gilyariy Ivanovich Vilga, located at Arbat, 44, Neidgart House. From the collection of the Museum of the History of Medicine at Moscow State Medical University named after A.I. Evdokimov

Рис. 2. Внешний вид московской зубоврачебной школы Гилярия Ивановича Вильга, расположенной по адресу Арбат, дом 44, в домовладении Нейдгарт. Из собрания музея истории медицины МГМСУ им. А.И. Евдокимова

15–20 people<sup>2</sup>. This plan after discussion was adopted by the Academic Odontological Commission with minor amendments, in particular “the programme of theoretical courses remains the same for III and V semesters with the only difference that a special course of social health care is introduced for V semester”<sup>3</sup>. As it will be shown later, in practice it turned out to be quite difficult to implement the stated programme.

At the meeting of the dental sub-section of the People’s Commissariat of Health on 28th September 1918 a resolution was adopted: “The dental schools of Associate Professor G.I. Vilga and Dr. I.M. Kovarsky are transformed into educational and auxiliary institutions of the odontological department of the Medical Faculty and transferred to the People’s Commissariat of Health. To invite the dentist C.A. Daughe to be the head of the economic part in the former school of Kovarsky and Elena Aleksandrovna Smirnova to be the head of the former school of G.I. Vilga”<sup>4</sup>. And so it turned out that the Mos-

cow Dental School opened in 1909 by a docent G.- Z.I. Vilga, which was located at the address Arbat, house 44 (Fig. 2), was transformed into an educational and auxiliary base of the Department of Surgery of the Jaws and Oral Cavity with Odontological Clinic of the Medical Faculty of Moscow University; all its property became the people’s wealth, which was to be supervised by a trusted elected woman of the Dental Sub-Section, and the docent himself turned from the owner and director of the clinic into the head of the clinic at the choice of the Pedagogical Council.

As it was noted in the letter of the Dental Sub-section to the People’s Commissariat of Health, according to the agreement with the People’s Commissariat of Education of the 22nd of October 1918, the educational and auxiliary institutions were to remain under the jurisdiction of the People’s Commissariat of Health for as long as the teaching for the former students continued, although on new principles, but according to the same approximate programme as before, “by order of the Section... the former dental schools were transformed into state dental clinics: the 1st and 2nd Moscow State Clinics (former Kovarsky

<sup>2</sup> SA RF. F. A482. Op. 1. D. 12. L. 31, 31 ob.

<sup>3</sup> SA RF. F. A482. Op. 2. D. 2. L. 24, 24 ob.

<sup>4</sup> SA RF. F. A482. Op. 20. D. 3. L. 43.

Table 1

Schedule of classes at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Moscow Dental Clinic

Таблица 1

## Расписание занятий во 2-й Московской зубохирургической клинике

III семестр / III semester				
Понедельник / Monday	Анатомия / Anatomy	4–6 ч / h	Протезная техника / Prosthetic technique	6–7 ч / h
Вторник / Tuesday	Бактериология / Bacteriology	3–5 ч / h	Дентиатрия / Dentiatrics	5–7 ч / h
Среда / Wednesday	Пломбирование золотом и фосфором / Filling with gold and phosphorus	3–5 ч / h	Общая хирургия / General Surgery	5–7 ч / h
Четверг / Thursday	Фармакология / Pharmacology	4–6 ч / h		
Пятница / Friday	Общая патология / General Pathology	3–5 ч / h	Протезная техника / Prosthetic technique	5–7 ч / h
Суббота / Saturday	Пломбирование золотом и фосфором / Filling with gold and phosphorus	4–5 ч / h	Дентиатрия / Dentiatrics	5–7 ч / h
Прием больных ежедневно от 9 до 3 часов (по группам) / Reception of patients every day from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (per group)				
V семестр / V semester				
Понедельник / Monday	Клинические лекции / Clinical lectures			9–11 ч / h
Вторник / Tuesday	Хирургическая поликлиника / Surgicalout patientclinic			9–11 ч / h
Среда / Wednesday				
Четверг / Thursday	Общественное зубохирургическое лечение / Community dentistry			5–7 ч / h
Пятница / Friday	Хирургическая поликлиника / Surgicalout patientclinic	9–11 ч	Сифилидология полости рта	4–6 ч / h
Суббота / Saturday				
Прием больных в клинике ежедневно от 9 до 3 часов (по группам) / Reception of patients every day from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (per group)				

and Wilg schools)... These clinics are maintained by the National Commissariat of Health according to the estimates of the Dental Section since 1 October 1918”<sup>5</sup>.

The programme for the 3rd and 5th semesters was discussed on the 13th of October 1918 at the first meeting of the Joint Pedagogical Council of the Dental Section of the Medical Faculty, which included former teachers of dental schools I.M. Kovarsky and G.-Z.I. Vilga. For the trainees of the Arbat Department (former Vilga School), the schedule of classes was adopted as presented in Table 1.

It is interesting that during the discussion of the staff the question of a teacher of the newly introduced public dentistry was left open until the programme of this subject was clarified, and

the development of the necessary programme was postponed until the relevant decrees were received from the Academic Odontological Commission<sup>6</sup>. However, a week later, on 20th October 1918, at the second meeting of the Joint Pedagogical Council, K.S. Ginzburg was proposed for the place of a teacher of public dentistry. Being a member of the Academic Odontological Commission, he probably understood what he would teach the students of the clinic<sup>7</sup>.

We learn how the final examinations were conducted from the temporary rules on the composition and order of tests for persons seeking the right to practice dentistry. The examinations were taken by a commission under the People’s

<sup>5</sup> SA RF. F. A482. Op. 1. D. 12. L. 167, 167 ob.

<sup>6</sup> Central State Archives of the City of Moscow (hereinafter CSAM). F. 412. Op. 1. D. 583. L. 3–4 ob.

<sup>7</sup> CSAM. F. 412. Op. 1. D. 583. L. 7–8.

Commissariat of Health, the chairman of the commission was chosen on a competitive basis on the proposal of the Academic Medical Council, it included teachers of the medical faculty of the university, and examinations on special subjects were taken by teachers of odontological departments of the university (dental clinics). The subjects of the test were anatomy of the oral cavity and neck and physiology, general pathology with pathological anatomy and bacteriology, pathology and therapy of teeth and oral cavity, hygiene of this cavity with questions on pharmacology; practical skills in the clinic of dental diseases with operative dentistry were tested on patients. Test subjects had to find sufficient clinical experience, be able to make an accurate diagnosis, prescribe treatment, carry out the necessary therapeutic manipulations or operations — filling of teeth, extractions, teach, etc.<sup>8</sup>

Students of dental clinics practised their skills on patients under the guidance of teachers-demonstrators. Admission of patients in the clinic took place daily from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the rate of 12 people (including two primary) for each of the working dentists-demonstrators and 5 people (including one primary) for each dentist-practitioner<sup>9</sup>.

The practical dental skills of the 1919 graduates of the Moscow dental clinics could have been problematic. Revision of the training programme and shortage of teachers led to the fact that by the beginning of September 1919, when it was time to take the final exams, the majority of students were not able to pass the planned number of practical classes — 50–60 techniques, 5–10 extractions and a significant number of technical works were not completed. The Joint Pedagogical Council of dental clinics proposed to prolong the training sessions for a month, but by order of the Dental Subsection of the People's Commissariat for Health "it was decided to allow to the final examinations all those who have a newly established minimum of practical work regardless of whether all the theoretical credits passed". In the journal of the meetings of the board of the Dental Subsection we find the reason for this decision: "in the form of the necessity to liquidate the former dental schools as soon as possible in order to transfer them to the Faculty of Medicine, the petition should be

rejected. As for the replenishment of the knowledge of insufficiently trained students, it should be pointed out that it is planning to open an Odontological Institute, where admission will be opened for this category of persons"<sup>10</sup>. The newly established minimum of compulsory practical work included 200 techniques, 10 dental fillings and 10 extractions. However, in case of shortage of a certain number of extractions and such students were allowed to be admitted to the examinations<sup>11</sup>. And even for those students who could not pass the state examinations, the way to dentistry was not closed — by the decision of the board of the Dental Subsection of 8–10 October 1919 they could be allowed to work in dental outpatient clinics as auxiliary personnel<sup>12</sup>.

As already mentioned, from the beginning the dental clinic had problems with its staff: a lot of doctors refused to work because of the "insignificance of the remuneration", in this connection the Pedagogical Council decided to "initiate a motivated petition to increase the fees of the above-mentioned doctors"<sup>13</sup>. The problem of personnel was aggravated by the mobilisation of dentists to the Red Army. The head of the clinic, G.-Z.I. Vilga, wrote to the Medical Faculty I of Moscow State University: "I inform you that according to the staff of the Odontological Clinic there are 3 assistants and 9 residents. On the person of assistants — 1. Assistants without teaching duties — residents — dentists — 6. Called up for military service assistants without teaching duties, performing resident duties — dentists: 1) Gurevich Boris Abramych. 2) Neimenov Maxim Semyonovich, about whom it is desirable to initiate a petition for their return to the Clinic"<sup>14</sup>. We have not found any documents testifying to the return of these dentists to the Clinic, but the Clinic's request for dentist A.U. Danilevsky — the only remaining assistant at the Clinic, who read courses of the jaw and oral surgery, odontology and X-ray diagnostics — received a reply from the head of the Main Military Sanitary Department: "the commission at the People's Commissariat for Health did not recognise it possible to satisfy the petition for exemption from mili-

<sup>8</sup> CSAM. F. 412. Op. 1. D. 586. L. 11, 11 об.

<sup>9</sup> CSAM. F. 412. Op. 1. D. 591. L. 14.

<sup>10</sup> SA RF. F. A482. Op. 20. D. 8. L. 76.

<sup>11</sup> CSAM. F. 412. Op. 1. D. 583. L. 24, 26.

<sup>12</sup> SA RF. F. A482. Op. 20. D. 8. L. 93 об.

<sup>13</sup> CSAM. F. 412. Op. 1. D. 583. L. 3–4 об.

<sup>14</sup> CSAM. F. 412. Op. 1. D. 591. L. 2.

tary service of doctor Danilevsky due to the lack of medical personnel in the army"<sup>15</sup>. In the end, however, Danilevsky's assistant was still exempted from conscription<sup>16</sup>, probably because the army's need for dentists had already been satisfied by that time, and the frequently practised use of dentists as lecturers was deemed inexpedient.

Thus, after the transformation of the Second Dental School into the Second Dental Clinic, little changed for the students, except for the introduction of a new discipline, public dentistry, and a marked reduction in the amount of practical work. The main difference was the channels of financing of the clinic. Before the revolution the training of future dentists in a private dental school was quite expensive, and the dental care provided by the teachers with the participation of students brought the school a small but stable additional income, then after the victory of the revolution both the training of students and the treatment of patients in need of dental care became free of charge.

The Council of People's Commissars in the meeting on 26th of November decided: "Recognising the necessity of maintaining the five dental schools that have been transformed into auxiliary educational institutions: the 1st in Petrograd, the 2nd in Moscow, the 1st in Saratov, the 1st in Kazan, until their final transfer to the medical faculty of the State University: "To authorise the People's Commissariat for Health Care to allocate the expenditure of (759, 570) seven hundred and fifty-nine thousand five hundred and seventy roubles required during October, November and December 1918, according to the estimate for the maintenance of the said five schools to the possible balance of the budget of the People's Commissariat for Health Care for 1918"<sup>17</sup>. The head of the Dental Sub-section of the People's Commissariat of Health P.G. Daughe sent a telegram to the 2nd Moscow Dental Clinic with the following content: "The Dental Section proposes to provide an estimate for supplying... the clinic with all necessary items. Until the estimate is received, any release of goods to the General Supply Department will be closed"<sup>18</sup>.

The employees of the clinic became civil servants and received salaries according to the tariff scale (for doctors its size was determined mainly by their professional experience). The low salaries were also regularly delayed, about which the employees of the 2nd Moscow Dental Clinic complained to the Conflict Commission of the People's Commissariat of Labour<sup>19</sup>. The employees were helped to survive by the rations they were entitled to, as evidenced by a note from the clinic's caretaker to shop No. 19: "I ask you to release bread for 22 people for 5 days for 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 for the employees of the Odontological Clinic of the 1st Moscow State University for 5 days for 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, for 1 pound per day per person in the amount of 2 pud[s] 30 pound[s] according to invoice No. 1652"<sup>20</sup>. However, the ration could be forfeited, in particular, for leaving work prematurely without a signature in a special notebook, which was a gross violation of the decree on labour conscription<sup>21</sup>.

Another small item of expenditure on dental clinics was a stipend, which was paid to some particularly needy students. The petition of the students of the 2nd Moscow Dental Clinic for subsidies to continue their education was considered at a meeting of the board of the Dental Subsection on the 29th of January 1919, the students were offered "to apply for a subsidy to the senate of higher educational institutions and to the Commission for social security of needy students. At the same time to initiate a petition from the sub-section to issue subsidies to the listeners of the dental clinic from the general fund of students of higher educational institutions..."<sup>22</sup>. On 8th February 1919, at a regular meeting of the board it was noted: "In view of the refusal of the People's Commissariat of Education to subsidise the persons in question as being under the jurisdiction of the People's Commissariat of Health, I ask the head of the sub-section, P.G. Daughe, to petition the board to issue a grant of 5,400 roubles"<sup>23</sup>. At the meeting of the board of the Dental Sub-section on the 21st of May 1919 the question of subsi-

<sup>15</sup> CSAM. F. 412. Op. 1. D. 586. L. 88; D. 592. L. 10 об.

<sup>16</sup> CSAM. F. 412. Op. 1. D. 592. L. 13.

<sup>17</sup> SA RF. F. A482. Op. 1. D. 12. L. 97.

<sup>18</sup> CSAM. F. 412. Op. 1. D. 586. L. 92.

<sup>19</sup> CSAM. F. 412. Op. 1. D. 586. L. 54.

<sup>20</sup> CSAM. F. 412. Op. 1. D. 591. L. 15.

<sup>21</sup> CSAM. F. 412. Op. 1. D. 592. L. 29; D. 594, L. 6, 16, 19, 33.

<sup>22</sup> SA RF. F. A482. Op. 20. D. 8. L. 7 об.

<sup>23</sup> SA RF. F. A482. Op. 20. D. 8. L. 11.



dies to the students of the 1st and 2nd Moscow dental clinics was again considered. The resolution read: "Taking into account that the number of scholarship holders of both clinics should not exceed 15 per cent of all students, to propose to the committees of students of both clinics to submit nominal lists for granting scholarships to 18 students of the 1st clinic and 15 students of the 2nd clinic. The amount of scholarships to be determined upon receipt of the list and consideration of individual applications"<sup>24</sup>.

However, teachers' salaries and stipends for individual students were certainly not the main item of expenditure. Now, in order to obtain the necessary materials and medicines for the clinic, it was necessary to submit information to the dean's office of the university within two days. In the archives there were many letters in which the clinic asked to buy the necessary materials and medicines<sup>25</sup>, gauze and bandages<sup>26</sup>, syringes and beakers<sup>27</sup>, spirit<sup>28</sup>, soap and paraffin<sup>29</sup> etc. Especially heated correspondence with the board of the Moscow State University was about the purchase of a handcart for transporting paraffin, alcohol and medicines, as well as a bundle of medium-thick ropes for carrying heavy loads, such as firewood<sup>30</sup>. The question of repairing the premises and plumbing was almost impossible to solve<sup>31</sup>. Of course, the petition of the head of the 2nd Moscow Dental Clinic with a request to open an X-ray room in the clinic was rejected by the board of the Dental Subsection of the People's Commissariat for Health on 19 February 1919 without explanation<sup>32</sup>.

It is noteworthy the statement of P.G. Dauge made on 15th October 1919 at the meeting of the board of the Dental Sub-Section that "a number of papers addressed to the Section and having an official character are lingering and often unanswered in the portfolios of the heads of departments" and the corresponding resolution of the

board — "to transfer all available papers to the office for distribution to the archive. In the future, all papers should be handed over to the secretaries as they are used". Probably, it was thanks to this decision that we managed to restore the history of the 2nd Moscow Dental Clinic.

Meanwhile, its history was nearing completion. The fatal mistake of G.-Z.I. Vilg was the use of materials belonging to him in the 2nd Moscow Dental Clinic — the respected private professor of the Moscow University and member of the Academic Odontological Commission naively believed that he would be compensated for his expenses. On the 26th of June the board of the People's Commissariat of Health under the chairmanship of N.A. Semashko considered this question. "Conclusion of the State Audit Office on the issue of payment to Dr Vilga for dental materials taken from him for the dental clinic. The National Audit Office reports that there are no obstacles on its part to the payment of Dr Vilga's invoices. We decided to ask the National Audit Office to give an opinion on whether the People's Commissariat of Health is legally obliged to pay for the materials"<sup>33</sup>.

To such an escapade of his former colleague in the Russian Dental Union, the head of the Dental Sub-section of the Medical Section of the People's Commissariat of Health P.G. Dauge reacted with all the revolutionary uncompromisingness. At a meeting of the board of the Dental Sub-Section on the 8th of February 1919 the question of payment of the bills of G.-Z.I. Vilga for the total sum of 53,337 ruble 75 kopecks was considered. The resolution read: "In view of the failure to comply with the decree of the People's Commissariat of Health of 18th September on the provision of an inventory of all available materials, invoices should be declared cancelled and the goods should be confiscated"<sup>34</sup>.

The above-mentioned letter of the Dental Section to the People's Commissariat of Health stated: "Some of the former school owners continue to look upon the clinics as their property: for example... Dr G.I. Vilga submitted to the Financial Department of the People's Commissariat of Health an invoice for 53,000 rubles for drugs and filling material "sold" to the 2nd Moscow Dental Clinic, etc. The Dental Section believes that such claims are completely unfounded. If the decree

<sup>24</sup> SA RF. F. A482. Op. 20. D. 8. L. 31.

<sup>25</sup> CSAM. F. 412. Op. 1. D. 589. L. 27, 28.

<sup>26</sup> CSAM. F. 412. Op. 1. D. 589. L. 18.

<sup>27</sup> CSAM. F. 412. Op. 1. D. 589. L. 19a, 32.

<sup>28</sup> CSAM. F. 412. Op. 1. D. 589. L. 26.

<sup>29</sup> CSAM. F. 412. Op. 1. D. 589. L. 30, 31.

<sup>30</sup> CSAM. F. 412. Op. 1. D. 589. L. 12, 20, 21.

<sup>31</sup> CSAM. F. 412. Op. 1. D. 589. L. 10, 24; D. 591. L. 2, 7.

<sup>32</sup> SA RF. F. A482. Op. 20. D. 8. L. 13.

<sup>33</sup> SA RF. F. A482. Op. 20. D. 7. L. 22.

<sup>34</sup> SA RF. F. A482. Op. 20. D. 8. L. 11 ob.



on the organisation of state dental care allows the requisitioning without redemption of dental clinics with more than one chair, the more justly this principle should be applied to the former dental schools, where there was exploitation of assistants, dental masters and apprentices, where surplus value was extracted in the most blatant way. The Dental Section considers it necessary for the People's Commissariat of Health to issue a special order in addition to the decree of 1st October, by which the former dental schools with all their equipment, tools, materials and medicines would be declared the property of the country"<sup>35</sup>.

On the 9th of May 1919 in the 98th edition of "Izvestiya (News)" of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets was published the corresponding resolution of the People's Commissariats of Health and Education "On the nationalisation of former dental schools", which declared all former dental schools with their inventory, tools, materials and supplies to be the property of the Republic" [3]. It should be noted, however, that as early as January 29th 1919 at a meeting of the board of the Dental Subsection it was decided that "dental schools, as being purely entrepreneurial in nature, are subject to nationalisation without redemption, except in cases provided for by the decision of the Committee of Public Education (loss of ability to work by the owner, etc.)"<sup>36</sup>.

The class hatred of the dentist and revolutionary, head of the Dental Sub-section P.G. Dauge towards the odontologist and private docent G.-Z.I. Vilga was so great that a few days after the publication of the decree of the People's Commissariats of Health and Education "On the nationalisation of the former dental schools" and a few months before the final liquidation of the former schools he attempted to close the 2nd Moscow Dental Clinic by merging it with the 1st. The question was discussed under the pretext of a demand of the State Control to reduce the staff in all institutions.

This problem was discussed at the meeting of the Board of the Dental Subsection on the 17th of May 1919: "Since the small number of students of both clinics can be served by one clinic [it is necessary] to close the 2nd Dental Clinic, leaving the 1st one as more adaptable. The at-

tendees of the 2nd clinic should be transferred to the 1st clinic"<sup>37</sup>.

However, the Academic Odontological Commission argued against the merger of the clinics on 16th June 1919. Such a measure would have a detrimental effect on the proper course of training sessions and would lead to insufficient preparation of future dentists to independently provide dental care to the population. And such a conclusion was adopted by the Commission on the basis of the following considerations:

- 1) If the two clinics were merged into one, the students of the closed clinic, mainly those living in its neighbourhood, would not be able to attend classes properly with the existing means of communication.
- 2) The number of patients due to the merger of the clinics would be so significantly reduced that the students would not be able to perform the prescribed number of techniques required for minimum practical training.
- 3) Considering that the fifth term is a purely practical term, where students, unlike in other terms, must work daily to acquire clinical skills, and that the number of students in both clinics is currently 250 and increasing, the Odontological Commission considers that the available number of demonstrators and teachers and the existing number of chairs in both clinics are necessary for the normal conduct of the teaching process.
- 4) Finally, the implementation of the project of merging the dental clinics would lead to a significant interruption in the classes, which must already be carried out with extreme intensity for the success of the work<sup>38</sup>.

Thus, the merger did not take place, the students of the 1st and 2nd Moscow dental clinics were allowed to finish their studies until the autumn without new upheavals.

The question of closing the Moscow dental clinics was discussed on 10th September 1919 at the meeting of the board of the dental sub-section of the People's Commissariat of Health<sup>39</sup>; their final liquidation was scheduled for 1st October 1919; until that date the entire staff remained in place. At the meeting of the board on the 13th of September it was decided "to propose to the staff of the schools, wi-

<sup>35</sup> SA RF. F. A482. Op. 1. D. 12. L. 167, 167 ob.

<sup>36</sup> SA RF. F. A482. Op. 20. D. 8. L. 8.

<sup>37</sup> SA RF. F. A482. Op. 20. D. 8. L. 29.

<sup>38</sup> SA RF. F. A482. Op. 20. D. 10. L. 40.

<sup>39</sup> SA RF. F. A482. Op. 20. D. 8. L. 8.

shing to obtain a post after the liquidation of the schools, to submit applications to the Section. In the application they should indicate the type of service they wish to receive: administrative or specialised, in Moscow or away"<sup>40</sup>. G.-Z.I. Vilga, the former director of the dental school and then the head of the 2nd Moscow dental clinic, the docent of the Moscow University, solved the problem of employment radically: in 1922 he took Polish citizenship and emigrated to Poland, where in the same year he was elected professor of the dentiatrics department of the Polish Institute of Odontology [1].

This was the end of the agony of school dental education in Moscow. It is obvious that the attempt to turn private dental schools into state dental clinics in the conditions of shortage of teachers and lack of sufficient funding could not be successful and only led to a decrease in the quality of education. Moreover, the personal animosity of the head of the Dental Sub-section of the People's Commissariat of Health P.G. Dauget towards the work of the privat-docent of the Moscow University G.-Z.I. Vilga, the former director of the advanced dental school, was not constructive and resulted in the loss of qualified specialists and the departure of the well-known doctor abroad. The uncertainty and radicality of the methods of rapid transformation of dental schools into dental clinics slowed down the development of dentistry in Russia for a short while, which once again highlights the difficulty and ambiguity of the decisions made in the first period of reforming medical education and transferring it to the state system.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**Author contribution.** Thereby, all authors made a substantial contribution to the conception of the study, acquisition, analysis, interpretation of data for the work, drafting and revising the article, final approval of the version to be published and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the study.

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<sup>40</sup> SA RF. F. A482. Op. 20. D. 8. L. 83.