

THE CONTRIBUTION OF TEACHERS AND VETERINARY STUDENTS TO THE GREAT WAR (1916-1918)

CONTRIBUȚIA PROFESORILOR ȘI STUDENȚILOR VETERINARI LA RĂZBOIUL CEL MARE (1916-1918)

B. GEORGESCU^{1*)}, G. PREDOI¹⁾,
Petronela Mihaela ROȘU¹⁾,
Oana Mărgărita GHIMPEȚEANU¹⁾,
Letiția PURDOIU¹⁾, C. BELU¹⁾

ABSTRACT | REZUMAT

At the time of Romania's entry into the Great War in 1916, the students of the senior years and some teachers of the Higher School of Veterinary Medicine were mobilized and assigned to the Veterinary Military Hospital in Bucharest. The Higher School of Veterinary Medicine interrupted its activity, and during the German occupation of Bucharest it was moved to Iasi together with the Institute of Serums and Vaccines. Alongside teachers, who were active officers such as Professor Ioan Bucică, the military campaign was attended by teachers who were not career soldiers, among them Professor Alexandru Vechiu, Professor Constantin Motaș, Professor Alexandru Ciucă, Professor Radu Vlădescu, Professor G. K. Constantinescu, Professor Vasile Pârvulescu, Professor Constantin Gavrilăscu, Professor Nicolae Filip and Professor Gheorghe Udriski. At the end of the war, it was found that the military veterinary services had worked well, with the army management believing that the service could function independently of the human medical staff, and this emancipation was quoted as an advantage for the teaching staff of the Higher School of Veterinary Medicine.

Key words: Great War, teachers, students, history

În momentul intrării României în Marele Război în 1916, studenții din anii superiori și unii profesori ai Școlii Superioare de Medicină Veterinară au fost mobilizați și repartizați în cadrul Spitalului Militar Veterinar din București. Școala Superioară de Medicină Veterinară și-a întrerupt activitatea și pe perioada ocupației germane a Bucureștiului a fost mutată la Iași împreună cu Institutul de Seruri și Vaccinuri. Alături de cadre didactice care erau ofițeri activi precum a fost Profesorul Ioan Bucică, la campania militară au participat și cadre didactice care nu erau militari de carieră, printre aceștia remarcându-se Profesorul Alexandru Vechiu, Profesorul Constantin Motaș, Profesorul Alexandru Ciucă, Profesorul Radu Vlădescu, Profesorul G.K. Constantinescu, Profesorul Vasile Pârvulescu, Profesorul Constantin Gavrilăscu, Profesorul Nicolae Filip și Profesorul Gheorghe Udriski. La încheierea războiului s-a constatat că serviciile veterinare militare au funcționat excelent, conducerea armatei apreciind că acest serviciu a putut funcționa independent de cel medical uman, la această emancipare fiind citate că și-au adus contribuția cadre didactice ale Școlii Superioare de Medicină Veterinară.

Cuvinte cheie: Războiul cel mare, profesori, studenți, istorie

With Romania entering in Great War in 1916, the students of the senior years and some teachers of the Higher School of Veterinary Medicine were mobilized and assigned to the Veterinary Military Hospital in Bucharest. The Higher School of Veterinary Medicine interrupted its activity, and during the German occupation of Bucharest it was moved to Iasi together with the Institute of Serums and Vaccines (6).

The students were assigned as veterinary surgeons to various military units, units to which they

would operate throughout the conflagration period. In addition to teachers who were active officers (such as Prof. Ioan Bucică), the military campaign was attended by teachers who were not career soldiers (6, 7, 8).

General Professor **Ioan (Ion) Bucică** (1882-1957) (Fig. 1) - Military Veterinarian, headed the Military Veterinary Hospital in Bucharest during World War I, at that time being a Veterinary Officer (6).

Professor **Alexandru Vechiu** (1890-1954) (Fig. 2) obtained the title of veterinarian (Diploma 383/6 July 1916) and was immediately summoned to participate as veterinary officer in World War I (13).

Professor **Constantin Motaș** (1869-1931) (Fig. 3) participated in the military campaigns from 1917-1919

1) University of Agronomic Science and Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Bucharest, Romania

*) Corresponding author: bogdangeorgescu@fmvb.ro

as a veterinary captain in the 2nd Roşiori Regiment (2). During this time, "although sick, he did not neglected his duty and gave his scholarly and uninterrupted support in the fight with the scourge of contagious diseases, anthrax, morgue and wrinkle in particular, which haunted the horses of the army" (General veterinarian Vintilă Rădulescu - the death of Professor Motaş, March 12, 1931).



Fig. 1. Prof. Ioan (Ion) Bucică
(1882-1957)



Fig. 2. Prof. Alexandru Vechiu
(1890-1954)



Fig. 3. Prof. Constantin Motaş
(1869-1931)

Professor **Alexandru Ciucă** (1880-1972) (Fig. 4) did not actually go to the front, but was a permanent collaborator of Professor Ion Cantacuzino for the production of serums (especially anti-Tetanus), as well as vaccines necessary to fight the epidemics within the army and the civilian population (1, 6).

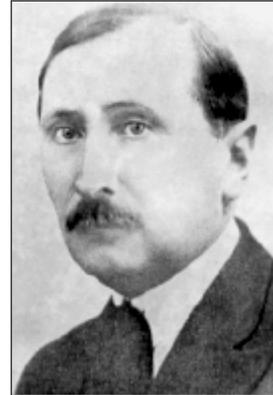


Fig. 4. Prof. Alexandru Ciucă
(1880-1972)

Academician Professor **Radu Vlădescu** (1886-1964) (Fig. 5) was assigned as an officer and participated in the war within the 9th Roşiori Regiment, during this period being advanced from Lieutenant to Major. Professor Vlădescu contributed to stopping the spread of the cholera both on the battlefield and during the refuge in Iaşi. He collaborated with Professor Ion Cantacuzino during this period. For the heroism he displayed he was awarded the highest distinction of the Romanian state, namely "Steaua României cu spade în rang de ofiţer" ("The Star of Romania with swords, in rank of officer"), decoration granted on June 15, 1919 (6, 11, 12).



Fig. 5. Acad. Prof. Radu Vlădescu
(1886-1964)

Professor **Gheorghe K. Constantinescu** (1888-1950) (Fig. 6), lecturer within the Department of Ana-

tomy between 1913 and 1916, was mobilized with the start of the war and was appointed Chief of Veterinary Services of Division 14 (6, 13).



Fig. 6. Prof. Gheorghe K. Constantinescu
(1888-1950)

Professor **Vasile Pârvulescu** (1883-1945) (Fig. 7) graduated from the Upper School of Veterinary Medicine in Bucharest in 1907. On March 16, 1907, he entered the army as a professor of hypology at the Cavalry School during 1908-1909 and 1913-1917. In 1916 he was advanced to captain, then in 1917 he was promoted to colonel, a rank which he retained until March 15, 1926 when he left the army. He was decorated for wartime activity with several orders and distinctions such as the Country Avantgarde Medal and the Star of Romania as an officer. The clinical activity carried out during the war had formed the basis of scientific papers that have been appreciated both in the country and abroad.



Fig. 7. Prof. Vasile Pârvulescu
(1883-1945)

Among these works of Prof. V. Pârvulescu we mention "Contribution à l'étude et au traitement du flegmon chronique du garrot", published in 1922 and quoted by Prof. N. Marçenac - member of the Academy of Medicine and Surgery in Paris, who shows that the surgical me-

thod used by Professor Pârvulescu is a surgical method of great utility and has the advantage of fully restoring the withers region (5, 9, 12, 13).

As already mentioned, the entry of Romania into war in 1916, the veterinary officers of the Central Military Veterinary Hospital in Bucharest were assigned to operative units, instead of being reservists (4, 9, 10).

Professor **Constantin Gavrilesco** (1856-1941) (Fig. 8), having the rank of Veterinary Officer, was appointed Chief of the Hospital. Assigned to this position, the professor organized the evacuation of the hospital to Moldova in two successive echelons, before Bucharest was occupied by the German troops on November 16, 1916. On December 25, 1916, the hospital reached Târgu Frumos, a town where it operated until 1 October 1917, when it was evacuated to the village of Scobâlțeni (Iași County) where it would work until September 15, 1918, when it would move to Iași, and from 22 February 1919 the hospital returned to Bucharest.



Fig. 8. Prof. Constantin Gavrilesco
(1856 - 1941)

For services rendered to the country during the military campaign, Prof. Gavrilesco was awarded the royal decree "The Star of Romania with swords in rank of officer" (3, 11, 12). In 1919, while still being mobilized and occupied by the Great General District, Prof. Gavrilesco together with the Chief Veteran of the Army, General Petre Străvescu, elaborated the acts for the elevation of the Higher School to the rank of college. As a result, the Ministry of Public Instruction together with the Ministry of the Internal Affairs submitted to Parliament a bill for the creation of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, but after a few days the government was dismissed and new elections were organized, the draft of the proposal no longer being approved. In the same year, Prof. Gavrilesco retired as an army veteran (3, 15).

Professor **Nicolae Filip** (1864-1922) (Fig. 9), active military veteran at the beginning of his career, be-

came an important figure for the development of Romanian veterinary science and education (5,6,7,8,10).



Fig. 9. Prof. Nicolae Filip
(1864-1922)

During the time of World War I, the Veterinary Service of the army was led by reservist Major Professor **Gheorghe Udriski** (1867-1958) (Fig. 10) from the First Army. For his courage, he has been decorated and advanced to colonel. He was perpetually interested in the organization of the Military and veterinary services, in professional matters and scientific regarding both civilian and military veterinarian medicine (6).



Fig. 10. Prof. Gheorghe Udriski
(1867-1958)

At the end of the war, it was found that the military veterinary services had worked well, with the army management believing that the service could function independently of the human medical staff and this emancipation was quoted as an advantage for the staff of the Higher School of Veterinary Medicine (8, 14). As a result of these assessments, since April 1919, the General Veterinarian (Campaign) degree of the Chief Veterinary Officer of the Army has been created, as well as other several higher degrees for veterinary officers.

In April 1919, there were 9 Colonel Veterinarians, 10 Lieutenant-Colonel Veterinarians, 18 Major Veterinarians, 15 Captain Veterinarians, 13 Lieutenant Veterinarians and 11 Second Lieutenant Veterinarians (7, 8, 13).

REFERENCES

1. *Curcă D.*, (2016), Contribution of Professor Alexandru Ciucă (1880-1972) in the diagnosis and eradication of animal diseases. *Revista Romana de Medicina Veterinara*, 28(3): 49-60
2. *Lefter L.V., Luca F.A., Toma S.A.*, (2013), The Legacy of the Motaș Family [in Romanian]. Ed. Tehnopress, Iași, Romania
3. *Nichita G.*, (1941), Professor Constantin Gavrilescu. *Revista Științelor Veterinare*, 4, Bucharest, Romania
4. *Paștea E.*, (1982), Bibliographic index of veterinary anatomy [in Romanian]. Lito. I.A.N.B., Bucharest
5. *Picu M.V.*, (2005), History of Veterinary Medicine School in Bucharest - monographic study [in Romanian]. Ed. Ceres, Bucharest, Romania
6. *Poenaru I.*, (1931), 75 years since the founding of veterinary medicine education in Romania: 1853-1931. Tip. Cultura, Bucharest, Romania
7. *Popa V.V., Carabulea M.*, (2004), History of Romanian Veterinary Medicine [in Romanian]. Ed. Fundației România de Măine, Bucharest, Romania
8. *Popa V.V., Comârzan A.*, (2006), History of a century and a half of Romanian veterinary medicine [in Romanian]. Ed. Printech, Bucharest, Romania
9. *Postolache Ferat Aida*, (2003), History of Veterinary Medicine. Ed. "Ion Ionescu de la Brad", Iași, Romania
10. *Predoi G., Popa V.V., Cornilă N.*, (2011), 150 years of veterinary medical education in Romania - Bucharest - Homage (1861-2011) [in Romanian]. Ed. Medicală, Bucharest, Romania
11. *Simionescu C.*, (1987), Constantin Gavrilescu (1856-1941), Vol I - Personalities from the past of veterinary medicine [in Romanian]. *Buletinul S.S.M. V.R.*, Bucharest, Romania
12. *Simionescu C., Moroșanu N.*, (1984), Pages from the history of Romanian veterinary medicine [in Romanian]. Ed. Ceres, Bucharest, Romania
13. *Stancu I.*, (2002), Outstanding representatives of Romanian veterinary medicine (1856-2001) [in Romanian]. Ed. Coral Sanivet, Bucharest, Romania
14. *Tomescu V., Gavriliță I.M.*, (1983), Moments and personalities from the past of world veterinary science (interference with human medicine) [in Romanian]. Ed. Ceres, Bucharest, Romania
- 15.*** (1941), Records on the Death of Professor Constantin Gavrilescu. *Veterinary Archive*, 2, Bucharest
- 16.*** (2018), Anatomy Department Archives (Photographic and Documentary Collections), Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Bucharest, Romania.