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## DOCTOR F. P. HAASS AND THE POLICE HOSPITAL AS THE FIRST EMERGENCY HOSPITAL IN MOSCOW

### Abstract

A brief description and the work field of the doctor and humanist F. P. Haass (Friedrich Joseph Haass), who came to Moscow as a family doctor and gave all his knowledge and medical art to his new homeland, is provided. His path is shown from a family practice to the organization of Moscow healthcare, the chief doctor and hospital builder, the organizer of prison medicine, the great philanthropist and humanist who cared for the poor and destitute. His sequence in the implementation of the idea of the need to organize the provision of ambulance and emergency medical care for the poor who were injured in the streets, frostbite, with fever, bitten by animals, etc. is shown. The work area of the Police Hospital, the characteristics of doctors — the main followers and successors of the work of F. P. Haass, a combination of their medical and scientific activities, contribution to medical science are presented. The history of the creation of the first Pasteur station in Russia to provide emergency care for bites of rabid animals is reflected. The role and merits of S. V. Puchkov in preserving the humanistic traditions of Dr. F. P. Haass in the Aleksandrovskaia (Police) Hospital, his achievements in preserving and perpetuating the memory of F. P. Haass, the opening of the monument to F. P. Haass at Maly Kazenny Lane, a large public activity of S. V. Puchkov in Moscow are shown. The importance of family traditions in the upbringing of dedicated medical service, which were followed by S. V. Puchkov's eldest son, A. S. Puchkov, is presented. Graduate of the Moscow University, A. S. Puchkov ("doctor with honors") continued the work of F. P. Haass and his father, proved to be a brilliant organizer and became the creator of the modern emergency care in Moscow that F. P. Haass had dreamed about.

**Key words:** *doctor and humanist F. P. Haass, Police Hospital, Pasteur station, S. V. Puchkov, A. S. Puchkov, the history of the emergency care organization*

### Conflict of interests

The authors declare no conflict of interests

### Sources of funding

The authors declare no funding for this study.

Article received on 05.09.2019

Accepted for publication on 05.11.2019

**For citation:** Kuchma V. R., Plavunov N. F., Shubochkina E. I. et al. DOCTOR F. P. HAASS AND THE POLICE HOSPITAL AS THE FIRST EMERGENCY HOSPITAL IN MOSCOW. The Russian Archives of Internal Medicine. 2019; 9(6): 413-418. DOI: 10.20514/2226-6704-2019-9-6-413-418

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## Introduction

The name of doctor F. P. Haass (Friedrich Joseph Haass), a great humanitarian and a philanthropist, is widely known in Russia. The German doctor, who was very young when he came to Russia at Count Repnin's invitation as a family doctor, devoted all his knowledge and medical art to his new homeland. He mastered the Russian language to the level of proficiency, and his motto was 'Hurry up for the good deeds'. From the very beginning of his work in Russia, the young competent doctor, who had a vast and successful private practice, worked a lot for the common good, cared about the downtrodden and the poor, helped the elderly and the orphans in the poorhouses, almshouses and shelters. As early as 1807 (when he was 27 years old) his achievements were rewarded with an appointment to the position of the Chief Doctor at the Pavlovskaya Hospital by the order of the Empress Maria Fedorovna. He was involved in the War of 1812 as a military surgeon. He took part in the battles of Smolensk and Borodino, went to Paris, visited his motherland and returned to Moscow [1]. In 1825, the military governor-general of Moscow, Count D. V. Golitsyn, invited him to help stop the typhoid epidemic which was rife in the Prison Castle (of Butyrskaya prison). With his friend, professor A. I. Paul, Haass was actively involved in the fight against the epidemic — he set up a temporary hospital in the Pokrov army barracks, where sick prisoners were quarantined. Their work stopped further outbreak of the epidemic in the Prison Castle [2]. That same year, in 1825, Haass was appointed Chief Doctor of Moscow (State Physician). He brought order and cleaned up all of the hospital institutions, pharmacy warehouses, and made stealing impossible, which provoked conflicts with civil servants, and led to his subsequent resignation. Doctor Haass petitioned for the "introduction of a special doctor in Moscow, who would monitor and organize care of the suddenly sick in need of immediate help". He provided substantiated reasons, citing Hamburg as an example, where the majority of 1,794 people who needed help were saved. Moscow authorities reacted negative to this request, considering this measure "excessive" and "useless", as each police unit in Moscow had "a doctor authorized on establishment" [1].

In 1826, F. P. Haass was invited to help fight the epidemical eye illness (presumably trachoma) which had struck the cantonist department of the Pokrov army barracks, and he achieved great success in performing this task. Soon after, following the spread of infectious eye diseases in Moscow, Count D. V. Golitsyn asked Haass to join a special committee, under his chairmanship, for the establishment of an eye hospital in Moscow. The work of the committee, members of which also included his colleague's professor Paul and doctor Brosse, was successful, and in six months the hospital opened in a temporary and later in a permanent building. Haass was a member of its Council. He remained there right until his death, sharing his experience and knowledge, and collecting contributions for the hospital. The Moscow Eye Hospital is one of the oldest eye clinics in the world; it was headed by P. F. Brosse for more than 30 years [2].

F. P. Haass made an invaluable contribution to the protection of the rights of the most deprived people in Russia — prisoners and convicts. The big cities, most notably Moscow and Saint Petersburg, started creating prison stewardship committees. In 1828, at the instigation of the military governor-general of Moscow, Count D. V. Golitsyn, Haass was appointed Chief Prison Doctor of Moscow. The stewardship committees had to restore order in the complex prison establishments, make the life of the miserable prisoners and deportees easier, and to monitor their food provision and medical service. Doctor Haass relentlessly performed these activities until his death, and it was the main reason why the progressive community saw him as a humanitarian and a Christian, the main reason why common people called him holy Doctor Haass [1].

## The establishment and work area of the Police Hospital as the first emergency hospital in Moscow

Despite his multiple public duties, Haass did not forget about his intentions to create a hospital for the suddenly sick. The numerous achievements of Dr. Haass include the establishment of the first Russian hospital for "emergency cases and free aid to people found unconscious in the streets and

homeless sick people” in 1844 with the support of the military governor-general of Moscow, Count D. V. Golitsyn. The establishment and reconstruction of the hospital in the building of the former Orthopedics Institute at Maly Kazenny Lane was funded by Dr. Haass and other contributors. Initially, it housed 150 sick prisoners from the Staro-Yekaterininskaya Hospital, and on May 2, 1945, the hospital started operating as the “hospital for the homeless” [2]. The police sent to the hospital sick people who were not accepted by other hospitals due to the lack of places or for other reasons. Later on, the number of patients increased to at least 240 people — they were taken from everywhere because “Haass did not reject anyone, by common belief”; patient care was more attentive and easier to access. It was widely known as the Haass Hospital, and it bears this name to this day. During Haass’ time there were about 30,000 patients from the very bottom of the society: poor people run over by coaches, people with frostbite, starving people, homeless youth. Haass made personal rounds to all the patients. There was an outpatient department where first aid was provided. The hospital gave all the possible support to the deprived: it organized journeys back home for the poor peasants from the other cities, sent the elderly and feeble to poorhouses, found new families for the homeless youth [1, 2]. The Haass hospital had attending physicians and physician assistants. The physicians of the Police Hospital were Haass’ allies in the constant fight against serious illnesses affecting Moscow residents: typhus fever, smallpox, relapsing fever, etc. There were also patients who required the assistance of psychiatrists.

After the death of F. P. Haass, the Police Hospital doctors maintained and observed the traditions established under the guidance of this great humanitarian. The professional and personal qualities of these worthy followers of Haass are reflected in the publications of N. N. Blokhina [3]. The direct successor for the position of the Police Hospital Chief Doctor was Khristofor Fedorovich Pal. One of the first Police Hospital doctors, psychiatrist V. F. Sobakinsky, continued his medical career here. Traditions of dedication to the professional duty and sense of charity helped the scientific development of the doctors of the Police Hospital,



**Figure 1.** Monument to F. P. Haass in the court of the Police Hospital (sculptor N. A. Andreev, 1909)

supported their efforts for the maximum utilization of medical science achievements. The Police Hospital was the place for active and relentless work of the physicians who developed science and wholeheartedly pursued a common target — to help the afflicted against all odds. Almost all the physicians who worked in the hospital had post-doctoral degrees in medicine.

Ivan Ivanovich Neyding (1839–1904) joined the Police Hospital as a physician in 1860 after graduating from the Faculty of Medicine of the Moscow University as “the first doctor with honors”. In 1866, he received his post-doctoral degree in medicine for his thesis titled ‘On Artery Atheroma’, and he was appointed an assistant professor of the Forensic Medicine Department of Moscow University. Later he became an anatomist at the Anatomic Pathology Department. In 1878, he became an associate professor of forensic medicine and, in 1879, he became a professor of forensic medicine. Attending physician S. S. Kaminsky dedicated his academic paper ‘On the Doctrine of the Gestation Course Affected by Typhus and Relapsing Fever’ “to my fellow attending physicians of the Moscow Police Hospital”. The Police Hospital doctors kept the spirit of mutual respect and trust, traditions of devotion and unselfishness. The gold standard of professional and ethical conduct was brilliantly demonstrated by Doctor N. P. Fivevsky. S. V. Puchkov wrote about him: “N. P. Fivevsky was a true unmercenary in the medical profession. He had

vast practice and lived a modest life of a single person, so he could have gained an immense fortune. However, it was not his cause. He left just some tangible property, which he had actually distributed two months before his death and an insignificant amount of money” [2, 3].

Sergey Vasilyevich Puchkov (1856–1926) graduated from the Faculty of Medicine of the Moscow University in 1881 and became an attending physician of the Police (from 1883 the Aleksandrovskaya) Hospital. He worked there for 36 years, up to 1918, as the Chief Doctor from 1906 [3]. The Police Hospital had always been a hospital with the most serious-case patients. Charters of many other city hospitals did not allow to receive the “feverish” patients — patients with fever (basically infectious cases), patients with serious psychiatric pathologies, and patients with rabid animal bites. It is no coincidence that Police Hospital physicians S. V. Puchkov and A. A. Gvozdev initiated rabies prevention. Pasteur station — the first one in Moscow — was created with donations collected also at the initiative of these doctors. It was officially opened on July 17, 1886 in the hospital at Maly Kazenny Lane. The first vaccination was performed on July 25 on five peasants (aged from 13 to 40) from Rzhev, Kaluga and Kasimov who had been delivered in a very bad condition. Thousands of people with animal bites came to the hospital hoping to be treated. Upon arrival they were immediately examined and vaccinated against rabies. It turned out that even 40–60 days after the bite the vaccine had a positive effect on many patients. Physicians and medical students eager to learn the new methods of rabies treatment could directly ask for help from the attending physicians. Therefore, Pasteur found in the Russian doctors strict advocates of his methods [4, 5].

S. V. Puchkov put much effort to preserve and perpetuate the memory of the great doctor and humanitarian F. P. Haass after a period of neglect. The widely-known biographical essay of A. F. Koni about F. P. Haass was largely based on the materials collected by Puchkov. In 1910, Sergey Vasilyevich added Koni’s essay in his book ‘On the Portrait of Dr. Haass’ [2]. Sergey Vasilyevich also initiated collection of donations to erect a monument to the

kind doctor which was opened in the hospital court in autumn of 1909. The sculptor, N. A. Andreev, declined to take a fee for this work. S. V. Puchkov, who was also a member of the Moscow City Duma, made a proposal to tidy up the grave of Haass at the Vvedenskoye cemetery. During all the pre-revolutionary years he tried to organize annual children holidays under the banner “At the Kind Grandpa Haass” next to the monument engraved with the motto ‘Hurry up for the good deeds’. This holiday tradition has now been revived by the Children and Teenagers Welfare and Hygiene Scientific Institute which is located in the former Police Hospital building. The Memorial Museum Room of Dr. F. P. Haass was also opened.

During his multi-year work in the City Committee for Public Health, S. V. Puchkov presented a report on the construction of new hospitals, namely the 3rd City Hospital in Sokolniki for infectious patients, the Alekseevskaya Hospital — Morozov main children’s hospital (together with the Chief Doctor of the hospital N. N. Alekseev),



**Figure 2.** *Dynasty of Puchkov doctors.*  
S. V. Puchkov with his son Alexander

the Soldatenkovskaya Hospital (together with its first Chief Doctor F. A. Getye). During World War I, Puchkov was elected vice chairman of the Committee for the establishment of the Red Cross' main warehouse in Moscow. The 1st distribution hospital with 900 beds for the wounded warriors evacuated to Moscow was built at this warehouse. The principal task for Sergey Vasilyevich Puchkov during these years was to create the Bratskoye cemetery. This cemetery, which opened in February 1915, became the main subject matter of a small book that he wrote and published the same year. [5]. Years filled with everyday work in the hospital, in the City Duma, in various public organizations passed, and Alexander Sergeevich Puchkov (1887–1952), the son and the successor, grew up beside him [3].

Puchkov Junior, like his father, not only became a doctor but also continued the family tradition to hurry up for the good deeds. In 1906, he graduated from the 4th Moscow Secondary School, and in 1911 he graduated from the Faculty of Medicine of the Moscow University as a “doctor with honors”.

He worked as an expert in the city hospitals. In 1914, he was called up for military service and was assigned to the Red Cross. During those years, as a young doctor, A. S. Puchkov proved himself as a brilliant organizer, as recalled by a member of the Academy of Sciences, N. N. Burdenko, who worked with him at the Red Cross. From 1918 to 1924, he served in the Red Army and was the head of the military hospital trains. Starting from 1924, he worked at the Moscow City Health Department. In 1922, he was the head of the central station for the transportation of patients. In 1923, he became the head of the first-aid station of the Sheremetyevskaya Hospital in Moscow. Alexander Sergeevich always held dear and espoused the ideals of his father. For instance, this can be illustrated by the surviving letter of Puchkov Jr. to A. F. Koni. “I told you,” he wrote on May 8, 1923, “that your books had always been a kind of a moral lighthouse for me which elucidated many dark issues of the everyday life...” Further, he wrote: “I am occupied with the administrative issues (first aid) all day long, and there is absolutely no time to stay with my own company



**Figure 3.** Alexander Sergeevich Puchkov, 1887–1952

and this is so hard”. In another letter that was sent three years later, on December 24, 1925, he informed Koni: “I am coming to Saint Petersburg in January to visit the first-aid station and I look forward to seeing you... I handle only the first-aid station now but, to my astonishment, I am not less but even busier than before...” A. S. Puchkov was directly involved in the organization of seven first-aid stations in Moscow, and in the organization and equipment of specialized automobile transport. During the Great Patriotic War, he personally supervised the work of the first-aid mobile medical teams in the affected districts of the city. In 1946, A. S. Puchkov defended his doctoral thesis titled ‘Organization of the First-Aid Station in Moscow’. In 1947, Medgiz Publishing House published A. S. Puchkov’s monograph titled “Organization of the Emergency Medical Care in Moscow” [6,7,8]. The multi-year fruitful work brought A. S. Puchkov two Orders of Lenin, one Order of the Red Banner of Labour. His awards included medals ‘For the

Defense of Moscow' and 'For Valorous Labour in the Great Patriotic War'. On November 6, 1944, Puchkov was given the honorary title of Honored Doctor of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic [6, 7].

## Conclusion

Doctor F. P. Haass, having become the Chief Doctor of Moscow in 1825, substantiated the need to organize 'immediate' medical aid to the suddenly sick, and implemented his intention in the Police Hospital at Maly Kazenny Lane. His work was continued by the staff of the Aleksandrovskaya (former Police) Hospital, including Doctor S. V. Puchkov. Having grown up inside the Aleksandrovskaya (former Police) Hospital and absorbed the ideas of devotion and assistance to people, A. S. Puchkov created this service almost anew [9, 10]. For 30 years (1922–1952) he was the head of the Moscow city first-aid station, and he created the service that F. P. Haass had dreamed about. Following the Government Decree of the City of Moscow No. 421 dated May 16, 1995, the Moscow City First-Aid Station was named after Alexander Sergeevich Puchkov.

### Author Contribution:

**V. R. Kuchma, N. F. Plavunov** — concept and design of the research

**E. I. Shubochkina, V. A. Kadyshev** — material collection and processing, writing

**V. R. Kuchma** — editing

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