

## The forming of the first scientific medical society in the Moscow University

T.I. Surovtseva

I.M. Sechenov First Moscow Medical University,  
The Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation

The forming of the "Society of competition of medical and physics sciences" (1804) – the first scientific medical society, became an important step in the development of natural science in the Medical Faculty of the Moscow University. The articles of association, confirmed in 1804, gave the Moscow University a status of a highest European educational institution, solidified its right to form scientific societies and in doing so, established its position as one of the key scientific centers of the nation. From the very beginning of its existence, the society attracted the attention of the educated citizens of Russia. Not just the professors of the Moscow University have made their contribution to the society, but also the practicing physicians of Moscow and medical community from all corners of the country. The results of the scientific work of the members of the society were used in the educational process, as well as implemented into the Russian medical practice.

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From the beginning, scientists at Moscow Imperial University's medical faculty have been at the forefront of advanced humanistic and democratic scientific traditions. These scientists exerted great influence on the views of many young scientists in Russia. The beginning of the 19th century was a time of hope and disappointment, awakening expectations of change and an atmosphere of reform. No wonder Alexander Pushkin characterized the beginning of the reign of Alexander I as "the days of Alexander's perfect start." As evidenced by various sources, the emperor had a far-reaching program of reform for Russian society. Alexander I saw the enlightenment of the new generation as a source of spiritual support for his reforms and the country underwent educational reforms on an unprecedented scale.

The Charter of the Imperial Moscow University, approved in 1804, gave Moscow University the status of a European institution of higher education. The charter also endowed it with broad autonomy and created the conditions for

its transformation into a center of rapid scientific advancement. The University Charter of 1804 emphasized, in the form of "special merits," its right to establish scientific societies both for Russian and ancient literature. It provided for the dissemination of "experimental and exact sciences, based on sound principles and the right to publish scientific papers and periodicals ... thereby contributing to the development of science." [1] The charter's articles confirmed the university's right to create scientific societies and secured the position of the university as one of the most important research centers in the country. M.N. Muravyev, the deputy minister for education (1802-1807), played the leading role in the establishment of the university's scientific societies. He was both a trustee of the Moscow school district and the Imperial Moscow University. Muravyev, who possessed deep scientific knowledge, corresponded with many European scientific communities. He sought to establish a permanent scientific exchange between Moscow University and academic and research institutions in Europe in order to learn about all the latest developments and discoveries.

On August 27, 1804, the creation of the Society for the Medical and Physical Sciences Com-

petition was announced. The education minister, Count P.V. Zavadovsky, presented the society's Precept Charter to His Majesty, who "deigned with the highest favor to accept this newfound object of zeal of fellow members of the Moscow University" [2, p. 3] and confirmed the society's establishment.

Among the founding members of the Society for the Medical and Physical Sciences Competition were a number of professors from the medical faculty of the Moscow Imperial University – Fedor Gerasimovich Poltkovsky, Wilhelm M. Richter, I.F. Vensovich, F. A. Giltebrandt and F. F. Keresturi. The society's members not only included almost all the medical professors, but also representatives of other departments: G. Fischer von Waldheim (zoologist, professor of natural history), G.F. Eofman (professor of botany), P.I. Strakhov (professor of physics, doctor of medicine), F. B. Fisher (botanist), I.A. Dvighubsky (professor of technology), A.A. Prokopovych-Antonsky (professor of natural history) and many others. Although not medical scientists, they made significant contributions to the development and dissemination of the medical sciences. Scientists from the Imperial Moscow University usually worked in various fields of science. Therefore, the names of some of the university's most prominent academics can be found in different societies.

The society's charter stated the purpose of its activities to be:

"1) To distribute all kinds of useful knowledge concerning physics and medical science in the Fatherland.

2) To initiate, nurture and sustain the practice of science among our fellow members and compatriots.

3) To develop and disseminate knowledge of natural history and medicine and contribute to their improvement."

The specific purpose of the society was to describe the "physical and medical history of Moscow and its environs." [2, p. 4-5]

According to the charter, the society consisted of several types of members: ordinary, extraordinary, non-Muscovite and honorary members. Its ordinary members were Poltkovsky, Richter,

Vensovich, Giltebrandt, Ivan E. Minderer, Efrem O. Mukhin, S.A. Nemirovsky, Alexei I. Danilevsky, Ferdinand Frederick Reiss and others. Influential state figures were chosen as honorary members such as, among others, Education Minister Zavadovsky, patron of the Moscow university A.K. Razumovsky, Count P.A. Stroganov (deputy minister of internal affairs), N.N. Novosiltsev (president of the St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences) and P. G. Demidov, a renowned philanthropist who in 1803 donated to the Moscow University a library, an impressive natural science collection and financial capital to the sum of 100,000 rubles.

Only those persons "who submitted essays proving their knowledge and commitment to cooperation" were elected to be ordinary members of the society. [3, p. 66] The chairman of the society was elected from among the ordinary members. The first chairman elected was Keresturi (1805-1810), an emeritus professor of anatomy and surgery who had taught for 30 years at the university.

The society also elected two secretaries: one for foreign and the other for internal correspondence. According to the society's charter, "the secretary for foreign correspondence enters into the proceedings, in Latin, everything that goes on at the society's meetings; conducts written communications with foreigners, composes all documents on behalf of the society in Latin, German and French, stores them, produces the proceedings and writes the society's annual history; he also manages the books and journals received by the society and maintains order when it comes to the members' reading of the periodic works." [3, p. 67] In addition, the secretary for foreign correspondence recorded the minutes of the society's monthly meetings. From 1804 to 1822, the "permanent secretary" for foreign correspondence was Reiss (1778-1852), who had received a doctorate in medicine and surgery and the title of private teacher of universal health chemistry in Göttingen (1801). Since 1804 he had been the holder of the chair of chemistry at Moscow University.

The secretary for internal correspondence, as recorded in the charter, "condenses Russian-

language treatises, conducts written correspondence with compatriots, tries to translate foreign-language discussions and comments sent to the society into Russian, composes all the documents produced by the society, and publishes the *Medicine and Physics Journal*." [3, p. 67] Vensovich was elected to be the society's secretary for internal correspondence, having defended his doctoral dissertation "On the structure and role of the placenta and amniotic membrane" in 1803. He was awarded an extraordinary professorship in 1805 and an ordinary professorship in 1808.

In addition, an elective office for "the custodian of natural things, books, and the treasury" was created, to "give an account of expenditures and revenues; and maintain a register of books and items from the natural science office, which was created by the society from member donations of items from all three kingdoms of nature." [3, p. 67]

During meetings, society members had to report on new discoveries in physical and medical sciences based on their own experiments and observations. Also, literature reflecting the latest advances in medicine was expected to be translated into Russian and the public was to be informed about it. All this was consistent with §9 of the charter, which stated: "The society will try as much as possible to continuously maintain a pleasant and useful intercommunication of information, opinions and judgments between its members, which is currently needed by the sciences relating to nature..."

"To restore and maintain such relations ... the following has been established:

A. That all new individual discoveries in physical and medical sciences be carefully provided to the society, with the addition ... of the personal experiments and observations of the member whose field of science is most befitting.

B. That the work produced be consistently unbiased and thorough reviews of the most important and latest papers in physics and medicine, with an indication of their content, presentation and strengths.

C. That each of the society's ordinary members annually expound on new advances in the field of science in which he specializes, providing

details of what has been newly discovered or invented by which learned scholar, and what benefit natural or medical science received from it." [4, p. 7]

The charter identifies the specific objectives of the Medical and Physical Sciences Competition to be the study of the developments and properties of the "epidemic diseases, especially cholera, mortality and fertility statistics, meteorological observations," and more. The importance of promoting the smallpox vaccination was stressed. An analysis of the charter indicates that it was a very detailed and thoughtful document that defined in detail all aspects of the society and laid the foundation for the development of science both at the university and in the country as a whole.

According to its charter, the society had to arrange an annual public meeting at which the results of its work over the past year were to be reported and awards issued. Awards were to be presented by the society for "driving competition among scholars" (§ 38), for the best solutions to problems in medicine and physics and for the study of crucial discoveries. At the first public meeting on January 5, 1805, the society's members were presented with five research topics and the same number of awards were announced: "From the trustee – a 200-ruble medal, and from four members (Antonsky, Keresturi, Politkovsky and Richter) – one 175-ruble medal from each." [2, p. 8]

The society's activities contributed to the development of Russian medical science on the one hand and, on the other, promoted science as a whole, mostly by means of the periodicals produced by the society. The works of the Society for the Medical and Physical Sciences Competition were published in the *Medicine and Physics Journal* in Russian, and in *Commentationes Societatis Physico-Medicae* or *Acta*<sup>1</sup> in Latin. The *Medicine and Physics Journal* was published under the direct supervision of the secretary for internal correspondence. It was intended to publish: "A. Newly published works relating to medical and natural science. B. Members' historical and critical essays. C. Dissertations given at the so-

<sup>1</sup> Henceforth "Proceedings" 128

ciety's meetings. D. News about new discoveries relating to medical and natural science in Russia, other items of this kind and worthwhile observations." [3, p. 67 - 68]

The Proceedings were to record everything "that happened in the society that was worthy of note and was of interest to foreigners." In addition, the history of the society was published in the Proceedings along with "works that had been read, discussed and awarded." [3, p. 68] An essential part of the society's publications were not published in Russian, which played a positive role in promoting the wider dissemination of these publications abroad, expanded contact with European scientists, and promoted the interchange of scientific achievements. The foreign language publications were a valuable foundation for dialogue with foreign scientific societies, universities and academies. As a result, the university created a unique library. It should be noted that publication of the *Medicine and Physics Journal* and the Proceedings was funded by the university. Its members, who benefited the society with their work, received all the publications for free.

*Commentationes* or *Acta* was published under the editorship of the society's secretary Reiss from June 1808. From 1808-1825, six volumes of the journal were published, which included medical articles written not only in Latin but also in French and German. In October 1808, the *Medicine and Physics Journal or the Superlative Works Approved by the Imperial Moscow University's Society for the Medical and Physical Sciences Competition* was printed, which could be considered the first Russian scientific and medical journal.

The first issue of the journal covered the society and invited scientists to collaborate in disseminating knowledge of medicine and physics. The journal contained the society's charter, a list of its members and 14 articles covering a diverse range of content. The journal's opening article by Professor Politkovsky, "A review of important discoveries, theories and systems of medicine from 1700 to 1790," discussed the achievements of medical science and medical books in the 18th century. The publication featured the following introductory remark from the editor: "The main purpose of this journal is to cover the latest discoveries in

medicine and physics. Thus, we found it useful to place an introduction in shortened form at the beginning of the overview, but with the inclusion of everything necessary to present the successes of medical science of the last century and with recognition of the best authors and essays that have enriched every science." [5, p. 11] This was followed by articles about practical observations of diseases of the uterus, fermented mare's milk and its preparation and use for treating various diseases, mineral water, the preparation of sugar from grapes, the practice of dry cupping when repositioning a strangulated hernia, and preventative smallpox vaccinations for people and sheep. In the same issue of the magazine, there was an item on the state of London hospitals and clinics and a description of the Moscow Institute of Obstetrics. It concluded with information on the medical knowledge of Peter the Great.

In November 1810, the society was headed by Richter, an emeritus professor of obstetrics, eminent obstetrician and doctor of medicine, who held this post until 1822. The period of his presidency proved to be very fruitful for the society. The society had already created a library and a museum during the first two years of his presidency. Many members of the society and philanthropists donated pathological specimens, manuscripts, periodicals and books. In just two years of Richter's chairmanship during the prewar period "the society accumulated more than 140 manuscripts, many periodicals, pathologic specimens and 775 books." [2, p. 15] Unfortunately, it was all destroyed in the fire of 1812.

During the years of Richter's chairmanship, a variety of problems were addressed at meetings concerning both theoretical and practical medicine. The society's members produced reports on new findings on the basis of their own research, demonstrated "remarkable drawings and new tools," provided monthly and annual reports on patients being treated in public hospitals, and provided information about the achievements of foreign medicine. The society's most important areas of focus included investigating Moscow's climate, drafting medical-topographic maps, and "observing the influence of various activities and professions on the health of workers."



Richter gave regular presentations and reports at meetings of the society, analysis of which shows the broad range of his scientific interests. He was interested in professional issues ("Observations on diseases of the uterus" – 1808, "Two cesarean sections performed twice on the same woman with successful results" – 1811, "Observations on the effect of pregnant women's fear and imagination on the malformation of fetuses" – 1811), the experience of foreign medicine ("News from the state of hospitals and clinics located in the London capital city" – 1808, "Review of observations made in France" – 1810), questions concerning the use of medicines ("Notes on home medications consumed in Russia" – 1811), questions concerning the development of science ("The benefits of scientific societies and in particular medicine and physics" – 1810).

Special merit was due to Richter for his continued work on the treatment of historical medical problems. On behalf of the society, but using his own resources, in 1811 he published two volumes of the *History of Medicine in Russia* in German. Many members of the society helped collect materials for it. In the preface to his work, Richter pointed to the "difficult search for sources ... surviving chroniclers, other foreign travelers, and hitherto unused handwritten antiquities." [6, p. 6-7] Importantly, the documentary part of the work is of great value to researchers, as Richter's book used materials which were lost during the fire of 1812.

The society's activities were suspended from 1812 to 1815 in connection with Napoleon entering Moscow, the fire and the destruction of the university. In November 1815, the society resumed its work. In 1818, Richter presented the third part of the *History of Medicine in Russia* in German. He was thanked for his many years of productive work. An honorary member of the society, Zoi Pavlovich Zosim, allocated 3,500 rubles for the translation and publication of this work. *History of Medicine in Russia* (in three volumes) was translated into Russian by doctor of philosophy and professor of the ethics and politics department N.A. Beketov and was published in 1820.

In 1821, the second and third parts of the *Medical and Physics Journal* were released in Rus-

sian. The second part of the journal, published by the secretary for internal correspondence, doctor of medicine Professor V.M. Kotelnitsky, contained the following works: "Reports of the plague in Volyn province in 1798, with some remarks about the plague's poisonous properties" by Doctor of Medicine Minderer; "Observations on the breach at the top of the head" and "On the forehead breach," "On ovarian water cyst disease" by Professor Mukhin; "Anatomical description of the extra-natural lack of an upper part of the occipital bone and some of the crown on the right side of the skull" by Professor Danilevsky; "History of obstetric practice in Moscow" by Professor Richter; "Discourse on changes of natural tags and man" by Doctor of Physics, Mathematics and Physics Timofei Voskresensky; "Meteorological observations taken in Moscow in 1816" by city physicist Ivan Lange; and "A brief review of medical history" by Professor Politkovsky.

The third part of the *Medicine and Physics Journal*, published in 1821, included the following works by leading scientists and active members of the society: "History of the Moscow Physics and Medicine Society from November 7, 1810, to November 6, 1815" by Professor Reiss; "On the infant's cry in the womb," by Professor Richter; "History of nerve disease, accompanied by seizures and somnambulism" by Doctor of Medicine F.I. Pfeler; "On the external use of carrot juice in the treatment of cancer of the uterus" by Moscow City Obstetrician D. Levitsky; "Notes on the debilitating sweats of dying patients" by Professor V. Rizenko; "Description of a new method of treatment used for inflammation of the stomach" by Doctor of Medicine Egor Butter; "Review of ancient and contemporary methods of the use of mercury preparations and other medical remedies for concupiscential disease" by Professor R. Rizenko; "Methods for determining the different positions of the baby in the womb by external manual examination" by Professor D.I. Levitsky; "On convulsive laryngospasm" by Doctor of Medicine A. Lovetsky; "Clinical medical and surgical observation of successful hip separation, etc." by Doctor of Medicine I. Klementovsky; and "Meteorological observations taken in Moscow in 1817, "a report by Lange. [3, p. 61-62]

A substantial contribution to society in this period was made by its secretary, Reiss, an emeritus professor of chemistry and doctor of medicine and surgery. He headed the chemistry department at Moscow University and from 1817 was simultaneously a full professor of chemistry at the pharmacography department of the Moscow Medical and Surgical Academy. Reiss was a member of many scientific societies, both Russian and foreign. In performing the duties of secretary, he took the minutes of the society's meetings, and prepared and printed the works of its members. He maintained communications with local and foreign correspondents, which contributed to the integration of Russian and Western science. He regularly presented reports at the society's meetings, many of which were published in society's journals.

Analysis reveals Reiss's distinguished erudition and diverse research interests. Among his publications and his works as a chemist and naturalist were "New experiments on changes in water by galvanic electricity," "Description of chemical action of galvanic electricity," a work, as noted by his biographer, "as remarkable for its clarity and completeness of information on a subject which is still little studied." [7, p. 335]. He also produced works on the development of modern chemical terminology "Arguments on the benefits of the latest chemical nomenclatura with experiments in translating chemical terms into Russian," and "Meteorological observations," among other pieces.

Reiss devoted much attention to the study of mineral waters. In publications of the Physics and Medical Society he produced a number of articles devoted to the study of Caucasian mineral water springs and the mineral waters of the Tver province and the Moscow region, which contributed to the development of mineral water spa resorts. In the mid-1820s he founded the world's first institution for providing artificial mineral waters in Moscow's Neskuchny Sad gardens.

Among the works published by the Physics and Medicine Society were his articles on the problems of pharmacy: "Experiments relating to pharmacy", "Observations on various medications", "Analysis of antifebrific elements of quina bark",

"New research on substitutes for 'Peruvian bark', i.e. the cinchona tree", and "Notes on some Russian folk medicines." At the same time he studied the effect of medicines on various diseases and spoke at the society's meetings with reports such as "Observations on croup", "The successful use of potassium carbonate (sal tartari) with croup", and "Story of a patient saved from the threat of death from croup by means of substances that provoked sneezing," in addition to other articles.

As a result of the scientific activities of society members, significant advances were made in the development of university science in the first half of the 19th century. An analysis of the publications and reports of the society's members reveals a number of research areas. A portion of the research was devoted to covering theoretical problems – issues of anatomy, physiology, pathology, etc. Among these articles were "Anatomical description of the extra-natural lack of an upper part of the occipital bone and some of the crown on the right side of the skull" by Danilevsky, "Discourse on the natural changes of the body and person" by Voskresensky, "Description of a gallstone of extraordinary magnitude" by Pfeler, and "Discourse on human urine and its properties" by Reiss.

Particular attention was paid by the society's members to severe epidemics that failed to subside in Russia and were the main source of tremendous morbidity and mortality ("Reports of the plague in Volyn province in 1798, with some remarks about the plague's poisonous properties" by Minderer, "Observations on the fever epidemic in Bessarabia, Moldavia, Wallachia and Bulgaria", a dispatch from Sharvsky, and more). The prevention of various diseases was also covered ("On cowpox inoculation via scabs", "Preventative smallpox vaccination for people and sheep", "Instructions for the use of substances that protect against the plague and other contagious diseases").

Many of the society's works and reports were devoted to descriptions of various diseases. Among them were the writings and reports of Mukhin ("On ovarian water cyst disease"), Pfeler ("History of nerve disease, accompanied by seizures and somnambulism") and G. Zinoviev ("On scorbutic

disease running rampant among working people involved in shipping on the Volga River").

An important field of activity for the society was the study of issues related to obstetrics and gynecological diseases. Besides Professor Richter, a leading specialist in this field, Moscow City Obstetrician Levitsky and Extraordinary Professor of Obstetrics at Moscow University Danilevsky took active part in the development of this field.

Much attention was given to surgery. Mukhin, Giltebrandt, A. Petrov, Klementovsky and others shared the results of their surgical practice at the meetings. ("On the forehead breach", "On the breach at the top of the head", "Successful hip separation," "Action of dry cupping when repositioning strangulated organs").

Therapeutic issues were resolved based on the recommendations given during those years. Doctor of Medicine Butter "while working in poorhouses and detention centers" recommended in his article "Description of a new method of treatment used for inflammation of the stomach" to treat cases of acute inflammation by means of bloodletting and the ingestion of a preparation which included camphor, opium, mint water and Hofman's drops.

In the writings and presentations of Minderer, Richter, Reiss, I. Bunge, Dvigubsky, Lange and others, considerable attention was paid to the study of the effects of various medicines in the treatment of many diseases (rabies, malaria, croup, asthma, rheumatism, gallstones, etc.). During meetings they reported on the action of the digitalis herb (*Digitalis purpurea*) on hemoptysis, and the use of the root *Alisma plantago* to treat rabid dog bites, carrot juice for stomach cancer, etc. They also studied the effect of chemicals (for example, "Review of ancient and contemporary methods of the use of mercury preparations and other medical remedies for concupiscential disease" – V. Rizenko) and galvanic electricity and animal magnetism (for example, "Cure of chorea with animal magnetism" by Pfeler).

At the beginning of the 19th century, the treatment of various diseases with mineral water was pertinent. This issue was addressed in reports and articles by Reiss, S. Liboshits, A. Erlenvein, I. Plusk, F.P. Haas and others.

In 1804, the society's charter already identified "the physical and medical descriptions of cities and other places in Russia" as an important field of activity for the society. Reports and announcements addressing the issue, which were presented at the society's meetings in the early decades of the 19th century, contained much factual data. It consisted of a rather large amount of research. Among the research was "A description of effects of climate in Kazan province on the health and growth of the population" by D. Zinoviev, "Medical topography of Kazan and Kazan province" by Professor of Therapy at Dorpat University. F. Erdmann. Erdmann's article also included excellent lithographic sketches of the city.

The exploration and discussion of these issues was the subject of many the society's meetings and works. From the society's publications we learn about the meteorological observations of Haas, taken in the autumn and winter months of 1810; about his own meteorological observations from the beginning of 1811, supported by excellent synoptic tables, and thermometric observations by botanist Fisher made in the village of Gorenki in the vicinity of Moscow. City Physicist Lange spoke of his observations relating to physical and medical descriptions of Moscow. Joachim Friedlander wrote about physical and medical topography experiments in Kamenetz-Podolsk, while I.V. Varvinsky dispatched a written report – "A Description of Alekseyevsky and Kashirsky county in the Tula province."

An important activity of the society was to study the spread of disease and the analysis of morbidity in Moscow. The author of a report on the activities of the physical and medical society, A.T. Tarasenkov, noted that with this goal in mind, city hospital doctors (Minderer from the Military Hospital, Opiel from the hospital for the poor, Albini from Golitsyn Hospital, Grave from Ekaterinburg Hospital, Claus and Danilevsky from the obstetrics institutions and Karras from the lunatic asylum) "presented monthly reports on this issue."

"Tsemke delivered charts from other public hospitals and general monthly charts of all patients, used in public and private practice by different doctors." [2, p. 13] Often the discussion of

individual problems at the society's meetings had practical applications. For example, after a speech at the beginning of 1821 by A. I. Pol about the condition of Ekaterininsky Hospital, "steps were immediately taken to bring the hospital into order." [7, p. 299]

Translations and overviews of foreign literature played a large role in the spread of medical knowledge, broadening the horizons of Russian medical professionals. Literature reflecting the latest scientific achievements was regularly presented at meetings of the society as was news on the activities of foreign societies and hospitals. There were demonstrations of new medical instruments and different "curiosities" (for example, I.V. Buyalsky sent huge stones, "removed from out of a bladder." [2, p. 25]).

For more than 30 years Reiss worked in the Society for the Medical and Physical Sciences Competition, first as secretary (1804-1822), and then as its president (1822-1835). Upon entering office on February 3, 1822, he gave a speech in memory of his predecessor, the professor of obstetrics Richter (released in the first part of the three-volume "Memoirs of the Society" published in 1823). Reiss made significant efforts to fulfill his duties as president of the society, combining them with the role of university librarian. In 1827, the idea arose to produce a new edition of the society's medical journal, which was released in 1830 under the title of "Proceedings of the Society for Physical and Medical Sciences."

In 1830, Reiss, who "with honor committed 20 years of his life to the university," was awarded the title of distinguished professor. It was in recognition of his achievements in teaching and his academic and social activities, including his work as secretary and president of the Society for the Medical and Physical Sciences Competition.

From 1830, when a cholera epidemic began in Moscow, the society's operations were suspended and resumed later under a new president.

In the spring of 1836, Mikhail Antonovich Markus was elected president (1836-1837). In 1833, the journal *Proceedings of the Society of Physical and Medical Sciences* published a detailed report by Markus on the cholera epidemic in Moscow. In December 1836, at an extraordi-

nary meeting of the society, a bust of C.I. Loder, surgeon in ordinary to the king, was unveiled in the anatomy office. At this meeting, President Markus, in memory of the late honorary member of the society Loder, gave a speech. The society's secretary F.I. Inozemtsev read a memorial to Loder's services in the field of surgery. Markus had been a member of the society since 1818 and then, in 1838, he became an honorary member. In 1837, he was invited to St. Petersburg to the Supreme Court with the rank of surgeon in ordinary to the king.

From 1838-1848, when Gregory Vysotsky was president of the society, the pace of the society's activities significantly quickened. In 1839, it consisted of 226 members (which included 31 honorary members and 44 foreign members). The amount of money that the society held in 1840 reached 4,259 rubles. In 1845, the society changed its name to "Moscow Physics and Medical Society." In 1846, a new charter was approved. However, significant changes in the society's structure were not made. All members (except honorary members) were divided into only two categories – real and correspondent. The only useful innovation of the charter in 1846 was that the position of vice president was officially introduced.

Summing up the society's results for the first half of the 19th century, it should be noted that its main achievements were promoting relations between medicine and the natural sciences (physiology, biology, anatomy, etc.) and the popularization of scientific discoveries in Russian society. During this period, university science made a qualitative leap forward. The first scientific medical society was able to meet the growing needs of Russia's developing science community. From individual research conducted at the university, the professors moved on to systematic scientific work. The results of the society's research were used in education. However, the university research environment was not yet fully formed, the final divisions of the various sciences had not been completed, and the scientific schools had not been developed. To solve these and other problems, a new phase of the university and the Moscow Physics and Medical Society was needed.



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### About the author

Surovtseva T.I. – Doctoral Candidate in History, Docent of the Department of the History of Medicine, National History and Culturology

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