



## Józef Polikarp Brudziński Salus aegroti suprema lex esto

PUBLICATION ACCOMPANYING AN EXHIBITION
AT THE MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE
AT THE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW

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Józef Polikarp Brudziński, c. 1916 (from a private collection)

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### Introduction

And when all of us, both the teachers and students, and the entire university community, envelop our reborn Alma Mater with care and love, it will remain and flourish, and future generations will look on it with pride and repeat: The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. It was with these words that Rector Józef Polikarp Brudziński ended his speech during the inaugural celebration of the University of Warsaw on 15 November 1915. Whereas I, on the hundredth anniversary of his death, would like to recall a beautiful chapter in the history of both Polish education and medicine, commemorating the life and academic achievements of the revived University of Warsaw's first rector—a world renowned neurologist, paediatrician and invaluable academic teacher, who was loved by his students.

It is a real honour to have had a predecessor who was such a celebrity, and who was involved in so many spheres of activity: medical, academic, social and political. It also provides me with strong motivation and the challenge to discharge my duties with due care and diligence for the benefit of the whole academic community, one hundred years after the reinstatement of the independent University of Warsaw and the appointment of the first rector in its history. Józef Polikarp Brudziński was the first in a series of illustrious and great personages who, in turn, until 1950, were rectors of the University of Warsaw, and later of the Medical Academy and of the Medical University of Warsaw.

Józef Polikarp Brudziński was not only the first rector of the reborn University of Warsaw, but he was also a physician. Later in the University of Warsaw's history—between 1915 and 1949—five of the seventeen rectors were also medical doctors: Professor Jan Mazurkiewicz – a psychiatrist; Professor Franciszek Krzyształowicz – a dermatologist; Professor Mieczysław Michałowicz – a paediatrician; Professor Jerzy Modrakowski – a pharmacologist and Professor Franciszek Czubalski – a physiologist.

I sincerely belief that 100 years after the death of Józef Polikarp Brudziński, both current and future generations will look back with pride and gratitude at the achievements he left to posterity, and will repeat: *The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.* 

I congratulate the Museum of the History of Medicine for preparing an exhibition to commemorate the anniversary of the death of Rector Józef Brudziński—the father of both the revived University of Warsaw and of the Medical University of Warsaw.



Professor Mirosław Wielgoś, MD

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RECTOR

OF THE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY
OF WARSAW



Józef Polikarp Brudziński was born on 26 January 1874 on the small estate of Bolewo in the province of Płock—which at that time was part of the Russian Partition. He came from a landowning family of the Prawdzic coat of arms. He was the son of Feliks Brudziński and Cecylia Katarzyna née Myślińska.





Józef Polikarp Brudziński's parents: Feliks Brudziński and Cecylia Katarzyna née Myślińska, late 19th century

#### The Brudziński family, c. 1890

Seated from left: sister Janina (1880); father Feliks (1841); sister Regina (1878); brother Piotr (1870). Standing from left: Józef Polikarp Brudziński (1874); brother Zygmunt (1876). On easel: portrait of mother, Cecylia Katarzyna Brudzińska née Myślińska (1846)





In 1891 Józef Brudziński, then 17, graduated from the 4th Governmental Gymnasium for Boys in Warsaw located on Aleje Ujazdowskie, near St. Alexander's Square (now Plac Trzech Krzyży). At that time, Warsaw was part of the Russian Partition, the darkest of times for Polish education. Russification also affected the gymnasium attended by Józef Brudziński—history and Polish language classes were forbidden. He learned about Polishness and patriotism at home.

Józef Polikarp Brudziński, Warsaw, c. 1891





University of Dorpat, c. 1911

After graduating from the gymnasium, Józef Brudziński began medical studies at the University of Dorpat (now Tartu, Estonia). At that time, the University of Dopart had high teaching standards and was relatively autonomous. Young Poles were interested in studying there because it was a good alternative to the Russianized Polish universities.

During his studies Józef Brudziński was involved in social activities. He took part in the work of self-teaching associations and of *Konwent Polonia*—the oldest Polish academic corporation which had operated at the University of Dorpat since 1828. The corporation's objective—apart from providing mutual support—was to deepen students' knowledge about the history of their home country and significant events, which was of particular importance for Polish students in exile.

Józef Brudziński's request to the rector of the Imperial University of Yur'yev (Dorpat) for a transfer to the University of Moscow, 4 June 1894

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University of Moscow, 31 August 1894

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As a result of the sudden Russification of the University of Dorpat and the drop in the standard of teaching, in 1894 Józef Brudziński, having passed his first exams (the so-called *rigorosum*) moved to the medical faculty of the University of Moscow. At that time it was one of the most developed medical educational centres in the Russian Empire, in particular in terms of its professors and the equipment in the institutes and clinics.

The paediatrics faculty, headed by Professors Nil Fyodorovich Filatov and Nikolai Sergeyevich Korsakov, was particularly well developed. Contact with outstanding specialists in this field influenced Józef Brudziński's future academic path.

General view of the University of Moscow's clinics, 1897



Despite attending many classes, Józef Brudziński also became involved in the activities of Polish student associations: *Koło Polskie*—an organization which prepared Polish youth to fight for Poland's independence and *Bratnia Pomoc*—an organization which provided students with financial support. Józef Brudziński obtained his medical doctor's diploma in 1897.



He was tall, slim and dark-haired, with clear-cut features, and deep, black, inward-looking eyes.... Brudziński was then already an above-average student...; he drew widespread attention to himself through his enthusiasm and organizational talent which he revealed during discussions.... We admired his patience and perseverance.... At that time all his work was already characterized by diligence and thoroughness...; his influence on the organization was notable. He was aided by his high intelligence and sensitive mind, which easily discerned the moods and intentions of the milieu, to which he was able to give the right guidance and expression.... Brudziński either had no bad addictions, or was able to keep them in check, maybe because one real addiction dominated any potential others—his addiction to work, from which none of the temptations of student life was capable of drawing him away.... Brudziński was not only interested in one thing; apart from science, he was interested in literature and art, he also liked the theatre and music. He also readily participated in social life, both in Dorpat and, later, in Moscow. And he was always kindly looked-upon and his company was welcome because he brought with him his liveliness and the extraordinary charm of his humour and his subtle jokes, and he was always able to enjoy himself to the fullest extent. Overall, his relationships with the people around him were characterized by his high and subtle refinement and conduct. Only polemical discussions sometimes made him opinionated and on those occasions he did not spare his adversaries.

Reminiscences of a university friend, Jan Pieniążek, a doctor at the Anna Maria Children's Hospital in Łódź. Jan Pieniążek, 'Józef Brudziński as a student', *Pediatria Polska* 1928, vol. 8, p. 26

Operating theatre in the Orthodox Jewish
Hospital, Warsaw, 1909



After returning to Warsaw in 1898 he began working in the Orthodox Jewish Hospital, on Dr. Wiktor Grostern's ward. That same year he travelled to Kraków, where he attended lectures given by Professor Maciej Leon Jakubowski, the founder of the first Children's Diseases Clinic in Poland.



Dr. Theodor Escherich's Clinic, Austria, 1910

He continued his paediatric studies abroad, under Professors Theodor Escherich in Graz and Jacques-Joseph Grancher, Antoine Marfan and Victor Hutinel in Paris. He wrote his first academic works in that period. They concerned studies on the bacteriology of the alimentary canal. One of his works stirred up great interest. It was entitled 'O występowaniu bac. proteus vulgaris w stolcach niemowląt; próba leczenia przez podawanie hodowli bakteryjnych' (on the occurrence of the bacteria *proteus vulgaris* in the faeces of infants and attempts at their treatment by giving the patients bacterial cultures) and was published in *Przegląd Lekarski* in 1899.

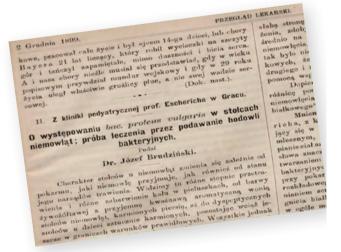




Tableau with portraits of the doctors from the Child Jesus Hospital (1758–1901), Warsaw, 1901 After his return to Warsaw in 1900, he worked for four years in research in the Child Jesus Hospital. He worked on the hospital ward in the orphanage (*Dom Wychowawczy im. ks. Boduena*) under Dr. Ludwik Anders, well-known paediatrician and the director of that institution. There he continued his research on the bacteriology of the alimentary canal in infants. His work was most valuable in finding the cause of digestive disorders and methods of treating them.



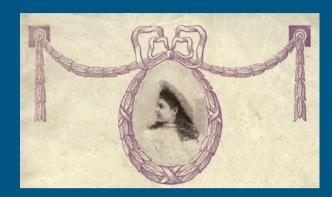
Apart from clinical work, he also actively participated in the life of *Warszawskie Towarzystwo Lekarskie* (the Warsaw Doctors' Society), he gave lectures and also published works relating to the psychology of children and their upbringing. Several times a week he delivered secret lectures on paediatrics for students of the faculty of medicine at the Imperial University of Warsaw.



The conditions then were worse than those of students now. At the beginning of the twentieth century the Russian University of Warsaw was of a very low standard; there were only a few Polish professors, and almost all the departments were headed by Russians, who were usually very poorly educated. We were very aware of this. Therefore, we decided to establish a Polish secret university and to learn medicine from our eminent doctors. The circle of students asked several heads of hospitals to give us lectures on things we were unable to learn in the governmental clinics. We had to keep our actions secret because the university's inspectors followed students attentively, not allowing them to attend private clinics.

Reminiscences of Tadeusz Mogilnicki, doctor at the Anna Maria Children's Hospital in Łódź. Tadeusz Mogilnicki, 'Działalność Brudzińskiego w Łodzi', *Pediatria Polska* 1928, No. 8, p. 15

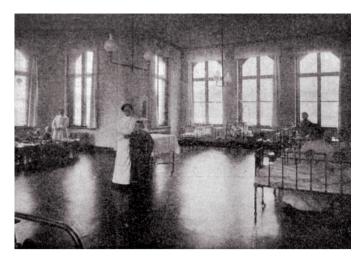
Anna Maria – daughter of Eduard and Mathilde von Herbst, founders of The Children's Hospital in Łódź

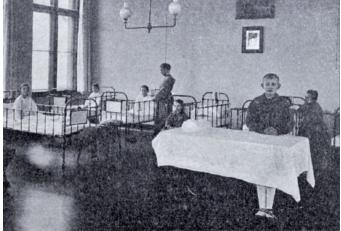


Orthopaedic and gymnastics hall. At the far end is a bust of Karol Jonscher (1850–1907)

In 1903 Józef Brudziński accepted Dr. Karol Jonscher' offer to head the Anna Maria Children's Hospital in Łódź which was being established. He personally oversaw the completion of the hospital's construction. He modified the plans and equipped particular pavilions for the sick in accordance with innovative hygiene requirements. He developed procedures for the personnel and for the operation of the hospital. He trained doctors and nurses to examine, treat and handle sick children. Ha waged war on intra-hospital infections. He set up an outpatients sorting room for sick children, an observatory, and general diseases and surgical wards. He used isolation wards for patients with contagious diseases, pavilions for diphtheria and TB patients, and rooms for convalescents. According to the original plans, the hospital was only to serve Christian children, but Józef Brudziński secured a victory and managed to change the status of the hospital. This allowed all sick children to be admitted irrespective of their denomination, nationality and their parents' financial means.





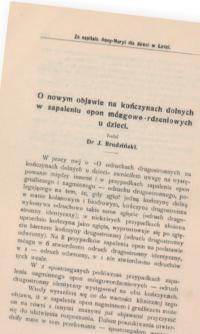


Surgical ward Convalescents' room

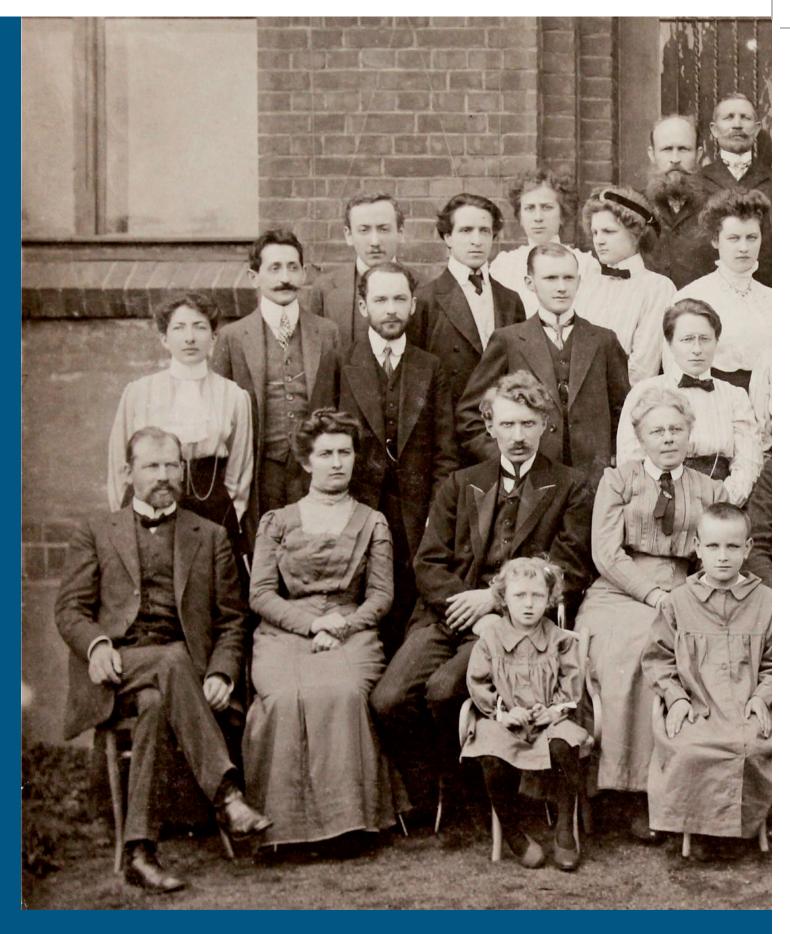
Despite his administrative duties Józef Brudziński engaged in scientific research and encouraged his assistants to do the same. His most important observations, which led to his discovering several symptoms of meningitis, date from that period. The first results of his observations, relating to the crossed extensor reflex, were published in *Przegląd Lekarski* in 1908, in an article entitled 'On the crossed extensor reflex in the lower limbs of children'. A year later, in the course of further research, he discovered the so-called neck sign, which he discussed in *Przegląd Pedyatryczny* from 1908/1909, in an article entitled 'About a new symptom observable in the lower limbs of children with meningitis'. The symptoms he discovered were later applied in diagnostics and are known in global literature as Brudziński's signs.

Józef Brudziński's achievements made him famous both as a scholar and an expert and organizer of children's healthcare during his lifetime. In 1909 he was awarded a PhD in medicine by the Jagiellonian University.





Operating theatre



Personel of the Anna Maria Children's Hospital in Łódź during the farewell meeting with Dr. Józef Brudziński – head physician in the years 1903–1910. Seated, first row from left: 3. Dr. Antoni Tomaszewski – one of the first children's surgeons; 4. Maria Teichman – head nurse; 5. Dr. Józef Brudziński – head physician and chief of the general medicine and infections ward; 6. Dr. Władysław Szenajch – chief of the contagious diseases ward;



8. Wacław Jasiński – later organizer and manager of the Paediatrics Clinic in Vilnius; 9. Dr. Jan Pieniążek – one of the first children' otolaryngologists. In the second row: 1. Dr. Henryka Rozenblat-Frenkel – doctor of general medicine; 2. Dr. Tadeusz Mogilnicki – doctor of general medicine, from June 1906 doctor in the casualty department



PRZEGLĄD PEDVATRYCZNY

KWARTALNIK

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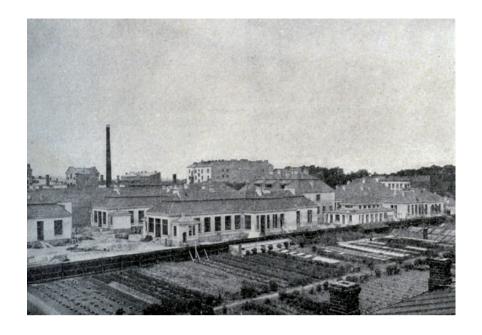
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Paediatric Section of the Łódź Doctors' Society in Poland was established, and Brudziński became its chairman. Józef Brudziński also founded the first Polish journal of paediatrics Przegląd Pedyatryczny, of which he was the co-editor. He invited paediatricians from all three partitions to collaborate: Ludwik Anders from Warsaw, Mieczysław Michałowicz from Częstochowa, Stanisław Krysiewicz from Poznań, Ksawery Lewkowicz from Kraków and Jan Raczyński from Lwów (now Lviv, Ukraine). The inaugural meeting took place in the Anna Maria Children's Hospital on 24 October 1908. Józef Brudziński was elected chairman of the Section. At the first meeting he delivered a speech entitled O celach i zadaniach współczesnej pediatrii (On the aims and tasks of contemporary paediatrics). In the speech he expressed the hope that paediatric sections would also be established in other centres, and that they would become associated in the Polish Society of Paediatrics.

The first issue of Przegląd Pedyatryczny (1908/1909)







General view of the hospital during its construction

In 1910 Józef Brudziński began organizing the Karol and Maria Children's Hospital in Warsaw. The hospital was opened in November 1913. Józef Brudziński used the pavilion and cubicle system in the construction of the hospital which ensured full isolation and limited intra-hospital infections. It was the best organized and the best equipped children's hospital in Poland and Józef Brudziński became the head physician.





Main pavilion, general and surgical wards of the Karol and Maria Children's Hospital

After nearly three years of construction, the new Karol and Maria Children's Hospital in Warsaw was opened in November 1913. It was constructed according to the pavilion and cubicle system which consisted of building separate cubicles with their own equipment—ensuring full isolation—in the wards of each pavilion. The hospital had general, surgical, contagious diseases and orthopaedic wards, and a library. There was also a chemo-biological laboratory, an X-ray room and an autopsy room. The special design of the pavilions and their separation from the outpatients clinic with the sorting room significantly reduced infections.

Waiting room





At the time, it was the best organized and bestequipped children's hospital in Poland. The head physician, Dr. Józef Brudziński, organized the doctors' work and then engaged in training the personnel. Despite his administrative duties, he continued his clinical research and published new works. He was the head physician of the hospital until he became rector of the revived University of Warsaw in 1915.

The first team of hospital doctors.

Seated: Dr. J. Paschalis, Z. Szlenkier, Dr. J. Przedpelska, Dr. J. Matusewicz.

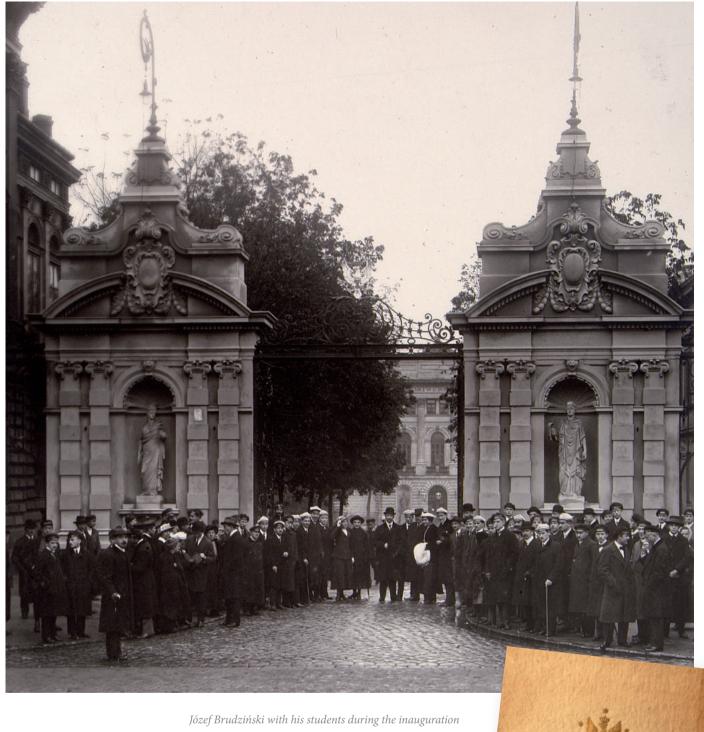
Standing – first row: Dr. T. Kopeć, Dr. J. Celichowska, Dr. J. Bukowska,

Dr. W. Łapiński, Dr. J. Brudziński, Dr. W. Szenajch, Dr. J. Koelichen,

Dr. J. Pieniążek. Standing – second row: Dr. K. Jonscher, Dr. R. Stankiewicz,

Dr. L. Paszkiewicz, Dr. T. Wiśniewski, Dr. S. Łyskawiński, Dr. M. Erlich





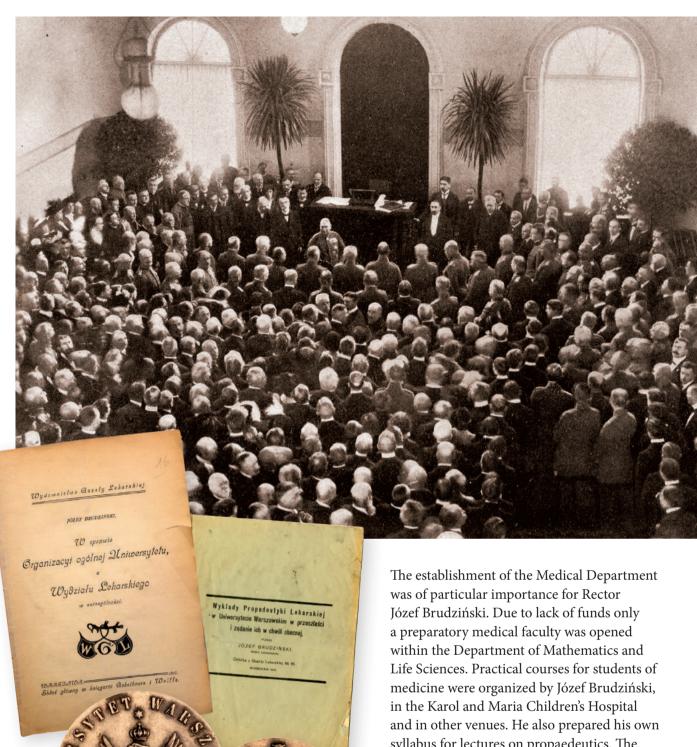
Józef Brudziński with his students during the inauguration of another academic year at the reborn University of Warsaw. The coat of arms of the University was hung over the gates. Warsaw, 7 October 1916

In 1915, after the Germans occupied Warsaw, Józef Brudziński became a member of the management board and reporter of the university level schools section at the faculty of education of the Civic Committee of the city of Warsaw. He also acted as chairman of the university committee and subcommittee of the Medical Department. In autumn 1915 Józef Brudziński was appointed rector of the University of Warsaw by the German governor, Hans von Beseler.

He acknowledged that creating a university where Polish was the language of instruction would not only enable Polish youth to be educated, but would also help create new patriotic elites for the longed-for independent Polish state. Brudziński took care to maintain the University's Polish character. He organized celebrations commemorating important events in Polish history, such as the 125th anniversary of the enactment of the Constitution of 3 May, which took place in 1916.

Józef Brudziński speaking to students during the 125th anniversary celebrations of the Constitution of 3 May 1791, organized in the Botanical Garden on 3 May 1916





Commemorative medal struck to mark the inauguration of the reborn University of Warsaw on 15 November 1915 by Stefan Wiśniewski, Warsaw, 1915

syllabus for lectures on propaedeutics. The lectures concerned general issues relating to the professional vocation of a doctor, elements of social medicine, deontology, the logic of medicine and the history of medical sciences. He gave his inaugural lecture on 1 April 1916. In the lecture he called on future doctors to gain knowledge, guided by the words of Hippocrates Salus aegroti suprema lex esto.

In July 1916 the rector of the University of Warsaw, Józef Brudziński, was appointed the first chairman of the Warsaw City Council. He actively participated in politics and in international affairs. His activities were guided by his desire to live in free and independent Poland. In autumn 1916, as a Polish delegate, he participated in the talks held in Vienna and Berlin—as a result of this mission, on 5 November 1916 an Act was published announcing the creation of the Kingdom of Poland.



Welcoming Józef Brudziński as rector and chairman of the City Council. Seat of the City Council of Warsaw, Warsaw, 24 July 1916



At the beginning of 1917, as a result of political tensions and the brutal conduct of the German occupying forces, Józef Brudziński resigned from the executorial positions he held. He planned to return to work at the Karol and Maria Children's Hospital. However, progressive illness put an end to his plans for further activity. Józef Brudziński did not accept his election as rector of the University of Warsaw for another term of office or the proposed position of Minister of Religious Affairs and Public Education in the Regency Council of the Kingdom of Poland.

Józef Polikarp Brudziński died on 18 December 1917, aged only 43. In the consciousness of his contemporaries he was the person who Built in days of confusion and doubt. And held the Nation's Past, Present and Future in his warm heart.



Commemorative medal of the first rector of the reborn University of Warsaw, Józef Brudziński, by Czesław Makowski, Warsaw, 1917

#### CALENDAR

| 26 January 1874  | Józef Polikarp Brudziński was born in Bolewo  |
|------------------|---|
| 1891             | he graduated from the 4th Governmental Gymnasium for Boys in Warsaw; in the same year he began studying medicine at the University of Dorpat (now Tartu, Estonia)   |
| 1894             | he transferred to the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Moscow   |
| 1897             | he obtained his medical doctor's diploma  |
| 1898             | he worked at the Orthodox Jewish Hospital in Warsaw; he attended lectures given by Professor Maciej Leon Jakubowski in Kraków; in the same year he married Alina Mierzejewska   |
| 1898–1900        | he studied paediatrics abroad under Professors Theodor Escherich in Graz and Jacques-Joseph Grancher, Antoine Marfan and Victor Hutinel in Paris; he wrote his first academic works, and published an article on the occurrence of the bacteria <i>proteus vulgaris</i> in the faeces of infants and attempts at their treatment by giving the patients bacterial cultures  |
| 1900-1903        | he worked in the Child Jesus Hospital in Warsaw, and on the hospital ward in the Dom Wychowawczy im. ks. Boduena; he continued his research on the bacteriology of the alimentary canal in infants; he participated in the life of Warszawskie Towarzystwo Naukowego (the Warsaw Academic Society); he gave secret lectures on paediatrics for students of the faculty of medicine at the Imperial University of Warsaw |
| 1903-1905        | he participated in the building and organization of the Anna Maria<br>Children's Hospital in Łódź   |
| 1905-1910        | he headed the Anna Maria Children's Hospital in Łódź; he carried out scientific research and discovered several symptoms of meningitis now known in global literature as Brudziński's signs   |
| 1908             | he established the first Paediatrics Section in Poland, and founded the first Polish journal of paediatrics <i>Przegląd Pedyatryczny</i>  |
| 1909             | he was awarded a PhD from the Jagiellonian University   |
| 1910             | he began building and organizing the Karol and Maria Children's<br>Hospital in Warsaw   |
| 1913-1915        | he worked as head physician at the Karol and Maria Children's Hospital in Warsaw; he continued his clinical research on the treatment of scarlet fever and miliaria   |
| 1915             | he was appointed rector of the revived University of Warsaw   |
| 1916             | he was appointed first chairman of the Warsaw City Council  |
| 18 December 1917 | he died in Warsaw, aged 43  |

On 18 December 2017, on the centenary of the death of Józef Polikarp Brudziński, an exhibition entitled 'Józef Polikarp Brudziński – *Salus aegroti suprema lex esto*' was opened in the Museum of the History of Medicine at the Medical University of Warsaw. The event was accompanied by a historic session organized by the Museum of the History of Medicine and department of the History of Medicine in the Medical University of Warsaw. Three papers were presented in which the most important facts in Brudziński's rich biography and his academic activities in the context of historical events were discussed.





Brudziński's biography was supplemented with a fine selection of iconography and invaluable memorabilia from the family archives: publications of scientific papers, his student's register from the University of Moscow, a temperature chart he compiled, and also private correspondence. Also on display were items from the collections of the Museum of the History of Medicine at the Medical University of Warsaw: commemorative medals, a brochure with a speech delivered by Józef Polikarp Brudziński dating from 1915, and photographs.



The honorary guests at the opening of the exhibition were the rector of the Medical University of Warsaw, Professor Mirosław Wielgoś, MD and the rector of the University of Warsaw Professor Marcin Pałys.





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Museum of the History of Medicine Medical University of Warsaw ul. Żwirki i Wigury 63 02-091 Warsaw www.muzeum.wum.edu.pl