
ARTICLES AND DISSERTATIONS

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The initiative to form protective children's care shelters in Kraków in the first half of the 19th century

Abstract

The article covers the issue of the initiative of organising care for little children at care homes in Kraków in the first half of the 19th century. Kraków's civic-minded townspeople, referring to examples from all over Europe and facilities organised in Warsaw, undertook activities aimed at implementing a project of formation of a care shelter in Kraków.

The analysis of archive material indicates that towards the end of the 1830s and the beginning of the 1840s, in Kraków one could speak of the beginnings of a movement aimed at extending care over children of working families, including helping to feed, morally educate them and provide for them basic education. Members of Kraków's Charity Society actively participated in this work, recruiting people interesting in creating care shelters, and writing projects of such institutions.

In the end, the care shelters were created and functioned in the second half of the 19th century by initiative of private persons, who founded the Committee for Shelters for little children in Kraków. It must be noted that they included the members of the indicated Society.

Keywords: Child care shelters, Kraków Charity Society, child care, Kraków

Introduction

The need to create in Kraków a body that would not be a school, but which would implement the task of parental education of children was noticed both by scientific governing bodies, the members of the Polish Charity Society (Pl. Towarzystwo Dobroczynności), as well as by private persons. The need to form an institution that would have taken care of poor children of working parents, who are not able to provide care for their descendants, was noticed in the 1840s by father Ludwik Łętowski, the contemporary custodian of the Kraków Cathedral, the government commissar for Kraków's scientific institutes. On 18 January 1840, he filed a motion with the senate, in which he justified the need to form a small preparatory school for boys and girls ahead of their attending of primary schools, and also indicated the need of a disposition concerning „the use to this end of

a certain amount from the savings of primary schools from the year 1838/30 in the university treasury, who at that time managed those funds”¹. The children, when residing at the facility, would be provided with care, which would aim to reduce the number of unfortunate accidents stemming from the lack of oversight by adults. The senate, by resolution of 30 January 1840, issued the authorisation to undertake actions aimed at the arrangement of care for children not attending school. The government commissar, subsequently dr Józef Brodowicz, had ordered the secretary of the Jagiellonian University of Kraków Andrzej Czaputowicz to announce a public competition aimed at naming the caretakers for the preparatory school, or in other words, the care shelter. The competition announced on 11 February 1840 included the provision that these were supposed to be two people (a woman and a man) whose task would be running the mentioned institution. Persons running for the position were to be of appropriate age (between 24 and 30 years of age), health, psychological predispositions (calm character) and paedagogical talent. Expectations concerning the attitude and knowledge of the candidates did not stray from requirements described by acts of law for teachers of primary schools. The caretakers were to be provided with a home, combustible fuel and an annual pension in an amount equalling that of a rural primary school teacher². Regrettably, the competition did not attract much attention. The only person to report was Józef Zawadziński, a teacher of a parish school in Łobzów, and Anna Bętkowska with her husband Antoni. The shortage of persons needed to run the institution, holding appropriate qualifications, caused further work aimed at its opening to be halted.

It was concluded that difficulties in the establishment of children’s care centres stemmed indirectly from the lack of popularisation of such a form of care in society. This task was undertaken in name of the Kraków Charity Society, operating since the year 1816, its member Józef Teodor Głębocki. “The Annual Chronicle of the Society” for the years 1840-1841 (“Rocznik Towarzystwa Dobroczynności”), included a proprietary work about children’s care shelters³. Referring to the experiences of Warsaw’s Charity Society,

¹ GŁĘBOCKI, J. T., *Zakłady ku ulżeniu cierpieniom bliźnich obecnie w Krakowie istniejące. Z krótką wzmianką o dawniejszych, a dziś nie istniejących instytucjach tego rodzaju*, Kraków 1852, pp. 191.

² Ibidem.

³ Ibidem, pp. 187-188. J. T. Głębocki writing in the beginnings of the 1850s about the charity institutions in Kraków, in the part concerned with the formation of the care shelters, referred to the concepts of Locke, Wölke, Niemajer, Schwartz, John Paul Friedrich Richter, Zereuner, Pestalozzi, Lancaster, Sailer. He stressed the importance of moral education in the shaping of an individual. He indicated that „the time of education begins far before” than when the child goes to school, which justified the need to form care shelters that were institutions „supplementing the education system before the age of learning”. He reminded about the so-called schools of play formed in Italy, Netherlands, Switzerland in the 18th century, but these were not facilities akin to the care shelters. According to him, the proper template for the care shelters created were English shelters, where work was provided with children in the 1820s according to the suggestions of Bell-Lancaster, and the organisation was based on the stipulations of Wilderspin, the inspector of children’s central schools in London. In the 1830s, care shelters were formed in France, in Vienna the first one was established on 12 February 1828. The rules of operation were provided in the *Guide for teachers at the care shelters for little children* by Leopold Chimani of Vienna, translated in Warsaw from German in the year 1841. A valuable work for the organisation of care and education was the *Practical lecture on the education of little children* by Jan Svoboda, translated from Czech in the year 1840 by Teofil Nowosielski.

it presented an organisation of internal order and orderliness of a department of morally neglected children with the protection and work home in Warsaw, and the organisation of the sixth department of this Charity Society, meaning, the protective department for little children⁴. The presented solutions were supposed to be translated to the environment of Kraków. The project was supported by Franciszek Ciesielski, deputy chairman of the Charity Society.

The purpose of the article was to showcase activities undertaken in Kraków in the first half of the 19th century aimed at the organisation of a new form of care for little children, which were care shelters. This issue was not studied yet until now, however, authors writing about the history of the Charity Society of Kraków mentioned it⁵. A short description of such care shelters already operating in the second half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century was provided by Justyna Meissner-Łozińska⁶. Missing is in turn information about the reference templates for such institutions, the assumptions as to their functioning, as well as the projects and their implementation in Kraków. The article thus constitutes a sketch of the history of Kraków's children care shelters, which were an important component in the formation of the system of pre-school care⁷.

The source basis for the present article were documents collected in the National Archives in Kraków, showcasing activities undertaken by Kraków's Charity Society (in the article referred to as the KCS), aimed at the creation of a children's care shelter⁸. The query spanned documents of the KCS, in particular protocols from proceedings of the general board, the body managing the Society. Analysed were "The Annual Chronicles of the Kraków Charity Society" (*Roczniki Krakowskiego Towarzystwa Dobroczynności*), which

⁴ GŁĘBOCKI, J. T., *Zakłady ku ulżeniu...*, pp. 190. The author reminded that in the year 1838 in Warsaw „several members of the charity society had made a resolution to form a care shelter for little children. The tradesman Janikowski Teofil, supported with the aid of friends, collected numerous donations, greatly enhanced by the donation of H. M. the heir to the throne, and the first shelter under the heading of Nowosielski, similar to the ones from Vienna and Prague, was formed by the aid of Stanisław Jachowicz, who takes absolute credit for this [...]”.

⁵ The outline of the history of the Charity Society of Kraków in the 19th century was provided in the following articles: BĄK, J., *Opieka społeczna nad sierotami w Krakowskim Towarzystwie Dobroczynności w latach 1816–1916*, „Rocznik Krakowski” 1975, vol. 46, pp. 99–112; SKOWRON, R., *Towarzystwo Dobroczynności. Organizacja i działalność ogólnego domu schronienia ubogich na Wawelu (1816–1846)*, „Studia do dziejów Wawelu” 1991, R. V, pp. 479–496; BARNAS, E., *Powstanie i pierwsze lata działalności Krakowskiego Towarzystwa Dobroczynności (1816–1820)*, „Zeszyty Naukowe WSP w Rzeszowie. Pedagogika. Psychologia”. vol. 1997, no. 3, pp. 87–99; BARNAS-BARAN, E., *Publiczny wizerunek krakowskich dobroczyńców ludzkości w XIX w.*, [in:] *Mężczyzna w rodzinie i społeczeństwie: ewolucja ról w kulturze polskiej i europejskiej*, Vol. 1, *Od średniowiecza do początków XX wieku*, ed. K. KABACIŃSKA and K. RATAJCZAK, Poznań 2010, pp. 205–218.

⁶ MEISSNER-ŁOZIŃSKA, J., *Placówki opieki nad dzieckiem w Krakowie w okresie autonomii galicyjskiej*, [in:] *Galicja i jej dziedzictwo*, vol. 16: *Opieka nad dzieckiem w Galicji*, ed. by A. MEISSNER, Rzeszów 2002, pp. 94–113.

⁷ Concerning the formation of preschool care, see BOBROWSKA-NOWAK, W., *Zarys dziejów wychowania przedszkolnego*, Warszawa 1978.

⁸ Polish National Archives in Kraków, Documents concerning the formation of the care shelter house for little children under the care of the Charity Society, from the beginning of the year 1844 until the end of the year 1848, cat. no. 547/ 215.

included reports from activities undertaken in that particular year; they also included lectures on the care for children in different cities across the Polish lands, indicated as examples were also other European cities. Utilised was also a publication issued in the year 1847 by Wiktor Kopff, an administration and court official, entitled *The organisation of care shelters for little children in the city of Kraków (Urządzenie domów ochrony dla małych dzieci w mieście Krakowie)*.

1. The project of a children's care shelter in Kraków

As may be inferred from the analysed source material, the KCS, when initiating activities aimed at bringing the care shelter to life (the documents utilised the phrase *dom ochrony*, the literal translation of which is *protection/ safety house/ home*) argued that similar institutes already operated in other cities⁹. The organisation project of the care shelter for little children in Kraków of 5 January 1844, signed by Franciszek Ciesielski and Józef Głębocki, provided the planned sources of income, which were to be donations from the inhabitants of Kraków, as well as the duties of the children's care shelter department to be formed, as well as the persons responsible for caring for the children. Employed was to be a superior, who together with his wife was supposed to „not as much teach, but rather employ and care for the morals of the children under care”, and also „[...] are supposed to influence the shaping of the hearts and feelings of the children, attempt to instill in them true basics of faith and morality”¹⁰. References were supposed to be the care shelters of Jan Svoboda in Prague, the shelter in Warsaw run by Teofil Nowosielski, the shelters in Vienna run by Chimani. In addition, the work of K. Tańska Hoffmanowa *The handfasting of Helena (Wiązanie Helenki)* published in Vilnius in the year 1842 as well as *Stories and fairy tales (Powiastki i bajki)* of Stanisław Jachowicz published in Warsaw in the same year were recommended as aid for the superior in the process of education and upbringing of the children¹¹. Beside „moral education, oversight and information”¹² were supposed to receive a warm meal, bread as well as other foods that is provided by benefactors or the better endowed parents. The children were supposed to arrive at the care shelter dressed, with hair appropriately styled, and cleaned. The dress was supposed to be modest, but it was stressed that it should be clean. Ill children were not supposed to come to the care shelter, and they were supposed to remain home, with the department (planned internal body of the KCS that was supposed to manage the care shelters) seeking to send to them a medical doctor tasked with the diagnosis and aid for the child. In the writing of the Senate to the KCS in March of 1844, the consent to form a care shelter was con-

⁹ Ibidem, sheet 3. The handwritten draft of the letter to the Senate, explaining the project of formation of a care shelter.

¹⁰ Ibidem. Project of organisation of a care shelter for little children in Kraków of 5 January 1844 signed by Franciszek Ciesielski and Józef Głębocki.

¹¹ Ibidem, sheet 7.

¹² Ibidem.

firmed, with at the same time with a reminder of the initiative from the year 1838 of the Polish National Representation (Pl. Reprezentacja Krajowa), which suggested forming a preparatory school for children. Sadly, at that time, lack of funds did not permit the implementation of the undertaking, hence the Senate reminded that securing the financing of the project of the Society was particularly important¹³. Commending the „eagerness” of the KCS in terms of the implementation of the formation of the children’s care shelter, the Senate reminded in a further writing that the bylaws of the shelter need to be drawn up in order for the project to be approved. Should the confirmation of the location (gift deed), where the shelter would be housed, along with the bylaws, be presented, the general board was assured that „the government will strive to thus think up a fixed fund to maintain the teacher of such a facility”¹⁴. The bylaws of the care shelters was supposed to be drawn up by Józef Głębocki together with the government commissar for the scientific bodies of the Free City of Kraków, Schultz¹⁵.

The remarks to the care shelter project drawn up by Antoni Kamiński¹⁶, the author noted that it was necessary to purchase a house with a garden. A further important issue was the separation of boys and girls in a situation, if the children were supposed to remain at the shelter for the night. Should funds be sufficient, poor children were supposed to be able to live at the facility, and were supposed to be provided with clothing and food. If the financial condition would not permit such a solution, care was supposed to be taken for the children to receive a meal at least on midday. The inspector and house tutors, who were supposed to care for the intellectual and physical development of the children under their care, were supposed to be aided by servants, meaning – two men and three women. He suggested that the parents of children should pay a specific amount of money daily or once per week, putting them in a money box, with the funds utilised towards the purchase of food. The children were supposed to receive this food around noon. In his opinion, the facility should be visited daily by a medical doctor. Referring to the experiences of people dealing with the education of children, A. Kamiński wrote that the education should be provided from the age of seven, but it would be the task of the care shelter to protect those under their care „from bad examples”. In relation to this care was supposed to be provided for children between four and seven years of age¹⁷.

Remaining under education and care, a child, even if it would not be able to learn a lot (due to low mental capacities), would nonetheless experience a positive effect, as it would

¹³ Ibidem, sheet 9. Writing of the governing Senate of 4 March 1844 to the general board of the Charity Society of Kraków. Signed by Senate chairman Jan Schindler.

¹⁴ Ibidem, sheet 13. Writing of the Senate to the General Board of the KCS of 26 March 1844.

¹⁵ Ibidem, sheet 17. Writing of the government commissar for the scientific institutions of the Free City of Kraków with its territory of 19 April 1844.

¹⁶ Ibidem, sheet 23. *Selected remarks concerning the institute under the name of the chare shelter for little children – from evil – to be formed – ventured humbly by Antoni Kamiński* „Kilka uwag względem mającego się założyć Instytutu pod Nazwą Dom Ochrony Dzieci – od złego – ośmiela się poświęcić najuniższej Antoni Kamiński” 27 January 1844.

¹⁷ Ibidem, sheet 32-33.

„awaken in itself the passion to work”, purify „the heart of wildness and bad customs”, as well as prepare it for education at a primary school¹⁸. The inspector and the house tutor should be characterised by calmness, a friendly attitude towards children, and care for them as if they were their own offspring. He stressed the meaning of frequent ventures to the garden, during which the children were supposed to be asked questions about the reality around them, and provided with explanations of the local objects, their purposes and possibilities they offer, etc.

Those under care at the shelter should be taught knowledge on religion, geography, general natural history, fairy tales were also supposed to be read. This content should interest the children and encourage them to continue education at school. A. Kamieński indicated that children should be allowed to write with chalk on the blackboard before commencing learning to read, first various „lines, then sounds, then syllables, so that in this way they would soon learn to read what is printed and written”¹⁹. He believed that the topic of interest for the children should be changed every quarter hour, but should they become interested in a particular topic, this time should be extended. The girls, guided by a female house tutor, were supposed to learn handicraft. He recommended common playing, whereby the Superiors should observe the children’s temperaments and inclinations. It was recommended for the playing to be supervised, and considered it proper for the inspector and house tutor to play with the children. Boys and girls were able to remain together at the care shelter and garden, but during learning, their desks should be separated by an empty space. Each day, the children were supposed to attend mass, to be held by a friar or retired priest, on Sundays and holidays the children were also supposed to come for mass and moral teachings, to return home afterwards. Every day in the morning, at midday and in the evening, they were supposed to pray, which the inspector was supposed to oversee. He was also the one to provide moral and religious education, because all children were supposed to have „piety instilled”, and this instillation was supposed to turn to „duty and feeling” with age²⁰.

The inspector was also tasked with collecting information on the the families of the children under care. In this task he was to be aided by the police. This knowledge was required to determine and file with the Society motions concerning possible influences of negative examples from the life of parents on those under care. During learning hours of the children, a delegation from among the members of the CS was supposed to visit the shelter to observe the work of the inspector²¹.

In the year 1844, the KCS wrote to the Senate that the draft bylaws sent, drafted in line with the will of the Senate, should be analysed as quickly as possible. The plea was justified by the fact that further activities, e. g. the announcement of the competition to seek the

¹⁸ Ibidem, pp. 34.

¹⁹ Ibidem, pp. 35.

²⁰ Ibidem, pp. 36.

²¹ Ibidem, pp. 37.

caretakers, their selection and further preparations, were to take a long time still²². The undertaken work and decision of the general board during its session on 31 December 1843 to engage in the organisation of the care shelter for little children in Kraków, were supposed to be continued by the “Sixth department of the Charity Society, for care shelters for little children”. The drafted bylaws suggested for the shelters to accept children between 5 and 7 years of age, and for them to remain at the care shelter not longer than until they were ten years old²³. The project for the care shelters, presented on 6 January 1844 by J. T. Głębocki²⁴ was accepted and approved by the government. The governing Senate replied on 4 March 1844 to the general board that having sought an opinion it concluded that the facility was confirmed already in the year 1838 by the assembly of representative, and referred to as the preparatory school, but was not formed yet²⁵. J. T. Głębocki, describing the activities undertaken to form a children’s care shelter in Kraków, noted: „But how may be inferred from the documents, the care shelter was considered rather to be a scientific facility, an amendment to the school education system; the Charity Society in turn considered the shelters as charity facilities, striving at least in part to amend parental care, thus referring to home care, having almost no relationship to the school[...]”²⁶.

As noted in the protocols, the general board elected to deal with the foundation of the care shelter, hence it formed the committee that was supposed to be named the Sixth department of the Charity Society, for care shelters for little children (Pl. Wydział Szósty Towarzystwa Dobroczynności Domów Ochrony dla małych dzieci). The first care shelter was meant to care for 80 children. Further care shelters were supposed to be formed if the funds would be sufficient for this purpose, in Kraków’s districts of Kleparz and Piasek with the Church of St. Florian, for the districts of Kazimierz and Stradom with the Corpus Christi Church, for the district of Wesoła with the Church of St. Nicholas, and in the city

²² Ibidem, sheet 49. Plea addressed to the Senate of 12 May 1844.

²³ Ibidem, sheet 78; *Dom ochrony dla małych dzieci w Krakowie*, „Kurierka krakowska” 1844, no. 3, pp. 1–2.

²⁴ Polish National Archives in Kraków. Documents of the Charity Society of Kraków, cat. no. 547/4. 4th protocol of the sessions of the general board of the Charity Society of Kraków 1844, Extraordinary session of 3 June 1854, sheet 691. The chairman of the Society, during the session of the General Board of 3 June 1854, when indicating the merits of J. T. Głębocki stressed that he had prepared the project for the care shelters, was a member of the Society starting in 1839, advisor at the department of census and economy, advisor at care shelters, father to Hall VII, drawing up the annals of the Society for six years, had prepared a memorandum concerning the return from the state treasury of the funds due to the Society. It was his achievement to also publish the history of the charity institutions of Kraków.

²⁵ Ibidem, sheet 22. The protocol states that a care shelter for children should be formed, because the examples from other countries as known to the general board had shown that „they exhibit effects beneficial in terms of the instilling of morality in children”. It was decided to ask the governing Senate on 31 December 1843 about the consent to form a care shelter, on 28 April 1844 the draft bylaws were sent, on 25 October the property was purchased for the shelter. As J. T. Głębocki indicates, the difficulties in the formation of this institution were related to the lack of people able to run it, the lack of appropriate premises, as well as sufficient funds. Acknowledging the importance of the venture, the Senate demanded a clarification of the funds held by the Charity Society, and a presentation of a detailed plan of organisation of the institution named the care shelter and school for children; GŁĘBOCKI, J. T., *Zakłady ku ulżeniu...*, pp. 197.

²⁶ GŁĘBOCKI, J. T., *Zakłady ku ulżeniu...*, pp. 194–195.

itself, a department for morally neglected children was conceived. The source of income were supposed to be all kinds of financial donations, both one-time as well as annual fees, to amount at least 5 Polish Złoty. The general board was supposed to strive for the finances to be multiplied, with one of the methods of their improvement to be the acceptance of testamentary deeds, transfers, contributions and donations „of any nature and volume”²⁷. At least one ball, one concert and one amateur theatre performance was supposed to be organised annually for the benefit of the care shelter. For this purpose, a children’s raffle was also supposed to be organised. The funds of the care shelters were to be recorded in the fund ledger of the Charity Society, however, in a separate column. The food was supposed to be collected every day from benefactors who would like to donate it. The shelter department was to be an integral part of the general board „and solely under its direct governance”, and to be composed of a Lady Protector and four Ladies, a Chairman and six council members. All were to be members of the Charity Society. For each care shelter, a Superior was to be elected, to remain there with his wife, as well as two lady servants. The first of these was to help maintain tidiness in the shelter, with the second foreseen „for all chores”. The remuneration of the Superior was planned to be 1,200 Polish Złoty annually, that of his wife - 800 Polish Złoty, with the first servant to receive 600 Polish Złoty, and the second – 400 Polish Złoty. All these persons were supposed to reside at the care shelter. To secure the pay of the persons caring for the children, the general board was supposed to contribute 3000 Polish Złoty annually to the budget of the City of Kraków²⁸.

It was decided that the duties of the Superior and house tutor were not only to span the teaching of the children under their care, but also their „employment and moral improvement”. They were also supposed to influence the „shaping of the hearts and feelings of the children”²⁹ by instilling in them the true basics of faith and morality. The children were supposed to have in them formed the habit of cleanliness, care for their attire and orderliness around them. In effect, they were supposed to establish an abhorrence of idleness once and for all, and to get to like work and virtue. Knowledge was supposed to be conveyed to those under care during and through play, and it was supposed to span issues applicable to the environment of the children, stemming „as much from actual nature as possible”, as well as knowledge „of most interest to the public”. The scope of education was supposed to be teachings of history, to be aided by pictures hanging on walls, practical zoology, gardening, garden management, beginnings of counting with the use of differently-coloured balls. The Superior of the care shelter was also to teach of salvation, to be simplified by the evangelical interpretation of the daily prayer. The study of reading and writing was supposed to be aided by a textbook (alphabet book) written by the inspector of central schools in London, Samuel Wilderspin. Handicraft, arts and industrial entrepreneurship were also to be taught using pictures, and to such an extent so as not to bore the chil-

²⁷ Polish National Archives in Kraków, Documents concerning the formation of the care shelter house for little children under the care of the Charity Society, from the beginning of the year 1844 until the end of the year 1848, cat. no. 547/ 215, sheet 54.

²⁸ *Ibidem*, sheet 54-55.

²⁹ *Ibidem*, sheet 56.

dren. When conveying knowledge, it was to be considered to begin with simpler things, moving on to more difficult and complicated matters.

The Superior was supposed to aid himself in his work with the following works³⁰:

1. *Practical lecture on the education of little children by Jan Svoboda*, translated from Czech by Teofil Nowosielski, Warsaw 1840.
2. *Guide for teachers at the care shelters for little children by Leopold Chimani of Vienna*, translated from German, Warsaw 1840.
3. *On care shelters translated from English by Wilderspin as applicable to Poland by H. K. in Leszno and Gniezno in 1842*.
4. *Stories and fairy tales by Stanisław Jachowicz collected in three volumes*, Warsaw 1842.
5. *The handfasting of Helena by Klementyna Hoffmanowa from the Tańscy family*, Wilno 1842.

It was noted that „The Superior was mainly to adhere to the rules assumed for the care shelters of Vienna”³¹. It was the task of the house tutor to school the girls in handicraft and „instill in them noble feelings”³².

The care shelter was supposed to accept children between the second, and concluded fifth year of life, who were supposed to remain then not longer than three years. However, the first in line to be taken in were supposed to be children that were half-orphans, and from those parents, who were daily taking care of long hours of gainful work. The children should have gone through small pox already. Parents willing to place a child in the care of the shelter should submit a certified protocol of the child’s baptism to be considered by the general board of the Charity Society, and obtain from the district commissioner a certificate of residence, a confirmation of the financial situation of the family, the places of employment of the parents and their diligence. Daily, the parents or caretakers of the children placed at the care shelter should provide them with breakfast, clean them, do their hair and dress them cleanly. The attire could be humble, but should not be dirty. In the evening, the children were to be received to be taken back home. In case the children would be brought in irregularly, the Superior was supposed to notify the Department for care shelters on the third day of unexplained absence, which was supposed to undertake specific steps. The parents of the children remaining throughout the afternoon at the care shelter, should bring a meal, and the child received additionally food provided by benefactors and the wealthier parents. Ill children were supposed to be provided medical attention at home, by a medical doctor of the Charity Society, or if need be, they were supposed to be transferred to the paediatric hospital³³.

³⁰ Ibidem.

³¹ Ibidem.

³² Ibidem.

³³ Ibidem, sheet 57.

2. Sixth department for care shelters for little children with the Charity Society of Kraków

In order to implement the idea of formation of the care shelter, the Sixth Department for care shelters for little children was formed with the Charity Society of Kraków. It was composed of: Lady Protector Zofia Potocka from the Branicy comital family (1848–1878)³⁴, Franciszek Ciesielski (presiding chairman) and the following councillors: Józef Teodor Głębocki, father Adam Jakubowski, Ferdynand Kojśiewicz, Karol Kremer, father Walenty Majkuciński, Józef Placer, Antoni Schwartz, Ignacy Woźniakowski³⁵. The newly appointed department of care shelters was an integral part of the board of the Charity Society, and directly subordinate to it, its members were chosen from among the members of the Society. All motions and remarks were supposed to be handled during sittings of the general board. It was the duty of the department to multiply the flights, oversight of the internal order in the care shelters, care for the acceptance of children. The place of proceedings of the department was supposed to be indicated by the presiding chairman, or they were supposed to take place in the rooms of the shelters³⁶. The department of shelters planned to open the first facility for up to eighty children, in a house with a garden, who was to be purchased so that the department would own it. The plan also spanned the opening of shelters in Kraków's districts of Kleparz, Piasek, Kazimierz, Stradom, Wesoła, and the creation of a facility for morally neglected children. Each care shelter was to have assigned one superior, whose wife would function as house tutor, and two female aides. The first was supposed to care for internal tidiness, the second was supposed to run various errands. These posts were to be filled by way of a competition announced by the general board, who acquainted itself with the qualifications of the candidates. The choice of each Superior was to be submitted by the general board to the Senate³⁷.

The funds of the Department increased by various donations of the citizens of Kraków. It was amended by testamentary entries, deeds, collections, organised balls, theatre performances and fixed annual contributions. Once a year, a concert, a theatre performance and a raffle were planned. The members of the Charity Society made one-time donations, and were eager to sign up for annual contributions, which were to amount to not less than five Złoty. As mentioned, the Senate, having received on 26 March 1844 from the general board the information about the funds it holds for the purchase of a house (20,000 Polish Złoty), expressed its consent to form the first care shelter, on condition that the Charity Society submits appropriate bylaws. In addition, the government had awarded a fixed fund to maintain the Superiors of the facility, the children's caretakers. The bylaws submitted

³⁴ POLARCZYKOWA, A., *Zofia z Branickich Potocka*, Polski Słownik Biograficzny, vol. 27, Wrocław–Warszawa–Kraków–Gdańsk–Łódź 1982, pp. 747–749.

³⁵ GŁĘBOCKI, J. T., *Zakłady ku ulżeniu...*, p. 197.

³⁶ *Urządzenie domu ochrony dla małych dzieci w Krakowie*, Amendment to the paper „Kuryerka krakowska” 1844, no. 3, pp. 6.

³⁷ *Ibidem*, pp. 4–6; GŁĘBOCKI, J. T., *Zakłady ku ulżeniu...*, p. 197.

by the general board were confirmed by the Senate on 30 August 1844, and sent to the Society for implementation³⁸. The general board, during its session of 6 October 1844, elected to purchase for the purpose of the first shelter a house in the district of Wesoła no. 241, named „Pod Wandą” (*At Wanda*’s). The building was purchased during a public auction on 25 October 1844 for the sum of 13.010 Polish Złoty.

The book of protocols of the general board of the KCS states that the governing Senate, by rescript of 21 February 1845, notified the general board that foreseen „for a care shelter for little children from university funds was the annual amount of 2200 Złoty”³⁹. These funds were used as remuneration for the Superior of 1000 Polish Złoty, for the house tutor of 300 Polish Złoty, for the servant of 300 Polish Złoty, for the guard of 300 Polish Złoty. The Superior and the house tutor were supposed to be paid from the scientific fund⁴⁰. In June of 1845, the Senate indicated the need to expand the scope of activity of the Society per the bylaws, in relation to which a committee was appointed to analyse the bylaws and provide a response in this regard⁴¹. The bylaws of the KCS published in the year 1839 indicated that the care of orphans aged 6-8 ÷ 14-16 at the Care House (Pl. Dom Schronienie), meaning, the facility it ran, was aimed at preparing them for the function of „members of useful communities”⁴². The initiative of care for younger children undertaken in the 1840s also reflected the care of the members of the KCS for the fate of poor, neglected children.

Konstanty Hoszowski (1805–1884)⁴³, chairman of the KCS, motivating the members of the Society to engage in the perfection of the mode and type of the aid provided to the poor, speaking at a session of the general board on 1 June 1845, said that the members are tasked with helping the unhappy orphans, the elderly, and all those in need⁴⁴.

During a session of the general board in August of 1846, Ferdynand Kojisiewicz notified the general board that it was the purpose „of the local scientific governing bodies [sic-

³⁸ Ibidem, pp. 4–8; *Urządzenie domu ochrony dla małych dzieci w Krakowie*, Amendment to the paper „Kuryerka krakowska” 1844, no. 4, pp. 9–15, Ibidem, no. 5, pp. 5–8; „Czas”, 13.VII. 1853, no. 157, pp. 1; Ibidem, 14.VII. 1853, no. 158, pp. 1.

³⁹ Polish National Archives in Kraków, Documents of the Charity Society of Kraków, cat. no. 547/4. 4th protocol of the sessions of the general board of the Charity Society of Kraków 1844, Session of 2 March 1845, sheet 40; GŁĘBOCKI, J. T., *Zakłady ku ulżeniu...*, p. 195. It was planned to house in the first floor of the rebuilt Collegium minus a music school and dormitory with a school of dramatic singing, with the garden and the ground floor premises given to the care shelter.

⁴⁰ Polish National Archives in Kraków, Documents of the Charity Society of Kraków, cat. no. 547/4. 4th protocol of the sessions of the general board of the Charity Society of Kraków 1844, Session of 2 March 1845, sheet 41.

⁴¹ Ibidem. Session of 1 June 1845, sheet 51.

⁴² Polish National Archives in Kraków, *Statut zarządzający Towarzystwo Dobroczynności w Krakowie*, Kraków 1839, sheet 33.

⁴³ BĄK, C., *Hoszowski Moroz Konstanty*, [in:] *Polski Słownik Biograficzny*, Vol. 10, Wrocław–Warszawa–Kraków–Gdańsk 1973, pp. 31–33.

⁴⁴ Polish National Archives in Kraków, 4th protocol of the sessions of the general board of the Charity Society of Kraków 1844, Session of 1 June 1845, sheet 49.

author's note] to run an exemplary care shelter for little children in the building referred to as the Collegium minus", and indicated that the teacher and the house-tutor were already chosen, with the building requiring refurbishment, the cost of which was estimated to amount to 15000 Fr. He believed that opening the care shelter at the „Dom pod Wandą” is always related to costs of refurbishment of the house, hence, a delay in the implementation of the task emerged. He suggested selling the house, and in this matter it was decided to confer with the chairman of the KCS, L. Łętowski⁴⁵. Sadly, before the house „pod Wandą” was adapted for children, its premises were taken over on 12 February 1847 to house an additional (branch) hospital of St. Lazarus.

The loss of the premises at the Wawel hill for those under the care of the KCS, and the takeover of rooms by the Austrian army following the uprising of Kraków of the year 1846, and the need to search for shelter for the elderly and orphans in the monasteries of Kraków turned the attention of the general board to thoughts about securing their existence. Hence, the activities aimed at the foundation of the care shelters were continued by private persons.

3. Calling the Committee for Care Shelters for little children into existence

It must be noted that the initiative of formation of care shelters in Kraków was taken already in the beginning of the 1840s also by private persons. Among them were named Pelagia Russanowska, Piotra and Anna from the Malinowscy family of the comital house of Moszyńscy, Wincenty and Katarzyna from the Górscy family of the comital house of Karwicy, Franciszek Paszkowski, dr Józefat Kossowski. Cecylia, from the comital family of Platerowie, countess Ożarowska, indicated the need to form care shelters, as did Piotr and Karolina from the family of Rościszewscy, house Mężęńscy. One of the initiators was Pelagia Russanowska who came to Kraków from the Ukraine around the year 1840, at about fifty. She died on 12 August 1863⁴⁶. She was born in 1792 in the region of

⁴⁵ Ibidem. Session of 2 August 1846, sheet 97; GŁĘBOCKI, J. T., *Zakłady ku ulżeniu...*, p. 199. The author indicates that the first facility for the neglected children, and those wandering around Kraków, was a temporarily formed care shelter in the suburb of Wesoła „first in the house with a garden under no. 207 of Kamilla Bystrzonowska, then under no. 204/5 of Placer Franciszek”.

⁴⁶ EKIELSKI, J., *Fundacja Pelagji Russanowskiej. Urywek z pamiętnika śp. Dra Józefa Ekielskiego długoletniego referenta Wydziału Krajowego B. Królestwa Galicji i Lodomerii, Miejsce Piastowe 1931*, pp. 9, 12, 14, 64, 65, 68-69, 73-74, 87. Piotr Moszyński died in the year 1879, his son Jerzy became curator of the foundation for 40 years. And as he lived in the Kingdom of Poland, in Loniów, then he transferred his duties per the bylaws to the contemporary state marshall, Ludwik Wodzicki. With the change of the marshall, the government of the foundation moved from person to person. The foundation bore the name of Pelagia Russanowska. The amount of 40,000 Marks was provided from the pledge letters of the Land Credit Society of Galicia (Pl. Galicyjskie Towarzystwo Kredytowe ziemskie) and placed deposited with the State Department in Lwów. Interest from this amount was supposed to be divided every half year between military disabled of Polish nationality who had provided great service to the country, and who were in a difficult financial situation. The foundation's bylaws indicated that its purpose was the care for Polish military disabled until the end of their lives, of the Roman-Catholic, be it Latin or Greek Unitarian or the Armenian rites. It was also assumed that as the years went by, aid was to be

Hrubieszów, in a family from the borderlands⁴⁷. Perhaps when leaving the borderlands, and moving to Kraków, she planned on forming a foundation to also care for veterans of uprisings. In the year 1855, she donated the sum of 100 000 Francs (which corresponded at the time to 180 000 Złoty) for the benefit of a facility to support disabled Poles. By letter of 1 March 1859, she entitled Piotr Moszyński to execute her last will and create a foundation caring for five disabled people of impeccable reputations. She noted that count Moszyński was to be the executor, and should he be unable to execute this task, then it was to fall to his son, Jerzy⁴⁸.

Once again, attempts at organisation of care for the neglected children, as well as those wandering around the streets of Kraków, were undertaken after the year 1846 by private persons, among whom were J. T. Głębocki, Franciszek Paszkowski, dr Józefat Kossowski. In April of 1846 they formed a society, which on 3 May 1846 was able to form the first care shelter in the suburb of Wesoła. The impetus for further work was the unification of those active in organising the care for little children. On 11 October 1846, at the house of the comital family of Moszyńscy at Bracka in Kraków, a gathering of people took place⁴⁹, who called into existence the Committee for Care Shelters (Pl. Komitet Domów Ochrony). It was composed of the head caretaker and six caretakers, as well as the head lady caretaker and six lady caretakers, with the works to be aided by additionally recruited members⁵⁰. Wincenty Wolf became the first head caretaker, the first head lady caretaker was countess Anna Moszyńska. As caretakers were elected Jan Walter, Ferdynand Kojśiewicz, Józef Głębocki, Józef Muczkowski, Karol Kremer and Franciszek Paszkowski. As lady caretakers were appointed Hieronimowa Kochanowska, Leonowa Bochenowska, Pelagia Russanowska, Antoniowa Holtzłowa, Teodora Czermińska and Anna Popiel. The committee elected from among its members a secretary in the person of F. Paszkowski, who took care of minutes and correspondence. J. Walter took over as purser, handling the treasury and accounting; his deputy was J. Kossowski. Wiktor Kopff's work *The organisation of care shelters for little children in the city of Kraków*⁵¹ became the work order. The membership of the committee was confirmed by the government on 31 May 1847, and from

provided to all Polish nationals of merit to the country. The assignment of benefits was based on the suggestions made by the Council of Respect and Bread (Pl. Rada Instytucji Czei i Chleba) in Paris, in the forms of lists of veterans submitted to the curator of the foundation. During the fifty years of existence of the foundation, lifetime benefits were provided to over 60 people, until the institutions funds ran out in 1923. In the year 1923 the foundation lost its financial basis due to devaluation, and ceased to exist.

⁴⁷ Ibidem, pp. 12.

⁴⁸ Ibidem, pp. 14.

⁴⁹ GŁĘBOCKI, J. T., *Zakłady ku ulżeniu...*, pp. 200. At the first session, the following assembled: Anna countess Moszyńska, Apolonia Kochanowska, Karolina Mężenińska, Pelagia Russanowska, Aniela Bochenkowa, Franciszka Helclowa, Wincenty Wolff, Józef Muczkowski, Ferdynand Kojśiewicz, Józef Głębocki, Franciszek Paszkowski, Karol Kremer, Józefat Kosowski.

⁵⁰ *Pierwsze zdanie sprawy z czynności Komitetu Ochron dla Małych Dzieci w Krakowie, to jest od początku zaistnienia aż do dnia 30 czerwca 1848*, Kraków 1848, 61 pp.

⁵¹ KOPFF, W., *Urządzenie domów ochrony dla małych dzieci w Krakowie*, Kraków 1847.

then on, it began to function as an independent civic committee, without any obligations toward the former committee named the Sixth Department of the Charity Society.

The Committee for Shelters for Little Children became at the time the sole society in Kraków dealing with the formation of care shelters for children. The Charity Society supported the care efforts of the committee, not only with participation in its work by the individual members, but also caring for the funds provided by the benefactors to be utilised to maintain the operation of the care shelters⁵². The membership of the Committee also included the long-time chairman of the KCS, who was honoured in his invitation letter with the following words: „Commonly known Christian rules and virtues of the respectable Hoszowski Konstanty, member of the administration committee, and in addition the gentlemanly fervency in issues concerning Kraków’s care shelters, had bound the committee to invite him to become a member of the active Committee for Care Shelters....”⁵³. The Committee for Shelters also made every effort to recruit people who could support its work⁵⁴.

Conclusion

It was characteristic for the nineteenth century to perceive poverty in the local dimension. Ordinances of the governing bodies issued in the 1860s bound the communes to aid their poor, care for orphans, abandoned children, morally neglected children as well as the elderly and those physically unfit.

In the first half of the 19th century in Kraków, lay people began to unite their charity efforts as part of the forming charity societies and committees. In the year 1816, the Charity Society of Kraków is formed, looking to deal mainly with the elderly, disabled, and ill. Orphans ranging from those a few years old to teenagers also found themselves

⁵² Polish National Archives in Kraków, Documents concerning the humanitarian activity of K. Hoszowski 1847-1884, cat. no. 645/96-103, sheet 73. Expression of gratitude of the Committee for Care Shelters for Little Children of 9 November 1868 for the transfer, from the last will of Aleksandek Brześciński to the benefit of the shelters of the amount of 2000 Rhine Złoty, for the shelter no. II of St. Stanislaus under care of the Sisters of Mercy of the amount of 500 Rhine Złoty.

⁵³ Ibidem, sheet 19. Writing of the Committee for Care Shelters for little children of 23 June 1849, sheet 89; Writing of the Committee for Care Shelters for little children of 2 March 1866. It expressed regret due to the resignation of K. Hoszowski from cooperation and the fulfilment of duties of care provider, and thanks for his efforts; Ibidem, sheet 97. Writing of the Committee for Care Shelters for little children of 13 February 1868. In relation to the letter of K. Hoszowski indicated an erroneous entry of his work in the committee in a report printed in 1866, it was indicated that it only included a short note on the participation among members and caretakers. As Hoszowski wished it, the authors could not provide a precise date of the commencement of cooperation with the Committee for Care Shelters. The next report was to include a clarification, and was to replace the mention of the span of participation „of a few years” to „more than a dozen years”.

⁵⁴ Polish National Archives in Kraków, Dunajewski Albin (IT 1137) Documents, letters, notes of cardinal Albin Dunajewski (1849-1894), cat. no. 645/43. Writing of the Committee for Care Shelters for little children in Kraków to A. Dunajewski of 15 January 1853, sheet 87. It expressed gratitude for the consent to the takeover of the position of caretaker for the shelters. The letter was signed by Hieronimowa Kochanowska, Wincenty Wolff, dr Jakubowski.

under their care. The reference example for the activities they undertook were initiatives of already existing charity societies from Vilnius, Warsaw, Lublin, as well as experiences from Europe, particularly Prague and Vienna. References were also made to French, German and English examples. The first half of the 19th century is a time of organisational arrangement of the Society, but also a period of attempts to expand the activity. The initiative of caring for children aged 3-7, whose parents pursued gainful employment and could not adequately care for their offspring, can be one such example. The privileges of autonomy in Galicia bestowed upon the region in the second half of the 19th century permitted among others a more free development of institutions organising charity aid, and thus, the functioning of the Committee for Care Shelters for little children. The operation of formation of care shelters for children, initiated in the first half of the 19th century by lay and clerical people, brought an expansion of this form of care and its solidification in the shape of more than a dozen care shelters providing care to children of a few years of age, giving them the beginnings of basic education and moral schooling.

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