

Beginnings of the Sborník lékařský

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Sborník lékařský – the official scientific journal of the First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University in Prague has kept for several last decades its same image. At the beginning of new millennium, representatives of the faculty were questioning how to continue its editing. The long lasting tradition and continuity roused doubts that radical change (the title, language, peer reviewing, outlook etc.) may inhibit the interest of contributors and readers. Accepting the risks and with support of representatives of the Faculty and University, and with aid of the University publishing house Karolinum, those changes were promoted. Today, after one year of publishing the Prague Medical Report, the successor of *Sborník lékařský*, the situation has stabilised and in ample time next issues are prepared.

Though changing its image during decades the journal continues the aims given in 1885. The preparatory committee stated that the journal should present scientific papers in all medical specialisation. I believe the present journal still keeps this idea.

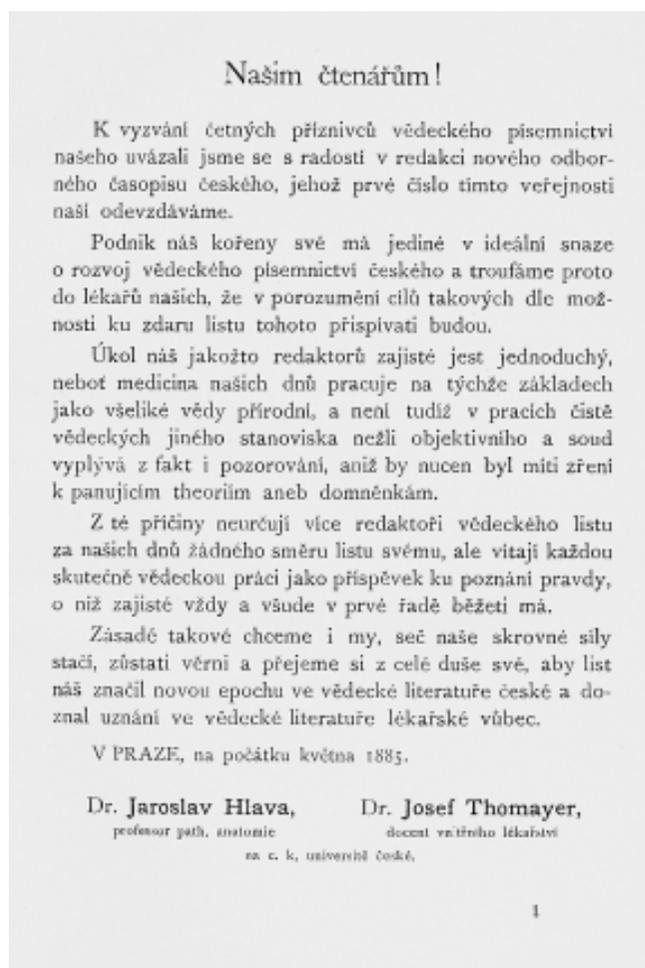


Figure 1 – Editorial of the first issue of *Sborník lékařský* was written by promoters of the journal – Professors Jaroslav Hlava and Josef Thomayer.

Initially, as well as at present, original papers were preferred, though the editorial board did not refuse also short casuistry, namely those describing rare and relevant specimens in anatomy and pathology. Critical articles were also accepted, however, they had to rise from the author's own research.

Where the need for the new journal arose? Was it necessary for that time medical society to publish several journals? Why when since 1844 the faculty journal *Vierteljahrschrift für die praktische Heilkunde* (quarterly for general practitioners) had been published. The journal discontinued in 1879, but it was replaced within one year by *Zeitschrift für Heilkunde* (Journal for Medical Praxis). Another periodical was *Prager medizinische Wochenschrift* (Prague Medical Weekly) – published in years 1876 to 1915. Yes, all those journals were published in German. The first medical title published in Czech was *Časopis lékařů českých*. It is a journal, which continues up to present. Its initial program differed from that of the 25 years later appearing *Sborník lékařský*. *Časopis lékařů českých* was aimed at:

- extracts and abridgements from medical journals and new scientific books
- original papers and survey reports from various medical specialisation
- short and pragmatic reviews of Slavonic and foreign medical specialists
- official and personal news, information from meetings and conventions of all Prague medical associations
- feuilletons
- advertising.

Though *Časopis lékařů českých* came out in two weeks intervals, its capacity was soon not able to meet requirements of particularly theoretical medical specialists. At the same time, the general practitioners, who represented the majority of subscribers, asked for the orientation more meeting their wishes. The eighties of the nineteenth century were also the time of foundation of the Czech Medical Faculty, which was formed by the division of the Prague University in 1882 into the Czech and German part. Those were the impulses for the teachers of the Czech Medical Faculty to publish a new faculty journal – *Sborník lékařský* with a subtitle *Journal for cultivation of the Czech Science*. *Časopis lékařů českých* helped to make known the new faculty journal in the medical community, asked for subscriptions, for contributions with scientific articles, and for supporting the “Organ of the Czech experimental and theoretical medical science” (see ČLČ 1887, pp. 516 – 519 and following issues). Editorial in the first issue of *Sborník lékařský* (Fig. 1) was written by Editor Professor Jaroslav Hlava (1853 to 1927) and Professor Josef Thomayer (1855 to 1924) in 1885, but probably due to delay during printing and due to other circumstances the complete first volume was not published until 1887. We know that *Časopis lékařů českých* advised in its 11th issue from March 12, 1887 the fourth issue of the first volume of *Sborník lékařský* and in

