

Cultural and Educational Life and Charitable Activities of the Elite in Nałęczów from 1880 to 1914.

The 19th century was a period of significant progress in the development of medicine in Europe, and balneology was becoming a recognized and important discipline of knowledge. To accommodate all those wishing to restore their health or seeking appropriate conditions for relaxation, alongside new climatic stations and health resorts, former bath establishments were revived. Despite strong political oppression, even in Nałęczów, in the Lublin Governorate, the Health Resort was reactivated.

The presented work attempts to synthetically capture the issues related to the cooperation of medical and social circles for the benefit of the poor in the provinces, in line with the slogans of "grassroots work" and "organic work" propagated in the second half of the 19th century, the realization of which, despite certain failures, was still necessary in the first decades of the 20th century.

The research objectives, divided into three areas, were formulated as follows:

- determining the role played by representatives from the circles of medics and intellectuals in organizing cultural, educational, and charitable activities in Nałęczów,
- identifying the types of initiatives undertaken in the health resort in the field of educational work and philanthropy,
- analyzing the methods used to obtain funds to cover the costs of educational and charitable activities.

The work is organized in a problem-chronological structure.

The text consists of an introduction, four chapters, a conclusion, bibliography, and an annex.

Chapter I ("The Revival of the Health Resort") addresses the history of the town and the first therapeutic stays, linked to the discovery and analysis of the chemical composition of the mineral waters found in the area. This chapter also reviews contemporary press statements that appeared regarding the reactivated Health Resort in Nałęczów. Reference is made to practical publications, such as tourist guides and establishment leaflets. Chapter II attempts to define the concept of "elite," the elite in Nałęczów, and identify its representatives who left traces of their work in the health resort. Chapter III is dedicated to the role of the Nałęczów elite in educational and cultural activities. The issues presented are closely linked to the history of the Kingdom of Poland and the realities prevailing in the Lublin Governorate. Chapter IV showcases the activities of the elite representatives in Nałęczów in the discussed context and characterizes the methods used to financially support charitable projects. The work concludes with a conclusion and a bibliography listing source materials, along with an annex containing iconographic materials in the form of historical and contemporary photographs and postcards.

The work utilizes significant publications addressing the topic of artistic and educational life in Nałęczów. Among the most important are: *W krajobrazie Nałęczowa* (1983) by T. Kłak, and the study by M. Tarka titled *Dzieje Nałęczowa* (1989).

To provide historical background, the work employs the monograph by I. Ihnatowicz, A. Mączak et al. titled *Spółeczeństwo polskie od X do XX wieku* (1999), as well as publications by J. Dybca, *Nie tylko szabłą: nauka i kultura polska w walce o utrzymanie tożsamości narodowej 1795-1918* (Kraków 2004), A. Przeglaliński's *Spółeczna działalność ziemianstwa lubelskiego w latach 1864-1914* (Lublin 2009), and M. Micińska's *Inteligencja na rozdrożach 1864-1918* (Warsaw 2008). E. Mazur attempted to reconstruct the everyday life in health resorts in her work titled *Codziennosc kuracjusza w uzdrowiskach na ziemiach polskich w drugiej polowie XIX i poczatku XX wieku* (2016).

Educational issues were developed based on publications relating to the entire territory of the Kingdom of Poland and the Lublin governorate itself. Numerous pieces of information could be found in the publication *Szkolnictwo, opieka i wychowanie w Królestwie Polskim od jego ustanowienia do odzyskania przez Polskę niepodleglosci 1815-1918*, edited by H. Markiewiczowa and I. Czarneka (Warsaw 2016). Valuable information about education in the discussed period was also provided by R. Wroczyński's book titled *Dzieje oswiaty polskiej 1795-1945* (1980) and R. Kuchy's book *Oswiata elementarna w Królestwie polskim 1864-1914* (1982).

To illustrate the artistic life in the region, the publication by A. Grychowski *Lublin i Lubelszczyzna w zyciu i twórczosci pisarzy polskich* (1974) and the collective work *Z przeszlosci kulturalnej Lubelszczyzny* (1978), prepared by A. Aleksandrowicz, R. Gerlecka, W. Śladkowski, and S. Tworek, proved helpful.

As for the issue of charity, most publications address the topic concerning the territory of the partition or the entire country – Cz. Kępski's *Towarzystwa dobroczynnosci w Królestwie Polskim (1815-1914)* (1993), E. Leś's *Zarys dobroczynnosci i filantropii w Polsce* (2001), and E. Mazur's *Dobroczynnosć w Warszawie XIX wieku* (1999).

In addition to archival source materials and professional press, other printed sources from the period in question – guides, brochures, and leaflets, usually published by the Company's Board in Nałęczów – were also utilized in the analysis. The work includes accounts from residents, activists, and guests of the health resort (letters, diaries, memoirs, and recollections).

Keywords: society, collaboration, charity, philanthropy, support, education

Dr D. Kuciś