
OUTSTANDING WOMEN IN MEDICINE

M.I. Hodasevich
Scientific director – I.V. Belokoneva
Voronezh N.N. Burdenko State Medical University

In prehistoric times women were able to render first aid to seriously ill tribe mates. But it was men, who took to treating people. So had been until the 19th century. The influence of the liberating age, the flow of new ideas, the coming down of serfdom, that changed the economic conditions of life, raised the woman's spirit and led her to the idea of supporting her and her family [1].

The first woman to become a doctor was an English woman Elisabeth Blackwell. In Russia the first woman doctor became Nadezhda Suslova (1843-1918). In 1861 Suslova entered the St. Petersburg's medical surgery academy. She studies hard and worked successfully in physiological Sechenov Laboratory. But the new university's codex forbade women to study in higher education. So she had to continue her education in Switzerland, where she was given an exemption and entered into the Tsurich University.

Having defended her dissertation written under supervision of Sechenov. She got her diploma in medicine, surgery and obstetrics.

When she came back to Russia she started obstetrics courses for women. The graduates of the courses helped the wounded soldiers during the Russian-Turkish war in 1877. The women demonstrated high quality skills and efficiency.

Suslova died in spring of 1918 and was buried near Alushta. By the time of the death the number of women doctors in Russia had estimated over 500.

The first woman doctor who got a degree in medicine in Russia was Barbara Kashkevarova-Rudneva [ 2, c. 85].

On knowing that obstetricians are needed in Orenburg, she entered the obstetrics institute and got a diploma in 8 months' time.

Then she entered the surgery-medical academy. After 5 years of studying she got a diploma. In 1868 in "Medical news" the results of her scientific research were published.

After graduating from the academy she specialized in obstetrics and gynecology. Her articles were published in native and German medical journals.

In 1876 Kashevarova-Rudneva brilliantly defended her dissertation and got the title of the doctor of medical science. Later she moved to the Voronezh region where she worked as a doctor. There she published some books and articles [3].

Thanks to the first female doctors, the profession of a doctor became available to women, and at now the number of women doctors is about 80 percent compared to men.

REFERENCES: