Carl von Rokitansky 1804-1878

An outstanding pathology anatomist, philosopher.

Carl von Rokitansky was born on the 19-th of February in a Czech city Konnygrats. After graduating of a secondary school in Konnygrats in 1813 he entered to gymnasium. In 1818 he entered for studying to the Prague’s University and from 1824 he studied at the medical faculty of Vienna University. In 1828 he defended his thesis which was dedicated to the development of vaccination against modified smallpox and he received a status of a Medical Professor. Being a young professor he realized that pathological anatomy at that time wasn’t studied enough and the fundamental science must be nearer to a practical doctor activity. Only being based on knowledge of pathological anatomy the doctor at the sick man’s bed can diagnose and treat medically correctly. Due to becoming such point of view the scientific revolution has happened.

Carl von Rokitansky became a founder of the second medical school in Vienna (the first school was founded by Gerardvan Shveitan) together with the therapeutist Joseph Shkoda and a dermatologist Ferdinand von Hebra. The main paradigm became the orientation of the medicine to the side of naturalistic direction of philosophy. Medicine became more modern. A medicine and a natural science became more connected. Both the development of medicine is happened it specialization (emergence of dividing of medical science in separate sciences which study the illness of defined organs and systems in connection with the development of new subjects in medical science that was reached in “Medicine of Vienna”). Parallel to the main activity of path anatomist Carl von Rokitansky led by the work of learning department of prosectorium and a museum. A decisive stage in the scientific activity of Carl von Rokitansky became a purchase of a microscope. In 1844 he became a professor and he was elected as a member of Vienna Academy of Science, in 1849 he was elected as a faculty dean, in 1859/60 he was reelected and in 1862/63. From 1950 Rokitansky was the main professor of Vienna society of doctors. In 1852 he became a chancellor of Vienna University (firstly the doctor became a chancellor) and the President of a Higher Preventive Council of Austria. Working on executive positions in different academies and polytechnical institutions Rokitansky created a
direction of grateful liberalism. He expressed the idea of education’s liberalization. He implemented a range of reforms in Vienna University and in the Health protection of Austria.

From 1858 he was a member of Austrian Royal Court. In 1862 he opened a new building of the University and received a rank of a Court adviser. In 1863 he was elected to the Austrian Council of Ministers and in 1867 he received an offer to be a member of the Austrian Upper Chamber of Imperial Council.

From 1869 he became a president of Austrian Academy of Sciences. In 1870 he founded and led the Anthropological society. In 1874 Rokitansky received the title of barony and in 1875 of his own accord he resigned. In 1878 he died of myocardial infarction.

His three-volume “Guidence of pathologic anatomy” based on more than 20,000 necropsies, implemented with the use of macro and microscopic methods of research, sustained three issues and it was translated into English and into Russian languages.

The main reason of sickly changes Rokitansky thought the infringement of liquid composition of organisms - dyscrasia (term of ancient Greek doctors). At the same time a local pathologic process he considered as a display of common disease. Realizing of illness as a common reaction of organism was a positive side of his conception.

In the middle of XIX century a humoral pathology of Rokitansky entered into sharp contradiction with new actual daters. Using of microscope took out natural science to the level organic building and sharply increased opportunities of morphological analysis in the standard of pathology.

The contribution of Carl von Rokitansky into the development of pathological anatomy:

1. Studying of the syndrome gotten the name of Badda-Kiara when because of infringement of vein obstruction of liver under squeezing them by the swelling or under forming of thrombus it is developed hepatocirrhosis or ascites.
2. Opening of the syndrome of inborn absence of normal formed womb vagina – syndrome is a pathological of Mayer Rokitansky-Kuster-Houser.
3. Rokitansky’s diverticulum dilatation of esophagus.
4. Rokitansky’s triad under stenosis (pathological narrowing) of pulmonary artery.
5. Rokitansky-Ashoff sinus is a pathological accessory cavity into the cholecyst.
6. Rokitansky-Kushing gastric ulcer develops into a gastrointestinal tract under the damage of a head or under neurosurgical interferences.
7. Rokitansky-Mauda-Abbott syndrome is the inborn pathology of the heart (cardiopathy).
8. Rokitansky syndrome is the inborn defect of heart’s septum.
10. Studying of infringement of spine structures, chest and pelvis.
13. Studying of pathological broadening in the organs of respiratory tract.
14. Firstly described a case of womb increase.
15. Studying of reasons of disturbance of integrity of stomach’s walls disturbance.
17. Studying of infringement liver’s structure.
18. Studying of infringement of gullet’s structure.
19. Studying of cysts (developing in the organism of accessory cavities).
20. Studying of the pathologoanatomical picture of duodenum’s cancer.
22. Studying of the pathologoanatomical picture of mammary’s new growth.