

Russia introduced aseptic method. The hospital supplied all amputees with prostheses. Although initially intended to treat injured limbs and having only 10 % of patients with head and face injuries in 1915, the hospital personnel made trepanations and plastic operations [ibid, c. 16]. They included cheek, lips and mouth formation, making a denture, recovery of swallowing and speech for soldiers with jaw injuries.

All aforementioned pioneers have not only helped soldiers regain their regular lives back, they have also opened doors to a new world in medicine, cosmetics and art. We can conclude that first steps in professional healing facial injuries were done simultaneously in the Western and Eastern fronts of the WWI. At the same time while in the West plastic surgery was focused on cosmetic tasks and quickly acquired its specific hospitals, in the East surgeons successfully recovered complicated injuries experimentally, without a specialization of that surgery branch.

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MEMOIRS OF JENNIFER WORTH AS A HISTORICAL SOURCE

The aim of this abstract is to show the usefulness of the book “Call the Midwife” by Jennifer Worth as a historical account. Jennifer Worth became famous for the memoirs about her work as a midwife in London in the 1950s.

The memoirs describe life of the East Enders— residents of dilapidated tenements. “Often the old houses had... one lavatory in the yard, to serve between eight and a dozen families, and sometimes a whole family of ten or more might occupy one or two rooms” – usual situation for the Kharkiv residents after the war. However, there were differences. Worth noted that bombsites weren’t removed in the East End in the 1950s while most of Soviet cities were restored till that time. Overcrowded houses were breeding ground for infectious diseases – the USSR quickly coped with this by planned sanitary measures. At the same time mass installation of lavatories in flats started in the East End before it happened in Kharkiv.

The author often emphasized how British used to act. Worth noted strict hierarchy and behavior patterns. She noted that pregnancy outside marriage was a terrible disgrace – the typical fact for traditional society. Nevertheless, the juvenile prostitution existed. The usual men's attitude to women was marked by a strict separation of duties and cold distance. The exhausting female and child labor still existed in Britain in 1950s. The book reveals changing views on health. Worth noted that in the 1950s no connection had been made between smoking and ill health.

The memoirs show the accessibility of obstetric care, the level of maternal and infant mortality (35-40 % and 60 % respectively in the 19th century). Worth wrote that in 1860–1870s only 10 % of births were attended by doctor and there weren't trained midwives. She cited interesting comparison: “In France, Germany, and even Russia they consider it woman-slaughter to practice as we do. In these countries everything is regulated by Government”. Jennifer Worth estimated the hospitals of those days as primitive but noted that they saved thousands of lives. However, large hospitals already had the latest modern equipment: incubator, ventilating machine, oxygen cylinders and antibiotics. The author noted that “the Midwives' clinic was the only one in the area until 1948, when a small maternity unit of eight beds was opened in Poplar Hospital”. Worth stressed that the drive for hospital delivery started in Britain after the WWII. To compare, in early 1950s in Kharkiv 99 % of women already gave birth in maternity units. In London such indicator was achieved only by 1975. But in 1940s big London hospitals formed the Obstetric Flying Squad as a efficient emergency backup for midwives. Finally, the memoirs contain facts of political history. For example, the story of the London docker who fought in the Spanish Civil War and found there wife. Interesting is the author's notice about that unusual fact: “foreign affairs rarely penetrated the consciousness of working people in the 1930s”. To sum up, “Call the Midwife” discloses the wide range of issues important for estimation of the healthcare and living standards in Britain and for comparison with situation in the USSR. The book helps to understand different social systems, dynamics of modernization. Thanks to the memoirs it's clear that researcher should rather understand difference in healthcare strategies in the UK and the USSR rather than give a preference to any country in estimation of some aspects.