

On bruits, hums, and sounds in the ear and in the head: the Polish forgotten contribution

Ohry A. ^{A-F}

Emeritus professor of Rehabilitation Medicine , Tel Aviv University, Israel

A- Conception and study design; **B** - Collection of data; **C** - Data analysis; **D** - Writing the paper;
E- Review article; **F** - Approval of the final version of the article; **G** - Other (please specify)

ABSTRACT

Reviewing the relevant medical literature on cranial bruits, revealed that the contributions of the Jewish-Polish laryngologist Samuel Meyerson (1851-1939) and his colleague the famous Jewish-Polish neuro-

logist Samuel Goldflam (1852-1932), is totally forgotten. This article is a reminder of one of the many historical Polish original contributions to medicine and science

DOI

***Corresponding author:**

Emeritus professor of Rehabilitation Medicine, Tel Aviv University, Israel
e-mail: aohry@tauex.tau.ac.il

Received: 16.11.2019

Accepted: 02.12.2019

Progress in Health Sciences

Vol. 9(2) 2019 pp 64-66

© Medical University of Białystok, Poland

In 1968, Gareeboo reported on: "Cranial bruits in adults have not so far been reported as a result of severe anaemia. Over the past nine months I have noted the presence of cranial bruits in adults suffering from severe anaemia due to various causes—from pernicious anaemia to anaemia resulting from acute blood loss in bleeding peptic ulcers" [1]. He reviewed the literature: bruits can be a normal phenomenon in infants, and pathological intracranial bruits in can be found in adults suffering from anemia, a-v malformation or fistula, angiomas, carotid stenosis, cardiac valvular problems, Paget disease of bone and aneurism.

The neurologist Christopher Gardner-Thorpe, the previous editor of *Journal of Medical Biography*, has added two case reports, in a letter to the editor of the *BMJ* [2].

Downie [3] added that Gareeboo was not the first to report on anemia causing bruit in the head, but rather Allen in 1962.

A month later, Sears also referred to authors that were unknown to Gareeboo [4]: JD Fisher 1833 and L P Hamburger in 1931. John Dix Fisher (March 27, 1797 – March 3, 1850) was a physician and founder of Perkins Institution for the Blind in Boston, Massachusetts. Previously, he was a pupil in Paris of RTH Laennec, Gabriel Andral and A. Velpeau. He called the phenomenon of bruits in the head- "cephalic bellows-sound" [5].

It seems that all authors were not aware of an extensive review and clinical report on cranial bruits, that was made in Poland back in 1893.

The Jewish-Polish laryngologist Samuel Meyerson (1851-1939), a pupil of Adam Politzer (1835-1920) and Leopold Schroetter von Kristelli (1837 – 1908) of Vienna and the famous Jewish-Polish neurologist Samuel Goldflam (1852-1932), presented in a medical conference in Nuremberg, their clinical experience with two women who suffered from cranial bruits. Later the lecture was published in Polish [6].

The article brought references written by Sir William Richard Gowers (1845–1915), a British neurologist; C. Pilz "By 1868 Pilz was able to collect 600 recorded cases of carotid ligation for cervical aneurysm or hemorrhage with a mortality rate of 43%" [7]; George Hayem (1841-1933); the German otologist Salomon Moos (1831–1895), and the Austrian otologist Viktor Urbantschitsch (1847-1921).

The authors discuss the differential diagnosis:

- arterial aneurisms
- anemia
- intra cranial elevated pressure
- tumors.

Their first patient underwent ligation of the common carotid artery [8] on the same side of the bruit, by Prof. Władysław Krajewski (1855- 1907). Before the operation, external pressure on the artery

relieves the headache and the bruit, and the bruit intensified while turning the head, and correlated with the systolic pulse. A few weeks after the operation, her eyesight was blurred, and the bruit heard over the left ear and the head. It remained but weaker. Using a stethoscope, the bruit was heard through the bandage. The father of the patient decided to discharge his daughter and a few weeks later she died at home. The authors presumed that the cause of the bruit was an intracranial tumor or a ruptured aneurism.

When S. Goldflam died, a memorial booklet was published [9]. Famous people contributed to this booklet: Nahum Sokolow (1859 – 1936) a Zionist leader, author, translator, and a pioneer of Hebrew journalism; Leon Lewite (1878–1944), a Zionist leader in Poland, who devoted himself to acquiring pledges for shares in the Jewish Colonial Trust and worked with the Centralny Komitet dla Antyhitlerowskiej akcji Gospodarczej; Maurycy Mayzel (1872-1940?), the last president of the Warsaw Jewish community; Janusz Korczak, (1878-1942); Mateusz Hindes (of the Lodz Deposit Bank in Warsaw);.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Financial disclosure/funding

No funding.

ORCID

Ohry A <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8609-0320>

Acknowledgments

The author wishes to thank Dr. Filip Marcinowski Department of Psychiatry, Medical University of Warsaw, Nowowiejska 27, 00-665, Warsaw, Poland, that upon the author's request, found the original articles and transferred it to the author.

REFERENCES

1. Gareeboo H. Severe anaemia as a cause of cranial bruit in adults. *B M J* 1968 Feb;1(5587):294.
2. Gardner-Thorpe C. Cranial bruits. *BMJ* 1968;2: 445-6.
3. Downie AW. Cranial bruits. *BMJ* 1968 Feb; 1(5589):446.
4. Sears WG. Cranial bruits. *BMJ* 1968 Mar;16; 1(5593):708.
5. Fisher JD, Observations on the cephalic bellows-sound. *Medical Magazine*, Boston, 1833.

6. Goldflam S, Meyerson S. O przedmiotowych szmerach w uchu i głowie. *Medycyna* 1893; 1, 46 i 47, pp. 922-7 i 939-46. (Polish). (translated by Dr. Ada Horowitz, retired consultant pathologist).
7. History of stroke: <http://www.rush.edu/rumc/page-P06365.html> [6 Nov 2019].
8. Wechsler IS, Gross SW, Cohen I. Arteriography and carotid artery ligation in intracranial aneurism and vascular malformation. *J Neurol Neurosurg Psych* 1951 Feb;14(1):25-34.
9. Pamięci Dra Samuela Goldflama 1852-1932). *Reprezentacja Agencji Żydowskiej dla Palestyny w Polsce*, Warszawa, 1932. (Polish)