
New medical books

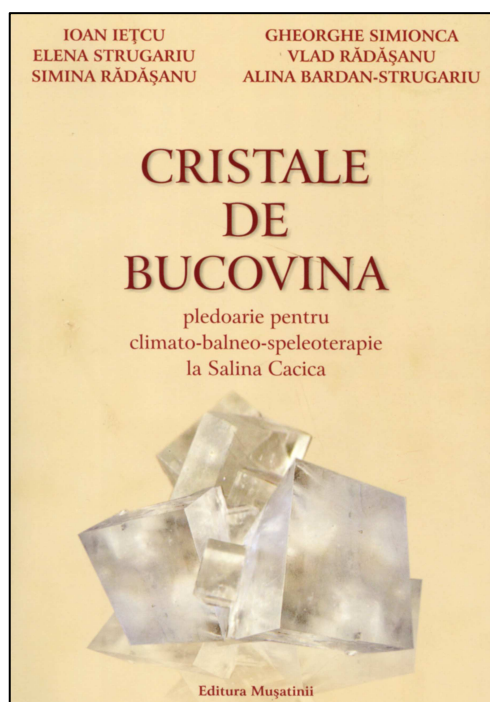
„CRISTALE DE BUCOVINA.

Pledoarie pentru climato-balneo-speleoterapie la Salina Cacica”

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„Bucovina Crystals”, a Plea for the Climate-balneo-speleotherapy at Cacica Salt Mine, the authors of which are Ioan Iețcu, Gheorghe Simionca, Elena Strugariu, Vlad Rădășanu, Simina Rădășanu and Alina Bardan-Strugariu, is the result of a multidisciplinary collaboration, a book that, first of all, pays tribute to the entire Bucovina, developed, by diplomatic artifices between the three world superpowers, namely the Ottomans, the Russians and the Habsburgs, into the most Eastern province of the Austrian Empire, starting with 1774/1775. The more than 300 pages published at Mușatinii Publishing House in Suceava are, in the beginning, a history compendium making possible the acceptance of the phrase “the Cacica phenomenon”, since the Austrian specialists inaugurates, in 1791, Cacica Salt Mine with the help of workers from throughout the empire: Germans, Poles, Ukrainians, Slovaks, Hungarians, Jews; thus, the ethnic mix imprints a specific evolution upon the religions, the economy, the commerce, the education – for all these coordinates the book dedicates at least one chapter.

The year 1791 is the year of the apparition on the map of the locality Cacica, neighboring my village – Pârteștii de Jos, where the new Salt Mine has been operating for several decades – a modern ensemble that produces **the best recrystallized salt in Romania.**

"More than 60 years have elapsed since, on the celebration of Saint Mary, August 15th, I had participated to an intense life of the small town and, of course, mingled among the tourists from the country and abroad who had been descending in the mine for the empirical therapy of certain respiratory and allergic disorders, as I was going to find out much later – for the microclimate of the underground spaces, at 27 and 42 m deep, suited admirably the purposes of the pulmonary therapy and of speleology, a method gaining increasing attention from the part of the researchers and of the people assaulted by the multiple physical, chemical and radioactive pollution." declared by the first author of the volume, Ioan Iețcu, M.D., Ph.D.

Other chapters discuss the speleotherapy in national or European centers: Tg.Ocna, Slănic Prahova, Praid, Solotvino (the sub-Carpathian Ukraine or the historical Maramureș from where Dragoș and Bogdan, founder of Moldavia, had come) and Wieliczka (Poland), the latter two areas giving birth to the greatest part of the initial experts. Speleotherapy in Europe is discussed with the meticulousness and the competence of the one working in the National Institute of Balneology, but also holding the experience of many years spent in Solotvino, his place of birth; we are talking about Dr. Gheorghe Simionca.

Two chapters treat the classical technology of salt mining and the modern extraction of the recrystallized salt by atomization in vacuum space.

Ecology and environment protection, medicine of the natural factors, among which speleotherapy (pneumotherapy in salt mines) are also approached in a separate chapter.

Awareness is also focused on certain picturesque aspects: the inauguration of the railway Suceava – Câmpulung through Cacica, in 1888, with the specification that, after 1900, the trains that passed through Centrăuți Lemberg had two carriages on which there was written: Vienna – Vatra Dornei and Vienna – Cacica. The salt in literature, aphorisms and popular traditions, Cacica Salt Mine in fairy tales ("Crăiasa Minei" (The Mine Queen) by Mircea Motrici), salt and life, salt in food are other references of the book; however, the truly novel approach is in the chapter "Cacica Salt Mine – a laboratory of astronomy", interesting owing to the experiments made at depth with Foucault's pendulum and other laser instrument for the study of light deviation, made by the Astronomic Observatory in Suceava with the help of Mr. Dimitrie Olenici.

The chapter "People of Salt" is dedicated to "Dynasties" of the four successive generations who worked only in the mine (the Grudnicki Dynasty).

For three years, at the surface, a semi-Olympic pool has been operating, with saline (mine) water, increasingly visited for prophylaxis and recreation, by also in recovery therapies of chronic disorders of the movement system.

Furthermore, attention is paid to the epidemiologic retrospective in the 19th century Bucovina; I presented a study on this aspect in 1996 during an international congress held "at Hippocrates's", on the island Kos.

On 18.06.2009, Cacica Salt Mine, the National Salt Center and the local churches organized "Resurrection in the depths in the Chapel of Saint Varvara", from Bukovina perspectives of all denominations, in admirable national costumes, there was present the staff of doctor Simionca will return for other specialized research, and the new room organized in a huge cave, 62 meters deep, is waiting. A sanatorium neighboring the salt mine, holding 25-30 beds, ranked 2-3 stars, will be soon fitted with a balneal-physiotherapy unit.

I hope that "Bucovina Crystals" should satisfy not only the noble pride of the Cacica and Pârtești inhabitants, but also that of the Romanians everywhere.

The salt mine and the city hall have opened the way for the investors.

The book was favorably received in the periodical "Viața medicală" no. 15 on 16.04.2010 under the title "Efforts for an industrial, moral and touristic emancipation" by Prof. Dr. Nicolae Gorun, member of the Association of the Romanian Scientists; in "Crai Nou" – the journal of the county Suceava, under the titles: "An encyclopedia of salt, an invitation to tourism - by Magda Axon, on 16.02.2010 and "Under the sign of Bucovina and of the crystals" by Doina Cernica on 06.03.2010. The book was also reviewed in "Pagini Medicale Bârlădene" no. 146-147/2010 pp. 9-10.

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