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Nikolay Ivanovich Pirogov and his contribution to medicine in 19th Century Imperial Russia

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STELLINGEN

belonging to the dissertation “*Nikolay Ivanovich Pirogov and his contribution to Medicine in 19th Century Imperial Russia*”

1. Leiden University has had during a forming century significant influence on the development of medical education and science in Russia.
2. Since the initial modernisation of Emperor Peter the Great it took Imperial Russia about 130 years to catch up with the European standard of Medicine. It was Nikolay Pirogov, who elevated a craft to science and who stood at the cradle of the Golden Age of modern Russian medicine.
3. Nikolay Pirogov was not a military doctor as often written in medical world literature, but a civilian doctor who volunteered in the Crimean war to offer his skills to help the wounded and the sick.
4. Publication about a scientist in a common international accepted scientific language aids to fame.
5. War is as traumatic as a pandemic. Successful treatment of mass casualties depends as much, if not more, on good management than on the skill of the physicians.
(*Pirogov NI. Broad guidelines for general war surgery, according to reminiscences from the wars in the Crimea and the Caucasus and from the hospital practice [In German and Russian]. Leipzig: Verlag von F.C.W. Vogel, 1864.*)
6. It is advisable that only someone who is familiar with the body, the position of the organs in their unaltered state and the painful changes should operate on a person. Because without a thorough knowledge of anatomy, surgery could never rise to the level of a science but would remain a craft.
(*Pirogov NI. [Is ligation of the abdominal aorta with an aneurysm of the groin a readily feasible and safe intervention? [In Latin, German and Russian]. Dorpat, Livonia: J.C. Schünmann, 1832.]*)
7. A real anatomical-surgical image must be for the surgeon what a map is for the traveller. (*Pirogov NI. Surgical anatomy of arterial trunks and fascia [In Latin, German and Russian]. 1st ed. Dorpat: C.A. Kluge, 1840.*)
8. The Red Cross society has its cradle in Russia. That's where it was realized for the first time during the Crimean War.
(*Ferrière FA. Revue trimestrielle de médecine militaire, médecine interne. Bulletin International des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge. 1898; 29: 154-81.*)
9. The description of medical history is a different intellectual, cultural, and methodological approach than that of general history. A medical background or back-up is desirable.
10. Even for qualified European medical historians is it hardly possible to publish in Anglo-Saxon medical history journals, as if medicine only has its roots in Britain or America.
11. The concept of improvement in economic conditions leading to new clinical diseases is already described in the Nestor chronicles.
12. Mastering multiple languages can lead to new insights, but not mastering multiple languages can lead to losses and mistakes in science.