Music is a great zeal of the human spirit. It is an insatiate need and a powerful onslaught toward perfection. It reveals spontaneously most cherished thoughts and feelings. That is why, the great man of medicine and renowned musician, Dr. Albert Schweitzer defined: « Music is a tool of the noble spirit and a powerful means to serve the good. » G. E. Händel maintained: « my music is not intended to give pleasure to the people — my aim is to make them better ». The noted violoncellist L. Boccherini expressed the thought: «... Music exists in order to speak to man's heart, to reach it, to move it and to make him strive for noble impulses.»

For ages a deep and inseverable bond has existed between music and medicine. And it is for this reason that music and medicine have occupied an important place in the intellectual and material life of mankind during all epochs.

For a certain part of the medical elite music is a bent, a passion. Amateurishness ceases with the professional making old music, such as: theoreticians of music, distinguished singers and renowned instrumentalists. The other, the greater part of physicians frequent concerts and opera performances from force of home traditions and formality. The third part is indifferent.

The subject matter of the present report shall be the activities of distinguished men of medicine, who have left deep traces in the history of music as erudite theoreticians of music and celebrated performers — singers and instrumentalists during the 18th and 19th centuries. Specialists in the field of musicotherapy shall not be the object of discussion in this report.

Dr Hermann Boerhaave (1668-1738) was born in the city of Leiden. In his days, he was the first to organize at his home chamber-music concerts. A versatile talented personality which manifested itself with particular power in the field of music: a proficient theoretician of music, a solid authority on the history of music since the most remote past to his days, an excellent virtuoso of several musical instruments.

Dr. Leopold Auenbrügger (1722-1809) was born in the city of Vienna. As doctor, he was the first to introduce the method of percussion of the chest in examining the patient, and in diagnostics. He had great literary interests — was the author of the libretto of the opera « The Chimney-Sweeper ». The music was written by the celebrated composer Antonio Salieri. That opera was the favorite delight of Empress Maria-Theresia.

Dr. Joahan Peter Frank (1745-1821) was the creator and founder of modern public and special hygiene. He was well-known as a good connoisseur of the theory of music. A close friend of Ludwig van Beethoven.

Dr. John Arbuthnot (1767-1835). As an outstanding musician, he left lasting
traces in the history of music. An excellent composer in the field of ecclesiastical music in its different genres.

Dr. Richard Brockelsby (1722-1797) was one of the creators and organizers of military hygiene. Deep are his traces in the history of music — a prolific author of original works in the field of the theory of music.

Dr. William Withering (1741-1799) was born in the city of Birmingham. He was renowned as a good doctor in his native city. He was the first to apply « digitale » in the treatment of heart diseases. An excellent instrumentalist — he played the harp and the harpsichord.

Dr. Edward Jenner (1749-1823) was a benefactor of mankind as the discoverer of the vaccine against smallpox — variola. He was noted as an excellent violinist and flutist.

The great physiologists and doctors: H. Helmholtz, L. Engelmann, etc., were celebrated as noted music-lovers. Helmholtz was a performer and specialist in music. He was the creator of musical aesthetics as a science. He was the author of original works devoted to the physical foundations of harmony and dissonance; of the theory of open organ pipes; of musical temperature and timber; of the Arabic and Persian tonality scales, etc. During his whole life Helmholtz regularly attended concerts and won recognition as an unbiased music critic.

Professors and doctors: T.B. Engelmann, L. Hermann, Julius Jacobson, W. Ebbstein, the psychiatrist K. Kalbaum were all professional musicians. The biologist Henle was a violinist and violoncellist of an outstanding rank. Dr. Mukulic and Dr. Neisse had a solid musical education and were talented pianists. The noted ophthalmologist, Dr. Karl Theodor was a musician of high ranking, a brilliant instrumentalist and soloist in large orchestras. Prof. Dr. Flehsig, a famous psychiatrist of the city of Leipzig, was a brilliant tenor with exceptional musical vocal makings and excellent artistic talents. He was a soloist in the opera theatres in Bayreuth and München. Dr. Borodin was a Russian military doctor and distinguished Russian composer, the author of the opera « Prince Igor ». Dr. Richard Owen was an unparalleled violoncellist.

Dr. Robert Christison (1797-1882) was born in the city of Edinburgh. A distinguished singer with a phenomenal vocal register, he used to participate actively in vocal quartets. He organized the first vocal quartet of physicians, which was composed of: R. Christison, Peddy, Benett and MacLagan. That was an outstanding chamber vocal team which left unforgettable remembrances and traces among the audience and the musical critics in the cultural life of the city of Edinburgh. As the conductor and leader of the distinguished quartet « The Singing Doctors », Dr. R. Christison also organized the first choral society in the said city, which carried out extensive concert activities. Several times Dr. Christison was officially invited to head the Chair of Music at the Edinburgh University.

Prof. Dr. Billroth was a world-renowned surgeon, a pioneer in the surgery of the larynx, the oesophagus and the stomach. He was a dreamer and a philosopher, a musician and a poet. An ardent admirer of the old classic traditions of: J.-S. Bach, L. Beethoven and W.A. Mozart, and of the romanticists: F. Schubert, R. Schumann, K.M. von Weber and F. Mendelssohn Bartholdi, Prof. Billroth himself was an outstanding pianist, organizer of piano duets and chamber musicales. An unbiased and noted musical critic, a very sensitive listener and an excellent instrumentalist — piano player. Among other things in the field of the theory of music, he was the author of some very interesting discoveries, for example: « The sense of rhythm is the most important element of music »; he ascertained people: « deaf to rhythm », « deaf to tones » and « deaf to harmony », etc.

At the end of the 19th century Dr. Albert Schweitzer scored his first outstanding
successes as an erudite theoretician of music and as an unparalleled expert in the
work and art of J.-S. Bach, and as an unsurpassed organist. His fame and recogni-
tion as a world authority on the history of music have set him on an unattainable
pedestal. He was a true encyclopedic phenomenon not only in medicine but also in
music, philosophy and theology.

Music will always be a second nature in the life and work of distinguished
doctors. At all times, in the cultural history of the human race, great representatives
of medicine will also be distinguished musicians, theoreticians of music, singers
and instrumentalists, who will leave lasting traces in the history of music.