

Riga Native Johann Christian Weltzien (1767–1829), Author of a Book on “Medical Police”

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Abstract: On the basis of the archival materials, first identified by the authors, and the published historical sources that have not yet come to the attention of historians of science, this article reconstructs the biography of Johann Christian Weltzien (1767–1829), doctor of medicine and surgery. In 1785, Weltzien became a court physician. In 1799, in the retinue of Grand Duke Konstantin Pavlovich, he participated in Italian and Swiss military campaigns. After that, Weltzien was assigned to the Court of Grand Duke Konstantin Pavlovich of Russia and stayed at his court until 1810. He started his charitable activities in the Medico-Philanthropic Committee. From May 1810 to the middle of 1825, Weltzien was a physician at the Imperial Page Corps. It turned out that around the same time, in 1804–1825, he was a member of the Medical Council. Furthermore, as there were two medical councils under two ministries at the time, in 1811–1822, he was a member of both. Since 1825, Weltzien lived on his estate in Somel, now Vaiatu Manor in Estonia, and died in St. Petersburg. Weltzien’s work as a provincial physician prompted him to write a book on medical police, which was published in 1785. It has been established that this remained his only book on the topic. The article shows that Weltzien became one of the first ideologists of state care for public health in the Russian Empire. Weltzien’s ideas, expressed over 200 years ago, regarding the state having mechanisms to impact public health and the importance of not excluding it from solving health problems have not lost their significance even today.

Keywords: Estonia, history of medicine, Latvia, medical police (public health), Russian Empire, Weltzien

Introduction

Johann Christian Weltzien is the author of the first book on medical police in the Russian Empire. He was born in Latvia, where he lived in his childhood and adolescence, and he spent the final years of his life in Estonia. He is rightfully considered one of the founders of the imperial medical police, the science of the forms of state activity in the field of healthcare. The term *medical police* as a science and a subject of teaching was replaced with the term *social hygiene* a century later, and the latter is now known in most countries of the world as *public health*.

Historiography of the problem

The biography of Johann Christian Weltzien has been included in a number of German lexicons since the *Recke and Napiersky Lexicon* (Recke & Napiersky, 1832). Worth noting here is the contribution of Professor L. Stieda of Dorpat (now Tartu) University in the fundamental biographical lexicon of outstanding doctors of all times and peoples (Stieda, 1888). Among the German-language publications, the work of Martha Fischer (2010) stands out.

Biographical information about Weltzien can be also found in various Russian dictionaries and encyclopedias. Among them, it is necessary to point out an article by Karl Johann von Seidlitz (1837), who was married to Weltzien's daughter Maria. Weltzien's biographies, based on Seidlitz's article (Berezin, 1875; Gennadi, 1876b; Vengerov, 1897; Arsenev & Petrushevskii, 1905), are included in subsequent Russian-language encyclopedias and biographical dictionaries. The only exception, perhaps, is the biographical information about Weltzien in the book by Professor Ia. A. Chistovich (1883), which is based on archival sources. For his biography of Weltzien, M. Iu. Lakhtin (1902) borrowed information from Chistovich and Stieda.

In the Soviet times, an article about the ideas on hygiene by doctors of the Russian Empire (which also mentions Weltzien) was published in the 18th

century (Nevskii, 1956), and another one discussed Ivan Weltzien as a hygienist (Agranovskii, 1968). The authors of these two articles did not draw on new historical sources. In addition, the encyclopedic reference about him was included in the *Great Medical Encyclopedia* (Agranovskii, 1976).

In the post-Soviet period, a biographical note on Weltzien was included in the encyclopedia on Germans in Russia (*Nemtsy Rossii*, 1999). The review of publications about Weltzien could be concluded with our own abstracts, based on material collected on Johann Christian Weltzien, a native of Riga and the author of the first book on medical police in the Russian Empire, in preparation for our paper at the 30th Baltic Conference on the History and Philosophy of Science in 2022 (Vasyliiev & Vasyliiev, 2022).

A historiographic analysis of literature about him showed that Weltzien's biography appeared in numerous German and Russian biographical dictionaries for nearly two centuries. Of these sources, it is worth highlighting the 1837 publication by Professor Karl Johann von Seidlitz, who had access to Weltzien's personal archive and the memoirs of his contemporaries. To date, the most complete biography of Weltzien is presented in the lexicon *Russische Karrieren. Leibärzte im 19. Jahrhundert* by Marta Fischer (2010). She did not specifically investigate the life and work of Weltzien, but scrupulously collected everything that was known about him by the beginning of the 21st century. At the same time, in the lexicon, Fischer occasionally cited conflicting facts from the lives of her heroes, leaving it to future researchers to clarify these inconsistencies.

Our article here aims to revisit the biography of Weltzien, a native of Riga, as our knowledge of his life and work has not only increased but numerous erroneous statements and misprints have accumulated over the two centuries. It is also necessary to clarify the conflicting statements in his biography. For this purpose, we have consulted not only with new published historical sources, but also with new archival materials.

The life and work of Johann Christian Weltzien Childhood, youth, and studies in Germany

Johann Christian Weltzien was born in a Lutheran German family in Riga on February 14, 1767. Professor Pauls Stradiņš assumed that Weltzien was a Germanized Latvian. Therefore his surname could be written as Vilciņš rather than Weltzien (Stradiņš, 1958). However, this still remains at the level of conjecture.

His father was Jürgen Christian Weltzien, who worked as a tanner and a manufacturer. His mother was Anna Margaretha née Klein (Fischer, 2010). Hereafter, we will also refer to the personal service record (*formuliarnyi spisok o sluzhbe*) from 1816 of Johann Christian Weltzien (RGVIA, 1816a), which we discovered and are first to introduce into scholarly discourse. From the record it follows that he comes from a family of merchants. The Weltzien acquired nobility by rank. On November 10/21, 1797,¹ he received his first rank of Collegiate Councilor (Class VI in the Table of Ranks), and only after that became a nobleman. Therefore, in German-language lexicons, his surname is given with the prefix ‘von.’ In that era, the civil rank of Class VI gave the right not only to personal, but also to hereditary nobility. Therefore, his children were also nobles. In 1798, he was promoted to State Councilor (Class V), and in 1821 to Active State Councilor (Class IV).

Weltzien received his initial education in Riga. After that he studied medicine in Jena (1785–1786), in Berlin (1787–1788), and from 1788 to 1789 in Göttingen (Fischer, 2010). On May 6, 1789, Weltzien defended his Latin dissertation for the degree of doctor of medicine and surgery on mental disorders in medical practice (*De affectuum animi usu medico*. Göttingae, 1789) at the University of Göttingen. Then he continued his studies in medicine in Berlin, London, and Paris. The French Revolution prompted him to return to the Russian Empire.

Among the files of the State Medical College (at that time the highest governing body of medicine in the Russian Empire), we found Weltzien’s petition addressed to Empress Catherine II, dated January 1790 (the exact date is not given). In this petition, he wrote that he was a native of the city of Riga, and had studied medicine in Jena, Berlin, and Göttingen, where he wrote his dissertation. He asked for permission to undergo an examination at the State Medical College to confirm his foreign diploma. Thus, this document once again confirms

¹ Hereinafter, the double dates mark the discrepancy of Julian and Gregorian calendars.

that Weltzien studied medicine in these three cities, and there is an erroneous indication in literature that he was a student in Leipzig (Seidlitz, 1837; Berezin, 1875; Gennadi, 1876b; Vengerov, 1897).

On January 29 / February 9, 1790, he took an examination at the State Medical College and successfully confirmed his foreign diploma. Thus, he received the right to practice medicine in the Russian Empire. In addition, his certificate recognized his eligibility for service. On February 12/23, 1790, in the presence of Priest John Levitsky, Weltzien took an oath of allegiance to the service of the Empress at St. Nicholas Epiphany Cathedral (RGADA, 1790).

In Cyrillic, he wrote his first name, patronymic and surname as follows—Иван Юрьевич Вельцин (*Ivan Iurevich Velcin*). This spelling in Cyrillic should be regarded as the main one. At first, attempts were made to transliterate his surname without a soft sign (‘ь’), but later it became a common practice to include a soft sign after the letter ‘l’ (‘л’). There is also a spelling of his surname as Вельцын (*Velcyn*). Perhaps in this particular case, the recording of his last name was done by ear, which has led to errors. It is worth adding that in the Russian-language reference books, published during the life of our main character, his patronymic is sometimes not *Iurevich*, but *Vasilevich*. We must consider as the main one the name that he used in the last period of his life—that is, *Iurevich*.

Starting work in the Russian Empire: St. Petersburg

That same year, in 1790, Weltzien started his medical service in two places. Firstly, at the Imperial Medical and Surgical Institute in St. Petersburg, which was established for German subjects of the Russian Empire in 1783. The language of teaching was German. On January 14/25, 1790, a professor of Heinrich Nudow Institute resigned, after which Weltzien was accepted as professor of pathology and therapy. We do not know what exactly was the salary that he received as a professor, but in those years, a professor’s salary was about 600 rubles a year. On January 7/18, 1791, Professor Weltzien gave a speech at the inauguration of a new residential building of the said institute (Weltzien, 1791).

In addition, on April 15/26, 1790, Weltzien started to work as a doctor at St. Petersburg General Land Hospital. As a hospital physician, he received a salary of 300 rubles a year and a state apartment (Chistovich, 1883). Two years later, on January 19/30, 1792, as follows from the archival documents we discovered, he was “dismissed from the service of Her Imperial Majesty by the decision of the State Medical College.” Perhaps he had some kind of conflict

with his superiors, since his dismissal is worded as follows: “for the lack of further need” (RGADA, 1792).

We do not understand why the need for Dr. Weltzien’s services suddenly disappeared in the said hospital. His first biographer, Professor Karl Johann von Seidlitz cautiously wrote, “he left this position due to weakness in his chest” (Seidlitz, 1837, p. 333).

In Yaroslavl and back in St. Petersburg

On July 1/12, 1792, Weltzien worked as a physician at the Yaroslavl Governorate (RGVIA, 1816a, l 4ob), where he stayed until 1795. Not all biographical dictionaries and encyclopedias record these three years of his service in the province. Seidlitz wrote that Weltzien was diligently engaged in improving medical facilities in Yaroslavl, which gave him an excuse to write an essay on medical police. Seidlitz’s testimony is very important here as it confirms our assumption. Working as a medical administrator in the provinces inspired Weltzien to write a book about medical police.

Weltzien devoted his book on medical police to Catherine the Great. The book was presented to the Empress and, on July 17/28, 1795, she considered it necessary to make Weltzien a court physician with the title of *gof-medik* in Russian (German *Hofarzt*) (RGVIA, 1816a, l 4ob). The court physician Weltzien repeatedly highlighted the need for a special hospital for the court servants, and was entrusted with managing the hospital. On February 7/18, 1797, after the hospital was founded, he was awarded a diamond ring by Emperor Paul I (RGVIA, 1816a, l 4ob).

Participation in the 1799 Italian-Swiss expedition

Emperor Paul I instructed Weltzien to accompany Grand Duke Konstantin Pavlovich on campaigns in Italy and Switzerland.² From the memoirs of adjutant of the Grand Duke (Komarovskii, 1914, p. 76) we learn that there were 11 people in total, Weltzien included, in the retinue of the Grand Duke. The participation of Konstantin Pavlovich in this military campaign has been discussed in some detail by his biographer (Karnovich, 1899).

² The Italian and Swiss expedition of 1799 was a military campaign undertaken by a combined Austro-Russian army against French forces.

So he wrote that, on March 11/22, 1799, the Grand Duke and his retinue left St. Petersburg. The first stop was Mitau (then Russian Empire, now Jelgava, Latvia). Here, in the palace of the former dukes of Courland, the brother of King Louis XVI, who died on the scaffold, resided as the French king under the name of Louis XVIII, recognized by various European states, including Russia. Then there was a long stop in Vienna, where the Grand Duke and his retinue spent two weeks in April 1799. From the capital, Konstantin Pavlovich went to the north of Italy. On April 24 / May 5, he arrived in Verona at the corps of the Austrian general Paul Kray. (Karnovich, 1899, pp. 57–76)

After that, His Highness and his retinue continued their journey through the cities of Brescia, Cremona, and Lodi. On April 26 / May 7, he arrived in Voghera, where the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian-Austrian troops, Alexander V. Suvorov, was stationed at the time. The Grand Duke was not given any specific task and was only allowed to be a volunteer under the Commander-in-Chief. On May 15/26, 1799, the allied troops occupied Turin, which was then the capital of the Kingdom of Sardinia. The largest battle between the Russian-Austrian troops and the French army took place at Novi (now Novi Ligure, Italy) on August 4/15, 1799. Konstantin Pavlovich, together with the Commander-in-Chief Suvorov, also took part in the battle of Novi, in which the French were defeated. In September, the Swiss campaign began. Already after crossing the Alps, in Bavaria, after asking Suvorov's permission to leave the army, the Grand Duke went to Coburg, where his wife Grand Duchess Anna Feodorovna was staying at the time. From there, through Prague and passing Vienna, he arrived in St. Petersburg on November 27 / December 8, 1799. The details here are necessary because Dr. Weltzien had to be constantly with the Grand Duke, which means that he did pass the same route.

Continuing work in St. Petersburg

Upon his return to St. Petersburg, Weltzien was assigned to the Court of His Highness Konstantin Pavlovich. At the same time, he was a court physician, still with the rank of *gof-medik*. We established this on the basis of viewing the annually published *Pridvornnyi mesiatseslov* ('Courtier of the months') and *Mesiatseslov s rospisiu chinovnykh osob v gosudarstve* ('Monthly records with a list of state officials'). Thus, as a court physician, he did not have the title of a *leib-medik* (German *Leibarzt*, *Leibmedikus*), as some of his biographies have claimed (Stieda, 1888; Lakhtin, 1902; Fischer, 2010). We have not been able to confirm that Weltzien was a *leib-medik* (i.e., the personal physician) of

Alexander I, as has been stated in a number of lexicons (Stieda, 1888; Lakhtin, 1902; Fischer, 2010). These erroneous statements can be also found in the lists of court physicians of the Russian Empire compiled by researchers (Nakhapetov, 2000; 2012, p. 281; Makarov, 2020, p. 39). And, finally, Weltzien did not accompany Konstantin Pavlovich on his other military campaigns. Not a word is said about this in his personal service record, to which we have already referred more than once.

Charity work

Weltzien was actively involved in philanthropic medical work. According to a rescript dated to May 16/28, 1802, Alexander I established the charity organization called *blagodetelnoe obshchestvo* (‘the charitable society’; *PSZ*, 1830b). At first, the society did not have an established name, but later it became known as the Imperial Philanthropic Society, which was active until 1918. Initially, the activities of the said society were limited only to St. Petersburg; however, since 1816, the society was granted the right to open charitable institutions not only in the capital, but throughout the state (*PSZ*, 1830h).

The structure of the society took shape over a number of years, and was initiated by the Medico-Philanthropic Committee. In the rescript of Alexander I, dated to May 18/30, 1802, which established the Medico-Philanthropic Committee (MPhC), the names of five St. Petersburg doctors of medicine were listed, among them Weltzien (*PSZ*, 1830c). These five members of the MPhC did not receive a salary, in contrast to the staff hired to provide free medical care and the chinovniks of the office of this committee (*PSZ*, 1830l).

The members of the committee made an important contribution to the popularization of smallpox vaccination, which had recently been discovered by Englishman E. A. Jenner (who published his work in 1798), by authoring a book on smallpox vaccination in 1803. Who exactly of the five members of the MPhC wrote which of the ten chapters of the book, is not known. On the title page it is only noted: “Compiled by the Medico-Philanthropic Committee” (*Sposob izbavitsia...*, 1803).

On September 7/19, 1804, another rescript was issued regarding the MPhC (*PSZ*, 1830e). The Emperor supported the committee’s proposals on the directions of its charitable activities. The MPhC subsequently appointed one physician and an assistant for each district of St. Petersburg, each receiving a salary. These physicians provided free medical care to the poor. In addition, the

committee set up special hospitals with six beds for contagious patients in three districts of the city, and in 1806 also founded an eye clinic.

Current affairs of the MPhC were usually decided at weekly meetings of the chairman and two or three of its members. In the presence of the chairman, the general meetings of physicians to treat the poor (that is, physicians on the committee's payroll) were also held to discuss any problems related to the provision of medical care to poor patients (*Kratkii ocherk...*, 1875, pp. 4–6). Weltzien was the chairman of the MPhC three times—in 1804, 1815, and 1816. For his services to the committee, he was twice granted a special imperial award, the Highest Favor (*Vysochaishee blagovolenie*; 1815 and 1816) (RGVIA, 1816a, l 4ob).

Member of two medical councils

It has been suggested in literature about Weltzien that, since 1804, he was a member of the Medical Council of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Seidlitz, 1837; Gennadi, 1876b; Vengerov, 1897; Fischer, 2010). His own personal service record reveals that he was a member of the medical council of not one, but two ministries. This fact needs to be explored further.

On December 31, 1803 / January 12, 1804, the Medical Expedition was formed as a structural unit at the Ministry of Internal Affairs instead of the State Medical College. At the same time, a Medical Council was created under this ministry “for the improvement of the medical unit and other things connected with it” (*PSZ*, 1830d). A few months later, sixteen doctors of medicine of high scientific merit at that time were appointed as members of the Medical Council, and among them was Weltzien (who became a member on February 2/14, 1804). On April 9/21, 1804, the council began its work with a solemn meeting (Moiseev, 1913, p. 5). In 1810, the Medical Council was transferred under the Ministry of Public Education (which in 1817 was transferred under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Public Education) (*PSZ*, 1830f). In 1809, Weltzien was awarded the Highest Favor “for his services” at the Medical Council of the Ministry of Public Education (RGVIA, 1816a, l 4ob).

In 1810, the Ministry of Police was established. The following year, in 1811, the Medical Expedition of the Ministry of Internal Affairs was transferred under this ministry and was reorganized into the Medical Department of the Ministry of Police. At the same time, the Medical Council was created under the Ministry of Police (*PSZ*, 1830g). On October 31 / November 12, 1811, Weltzien was

appointed a full member of this council as well (RGVIA, 1816a). The grand opening of the council took place on November 25 / December 7, 1811. Then, in 1819, the Ministry of Police (including its Medical Council) was merged with the Ministry of Internal Affairs (*PSZ*, 1830i).

Finally, in 1822, the two medical councils (of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Public Education) were merged and subordinated under the former (*PSZ*, 1830j). In the lists of this joint Medical Council of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, we can also find the name of Dr. Weltzien (*RMS*, 1825).

Thus, in 1811–1822, Weltzien was indeed a member of two medical councils. None of his biographers wrote about this. Initially, from 1804, Weltzin was a member of the Medical Council of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which in 1810 was transferred under the Ministry of Public Education. Between 1811 and 1822, he was a member of two medical councils: (1) the Ministry of Public Education, since 1817 the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Public Education; and (2) the Ministry of Police, since 1819 the Ministry of Internal Affairs. In 1822–1825, in connection with the merger of the two medical councils, he was a member of the Medical Council of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Literature suggests that, since 1819, Weltzien was a member of the Medico-Surgical Academy in St. Petersburg (Fischer, 2010). However, his name is not on the published list of honorary members of this academy (Ivanovskii, 1898). We found the answer in the 1809 Charter of the Academy. Paragraph 18 of the charter states that the members of the medical council are honorary members of the academy. Thus, Weltzien was indeed an honorary member of the Medico-Surgical Academy since 1809, and the year 1819 is a typo, as it should read 1809.

On September 7/19, 1805, Weltzien was entrusted “to supervise the artillery hospitals in St. Petersburg,” and on March 11/23, 1806, he received the Highest Favor for his services (RGVIA, 1816a, l 4ob). In 1807, Weltzien was instructed to arrange military hospitals in the Grodno, Vilna, Minsk, and Courland provinces and serve as the main supervisor of them. The same year, he was awarded the Order of St. Anna, Class 2, decorated with diamonds, for the excellent execution of this order.

On June 9/21, 1807, Weltzien became a physician of Queen Daria of Georgia (Darejan Dadiani, 1738–1807) (RGVIA, 1816a, l 4ob), who lived in St. Petersburg at the time and soon died in November 1807. Four years later, on

December 31, 1811 / January 12, 1812, he was assigned as the physician of Princess of Mingrelia Nino Dadiani (1772–1847) (RGVIA, 1816a, l 5ob). Dr. Weltzien had a good relationship with his Georgian patients.

On December 3/15, 1810, Weltzien was elected a member of the Society for the Competition of Medical and Physical Sciences at Moscow University (RGVIA, 1816a, l 5ob), which later became known as the Moscow Medico-Physical Society. This scientific society was founded in 1804 with an aim to promote the progress of the natural sciences in general and medical science in particular. Weltzien's name can be found in the lists of this society in subsequent years (Reuss, 1817).

Work in the Page Corps, retirement, and the final years of his life

From May 11/23, 1810, Weltzien took the position of “doctor” (that is, this position was to be filled by a physician with an MD degree) of the Imperial Page Corps (RGVIA, 1816a, l 5ob). According to the staff list of 1810, the Page Corps had 50 pages and 16 chamber pages; the infirmary of the Corps relied on one MD with a salary of 1,000 rubles a year, one senior physician (750 rubles), one junior physician (400 rubles), and, in addition, two paramedics with a salary of 50 rubles each (*PSZ*, 1830k). Weltzien worked in this privileged military educational institution for 15 years until 1825 (Levshin, 1902, pp. 422–423). In addition to the salary, as a doctor of the Page Corps, as follows from the archival sources we discovered, Weltzien was also granted a state apartment. In connection with this, he was given “state-owned firewood” to heat the apartment (RGVIA, 1820; 1821) and “tallow candles” for its lighting (RGVIA, 1825c). In addition, the physician of the Page Corps had a batman at his disposal (RGVIA, 1816b).

In 1822, Weltzien, upon his request, received a four-month leave with pay “for the purpose of improvement of health” (RGVIA, 1822). Three years later, he again asks for a 24-day leave due to family circumstances in the city of Dorpat (now Tartu, Estonia). He received permission for this leave (from June 22 / July 4, 1825). On July 14/26, Weltzien writes to the Page Corps from his Livonian estate Somel (in the Dorpat district near the village of Torma; now Vaiatu Manor, Jõgeva parish, Estonia) and asked to be dismissed from the service, as he could not “take the return trip” because of “poor health” (RGVIA, 1825b).

By this time, his salary was 3,000 rubles a year. Of which 1,500 rubles were for his work at the Page Corps, 1,200 rubles for being a member of the Medical

Council of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and 300 “honorary” rubles from the Court of His Imperial Majesty. A decree from June 30 / July 12, 1825 said that, according to his request, Weltzien was resigning from all his posts and for “his long and faithful service” he should receive “as his death pension, the salary he receives,” that is, 3,000 rubles in banknotes per year (RGVIA, 1825a).

The last years of Weltzien’s life were spent on his estate in Somel. During the winter, he lived in St. Petersburg, in the circle of old friends. After 18 months of suffering from a serious illness, on March 25 / April 6, 1829, Weltzien died in St. Petersburg. On his last journey, Seidlitz writes, he was accompanied by many families, “among whom were Georgian princes” (Seidlitz, 1837, p. 334). Thus, the testimony of his first biographer at our disposal does not confirm the suggestions of some authors that Johann Christian Weltzien died in Somel (Stieda, 1888; Lakhtin, 1902; Fischer, 2010).

Wife, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren

Johann Christian Weltzien was married to Helena Elisabeth (Elena Ivanovna), the widow of Baron K. F. A. Pirch (1745–1791), née Baroness Friedricksz (1771 – after 1829). She was the daughter of the founder of the baronial family, court banker of Catherine II, Ivan Yuryevich Friedricksz (Fredericksz) (1723–1779). Her mother was Regina Louise (Irina Zakharyevna) Friedricksz née Christineck (1735–1821). The latter was the owner of several industrial enterprises and was considered one of the first women entrepreneurs. The portrait of Regina Louise Friedricksz née Christineck by her brother, painter Carl Ludwig J. Christineck (1730/1732 – c. 1794) is now in the collection of the National Museum of Finland in Helsinki.

Dr. Weltzien had two stepsons (barons Pirch) and five children of his own: Constantin, Julia, Alexander, Maria, and Vladimir (RGVIA, 1816a, l 5). They were Lutheran.

Baron K. K. Pirch (1788–1822) was a colonel in the Life Guards Preobrazhensky Regiment (RGVIA, 1816d) and Baron A. K. Pirch (1791–1853) was a major general and the Kazan civil governor (RGVIA, 1816c; 1830).

Constantin Emanuel (Konstantin Ivanovich) Weltzien (October 2/13, 1798, St. Petersburg – November 26 / December 8, 1821). Between 1815 and 1819 he studied medicine at the University of Dorpat. In 1819, after defending his dissertation, he received the doctor of medicine degree from the same university.

Then, according to the tradition established at that time (following the example of his father), he made a trip abroad to improve, but died upon returning from the trip (Gennadi, 1876a; Hasselblatt & Otto, 1889). Later, in 1820–1821, Karl Johann von Seidlitz, the husband of his sister Maria (see more on her below), published his travel letters in Germany (Seidlitz, 1874).

Julia Ivanovna Weltzien was born around 1799. In 1816, she was with her parents, but we still do not know about her further fate.

Alexander Ivanovich Weltzien (c. 1800–?). In 1817, he began his service as a cadet in the Life Guards Artillery Training Company, and in 1819, as an ensign (*praporshchik*) in the Life Guards 2nd Artillery Brigade (RGVIA, 1823). There is evidence that Alexander Weltzien rose to the rank of colonel. His son was a colonel of the Life Guards of the Preobrazhensky Regiment Pyotr Alexandrovich Weltzien (1857–1902) (RGVIA, 1900; 1902).

Maria Ivanovna Weltzien (1808–1833). Since 1831, she was the first wife of a native of Reval (now Tallinn) Karl Johann von Seidlitz (1798–1885), who later became a professor and the first biographer of Johann Christian Weltzien. A daughter was born from this marriage, named Maria after her mother (1832–1903). In 1854, the daughter married the ophthalmologist Georg von Oettingen (1824–1916), who later became a professor and rector of the University of Dorpat. They had a son, Wolfgang von Oettingen (1859–1943), who became director of the Goethe National Museum in Weimar and director of the Goethe and Schiller Archive. (Fischer, 2010)

Vladimir Ivanovich Weltzien (c. 1809–?) served in the Office of the Ministry of Finance. In 1836, he was dismissed by petition and awarded the rank of Collegiate Assessor (8th grade). He was married to an Orthodox bourgeois Anna Ignatievna Ivanova. They had a son, Fyodor Vladimirovich Weltzien (1848–?), who last served in Central Asia, was promoted to Captain in 1890, married a lieutenant's (*poruchik*) daughter Glafira Mikhailovna Simakova, and had a daughter Olga (1873–?) and a son Vladimir (1878–?) (RGVIA, 1867; 1883; 1901). In 1912, Vladimir Fedorovich Weltzien was the head of the Kushka Field Railway Company (the city of Kushka, present-day Serhetabat, Turkmenistan). (RGVIA, 1912a; 1912b)

Thus, due to the incorporation of new archival materials, it was possible to name all Weltzien's children, or rather those of them who lived to adulthood, for the first time. Until now, literature on him mentioned only his son Constantin and

daughter Mary. In addition, for the first time, we provided clarification regarding the fates of some of them, including some of Weltzien’s grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Table 1. Johann Christian Weltzien’s children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

1	Johann Christian Weltzien (1767–1829)		
	1.1	Constantin Emanuel Weltzien (1798–1821)	
	1.2	Julia Weltzien (c. 1799–?)	
	1.3	Alexander Weltzien (c. 1800–?)	
		1.3.1	Pyotr Weltzien (1857–1902)
	1.4	Maria Weltzien (1808–1833); wife of K. J. von Seidlitz	
		1.4.1	Maria von Seidlitz (1832–1903); wife of G. von Oettingen
			1.4.1.1 Wolfgang von Oettingen (1859–1943)
	1.5	Vladimir Weltzien (c. 1809–?)	
		1.5.1	Fyodor Weltzien (1848–?)
			1.5.1.1 Olga Weltzien (1873–?)
			1.5.1.2 Vladimir Weltzien (1878–?)

Author of the book on medical police

As mentioned above, while working in Yaroslavl, Weltzien wrote a book on medical police. It was published in Russian in 1795 in St. Petersburg. Stieda (1888), without providing the full title of Weltzien’s book on medical police, erroneously wrote that it was published in 1800. On his example, Lakhtin (1902) indicates the same year, 1800, as the year of publication of the book and provides the following title: *Osnovy sanitarno-politseiskogo nadzora* (“The fundamentals of sanitary and police supervision”), which is not accurate. Marta Fischer (2010) cited both the book of 1795 and the publication of 1800, which does not exist, in her list of Weltzien’s published works.

So, Weltzien wrote and published only one book on medical police in 1795, not two. He called it *Nachertanie vrachebnogo blagoustroistva, ili o sredstvakh, zavisiashchikh ot pravitelstva, k sokhraneniuiu narodnogo zdraviia* (“The outline of medical improvement, or on funds dependent on the government to preserve public health”). The book is in octavo (8°) format (19.5 x 12.5 cm) and the volume of the edition is [8], XVIII, 239, [1] p. (Weltzien, 1795)

The book is dedicated to medical police (German *Medizinische Polizei*, Latin *medicina politia* or *politia medica*), a new direction in public health at that time. However, the phrase “medical police” does not appear in the title of Weltzien’s work. At that time, attempts were made to find an adequate Russian translation of the German name of that new science, for example, *vrachebnoe blagoustroistvo*, or “medical improvement,” which is the term that Weltzien used in his book. However, in the end, the term *meditsinskaia politsiia*, or “medical police” was widely adopted in use.

In the preface, the author explains the importance of medical police for the state as follows. Subjects of the Crown, who were economically disadvantaged, were not able to access the help of private medical practitioners. Furthermore, the structure of public life there contributed to the spread of diseases. These challenges can only be prevented through the exercise of governmental authority. The state ought to adopt laws that promote public health. The expertise of a skilled physician is an instrument through which Providence bestows its grace. Yet, the greatest reward that surpasses all others, the gratitude of posterity, is earned by wise rulers. They safeguard the general health of the people and address the causes of diseases through their orders and institutions that can save the lives of thousands.

The five sections of Weltzien’s work reveal its main positions: (1) the government’s commitment to ensuring clean air and healthy homes; (2) ensuring the availability of quality food; (3) fostering the birth of healthy children; (4) ensuring a proper structure of educational institutions and orphanages, schools, and prisons; and (5) establishing and managing public hospitals for the poor.

Weltzien’s main idea is that one of the essential functions of the state should be protecting the health of its citizens, for which it has many capabilities. This echoes the ideas of his older contemporary Johann Peter Frank (1745–1821), who expressed them in his German-language multi-volume work *System einer vollständigen medicinischen Polizey* (‘A complete system of medical police’; 1779–1827). In the preface to his book, Weltzien saw fit to make a reference to him.

When Weltzien was a student at the University of Göttingen, Frank had not taught at that university for years. However, before leaving Göttingen in 1785, Frank taught several disciplines at the local university, including courses on medical police, so perhaps it was in Göttingen that Weltzien first learned about Frank’s medical police. In any case, the ideas of the founder of medical police were reflected in Weltzien’s book.

Conclusions

Many archival materials, along with a number of published historical sources that have been previously overlooked, are now being introduced into scholarly discourse. This has made it possible to reconstruct the biography of Johann Christian Weltzien (1767–1829), doctor of medicine and surgery. Important stages of his life and work have been identified for the first time, and the following facts have been established.

In 1785, Weltzien became a court physician with the title of *gof-medik*. As a court physician, he founded a hospital for the court servants (and was awarded a diamond ring for that in 1797). In 1799, in the retinue of Grand Duke Konstantin Pavlovich, he participated in the Italian military campaign of the united Austro-Russian army against the French troops, as well as in the Swiss campaign of the Russian army. He left St. Petersburg in the retinue of Konstantin Pavlovich in March 1799, and returned in December 1799 (according to the Gregorian calendar). (He did not participate in other military campaigns of the Grand Duke.) After that, Weltzien was assigned to the Court of Konstantin Pavlovich as a court physician with the title of *gof-medik*, but was not granted the title of *leib-medik* and was not the personal doctor of Alexander I. He was at the Court of the Grand Duke until 1810. In addition, as the court physician, Weltzien was entrusted with the treatment of Queen Daria of Georgia (in 1807) and Mingrelian Princess Nino Dadiani (since 1811/1812). He started his charitable work in the Medico-Philanthropic Committee in 1802. Between May 1810 and the middle of 1825, Weltzien was a physician of the Page Corps. It was found that, at the same time, in 1804–1825, he was a member of the Medical Council. At the time when there were two medical councils under two ministries in 1811–1822, he was a member of both: under the Ministry of Public Education (since 1817 the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Public Education) and under the Ministry of Police (since 1819 the Ministry of Internal Affairs). Since 1825, Weltzien lived on his estate in Somel, now Vaiatu Manor, Estonia, but died in St. Petersburg. The inclusion of new archival materials has made it possible, for the first time, to determine the names and number of the children of the Weltziens (previously, only their son Constantin and daughter Maria were known about), and to clarify the fate of some of their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

It is confirmed that his work as a provincial physician prompted Weltzien to write a book on medical police, published in 1785. We also established that he

did not publish a work on medical police in 1800, and therefore, he is the author of only one book on this subject.

Weltzien emerged as one of the first ideologists of state involvement in public health in the Russian Empire. The idea that the state has mechanisms to influence public health and should not be excluded from tackling health-related issues is relevant to this day. And this is clearly seen during the ongoing fight against the new coronavirus pandemic. The state's role in healthcare has consistently expanded from the eighteenth century to the present day, and it must be considered that in the foreseeable future it will continue to grow. Therefore, the ideas expressed more than two centuries ago by Johann Christian Weltzien have not lost their significance even today.

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