

Sylvia Gierlinger, 2015:
Die Jahresberichte des Wiener Stadtphysikates 1866-1913
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Abstract

This volume deals with the Yearbooks of the Urban Health Authority of Vienna, “Wiener Stadtphysikat”, the forerunner of the city’s Health Department. The reports were published between 1866 and 1913, in the beginning on a yearly basis, later every two to three years. Therein, the city physicians gave information about their tasks and activities of the past term of office. The Yearbooks of the Urban Health Authority give an excellent insight into this very dynamic time period of urban transformation and hygiene.

In the early years the reports mostly speak in denunciative tone of the catastrophic hygienic conditions in the city. Over the years, they more and more changed to a performance report about sanitary achievements.

At the beginning of this volume, the institutional history of the Urban Health Authority is presented. Then we take a closer look at the annual reports providing some context of interpretation. The next part of the text deals with the city physicians’ comments on waste and wastewater disposal, followed by summarizing the physicians’ coverage of nuisances caused by crafts and industries. The article is complemented by an extensive collection of digested quotes from the Health Authority Yearbooks.