

Appendix C

MEDICAL RECORD OF V. M. GOLDSCHMIDT

Dr. Leiv Gjessing, who studied mineralogy with Goldschmidt before taking a medical degree, has kindly contributed the following account of his medical history.

His father had diabetes. Victor Moritz Goldschmidt had pneumonia when he was four and eight years old, and was operated for appendicitis in 1909, for peritonitis in 1919, and for hernia twice in 1924. In 1917–18 he had rheumatic fever. In 1928 he spent a month at the spa of Bad Ems “recovering from a catarrh of the throat, which I have got from the combined action of HF fumes and an influenza”. In 1933 he began to be plagued by shortness of breath during physical work. X-ray examination showed distinct enlargement of the heart. Since then he was occasionally bothered by subjective heart symptoms as well as slight swelling of the feet.

In 1937 he had angina with high fever over several days. In the following two weeks he was very weak and tired. He was therefore admitted to Lovisenberg Hospital in Oslo, where he stayed 3–4 weeks. Albuminuria was detected and it was unchanged when he was discharged. Some months later he discovered for the first time marked swelling of the feet. Since then he was troubled with headaches, which however did not prevent him from working.

In spite of a document, signed by Hitler and Göring, giving him permission to leave Germany and travel to Norway in 1935, he was arrested in October 1942 and put into a concentration camp for Jews. After a few days he became very ill. He was admitted to the local hospital in Tønsberg on October 31, 1942, because of severe pains in the back, headache, nausea, and disturbances of vision. Medical examination showed: swelling of the feet, albuminuria (Esbach 1 pro mille), hypertension (210/130), hypertrophy of the heart (but the heart sounds were normal and the pulse was regular), as well as polycythemia (sedimentation rate 1 mm, hemoglobin 135%, red cells 9,580,000). ECG: considerable left ventricular hypertrophy, PQ 0.19, T1 neg., T2 biophasic, T3 pos., T4 neg., P-waves broad and split: cardiomyopathy. His symptoms regressed gradually and within 5–6 days he felt much better. He left the hospital on November 8, 1942 for Oslo, as he was told he was released from the concentration camp.

Later he was transported to Sweden, where in February 1943 he spent four weeks in Ersta Hospital, Stockholm, for the treatment of internal bleeding and heart disease. In the spring of 1943 he was brought by air to England and Scotland.

In Aberdeen, in the fall of 1943, he spent six weeks in the Royal Infirmary for polycythemia, which was successfully treated with deep X-rays. In July 1944 he spent ten days in an Edinburgh clinic for treatment of heart disease. In December 1944 he suffered a near-fatal heart attack

while he was a guest in Dr. W. G. Ogg's house in Harpenden, resulting in a lengthy hospital stay. On the recommendation of his doctors, on leaving the hospital he entered Miss Debenham's Nursing Home in Harpenden, where emergency treatment was available in case of another heart attack. He remained in the nursing home, apart from occasional visits to London, until his return to Norway in June 1946. His experiences during the war years had led to a serious deterioration in his health, and when he returned to Norway he was very weak both physically and mentally.

One night shortly after his return to Norway he had a severe heart attack with pulmonary edema, which was successfully treated at the National Hospital in Oslo. Later, in the fall, he received X-ray treatment of a melanoma on his leg. In the spring of 1947 he had to be operated. When he came home from the hospital on March 20 he complained of intense pain in his head and died suddenly.

In summary the diagnoses were:

- 1892: Pneumonia
- 1896: Pneumonia
- 1909: Appendicitis
- 1917-18: Rheumatic fever, causing his heart disease
- 1919: Peritonitis
- 1924: Hernia
- 1937: Angina with high fever, causing renal symptoms
- 1942: Hypertension, heart disease, and polycythemia
- 1943: Internal bleeding and heart disease
- 1943: Polycythemia, successfully treated
- 1944: Heart attack
- 1944: Heart attack, near fatal
- 1946: Heart attack with pulmonary edema
- 1947: Malignant melanoma and pulmonary fibrosis