



# Public Pharmacies on the Territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina Over the Austro-Hungarian Rule

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## Abstract

**Background/Aim:** With the adoption of legislation over the Austro-Hungarian rule (1878–1918) apothecary in Bosnia and Herzegovina (B&H) became a regulated profession, which enabled the arrival of graduated pharmacists. The aim of the paper was to present in which towns on the B&H territory public pharmacies were opened over this period and their owners.

**Methods:** A retrospective and descriptive research was conducted at the Archives of the Republic of Srpska, the Museum of the Republic of Srpska and the Archives of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The method of the qualitative secondary data analysis was applied.

**Results:** With the arrival of Masters of Pharmacy from all parts of the Austro-Hungary, an increasing number of public pharmacies began to open. Concessions for the opening pharmacies were initially granted to foreigners and among the settlers, pharmacists there were mostly Czechs, Croats, Poles, Hungarians, Slovaks, who completed pharmacy studies at universities in Vienna, Zagreb, Prague, Lviv, Graz, Innsbruck, Krakow. In the beginning, there were no locally educated pharmacists and the first appeared at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. During this period at least one pharmacy was opened in many towns, two worked in Banja Luka, Mostar, Tuzla and Bijeljina and seven in Sarajevo. In the first years, each pharmacy was staffed by only one pharmacist and over time there were more pharmacy staff in the pharmacies. Twenty years after the occupation, public pharmacies owned by Masters of Pharmacy were opened in thirty three towns around B&H and in 1918 there were forty eight public pharmacies in thirty eight towns.

**Conclusion:** The number of public pharmacies and qualified pharmacy staff in B&H increased over the Austro-Hungarian rule from 1878 to 1918, which contributed to the improvement of the profession, health and social conditions in the country during this period.

**Key words:** History of pharmacy; Public pharmacies; Austro-Hungarian rule; Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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## Introduction

Bosnia and Herzegovina (B&H) was under the rule Austro-Hungary Monarchy (Monarchy) from 1878 to 1918, when health conditions in the country changed significantly and the Europeanisation of medicine and pharmacy began. The Austro-Hungarian government found

an extremely bad social and economic situation, a lack of health education of the population and unsettled health conditions in the country.<sup>1</sup> The Austro-Hungarian administration immediately started the organisation of the health service according the canons that ruled in the Monarchy,

including passing the necessary legislation for the regulation of this area.<sup>2,3</sup> The Order of the Provincial Government from July 1879 on performing medical practice of doctors, ranches, veterinarians, dentists and midwives stipulated that the preparation and dispensing of medicines was the exclusive right of pharmacists, which the doctors or ranches could independently perform only with a special authorisation.<sup>4</sup> Apothecary activity was regulated as early as in February 1879 by the Order of the Provincial Government<sup>5</sup> and then more comprehensively by adopting the Law on Pharmacies in 1907.<sup>6</sup> According to these regulations, the owner or provisor of the pharmacy could only be a person with a doctor's degree in chemistry or a master's degree in pharmacy obtained at an Austro-Hungarian university. Concession for the opening of the pharmacy was given by the Provincial Government. Regulated apothecary activity, the opportunity for easy employment and earning enabled the arrival of graduated pharmacists in the country from Austro-Hungarian university centres and an increasing number of public pharmacies had started to open. The concession was mostly received by pharmacists from other parts of the Monarchy, as in the beginning there were no locally trained pharmacists. The first appeared at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. The aim of this paper is to present in which towns on the B&H territory public pharmacies were opened over this period and their owners.

## Methods

A retrospective and descriptive research was conducted at the Archives of the Republic of Srpska and the Museum of the Republic of Srpska from November 2019 to August 2020 and at the Archives of Bosnia and Herzegovina in September 2021 in order to explore archival materials about apothecary activity and pharmacies that worked on the territory of B&H over the Austro-Hungarian rule. The research covered the occupation (1878–1908) and annexation (1908–1918) period of Austro-Hungarian rule, which were presented as a whole.

Manual documentary analysis of original sources and desk research analysis from the secondary sources were conducted. The material available in its original from the Archives of the Republic of Srpska, the Museum of the Republic of Srpska

and the Archives of Bosnia and Herzegovina was used. Company registers, books (Administration Reports, Collections of Laws), address books and newspapers were used from these sources, as well as other sources, as books, published papers in the journals and the Internet.

Pharmacies were shown according to the then territorial division of the country into six districts, namely Banja Luka, Bihać, Mostar, Sarajevo, Travnik and Tuzla. The name of the city or town from the Austro-Hungarian period was given in parentheses if it is different from today's. All owners or lessees of the pharmacies mentioned in the paper were Masters of Pharmacy who completed their studies at an Austro-Hungarian university, which is why "Master of Pharmacy" or "pharmacist" it is not stated next to their name.

## Results

In the Banja Luka district, public pharmacies were opened in Banja Luka, Prijedor, Gradiška (Bosanska Gradiška), Derventa, Doboј, Novi Grad (Bosanski Novi), Kozarska Dubica (Bosanska Dubica), Brod (Bosanski Brod), Tešanj and Prnjavor. The first modern public pharmacy in Banja Luka was opened in April 1879 by an immigrant from Hungary, Moritz Brammer, an Ashkenazi Jew, on the basis of a concession from December of the previous year. From 1892, "To the Golden Snake" (*K zlatnoj zmiji*) pharmacy was continued to be run by his son Robert Brammer, after whose death in 1916 his wife and sons became the owners. One of them, Ernest, later took over his father's pharmacy.<sup>7</sup> The second pharmacy "To the Golden Lion" (*K zlatnom lavu*) was opened in 1890 by an immigrant from Croatia, Otto Löschner.<sup>8,9</sup> His house and pharmacy were bought in 1907 by Tomo Mirković, a native of Bijeljina.<sup>10</sup> A pharmacy in Prijedor was opened in 1879,<sup>2</sup> probably by Jakob Greif, because according to a newspaper advertisement from 1884, the advertised tooth preparations could also be bought in Prijedor, at the pharmacist Greif.<sup>11</sup> In 1900, Isidor Chorzemski from Galicia bought the pharmacy from the owner, the widow Maria Greif,<sup>12</sup> and sold it 1910 to Ludwig Hirschmann from Croatia (Figure 1).<sup>13</sup>

Stefan Variačić from Croatia opened a pharmacy in Gradiška in 1881.<sup>9,10</sup> In 1885, Josef Oltvány from Hungary received a concession for a pharmacy



Figure 1: Ludwig Hirschmann



Figure 2: Alexander Sussmann

in Derventa,<sup>14</sup> which was in 1894 leased by Alexander Sussmann from Galicia (Figure 2).<sup>15</sup> He bought the pharmacy "To the Savior" (*K spasitelju*) five years later.<sup>16</sup> The pharmacy in Doboje was opened in 1884,<sup>2</sup> and since Josef Čech was the owner of the pharmacy registered in 1891,<sup>17</sup> it is possible that he opened the pharmacy. It is not known when Josef Čech left, but "The City Pharmacy" (*Gradska apoteka*) was opened in 1896 by Josip Matković from Croatia,<sup>9</sup> which he sold in 1906 to his compatriot Đuro Vojković.<sup>18</sup> The pharmacy in Novi Grad was opened in 1892 by Gyula Keller from Hungary,<sup>9</sup> and Emil Starwer opened "To the Black Eagle" (*K crnom orlu*) pharmacy in Kozarska Dubica in 1894 or a year earlier.<sup>2, 19</sup> Adolf Barzal from Bohemia opened a pharmacy in Brod in 1894,<sup>9</sup> which was taken over by Nikola Radovanić in 1916.<sup>20</sup> Pero Misita, a native of Mostar, opened a pharmacy in Tešanj in 1896,<sup>21</sup> which was after his death in 1907 run by Bedřich Marek,<sup>10</sup> Filip Boháček<sup>22</sup> and from 1915 Guido Fichtner.<sup>23</sup> In Prnjavor, a pharmacy was opened by Pole Michael Finkelstein on the basis of a concession from 1901.<sup>24</sup>

In the Bihać district, public pharmacies were opened in Bihać, Bosanski Petrovac, Bosanska Krupa and Sanski Most. Eduard Rhein opened a pharmacy in Bihać in 1879 and after his father's death, his son Eduard took over the management of the pharmacy "To the Black Eagle" (*K crnom orlu*) in 1899.<sup>24</sup> In Bosanski Petrovac, Ivan Gjuričić opened a pharmacy in 1895.<sup>9</sup> It was later bought by Nikola Turić from Croatia when it was called

"To the Golden Lion" (*K zlatnom lavu*).<sup>10, 24</sup> Based on the concession from 1899, Leopold Cisař from Bohemia opened a pharmacy in Bosanska Krupa.<sup>25</sup> In 1909, the Provincial Government announced a tender for the opening of a pharmacy in Sanski Most,<sup>26</sup> and in 1910 Moriz Kirtner opened the pharmacy "At the Star" (*Kod zvijezde*).<sup>27</sup>

In the Mostar district, public pharmacies were opened in Mostar, Konjic, Ljubuško, Stolac and Trebinje. Two pharmacies were operating in Mostar during this period. In 1879, Julius Thonhauser from Hungary opened the pharmacy "At the Imperial Eagle" (*Kod carskog orla*) (Figure 3),<sup>28, 29</sup> which was bought in 1894 by Wenzel Mikan from Bohemia.<sup>30</sup> The second pharmacy was registered by Nikola Zovetti in 1890 and two years later it was bought by Czech Martin Houška.<sup>10</sup> Since 1911, the lessee of his pharmacy was Lovre Blažević from Croatia. Joachim Boglić opened a pharmacy in Trebinje in 1883,<sup>30</sup> Šimun Madirazza from Dalmatia in Ljubuški in 1886,<sup>10</sup> and the Pole Waclaw Babinski in Konjic in 1893.<sup>9</sup> According to one source, the pharmacy in Stolac was opened in 1882,<sup>2</sup> which was taken over from Luigi Cornioni in 1898 by Vinzenz Giancovich from Dalmatia.<sup>9</sup>

In the Sarajevo district, public pharmacies were opened in Sarajevo, Goražde, Foča, Visoko, Višegrad and Rogatica. During this period, several pharmacies were operating in Sarajevo.<sup>31</sup> The Austro-Hungarian government found a modern pharmacy in Sarajevo where Eduard Pleyel worked, the Czech who came to Sarajevo





**Figure 3:** Julius Thonhauser's house (left) and Military Post (right)

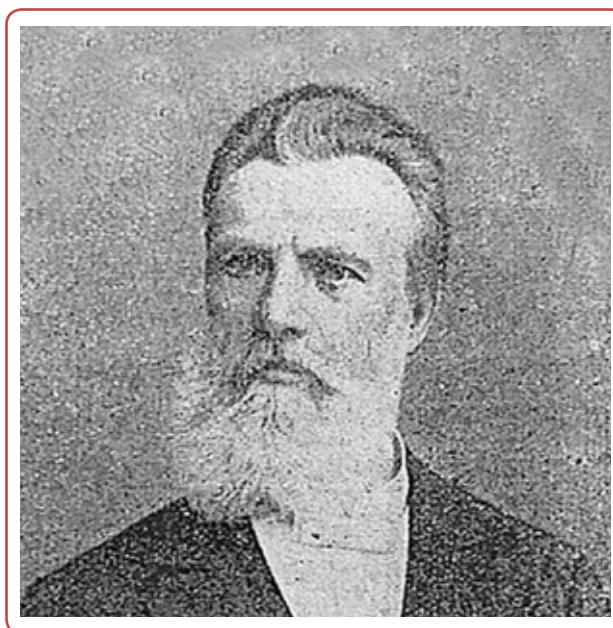
in 1877.<sup>3</sup> He worked as an assistant in the pharmacy owned by Josef Sumbul, an unqualified apothecary, which he later took over from him<sup>3,19</sup> and registered the pharmacy "To the Emperor of Austria" (*K caru austrijanskom*) in 1884.<sup>32</sup> From 1912, his son Eduard took over the pharmacy. Soon, Stefan Dobóczy also opened a pharmacy in the city called "To Help" (*K pomoći*), which was registered in 1884.<sup>33</sup> This pharmacy was later taken over by his son Stefan Dobóczy Junior, while Stefan Dobóczy Senior was the owner of a seasonal pharmacy in Ilidža.<sup>25,34</sup> In 1905, Heinrich Sclesinger bought the seasonal pharmacy from the heiress, the widow Magdalene.<sup>35</sup> The city pharmacy was bought by Stevan Romčević from

the heiress, the widow Sofie and registered at the end of 1911.<sup>36</sup> "At Sarajevo City" (*Kod grada Sarajeva*) pharmacy was opened in 1881 by Jakov Sumbul (Figure 4),<sup>37</sup> who completed his studies in Constantinople at the Faculty of Medicine. The Provincial Government did not recognise his diploma and demanded the nostrification to run a pharmacy, thus forcing him to take a provisor in his pharmacy. He employed Heinrich Schlesinger from Slavenska Požega (Figure 5)<sup>19</sup> as a provisor in 1887, who became the owner of this pharmacy in 1891.<sup>27</sup>

In addition to his medical practice, doctor Josef Koetschet opened a pharmacy in 1864 or 1866.<sup>38</sup>



**Figure 4:** Jakov Sumbul



**Figure 5:** Heinrich Schlesinger



Figure 6: Filip Boháček

He sold it to Ljudevit Matić, who became the owner of the pharmacy "To the eagle" (*K orlu*) on the basis of a concession from 1886.<sup>39</sup> In 1897, Matić sold the pharmacy to Czech Franz Ružička,<sup>39</sup> whose business partner Czech Josef Patera became the owner of this pharmacy in 1900.<sup>40</sup> After Josef Patera's death in 1913, the owners of this pharmacy became the heirs and the lessee was Rudolf Hübner.<sup>24</sup> The owner of the pharmacy at Čemaluša street number 165 was Friedrich Herzig but it is not known when he received the concession. The lessees were Eustach Weidenhoffer and Karl Chornitzer,<sup>9,41</sup> and from 1900 the owner of the pharmacy "To Mary the Helper" (*K pomoćnoj Mariji*) became Viktor Benischko.<sup>42</sup> Born in Sarajevo, Đorđe Besarović opened the pharmacy "At the Lion" (*Kod lava*) in 1907,<sup>27</sup> and Nikola Ivošević opened the pharmacy "To the Star" (*K zvijezdi*) in 1913, the seventh public pharmacy in the city of Sarajevo.<sup>43</sup>

Eduard Jecewicz opened a pharmacy in Goražde based on a concession from 1893,<sup>10</sup> which he managed until 1916, when the owners became his heirs.<sup>44</sup> Nikola Kus opened a pharmacy in Foča in 1898,<sup>9</sup> which was owned by the Czech Karel Fuhrich in 1901.<sup>25</sup> His property was deleted from the Commercial Register in 1911,<sup>45</sup> in the meantime the heirs of Bedřich Marek became the owners of the pharmacy and Anton Balek the lessee.<sup>27</sup> According to one source, the pharmacy in Visoko was opened on the basis of a concession from 1887, which was transferred to the then owner Josef Zeleny in 1898.<sup>25</sup> According



Figure 7: Moriz Kirtner

to Zeleny's letter from 1902, the first pharmacy was opened in 1883 on the basis of a concession given to Heinrich Schlesinger, after whose departure several owners changed until Zeleny's takeover.<sup>22</sup> The pharmacy with inventory and all supplies was bought from Zeleny in 1906 by Jan Halla,<sup>46</sup> and from him in 1914 by Czech Filip Boháček (Figure 6).<sup>22</sup> Wenzel Koza received the concession for a pharmacy in Višegrad based on a tender in 1907,<sup>47</sup> and Heinrich Moravec opened a pharmacy in Rogatica in 1914.<sup>19</sup>

In the Travnik district, public pharmacies were opened in Bugojno, Jajce, Livno, Travnik, Zenica and Tomislavgrad (Županjac). In Travnik Michael Bardasz opened the pharmacy "To God's Providence" (*K božjoj providnosti*) in 1884,<sup>9</sup> in Livno Anton Kluczenko opened the pharmacy "Faithful Shepherd" (*Vjernom pastiru*) in 1892,<sup>9,10</sup> and in Bugojno Theodor Heydušek from Moravia opened the pharmacy "To the Golden Eagle" (*K zlatnom orlu*) in 1893.<sup>9,24</sup> Martin Houška ran the pharmacy in Zenica from 1886 to 1890,<sup>10</sup> when it was taken over by the new owner Josip Šilhabl,<sup>40</sup> and then from 1913 by Otto Weiss.<sup>48</sup> According to a newspaper advertisement from 1884, the advertised preparation against stomach problems could also be bought in the "To God's Eye" (*K božjem oku*) pharmacy in Jajce,<sup>49</sup> while another source states that the pharmacy was opened in 1892.<sup>2</sup> It was not known who opened this pharmacy, whose owner was Karl Chornitzer from Moravia in 1899,<sup>41</sup> and where Dinko Mistura from Dalmatia worked two years





Figure 8: Gavro Peciković



Figure 9: Simon Zaloscer

before.<sup>47</sup> Moriz Kirtner (Figure 7)<sup>50</sup> from Hungary opened the pharmacy in Tomislavgrad based on a concession from 1895.<sup>9</sup> After he opened a pharmacy in Sanski Most in 1910, this one was closed and did not work until 1918.

In the Tuzla district, public pharmacies were opened in Tuzla, Bijeljina, Brčko, Gračanica, Gradačac, Šamac (Bosanski Šamac), Maglaj and Zvornik. According to some sources, the first pharmacy in Tuzla was opened during the Turkish rule, which was run by the military doctor Pantelaki for a time, then Siminiati, from whom

Gavro Peciković (Figure 8) from Vojvodina bought the pharmacy.<sup>3, 19, 51</sup> In the inspection report from 1906, it was stated that the pharmacy was opened in 1863 based on the concession of the Ottoman Government,<sup>52</sup> and Gavro Peciković opened the "District Pharmacy" (*Okružnu apoteku*) in 1882.<sup>25</sup> The second pharmacy in Tuzla, "To the Star" (K zvijezdi), was opened in 1894 by Simon Zaloscer (Figure 9) from Galicia.<sup>9, 53</sup>

The pharmacy in Brčko was opened in 1879 by Anton Dobrzański.<sup>9</sup> From 1900, Gustav Proche from Bohemia became the owner of the city



Figure 10: Gustav Proche



Figure 11: Waleryan Rittermann's house with pharmacy

pharmacy "To the Austrian Eagle" (*K austrijskom orlu*),<sup>48</sup> whose spacious office is shown in Figure 10.<sup>54</sup> Hungarian Antal Čapo opened a pharmacy in Bijeljina in 1880,<sup>2, 55</sup> and Anton Hudovski from Slavonia became its owner from 1896.<sup>9</sup> The pharmacy in Maglaj was probably opened by Moriz Kirtner, because he worked there for five years before he opened the pharmacy in Tomislavgrad in 1895.<sup>56</sup> In 1896, Rudolf Loebel from Bohemia became the owner of the pharmacy "To the Rose" (*K ruži*).<sup>9</sup>

A pharmacy in Gračanica was opened in 1894 on the basis of the concession given to Johann von Bersa, which was by the Decree of 1896 withdrawn and assigned to Johann Stanislaw Niemczyk from Austrian Silesia.<sup>40</sup> In Gradačac Slovak Michal Hodža opened a pharmacy in 1893,<sup>9</sup> and in Šamac Pole Waleryan Cyril Rittermann in 1897 opened a pharmacy "To the Guardian Angel" (*K anđelu čuvaru*), which was located in a large family house (Figure 11).<sup>9, 57</sup> Based on a concession from 1885, Franz Ivanuš from Croatia was the owner of a pharmacy in Zvornik which he bought from Michael Hedvig.<sup>9</sup> From 1910, the widow Marie became the owner and the pharmacy was managed by lessees (Figure 11).

## Discussion

With the arrival of Masters of Pharmacy from all parts of the Monarchy, an increasing number of public pharmacies began to open. Concessions for opening pharmacies were initially granted to foreigners and according to data from this research, among the settlers there were mostly Czechs, Croats, Poles, Hungarians, Slovaks, who completed pharmacy studies at universities in Vienna, Zagreb, Prague, Lviv, Graz, Innsbruck, Krakow. Over time, more favourable conditions were created for the education of the local population. Societies with cultural and educational goals played a role in this process, helping and educating poor pupils and students through scholarships and aid, thus creating a domestic intelligentsia.

There were attempts to open pharmacies in some other towns or a larger number of pharmacies in towns where one or more of them had already been opened. For almost 40 years, only two pharmacies worked in Banja Luka, in the city centre. In 1912, Nikola Ivošević, then the lessee of

the pharmacy in Zenica, tried to open a third one, which was not supported by the owners of the existing pharmacies. His request was rejected because in order to open a new pharmacy, in addition to considering the local need for opening a pharmacy, the survival of already existing pharmacies had to be taken into account.<sup>58</sup> In May 1918, Czech Josef Kos, employed in the pharmacy military service in Sarajevo, also submitted an application for the granting of a concession for a new pharmacy in Banja Luka.<sup>59</sup> In Kotor Varoš, in the Banja Luka district, in 1916, Guido Fichtner, the lessee of the pharmacy in Tešanj and Adolf Barzal, the owner of the pharmacy in Brod, tried to get a concession for a pharmacy. The requests were rejected with the explanation that they would most likely apply for the advertised competition because almost all the young pharmacists had served in the military and that the District hospital handles the task of dispensing medicines better.<sup>60</sup> In the City of Sarajevo, five pharmacies worked for almost thirty years and two new ones were opened in 1907 and 1913. The concession of the eighth pharmacy was foreseen in 1914,<sup>61</sup> but the concession was not filled because in 1918 seven pharmacies were operating in Sarajevo.<sup>62</sup> In the Mostar district, there were attempts to open pharmacies in Čapljina and Bileća. In Čapljina, Dinko Mistura from Ljubuški and Vinzenz Giancovich from Stolac submitted applications for a concession for the pharmacy, which were rejected due to the negative opinion of the Stolac District Office on their necessity and profitability.<sup>63</sup> In 1912, Spasoje Radmilli from Dubrovnik asked for a concession for a pharmacy in Bileća and the request was rejected with the explanation that the Municipal clinic fully meets the needs of the population and that the pharmacy would do poorly without some other business.<sup>64</sup> A competition for the opening of a pharmacy in Mrkonjić Grad, in the Travnik district, was announced in 1899,<sup>65</sup> but the pharmacy was not opened in this period.

Accustoming the people to being treated with medicines that they could get in pharmacies went slowly, so many pharmacists were also engaged in other jobs. Eduard Rhein from Bihać, Stefan Variačić from Gradiška, Theodor Heydušek from Bugojno, Gyula Keller from Novi Grad, Alexander Sussmann from Derventa, Stanislaw Niemczyk from Gračanica, Michal Hodža from Gradačac, Dinko Mistura from Jajce, Waclaw Babinski from Konjic, Anton Kluczenko from Livno, Rudolf Loebel from Maglaj, Wenzel Mikan from Mostar, Gavro Peciković and Simon Zaloscer from Tuzla and

Moriz Kirtner from Tomislavgrad were engaged in the production of soda water in addition to the apothecary business. A liquor factory was owned by Gustav Proche from Brčko, a grocery store by Michael Finkelstein from Prnjavor, Đuro Vojković from Doboj, Karel Fuhrich from Foča, who also had a registered large production facility for the distillation of fruit and brandy and Anton Kluczenko from Livno, who also had a photographic craft.

In the first years, only one qualified pharmacist worked in each pharmacy and over time there were more pharmacists in the pharmacies. Twenty years after the occupation, in 33 towns throughout B&H, 40 Masters of Pharmacy had registered pharmacies.<sup>34</sup> In 1905, the pharmacy staff consisted of 65 people, of which 38 were pharmacy owners, five provisors, nine assistants and 13 interns, who worked in 44 public pharmacies.<sup>66</sup> In 1914, 48 public pharmacies worked in B&H,<sup>67</sup> as well as at the end of 1918, when pharmacies were distributed in 38 towns.<sup>62</sup>

## Conclusion

With the opening of an increasing number of pharmacies in B&H during the period of Austro-Hungarian rule from 1878 to 1918, the number of qualified pharmacists grew, which contributed to the improvement of the profession, health and social conditions in the country over this period. As an educated class of people, they played a significant role in public, economic and social life, bringing modern trends to our region.

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## Conflict of interest

None.

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