Professor Julius Tandler,
Anatomist and Public
Health Advocate

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Born in Iglau, Czechoslovakia, in 1869, Tandler received his elementary and secondary education in Vienna. In 1895, he obtained the M.D. degree from the University of Vienna and was appointed Demonstrator at the Anatomical Institute. He was a collaborator of E. Zuckerkandl, whom he succeeded as chief of the institute in 1910.

Tandler became interested in public health, and in 1919, he was appointed Undersecretary of State for Health in the Socialist Government and head of the Municipal Board of Health. In these capacities, he improved welfare care for pregnant women. Tandler believed that healthy children were essential for the country, and he promoted medical and dental clinics for their care. He supported a system of “follow-up” nurses for infants and promoted the availability of gymnastics, swimming pools, and open-air sports for children. He encouraged slum clearing and the provision of housing for the poor. He was instrumental in obtaining a supply of radium for the treatment of patients with cancer at the municipal hospital and was responsible for the development of many welfare centers in Vienna that contributed to the public health of the city.

In addition to his contributions to public health, Tandler published a system of anatomy in 1929 that underwent several editions. He also published a work entitled Biological Factors of Secondary Genital Features and was awarded a gold medal by the Biological Society of Austria.

Because of his work with the Vienna Health Department, the Chinese government invited Tandler to help them improve the standard of health in China. He also lectured on public health in Russia and subsequently was appointed Chief of the Board of Health in Moscow. He died there on Aug. 25, 1936.

Tandler was honored on a stamp issued by Austria in 1986.