

There was one factor which must have helped my father to establish himself in his profession, the phenomenal growth of Germany's Capital in the years from 1871 to 1914. This was not only visible in the monumental buildings, but also in the three-fold increase of the population during that period. This must have resulted in my father being called for consultations by many new patients, new Berliners coming to the Capital, attracted by the many opportunities promised by this atmosphere of constant expansion.

This was started by the victory in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1871 and the resulting large reparations. What was then called *Gründerzeit* (the time of foundation) was outwardly characterised by buildings, not only of the official prestige edifices, but also of the many private luxury houses in the expansion and incorporation of the old nearby villages as suburbs, for example *Dahlem*. This same growth showed itself by the erection of numerous blocks of flats, with their unique inner courtyards. These were for the less wealthy multitudes, needed to work in the many new Ministries of the *Reich*, after its proclamation by the Kaiser in 1871, as well as for the workers in the new industries and those needed to run the *nouveau riche* Capital of a large European country.

Much of this growth was stimulated by the Kaiser who saw in his *Schloss* and his grandiose metropolis an outward sign of his own power and glory. But the real economic progress of Berlin came from Industry, which was attracted by cheap labour and large markets. The names of Siemens, Borsig and AEG, still stand after a century for the electrical industries, for general mechanical engineering and metal industries, which originated in the *Gründerzeit*. Equally important were the chemical industry, the textile factories and the clothing manufacturers drawn to Berlin. Forests and fields gave way to factories, roads and railway lines, as Berlin became the natural center for Germany's steam-engined railways, used for passengers and for goods traffic alike.

A well-known example of this new Berlin landscape, is the *Kurfürstendamm*, in 1880 a mere field path and riding lane, which had by 1910 transformed itself into a prestige boulevard with exclusive luxury shops, street cafés, elegant office buildings and expensive flats. Much older in its renown is the pre-eminent avenue of *Unter den Linden*, with the Brandenburger Tor as its grandiose portal. This avenue dates back to a country road of the 16th century, widened and lengthened by successive monarchs, until it reaches today a width of 60 meters and a length of 1.4 km. By 1889, it received the first electric arc lamp illumination. It extends from the French and British Embassies and the Adlon Hotel, around the Pariser Platz at the Brandenburger Tor on one end, to the *Zeughaus* (armoury) on the other. The center has always been a pedestrian promenade, flanked by lime (*Linden*) trees. In spite of the war, it was fully restored by 1989, after Germany's re-union.