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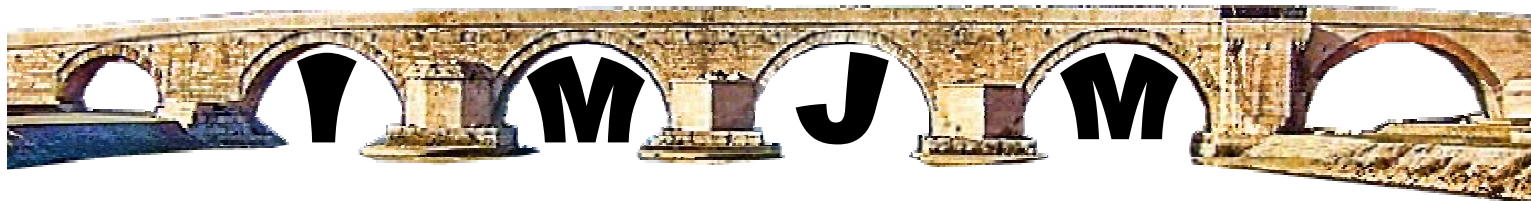
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*Në çastin kur po hy në radhët e anëtarëve të profesionit mjekësor premtoj solemnisht se jetën time do ta vë në shërbim të humanitetit. Ndaj mësuesve do ta ruaj mirënjohjen dhe respektin e duhur.*

*Profesionin tim do ta ushtroj me ndërgjegje e me dinjitet. Shëndeti i pacientit tim do të jetë brenga ime më e madhe. Do t'i respektoj e do t'i ruaj fshehtësitë e atij që do të më rrëfëhet. Do ta ruaj me të gjitha forcat e mia nderin e traditës fisnike të profesionit të mjekësisë.*

*Kolegët e mi do t'i konsideroj si vëllezër të mi.*

*Në ushtrimin e profesionit ndaj të sëmurit tek unë nuk do të ndikojë përkatësia e besimit, e nacionalitetit, e racës, e politikës, apo përkatësia klasore. Që nga fillimi do ta ruaj jetën e njeriut në mënyrë absolute. As në kushtet e kërcënimit nuk do të lejoj të keqpërdoren njohuritë e mia mjekësore që do të ishin në kundërshtim me ligjet e humanitetit. Këtë premtim po e jap në mënyrë solemne e të lirë, duke u mbështetur në nderin tim personal.*

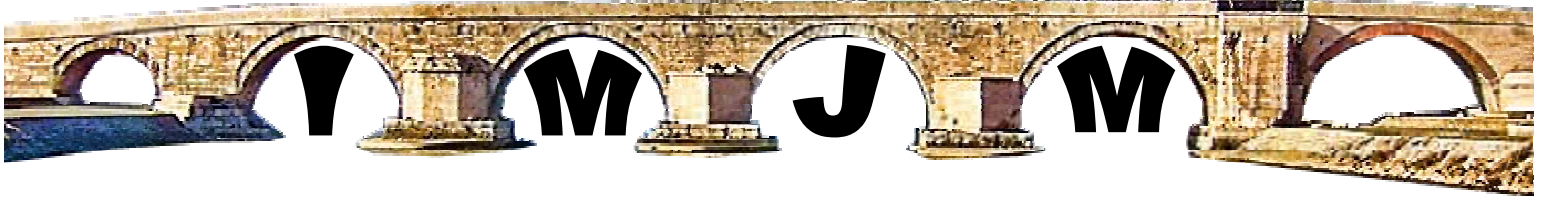
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*Upon having conferred on me the high calling of physician and entering medical practice, I do solemnly pledge myself to consecrate my life to the service of humanity. I will give my teachers the respect and gratitude which is their due. I will practice my profession with conscience and dignity. The health of my patient will be my first consideration. I will respect the secrets which are confided in me, even after the patient has died. I will maintain by all the means in my power, the honor and the noble traditions of the medical profession.*

*My colleagues will be my brothers.*

*I will not permit considerations of religion, nationality, race, party politics or social standing to intervene between my duty and my patient. I will maintain the utmost respect for human life from its beginning even under threat and I will not use my medical knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity. I make these promises solemnly, freely and upon my honor*

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## MILITARY HOSPITALS IN THE VARDAR REGION OF MACEDONIAN FROM THE OTTOMAN PERIOD

### ВОЕНИ БОЛНИЦИ ВО ВАРДАРСКИОТ РЕГИОН НА МАКЕДОНИЈА ВО ОТОМАНСКИОТ ПЕРИОД

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#### Abstract

In the paper are processed beginning of construction of hospital facilities in Vardar Macedonia in the 19th century during the Ottoman rule. The need for medical treatment of soldiers and their officers felt due to frequent wars they fought the Empire and the huge number of infectious diseases that reigned in the region. Syphilis as severe infectious disease that quickly spread among the troops was good reason for the reduced number of soldiers of war. Therefore the Turkish army began construction of military hospitals in Skopje, Bitola, Stip, Veles, Debar and Strumica. All these hospitals are individually displayed data for their location, year of construction, hospital facilities and structure of hospital staff.

**Key words:** Turkish army, infectious diseases, hospital facilities XIX century.

The need of building of hospitals and healing of the civil population was imposed not just of the conquering wars that Ottoman Empire led and the appearance of the syphilis and other diseases among the soldiers of the Turkish Army in the European part of the Ottoman Empire. That is why in the second half of the XIX century the medicine concept began to change. Besides the opening of the hospitals another question about prevention from the zymotic disease. Under the pressure of Europe and with an aim to stop the spread of the zymotic diseases quarantine measures were introduced and the travel to the epidemic countries was forbidden.

Several military hospitals in Bitola, Skopje, Stip, Veles, Strumica and Debar were built in the Vardar region of Macedonia since the second half of the XIX century [1].

**Bitola** was an important economic centre in the Empire but also it was a centre of constant disturbances. A result of that is the founding of the colonel's barracks. A new hospital was opened in 1846 and it was completely finished in 1850.1 The manager of the hospital was dr Fetulah Efendi. Four doctors, five pharmacists and four surgeons were employed in the hospital up to 1867 [2].



The first turkish hospital Bitola from 1850 (old postcard)

In the period of Serbian - Turkish and Russian - Turkish war from 1877 to 1878 the manager of the hospital was colonel dr Andon Bej, his assistant was dr Mehmed who at the same time was the mayor of Bitola. Beside these two doctors, the colonel Mustafa Arif, three surgeons and several pharmacists worked at the hospital. This hospital team was increasing permanently. Dr Hasan, colonel Mehmed Galip, six doctors, 12 surgeons and others were employed in 1878. The cavalry units were

stationed in Bitola in this period and because of that the need for bigger hospital increased. Pasha Fazli and Pasa Jemal started the building of the new hospital in 1885. The building of the hospital was finished by Ahmet Ejup Pasha in 1893. Doctors Ali Riza, Konstantin, Kond Rijetis, Rajt, Bdul Halim, captains Behiri and Selim, and four pharmacists worked in the hospital at that time.

Doctors Xemal, Salih, Mehmed, Haki, five pharmacists, four surgeons and others started to work in 1899. The manager of the hospital was dr Husein Remzi. During the Turkish - Greek war in 1897 the army and the population suffered massive smallpox. Dr Xemal, bacteriologist Vasfi Ethem, Mustafa Hajrulah and others made massive vaccination and stopped the spreading of the epidemic. The manager of the Bitola's hospital was the surgeon dr Rifki Osman Bej. During the Ilinden Uprising in 1903 the manager of the hospital was dr Ibrahim Pasha from Egypt, and the doctors that worked then were Arif, captains Faik Fikret and Vasif. During the Young Turk Revolution the manager of the hospital was the dr Mehmed Arif, and as doctors worked the captain Refik Sajdam who became a minister of health later and the prime minister of the Republic Turkey.

In 1910 the manager of the hospital was the doctor Miralaj Mustafa Ali, and vice manager and mayor of Bitola was the surgeon doctor Fuat Ali. Before the first Balkan war and during the war at the hospital worked the dermatologist dr Saban, the surgeon dr Rexep, majors Hajrula and Hulisi and captains Tefik, Fazli and Zekli Hamdi. After conquering Bitola in 1912 the Serbian Army took the hospital and the barracks.

According to the records of the mayor of Skopje Hivzi Pasa, Skopje's military hospital was built in 1844 [3].



The first Turkish military hospital at Skopje's fortress from 1844 (old postcard)

Hivsi Pasha took this duty by the order of the Belgrade Pasha region. Skopje's military hospital was named as Bey's and in the middle of the XIX century the doctor Albaj Konstantin and major Jani Mihail worked in it. According the records of Sejud

Mehmed Tahir pasha, since 30 March 1883, found in the Istanbul library, fortress with warehouse was built for the hospitals' need. Beside the fortress other war buildings and granges were built.

According to the material prepared by the local general hospital in Ankara and „Annals” from 1889, 1892, 1894, 1896, this hospital was formed in the Skopje's fortress barracks county.

On 23 October 1884, according to the same sources, the soldiers of Sahane helped by the Skopje's citizens built a new modern military hospital with two floor and 17 rooms with a capacity of 350 beds on the Skopje's fortress. In both army hospitals on the Fortress during the period between 1844 and 1905 worked many doctors Constantin, Jani Mihail, (1844); doctors Aleksandar, Constantin, Jani Mihail (1866); dr Hasan, dr Matkovik (1867); dr Mustafa, dr Ali (1877); dr Jemal (1883); dr Hadi, dr Harun Bey (1887); dr Niko, dr Ahmet Ferhat (1888); Primarius dr Sulejman Fahri, dr Rasid, head dr primarius dr Jusuf Azis, dr Refik (1889).

Head surgeon at that time was dr Mehmed, second surgeon dr Hasif Mustafa, and third surgeon dr Ali Mustafa. Head pharmacist was Avram, second Zekiria, third Karambeg. In 1892 the director of the hospital was Alaj Kjatibi, dr Ahmed, secretary dr Bezat, head doctor dr Rasid, prim. dr Jusuf Azis and dr Galib. Responsible of the surgery department was dr Osman, head surgeon dr Edem, second surgeon dr Jakub, third surgeon dr Mehmed and fourth surgeon dr Isak.



Another Turkish military hospital at Skopje's fortress from 1884 (old postcard)



In 1905, from Skopje to the road of Kumanovo a new military hospital of the Red Cross

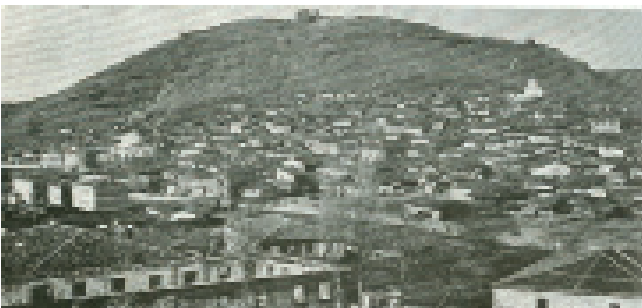
was built, but because of the Islamic character of the country the hospital got the name “Red Half Moon” later called only Half Moon.



Turkish Military Hospital “ Red Crescent “ from 1905 (old postcard)

The military hospital in Stip was built in the second half of the XIX century.

The manager of the hospital was captain doctor Haxi Nuri. From 1905 to 1911 in the military



The ruins of the Turkish military hospital in Stip

hospital in Stip worked captain Mehmet Nuri (urologist) captain Haxi Faik Fikret, captain Remzi, captain Rifki (surgeon), captain Hilmi, region captain Mehmet Zekirija, captain Mustafa Hulusi and captain Galip Basri. Just before the Balkan wars the team was increased by colonel Hilmi Izet, surgeon, lieutenant-colonel Abdul Kabir, region colonel Hasan Jamil, captain Mahmut Mustafa and others. This hospital also became part of the Serbian army after the Balkan wars.

In the absence of relevant data for a Turkish military hospital in Veles<sup>1</sup> that exists on postcards from that time I decided that I display as well.



Turkish military hospital on the hill above Veles

The military hospital in Debar<sup>1</sup> was built in 1847. The manager of the hospital from 1873 to 1891 was colonel doctor Sakir Ibrahim Bey. His assistant was major dr Mustafa Bey, and also the colonels dr Ahmet and dr Kirkor. During the Greek-Turkish war in 1897 the hospital in Debar had a lot of work. The manager of the hospital from 1908 to 1910 was dr Husein Dora. This hospital also became part of the Serbian army after the Balkan wars in 1912.

There was also a military hospital in Strumica<sup>1</sup>. According the records during the period from 1909 to 1911 the manager of the hospital was dr Fehmi Mehmet Bey. After the FWW was finished Strumica was under Bulgarian reign. Strumica went under the reign of Bulgaria and its hospital was converted into a war medical school.

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## Апстракт

Во Трудот се обработуваат почетоците на изградба на болнички установи, во Вардарскиот дел од Македонија во 19 век, во време на Османлиското владеење. Потребата од болнички третман на војниците и нивните старешини се чувствувала поради честите војни што ги водела Империјата и огромниот број на заразни болести кој царувал на овие простори. Сифилисот како тешка заразна болест, која бргу се ширела меѓу војниците, бил сериозна причина за намалениот број на војници способни за војна. Поради тоа Турската армија започнала со изградба на воени болници во Скопје, Битола, Штип, Велес, Дебар и Струмица. Сите овие болници поединечно се прикажани со податоци за нивната местоположба, година на изградба, болнички капацитети и структура на болничкиот персонал.

**Клучни зборови:** Турска армија, заразни болести, болнички установи, XIX век

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