

# Istanbul Maltepe Military Hospital's Pharmacy

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## Summary

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In 1826 by the offer of Dr. Mustafa Behçet, Sultan Mahmut the 2<sup>nd</sup> started to build a hospital. They called it "Asakir-i Mansure Hospital" and its location was in İstanbul Topkapı-Maltepe. This hospital had European qualities. In the beginning it had 600 beds then it increased to 1000 beds. The pharmacy in the hospital helped ill people to get their medicines and it also helped for the military service to get their needs.

This survey will be presented with the studies of the pharmacy and the lists of the medicines which were taken from archives.

**Key words;** Maltepe Military Hospital, Pharmacy, İstanbul.

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Maltepe Military Hospital was built with the suggestion of Chief Physician Mustafa Behcet Efendi during the reign of Sultan Mahmut II (1-5).

The building has four facades, and there is a big courtyard in the middle. There is one floor in the front facade and the other facades have two floors. When it was first built, it had the capacity of 600 beds, but its capacity was raised to 1000 in the following years (1,6).

The building was used as a hospital until 1922, and in this year it was abolished and was not used until 1941. From this date to 1950, it was used as Maltepe Military High School. The building was deserted after the moving of Maltepe Military High School to Kuleli Military High School, and today, Maltepe Military High School, which was assigned to Police Department by National Defence Ministry in 1980, has been used by Istanbul Special Police Forces Department (Çevik Kuvvet) (7,8).

We see a lot of documents about Maltepe Military Hospital in the Ottoman Archives of Prime Ministry (9,10).

### According to Some of These Sources

It is said in the third copy of Takvim-i Vekayi,

printed on 20 November 1830, that 423 soldiers were taken to Maltepe Asakir-i Mansure {*God's victorious soldiers*} Hospital in September, and 366 of them recovered.

In the archive document, dated 23 September 1834 (11), we see 5 tents to accommodate the patients, and two each cauldrons for washing and cooking were demanded from the ammunition store (*Muhimmat-i Harbiye*), because it was thought that diseases of the aforesaid patients who were coming from Asakir-i Mansure to Maltepe Hospital might spread, and it was necessary to keep them away from the building and care them outside the hospital. Again, in an other archive document, dated 5 September 1834, the necessary precautions were taken on the matter of preventing contagion of the disease appeared in Yedikule Slaughterhouse, it was deemed convenient that the workers who were working in the slaughterhouse should work outside and tents and other necessary materials were given to these people.

In the archive document, dated 14 May 1837 (12), it was mentioned that the 62 officers and soldiers from Asakir-i Mansure died between the dates 9 March and 6 April 1837 in Maltepe and Sakizagaci

Hospitals, and the funeral expenses were paid by managers of the hospitals. The total cost of the funerals expenses was 1863 piastres. It is also mentioned that after 509 piastres on the corpses were taken out, the remaining 1394 piastres would be paid by the treasury of the Army. In the document, we see the names and the hometowns of the dead people, the amount of the money on them, and 27 piastres were spent for each funeral.

### **The Names, Cadre and Salaries of the Staff Working in that Period**

The number of the patients who died in a month, patients who were on a diet or not, patients who came to the hospital and recovered, the number of the patients came from Asakir-i Mansure and their health conditions and the personnel charged in Maltepe Hospital were given in the archive document, dated 1835 (13). According to this document;

Personnel on duty  
 Chief Physician, Assistant Chief Physician  
 Imam, Secretary Specialist Physician  
 Assistant Surgeon, Pharmacist  
 Distributor, Guard  
 Laundryman, Personnel  
 Servant  
 Were pointed.

It was stated in the document, dated 22 October 1835 (28 Cemaziyelahir 1251) (6), that in Maltepe Hospital, where 1104 sick officers and soldiers stayed, an inspection was made, and it was seen that all the wards were in perfect condition, all the patients were asked how their health conditions were, patients' files were put for each patient, appropriate drugs were prepared according to their disease, the patients were given these drugs by personnel and patients' feet were washed with warm water every day, the personnel served them voluntarily, patients' beds were frequently changed and the clothes worn by the patients were clean, food and drinks were served to the patients who were on diet and those who were not on diet. It was pointed in the report that everything was perfect.

In addition to Maltepe Military Hospital's services of treatment, we also see that all kinds of drugs and

treatment stuff of the military troops which were tied to the hospital or patients who were in the hospital were supplied by the hospital pharmacy.

In a document, dated 11 May 1837 (5 Safer 1253) (14), the sealed and signed books in which the amounts and the kinds of medical stuff were stated should be sent with an official writing to Ahmet Efendi who was assigned as a principal and chief physician to Maltepe Hospital. These books were necessary for the Asakir-i Mansure infantry regiments and cavalry regiments that went to the hospitals in Istanbul or provinces by duty, also, it was stated that the contents and compounds of the drugs which were demanded by Ahmet Efendi's examination would be prepared in Maltepe Hospital and would be given. According to the same document, the drugs which would be given to the Asakir-i Mansure regiments that were on duty in provinces and the hospitals in Istanbul would be demanded according to the seasons and numbers of the patients every month or once in three months and it is seen that some precautions were taken against overusing of drugs.

### **Maltepe Military Hospital Reform Studies And Pharmacy**

Dr. Rigler and Dr. Eder, who were invited from Austria to make reform in military hospitals where the mortality rates were high in Istanbul in 1842 and they found out that the drugs in those hospitals and their distribution were bad. As it was understood from the article which was published in a German newspaper by Austrian Dr. Bernard there was a pharmacy in Mekteb-i Tibbiye-i Sahane in Galatasaray in 1843 and according to the regulations in those days, free drugs were distributed to the poor patients in big amounts. It is supposed that the drug store in the Medical School might be the "Pharmacie Centrale" whose name was frequently seen in the work of Bernard called "Pharmacopoea Ottomana". Dr. Bernard says a big amount of money is saved with this "Pharmacie Centrale" which meets the drug needs of all the military hospitals.

The students who were studying at the Military Medical School were needed to complete their 6-year education with a practice in pharmacy or hospital to obtain their diplomas. In this way, the student was

educated in pharmacy after a 3-year practice and according to his achievement in the examinations of Turkish and Arithmetic in French. With this diploma, he was authorised to run a pharmacy either in the hospitals of Istanbul or provinces (15).

In 1843, practical pharmacy courses started at the Military Medical School for the first time. So, with the joining of these qualified pharmacists who were examined at the Military Medical School to the military hospitals and troops the needs in this area were covered.

In 1842, Sultan Abdülmecid applied to the government of Austria and requested two physicians to be sent to Turkey. The reason of this request was to inspect the unbelievably high mortality rates in Maltepe Military Hospital. The two chief assistants who were chosen for this reason were Dr. Eder and Dr. Rigler.

These two physicians arrived in Istanbul on 14 October 1842, and on the next day they started to their duties at Maltepe Military Hospital, which was built by Sultan Mahmud in 1826.

In 1844, the Minister of Defence accepted the *Regulation of Military Hospitals*, arranged by Dr. Rigler and Dr. Eder.

On 20 January 1844, Dr. Eder died from meningitis, and two new physicians, Dr. Reinwald and Dr. Warthhicler, were appointed as assistants to Dr. Rigler.

The great achievements of Dr. Rigler in this area provided his promotion to the posts of general inspector of health and counsellor in Ministry of Defence.

Some of the military hospitals were the institutions of training for the graduates of Military Medical School at the same time. In these institutions, all the young physicians had to practice under the supervision of the clinic chiefs. Only after this training, young physicians, according to their abilities, were appointed to battalions, batteries or hospitals.

Because of the lack of place, it was impossible to increase the number of beds which had already been

increased three times since Dr. Rigler came. So, between the years 1844 and 1849, a new military hospital was built with the suggestion of Dr. Rigler, and in this way, the capacity of bed was increased to 2000.

Dr. Rigler replaced the practical pharmacists in all the military hospitals with pharmacists who graduated from the Pharmacy class of the Medical School after 1840 (16,17).

### **Maltepe Military Hospital Pharmacy**

When the personnel of Maltepe Military Hospital is examined, it is seen that there was a pharmacist.

The pharmacy which was situated in the main building behind the entrance door served in providing medicines for patients for years.

We see these services in the below mentioned documents in the Ottoman Archives of Prime Ministry.

24 November 1833 (11 Recep 1249) (18)

25 September 1834 (21 Cemaziyelevvel 1250) (19)

20 August 1835 (25 Rebiyulahir 1251) (20)

**For instance**, in the archive document, dated 22 March 1836 (4 Zilhicce 1251) (21), we see that Brigadier Iskender, who was in the guard of Iskodra, says that one-month needs of medical drugs of 1st and 2nd regiments cannot be enough, so he wants the necessary drugs for the aforesaid regiments to be given from Asakir-i Muntazama-i Hazret-i Sahane Pharmacy, and the compositions to be sent after they are produced in Maltepe Hospital. In this document, the lists and amounts of 80 pieces of drugs and 95 types of compounds which were produced, prepared and arranged in Maltepe Hospital are given.

#### **Some of these are:**

The list of pharmacy stuff and various drugs, and the goods which were bought monthly for organised soldiers:

**LATIN**

Oleum Amygdalae  
Acide Sulfurique  
Oleum Ricini  
Oleum Bergamide  
Adeps Suillus  
Oleum menthae piperitia  
Oleum Rosmarinus

Aqua Cinamomi  
Aqua Aurantii Floris  
Aqua Menthae  
Aqua Rosae  
Aqua Laurocerasi

Folium Malvae  
Flos Desoufre  
Convolvulus Seammonia  
Flos Tiliae

Melissa Officinalis  
Coniummaculatum  
Digitalis Purpuea

Extractum de Cique  
Extractum Belladone  
Semen Hyoscyami Albus  
Fructus Rosae

Radix Liquiritae  
Rhizoma Graminis  
Radix Violae  
Radix Heleniim

Chlorure de Sodium  
Sulfur Lotum

Gummi Cinchoane  
Gummi Arabic

**TURKISH****A- YAĞLAR (OILS)**

Badem Yağı 24 Kıyye - 67.2 lb.s  
Zac Yağı 120 Kıyye - 336 lb.s  
Hint yağı 33 Kıyye - 92.4 lb.s  
Bergaman yağı 307 Kıyye - 859.6 lb.s  
Domuz yağı 147 Kıyye - 411.6 lb.s  
Nane yağı 259 Kıyye - 725.2 lb.s  
Biberiye yağı 500 Kıyye - 1400 lb.s

**B- AROMATİK SULAR (AROMATIC WATER)**

Tarçın Suyu 110 Kıyye - 308 lb.s  
Çiçek Suyu 39 Kıyye - 109.2 lb.s  
Nane Suyu 39 Kıyye - 109.2 lb.s  
Gül Suyu 32 Kıyye - 89.6 lb.s  
Taflan Suyu 12 Kıyye - 33.6

**C- ÇİÇEKLER (FLOWERS)**

Ebe gümece 240 Kıyye - 67.2 ,,  
Kükürt Çiçeği 279 Kıyye - 781.2  
Çadır Çiçeği 150 Kıyye - 420  
Ihlamur Çiçeği 107 Kıyye - 299.6

**D- OTLAR (HERBS)**

Melissa Otu 39 Kıyye - 109.2  
Baldıran Otu 4 Kıyye - 11.2  
Yüksük Otu 30 Kıyye - 84

**E- EKSTRELER (EXTRACTS)**

Baldıran Hulasası 1 Kıyye - 2.8-  
Belladon 2 Kıyye - 5.6  
Banotu 2 Kıyye - 5.6  
Kuşburnu 50 Kıyye - 140

**F- KÖKLER (ROOTS)**

Meyan kökü 36 Kıyye - 100.8  
Ayrık 139 Kıyye - 389.2  
Menekşe 9 Kıyye - 25.2  
Andız Otu 139 Kıyye - 389.2

**G- TUZLAR (SALTS)**

Sodyum 8 Kıyye - 22.4  
Sublüme 8 Kıyye - 22.4

**H- ZAMKLAR (NATURAL RESINS)**

Kına kına Zamkı 370 Kıyye - 1036  
Zamkı Arabi 39 Kıyye - 109.2

		<b>K- BALMUMU (WAX)</b>	
Wax		Balmumu	92 Kıyye - 257.6
White Wax		Beyaz Balmumu	76 Kıyye - 212.8
		<b>L- TOHUM (SEED)</b>	
Fructus Apii		Kereviz Tohumu	10 Kıyye - 28
Semen Lini		Keten Tohumu	363 Kıyye - 1016.4
Semen Hyoscyami		Ban Tohumu	1
Semen Sinapsis Nigrae		Hardal Tohumu	10
		<b>DİGERLERİ (OTHERS)</b>	
Vinegar		Sirke	96 Kıyye
Rosae Vinegar		Gül Sirkesi	2 Kıyye
Vinegar of Lead		Kurşun Sirkesi	10 Kıyye
		Taflan yakısı	16 Kıyye
		Frenk yakısı	

**THE LIST ON 20 AUGUST 1835 (25 REBUL AHIR)****LATIN**

Radix Liquiritiae  
 Ammonium Chloride  
 Sirop de Moms  
 Semen Sinapsis Nigrae  
 Soufre  
 Carbonate Sodii  
 Sennae  
 Salvia Officinalis  
 Tea  
 Apis Mellifera  
 Melissa  
 Ricinus  
 Oleum Olivarum  
 Pimpinella Anisum  
  
 P. Asetfenatin  
 Opium  
 Oleum Terebentim

**TURKISH**

Meyan Kökü 10 Kıyye  
 Nişadir 6 Kıyye  
 Dut Şurubu 150 Kıyye  
 Hardal Tohumu 10 Kıyye  
 Kükürt 80 Kıyye  
 Soda ½ Kıyye  
 Sinameki 25 Kıyye  
 Ada Çayı 1 Kıyye  
 Çay 2 Kıyye  
 Bal Arısı 1 Sise (bottle)  
 Melissa 15 Adet (pieces)  
 Hint Yağı 8 Kıyye  
 Zeytin yağı 200 Kıyye  
 Anason 150 Dirhem  
 (drachms)  
 Phenacetinum 20 Dirhem  
 Afyon 2 Kıyye  
 Terebentin yağı 1 Kıyye

### Conclusion

Maltepe Military Hospital and pharmacy were built with the suggestion of Chief Physician Mustafa Behcet Efendi during the reign of Sultan Mahmut II and they provided the demand of the hospital and the troops around for many years.

In 1842, Sultan Abdulmecid gave a lot of importance to the hospital and that's why many physicians were brought from abroad.

According to the documents of Ottoman Archives of Prime Ministry nearly in all the present drugs, herbal drugs are seen and it is stated that the synthetic drugs are less.

It was pointed that herbal drugs were provided from our country and some herbal oils were brought from abroad and they were sent to the troops by bottling rather than packaging.

The toxic drugs were used a little for skin diseases and because of the abundance of herbal drugs and the scarcity of synthetic drugs, some of the formulas containing synthetic formulation that were made in pharmacy laboratories were seen in prescriptions. Nowadays, herbal originated formulas which were used in the past and are still used today are not made in pharmacies in Turkey. In the light of new discoveries, they are replaced by the formulas which contain synthetic substances. In Turkey, doctors' prescriptions that contain synthetic substances are now made in Turkey.

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