

A first look at the history of Turkish veterinary medicine with Mehmet Âkif (Ersoy)

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ABSTRACT

The history of the Agricultural and Civil Veterinary School in Halkalı, where Mehmet Âkif was a student first and then served as a lecturer, is in a very important place in terms of teaching veterinary medicine and agriculture in Turkey. The opening of the Halkalı Agricultural College and the opening of the Civil Veterinary College coincided with the same time period. The Civil Veterinary College was the partner of the Agricultural College opened in Halkalı in the first years. The Civilian Veterinary College was later moved to Sultanahmet, and agricultural education was continued in Halkalı. The teaching staff of the Halkalı Higher Agricultural College has published a journal called “Halkalı Ziraat Mekteb-i Âlisi Mecmuası”. Mehmet Âkif Bey (Ersoy), who was on the teaching staff of the College at that time, wrote an article containing the history of the School in the first issue of the Magazine. The article provides information about the Halkalı Agricultural College, as well as information about the beginning of the teaching of Civil Veterinary College. In the article, besides the information about Halkalı Higher Agricultural School, information about the beginning of civilian veterinary medicine education is also given. In this study, the relationship of Mehmet Âkif Ersoy’s article, which was determined to be related to the history of the profession, with the research conducted on the teaching of veterinary medicine in Turkey and the history of agricultural teaching, was analyzed. The article, which contains information about Âkif’s profession, was evaluated in terms of the history of veterinary medicine and presented to the field of science history and research ethics.

Mehmet Âkif (Ersoy) ile Türk Veteriner Hekimliği Tarihine bir ilk bakış

ÖZ

Mehmet Âkif’in, önce öğrencisi olduğu, sonra öğretim elemanı olarak görev yaptığı Halkalı’daki Ziraat ve Sivil Veteriner Okulu tarihi Türkiye’de veteriner hekimliği ve ziraat öğretimi açısından çok önemli bir yerdedir. Halkalı Ziraat Okulunun açılışı ile Sivil Veteriner Okulunun açılışı aynı zaman dilimine rastlamıştır. Sivil Veteriner Okulu ilk yıllarda Halkalıda açılan Ziraat Okulunun paydaşı olmuştur. Sivil Veteriner Okulu daha sonra Sultanahmet’e taşınmış, Halkalıda ziraat öğretimi sürdürülmüştür. Halkalı Yüksek Ziraat Okulunun öğretim kadrosu “Halkalı Ziraat Mekteb-i Âlisi Mecmuası” adında bir dergi yayınlamıştır. O dönem Okulun öğretim kadrosunda yer alan Mehmet Âkif (Ersoy), Derginin ilk sayısında Okulun tarihçesini içeren bir makale yazmıştır. Makalede Halkalı Ziraat Okulu’na ilişkin bilgilerin yanı sıra sivil veteriner hekimlik öğretiminin başlangıcına ait bilgiler de verilmiştir. Âkif’in makalesi, hem veteriner hekimliği öğretimi tarihi hem de ziraat öğretimi tarihi ile ilgili bazı çalışmalarda da kullanılmıştır. Bu çalışmada, Mehmet Âkif Ersoy’un meslek tarihi ile ilgili olduğu belirlenen makalesinin Türkiye’de veteriner hekimliği öğretimi ve ziraat öğretimi tarihi hakkında yapılmış araştırmalarla ilişkisi analiz edilmiştir. Âkif’in veteriner hekimliği öğretimine ilişkin bilgiler içeren makalesi, veteriner hekimliği tarihi açısından değerlendirilerek bilim tarihi ve araştırma etiği alanına sunulmuştur.

INTRODUCTION

Mehmet Âkif Ersoy, a veterinarian, also served as a lecturer in, Literature at the Darülfünun¹; Literary of Faculty, Literature of Ottoman (Dinçer, 2011), Official Correspondence Language (Çeşme, 2014b) at the Halkalı Agricultural College, and Language of Turkish at the Farm Machinist School (Dinçer, 2011). Âkif, who served on the teaching staff at these institutions, was also appointed as a lecturer of Health Police Code at the Civil Veterinary College, at the Official Correspondence

of Veterinary, at the Law of Commercial and at the Law of Medicine, but resigned before starting to work at this School (Dinçer, 2011).

Âkif has also served in the “Ottoman Society of Veterinary Scientific” (Osmanlı Cemiyet-i İlmiye-i Baytariyesi), the first non-governmental organization of the veterinary medicine profession in Turkey, and in “The Journal of Veterinary Scientific” (Mecmua-i Fünûn-i Baytariye), the publication organ of this Association (Anonim, 1908, Dinçer, 1964, Dinçer, 1965).

¹Nowadays İstanbul University.

Âkif was also the President of the “Veterinary Medicine College Alumni Association” founded in 1910, and together with Cafer Fahri (Dikmen) and Civani Bey, they published the “Veterinary Science Journal” (Risale-i Fenn-i Baytari) (Dinçer, 1964).

The lack of a civilian veterinarians in the Ottoman geography to provide health services to the animals of the people has been a serious obstacle to preventing epidemics; it was officially established in 1867 that it would be possible to eliminate this problem by expanding the veterinary class within the Military Academy (Tan, 2017). In the following period, according to Dinçer (Dinçer, 1976), the necessity of training civilian veterinarians in Turkey was stated in the journal called “Vasita-i Servet”, which is the first periodical publication about veterinary medicine (Anonim 1880a, Anonim 1880b). In the aforementioned journal, it is stated that permission was requested from the sultan to open the Civil Veterinary School together with the Agricultural School in Ayamama Farm in 1881 (Anonim 1880c). Information on the establishment of a commission to determine issues such as the management of the School, the curriculum, and the functioning of a new veterinary school has been given in the Civilian Medical College and the decision has been made and the decision has been submitted to the Sultan (Anonim, 1888a). In the second meeting held afterwards, Alfort Veterinary College was taken as an example, the admission conditions of the students to be admitted to the school, the education period of the school, the curriculum and the need for instructors were determined and decided. It has been stated that this Commission will convene again and that the certificate to be prepared as a result of this meeting will be submitted to the Ministry of Education (Anonim, 1888b). At the meeting of the Commission on April 21, 1888; the conditions set for the students to be admitted to the school, the duration of the school and the courses were determined. It has been stated that the first two classes of the school can take classes at the Civilian Medical College; the last two classes will be appropriate to be held on a farm close to Istanbul and where it will be easy for faculty members to reach. It has been stated that it will be appropriate for the students who will study at the Medical School to appoint 11 teaching staff and 12 assistants for their teaching and management jobs (Anonim 1888b). A commission was established for the opening of a Civil Veterinary College, in which Mehmed Ali Bey was also appointed. The Commission has prepared a protocol and stated that the practice of the Pasteur method vaccination should be taught to veterinarians and municipal doctors (Birinci, 2018a, Birinci, 2018b, Erk&Dinçer, 1970). It has been stated that veterinarians are needed to treat and prevent the spread of animal diseases that occur throughout the country, and for this, a veterinary class should be created at the Civilian Medical College (Birinci, 2018a, Birinci, 2018b, Erk&Dinçer, 1970, Kaya Doğanay, F. 2017). It has been emphasized that the veterinary medicine class to be opened will need four years of education, and it is imperative to purchase a farm where the practice can be done in order for the teaching to be good. Mehmet Ali Bey stated that since the purchase of a farm and the construction of a school will be costly, a part of the Agricultural College, most of which has been completed on the Halkalı Farm, can be allocated to veterinary clas-

ses (Birinci, 2018a, Birinci, 2018b, Kaya Doğanay, 2017). This proposal was considered appropriate, and it was decided that the two classes that will learn almost the same lessons given at the Medical School should continue teaching at this School, and the last two classes that should practice on animals every day should continue teaching at the School in Halkalı. It has been decided that the students who will be taught at the Medical College will be boarding during the day and the classes who will be taught on the farm will be boarding (Erk&Dinçer, 1970, Bekman, 1940, Erk, 1966, Subhi Edhem, 1918). And thus, the first students of Veterinary College started teaching in the Medical College in Ahrkapı district in 1889 during the day (Dinçer, 1976, Birinci, 2018a, Birinci, 2018b, Erk&Dinçer, 1970, Kaya Doğanay, 2017, Bekman, 1940, Erk, 1966, Subhi Edhem, 1918, Tüzdil, 1955).

A draft law on the opening of an Agricultural College was prepared and submitted to the Ministry by Amasyan Efendi, a member of the Assembly of the Ministry of Trade and Agriculture (Demirel&Kaya Doğanay, 2011, Yıldız, 2012). The construction of the School was started in 1884 under the supervision of a commission established under the name of the Preparatory Commission within the Mining Council and headed by District Governor Cin Izzet Bey, but it could not be completed (Çeşme, 2014a, Demirel&Kaya Doğanay, 2011, Yıldız, 2012). A Commission including Mehmed Ali Bey and Agricultural Counsellor Ağatun Efendi was established to finish the construction (Birinci, 2018a, Birinci, 2018b, Demirel&Kaya Doğanay, 2011, Yıldız, 2012). After the construction completed by the efforts of this Commission, 19 students in Civilian Veterinary Classes who were opened at the School of Civil Medicine in Halkalı were transferred in 1891 and the first agricultural students were enrolled a year later, and the School began teaching under the name of “Halkalı Agricultural and Veterinary College” (Birinci, 2018a, Birinci, 2018b, Demirel&Kaya Doğanay, 2011, Yıldız, 2012). The school in Halkalı became an independent agricultural school in 1894 and graduated its first graduates in 1896. Foresters were also trained at this School until 1910 (Çeşme, 2014a, Yıldız, 2012).

It is aimed to present Mehmet Âkif's article about the School, which he graduated from and later worked as a lecturer, in the field of veterinary medicine history, by evaluating it in terms of the history of veterinary medicine teaching in Turkey. Akif's article on the history of Turkish veterinary medicine was compared with similar studies and analyzed. The article has been opened for discussion in the fields of history of science and research ethics.

MATERIAL and METHOD

The main material of the study is the title of “School Location, Structures, History”, which is located between the second and tenth pages of the first issue of Halkalı Ziraat Mektebi Âlisi Mecmuası magazine, which started to be published in April 1917. The research has been supported by research conducted on the history of veterinary medicine teaching and agricultural teaching in Turkey. Transcription and transliteration of the article written and published in Arabic letters were made, and document analysis and content analysis methods were followed from qualitative research methods.

RESULTS

Halkalı Agricultural College Journal; No 1, April 1917

The Location of the School, Buildings, Its History, Scholar Akif Bey (p.2-10) (Figure 1-9)

Âkif started his article by giving the geographical structure

The width of this rectangular-shaped view is 123.5 m, and the length is 137.5 meters.

The main School building has two floors, along with the ground floor. The left side of the first floor is divided into classrooms and students' rest, in turn, there is a bright corridor with a view of the surroundings, and on the right side there are classrooms with rooms for the principal, teacher and employe-

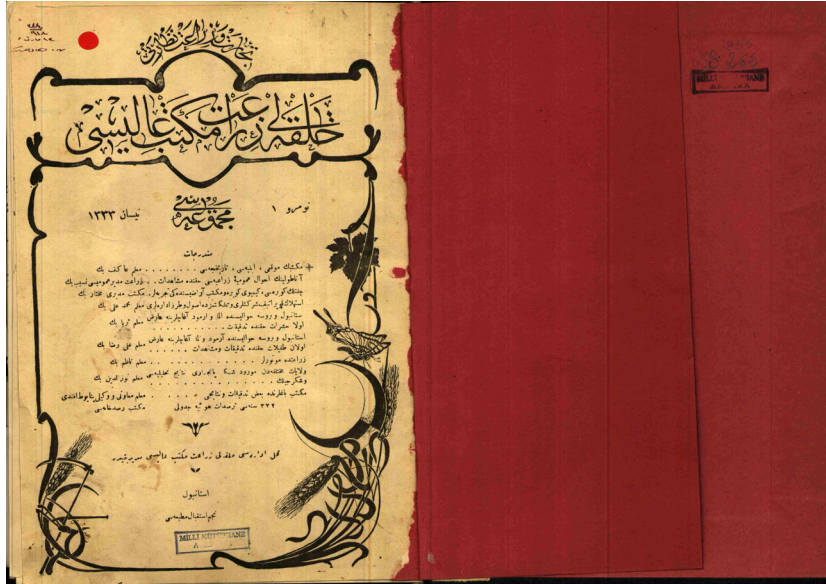


Figure 1. Halkalı Agricultural College Journal; No 1, April 1917 (Cover).

of the location where the School is located, its distance from nearby settlements and metric details. Halkalı Agricultural College is located in the north-west of İstanbul on a hill 112 meters above the sea. It is located 16 km from İstanbul, 9 km

es. On the second floor there is a large dormitory dedicated to students on the left side, and on the right side there are bedrooms belonging to teachers and employees, as well as rooms for studying botany and plant diseases, zoology and agricultural pests (atelier).

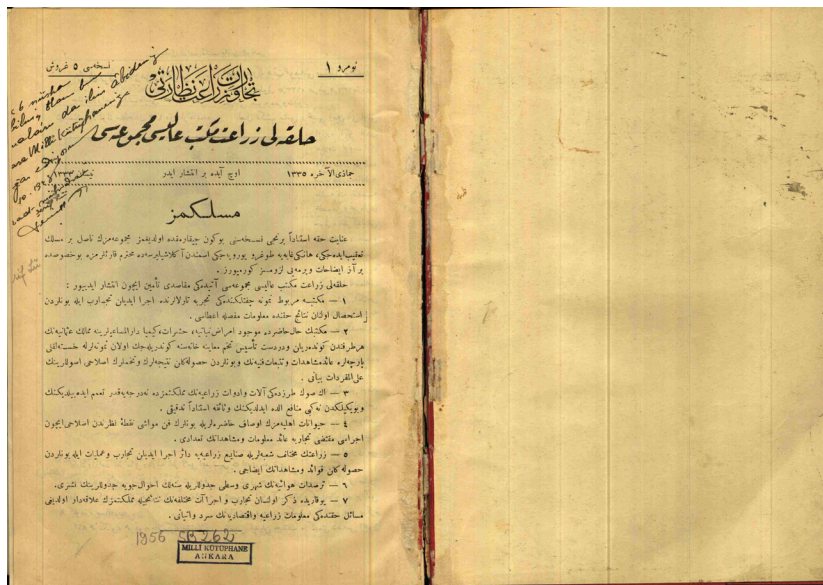


Figure 2. Halkalı Agricultural College Journal; No 1, April 1917, p. 1

from the nearest railway station, Ayastefanos². At its location, three basic structures were mentioned, and the existence of the main building of the School, the sample farm and out-buildings belonging to the farm were explained on the land.

In the eastern wing of the building there are two chemical and assay houses, one dedicated to teachers and the other to students, as well as an amphitheater, soil science atelier, carpenter and a spacious leveling workshop organized for the

²Nowadays Yeşilköy.

new Farm Machinist Department. On the north side there is a dairy house, a machine building, and horse, cow, and ox barns. There is also a warehouse, a haystack, a repair shop, a laundry room, a hammam in the west wing. There is a poultry house

of Cevdet Pasha to the Trade Supervision, before which there was no such institution and institution manager. Seeing that it would not be enough to send students to Europe alone to ensure the development of a scientific, modern farming, gra-



Figure 3. Halkali Agricultural College Journal; No 1, April 1917, pp. 2-3.

and an observatory 15 meters ahead of this facade. Further on, cattle cowhouse, sheep corral with a barn. The land located on the south side includes gardens of plants and fruit trees, as well as various trees and American vine rods and specimen vineyards. The land facing the northeast facade is covered with a forest of pine nut trees. The fertilizer storage area is on the north side. A kilometer from the southern facade there are vegetable gardens on the southwestern border. The total land area of the farm is shown below*.

dually abandoning agriculture in the old ways, Amasyan Efendi thought about creating an institution that had not existed in our country until then, and worked hard to turn it from request to action. Finally, it was decided to establish an agricultural school during the Ministry of the late Suphi Pasha.

In addition, all the farms close to İstanbul, such as İncirli, Ayamama, and the land is quite suitable for agriculture, were applied to so that both the teachers who will be assigned to the teaching post can easily go back and forth and be an excellent example for the public. But, unfortunately, none of them could be bought. However, those who were in favor of the establishment of the agricultural school were in a very pitiful minority compared to those who were against it. For this, it was necessary either to abandon this initiative, or to take a lenient attitude to the choice of land. Seeing this situation, Amasyan Efendi bought the school's land from Rukiye Hanım, the wife of the Egyptian Khurshid Pasha, for 2000 liras. A commission was created under the name of the Preparatory Commission under the same Ministry. Its chairman was District Governor Cin İzzet Bey. This person is the General Staff Major General late İzzet Pasha, who later founded the Melinite Institution in Zeytinburnu. The construction was started under the supervision of the Commission mentioned in the plan prepared by Amasyan Efendi. Since the first part of the school and the allowance were also over, the building remained empty for two years.

Two years later, during the Ministry of Zihni Pasha, another Commission consisting of Agricultural Director Nuri, Agricultural Bank Accountant Zuhdi, Veterinary Affairs Consultant Mehmed Ali Bey, Agricultural Inspector Ağaton Efendi was established, and the rest of the buildings were completed

Agricultural land and pasture	3121.5
Stony land where Agriculture cannot be done	2508
Vineyard, Garden, Nursery, Buildings	128
Forest, Meadow	164
Stone Quarry	63
	5984.5

*See Figure 3

It has been stated that the soils of Halkali are a Miocene Period layer. The soil is clayey-calcareous, clayey, or clayey with dirt. The non-agricultural part is in pasture form. It is curious that this situation was not taken into account when the Halkali hill was "absolutely not conducive"³ to the establishment of such a higher education institution and a sample farm related to agriculture, both the location and the soil structure of its land, and this is a curious issue. Therefore, we need "to settle" this point at the beginning of the work. Amasyan Efendi first expressed the idea of opening an Agricultural School in our country and training specialists in this field. He graduated from the Grignon National Agronomique School of France and was appointed Director of Agriculture at the time of the Ministership

³The statements given in italics in quotation marks belong to the author. This important criticism, honestly made and owned by the author, wanted to be especially emphasized for the reader.

through this Commission. The most valuable and hardworking member of this second Commission, Mehmed Ali Bey, was appointed as a Veterinary Affairs Consultant at the suggestion of Amasyan Efendi when he was an instructor at the Military Veterinary College “General Diseases and Preventive

to a serious loss of agricultural wealth during the Ministry of the late Zihni Pasha, and was raised at a Cabinet meeting. As a result, it was decided to open a special class at the Civil Medical College to teach the practice of Pasteur method vaccination. After that, a commission including Mehmed Ali Bey was es-



Figure 4. Halkalı Agricultural College Journal; No 1, April 1917, pp. 4-5

Health” at the Ministry of Commerce and then appointed as a Veterinary Affairs Inspectorate.

tablished within the Medical College to be taken care of by notifying the relevant departments with a notification.

After the construction work of the Halkalı Agricultural College was completed, the first students of Civil Veterinary

Mehmet Ali Bey stated that it is “unacceptable” to teach those who have nothing to do with human or veterinary me-



Figure 5. Halkalı Agricultural College Journal; No 1, April 1917, p. 6

College were enrolled in the school. As follows: from time to time, the attention of the Government was drawn to animal diseases, which caused great damage to the country by becoming an epidemic, killing thousands of animals and leading

dicine the practice of the Pasteur method vaccination, which was decided to be taught and disseminated by the Council of Ministers, cannot be accepted.

Stating that infectious diseases cannot be prevented by such a method, measures to be taken against infectious animal diseases will only be successful thanks to veterinarians (however

cal School students, and courses such as anatomy-physiology could also be taught, The first two classes of the School to be opened could be taught in a Civilian Medical College du-



Figure 6. Halkalı Agricultural College Journal; No 1, April 1917, p. 7

took the teaching of animal health), and a “Civilian Veterinary College” should be opened for this, Mehmed Ali Bey submitted a proposal to the Commission on this issue.

Although the Commission found the proposal very appropriate, it stated that it was impossible to open a four-class school

ring the regular school days and the other two classes could be completed in Halkalı Agricultural College that would be completed by then. The Commission has decided to prepare a detailed report on this issue, considering Mehmet Ali Bey’s proposal and explanation appropriate. The reasoned opinion



Figure 7. Halkalı Agricultural College Journal; No 1, April 1917, p. 8

due to the lack of the Ministry’s budget.

In addition, Mehmet Ali Bey suggested that courses such as physics, chemistry, botany, zoology could be taken with Medi-

written and prepared by Mehmet Ali Bey was submitted to the Central authority and, an order of the Sultan was issued based on the grounds that the legal structure was also deemed

appropriate. After the construction of the Halkalı Agricultural College was completed, the students of the Civil Veterinary College were taken to the School for the first time.

logy courses from their own faculty members.

Of the 25 students enrolled in the Civilian Veterinary Scho-



Figure 8. Halkalı Agricultural College Journal; No 1, April 1917, p. 9

The upper classes of the Civil Medical College were receiving their education in the building located in Ahırkapı, which was insufficient for the physical structure of this building even for Medical College students. However, provided that they are

of them went to the School in Halkalı, which was completed in 1891, two years later, as a boarder in 1891. Agricultural students were admitted to the School a year later, and the official

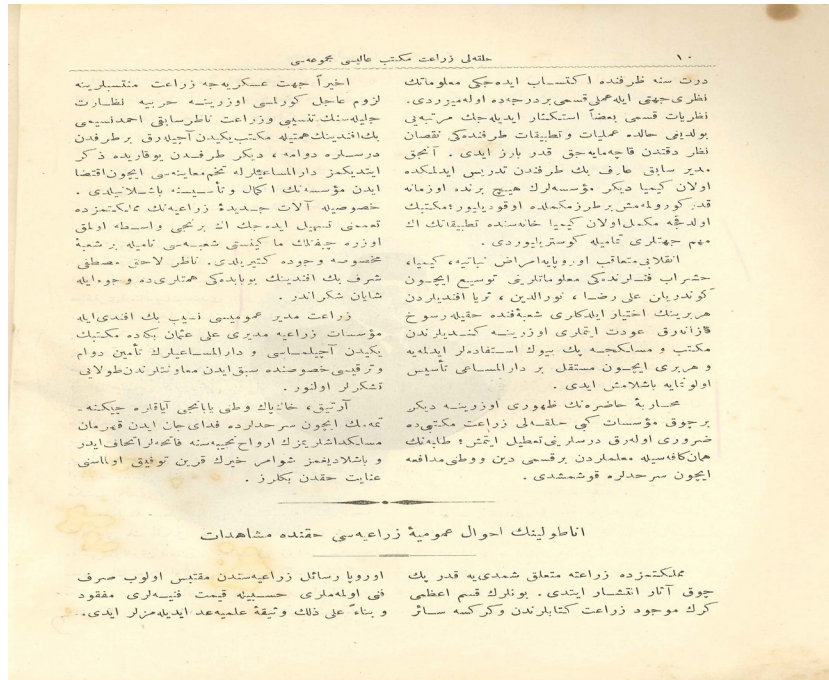


Figure 9. Halkalı Agricultural College Journal; No 1, April 1917, p. 10

graduates of Civil Secondary School, the registered veterinary students continued their courses with the Medical College students in the said building and only took anatomy and physio-

opening of the Agricultural School was also held after agricultural students were enrolled. The school is also called "Halkalı Agricultural and Veterinary College".

Mehmet Âkif stated in the inscription decked on the School that agriculture depends on animals such as cattle and sheep; that the building combines these two professions that are very useful for the country is expressed in a “poetic” language and transferred what is written in the inscription to his article.

Mehmed Ali Bey, who founded the Civil Veterinary College, was also appointed as the first Director of the School, which was first named the “Halkalı Veterinary College”, and a year later the “Halkalı Agricultural and Veterinary College”. When he becomes a director, his military rank is lieutenant colonel.

Before the agricultural student was admitted to the school, İstrati Efendi was appointed as the Second Director and Zakaryan Efendi was appointed as the farm manager. İstrati Efendi taught “French and Cattle and Sheep Farming” and Zakaryan Efendi taught “General Agriculture” to Veterinary College students.

Nuri Bey was the Director of Agriculture when Halkalı Veterinary College was opened. İstrati Efendi was first appointed Director of Statistics and then retired. After Nuri Bey moved to the General Directorate of Editorial Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Agricultural Directorate was also assigned to Cemal Bey, the General Director of the Ziraat Bank of the period, with an additional assignment. Cemal Bey was present as the General Director at the official opening of the Halkalı Agricultural and Veterinary College. During the period of Cemal Bey Agricultural Directorate, a five-branch Board was established in the Ministry under the name of “Agricultural Science Board” (Ziraat Heyet-i Fenniyesi); an inspector was appointed at the head of the branches. Aram Efendi has also been made the senior manager of this Board. Agaton Efendi, Mazhar Bey, Vahan Efendi were the inspectors of each branch. Mehmed Ali Bey was also appointed as the Fifth Branch Inspector, who was engaged only in veterinary affairs.

The Forest, Mining and Agricultural Branches were merged and a Ministry was established in Rumi 1309⁴ (1893-1894); Selim Efendi, who was later promoted to the rank of General, was appointed Minister. At the same time, the Scientific Council of Agriculture was completely removed from the Ministry of Commerce and given to the new Ministry.

Veterinary Class students from the School in Halkalı graduated from two semesters in 1893 and 1894 and received diplomas.

The lack of physical capacity of the Medical School required that the daytime veterinary classes in the Medical School be moved to the Halkalı Veterinary College on a mandatory basis and that these classes be transferred to boarding education. Since physical disability is also present in the School building in Halkalı, it has created the problem of housing two eight-class Schools in this building. For this reason, the veterinary classrooms were moved to a rented building on Cüdi Square in İstanbul; thus, the Civil Veterinary College became a four-class co-educational and boarding decoupled School.

After the Civil Veterinary College was brought to İstanbul from Halkalı, Mehmed Ali Bey continued his duties as the

Director and Branch Inspector of this School. Mazhar Bey was appointed as the Director of Halkalı Agricultural College. After Mazhar Bey, İstrati Efendi was appointed as the Director of the School and Refik Bey was appointed as the Deputy Director. İstrati Efendi was appointed as the General Director of Agriculture, and Refik Bey became the Director, and Su'ad bey was appointed as his deputy. After Refik Bey became the Second Director of Ziraat Bank, Chemist Arif Bey, who has been teaching chemistry since the opening of the school, became the Director. After Arif Bey, this task was given to Muhtar Bey

The first graduates of the Halkalı Agricultural School received their diplomas in 1896. From then on, until the beginning of the war⁵, the School graduated twenty, thirty students every year. Forestry education was also provided to the students at this School, and the Halkalı Agricultural College trained the forest officers until the Forestry College was established near Büyükdere.

The level of education of the Halkalı Agricultural College is quite high compared to the education of the period in the country. In addition, it has been stated that although theoretical courses are given at a high level in the school due to the fact that the students enrolled in the School have received different education before higher education and that all the needs of the Agricultural College have not been completed, the applications of the courses remain noticeably incomplete. Besides, it has been stated that the chemistry course given by the previous Principal of the School, Arif Bey, is more advanced than the courses of many institutions. The most important aspects of the application in the excellent chemistry laboratory of the school have been fully demonstrated to the student.

After the revolution⁶ Ali Rıza, Nureddin and Süreyya Efendi, who were sent to Europe to increase their knowledge in the fields of plant diseases, chemistry and entomology, made quite use of their professions and schools upon their return by gaining expertise in their chosen field of science, and a special working unit was established for each of them.

Like many other institutions, the Halkalı Agricultural College, like the beginning of the war, Decommissioned its classes on a mandatory basis, almost all of its students and some of its teaching staff rushed to the fronts to defend religion and the motherland. Upon the urgent and compulsory need for those who studied Agriculture during the war years, with the assistance of the Ministry of Defense and with the efforts of Ahmed Nesimi Bey, who had previously served as the Director of Agriculture, the School in Halkalı was reopened. New study units have been established at the school and intensive studies have been carried out to eliminate the deficiencies of the existing ones. A new and special branch has been opened under the name of Farm Machinist Department, especially as the first tool that will facilitate the spread of new agricultural tools in our country.

The new Minister Mustafa Şeref Bey was thanked for his efforts in this field, the Director General of Agriculture Nesib Bey and the Director of Agricultural Institutions Ali Osman

⁴Since the month is not specified in the year, Rumi calander shows the dates 1893 – 1894 as Gregorian dates.

⁵In the article, with the expression “war”, Âkif refers to the First World War.

⁶II. Constitutional Monarchy.

Bey for the start of the School's re-education, the creation and development of working units and their assistance in the lessons.

Âkif finished his article with the words "The Conquerors dedicate the souls of our heroic colleagues who sacrificed their lives at the borders so as not to trample the unblemished-homeland on foreign feet, and we expect from God to achieve the success of the good deeds we have started".

DISCUSSION

Vasıta-i Servet is the first journal in the field of veterinary medicine and agriculture, published in 1880 (Dinçer, 1976, Demir, 2017). July April 1917- July 1918, the Halkalı Agricultural College Journal was published by the faculty members of the Halkalı Agricultural College (Kadıoğlu, 2002). In Dinçer's work (Dinçer, 2011), the statement that Mehmet Âkif was a teacher at the Halkalı Agricultural College "Official Correspondence Language" in 1919 can be considered as a document indicating that the author of the article titled "Location, Buildings, History of the School", which appeared in the first issue of the journal, is Mehmet Âkif Ersoy.

After the decision to open an Agricultural College, the purchase of a farm in İstanbul for the school, information about the physical characteristics of the School and the School farm, information about the construction process of the School (Çeşme, 2014b, Demirel&Kaya Doğanay, 2011, Yıldız, 2012) coincide with the information provided by Âkif in his study. The fact that the unfinished construction of the school was highlighted in Âkif's study due to the expiration of the appropriation allocated for the school should be considered as an example related to the economic crisis (Dumont, 1995, Georgeon, 1995) seen as a result of the impact of foreign capital on the country's economy at that time.

The fact that the photos (Figure 5, Figure 6, Figure 7, Figure 8) of the administrators of the School included in the study at the Halkalı Agricultural College are in line with the names included in the study of the Çeşme (Çeşme, 2014a) can be considered as an example of Âkif's meticulous preparation of his work.

Mehmet Âkif's article also contained information about the opening of the Civil Veterinary College. Âkif's article stated that the elimination of epidemic animal diseases in the country and the fight against epidemic animal diseases will only be possible with veterinarians who have been trained in this field (Tan, 2017) was also included in Tan's study. It is noteworthy that the information in the article about the opening of the Civil Veterinary Medicine School contains close data with the information in other recent articles (Anonim, 1880a, Anonim, 1880b, Anonim, 1880c, Anonim, 1888a, Anonim, 1888b, Birinci, 2018a, Birinci, 2018b, Kaya Doğanay, 2017, Demirel&Kaya Doğanay, 2011, Yıldız, 2012).

The fact that the information provided in Mehmet Âkif's publication about forestry teaching is similar to the information in other studies (Yıldız, 2012, Çeşme, 2014b, Gümüş, 2016) can be considered as a sign that Âkif's publication is a meticulously prepared study.

Mehmet Âkif's article is included among the sources of articles and studies (Çeşme, 2014a, Kadıoğlu, 2002, Çeşme, 2014b, Melikoğlu Gölçü, 2019) related to the history of Halkalı Agricultural College and veterinary medicine teaching. It is noteworthy that the information and statements about the civilian veterinary school in the oldest book on the history of veterinary medicine written in the Latin-based Turkish alphabet (Bekman, 1940) overlap with Mehmet Âkif's work.

In Kadıoğlu's study (Kadıoğlu, 2002), it was reported that the article appeared on the two and eighth pages of the First Issue of the Journal in the information of Mehmet Âkif's article and in the bibliographic imprint information. In the bibliography lists of some articles related to veterinary medicine teaching and agricultural teaching (Çeşme, 2014a, Çeşme, 2014b, Melikoğlu Gölçü, 2019), Âkif's article is included, again, as in Kadıoğlu's study (Kadıoğlu, 2002). However; in this study, it was revealed that Âkif's article was included between the two and tenth pages of the first issue of the Halkalı Agricultural College Journal.

CONCLUSION

As a result, Mehmet Âkif's article has become a source for historical studies related to the teaching of veterinary medicine and the teaching of agriculture. The content of this article is in line with studies based on archival research conducted in the following years. It is important for Âkif to be and as a college student, a civil servant, and a teaching staff in Halkalı. Because this indicates the possibility of confirming this information with primary sources through interviews with people who took part in the opening process of Halkalı Agricultural College and Civil Veterinary College.

All these information and data shows that Âkif's article has the feature of a meticulously written, original historical study and that he left an important source for the history of Turkish veterinary medicine.

DECLARATIONS

Ethics Approval

The permission of the ethics committee is not required for this study.

Conflict of Interest

There are no conflicts of interest between the authors.

Consent for Publication

Not applicable.

Author Contributions

The entire workload of the study was fulfilled by AÖ.

Data availability

Data supporting the findings of this study are available from the responsible author upon reasonable request.

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