

A HOSPITAL IN KÜTAHYA

Dr. AYDIN SAYILI

*Assistant Professor of the History of science, University of Ankara,
Member of the Turkish Historical Society*

One of the best developed institutions of medieval Islam was the hospital¹, and Kütahya was an important city, politically and economically, as well as from the cultural standpoint. One would expect, therefore, to find that it had at least one hospital. Up to now no hospital was known to have been built in Kütahya. In the records of the Evkaf Genel Müdürlüğü (General Directory of the Turkish Waqf Endowments) I have noticed references to such a hospital. The earliest reference to it occurs in a record from the year 1251 H., i. e., from about one hundred years ago. This is only an indirect reference, however, and there exists no indication that it was functioning at that time; its waqf document had apparently long been lost in those years. For no record referring to such a document exists. One may conclude, therefore, that the hospital must have belonged to a considerably earlier period.

Here are the various waqf records which I have been able to find concerning the existence of this hospital:

Main Book No. 187 - 1/1, record No. 1561, dated 1288. From this record it is understood that the hospital was in the vicinity of the Hazâr Dînâr Mosque of Kütahya.

Main Book No. 186, record No. 1325, dated 1251, Here the above-mentioned mosque is also called the Hospital Mosque (Shifâkhâna Masjidi).

Book of Details (Tafsîl Defteri) No. 291, p. 50, record dated 17 Şafar 1259. Here too the location of of the Mospue is determined by mentioning its proximity with the Hospital.

¹ See, Ahmed Issa Bey, *L'histoire des bimaristans dans l'époque Islamique*, Caire 1929; A. Issa Bey, *Târîkh al-Bimâristânât fi'l-Islam*, Damasous 1939; A. Süheyl Ünver, *Selçuk Tababeti*, Ankara, 1940.

In "Sarı Evvel Asker Hazîne,, Book No. 417, record No. 197 dated 17 Şafar 1259, and record No. 561 also confirm the same information.

I have considered the possibility that the word may be "sa-qâkhâna,, and not "shifâkhâna,, and may thus refer to a fountain near the Hazâr Dînâr Mosque, but the waqf records are quite clear in this respect.

The mosque in question is said in these records to be located in the Balıklı Quarter of Kütahya, and in some of the records the name "Hezâr Dînâr Muḥammed Efendi,, occurs. This mosque exists today. In its inscription the founder's name is given as 'Imâd al Dîn Hazâr Dînârî, and his title reads "al amîr al sifah-sâlâr,,. We may conclude, therefore, that he was a military and administrative officer of high rank ².

The Hazâr Dînâr Mosque is one of the oldest Turkish-Moslem buildings of Kütahya; it was built in 1236 A. D. The founder had enriched the city of Kütahya with several other pious and charitable institutions. The water supply, e. g., which is still known as the "Hazreti Dînâr Suyu,, , i. e., the Water of Haḍrat-i Dînâr, owes its origin to him ³.

This quarter of Kütahya is the section of the city where the oldest buildings are located. It is even likely that the hospital was founded by Hazâr Dînârî. For, as mentioned above, we know him to have been a generous founder of pious and charitable institutions.

² İ. H. Uzunçarşılı, *Kütahya Şehri*, İstanbul 1932, p. 22-24.

³ Uzunçarşılı, loc. cit.