



THE MINISTERS OF HEALTH IN TURKEY FROM PAST TO PRESENT*

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ABSTRACT

It can be said that the Minister of Health has a crucial role in shaping health policies, provision of healthcare services, and the management and administration of health institutions. The Minister of Health has a directing role as well as inspecting and standing in health service planning of the country with his administrative position. The Ministers of Health take part in the role sometimes as a physician,

sometimes as a military man and sometimes as a political agent with regards to their administrative skills, in providing each and every of the citizen in the country with efficient and high-quality healthcare services. The purpose of this study was to reveal updated profiles of the Ministers of Health who served before and after the Republic of Turkey. In the study, an assessment was made based on the secondary data, and 3 Ministers of Health before the Republic and 49 Ministers of Health from the Republic to present were scrutinized. The first health minister of the era before the republic was Adnan Adıvar M.D. and the first health minister of the republic was Refik Saydam M.D..

1. Introduction

The development and organization of the Ministry of Health in Turkey go back to before the declaration of the Republic of Turkey. The Ottomans operated the hospitals that they took over from the Seljuk and attached the necessary importance to the health services and their administration. The head physician had

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various duties within and outside the palace in the Ottoman Empire and dealt with the health of the Sultan and dynasty and at the same he was responsible for the management of the pharmacies and five hospitals in the palace and was in the equivalent position of today's the Minister of Health. The head physician conducted his activities under Head Lala and Babüssaade Aga as responsible from the Sultan and his relatives, and under the Grand Vizier directly as a physician responsible for the health of the country. The Sultan employed people with the suggestions of the Grand Vizier (Tengilimoğlu, et al. 2012: 53).

There are many different opinions regarding when the head physician was established in Ottoman Empire (Bayat, 2008: 57). It was abolished in 1849 and the Ministry of Medicine was established instead in 1850 to run the health affairs. In 1914, administration of health services were assigned to the General Directorship of Health Affairs under the Ministry of Internal Affairs by a code accepted in the same year (Tengilimoğlu, 2012: 49). In the 19th century, the Ottoman Empire was in a struggle to meet the needs of people in the health field. For this purpose, it announced the Regulations of General Medical Administration in 1871 and thus the establishment of the organizations was

achieved including the Offices of "Health Supervisory" and "Country Physician" for the arrangement of health services of the civil society. The State, which had the right to send physicians to the required locations in the country, generated an establishment called "Country Physicians" and in addition, it generated the "Deputy Physician" position and paved the way for the country physicians to take an assistant. This arrangement was changed in 1912 by the announcement of the Regulations of the Provincial Medical Management. According to this, the "Country Physician" unit was abolished and a new unit was established in its place with the title "Government Physician" (Karabulut, 2007: 152).

The Ministry of Health and Social Assistance was established pursuant to the Code 3, dated May 2, 1920 accepted by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey which met for the first time after the World War One, and the first Minister assignment was given to Dr. Adnan Adıvar (Tengilimoğlu, 2012: 129). A new structure was established on May 11, 1920 with the central organization consisting of 15 people including the Minister Adnan Adıvar, who started his assignment in a room at Ankara Provincial Hall, and 1323 employees throughout the country (Yeginboy and Sayın, 2008: 3). During this

period, there was no opportunity to determine the number of physicians and health workers in the country and to register them regularly concerned with health; and an effort was put for healing the wounds of our veterans who were injured at battlefield and for their healing and for developing a combat with contagious diseases and developing a legislation (www.medimagazin.com.tr; Program on Health Transition in Turkey, 2008: 13).

The purpose of the Ministry of Health has been specified to determine the priorities in health services, improve health gains and distribute the resources according to the selected criteria (State Planning Organization, 2001: 3-11).

2. The Minister of Health as an Administrator

The Minister of Health is the person in the highest directorship of the Ministry institution responsible for running the Ministry services according to the legislation, general politics of the government, national security politics, progress plans, and annual programs.

4. Data Base

Furthermore, he ensures collaboration and coordination with other ministries on issues concerning the activity area of the Ministry (KHK/181, 2007). The Minister of Health is at the forefront with his administrator identity as he carries out these processes. It can be said that he carries out planning, implementation, supervision, and control activities at the high responsibility level.

3. Method

The purpose of this research was to reveal updated profiles of the Ministers of Health who served in Turkey from past to present. For this purpose, a systematic assessment of the information including age, gender, and place of birth of the Ministers of Health who served since the Republic Era till present based on the data obtained from the web sites such as www.saglik.gov.tr and <http://tr.wikipedia.org.web>. In the research, the assessment was shaped by secondary data and the information on 3 Ministers of Health who served in Turkey before the Republic and 49 Ministers of Health who served after the Republic.

Table 1. Obtained General Information About Health Ministers Before The Republic

Name Surname	Place of Birth	Date of Birth and Date of	Gender	Occupation	Marital	Number of Children	Minister Term	Political Party	Term of Office (total)
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		Death			Status				
1.Adnan Adivar	Gelibolu	1881/1955	Male	Politician, historian, academician, physician	Married	No child	1	Independent	10 Month 7 Day
2.İbrahim Refik Saydam	İstanbul	1881/1942	Male	Physician, soldier	Married	No child	1	Independent	9 Month 10 Day
3.Rıza Nur	Sinop	1879/1942	Male	Physician	Married	-	1	Independent	1 Year 10 Month 3 Day

Source: www.saglik.gov.tr; <http://tr.wikipedia.org.>; Demirtola and Atilla (2015: 3-4).

Three persons undertook the Minister of Health duty during the period passed until the declaration of the Republic. There was no chance to keep regular registry about health during this era and it was focused generally on healing the war wounds and developing legislation (<http://www.saglik.gov.tr>). Dr. Rıza NUR

served 1 year, 10 months and 3 days which was the longest period during the era before the Republic. The main profession of each of the three Ministers of Health was being a physician as shown in Table 1. There was no data found about the languages the Ministers spoke and their concurrent administrative duties.

Table 2. Obtained General Information About Health Ministers After The Republic

Name Surname	Place of Birth	Date of Birth and Date of Death	Gender	Occupation	Marital Status	Number of Children	Languages	Minister Term	Political Party	Term of Office (total)
1.İbrahim Refik Saydam	Gelibolu	1881/1955	Male	Physician, Soldier	Married	No child		7	CHP	13 Year 8 Month 12 Day
2. Mazhar Germen	Aydın	1884/1967	Male	Physician	Married	3		1	CHP	3 Month 11 Day
3. Ahmet Hulusi Alataş	Beyşehir Konya	1882/1964	Male	Physician	Married	2		6	CHP	7 Year 2 Month 23 Day
4.Mehmet Sadi Konuk	İstanbul	1894/1962	Male	Physician	Married	2		1	CHP	1 Year 6 Month 17 Day

5.Behçet Uz	Denizli	1893/1986	Male	Physician	Married	5		3	CHP/ DP	2 Year 16 Month 24 Day
6.Kemali Beyazıt	İstanbul	1903/1972	Male	Physician	Married	1		2	CHP	1 Year 11 Month 12 Day
7.Nihat Reşat Belger	İstanbul	1882/1961	Male	Physician				1	DP	3 Month 27 Day
8.Ekrem Hayri Üstündağ	Preveze	1886/1956	Male	Physician	Married	2		2	DP	3 Year 7 Month 27 Day
9.Nafiz Körez	Kula	1909/-	Male	Physician, Politician	Bachelor			1	DP	1 Year 11 Month 16 Day
10.Lütfi Kırdar	Kerkük	1887/1961	Male	Physician, Politician, Soldier	Married	2		1	DP	2 Year 6 Month 1 Day
11.Nusret Karasu	Erzurum	1902/1987	Male	Physician, Politician, Soldier, Academician	Married	5	French, German, English	1	Military	2 Month 28 Day
12.Nusret Fişek	Sivas	1914/1990	Male	Physician	Married	2	English, French		Military	10 Day
13.Salih Ragıp Üner	Nevşehir	1914/1994	Male	Physician	Married	3		2	Military	1 Year 2 Month 15 Day
14. Süleyman Suat Seren	Isparta	1910/1985	Male	Physician	Married	3		1	AP	7 Month 6 Day
15.Yusuf Azizoğlu	Silvan Diyarbakır	1917/1970	Male	Physician, Politician	Married			1	YTP	1 Year 4 Month
16. Fahrettin Kerim Gökay	Eskişehir	1900/1987	Male	Physician, Bürokrat, Politician	Married			1	YTP	1 Month 21 Day
17.Kemal Demir	Sürmene Trabzon	1921/2010	Male	Physician, Politician	Married	3		4	CHP	1 Year 1 Month 24 Day
18. Mehmet Faruk Sükan	Karaman	1921/2005	Male	Physician, Politician	Married	4	French	1	AP	8 Month 9 Day
19.Edip Somuncuoğlu	Erzurum	1904/1982	Male	Physician, Politician	Married	3		1	AP	1 Year 5 Month 4

lu										Day
20.Vedat Ali Özkan	Devrek Zonguldak	1923/1977	Male	Physician, Politician	Married	4		2	AP	3 Year 11 Month 11 Day
21.Türkan Akyol	İstanbul	1928/1971	Female	Physician, Politician, Academician	Married	2		1	Independent	8 Month 17 Day
22.Cevdet Aykan	Erbaa Tokat	1925/-	Male	Physician, Politician, Academician	Married	3		1	CHP	5 Month 10 Day
23.Vefa Tanır	İlgin Konya	1927/-	Male	Physician, Politician	Married	2		2	AP	11 Month 13 Day
24. Selahattin Cizrelioğlu	Diyarbakır	1924/-	Male	Avukat, Politician	Married	No child		1	CHP	9 Month 22 Day
25.Celal Ertuğ	Elazığ	1913/2001	Male	Physician, Politician, Academician	Married	2		1	CHP	1 Month
26.Cengiz Gökçek	Araban Gaziantep	1934/2013	Male	Avukat, Politician	Married	4		1	MHP	5 Month 14 Day
27.Mete Tan	Afyonkarahisar	1929/-	Male	Physician, Politician	Married	3	German, French	1	CHP	1 Year 10 Month 7 Day
28.Ali Münif İslamoğlu	Çine Aydın	1917/1998	Male	Physician, Politician	Married	2		1	AP	1 Year 9 Month 29 Day
29.Necmi Ayanoğlu	Türkiye		Male	Physician, Politician, Soldier				1	Military	1 Year 3 Month 1 Day
30.Kaya Kılıçturgay			Male	Physician, Politician	Married	1			Military	1 Year 11 Month 20 Day
31. Mehmet Aydın	Samsun	1928/1990	Male	Economist	Married	2		1	ANAP	2 Year 10 Month 4 Day
32. Mustafa Kalemli	Tavşanlı Kütahya	1943/-	Male	Physician, Politician,	Married	2	English		ANAP	1 Year 2 Month 4 Day
33.Bülent Akarcalı	İzmir	1943/-	Male	Economist	Married	2	French, English	1	ANAP	6 Month 5 Day
34.Cemil Çiçek	Yozgat	1946/-	Male	Attorney, Politician	Married	3	English French	1	ANAP	10 Day
35.Nihat	Erzurum	1928/2014	Male	Agricultural	Married	2		1	ANAP	8 Month

Kitapçı				Engineer						25 Day
36.Halil Şıvgın	Ankara	1950/-	Male	Attorney	Married	3		2	ANAP	2 Year 2 Month 22 Day
37.Yaşar Eryılmaz	Ağrı	1944/-	Male	Physician, Politician	Married	2	English	1	ANAP	4 Month 27 Day
38. Yıldırım Aktuna	İstanbul	1930/2007	Male	Physician, Politician	Married	1		3	DYP	2 Year 8 Month 24 Day
39. Rifat Serdaroğlu	Bergama İzmir	1948/-	Male	Phamacist	Married	2		1	DYP	5 Month 3 Day
40.Kazım Dinç	Kandıra		Male	Phamacist	Married	1		1	DYP	7 Month 17 Day
41.Doğan Baran	Niğde	1929/2004	Male	Physician, Politician	Married	2		3	DYP	1 Year 6 Month 19 Day
42.Nafiz Kurt	Bafra Samsun	1930/2011	Male	Merchant	Married	3		1	DYP	13 Day
43.İsmail Karakuyu	Simav Kütahya	1950/-	Male		Married	2		1	DYP	1 Month 17 Day
44.Halil İbrahim Özsoy	Bolvadin Afyonkarahisar	1938/-	Male	Physician, Politician	Married	3		1	ANAP	1 Year 6 Month 11Day
45. Mustafa Güven Karahan	Çatalzeytin Kastamonu	1943/2013	Male	Physician, Politician	Married	2		1	DSP	4 Month 18 Day
46.Osman Durmuş	Çankırı	1947/-	Male	Physician, Politician, Academician	Married	3	English French	1	MHP	3 Year 5 Month 19 Day
47. Mehmet Müezzinoğlu	Gümülçine Yunanistan	1955/-	Male	Physician, Politician	Married	2	Greek, English, Arabic	4	AKP	3 Year 4 Month
48.Recep Akdağ	İspir Erzurum	1960/-	Male	Physician, Politician	Married	6	English	5	AKP	11 Year 4 Month
49. Ahmet Demircan	Samsun	1954/-	Male	Physician, Politician	Married	6	English, Arabic	1	AKP	7 Month +

Source: www.saglik.gov.tr; <http://tr.wikipedia.org.>; Demirtola and Atilla (2015: 3-12).

Based on the data collected other than the ones in Table 2; it can be said that 49 persons served as the Minister of Health, 40 of whom were Medical Doctors

(9 Prof. Dr. and 3 Assoc. Prof.), 1 Pharmacist (Kazım Dinç) and 1 high school graduate (Nafiz KURT). 9 of the medical doctors who served as the Minister

had the Professor title (N. Reşat Belger, Nusret Karasu, Ragıp Üner, Kerim Gökay, Türkan Akyol, Celal Ertuğ, Necmi Ayanoglu, Kaya Kılıçturgay, and Recep Akdağ,), and 3 of them were Associate Professors (Mustafa Kalemli, İsmail Karakuyu and Osman Durmuş). The first person who was appointed as the Minister of Health on July 21, 1977 from a profession other than the physician profession was Attorney Cengiz Gökçek (Demirtola and Atilla, 2015: 10-11).

The Ministry of Health changed hands 53 times throughout 62 cabinets established in the Republic of Turkey. 3 Ministers of Health who served before the declaration of the Republic and Türkan Akyol, who was among the Health Ministers of the Republic of Turkey, continued their appointment as members of the Independent Party. Among 49 Ministers of Health who served after the declaration of the Republic; 11 served as members of the Republican Public Party, 5 as the Democratic Party, 5 as the Military Party, 6 as the Justice Party, 2 as the New Turkey Party, 2 as the National Movement Party, 8 as the Main Land Party, 6 as the Right Way Party, 1 as the Democratic Leftist Party, and 2 as the Justice and Development Party. Behçet Uz, who was appointed as the Minister of Health twice, continued his first service as a member of the Republican Party and his second

service as a member of the Democratic Party.

The first and only woman Minister of Health among the Ministers of Health in the Republic of Turkey was Türkan Akyol as shown in Table 2. Following the first “Woman Minister” title, Akyol was selected as the Ankara University Dean and received the title of the first “Woman Dean” in 1980, and she joined the founders of the Social Democratic Party in 1983 as the deputy chair, and was appointed as the State Minister (responsible for women’s affairs) in 1992 from outside (<http://www.ankara.edu.tr>).

The Ministers of Health spoke French, English and German generally. Mehmet Müezzinoğlu spoke Greek and Arabic in addition to English. The youngest person appointed as the Minister during the period before the Republic was Adnan Adıvar (39 years old), and the oldest person was Rıza Nur (42 years old). The youngest person who served as the Minister among the Ministers of Health after the Republic was Halil Şıvgın (39 years old), and the oldest person who continued his assignment was Lütfi Kırdar (70 years old).

Among the married Ministers of Health, Recep Akdağ and Ahmet Demircan had the most number of children with 6 children. Behçet Uz and Nusre

tKarasu follow Recep Akdağ and Ahmet Demircan with 5 children. Considering the birth places of the Ministers of Health, Istanbul is the most common city. The Ministers born in Erzurum are the majority.

It is seen that some Ministers of Health were appointed as different Ministers before or after the Minister of Health duty. Kemal Demir served as the Energy and Natural Resources Minister; Mehmet Faruk Sükan as the Minister of Internal Affairs; Türkan Akyol as the Minister of State; Bülent Akarcalı as the Minister of Tourism; Cemil Çiçek as the Minister of State Responsible from Family and the Minister of Justice; Nihat Kitapçı as the Minister of State; Vefa Tanır as the Minister of Public Works, Minister of Forestry and Minister of National Defense; and Mustafa Kalemli as the Minister of Labor and Social Security, the Minister of Internal Affairs and the Minister of Forestry. Vefa Tanır and Mutafa Kalemli are our Ministers who served the most various Minister duties (3 different Ministries) other than being the Minister of Health and Social Assistance. Ibrahim Refik Saydam, who was the first Minister of Health in the Republic, was appointed as the Minister of Internal Affairs and the Minister of National Education on Commission and the Minister of Finance in addition to being the Minister of Health

and Social Assistance, and at the same time, he served as the Minister of the Republic of Turkey during 1939-1942.

Some of the persons who served as the Minister of Health were mentioned frequently. Saydam, who was appointed as the Minister in 1921 after Adnan Adıvar and served as the Minister of Health for approximately 16 years since the first years of the Republic, laid the foundations of today's health organization and services in Turkey. Refik Saydam started work by determining the health needs of the country and in addition to developing health organizations of the State he determined training of health personnel and opening of health organizations (Aydın, 2002: 188). During Refik Saydam era, Health Departments were founded in cities and the Departments of Government Doctors were founded in counties and the primary step and protective services were cared and prioritized, and the services were spread in the entire country. As an example of the foundation of hospitals by local administrations, "Numune Hospitals" directly under the Ministry were founded in large cities including Ankara, Istanbul, Sivas, Erzurum, and Diyarbakır. The appointment and promotion of the health personnel was put under the command of the Ministry of Health, and the administration of the health personnel was centralized, and the education,

appointment and promotion of the personnel was organized and disciplined under a certain system. The number of personnel was increased by founding dormitories for medical students and boarding schools for health personnel. By implementing a higher wage policy to the personnel working in the public and particularly rural areas and protective health services, they were encouraged to work in the departments of government physician and protective service units. The supervision of health services and personnel and the authority to appoint health personnel were gathered in the Ministry of Health and the services were centralized (Akdur, 2016). During Saydam Era (1923-1937), the constitutive laws on the health sector were passed. The Bacteriology and Chemical Laboratories Law no.: 992 (1927), Law no.: 1219 concerning the Mode of Execution of Medicine and Medical Sciences (1928), Pharmaceuticals and Medical Preparations Law No.: 1962 (1928), Public Healthcare Law no.: 1593 (1930), Ministry, Department and Servants of Public Health and Welfare Law no.: 3017 (1936), Law no.: 3017 concerning Radiology, Radium, Electrotherapy and Other Physiotherapy Institutions (1937) were legislated on this period, while protecting their places within today's governing laws, despite being

subjected to certain amendments (Sülkü, 2011: 3).

“The First Ten-Year National Health Plan”, which could be called the first written health plan in the Republic era, was approved by the Supreme Council of Health in 1946. This plan was explained by the Minister of Health Dr. Behçet Uz on December 12, 1946. The purpose of Behçet Uz's plan, proposing in general terms the provision of protective health services along with the therapeutic medicine by establishing a 10-15-bed health centers for each of 40 villages; was to ensure that everyone, poor or rich, town- or village-dweller, benefited the best from the national health services (Dirican, 2001: 466; Karatepe, 2006: 185). However, Dr. Behçet Uz had to leave the Ministry of Health before this plan, which was prepared by an intense study, became a law (<http://www.saglik.gov.tr/>).

Dr. Nusret Hasan Fişek was appointed as the Minister of Health for a short period in 1960. Steps were taken to the transition to a planned period after 1960, and the Socialization Code, prepared by Prof. Dr. Nusret Fişek who was serving as the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health in 1961, was accepted by the general assembly on January 5, 1961. The accepted “Code on Socialization of Health Services” was announced in the Official

Gazette on January 12, and it was planned that health services in Turkey was to be socialized in entire Turkey within 15 years (until 1978). Improvement of the health level of the public in the entire country was aimed by the socialization and for this purpose development of public health (protective medicine) services was prioritized. The therapeutic medicine services were dealt as a component completing the protective medicine studies and in this term. Instead of providing hospital services as benefited by a low number of population and are expensive, foundation of a health organization providing treatment at home and outpatient care and spreading to even the small communities was prioritized in patient care services (Kurt and Şaşmaz, 2011: 23). Socialization of health services means dismissing this service to be a personal gain source for individuals, benefiting from the existing opportunities equally, not restricting benefiting of the persons from health services monetarily, and foundation of a system ensuring running and development of the service by the state according to a particular program. Since the success of each established system depends on many factors when it is framed and implemented by other rules and orders, significant matters related with this must be indicated when socialization of health

services is discussed (<http://www.ttb.org.tr>).

During the period between 1980 – 2002, crucial constitutional laws were established with regards to the citizens accessing the social insurance and healthcare services, and reformative works were carried out on health sector. However, these reforms could not be carried into effect as deemed required (Sülkü, 2011: 5). With 1982 Constitution Act regulated during this period, the social security rights of the citizens were emphasized, as well as stating the responsibilities of the government with regards to granting this right. Becoming a part of our lives with 1961 Constitution Act, the social state mentality started to be built on more solid basis with 1982 Constitution Act (İleri et al., 2016:180).

The health reform works carried out in 1990s include the following major topics:

- Establishing the general health insurance and gathering the social security institutions under a single roof,
- Separating the functions of serving services and obtaining finance from each other,
- Going for reconstruction in the Ministry of Health in order for the planning and auditing duties of healthcare services effectively,

- Granting autonomy for the hospitals, prioritizing the protective healthcare services, as well as developing the primary care services within the framework of Family Practice (Sülkü, 2011: 5).

The reconstruction process was initiated by gathering 1st National Congress in 1992, in line with the master plan projected by the respective State Planning Organization concerning the health sector again in 1990. Nevertheless, the national health policies were designated with the 2nd National Health Congress held in 1993, and a number of regulations were stipulated surviving until today, as providing Green Card for pool individuals, which is not covered by the social security, being in the first place (Armağan, 2008: 169).

However, the Health Transformation Program, which was introduced in 2003 during the Recep Akdağ era as the Minister of Health in the respective period, is recognized to be the the most extensive one within these reform works (Lamba et al., 2014: 54). The fundamental changes made since 2003, when the Health Transformation Program was carried into effect are as follows with the main lines:

The Performance-based Salary System started to be applied in April 2003.

The public officers were provided with the opportunity to apply to private hospitals, without being subjected to referring process in September 2003.

The Ministry of Health – SII (Social Insurance Institution) healthcare facilities were brought into common use in January 2004.

VAT rate was reduced to 8% from 18% for prescription medicines in March 2004.

SII healthcare organizations were transferred to the Ministry of Health in February 2005.

The pilot scheme for family practice was initiated in May 2005.

SSI (Social Security Institution) was established in May 2006, gathering SII (Social Insurance Institution) SSOAS (Social Security Organization for Artisans and the Self-employed) and State Retirement Fund under the roof of SSI.

“Notice of Health Practices” (This is the notice of legislation enabling the social policies of the government concerning the healthcare services to be put into practice, providing guidance, pricing, regulating, as well as involving all other details for these practices. The payment principles are regulated for any

transaction of the healthcare centers) were published in June 2007.

“General Health Insurance” system was started to be used in September 2007.

The global budge practice was started to be used in the hospitals of Ministry of Health in Jnuary 2009.

The state employees was included in the coverage of General Health Insurance in Jnuary 2010.

“Public Hospital Associations Law” (Transforming the secondary and tertiary health facilities affiliated to the Ministry of Health into association in line with the respective incorporation status of the ministry) was published in October 2012 (www.esam.org.tr).

In recent years, another attention-grabbing topic within the healthcare services is the city hospitals. First of all, the city hospitals established in Isparta, Yozgat and Mersin provinces, and operated with the “build-lease-transfer” business model, are making an indelible impression with the quality of services. There are certain studies and works that are still in Project and construction phases for the city hospitals established corresponding to the eras of Recep Akdağ, Mehmet Müezzinoğlu and Ahmet Demircan.

5. Conclusion

As a result of this study, the data on 51 Ministers of Health who served in Turkey before and after the Republic including their birth places, birth and death dates, profession, languages, how many terms they served as a Minister and the Party membership when they served as a Minister, and service term were revealed under four categories namely, personal, familial, professional and political. There are persons who served as a medical doctor among the Ministers of Health the most in terms of profession. In addition to being a physician, there were military men, politicians, academicians, attorneys and economists respectively. There is only one woman Minister of Health among the Ministers of Health. It was found that the Ministers of Health, who served with their politician and academician identities in addition to the physician profession, spoke more foreign languages and even this number increased based on being only a physician. The “administration process” is a crucial element carried out to ensure stability in health administration like in all typea of administration. According to the results of the study, it is seen that the Ministers of Health served as a Minister for a very short term generally. It is known that Ibrahim Refik Saydam stayed in his appointment the longest among the

Ministers of Health by serving as a Minister for 7 terms and this period was 13 years, 8 months and 12 days; as the second, Recep Akdağ remained in his duty for more than 11 years. Considering the

studies carried out during the said periods and existence of the policies, improvement of the stability achieved in health services can be explained by a long Ministry term.

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