

MEASURES TAKEN IN SCHOOLS DUE TO EPIDEMICS IN THE LATE OTTOMAN AND EARLY REPUBLIC PERIOD

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Abstract

Epidemics such as plague, measles, malaria, cholera, and Spanish flu affected the Ottoman Empire in every way, and various measures were taken in various fields according to the conjuncture of the period. The reason for choosing the last period in this study is that more epidemic detections have been made and the records of this period are high. After the 1800s, different epidemics with certain processes and results were experienced in the Ottoman Empire for certain reasons. Some of them affected the state at the micro level and some at the macro level. Undoubtedly, the most affected part of the epidemics were children, especially children of education age, who both accelerated the process of being affected by the disease and became the fastest intervention group. The Ottomans took separate measures regarding education during epidemics. These measures, which include schools, teachers, students, places of residence, and parents from time to time, have had an institutional impact on the state. When we look at the archive documents, issues such as the vacation of schools, vaccination policies, dissemination of disinfection studies, raising awareness among students and their parents, arranging separate allowances for these issues, and financial and moral support of teachers in this regard have been the most mentioned issues regarding epidemic and

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educational measures. This study, which we will prepare with the document analysis method, mostly based on the Ottoman archive documents and the chronicles of the period, aims to reveal the measures taken by the state to prevent the disruption of education despite the epidemics of the period.

Keywords: Ottoman, Epidemic, Education, School, Student, Measure.

Osmanlı Sonu Cumhuriyet Başı Dönemde Salgınlar Dolayısıyla Mekteplerde Alınan Tedbirler

Öz

Veba, kızamık, sıtma, kolera, İspanyol gribi gibi salgın hastalıklar Osmanlı'yı her açıdan etkilemiş ve dönemin konjonktürüne göre çeşitli alanlarda çeşitli tedbirler alınmıştır. Bu çalışmada özellikle son dönemin seçilme sebebi, hem daha fazla salgın tespitinin yapılmış olması hem de bu dönem kayıtlarının fazla olmasıdır. 1800'lerden sonra Osmanlı'da belirli sebeplerle belirli süreçler ve sonuçlarıyla farklı salgınlar yaşanmıştır. Bunlardan bir kısmı mikro düzeyde bazıları ise makro düzeyde etkilemiştir devleti. Salgınlardan en çok etkilenen kesim şüphesiz çocuklar olmuştur, özellikle eğitim çağındaki çocukların hem hastalıktan etkilenme süreci hızlanmış hem de en çabuk müdahale grubu olmuştur. Osmanlı salgınlarda eğitim ile ilgili ayrı tedbirler alınmıştır. Okulları, öğretmenleri, öğrencileri, kaldıkları yerleri ve ebeveynleri de zaman zaman içine alan bu önlem çabaları, devleti kurumsal anlamda etkilemiştir. Arşiv belgelerine baktığımızda, okulların tatil edilmeleri, aşılama politikaları, dezenfekte çalışmalarının yaygınlaştırılması, öğrencilerde ve ebeveynlerinde bu konuda bilinç oluşturma, bu konular için ayrı ödenekler ayarlanması, öğretmenlerin bu konuda maddi manevi desteklenmesi gibi hususlar salgın ve eğitim tedbirleri konusunda en çok dile getirilen meseleler olmuştur. Çoğunlukla Osmanlı ve Cumhuriyet arşiv belgeleri ve dönemin kroniklerine dayanarak, doküman analizi yöntemi ile hazırlayacağımız bu çalışma, dönemin salgınları karşısında eğitimin aksamaması için devletin aldığı tedbirleri ortaya çıkarmayı hedeflemektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Osmanlı, Salgın, Eğitim, Okul, Öğrenci, Tedbir.

Özet

İnsanoğlu var olalı beri, insanlar birlikte yaşamışlar, göç etmişler, toplumsal duygu ve anelerini birlikte yaşamışlardır. Yerleşik hayata geçilmesiyle birlikte insanların beraber hareket etmeleri iç içe yaşama dönüşmüş, bu

durum var olagelen hastalıkların kolay yayılmasına sebep olmuştur. Bazen insandan insana bazen hayvandan insana geçecek şekilde bu hastalıkların yayıldığı ve salgın hale geldiği dönemler olmuştur. Dünyanın her yerinde olduğu gibi Osmanlı Devleti'nde görülen salgın hastalıklar ve bu hastalıklara karşı alınan tedbirlerden bir kısmı bu çalışmanın konusudur. Salgınlardan etkilenen çocukların eğitim şartları ve süreçlerindeki değişimler ve bu süreçte yönetimlerin duruşları, süreci nasıl idare ettikleri, alınan tedbirler makalenin sorguladığı bahisler arasındadır. Genel olarak Osmanlı'da ortaya çıkan salgın hastalıklar ve bunlarla baş etme yöntemleri bu makalenin çerçevesi dışında olup, Osmanlı son dönemi ve Cumhuriyet'in başlarında meydana gelen salgınlarda okullarda/mekteplerde alınan tedbirler bu çalışmanın temel meselesidir. Yakın zamanda bütün dünyada olduğu gibi Covid-19 salgını ile yüzleşen ülkemizde eğitim başlı başına sorun olmuştur. Eğitim-öğretimin nasıl yapılması gerektiği, çocukların hastalıktan etkilenmemesi için alınan tedbirler ülke gündemini sürekli meşgul etmiştir. Bu çalışma ile, benzer durumlarda Osmanlı sonu Cumhuriyet başında nasıl bir tutum izlendiğine dair dönem resmini çekmek hedeflenmiştir.

Osmanlı tarihine bakıldığında pek çok salgının görüldüğü dikkat çekmektedir, veba, kolera, çiçek, sıtma ve küçük çaplı yayılan diğer hastalıklar öne çıkmaktadır. Osmanlı sonu Cumhuriyet başında meydana gelen Balkan savaşları ve 1. Dünya Savaşı, Kurtuluş savaşları dönemlerinde, kolera, tifüs/lekeli humma, tifo, dizanteri, ırksal? humma (humma-yı racial) /sıtma, yılanlık/deri hastalığı, tetanoz, fluensa/nezle-i müstevliye gibi salgınlar askerler arasında en sık görülen salgın çeşitleri olmuştur. Yönetimler kendi dönem ve şartları gereği bu salgınlara karşı önlemler almışlardır. Gazete yazılarıyla halk bilinçlendirilmeye çalışılmış, karantina önlemi alınmış, kurumların dikkat etmesi gereken hususlar risaleler ile hatırlatılmıştır. Hastalıkların yayılmasını önlemek adına, temiz su temini, bataklik kurutulması, telkikhane yani aşı evleri açılması ilk etapta alınan tedbirler arasında olmuştur.

Hastalıkların özellikle kışla, mektep, hapishane ve hastane gibi kalabalık yerlerde, salgına dönüşme olasılığı daha güçlü olmuştur. Bu sebeple buralarda alınan tedbirler diğerlerine göre daha önem arz etmektedir. Hem kalabalık olmaları hem çocukların hastalığı ebeveynlerine taşıma riski dolayısı ile okullar bu anlamda başı çekmektedir.

Mektep/okullarda salgın sebebiyle alınan genel tedbirler arasında, aşılama, eğitime kısa veya uzun süreli ara verme, eğitim mekanlarının ve araç gereçlerinin temizlik ve dezenfeksiyonu, eğitim mekanlarının sağlık

kurallarına uygun hale getirilmesi, teftiş ve kontrollerin artırılması, doktor sayısının artırılarak okullarda muayenelerin sıklaştırılması ve bu doktor ve yardımcıları tarafından öğrenci ve öğretmenlere tavsiyelerde bulunulması, layihalar ile idari görevlilerin ve kamuoyunun bilgilendirilip bilinçlendirilmesi yer almaktadır.

Osmanlı Devleti en başından itibaren defalarca salgınlara şahitlik etmiştir. Coğrafya itibarıyla, etkileşime de uygun olan Osmanlı son dönemlerinde maruz kaldığı salgınlar için çeşitli tedbirler almıştır. Okullar bu salgınlardan en çok etkilenen kurumlar olması hasebiyle devletin arşiv belgelerine konu olmuştur. Bu durum Osmanlı sonu ve Cumhuriyet başında aynıdır. Gündüzlü yatılı, okullar, ilk mektepler, askeri okullar gibi farklı okul ve mekteplerde salgınlar yayılma alanı bulmuş, yönetimler de duruma göre acil tedbirler almıştır.

Aşı, keşfedildiğinden bu yana salgın hastalıklardan korunmanın en önemli aracı olmuştur. Özellikle çalışmamıza konu olan incelediğimiz Osmanlı son döneminde, aşılama salgın hastalıklarda okullardaki öğrenciler için alınan en önemli tedbirler arasında yer almıştır. Okul çağı olan olmayan bütün çocukları kapsayan bu işlem okullar vasıtasıyla daha sağlıklı takip edilebilmiştir. Özellikle salgının yoğunluğunun arttığı zaman ve yerlerde, bazı okullara ve sanat dallarına kabul için aşı şahadetnamesi şartı getirilmiştir. Salgın döneminde aşıların yaygınlaştırılmasına çalışılmış ve okullarda aşı yoluyla kızamık gibi hastalıkların önlenmesine çalışılmıştır.

Salgının hızını ve yoğunluğunu artırdığı düşüncesi ile okulların süreli, süresiz tatil edilmesi, eğitime ara verilmesi bu dönem salgınlarda yine en çok alınan tedbirler arasında yer almıştır. Belgelerde genellikle eğitime 12 günlük ara verildiği kararı dikkat çekmiştir. Bazen bu sürenin duruma göre uzatıldığı, hatta süresiz kapatıldığı örnekleri de belgelere yansımıştır. Bu tatillerde evlerine gönderilen hasta çocukların takibi hususu da belgelere yansımıştır.

Osmanlı son dönemi arşiv belgelerinde görüldüğü üzere, okullarda hastalığın seyrinin durdurulması için dezenfekte edilmesine ve okulların tadilatına ihtimam gösterilmiştir. Eğitim yerleri ve öğrencilerin kaldığı yerler sağlığa uygun hale getirilmiştir. Bazen sınıfların kapasitesi de dikkate alınarak öğrenci sayısının azaltılması gerektiği vurgulanmış bu konuda tedbir alınmıştır. Bir kısım belgede okul ve öğrenci yurtlarında dezenfekte ve temizlik yapılması gereğine dikkat çekilmiştir. Zaman zaman salgın zamanlarında okullardan bazıları geçici olarak hastaneye çevrilmek zorunda kalınmıştır.

Salgın dönemlerinde yönetim tarafından yetkililer görevlendirilerek çeşitli komisyonlar kurulmuştur. Ayrıca okullarda alınması gereken önlemler, yapılması ve yapılmaması gerekenlere ilişkin ve alınacak tedbirler dolayısıyla yönetmelikler/layihalar da yayımlanmıştır. Bu yönetmelikte yer alan kararların merkezde ve taşrada uygulamaya konulması için çalışmalar ve takibat yapılmıştır. Zira kararların alınmasından ziyade bunların uygulanması ve karşılık bulması öncelikli hedef olmuştur. Osmanlı son döneminde tespit edilen durumların Cumhuriyet'in başlarında da benzer şekilde devam ettiği görülmüştür.

Geçtiğimiz yıllarda sadece ülkemiz değil tüm dünya salgın hastalıkla karşı karşıya gelmiş ve bununla mücadele etmeye çalışmıştır. Dolayısıyla tarihin böyle dönemlerinde yapılanların ve yapılmayanların/yapılamazların, günümüzde bu sıkıntılı süreçleri atlattığımızı kolaylaştıracağı kanaatindeyim.

Introduction

Since the presence of human beings, people lived, immigrated, and experienced social feelings and cultures together. With the adoption of settled life, the concertion turned into a common life, which made the spread of already existing diseases easy. There were periods when these sicknesses spread and turned into epidemics by transmitting from humans to humans or sometimes from animal to human beings. Nowadays, it is seen all around the world, including the Ottoman State, the matter of this work is the epidemics faced and some of the measures taken against them. The conditions of the education of the children affected by epidemics, the changes during the process, and the stances of the governments are among the topics inquired. While the general epidemics arose in the Ottoman State and the coping methods are out of the frame of this writing, the measures taken in schools (maktab) against the epidemics that occurred in the late Ottoman and early Republic are the main issues of this work. Recently, similar to the world, education was an issue in itself in our country facing the Covid-19 pandemic. The question of how to operate education and the measures taken for the prevention of the affection of the children from sickness constantly occupied the country's agenda This work aims to depict what type of attitude was maintained toward situations resembling those in the late Ottoman and early Republic periods. In our study, document analysis, one of the qualitative research methods, was used.

Considering Ottoman history, it draws the attention to see a great deal of epidemics and prevalent were plague,¹ cholera,² variola,³ malaria⁴, and other small-scale sicknesses. During the Balkan Wars, World War I, and Independence War in the late Ottoman and early Republic periods, epidemics such as cholera, typhus/prulente meningitis, typhoid, dysentery, pyrexia/malaria, erysipelas/skin disease, tetanus, and influenza were the most frequently encountered epidemics among soldiers.⁵ Governments took measures according to their terms and conditions against these epidemics. Awareness in the public was tried to be raised by newspaper articles,⁶ to quarantine was taking into consideration,⁷ the situations institutions need to be aware of were reminded by epistles/letters (risâlah).⁸ To cease the spread of sicknesses, the measurements that have been taken in the stage were supply of fresh water, drying out swamps, and establishing vaccine homes (telkikhane).

The possibility of sickness turning into an epidemic was higher, especially in crowded places such as barracks, schools, prisons and hospitals.⁹ Therefore, the precautions taken in these places are more important than others. As being

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- 1 Nühket Varlık, "Taun", *Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı İslâm Ansiklopedisi (DİA)* (İstanbul, 2011), 40/175; "Veba", *Meclis-i Umûr-i Tıbbiye-i Mülkiye ve Sıhhye-i Umûmiye Mukarrerat ve Neşriyatı* (İstanbul, 1326), 1-3.
 - 2 Gülseren Yücel, *Malatya Sancağında Kolera Salgını (1892-1896)* (Ankara: Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli Üniversitesi, Master's Thesis, 2019), 5; İlyas Matar, *Kolera Risalesi: Koleraya Dair Mütâlaât-i Tıbbiye ve Tedâbir-i İhtiyatiye ve Sıhhiyeyi Hâvi* (İstanbul, 1300), 28.
 - 3 Besim Ömer Akalın, *Çiçek Hastalığı ve Suçiçeği* (İstanbul, 1310), 1-9; Burcu Mercan, *XIX. Yüzyılda Osmanlı'da Çiçek Salgınları ve Çiçek Hastalığı ile Mücadele* (Kırklareli: Kırklareli Üniversitesi, Master's Thesis, 2017), 23-25.
 - 4 Ümüt Akagündüz, "I. Meşrutiyet Döneminde Toplumsal Bir Sorun Olarak Sıtma ve Sıtmadan Korunma Çareleri", *Kebikeç: İnsan Bilimleri İçin Kaynak Araştırmalı Dergisi* 41 (2016), 98; Zafer Koşlu - Nihal Doğan, "Birinci Dünya Savaşı Sırasında Osmanlı Devleti'nde Sıtma Mücadelesi ve Bu Amaçla Yapılan Yasal Düzenlemeler", *Türkiye Parazitoloji Dergisi* 34/3 (2010), 210.
 - 5 For charts of the number of cases and deaths in 1914, 15, 17, 18 see; Oya Dağlar, *War, Epidemics and Medicine in the Ottoman Empire: From the Balkan Wars through the Great War (1912-1918)* (İstanbul: Boğaziçi Üniversitesi, PhD Thesis, 2004), 204, 207, 248, 249, 250, 251, 320.
 - 6 Nuray Yağcıoğlu, *Tanzimat Sonrası Osmanlı'da Salgın Hastalıklara Karşı Alınan Önlemler* (Erzincan: Erzincan Binali Yıldırım Üniversitesi, Master's Thesis, 2019), 39.
 - 7 Gülden Sarıyıldız, "Karantina", *Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı İslâm Ansiklopedisi (DİA)* (İstanbul, 2001), 24/463-464.
 - 8 "Veba", 1-3.
 - 9 Mesut Ayar, *Osmanlı Devleti'nde Kolera Salgını: İstanbul Örneği (1892-1895)* (İstanbul: Marmara Üniversitesi, Ph.D. Thesis, 2005).

both crowded and having the risk of transmitting the sickness to parents, schools take the lead in this manner.

Vaccination, short or long term suspension of schools, cleansing and disinfection of the environment and tools used in education, making the education environments suitable for health protocols, increasing inspections and controls, increasing physical examinations by increasing the number of doctors and providing recommendations to students and teachers with the help of them and their assistants, and raising awareness among administrators and public by ordinances (lâ'ihah) appear among the general measurements taken in schools due to the epidemic.

1. Epidemic and Education: Measures Taken in Schools Vaccination

Whether children are going to school or not, if they are the relevant issue, the prior measures taken against the epidemic are vaccination. The archives contain plenty of documents about this matter. According to an order given by the Sublime Council (Majlis-i Wâlâ), the chief doctor of the emperor (sar tabîb shahriyârî) demanded that rural areas be rigorously inoculated with the smallpox vaccine. It was underpinned to take records by the officers of those who were vaccinated and those to be vaccinated and the measures to take for the vaccination of children not going to school apart from the school-aged ones¹⁰. In the same year, on a document from the Grand Viziership (Şadârat), exhortations were given to the governors and administrators of the provinces of Adana, Kayseri, Halep, and Nevşehir. According to these; the given point in the Imperial Council (Dîwân Humâyûn) was the necessity of authorized officers in the provinces to meticulously follow and accompany the obligatory rules for the sake of the protection of health (Hifz as-Şihhah).¹¹

Due to the continuing epidemics after a couple of years, another issue with the vaccine arose. A paper published by the Public Department of Grand Viziership (Sadaret Umûmi Kalemi) reported that some individuals who were neither skilled nor authorized tried to vaccinate children in the outskirts. However, because this action was incompatible with the protection of health protocols, it was emphasized to prevent those and similar actions, to deploy medical school (Maktab T'ibbiyyah) students for places where no doctor was available, and not to involve individuals without a vaccination permit. Moreover, it was pointed out that vaccinations should be performed by doctors

¹⁰ Osmanlı Arşivi (BOA), *İrade Meclis-i Vâlâ [İ.MVL]*, No. 91, Gömlek No. 1847.

¹¹ Osmanlı Arşivi (BOA), *Sadaret Divan Kalemi Evrakı [A. DVN]*, No. 23, Gömlek No. 10.

if the quarantine (Karantina), country (Mamlakat), and soldiers of the emperor ('Asâkir-i Shahâna) doctors are available.¹²

In 1867¹³, an ordinance was submitted to the Sublime Council from the Medical School regarding the details of the vaccination campaign for children.¹⁴ According to that statement, "In the vaccination quarters designated to Eyüp, Üsküdar, and Sali Bazaar, children are being vaccinated; however, those who were in the outskirts were not brought there, so their vaccination was not possible. To prevent the spread of smallpox, every child had to be vaccinated; therefore, a measure must be taken. It is needed to establish a committee composed of school officers in the dates to be announced in order to recognize vaccinated and non- vaccinated children and, except for the streets vaccination was done from of old, in order to absolve every child by letting workers inspect street by street and to physically examine the non- vaccinated and previously vaccinated ones for confirming physiologically their vaccination or handing out free certificates to those who would be revaccinated, and for the continuity of this practice, from now on, it was obligatory to protect the exercise of rejecting male and female children entering schools belonging to various ethnicities or primary (şibyân), junior high school (rushdiyah), and high school (idâdiyah) or various fields of arts without them having a vaccination certificate. This vaccination practice was essential for the health and protection of children from dangerous diseases. Although this are in force at the guarded streets, since these places were not sufficient, it had been deemed essential to vaccinate the unvaccinated children by letting officers walk around and to continue and care for them.¹⁵

The battle with epidemics via vaccination continued in the XX. century as well. Matters corresponding to vaccination were priorly subject to documentation. From these documents, the conclusion is drawn that committees

¹² Osmanlı Arşivi (BOA), *Sadaret Umum Vilayati Evrakı [A.MKT.UM]*, No. 323, Gömlek No. 14.

¹³ In Ayşe Niğdem Zeyben Karakuş's master's thesis, The Council of State (Shura-i Dawlat/Şurayı Devlet) mentions the Vaccination Regulations dated May 18, 1885, and 1894, with the first having nine articles and the letter having 25 articles, and these are given item by item. Before those regulations, in 1867, there was a memorandum (tazkîrah) on vaccination submitted by the Medical School and the Ministry to the Sublime Council. see: Ayşe Niğdem Zeyben Karakuş, *19. ve 20. Yüzyılda Osmanlı Devleti'nde Yaşanan Salgın Hastalıkların Mekteplere Etkileri* (Eskişehir: Osmangazi Üniversitesi, Master's Thesis, 2021), 47-51.

¹⁴ Osmanlı Arşivi (BOA), *Sadaret Mühimme Kalemi [A.MKT.MHM]*, No. 386, Gömlek No. 42.

¹⁵ For the picture of the document, see Attachment: 1.

worked steadily every year for the battle of epidemics, that studies regarding smallpox vaccination were sent out steadily to relevant ministries, and that children were properly vaccinated.¹⁶ Vaccination officers were assigned to mandatory places, those officers also served inside the quarantine zones, it was meticulously done in their wage payments for their lasting services, and necessary measures were taken to vaccinate all children by fortification of vaccine from the headquarters.¹⁷

The published vaccine regulations (niẓâm-nâme), it is aimed not only to take precautions against sicknesses but also to wipe them out. By delivering those published regulations everywhere, their practice was ensured.¹⁸ According to a similar regulation dated 1867, in the Regulation of Smallpox Vaccination dated 1885, it was ordered to vaccinate every non-schooled child. It was obligated to vaccinate every student in Istanbul by banning their entrance to schools and fields of arts for boys and girls without a vaccination certificate. The scope of vaccination was expanded with the second Regulation of Smallpox Vaccination dated 1894 and obligated was the vaccination of newborns in the past six months. It was also proclaimed to fine doctors for disobeying this regulation. Moreover, in an ordinance dated 1898, it was stated that schools in which students without vaccination were identified, principals were punished.¹⁹

Interruption of Education (long or short term)

The worry that illnesses would turn into epidemics in crowded places such as schools, barracks, and hospitals require different measures for each sickness. However, in almost every epidemic, the most common measure taken was to postpone school closure or openness for short or long terms. Including to that, extra measures like vaccination, enclosure, and sending home were taken from time to time.

In post-1854 Izmir, municipal (Shahramânati) and committee of health worked together against the plague epidemic, where the first measures taken

¹⁶ Osmanlı Arşivi (BOA), *Dahiliye Mektubi Kalemî [DH.MKT]*, No. 596, Gömlek No. 36; BOA. *DH.MKT*, No. 599, Gömlek No. 48; BOA. *DH.MKT*, No. 608, Gömlek No. 30; BOA. *DH.MKT*, No. 2579, Gömlek No. 117; BOA. *DH.MKT*, No. 2379, Gömlek No. 135.

¹⁷ Osmanlı Arşivi (BOA), *Meclis-i Vâlâ [MVL]*, No. 646, Gömlek No. 89.

¹⁸ Haldun Eroğlu vd., “Osmanlı İmparatorluğu’nda Telkih-i Cüderi (Çiçek Aşısı)”, *Millî Folklor Dergisi* 101 (2014), 196; Nuran Yıldırım, “II. Abdülhamid’in Saltanat Yıllarında Tıp, Sağlık ve Sosyal Yardım”, *Bezmiâlem Aktüel*, 21 (2018).

¹⁹ Sevda Ağır, *Osmanlı’da Karantina Uygulama Süreçleri ve Tepkiler (1865-1914)* (Ankara: Hacettepe Üniversitesi, Master’s Thesis, 2020), 28.

in schools were postponement and rigorous disinfection of these places.²⁰ In 1892, due to flu in Erzurum, Muslim and Christian primary and primary schools were temporarily closed.²¹

The growing cholera epidemic in 1893 stressed out the Ottoman government in every aspect, and various precautions were consequently taken. When a few students fell ill at Beşiktaş Military Junior High School (Beşiktaş Askeri Rüştiyesi) at the end of August, this situation was found suspicious, and it was decided that the sick students should be sent home immediately, that their treatment under the supervision of their parents would be appropriate, and that the school should be suspended for 15 days. Besides, commanded were military schools and the ministry to lessen the number of students in schools providing education crowdedly. Upon deaths of unknown reason in hospitals, concerns arose; therefore, Soğukçeşme and other military junior high schools providing education crowdedly near the madhouse were decided to be closed temporarily.²²

The epidemic slowed down partially at the end of the year, and upon that, when it was requested by the Ministry of Education (Ma'ârif Nezareti) to return to on-campus education in primary and junior high schools where students were taking their education grouped and sectioned, it was offered to the Committee of Public Protection of Health (Hifz as-Şihhah-i Umumi Komisyonu). The situation was regarded in all aspects, and it ended up with the conclusion that it was too early to reopen all schools and that it was more suitable to wait for the process to calm down. However, the situation was also discussed in the Assembly of Deputy (Majlis-i Maḥşûs-u Wukalâ), and upon the negotiations, it was assumed that it would be far more concerning for the spread of the epidemic if the students were to roam here and there when the schools were closed. Finally, the decision was made to open all schools as of January 13, 1894.²³

²⁰ Sabri Yetkin, "İzmir'de Veba Salgını (Mayıs Ağustos 1900)", *Çağdaş Türkiye Tarihi Araştırmaları Dergisi* 1/3 (01 Haziran 1993), 371-385; Meral Erdoğan, *18. Yüzyılın Sonu 19. Yüzyılın Başlarında Osmanlı Devleti'nde Veba Yılları (İzmir Örneği)* (Eskişehir: Osmangazi Üniversitesi, Master's Thesis, 2017), 107-108.

²¹ Osmanlı Arşivi (BOA), *Maarif Nezareti Tedrisat-ı İbtidaiyye Klemi [MF.İBT]*, No. 28, Gömlek No. 101.

²² Osmanlı Arşivi (BOA), *İrade Hususi [İ.HUS]*, No. 15, Gömlek No. 126.

²³ Osmanlı Arşivi (BOA), *İrade Maarif [İ.MF]*, No. 2, Gömlek No. 19; Osmanlı Arşivi (BOA), *Meclis-i Vükelâ Mazbataları [MV]*, No. 77, Gömlek No. 102. The cholera epidemic also led to the inability to teach some courses in schools. For example, the dissection course

The cholera epidemic in 1893 was a period when the measures were observed the best in schools. In this process, when it was declared to suspend all schools, students in the Faculty of Political Sciences (Maktab-i Mulkiya) and Maktab-i Şulţanî (Maktab-i Şulţanî; Founded with the approval of the sultan himself, the school aims to provide an elite education to Muslim and non-Muslim children living in all Ottoman lands.) were not allowed to be suspended; moreover, extra precautions such as being more careful with hygiene were taken. From December 21, as the detriment of treating students in the school were considered, if cholera was found in students taking boarding school education in those schools, it was decided, after further notice to regarding offices of the municipal, to send students catching this sickness, if their home was in Istanbul, to their family, and if not, to special cholera hospitals allocated by the municipal with the help and transportation of the same municipal. Among the decisions taken, if the transmission of the disease continues, the places where the students can catch and spread the disease, the necessary parts of the schools, especially the toilets, should be disinfected and the other students in contact with the sick students should be cleaned properly.²⁴

In 1895, it was decided to enclose any place where cholera was observed. However, it was considered a problematic decision for some public spheres, and the built oppion that police stations and schools would be affected the most. It was predicted to cause problems with enclosing the police stations in terms of security, and enclosing students and teachers inside schools would be an issue as well. For this reason, different measures could be taken from time to time, and the student, who was not allowed to be transferred to the hospital by his family, was taken to his home with the support of the municipality in case of need and enclosed for 10 days. For the school, it was decided that it would be suspended for 10 days and disinfected and deeper cleaned.²⁵

could not be given to the senior students of Emperor's Medical School (Maktab T. ibbiyyah Shahâna) because of the epidemic, which led to the postponement of the general exam for those who would graduate from the school. see. Sabah, 1668, p. 1 (28. Ramadan. 1311/05. April. 1894).

²⁴ Osmanlı Arşivi (BOA), *İrade Şehremaneti [İ.ŞE]*, No. 3, Gömlek No.

²⁵ For the tezkire/tazkirah of municipality about the mandate that was sent to the government/ Sublime Porte (Bâb 'Âlî) and prepared by the Protection of Health Committee about the intervention in case of symptoms of sickness in police stations and schools as in the case of a soldier that fell ill with cholera at the Gendarmerie Station in Dolapdere see. Osmanlı Arşivi (BOA), *Yıldız Mütenevvi Ma'ruzat [Y.MTV]*, No. 115, Gömlek No. 1.

The examples of short- and long-term suspensions of schools are quite extensive in the archives of the Ministry of Education. The Şulţan Aĥmad Central Teaching Office was informed that the students of Kabasakal Primary School were suspended because of the epidemic.²⁶ The same ministry requested that the Leyli Girls' Sanayi-i Nefise Maktabi (It was founded during the reign of Abdulhamid II to provide education in the field of fine arts) which was suspended due to the suspicion of sickness, and the bedspreads and belongings of the students be disinfected by the municipality's medical committee.²⁷

There are certain postponements available for places serving education. From the document issued by the Ministry of Education - Department of Schooling of Primary Education (Ma'ârif Nezareti Tedrisât-ı İbtidâiye Kalemi), since a measles epidemic broke out in the vicinity of Gülcemal, it was declared that the primary school there should be temporarily suspended and that the inspectors should act cautiously in this regard.²⁸ As we learned from the document issued by the same department, because of the mumps epidemic, the Medical Committee decided that the Hamidiye Junior High School in Makriköy (Bakırköy) was suspended for ten days and the school be disinfected.²⁹ Due to the epidemic that started at Haydarpaşa Primary School in Üsküdar, the school was suspended for twelve days.³⁰ It was pointed out that Kadikoy/Kadıköy Hamidiye Boys' School and Erenköy Junior High School were given a 12-day suspension and disinfection of these schools due to the epidemic of diseases such as mumps, measles, and croup.³¹

From time to time, there have been cases where the duration of postponement was not specified Yakub Aĥa School on Aĥa Yokusu St. was closed due to the measles epidemic.³² The Iskender Mustafa Pasha Primary School in Sultanahmet, where there have been epidemics, was suspended.³³ Schools were suspended because of measles in the village of Sehrizor in

²⁶ BOA, *MF.İBT*, No. 60, Gömlek No. 7.

²⁷ BOA, *MF.İBT*, No. 113, Gömlek No. 90.

²⁸ Osmanlı Arşivi (BOA), *Maarif Nezareti Mektubî Kalemi [MF.MKT]*, No. 154, Gömlek No. 106.

²⁹ BOA, *MF.İBT*, No. 190, Gömlek No. 37.

³⁰ Osmanlı Arşivi (BOA), *Topkapı Sarayı Müzesi Arşivi Evrakı [TS.MA.e]*, No. 1372/34.

³¹ BOA, *MF.MKT*, No. 1041, Gömlek No. 14.

³² BOA, *MF.MKT*, No. 572, Gömlek No. 58.

³³ BOA, *MF.MKT*, No. 938, Gömlek No. 69.

Büyükçekmece.³⁴ It was emphasized that teachers should be informed that the children's, primary, boys', and girls' schools in Mirgün were suspended because of the epidemic.³⁵

During the course of the epidemic, there were also cases of long-term interruption of education. For example, Esmahan Kaya Sultan Primary School³⁶ and Kadirga Primary School³⁷ in Binbirdirek were closed 12 days because of the measles epidemic.

Occasionally, schools were suspended because of cleaning or renovation during epidemics. For example, because of the increase in epidemics such as scarlet fever, measles, and diphtheria, it was decided to suspend the Greek school in Havuzlu Kilise in Kumkapı to be cleaned under the care of the First Municipality Department.³⁸ Due to the measles epidemic in Erenköy Boys' Junior High School, it was decided to suspend schools and implement modern cleaning methods (tañhîrât-ı fannîyyah) in the school; moreover, the situation was reported to the relevant department.³⁹ Due to the epidemic of diseases such as mumps, measles, and croup, a 12-day suspension and disinfection of Kadıköy Hamidiye Boys' School and Erenköy Junior High Schools was decided.⁴⁰

Examples similar to the Ottoman period also existed in the Republican period. In the Republic period, the suspension of schools was a measure taken. There are several instances recorded such as the suspension of Atik Ali Pasha Girls' Numune School due to measles,⁴¹ suspension of Altunizade Boys' Numune School measles,⁴² as it appears from the documents, suspension of Kapudan Hasan Pasha School because of measles for 15 days (document dated to May 13, 1924 and writes about the necessity of postponement until May 28),⁴³ suspension of Kadıköy Mahfirize İnas Numune School as to measles

³⁴ Osmanlı Arşivi (BOA), *Dahiliye Mektubi Kalemî [DH.MKT]*, No. 1705, Gömlek No. 104.

³⁵ BOA. *MF.İBT*, No. 23, Gömlek No. 55.

³⁶ BOA. *MF.MKT*, No. 553, Gömlek No. 12.

³⁷ BOA. *MF.MKT*, No. 553, Gömlek No. 18.

³⁸ BOA. *MF.MKT*, No. 545, Gömlek No. 9.

³⁹ BOA. *MF.MKT*, No. 995, Gömlek No. 19.

⁴⁰ BOA. *MF.MKT*, No. 1041, Gömlek No. 14.

⁴¹ Cumhuriyet Arşivi (BCA), *Millî Eğitim Bakanlığı (180-9-0-0)*, Kutu No. 12, Gömlek No. 70, Sıra No. 11; BCA. (180-9-0-0), Kutu No. 12, Gömlek No. 70, Sıra No. 12

⁴² BCA. (180-9-0-0), Kutu No. 12, Gömlek No. 70, Sıra No. 13.

⁴³ BCA. (180-9-0-0), Kutu No. 12, Gömlek No. 70, Sıra No. 14.

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for 15 days,⁴⁴ and suspension of the schools in the Karagümruk region due to smallpox.⁴⁵ Due to the measles epidemic that occurred in the schools within the Second Municipal Office around Üskübi and its environs, Debbag Yunus district, Balat, and Salma Tomruk, it was requested that the Üskübi Primary School should be suspended because the disease was mostly seen in the aforementioned school.⁴⁶

Organizing Education Places Suitable for Health

In terms of education, a measure taken because of epidemics was to make existing buildings and structures comply with health rules. Due to the jaundice disease observed in Adana during the inspected period, the schools were whitewashed, their toilets were maintained and cleaned, and the water jars were changed according to the report of the Health Inspectors. For all of this, an expenditure of 400 kurush was made, and the Adana Directorship of Education has been informed about it.⁴⁷

Another measure taken in schools due to epidemics is the increase of inspection and controls regarding health. In 1894, Schools' Inspectors of Protection of Health (Okullar Sıhhiye Müfettişleri) increased their inspections in public homes (hân), lodging rooms, mosques, lodges, schools, churches, and almshouses; furthermore, they made an effort to eliminate situations not suitable for health. Streets and markets were cleaned and included in inspection areas within the scope of preparing and selling clean and healthy food consumed in these places where many people come and act together. From time to time, unhealthy foods such as spoiled and rotten foods detected during these controls were collected by the relevant departments of the municipalities and poured into the sea.⁴⁸ In these inspections, it was determined that the student dormitories in schools such as the Military Junior

44 BCA. (180-9-0-0), Kutu No. 12, Gömlek No. 70, Sıra No. 16.

45 BCA. (180-9-0-0), Kutu No. 12, Gömlek No. 70, Sıra No. 24.

46 BOA. *MF.İBT*, No. 24, Gömlek No. 97.

47 BOA. *MF.MKT*, No. 745, Gömlek No. 63.

48 19. Safar. 1312/For the 21. August. 1894 dated instruction issued by the Council of State Office of Tanzimat, see. Osmanlı Arşivi (BOA), *Yıldız Resmî Ma'ruzat [Y.A.RES]*. No. 72, Gömlek No. 1, lef 2; Ağır, *Osmanlı'da Karantina Uygulama Süreçleri ve Tepkiler (1865-1914)*, 53-54; Nuran Yıldırım, "İstanbul'da Sağlık Hayatı", *Antik Çağdan XXI. Yüzyıla Büyük İstanbul Tarihi*, ed. Coşkun Yılmaz (İstanbul: İBB Kültür AŞ. Yayınları, 2015), IV/101.

High Schools in Istanbul, which also have boarding sections, were not in the specified standards; therefore, the inspections and examinations of these places were increased.⁴⁹

Doctor examinations in schools are among the measures taken in advance of and sometimes even before the epidemic. In a report prepared in the days before the possible cholera epidemic started in Dersa'âdat (home of happiness) Istanbul in the 1890s, it was stated that the municipality doctors should pay attention to the inspection and examination by walking around the regions where they were affiliated for at least two hours a day and report every situation they encountered during these inspections to the center. In the continuation of the report, until new doctors were appointed by the Ministry of Education, it was requested that the doctors of the municipality should examine as many schools as possible in their working areas every day, they should take precautions if a problem is found, and teachers should be given advice on the subject.⁵⁰ By giving warnings to all principals, teachers, and inspectors, the Ministry of Education had taken additional measures despite the increasing number of patients and had tried to ensure continuous control of the food and beverages of the students.⁵¹ When the cholera cases increased in Fatih in September 1893, it was decided to appoint a doctor and pharmacist to protect the health of the students and to detect and treat those who were suspected of contracting the disease and showing symptoms. In addition, all students studying at schools in Dersa'âdat (home of happiness) were advised to eat lighter desserts instead of zerde (a saffron and rice dessert) in case they upset their stomachs. At that time, these students were given thin and crust-like breads produced in the Ministry of Foundations (Awkâf Humayûn) ovens; therefore, it was noted that a regulation should be introduced due to cholera as it was difficult to digest.⁵²

⁴⁹ The schools were really overcrowded, and as the microbe spread, it was very easy for hundreds of students to catch cholera immediately. In a document from the days when the epidemic was about to fade, it was stated that the building of Numune-i Terakki School had a capacity of 300 people; nevertheless, there were 600 students taking education. Even this information accounts for the extent of the jeopardy. see. BOA. *İ.MF*, No. 2, Gömlek No. 19; It is seen that the tribal school (Aşiret Mektebi) was in the same situation at that same time. see. BOA, *İ.HUS*, No. 16, Gömlek No. 153.

⁵⁰ Sabah, 1428, p. 1 (24. Muharram. 1311/07. August. 1893).

⁵¹ Sabah, 1472, p. 1 (10. Rabi' al-Awwal. 1311/25. September. 1893).

⁵² BOA. *İ.HUS*, No. 16, Gömlek No. 22. District Governor Izzet Bey and Naim Efendi were ordered to take on this job only when cholera appeared in schools, without disrupting their main duties. see. BOA. *Y.MTV*, No. 83, Gömlek No. 68.

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During the epidemic, measures had to be taken, such as turning some schools into hospitals. In the document issued by the Ministry of Education dated January 3, 1894, the sixth- grade classroom was turned into an infirmary as influenza began to be seen among middle school students in Adana and because of the fear that it would turn into an epidemic. It was emphasized that the other two rooms in the school should be converted into classrooms.⁵³ Due to the cholera epidemic, hospitals were opened quickly in Istanbul, and some hotels and schools were turned into hospitals. Among these schools are Kabataş High School, Dâr al-Mua'llimîn (male teacher schools), Galatasaray High School, Haydarpaşa Pharmacy School, Dâr al-Funûn (University), and Dâr ash-Shafakah (The school opened to educate orphan Muslim children).⁵⁴

Some schools had to be converted into hospitals during the epidemics that occurred during the Balkan wars.⁵⁵ The red crescent organization established hospitals for refugees and soldiers during the same period. For example, on November 30, 1912/18 Tashrîn al-Awwal 1328, the Ottoman Dâr al-Funûn was temporarily closed and converted into the Dâr al-Funûn hospital, and an additional 200 beds were added to the already present 400-bed hospital by the Red Cross.⁵⁶

Establishing Commissions/Publishing Ordinances

In most epidemics, cleanliness is among the prerequisites to reduce the course of the disease and ultimately eliminate it completely. In the last period of the Ottoman Empire, a step was taken by the administration in this sense, and a committee was formed under the administration of Miralay Bonkowski and under the name of the "Sanitary Commission" (Sihhiye Komisyonu) to decide and implement the measures to be taken for disinfection and deeper cleaning of Istanbul and its surroundings. Charles Bonkowski, a prominent name in the fields of pharmacy, medicine, and chemistry in the Ottoman Empire, was

⁵³ BOA. *MF.MKT*, No. 197, Gömlek No. 99.

⁵⁴ Dağlar, *War, Epidemics and Medicine in the Ottoman Empire: From the Balkan Wars through the Great War (1912-1918)*, 82; "Emraz-ı Sariyeye Karşı Mücadele", *OHAM* 6 (17 Şubat 1340), 134-135.

⁵⁵ Kondüktör and Bahriye schools and Beyoğlu Sultani School and Galata Sultani School had to be converted hospitals. Osmanlı Arşivi (BOA), *Dahiliye Siyasi Kısım [DH.SYS]*, No. 112, Gömlek No. 20.

⁵⁶ Year book, 123-124, Dağlar, *War, Epidemics and Medicine in the Ottoman Empire: From the Balkan Wars through the Great War (1912-1918)*, 84-85.

appointed as a palace chemist in 1894, and he was entrusted with the duty of Chief Inspector of Dersa'âdat and Public Health of Emperor's Province (Wilâyat-i Shahânah) in the same year.⁵⁷ Chief Inspector Bonkowski firstly started the inspection from the Bosphorus, then traveled around Kasımpaşa, Hasköy, Halıcıoğlu, Balat, and its environs, trying to inspect every possible place, including churches, synagogues, schools, and some houses, and reported the unhealthy conditions and how they could be improved.⁵⁸ In light of these reports, disinfection activities were given importance to prevent the spread of diseases in public places such as schools, prisons, and hospitals; moreover, cemeteries were allocated outside the settlements for people who died in the epidemics.⁵⁹ One of the health units established for public health in the 19th-century was the *tabhîrhânah* which worked effectively, especially in epidemics.⁶⁰ It ensured that the belongings of the disease-bearers were cleaned by using steam in the drying ovens in the places where diseases were detected to turn into epidemics such as tuberculosis, typhoid fever, scarlet fever, plague, smallpox, cholera, and measles; moreover, these were health institutions that operate in the sense of “disinfection station”⁶¹ established for the purification of various of contacted things from lice and dirt such as belongings of these patients, clothes, houses, workplaces, schools, boats, the animals they own and their scats, ships coming from outside and the letters and packages they carry, lice and dirt belonging.⁶²

⁵⁷ About Charles Bonkowski see. Feza Günergun, “XIX. Yüzyılın İkinci Yarısında Osmanlı Kimyager-Eczacı Bonkowski Paşa (1841-1905)” (I. Türk Tıp Tarihi Kongresi-İstanbul 1988, Ankara, 1992), 229-252; Turan Baytop, *Türk Eczacılık Tarihi* (İstanbul, 1985), 407.

⁵⁸ BOA. *İ.HUS*, No. 1, Gömlek no. 12. Apart from Bonkowski assigned by the municipality, detailed reports were also requested from the Medical School of the Emperor (Maktab-i Tibbiyya-i Shahânah) on the sanitary situation in Istanbul.

⁵⁹ Selma Turhan Sarıköse, *XIX. Yüzyılda Çukurova'da Doğal Afetler ve Salgın Hastalıklar* (Konya: Selçuk Üniversitesi, PhD Thesis, 2013).

⁶⁰ Because disinfection machines are called *tabhîr*, this unit was called by this name. Yeşim Işıl Ülman, “19-20. Yüzyıllarda Türkiye’de Tıp Tarihinin Ana Hatları”, *Tıp Tarihi ve Tıp Tarihi Ders Kitabı* (İstanbul: İstanbul Üniversitesi Yayınları, 2007) 179; Gülden Sarıyıldız, “Osmanlılarda Hıfzıssıhha”, *Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı İslâm Ansiklopedisi (DİA)* (İstanbul, 2011), 17/320-321; Nuran Yıldırım, “Tanzimat’tan Cumhuriyet’e Koruyucu Sağlık Uygulamaları”, *Tanzimat’tan Cumhuriyet’e Türkiye Ansiklopedisi*, 5/ 1325.

⁶¹ Yıldırım, “Tanzimat’tan Cumhuriyet’e Koruyucu Sağlık Uygulamaları”, 5/1324.

⁶² Ağır, *Osmanlı’da Karantina Uygulama Süreçleri ve Tepkiler (1865-1914)*, 47; Ülman, “19-20. Yüzyıllarda Türkiye’de Tıp Tarihinin Ana Hatları”, 179; Gülden Sarıyıldız, “Osmanlılarda Hıfzıssıhha”, *Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı İslâm Ansiklopedisi (DİA)* (İstanbul, 1998), 320-321; Yıldırım, “Tanzimat’tan Cumhuriyet’e Koruyucu Sağlık Uygulamaları”, 5/1325.

It were decided to apportion some amount of money from the required budget, the Cholera Expense Budget, for the disinfection of the cholera epidemic to the Dersa'âdat (home of happiness) Police School.⁶³ It were reported to the Ministry of Foundation to provide boiled water to the students who would go present foundation primary schools in Dersa'âdat and Bilâd Thalâthah (common name referring to three districts in Istanbul which are Galata, Üsküdar and Eyüp), to prevent epidemics, and to take necessary measures for the cleaning and repair of private classrooms and toilets.⁶⁴

It was pointed out that the necessary sanitary measures should be taken in schools because the typhoid epidemic in Dersa'âdat, as elsewhere, spread from the water. From the document issued by the Ministry of Education, civil servants were appointed within the scope of sanitary measures to prevent epidemics such as smallpox, scarlet fever, and measles, and even school principals were asked to show these officials the necessary assistance and support.⁶⁵

During the cholera epidemic that broke out in Thessaloniki, it was found appropriate to pay the price of the medicines purchased for cleaning the schools from the budget reserved for urgent expenses (Z. uhûrat Tertîbi).⁶⁶

Some regulations from time to time, were published regarding the measures to be taken in schools. The ordinance dated February 18, 1913, is one of the best examples in this regard⁶⁷. Because of its importance, the ordinance has been quoted directly.⁶⁸

(Non-reading sections of the document are left blank.)

“A General Regulation on the Prevention of the Spread of Infectious Diseases in Schools”⁶⁹

⁶³ Osmanlı Arşivi (BOA), *Dahiliye Muhasabe Kalemi [DH.EUM.MH]*, No. 29, Gömlek No. 115.

⁶⁴ BOA.MF.İBT, No. 295, Gömlek No. 13; BOA. MF.İBT, No. 295, Gömlek No. 16.

⁶⁵ BOA.MF.İBT, No. 204, Gömlek No. 27.

⁶⁶ BOA.MF.MKT, No. 215, Gömlek No. 39.

⁶⁷ Zeyben Karakuş stated in her thesis that “It was requested to enforce the laws prepared by a decision issued by the Council of State on February 23, 1913.”, but according to our determinations, the date of this ordinance is February 18, 1913. See. *19. ve 20. Yüzyılda Osmanlı Devleti'nde Yaşanan Salgın Hastalıkların Mekteplere Etkileri*, 25.

⁶⁸ For the picture of the document, see Attachment: 2.

⁶⁹ Osmanlı Arşivi (BOA), *Şura-yı Devlet [ŞD]*, No. 226, Gömlek No. 81.

“Ordinance”

Article 1: In schools where no principal or vice-principal is present, teachers, orderly, are going to acquire information from the family of the student who is absent for four days for the reason of the absence. If the given feedback is not informative, the student will be examined by a doctor.

Article 2: If it is concluded after the medical examination that the student is infected with an infectious disease, the report will be sent by the principal or the teacher to the Inspectorship of Health or School.

Article 3: The school principal or teacher sends the student whose health is suspicious to health inspectors.

Article 4: The principal of the teacher will send the student showing sudden signs of infectious disease in a proper way to the student’s family and will immediately acquire the student’s report and send it to the Inspectorship of Health.

Article 5: If the student being absent due to sickness is one of the mentioned infectious diseases in article 11, the student will not be accepted to school if he/she has not completed the stage of infection in article 21.

Article 6: If a case, in terms of infectious diseases, occurs in a school, on the notification made by the school principal, the School’s Health Inspectors will deploy themselves in the school to check whether there are other cases among the students.

Article 7: If it is concluded that a student has been infected with one of the mentioned infectious diseases, the classroom of the relevant student will not be occupied by other students for two days and only that classroom will be immediately and perfectly disinfected. If the student is leyli/boarded, in addition to the same measures, the student will be sent to his house or a hospital or quarantined in the school’s hospital and his/her crockery will be cleaned.

Article 8: If one of the diseases mentioned in article 11 occurred twice in the same classroom in a matter of weeks, those students and the classroom will be given an allowance equivalent to the incubation period mentioned in article 20, and the classroom will be cleaned and steamed repeatedly. If the school is boarded, in addition to the same procedure, those students whose homes are in the district of the village will be sent home, and if not, they will be medically examined every day, their contact with other students will be proscribed, and the dormitory room and bedding they occupy will be cleaned.

Article 9: If the number of diseases mentioned in Article 11 exceeds five students in different classrooms, article 8 will be implemented in the whole school.

Article 10: Both the classroom and the school will be disinfected twice either after suspension or before the arrival of the students, and those students who return will be examined by the health inspector.

Article 11: The infectious diseases binding the suspension of schools according to Articles 8 and 9 are:

Scarlet Fever

Croup

İltihâb-ı sahayâyı Dimağı şawki-i mustawli? (A type of inflammation that occurs all around the head/brain)

Smallpox

Article 12: In the presence of (Whooping cough), mumps, Hamra (Erysipelas), Fever, Influenza, Varicella,, in addition to the treatment of the infected student at home, it will be contented only with the cleaning of the classroom of the student. The infected student will be accepted back to school after completing the stage of infection mentioned in Article 21.

Article 13: In the case of measles at school, the health inspectors and chief inspector are authorized, with mutual consultation, to execute Articles 11 and 12.

Article 14: According to the severity of the infectious diseases' spread and the type of the disease mentioned in articles 11 and 12, under mutual consultation with the chief inspector, health inspectors are authorized to take extraordinary measures.

Article 15: Students infected with mange, baldness (alopecia), iltihab-ı tabaka-i mültehum-i cibi (inflammatory layer occurring on the skin), and leprosy will be sent home immediately; in addition, they will be accepted back to school after the highest specialist doctor's report on their complete recovery.

Article 16: Those whose symptoms are severe, their presence in schools will be prohibited, and those whose symptoms are not severe, their parents will receive health warnings.

Article 17: As long as Ra'û'-lefrenç? is in the stage of infection and active, the presence of the infected ones in schools will be prohibited, and as long as the report of the specialist doctor on the perish of the stage of infection is not submitted, it will not be accepted.

Article 18: Students who continue to show indications of illness will not be admitted schooling.

Article 19: The health regulation taken for microbic diseases' time of spread, such as cholera and plague, will be executed in schools as well.

Article 20: The incubation period of the infectious diseases mentioned in Articles 11 and 13 are as follows:

<i>Type of Disease</i>	<i>Days</i>
<i>Measles</i>	<i>Fourteen</i>
<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Seven</i>
<i>Croup</i>	<i>Five</i>
<i>Smallpox</i>	<i>Fourteen</i>

Article 21: The extent of the stage of symptoms of the infectious diseases mentioned in Articles 11 and 13 are as follows:

<i>The type of Disease</i>	<i>Days</i>
<i>Measles</i>	<i>Twenty-one</i>
<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Forty</i>
<i>Croup</i>	<i>Thirty</i>
<i>Smallpox</i>	<i>Forty</i>
<i>Whooping Cough</i>	<i>.... Until the symptoms of the disease are perished</i>
<i>Varicella</i>	<i>Fifteen</i>
<i>Mumps</i>	<i>Twenty</i>
<i>Inflammation ...</i>	<i>.... Until the symptoms of the disease are perished</i>

Article 22: If the diseases mentioned in article 11 are seen among the students' family, the student will not be accepted to school.

Article 23: The drying oven and modern cleaning methods will be executed in tabhîrhânah's in the care of the municipality of Dersa'âdat and in villages in the care of the health inspectors and municipality doctors with proper means.

Article 24: The above-mentioned regulation rules are for all officers, teachers, and school workers binding.

Regulations prepared regarding the measures to be taken in schools are important as they show the importance given to this issue. However, these regulations were successful to the extent that they could be transferred to real life.

Conclusion

The Ottoman Empire witnessed epidemics of old. In terms of geography, the Ottoman Empire, being suitable for interaction, took various measures for the epidemics it witnessed in its last periods. Since schools are places where children at an age that are open to interaction live together, they have been the institutions most affected by these epidemics. For this reason, many documents on these subjects have been identified in the archives of the Ottoman and Republican periods.

Vaccination has been the most important means of protection against epidemics since its discovery. In the Ottoman Empire, it was one of the most important measures taken for students in schools, especially during epidemics. The vaccination process, which covers all children who have not reached school age, has become the most important measure due to the ease of follow-up through schools. Vaccination certificate is required for entrance to some schools and arts branches. During the epidemic, efforts were made to popularize vaccines, and efforts were made to prevent diseases such as measles through vaccination in schools.

According to many examples in archive documents; the most common precautions taken in epidemic diseases is the closure of schools for a certain or indefinite period. The suspension of education was done in order to reduce the speed and impact of the epidemic. The break in education in schools due to the epidemic is expressed as 12 days in most archive documents.. Sometimes, examples of this period being extended or even indefinite closure depending on the situation are also reflected in the documents. The follow-up of the children during these holidays is also recorded in the documents.

In order to stop the spread of the disease in schools, it has been cared to disinfection and renovation works in schools. Educational places and places where students stay have been made suitable for health. The need to reduce the number of students, sometimes, taking into account the capacity of the classes, was emphasized. It was drawn attention to the disinfection and cleaning of schools and student dormitories at sometime. From time to time, some schools had to be converted into hospitals due to epidemics.

Finally, it was established some various commissions by authority for the management during epidemic periods. In addition, regulations have been published regarding the precautions to be taken in schools and the do's and don'ts. Efforts have been made to put the decisions contained in these regulations into practice at the city center and in the provinces. Because simply

making decisions has never been enough, ensuring their implementation into practice has been the primary goal. In the past years, not only our country but the whole world has tried to fight an epidemic disease and it continues today. Therefore, I believe that what has been done and what has not been done/cannot be done in such times in history will always make it easier for us to get through these troubled processes.

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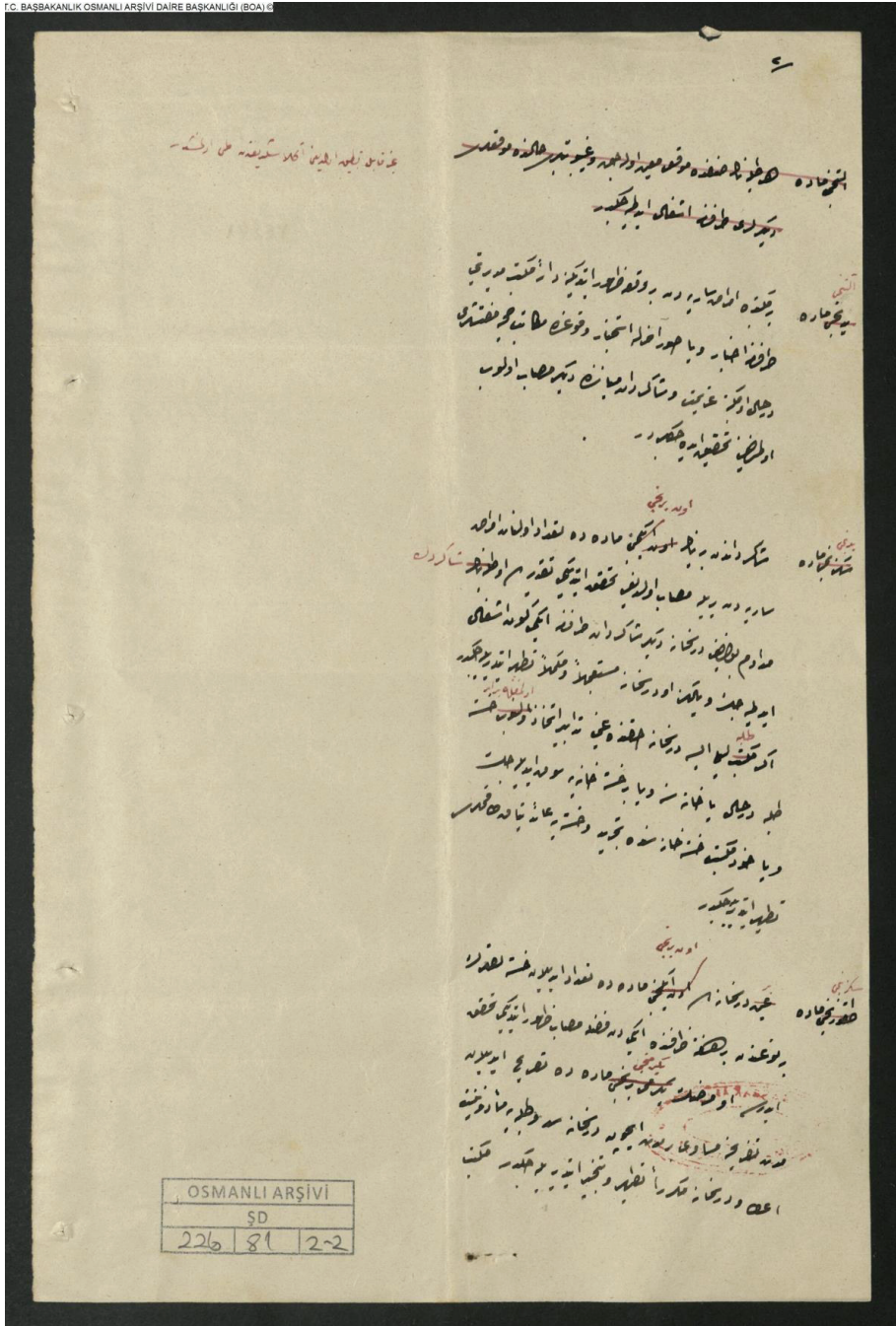
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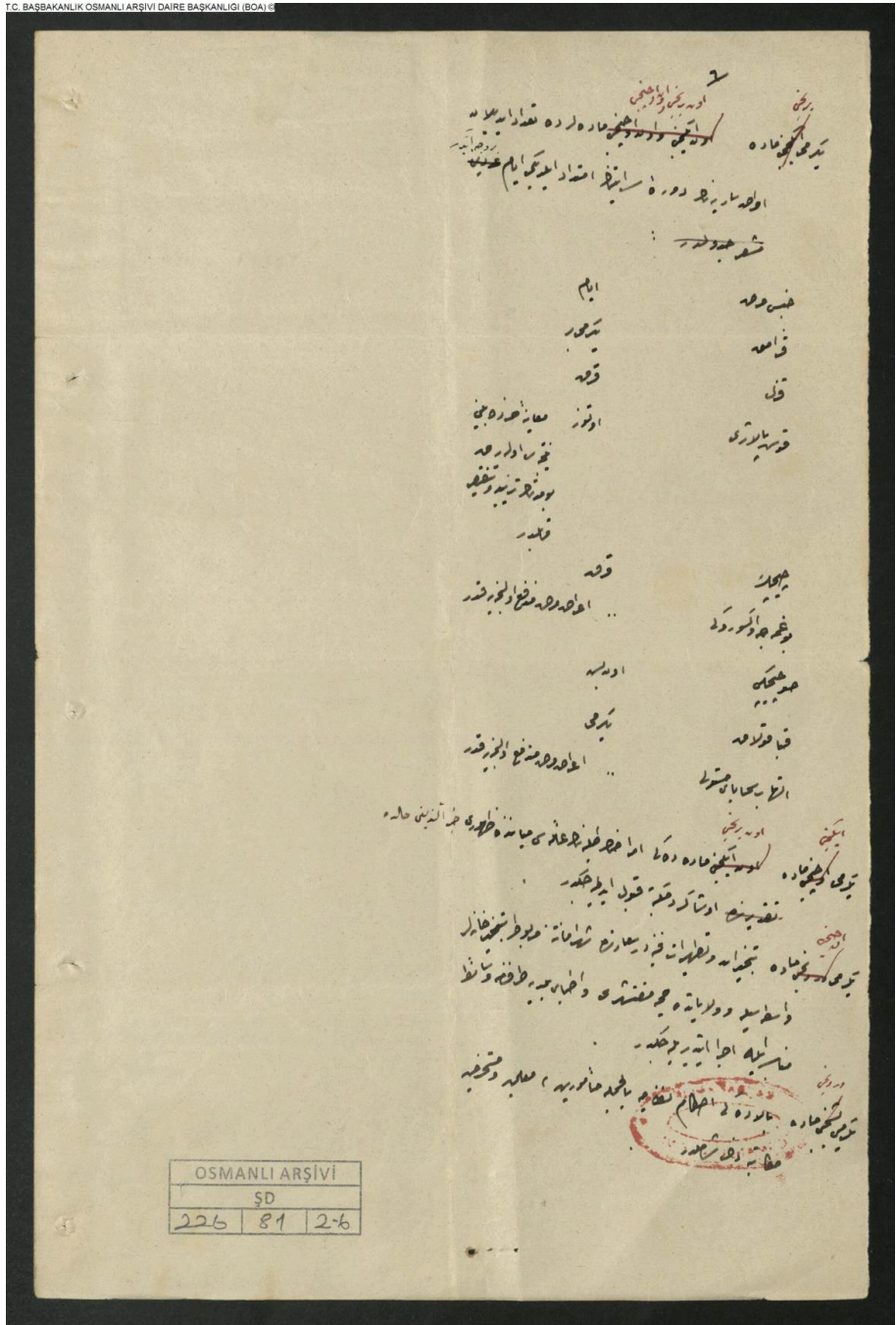


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