

ISLAHANA – TURKISH CITY HOSPITAL OR NOT?

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After the liberation of Nis from the Turks there were three medical institutions: two of them were military hospitals (next to The Skull Tower and on the very road to Leskovac) and Islahana, situated on the very spot where the grammar school "Stevan Sremac" is situated today. Islahana was founded by Midhad Pasha. Its role varied through time: educational, medical and trade. It is very unlikely that it served the needs of the Serbian population at the time. *Acta Medica Medianae 2007;46(1):21-22.*

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After the liberation of Nis from the Turks on January 11th in 1878, there were two military medical hospitals (next to *The Skull Tower* and on the very road to Leskovac) (1,2,3).

The aforementioned Turkish hospitals were turned into a new big hospital in Nis for "one thousand sick and wounded patients" (4,5).

Islahana itself was situated on the very place where **the grammar school** "Stevan Sremac" is situated nowadays (6,7).

The founder was Midhad Pasha, "the most intelligent" Turkish commander of the Nis pashadom (8).

Islahana was open for the public between 1861 and 1864 and it is believed it was closed after 1890.

Midhad Pasha wrote:

"... with the help of certain benefactors, Christian and Moslem children and orphans were gathered and placed in a special institution. They arranged teachers and tutors who used to take care of them, took care of their education, and monitored their learning trade skills.... The necessary funds for supporting this programme were increasing day after day. Along with the supplies and increasing funds, the number of their protégées was also increasing. Soon there were more than 100 members. This institution was new in this region and it was not easy to find

an appropriate title ... So, they named it "Educational centre" (9).

There are very opposite opinions on Islahana.

And they are not yet clarified.

It was mentioned as "Educational centre", "Trade centre" and "Medical centre" as if it served different purposes before and after the liberation.

Radivoje Petkovic wrote:

"... there was Islahana during the Turkish realm – trade school, supported by the Municipality (raised on the Municipality building site). It was turned into the hospital after the liberation." (10).

On the other hand Jovan Bogdanovic was more specific:

"... on the very place, where the male grammar school is situated today, there was a big one floor building, named Islahana as a public hospital, and minors asylum, but it was never being used by the Serbian people..." (11).

According to the date from 1890, Islahana served mainly to the Medical corps:

"Islahana, whose back side of the building was completely ruined and whose front was in very fragile and unsafe state, served as an administrative building. There were: offices, pharmacy, kitchen and a flat for the "Morava medical corps company soldiers" (12).

There are no convincing data on Islahana being a small Turkish hospital (6, 7).

But there are records on its sad ending:

"... it was burnt because of the pests and scum" (10).

The building was built on the building side of 11785 m².

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ISLAHANA – TURSKA GRADSKA BOLNICA ILI NE?

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Nakon oslobađanja Niša od Turaka zatečene su tri zdravstvene ustanove: dve vojne bolnice (kraj Čele Kule i na leskovačkom drumu), i Islahana, na mestu gde se danas nalazi Gimnazija "Stevan Sremac". Islahanu je osnovao Midhat-paša. Ona je imala, kroz vreme, različite uloge: vaspitnu, zanatsku i bolničku. Malo je verovatno da je služila srpskom življu. *Acta Medica Medianae 2007; 46(1):21-22.*

Ključne reči: *Islahana, osnivač Midhat-paša, vaspitni dom, zanatski dom, bolnički dom*