

Celâleddin Muhtar Özden, MD (1865-1947)

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Abstract

Background: Celaleddin Muhtar Özden is a valuable Turkish dermatologist who was born in Istanbul in 1865. He started his first education and afterwards his medical education in Turkey. He increased his knowledge of histology and pathologic anatomy in Paris. He educated most dermatologists in Turkey. In addition to his contribution in medicine, he worked for the Turkish Red Crescent Society. He had been an important supporter for both the military and the civilian population when he was working in Red Crescent Society. This famous dermatologist died in 1947.

Celâleddin Muhtar Özden, also known as ‘*Djè-laleddin Moukhtar*’, is a valuable doctor who was born in Istanbul, Turkey in August 1865. His father is Mr. *Mehmet Muhtar* and his mother is Mrs. *Emine*. Celâleddin Muhtar, shortly Celal Muhtar, is elder brother of Dr. *Akil Muhtar* and Dr. *Kemal Muhtar* [1, 2, 3].

Dr. Celâl Muhtar started his first education in Fıstıklı School in Üsküdar, Istanbul and then he continued his education in Galatasaray High School. He accomplished Medical Education between 1881-1887 in Military Medical School [Figure 1]. He studied about rabies infection and the methods of bacteriology while he had been an assistant of Dr. *Zi-roz Pasha* for two years. He made a great effort to find rabbit to prepare anti-rabies vaccine on Rabbit Island. He has been selected to go to Europe with Dr. *Cenab Şahabettin* by the Military Medical School. In 1889, he was sent to Saint Louis Hospital in Paris to carry out his studies on skin and syphilitic diseases and worked with famous dermatologists

such as Dr. *Jean Alfred Fournier* (1832-1914), *Emilie Vidal* (1825-1893), *Jean Darier* (1856-1938), *Ernest Besnier* (1851-1909) and *F. H. Hallopeau* (1842-1919) [1, 2, 3].

Dr. Celâl Muhtar had been lived in Paris for 4 years. He had participated in the First International Congress of Dermatology held in Paris 5-10 August 1889. In this congress, various dermatologic diseases such as lichen, pityriasis rubra, pemphigus, trichophytie, syphilis and leprosy had been discussed and Dr. Celâl Muhtar presented a paper on ‘syphilitic chancre without lymphadenopathy’ [4, 5].

Dr. Celâl Muhtar increased his knowledge of histology in *Louis Charles Malassez*’s laboratory and pathologic anatomy in Hospital de la Charite from P.C.E. Potain’s laboratory chef, Suchard. After he had started to work in Pasteur Institute in 1890, he attended the course of this organization. Dr. Celâl Muhtar is the



Figure 1. Celâleddin Muhtar Özden, MD

first Turkish dermatologist who attended to the course of Pasteur Institute [1].

He was added as correspondent member to the French Society of Dermatology and Syphilography on March 10th, 1892 and then returned to Istanbul in August, 1892. When he was returned to Military Medical School, Dr. *E. van Duhring* (1858-1944) was worked as a lecturer in the dermatology department (with today's name). He was also started to work as a lecturer in this department with Dr. *E. van Duhring* until 1902 [1, 2, 4]. On this date, *van Duhring* returned to Kiel and Dr. Celâl Muhtar was the chef of the clinic [6].

He had been an important lecturer for his students and also physicians for 32 years. He gave lessons about skin diseases and also syphilis [1]. He educated Turkish famous dermatologists such as Dr. *Hüseyin Zade Ali Turan* (1864-1941), Dr. *Ali Rıza Atasoy* (1875-

1951), Dr. *Şükrü Mehmet Sekban* (1881-1960), Dr. *Hasan Sığındım* (1889-1971) [1, 6]. He endeavored to teach his students 'Please see, not only look' with his own unique style of teaching [7]. Many articles which achieved him an international reputation have been published, especially about syphilis, in national and also international journals [1, 6]. He has identified a form of Trichophythy on the palms and soles [Figures 2 and 3], also known as Trichophythyie Palmaire et Plantaire [3, 6].

The first case attract his attention was a 20-year-old patient named Leon, who is complained of lesions that appears on the left foot, in August 3, 1890. He was noticed that the signs of the patient were different from dyshidrosis. After microscopic examination he had demonstrated micelles of *Trichophyton tonsurans*. Later he also diagnosed various Trichophythyie cases located palms, soles



Figure 2. Wax model of a tinea manum case (Top).

Figure 3. Wax model of a tinea pedis case (Right)



and interdigital areas obtained by microscopic examination and culture, and he declared these cases at French Society of Dermatology and Syphilography and published in Bulletin de Societe Francaise de Dermatologie et de Syphilographie and Annales de Dermatologie

et de Syphilographie [1]. In addition, he presented those patients at 9th International Congress of Dermatology and Syphilography in Budapest 13-21 September 1935 [8]. This

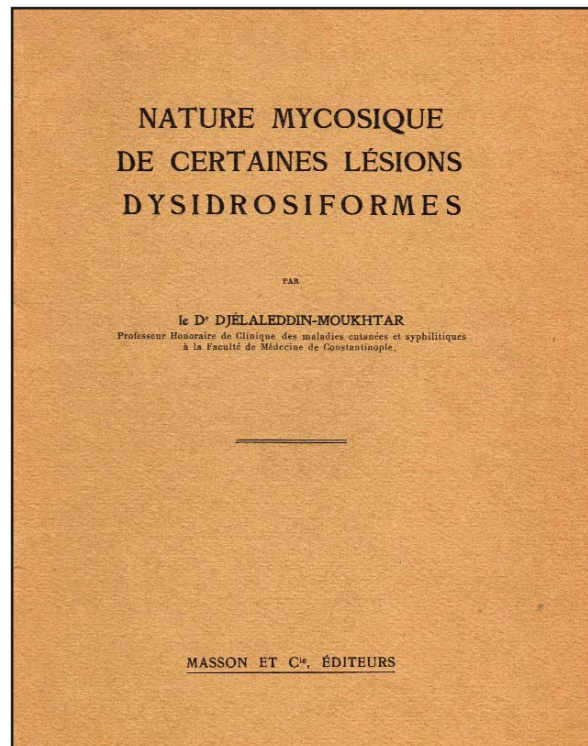


Figure 4. A monography about “Trichophytie” by Celealeddin Muhtar (Left).

Figure 5. Another monography by Celealeddin Muhtar (Top)

finding which discussed in international meetings was published in national journal in 1936 and was defined with clinical and microscopic features [9].

In addition to his contribution in medicine, he started to work for the Turkish Red Crescent Society in April, 1911 [5]. When he was working in Red Crescent Society, he had been an important supporter to the Turkish army [10]. Despite the all difficulties, he increased physical force of the Red Crescent Society and had been built warehouses to defend goods carried to Anatolia [11, 12]. By Celal Muhtar's efforts, Turkish Red Crescent Society provided the needs for emigrants during the war in Balkan's [13].

When he was in his last years of life, his eye disease had gradually worsened despite the treatments in Paris and Geneva [5]. In spite of visual loss, his interest in science had been continued and he spent his last years by listening to publications from others [2]. This famous Turkish dermatologist who has been known by a disease named "Celâl Muhtar's Disease" died in 26 October, 1947 [1].

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