The first Turkish illustrated surgical textbook ‘Cerrahiyetü’l-Haniyye’

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Introduction

The work named *Cerrahiyetü’l-Haniyye* which was written by Şerafettin Sabuncuoğlu (1385–1470?) is quite important for history of medicine [1]. Famous Turkish doctor Sabuncuoğlu (Fig. 1) served as a clinician, trainer, and researcher for 14 years in Amasya Darussifa [1–3]. Sabuncuoğlu wrote three books which are named as *Terceme-i Akrabadin*, *Mücerrebname*, and *Cerrahiyetü’l-Haniyye* [1, 2]. In *Cerrahiyetü’l-Haniyye*, he explained various diseases and also treatment of these diseases [2]. This book is known as first handwritten surgical book in the Turkish and the Islamic World which reflects knowledge and skills of doctors who lived in Anatolia [1, 4]. The book also depicts some of the treatment implemented by doctors with the help of drawing miniature [1, 4]. The example of this, a surgery procedure performed on the posterior head region, was depicted in Fig. 2 and cover figure. Treatment process of a patient who

had cold and was not treated with the drug was explained in the statement part of this miniature. In this treatment, the artery located between two external ear (occipital artery) was cut and some blood was shed (Fig. 2 and cover figure). Then, the ointment was applied on the cutted region to the avoid for inflammation on the surgery site and wound site was closed [1]. In *Cerrahiyetü’l-Haniyye*, there are pictures of instruments which are used as treatment. These miniature and pictures of instruments were evaluated on many publications [1–3, 5–7], and this situation shows how valuable the book is.

Cerrahiyetü’l-Haniyye was written in Turkish language with the use of Arabic alphabets [1, 2]. Written in Turkish is one of the important features of the book. Three different editions are known nowadays. Two of the books are in Istanbul (in Fatih Millet Library and in Library of Medicine History Department, Faculty of Medicine, University of İstanbul) and one of them is in Paris (Bibliothèque Nationale) [1, 8]. The book has been introduced again in the beginning of the twentieth century to the world of science. Although this information shows variety in different articles, the first introducer was Ali Canip by the writing in the journal of *Hayat Mecmuası* in 1927 [1, 2, 9]. It is known that *Cerrahiyetü’l-Haniyye* substantially similar to the book called *et-Tasrif* which was written by Arap author Zehravi lived in tenth century [2]. Uzel pointed out that there were 137 differences between these two books [1]. In *Cerrahiyetü’l-Haniyye*, there are general surgery, pediatric surgery, plastic surgery, orthopedic surgery, thoracic surgery, urology, obstetrics and gynecology sections [1, 2, 5–13].

Keskinbora [4] reported that although it has been more than 550 years, some part of the methods are still using. Explaining diseases and treatments by the help of figure and miniature and also his efforts of transferring this information to doctors show that Şerafettin Sabuncuoğlu and his works have an important place in history of medicine.

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Fig. 1 Şerafeddin Sabuncuoğlu (1385–1470?). Drawn after *Cerrahiyyetü'l Haniye* by Dr. Uzel [1]

Fig. 2 and cover figure. The drawing about the incision of occipital arteries on the posterior head in the handwritten [1]

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interests The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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