

## THE FOUNDER OF MODERN OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY IN TURKEY

# BESİM ÖMER AKALIN

1862 - 1940



**1885** Graduated from the Civil Medical School in Istanbul.

**1885** Promoted as associate professor of obstetrics.

**1887** Carried out postgraduate studies in Paris.

**1891** Promoted as professor of obstetrics.

**1895** Appointed as Dean of the Midwifery School.

**1909** Founded the first Gynecology and Obstetrics Clinic and the Midwifery School in Istanbul, Kadırga.

**1914** Promoted as Dean of the Medical School in Istanbul.

**1919-1923** Promoted as President of Istanbul University

**1935-1939** Served as a parliament member.



He was one of the founders of the organization known as the **Milk Drop**, established during World War I to provide milk for babies and to encourage mothers to breastfeed.

He contributed greatly in establishing the first obstetrics clinic and the first midwifery school in Turkey affiliated with the Medical School of Istanbul.

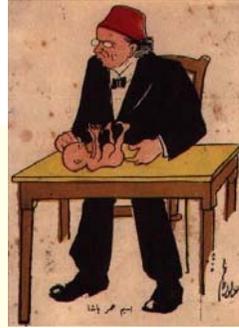
He designed courses for uneducated midwives and thus made possible a remarkable decrease in the mortality of puerperal fever.

He contributed to the reorganization of the Turkish Red Crescent Society.

He had a leading role in founding the Society for the Protection and Care of Children.

He was president of the Ottoman Society for the Fight Against Tuberculosis.

He was one of the founders of the Turkish History of Medicine Society.



He had many publications on preventive medicine and public health issues (mouth hygiene, smoking, alcoholism, spas, sea baths, first aid etc.) His article on tuberculosis was the first to be published as a booklet for the campaign against tuberculosis.

In an age when even the medical examination of women was not tolerated well by the public, he tried to establish scientific methods in modern obstetrics.

He wrote a total of seventy seven books and many articles.

The first Annuals of Medicine of Turkey was started by him.

In daily newspapers he published numerous articles on public health issues.

