

## #2

Ottoman hospitals were located in cities so as to provide easy access to large populations. (In other places during the same era, hospitals were located outside of cities in order to prevent the spread of contagion.) The Ottomans differed from medieval/early modern Europeans in their emphasis on cleanliness. Ottoman doctors considered bathing to be important to healing. They also believed that pleasant sensory experiences would speed recovery. Therefore, hospitals provided beautiful, fragrant gardens, tasty food, and music to patients.

### **Description of an Ottoman hospital by the great 17<sup>th</sup> century Ottoman traveler Evliya Çelebi:**

“The Timar-khaneh of Mohammed II, which consists of seventy rooms, covered with eighty cupolas, is attended by two hundred servants, a physician-general, and a surgeon. All travelers who fall sick are received into this hospital, and are well attended to. They have excellent food twice a day; even pheasants, partridges, and other delicate birds are supplied.... There are musicians and singers who are employed to amuse the sick and insane, and thus to cure their madness. There is also a separate hospital for infidels. The hospital of Sultan Soleiman is an establishment so excellent, that the sick are generally cured within three days after their admission, it being provided with the most able physicians and surgeons. The mosques of Bayazid and Selim have no hospitals attached to them. The hospital of Sultan Ahmed is chiefly for the reception of insane persons, on account of the purity of its air. The attendants are remarkable for their patience and good-nature....”

Çelebi, Evliya. *Narrative of Travels in Europe, Asia, and Africa in the Seventeenth Century*. Trans. Joseph von Hammer-Purgstall. New York: Johnson Reprint Corp., 1968. (pages 174-175)

Inner courtyard of the Ottoman hospital in Edirne, Turkey



”Health Museum in Edirne.” Turkish Arcaeological News. 1 Nov. 2017. Web. 16 Jul. 2017.