



ABU'L-ḤASAN TAFREŠĪ

ABU'L-ḤASAN B. 'ABD-AL-WAHHĀB TAFREŠĪ (1261-1323/1845 to 1905-06), medical instructor, author, and public health official in late Qajar Persia. Abu'l-Ḥasan was born in Ṭarḵorān (34°40' north latitude, 50° east longitude, apparently identical with Tafreš, of which it used to be a dependency; see *Gazetteer of Iran* I, p. 654, and maps I-43-B, I-44-A), today the central place of the district of Tafreš, situated between Qom and Hamadān in the Central Province (see *Map of Iran, Administrative Divisions*, Tehran, 1962). At the age of eight, he was sent to school while his (blind) father supervised his instruction in the reading and writing of Persian. By the time he was fourteen, Abu'l-Ḥasan had learned the rudiments of Arabic, astronomy/astrology, and traditional medicine; under straightened circumstances he continued his education at Tafreš for four more years. After that he went to Tehran to attend the *Dār al-Fonūn*, where he was listed as a student of medicine in Ramaẓān, 1288/November-December, 1871 and which he left in the following year or in 1290/1873-74 with the final diploma; this probably amounted to a doctoral degree, since he was later commonly called *doktor*. His curriculum at the Dār al-Fonūn included traditional Iranian medicine, taught by Mīrzā 'Abd-al-Wahhāb Ḥakīmāšī, *farangī* or western medicine and surgery, taught by Mīrzā Reẓā Doktor, and natural science and pharmacy, taught by Mīrzā Kāẓem Khan (q.v.). In 1291/1874-75 Abu'l-Ḥasan was appointed government physician in the provinces of 'Erāq and Solṭānābād and subsequently to various other positions in the developing health administration and at the Dār al-Fonūn, where he twice held teaching posts. His career (down to 1312/1894-95) included the following appointments: physician to the Mounted Guards (*kešik-*



kāna), officer for plague control at Rašt, member of the Health Council (*majles-e ḥefẓ-e šehhat*) in Tehran, government physician of Azarbaijan, and director of the State Hospital at Tehran; he was given the rank of brigadier-general (*sartīp-e awwal*).

In his medical writings, which covered most of the major disciplines, Abu'l-Ḥasan attempted to further the knowledge of Western science in Iran. They include, in the order of publication (as lithographs): 1. *Pātolożī* ("Pathology"), Tehran, 1300/1883; 2. *Maṭla' al-ṭebb-e Nāṣerī dar amrāz-e bāṭenī*, Tehran, 1300/1883; 3. *Tarāpotīk va davāsāzī*, Tehran, 1305/1887-88, 1308/1890-91; 4. *Tašrīḥ*, Tehran, 1312/1894-95, a translation from the French of Marie-Philibert-Constant Sappey (1810-96), a leading anatomist of the time (*Traité d'anatomie descriptive*, 1876-79, 4 vols.); 5. *Masā'el-e 'omda-ye ḥefẓ al-šehḥa*, Tabrīz, 1312/1894-95; 6. *Fīzīolożī* ("Physiology"), Tehran, 1315/1897-98.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The above is essentially based on Abu'l-Ḥasan's autobiography as quoted in Mošār, *Mo'allemīn* I, pp. 144-45 (with photograph), where his published works are also listed. Cf. E'temād-al-saltāna, *al-Ma'āṭer wa'l-āṭār*, Tehran, 1306/1988, p. 218. Browne, *Press and Poetry*, pp. 156, 157, no. 11.

E. Yağmā'ī, "Madrassa-ye Dār al-Fonūn, 10," *Yağmā* 23/5, 1349 Š./1970, p. 305. Storey, II, p. 305, no. 557.