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REFİK SAYDAM (1881-1942)

Refik Saydam, MD, who served as the Minister of Health for 15 years in the early period of Republic of Turkey, is a well-known physician and politician who is being remembered during the current pandemic, especially in terms of fighting against epidemics and implementing preventive healthcare policies. Saydam played a significant role in the progressive steps taken by the Republic of Turkey in healthcare, implementation of healthcare policies and foundation of new institutions.

Photography: Margaret Bourke-White, LIFE Photo Collection.