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DR. ION GHIULAMILA (1872-1936),
“AN ISOLATED SPECIALIST” WITH A DEEP SOCIAL CALLING
(Summary)

Keywords: Dr. Ion Ghiulamila, social medicine, Society of War Disabled Persons, medical and social assistance for war disabled persons, history of Romanian orthopedics.

Although known in the history of Romanian medicine as the founder of orthopedics, information about Dr. Ion Ghiulamila is scarce, coming almost exclusively from his own memoirs, published in 1937. These, in turn, are in fact a kind of scientific and activity report, referring exclusively to the professional life of the author. We will therefore attempt to reconstruct some aspects (very few, unfortunately) of Dr. Ion Ghiulamila's personal life, his work for the cause of the Macedonian Aromanians, documented by the Macedonian-Romanian Cultural Society, and his medical and social work related to the problems of war invalids. He was a founding member, director, and extremely active participant between 1917 and 1935 in the activities of the Society of War Disabled Persons, about which he also published an extremely detailed summary report. Dr. Ghiulamila supported the moral and legal obligation of the state to recognize, regulate, and enforce the rights of war invalids. He took steps in this direction with various civil and military authorities, both during the war and immediately after its end, and in 1931-1932 he held the position of senator, promoting the rights to pensions and social assistance for war invalids in the legislative initiatives he proposed or supported. Dr. Ghiulamila's medical creed can be summarized in two fundamental ideas. On the one hand, medicine should not become a business, and on the other hand, orthopedic treatment should restore the patient's autonomy, while saving society the resources it would otherwise have spent on assisting those unable to work.

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