



Lebanon Honors Dr. Itani

One of AUB's oldest dentists, Dr. Mohamad Itani was decorated last month by the Lebanese Government with the Health Medal in recognition of his services. The decoration was conferred by His Excellency Suleiman Franjieh, President of the Republic and presented by Dr. Emile Bitar, Minister of Health. The decoration took place during a small party held at the Dental Association Office in Beirut for this occasion. Dr. Raif Nassif, Director of the AUB School of Medicine, presented a gift to Dr. Itani on behalf of the Dental and Medical Alumni of AUB while Dr. H.H. Srabian presented to him a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the Alumni Association.

Dr. Itani was born in Beirut in 1893. He studied at the Preparatory School before joining AUB from which

he first graduated with a BA in 1914.

Soon after graduation, young Itani was called to serve in the Turkish Army. His first appointment was assistant director of the Military Hospital in Jerusalem.

Here Itani met Dr. Drey then dean of dentistry at AUB who was called to treat Jamal Pasha for a bullet wound of the jaw. Dr. Drey impressed Itani so much that he decided to return to AUB and take up dentistry. He did that in 1919 and by 1922 he became Doctor of Dental Surgery.

In 1927 Dr. Itani was instrumental in instigating a union between the AUB and the French Dental Association, a union which later developed into the order of Dental Physicians. Dr. Itani was chief editor for many years of the Lebanese Dental Journal to which he contributed a large number of articles. He is a former member of the AUB Alumni Council and of the Colloquium Committee of Examiners. He was dental surgeon to Dar al-Aytam gratis for many years.

Dr. Itani is the founder of the Itani Family Association to which he was elected honorary life president.

Dr. Itani, who was decorated by President Camille Chamoun in 1958, is married to the former Wadad Zaydan. They have four sons, one daughter and 14 grandchildren.

Photograph above shows Dr. Itani, right, receiving flowers from Dr. Srabian as Drs. Bitar and Nassif look on.