Istanbul's Beyoğlu district emerged as an increasingly close-knit urban setting and the modernizing centre of the city in the second half of the 19th century. The Tarlabası neighbourhood, which lies on the western part of the district, was a significant part of this development, where lower middle and lower classes were concentrated. This paper explores social stratification and how modernization was experienced in a lower scale area, particularly focusing on the social and cultural characteristics that the neighbourhood presented. In terms of social stratification, the examination further engages with modes of migration to the area and the relationship of Tarlabası to other parts of the Beyoğlu district. The paper draws on an analysis of Ottoman state documentation, local school reports, and contemporary memoirs.

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