

# Reforms and Social Changes | Health | Hospitals

“The very first requirement of a hospital [is] that it should do the sick no harm.” Florence Nightingale

Progress in modern medicine and increased knowledge about the importance of hygiene resulted in the overhauling of hospitals and the construction of new, larger, more suitable buildings that were better laid out. It was now known that contamination between patients should be avoided by placing beds at a good distance from one another, cleaning surgical instruments, etc. Employees were given specific training as nurses and laboratory assistants and for other relevant roles. The British social reformer Florence Nightingale remains a symbol of innovation in nursing. Hospitals in large cities and dispensaries in less urbanised areas helped to reduce mortality, in particular infant mortality. Contact between European medicine, which was based on the major scientific discoveries of the 19th century, and Arab medicine, with its rich traditional know-how, was particularly fruitful.



**Working Number:** LB 036

**Name:** Military Infirmary

**Holding Museum:** -

**Date:** 1865

**Materials:** -

**Curator Justification:** This hospital in Beirut was typical of the construction of large modern hospitals in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and its layout took into consideration progress made in medicine and hygiene.



**Working Number:** TN 038

**Name:** Hôpital Charles Nicolle

**Holding Museum:** -

**Date:** 19th century

**Materials:** -

**Curator Justification:** The Charles Nicolle Hospital in Tunis was typical of the construction of large modern hospitals in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and its layout took into consideration progress made in medicine and hygiene.



**Working Number:** TN 039

**Name:** Institut Pasteur

**Holding Museum:** -

**Date:** 19th century

**Materials:** -

**Curator Justification:** The Pasteur Institute in Tunis is typical of the construction of research centres in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and was dedicated to identifying different diseases and epidemics.



**Working Number:** TN 040

**Name:** Hôpital Habib-Thameur

**Holding Museum:** -

**Date:** 19th century

**Materials:** -

**Curator**  
**Justification:** This hospital in Tunis was typical of the construction of large modern hospitals in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and its layout took into consideration progress made in medicine and hygiene.



**Working Number:** LB 109

**Name:** Photo showing the Institute of Medicine

**Holding Museum:** University of Saint Joseph

**Date:** 1883

**Materials:** -

**Curator**  
**Justification:** This institute in Beirut is typical of the construction of research centres in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and was dedicated to identifying different diseases and epidemics.



**Working Number:** TR2 047

**Name:** Medical box of Dr. #brahim Göze

**Holding Museum:** Cerrahpa#a Medical History Museum

**Date:** 1890–1923

**Materials:** Wood

**Curator**  
**Justification:** The profession of doctor changed enormously during the 19th century. Empiricism helped to establish a scientific profession that required a good knowledge of diseases, medications and medical procedures. The doctor's kit or bag containing various items for treatment and medication was essential.