

# L'AFRIQUE DU NORD ILLUSTRÉE

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## The capital of southern Tunisia has a hospital of first order

At the beginning of the Protectorate questions of hygiene and aid were posed with a acuity so much stronger because in 1881 there was only one hospital, and that located in the capital.

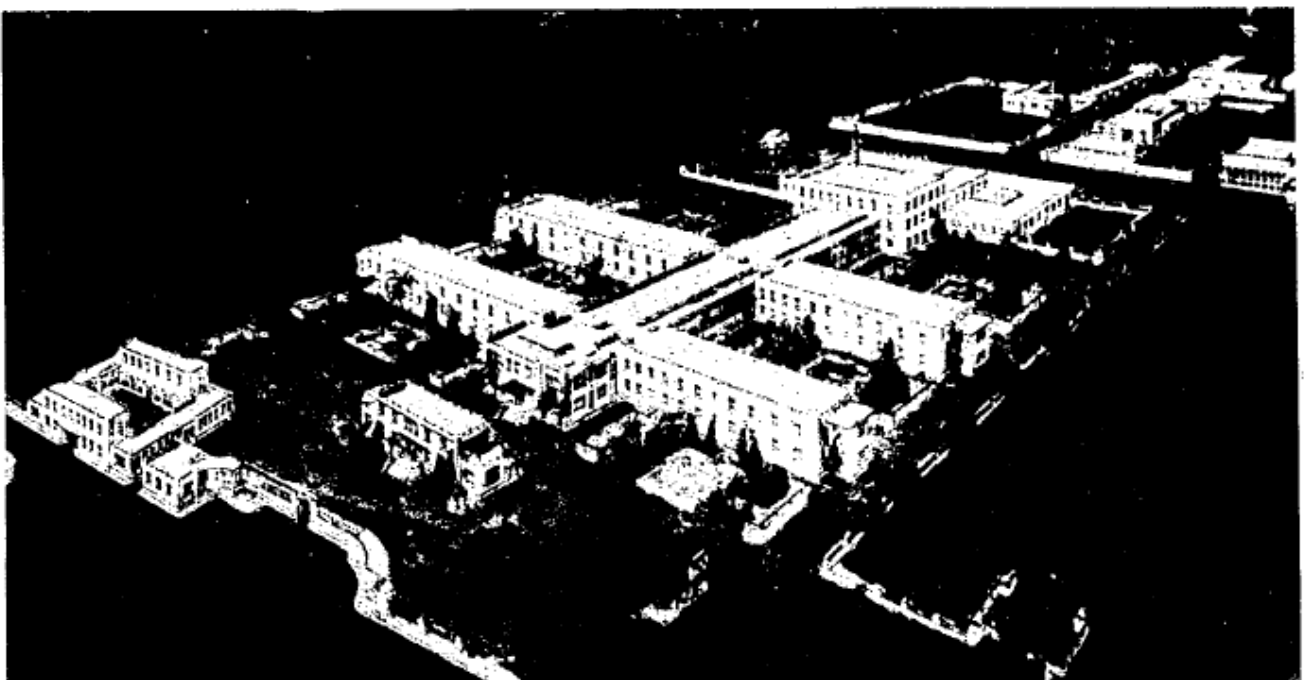
Founded by the administration of Habous, Sadiki hospital, inaugurated in 1880, was reserved for Moslems; it was only into 1897 that the French civil hospital of Tunis could be opened, which, thereafter, was considerably enlarged.

In the interior of the country, from the start infirmary dispensaries were organized divided into 28 medical districts to serve the most urgent cases. But it became very necessary to equip the country with regional hospitals that would be called upon to receive European and Tunisian customers increasingly with the progressive development of the urban centers. To



*Le docteur Lauriol donnant des renseignements à M. Thierry.*

respond to the wishes expressed for a long time by the populations of southern Tunisia who are too far away from the capital, the decision was made for the creation of the



*L'hôpital régional de Sfax. - Vue perspective de l'ensemble.*

regional hospital of Sfax.

The first stone was placed on May 28, 1929 and the hospital would only be open nearly six years later, on January 2, 1935. This very beautiful establishment, whose architects are MM. Queyrel (father and son), that qualifies as a model of the genre, had its partisans and its detractors. The latter estimated that the vision was "too large" and that if construction cost in the millions, the maintenance and operation of the many services that they offered would far exceed the financial possibilities of the city, the region, even of the country. There are many who on the contrary consider that this hospital incontestably meets the multiple needs of an area such as southern Tunisian which until now had only known weak attempts to mitigate the physiological misery of a large population.

Located on the inner suburbs of the city of Sfax, the buildings have from the outside, a great attraction, framed by vast spaces which soon will be converted into shady

gardens. On the ground floor, from the entrance the parts are used, on the left for a rapid examination of the patients or injured, on the right by a treatment room of first urgency. In another part in a long corridor are the sick rooms and all the services necessary for the operation of the hospital: pharmacy, linen room, kitchens, wash-house.

Arranged on the first floor are the general medicine, operating rooms, maternity; all is perfectly arranged; the patients to be operated on are transported in chariots and from the ground floor to the first floor by vast elevators; the two operating rooms are equipped with ultramodern facilities, which could be the envy of many hospitals in the Paris region or more generally in France. It is appropriate, in this brief summary, to pay homage and acknowledge the organizer, the one who has designed so beautiful a work: to Doctor Lauriol, the chief consultant of the hospital of Sfax. It is thanks to his zeal, his devotion,



*Pendant la visite de l'hôpital ; une salle d'opération.*

Photos Sebap

his persevering labour, his tenacity, that the big chiefs of the Protectorate followed up the great project as originally conceived, a project that some estimated too grand or too sumptuous.

The facts will be given the responsibility to contradict this assertion; already the majority of the rooms of the vast hospital are occupied and it will be necessary soon to think of opening others. Such are the observations that Mr. Thierry, delegate from the Residence General, was able to make recently when he was brought to Sfax to chair the Administrative counsel of V Region. During his visit to the various

facilities of the hospital, he made a point of congratulating Doctor Lauriol on the beautiful accomplishment thus achieved, with the assistance of medical and nursing personnel quite limited, but whose devotion is above all praise.

The Minister plenipotentiary benefitted from his time in Sfax to discover by himself the benefits of an institution of assistance to the poor Moslems that private initiative has just created: this refers to the distribution of supplies and soup to needy families, which is done daily by a Committee at the head of which the Muslim notables of Sfax are placed.