Hospitals

An interest in treating illness can be traced back to the beginning of Islamic history when Muhammad himself stated that Allah had provided a cure for every illness. It was in the Muslim world that hospitals were first established. An early hospital that became a model for the future was founded in Damascus, staffed with doctors paid by the government. Hospitals were designed to promote health, cure diseases, and teach and expand medical knowledge. By the ninth century there were hospitals in all large Muslim towns. The most advanced hospitals—like the 'Adudi hospital in Baghdad—attracted outstanding medical scholars and were housed in large buildings with lecture halls, libraries, pharmacies, laboratories, and patient rooms with beds. Patients with communicable diseases, as well as those recovering from surgery, were put in a separate part of the hospital.