The ravaging effects of tuberculosis on the Maltese populace, makes the government act.

Tuberculosis is a potentially infectious disease that mainly affects the lungs. The coughing up of blood is one of the most common symptoms. In his paper ‘Tuberculosis in the Maltese Islands’ (1900), Sir Temi Zammit stated that between 1890 and 1899, some 1600 souls succumbed to TB. In 1908 pulmonary tuberculosis was included in the schedule of notifiable diseases in Malta. Originally, it was planned to turn Vilhena Palace from a convalescent home of 88 beds into a general hospital, however, this never materialised due to lack of space. Later on, the colonial administration, together with the generous donation of the Duke of Connaught, endeavored to convert the building into a sanatorium of 60 beds that specialises and helps patients infected with tuberculosis.

22 April 1909