

Middle Articles

TO-MORROW'S BUILDINGS

Hospital and Medical School at Leeds

Proposals for a new teaching hospital and medical school at Leeds were announced on 28 January. They are the result of over three and a half years' co-operation between the planning team (which included a professor, two consultants, and four members of the hospital administrative staff) and the designers. The plan has two notable features. First, the new buildings will form an integral part of the whole university precinct—a feature described in the *Planning Report*¹ as "probably unique in Britain." The second is that the building proposed, which will have considerable internal depth but a low extended shape, will be only four stories high over most of the site. A similar design has been proposed by the Ministry of Health Development Group for the new St. Alfege's Hospital in Greenwich. This layout should make communication easy, besides being economical and flexible, and should avoid any sense of institutional anonymity, which is often associated with large high buildings. Moreover, the hospital could be extended vertically by adding a further story and laterally by extension on the perimeter.

Beds and Departments

The plan recommends that the hospital should contain 784 beds (including 50 private and amenity beds). Two intensive-care units will be provided, each of eight beds, while patients in general wards (which will consist of five single-bedded rooms and 24 beds in four- or six-bedded bays) will be grouped by

the category of care they require. An isolation unit of eight beds will be provided, under the control of an "infection control sister," while beds for metabolic studies and other types of intensive investigation will be grouped together with laboratories and a diet kitchen in a division of clinical physiology.

A total of 16 major operating theatres will be provided, together with central instrument-sterilizing facilities, a room for frozen-section examination, x-ray and television control rooms, and a reception and recovery unit. Plans for the out-patient department include: 17 surgical and 22 medical suites; a crèche for young children of out-patients, day patients, and staff; and accommodation for "one-day" surgical and medical patients, including two operating theatres and 24 recovery beds.

The report also suggests that a comprehensive integrated rehabilitation centre should be built. This would be under the supervision of a medical director, and would include the main departments of physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, chiropody, and industrial therapy. Other plans include a residential precinct set apart on the main site, which will include married quarters for the doctors, and "on call" accommodation adjacent to the wards for people who have to be available at night.

Medical School

The medical school will contain a group of five central lecture theatres for preclinical

studies, which will be closely related to multi-discipline laboratories and to the departments of anatomy, biochemistry, and physiology. Four clinical lecture theatres and a demonstration room will also be provided, together with an examination hall which can be used for social functions as well. There will be facilities for clinical and non-clinical research, but in addition space will be provided in science departments (for example, pharmacology and pathology) for non-clinical research by medical staff.

The initial plan of the medical school had envisaged 100 students graduating each year, but the University Grants Committee has now asked the university to consider increasing this number to 150. Though it would be possible to enlarge the scientific teaching departments, no more clinical facilities could be provided than those already planned—and hence students would have to do part of their clinical training in hospitals administered by the Leeds Regional Hospital Board.

Site and Schedules

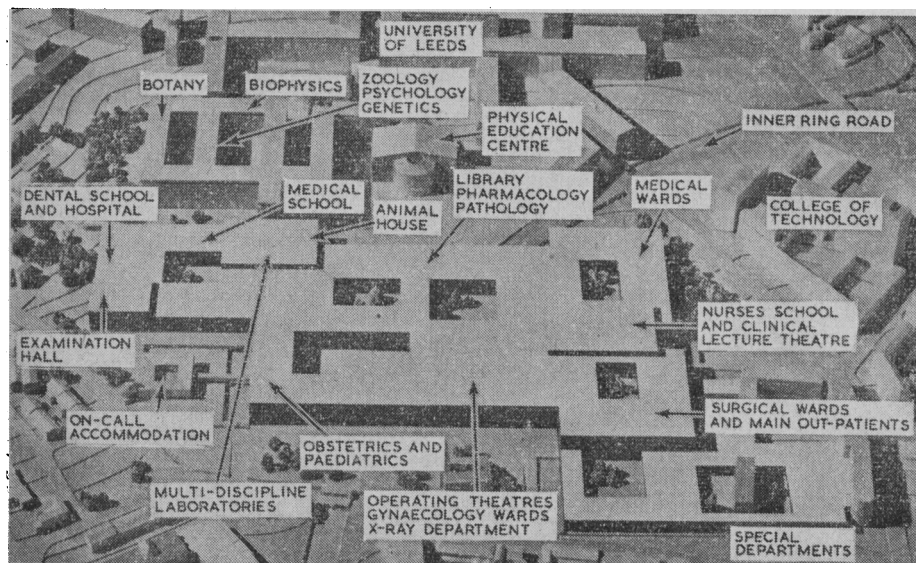
The site for the new hospital and medical school occupies about 44 acres close to the centre of Leeds, and the inner ring road will pass in a tunnel immediately under the hospital.

At present the basic proposals of the hospital have been accepted in principle by the Ministry of Health, but those of the medical school are still under discussion with the University Grants Committee. Discussions on the detailed design of both buildings are still taking place. The University hopes to begin building the medical school in 1967, while the provisional starting date for the hospital is 1970.

Building the hospital and medical school will probably take at least 15 years, and at present five phases are planned, each of which can function separately, as follows: (1) the preclinical departments of the medical school, the medical library, and part of the animal house; (2) further medical school accommodation and the dental hospital and school; (3) general medical beds, pathology departments, most of hospital service area, clinical lecture theatre, and nurses' training school; (4) surgical beds, x-ray department, and out-patient accommodation; (5) departments of psychiatry, geriatrics, and rehabilitation.

REFERENCE

- ¹ *Teaching Hospital and Medical School, Leeds Planning Report 1965*. United Leeds Hospitals, 1966. Price 50s.



Model of new Teaching Hospital and Medical School at Leeds.