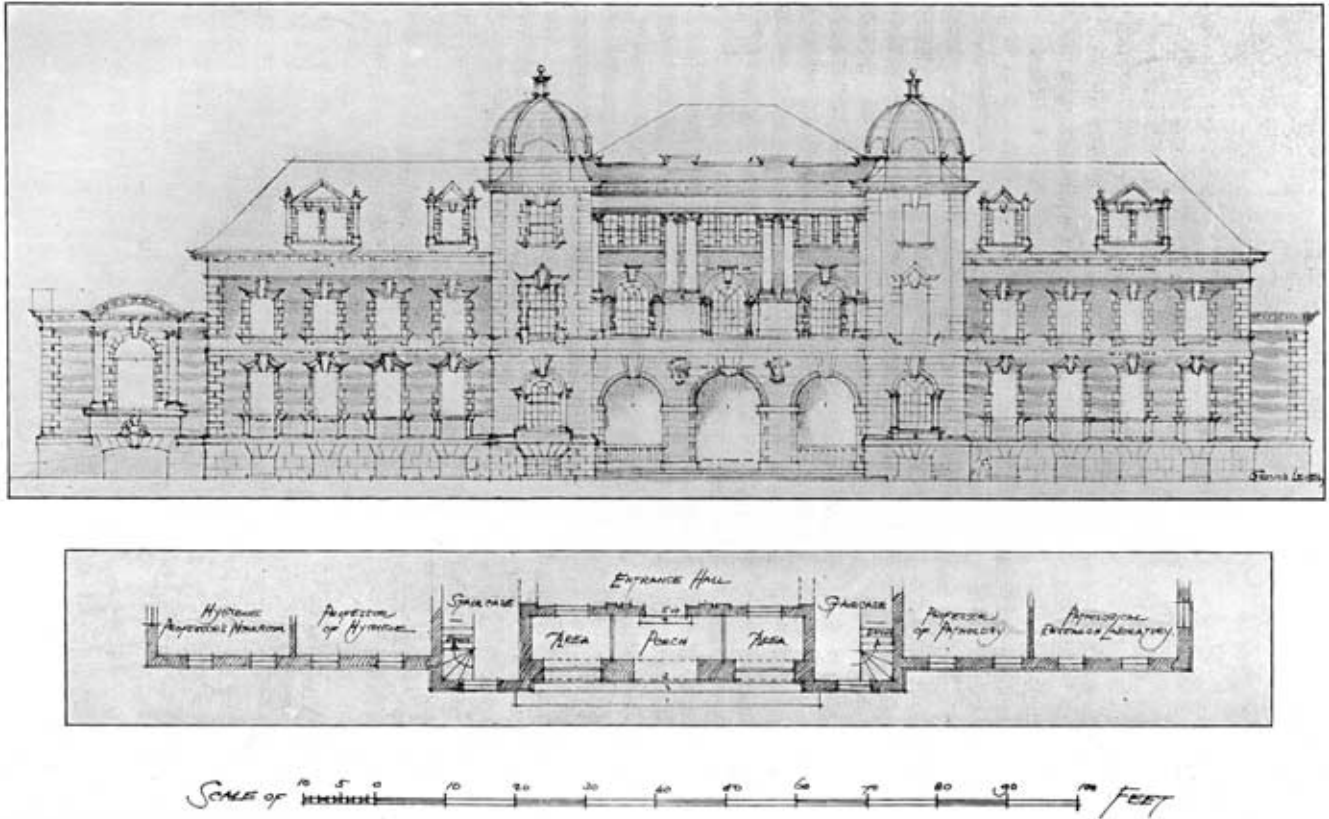


OUT OF THE ARCHIVES

The Royal Army Medical College

By The Commandant



The Royal Army Medical College, London. Laboratory Building.

The preliminaries to the commencement of this establishment have now reached their final stage, and (as set forth by the Director-General in his address at the outset of the first session of 1904 of the College, to be found elsewhere in this number), we hope soon to see the permanent Laboratories, Mess, and Quarters, coming into being.

It is needless here to insist on the necessity for the presence of the teaching headquarters of the Army Medical Service in the centre of all progress and enlightenment - the Metropolis; it is enough that the policy of Mr. Broderick as Secretary of State for War, inspired, as is also his successor, by a true interest in the efficiency of the Army Medical Service, has, with the help and concurrence of such men as Sir Edward Ward, been adopted, consonantly with the advice of those best qualified to judge of the wisdom of the step, both in the military and civil medical profession. This has not been the feeling, not only of men of the present time, but of times past, who

deplored the removal of the then embryonic teaching centre from Fort Pitt, at Chatham, to Netley, urging the distance of that place from the medical schools and hospitals as militating against the education of the medical officers who desired to keep abreast of modern knowledge.

The stage of discussion has now been left behind, and that of realisation has begun.

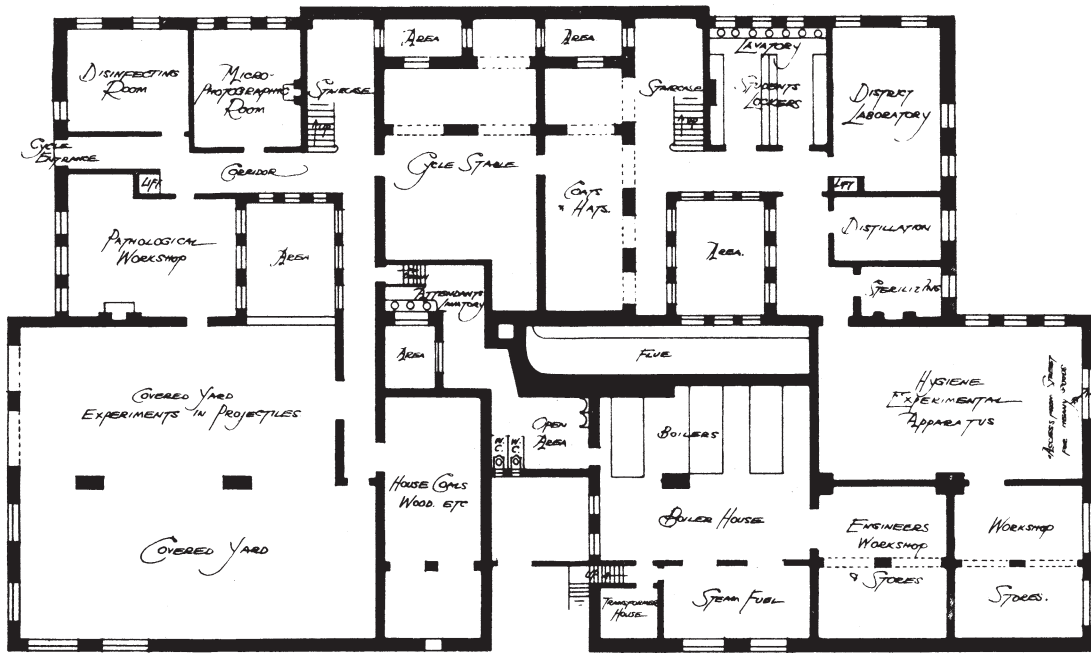
The buildings, of which only the plans and elevation of the laboratories are given in this number of the Journal, comprise a laboratory block, a Mess and Officers' Quarters, and the Comandant's house.

They will be erected on a site on the left bank of the Thames which runs north and south in this reach, on the eastern half of a space formerly comprised in the site of Millbank Prison, to the south of the Tate Gallery, which occupies the central oblong of the octagon formerly covered by that prison.

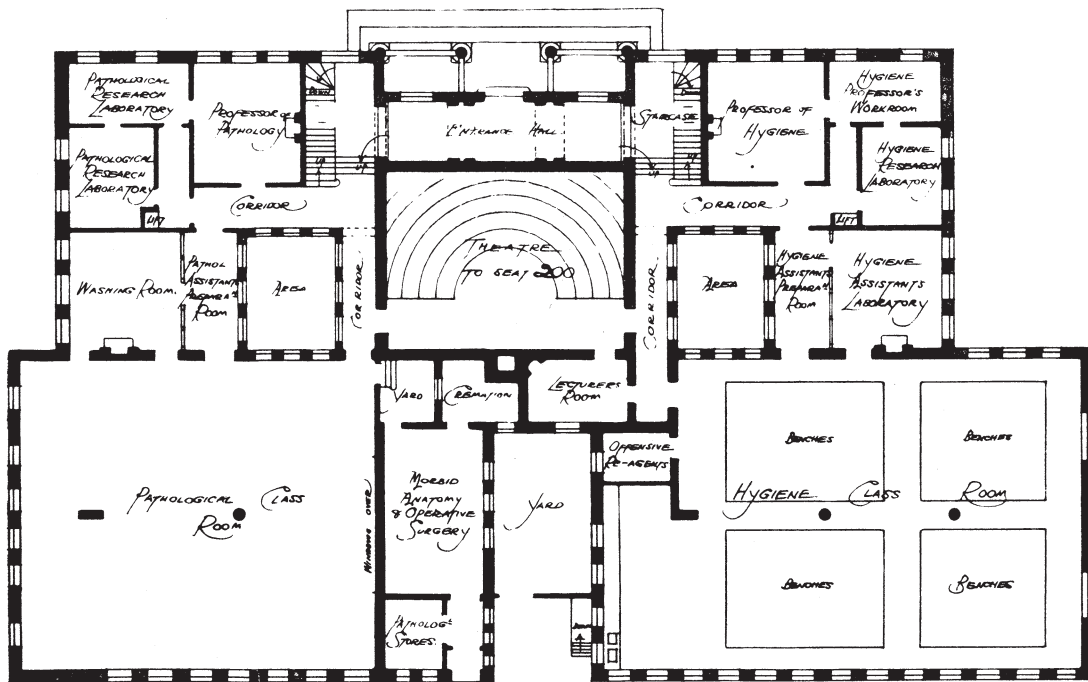
The western half of this space is occupied by the Army Service Corps Barracks, and the corresponding space, on the north side

Editor's Note

This paper first appeared in the Journal of the Royal Army Medical Corps in February 1904

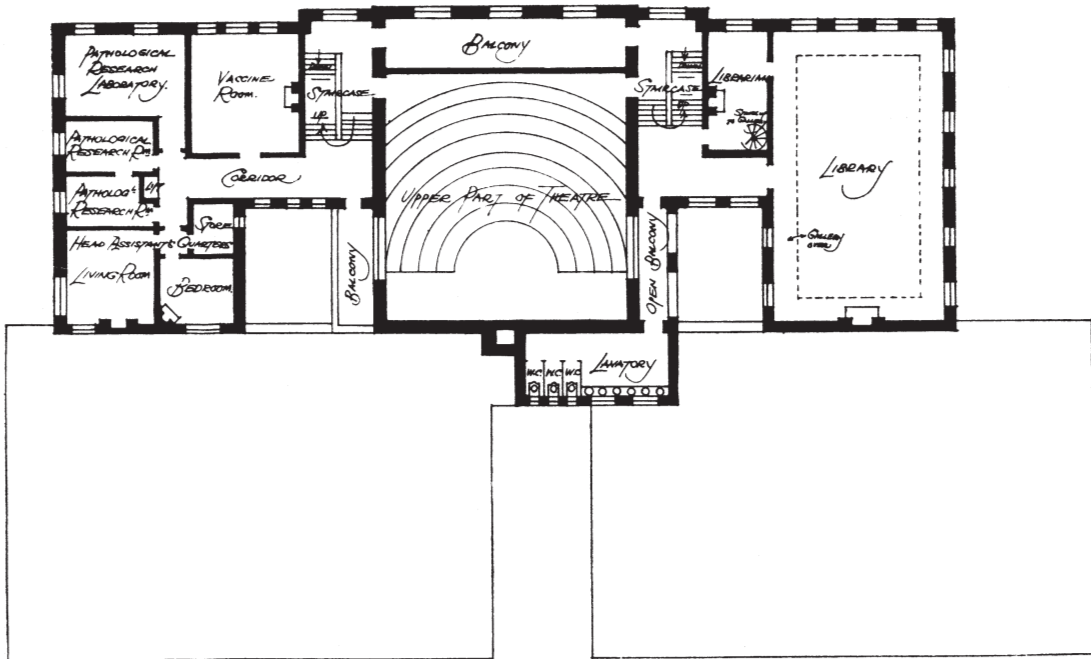


Basement Plan.

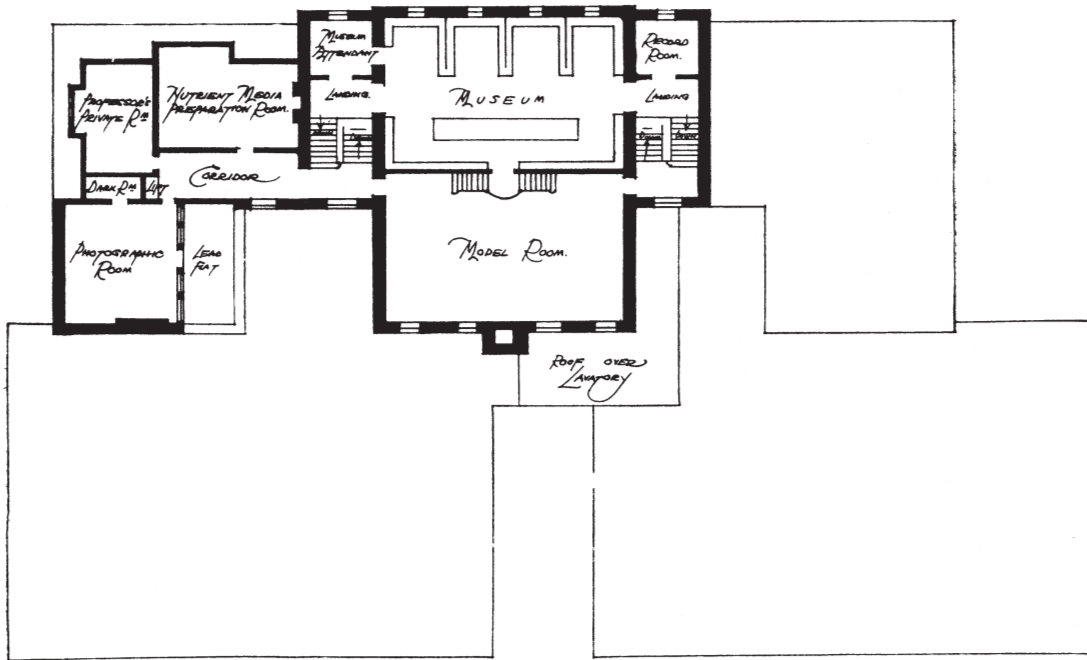


Ground Floor Plan.

Royal Army Medical College - Plans Of Laboratory Block.



First Floor Plan.



Second Floor Plan.



Royal Army Medical College - Plans Of Laboratory Block.

of the Tate Gallery, is occupied by the new Station Hospital for London, which will afford material for clinical study, and which will work with the College.

The river will be commanded by the Mess building, especially to the north, and the site is one which will be in consonance with the very handsome College buildings and the Tate Gallery.

The buildings will be of red brick and stone, and the style of architecture in keeping with that of the other buildings on the site. The architects are Messrs. Woodd & Ainslie.

A detailed description of the buildings would take too much space, and an enumeration of the main features must suffice, taken with the plans. The two blocks (laboratory and mess) cover a more or less triangular space of about 300 by 200 feet. The laboratory block is on the part of the site furthest from the river. It measures 185 feet by 105, and is quadrilateral in plan. It comprises a basement, ground floor, first and second floors.

In the basement are furnace and boiler-room for the heating of the buildings. A covered yard for experiments in small projectiles. A room for hygiene experimental apparatus; workshops; cloakroom lockers, and cycle stable for the officers; a micro-photographic room; rooms for distillation, for disinfection, and for sterilisation; store-rooms.

On the ground floor, which has a central portion and two wings: A lecture theatre to seat 200, placed centrally; an entrance hall;

hygiene and pathology class-rooms of 80 by 50 feet each, with their annexes; laboratories connected with each department.

On the first floor, through whose height the theatre and classrooms rise, are: a library and reading room, 30 by 60 feet; pathological research rooms, and lavatories.

On the second floor: A museum and a model room, each of 40 by 25 feet, and with top lighting. There are rooms also for storage of glass, for teaching operative surgery, &c.

This building is seen in west elevation.

A squash-ball racquet court will be constructed on its southern aspect.

The entrance to the officers' mess is from the river side, on the east, and the back and tradesmen's entrance on the north side; a passage interposed between the laboratories and the mess, giving access to the two divisions. The laboratory accommodation will be of the first order, and the whole conception is one which reflects credit in its authors, and its realisation should go far towards promoting the object for which it was designed, namely, the education of the Army Medical Officer. It is to be hoped that every officer, on returning from a foreign tour, will find his sojourning place there, for the purpose of refreshing his knowledge, and that they have something to learn from our Medical Service.

A description of the Mess and Quarters is reserved for a later issue.

It is within the bounds of possibility that the laboratories may be ready for occupation in eighteen months' time.