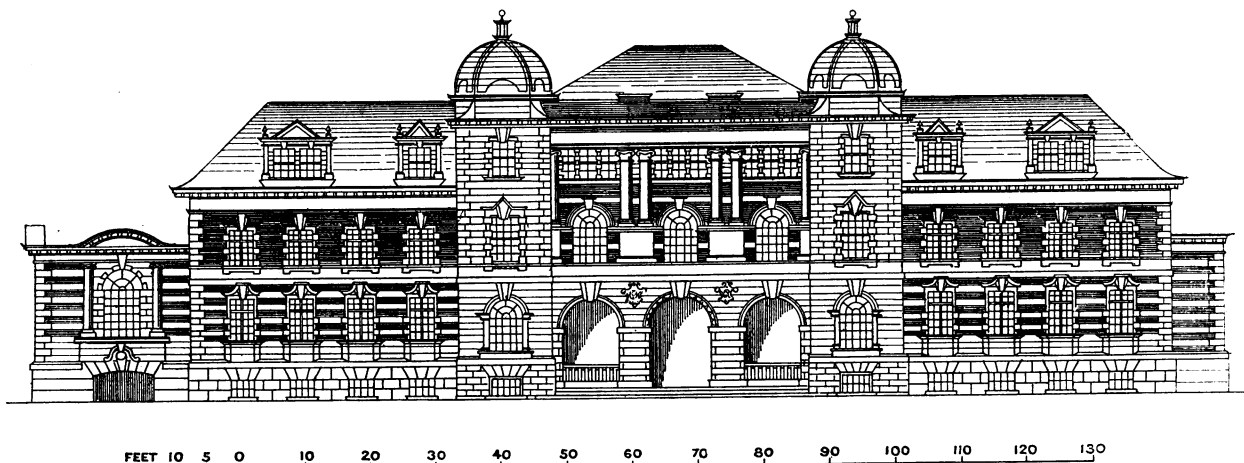




The Royal Army Medical College, London; Laboratory Building, north elevation.

THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL COLLEGE.

THE transfer of the Royal Army Medical College from Netley to London was, in view of the educational opportunities afforded by the metropolis, considered to be a matter of such urgent necessity that it was carried out as soon as sanctioned. Laboratories were obtained on lease in the Examination Hall on the Victoria Embankment, and residential quarters in a hotel in Victoria Street.

These expedients were, however, recognized to be merely temporary, and the plans for a new Royal Army Medical College on part of the Government site provided by the clearing away of Millbank Prison have now been approved. The work will, it is understood, shortly be taken in hand.

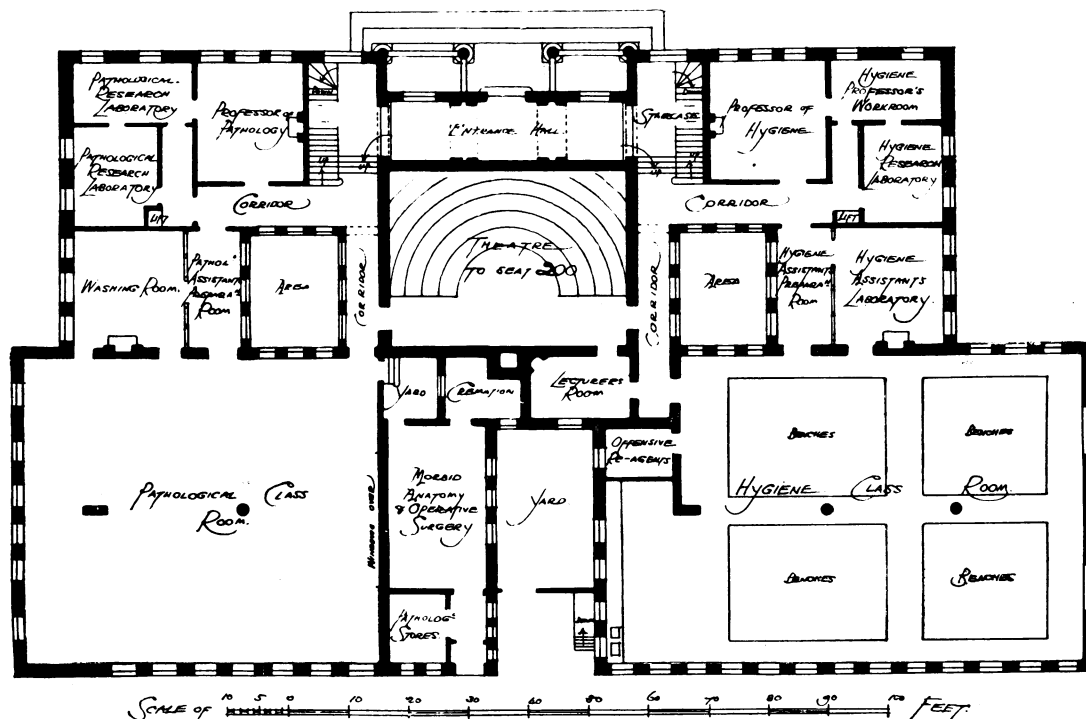
College. The College will occupy the remainder of the site to the south (up-river) side of the Tate Gallery.

The College will consist of a laboratory block, a mess and officers' quarters, and a house for the Commandant.

The building will be of red brick with stone facing, of the kind of Georgian-Victorian which finds favour with the moribund War Office, as exemplified in the squat military hospital on the other side of the Tate Gallery. It is deplorable that three such opportunities of adorning the Thames bank with graceful or noble buildings have been thrown away, but the quarters for laboratories are excellent.

THE LABORATORIES.

The two blocks together will cover a more or less triangular space of about 300 by 200 ft. The elevation of the laboratory



Ground floor plan.

The Thames here runs nearly north and south. The Tate Gallery now occupies the central portion of the site facing the river; behind this are the Army Service Corps barracks, while to the north (down-river) side is the new Military Station Hospital for London, which is just complete, and will serve as the clinical hospital for the Royal Army Medical

block is shown in the drawing. It will occupy the part of the site farthest from the river. It will measure 185 by 105 ft., and the plan shows a quadrilateral building. It comprises a basement, ground floor, and first and second floors.

In the basement will be a 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; a cloak room, lockers, and cycle stable for the officers; a photo-micrographic room; rooms for distillation, for disinfection, and for sterilization; and storerooms.

On the ground floor, which has a central portion and two wings, a lecture theatre to seat 200 is provided in the centre. There is an entrance hall, and hygiene and pathology class rooms of 80 by 50 ft. each with their annexes, and laboratories connected with each department.

On the first floor, through whose height the theatre and class rooms rise, will be a library and reading room 30 by 60 ft., pathological research rooms, and lavatories.

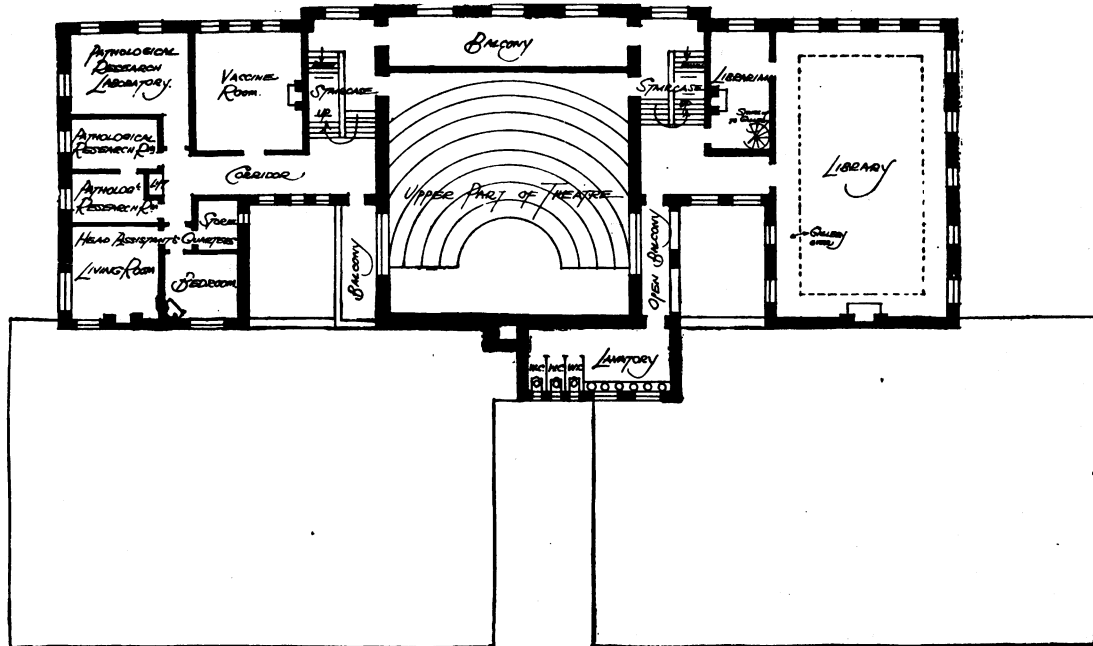
On the second floor will be provided a museum and a model room, each of 40 ft. by 25 ft., with top light.

A squash-ball racket court will be constructed on the southern aspect of this building.

MESS.

The block containing the mess and officers' quarters is separated from the laboratory block by a passage about 12 ft. wide. The ground it covers is a right-angled triangle with the two acute angles truncated, the side subtending the right angle looking to the south-west.

The largest part of the block is parallel to the laboratory block, and from its centre a narrower limb extends towards the river frontage with a projection from its south centre, and from the north side of its eastern extremity is a limb jutting out towards the Tate Gallery, flush with the north end



First floor plan.

of the main and laboratory blocks. The space enclosed on three sides by the last-mentioned projection, the long limb, and the main block will be laid out in grass, and possibly planted.

This block will have a basement, and the basement is taken up by cellars, furnaces, boilers, and hot-water pipe subways.

The lower ground floor in the main block has in its centre the kitchen and scullery flanked by a yard on each side, with coal stores to the west.

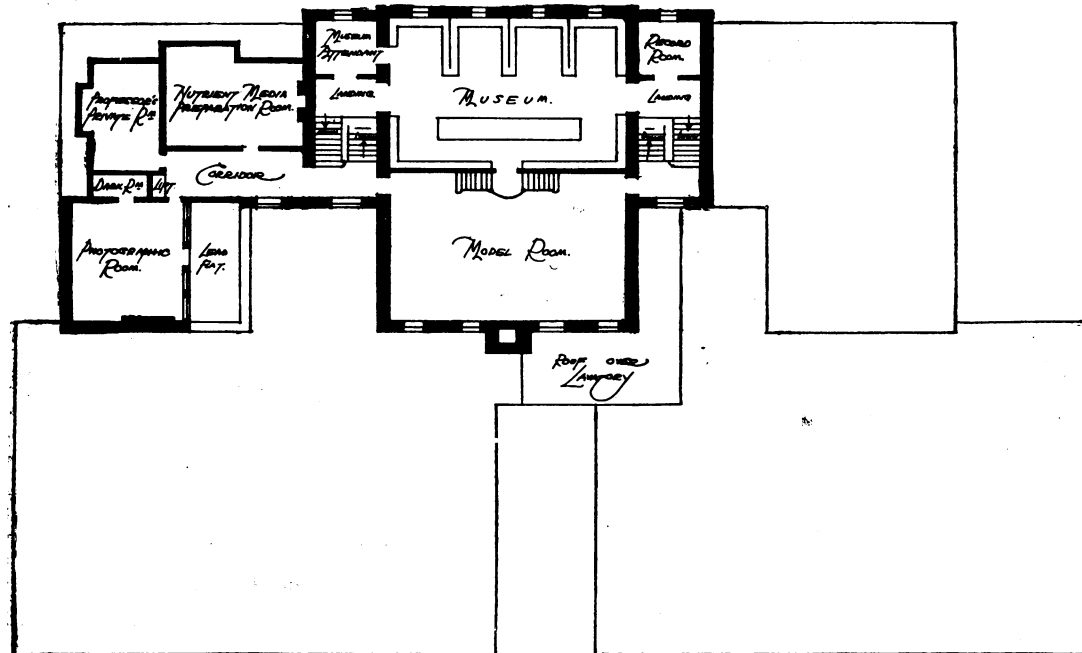
The basement of the Commandant's house will extend to its north, while to its south will be store rooms, larders, wash-up rooms and other offices. A lift will be provided from the kitchen to the mess room on the floor above.

The long limb to the east of the main block will contain a pantry, there will be a plate room jutting out to the south, from its centre; safes; a dormitory for mess waiters, and at its easternmost extremity a billiard room for two tables.

The short north-easterly limb will contain the entrance hall, and beyond this a visitors' room, mess, secretary's office and lavatories.

On the upper ground floor in the main block, at its southern extremity, will be the mess-men's quarters, and, separated from them by a corridor which will run the whole length of the block, two officers' quarters. There will be two more officers' quarters in the central part of the block, and the Commandant's house will continue through this story.

The long limb will contain a serving room, the mess dining-room, 50 ft.



Second floor plan.

by 40 ft. and of fine dimensions, which it will be possible to throw into the anteroom by the opening of folding doors, beyond this will be the anteroom 48 ft. by 28 ft., with windows to the east looking over the river.

To its north, over the entrance hall, will be a landing, and beyond this the smoking room (38 ft. by 26 ft.) with a bay window at its north-east angle. Between the anteroom and smoking room there will be a balcony.

The first floor of the main block will be entirely occupied by officers' quarters, with the exception of the north end, through which the Commandant's house will continue. In the long limb will be the upper part of the mess room, with a band alcove, and the upper part of the anteroom of these rooms are two floors in height. Over the balcony will be a card room, and the smoking room wall will rise through this floor.

The second and third floors will be devoted to officers' quarters, to which access will be given by corridors running through the long axes of the blocks. The quarters will be of two types—those for the senior officers measuring about 21 ft. by 14 ft., and those for juniors 16 ft. by 12 ft. The plans make provision for quarters for 20 senior and 50 junior officers.

Bath rooms will be provided in the proportion of one to every six officers, and there will be w.c.'s on each floor.

The buildings as a whole are warmed by hot water, but each officer's quarter has a fireplace.

The lighting will be by electricity.

The entrance to the officers' mess will be from the river side on the east, the tradesmen's entrance on the north side. A passage between the laboratories and the mess will give access to the two divisions.

The laboratory accommodation will be of the first order, and the whole conception is one which reflects credit on its authors, and its realization 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 the army will be greatly advantaged by the facilities which will in future be afforded to its medical officers to make themselves thoroughly efficient. The demand for such facilities made repeatedly, in fact unceasingly, during the last twenty years or more, has always excited the keenest sympathy of the civil profession. We have seen within that period more than one post-graduate college attain more or less success in London; we have seen the Tropical School spring up, and the civil profession recognizes that what is a necessity for them is not less necessary for their military brethren.

The country has made, or sanctioned the making of, this provision of time and opportunities for study for medical officers of the army at the public expense. In this respect they are more fortunate than any other section of the medical profession. Let us hope that they will appreciate their good fortune, and will be serious and eager students in the fine college which is about to arise.

"CURES" FOR ALCOHOLISM.

ANTIDIPSO.

In addition to the account of a series of "cures" for alcoholism published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL (February 1st, 1902, p. 291), we are enabled to give particulars of another cure which is being put forward by the Ward Chemical Company, 205, Regent Street, London, W. The remedy is called Antidipso.

The history of the remedy and the methods of the proprietors in effecting its sale are very much the same as those we have previously described, the moral pointed by the methods employed being perhaps even of a more weighty character from the point of view of the physician than in the case of the other cures. The inquirer is in the first instance furnished by the company with a pamphlet entitled *Bright Beams of Hope—A Problem Solved. Antidipso the Indian Herb Remedy, infallible cure for drunkenness.* The pamphlet opens with an emphatic assertion that drunkenness is a disease, and a lengthy description of the effects of alcohol on most of the bodily organs is given. Sundry objections to rival modes of treatment are enumerated, and the public are warned against other cures, very much in the manner followed by the vendors of other secret remedies, many of whom display an anxiety to have their remedy considered the genuine and only cure. Thus:

There are also on the market many so-called remedies which are, in

most cases, absolutely worthless. Such impositions as these work untold harm, as they not only fail to cure, but they destroy confidence; and thus many who have been victimized in this manner will not try a reliable remedy..... Were it not for these imitations they would purchase the genuine.....

The opinions of three medical men on the evils of drunkenness, but not, it may be noted, on its cure, are somewhat prominently set out. The pamphlet then goes on with an engaging simplicity and frankness to tell the story of the discovery of the drug, and to account for the company's possession of the secret, which, as presently will be seen, would seem to depend on geographical considerations.

We learn that "neither chemistry nor pharmacy, though inspired by medical learning, has given to the world anything that could meet the trouble." But "an obscure tropical plant was yielding the very remedy that acts as an antidote and expels the alcoholic poison." The plant "was discovered in the southern part of the South American continent."

We are reminded at once of the discovery of the Tacquaru specific in a "hitherto unexplored country" in the interior of the Argentine. Both secrets were communicated to Europeans by Indian medicine men. Antidipso was obtained in 1895, the Tacquaru specific in 1894. While the Tacquaru was discovered by a "neer-do-weel," Antidipso was discovered by a "successful English physician," who, after trying its effects on alcoholic subjects, narrated his remarkable experiences to the Ward Chemical Company. But, not satisfied with the communications of this physician, the company "at once sent out an agent to make more accurate investigations. This gentleman succeeded in penetrating to the Indian tribe that held the coveted secret." A year of experiment followed "which was the triumph of Antidipso." All cases on which it was tried were "speedily and triumphantly cured." Antidipso is said to have cured cases so severe "that a physician might well shudder at the thought of taking them in hand."

It would appear that the public who buy secret medicines have some preference for vegetable cures, for the Tacquaru, Hutten Dixon, Tyson and Antidipso all claim to be purely vegetable substances. The Antidipso pamphlet asserts:

The medicine is entirely of a vegetable nature, nothing mineral whatever enters its composition. In this respect it is different to any other remedy which has hitherto been administered for the cure of the craving for strong drink.

It is especially suggested that the remedy contains no mercury. Nothing of importance is stated about the action of the drug, except that it is "the greatest nerve tonic known." It is also said to cause a "repugnance to the taste and odour of liquor." Like all the remedies of its kind it is all-powerful and quite harmless. This is the company's view of it, but they also publish a showy and somewhat disquieting certificate from a Dr. A. B. Griffiths, Principal of the Brixton School of Pharmacy, which maintains that it possesses "marked therapeutic action."

The letters from purchasers and patients published by the company are some of the least convincing of their kind that it has been our lot to examine. Many are written while the patient is actually under treatment—a large proportion vouch for themselves, a very small proportion so much as allude to abstinence from intoxicating drink. We have examined a series of 63 such letters, in only 8 of which is the time that has elapsed since cure was completed mentioned. One case is said to have remained cured for 10 months, no other case longer than 4 months; two had been cured 14 days.

In reply to the inquiry of a correspondent, the Ward Chemical Company sent a type-written letter beginning "Dear Friend," and urging the immediate treatment of the patient. The inquiry went no further, but some days later another letter was sent enclosing a "form for ordering" with a "reference number." On the form is printed and underlined, "N.B.—If you desire there shall be no further correspondence return this form." A third letter runs as follows:

Experiences have been coming in so thick and fast lately that we believe Antidipso will achieve a greater success than ever before. Recent reports from many cured patients show that in nearly 80 per cent. of all cases a single package of Antidipso was sufficient to establish a complete and lasting cure. This is very gratifying. It has always been our hope to make Antidipso a cure for the masses, to do good to the greatest number, and we can now rejoice that we are able to state that one package of Antidipso will accomplish all that is desired in removing the craze for drink. You will probably recall the fact that when the free sample was sent you and reference made to the treatment in a letter it was stated that two packages would be required. We are now pleased to say that we feel confident you will obtain all you could desire in one package at 10s.

In confirmation of this statement a book of testimonials of cases cured by one package was enclosed. The letters in this