

EDITORIAL COMMENT

The Journal

As the Journal moves into 1974, its eleventh year of publication, it is perhaps timely to glance at the past and to take stock of the future. The first issue of the Journal was published in November 1963 under the editorship of Mr. T. G. Wilson, who was succeeded in 1968 by Professor J. D. H. Widdess who has now retired to Co. Kerry and to whom Professor Holland pays tribute on p. 100. Had it not been for Professor Widdess' literary ability and much hard work the Journal would not have survived in the modern era of competitive medical journalism. Under his direction the Journal matured into its present form and the circulation rose to approximately 3,500. The Journal staff in wishing Professor Widdess well in his retirement, looks forward to further literary endeavour.

A change of editorship must inevitably result in some modification in style. The present editor has no wish to drastically alter the format of a successful publication but hopes to find ways of further improving the Journal and in this ambition would welcome his readers' views.

The Journal is the official organ of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, the faculties of Anaesthetists, Radiologists and Dentistry, The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Institute for Clinical Science and Research. The Journal's circulation is at present more or less confined to the students and graduates of the Royal College of Surgeons and the members and fellows of the aforementioned bodies, many of whom are working overseas. A prime function of the Journal, therefore, must be to serve as a medium of communication between these bodies and their members. To fulfil this requirement it is proposed to expand the News section of the

Journal and devote as much space as is feasible to each of these bodies. However, the staff of the Journal is small and depends upon the officials and members of the faculties to submit matters of interest to the Editor for publication. To facilitate this objective, members of the Editorial Board have been chosen from the College, the Faculties and the Students' Union.

Original articles which reflect the research and clinical work emanating from the Colleges, its Faculties and hospitals will, it is hoped, be submitted to the Journal for publication. The Editor hopes to encourage the review-type article which deals competently and comprehensively with a topical subject, in the belief that such papers would be of interest to a broad section of graduates and possibly also to undergraduates. Papers relating to the cultural and abstract aspects of medicine—philosophy, literature, religion, ethics and the like—and which might not, by virtue of their recondite content find a home in the general journals, will be favourably considered, and the Journal proposes to devote a section to the history of medicine.

There is a temptation—to which most Irish doctors have at some time succumbed—to submit original papers to British and American journals, only offering these to Irish journals if the original submission is declined. Such a policy has but one attraction—the paper if accepted will probably, but not always, reach a wider circulation and the acceptance of a paper by a prestigious journal is regarded as an edifying achievement. There are, however, some serious drawbacks to this practice—the editorial staffs of many popular journals are unable to cope with the vast number of papers submitted and there may be long delays, the paper often being dated at the time of publica-

tion. It is inevitable that where a journal rejects the bulk of all material submitted for consideration, that it will refuse work worthy of publication. However, the paramount argument against publication in overseas journals is the indirect damage thereby done to Irish journalism and ultimately to Irish Medicine, the image of which could be much improved if all papers emanating from this country were

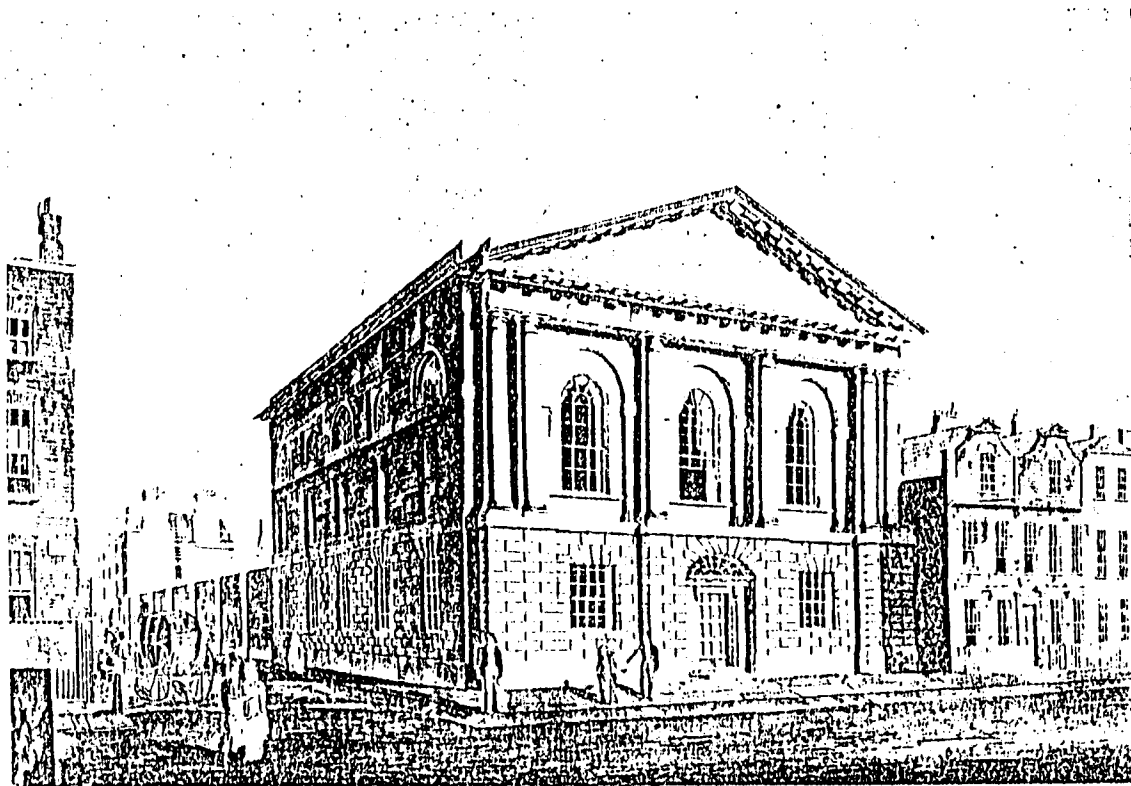
published in Irish journals. Reference to the Scandinavian journals which cater for a comparatively small population, should dispel doubts in this regard.

Finally, to those not yet familiar with the enjoyable, albeit onerous experience of writing medical papers, the Editor would be pleased to extend a helping hand.

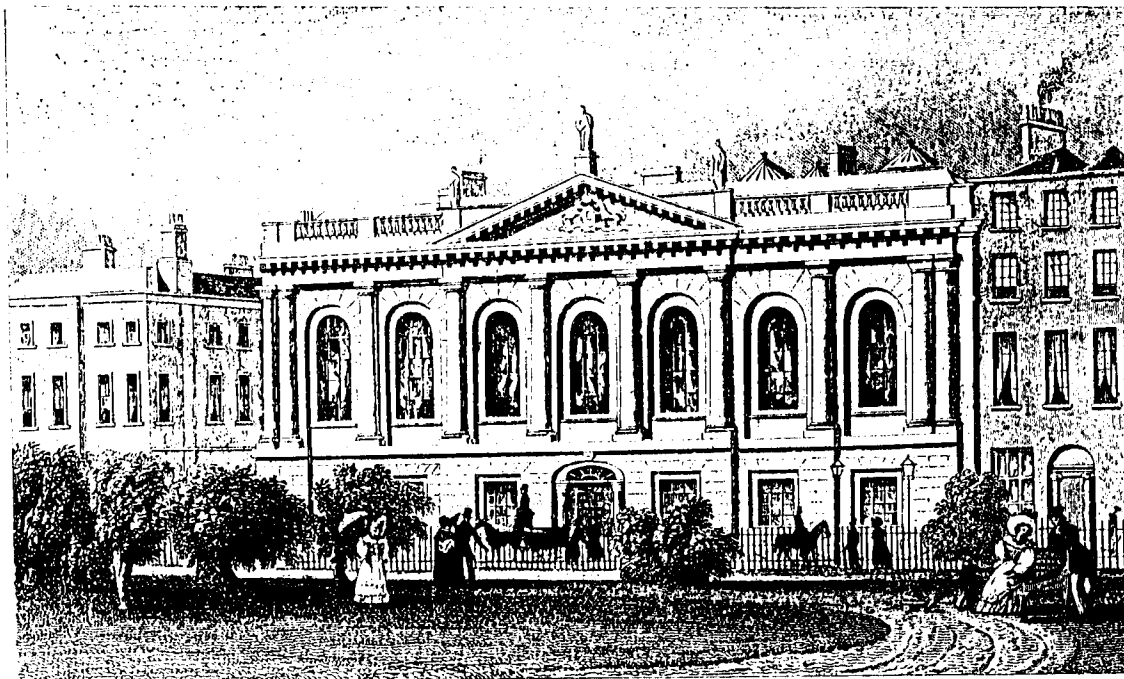
The New Medical School

The first stone of the present college premises was laid on St. Patrick's Day, 1806, by the Duke of Bedford and was completed to the design of Edward Parke in March 1810. This structure was described in *The Lancet* of 1824 as "... a neat little structure which suddenly rose upon the scite (sic) of the Quakers' burial ground at the corner of York St., Steven's Green (sic) . . . Solid and

substantial, no gew-gaw of the sculptor's art disfigures the simplicity of its style. With a facade of six pillars of Portland stone resting upon a basement of mountain granite, and supporting a cornice terminating in an angle at the top, it stands the pride of Irish surgery, and the terror of many a candidate whose fate often depends upon its decrees." This building was extended in 1825, but the original



The College in 1810



Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin, ca. 1830
Engraving after a drawing by W. H. Bartlett

facade was skillfully incorporated into the present frontage by the architect William Murray.

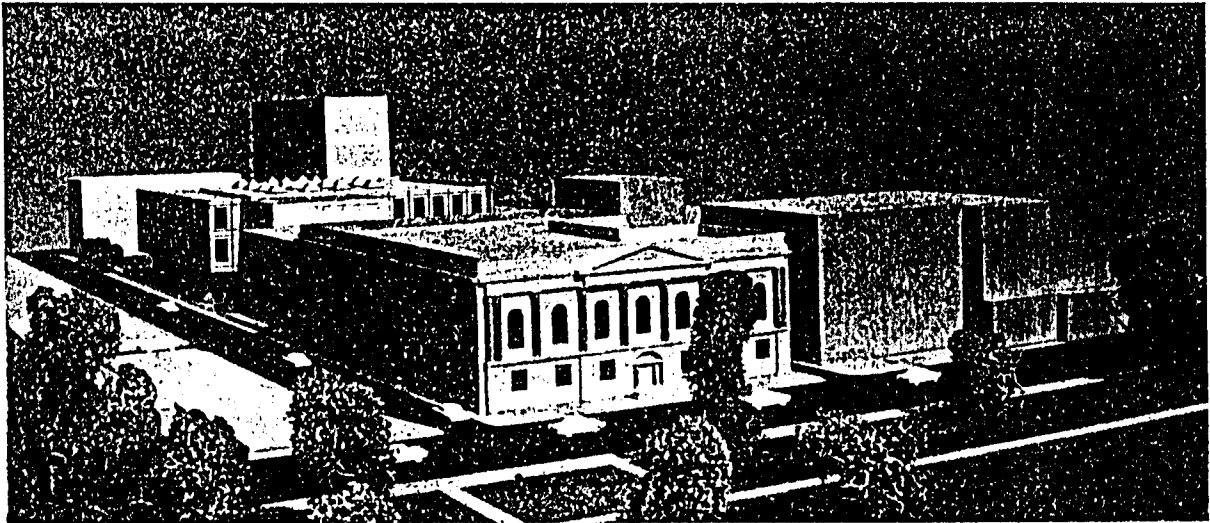
Now the College enters a third architectural metamorphosis as the building of a new medical school commences on a site adjoining the existing College. It is the intention of the architect, Mr. Frank Foley, to adopt modern structural techniques in the new complex, so that that whole will "harmonise in scale and colour with the stone facades of the existing College to form a unified concept on the island site on which the College stands."

The College has been purchasing adjacent buildings since the 1950s and now owns the site bounded by Stephen's Green to the front, York Street to the north, Glover's Alley to the south and Mercer Street to the rear, the total area being approximately 2 acres.

The proposed development comprises a group of buildings circling an open court and linked to the existing Medical School. The first stage of the development which has now commenced comprises a large central block of 75,000 sq. ft. containing lecture theatres, an examination hall, laboratories, research departments, reading rooms, staff rooms and

student facilities. There will be three lecture theatres, two of which will each accommodate 200 persons, the third being large enough to hold 400. The examination hall or auditorium, at first floor level will seat approximately 800 persons. Student facilities will include a gymnasium, squash court, changing rooms, games room and committee rooms and will be located at the lower ground floor level. In the design and layout of the laboratories, highly specialised areas are to be supplemented by areas for multi-purpose and multi-disciplinary use. Internal partitions will be of the demountable type assuring flexibility for the ever changing needs of medical education and research. The exterior of the building will be faced with exposed aggregate of Irish Quartz, which has been carefully chosen for its resistance to atmospheric pollution and its similarity in colour tone to the Portland stone cornices and columns of the existing College. This central block is scheduled for completion in the summer of 1975 at an estimated cost of £1½ million.

The second phase—a three-storey administrative block of 9,000 sq. ft., estimated to cost £120,000—will then commence and will be fol-



Architect's model of the New Medical School

lowed by the final phase comprising the pre-clinical blocks and a basement carpark at an estimated cost of £1 million.

The present student population of the College is 700 and there is an annual output of 110 doctors. With applications for admission to the College in excess of 1,300 per annum, there is pressing need for further accommodation. It is estimated that the New School will afford accommodation for 900 undergraduate students and will also provide for the post-graduate activities of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, the Faculties of Dentistry, Radiologists and Anaesthetists and the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

Finance for the new school has been raised through the efforts of graduates, the College staff, friends of the College and business concerns who have donated generously. The appeal fund now stands at £410,000 of which £331,000 is in Dublin, the remainder being

donated regularly under covenant from Ireland and the United Kingdom, and in the form of pledges from many other countries. A list of the larger sums donated is published elsewhere in this issue and a list of individual subscribers is circulated biannually with the Journal. The world response from graduates and fellows has been generous, the total amount collected from this source being £120,000. The Colles-Graves Foundation under the Presidency of Mr. Edward Carey in New York has been formed to collect funds in the United States and has been granted Tax Exempt status. The Canadian authorities have designated the College as a "University outside Canada", and tax concessions are applicable to all donations to the Appeal Fund. The Appeal Fund is fortunate in that Senator P. W. McGrath has agreed on the invitation of the President of the College, Mr. F. A. Duff to become Chairman of the Appeal Committee.