

Editorial Comment

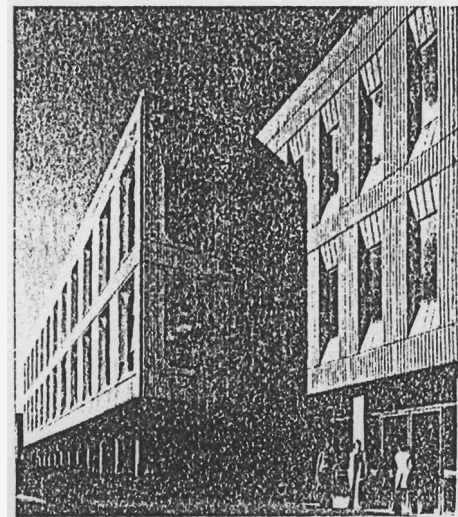
MEDICAL SCHOOL EXTENSION, R.C.S.I.

The extension to the Medical School of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland was formally opened by the President of Ireland, Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh at a ceremony in the new building in York Street on Tuesday, 27th April, 1976. The President of the College, Mr. J. McAuliffe Curtin welcomed over three hundred guests to the College, among whom were the Taoiseach, Mr. Liam Cosgrave, the Tanaiste and Minister for Health, Mr. Brendan Corish, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor P. Dunne, the British Ambassador, Sir Arthur Galsworthy, the United States Ambassador, Mr. W. J. P. Curley, the Canadian Ambassador, Mr. H. Horton Maddick, the Mauritian High Commissioner, Sir Leckraz Teelock, the Kuwait Cultural Attache, Suliman Al Onaize, Mr. J. Wilson and Senator P. W. McGrath. Many royal colleges, universities and professional bodies were represented.

In his opening address, Mr. McAuliffe Curtin traced the history of the College and emphasised the important international role of the College in medical education. Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh, himself an honorary fellow of the College saw the building as one of the College's greatest achievements in its long history. Sir Rodney Smith, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England delivering the thirty third Colles Lecture gave an historical account of the development of the Royal Colleges in Britain and Ireland and emphasised the great power now vested in these bodies; power which if properly used could achieve much for the profession.

This ceremony marked the end of a ten-year programme which had been initiated by Dr. Harry O'Flanagan, who unfortunately could not be present, but without whose efforts over the years the project could not have been realised. The total cost of the building will be close to £2 million, of which £754,000 has already been contributed by graduates and friends of the College from Ireland and abroad. The three storey building consists of a perimeter of laboratories, research departments, teaching areas, staff rooms and concourse areas with a central core of three lecture theatres at ground level and a large examination hall on the first floor. The largest of the lecture theatres accommodates 400 people and each of the two remaining theatres seats 200 people. Spacious, self-service coffee and dining rooms for staff and students are provided at the rear of the block and student facilities include a gymnasium, squash courts, games and committee rooms.

The new extension must serve as a stimulus to future development and in times of financial stringency it is an example of what can be achieved through private enterprise. But the College must now devote attention to the development of its academic departments and without further delay achieve degree status for the qualifying examination so that RCSI graduates can further enhance the College's reputation in post-graduate medicine.



New Extension, RCSI