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London University Site.

THE public must be getting puzzled and bewildered over the question of the site for the University of London. Until recently it believed that the site at Bloomsbury had been definitely decided upon, and it expected that active preparations would shortly be made for the erection of buildings. There were good reasons for the belief and for the expectation. A public announcement was made that the Government's offer had been accepted, and that the purchase of the site had been completed. A few months later a temporary but very substantial building, provided by an anonymous donor at a cost of 20,000*l.*, for the University Institute of Historical Research, was actually erected on the Bloomsbury site and formally opened by the President of the Board of Education. This certainly looked as if the innumerable discussions and delays had at last resulted in something like definite action.

Before the summer vacation, however, the whole question was re-opened by the London County Council, which invited the Board of Education and the university to "explore the possibilities" of a site on the Holland Park estate before taking further action on the Bloomsbury site. The Council's resolution refers to the Holland Park site as "easily accessible from all parts of London, costing much less money, very much larger in area, and so affording room for expansion."

Any opinion expressed by the London County Council as the authority charged by Parliament with the promotion of higher education in London

is entitled to be received with respectful consideration. It is difficult, however, to see what action the senate of the university can take. Before accepting the Government's offer of the Bloomsbury site the senate consulted the Council and was assured that in the event of the site being accepted the Council would consider making a building grant up to a third of a million pounds. Fortified with this expression of approval, the senate accepted the offer, and the sale was completed. It is impossible to withhold sympathy from a university which, having had one very valuable site presented to it, and having already partly acquired possession of it, is invited to "explore the possibilities" of another site which no one has offered to give. *Beati possidentes*: a non-academic body would have a ready answer, but it will probably be found that the senate of a university is not utterly lacking in worldly wisdom.

The fact that the Bloomsbury site has been accepted and is partially occupied is not of itself decisive. If a blunder has been made, it should be rectified. It is quite conceivable that there are better sites than that at Bloomsbury, but it is quite certain that Holland Park is not such an one, however diligently its possibilities are explored. The extent to which it is "easily accessible from all parts of London" may be seen by a moment's reference to a map. That it costs "much less money" is quite probable: it would probably cost even less if it were somewhat nearer than it is to Hammersmith and Shepherd's Bush. If this is the only serious alternative to the Bloomsbury site, there can be no doubt as to the result of exploring its possibilities, and time spent in doing so would be time wasted.

Too much time has, in our view, been wasted already. The need for a dignified home for the university is urgent and clamant.

It will not be met by suggestions to explore the possibilities of pleasant parks which happen to be without a building. The site must be central; it must be within easy reach of the great colleges and medical schools where the great bulk of the teaching is carried on; and it must be accessible to the hundreds of teachers and others who participate in the work of the university and the thousands of students who go up for its examinations. Up to the present the Bloomsbury site is the one that best complies with these requirements, and if it were not already "signed, sealed, and delivered," there are sufficient reasons why it should be.