

## Guy's Hospital Medical School

### New Institute of Pathology

THE new Pathology Building at Guy's Hospital Medical School, which was opened on June 23 by the Chancellor of the University, the Earl of Athlone, completes the rehousing of the School and Hospital laboratory departments. It makes a valuable addition to the facilities available for carrying on medical research in London by providing suitable modern accommodation in close association with one of the largest hospitals.

In welcoming the Chancellor, the Dean of the Medical School pointed out that a comparatively small number of hospitals, such as Guy's Hospital, which had originally been founded for the care and cure of a small neighbouring population, had developed into the training ground for the medical services of the nation. To-day, however, the solvency of these hospitals is in imminent danger, and the whole clinical training of the medical student is not only handicapped but is also seriously threatened by the desperate financial straits in which these essential hospitals find themselves. "It is one of the queerest anomalies," he said, "of this British civilization that the training for the most important and most devoted of its public services should be hampered at every stage by being committed to an existence of perpetual mendicancy."

The Chancellor, in replying, stated that the University viewed with great satisfaction every effort made by its constituent schools to provide themselves with accommodation and equipment worthy of institutions of university status, and he congratulated the Medical School of Guy's Hospital on the fulfilment of its wise policy of concentrating all the departments of the School on one site. He also said that the University recognizes with appreciation that the present building has been largely paid for out of the ordinary funds of the School, without public appeal, though with some financial assistance from the Court of the University. "The reputation of the hospital," he said, "depends on its school, and the reputation of the school depends on the financial stability and efficiency of the hospital."

The opening of a large modern medical school building designed to afford extensive accommodation for research, provides an opportunity of directing general attention to the seriousness of the position in which those responsible for medical education in this country are now finding themselves placed. The prescribed course of education for a medical qualification is at present divided into two parts of roughly equal length. In London the earlier half is carried out in well-equipped departments, like that now opened at Guy's Hospital, belonging to institutions which are carefully controlled and inspected by the University authorities and liberally supported by University funds. The provisions for teaching in the second half, however, present a striking contrast with those in the first. They depend almost entirely upon materials and facilities provided by more or less independent institutions—the teaching voluntary hospitals—many of which are very much older than the University itself. For some years these essential hospitals have been in straitened circumstances, and the teachers of clinical subjects in their wards and out-patient departments have been faced with increasing handicaps upon their activities. Though these obstacles have been greatly lessened by the

loyal support given by the teaching staffs, as well as by the ingenuity of the administration in making resources stretch as far as they will go, it should now be generally realized that medical students are no longer receiving the best training which the medical advances of the past fifty years have made possible. Nor is there any assurance that even the present hospital facilities will be continued in the future on the same level as in the past. In their endeavour to maintain their former predominant position many of the voluntary hospitals, in recent years, have seriously overstrained their resources, and are adding yearly to accumulating deficits. They are faced, therefore, with the very serious alternatives of either curtailing the facilities they place at the disposal of the University for medical education or of extending in some direction the basis of their financial support. What direction such extension should take will require careful consideration, especially in view of the double duty that these institutions undertake: they provide hospital beds for the population of London on the one hand and medical practitioners for the country as a whole on the other. To meet these two distinct claims it would seem that both local and national support must be forthcoming.

## University Events

BELFAST.—Arrangements have been made for co-operation between the University and Armagh Observatory, and Dr. E. M. Lindsay, astronomer at Armagh, has been appointed part-time lecturer in astronomy in the University. Dr. Lindsay will continue to hold his post of astronomer at Armagh.

Mr. O. G. Edholm has been appointed to the newly created lectureship in physiology. Mr. Edholm is at present assistant lecturer in physiology at King's College, London.

CAMBRIDGE.—The electors to the John Humphrey Plummer professorship of mathematical physics have elected Prof. R. H. Fowler, fellow of Trinity College, from October 1. Prof. Fowler resigned from the chair on his acceptance of the directorship of the National Physical Laboratory on the resignation of Prof. W. L. Bragg (see NATURE, June 4, p. 1002); but has been advised to withdraw his acceptance of this post for reasons of health, and signified willingness to be re-elected as professor of mathematical physics.

D. J. Bauer, of Trinity College, has been re-elected to the Michael Foster studentship in physiology for 1938-39. Mr. Bauer, who was educated at King's College School, Wimbledon, graduated with a first class in both parts of the Natural Sciences Tripos. The annual value of the studentship is £105.

OXFORD.—In Convocation on July 30 the honorary degree of D.Sc. was conferred on Prof. C. G. Jung, professor of psychology in the University of Zürich and president of the Tenth International Medical Congress for Psychotherapy meeting in Oxford.

SOUTHAMPTON.—Dr. P. Ford, lecturer in charge of the Department of Economics, has been elected to the chair of economics and head of the Department of Economics and Geography in University College, Southampton.

Miss F. C. Miller has been appointed senior lecturer in geography.