

The Royal Society of Medicine : opening of the new building by His Majesty the King accompanied by Her Majesty the Queen.

Contributors

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Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
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THE

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE



OPENING OF THE NEW BUILDING

BY

HIS MAJESTY THE KING

ACCOMPANIED BY

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN





The Royal Society of Medicine

Tuesday, May 21, 1912.

Opening of the New Building

BY

HIS MAJESTY THE KING,

ACCOMPANIED BY

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

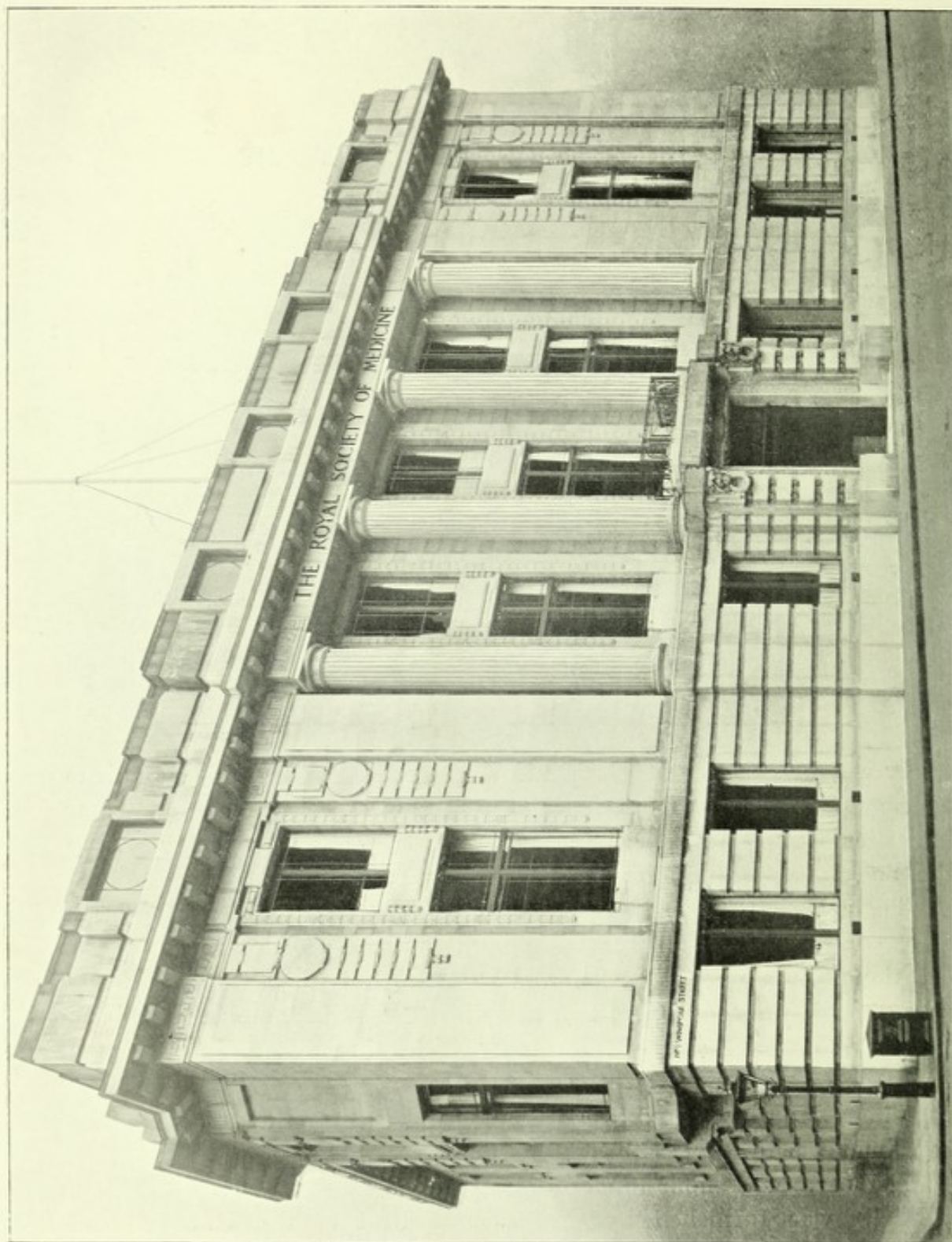
It will be a source of gratification to all the Fellows and Members of the Society, and to the medical profession as a whole, that Their Majesties King George and Queen Mary were able to open in person the Society's new building in Wimpole Street.

Their Majesties' visit happened to fall a few days after the death of the King of Denmark, but happily for the complete success of the occasion it was not deemed necessary to curtail the ceremony in any way, though the fact that the Court was then in full mourning robbed the proceedings of much of the colour which otherwise might have been expected.

Their Majesties arrived at the Henrietta Street entrance of the building at 3.45 p.m.

A Guard of Honour (under the command of Major H. H. Tooth, C.M.G.) was furnished by the Medical Unit of the University of London Officers' Training Corps.

Their Majesties were received, on alighting, by the President, Sir Henry Morris Bt., the Hon. Secretaries, Dr. Arthur Latham and Mr. Herbert S. Pendlebury, and the Secretary, Mr. J. Y. W.



MAIN FAÇADE.

MacAlister, who was personally congratulated by His Majesty on the completion of the new building of the Royal Society of Medicine, to the formation of which he had devoted so much invaluable time and labour.

The Members of the Council and of the Building Committee waited on either side of the Entrance Hall. On entering the building a bouquet was presented to the Queen by Mrs. Arthur Latham. This bouquet was composed of flowers of medical herbs expressly selected from the Old Chelsea Physick Garden.¹

Their Majesties then proceeded to the Robert Barnes Hall, and were conducted to the dais, followed by the Council and Building Committee, who took up their places on either side of the King and Queen. When Their Majesties had taken their seats, the following Address was read by the President:—

To the King's and the Queen's Most Excellent Majesties.

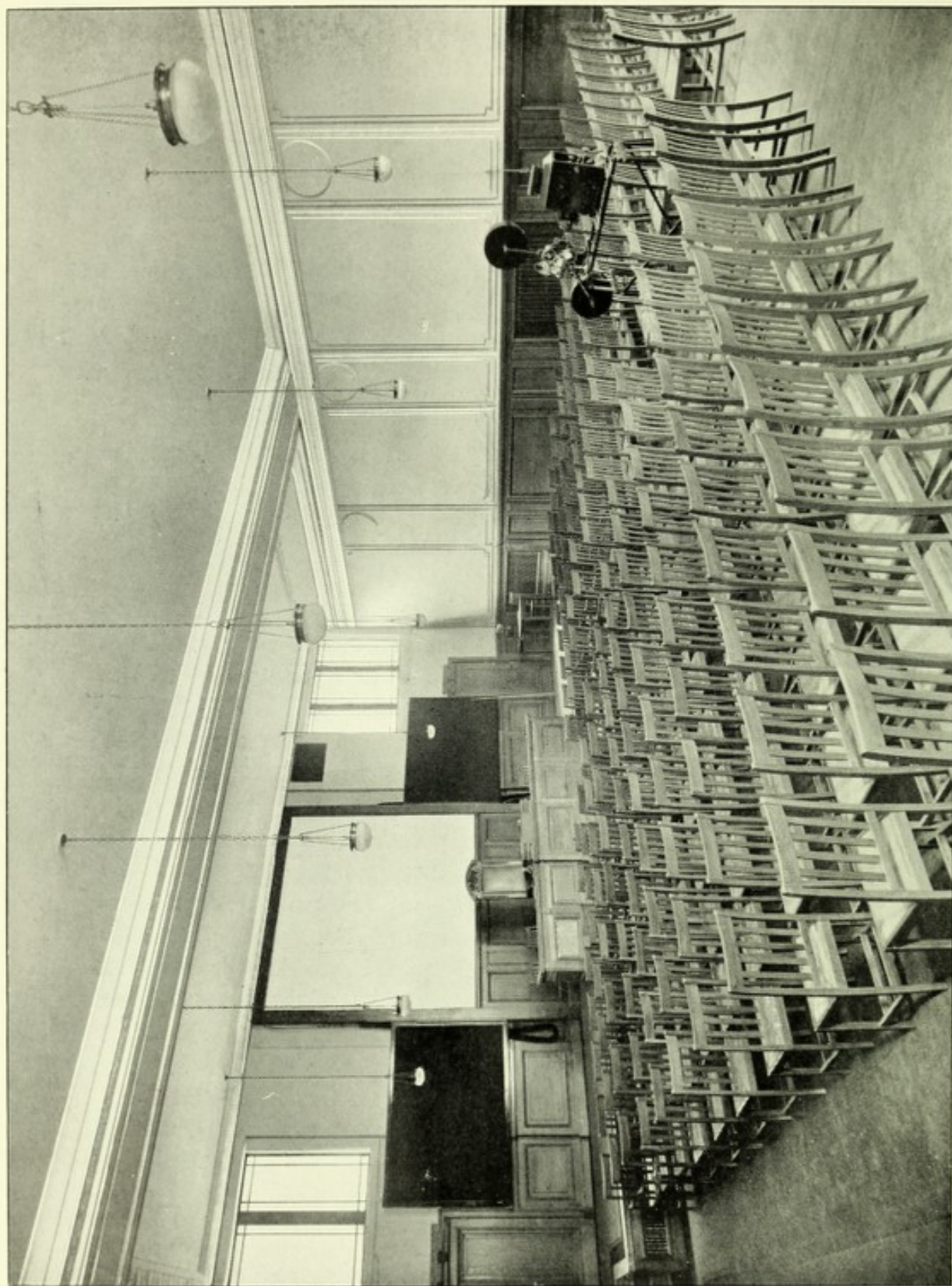
May it please Your Majesties,—

We, the President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society of Medicine, desire to convey to Your Majesties, with our loyal duty, our attachment and devotion to Your Persons and to the Throne.

We take this opportunity to express our grateful appreciation of the deep interest which Your Majesties invariably evince in all that concerns the well-being of Your Subjects, as well as in the progress of our profession, whose vocation it is not only to preserve the individual by curing disease, but to improve the health of the nation by promoting hygiene and preventing illness. Our Society was founded in the year 1805, but greater stability and effect were given to its designs by the Charter granted in 1834 by the special grace of His Majesty King William IV, who thereby declared himself, "and his successors if they shall think fit," the Patron of the Society.

It is our pride and privilege to record that each of the illustrious Successors of King William IV has so thought fit, and that

¹ The components of the bouquet were as follows: Bladder Senna (*Colutea arborescens*), Southernwood (*Artemisia abrotanum*), Absinth (*Artemisia absinthium*), Tarragon (*Artemisia dracunculus*), Lavender Cotton (*Santolina chamæcyparissus*), Male Fern (*Lastrea filix mas*), Green Hellebore (*Veratrum viride*), Alkanet (*Anchusa sempervirens*), Sun Spurge (*Euphorbia palustris*), Salad Burnet (*Poterium sanguisorba*), Lavender (*Lavandula vera*), Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*), Cabbage Rose (*Rosa centifolia*), Woad (*Isatis tinctoria*), Oak (*Quercus robur*).



ROBERT BARNES HALL.

our greatly beloved, and never to be forgotten late Sovereigns, Her Majesty Queen Victoria, and His Majesty King Edward VII have been, and now your own most excellent Majesty is our Patron.

By a Supplementary Charter graciously granted in the year 1907 by your Majesty's august Father, the Society was empowered to enrol as Fellows the members of several younger societies having allied objects; the scope of the Society was enlarged; its name was changed from "The Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London" to "The Royal Society of Medicine"; and it was specifically ordained that female as well as male persons might be elected Fellows and appointed to offices of the Society.

Thus the Royal Society of Medicine now forms a large corporation, embracing within its fold the most important medical societies in the country, and having for its object the improvement of the art and science of Medicine in all its branches by means of debate, collaboration, and research.

Your Majesties, who at all times show very active sympathy in the work of the great hospitals and similar institutions, and in everything that tends to alleviate sickness and relieve suffering, take also, as we are well aware, a keen and enlightened interest in every advancement of medical knowledge directed to the furtherance of these humane ends. Such progress is the single purpose of this Society.

To have been distinguished by the gracious favour of Your Majesties on this auspicious occasion has given inexpressible pleasure to all concerned and is a recognition that reflects the brightest lustre upon the history of the Society.

It is with these feelings of appreciation and gratitude that we very earnestly thank Your Majesties for the great honour you have conferred upon us, and upon the profession at large, by Your presence here to-day.

HENRY MORRIS,	President.
WILLIAM S. CHURCH,	} Hon. Treasurers.
FRANCIS H. CHAMPNEYS,	
R. J. GODLEE,	} Hon. Librarians.
NORMAN MOORE,	
ARTHUR LATHAM,	} Hon. Secretaries.
HERBERT S. PENDLEBURY,	

J. Y. W. MacALISTER, Secretary.



His Majesty's Reply.

His Majesty, in declaring the building open, was graciously pleased to say :—

I thank you on behalf of the Queen and myself for the loyal and dutiful address of the Royal Society of Medicine. It gives me great pleasure to open the fine building which will henceforth be the home of the Society, and which will provide adequately for the increase in your membership and for the extension of your duties since a new and enlarged Charter was granted to you by my father, King Edward.

The importance of the Society's work is now universally recognized, and it is a matter of satisfaction that the needs of the Society have been so generously provided for, and that its varied functions can now be carried on unhampered by lack of space. The health and well-being of the community are safeguarded by the energies of the medical profession. We look to you to fight sickness and disease, and we claim from you an untiring vigilance in this contest, and unceasing efforts to find, by the investigation of the laws of Nature, new means of combating these enemies. Medical science has revealed by experiment and trained observation new securities for life and health during recent years, and none can doubt that the improved public health is mainly due to the discoveries made by the medical profession in this and other countries, to the guidance given by that profession to the civil authorities, and to the sanitary precautions against the spread of disease which they have enforced. It gives us the greatest satisfaction to assist in any way the interests of your noble calling, and the Queen and I will ever watch the progress of your Society with sympathy and hearty goodwill.

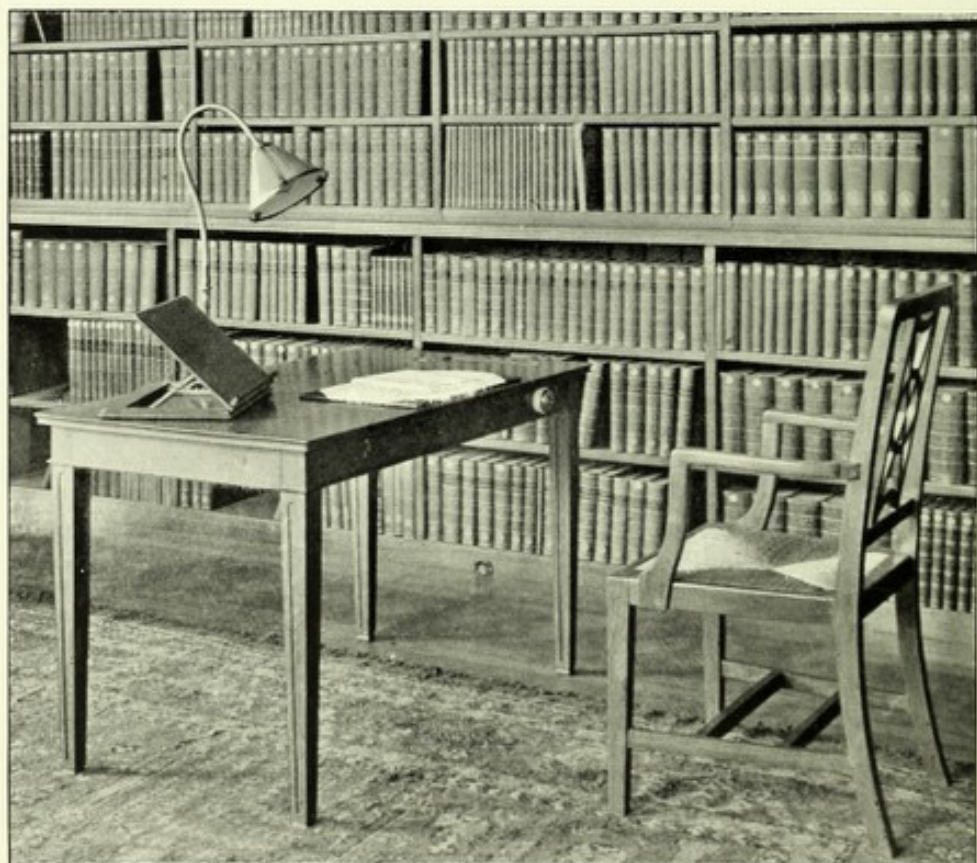
It only remains for me to declare this new building opened, which I do with the greatest satisfaction and pleasure.

The acoustics of the Large Meeting Room proved to be excellent, every word of the President's Address and of His Majesty's reply being clearly heard by everyone in the Hall.

Their Majesties were then conducted by the President and Secretaries from the dais down the centre of the Hall, and proceeded across the Entrance Hall through the small Meeting Room, passing the Patients' Rooms, to the lift. Accompanied by the President, they descended by the lift to the basement, where they were received by the



LIBRARY—PERIODICAL ROOM.



ONE OF THE TABLES IN THE LIBRARY
Showing the novel Electric Light arrangement.

Hon. Librarians, Mr. Rickman J. Godlee and Dr. Norman Moore, and examined the book-store, which the King had expressed a wish to inspect. The Hon. Librarians explained to Their Majesties the method by which, with the use of iron book-cases and adjustable shelves, it was possible to store the largest number of books in the smallest possible space.

Their Majesties then re-entered the lift, and proceeded to the Library on the first floor, where the following presentations to Their Majesties were made by the President:—

Members of the Council.—Sir William S. Church, Sir Francis H. Champneys, Mr. J. Warrington Haward, Dr. Frederick Taylor, Mr. Clinton T. Dent, Dr. Amand Routh, Dr. R. T. Hewlett, Dr. Theodore Thomson, Mr. H. Lloyd Williams, Sir William Osler, Sir Malcolm A. Morris, Dr. George H. Thompson, Dr. F. W. Mott, Dr. StClair Thomson, Dr. W. J. McCardie, Mr. Richard Gill, Dr. William Milligan, Mr. Arthur H. Cheate, Dr. G. A. Sutherland, Mr. A. D. Reid, Dr. W. Deane Butcher, Dr. W. E. Dixon, Dr. R. A. Gibbons, Dr. W. P. Herringham, Mr. R. Clement Lucas, Mr. D'Arcy Power, Dr. H. D. Rolleston, Mr. Charters J. Symonds, Mr. E. F. White.

Members of Building Committee not on the Council.—Dr. Herbert R. Spencer, Dr. C. Theodore Williams, Dr. Leonard L. B. Williams.

Mr. John Belcher, the Architect; Mrs. Scharlieb, representing the Lady Fellows; Dr. John Nachbar, Editor of the Society's *Proceedings*.

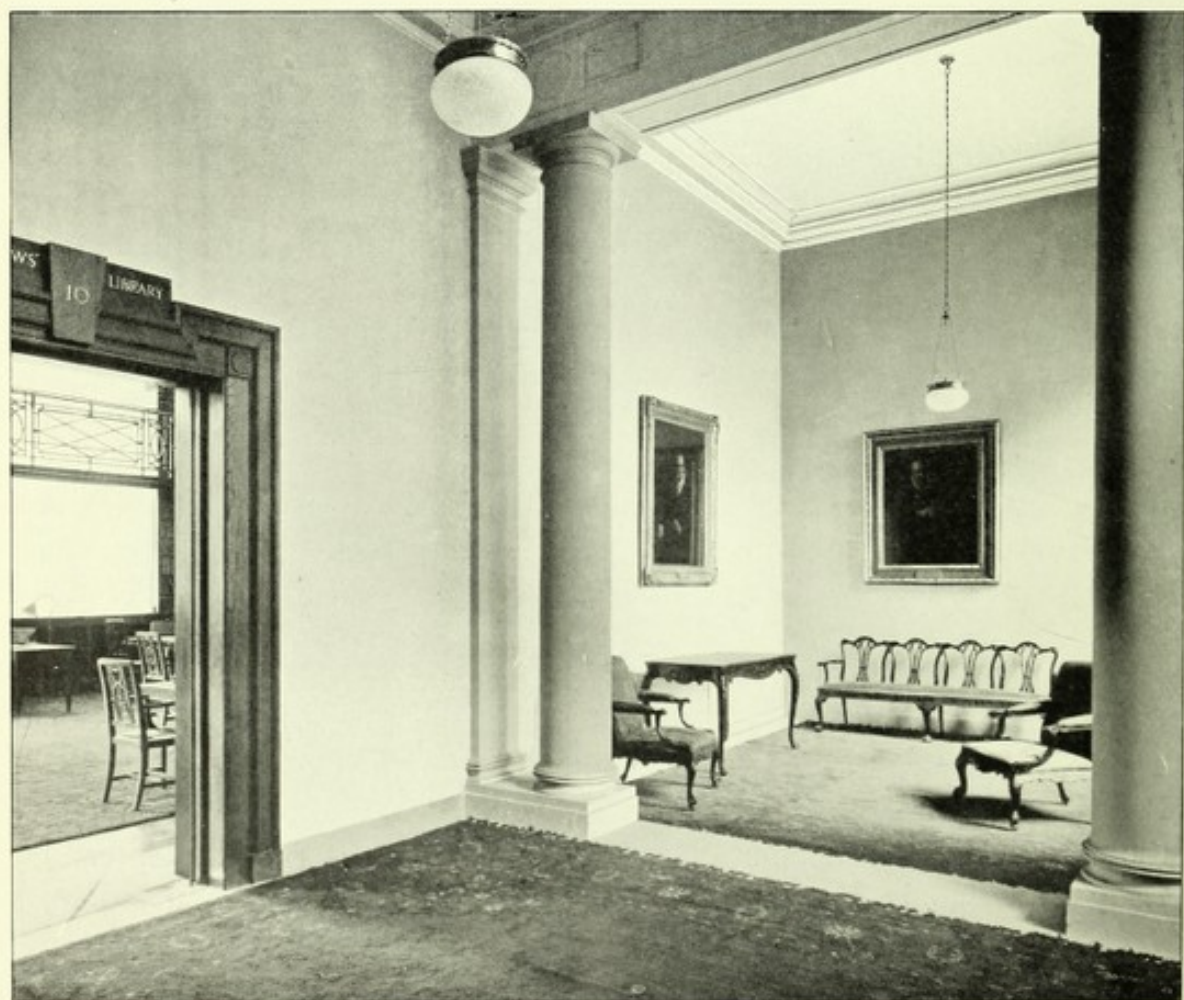
Their Majesties were then conducted round the Library, and were much interested in the electric lighting arrangement (for the reading tables) invented by Mr. MacAlister. The King graciously accepted a model of the apparatus. They also showed much interest in a mounted specimen of the Serpent of Æsculapius and its history. A specimen was on view which was captured in 1911 at Schlangenbad and which has been presented to the Society by Dr. Fortescue Fox.

Their Majesties then signed the Society's Roll on a specially illuminated page, and their attention was drawn to the signatures in other parts of the volume of King William IV, Queen Victoria, and King Edward VII. Before leaving the Library both the King and the Queen accepted from Sir Henry Morris specially bound copies of the history of the Society.

On the second floor, the King and Queen were shown the Council Room, three Committee Rooms, and the Henry Louis Florence Room. Their Majesties, attended by their suite, were then conducted by the President to the Fellows' Tea Room, where tea was served. Among those who had the honour of being present were: Sir William and Lady Church, Sir Francis Champneys, Dr. and Mrs. Norman Moore,



BOOK-STORE IN BASEMENT.



FIRST FLOOR LANDING.

Mr. Rickman J. Godlee, Dr. Arthur Latham, Mr. Herbert S. Pendlebury, Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister, Sir William and Lady Osler, Mr. Pierpont Morgan, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, the Mayor and Mayoress of St. Marylebone (Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Debenham), Sir Richard Douglas Powell, Sir James and Lady Reid, Sir Havelock and Lady Charles, Sir Thomas and Lady Barlow, Sir Anderson and Lady Critchett. After tea, Their Majesties, accompanied by the President and the Hon. Secretaries, descended by the lift to the Entrance Hall, where they took leave of the Council.

The King, before departing, inspected the Guard of Honour, and Their Majesties finally took leave of the President, Hon. Secretaries, and Secretary after a visit lasting an hour and a quarter, having expressed to all concerned their appreciation of the arrangements made for their visit, and of the admirable way in which the Society's new premises had been built and equipped.

The President's Conversazione.

In order to celebrate the occasion, the President most generously gave a Conversazione in the new house on the following evening, Wednesday, May 22, to which all Fellows and Members of the Society and their Friends were invited. As it was unfortunately impossible to invite all the Fellows to the Opening Ceremony, the occasion was welcomed as affording an opportunity to all to inspect the new building and see it lighted up, as soon as possible after its completion. Over 2,000 were present, and the evening was in every way a great success.

Description of the New Building.

The new building which has been erected at the corner of Henrietta Street and Wimpole Street, on a site occupying nearly 10,000 square feet, consists of a basement, ground floor, and three storeys. The façade is carried out in Portland stone, with a Cornish granite base. The *Architectural Review*, the leading architectural paper, in a notice of the building, states: "It is simple in its parts, but there is a straightforward vigour about it which holds the attention, and it possesses a dignity eminently in keeping with the institution housed within its walls." The special features of the interior are the two meeting rooms with their accommodation for patients, the handsome library with the ample storage room in the basement, and a number of rooms for the councils and committees of the Society and its Sections, which are now seventeen in number.



ENTRANCE HALL.

On the ground floor are the porter's lodge, entrance hall, and two meeting rooms; the larger, the Robert Barnes Hall, arranged to seat about 400, and the smaller about 150. Both meeting rooms are supplied with annexes for male and female patients, specially adapted for the examination of cases, and provided with lavatories.

The Entrance Hall, which is L-shaped, contains an Eighteenth Century marble mantel-piece. On the mantel-piece are an Empire clock and a pair of Empire figures with candle holders, presented to the Society by the President.

The first floor is occupied by the Library, the main room of which is 110 ft. long, 28 ft. wide, and 19 ft. high, and extends the whole length of the building on the Henrietta Street side, with a large bay window overlooking Wimpole Street. The shelving extends from floor to ceiling, and is divided by a gallery at a height of 8 ft. From this gallery a Mezzanine Room, with additional tables for readers, opens off, and is well adapted for private study.



ENTRANCE HALL.

Showing the Eighteenth Century Mantel-piece, and the Empire Clock and Figures with Candle Holders, the gift of the President.



COUNCIL ROOM OF THE SOCIETY.



SMALL MEETING ROOM.

A special feature of the Library is the electric lighting arrangement of the reading tables. This is the invention of the Secretary, Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister, and solves the problem of effectively getting rid of the usual flexible wires which are a great inconvenience in ordinary table-lamps. The contact is obtained through two legs of the table, in which strong springs are fitted. The spring fits into a counterpart spring socket in the floor, and the contact is produced by a plug in the table. When not in use, the table may be placed in any part of the room, as its own weight is sufficient to force the spring back into the leg of the table.

At the east end the Library extends the whole depth of the building, this portion forming the Periodical Room.

The remainder of the first floor is occupied by the Issue Room, two small rooms for private study, and the Fellows' lavatory. This is fitted up in the most up-to-date manner, with tiled walls and Leyland rubber flooring.

The book-store occupies the major part of the basement. The books are arranged on iron stacks with adjustable shelves, and the system adopted effects a great economy of space.

The Library now contains over 100,000 volumes, and there is storage room for over 200,000 volumes.

On this floor are also provided a large lavatory with dressing rooms for Fellows, also the porters' rooms, with heating chamber, coal-store, &c.

The second floor is occupied by the Council Room, various Committee Rooms, and the Fellows' Tea and Smoking Rooms. The Council Room is a fine room, 30 ft. by 28 ft., with a horseshoe table at which thirty-six members can sit. On the walls hang portraits of former Presidents of the Society, some of them being of considerable value, especially that of Alexander Marcet by Raeburn. Over the chimney-piece is a medallion by John Bacon, R.A., representing Æneas escaping from burning Troy carrying his father, the blind Anchises. For this medallion Bacon was awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Academy in the year of its foundation, 1768. It was purchased by Sir William Chambers and placed in his house at 53, Berners Street, which afterwards became the home of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society. The medallion was removed in 1889 by Mr. MacAlister, and placed in the Society's house at 20, Hanover Square.

At the opposite corner of the building is the Council Room for the various Sections of the Society, and between the two are three Committee Rooms, including the Henry Louis Florence Room.



COUNCIL ROOM OF THE SECTIONS.



CLERKS' ROOM.

The Fellows' Tea and Smoking Rooms extend the whole depth of the building on the Wimpole Street side, and communicate by folding doors.

On the third floor are the Secretarial Offices, a third Meeting Room, Lady Fellows' Room, and the Marcus Beck Laboratory, specially fitted up for the examination of pathological specimens and for other scientific work.

The spacious staircase is a feature of the building and is constructed entirely of ferro-concrete cased with Hopton woodstone. It is exceedingly well lit and contains a large automatic electric lift capable of raising twelve persons at a time if necessary.

The whole of the interior woodwork is in Austrian wainscot oak and the window frames throughout are of steel.

The essential requirements of the Society were enunciated by the Council in June, 1909, in their "Report on the Question of Increased Accommodation," which was issued to all the Fellows of the Society, and considered at a Special General Meeting. In this report the Council stated, that in view of the growing needs of the Library, the great increase in the number of Fellows and Members, and the numerous meetings of Councils and Committees, they were of opinion that it was urgently necessary to provide without delay:—

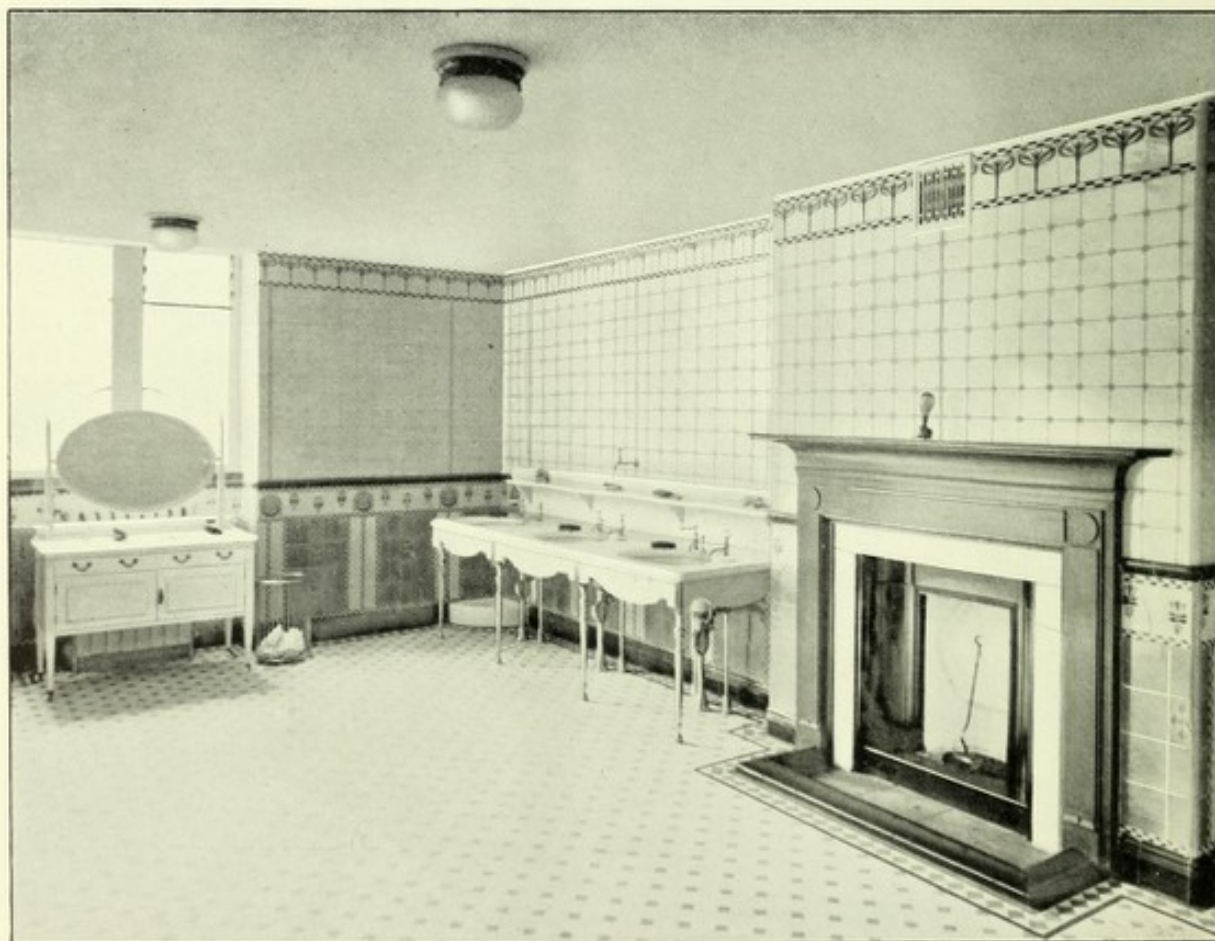
- (a) Additional reading accommodation for the Library.
- (b) Additional shelving for 20,000 volumes at once, and space for 50,000 more in the near future.
- (c) Conference or conversation room.
- (d) Ladies' lavatory and cloak-room.
- (e) Room (adjoining meeting room) for examining male patients, with dressing room.
- (f) Room (adjoining meeting room) for examining female patients, with dressing room.
- (g) Lavatories for male and for female patients.
- (h) Smaller meeting room (to seat, say, 100), with conveniences as (e) and (f).
- (i) Larger Council room (to seat 50), free from shelving.
- (j) Smaller Council room (to seat 30), free from shelving.
- (k) Two Committee rooms, free from shelving.
- (l) Cloak-room for men.

The Council reported that it was impossible to fulfil these requirements at the house in Hanover Square, and the Society then determined to build a new house on the Henrietta Street site.

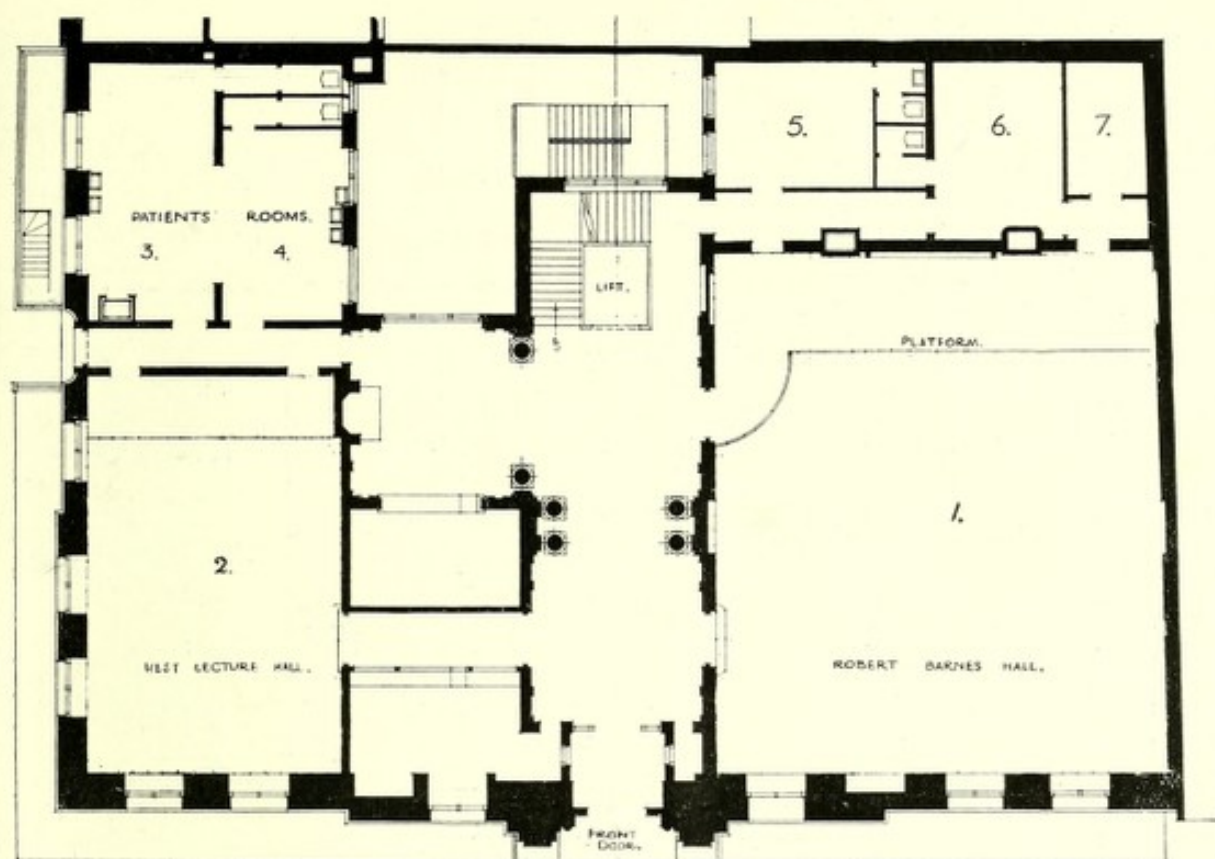
It will be seen that all the requirements have now been met, with additional Committee rooms due to the increase in the number of Sections.



FELLOWS' TEA AND SMOKING ROOMS.

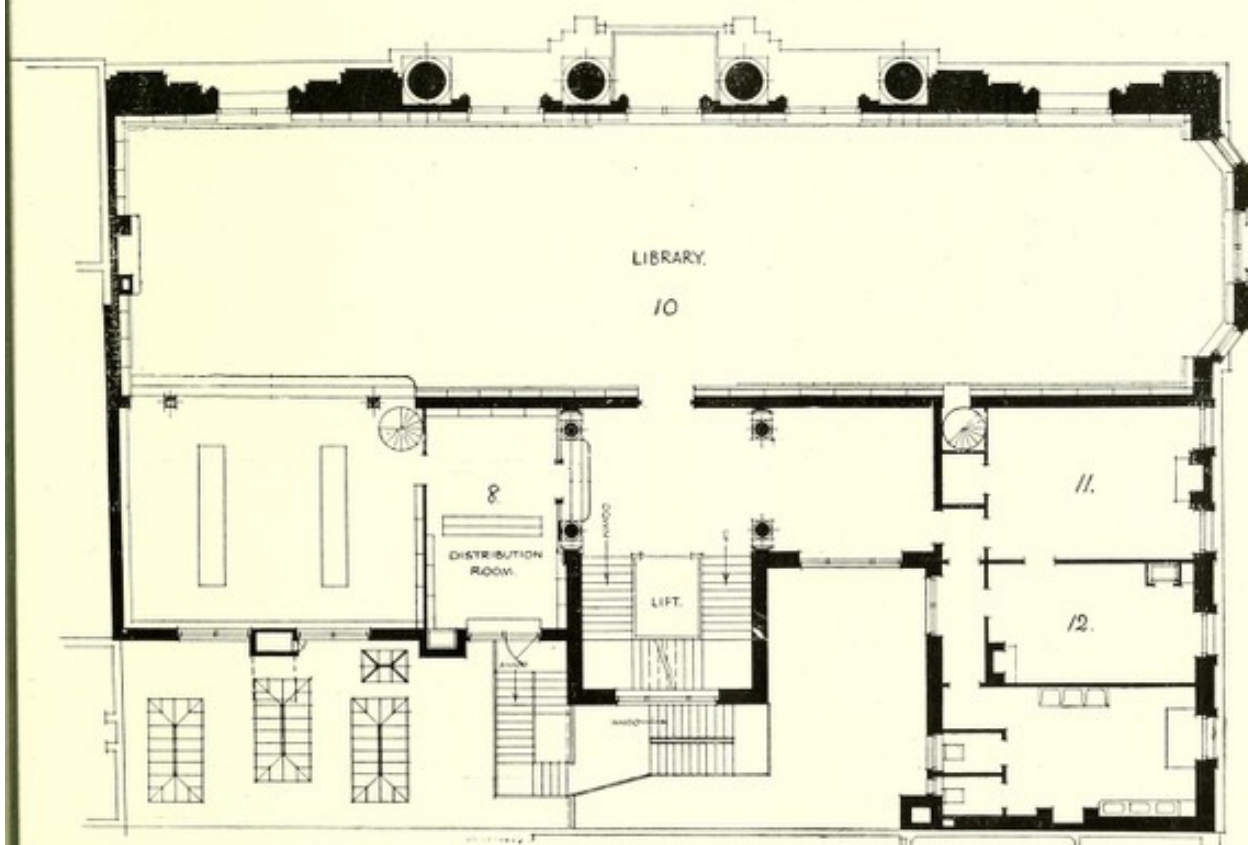


FELLOWS' LAVATORY.



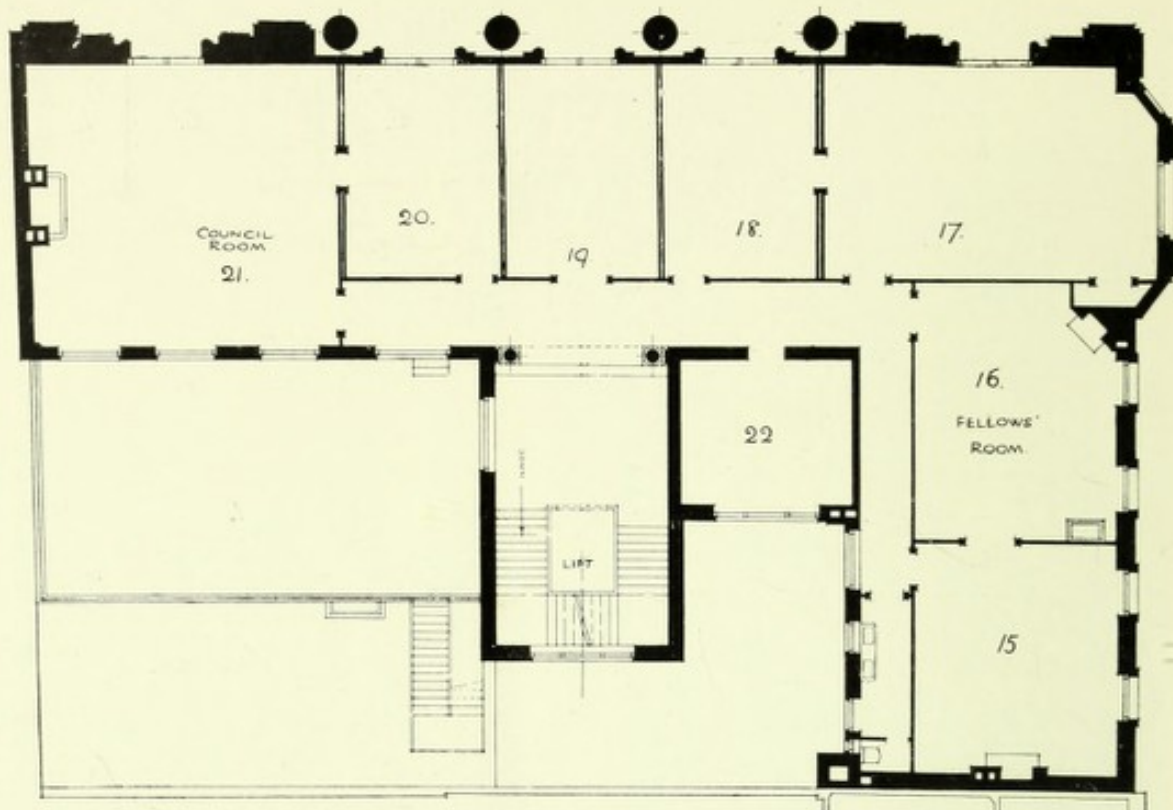
GROUND FLOOR PLAN.

Showing 1 and 2 Meeting Rooms; 3, 4, 5, 6, Patients' Rooms.

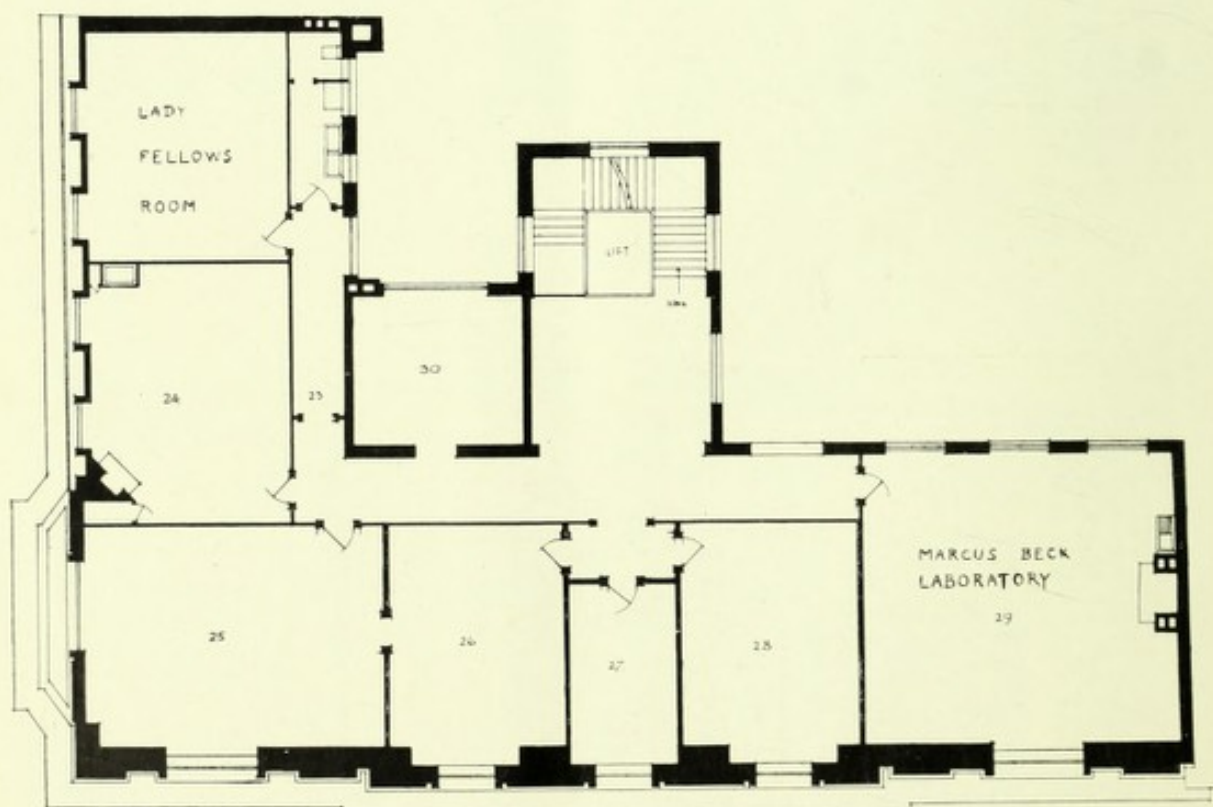


FIRST FLOOR PLAN.

Showing 10, Library and Annexes; 11, Marshall Hall Room; 12, William Alchin Room.

**SECOND FLOOR PLAN.**

15, Fellows' Smoking Room ; 16, Fellows' Tea Room ; 17, Council Room (Sections) ;
18, 19, 20, Committee Rooms ; 22, President's Room.

**THIRD FLOOR PLAN.**

23, Lady Fellows' Room ; 24, Clerks' Room ; 25, Small Meeting Room ; 26, Secretary's
Room ; 27, Cashier's Office ; 28, Honorary Secretaries' Room ; 29, Marcus Beck
Laboratory ; 30, Editor's Room.