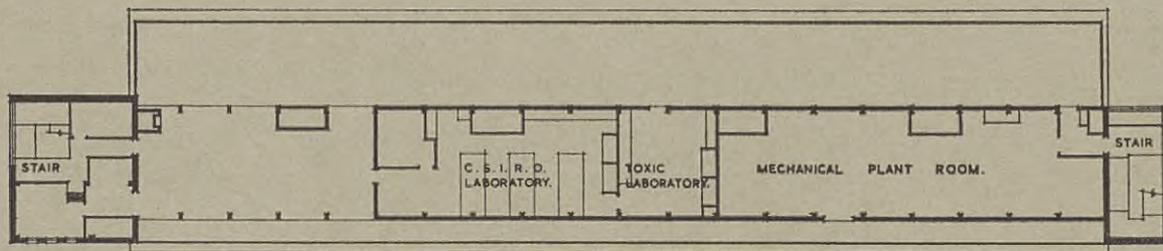


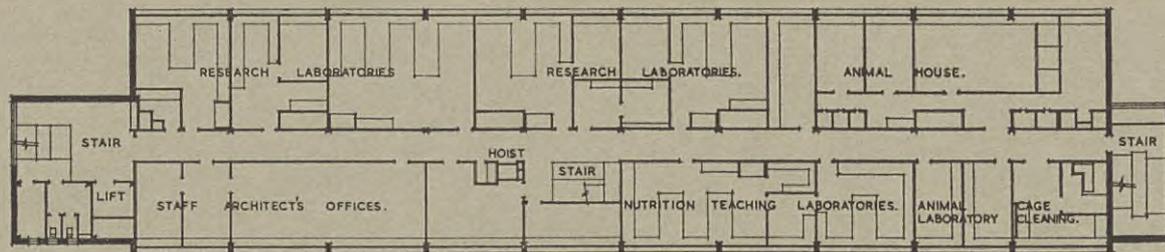
COMPLETION OF THE RUSSELL GRIMWADE
SCHOOL OF BIOCHEMISTRY · University of Melbourne

Official Opening by Sir John Eccles, President of the Australian Academy of Science
Wednesday, 12 April 1961

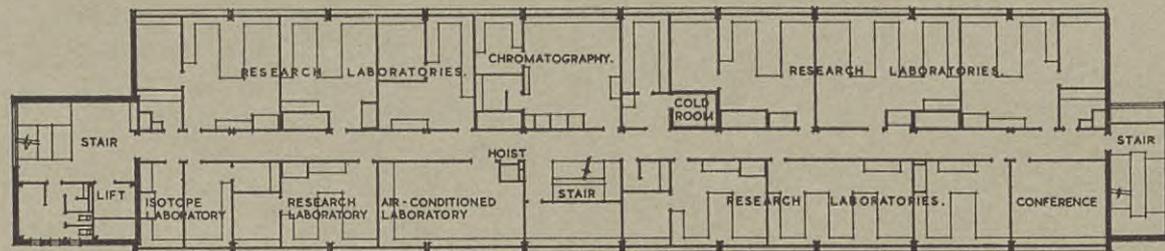
MAIN ROOF AND PENTHOUSE



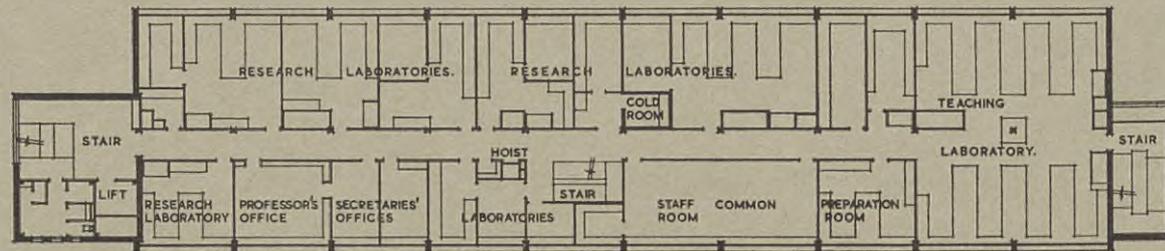
FOURTH FLOOR



THIRD FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



THE RUSSELL GRIMWADE SCHOOL OF BIOCHEMISTRY

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

THE SITE

The School is located in the south-western part of the University grounds south of the Conservatorium of Music. It is the first building of a group which will ultimately form the Medical Centre extending to the boundary at Grattan Street.

The landscaped development of the grounds adjacent to the building includes two levels of lawn and gardens and a parking area for 40 cars. Approaches are related to the proposed system of internal roads and will eventually link all buildings of the medical group with the existing ones.

THE PROJECT

The initial impetus having been given by the generosity of the late Sir Russell Grimwade, detailed planning was carried out for several years by the Architects, Messrs Bates Smart & McCutcheon, in consultation with Professor V. M. Trikojus of the Biochemistry Department, and his staff.

The building has been erected in two stages. The first stage consisted of the ground and first floors of the main laboratory wing and the wing containing the Entrance Foyer, Lecture Theatre, and Library. This stage was commenced in September 1956 and was officially opened by Lady Grimwade in April 1958.

The final stage comprises the second, third and fourth floors and penthouse of the main laboratory wing and is as illustrated. These floors have been planned to accommodate additional teaching laboratories, offices and laboratories for teaching staff and research students, and other special purposes rooms. This stage was commenced in November 1959.

Each floor of the main laboratory wing has an area of approximately 10,000 square feet. The total floor area of the completed building is 65,000 square feet.

SECOND FLOOR

This floor in addition to offices and research laboratories contains a Teaching Laboratory, Administrative Offices, and Staff Common Room. Minor rooms on this floor are a Preparation Room, Balance Room, and a Cold Room.

THIRD FLOOR

On this floor are a number of special purposes rooms including Chromatography Rooms, an Air-conditioned Laboratory, Isotope Laboratories, and a Conference Room. Other rooms include a Balance Room, Cold Room, and a Dark Room.

FOURTH FLOOR

This floor houses the Nicholas Nutrition Laboratories and Animal Rooms, together with a Seminar Room, Balance Room, Cold Room, and an Incinerator Room. Temporary accommodation has also been provided for the Office of the University Staff Architect.

PENTHOUSE

This accommodates the Mechanical Plant Room, Toxic Laboratory, and the C.S.I.R.O. Sugar Research Laboratory.

FLEXIBILITY

The general planning of the laboratories permits a wide degree of flexibility to follow changing techniques and methods, and the positions of laboratory benches and the location of partitions are adjustable to revised requirements. The modular system adopted for the purpose provides a series of working bays each equipped with its set of service installations.

SERVICES

The pressure services—compressed air, gas, hot and cold water, filtered and demineralized water, and the heating system, are run in horizontal ducts below the window sills and connect to distribution ducts along the centres of the laboratory benches.

The drainage system is run in corrosion-resisting polyvinyl chloride piping through polythene traps. Wastes are concealed in ceiling ducts and connected to a series of vertical ducts spaced along the centre of the building, thus all pipes and wastes are readily accessible for maintenance. Various parts of the building are mechanically ventilated including the larger laboratories which are connected to a system of positive pressure. Plastic tube vents from the fume cupboards rise in the vertical ducts and terminate with individual exhaust fans at roof level. Automatic fire alarms and extinguishers give protection against the spread of fire and a warning system indicates any failure in the mechanical plant.

MATERIALS

The structure is steel framed with light-weight floors of prefabricated metal units. Steel beams are protected with suspended fire-resisting ceilings. Care has been taken to eliminate vibration in the Balance Rooms. The rectilinear pattern of the steel columns and beams on the elevations of the laboratory wing has been finished in cast stone. Walling is in light-toned brickwork. Window frames are aluminium and along the north side are fitted with horizontal hoods to protect the glass from the summer sun. Spandrels below the windows are faced with aluminium, ribbed and anodized grey.

The laboratory fittings which have been designed in standard units to reduce manufacturing costs are protected with a plastic acid-resistant finish.

ARCHITECTS: BATES, SMART & McCUTCHEON