

MEMORANDUM RELATING TO THE PRESENT POSITION OF THE
CITY OF LEEDS TRAINING COLLEGE.

1. The position existing at the present time at the Training College is that the Military have vacated two of the Men's Halls of Residence, namely, Cavendish Hall and Fairfax Hall, and three of the Women's Halls of Residence, namely, Leighton Hall, Macaulay Hall, and Bronte Hall. The Educational Block also has been vacated. The buildings now remaining in the hands of the Hospital Authorities are two Women's Halls of Residence, namely, Caedmon Hall and Priestley Hall, which the Local Education Authority are prepared to leave at the disposal of the Hospital Authorities until 31st December, 1921, to provide residential quarters for Nurses and Doctors.

The wooden hutments, which now accommodate the Hospital, extend over the men's Playing Fields and, therefore, cripple the physical side of college life. It is found impossible to secure suitable grounds elsewhere.

When the Military Authorities insisted upon retaining the College buildings and site, the position was keenly contested by the Local Education Authority, and ultimately General Sir Ivor Maxse, the Head of the Northern Command, gave an undertaking to the Local Education Authority that they would quit the site on the 31st December, 1921. This undertaking was confirmed by the War Office in their letter of the 20th September, 1919, of which the final paragraph reads "it is proposed that the whole of Beckett Park should be restored to the owners by the end of December, 1921, at the latest".

2. The Local Authority have now received the following letter from the Ministry of Pensions:-

"H.M. Office of Works,
Infirmary Street,
LEEDS.

12th January, 1921.

Dear Sir,

Leeds Beckett's Park Hospital.
Re retention of Temporary Hospital Site.

I am requested to communicate with you with reference to the retention for five years of this Site and approaches thereto, at the above-named Hospital, upon which the temporary Huts have been erected.

These premises are in the charge of H.M. Office of Works, and are required by the Ministry of Pensions for Hospital purposes for a further five years.

I shall be glad to know the terms and conditions upon which your Committee are prepared to grant this extension?

I am, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,

R. M. GRUGGAN,

District Surveyor.

The Secretary,
Education Committee,
Calverley Street,
LEEDS.

The Education Committee were greatly surprised to receive such a request and their feeling against continued possession beyond the end of the present year, as agreed, was particularly strong. They have instructed the Director of Education to write H. M. Office of Works and the Ministry of Pensions accordingly.

The Hospital accommodated in the wooden hutments is not now exclusively an Orthopaedic Hospital, which was the sole reason advanced at one time for its retention on the site. It is now largely a General Hospital, in which all kinds of cases are dealt with all of which might well be treated elsewhere. The "orthopaedic" argument for the retention of the Hospital in the hutments at Beckett Park has therefore gone, and now that the women

students are coming back to the Halls of Residence on the estate, it is very desirable that the Hospital should be taken elsewhere.

3. Now that the Educational Block has been returned to the Local Education Authority and the work of restoration will reach completion at a reasonably early date, the necessity for completing the equipment of the College Block which was interrupted by the outbreak of War becomes urgent. In view of recent developments and of the still greater developments which will take place as the Education Act of 1918 comes into more general operation, it is essential that complete equipment should be at once provided for training men in Handwork. Having regard to the number of Special Teachers who will be required to teach Handwork in the Senior Classes of Elementary Schools and in Central and Continuation Schools, it is necessary that complete equipment should be provided for teaching both Woodwork and Metalwork in their various branches. In providing this equipment regard should be had to the possibility of selected craftsmen being recruited to the Teaching Profession for teaching crafts in the higher stages of Continuation School work or in Apprenticeship Schools. Such men should spend a period of six, nine or twelve months at a Training College learning something of the principles of teaching and class management.

It is proposed to allocate two rooms to Woodwork and two to Metalwork, and a plan and lay-out of these have been prepared. Space for making such provision was included in the original planning of the College, and there will be little expense beyond the equipment.

In Appendix A. are given detailed particulars of the proposed equipment, plans of the lay-out, and an estimate of the cost.

4. The men students in attendance at the Training College are unevenly balanced as between the two years of training. The number of First Year men students is 147 and of Second Year men students 23. This renders the working of the College difficult. It is essential that the numbers of First Year men and Second Year men should be equalised as soon as possible. It would, therefore, be a great gain if, for the ensuing year 1921-22, the Board would allow the Authority to admit to training 60 additional men, who might go into residence at Weetwood Lodge and "The Hollies" (recently presented to the City). These two houses are in close proximity to each other, being on opposite sides of Weetwood Lane. There is plenty of accommodation in the Educational Block for dealing with the educational requirements of these additional men students. At the commencement of the Educational Year 1922-23, the number of students taking the First Year and the Second Year Courses respectively would be approximately equal. The Board could then decide, having regard to the acute shortage of teachers, the inadequacy of Training College accommodation throughout the country, and the need of additional men teachers, whether the number of men students for which the College is approved might not for a period be increased by the temporary residential accommodation provided in Weetwood Lodge and "The Hollies". The Educational Block is not being used to its fullest capacity, the teaching accommodation provided therein being in excess of the residential accommodation. This position is accentuated by a change in the method of dealing with demonstration and practice work, which the Principal thinks better to conduct in the actual

schools. Classes of school children will, therefore, no longer be taken to the College Block for demonstration lessons, and the accommodation originally provided for that purpose and the accompanying cloakrooms are set free for other purposes.

5. Owing to the Education Authority placing two Halls of Residence, Caedmon Hall and Priestley Hall, until December 31st, 1921, at the disposal of the Hospital Authorities for the accommodation of Nurses and Doctors, it is still necessary to accommodate 120 women students away from the Estate. It is proposed to accommodate these students at Spring Bank, Holly Bank (at present used by the Yorkshire Training College of Housecraft), and the Wesleyan College.

6. This brings the Wesleyan College under consideration. At the commencement of the War, the Wesleyan College was placed at the disposal of the Education Committee at a rental of £400 a year, conditionally upon the Local Education Authority undertaking all costs in connection with alterations, adaptations, decorations, etc. necessary to the work of the College. This was a War rent. Soon after the conclusion of the War, the Trustees of the Wesleyan College gave the Local Education Authority formal notice to terminate their tenancy at this rental, and proposed that the Local Education Authority should lease the College for a minimum period of three years at a much higher rental. After protracted negotiations, it was agreed that the Local Authority should take the premises on a three years' lease from the 1st August 1920, but that rent at the rate of £1,100 a year should commence as from the 1st November, 1920. The Local Authority are endeavouring to secure an option of purchase on the Wesleyan College and site, or failing this, an undertaking that, should the Trustees desire to sell, the Local Authority shall have the first refusal.

7. The Local Authority are desirous of putting the Yorkshire Training College of Housecraft on a thoroughly satisfactory footing. This requires two developments: the provision of (a) an Educational Block, and (b) a suitable Residential Hall. The educational building should provide adequate accommodation for the Training College of Housecraft proper and a Central Institute for Women and Girls' work. It is necessary that such a building should be situated near the centre of the City.

The offer by the Trustees of Headingley Wesleyan College to the Local Authority for a period of three years enables the Authority to meet the difficulty caused by the retention by the Hospital Authorities of Caedmon Hall and Priestley Hall and to provide excellent residential accommodation for students in training at the Yorkshire Training College of Housecraft who come from a distance and whose parents object strongly to their daughters living in ordinary lodgings, even if in these times lodgings could be secured. As, subject to the approval of the Board, it is the intention of the Local Authority ultimately to allocate the Wesleyan College to the Yorkshire Training College of Housecraft as its Residential Hall, it is proposed as from September 1921 to transfer all existing Domestic Teachers in training from Holly Bank and Cross Flatts Hostel to the Wesleyan College, and to place that building entirely in charge of Miss Milne, the Principal of the College of Housecraft. The excess of accommodation at the Wesleyan College not required by the College of Housecraft would from September 1921 be at the disposal of the Leeds Training College until such time as Caedmon Hall and Priestley Hall were evacuated by the Hospital Authorities and returned to the Local Education Authority.

With the raising of the School leaving age to 14 and the development of Continuation Schools on a voluntary basis, and later in accordance with the requirements of the Education Act of 1918, a large number of additional Domestic Teachers will be required. Residential life is a very important factor in connection with the training of such teachers and the Wesleyan College would enable the Local Authority to take into residence 120 women training for domestic teaching.

Enquiries and negotiations were in progress for the purchase of a Central site on which to erect a suitable educational building, but the issue of the Circular of the President of the Board of Education arrested further progress.

The allocation of the Wesleyan College to the Yorkshire Training College of Housecraft, as its residential Hall, and the provision of a suitable educational block would result in an adequate and efficient Centre being established for the training of Domestic Teachers for this area.

8. The proposal of the Local Education Authority to increase by 60 the number of men in training at the Leeds College, and the concentration at the Wesleyan College of all students in residence of the Yorkshire Training College of Housecraft, cannot be effected without furniture being provided to meet the needs of 180 students. A sum of £12,000 was included in this year's estimates to enable the Local Authority to carry through this development if approved by the Board.

9. The present financial position in regard to Training College work carried on by a Local Education Authority is extremely grave and calls for immediate attention. The position in Leeds is that Leeds ratepayers for the Financial Year 1919-20 were required to find approximately £55 for each student from outside areas who was in attendance at the Leeds Training College. The Leeds

ratepayers, in fact, found £18,000 during that year for the Training College in Beckett Park, at which only 18 Leeds students were in attendance. This burden is one which should be borne by the State in view of the national character of the College. Leeds, in fact, was encouraged to establish the College on the understanding that the liberal grants of the Government would leave very little to be found by the local rates.

The suggested development in connection with the Yorkshire Training College of Housecraft is essential, if the educational needs of the future are to be adequately met, but the proposed development only serves to bring the financial difficulty into stronger relief.

It, therefore, follows that the Schemes outlined above depend upon the whole-hearted financial support of the Board, and the present unsatisfactory position of Training College finance being put on a basis which will be fair to Local Education Authorities which have shown enterprise and made the Training College provision in the interests of the nation.