

CITY OF LEEDS TRAINING COLLEGE

COMING OF AGE
CELEBRATIONS
SOUVENIR
HANDBOOK



1907-1928

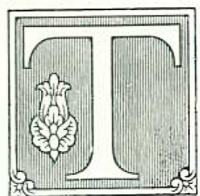
COMING OF AGE
CELEBRATIONS

1907-1928



CITY OF LEEDS TRAINING COLLEGE

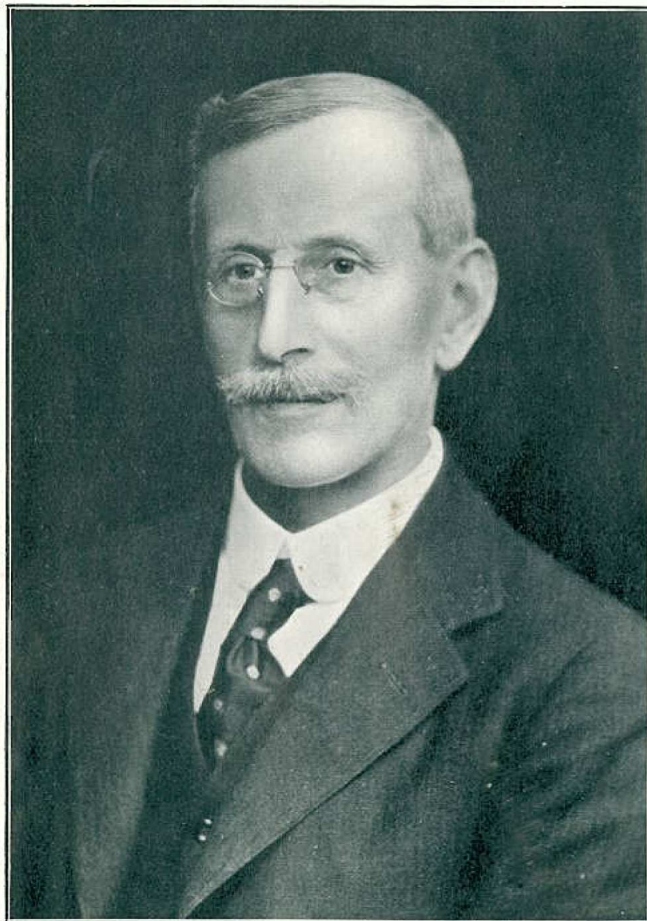
Officially Opened by the RIGHT HON. J. A. PEASE M.P. President of the Board of Education 13th June 1913



THE foundation of the City of Leeds Training College was due to the initiative of the late Alderman Fred Kinder, Chairman of the Education Committee from 1904-08, Sir Charles H. Wilson, M.P., the late Councillor G. Frederick Bowman, and Dr. James Graham, Director of Education. Students were experiencing great difficulty in finding places in training colleges, and it was to overcome this difficulty that the Board of Education attempted to stimulate the interest of local education authorities in the foundation of training colleges. The Board of Education made a generous offer, and through the enterprise of Alderman Kinder and Dr. Graham, this offer was accepted by the Leeds Education Committee. So great was the enthusiasm for the project that within a few weeks a training college was established, its first home being in the buildings now known as Harewood Barracks. Before its tenancy by the College, this building had been occupied by the Leeds Girls' High School, and the buildings, therefore, had already acquired an educational association.

The College opened with 142 students—44 men and 98 women—who came from all parts of the country, in larger numbers from Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Tyneside, and in lesser from London and the Southern Shires.

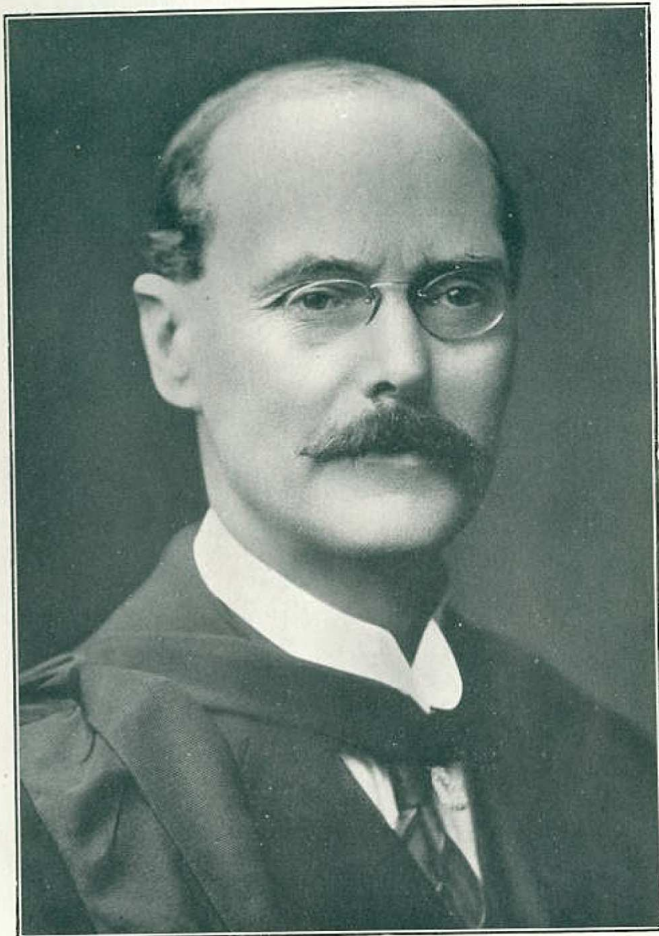
Two hostels were opened, one for men at St. Ann's Hill in St. Ann's Lane, Burley Hill, and one for women at Weetwood Grange, at the corner of the Otley Old Road. These hostels, however, did not accommodate the whole of the students; there were a large number



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W. PARSONS Esq. 1907-18



First Vice-Principal
MISS W. MERCIER 1913-16



Present Principal
DR. J. R. AIREY



Present Vice-Principal
MISS M. E. PAINE



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 ALDERMAN F. KINDER J.P.
 November 1907—October 1908
 November 1911—October 1917



Present Chairman of Governors
 ALDERMAN LESLIE OWEN J.P.



DR. JAMES GRAHAM
Director of Education



E. R. PHILLIPS Esq.
Chairman of Governors
November 1908—October 1911



SIR WILLIAM H. CLARKE J.P.
Chairman of Governors
November 1917—October 1919



ALDERMAN W. E. FARR
Chairman of Governors
November 1919—September 1923

of day students who were resident in Leeds and the West Riding. In the meantime the Committee had been searching for a permanent home for the College, and eventually a suitable site was found at Beckett Park. Here it was proposed to erect a permanent college, attached to which would be commodious halls of residence.

As time went on the popularity of the College increased and more students were admitted. This necessitated additional temporary hostel accommodation. Buckingham House, in Headingley Lane, was rented for men, and the women were lodged in Kirkstall Grange, then unaltered and possessing beautiful terraced gardens and tennis lawns. The gardens extended over much of what is now the quadrangle, and they included fine walnut trees, some of which still stand opposite Leighton Hall. The drive as far as Brontë Hall followed its present course, but from Brontë it used to make a bee-line for the Grange, and Japanese lamps stood at the entrance to the Grange enclosure.

The College proper was still at what is now Harewood Barracks, and in spite of the unsuitable premises good work was being done. It was inevitable that some of the work had to be "put out"; the Science was taken in the Thoresby High School laboratories, and the Art in the School of Art in Vernon Street. The present magnificent library had its beginnings in a small room





Temporary College HAREWOOD BARRACKS

some five yards square. Ordinary classroom work was carried on in rooms which were nothing better than bedrooms; the front desks were within a yard of the fire, and the blackboard, tutor's desk, and tutor were squashed in the limited space left available.

Two years went by and the first brood of "Owls" departed into the world. No sooner had their successors settled in than rumours of a coming upheaval were bruited abroad. The War Office had bought the temporary College and the students were again required to find a home. There was no question of going to Beckett Park, for building operations had not even begun there. It was found impossible to secure a building which would house the entire College, small though it was at that time in comparison with its present numbers. The women were sent to Lyndhurst, in North Grange Road, near the present Grange Court Flats, and the men to The Tower, on Woodhouse Cliff, near Delph Lane. Lyndhurst was fairly new and cosy; The Tower was old and draughty.

In September 1910, an additional men's hostel was secured in Cavendish House, adjoining The Tower, and the "Cavendish" men were glad when, two years later, it was found possible to preserve the name by giving it to one of the hostels in Beckett Park.

The next great trek came in Midsummer 1911. In view of the forthcoming migration to Beckett Park, where the new buildings were beginning to become conspicuous objects



ST. ANN'S HILL

among the surrounding "Klondike," extra students were admitted. Lyndhurst and The Tower were scrapped as "colleges," but were retained as hostels, and advantage was taken of a new school recently completed in Kirkstall Road. The College took possession of these premises in October 1911, and for the first time all the educational activities of a training college were centred in one building. Science and Art deserted their billets in the City and came to dwell side by side with English, Education, and other sister studies. Circumstances were not ideal even at Kirkstall Road. There was one Science room only, but this was better than wandering in the City. There was one room for Art, though a couple of huge screens divided it into two. The arrangement, however, was not destined to last long. In the following year, all wanderings over, the College entered "the Promised Land."

The comprehensiveness of the general scheme of the new College has won the admiration of all, and the College now takes its place in the forefront rank of educational institutions in the British Isles. Mr. F. Broadbent, F.R.I.B.A., the Architect to the Education Committee, prepared the plans on the basis of which local architects were invited to submit designs for the new building. Sir Aston Webb was appointed by the Committee to act as Assessor, and he selected the design of Mr. G. W. Atkinson as the best, and placed next in order the designs



Corner of Tennis Ground



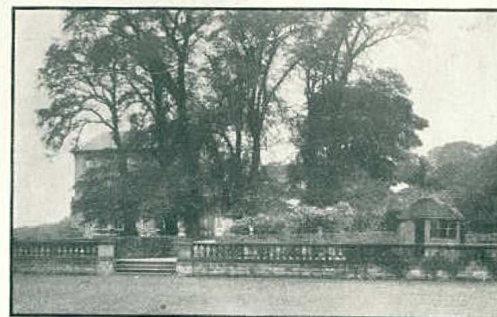
WEETWOOD GRANGE

submitted by Mr. S. D. Kitson, Mr. A. E. Kirk, Mr. W. Peel Schofield, and Messrs. P. Robinson and W. Alban Jones. The Committee, therefore, arranged for a distribution of the work among these architects.

On Friday, the 13th June 1913, the permanent College was officially opened by the Right Honourable J. A. Pease, M.P. (now Lord Gainford), President of the Board of Education, and those students who were present will remember that happy ceremony. Some may recall the disturbance in the general meeting in the Great Hall caused by an unruly suffragette, and the still greater disturbance in the Swimming Bath when another suffragette was thrown into the water and rescued by a trained squad of life savers!

For two years Beckett Park was enjoyed, though it was not quite ready when first occupied. Workmen abounded, hammers sounded, walls were white, but every week things improved, and finally the College settled down in its new home.

Then came August 1914! Six Territorials with a wheel-barrow cleared the Science laboratories in one day. Other Departments were also in retreat, and took up new positions according to plan. A couple of days saw the College buildings empty, and a couple of weeks later it was occupied by the first batch of wounded soldiers.



A View from Tennis Lawn



BUCKINGHAM HOUSE

It was necessary to make arrangements for carrying on the College in temporary buildings. It was regarded as too big to be conducted in a private house—at least it was thought so. The Authority were soon glad to be able to secure private houses as hostels, and fell back on the simple expedient of transferring the College to the Thoresby High School, where it met each afternoon, the pupils of the Thoresby School using the building each morning. This “Box and Cox” arrangement was not satisfactory—the pupils had the School from 9 to 1, and the College had it from 1.30 to 5, so that there was not much chance of a change in the air. This arrangement continued for a time. Then at Easter 1916, another change was made. Incredible as it may seem, 450 students were accommodated in the Grange, which thus became the College, after having been, in turn, a private house, a hostel for women students, and a hostel for men students. Science took up its quarters in the Cricket Pavilion, and Art in what are now the Union Rooms.

This arrangement lasted a year, and then came another trek. In May 1917, the College was transferred from the Grange to Brudenell School: Science had gone to “Churchwood” some time before: Art remained in the Union Rooms.

“Brudenell” had its limitations, and all began to look forward to the end of temporary makeshifts. On the



End of Queen's Walk



KIRKSTALL GRANGE



MRS. JACKSON
1907—1927

conclusion of the War the Military Authorities still wanted the College, and not until Midsummer 1920, were the students able to come back to their own domain.

It is almost impossible to detail the hostel arrangements during the period of the War. At one time the men lived at "The Elms," later at "The Grange." No sooner did the women settle at "Whinfield" than the ownership changed hands and house-hunting began again. Ultimately the women settled in "Weetwood," "Torridon," "Spring Bank," the "Clergy School," and the "Wesleyan College" in Headingley Lane, henceforward to be known as "62."

Looking back it seems strange that amid all this upheaval and wandering there could be maintained any college tradition, or coherency of educational plan. But somehow the College grew accustomed to change. A "Caedmon" student might be living at "Whinfield" or "Torridon," but she considered herself "Caedmon." Naturally it was not possible during these hectic disturbances to develop Advanced Courses or to make bold experiments in the technique of education, but good solid work was done, and the students of those days have no regrets.



Entrance to Hall



LYNDHURST

It was not until 1924 that all the College students came to live at Beckett Park, and even then the hospital, accommodated in wooden pavilions on the old cricket field, served as a reminder of the Great War. Not until 1927 were the wounded soldiers transferred to the new hospital erected at Gledhow and the process of renovation set in motion. So long had the big Y.M.C.A. hut, the Chapel, and the regular line of pavilions been on the estate that they had almost grown to be taken as part of the College. Even in 1928 the concrete beds left behind are a reminder of where the pavilions stood, and the sight of workmen levelling the ground brings back the memory of what the College used to look like in 1912.

Having lived 21 years, the City of Leeds Training College has reached its majority. It can reasonably claim to be "grown up." It has not only grown in years, but it has surely refined its judgments through the medium of trouble and tribulation. Now that its wanderings are ended delight is found in remembering old discomforts. Looking back over the vista of years, the tiring walks to Thoresby High School appear exhilarating, the poky classrooms in Harewood Barracks astonishingly cosy. Those impromptu games of cricket on the gravel behind the old College appear brighter than a County Cricket Match, and the tiny plot behind "The Tower" more lovely than the gardens of Kubla Khan. How jolly it all was!

It is the privilege of age to look back. Now that we are 21 we can legitimately delight in the romance of retrospect. We do not know what is in store; but we do not fear the future.



THE TOWER

The House has been well built; it has withstood the shocks of adversity; it has rung with the laughter of good people. The students of its childhood days have been loyal guardians of a great trust, and have founded a great tradition. At this Reunion in 1928 we can look back upon a joyous and vigorous youth and forward to a rich future.

Principals

Mr. W. PARSONS

Dr. J. R. AIREY

Vice-Principals

Miss WINIFRED MERCIER

Miss M. E. PAINE

Staff remaining from 1907

Miss CRAWSHAW

Mrs. BROWN

Mr. HOLGATE

Mr. TAYLOR

Mr. TODD

Mr. WILKINSON

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