

'Hidden' community that takes special pride in its output of top-class minds

TUCKED away in pleasant grounds, framed against the backcloth of industrial Leeds, is the home of a community which makes a special contribution to the city.

Unobtrusively it has been responsible for a high output of first-class material.

The community, staff and students of the City of Leeds and Carnegie College, is justifiably proud of the role it has played in the educational world in Leeds.

While saddened that it will cease to function independently once it merges with Leeds Polytechnic in September, it is hoped that the college's traditions will be maintained.

Although less than half a mile from the main Leeds-Otley road, it enjoys such privacy that many citizens are unaware of its location at Beckett Park.

But this community is one in which the city should take real pride, claims outgoing principal, Dr. L. Connell, who believes the college is 'something special.'

Tall and distinguished, Dr. Connell talks with obvious pride and deep affection of the college he has shepherded since 1963.

A Mancunian, Dr. Connell has forged the strongest links with his adopted city. His enthusiasm for the college is unbounded.

He considers it a tremendous achievement that Leeds should have built what he describes as palatial buildings at a time when other large cities were hesitating — or catering for vastly smaller numbers.

"You could almost think it is out in the country — it is perfectly placed, but still near the city centre," he said.

His knowledge of the history of the college will prove invaluable when he begins a study of teacher training in Leeds from its beginnings. His post as principal disappears this year through the merger with Leeds Polytechnic.

With the study, which he eventually hopes to have published, Dr. Connell will continue his connections with Leeds which began in 1950 when he was appointed lecturer in education at Leeds University.

He left that position in 1959 to become head of Central High School, Leeds,

By Sue Bradley

and it was in 1963 that he moved to the college.

To Dr. Connell the strength of the college centred on it being a self contained unit, its splendid campus and facilities, a marvellous staff and its links with the University.

The success of the college seemed assured from the first — with 1100 applications for 137 places when it opened in 1907.

A building in Woodhouse Lane (which had formerly housed Leeds Girls' High School, and which was later known as Harewood Barracks) was rented as a temporary training college, although science was taught at Thoresby High School and Art in the College of Art.

A year later the house and grounds of Kirkstall Grange were bought from Lord Grimthorpe.

Forty acres were purchased at £1,200 an acre and a couple of years afterwards 35 acres of playing field were acquired for £550 an acre. Lord Grimthorpe made a gift to the college of 19 acres.

After the temporary college building in Wood-

house Lane were bought by the War Office, it was not until 1911 that the college instruction centred in one building — Kirkstall Road School.

By the time the college was officially opened in 1913 more than 250 students were paying fees of £20. The first principal was Walter Parsons, also a former head of Leeds Central High School.

During the First World War the college was transformed into a military hospital.

After making use of Thoresby and Brudenell schools for various periods, it was 1924 before all the students were back in residence.

By now Dr. John R. Airey had been appointed principal — a job he held until his retirement in 1933, when he was succeeded by Dr. R. W. Rich.

It was during 1933 that Carnegie College opened, but it was not until 1968 that the two colleges became one. During the Second World War the college was once again controlled by the military authorities.

Students moved from Beckett Park to hotels in Scarborough during this period and despite many

obvious drawbacks the college spirit continued. But students were not to return to the Beckett Park area until Christmas, 1945.

Plans for new buildings, extensions, refurbishments, and improvements were being laid in the 1950's and 1960 saw the first intake of three year students. More than 1400 students are now using college facilities and the staff totals 140.

The college has continually changed in response to the needs of the profession. In 1964 plans were in hand for matriculated students to take a B.Ed. in a fourth year of study. The French Department was created in the same year.

Since the White Paper of December, 1972, the college has completely revised its three year course curriculum to make a three-year B.Ed. degree course validated by the University of Leeds.

Other courses introduced since then have included a one-year post graduate course, a one-year course for teachers of backward children and a teacher-youth-leader course.

An audio visual aids service was established as well as a student centre. In 1968 the City of Leeds and



Carnegie College. Left: A corner of the main building; centre, two blocks of the women's halls of residence and right, a corner of the Fairfax building. one of the men's halls of residence.

Carnegie colleges were merged.

Welcoming the forthcoming merger with the Polytechnic, Mr. Alan Carter, the director of the Faculty of Professional and Vocational Studies, pointed out that the School of Education would be able to draw upon the resources and experience of the Polytechnic.

Staff in many of the schools would be teaching courses in the School of Education and potential teachers would be working alongside students studying in a whole range of profes-

sions. School of Education staff would be teaching other courses.

A new degree, intended to start in 1978, will have practical teaching as its central focus and will ensure that the problems of teachers in the classroom are dealt with.

A programme of events to mark the end of the college's existence as a separate institution begins on Saturday, with a garden party and open day. All proceeds will go to charity. This will be followed on

Friday, July 2, by an evening of entertainment from an all staff cast and on Friday, July 9, by a formal dinner at the college.

PROGRAMME

SATURDAY: Garden party and open day. Open 2 p.m. Entrance 10p. Open to public. Displays of work by departments, stalls, Raffles and displays in the college grounds, displays and exhibitions by student clubs and societies. Performance of "Trial by Jury" during the afternoon by the College Light Opera Society. Dancing in the evening.

FRIDAY, JULY 2: "Here we go — This Integration": An evening of humour, nostalgia and talent." 8.30 p.m. All staff cast. Open to all staff (academic and non-academic) past and present.

FRIDAY, JULY 9: Formal dinner in college refectory, 8 p.m. It is hoped that Dr. Rich, immediate past-Principal, will be speaking. Open to all staff, academic and non-academic, past and present.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 TO SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12: Annual reunion of old students.