

READING MEDICINE

A history of the libraries of The Middlesex
and University College Hospitals
Medical Schools

P. Campbell and C. R. Cheney



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Figure 2. HRH The Princess Alexandra at the nursing school prize-giving, 1962. Sir Donald Currie's portrait is on the right

INTRODUCTION

Medicine has been a part of UCL from the early days, with Charles Bell, Professor of Surgery and Physiology 1828–1830, giving the inaugural lecture of the ‘University of London’ on 1 October 1828.

The same Charles Bell had an even longer association with the Middlesex Hospital, being elected surgeon there in 1812 and returning to found the Middlesex Hospital Medical School in 1835.

The origins of the Boldero and Clinical Sciences Libraries and their collections, which were brought together at the Cruciform Library in August 2005, date from this time.

Bstl, (Sir Chas.)

~~38-e-12~~

~~38-d-7~~
~~38-e-37~~

38-B.30

The hand; its mechanism & vital endowments,

as springing forth
with portrait

16-d-18 356

Illustr., 80 La., 1852

LEWIS, (SIR T.)

Clinical Science, illustrated by

personal experiences.

80 LONDON, 1934.

CARSWELL, (ROBERT)

Anatomical Drawings

special indst^v drawer

↓ Morsley (Sir Victor) and
Sturge (Mary D)

Starroom. 21-a-26.

34-b-5

INGS.

Alcohol and the human Body

80 London, 1907

Brissotus (Petrus).

Gallery 6-g-22 (5)

P. Brissoti Doctor medici Parisiensis præstantissimi
apologetica disceptatio. In qua docetur per quæ loca
sanguis mitti debeat in viscerum inflammationibus
præsertim in pleuritide. Illustrata R. Morsau.

Illustr., 120 Paris 1622.

TWEEDY

KEY DATES 1745–2005

Key dates in the history of the Hospitals and their Medical Schools:

1745	The Middlesex Hospital founded
1828	'University of London' opened and medical classes commenced
1832	UCL Faculty of Medicine formed
1834	North London Hospital founded; became University College Hospital in 1837
1835	Foundation of the Middlesex Hospital Medical School
1906	Opening of the new University College Hospital (UCH)
1907	New University College Hospital Medical School (UCHMS) building opened
1914	National Dental Hospital and its Dental School incorporated with University College Hospital
1920	Rockefeller Foundation gift to UCL and the Medical School
1935	Opening of new Middlesex Hospital
1939	Opening of new Middlesex Hospital Medical School building
1980	UCH Medical School re-united with UCL as the Faculty of Clinical Sciences
1982	Merger of UCH and The Middlesex Hospital
1987	Inauguration of and first student intake to the merged University College and Middlesex School of Medicine
1987	Merger of St Peter's Hospitals and the Institute of Urology with the Middlesex Hospital
1993	University College Hospital building closed
1994	UCLH NHS Trust established
1998	Merger of University College and Royal Free Medical Schools
1999	Cruciform Library opened in former UCH building
2000	First student intake to the Royal Free & University College Medical School's new curriculum
2005	Opening of new University College Hospital on Euston Road

Figure 3. University College Hospital
Medical School, 1907.



THE CLINICAL SCIENCES LIBRARY

The early medical libraries at UCL

Newcombe¹ recorded that from the beginning there was a Medical Library at UCL, with £150 being made available in 1829 to set it up. Located initially in a room near the Anatomy Theatre it moved to what later became the Union Society's Lounge in 1838, with a relatively spacious capacity for 90 readers. A proposal in 1849 to combine the medical collections with those for Arts and Laws was rejected; indeed a correspondent to the *Lancet*² was outraged that noisy arts students or 'boys in jackets' might share a library with the medics, protesting that 'to study in any library with such companions is quite impossible'. The Medical Library remained, with collections covering all aspects of medicine and the medical sciences, until the division of pre-clinical and clinical studies over 70 years later.

Origins of the Clinical Sciences Library

The North London Hospital, opened in 1834 and re-named University College Hospital in 1837, was replaced by Alfred Waterhouse's new 300-bed hospital on Gower Street in 1906. A year later a new Medical School, Students' House and Nurses' Home endowed by Sir Donald Currie opened on the corner of Gower Street and University Street. Adjacent to the new University College Hospital the architect this time was Paul Waterhouse, Alfred's son.

The new Medical School Library was located on the ground floor, running the length of the building on the Gower Street side and reaching through two floors, with a formal external entrance which was described 70 years later by Merrington³:

"The enormous entry into the library from Gower Street 'to serve as a sort of state entrance' seems quite pointless and has, in fact, only been used once or twice"

Thursday 31st May, 1923

On the occasion of the laying of
foundation stones of the new Ob-
stetrical and new Nurses' Home
on the City Street.

George R. J.

Mary J.

Figure 4. From the UCH visitors book

LIBRARY
CLINICAL SCIENCES

One such occasion was on 31 May 1923 when King George V and Queen Mary signed the UCH visitors book in the Library. This was part of a ceremonial procession from laying foundation stones for the new Obstetric Hospital and Nurses' Home, to opening UCL's new Anatomy Building, developments which had been funded by the Rockefeller Foundation.

The galleried reading room typical of the era was decorated with memorials of eminent names associated with the Hospital and Medical School. These included busts of Robert Liston, Edmund Alexander Parkes, Sir John Eric Erichsen, Sir Robert Carswell, Sir Charles Bell and David D. Davis as well as marble medallions of Christopher Heath and George Vivian Poore. A portrait of Sir Donald Currie hung on the south wall beneath his coat of arms – a castle over a galley on a field of gold and blue – which formed part of the crest of the Medical School.

The reading room had a seating capacity of about 60 although the Library served for other functions too: at one time it was the venue for events such as the Old Students' Annual Dinner and the Medical Society Christmas Ball, as well as for more formal occasions. An introductory address was given by Sir Richard Douglas Powell, physician to the King, in the Library on 2 October 1907. For several years from 1954 prize-giving ceremonies for the nursing school were held there and space was made available for the Dean, Secretary and professors to meet parents of the medical students at the Medical School's annual open day; this was also an opportunity to exhibit some of the Library's rare medical books and other treasures.

The Medical School's new Librarian in 1907 was Mr F.H.M. Parker and the prospectuses indicate that the extent of the Library's collections was considerable, growing from 8,000 to 'about 13,500 works on medical subjects, including all the current text-books and works of reference required for study or research' by 1913. In 1912 however there were just 21 journals and even by 1948 there were only 45. The Dean's report for 1908–1909 recognizes, amongst other gifts, the presentation of a cabinet for storage of the card index catalogue by Mr R. J. Godlee, later surgeon to the King and president of the Royal College of Surgeons. This catalogue, now in the Cruciform Library, remains as an historical record of these early collections.

VI. Use of the Library for Reading.

1. The Library is open to all students of the Medical School.
2. The Library may also be used for reading by any person who is allowed to take out books.
3. Silence shall be maintained.
4. Readers shall sit at the tables and not stand together in any part of the Library.
5. A Student wishing for a book shall apply for it by formal entry in a Register kept for the purpose.
6. Books shall be taken down and replaced by the Librarian only.
7. No person when writing shall place the writing paper on a book or lean on a volume, or make any mark in it, or do anything else which in the opinion of the Librarian, may damage a book.
8. The Librarian shall preserve order and report to the Dean any continued breach of these regulations, and any attempt to disturb order in the Library.

CLINICAL SCIENCES LIBRARY

By comparison with today however, access to this resource was very limited for students who, unlike staff, could only borrow books to take out of the Library 'under special circumstances' which required application to the Library Committee. The Library Regulations were very formal, with conditions for use of the Library for reading that had not altered over 30 years later and were the subject of some aggrieved correspondence in the UCH Magazine in the 1940s. In particular the restrictions applied to students and the stringent rule that 'no reader may have in his possession more than one book at a time' was the cause of much protest and in due course the rules were relaxed and the policies changed.

In 1920 Mrs R. Cust was appointed Librarian and remained in post until 1948 when she reminisced in the UCH Magazine⁴ about her time in the Library including the Medical School's evacuation to Stanboroughs Park, Garston during 1940-1943; in fact apart from a nearby bomb which shattered the Library windows, this corner of Gower Street escaped the worst of the Blitz. Mrs Cust's successor was Mr A. T. Picton, Librarian until 1978 when he was succeeded by Mr G. R. Peacock who remained in post until the Library moved to the Cruciform in 1999.

By 1960 the Library was described as 'gloomy' and having a 'railway waiting-room atmosphere' in a letter to the UCH magazine⁵. Merrington³ also commented that:

"Both the library and the museum, thought at the time to be suitably imposing, are vast caverns into which a succession of the best medical minds have tried unsuccessfully to fit two more floors. ... the library and the museum remain, like the façade, unassailed, very impressive and rather inefficient."

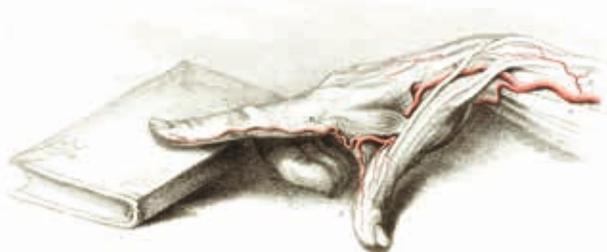
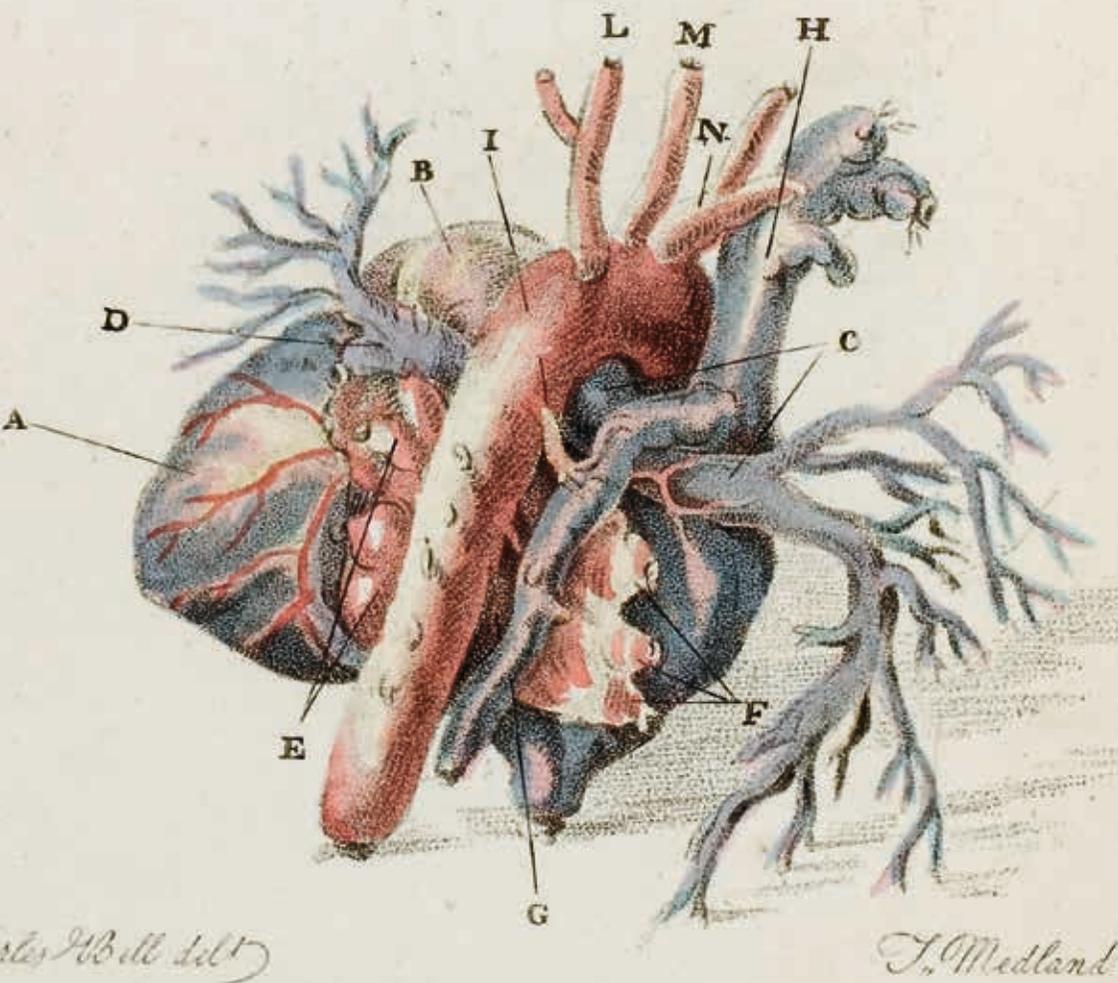


Figure 6. Detail from Sir Charles Bell's Engravings of the Arteries (2nd ed., 1806)



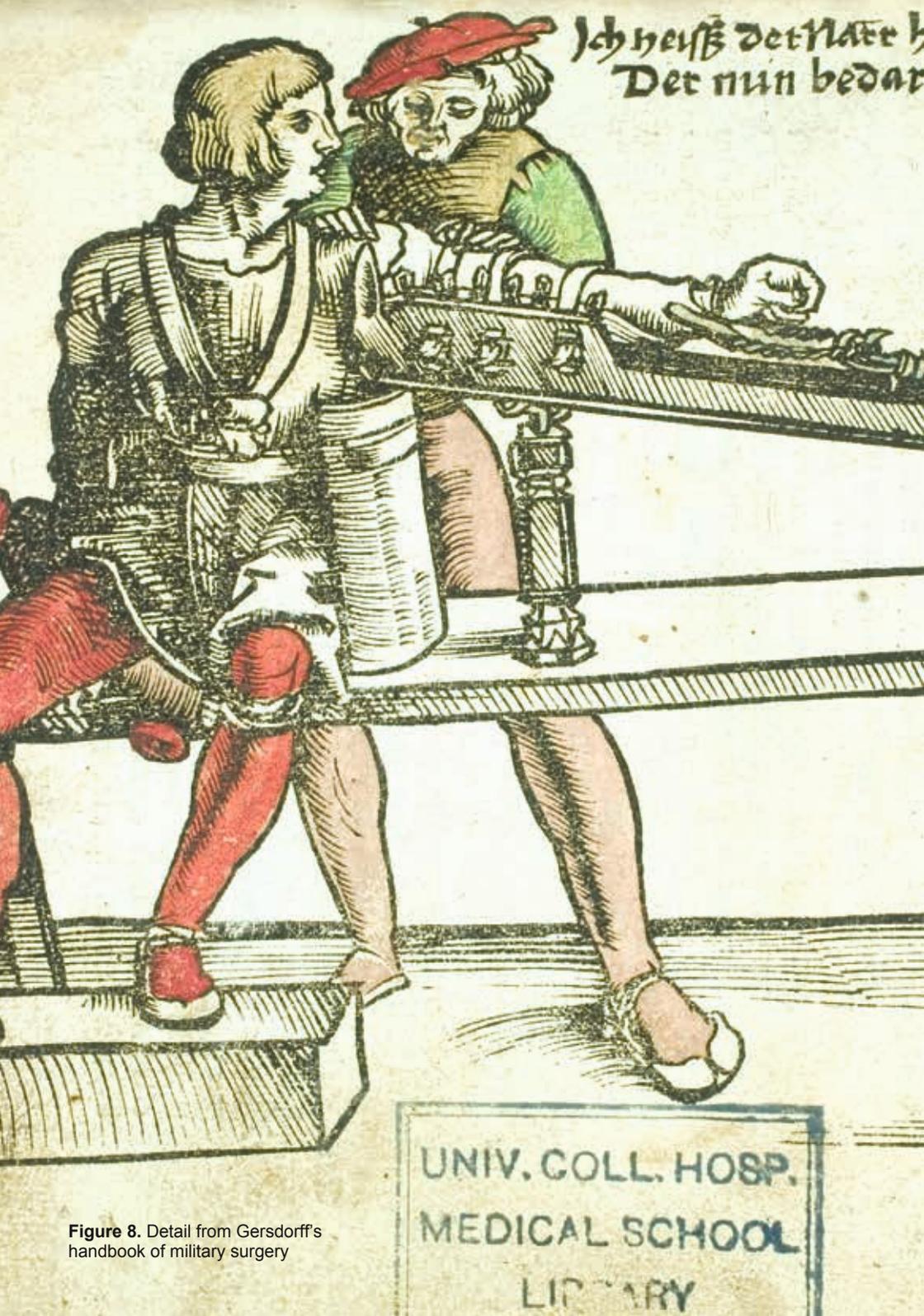
CLINICAL SCIENCES LIBRARY

Alterations to the Medical School Library were made following a review in 1970 which recommended changes to lighting, desks and book storage; the continued use of the Library for large social functions was also debated and would be discontinued once these changes were made. Between 1978 and 1980 the collections were reorganized with older books going into the basement store; later the historical collections were relocated to Special Collections (manuscripts and pre-1850 materials) and to the Wickford Store. In 1979 an archivist, Mr Simon Morrow, undertook a project to index the Medical School and Hospital archive records held in the Library which included committee minutes, departmental reports and case registers; these were also removed and now form part of the College Collection and Archives.

Following the reunification of the Medical School with UCL in 1980, the Library was extended to create a new issue desk and offices and joined UCL's computerised library management system. During the period until the Library moved, the current (1965–) bookstock, now expanding to include more copies of undergraduate texts, was also re-classified by the NLM (National Library of Medicine) scheme. This replaced the rather inflexible system of fixed physical locations on the shelves described in detail in the University College Hospital Magazine some 30 years before⁶.



Figure 7. The UCHMS Library in the 1970s



Ich heiffß Det Natter h
Det nun bedar

Figure 8. Detail from Gersdorff's handbook of military surgery

UNIV. COLL. HOSP.
MEDICAL SCHOOL
LIBRARY

Notable collections and gifts

For the nineteenth century Medical Library, the William Sharpey and Robert Grant bequests in 1874 became a core part of the collection, comprising their personal libraries of works on anatomy, physiology and zoology. Scott and Belloc^{7,8} identified these as being amongst the most outstanding donations to UCL; Sharpey, a book collector as well as an eminent UCL physiologist, included a first edition of William Harvey's *De motu cordis* (1628) in his gift. Sharpey's first catalogue of the combined Sharpey-Grant library was the basis of a printed catalogue of the medical and biological libraries published in 1887 and the collection formed a significant part of the Medical Sciences Library (later known as the Thane Library) which opened as part of the new Anatomy Building in 1923.

The Medical School Library collections also developed through gifts and donations, both small and large. Prior to moving to the new premises, notable bequests by former UCL professors had included:

Clinical Surgery – **Sir Richard Quain**, 1877

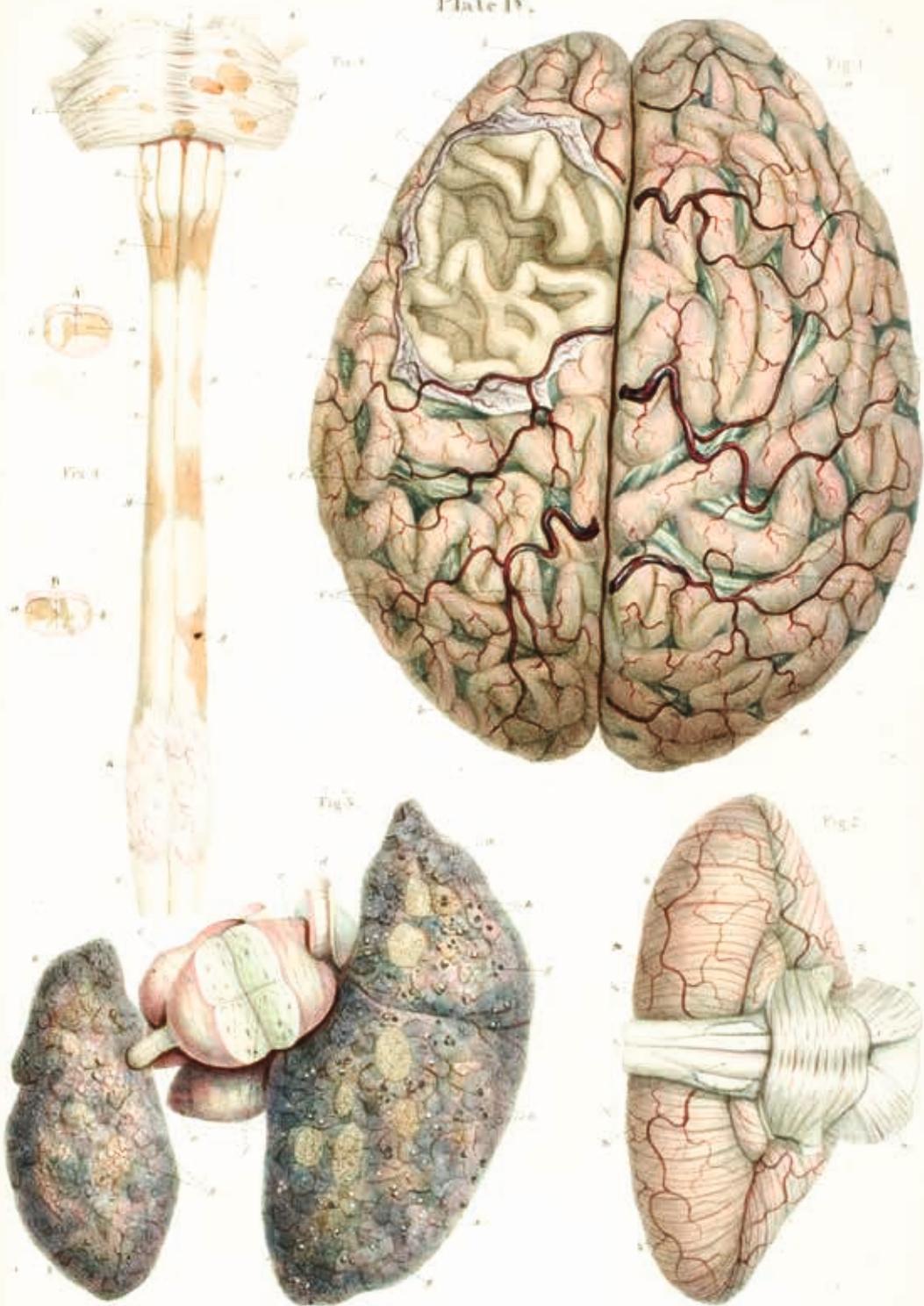
Clinical Medicine – **Dr Edmund Alexander Parkes**, 1877

Clinical Surgery – **Mr Marcus Beck**, 1893

Clinical Medicine & Surgery – **Sir John Eric Erichsen**, 1894

In the year 1909–10 alone, 1478 volumes were donated, including the complete libraries of Dr H. R. Crocker and Dr F. T. Roberts. The Library's historical collections were further enhanced by another significant gift, approximately 230 volumes of sixteenth and seventeenth century medical texts bequeathed in 1924 from the estate of Sir John Tweedy, a former Professor of Ophthalmic Medicine and Surgery who also had a reputation as a classical scholar. Amongst these was Hans von Gersdorff's *Feldtbuch der wundartzney. Newlich getrucht und gebessert* (1530 edition), famous for being the first printed work to contain an illustration of an amputation.

Plate IV.



Some of the highlights of the Medical School Library's collections were recommended in a piece in the UCH Magazine in 1941⁹ – everything from editions of the works of Hippocrates, Vesalius, Fabricius, William Harvey, Sydenham and John Hunter through to the more recently established textbooks were held. Alas, the anonymous author went on to comment, "It's a good library. It seems a pity that no one uses it except to read the journals."

By 1981 the Library contained some 600 volumes of classic, early and rare medical books and an estimated total of 4,000 volumes published before 1851. Some of the most treasured materials, held at one time in the Medical School Library and now in UCL Special Collections, are the pathology drawings in watercolour by Sir Robert Carswell (1793-1857), which illustrated his *Pathological Anatomy: Illustrations of the Elementary Forms of Disease* published in 1838.

New materials were also acquired with monies received in an annual grant from the School or through departmental purchases which were then presented to the library. Additionally there have been special funds such as the Dr Crocker bequest which at one time paid for new works to update the dermatology section. More recently, since 1979 the Library has been fortunate to receive income from a fund established by Mr Bernard Harries, Dean of the Medical School from 1966-1972, to buy textbooks for undergraduate medical students.

Another collection which came under the supervision of the Medical School Librarian was the Graham Library set up in 1912 from the legacy of Charles Graham, Professor of Chemical Pathology at UCL from 1878-1888 (the fund also provided grants for fifteen members of research staff in the Medical School's laboratories). Comprising primarily research-level pathology, oncology and biochemistry materials, at the beginning there were 31 journals in the collection; by 1981 this had increased to 50. Originally on the third floor, then on the ground floor, in 1983 the collection moved to a room linked to the Library gallery before the journals were finally absorbed into the Library, many being duplicated in the Thane Library.

Figure 9. Sir Robert Carswell's drawing of Atrophy from his atlas of pathological anatomy.

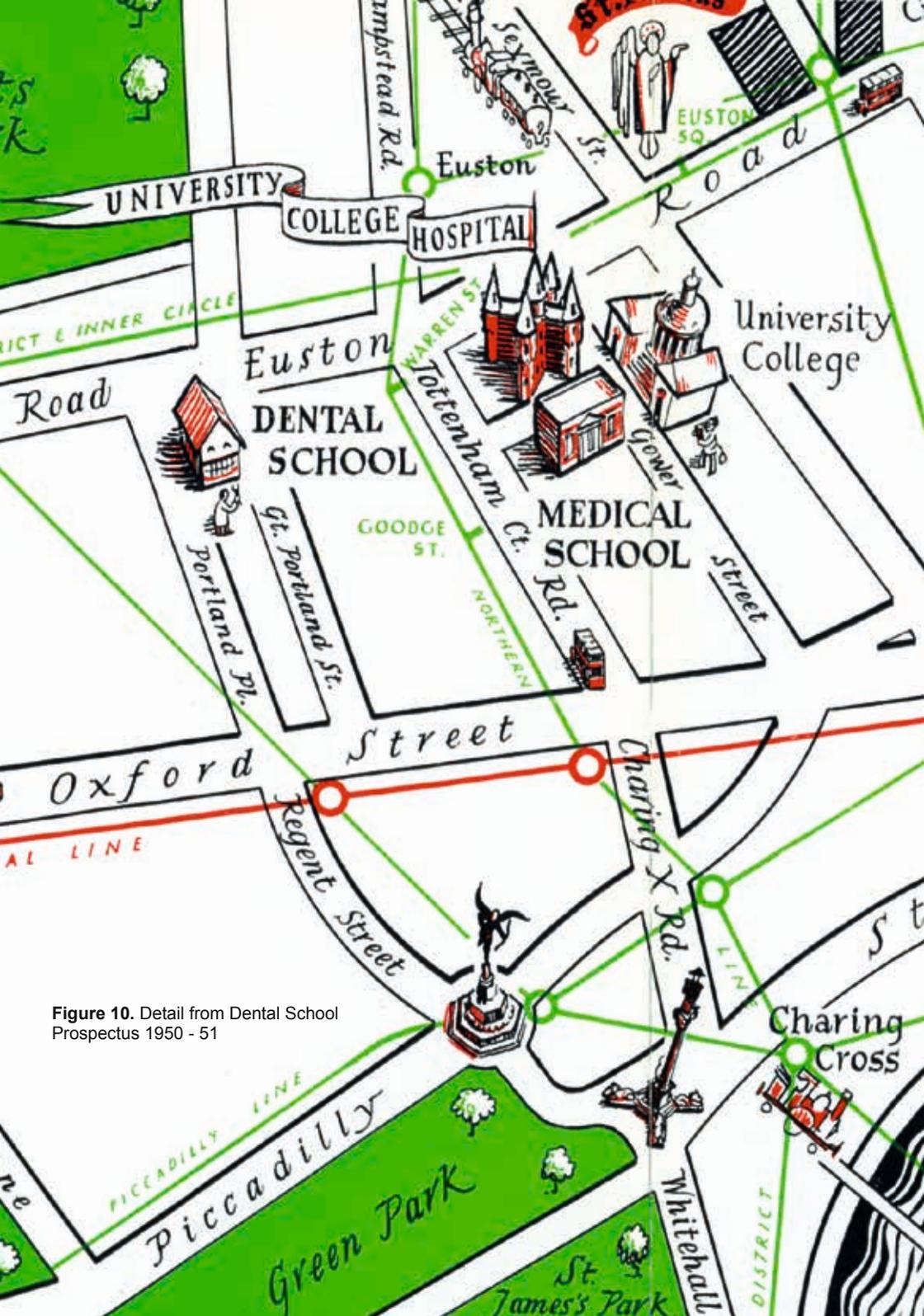


Figure 10. Detail from Dental School Prospectus 1950 - 51

Relationship to the University College Medical School and the Dental School

At the point of UCL's incorporation with the University of London in 1905, the clinical part of the medical course gained a new, separate identity with the Hospital. The following year the Faculty of Medicine divided into the Faculty of Medical Sciences (remaining in UCL) and the Faculty of Advanced Medical Studies which became the University College Hospital Medical School (UCHMS). With this division the Medical Library collections separated and the clinical materials moved to the new library in the Medical School building in 1907.

In 1948 the Medical School became independent of the Hospital and continued as a medical school of the University of London until it was re-united with UCL in 1980 as the Faculty of Clinical Sciences – together with the Faculty of Medical Sciences thus forming the UCL School of Medicine. From this time the library became known as the Clinical Sciences Library.

Meanwhile the Dental School, which had its origins in the Metropolitan School of Dental Science in the 1850s and moved into its last home in Mortimer Market in 1963, had become the University College and Middlesex School of Dentistry by the time it closed in 1991. The Dental School's collections had already been incorporated into the Medical School Library in 1978. Opened up to dental staff and students as well as to the rest of UCL, use of the Library had increased greatly.

With the merger of the University College and Royal Free Medical Schools in 1998 new teaching and learning facilities, including a new library, were created on the ground and basement floors of the refurbished former University College Hospital, the Wolfson Institute for Biomedical Research occupying the upper floors. With student numbers about to increase to an intake of at least 330 a year the accommodation in the Clinical Sciences Library was inadequate. After more than 90 years, the Library closed on Friday 17 September 1999. The fabric of the room was restored and opened as a common room for the medical students, re-named the Thomas Lewis Room after the UCH cardiologist credited with pioneering use of the electrocardiogram (ECG).



Figure 11. The Boldero Library, before it expanded into the museum space, with a portrait of Sir Harold Boldero.

THE BOLDERO LIBRARY

THE BOLDERO LIBRARY

Early medical libraries at the Middlesex Hospital

According to Campbell Thomson¹⁰, the nucleus of the first medical school library at the Middlesex Hospital was a gift of books from a Dr Leighton and in the late 1830s it was housed in a small room in the original hospital. A thorough review of the teaching facilities in the early 1850s ensured, amongst other improvements, that a new library was provided when the Medical School buildings were enlarged around 1853.

The Dean always held the post of Honorary Librarian, though a succession of other people actually ran the library and were known as the librarians. Their duties seem to have varied and Campbell Thompson noted a reference in the 1855–56 prospectus to the involvement of the librarian at the time, Mr Bing, in teaching French and German to students to improve their general education. The first Library Committee was formed and met in December 1892, apparently in response to concern about the way the library was run. In 1914 The Bland-Sutton Institute building was completed and Saunders¹¹ tells us that a library was included among the new facilities.

Origins of the Boldero Library

Ranger¹² wrote that by 1935 it was well recognized that the buildings in which the School was housed were inadequate and outdated. Most of the accommodation had been constructed in the previous century and could no longer meet requirements. An overall scheme of improvement was therefore formulated in 1936 and a start was made by erecting the main School building with the Dean's office, School administration and lecture theatres on the ground floor; and the library, scientific laboratories and post-mortem room on the floors above.

The new Library was opened in 1939, but was known as the Boldero Library only from 1955, when it was named in recognition of the contribution to the School made by Sir Harold Boldero, the retiring Dean. At first the glazed cases at either end of the large room were sufficient to hold the collection, and tables and chairs for the readers were so disposed that the room could be used for prize-givings and other functions¹³. On one occasion the then Queen Mother came to distribute prizes to students of the School of Nursing there.

III.

OF JOY AND DISCONTENT.

In joy the eyebrow is raised moderately, but without any angularity; the forehead is smooth; the eye full, lively, and sparkling; the nostril is moderately inflated, and a smile is on the lips. In all the exhilarating emotions, the eyebrow, the eyelids, the nostril, the angle of the mouth are raised. In the depressing passions it is the reverse. For example, in discontent the brow is clouded, the nose peculiarly arched, and the angle of the mouth drawn down very remarkably.



Figure 12. Detail from Sir Charles Bell's *Essays on the Anatomy of Expression in Painting* (1806)

THE BOLDERO LIBRARY



Figure 13. The Middlesex Hospital Medical School from the courtyard, 1938

Inevitably the Library holdings grew and eventually permission was granted to install free-standing shelving between the windows on either side of the room and the ‘function room’ aspect of the Library was abandoned. An interview in 1963¹⁴ with the then Librarian, Miss Hickling, and her assistant, Mrs Trickett, gives the impression of a modern organized library, but one with an encouraging and responsive attitude to the student readership. Mrs Trickett had joined the Library staff in 1953 and worked with several Librarians over ten years or so. Students had plainly felt at home in the Library: one had had his own shelf, on which he kept his laundry as well as his books, and another felt able to let off a firework in a small case under the periodicals table to wake up dozing readers. Miss Hickling, a professional librarian, was able to organize the Library, not entirely catalogued when she took over, and to modernize it.



Figure 14. Miss Hickling and Mrs Trickett, Boldero Library 1963



Figure 15. The periodicals room, Boldero Library 2005

THE BOLDERO LIBRARY

In 1992 the Institute of Urology, which had joined the Medical School in 1988, moved from Shaftesbury Avenue to the Middlesex site. At this point, to accommodate the collections from the Institute Library, the Boldero Library expanded into the space formerly occupied by the Pathology Museum. Sir George Frampton's bust of Sir John Bland-Sutton installed in its white marble niche in the wall was now on Library premises. But Sir John's ashes, in an urn let into an adjoining wall in accordance with his wish to remain with his students, had to follow the Museum. When the decision had been made to site them there it had been felt that all students would at some time in their studies visit the Museum: we can speculate that it was feared not quite all of them would pass through the Library. Indeed, at a later date Miss Hickling mentions¹⁴ that in her calculation about 62% of students actually used the Library, and some of those only occasionally.

The Medical School amalgamated with UCL's Faculty of Clinical Sciences in 1987 to form the University College and Middlesex School of Medicine, which subsequently merged with the Royal Free Hospital Medical School just over ten years later. The Boldero Library continued to provide a full service on the Bloomsbury Campus until the relocation of the Middlesex Hospital to the new UCH in 2005, when the Library staff and collections transferred to join the Cruciform Library.

Notable collections and gifts

The Boldero Library held a small collection of works by and about former members of the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, particularly those of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This collection includes books by Sir John Bland-Sutton, surgeon and friend of Kipling. There is also a small collection of classic books on urology dating from 1811 onwards. This combined collection, known as the Middlesex Collection, is currently held in the Cruciform Library.



Figure 16. Photograph of the Cruciform Building, showing a corner of the Medical School building and in the background part of the new hospital

THE CRUCIFORM LIBRARY

THE UCL CRUCIFORM LIBRARY

On the first day of term, 27 September 1999, the clinical sciences collections re-opened as the Cruciform Library in the basement of the former University College Hospital, now known as the Cruciform Building. The area now occupied by the library in the south-east wing had accommodated various Hospital departments including radiotherapy, pharmacy and sterile fluids immediately prior to its closure in 1993. It is interesting to note that as part of the Institutional Plan submitted to the Universities Funding Council in 1990, the whole of the former Hospital building was proposed for use as the 'future library' for UCL¹⁵ and would have brought together many of UCL's library collections under one roof had it been successful.

A year ahead of the first joint intake of students to the new Royal Free & University College Medical School in September 2000, collections were broadened to encompass textbooks in anatomy, biochemistry and physiology, enabled through special funding from the Medical School. Together with the Medical Sciences collections in the Science Library (DMS Watson Building) and the Boldero Library these have formed a core resource for students at the Medical School's Bloomsbury Campus. With a total area of 840 square metres the Cruciform is more than twice the size of the old Clinical Sciences reading room and with a seating capacity of up to 240 the study space is greater than the Boldero and Clinical Sciences Libraries combined, which had 67 and 90 places respectively. In its short life the Cruciform Library has already seen many changes, not least in IT provision which includes the introduction of wireless networking and terminals for in-library access to UCL's several thousand electronic journals.

The new University College Hospital building on Euston Road opened on 14 June 2005. As the clinical departments and wards of the Middlesex Hospital prepared to move across, so the Boldero Library closed for the last time on 12 August. The Boldero and Cruciform collections have now been fully integrated to form a substantial resource of current medical literature. Jointly serving the NHS and UCL's staff, students and researchers, the Cruciform Library re-opened on 30 August 2005.



Liber totius medicine necessaria cō

tinens quem sapientissimus Waly filius abbas di
scipulus abimeher moysi filij seiar edidit: regis
inscriptis, vnde et regalis dispositionis nomē
assumpsit. Et a stephano philosophie dis
cipulo ex arabica lingua in latinaz sa
tis ornatam reductus. Necnon a
domino michaele de capella ar
tium et medicine doctore se
cundis sinonimis a multis
et diuersis autoribus
ab eo collectis illu
strat? sūmaqz cū
diligētia im
pressus.



SPECIAL
COLLECTIONS

MEDICAL HISTORY AND UCL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Library and UCH archives, manuscripts and rare books are in the charge of UCL Special Collections.

They may be viewed by appointment, details are available on the web site at: www.ucl.ac.uk/Library/special-coll/

The Special Collections Digital Archive holds a selection of medical images, some of which have been used in this history. There is a link to the digital archive from the Special Collections web page.

The Middlesex Hospital archives are held by University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Information can be found at: www.uclh.nhs.uk/ Follow links to 'About UCLH', specifically the History and Archives section.



Figure 18. Detail from Sir Charles Bell's *Essays on the Anatomy of Expression in Painting* (1806)

Figure 17. (left-hand page). Detail from Haly Abbas's *Liber Totius Medicine Necessaria* (1523) from the Sir John Tweedy bequest.



Figure 19. The UCL Cruciform Library, 2005

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JOHN
BLAND-SUTTON

Figure 20. Sir George Frampton's bust
of Sir John Bland-Sutton



ADDITIONAL FIGURES

Front cover illustration and image on page 15 from Sir Charles Bell's Engravings of the Arteries (2nd ed, 1806).

Figure on page 8: cards from the catalogue of the old UCHMS Library.

First Floor:

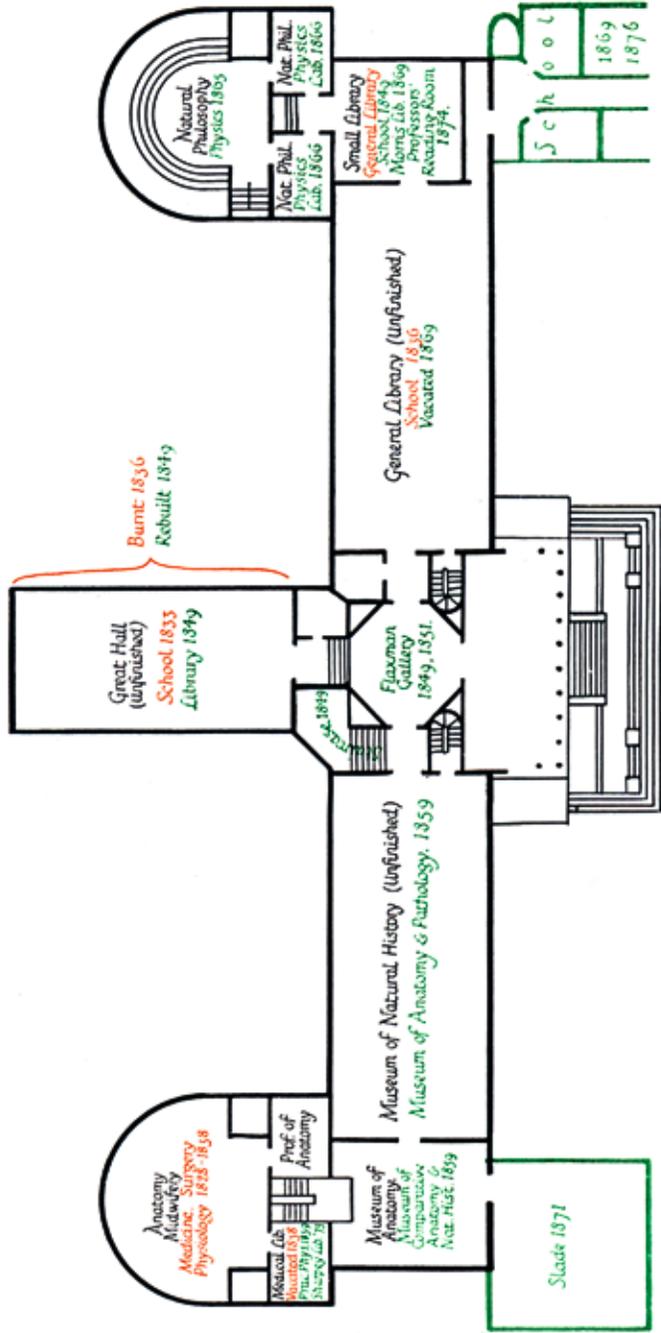


Figure 21. Showing the location of UCL's Medical Library until 1838

