

Dentistry's new building will work well — Dean

By Kate Carmichael

Dr. Ian Bennett feels confident that the new dental building, approved by MPHEC, will function efficiently as a training centre for new dentists.

The building, to be constructed on all the available space behind the old dental building, will incorporate the existing building and be connected by tunnels to the Tupper building, the Forrest building and the Burbidge building, the result being a Health Professions complex on the Carleton campus.

Such a development allows all the necessary facilities to be in close proximity for easy access by the students and faculty. The Kellogg Library, large lecture halls and the audio visual facilities can be shared.

The expanded facilities will be built three floors above ground and two below. The tower proposed in earlier plans violated city bylaws by its proximity to the street, so it had to be scratched. The two underground floors will hold the clinic, the uninterrupted floor space offering the best location. Research facilities will be increased and a museum of dental equipment and specimens will be included. All other present facilities of the dental school will be improved and increased. Space for student study areas and an operating suite have also been planned. "It's lots more of the same," says Dr. Bennett.

The optimum enrolment for the new dental facility will be 64 dental students and 64 dental hygienists. This will be an increase of almost two and one half times over the present enrolment of 24 in each class. The number of students accepted will not increase to the maximum immediately on completion of the building, says Dr. Bennett. He expects that the enrolment in 1979 will be increased to 32 students in dentistry and 32 in dental hygiene, with an increment of eight each year up to the totals of 64.

The students will be drawn from the four Atlantic provinces and although they do not necessarily return to their native province, Dr. Bennett points out that when the market reaches its saturation point in the urban areas, students will be forced to look elsewhere to set up practice.

Many dental students still in school have shown a concern for the numbers of graduates eventually to come out of Dalhousie — they fear that there will soon be a surplus of dentists.

Dr. Bennett says, however, that the increase of dentists and the lowering of the dentist-patient ratio in the Maritime provinces will allow each practitioner to spend more time with his patients.

Preventative dentistry will also receive more attention, he predicts. The population will receive better dental care and will find it more accessible with the expansion of teaching facilities.

Burbidge to add floor soon

Tenders will close on Monday (Sept. 19) for the addition of a new floor to the Burbidge Building on the Carleton campus.

Jim Sykes, university planner, said that because the construction would be a relatively small job, a large number of companies were expected to compete for the contract. "We expect lots of action." Construction will begin soon after the contract is let.

The dental school will use the new floor, to be completed in about six months, until 1981 when the new dental building is expected to be ready. The floor will hold faculty offices and some laboratories.

The original design for the building, drawn up by Andrew Cobb in 1920, made provision for an additional floor to be built. The exterior of the building will not change much, said Mr. Sykes, but the new floor will provide 7,500 more square feet of space.

Both Dentistry and Pharmacy need the new space but the needs of Dentistry were greater at the time.

This is the first stage of the complex to be erected on the Carleton campus which, when completed, will encourage the sharing of resources and facilities among the health professions departments.

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GENERAL NEWS

"When we think of what we could have had, it is a bit disappointing. When we look at what we have, it is a huge improvement."

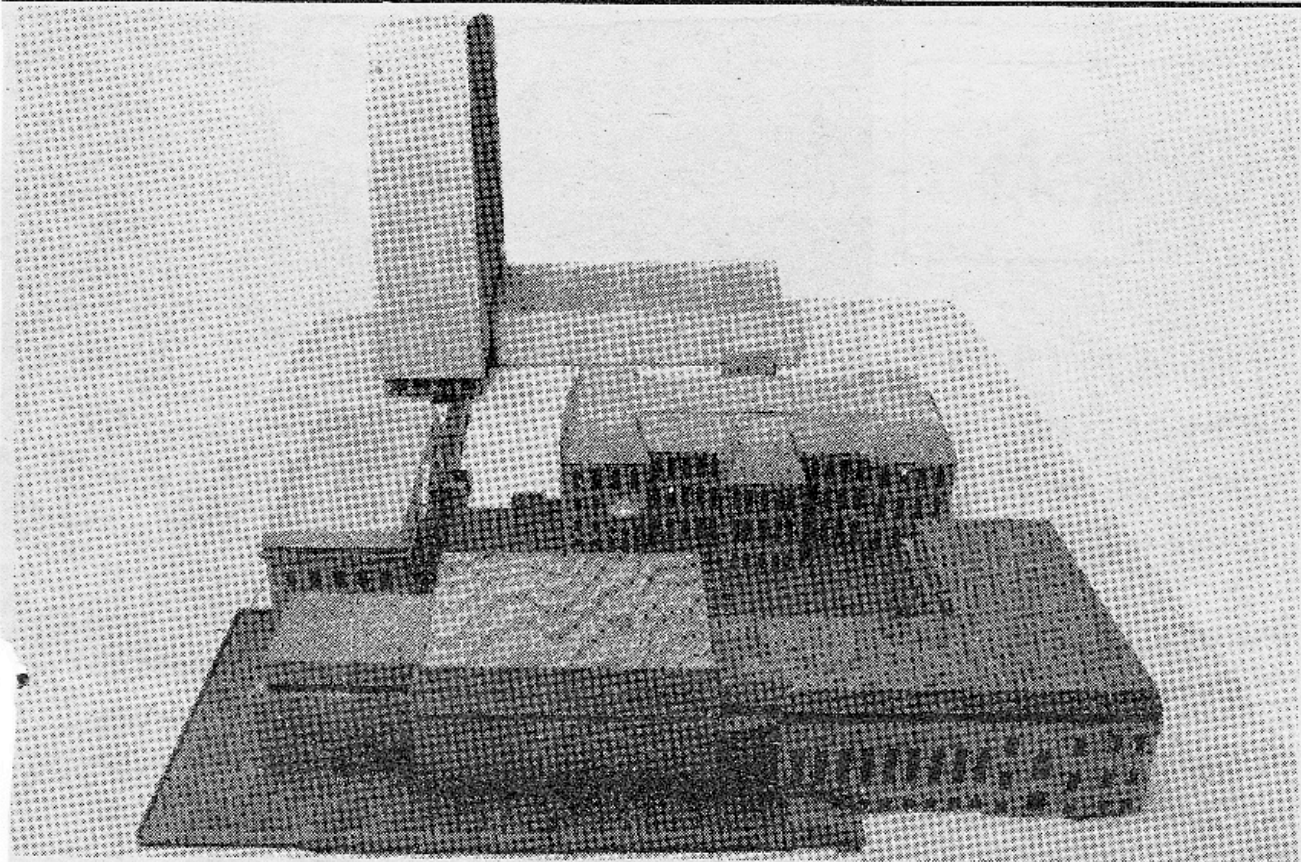
-Dean Ian Bennett, Faculty of Dentistry

"It is a quieter approach than (for) the Tupper . . . it seems to have the neighbours in mind."

-University planner Jim Sykes.

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Model of the proposed Dental-Health Sciences complex on the Robie Street edge of the Carleton campus. Tower is the Tupper building; bottom right hand corner is the existing Dental School, and in the centre is the Forrest building. The new section is an extension, to the left, of the Dental School. (A/V Services).