

THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON 1836-1986

An illustrated history NEGLEY HARTE

With a foreword by HRH The Princess Anne, The Chancellor



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THE UNIVERSITY OF
LONDON 1836 - 1986



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An illustrated history

NEGLEY HARTE

with a Foreword by HRH The Princess Anne, The Chancellor

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BUCKINGHAM PALACE

It is natural to indulge in some drum beating at so major a mile-stone as a sesquicentennial. But this is particularly understandable for an institution so remarkable as the University of London, unique as it is among universities in its scale, its federal structure, and its external degree provision and its role in establishing new universities in this country and the Commonwealth. The University of London has an unrivalled record of 'firsts': in awarding degrees without religious tests, in promoting teaching and research in laboratory science, engineering and modern languages, in admitting women to degrees and in appointing women professors. The University also provides a significant proportion of the nation's needs for skilled manpower, as well as an established primacy in the field of medical education.

It would require a very large volume indeed to relate the University's long and complex history. The present book seeks rather to record some of the highlights and to capture a sense of the abiding ethos. A large number of well-chosen illustrations throw light on many aspects of the various different colleges and institutes which form the University, all of which have impressive histories of their own, some of them older than the University itself. The threads connecting the past and the present are fascinatingly teased out making this work a lively survey of the history of a great University rather than a dull, formal record. I commend it to all members of the University as well as to all those interested in the development of education, research and scholarship, throughout the world.

Anne

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1 The old and the new juxtaposed at Guy's Hospital Medical School, re-united since 1982 to form part of the United Medical and Dental School of Guy's and St Thomas's Hospitals: the 32 storeys of Guy's Tower opened in 1975 at the time of the 250th anniversary of the Hospital seen above the statue of the founder Thomas Guy (1644-1724) erected in 1739.

The Federal University



Every University worthy of the name at all is an embodiment of optimism, of belief in youth and in progress, of a certainty that man does not live by bread alone, of a trust in the continuity of the human spirit and human life throughout the ages. What else makes it seem worthwhile to grub so dustily in the records of the past in order to hand on what is learned generation by generation to the future?

SIR WILLIAM BEVERIDGE, *The Physical Relation of a University to a City* (1928), p.2.

You mean the *so-called* University of London.

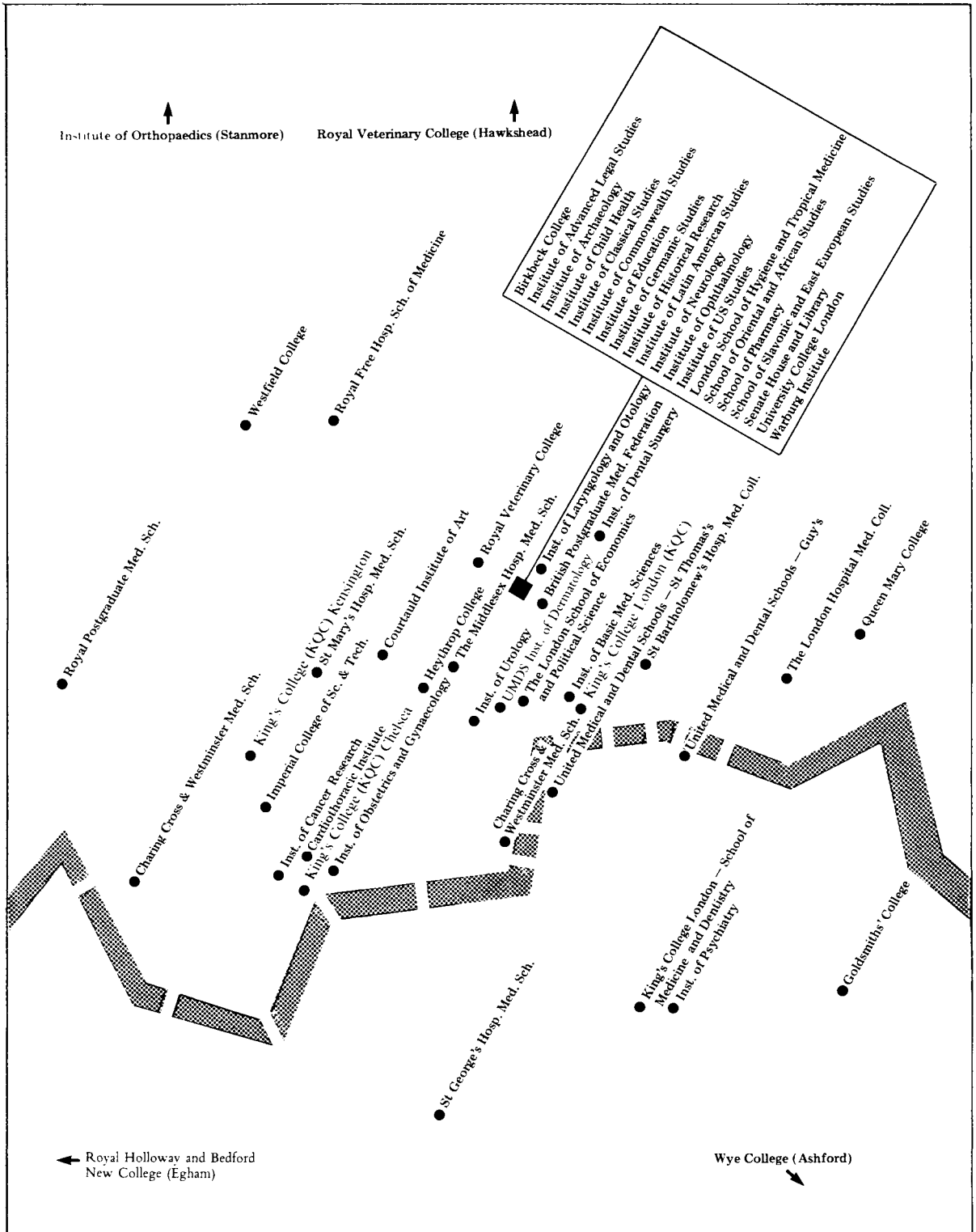
Comment made to the author by the then Director of the London School of Economics, Professor Ralf Dahrendorf, on being told that this history was being undertaken.

All universities are different, but some are more different than others. The University of London is the most different of them all. The forty-seven universities which now exist in the United Kingdom can be regarded as falling into four broad categories. There are, first, the six universities which are older than the University of London – the two ancient provincial English universities at Oxford and Cambridge, both dating back to the twelfth century, and the four ancient Scottish universities at St Andrews, Aberdeen, Glasgow and Edinburgh, all founded between 1411 and 1583. Secondly, there are the civic or ‘redbrick’ universities established in the aftermath of the University of London in many of the provincial centres of population in the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Then there are two types of more recent ‘new’ universities established in the 1960s – the ‘green fields’ universities like Sussex and York, and the technological universities with pre-university antecedents like Strathclyde and Brunel. These groupings are somewhat blurred; British universities are characteristically British institutions and cannot be easily categorized.¹ But broadly they fall into these four groups, with two major exceptions.

The two biggest universities cannot be constrained into these categories at all. The Open University and the University of London are both *sui generis*. The Open University was established by the government in 1969 with nation-wide functions well-known to be distinct from those of the other universities. The University of London, established by the government in 1836, must be in a category all of its own for more complex reasons. Its uniqueness arises from its size, its federal structure, its metropolitan role, and, above all, the course of its historical development.

The University of London is essentially characterized by its federal structure, its existence in a variety of different institutional forms variously called ‘colleges’, ‘schools’ and ‘institutes’. Spread out all over London – and beyond – are the present total of the

2 A diagrammatic map attempting to show the distribution of the sites of the schools and institutes which make up the federal University of London in 1986. In its sesquicentenary year, the University consists of 24 independent schools (one of which consists of 12 institutes) and 13 separate institutes – a total of 37 different institutions, some of them federal in themselves, besides six others having recognized teachers.



thirty-seven distinct and separate institutions which constitute the University of London. Some of them are very distinct and separate. Some are federations in themselves. All of them treasure their own identity and individuality. All have their own history, and the history of several of them is older than that of the University itself. The separate institutions of the University of London are not at all comparable with the colleges of the universities of Oxford or Cambridge, or the other universities having some sort of collegiate system. The only other British university that has a remotely comparable federal structure is the University of Wales, with its seven constituent colleges situated in Aberystwyth, Bangor, Swansea, Cardiff and Lampeter. But the University of Wales is much smaller and much less complex, though its federal workings are not easily understood by outsiders. The complexities of the workings of the University of London are not easily understood even by insiders.

More especially than is generally the case with large institutions, the structure of the University of London can only be comprehended in terms of its history. Though it is the third oldest university in England, it is not a university of the 'ancient' type. It originates from an entirely new departure created in 1836. It is not a 'civic' university, lacking intimate connections in its origins with either the ancient corporation of the City of London or with the London County Council or the Greater London Council or with any of the metropolitan boroughs. It does not have a single founder or a single benefactor who was responsible for shaping or re-shaping it. The University of London grew not from one root, but from several. It cannot, however, be regarded as a natural growth. Its development has been seminally shaped by government policy at various times over the hundred and fifty years of its existence in various ways, and shaped too by a variety of other interest groups of a very disparate and often conflicting sort. Conflict indeed has been a continuing theme in the history of the University of London. This book has been produced to mark the hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the award of the first royal charter in November 1836. It attempts to portray some of the peculiar complexity of the University's history and to assess – to use an appropriately Benthamite word – the 'utility' of the University as a whole.

Two figures have long haunted attempts to describe the University of London: the taxi-driver and the foreigner. The one can rarely identify where it is and the other can never understand what it is. 'The acidly impartial cab-driver test of renown and public importance', one distinguished member of the University has recently stated, 'reveals that barely one driver in three knows instinctively



3 The University of London is not to be confused with its largest constituent part, University College London, though from its foundation in 1826 until 1836 the College was the University of London Mark I. Its main quadrangle, begun when the Duke of Sussex laid the foundation stone in February 1827, was declared to be complete by the Queen in November 1985 when Sir Hugh Casson's extensions on either side of the main entrance in Gower Street were added to the handsome neo-classical building originally designed by William Wilkins.

and without further instruction where and how to find the various colleges and buildings of the University.² It used to be even more difficult. In 1922 Sir Gregory Foster, Provost of University College and a future Vice-Chancellor of the University, noted that 'if you ask a cabman, whether one of the old Jehu type or the modern taxi-driver, to drive you to the University of London, he either says he does not know where it is or he brings you to University College.' Soon after becoming Director of the London School of Economics in 1919 Sir William Beveridge had occasion to visit the headquarters of the University, then situated in the Imperial Institute building in South Kensington. 'The cab-driver, when I asked for the University of London, looked blank. As I explained, a light broke on him. "Oh, you mean the place near the Royal School of Needlework." I discovered that this was what I did mean. There was in Imperial Institute Road an institution devoted to the art of needlework, and advertising itself by a notice-board of exceptional size. Turning off at this notice, one came in due course to a flight of steps at the head of which, in a good light, one could read, on one side only, the name of the University of London.'³

For its first hundred years, the University was housed in a succession of unsatisfactory locations which encouraged an obscurity about its existence. It was first accommodated in modest apartments at Somerset House from 1836 to 1853; then temporarily at

Marlborough House; then from 1855 in Burlington House, and after another period temporarily in a house in Savile Row, its first purpose-built accommodation was provided in a new building in Burlington Gardens in 1870. In 1900 these premises were given up when the University took an unhappy tenancy of part of the Imperial Institute. Not until the building of the Senate House in 1933–8 did the University acquire a freehold of its own, achieved by the efforts of Beveridge in particular to ensure that Londoners could not so easily overlook the University in their midst.

Since the 1930s the University has been associated with Bloomsbury. University College had been there since the 1820s, and the British Museum (entirely rebuilt in 1823–47) since its opening in 1759. The University rejected an early opportunity of moving to Bloomsbury in 1853, and between 1912 and 1927 much energy was devoted to raising indecision on the site question to a consummate art. Bloomsbury, created in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries by the town planning policy of the Dukes of Bedford, was described by Henry James as ‘an antiquated ex-fashionable region’ when Vanessa and Virginia Stephen moved to Gordon Square in 1904 to escape from Kensington after the death of their father, Sir Leslie Stephen. The subsequent lives and friendships of Vanessa Bell and Virginia Woolf, as they became, were to associate the area indelibly with the ‘Bloomsbury Group’, that linking of literary and artistic lions in the early twentieth century who lived in squares and loved in triangles. Transport improvements led to the drift of the upper middle classes to more distant suburbs, and Bloomsbury had become unfashionable and decayed: ‘more of the “bury” than the “bloom”, my dear’. After the University itself escaped from Kensington, the Senate House was built on the Bloomsbury site in the 1930s, with architecture designed to put the University of London permanently on the map. Subsequently more and more property in the area was acquired, creating the long-desired ‘University quarter’ for London. In an increasingly conservation-minded age, many of the new University buildings in the 1950s and 1960s were controversial and vociferously criticized. But ‘Bloomsbury’ took on a new meaning, one that was not outmoded or purposeless.⁴

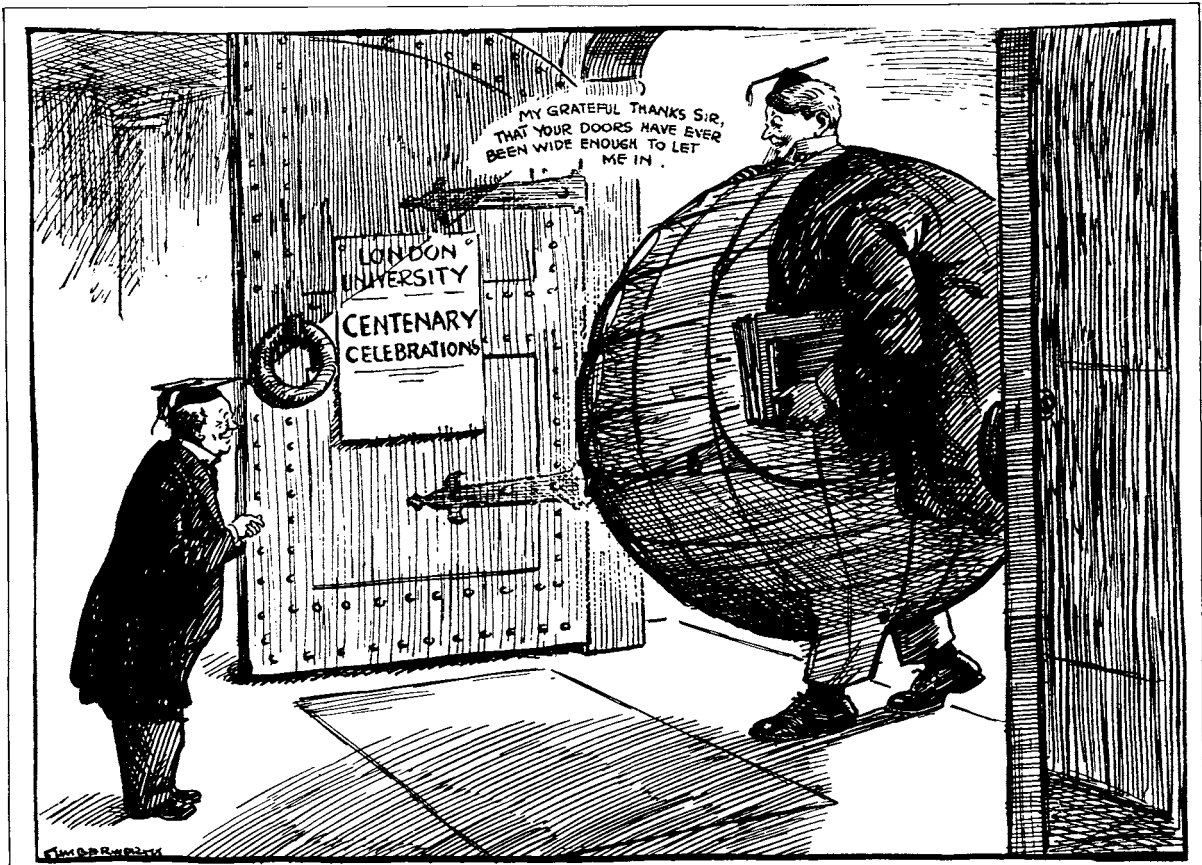
The Senate House is not the University of London, and only a proportion of the University is to be found in Bloomsbury. In London the term ‘the University’ is used confusingly in a double sense. Sometimes the federal body as a whole is intended, and sometimes only the central organization symbolized by the Senate House. Both meanings have been used in the last few paragraphs. The most commonly used meaning in most parts of the University (in the former sense) is the latter sense. It is a usage which im-



4 King’s College, chartered in 1829 and opened in 1831, the Establishment response to ‘the Godless institution in Gower Street’, was affiliated to the new degree-giving University of London Mark II in 1836 along with what then became University College. The rival colleges, very different in ethos, were similar in character. The gateway of King’s was demolished in 1966 to make way for a new building fronting the Strand opened by the Queen in 1972.

5 A cartoon at the time of the centenary in 1936 paid tribute to the University’s path-breaking role in opening higher education to all regardless of religious belief or sex. The University’s role in expanding the range of subjects taught, and in the extension of knowledge as well as its diffusion, has been equally pioneering.

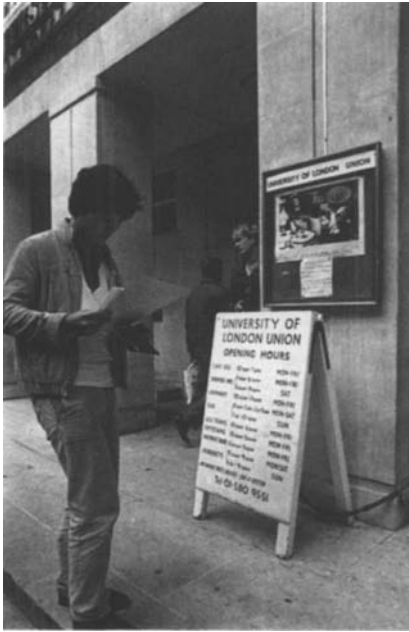
6 After prolonged controversy between 1912 and 1927, the University’s Bloomsbury site was acquired and developed as a University quarter or precinct, dominated by the Senate House built between 1933 and 1938. To the left, across what used to be called the University garden, is the School of Oriental and African Studies, begun but only partially completed before the outbreak of war in 1939, its new building added in 1973, and one of the few remaining Georgian houses of the former Torrington Square. Birkbeck College, which specializes in part-time education, is to the right.



A WORLD TRIBUTE

The University of London, which celebrated its centenary last week, was the first University to remove the bars of creed and sex in university education. Its students have come from all over the world. It has always made special provision, too, for external students.





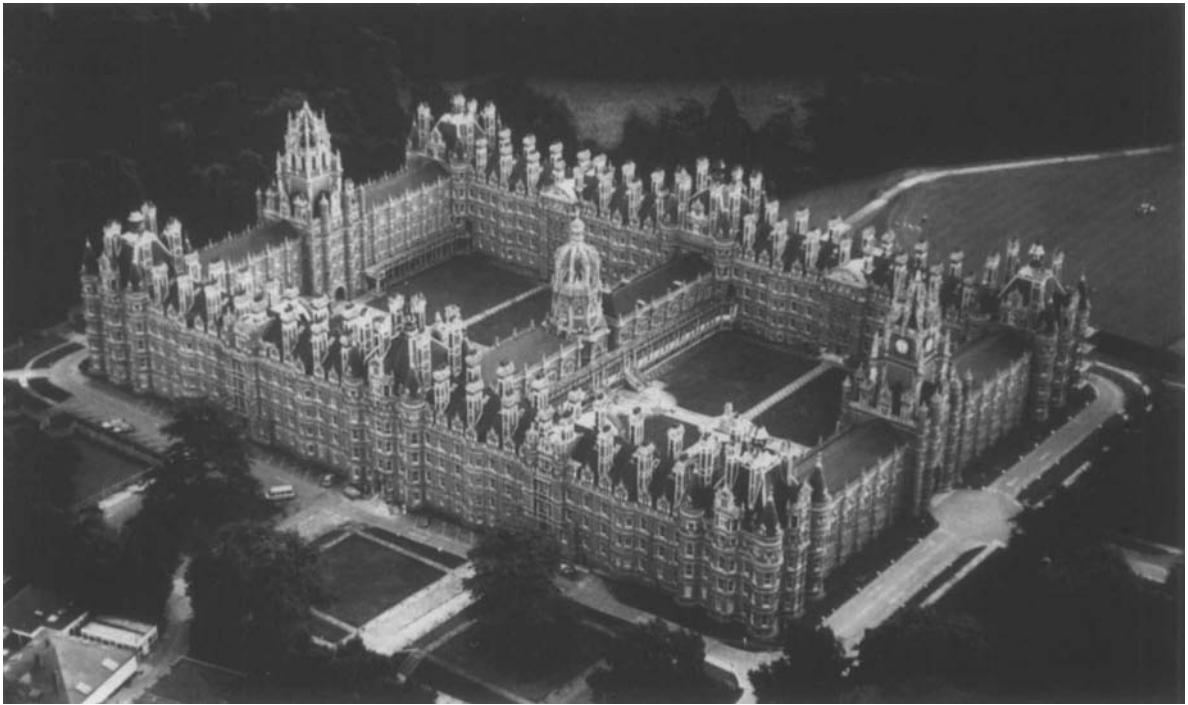
7 The University of London Union – ULU to all students – was founded in 1921 and housed in various temporary locations until the permanent building in Malet Street was opened in 1957. ‘Café ULU’, ‘Waves’ and ‘Mergers Bar’ are recently added attractions, besides the fine swimming-pool provided through the generosity of Lord Nuffield.

mediately reveals the tensions between the centre and the constituent bodies of the federal organization. The University contains at the present time a total of twenty-four independent ‘schools’, as they are known. ‘We class schools, you see, into four grades,’ Evelyn Waugh’s character Paul Pennyfeather was informed by Church and Gargoyle in *Decline and Fall*: ‘Leading School, First-rate School, Good School, and School. Frankly . . . School is pretty bad.’ The schools of the University of London are less easy to classify. They vary considerably in size, range and ethos. None would rank itself at less than first-rate, and many are truly leading. The University of London is not easily likened to any other social institution, except perhaps the Courts of Heaven which, it may be recalled, were said to contain many mansions.⁵

The twenty-four schools can perhaps be seen as falling into three groups. There are, first, five colleges which are ‘multi-faculty’ institutions, each covering in their teaching and research concerns almost the whole range of academic disciplines. A rough-and-ready indication of their size can be given by citing the numbers of undergraduates and postgraduates registered at them in 1984–5 (including ‘part-time’ as well as ‘full-time’ students, ignoring the complicated sophistications of ‘full-time equivalents’).

	<i>Under- graduates</i>	<i>Post- graduates</i>	<i>Total</i>
King’s College London	5119	1964	7083
University College London	5070	1842	6912
Queen Mary College	3067	502	3569
Royal Holloway & Bedford New College	2323	391	2714
Birkbeck College	1268	1421	2689

The two biggest colleges, UCL and KCL, both include medical schools. At UCL, the Faculty of Clinical Sciences has since 1980 contained the former University College Hospital Medical School, a separate body from 1907, and King’s College School of Medicine and Dentistry has since 1983 again formed part of KCL, from which it was separated in 1909. Since 1985, KCL has also subsumed Chelsea College and Queen Elizabeth College, both formerly independent schools of the University. Queen Mary College has been enhanced since 1983–4 by the transfer of fifty-three academic staff and about 350 science-based students from other colleges, particularly Westfield College. Royal Holloway and Bedford New College was formed in 1985 by the amalgamation of Royal Holloway College (opened in 1887) and Bedford College (opened in 1849), originally women’s colleges which both admitted men as students from 1965. Birkbeck College, developing from its original foundation as the London Mechanics’ Institution in 1823, spec-



8 The massively flamboyant building of Royal Holloway College on Egham Hill built in 1879–86. In 1985 as part of the ‘re-structuring’ of the University, Bedford College was moved out and amalgamated with it to form Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, one of the five University centres into which science teaching is being concentrated.

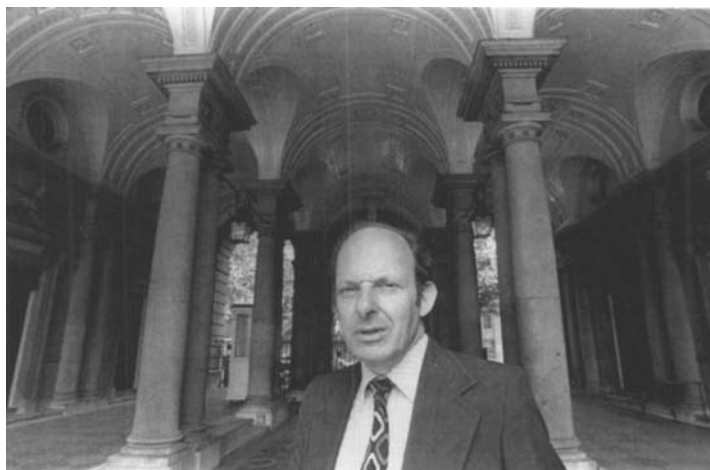
ializes uniquely in the education of mature students, especially on a part-time basis.

Second, there are eight colleges which specialize in particular academic disciplines or groups of disciplines. They vary considerably in size.

	<i>Under-graduates</i>	<i>Post-graduates</i>	<i>Total</i>
Imperial College of Science and Technology	3273	1731	5004
London School of Economics	2271	1965	4236
School of Oriental and African Studies	718	338	1056
Westfield College	763	98	861
Wye College	394	177	571
School of Pharmacy	330	82	412
Royal Veterinary College	346	65	411
Heythrop College	10	49	59

The two largest, the Imperial College of Science and Technology and the London School of Economics and Political Science are stars in the firmaments of the natural and applied sciences and the social sciences respectively. Both contain a high proportion of research students. The others have more specialized concerns. Westfield College, a women’s college begun in 1882 which became co-educational in 1964, has since 1982 been stripped of its sciences, becoming a small college in the Faculty of Arts with an unsettled future. Heythrop College, the one school of the University (since

9 The Director of the Courtauld Institute of Art, Professor Michael Kauffmann, photographed recently at Somerset House, showing on the right what was the entrance to the original premises of the University of London from its foundation in 1836 until 1853. Accommodation in the now empty northern wing of Somerset House has been offered to the Courtauld Institute for its teaching and for display of its renowned art collection, and an appeal for the necessary £3M is currently in progress.



1970) not in receipt of a UGC grant, teaches theology in a Roman Catholic context.

Third, there are eleven separate medical schools.



10 The main entrance to LSE, perhaps the most widely-known abbreviation of any academic institution in the world. Since its foundation in 1895, the London School of Economics and Political Science – strategically placed between the City, Fleet Street and Whitehall – has been famous (sometimes notorious) as a power-house of teaching and research in the social sciences. Over the door can be seen the symbol of the beaver and the School's motto: *Rerum Cognoscere Causas*.

	<i>Under-graduates</i>	<i>Post-graduates</i>	<i>Total</i>
United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's and St Thomas's Hospitals	1658	234	1892
London Hospital Medical College	908	271	1179
Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School	965	95	1060
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	–	879	879
St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College	651	91	742
St George's Hospital Medical School	606	123	729
Middlesex Hospital Medical School	490	122	612
St Mary's Hospital Medical School	528	45	573
Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine	504	63	567
Royal Postgraduate Medical School	–	455	455
British Postgraduate Medical Federation			

Six of them in their origins antedate the foundation of the University of London, and two more date from the later nineteenth century (St Mary's, 1854, and the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, 1874). All have close relations with the hospitals with which they are connected. Three are entirely concerned with postgraduate research, the result of successive attempts to rationalize medical education in London: the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (opened in 1929), the Royal Postgraduate Medical School (opened in 1935) and the British Postgraduate Medical Federation (opened in 1947).

The last, constitutionally a school of the University, consists of twelve separate institutes, as well as having central activities concerned with postgraduate study for hospital doctors and general practitioners in the four Thames Health Regions. The Hunterian

Institute (formerly the Institute of Basic Medical Sciences) is connected with the Royal College of Surgeons; the Institute of Cancer Research with the Royal Marsden Hospital; the Cardiothoracic Institute with the National Heart Hospital, the Brompton and London Chest Hospitals; the Institute of Child Health with the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street; the Institute of Dental Surgery with the Eastman Dental Hospital; the Institute of Laryngology and Otology with the Royal National Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital; the Institute of Neurology with the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Queen Square; the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology with the Hammersmith Hospital and Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospitals; the Institute of Ophthalmology with the Moorfields Eye Hospital; the Institute of Orthopaedics with the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital; the Institute of Psychiatry with the Maudsley and Bethlem Hospitals; and the Institute of Urology with St Peter's, St Paul's, St Philip's and the Shaftesbury Hospitals.

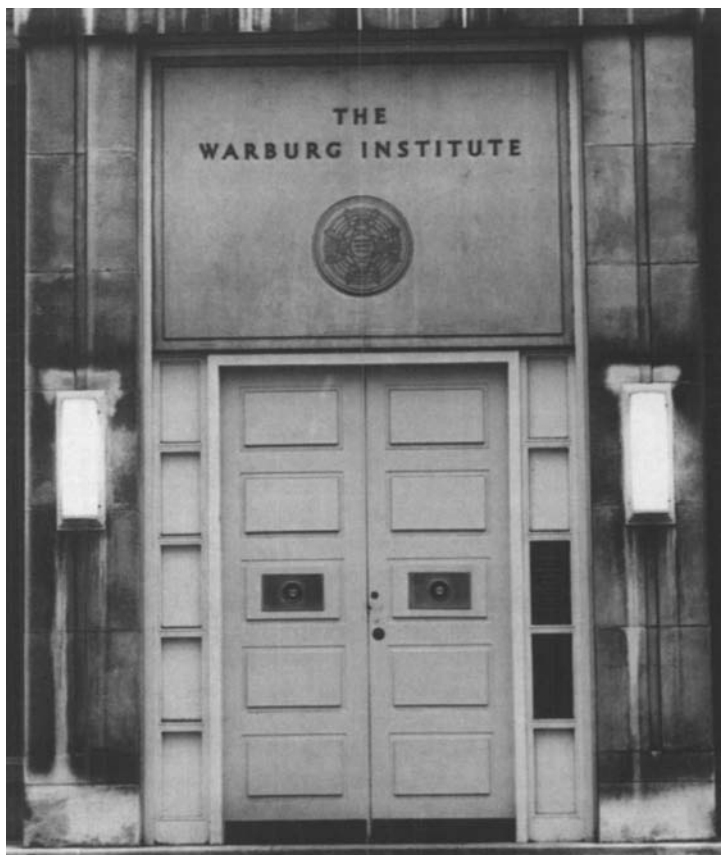
Beside the 'schools' of the University, there are thirteen separate 'institutes' coming under the direct control of the Senate. They fall into two categories. There are those which directly admit students to read for degrees in particular fields.

	<i>Under-graduates</i>	<i>Post-graduates</i>	<i>Total</i>
Institute of Education	—	2719	2719
Courtauld Institute of Art	82	286	368
School of Slavonic and East European Studies	285	39	324
British Institute in Paris	259	6	265
Institute of Archaeology	142	91	233
Warburg Institute	—	36	36

The largest of these, the Institute of Education, is in the process of becoming a 'school', while retaining its present title. It will be noted that the School of Slavonic and East European Studies is an 'institute'. The Institute of Archaeology is about to amalgamate with University College. The British Institute in Paris, the Courtauld and the Warburg remain unique establishments in their different ways.

Seven institutes do not normally have students directly registered at them. They constitute nuclei of research interests in their respective fields, bringing together the academic staff and research students of the various schools, as well as forming national and international centres for their disciplines. The oldest of them, the Institute of Historical Research, founded in 1921, has been described by one of its many visiting American scholars as 'the best club in England'.

11 The entrance to the building in Woburn Square which since 1958 has housed the unique Warburg Institute, an institutional refugee from Nazi Germany: above the door is the Institute's 'signet' taken from a work published in Germany in 1472, describing the interrelation of the four elements of which the world was conceived to be made, earth, air, fire and water, and linking them to their related qualities of hot, cold, moist and dry, as well as to the seasons of the year and to the four humours of man, in an image of cosmic harmony.



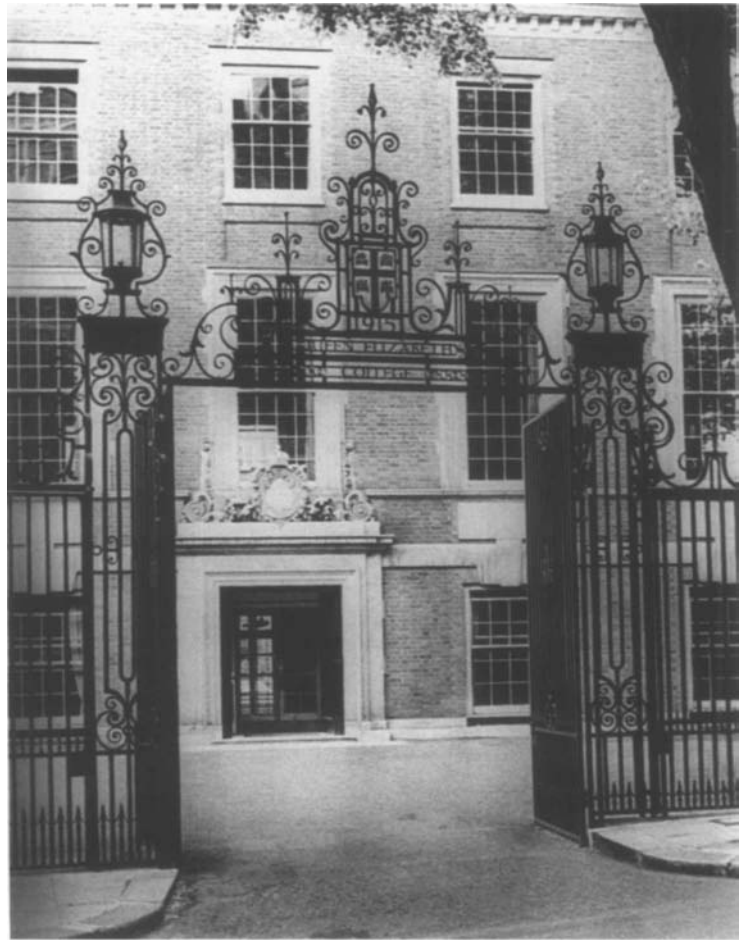
12 Other symbols above the fine 1929 entrance to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in Keppel Street, designed by Verner O. Rees and provided by the Rockefeller Foundation. The London School of Tropical Medicine, founded by the Seamen's Hospital in 1899, was amalgamated in 1924 with a new School of Hygiene concerned with 'the maintenance of health and the prevention of diseases in their widest application, not only in temperate but also in tropical and arctic climates'.



Institute of Advanced Legal Studies
 Institute of Classical Studies
 Institute of Commonwealth Studies
 Institute of Germanic Studies
 Institute of Historical Research
 Institute of Latin American Studies
 Institute of United States Studies

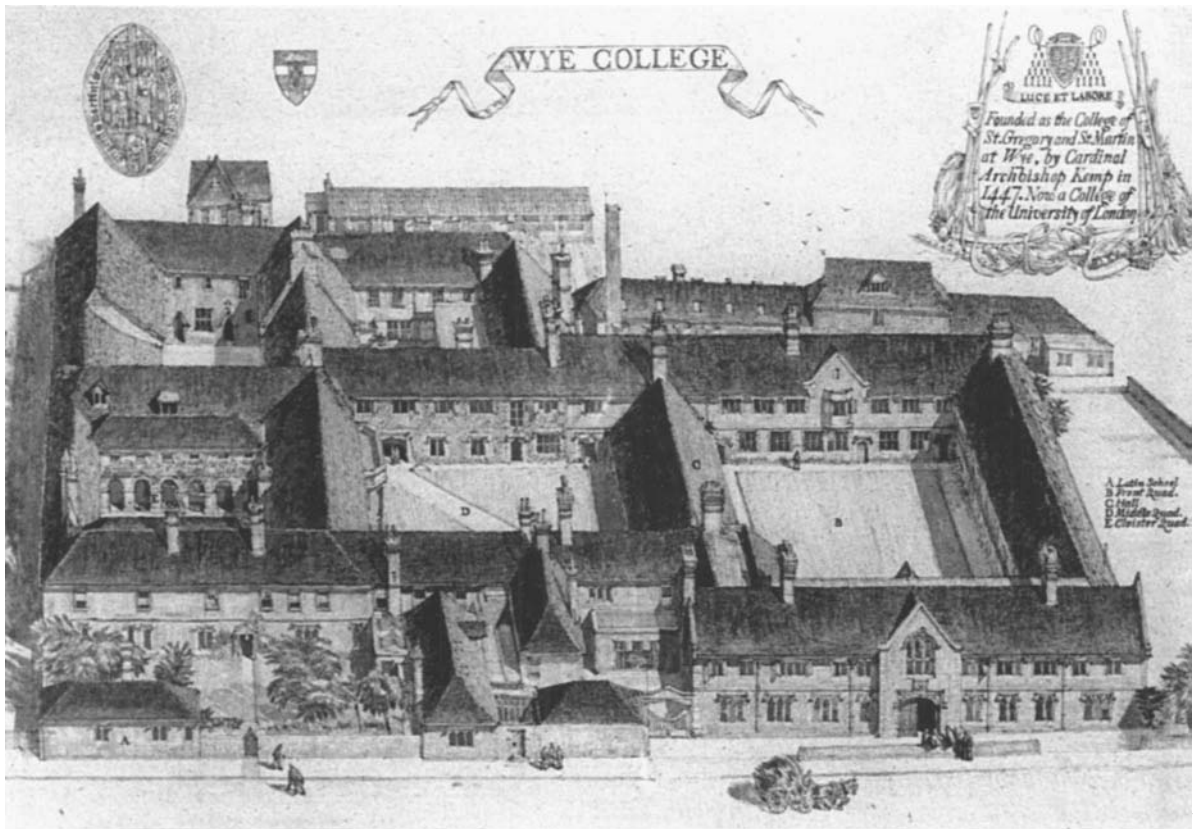
Besides the institutions in these five listings, there are also six 'institutions having recognized teachers', an elastic category linking varied institutions each having a role of its own. The largest is Goldsmiths' College, an institution with a status of Byzantine complexity, having 2282 undergraduates and 221 postgraduates as 'internal students' of the University, besides other students not coming under this description. There are also the London Graduate School of Business Studies, as the London Business School is officially called, the Jews' College, and the three leading music colleges: the Royal Academy of Music, Royal College of Music and Trinity College of Music. Besides the schools, the institutes and the institutions having recognized teachers, there are a number of central activities working for the federation as a whole, among which are the University Library, the Department of Extra-Mural Studies, the

13 The former Queen Elizabeth College in Campden Hill, Kensington, is the part of the University which has been most affected by various bouts of re-constituting and re-structuring policies. Originating in the 'lectures for ladies' given by King's College in 1878, becoming the 'Ladies' Department' in 1885 and the 'Women's Department' in 1902, in 1908 it became King's College for Women, in 1915 the Department of Household and Social Science, in 1928 King's College of Household and Social Science, in 1953 the co-educational Queen Elizabeth College, and in 1985 the Kensington campus of 'KQC', the enlarged King's College incorporating both Queen Elizabeth College and Chelsea College – eight different names and five fundamental changes of direction in just over a century.



Schools Examinations Department, the Audio-Visual Centre, the Careers Advisory Service and the University Computer Centre. They too have to be taken into account.

Enough has been said of the fifty-five different institutions mentioned in this outline description of the University in its sesquicentenary year – without reference to the distinctive parts of some of them – to indicate that the University of London is of peculiar complexity. It cannot be said to be an uncontroversial grouping of institutions. Some members of the University do not disguise their view that it is too large and diverse a collection of institutions to be plausibly united. A more perceptive view of the totality would stress the flexibility of the arrangements which enable so various a group of institutions to be brought together into one overall London-wide framework, including some that would hardly be viable on their own. A static description of so embracive a federation is difficult to render comprehensible; it can only be grasped once the historical dimensions are added, especially at a time when



14 In the Kent countryside between Ashford and Canterbury is Wye College, founded in 1894 as an agricultural college in premises originally built as a secular college for priests established in 1447 by John Kempe (1380–1454) soon before he became Archbishop of Canterbury. The old collegiate buildings, carefully renovated, and other new premises, provide a University of London but non-London location for studies in agriculture, horticulture and various aspects of the rural environment, besides the Centre for European Agricultural Studies established at the time of joining the EEC in 1973.

the University is undergoing a painful process of ‘re-structuring’, coincidental with its sesquicentenary.

The University of London did not begin as a federal organization. The University was never made to order. It was formed in stages out of institutions which came into existence in various historical contexts. Some of the early proposals for a University in London are referred to in the next chapter. The first proposal to achieve realization was made in a famous letter published in *The Times* written by Thomas Campbell in February 1825. It resulted in what can be called the University of London Mark I. Founded in 1826 with the legal status of a limited liability company, the self-proclaimed University of London opened in Gower Street in 1828. It attracted much attention for eliminating religious affiliation from the entrance requirements and sectarian theology from the syllabus. It attracted too an Establishment rival in the form of King’s College which opened in 1831, having obtained in 1829 a charter, a form of official recognition denied to the ‘University of London’. The two new aspirant university institutions in London in the 1830s clashed not only with the reactionary opposition of Oxford and Cam-

bridge, but also with the more genuine objections of the various medical teaching institutions of London, especially those connected with the long-established hospitals. The result – after much controversy – was the foundation in 1836 by the government of a new University, the University of London Mark II as it might be identified. It was an examining body chartered to award degrees to candidates produced by what then became University College, as well as by King's College, the medical schools, and other institutions which could be recognized for the purpose. The University of London Mark I, a unitary university on a Scottish and German model, gave way to the University of London Mark II, a new concept which made a virtue of compromise by opening the way to wider aims.

15 Examinations have always been a central feature of the University of London; indeed, between 1836 and 1900 the University in its Mark II form was notoriously a 'mere examining board'. Generations of candidates have been familiar with exam answer books in one form or another, all officially destroyed after being marked and checked. One that has happened to survive is this example dating from 1890, part of a batch of 60,000 printed in that year.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

Number only _____ / _____

Pass Paper in Phonetics

Write your Number and the Subject of the Paper above, and read what is printed below.

1. *Candidates are prohibited, under pain of instant dismissal, from introducing any book or manuscript into the Examination-room, from communicating with or copying from each other, and from communicating with any person outside the Examination-room.*
2. *Candidates are to write their answers on the right-hand page of this book. Rough work (if any) should be written on the left-hand page, and should be crossed out. No part of the answer-book is to be torn off.*
3. *If you use more books than one, fasten them together. Clips may be obtained at the Examiners' table.*
4. *The answers of Candidates must be legibly written.*



16 Plenty of pictures exist of students taking degrees, but very few of them actually taking exams. This rare example shows an MB examination being held in 1949 in the Great Hall of St Bartholomew's Hospital, built in 1732 by James Gibbs, with the walls lined by the names and pictures of benefactors, prominently including Henry VIII who re-founded the Hospital in 1544.

Awarding degrees on this basis remained the basic purpose of the University of London for the rest of the nineteenth century. The proto-federal link with the teaching institutions, established in 1836, was broken in 1858 in the way discussed in chapter 3. Out of the great late nineteenth-century controversies (discussed in chapter 4) emerged the reconstitution which produced in 1900 what can be called the University of London Mark III. The University was transformed into a federal university, including University College, King's College, the medical schools and a variety of other constituent parts. Having been 'that august negation of the very idea of a University', as Arnold Bennett called it, the University of London after 1900 became a new body, albeit one that could be described by H.G. Wells in 1903 as something which 'does not exist in political thought. It is an acephalous invertebrate in the political world.'⁶

Nevertheless, the thralldom of examinations gave way to a university concerned with teaching and research. A major constitutional change in 1929 (discussed in chapters 5 and 6) gave more power to the centre. Less fundamental but important constitutional

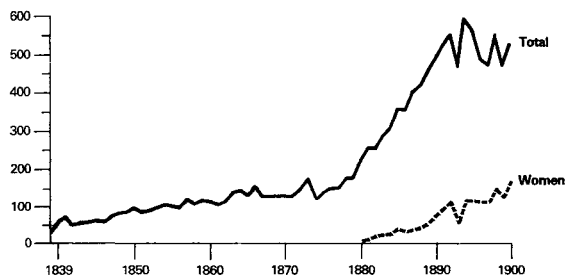
changes resulting in the University of London Act of 1978 and the consequent new statutes adopted in 1983 (chapter 7) have brought about the present structure. The special link between the University of London and the government, financial in its basis, was removed in 1901 and ended in the 1920s with the government contribution towards the provision of Senate House. Since then the University has stood in the same relationship to the government as the other universities; the government was increasingly the paymaster of them all, and in London the Court of the University became a sort of sub-UGC, distributing government funds to the various parts of the University. What was founded as a national university became the University of London in the twentieth century in fact as well as in name, notably maintaining some of its former functions.

The nineteenth-century University of London was, in modern terms, an amalgam of an Open University and a Council for National Academic Awards. It had neither the technology of the one, nor the system of inspection of the other, but its functions were perceived as a sort of cross between the two. The increase in the output of its graduates is shown in figure 1. The University of London Mark II has considerable achievements to its credit. The matriculation examination was increasingly used as the first national school-leaving certificate, the origin of the School Certificate



17 One of the special glories of the University of London is that it was the first British university to award degrees to women. In 1878 sex discrimination in the examinations was ended, and the first women graduates were produced in 1880. By contrast, women were not permitted to graduate at Oxford until 1920, or at Cambridge until 1923. In 1885, the *Graphic* devoted a whole page to 'a lady BA of London University'.

Fig 1 Number of Graduates, 1839–1900

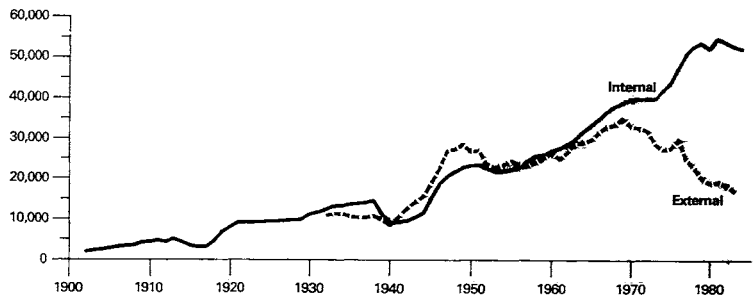


and the General Certificate of Education. The London syllabus brought a range of new subjects into the scope of university education for the first time, particularly laboratory science and the modern languages. Degrees were awarded from the start without discrimination on religious grounds, and in 1878 the examinations were thrown open to women for the first time. The removal of religious, social and sexual barriers to higher education was an achievement that must command admiration. Many features of the University of London became the model for the provincial universities as they developed in the late nineteenth century, and for universities overseas in the Empire too. When the universities of

Oxford and Cambridge were reformed in the 1850s and after, their revitalization revealed the influence of London. The University's modernizing influence was immeasurable, but pervasive, in the United Kingdom and in many other parts of the world.

The University of London Mark III continued to play a pioneering role in a variety of ways. The enormous growth in its size is evident from the numbers of students both 'internal' and 'external' graphed in figure 2. From 2004 internal students when they were first counted in 1902–3, the number grew to a peak of 55,628 in 1981–2. A special feature has been the way in which London degrees have remained open to all through the external system, the continuation of the central characteristic of the University of London Mark II. Prior to 1932–3, external candidates for degrees –

Fig 2 Number of Students, 1900–85



whether studying privately or at a range of other educational institutions – were not required to register as students of the University, so statistics for them are not available until that year.

In size, however measured, the University of London stands in a class apart from every other British university, just as London itself has always towered above every other English town in terms of

18 Two of the earliest women students in their 'prettily furnished rooms' at College Hall soon after it opened at Byng Place in 1882 (see **123**). The first women's hall of residence offered 'the social amenities of collegiate life', and a private room and full board for between 57 and 75 guineas per session of 33 weeks.



19 The 'Senior Student' at Westfield College in her 'pleasantly furnished room' photographed in 1922.



20 The resonances of several generations of social change are encapsulated in a photograph of Lucinda Neal with another student in her room in 1985 at International Hall, an intercollegiate hall of residence opened in 1962 and expanded to offer accommodation to some 480 men and women students.



21 Dame Mary Scharlieb, one of the first women to graduate in medicine in 1882, lecturing in the 1890s to students at the London School of Medicine for Women, founded in 1874 and for long the only medical school in the country which admitted women.



22 Professor Ruth Bowden lecturing in the same room in 1967 to students at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine; the School's name was changed in 1947 when, along with the other medical schools, it became co-educational.



23 A meeting of the Mycenaean seminar at the Institute of Classical Studies in 1985 listening to a paper by a visitor from the University of Paris on Minoan town planning, with Professor Nicholas Coldstream in the chair. Such seminars, the life-blood of research in the humanities, are held in various of the institutes of the University, those at the Institute of Classical Studies having been outstandingly creative and cathartic since its foundation in 1953.



24 The British Institute in Paris since 1969 has been a full institute of the University of London, the only part of the University entirely based abroad. Begun in 1894 as the *Guilde Franco-Anglaise*, becoming the *Institut Britannique à Paris* in 1928, the Institute has been housed since 1976 with the British Council's British Cultural Centre in the rue de Constantine. It is a centre of English studies for French students, and of French studies for English students.



25 The Queen Mother as Chancellor of the University of London in 1959 opening the new library of Makerere University College in Uganda, one of the Commonwealth university colleges helped by being in 'special relation' with London while they were achieving full university status. With the Queen Mother is Arthur Tattersall, then the Secretary of Makerere University College, later the Secretary of University College, 1964–78, and Public Orator of the University, 1975–8.



26 The Courtauld Institute Galleries in Woburn Square contain a superlative collection of French Impressionist and post-Impressionist paintings presented to the University by Samuel Courtauld. Among the many masterpieces is Edouard Manet's *Un bar aux Folies-Bergère* (1882). 'If one lacked time or strength to visit more than one London gallery, the Courtauld would be the one to choose. It is small, beautifully arranged, and every painting in it is important.'



27 The Picture Gallery at Royal Holloway College displays the remarkable collection of pictures acquired by Thomas Holloway in 1881–3 reflecting high Victorian taste. One of the many famous works is the narrative painting of Paddington Station by W.P. Frith, *The Railway Station* (1862), one of the central works of art of the nineteenth century.



28 Another collection of unexpected treasures is contained in the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology at UCL, which includes many of the fascinating discoveries made by Sir Flinders Petrie, FRS, FBA, the pioneering Professor of Egyptology, 1892–1933. They include the recently-cleaned relief from Koptos showing Senusret I (c. 1971–50 BC) dancing ceremonially before the ithyphallic fertility god Min.

