

A MODERN DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY

By

J.L. PACE

*Lecturer, Department of Anatomy,
Royal University of Malta.*

The new Anatomy Department of the Royal University of Malta at Msida is nearing completion. In design and equipment it has been modelled on the Department of Anatomy at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School in London — perhaps the most modern and well-equipped department of its kind in the British Isles.

Completed in 1960, the Anatomy Department at 'The Middlesex' includes a lecture theatre, a museum and teaching and research laboratories.

The lecture theatre seats 60 students. It is equipped with 4 closed-circuit television monitors and a two-way intercom system. This

provides for live television demonstrations from within the Department itself as well as live transmissions with sound commentary directly from the Hospital Radiology Department.

The Histology teaching laboratory (Figure 1) accommodates 80 students.

The dissecting room (Figure 2) has an area of 2800 square feet and is provided with 18 tables. Dissected museum specimens are displayed along the walls and are readily available for reference during dissection. Adjoining the dissecting room is an embalming room, a tank room, a well-equipped workshop and storage rooms.



Fig. 1. THE HISTOLOGY TEACHING LABORATORY

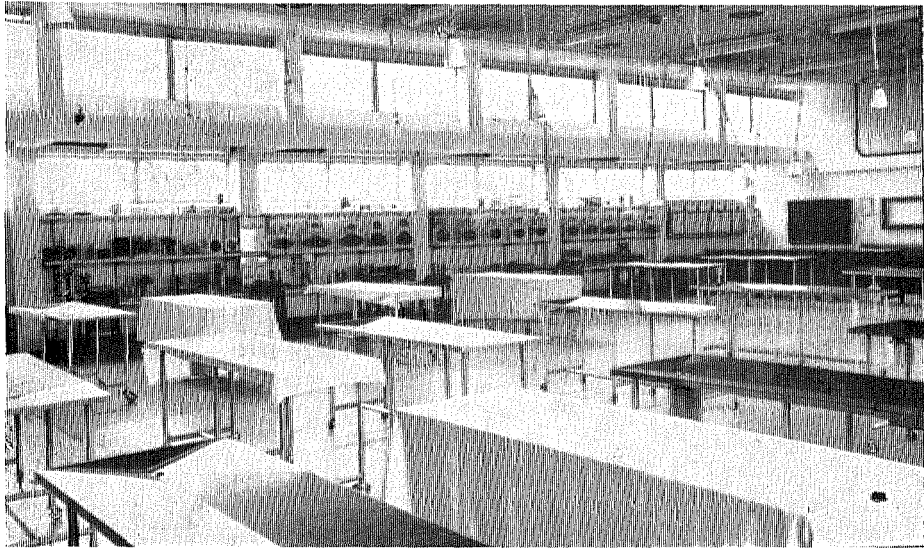


Fig. 2. THE DISSECTING ROOM

The Living Anatomy room contains 4 examination couches. It is equipped with various clinical instruments (ophthalmoscopes, otoscopes, etc), muscle stimulators and x-ray viewing boxes. Adjoining it are two tutorial and a demonstrators' room.

The museum (Figure 3) displays dissected, cross-section and anthropological specimens. A 24-panel x-ray viewing box and a collection of

normal radiographs (with accompanying labeled outline diagrams) are provided. One side of the museum is used as students' studying space. Furniture and specimens are easily movable making it possible to convert the museum into a committee room when the necessity arises.

The research side includes an Experimental Embryology laboratory, a Histology research



Fig. 3. THE MUSEUM

laboratory (Figure 4) and preparation room, an animal operating theatre (with B.P. and E.C.G. monitors), an adjoining recovery room, an animal post-mortem room and quarantine rooms. There is a photographic studio and processing room equipped with the most up-to-date photographic and microphotographic equipment, an x-ray room, and an electronic-microscope laboratory.

My thanks are due to Professor E.W. Walls, Courtauld Professor of Anatomy at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School; also to the authorities of the Middlesex Hospital Medical School for permission to publish the photographs.

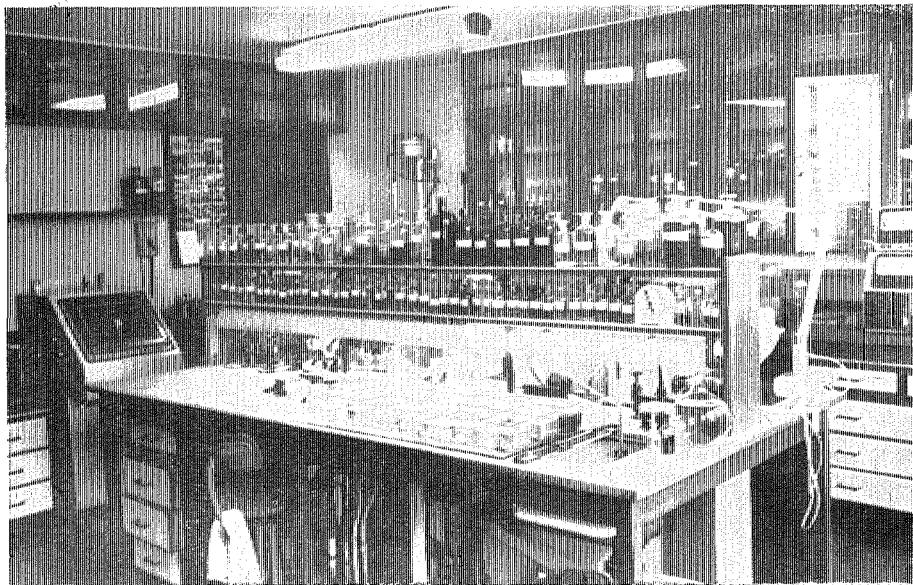


Fig. 4. THE HISTOLOGY RESEARCH LABORATORY