

## The McConnell Wing"

The Montreal Neurological Institute

Eileen C. Flanagan, B.A., R.N.,

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On the 20th of November 1953 the new McConnell Wing of the Montreal Neurological Institute was opened by the Governor General, Mr. Vincent Massey. This wing increases the bed capacity to 140 beds and cots.

In planning the new wards we have extended the principle used in the original building of giving the nurses good visual control of the ward units. With the rapidly changing conception of medical and nursing care, especially early ambulation, with the greatly increased hospital costs and with the ever present need to conserve nursing and other personnel, it is essential to consider carefully the mode of accommodation devised for patient care.

There is considerable controversy both on this continent and in Britain I understand, as to the relative value of large wards versus two and four bed wards, and the proportion of single units to multiple units, when actually there is one simple criterion to use in assessing the problem, and that is, how can the patient be given the best medical and nursing care?

The growth of the private room concept was due in great measure to the fact that the disagreeable features of bed care were carried out in the wards themselves, to the embarrassment of the patient himself and to the others around him. This private room system has increased costs, wasted the time of patients, doctors and nurses, and has not improved either medical or nursing care, in fact the private patient, generally speaking, loses

out in care, time and money. We have tried therefore to return as much as possible to the ward system, and make it worthwhile and attractive to patients.

There are three 12 bed wards, three 8 bed wards, ten two bed units, 20 single units, and 24 private rooms. There are also 16 cubicles for infants.

We have each type of arrangement on each floor so that the patients can be placed in the size of unit most suitable to his type of illness, stage of illness, convalescence, or to his temperament. Some patients may, therefore, during their stay be moved from one type to another as circumstances require, but they do not have to leave the nursing staff to whom they have become accustomed and who know them.

The secret of making the wards attractive places to be in, is to remove all the disagreeable features, so that we have on each floor close to the wards, bed bath rooms (enema rooms in Sweden), continuous tub bath rooms, treatment rooms, examining rooms, and surgical dressing rooms.

No treatments whatever are carried out in the wards, the patients are wheeled in bed to the area where the treatment or procedure is carried out in privacy.

Air-conditioned recovery rooms are provided on each floor, again, close to the nurses' station, and where the patient is returned to the nursing staff who have cared for him before operation and who will follow his post-operation treatment.

We are not in favour of recovery rooms attached to the operating rooms except for care after certain minor operations or for cases requiring emergency care and attention of anaesthetists.

There are many advantages in having all categories of patients of one service on the same floor or in the same unit.

The total specially trained medical, nursing and technical staff, and all the special equipment for the particular service is available, and does not entail unnecessary duplication in other areas.

Another important feature is that it improves the teaching facilities for medical and nursing students, and is a solution for the problem of trying to keep the interest of general staff nurses, who at the present time in many cases are used only on the "private" floors where no medical teaching is carried out.

In the new wing, the top floors, that is 6th and 7th, are Research Laboratories; the 5th is occupied by the X-ray, Isotope Laboratory and the Operating suites. The fourth, third and second are patient areas. These are extensions of the present hospital floors so that existing facilities can be made use of.

The ward unit is almost a square, as shown in the diagram, with the nurses' station in the centre. The upper part of the nursing station is made of glass and is constructed so that it projects into the ward and into the corridor. On one side is the ward, next to it on the adjoining side are four separate rooms for accident cases, critically ill or disoriented patients, and a two bed recovery room. All these are clearly observable from the nursing station. The usual utility rooms, linen rooms, bath rooms, and toilets are attached to the wards and rooms. Off the ward on the right side is the "bed bath room" which doubles for the "Enema Room" as it is called in the Swedish Hospitals. Here paralyzed patients can be taken and lifted by stretcher from a ceiling track, to a shallow bath, the height of the bed, and given a good bath with plenty of water, and dried with a warm air

drier. Likewise when a patient requires an enema, or the bed pan, he can be wheeled into this room and have privacy. There is a toilet available and a swedish chair which fits over the toilet.

The treatment room is to the left of the nursing station, where the patient is taken for such procedures as intravenous infusions, blood transfusions, vene punctures, penicillin and other injections, nasal feedings, lumbar punctures, and so on.

The examining room and surgical dressing rooms with their service room are along the corridor available to both ends of the floor. So also is the doctors' work-room.

At the other end of the floor is the special Montreal Neurological Institute Observation Unit, with a nurses' station and a two bed room immediately behind it with one-way vision glass. Off to the side are two single rooms in full view of the nurse. This unit is specially designed for the care of patients at night, or for patients having seizures which have to be observed.

The rest of the floor is made up of two bed, and single rooms.

Third and Fourth floors are similar in design. The Second floor has one end the same for adults but the other is planned for infants and children. On the left hand side of the corridor are two admission rooms with their own separate toilets, bath and utility rooms, on the right side two isolation rooms equipped as a separate unit. Again on the left, a nurses' station, projecting into the corridor and with glass top, is placed between the admission rooms and two rooms containing cubicles for eight infants. These are also glass from three feet up and are air-conditioned.

Along the end of this floor are two separate rooms, a continuous bath room, an examining room, dressing rooms with service rooms, and a recovery room. On the right is a ward for ten children. One half of the ward has glass cubicles and the other half has curtains between the cots. This has been done on the advice of the pediatrician, who feels that certain children, and many children at certain periods of their stay, benefit by being together.

There is also a sitting room for the children on the ward. Again the nurses' station is so located that she has full vision of the service rooms and the ward.

We have tried, then to make our wards and rooms, from the patients' point of view, as flexible and as attractive as possible by removing all the disagreeable and disturbing elements. This makes it possible for a number of patients to happily occupy the same ward and assist each other mentally, physically, and socially to recover from their illnesses. It has been surprising how much more quickly the patients who are together recover than the ones who are alone in a room. Secondly the planning allows the nurses to observe most of the patients most of the time and for a smaller number of nurses and personnel to care for them. It means that the ward patients, semi-private and private patients, all have the same benefit of specially trained staff.

For the doctors it means that they have all the facilities for all their patients close to hand and have suitable rooms in which to carry out procedures, rather than having to carry out complicated procedures in wards and rooms far away from supplies. It also means that they have the help of specially qualified nurses. It means, furthermore, that the equipment is used to its fullest capacity and is available for all categories of patients.

It is important then, in present day planning, to make patient accommodation more flexible; to break down the rigid barriers between so called private, semi-private, and ward patients; to create a functional unit suitable for all patients, serving both medical and financial requirements; and to give the patients, doctors, and nurses the best possible situation in which to fulfil their respective roles.

for Neurological Research amounting to something over \$1,000,000.

My friend, Sir Geoffrey Jefferson, once said to me that the Montreal Neurological Institute was the god-child of Alan Gregg. Quite right.

But the institute had another parent for it is the adopted child of Mr. J. W. McConnell. He is a man who gives generously with the heart as well as the mind, with discretion and far-sighted understanding.

Looking back to the early days of our project, I recognize now that in his original contribution to the building of this institute, in 1931, he was given notice of his intention of adoption.

During the past 22 years, from the lofty distance of Cedar avenue, he came to us at crucial times in the evolution of this institution, bringing the help we needed.

The occasion for help came many times as great new opportunities for clinical and laboratory research came into being, and as new personalities were brought to Montreal to aid in the work.

Notable among these personalities were Dr. Herbert Jasper who, in the third year of the institute, commuted back and forth between Providence, R.I., and Montreal, to demonstrate here how, by means of the electrical brain waves of the newly-discovered electroencephalograph, he would localize the position of the cause of focal epilepsy in each case.

He came to us, in fair weather and in foul, through snow and over icy roads while a succession of patients passed through our hands.

He proved his claim. And so one morning, while I was attending a meeting of the American Neurological Association in Atlantic City, I telephoned back to Dr. Gregg in New York and then to Montreal, to the house on Cedar avenue.

When I heard Mr. McConnell's voice I said: "There is something that should have been included in the original Neurological Institute. Dr. Gregg tells me the Rockefeller Foundation will finance the work of a new laboratory for a three-year period, including the salary of this electrophysiologist, Dr. Jasper, if some one else will build the laboratory."

"Of course," Mr. McConnell replied, "we can't lose this opportunity. I'll speak to some friends of the institute—Mr. G. H. Duggan and Sir

*(Continued on page 50)*



Dr. Wilder Graves Penfield, O.M., director of the Montreal Neurological Institute, right, receives the 1953 Jacoby Award from Dr. Roland Mackay, president of the American Neurological Association. The Jacoby Award is given every three years to the member of the American Neurological Association who has done some specially meritorious experimental work on any neurologic or psychiatric subject during the preceding three years.

## Dr. Gregg's Tribute

Guest speaker at the opening of the new McConnell Wing of the Montreal Neurological Institute was Dr. Alan Gregg, New York, vice-president of the Rockefeller Foundation, which gave an endowment of \$1,000,000 to McGill University to finance the work of the scientific laboratories of the MNI when it was opened in 1934.

"In but very few, if any, of the enterprises to which the Rockefeller Foundation has been privileged to contribute in the last 20 years have the results equalled those you have created here," Dr. Gregg said, speaking in the amphitheatre of the MNI at exercises marking the "Second Foundation" of the Institute.

"If I were asked to name a single grant that the Medical Sciences Division of the Foundation has made since 1931 that I consider ideal in purpose, in performance, in local response and in national and international influence, and in the character of our relationships maintained from the very beginning, I would say without a moment's hesitation the grant to the Neurological Institute of McGill University.

"But that is only one way and perhaps a trivial one of expressing the admiration and the satisfaction the Rockefeller Foundation has for what you have created here.

"More rare still is the compliment I would offer you, not without some fear that it will fail its target, in saying that in this Neurological Institute, the Staff, the Chief and the Trustees are so beautifully fused into one shining amalgam that if I were to name one to thank I would be naming you all who have worked with him, for him and through him, and if I were to name all of you it would come to the same thing—for you are all the Neurological Institute of McGill University, each to the other responsible, essential and inseparable."



Dr. Alan Gregg, of New York, vice-president of the Rockefeller Foundation, addresses a gathering of distinguished scientists and other guests at the official opening of the new McConnell Wing of the Montreal Neurological Institute. Front row, left to right, are: Dr. F. Cyril James, Principal and Vice-chancellor; Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey, Governor-General of Canada and University Visitor; B. C. Gardner, University Chancellor; and Dr. Wilder G. Penfield, O.M., director of the institute. Back row, left to right, are: Brig. J. A. Nesbitt, honorary aide-de-camp to the Governor-General; J. O. Asselin, chairman of the executive committee of the city of Montreal; Hon. Paul Martin, Minister of National Health and Welfare; Dr. G. L. Duff, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine; Rev. Dr. J. S. Thomson, Dean of the Faculty of Divinity; His Worship Camillien Houde, Mayor of Montreal and Capt. G. E. Belanger, aide-de-camp in waiting to the Governor-General.



Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey, Governor-General of Canada and University Visitor, left, and B. C. Gardner, Chancellor of the University, followed by Dr. F. Cyril James, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, and Dr. Wilder Penfield, O.M., director of the Montreal Neurological Institute and other distinguished guests, lead the procession to the north wall of the new McConnell Wing of the Institute where the Governor-General unveiled a plaque commemorating the occasion.

promises made by the executives of these two governments, this institute would never have come into existence in the first place, and they should know that if it had not been for recent further increases in the annual grants for public patient deficits, this neurological hospital would be closing its doors now, instead of opening, as it is, to a much enlarged public service.

They should be told that it is thanks to the planning of the Provincial Premier, Maurice Duplessis and his ministers, followed by the Mayor of Montreal, Camillien Houde, and the chairman of the executive, Mr. J. O. Asselin, supported by the City Council, that these patients have the privilege of being cared for by specialists and scientists, men who are attracted to the Montreal Neurological Institute and held here by the scientific opportunities of the research unit.

Concerning the brain research institute, the original endowment came from the Rockefeller Foundation when Dr. Alan Gregg was director of medical sciences.

The income derived from it and used for this purpose has, with the passage of the years, almost come to equal the amount of the original endowment. And yet, like the widow's cruise of oil, the capital is still with us, undiminished.

The original endowment was increased by the establishment of the G. H. Duggan Fellowship and the Lewis Reford Fellowship. The cost of specific additional researches have been met by the Rockefeller Foundation, Mr. McConnell, the Bronfman family, the estate of Robert Springle, the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada and many others including important anonymous donors, he added.

In addition to that a large annual consolidated grant for scientific work has come from the Federal Government in Ottawa for the past seven years.

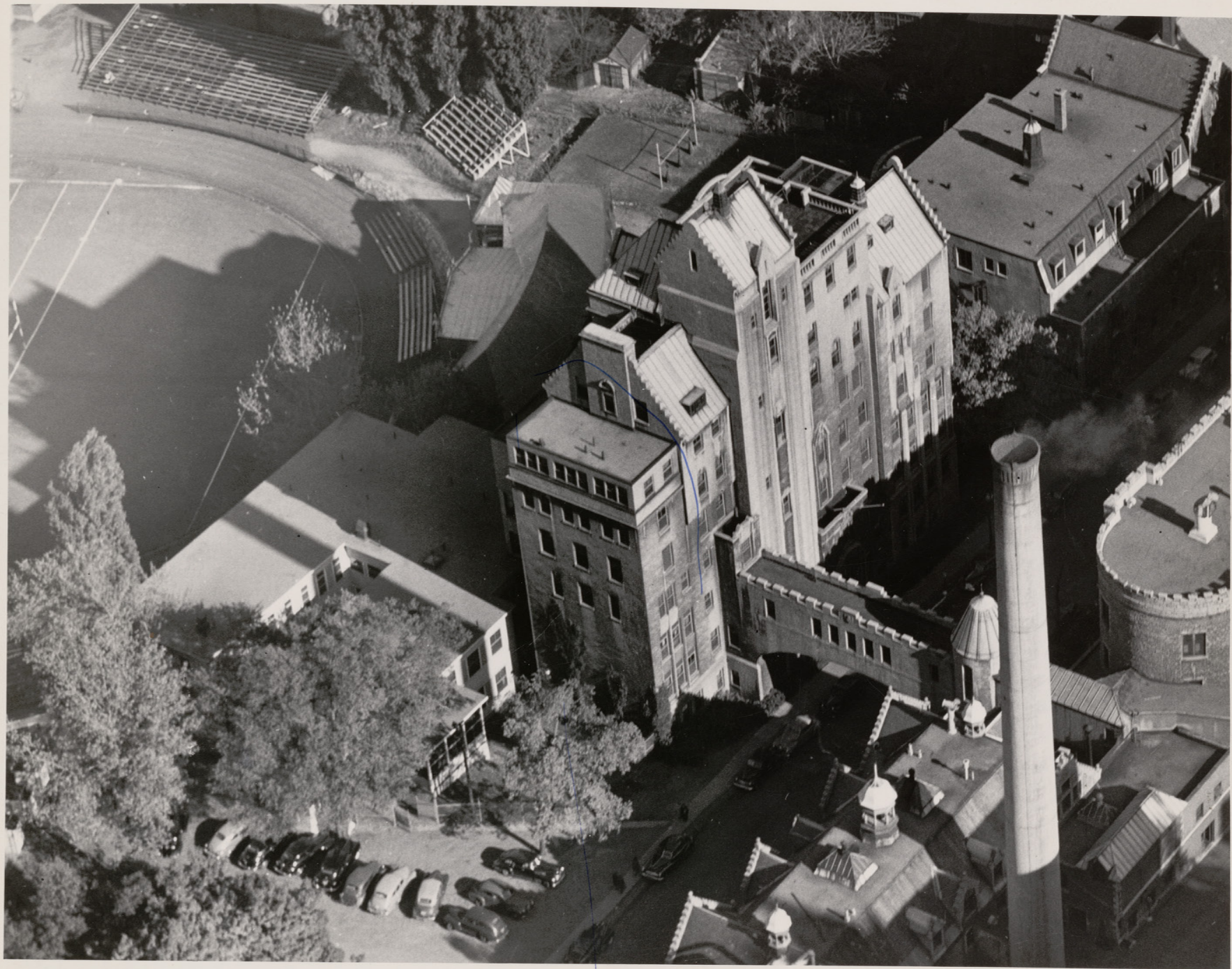
The life and the destiny of a research institute depend upon the permanent basic support of the laboratories and senior members of staff.

This is what we sought in our campaign for the second foundation and this we have at last found: First, in the endowment of the Donner Laboratory for Experimental Neurochemistry amounting to \$500,000 and second, in the establishment of the Lily Griffith McConnell Foundation









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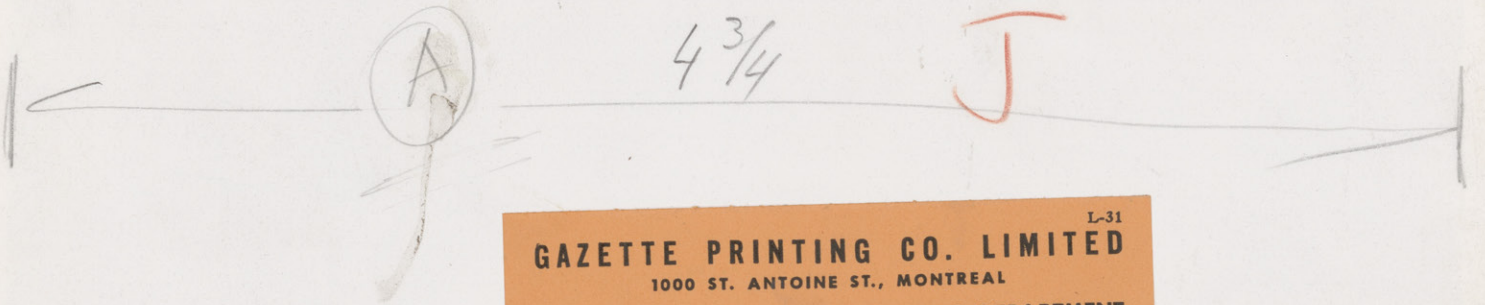
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Montreal Neurological Institute, at time of opening  
of the Cornell Wing, Nov. 1953

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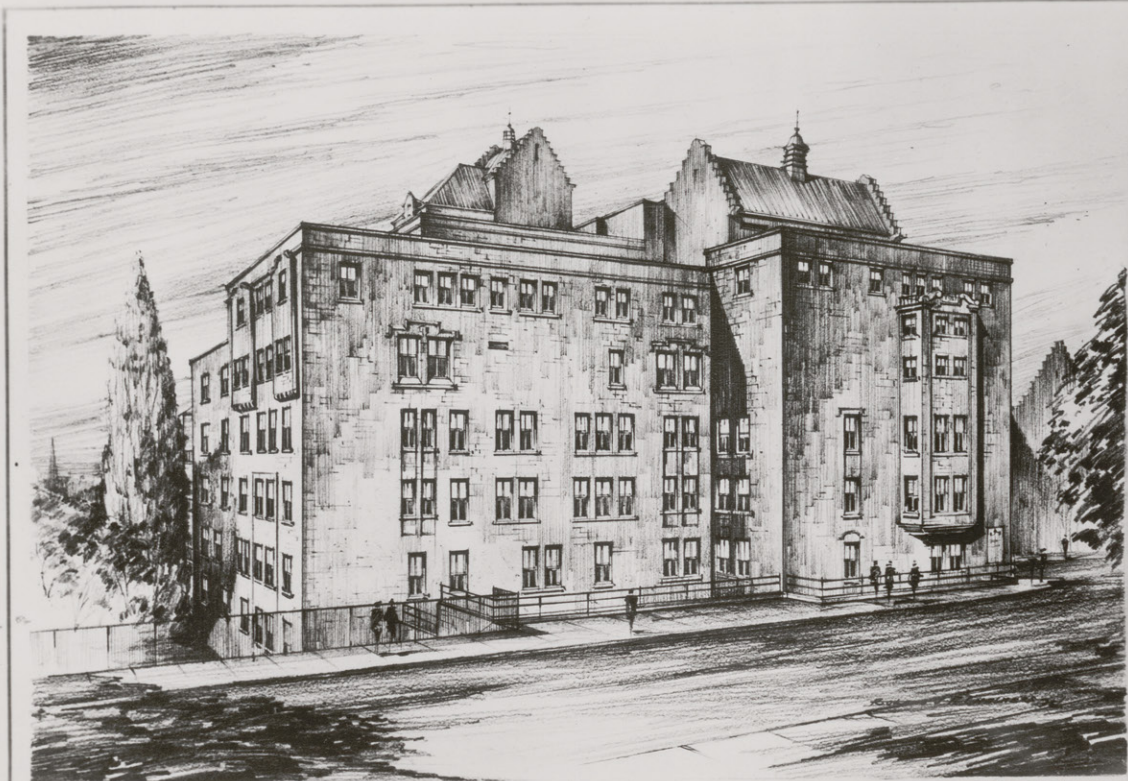
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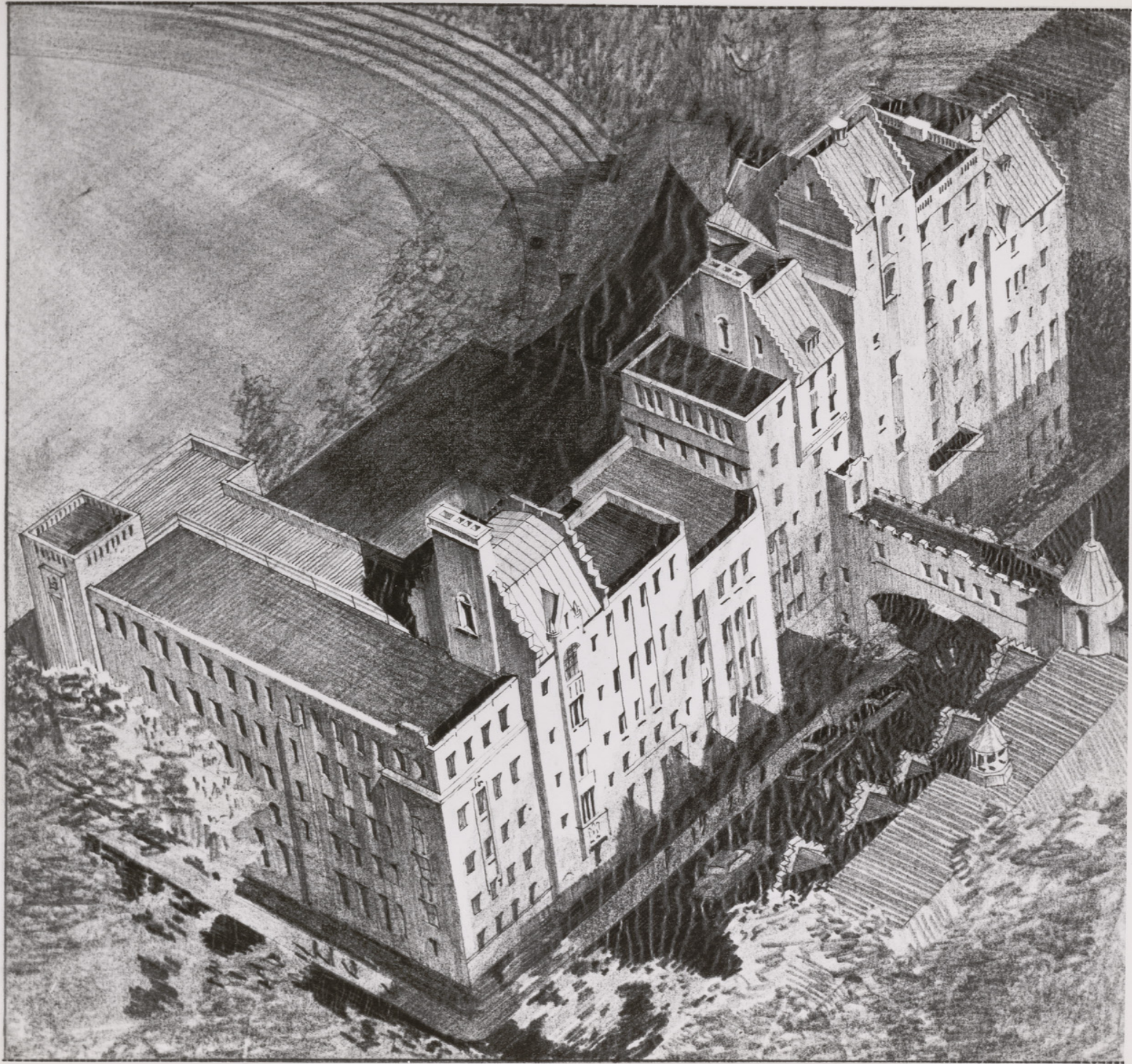


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Architect's drawing of  
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Northeast view

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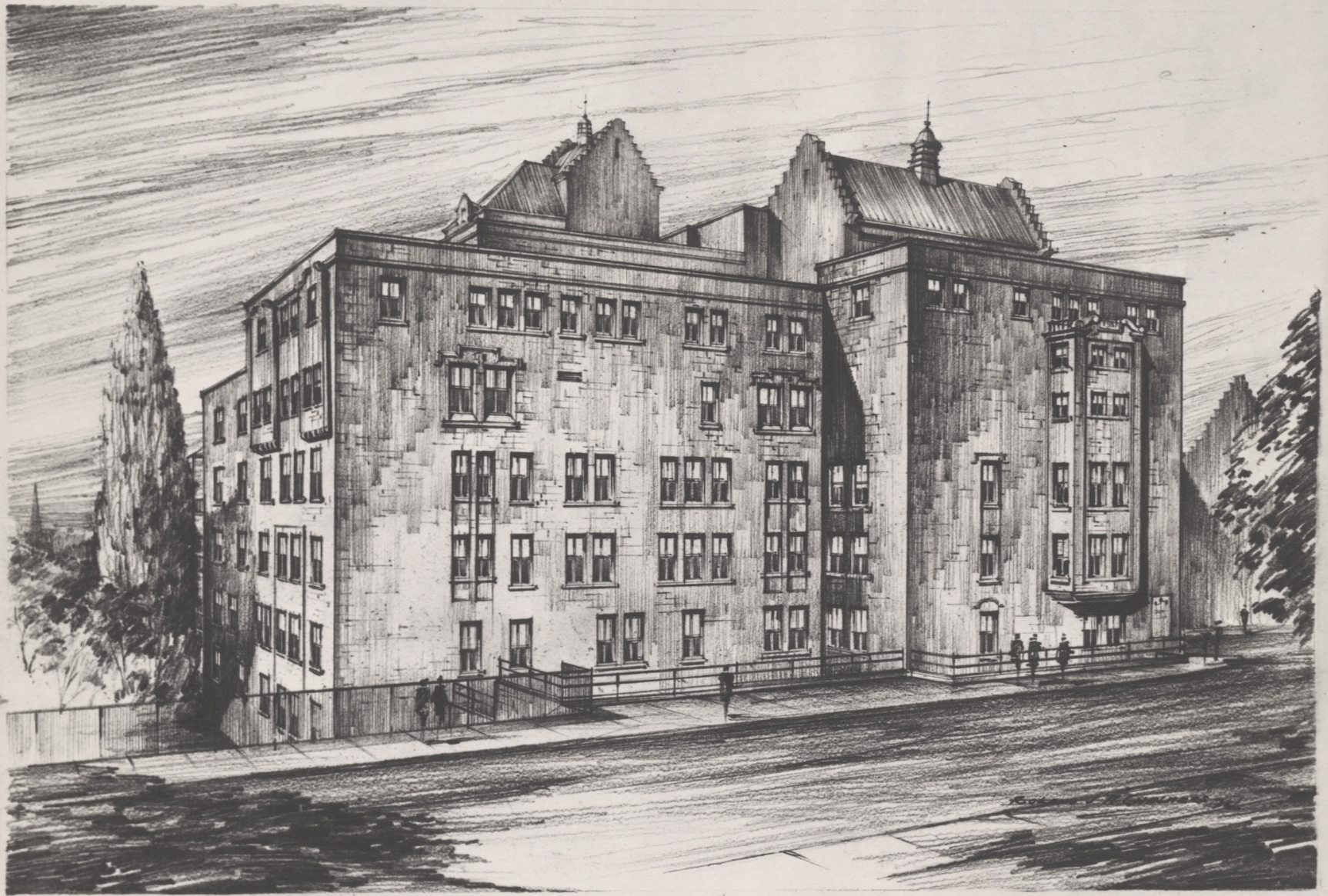
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*Quarter Century Celebration  
Montreal Neurological Institute  
October 6 - 8, 1959*



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Northeast view

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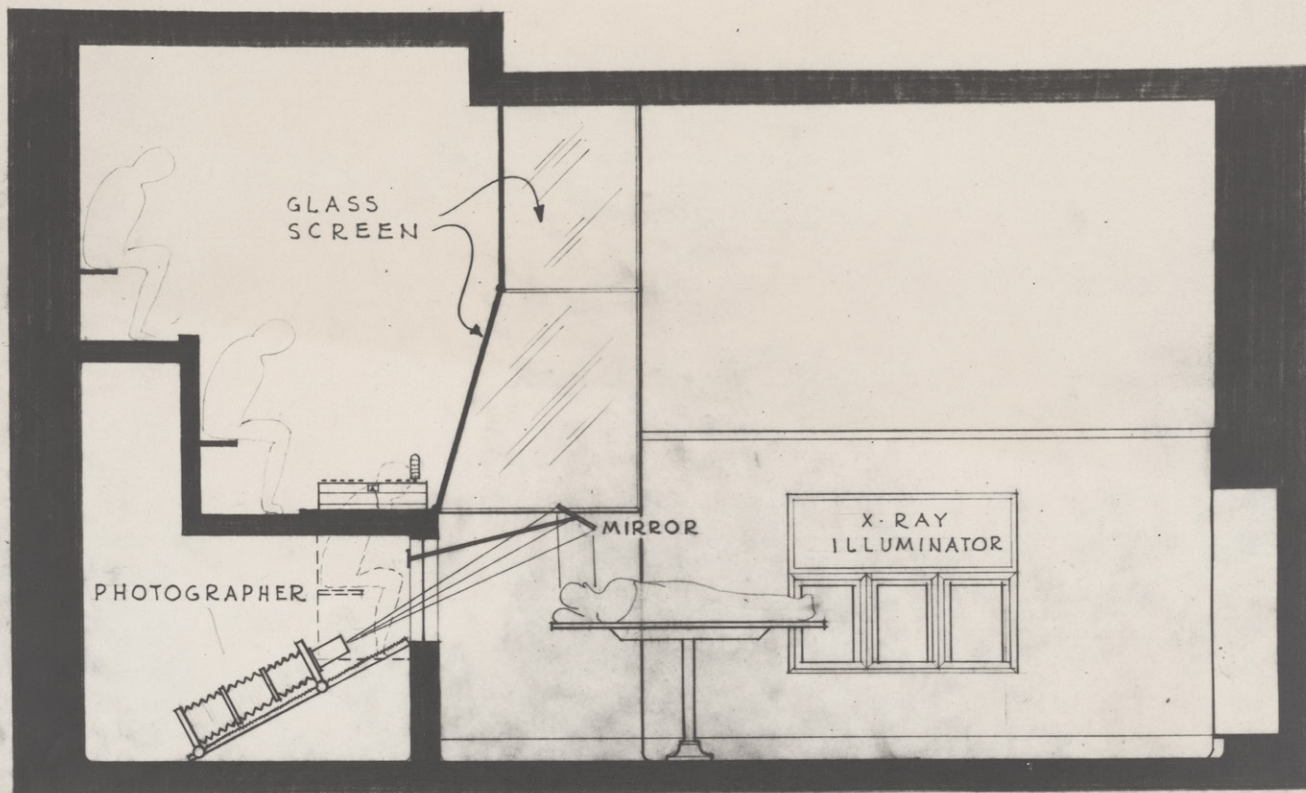
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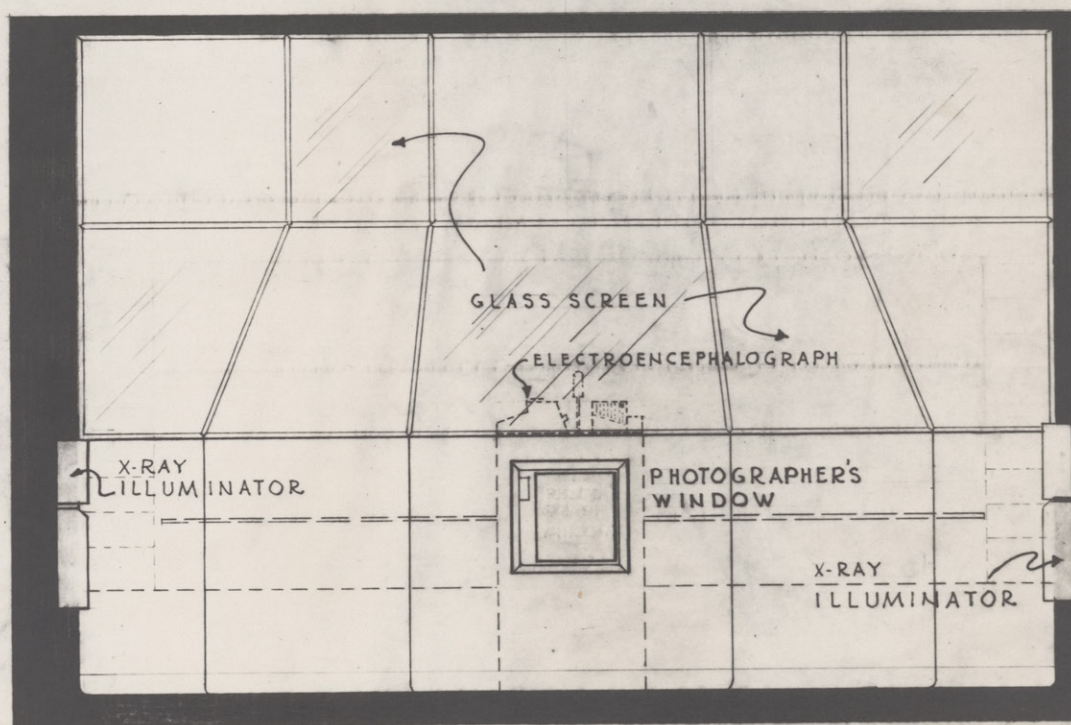


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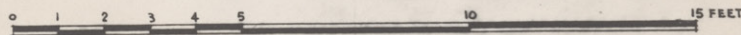
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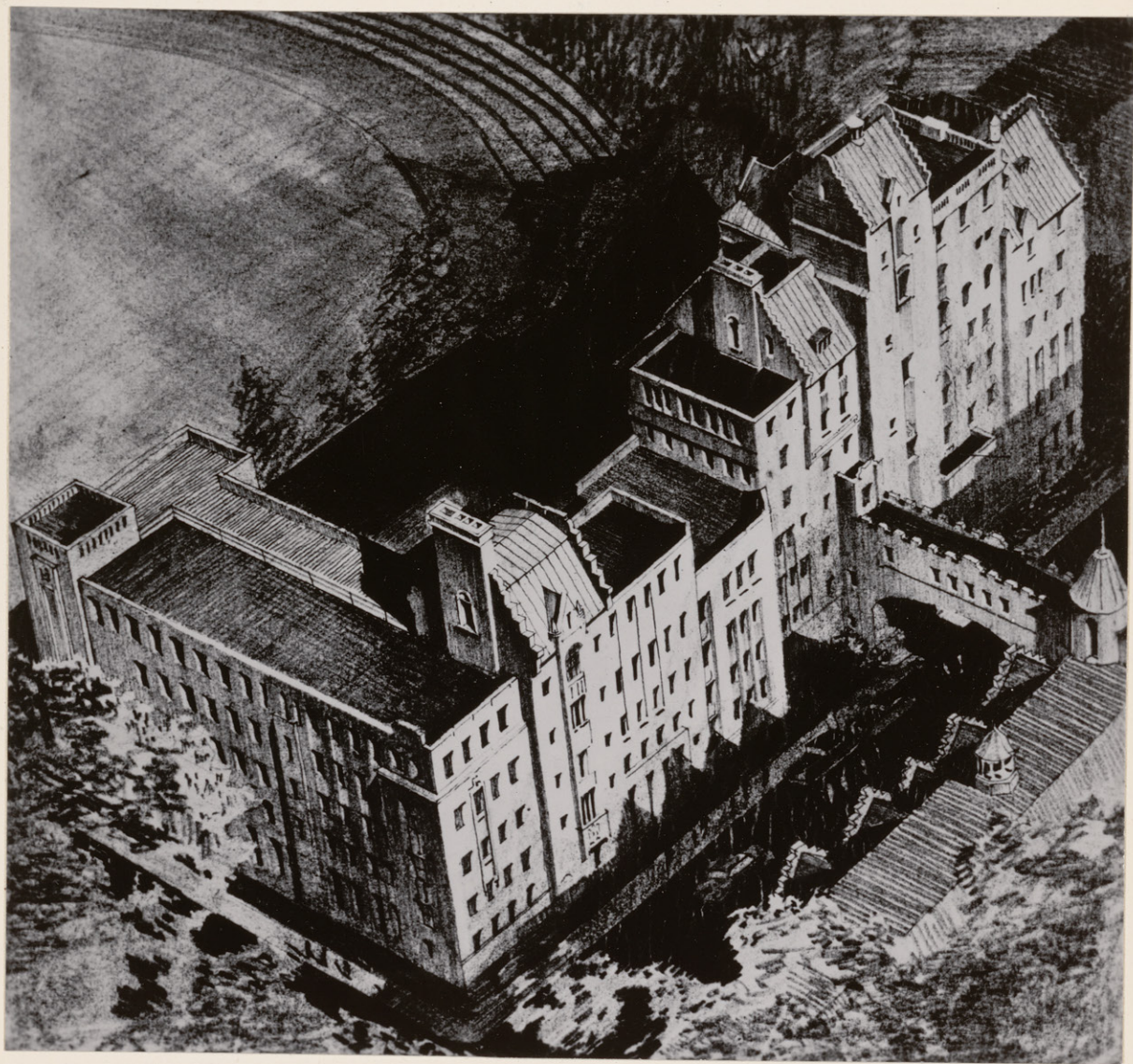


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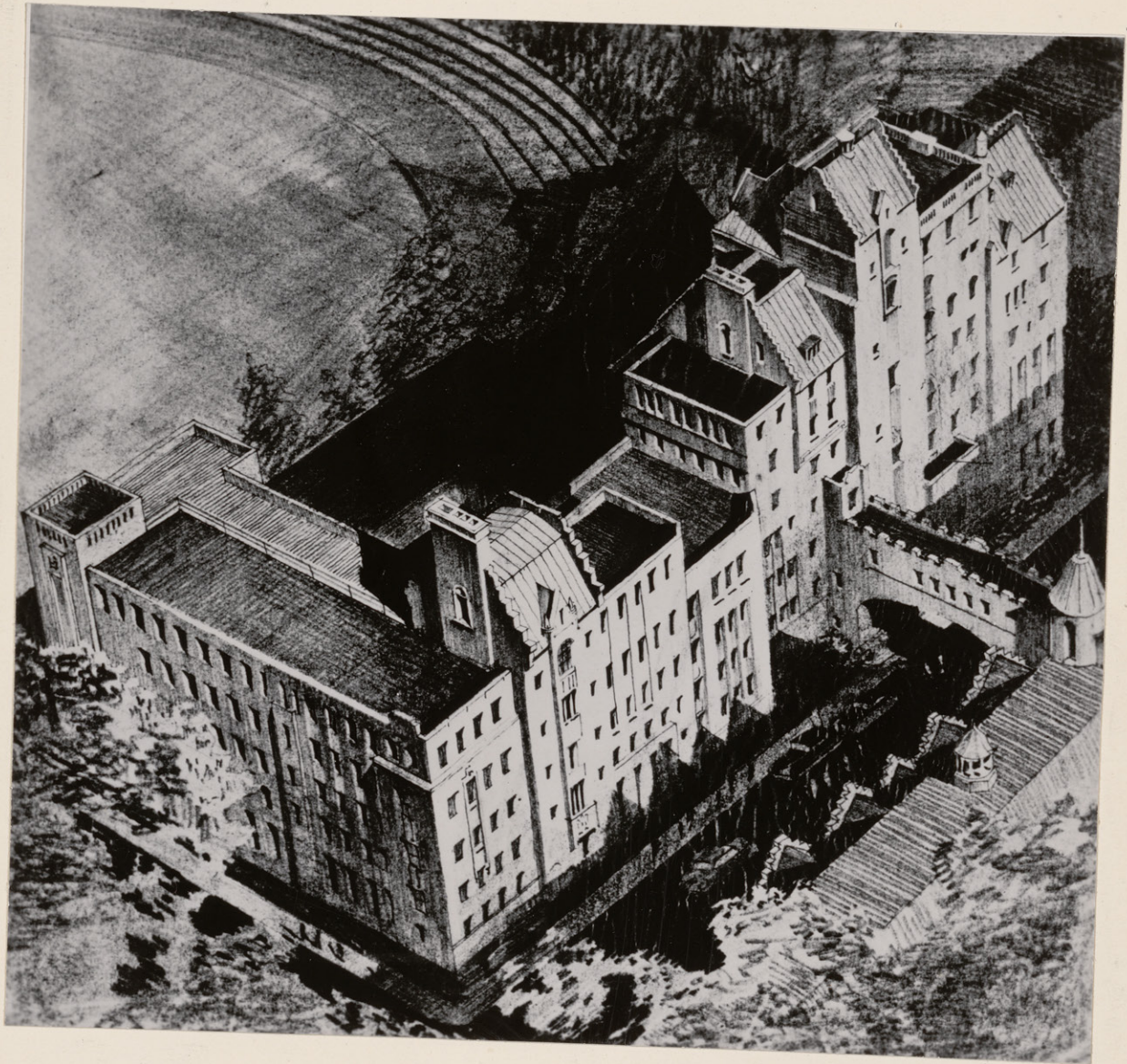


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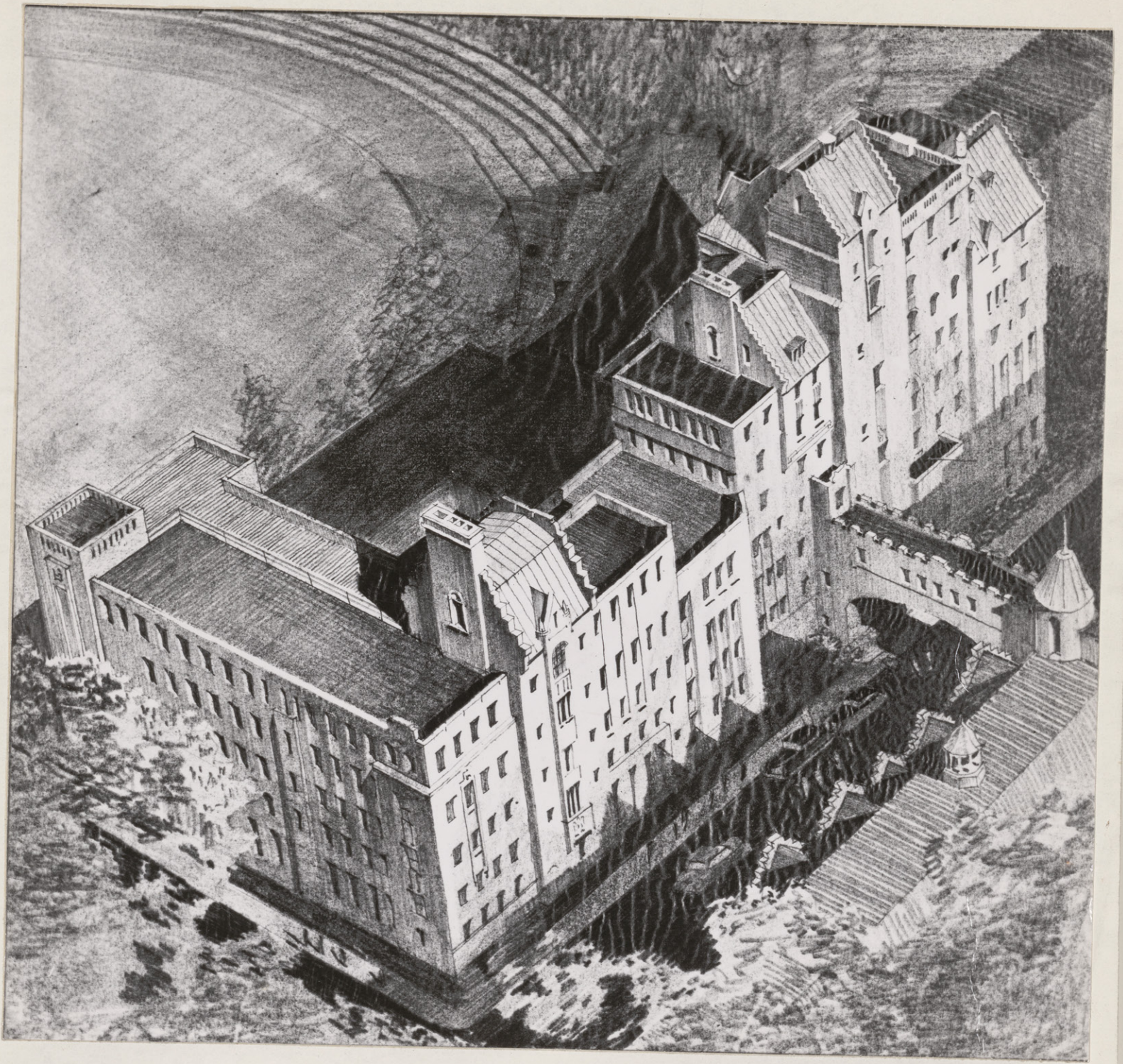




Architect's drawing of the Montreal Neurological Institute with the proposed new wing in the foreground, replacing the wooden annex.



Architect's drawing of the Montreal Neurological Institute with the proposed new wing in the foreground, replacing the wooden annex.



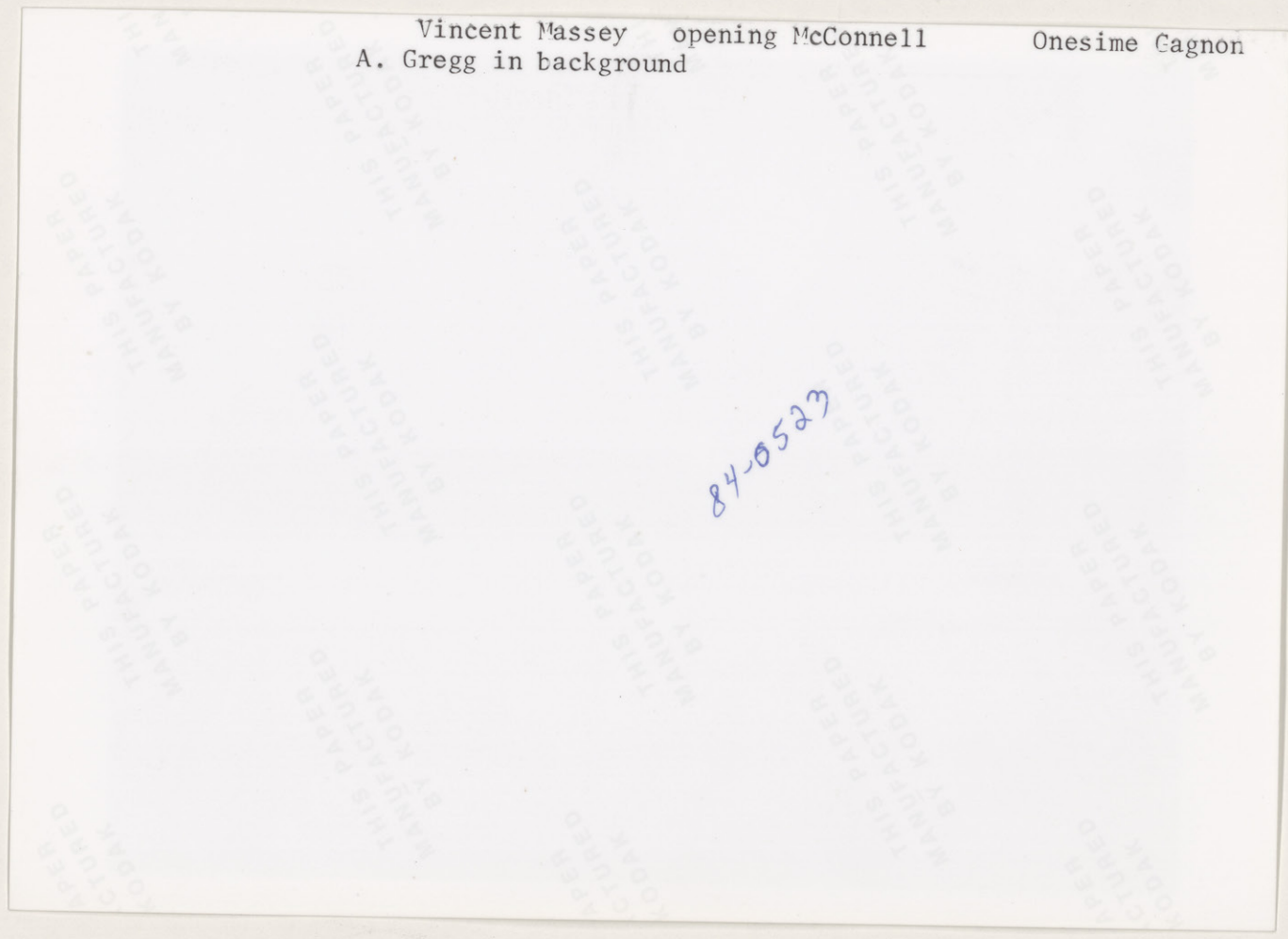
Architects drawing of the Montreal Neurological Institute with the proposed new wing in the foreground, replacing the *wooden* annex.



Vincent Massey opening McConnell  
A. Gregg in background

Onesime Cagnon

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AND ITS APPRECIATION OF THE GENEROUS SUPPORT  
FROM THE  
PROVINCE OF QUEBEC AND CITY OF MONTREAL  
TOWARDS THE COST OF CARE OF THE SICK

THIS PLAQUE WAS UNVEILED ON THE OCCASION OF THE SECOND FOUNDATION OF THIS INSTITUTE  
BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE VINCENT MASSEY, GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA  
NOVEMBER 20, 1953

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WAS ESTABLISHED  
AS A PERMANENT ENDOWMENT OF BASIC SCIENCE  
IN THE  
MONTREAL NEUROLOGICAL INSTITUTE  
THROUGH THE FARSEEING GENEROSITY OF  
MR. AND MRS. J. W. McCONNELL

"MERCY AND TRUTH  
ARE MET TOGETHER"

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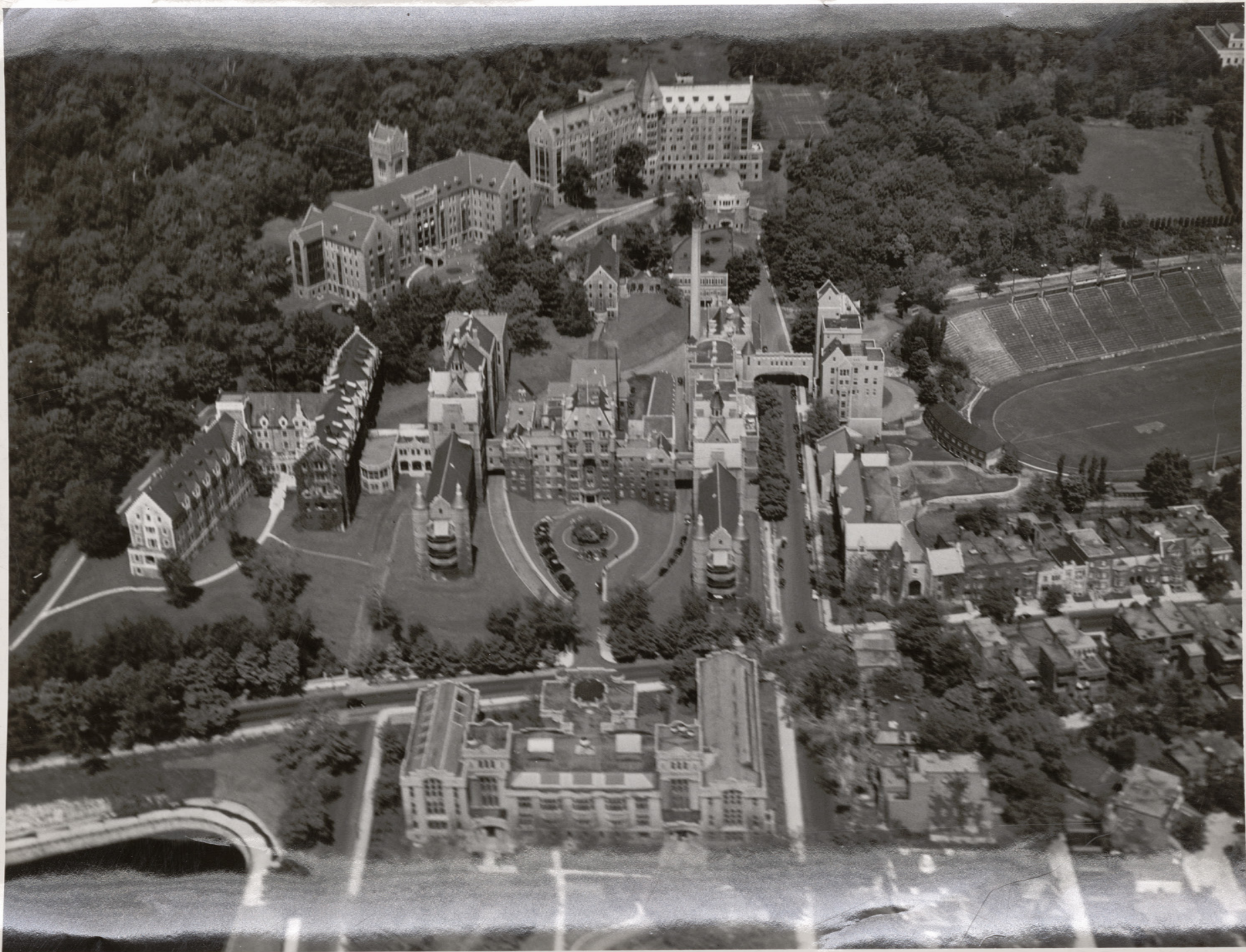
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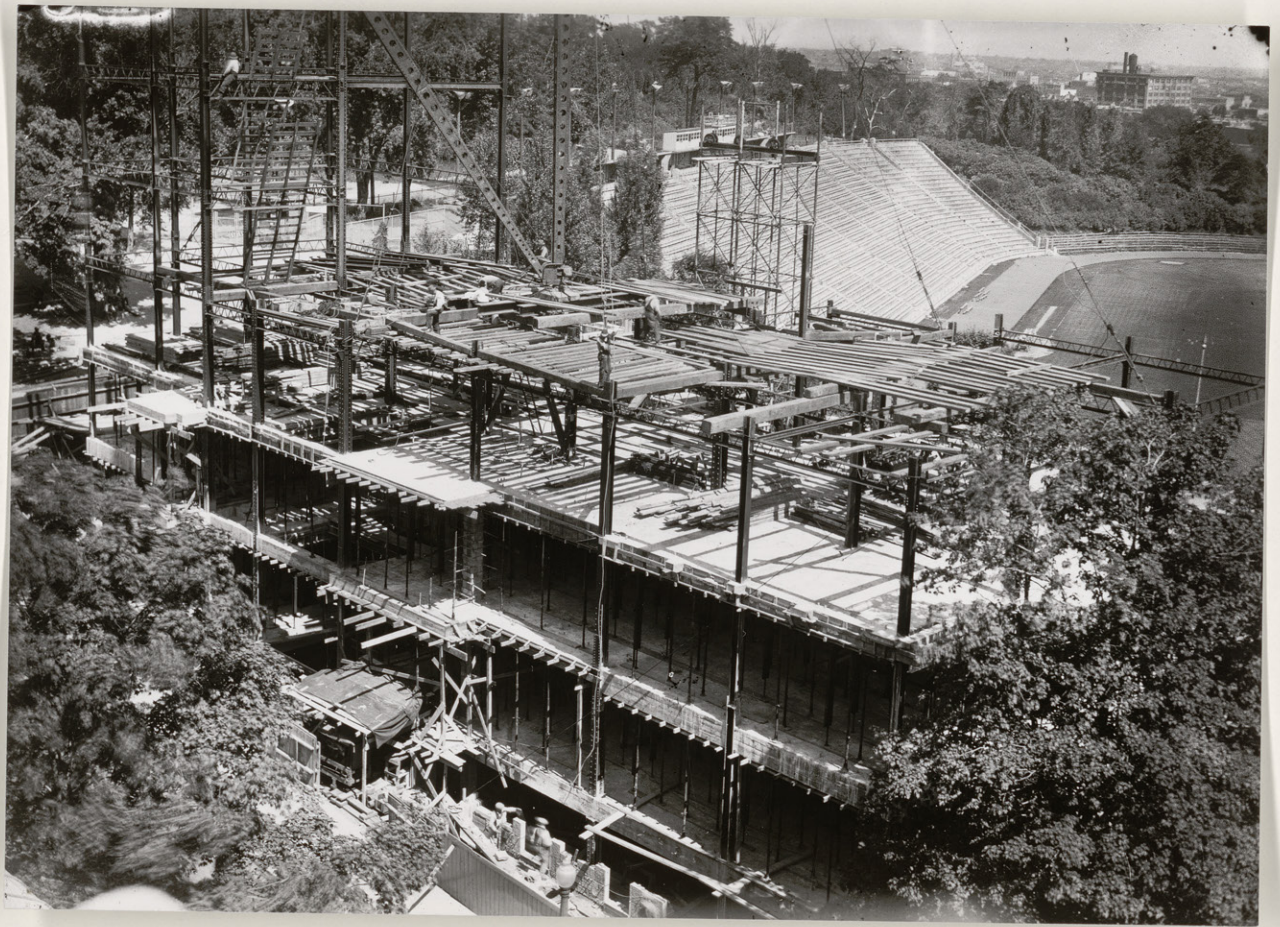
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Vincent Massey

McConnell opening

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Ward in McConnell PA 128561

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McConnell ward 1953 PAC 128561

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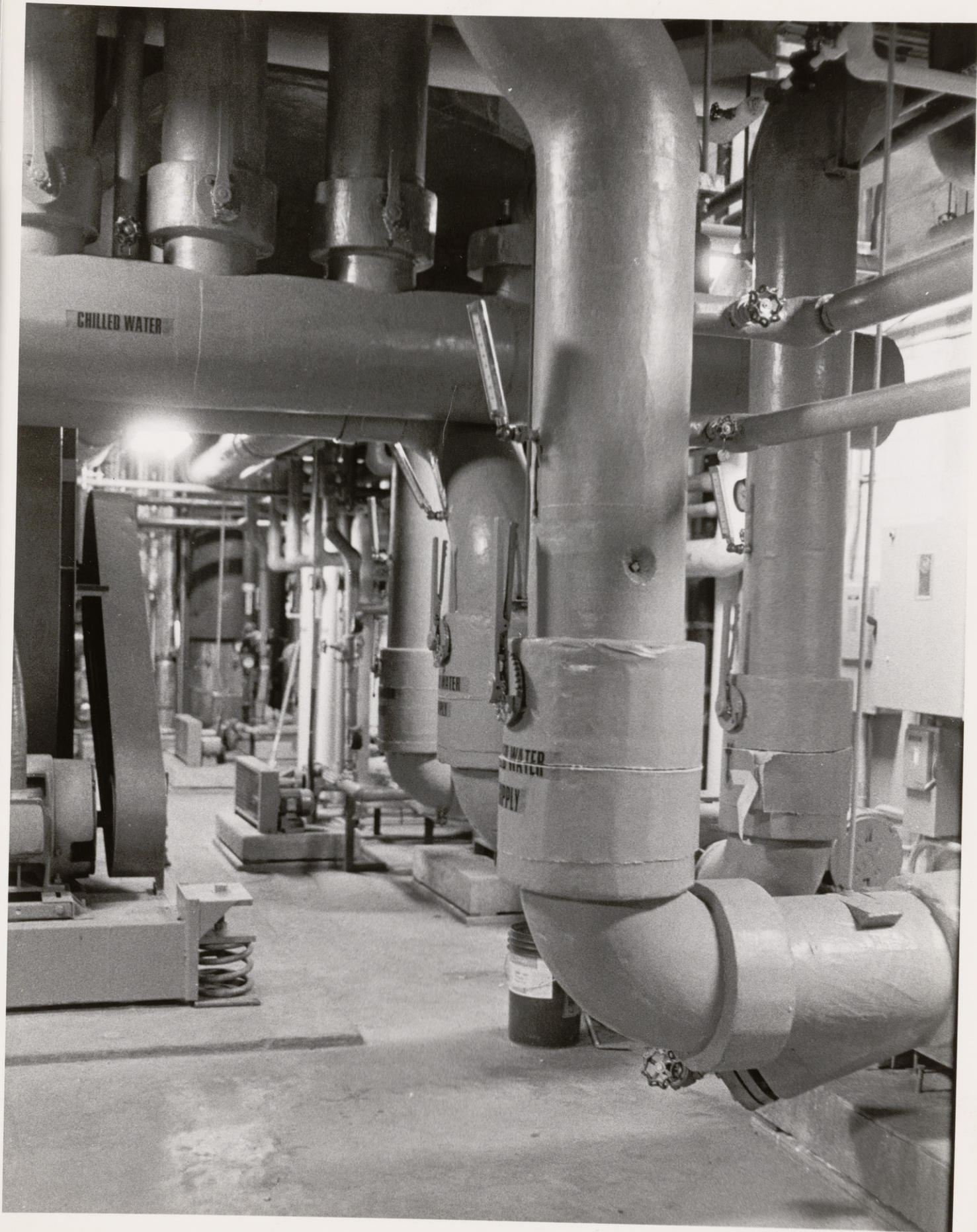
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## ON AND OFF THE RECORD

• **VERDUN RACE:** *There's been surprisingly little interest in Verdun's municipal election in that city itself, but that situation is expected to change momentarily, as the campaign swings into its last week. Dr. A. D. Archambault's frequent meetings have been poorly attended, and there has been some heckling, at one to the point where he couldn't finish his prepared speech. Incumbent Edward Wilson plans only one rally, but wants to be re-elected very much. He stands largely on his record in past administrations. Rated by many as a dark horse, Gerard Tetrault is operating a shrewd and persistent campaign. How they'll finish a week from today is anybody's guess.*



• **MIDTOWN HEARTACHE:**

If they should ask me why you went away . . .  
I wonder what excuses I could find—  
A trip perhaps—a two week holiday . . .  
If I should tell them that, would you mind?  
If they should ask me how you are and where . . .  
I'll say you're fine and soon you will return—  
You're resting in the bracing country air . . .  
And picking up a really super burn.  
If they should tell me I'm a lucky guy . . .  
To have a gal as sweet and kind as you—  
I'll bluff my hand and tell a little lie . . .  
And hint that maybe you are lonely too.

So even though you've left me for another . . .  
I think I'll say you're staying with your Mother!  
A.C.



• **MONDAY'S MORNING:** *An Angus Shops mechanic's helper stumbled upon a sizeable sum in cleaning a coach not long ago. A dispute over the split kicked up such a fuss it came to the attention of company police, and nobody got anything but demerit marks . . . The Russian Government is subscribing to just about every Canadian periodical, probably for study for vital information. A Philadelphia agency places the subscriptions, and advises where they come from, which has resulted in some refusals . . . Tenders are expected to be called early next month for construction of the McConnell Wing of the Montreal Neurological Institute . . . Passing of Edmond Chasse, veteran Le Canada legislature correspondent, removes one of the last of his generation from the active newspaper scene, and one of its most prolific practitioners. . . . Barry West asks us to deny the rumor he'll fold his budding Verdun Post to throw in with the Verdun Messenger . . . McGill University couldn't stump the experts on the popular Twenty Questions show Saturday p. m. . . . Work due to start any day on the new Julius Richardson Convalescent Hospital at Cote St. Luc and Bessborough avenue . . . Clare Lovett, the Pacific Coast badminton star, owns a beautiful resort high in the Rockies known as the Alpine Inn.*



Mar. 15/51

## MR. MCCONNELL'S GENEROUS GIFT

When the Rockefeller Foundation decided to establish a neurological institute in Montreal some 18 years ago, it did so in the belief that the institute would earn local approval and gain local support.

From the very first, the Montreal Neurological Institute found a generous and enthusiastic supporter in Mr. J. W. McConnell. In his donations to the new institute, Mr. McConnell was only following the pattern of generous support to Montreal's hospitals and to McGill University which had already characterized his career for many years.

As time has passed, the very success of the Montreal Neurological Institute under Dr. Wilder Penfield's direction has increased its needs. This hospital on the slope of Mount Royal has become a centre of hope for thousands, who might otherwise have been without hope. To it have been brought sufferers from all parts of the world—by ship and by air and by train and by ambulance.

The demands for the hospital's services have become so many and so urgent that no amount of resourceful crowding within its walls could suffice. In order that the institute may now have the space it needs, Mr. McConnell yesterday presented to McGill University a sum sufficient to carry out the construction and reorganization of a large new wing.

When Mr. McConnell first promised this sum, Dr. Penfield felt that he could not in justice remain silent as to his identity. He gave his thanks openly to Mr. McConnell, and expressed his hope that "the work carried on in the McConnell Wing will be worthy of a great citizen."

For work such as Dr. Penfield has done in Montreal there can be only one reward—the provision of the means for a still wider healing. And by his most generous giving Mr. McConnell has, in a very real sense, made himself a fellow-worker with Dr. Penfield in a work of scientific and enterprising mercy.

Nov. 15/51

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SUN RISES AT 6.09 A.M.; SUN SETS 5.58 P.M., E.S.T.

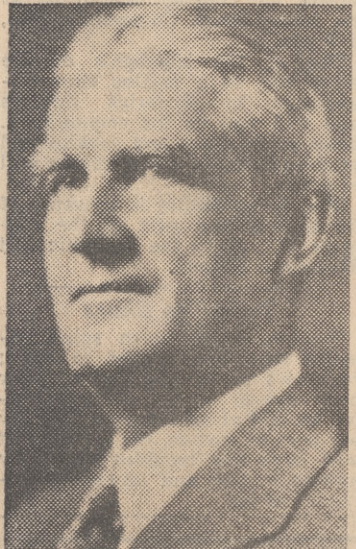
# The Gazette

## Wing for Neurological Institute Assured by J. W. McConnell Grant

A sum sufficient to carry out the reorganization and construction of the new north wing of the Montreal Neurological Institute has been presented to McGill University by J. W. McConnell, president, Montreal Star Co., Ltd., it was announced last night by Dr. F. Cyril James, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University. Building is scheduled to start this summer.

Dr. James said plans also call for an extension at the southern end of the institute's building, with the cost of the over-all project estimated at \$1,750,000. Grants from the Dominion and Provincial Governments totalling about \$750,000 for new beds and equipment, and many small contributions ranging from \$2 to many tens of thousands of dollars have all helped in making the present plans possible, Dr. James said.

Mr. McConnell, who is a senior member of the university's board of governors, contributed towards



J. W. McCONNELL

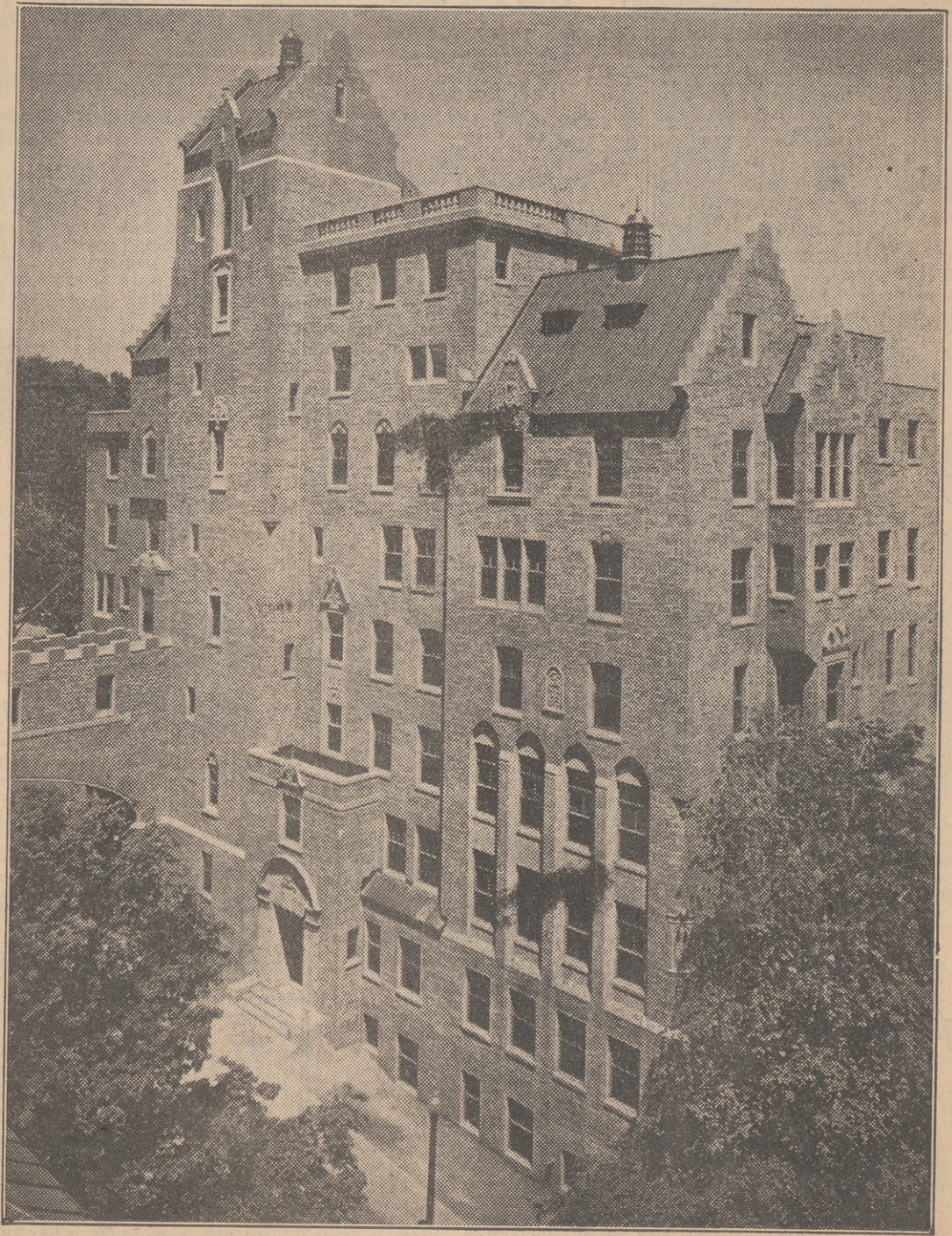
scientific facilities unexcelled in any part of the world."

When the present institute building was opened September 27, 1934, it contained 47 beds for patients, Dr. James said, but the demand for its services rapidly outran the facilities available. Additional beds were crowded in, and in 1944 the Dominion Government built a temporary annex containing 27 beds, to aid in the care of armed forces patients. Dr. James said this annex must now be replaced.

"On many occasions there have been more than 100 patients in the present buildings," he declared. "As a matter of fact, there are 108 today."

When the reconstruction has been finished, the institute will be one of the "finest hospital buildings in North America", according to Dr. James.

Besides the new beds for patients, it will contain additional operating theatres and more modern facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of disease, while the facilities for study and research will also be improved.



**NEUROLOGICAL INSTITUTE TO BE ENLARGED:** Construction of a new north wing as well as extension of the southern end of the building will be started at the Montreal Neurological Institute this summer, it was announced yesterday by Dr. F. Cyril James, principal of McGill University. The project was made possible by a contribution

from J. W. McConnell, president of Montreal Star Co. Ltd. Plans are being prepared by the architectural firm of Fetherstonhaugh and Durnford. Here the building is shown shortly before it was officially opened in 1934. The new wing will be built at the left, the southern extension at the right.

the cost of the institute's present building when it was constructed in 1933-34.

One-half the cost of the project was covered by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation of New York, and the rest was subscribed by a group including Sir Herbert Holt, Walter Stewart and Mr. McConnell. The Rockefeller Foundation at that time also provided \$1,900,000 as a permanent endowment for the scientific work of the institute under the direction of Dr. Wilder Penfield.

The Quebec Government has undertaken to contribute \$90,000 a year towards the operating cost of the enlarged hospital facilities, Dr. James said. The City of Montreal has increased its annual grant from \$15,000 to \$40,000.

### Principal Voices Gratitude

"To Mr. Duplessis and to Mr. McConnell," he said, "McGill University owes a debt of gratitude which cannot easily be expressed in words. As a result of their generous interest, it will now be possible for McGill University to carry out the project developed by Dr. Penfield and his colleagues for the provision of hospital and