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### Thackray Medical Museum

The Thackray Medical Museum project is unique in that one of its established partnerships is with a major NHS Trust Hospital.

The Museum, an independent registered charity, searched long and hard for a building and eventually secured a long term lease on the Ashley Wing of St James's University Hospital, Leeds. Originally built as the Leeds Union Workhouse in 1861 it did not fit into the hospital's long-term plans to improve patient care, particularly with the additional costs of refurbishment imposed by its Grade 2 Listed status.

However, it was ideal for the £3.7 m museum project, being in its original condition and offering good access and adequate car parking. The Museum also saw the benefit of being adjacent to one of the best known hospitals in the country, 'Jimmy's'.

The new Museum, which expects to attract over 100 000 visitors a year, will open in mid 1996 and displays will illustrate the ways in which changes in medicine and health care provision have affected the lives of people throughout history, but focusing upon the last 150 years. However, history is only relevant if it can be related to the present day and used as a reference for future activity. Therefore the Museum will show how present day health care is delivered and how it may develop in the future. It will also consider the ethical and financial issues that will gain even greater importance as more technological advances are applied.

Facilities within the museum will include a 120 seat conference facility, shop, restaurant, conservation workshops and St James's postgraduate medical education centre.

The Museum collection now totals over 16 000 artefacts, the library has 5000 books and the largest collection of medical trade literature in the world. It is constantly searching for artefacts and archive material, of significant historical importance, to help illustrate the ways in which medical care has been, and is, delivered.

At present the museum has a temporary display, within the St James's site, open to the public 10.00 to 16.00 weekdays. Should you be able to help to expand the collection or wish to arrange a group visit please contact Mike Cooper on Leeds (0113) 244 4343.