

After examining the efficiency and economics of the existing catering arrangements it was decided that a more efficient service at lower cost could be achieved if all the catering services were located in one large well equipped building. Official approval was obtained for the erection of such a building and the Architects Department (Harwell) of the Southern Works Organisation commenced work on its design.

Though primarily a canteen, the building was to be used for certain social functions. This influenced the design of the building and also the choice of the site, since access would be required from both sides of the security fence.

The site chosen was on the Southern perimeter immediately to the East of the Main Library. This is reasonably central for those working within the security area and has direct access from the main bus park on the South side.

Miss McVean, the Group Catering Officer, co-operated closely with the architects and engineers in the design of the kitchens and the service arrangements. Kitchen equipment installed is the most up-to-date available.

Accommodation consists of 800 seats in the Main Cafeteria, 260 seats in the Waitress Service Dining Room and 80 seats in the Senior Staff Dining Room. In all, 1140 meals can be served at one sitting. There are four service points in the Main Cafeteria, a feature which should provide speedy service and eliminate the lengthy queues which are a feature of the present arrangements. Access to the Waitress Service and Senior Staff Dining Rooms is gained without crossing the approach to the Main Cafeteria.

To obtain large, uninterrupted floor areas the building was designed round a steel frame

having maximum spans. The decor is simple but effective and many new materials have been used. Acoustic tiles have been used on the ceilings of all the principle rooms. Low pressure hot water circulated through skirting heaters, and a semi plenum air conditioning system ensure adequate heating, ventilation and clean air conditions.

Projecting from the north facade of the building is a comfortably furnished coffee lounge which may be regarded by many as a novel feature of this attractive building. Coffee and tea will also be served in the Main Cafeteria.

Building and decoration work are now almost completed. There remains, however, the removal and transfer of certain items of equipment and furniture from canteens at present in use. This change-over will be effected during the week-end Sept. 7th - 8th and the new building will be brought into use on Monday 9th September.

Unlike the old main canteen, which was an

HARWELL'S NEW CANTEEN

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