



Student accommodation is a prominent feature of the current university building programme. On the main campus two additional halls of residence, capable of housing 600 students are going up while for medical students the first two blocks of a new hostel were opened in July last year.

Situated near the Kenyatta National Hospital, the hostel is within walking distance of the new Medical School.

Each block of the new hostel has 70 single bedrooms, and when the other two are completed — probably in September — 280 medical students will be accommodated there. Most first-year students, however, will continue to live in the student residential areas on Protectorate and State House Roads.

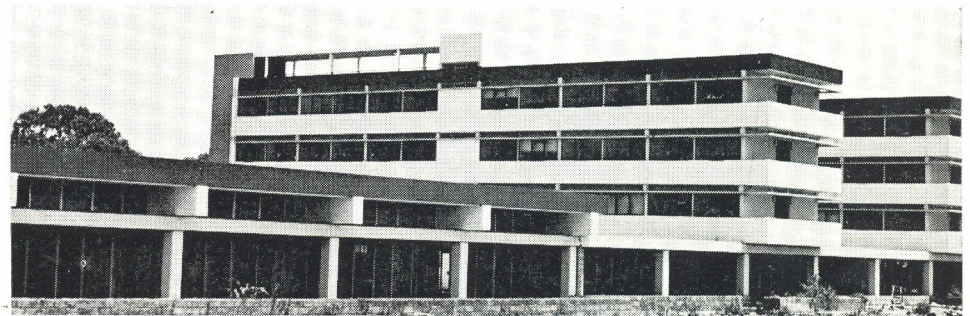
## NEW HOSTEL FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS



report by  
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There is no lack of cheerful faces among the staff in the modern hostel kitchen (above), nor in the spacious dining room where the students take their meals. On the left of the kitchen line-up is Mrs. Grace Ndungu, the hostel cateress. Right: the two completed blocks of the hostel. Another two blocks are expected to be finished this year.







In the hostel dining room.

At the moment 110 medical students are housed at the hostel. Unlike the situation on the main campus where students share rooms — at times two, three or even four in a room — students at the medical hostel are all in single rooms, and rooms that are big enough only for one occupant. There would seem to be no possibility, even in an accommodation crisis, of any adjustments to these rooms into double occupancy, as happened in the case of Halls 1, 2, 3 and 4 on the men's campus.

At the hostel the medical students enjoy ample recreational facilities. They have a TV set and in their dining room, which they use occasionally for dances, they have a large stereo-radiogram. For them also there is 10 o'clock tea, which students on the main campus miss. Medical students on Ngong Road have little cause for complaint.

I asked one student, Peter Njagi, what he felt about the place. "Not bad," he replied, "just a bit lonely for us. Many feel isolated from the mainstream of the student body. Life is very busy most of

the time here, and we miss the bustle of social interaction on the main campus."

Another student complained about the fixed wooden beds. "Not very comfortable," was his opinion. My feeling, however, is that medical students should take this in good part — as a medical feedback. I have seen doctors on occasion prescribe hard beds for patients who complained of backache.

Miss Mary Wanjau, the hostel matron, told me that initial problems resulting from the students moving into the hostel before all work had been completed, were now being ironed out. She observed politely that her duties would be easier if the hostel had a telephone. At present she has to walk about 200 yards to a building contractor's office each time she wants to make a phone call, and calls include placing orders for foodstuffs or light bulbs.

She gets on well with the students, she assured me, because "I always solicit the opinion of their representatives before I introduce any major innovations".