

A New Biology Building

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WHAT, ANOTHER BIOLOGY BUILDING? They've just had one!

It isn't exactly *another* Biology building we are talking about. It is rather the completion of *the* Biology Unit—the fulfillment of a plan made almost 30 years ago.

In the area just outside the Kerckhoff Library of Biology there is a drawing made in 1931 by Architects Mayers, Murray and Phillip. It represents the plan for the "Biology Unit" as then visualized by George Ellery Hale, Arthur Amos Noyes, Robert Andrews Millikan, William G. Kerckhoff and Thomas Hunt Morgan. Professor Morgan had just got the new Biology Division well under way. It was Mr. Kerckhoff's hope—shared by all—that the building fund he and his wife had established would go a long way toward making the total plan a reality. But for the unforeseen rise in building costs, it would have.

Standing in Professor Tyson's driveway at 505 South Wilson Avenue, you will see that, with the addition of the Norman W. Church Laboratory for Chemical Biology, a large part of the 1931 plan has now been transformed into living laboratories. But one important section is missing. That is the wing connecting Kerckhoff and Church. The drawing reproduced here, which was prepared by the Physical Plant Department of the Institute, shows Kerckhoff and Church as they are today, and the proposed connecting wing pretty much as originally planned.

It is natural to wonder why more research space is needed in Biology so soon after the completion of Church. Here is the answer:

Animal virologists who now occupy Church were

formerly housed in part in borrowed space at the Medical Research Institute of the Huntington Memorial Hospital. Kerckhoff rooms formerly used by bacterial virologists are being remodeled for Professor Robert Sinsheimer of Iowa State College, who joins the permanent faculty of the Institute in July. The rooms emptied in Kerckhoff by the moving of division offices to Church serve to relieve overcrowding of research workers in biochemistry and genetics. With the sale of the division's experimental farm, including a laboratory building, to the Temple City School District, plant genetics will have to have some space in Church or Kerckhoff. The entire east end of Church has served well to relieve former intolerable crowding in Chemistry. The second floor, west end, provides a home for a long homeless Department of Mathematics.

As a result, unless plans are made now for more space in the next couple of years, Institute biologists cannot hope to follow their share of the new and promising leads in such areas as psychobiology, animal physiology, embryology, immunology, biophysics, biochemistry, genetics, plant physiology, and virology. In many of these areas larger and more elaborate machines are constantly being needed. A new analytical ultracentrifuge has just arrived. Another will soon be needed in Chemistry. There may soon be need for another and more modern electron microscope. New methods of using radioactive tracers mean more counting equipment. All of these, and the people who use them, need space. To use these facilities intelligently requires thought—and thinkers need places in which to practice their art.

The Kerckhoff-Church connection is only one of sev-

eral needed Institute buildings, among the most important of which are additional Student Houses and a Central Library. The final section of the Biology Unit will tie together, at four levels, two laboratories now physically separated except for an inconvenient connection through the experimental animal quarters. In addition to providing for additional and superior facilities for work in important areas of Biology, it will make possible centralized stockroom facilities where equipment, glassware, chemicals and other necessary supplies can be received directly at loading-dock level. And it will add significantly to the architectural attractiveness of the campus. The present parking lot on the roof of the animal annex will become an appropriately landscaped tiled terrace—a part of the main entrance to the entire unit.

This year, for the first time, the United States Public Health Service was authorized by Congress to make construction grants for needed research laboratories committed to the study of problems related to human health. The Divisions of Biology and Chemistry of the Institute applied for such a grant—a part to be used to complete the installation of chemical benches, utilities, and other fixed equipment in the Chemistry section of Church Laboratory, and a part to construct the connecting wing.

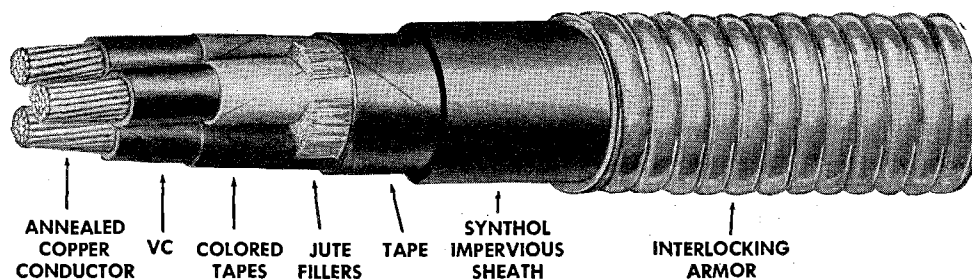
On recommendation of a special Public Health Service study group that visited the Institute, the entire grant of \$477,000 was made.

Such grants are made on a 50-50 matching basis. Funds for the completion of Church—\$86,000—have been matched and work is now under way. The remainder—\$391,000—is available for construction of the connecting wing if an equal amount is obtained from separate sources. In fact, somewhat more than an equal amount is needed because Public Health Service grants are restricted to research facilities, and one floor of the new wing will be devoted to a stockroom, classrooms and offices.

In addition to this Public Health Service construction grant, which will provide for fixed equipment but not for movable equipment, a second five-year grant of \$289,000 has been made to the Institute by the same agency for movable equipment, supplies and other expenses incurred in the course of research in experimental biology. A substantial portion of the equipment purchased on this grant will finally be housed in the new wing.

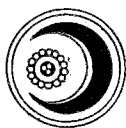
With such an encouraging beginning, hopes run high that the Biology Unit envisaged so many years ago will soon be complete.

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