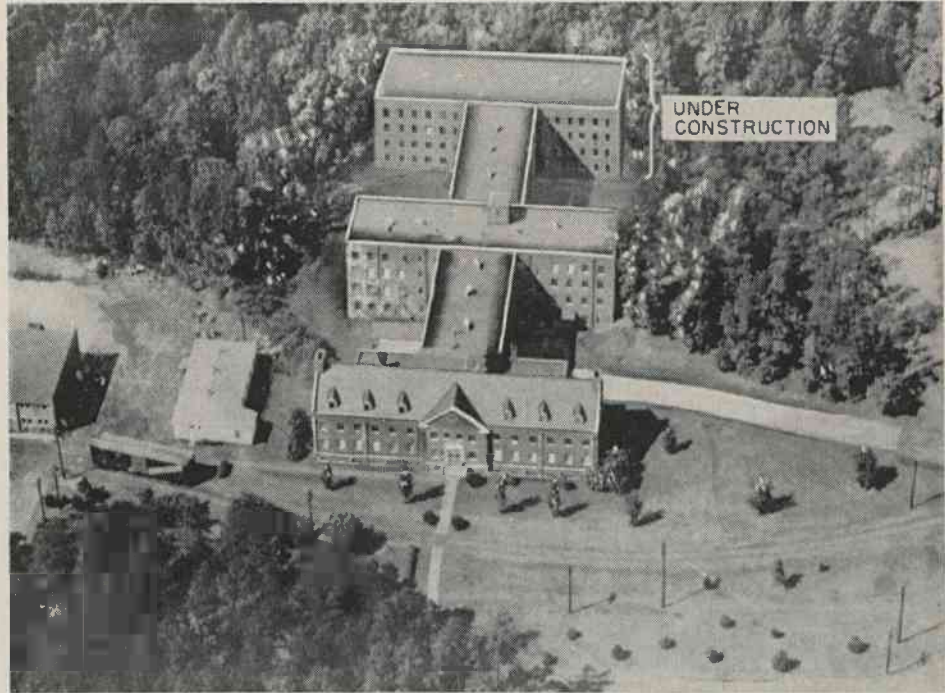


## Research Building Has Lusty Childhood

The William Brown Bell Research Building will reach its teens next year. Ready for occupancy in 1947, the building was not dedicated and named until after the death of Mr. Bell in 1950. William Brown Bell, President of the American Cyanamid Company, was a trustee of the Duke Endowment and of Duke University. The research building was named for him, not because he sponsored the building, but in recognition of his longtime interest in medical research. His early interest in research at Duke Medical School was demonstrated when he supported renovation and expansion of the animal quarters sufficient to quadruple immediately access to animals vitally needed for research. In its twelve years of life the Bell Building has exhibited all the healthy vigor and restless growth of an energetic child.

Thoughts of a special area to be devoted entirely to research developed in 1945 when it became apparent that all space for research in the hospital and medical school was then saturated. The first possibility to be considered was additional space attached to the hospital building. A long considered idea of a building separate from the hospital was unpopular—the objection raised was that no one would be willing to move out of the hospital and medical school. This objection was finally overcome in March 1945 when Dr. Joseph W. Beard, Experimental Surgery, and Dr. Hans Neurath, Biochemistry, agreed to move if a building were built. Problems of financing in 1945—with the fighting



William Brown Bell Research Building

in World War II still going on—were acute. The original stake in the Research Building was \$10,000, which the Rockefeller Foundation had allocated for a small animal house. When the building opened in June 1947, it was a complete unit containing laboratories and animal quarters; in addition to the Rockefeller Foundation grant it had been financed by funds from the Duke Endowment, the Departments of Medicine and Surgery, and the Dorothy Beard Research Fund; and its total cost was \$190,000. One addition after another, financed by Duke University, by gifts from the staff of Duke Medical Center, by grants from the U. S. Public Health Service and the Markle Foundation, has been made to the original rectangular structure. First a wing was added to form a T; then another to form an H; then an extension of the

cross-bar on the H; and now under construction another segment parallel to the original building. From the first \$10,000 allocated for the animal house, has grown a structure which—with equipment—is worth two million dollars or more. With basement and three floors it contains about 100,000 square feet of space (Duke Hospital has 841,214 square feet of building); in it some 160 persons spend all or part of their time on a variety of research projects; and in 1958 close to a million dollars from many sources supported the research housed there.

The basic concept of the Bell Building is that it shall provide research space for any medical school department that wants it. Allocation of space in the building is not related to the financial contribution to construction or equipment made by a par-

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