By THEODORE J. BAUER, M.D.

NEW headquarters for the Public Health Service Communicable Disease Center has been authorized by Congress, and construction is expected to begin as soon as financing and construction bids are approved. Site of the new facilities is a 14-acre plot donated by Emory University and located adjacent to its campus in suburban Atlanta, Ga. The headquarters will consist of six separate buildings grouped together and interconnected.

The Communicable Disease Center is a division of the Bureau of State Services. CDC attacks the problem of communicable diseases by conducting investigations and demonstrations, providing training, offering consultation, and giving epidemic and disaster aid to State and local health departments. The center came into being in 1946 when its predecessor, the Office of Malaria Control in War Areas (MCWA), was terminated following the close of World War II.

MCWA began its malaria control activities on March 17, 1942, from headquarters in Atlanta. During its first year, projects were under way, employing more than 2,600 men in 93 areas in 15 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. These projects benefited 450 war establishments, including military, industrial, housing, and recreational installations, and afforded protection to several million persons connected with the war effort. In early 1946, MCWA launched an extended program, with a budget of $12 million and a staff of 4,500 persons.

Housing for MCWA activities was temporary and scattered. Office space was at a premium in the early days of the war. As the organization grew, so did its demand for additional space. Temporary and makeshift facilities did not pose an insurmountable problem for a wartime organization concerned primarily with field operations. However, with the transition to CDC's broad communicable disease control program, the need for space to house laboratory, training, and other pertinent activities became acute. The number of technical and laboratory personnel had increased steadily, while the number of unskilled and skilled laborers and other nontechnical personnel had declined sharply.

The new headquarters will provide the facili-

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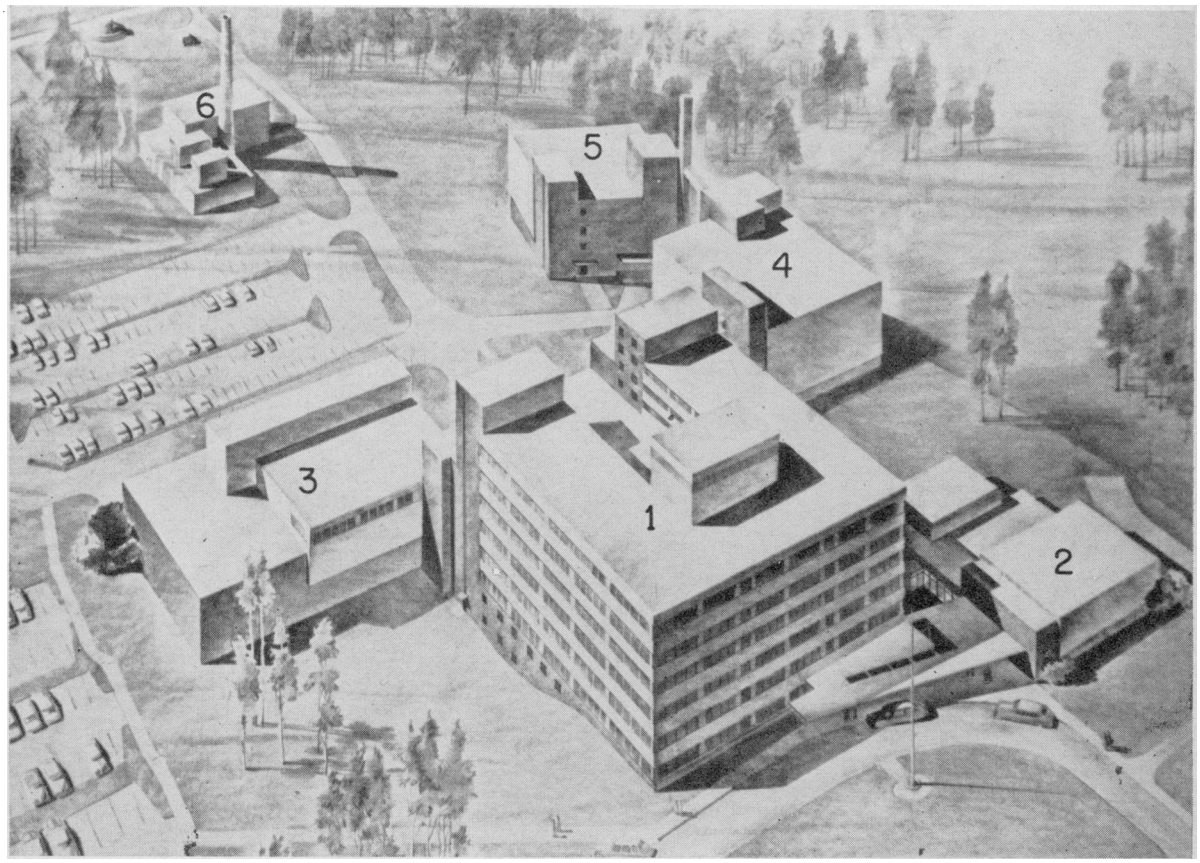
ties needed. In the main building, ① in the sketch, with a net area of 105,014 square feet, a broad peripheral area devoted to office space will rise 8 stories high, while the central portion which it bounds will be 4 stories high. The outer area will provide space for training facilities and for personnel who perform administrative and other services essential to support of the operating branches; the central area is to house research and training laboratories. The training facilities will consist primarily of lecture rooms and demonstration laboratories to be located back to back with a projection booth between. Lounge-reading rooms in this area will be readily accessible for use by all lecture and laboratory groups.

The auditorium and cafeteria, ②, will be in a 2-floor building designed to provide facilities convenient for both employees and visitors to the center. The auditorium will be adequate for large classes and conferences, and the cafeteria will offer accommodations for the regular staff, as well as for trainees and guests. In addition, there will be a lobby, a kitchen, and a service area. The net area for this structure is to be 7,482 feet.

The audiovisual services buildings, ③, will be a 4-floor structure designed to accommodate the specialized equipment and operational processes used in the production and distribution of motion pictures, filmstrips, exhibits, and other visual or audio materials. This building will house a sound stage for indoor production; a soundproof recording room, and a photomicrographic studio protected against vibration; facilities for film processing, printing, and editing; a film distribution center; and a training area with adequate flexibility to meet the increasing demand for training in the production and utilization of films. Total area of the audiovisual services building is to be 25,407 square feet.

It was imperative to plan for space apart from the main building where studies requiring the handling of highly infectious materials could be pursued. Two buildings, ④ and ⑤,



were designed to meet this need: the virus building and the infectious disease building. Each is planned to provide maximum safety for workers within the building and to minimize the potential hazard to others at CDC.

The infectious disease building, to contain 5 floors, will be situated apart from the main building but connected to it by open corridors at each floor level. It is designed to house laboratories for studies on infectious diseases other than viral and to provide quarters for experimental animals required in this work. Here, also, special studies on potential agents of biological warfare will be conducted. A net total of 14,836 square feet of space is provided for laboratories, 7,255 square feet for animal quarters, and 5,246 square feet for central services.

The virus building will be a 5-floor structure also, and is designed to house the bulk of the Virus and Rickettsia Section laboratory activities including reference diagnostic work, training, consultation, and methodology research. It provides a net total of 27,937 square feet of space for these activities.

The power house, ⑥, will be located apart from the other five buildings. It will house a gas-fueled central heating system and equipment to provide hot water, distilled water, compressed air, and refrigeration. Its 2 floors will contain a gross area of 10,580 square feet. Storage will be provided for a supply of oil to be used in case of temporary failure of the gas supply and for electrical generators as a source of power in case of failure in the regular supply.

All of the buildings will be air conditioned, and adequate parking space on the grounds will be provided for employees and visitors.

Utilization of space in the buildings has been planned to meet the need for versatility posed by varied activities associated with communicable disease control. Animal space and much of the office space can be converted for use as laboratories if necessary. The buildings can be expanded without disruption of activities. This includes vertical extension of the central laboratory portion in the main building and the addition of an office wing.

The construction of these buildings will allow the CDC, for the first time, to assemble its headquarters activities at one location. Now they are located in some 65 buildings in Atlanta and Chamblee, Ga., and at Montgomery, Ala. Many of these buildings are temporary structures, unsuitable for laboratory work, and expensive to maintain.

Air Pollution Control Act

An Air Pollution Control Act, approved by the President July 14, 1955, provides for a 5-year $25 million Federal aid program in this field.

The law also authorizes an annual appropriation of $5 million to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare for administering the law and for grants-in-aid to State and local government air pollution control agencies and to other public and private agencies and individuals for research, training, and demonstration projects.

The provisions encompass the development of methods for eliminating or reducing air pollution, surveys of specific air pollution problems upon request of State or local air pollution control agencies and recommendations for their solution, and collection and dissemination of information useful in combating or preventing air pollution.