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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GROWTH OF THE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH OF THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
Whose Work is Dedicated to the Studies and Investigations of
Diseases of Man and Matters Pertaining to the Public Health

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In August, 1887, Dr. J. J. Kinyoun, then an Assistant Surgeon in the Marine Hospital Service, established a small diagnostic laboratory in the Marine Hospital in New York City and in October of that year made an investigation of the prevalence of cholera on the S.S. AEGLEA. So far as the records show, this is the first piece of scientific work of an investigational character performed by the now National Institute of Health.

In 1891 this little laboratory was moved to Washington, D. C., and given quarters on the top floor of the Butler Building, at the corner of Third and B Streets, S.E., a site now occupied by the House Office Building Annex. The laboratory was variously referred to as "the Bureau Laboratory", "the bacteriological laboratory", "the Laboratory of hygiene", and "the Hygienic Laboratory", the latter term being first used in the annual report of the Supervising Surgeon General of the Marine Hospital Service for 1889.

With the growth of medical research, the importance of the Hygienic Laboratory reached a point where it was recognized by Congress, and through an Act of Congress dated March 3, 1901, \$35,000 was appropriated for the erection of necessary buildings to house the workers engaged in the investigations of infectious and contagious diseases and matters pertaining to the public health, and authorized the Secretary of the Navy to transfer to the Secretary of the Treasury, five acres of ground, then used by the Naval Museum of Hygiene at

25th and E Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C., on which to erect the buildings. A brick building was erected on this site with the funds provided and on March 16, 1904, the building was occupied.

By 1907 the work of the Hygienic Laboratory had grown to such an extent that additional quarters were necessary and accordingly the Congress on March 4, 1907, appropriated \$75,000 for additional buildings. Plans were immediately started for the enlargement of the first building and on February 1, 1909, the enlarged building was occupied.

The Congress again on June 29, 1913, appropriated \$25,000 for additional buildings for research work and the housing of animals used in connection therewith. These funds were used to construct a brick building which was used for the housing of animals.

By 1918 the Hygienic Laboratory scientific workers were in need of additional space and Congress on October 30, 1918, authorized the Secretary of the Treasury to contract for the construction of an additional building for laboratory purposes and research work, and for enlarging and remodeling the then present animal house. In accordance with this authorization plans were drawn and a contract made for an additional building and on July 19, 1919 the Congress appropriated \$250,000 to cover the cost. This new building then known as the South building was turned over to the Hygienic Laboratory on December 27, 1919.

The activities of the Hygienic Laboratory continued to increase in scope and size and on May 26, 1930, the Congress again appropriated \$750,000 for the erection of two more buildings and at the same time changed the name of the Hygienic Laboratory to that of the National Institute of Health.

The Act of May 26, 1930 was known as the Randall Act, inasmuch as it was fathered by former Senator Joseph E. Randall of Louisiana, and also provided that the Institute should create a system of fellowships and authorized the United States Government to accept donations to be used by the Institute for ascertaining the cause, prevention and cure of diseases affecting human beings and for other purposes. Since that time numerous donations have been received from foundations and individuals.

On June 25, 1934, the Congress, seeing the need for additional quarters for the raising of animals, used in experimental studies, appropriated \$100,000 for the erection of an animal building to be constructed at Beltsville, Maryland. However before this building was started the United States Government, visualizing the need for future expansion of housing for the many activities of the Institute, on September 7, 1935, secured as a donation from Mr. and Mrs. Luke I. Wilson a tract of land containing approximately forty-five acres and situated on the Eastville Pike at Bethesda, Maryland.

After receipt of this 45-acre plot, the Congress again on June 22, 1936, appropriated \$1,363,000 which together with the \$100,000 appropriated on June 25, 1934, but not used, provided sufficient funds for the erection of the first three buildings of this group.

Construction of the first three buildings containing 92,000 feet of net working space was started on January 11, 1936, and occupancy was had in December, 1938.

In July of 1936 an allotment of \$1,137,000 was secured for erection of two additional buildings in which to house the Infectious Disease Division, Division of Chemistry, Division of Biologies, Division of Zoology, Division of Pharmacology, and Division of Pathology, all of which at that time were still

housed at 25th and E Streets, N.W., in Washington. At the same time an additional allotment was secured of \$350,000 with which to erect fourteen sets of quarters for use of scientific personnel working at the National Institute of Health, Bethesda, Maryland.

The two buildings mentioned above, containing approximately 31,000 net feet of working space each, were occupied in the spring of 1946.

In March of 1942, \$205,000 was secured and a temporary animal house containing approximately 23,000 feet of space erected. This animal house was badly needed, as previous to this time space was not available for the breeding of stock animals, and the purchase of animals from outside sources was not entirely satisfactory.

During the first half of 1945, \$260,000 was secured from the Public Buildings Administration for construction of a building known as Temporary Building 8. This building when planned was to be used as temporary headquarters for departmental personnel but was designed with a view to complete it as a laboratory building, it being similar to the Cancer Institute Building. The part to be used for departmental personnel was completed in April 1946, at which time it was occupied by clerical personnel and is still occupied by that same personnel as of this date, January 15, 1947.

In July 1943 an appropriation of \$1,300,000 was secured and construction started of a special type of building for dangerous research work. This building known as the Virus and Infectious Disease Building is, as of this writing January 15, 1947, just being completed and it is expected that occupancy will be had very soon. This building is totally sealed and of course air conditioned and has a considerable number of special features built into the building in order that all workers be safe-guarded against laboratory infection in so far as possible.

In addition to the above sums of money appropriated directly by Congress or allotted by the Public Buildings Administration for specific construction purposes it is estimated that small independent research buildings constructed by station forces, such as buildings needed for special exploration studies, for housing experimental aviation work, for housing special types of animals, and numerous other items, amount to approximately \$150,000.