

## THE JOHN INNES INSTITUTE

THE fiftieth anniversary of the John Innes Horticultural Institution was celebrated on July 8. The occasion served not only to recall the past achievements of the Institution, but also to announce some major new developments. These included a change in the title of the Institution, an extension of the scope of its activities and the opening of a new laboratory building.

Cell Biology and the construction of a large building to house it represent a new departure. The Cell Biology Laboratory (Fig. 1), shown in the photograph, was erected by the Trustees of the John Innes Charity and is being supported by the Agricultural Research Council. When fully equipped and staffed, the new building will provide excellent research facilities for some twenty-five scientists.

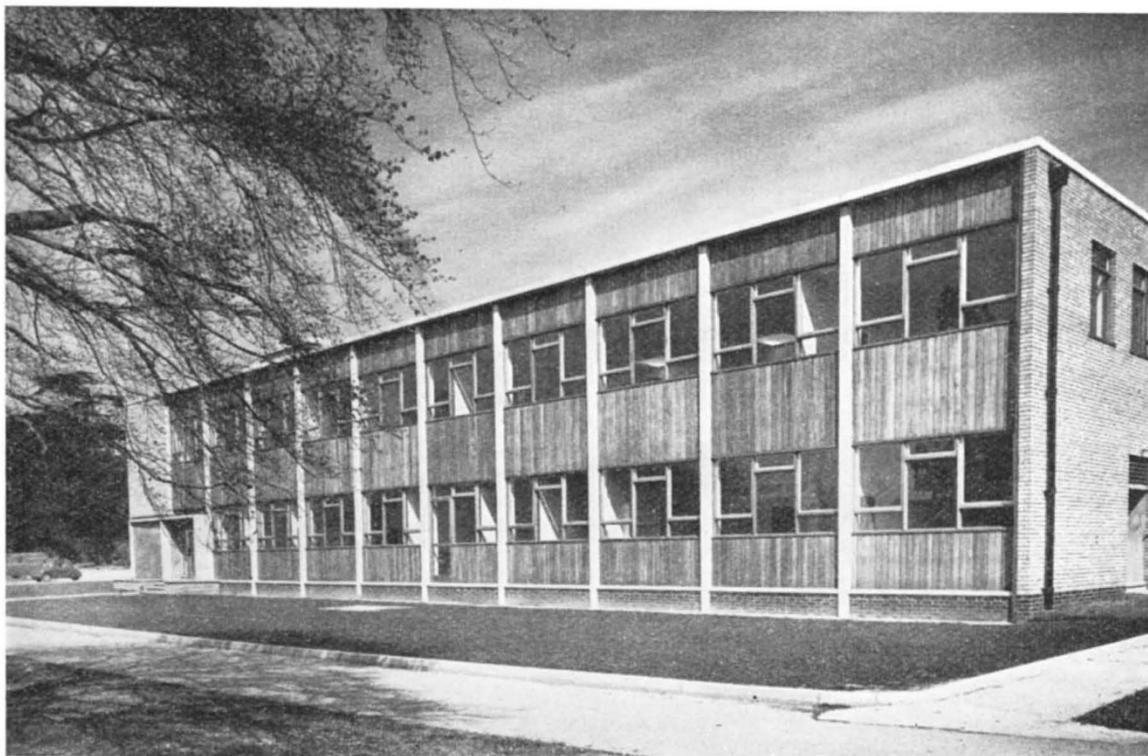


Fig. 1. The Cell Biology Laboratory, John Innes Institute

The John Innes Horticultural Institution was founded under the will of John Innes, of Merton, and began its life in that London suburb in 1910. William Bateson was the first director, and it was he who chose genetics and cytology as subjects for investigation; work which reached its climax just before the Second World War, when C. D. Darlington had published "Recent Advances in Cytology" (1932) and "The Evolution of Genetic Systems" (1939). Some of the other books published by members of the staff during this pre-war period were: "Recent Advances in Plant Genetics" (1932) by F. W. Sansome and J. Philp, "The Genetics of Garden Plants" (1934) by M. B. Crane and W. J. C. Lawrence, and "Practical Plant Breeding" (1937) by W. J. C. Lawrence. With the resumption of full-scale research activities after the War, there came K. Mather's work on quantitative variation and his book "Biometrical Genetics" (1949).

While the tradition in genetical studies is being maintained with the recent appointment of Dr. J. R. S. Fincham to take charge of the Department of Genetics, the establishment of a Department of

The Department of Cell Biology has no categorical commitment, and its members will be free to pursue their own research interests within the very wide framework implied by the term 'cell biology'. One of the features of the Department is the fact that facilities are available for work on both animal and plant material, and a new animal house is being built to meet the demands imposed by the work on animal cells. It is hoped that this fusion of disciplines and the wide variety of techniques which it involves will provide unique opportunities for the intimate exchange of ideas and experimental skills. The new Department thus represents the fulfilment of hopes originally expressed by Bateson himself, who made it a condition of his appointment as the first director that he should be allowed to carry out studies on animals as well as plants. Dr. Henry Harris, of the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology, Oxford, has been appointed head of the new laboratory.

The original name of the Institution was felt to be too restrictive to embrace the activities which are being undertaken, and the title has now been changed to the 'John Innes Institute'. K. S. DODDS