would know no boundaries of state or area, but would benefit agriculture throughout the country."

Work in the initial stages of the program will be concentrated on the following farm commodities and their by-products: In the southern laboratory, cotton, sweet potatoes and peanuts; in the eastern laboratory, tobacco, apples, Irish potatoes, milk products and vegetables; in the northern laboratory, corn, wheat and agricultural waste products; in the western laboratory, fruits (other than apples) and vegetables, Irish potatoes, wheat and alfalfa.

Secretary Wallace is planning for a conference within the next two months in each of the areas to consult with research institutions and representatives of producers and of industries.

SYLVATIC PLAGUE LABORATORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

THE University of California proposes to establish in connection with the Medical School in San Francisco a sylvatic plague laboratory to control sylvatic plague, which is now wide-spread in the rodent population of the western states. The plague, according to observations and studies thus far made, appears, however, to lack the virulence of other contagions, such as bubonic plague, that have appeared in the West in the past.

The establishment of the laboratory has been made possible by a gift of $24,000 from the Rosenberg Foundation of San Francisco. Of this amount $14,000 is to be used for the construction of a building and the balance for research and personnel. It is expected that the building will be ready by October 1. It will include a two-story section 12 feet wide by 36 feet long, and a one-story section 10 feet wide by 18½ feet long. The laboratory will be staffed and administered by the Hooper Foundation. The work of the laboratory will be concentrated on the rodent fleas, the principal carriers. Both the state and the university have been active in the campaign against sylvatic plague for some years past. All interested agencies have formed a Sylvatic Plague Committee, which has devoted itself to the collection of evidence of this plague everywhere on the American Continent and is taking measures to combat it. Anti-plague serum is being kept constantly on hand at the Hooper Foundation.

Four non-fatal human cases of the plague have been bacteriologically proved thus far, and there is said to be strong evidence that a fifth case was infected with the plague bacillus. The plague has taken a considerable toll among the rodent populations of the state, the infected fleas being found on squirrels, chipmunks, chickarees and other forms. The Hooper Foundation has counted thirteen rodents and rodent varieties that suffer from spontaneous plague, the list including squirrels, marmots, chipmunks, prairie dogs, mice and rats.

It is generally believed that the West Coast became infected in the course of the pandemic of 1894, which originated in Hongkong. It is assumed that rats conveyed the seed to the shores of California and spread it to the squirrels. It has now reached Montana and appears to be working eastward.

THE SQUIBB INSTITUTION FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

E. R. SQUIBB AND SONS have announced the establishment of the Squibb Institution for Medical Research, for which a laboratory building in New Brunswick, N. J., has been erected at a cost of $750,000. It is planned to dedicate the laboratory in October. It is stated in the official announcement that research activity, already underway, has been organized in four main divisions—experimental medicine, pharmacology, bacteriology and virus diseases, and organic chemistry. In addition, the institute will conduct a biochemical laboratory and a medicinal chemistry laboratory.

To provide clinical facilities for the research staff, a plan of hospital affiliation is being worked out by the Division of Experimental Medicine. A free ward of fifteen or twenty beds will be maintained for the observation of patients in connection with various problems being studied at the institute.

Dr. Geo. A. Harrop, since last year director of research at New Brunswick, who was previously associate professor of medicine at the Johns Hopkins University and associate physician of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, has been appointed director of research in charge of the institute. Dr. Harrop will also be at the head of the Division of Experimental Medicine.

Other appointments are:

Dr. Harry B. van Dyke, professor and head of the department of pharmacology of the Peiping Union Medical College in China, has been made head of the Division of Pharmacology. He was formerly associate professor of pharmacology at the University of Chicago.

Dr. Geoffrey W. Rake, chief of the Division of Bacteriology, formerly research associate in the Connaught Laboratories of the University of Toronto, has been placed at the head of the Division of Bacteriology and Virus Diseases. Dr. Rake was previously an associate in the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.

The head of the Division of Organic Chemistry will be Dr. Erhard Fernholz, formerly of the University of Göttingen and Princeton University, and more recently with the research laboratory of Merck and Company.

Dr. Hans Jensen will be associate in charge of the biochemical laboratory. He was formerly associate in pharmacology at the Johns Hopkins University, where he cooperated with the late Professor John Jacob Abel, since 1932 in the laboratory for endocrine research.

William A. Lott, now of the research laboratory of E.