

**Industry**

# New Ag Chemicals Lab for Hercules

Modern design and contamination-free feature emphasized

**H**ERCULES POWDER CO. last week served formal notice that it intends to continue to play an important part in the agricultural chemicals business. Concrete evidence of this intention was the official opening of a new agricultural chemicals laboratory where new compounds already are being tested and can be evaluated at the rate of more than 100 a month in more than 300 different formulations.

The entire laboratory building is air-conditioned. Air temperature and humidity conditions can be controlled within narrow limits to assure uniformity of growth of test organisms and uniform conditions of testing. Major fields of activity are (1) the screening of chemicals for insecticidal activity; (2) fungicidal activity; and (3) all plant regulatory effects.

The laboratory, planned with special care, is laid out to give special attention to avoiding contamination. It is on the same grounds with the Hercules experiment station, but located some distance away to avoid any contamination of tests by fumes or other materials from the station. The interior of the laboratory is arranged so that only compounds designated for a test get into the specified laboratory—no contact of insecti-

cides or fungicides with the herbicide tests and vice versa.

A group of chemists at the main experiment station under A. D. Lohr synthesize new compounds which then are sent to the agricultural chemicals laboratory, staffed by entomologists, plant pathologists and physiologists, agronomists, and horticulturists under E. N. Woodbury. Formulations are made up in a special laboratory room and sent to the testing laboratories for application to fungi, insects, or plants grown in the various rearing and growing rooms included in the new unit. Special spray equipment has been designed and built by Hercules for some of the tests.

Growth and efficiency are observed in the fungicide room, tropical room, or greenhouse, depending on desired conditions. The greenhouse is designed to prevent contamination of one type of material by another during movement of specimens as well as growth periods.

In addition to the main laboratory building and greenhouses, field test plots are laid out nearby where the new insecticides, fungicides, and plant regulatory chemicals can be evaluated under conditions approximating commercial usage.

Richard Yates, in charge of sales and



New agricultural chemicals laboratory of Hercules Powder at Wilmington, Del., was shown to the press recently

research activities of the agricultural chemicals group, said the new installation will enable a great increase in the amount of screening by Hercules and broaden scope of company's activities.

**People**

**Bear to Retire as Rutgers Soils Department Head**

**Firman E. Bear**, professor of agricultural chemistry and chairman of the soils department at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, Rutgers University, will retire June 30.



He plans to continue as editor-in-chief of *Soil Science* and will maintain an office on the Rutgers campus. After his retirement, Dr. Bear plans to visit South America. Since he took over the soils depart-

E. N. Woodbury, supervisor of research at the new Hercules' farm chemicals laboratory, checks progress of work on herbicide formulations in the greenhouse. Right: Hugh C. Palmer, plant pathologist, sprays tomato plants in the new Hercules

lab. Plants are placed on turntables in the hood while being sprayed. After spray is dried, plants will be sprayed with a plant fungus and placed in constant temperature cabinets to allow fungus to develop

