**COVER LEGEND**

This month the Journal features the Kettering-Meyer Laboratory of Southern Research Institute in Birmingham, Alabama. The Laboratory is a prominent site for investigations on neoplastic diseases. It maintains a clinical association with the National Cancer Institute, the Sloan-Kettering Memorial Cancer Center, the M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute, and the Roswell Park Memorial Institute.

Southern Research Institute was formally organized in 1941 to promote the advancement of industry and agriculture and the effective utilization of natural resources. Research operations were begun in 1945 in a postbellum mansion converted into laboratory and office space. The original programs included a variety of industrial, chemical, and engineering projects, and programs in these areas have continued to be an important part of the Institute's activity. In 1946 Mr. Ben May, a Mobile business man and philanthropist, offered a significant contribution, with the condition that the original perspectives related to technological progress be widened to include medical research. A program in cancer research was immediately inaugurated by Dr. Howard E. Skipper (b. 1915), a noted contributor to the field of chemotherapy. Support for the subsequent expansion of this area was received from the National Cancer Institute, the American Cancer Society, the Charles F. Kettering Foundation, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, and other sources.

Major assistance for the construction of a physical plant for cancer research at Southern Research Institute was obtained from the Daniel Foundation, the Charles A. Frueauff Foundation, the Charles F. Kettering Foundation, the Robert R. Meyer Foundation, and the National Institutes of Health. The biological sciences research groups of the Institute were collectively designated the *Kettering-Meyer Laboratory* in recognition of two major benefactors to the initial building program. Four interconnected laboratories were erected between 1953 and 1965, and a fifth unit, the Frueauff Laboratory for Research in Pharmacology and Toxicology, was constructed in 1969 on ground adjacent to the central Institute complex.

Dr. William M. Murray, Jr., has been President of the Institute since 1948. Dr. Skipper is Vice President and Director of the Kettering-Meyer Laboratory. He supervises three research departments with a staff of 250, about one-half of the total personnel employed at the Institute. These departments include: *biochemistry research* (under Dr. L. L. Bennett, Jr.), research on tumor metabolism and the biochemical mechanisms of anticancer agents; *chemotherapy research* (under Dr. Frank M. Schabel, Jr.), studies focused particularly on the experimental biology of the tumors with reference to such applications as pharmacodynamic action and drug resistance utilizing various systems; *preclinical pharmacological studies* on larger animals, which are carried out under the direction of Department Associate Director, Dr. Leon H. Schmidt; *organic chemistry research* (under Dr. John A. Montgomery), where more than 100 compounds effective against cancer have been developed. These compounds include nitrosourea derivatives (e.g., BCNU and CCNU) and the imidazole triazenes (e.g., DIC). A broad spectrum of alkylating agents and antimitabolites have been produced in addition to medicinals for diseases other than cancer.

The cover shows (bottom) a portion of Southern Research Institute, including most of the cancer laboratories. The Frueauff Pharmacology Laboratory is not shown; the unit at the right contains administrative and business offices. At left is the original mansion, built about 1890, which housed the first laboratories of Southern Research Institute and was demolished in 1956. The emblem of the Institute also appears on the cover. Dr. Skipper is shown in a 1964 photograph.

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