

## LUNG-RESEARCH LABORATORY FOR MCGILL

A new laboratory complex for research into respiratory diseases, made possible by a donation of \$300,000 from the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers' Council, was opened at McGill University, Montreal, on August 31. The Meakins-Christie Laboratory for Respiratory Research will provide a unique facility for the conduct of disciplinary research in the field of lung disease. The CTMC donated an equivalent sum to the University of Montreal for the same kind of research.

### MEAKINS-CHRISTIE CONTRIBUTION

McGill has long been recognized as an international leader in respiratory research. In 1924, when Dr. Jonathan Meakins was appointed Physician-in-Chief of the Royal Victoria Hospital, he introduced the then-novel notion that the study of physiology and bio-chemistry should not be limited to basic science departments but should be conducted by hospital physician-scientists, who could readily apply basic advances to the clinical situation at the bedside. Dr. Meakins' special interest was the lung, and he established what was probably the first lung-function laboratory based in a hospital in North America. He was joined in 1929 by Dr. Ronald V. Christie, with whom he made significant advances in the field of lung mechanics and in the study of emphysema, which were published in a series of still-widely-quoted papers.

In 1955, Dr. Christie, who had been Professor of Medicine at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, returned as Professor and Chairman of the Department of Medicine at McGill and Physician-in-Chief of the Royal Victoria Hospital. One of the first appointments he made was that of Dr. David Bates, now Dean of Medicine at the University of British Columbia, as Director of the Respiratory Division.

Under his direction, the Respiratory Division rapidly gained a world-wide reputation as a leader in interdisciplinary research.

It is in recognition of the extensive contributions to the Royal Victoria Hospital and McGill University made by Doctors Meakins and Christie that the new research facility is named the Meakins-Christie Laboratory for Respiratory Research. Both Meakins and Christie were Deans of McGill's Faculty of Medicine — the former from 1941 to 1947 and the latter from 1964 to 1967.

### EXTENT OF FACILITIES

The new laboratory, which will provide approximately 10,000 square feet of space, will consist of complete facilities for human and animal physiological research, radioisotope laboratories, exposure chamber, lung morphology and an operating theatre. Disciplines that will conduct collaborative research in the laboratory include medicine, physiology, pathology, epidemiology, pediatrics, engineering, biochemistry and radiology. These sciences have frequently collaborated in the past, as Dr. Bates recognized that interdisciplinary research was the key to major developments of new knowledge in the field of pulmonary physiology and lung disease. The new facility will formalize and extend this approach and enable the investigators to increase their scope considerably.

The significance of the contribution made by the Tobacco Manufacturer's Council is the provision of a unique research facility to maintain and extend the operations of an internationally-renowned group of Canadian scientists. These investigators will now have the opportunity to mount an extensive program in the understanding, control and treatment of lung disease.

### DONATION TO UNDP

*At a brief ceremony in New York last month, Canada's new Ambassador to the United Nations, Saul Rae (left), presented to the Deputy Administrator of the United National Development Program (UNDP), Myer Cohen, a cheque for \$12 million, the final payment of the Government's \$18-million pledge to the UNDP, the central agency for co-ordinating and financing social and economic development programs in developing countries. In a \$4-billion program the UNDP aims at helping low-income countries acquire the capital, manpower skills, up-to-date technology and institutions necessary to promote fuller use of human and natural resources.*

