In 1946, the Division of Medical Research was established to administer the Council's grants in this important field. This division grew out of the excellent work done by the Associate Committee on Medical Research during the war.

In 1947, the Division of Building Research was formed to study problems of construction and to act as the research wing of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Radio research, which grew from a small group in 1939 to a large branch, was associated with electrical engineering laboratories and, in 1947, the Radio and Electrical Engineering Division was established.

In 1948, the Prairie Regional Laboratory -- largely an outgrowth of the work of the Division of Applied Biology -- was set up on the campus of the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. The Atlantic Regional Laboratory, opened in 1952, is on the campus of Dalhousie University in Halifax.

The largest wartime undertaking was the Atomic Energy Project. It began in 1942 as a secret laboratory in a wing of the University of Montreal and was transferred to the new site at Chalk River by 1946. In the years following, as a result of the sale and distribution of isotopes for use in industry and medicine, the Project began to assume the role of an industrial enterprise. In 1952, a new Crown company was formed, called Atomic Energy of Canada Limited.

In 1952, the Division of Chemistry was divided into the Division of Pure Chemistry and the Division of Applied Chemistry; and similarly, in 1955, the Division of Physics was divided into the Division of Pure Physics and the Division of Applied Physics.

At the present time, Canadian industries have grown to the point where many of them have established research laboratories and the amount of research done by industry for itself is fast becoming as great here as it is in older industrial countries. In a very short time, at the present rate of increase, the expenditure of industry on research should equal that of the Federal Government.

Much of the work done in the NRC laboratories is of a type that would be too expensive to be undertaken by any one university or indeed handled by any one industry. A good example of this is the development of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, which, for the first ten years of its existence, was sponsored by the National Research Council before it was set up as a separate Crown company. The use of atomic energy is only now beginning to be applied by industry. A good deal of work is also devoted to problems of national interest, in which the co-operation of industries, federal and provincial agencies and other bodies must be sought.

Although the greater proportion of the work in the laboratories is of an applied nature, it is vital to a research organization that a considerable amount of purely fundamental work should be undertaken. This is done, in all divisions, but particularly in the fields of physics, chemistry and biology. Many of the Council's pure scientists are authorities in their specialized areas of research.