

The dome installation was designed by university scientists and GBR Associates of Winnipeg. Intricate traps make possible the supplying food without direct contact with the globe's inhabitant. The installation is housed in a thick concrete casing that prevents the penetration of sound and vibration. The lighting system can be changed from simulated brilliant sunshine to the darkest night.

The unusual new building was designed from the inside out, starting from a single laboratory bench space of standard size, repeated singly or in multiples throughout the \$6-million structure.

### CANADA COUNCIL THEATER GRANTS

Two major theater companies are the recipients of Canada Council grants recently announced. They are the St. Lawrence Theatre Company, Toronto, which will receive \$140,000 for the 1970 season, and the Neptune Theatre Company, Halifax, which will get \$130,000. According to the announcement, other grants to performing arts organizations will be made later this year, following each meeting of the Council.

Performances of the Toronto company will begin early in March with the opening of the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts. The season will include productions of five plays, including new works by the Canadian authors Jacques Languirand and Jack Gray, and a new English translation of Goethe's *Faust*.

The Neptune will stage eight plays during its home season, and tour all four Atlantic Provinces. It will also play in Ottawa and Toronto in response to invitations from the National Arts Centre and the St. Lawrence Centre. Last year it drew 89 percent capacity audiences at its Halifax playhouse.

### HOUSEBUILDING DOWN IN JANUARY

Preliminary figures released in February by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation indicate that housebuilding activity in Canada in January declined from previous levels.

During the first month of the year, 6,829 dwelling units were started in urban centers - a 39.6 percent

decline from last year, when 11,304 units were started.

All types of dwelling shared in the year-to-year decrease, with starts of apartment and other multiple-unit dwellings totalling 4,968 units, compared to 7,845 last year, a 36.7 percent decline. Starts of single-detached dwellings were 46.2 percent below last year's level, with a total of 1,861 units started, compared to 3,459 units in January 1969. All regions, with the exception of British Columbia, showed a decrease in starts from those of last year.

Seasonally-adjusted, January activity in all areas was at an annual rate of 162,500 units, a decrease from December's rate of 192,600 units per annum.

### BIRTH, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

The number of births registered in 1969 increased by about 6,000 over the number for 1968, the number of marriages by about 8,000, and the number of deaths by about 2,000, according to the December monthly *Vital Statistics Report* recently released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Estimates based on records filed in provincial offices during 1969 indicate that some 370,000 births occurred in Canada in 1969, compared to 364,300 in 1968. Until 1969, the annual number of births for the country had been declining steadily from the high 1959 record of 479,300. The 1969 national birth-rate for 1,000 of the population was unchanged, at 17.6. Before 1969, the birth-rate had been declining steadily, from 28.2 in 1957 to a record low of 17.6 in 1968.

Marriages in 1969 were estimated at the high record of 180,000, compared to 172,000 in 1968. The marriage rate for 1,000 population is estimated at 8.5, the highest since 1953 and up somewhat from the 1968 rate of 8.3. Prior to 1964, the marriage rate declined steadily from the high record rate of 10.9 set in 1946 to 6.9 in 1963.

Deaths were estimated at 155,000 in 1969, compared to 153,200 in 1968. The annual crude death rate for 1,000 population remains at 7.4