The William R. Brown classroom building is designed to meet the special needs of the Departments of English, of Modern and Classical Languages, and of Speech. It serves as a link between the Sprague office tower and the Shaw Theatre-Auditorium. Thus it serves in a particular way its academic functions without becoming a focal point.

In planning the building, attention was paid to the individual needs of each of the three departments it houses. To illustrate, let us consider the features included to meet departmental requirements.

The Department of Modern and Classical Languages, located on the first floor, has a double language laboratory, half of which holds the latest and best audio-record-playback equipment. Located across a hallway is a suite for production of language tapes for use in the laboratory.

A small auditorium-classroom, with slanted floor and small stage, provides the Department with a facility for the staging of foreign language plays and the showing of films and slides.

The Department of Speech, located on the second floor, has facilities suited to its unique needs. These include a Creative Dramatics room which combines attractiveness, flexibility and efficiency; a mock broadcasting studio and control room—minus a transmitter—for use by students enrolled in radio and broadcasting courses. Two pairs of classrooms are divided by an observation room with one-way glass through which speech and discussion activities are taped in a manner which avoids interference with student performances. Playbacks of the tapes are providing an experiment in teaching technique.

The Department of English is located on the third floor, which includes a sizeable conference room and an English studies center.

These special features emphasize the progress that has been made and continues to be made in curricula and are additions to the regular classrooms.

This spring marks Western Michigan University's sixty-fifth year. During thirty-nine of those years, Dr. William R. Brown was a vital part of its life and growth bringing a lively imagination and sound scholarship to a young normal school and potential university. His background of experience, ranging across the country from Texas to Massachusetts to Michigan, brought a breadth of vision most welcome to a new school.

Born on November 7, 1886, in Leander, Texas, William Robert Brown grew up in Austin, where his father, a public school principal, set him a high example of integrity and learning. He graduated from the University of Texas in 1907. After teaching four years in the high schools of his native state, he turned eastward like other eager young men of his time to seek the challenge and the glamour of Harvard, where the English Department was endowed with a corps of brilliant and stimulating scholars. William Allan Neilson, F. N. Robinson, Charles Townsend Copeland, George Pierce Baker, George Lyman Kittredge were among his teachers; Chester Noyes Greenough directed his dissertation on The Rise of the Educational Novel. Harvard's libraries provided the substantial nourishment of scholarship. Boston's concerts and operas provided the excitement and solace which great music has always had for him. He received his doctorate in 1917; he would always keep these years alive in his memory.

It was at Harvard that he made one of the most significant acquaintances of his life. A fellow scholar named George

Brown Hall