

**PUPIN PHYSICS LABORATORY, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**

**Broadway and 120th Streets, New York**

On January 25, 1939, a uranium atom was split for the first time in the New World in a basement laboratory here. Dr. Enrico Fermi, then a new member of Columbia University's faculty, having heard of a successful splitting of the atom in Copenhagen ten days earlier, determined to verify it by conducting an identical experiment. In a masterpiece of understatement, a colleague wrote, "Believe we have observed new phenomenon of far-reaching consequences."