Plan of Work

The animals selected for the purpose were albino rats Hasskine strain. The selection of these animals was supported by the pioneers in this field namely Higgins G.K. and Anderson N.H. (Arch. Path. 12, 186, 1931). These animals were found to be sturdy, could be raised easily, could withstand operational technique and were not difficult to maintain on normal diet as well as on experimental diet. Thus choice of these animals fell on a common line along with the other workers and thus the results that would accrue will not only be comparable but also will be confirmatory. With this view in mind the white albino rats of known age and pure breed were brought to begin with, from Hasskine Institute. Animals were kept on laboratory diet for about a month and then mated at the rate of 2 buck (male) and six does (female) and after about a week they were separated. The date of mating was noted and after about 21 days when ingestion period was over the does (females) were kept individually in breeding cages with a thick bedding of paddy husk, and special diet was given. The lactation was carried on for about 21-25 days. The number of rats produced by each rat was noted and proper record regarding the date of birth, food, the age of the doe and the number of litters reared by each doe were recorded. The doe was allowed to rest for 2 weeks following weaning and then mated again.
This is followed on the similar lines as Coward, Cabden and Leegh (biochem. J. 26, 679, 1932). For the colony of albino rats, it was considered valuable to keep full records of the breeding of colony at least until the diet was found satisfactory. The rate of growth of the rat was determined from birth to the 1st mating by weighing the bucks and does separately. The oestrus cycle in the rat has been fully investigated by Long and Evans (Memories of University of California, 6, 1922).