

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA ECLIPSE EXPEDITION

IN answer to a request by the University of California that the army air service cooperate with Lick Observatory in observations of the total eclipse of the sun, which will be visible in California on April 28, President W. W. Campbell has received word from the United States army headquarters in San Francisco that the requisite type of plane is available, and that such cooperation will be gladly offered.

Tentative plans call for the services of one plane at an altitude of not less than 10,000 feet, over Napa Valley, between Napa and St. Helena, and perhaps of another plane equipped to take moving pictures of the eclipse shadow and of the eclipse itself.

In explanation of the cooperative plan, President Campbell says:

The purpose of the airplane plan is to carry the observer well above the highest clouds which might be in the way of eclipse observers located on the earth's surface. The total phase of the solar eclipse will last not more than one or two seconds. The shadow of the moon on the earth's surface will be not more than one half or five eighths of a mile in width, and for an observer to locate his observing station where the shadow of the moon in its rapid northeastern travel will pass directly over him and give him the second or two of totality, will be difficult, and it is quite likely that the slight uncertainties in our knowledge of the precise position of the moon will leave many intending observers a little too far north or a little too far south to have the shadow pass over them.

The sky will not be very dark at the instant of totality because the moon will succeed in just a little more than covering the sun's image. I should guess that the observers who are fortunate enough to find themselves for a second or two in the shadow of the moon could read fine newspaper print about as easily in the open air as they would a minute or two before sunset on a clear day. This estimate, however, is very uncertain, but there will be no difficulty whatever in reading ordinary newspaper print at the time and place of totality.

The university is now preparing an observing station to photograph the eclipse from the earth's surface near Camptonville, Yuba County. This expedition, which will be under the charge of Dr. J. H. Moore and Dr. D. H. Menzel, is financed by William H. Crocker, of San Francisco, chairman of the regents of the university.

The plane to be used for high altitude observations will be of the open cock-pit type, of such construction that the upper wing will not interfere with the view of the observer or of the pilot. For a few moments before and after the eclipse, the plane will fly in the direction in which the shadow moves, northeastward,

in order to increase the length of time that the total eclipse may be viewed, by a little period.

It is suggested that there might be some interest in the taking of moving pictures of the eclipse, as also of the shadow on the ground, providing that it has edges sharp enough to be defined. In spite of the fact that maps have been prepared, showing the calculated path of the eclipse as accurately as possible, President Campbell points out that there is a possibility, though hardly a probability, that the shadow may be missed in spite of all precautions.

BUILDINGS OF THE YALE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

A GIFT to Yale University of \$400,000 from the General Education Board for the completion of the Clinic Building on the grounds of the New Haven Hospital, which is affiliated with the Yale School of Medicine, was announced by Dr. M. C. Winternitz, dean of the Yale School of Medicine, in an address to the alumni on February 22. This sum supplements the gift of \$2,000,000 made by the same board a year ago for construction purposes and makes possible the completion of both the Medical and Pediatrics Laboratory and the Clinic Building.

The Medical and Pediatrics Laboratory is now under construction. It will be connected on every floor with the new Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Pavilion, to be opened on March 1, and with the isolation pavilion. Excavation for the Clinic Building has been completed and the foundation is going in. The structure will be six stories high and will contain administrative offices, kitchens, dining rooms, storage, linen rooms, history rooms and pharmacy for the entire group, as well as examining and treatment rooms for out patients. The Medical and Pediatrics Laboratory will contain offices, laboratories and teaching facilities for those men on the staff concerned with non-operative therapies. There are now lacking only four units for the complete modernization of the New Haven Hospital group. These are the ward pavilions for surgery, diseases of women and contagious diseases, and the pavilion for semi-private beds.

The need for the further development of the site of the Sterling Hall of Medicine was also presented by Dr. Winternitz. It is proposed to extend the wing of the Sterling Hall of Medicine to Oak Street and to provide in this extension quarters for the psychobiology unit under Dr. Robert M. Yerkes, as well as increased facilities for the department of physiology, especially for the work in neurophysiology to be conducted by Professor John F. Fulton and Professor J. G. Dusser de Barenne, who have recently been ap-