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EDUCATION AND RESEARCH¹

By Dr. FREDERICK H. SEARES

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE MOUNT WILSON OBSERVATORY, CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON

TO-DAY'S program implies that I speak on the educational influence of the Mount Wilson Observatory. In education, a research foundation proceeds less consciously than a university. Without students in the technical sense, it has little concern with instruction. Its task is rather to procure information, which, rearranged and somewhat diluted, serves, among other ends, as a reagent for converting the uninstructed into cultivated human beings. The obligation to set forth its results is admitted; nevertheless, the chief business of a research establishment is investigation, and by its success in this undertaking its educational force finally is to be measured. Important conclusions soon become interwoven with the thought of the time; conclusions, however, must be provided.

¹ Address before the Association of Colleges and Universities of the Pacific Southwest, at the University of California at Los Angeles, April 16, 1932.

The observatory is known as a place where the sun, stars and nebulae are studied with telescopes of great power. It is less known as the Mount Wilson Observatory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. That, however, it is—one of a group of research units maintained by the Carnegie Institution. The educational influence of the observatory is to be appraised with this organic relationship in mind.

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