

THE OAK RIDGE OBSERVATORY OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY

THE cornerstone of Harvard University's Oak Ridge Observatory at Harvard, Massachusetts, where a sixty-one-inch mirror telescope is being constructed, was laid on September 4 by Sir Frank Dyson, astronomer royal of Great Britain and president of the International Astronomical Union. There were present more than two hundred of the world's leading astronomers and their guests.

Forty acres of land have been donated to the college by Alfred Fuller, of the town of Harvard, for the erection of the observatory. The house in which the mirror telescope is being installed will cost \$50,000.

The foundation for the new telescope is ready, and the instrument itself will be in operation within two months. When it is completed it will give to Harvard University the fourth largest telescope in the world, being outranked only by the telescopes at Mount Wilson, California, Victoria, British Columbia, and Delaware, Ohio.

Professor Howard Shapley, director of the Harvard College Observatory, in placing a copper box in a recess, stated that this was done to enlighten astronomers five centuries from now as to how far advanced the present-day astronomer is. He said:

We have placed in this box twenty astronomical journals in fifteen different languages, the signatures of seventy-nine members of the Harvard Observatory, a program of the 1932 meeting of the International Astronomical Union and a photograph of the International Astronomical Union at dinner last night.

Sir Frank Dyson spoke as follows:

In laying the cornerstone, I feel like a godfather who has been asked to look after the welfare of a child. And as is the custom of godfathers I place the caring of this magnificent observatory into the hands of its most capable parents. It will now make it possible for Harvard Observatory to photograph the stars and heavens in both hemispheres and give them a thorough knowledge of the general structure of the "Milky Way."

After the dedication ceremonies Professor Shapley explained that the telescope will be used for study of the sky in the northern hemisphere and that the Harvard Koppe observatory in Bloemfontein, South Africa, which has a sixty-inch mirror telescope, is to be used in the study of the southern hemisphere.

THE FIRST ELECTRIC LIGHTING PLANT

THE fiftieth anniversary of the opening by Thomas A. Edison of the first commercial electric lighting and generating plant in the world at 257 Pearl Street, New York City, was commemorated on the afternoon

of September 4 with simple ceremonies on the site of the original plant. The whirring of the original dynamo was heard several hundred miles away from the Ford Museum at Dearborn, Michigan, relayed by radio and amplified through loud speakers.

In the broadcast from Dearborn, before the start of "Old Jumbo No. 9," the following telegram from President Hoover, in Washington, was read:

Mrs. Hoover and I regret that we can not be with you, but are glad to have the opportunity of joining in your tribute to the genius of Thomas A. Edison on this anniversary. The debt which this country, and indeed the whole world, owes to Mr. Edison is everywhere recognized, but in this universal acclaim let us not forget the fine and admirable character, the lofty soul, of the man to whom we owe so much. Here also is a source of pride to all Americans.

One of the speakers was Charles Edison, son of the inventor. A message from Mrs. Thomas A. Edison was read. Also present were Thomas A. Edison, Jr., and W. W. Nichols, vice-president of the Allis-Chalmers Company, brother-in-law of the inventor. About 100 persons, including many leaders in the electric lighting industry, attended the ceremonies.

Besides Mr. Edison the speakers were Frank W. Smith, president of the New York Edison Company, and H. A. Campbell, who went to work for Edison in 1878, nearly a year before the perfection of the incandescent lamp, and who had charge of the construction of the first station. Mr. Campbell, now seventy-nine years old, is still in active employ of the Edison Company, being in charge of one of the three sub-station districts in Manhattan.

A further celebration will be on September 12, at a dinner to be attended by representatives of civic, scientific and engineering bodies.

THE CORNELL MEDICAL CENTER

THE new buildings of the Cornell Medical Center, erected at a cost of thirty million dollars, were declared open on September 1, when a tour of inspection, headed by Dr. G. Canby Robinson, director of the joint administrative board, took place. The buildings are situated in York Avenue between Sixty-eighth and Seventy-first Streets overlooking the East River.

Under the official name of the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical College Association the new institution provides 1,007 beds, a medical center of twenty-six operating rooms and 264 laboratories. It combines the facilities of the New York Hospital, oldest in the city and second oldest in the United States; the Lying-in Hospital, the Manhattan Maternity and Dispensary Hospital and the Medical College on one