

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 Kopje 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

site with divisions designated as the general hospital, the women's and children's hospital and the psychiatric hospital.

The center is composed of a group of eleven connected buildings, rising in its highest part twenty-seven stories and covering six and a quarter acres. The interior floor space of forty-five acres is traversed by five miles of corridors.

Above the administrative offices on the first floor of the central building are, in order, eight floors of wards, two of operating rooms and five of rooms for private patients, with the remainder given over to staff quarters.

The largest of the wards accommodate sixteen beds. They are designed after those in the Royal Hospital at Copenhagen and represent a virtually new departure in this country. The hospital is provided with

glass partitions between beds, the most modern type of diffused lighting, adjoining solarium and bedside connections to a central electrocardiograph, the most advanced type of pneumatic communication system, air filtering and humidifying devices and ventilators.

On Seventieth Street to the north is a home for 500 nurses, the power plant, the laundry, shops, quarters for servants and employees and a garage for 250 cars.

The New York Hospital, which has now vacated its old home in West Sixteenth Street, was founded in 1771. A bequest to that institution of \$18,632,176 by the late Payne Whitney, who died in 1927, was largely responsible for the new center, which had been sponsored by Mr. Whitney. Other large contributions were those of \$2,000,000 each from J. P. Morgan, the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial and jointly from the late George F. Baker and his son.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Wilhelm Wundt will be celebrated in the Leipzig laboratory of psychology in October. Professor Wundt was born in Baden on August 16, 1832. He became professor of philosophy at Leipzig in 1875 and founded in 1879 the first psychological laboratory.

DR. IVAN PAVLOV, professor of physiology at Leningrad, who celebrates his eighty-third birthday on September 14, presented papers at the International Congress of Psychology recently held at Copenhagen and at the International Congress of Physiology recently held at Rome.

DR. ROBERT A. MILLIKAN, of the California Institute of Technology, left Pasadena on September 1 for an expedition to conduct measurements on the cosmic rays as close to the north magnetic pole as transportation facilities permit. The Royal Canadian Air Corps will furnish planes. It is expected that later Dr. Millikan will continue his work south through the United States as far as Texas.

DR. ARTHUR H. COMPTON, of the University of Chicago, has been making measurements on the cosmic rays 100 miles north from the Arctic circle and 350 miles from the magnetic pole. Dr. Compton expects to return to Fort Churchill, Manitoba, on September 10 or 12.

DR. HERMAN SCHNEIDER, who recently resigned from the presidency of the University of Cincinnati, has been awarded a prize of \$500 for "outstanding achievement in education" by the Cincinnati Institute of Fine Arts. Dr. Schneider was dean of the college of engineering of the university.

THE title of professor emeritus has been conferred on Dr. Robert MacDougall on his retirement from the

chair of analytical psychology at New York University, which he has held for thirty-one years.

DR. OTTO HÖLDER, professor of mathematics at Leipzig, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his doctorate on August 3.

THE freedom of the city of Vienna has been conferred on Dr. Hans Horst Meyer, formerly professor of pharmacology in the university.

THE municipal council of Rouen has decided to call one of its streets after Dr. Charles Nicolle, a native of the city, who was recently appointed professor of medicine at the Collège de France.

THE University of St. Andrews has conferred the doctorate of laws on Sir James G. Frazer, author of "The Golden Bough," and on Dr. L. R. Sutherland, emeritus professor of pathology in the university.

ROBERT W. MORRISON, of the University of Tennessee, has been elected associate professor of pharmacology at the University of South Carolina.

PROFESSOR ALEXANDER GALLOWAY, of the department of anatomy, University of Saskatchewan School of Medicine, Saskatoon, has been appointed professor of anatomy at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

THE following appointments to University of London readerships are reported in *Nature*: Experimental pathology, Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, Dr. E. W. Hurst, formerly pathologist to the Millbank Research Fund at the Lister Institute; mathematics, Imperial College—Royal College of Science, Dr. W. H. McCrea, lecturer in mathematics in the University of Edinburgh; pathological chemistry, the