It is our impression that the cost of publication is a legitimate part of the cost of an investigation. A number of our leading laboratories are conducted on this policy.

In securing support for publications many factors must be considered. Some laboratories are unable to aid publications directly as they might do were it possible under the state laws.

The Wistar Institute is attempting to publish promptly all manuscripts accepted by the editors and secure for support of the several journals all possible income from their sale and lessen the cost of production by maintaining its own press.

The sudden increase in material to be published during the past few months, with a tendency on the part of authors to take no part in the support of the media through which their work is brought to the attention of their colleagues, causes us some anxiety.

Until we secure additional endowment for publication purposes it is necessary to secure aid from every possible source.

It is essential for us to request that for a time you accept only such papers as are of more than usual importance and that the illustrations be limited to those absolutely necessary, or permit us to ask authors to contribute toward the cost of illustrations, which in many cases exceeds the cost of text.

THE THERMO-HYGIENE LABORATORY

CONTRACTS have been let by the John B. Pierce Foundation for the erection of an experimental laboratory adjoining the Yale University School of Medicine, in which investigations will be conducted on ventilation, cooling and heating, and their effects upon human health and comfort. The laboratory is to be known as the Thermo-hygiene Laboratory. Research activities will be in charge of Dr. Leonard Greenburg and Dr. L. P. Herrington under the general supervision of Dr. C.-E. A. Winslow.

The building will be a three-story structure about fifty feet square, located on the corner of Congress and Liberty Streets. Construction is to be commenced at once and will be completed in about three months. Included in the equipment are two suspended experimental rooms, fifteen feet long, twelve feet wide and nine feet high, in which it will be possible to produce and maintain any desired temperature, humidity and air motion.

Professor Winslow, known as an authority on public health, has long been engaged in a study of the effect of atmospheric conditions upon health. He has been a member of the New York State Ventilation Commission since 1913, and is now abroad to make a survey of progress in Europe on problems of heating and ventilation. Dr. Greenburg, who is trained as an engineer and physician, has been a member of the U. S. Public Health Service for many years, and in this capacity has been working in the Yale laboratories on ventilation problems. Dr. Herrington is a psychologist, with special training in physiology. Both of these men are members of the Department of Public Health at Yale. Their cooperation with Professor Winslow will make it possible to approach from various specialized angles the problems to be studied in these laboratories.

The John B. Pierce Foundation was established in 1924 for the specific purpose of supporting research work "in connection with the sanitary and hygienic security of human beings and their habitations."

THE W. J. McDONALD OBSERVATORY

THE University of Texas has received by bequest of the late William J. McDonald, of Texas, a sum now slightly in excess of $840,000, to erect and maintain an astronomical observatory. The observatory will be known as "The W. J. McDonald Observatory of the University of Texas," and will cost, including site, buildings and equipment, approximately $375,000. The observatory will house an 80-inch reflecting telescope.

Construction will be undertaken immediately under the terms of a cooperative agreement between the University of Texas, which is to erect and maintain the observatory, and the University of Chicago, which is to provide the director and staff.

Dr. Otto Struve, who is director of the Yerkes Observatory of the University of Chicago, at Williams Bay, Wisconsin, is to become also director of the McDonald Observatory. The University of Chicago is to pay the salaries of Dr. Struve, an assistant director who will have a permanent residence at the McDonald Observatory, at least two observing assistants, and the necessary maintenance staff. As a result of the cooperative undertaking, plans of the University of Chicago to build an observatory and powerful reflecting telescope in one of the Southern states have been abandoned.

Following observations made this summer by an expedition headed by Dr. C. T. Elvey, a member of the Yerkes Observatory staff, assisted by Mr. T. G. Mehlin, the McDonald Observatory probably will be located on a peak in the Davis Mountains of Texas, where visual conditions are unsurpassed and the proportion of clear nights is much higher than at Williams Bay.

The 80-inch reflector is being designed at Yerkes by Dr. Struve, assisted by Drs. Van Biesbroeck, Ross, Moffit, Morgan and Crump. It will be surpassed in size only by the 100-inch reflector of the Mt. Wilson Observatory, and will be as useful as that instrument

for the photography of faint nebulae and distant universes.

The astrophysical problems which will be studied at the McDonald Observatory include those of the chemical composition of the atmospheres of the stars, the properties of matter exposed to temperatures ranging from 3,000 to 50,000 degrees or more, observation of distant universes and the study of gaseous nebulae, comets and planets.

No diminution of effort at Yerkes Observatory is contemplated. Dr. Struve will spend approximately half his time there, and the staff will continue its research with the 40-inch refractor. The photographs obtained at the new McDonald Observatory will be studied at Yerkes by the resident staff.

In planning the agreement, the two universities had the advice and support not only of Dr. Struve and Dr. Henry Gordon Gale, dean of the physical sciences division at the University of Chicago, but of many leading astronomers. Dr. George E. Hale, organizer of the Yerkes Observatory and its first director, now honorary director of the Mt. Wilson Observatory, and Director-emeritus Edwin B. Frost, of the Yerkes Observatory, were among the group.

PRESENTATION OF THE PRIESTLEY MEDAL TO DR. CHARLES L. PARSONS

AT the eighty-third meeting of the American Chemical Society, recently held in Denver, the Priestley Medal was presented to Dr. Charles L. Parsons, secretary of the society. In the absence of the president, Dr. Lawrence V. Redman, the president-elect, Professor Arthur B. Lamb, of Harvard University, made the presentation address. According to the report in *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry,* he said in part:

> In 1907, when Charles Parsons became secretary, the society after thirty-one years of existence had 3,300 members; to-day it has nearly 19,000. In 1907 the publications of the society consisted of the *Journal of the Society* and of *Chemical Abstracts,* which had just then been established by Professor W. A. Noyes. These two journals published a total of 5,325 pages in that year. To-day there are eight journals either supported or sponsored by our society, and they published a total of 22,921 pages last year. In 1907 the total annual budget of the society was $30,200; to-day it is $463,000.
>
> Charles Parsons did not accomplish all of this single-handed, but it is to him far more than to any one else that credit for this achievement must be given. At a hundred, at a thousand points it has been his eager efforts, his sound judgment, his shrewd optimism, his sincerity of purpose, his robust spirit and his unfailing loyalty that have launched our new ventures, have consolidated our gains, and have combated those disintegrative forces, those centrifugal tendencies, that might have shaken our solidarity and sapped our strength.
>
> In this rapid growth of our society, with its diverse membership and its far-flung sections, what was most essential of all was a strong stabilizing and unifying force. That force was Charles Parsons. Blunt with the fearlessness of his Pilgrim ancestors who came to our shores in 1620, shrewd with the Yankee shrewdness fostered by our New England hills, kindly and generous and hospitable from his boyhood spent in sunny Georgia, Parsons, though ever at the storm center of our society, has been now its sheet anchor and now its guiding light.
>
> Charles Parsons in his academic, scientific, professional and governmental activities has a splendid record of achievement, which has already won him world-wide recognition—honorary degrees from our universities, the Nichols Medal of our own society in 1905, appointment as officer of the Legion of Honor and of the Order of the Crown of Italy, honorary membership in the Roumanian Chemical Society and in the Society of Chemical Industry.
>
> But it is not these achievements that we are considering tonight. Charles Parsons's great achievement has been the promotion and development of the American Chemical Society. By this means Charles Parsons, more than any one else of his generation, has promoted the advance of chemistry in our country. It is this great achievement that we are recognizing tonight.
>
> It is then with the deepest satisfaction and gratification that I now hand to you, Charles Lathrop Parsons, secretary, the Priestley Medal of the American Chemical Society.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. ERNEST J. WILCZYNSKI, emeritus professor of mathematics at the University of Chicago, died on September 14 at the age of fifty-five years.

SIR RONALD ROSS died in London on September 16, at the age of seventy-five years. *The New York Times* says in an editorial article: "Millions in fever-ridden countries bless the late Sir Ronald Ross for his discovery of the malaria parasite in the Anopheles mosquito. Yet to remember him for that alone is to do him an injustice. If ever a man was born out of his time, it was he. An Admirable Crichton, who composed music, wrote poems, plays and novels of distinction, dabbled in higher mathematics and in cosmogony, clearly belonged to the sixteenth century. Whatever he did was marked by the grand manner. Scientific method played its part in his medical researches, but he owed his triumph more to the divination of the poet in him."

PROFESSOR L. MIRA, of Barcelona, has been elected president of the eleventh International Congress of