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.
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> 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