The body of anthropological literature contributed by Holmes in extent seems alone a life work. The larger works appeared in the annuals of the bureau. Among these are: Stone Implements of the Potomac-Chesapeake Tidewater Province (15th ann.); Aboriginal Pottery of the Eastern United States (20th ann.); Handbook of American Antiquities. Part 1. Introduction. (Bull. B. A. E. no. 60). During his administration of the Bureau the Handbook of American Indians, Bulletin 30, was brought to completion and published.

Throughout his career he displayed a remarkable ability to grasp a subject at once or to see the implications of a problem as unerringly as his pencil followed the subtle outlines of his model. The driving force that was within Holmes never ceased its urge till near the close of his busy life. Whatever he undertook was carried forward under pressure of his indomitable will. This characteristic is observed in his youth when despite obstacles he trained himself in art.

Many honors came to Holmes during his busy life. He was a member of the National Academy of Sciences, president of the Washington Academy of Science and of the Cosmos Club. He was honorary member of the University of La Plata, Argentina, and prominent in Spanish-American conferences, meetings of the Americanists, and in many other movements. On his 70th birthday he was presented with a magnificent anniversary volume of anthropological essays by his friends and co-laborers.

WALTER HOUGH

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE McDONALD OBSERVATORY

DR. OTTO STRUVE, director of the Yerkes Observatory of the University of Chicago, has announced that Mt. Locke, a 6,790 foot peak in the Davis Mountains in southwestern Texas, has been chosen as the site of the new McDonald Observatory.

The McDonald Observatory will be a cooperative enterprise on the part of the University of Texas, which is to build the telescope and observatory buildings from a part of the bequest of the late W. J. McDonald, of Paris, Texas, and the University of Chicago, which is to provide the staff for the observatory. The agreement between the two universities is the first cooperative effort in astronomy made in this country. Although enabling them to build a much larger and effective instrument than would have been possible had two independent observatories been constructed and staffed, the cooperative agreement will mean a saving of over a million dollars to the two universities.

The decision of Dr. Struve to place the McDonald Observatory on Mt. Locke was made following the return this week of an expedition headed by Professor George Van Biesbroeck, of the Yerkes Observatory. This expedition, which spent seventeen nights on Mt. Locke making observations, confirmed the findings of two earlier expeditions made by Assistant Professor Christian T. Elvey last November and by Dr. Struve in December.

A tract of 200 acres, which includes Mt. Locke, has been given the University of Texas for the observatory site. The Mt. Locke site is about fifteen miles from the nearest town, Fort Davis, and Dr. Struve believes that it offers the best conditions for astronomical research to be found in the United States.

Because the solar system is unsymmetrically situated among the stars of the galaxy, and more than nine tenths of the stars and nebulae interesting to astronomers are south of the equator, the farther south an observatory the better the conditions. Were unlimited means available, the McDonald Observatory probably would have been established south of the equator, in New Zealand.

The southern latitude of Mt. Locke, approximately 31 degrees, makes many stars visible which are never above the horizon at Yerkes Observatory at Williams Bay, Wisconsin. Atmospheric conditions are much better in the Davis Mountains also, the nights being uniformly clear and the stars being twice as bright as they are in the latitude of Chicago. The elevation of Mt. Locke exceeds that of the Mt. Wilson and Lick Observatories, and is just a little short of the elevation of Lowell Observatory near Flagstaff, Arizona, but the McDonald Observatory will have a much larger instrument.

Definite specifications for the equipment at the McDonald Observatory have been made and submitted to instrument builders in this country and abroad. Dr. Struve expects that the order for the telescope will be placed in the near future, and completion of the observatory may be possible a year ahead of the contract date of July 1, 1938.

The mounting of the McDonald telescope is to be constructed in such a way that the light of any star may be concentrated in a room of constant temperature, where it may be analyzed with the aid of prisms, photo-electric photometers or other analyzers. There will be a plateholder for the direct photography of comets, stars, planets and nebulae, and several specially designed lenses which will improve the optical definition of the instrument.

Second only in light-gathering power to the 100-

inch mirror at Mt. Wilson, the McDonald telescope will have an eighty-inch mirror made of glass with a low coefficient of expansion and will therefore be suitable to a climate where appreciable changes of temperature during one night are usual.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

THE British Association for the Advancement of Science will meet in Leicester from September 6 to 13. The inaugural general meeting will take place at 8:30 P. M. on Wednesday evening, September 6, when Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins, also president of the Royal Society, will deliver the address of the president on the chemical aspects of life.

The presidents of the sections and the titles of their addresses are as follows:

Section of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, Sir Gilbert T. Walker, "Seasonal Weather and its Prediction"; Section of Chemistry, Professor R. Robinson, "Natural Coloring Matters and their Analogues"; Section of Geology, Professor W. G. Fearnsides, "Structures of Some British Coal-fields"; Section of Zoology, Dr. J. Gray, "The Mechanical View of Life"; Section of Geography, The Right Honorable Lord Meston, subject to be announced; Section of Economic Science and Statistics, Professor J. H. Jones, "The Gold Standard"; Section of Engineering, R. W. Allen, "Some Experiences in Mechanical Engineering"; Section of Anthropology, the Right Honorable Lord Raglan, "What is Tradition?"; Section of Physiology, Professor E. D. Adrian, "The Activity of Nerve Cells"; Section of Psychology, Professor F. Aveling, "The Status of Psychology as an Empirical Science"; Section of Botany, Professor F. E. Lloyd, "The Various Door Mechanisms of *Utricularia* and *Polypompholyx* and their Method of Action"; Section of Educational Sciences, J. L. Holland, "The Development of a National Educational System"; Section of Agriculture, Dr. A. Lauder, "Chemistry and Agriculture."

There will be a large number of symposia and discussions.

Evening discourses to the members will be delivered on Friday, September 8, and Monday, September 11, by Sir Josiah Stamp, general treasurer of the association, on a subject in economic science, to be announced; and by Professor Jocelyn F. Thorpe, on "The Work of the Safety in Mines Research Board." A reception will be held by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of the City of Leicester (Councillor Arthur Hawkes, J.P., and Mrs. Hawkes), on Thursday evening, September 7; a garden party will be given by the University College on Monday afternoon, September 11; a reception will be given by the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society in the Museum and Art Gallery on Tuesday evening, September 12. The usual excursions to points of interest, to industrial establishments and to educational institutions have been arranged.

This is the second meeting of the association to be held at Leicester. It met there in 1907, when Sir David Gill, the astronomer, was president, and the occasion was notable as the last on which Lord Kelvin attended and addressed the association of which he had long been an active supporter. The meeting of the association in 1934 will be held in Aberdeen.

THE ROYAL INSTITUTION AND SIR WILLIAM BRAGG

WE learn from the London *Times* that at the annual meeting of the members of the Royal Institution, which was held on May 1, with the president, Lord Eustace Percy, in the chair, it was announced that the payments in connection with rebuilding had been completed. During the years 1929–32 the managers had been successful in collecting the sum of £96,300 for the rebuilding and research endowment.

The institution's Friday evening discourses and afternoon lectures had crowded the lecture theater on many occasions during the year, and the privilege of free attendance at afternoon lectures by *bona fide* students in London had been much appreciated and used. Professor G. Elliot Smith had succeeded Professor J. B. S. Haldane as Fullerian professor of physiology. On the research side the x-ray investigations under the direction of Sir William Bragg showed steady progress. Lord Eustace Percy was again elected president for the ensuing year, with Sir Robert Robertson treasurer and Major Charles E. S. Phillips secretary.

At the conclusion of the meeting a portrait of Sir William Bragg, the director, by William Nicholson was presented to the institution, where it is to be hung, by the honorary secretary, Major Phillips, on behalf of a group of friends. In a brief speech, as reported in the *Times*, Major Phillips paid a tribute to the artist and expressed the respect and admiration which the members of the Royal Institution felt for the great scientific achievements of their director and their appreciation of the manner in which he upheld its great traditions. All of them regarded him with affection, and it was fitting that his portrait should be hung on their walls with those of the other men who had made the Royal Institution what it was. He read a letter from Sir James Crichton-Browne apologizing for absence and remarking that the portrait showed "the face and figure of a real man, an embodiment of vital and intellectual vigour, a great discoverer, a brilliant expositor and a genial friend."

Lord Eustace Percy, accepting the gift on behalf