for the introduction of certain improvements in the form of the magazine. As will be noticed, these improvements include a more opaque paper, a more legible type, and better presentation of illustrations. It is also intended to issue during the year an enlarged, illustrated jubilee number, dealing with the history of the society and its founders, and including some original maps. Other ways of celebrating the occasion are under consideration, and details will be given in due course.

The volumes of the magazine already issued represent in the main a period of uninterrupted progress. The circulation has steadily grown, and this represents an increase in the number of the geographically-minded—an increase in which this magazine itself may claim to have played a part. A more important factor, of course, is the position now held by geography, both in the universities and in the schools; and in securing this enhanced status the influence of the society and of its individual members has been important. Of more significance than the increase in its circulation is the position which the magazine has gained among the geographical publications of the world. The range of topics discussed in its pages is now much greater than in the early days, and papers are submitted to the editor from an ever-widening circle of geographers in almost every English-speaking country in the world, and in greater numbers than the limits of space can accommodate.

There are, however, two matters for regret, both of which are the result of the financial position of the society. The first is that it has not yet become possible to return to the monthly issue of pre-war days; here, however, some compensation has been made in the increased number of pages of the present six issues. The second and more serious cause for regret is the impossibility of publishing maps, other than sketch-maps, to any satisfactory extent. Our earlier volumes contained many maps which were not only beautiful examples of the cartographer's art but represented valuable original geographical material. The absence of this feature in recent years is not due to any want of material, certainly not to any lack of appreciation by the council of the value of such material, but wholly to the lack of funds.

The council has under consideration the possibility of forming a special map fund, but all such efforts depend for success upon the support given to the society in its main object of promoting a scientific interest in geography in all its branches. It is at least a matter for legitimate pride that during its half-century of existence the society, in addition to its various activities as a Scottish society, has been able to secure and maintain through its magazine an ever-improving status in the world of science.

## THE 200-INCH TELESCOPE MIRROR

THE pouring of borosilicate glass for a 200-inch telescope mirror at a temperature of 2,400 degrees Fahrenheit took place at the Corning Glass Works on March 25.

The mirror is to take its place in the world's largest telescope being designed for the Carnegie Institution of Washington and the California Institute of Technology. It will be set up on an as yet unnamed mountain site in California.

Dr. Walter S. Adams, director of the Mount Wilson Observatory, is reported to have said that in pouring the glass two or three of the turret-like pylons had broken loose and floated to the top of the molten glass. He attributed this to the melting of iron bolts which were supposed to hold the pylons in place. He stated that all the mishap means is that the glass will be filled in solidly where there should have been a "valley" on the back of the finished casting and this will have to be drilled out with sand-blasting apparatus or other equipment.

The grinding and polishing of the mirror will take place in a special laboratory now under construction at the California Institute of Technology. This is expected to require three full years. The work will be done under conditions of constant temperature, as the mirror must be ground to an accuracy of one five hundred thousandth of an inch.

Six thousand persons passed through the foundry while the glass was being poured. According to an Associated Press despatch, astronomers and scientific men who were present included the following:

Dr. George Ellery Hale, director of the California Institute of Technology, where the telescope will be installed; Professor William L. Bragg, of England, who has been lecturing at Cornell University as an exchange professor; Lyman J. Briggs, director of the U. S. Bureau of Standards; Walter S. Adams, director of the Mount Wilson Observatory, Pasadena; Dr. Warren Weaver, of the Rockefeller Foundation, New York City; Dr. C. A. Chant, director of the Dunlap Observatory, Toronto; Dr. Max Mason, president of the Rockefeller Foundation, New York City; Dr. C. E. K. Mees, director of research, Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, New York; Dr. Arthur L. Day, director of geophysical laboratories of Carnegie Institution, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Clyde Fisher, curator astronomical section, Museum of Natural History, New York City; Gustavus Wynne Cook, of Philadelphia, amateur astronomer; H. J. Lulcheo Stark, chairman of the observatory council of the University of Texas, for which the Corning Glass Works is now annealing an eighty-one-inch disk; Otto Struve, director of the Yerkes Observatory of Chicago and the MacDonald Observatory of the University of Texas; Dr. John Allen, professor of astronomy at Colgate University; Dr. W. B. Rayton, research expert of the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company of Rochester, and William Bausch; George A. Davis, Jr., of the Buffalo Astronomical Society; Professor S. L. Boothroyd, of Cornell University; Dr. John E. Merrill, Buffalo Museum of Science; James Stokley, associate director of astronomy, Franklin Institute, Philadelphia; J. W. Fecker, of Pittsburgh, and Charles J. Stillwell, of Cleveland, representing the disk grinders, and Dr. Frank B. Jewett, director of research for the American Telephone and Telegraph Company.