sessions, while from Canada will come Dr. Joseph A. Pearce, director of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, Victoria, British Columbia. Leading Mexicans participating in the conference are: Professor Luis Enrique Erro, director, and Dr. Carlos Graef, assistant director, of the new National Observatory; Dr. Monges-Lopez, dean of the faculty of sciences of the National University of Mexico; Professor Manuel S. Vallarta, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Dr. Joaquín Gallo, director of the National Observatory at Tacubaya, and Dr. Alfrado Banos, Jr., head of the department of physics of the National University.

Nearly the entire field of modern astronomy and geophysics will be covered by the papers to be presented at the various conference sessions, the subjects of which are: The interstellar medium, the classification of stellar spectra, problems of the galaxy, variable stars, time and change, cosmic radiation and geophysical problems. In addition, there will be special evening lectures on related topics, as follows:

The Surfaces of the Major Planets: Dr. Slipher.
The Cosmogonical Significance of Stellar Rotation: Dr. Struve.
The Present State of the Theory of Stellar Evolution: Dr. Russell.
Time and Change in the Metagalaxy: Dr. Shapley.

Most of the sessions and lectures will be held at Puebla, including the dedicatory exercises on the morning of February 17. Dedicatory addresses will be given by President Camacho and the Governor of Puebla. For special academic ceremonies an excursion will be made to Morelia on February 23 and 24, with the final sessions being held in Mexico City.

The new National Astrophysical Observatory is situated on land provided by the government of the State of Puebla, near a small town of Aztec origin called Tonanzintla, about eighty miles east of Mexico City. Under the direction of Sr. Erro, observations of the southern Milky Way will be made with a 24–30-inch Schmidt camera, the most powerful telescope in the tropics. This instrument is similar to the Jewett telescope at Harvard Observatory, and was mounted in the Harvard shops. Its location in latitude 19° is strategic for studies of the southern parts of the sky, inaccessible to instruments farther north. The climate is excellent for observations, especially during the winter, and the program of the observatory also calls for variable-star studies and observations of meteors and the sun.

THE SUMMER SESSION OF NEW YORK MEDICAL SCHOOLS

IN response to the present need for the training of a large number of men in medicine to take the places of those called into service, an accelerated program for the course has been announced by the five medical colleges in New York City.

At the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Cornell University Medical College, the Long Island College of Medicine, the New York Medical College and the New York University College of Medicine, plans have been formulated to conduct regular work for all classes during the coming summer and to open the next regular session early in July. The new schedules adopted in these institutions will make it possible for the student to cover the full medical course within the space of thirty-six months instead of, as at present, distributed over forty-eight months.

Under the accelerated plan as announced, however, there is to be no reduction in the amount of time the student devotes to his medical training and, likewise, there will be no relaxation in the standards of teaching in the medical course. Instead of the summer vacation of approximately three months, the students under the new plan carry on regular work in the classrooms, laboratories and hospital wards, thereby shortening the time of the medical course by one year. Although the course is practically continuous, throughout the year, short vacations will be given between each of the four terms.

The five New York City medical colleges would normally graduate under the present plan approximately 1,350 physicians in a three-year period. Under the accelerated schedule it would be possible, if continued, for these schools to graduate 1,800 in the same period, or approximately 450 additional doctors to enter internships in the hospitals. Since the Army and Navy are calling many young physicians from the hospital staffs, this increase in the number of medical graduates may mean much in the care of the sick and in supplying the needs of the military services.

AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN AERONAUTICS

THE tenth annual meeting of the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences was held in New York City during the week of January 26. *The New York Times* reports that the annual dinner presentation was made of six awards for achievements in aeronautics.

Juan Terry Trippe, president of Pan American Airways, received the Daniel Guggenheim Medal, awarded annually since 1926, for his achievement in the development and operation of oceanic air transport. The presentation was made by Brigadier General Donald H. Connolly, national director of civil aviation of the Army Air Force.

The Sylvanus Albert Reed Award went to Theodor von Kármán, director since 1930 of the Daniel Guggenheim Graduate School of Aeronautics at the California Institute of Technology, for "the development of a satisfac-