

neither his personal energy nor his personal fortune in its furtherance. On talking with him one could not help but be impressed by the almost reverent attitude which he adopted towards the matter of standards in connection with the publications with which he was concerned. He would not hesitate to go after the material he wanted, but when he got it, he insisted on the maintenance of standards which he had at heart.

A man of Professor Cattell's forcefulness, strong convictions, courage and personal drive might be ex-

pected to find frequent occasion for difference of opinion with others, and several such cases of public interest can be cited. Unswerving in his convictions and strong in courage, he did not weaken in the attack because the enemy might be strong. Gifted with a sense of humor, he could make his darts tell, when fired to spill the blood of what he deemed arrogance, unfairness, complacency or indifference to the good of his fellows. However, in all this, he was a man who merited and won the respect of all and the love of those who were fortunate enough to be his friends.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE GREENWICH ROYAL OBSERVATORY

THE Royal Observatory, Greenwich, which was established in 1675 on its present site for the advancement of the science of navigation and nautical astronomy, as already reported in *SCIENCE*, may have to be moved. The naval correspondent of *The Times*, London, writes:

For over two and a half centuries it has provided the standards of navigators; to-day it gives the time to the whole world and all longitudes are measured from the meridian that passes through its transit instrument.

When it was established, Greenwich was a country village well clear of London's smoke; even in the last century, when magnetic observations were added to its duties, it was sufficiently rural to be free from disturbance. But to-day London has spread round it. Even at the end of the last century its work was much hampered by the construction of a power station from which smoke from the chimneys, sited exactly on the meridian, interfered with astronomical observations. The vibration of its reciprocating engines was also felt at the top of the hill.

The great development of electrical machinery, even in the home, compelled some years ago the removal of the magnetic observatory to a country site in Surrey. To-day interference of various kinds has become so serious that the removal of all activities that can be separated from the site on the prime meridian is being considered.

Sir Harold Spencer Jones, Astronomer Royal, pointed out that the observatory is already dispersed, partly owing to bomb damage and partly for security reasons.

A great deal of work would have to be carried out before any move could be made, and all that had been done so far was to accept, in principle, the need for a move if the observatory was to continue the valuable astronomical work it had done in the past.

There are only two alternatives—either to put up with the conditions at Greenwich and deteriorate into a second-rate institution or move away into conditions where useful work can be done.

### THE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND PLANT INDUSTRY AT THE SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

THE Southern Methodist University at Dallas plans to establish an Institute of Technology and Plant Industry. It will have the active participation of the National Cotton Council, which in the field of plant study and adaptation will merge its facilities with the new institute. Dr. C. L. Lundell, of the University of Michigan, has been appointed director.

The institute will include an agricultural research station, a research laboratory and a southwestern herbarium. For the agricultural research station a tract of 110 acres of land has been purchased near Renner, nine miles from the university. It will sponsor research which will bring agriculture and industry into closer relationship.

A laboratory with other necessary buildings will be erected on the farm at an early date. A chemical building is to be erected at the university. Other buildings will be added as required. An agronomist and a geneticist with several farmers and mechanics have been appointed to the staff.

Affiliation of the institute with the National Cotton Council of Memphis provides for the removal to Dallas and other strategic locations in the Southwest of its cotton production and breeding projects, in which the two research organizations will supplement each other's activities.

Under the auspices of the council and the university a plant introduction garden at Acapulco, Mexico, on the Pacific Ocean will be maintained. The council is transferring its production staff, of which Dr. Harold H. Webber, of the research division, is director, to the university. It will spend \$62,000 this year for cotton research, jointly sponsored by it and by the War Production Board. Dr. Simon Williams, director of the cotton research division of the National Cotton Council, now has his headquarters at the University of Texas, where he formerly had charge of cotton research.