

GENERAL NOTES

In Memory of Dr. Edwin Hubble.—In a publication such as this, devoted to scientific papers often rather dry and technical in nature, it is a rare event indeed to find a name associated not with science but with creative writing. For more than forty years Lord Dunsany has been writing short stories, novels, plays, and poems, which have gained him a world-wide reputation among the foremost literary figures of our time. Lord Dunsany excels in the realm of fantasy, sometimes bordering upon science fiction, of an odd and distinctive type. His style ranges from whimsical humor, as in his *Jorkens* stories, to the grim and horrible, as in plays such as *The Queen's Enemies*, *A Night at an Inn*, and others. In contrast to certain modern poets whose work is notable chiefly for its obscurity, Lord Dunsany believes that poetry should be written in language that is comparatively simple and easy to understand. These qualities find beautiful expression in his tribute to Edwin Hubble on page 184 of this issue.

Among the Amateurs.—The Western Amateur Astronomers held a Spring Conference in Fresno, California, June 5–6, 1954. Several papers relative to telescopes were presented, but the subject most emphasized was planetary observing, with especial attention to Mars. Clyde Tombaugh gave a public lecture on Mars under the auspices of the Alexander F. Morrison Foundation of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

The Moon.—Dr. H. P. Wilkins, director of the Lunar Section of the British Astronomical Association, gave two lectures about the moon, sponsored by the Alexander F. Morrison Foundation, one in Los Angeles on June 16 and one in San Francisco on June 22. Dr. Wilkins is an outstanding amateur astronomer who has an enviable reputation as a lunar observer. His lectures are full of human interest and inspiration for astronomers, professional or amateur. The Astronomical Society of the Pacific is glad to have been able, through the Alexander F. Morrison Foundation, to have a part in Dr. Wilkins' lecture tour of the United States.

From the Lick Observatory.—Recent guests at the Lick Observatory have included: B. Stromgren, G. P. Kuiper, and N. G. Roman, Yerkes Observatory; B. Lindblad, Stockholm Observatory; F. G. Smith, Cavendish Laboratory; H. Bondi, University of London; A. R. Hogg, Commonwealth Observatory; G. Gamow, George Washington University; F. Zwicky, California Institute of Technology; D. M. Popper, University of California at Los Angeles; K. Kumagai, Kyoto University; D. H. Menzel, Harvard College Observatory; and W. Baade, A. Sandage, H. W. Babcock, A. Deutsch, and W. Baum, Mount Wilson and Palomar Observatories. Dr. Baade was Hitchcock Foundation Professor at the University of California during May 1954.

Construction of the new library and dormitory buildings on Mount Hamilton was begun on May 24.

Erwin O. White, associate engineer on the 120-inch project since 1946, and J. H. Cumming, senior laboratory mechanic since 1947, retired on July 1.

From the Mount Wilson and Palomar Observatories.—Walter Baade has been awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society for his observational work on galactic and extragalactic objects.

Although no expedition for observing the total solar eclipse of June 30 was undertaken by the observatories, many of the personnel, including Alfred H. Joy, Thomas Cragg, Joe Hickox, Allan Sandage, Merle Walker, and Paul Wild, observed the eclipse at various points along the path of totality.

Carnegie Fellows for 1954–55 academic year are: Halton C. Arp, reappointed to continue his search for novae in M 31; Karl G. Henize of the University of Michigan, who will make statistical studies from Be star surveys; and John B. Rogerson, of Princeton University, who will make photoelectric observations of Fraunhofer lines in the solar spectrum.

Dale Vrabec, graduate student at the California Institute of Technology, is spending the summer as assistant solar observer on Mount Wilson.

Hugo Wahlquist, graduate student at California Institute of Technology, will assist in the research work of the nebular de-

partment at Mount Wilson and Palomar Observatories during the summer.

Visitors have included Professor André Lallemand, of the Observatoire de Paris, who gave a seminar on May 25 describing some of his experiments with image converter tubes and multiplier phototubes; Hari K. Sen of the Bureau of Standards, Boulder, Colorado; and Dr. Marcus O'Day of the Air-force Cambridge Research Center, Cambridge, Mass.

Personal Notes.—Otto Struve of the department of astronomy of the University of California, Berkeley, has been elected a foreign member of the Royal Society of London.

Guido Münch, of the California Institute of Technology, will be visiting professor at the Harvard College Observatory, September 27, 1954, through January 31, 1955. He will give a graduate course on interstellar matter.

Walter T. Whitney retired in June 1954 upon completion of his twenty-fifth year as chairman of the Pomona College astronomy department. He plans to continue his astronomical research and to do some traveling. Paul Routly, who has been doing research at the California Institute of Technology, has been appointed to succeed him.

William Livingston, graduate student at the University of California, Berkeley, is spending the summer at the Lowell Observatory assisting Dr. Robert Hardie in the study of solar variation from photoelectric measures of the planets.

Convention of Western Amateur Astronomers.—The Western Amateur Astronomers will hold their sixth annual convention in San Francisco on August 27, 28, and 29 at the Morrison Planetarium. There will be lectures, sessions for papers, star parties, and expeditions.

The first presentation of the G. Bruce Blair award will be made at the convention. This award is to be made annually on a world-wide basis to the amateur or professional astronomer who has contributed the most to amateur astronomy. The award is named in honor of the late Professor G. Bruce Blair of the University of Nevada, originator of the Western Amateur Astrono-

mers' convention and founder of the *Astronomical Information Sheets*.

Anyone interested in amateur astronomy is invited, and more than 200 are expected to attend. For further details write to H. A. Wallace, 2925A Jackson Street, San Francisco 15, California.

VISA POLICIES

The Federation of American Scientists is making a new survey of the effects on science of the visa policies in existence under the present United States immigration act. We are interested in information about :

1. Individuals who wished to visit the United States for professional reasons but who have been prevented from coming because of visa refusal or delay.
2. Individuals who received invitations to come to this country on professional business (e.g., to attend meetings, as a visiting lecturer, etc.) but who refrained from applying for a visitor's visa because of present visa policies.
3. Visitors who experienced visa difficulties after reaching the United States.
4. Scientific congresses, meetings, or symposia which were not scheduled in the United States because of current visa policies.

The Federation would like information about such cases which have occurred in the past two years. It would be helpful if as many details as possible were given. In each specific case, the Federation would like to know to what extent this information must be treated as confidential.

Information should be sent to the Federation of American Scientists, Committee on Visa Problems, P.O. Box 1191, Stanford, California.