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THE ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY OF THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

THE International Education Board, at its annual meeting in May, authorized its executive committee to provide for the construction of an astrophysical observatory, equipped with a 200-inch reflecting telescope and many auxiliary instruments, for the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. A prime purpose of the gift was to secure for the new observatory the advantage, in its design, construction and operation, of the combined knowledge and experience of the strong group of investigators in the research laboratories of the institute and in the neighboring Mount Wilson Observatory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. The assurance of such cooperation and of the willingness of the institute to assume full responsibility for the establishment of the observatory and its maintenance when completed were accordingly made conditions of the gift. These conditions were unanimously agreed to by the board of trustees of the institute, and the executive committee of the International Education Board has ratified the arrangement and provided for its execution.

The prompt action of the institute trustees was made possible by the fact that on May 13 President John C. Merriam, of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, with the unanimous approval of the executive committee of the institution and of Director Walter S. Adams and his associates of the Mount Wilson Observatory, cordially accepted a request for cooperation from the California Institute and assured the International Education Board of the willingness of the Carnegie Institution to join in the proposed undertaking. Formal approval has thus been given to the continuation and extension of the cooperation which has been in progress between the California Institute and the Mount Wilson Observatory for several years, especially in the study of the astronomical, physical and chemical aspects of the constitution of matter.

The purpose of the astrophysical observatory is thus to supplement and not to duplicate the Mount Wilson Observatory. The chief problems in view are those which naturally fit into the general scheme of research in which the two institutions are engaged. Thus the increased light-collecting power of the 200-inch telescope should permit further studies of the size and structure of the galactic system, the distance,

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