THE DEDICATION OF THE McDonald OBSERVATORY

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The purpose of this observatory, in the words of the man whose name it bears, is “the study and promotion of the study of astronomical science.” To promote the study of astronomical science means to discover the fundamental laws of nature which govern the structure of the material universe and the changes within it. It means that astronomers must not be passive observers of strange and unexplained phenomena in the cosmos but must be active and intelligent explorers of the vast unknown.

Mr. Stilwell, when I recommended in 1933 to the Board of Regents of the University of Texas that the contract for this observatory be awarded to the Warner and Swasey Company, I knew that your distinguished director of engineering, the late Mr. E. P. Burrell, would be able to meet the exacting specifications which our committee of astronomers had prepared. The telescope was not intended to be just one more expen-
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