

BOOKS

PALOMAR

The World's Largest Telescope

By Helen Wright.

The Macmillan Co., New York \$3.75

HELEN WRIGHT's book is a popular history of the origin and development of the 200-inch Hale telescope—and a good one. Though it's a small book (188 pages) it covers a lot of ground, starting with Galileo and the first astronomical telescope, and working up to George Ellery Hale and the greatest of all telescopes.

After a historical introduction on telescopes, Miss Wright settles down to the story of the 200-inch from the time when Hale first conceived it in 1928, through the negotiations with the Rockefeller Foundation which resulted in a \$6,000,000 grant to build it, the selection of Palomar Mountain as the site for it, the construction of the observatory, the casting of the mirror at the Corning Glass Works, the building of the mounting at the Westinghouse Elec-

tric and Manufacturing Company, and the dedication of the telescope on June 3, 1948.

Helen Wright is an astronomer herself (she's been associated with the Vassar College Astronomy Department, the U. S. Naval Observatory, Mount Wilson Observatory and the Maria Mitchell Observatory) and she is author of a biography of Maria Mitchell, America's first woman astronomer. For the past three years she has been working, under a Carnegie Foundation grant, on what is to be the official biography of George Ellery Hale. *Palomar* is a detour from this long-range project.

Naturally, then, this book is strong on detail from the years when Hale was alive (he died in 1938). Material on the final construction, tests and recent observations made with the 200-inch telescope is confined to a few pages in the book—though that doesn't keep it from being a first-rate introduction to the Palomar Observatory.

Recent Faculty Publications

THOMAS POWNALL

By John A. Schutz, Assistant Professor of History

The Arthur H. Clark Co., Glendale, Calif. \$10.00

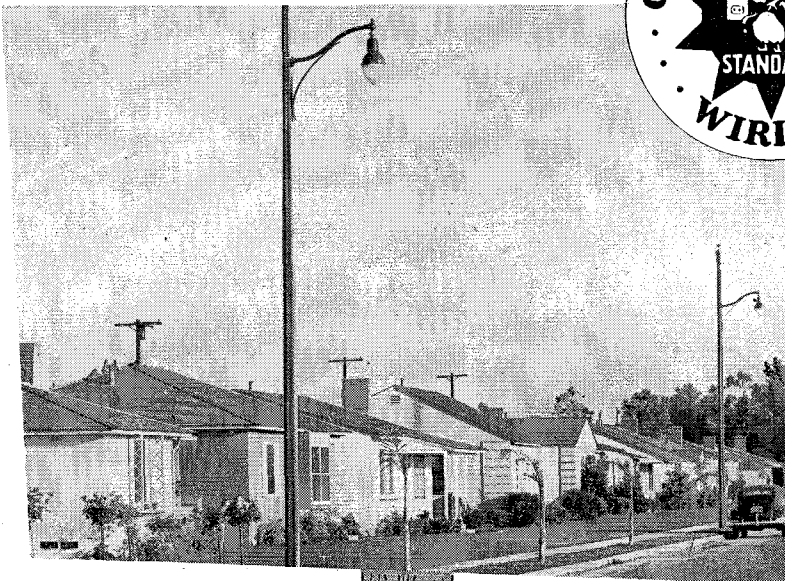
A BIOGRAPHY of the British defender of American liberties who served as Governor of Massachusetts from 1757 to 1760—and an incisive study of Anglo-American relations in the eighteenth century.

PRINCIPLES OF PLANT PHYSIOLOGY

By James Bonner, Professor of Biology, and Arthur W. Galston, Associate Professor of Biology

W. H. Freeman & Company, San Francisco \$5.50

A TEXTBOOK for undergraduate students, at the second or third year level, who have had a course in general chemistry and general biology or botany.



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With the use of the big telescope still a year away the Palomar observatory is already making history because the world's largest Schmidt telescope, a special photographic exploring instrument using a twenty-four-inch mirror and an 18-inch aperture, is now in use there. With this instrument one of the most puzzling phenomena in the universe is receiving close study in cooperation with the big telescopes of the Mount Wilson observatory of the Carnegie Institute. The 48-inch Schmidt telescope (Oschin telescope) at the Palomar Observatory is a standard Schmidt camera telescope using both lenses and mirrors to create a wide field of view for photographing large sections of the sky at one time. [1] Construction on the Schmidt telescope began in 1939 and was completed in 1948. The telescope was manufactured in the Caltech machine shops and consists of a tube 20 feet long in a fork-type mounting which allows the telescope to sweep all parts of the sky from the north pole to as far south as declination minus 45 degrees. The combined weight of the fork and tu... Wright, Helen. Palomar: The World's Largest Telescope. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1952. PHOTOGRAPH. The Nine Planets. The World's Largest Optical Telescopes. Menu. Planets. Palomar Mountain, California. 33 21 N; 116 52 W 1900 m. 4.2. was once (briefly) the largest telescope in the world. 1.8. The Leviathan of Parsonstown.