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**Book Notice**

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Since the initial steps were taken for the construction of the Hale Telescope at Mt. Palomar nearly a quarter of a century ago, this instrument has remained in the minds of young and old as the greatest wonder of the age. Now, when this powerful device for the exploration of the Universe is at work, the public interest is still on the increase. Will it finally settle the question of life on Mars or some other planet still unknown? This seems to remain the leading question. Although the book under review does not entertain such speculations, it does answer clearly and distinctly the many financial, technical, and human problems that were to be faced in the construction of such a great instrument and describes a number of investigations now under way. The story of the building of this giant is told dramatically, accurately, and with a feeling of admiration for all those who shared in this great undertaking of our century. But this is not all. Throughout the narrative there is ever present the great personality of George Ellery Hale, the dreamer, the planner, and the builder. Miss Wright has justly kept her hero ever present during the years of struggles, decisions, and achievements even to the end when the goal was finally in clear view. As Dr. Bowen in the special preface stated, the author has spent several years in collecting material for the official biography of Hale and hence is in a unique position to tell the story of the Palomar Observatory. Indeed, the book is written with imagination and style suitably fitting to the man and the telescope she describes.

The narrative is divided into six main sections, Origin of the Telescope, Birth of the Telescope, Palomar Mountain, A 200-inch Mirror, Telescope and Dome, and Dedication of the Hale Telescope. In these relatively short chapters, the story is told with enough details to give continuity. Even the struggle between the two giant foundations, The Carnegie Institution of Washington and the Rockefeller's General Education Board is not missed.

The book is not meant for the professional astronomer but even the professionals will derive pleasure in reading it. It is well printed and illustrated but it is regrettable that it is so highly priced.

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