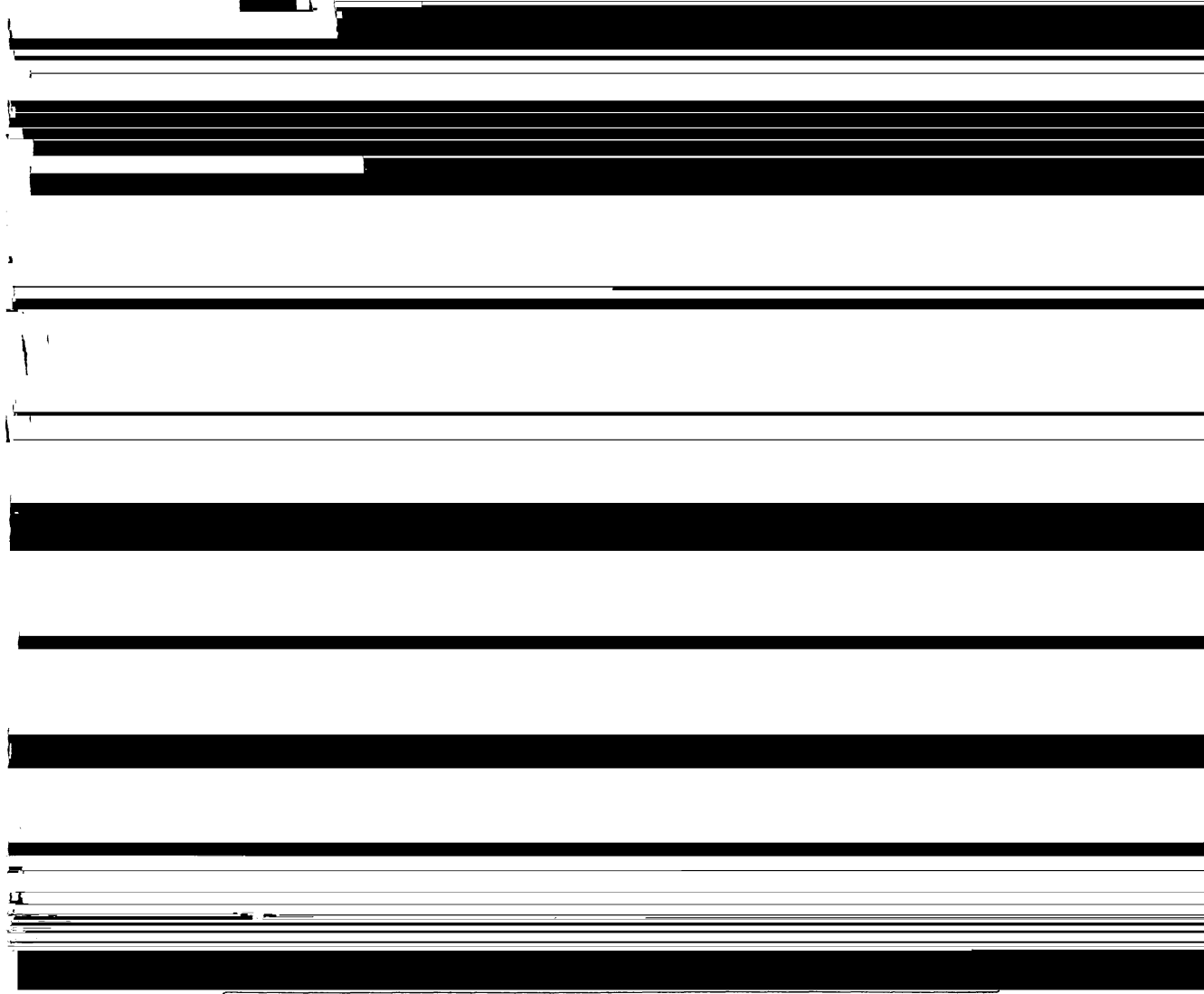


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The University of London Observatory.

THE new University Observatory at Mill Hill Park, N.W., was formally opened by Sir Frank Dyson, K.B.E., F.R.S., Astronomer Royal, on 1929 October 8. The principal instrument in the observatory is the Wilson Telescope originally constructed for Mr. W. E. Wilson and presented to the University by his son, Mr. J. C. Wilson. This instrument is a 40 inch reflector which

The observatory is also provided with a spectrographic laboratory, the principal instruments being a 10-foot Rowland grating spectrograph and a spring driven cœlostát by Cooke. The latter is mounted on the roof immediately over the laboratory. An arrangement, designed by Mr. Gregory and Prof. Filon, has been

provided whereby the cœlostát can be moved into its required position for any star by means of a single setting on a divided circle.

The Director of the new observatory is Professor L. N. G. Filon, and Mr. C. C. L. Gregory has been appointed Wilson Observer.

The following is a report of Sir Frank Dyson's address on the occasion of the opening ceremony :—

Mr. Vice-Chancellor,

You have kindly assigned to me the pleasant and honourable task of opening the new Observatory of the University of London. I am certain that I am expressing the sentiments of astronomers in wishing the observa-

appreciate and are grateful for the generosity of Mr. Wilson and the public spirit of the University, of University College and other components of the University, and of the Hendon Council.

In the Middle Ages, the Monastic Schools which were, I suppose, the fore-runners of the Universities included astronomy in their curriculum. Their students were familiarised with the daily and annual movements of the stars

which astronomy could give to navigation. This was the beginning of observations on the movements on the face of the sky of Sun, Moon, planets and stars which have been continued for 650 years.

In 1775 another public observatory was established under the Radcliffe Trust

The last quarter of the 19th century saw the discovery of Uranus and

began with a 12-inch reflector. Ten years later, he obtained the large reflector which has now been presented by his son to the University of London.

also made a determination of the effective temperature of the Sun and obtained the value of 6590° . He made parallel researches in the physical laboratory attached to the observatory on the temperature of the carbon arc. He also

as 1895, Mr. Minchin used photo-electric cells for the measurement of starlight.

It would have been a great pity if this beautiful telescope had fallen into disuse. Fortunately Mr. J. G. Wilson was good enough to present it to the Senate of the University of London, and the Senate had the enterprise to accept this gift and arrange for its maintenance. The Director, Prof. Filon,