

The editor, Mr. Walsh, has asked several members of our staff to help in acquiring contributions and it has been agreed that a few coordinators will act at the various establishments: Dr. Havlen in Chile and Mr. Rodgers in Geneva. Their collaboration will be much appreciated.

THE MESSENGER is intended to reach all ESO staff whatever their native language, and therefore we shall include contributions in Spanish. Abstracts of some of the other articles will be given. A. Blaauw

artículos en esta primera edición fueron recibidos hace ya bastante tiempo, pero pensamos que aún tienen suficiente interés para incluirlos.

El redactor, Sr. Walsh, ha pedido la cooperación de varios miembros del personal para recibir informaciones y se ha acordado que este trabajo será realizado por algunos coordinadores en los distintos establecimientos: Dr. Havlen en Chile y Sr. Rodgers en Ginebra. Su colaboración será altamente apreciada.

Es nuestra intención que EL MENSAJERO llegue a todo el personal de ESO cualesquiera que sea su idioma, y es por eso que incluiremos artículos en castellano. Se harán resúmenes de algunos de los demás artículos.

## Preparations for ESO/SRC Conference

Preparations are under way for the ESO/SRC conference on "Research Programmes for the New Large Telescopes", to be held at CERN on May 27-31, 1974.

This conference will be in line with previous ESO meetings dealing with large telescope design and with auxiliary instrumentation developments, and the emphasis is to be on the southern hemisphere.

With three large southern telescopes soon becoming operational (CTIO, Anglo-Australian and ESO), there are good reasons for having joint discussions with participants from the large projects outside ESO concerning the first areas for research with these instruments.

The programme as presently outlined will comprise seven half-day sessions — one afternoon will be devoted to an excursion to the CERN laboratories — covering the following topics:

Research programmes for large telescopes now in operation,  
Southern hemisphere problems,  
Observational cosmology,  
Instrumental capabilities,  
Philosophy of telescope use.

The conference will start on Monday afternoon with an introductory talk given by Dr. J. L. Greenstein of the California Institute of Technology and the Hale Observatories, dealing with large telescope astronomy in general. Dr. Greenstein has been chairman of the Astronomy Survey Committee of the U. S. National Academy of Sciences, whose task it was to consider the need for major new astronomical facilities in the United States during the seventies. The results and recommendations of the Survey Committee are embodied in two volumes, entitled "Astronomy and Astrophysics for the 1970s". Clearly Dr. Greenstein's involvement in this project makes him eminently suited to give the introductory talk at the conference.

Dr. Greenstein's lecture will be followed by shorter contributions by speakers from the big observatories

— Hale, Lick and Kitt Peak — on research carried out or planned for the near future at these institutes.

Following the first introductory session, lectures on specialized topics are scheduled for the next day: infrared astronomy, nearby galaxies, quasi-stellar objects, globular clusters in the southern sky and so on.

In the afternoon session of the second day, theoretical aspects will be covered, an introductory paper being followed by shorter contributions on specialized subjects.

The Wednesday morning session will be devoted entirely to the Magellanic Clouds, on which a special symposium was arranged in Santiago in March, 1969, in connection with the inauguration of the ESO Observatory on La Silla.

The afternoon is reserved for an excursion to the CERN facilities.

The Thursday morning session will deal with observational cosmology, an introductory talk followed by contributions presenting optical and radio-astronomical aspects of cosmological problems.

In the Thursday afternoon session instrumental capabilities will be discussed from a classical point of view. The new photographic emulsions and new powerful techniques for sensitizing photographic plates are bringing about a renaissance in astronomical photography. This session will be in the form of a panel discussion with four introductory speakers, dealing with the astronomical applications of the new emulsions, the extraction of information from photographic plates using fast computer technique and further reports on the ESO Sky Atlas and the parallel Science Research Council southern sky Schmidt project.

The last session, on Friday morning, will be in the form of a panel discussion on a subject being raised probably for the first time at a conference: the philosophy of telescope use. This discussion concerning the allocation of time on large telescopes, with reference to the very high hourly operational costs, the search for more efficient methods of telescope use and so on, will undoubtedly give rise to a varied exchange of opinions. A. Reiz