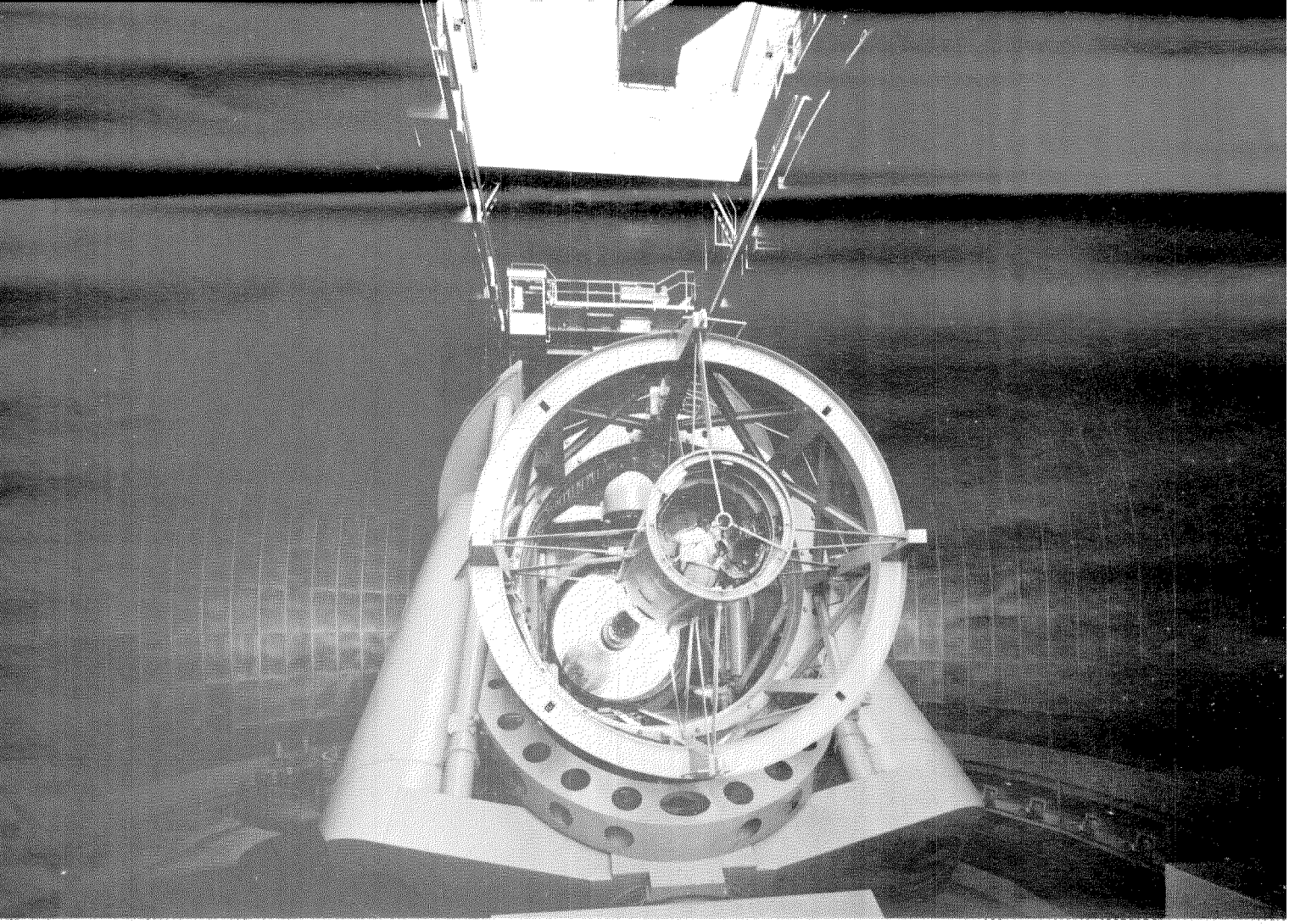

An astronomer at work in the prime-focus observing cage of the 200-inch reflector at Palomar Observatory.

Palomar — Twenty Years After

The world's largest telescope, the 200-inch Hale reflector at Palomar Observatory, celebrates its 20th anniversary this month by greatly increasing its observing powers with the installation of new electronic equipment.

The new equipment not only enables the telescope to measure the intensity of objects that have been recorded at the photographic plate limit but also to make observations much more rapidly than before.

Important astronomical advances made at the Palomar Observatory in its first 20 years include much of the work on the size and geometry of the universe and the research determining the rate at which the universe is expanding. The 200-inch telescope was used in identifying such new cosmic objects as quasars and radio galaxies, and much of the new knowledge of stars and galaxies was obtained through Palomar observations, following the earlier discoveries made with the Mount Wilson 100-inch reflector.

The 200-inch has performed much as George Ellery Hale hoped and predicted. It is a fitting tribute, then, on the 100th anniversary of Hale's birth, to expand even further the great work which Hale had anticipated for the telescope, formally dedicated on June 3, 1948.