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GEORGE ELLERY HALE

As it must to all men, death came to Dr. George Ellery Hale on February 21, 1938, at Los Encinas Sanitarium in Pasadena. Jointly with Doctors Millikan and Noyes, Doctor Hale is recognized as a founder of the California Institute in its present form. As one of the most outstanding astronomers of the present generation he was intimately connected with the Yerkes and Mount Wilson Observatories, and at the time of his death was Chairman of the Institute's Observatory Council, the body which has charge of the erection of the Palomar Observatory.

Quoting from Doctor Millikan's public statement shortly after Doctor Hale's death, we find that by 1913 the noted astronomer "had already, by his energy and initiative, made the Mount Wilson Observatory the world's most notable center of astronomical progress, but in the following years, while not forsaking its astronomical pioneering, he turned his great organizing and promoting gifts to the far-reaching national undertaking of establishing the National Research Council, and at the same time he assisted mightily in the

distinctive Southern California enterprises of creating and fostering the California Institute of Technology, the Huntington Library and Art Gallery — on both of whose boards of trustees he was a most active member — the Pasadena Planning Commission, and the 200-inch telescope project.

"He gave unstintingly of his time and talents, his very life blood, to all these enterprises even when he knew full well that his frail physique was well nigh certain to break under the strain.

"This it did in the early summer of 1936, when he had a stroke from which he never recovered and from the effects of which he died at 1:30 o'clock on the afternoon of February 21, 1938, at the age of 69 years.

"Very few men, indeed, have ever been so great an asset to Southern California and very few Californians have had a national and international significance comparable to that of George Ellery Hale.

"His death removes from our midst one of America's most illustrious, most lovable, and most useful of citizens."