

## ASTRONOMY

# Dane Heads McDonald

Appointment announced of internationally known Bengt Stromgren as director also of University of Chicago's Yerkes Observatory.

► DOCTOR Bengt Stromgren, internationally known Danish astronomer, will be director of two American observatories beginning Jan. 1, 1951.

The appointment, announced by Chancellor Robert Hutchins of the University of Chicago, marks the first time that the director of a European observatory has been named director of an American observatory.

Dr. Stromgren will be director of the University of Chicago's Yerkes Observatory at Williams Bay, Wis., and of McDonald Observatory, the University of Texas-University of Chicago cooperatively operated observatory at Fort Davis, Tex. He will also be professor of astronomy and chairman of the department of astronomy at the University of Chicago.

The 42-year-old astrophysicist is distinguished for his research and theories about what the stars are made of and what occupies the space between them. Dr. Stromgren has concluded that space and the stars are much the same except that the matter in the stars is close together.

A chunk of interstellar space the size of a big room contains about 10,000,000 atoms of hydrogen, 60 atoms of sodium, 100 atoms of calcium, four of potassium and two of titanium, according to Dr. Stromgren's calculations.

This year Dr. Stromgren received the \$5,000 Augustinus prize for his accomplishments in astronomy and astrophysics. Director of Copenhagen University Observatory and professor of astronomy there, he succeeds Dr. Otto Struve at the University

of Chicago. Dr. Struve is now at the University of California.

Dr. Elis Stromgren, Dr. Bengt Stromgren's father, was the director of the Royal Observatory in Copenhagen from 1907 to 1940 until he was succeeded by his son.

Science News Letter, December 2, 1950

## MEDICINE

## Seasickness Remedy Good for Ear Trouble

► PATIENTS who get dizzy and suffer nausea and vomiting because of inner ear trouble, called labyrinthitis, can be relieved by dramamine, the modern remedy for and preventive of motion sickness.

The results are so good that the drug should be given to all patients with disturbance of balance before resorting to a nerve-cutting operation, alcohol injection or other treatment, in the opinion of Dr. Leslie N. Gay, associate professor of medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Discovery of the effectiveness of dramamine in stopping or preventing air, car and seasickness was made by Dr. Gay and Dr. Paul E. Carliner just two years ago. Its effect in inner ear trouble is now reported by Dr. Gay to the Association of Military Surgeons.

The drug was given to six patients within three weeks after the dizziness, nausea and vomiting started. Regardless of the cause of these symptoms, the acute disturbance

subsided within one-half hour. In another group of 41 patients who had suffered from the same symptoms for from two months to 25 years all were either completely cured or had only infrequent and minor attacks so long as they continued to take dramamine. But 16 patients with the same symptoms did not get relief with the drug, and five got worse. The failures are unexplained.

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