THE SEMI-CENTENNIAL OF THE
DEARBORN OBSERVATORY.

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On November 6, 1912 the Chicago Astronomical Society met at the Dearborn Observatory in observance of the completion of fifty years of its existence.* The foundation of this Society inaugurated the movement towards the erection of the Dearborn Observatory in Chicago. The Observatory was completed and the telescope in place on April 11, 1866, and on that evening the members of the Society and guests assembled with the Director, Professor Truman H. Safford, to make the first observations. This marked the end of the preparation and the commencement of the active work of the Observatory. On April 11 of the present year, the fiftieth anniversary of this event, commemorative exercises were held at Northwestern University.

Volume I of the Annals of the Dearborn Observatory, recently issued, contains a brief history of the Dearborn Observatory, so that here the account may be condensed to the following paragraph:

Under Professor Safford's direction the work of the Observatory went forward actively until the great Chicago Fire of 1871 prostrated the city and robbed the Observatory of its support. Shortly thereafter Safford withdrew and entered the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, later going to Williams College. Professor Elias Colbert, who had been Assistant Director, assumed active charge, and with the exception of a few months in 1876, when Mr. S. W. Burnham was Acting Director, remained in charge until the appointment of Mr. G. W. Hough to the directorship, on May 6, 1879. In 1881 the University of Chicago became involved in litigation over its property and, as a consequence, in July

* Pop. Ast. 21, 473, 1913.