

THE 72-INCH REFLECTING TELESCOPE.

By J. S. PLASKETT

THE completion of the mechanical parts or mounting of the 72-inch telescope and the near approach to completion and erection of building and dome for the telescope make it fitting to present to readers of the JOURNAL a short note, illustrated by some photographs, of the present condition of the enterprise.

The mounting of the telescope was practically completed, and it was temporarily erected in the factory of the makers, the Warner and Swasey Co., of Cleveland, Ohio, about the end of March last. Some finishing touches to one or two details, the holding of a formal reception and exhibition of the telescope, which was delayed by the absence of members of the firm until May 25th, and the fact that the dome was not sufficiently advanced to offer protection from the weather, caused the postponement of the shipment to Victoria until the early part of June. The erection of the mounting will occupy some three months, hence occurring during the most favorable season, and should be completed by the early autumn.

The 72-inch mirror is 12 inches thick at the edge, has a hole $10\frac{1}{8}$ inches in diameter through the centre, and weighs some 4,340 pounds. It is finished on edges and back and its front surface is now practically spherical. Before it can be made a paraboloid of revolution, which is the surface necessary to bring the parallel pencil of light from any celestial object accurately to a focus, it is necessary to prepare a large flat surface for the purpose of testing the paraboloid. It is hoped that this will be finished and the mirror completed as soon as the mounting is ready to receive it.

A fine road to the summit of Saanich Hill, the site of the new observatory, was completed early last spring by the Govern-