

Time and place of meeting and form of publication are to be decided later.

T. L. LYON,
Secretary

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THE WORK OF THE MAGNETIC SURVEY
YACHT "GALILEE" IN THE PACIFIC
OCEAN DURING 1907

THE early part of the year found the *Galilee* on her way to the Marquesas Islands, having left San Diego, California, on December 22, 1906, with the following scientific personnel on board: W. J. Peters, commander; Messrs. J. C. Pearson and D. C. Sowers, magnetic observers, and Dr. G. Peterson, surgeon and recorder. Captain J. T. Hayes, as heretofore, was the sailing master.

From the Marquesas Islands, the route followed to Shanghai, touched at Tahiti (Society Islands), Apia (Samoan Islands) and Yap (Caroline Islands); Shanghai was reached on May 8. At all of the ports visited special examinations with regard to the distribution of the magnetic elements were made and comparisons secured, whenever possible, between the *Galilee* magnetic instruments and magnetic observatory standards. In addition, magnetic observations were made at sea whenever conditions permitted.

Leaving Shanghai on May 31 course was set for Sitka, Alaska, where the vessel arrived on July 15. Here she was inspected by Dr. L. A. Bauer, and some instrumental changes decided upon in consultation with the commander, Mr. Peters. At this port Mr. J. C. Pearson, who had been continuously on sea duty for a year and a half, was relieved and assigned to important magnetic work in the Yukon territory. In his place on board ship was assigned Mr. P. H. Dike, who in addition to taking part in the regular magnetic observations will likewise attempt special experimental work in atmospheric electricity.

After having completed the required shore operations at Sitka, the *Galilee* set out once more, under the command of Mr. Peters, for a cruise extending this time over both the North and the South Pacific Ocean. Leaving Sitka

on August 10 she arrived at Honolulu on August 28. Here again shore magnetic observations were made and instruments were tested and compared at the Coast and Geodetic Survey Magnetic Observatory near Honolulu.

Leaving Honolulu on September 26, the *Galilee* was sighted off Midway Island on October 6 on her way to Jaluit, of the Marshall Islands, and she finally arrived at Lyttleton, near Christchurch, New Zealand, on December 24, having been delayed somewhat in her progress by calms.

It is expected that she will leave the last named port about January 15 for Callao, Peru, where she is due to arrive early in March. From thence she will return to her home port, San Francisco, about May 1. The aggregate length of the cruises of the *Galilee* since August 1, 1905, will then have amounted to about 65,000 miles, embracing the Pacific Ocean from the American coast to the Asiatic coast, and from the Aleutian Islands down to New Zealand.

A complete determination of the three magnetic elements (magnetic declination, magnetic inclination, and intensity of magnetic force) has been secured at sea, on the average, about every 200 or 250 miles along the entire route, besides numerous magnetic results having been secured at ports and islands visited.

Owing to the high efficiency reached by Mr. Peters's party and because of the promptness with which the records of observations are transmitted, the complete reduction of the work can be kept almost apace with the observational work. It is confidently hoped that all the results obtained can be put in published form shortly after the termination of the work at San Francisco next May.

To say nothing of the interesting and important scientific results growing out of this work, mention may be made at present of but one result—one of great practical importance to navigational interests. With the aid of the data furnished the United States Hydrographic Office by the Carnegie Institution of Washington, it was possible to issue last spring a new chart of the "Lines of Equal Magnetic

Variation" (Magnetic Declination). It was found that in the Pacific Ocean the charts previously possessed were erroneous along certain well traversed routes by as much as three or five degrees, and that systematically at times. Hence these errors were of sufficient magnitude to be taken into account in practical navigation.

ELIZABETH THOMPSON SCIENCE FUND

THIS fund, which was established by Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson, of Stamford, Connecticut, "for the advancement and prosecution of scientific research in its broadest sense," now amounts to \$26,000. As accumulated income is now available, the trustees desire to receive applications for appropriations in aid of scientific work. This endowment is not for the benefit of any one department of science, but it is the intention of the trustees to give the preference to those investigations *which can not otherwise be provided for*, which have for their object the advancement of human knowledge or the benefit of mankind in general, rather than to researches directed to the solution of questions of merely local importance. The trustees are disinclined, for the present, to make any grant to meet ordinary expenses of living or to purchase instruments, such as are found commonly in laboratories. Decided preference will be given to applications for small amounts, and grants exceeding \$300 will be made only under very exceptional circumstances.

Applications for assistance from this fund, in order to receive consideration, *must be accompanied by full information*, especially in regard to the following points: (1) Precise amount required; (2) exact nature of the investigation proposed; (3) conditions under which the research is to be prosecuted; (4) manner in which the appropriation asked for is to be expended.

All applications should be sent at once to the secretary of the board of trustees, Dr. C. S. Minot, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. W. W. KEEN has been elected president of the American Philosophical Society, Phila-

delphia, succeeding Dr. Edgar F. Smith, who declined reelection.

At the recent meeting of the American Society of Zoologists, Eastern Branch, held at the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University, the following officers were elected: *President*, Dr. William Morton Wheeler, American Museum of Natural History; *Vice-president*, Professor Herbert S. Jennings, Johns Hopkins University; *Secretary-Treasurer*, Dr. Lorande Loss Woodruff, Yale University; *Member of the Executive Committee*, Professor Gilman A. Drew, University of Maine.

At the recent Madison meeting of the American Economic Association Professor Simon N. Patten, of the University of Pennsylvania, was elected president, to succeed Professor Jeremiah W. Jenks, of Cornell University.

M. GONNESSIAT, of the Paris Observatory, has been appointed director of the Observatory of Algiers.

PROFESSOR CORNIL, of Paris, having reached the age limit of seventy years, has been retired from the chair of pathological anatomy and histology, which he may be said to have first founded in France.

DR. DAVID HILBERT, of the University of Göttingen, has been made a member of the Bavarian-Maximilian Order for Science and Art.

LORD BRASSEY has been elected a corresponding member of the geographical section of the French Academy of Sciences in succession to the late M. Oudemans.

PROFESSOR RAPHAEL MELDOLA, F.R.S., past president of the Chemical Society, has been elected president of the Society of Dyers and Colorists, in succession to the late Sir W. H. Perkin.

THE University of St. Andrews has resolved to confer the honorary degree of LL.D. upon the following scholars, on February 16: Lord Avebury; Mr. Francis Darwin, president-elect of the British Association; Mr. Philip Norman, treasurer of the Society of Antiquaries; Sir E. J. Poynter, Bart., president of the Royal Academy; Mr. Charles Hercules Read, past president of the Anthropological Institute; and Principal MacAlister, Glasgow.