

position of at least £10 (frs. 250), will receive free all future publications of the congress. The funds received in respect of Life Compositions will be invested, and only the interest will be at the disposal of the executive committee. Sir Daniel Morris, D.Sc., and the Hon. N. Charles Rothschild, M.A., F.E.S., have kindly consented to act as trustees of the funds. Members who propose joining the congress, or presenting papers, are requested to address the general secretary of the executive committee, Malcolm Burr, D.Sc., care of Entomological Society of London, 11 Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W.

ANTARCTIC EXPLORATIONS

As every one knows from the daily press the Norwegian explorer, Captain Roald Amundsen, who made the first northwest passage ever accomplished by ship, has added to his laurels by reaching the South Pole. He verifies Shackleton's report that the pole is on an ice-capped plateau more than ten thousand feet above the ocean. Amundsen also discovered ranges of mountains, the peninsularity of King Edward VII. Land, and the origin of the oceanic ice-cap, known as Ross's Barrier. As soon as information as to the extent of the scientific work is received it will receive proper notice from SCIENCE.

Of the highest importance to the standing of American antarctic explorers is the information that the Australian antarctic expedition, in the ship *Aurora*, has verified in a general manner the accuracy of the discoveries of Captain Charles Wilkes, U. S. Navy, in 1840, of the Antarctic Continent. The leader of this expedition was Dr. Douglas Mawson, well-known to the readers of SCIENCE through his location of the South Magnetic Pole, in 72° 24' S., 155° 16' E. (SCIENCE, May 10, 1910). Dr. Mawson landed, February 19, on the glaciers of Adelie Land, with a party that remains there during the Antarctic winter. Another party under Dr. White is pursuing its scientific work at Termination Land, where it landed January 18. It is hoped that this confirmation of the reliability of Ameri-

can work will be set clearly before the American people as soon as details are obtainable.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

REAR ADMIRAL GEORGE WALLACE MELVILLE, U.S.N., retired, known for his Arctic explorations and eminent as a mechanical engineer, formerly engineer in chief of the U. S. Navy, died on March 18, aged seventy-one years.

DR. W. H. WILEY has resigned the position of chief of the Bureau of Chemistry of the Department of Agriculture, which he has held since 1883.

AMONG the degrees conferred, on the occasion of the exercises commemorating the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of the University of Pittsburgh, were the following on men of science: The doctorate of laws on Edgar F. Smith, provost of the University of Pennsylvania; N. L. Britton, director of the New York Botanical Garden, and L. O. Howard, chief of the Bureau of Entomology and permanent secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The doctorate of science on Ira N. Hollis, professor of engineering at Harvard University; C. F. Scott, professor of electrical engineering at Yale University; H. D. Campbell, dean of Washington and Lee University; A. D. Mead, professor of comparative anatomy at Brown University; C. M. Snelling, dean of the University of Georgia; R. K. Duncan, director of the department of industrial research of the University of Pittsburgh; James Ewing, professor of pathology at the Cornell University Medical School, and Milton J. Greenman, director of the Wistar Institute of Anatomy.

THE Smithsonian Institution was represented at the centennial celebration of the founding of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia this week by Dr. Charles D. Walcott, Dr. Richard Rathbun, Dr. Frederick W. True and Dr. Theodore Gill. Dr. Leonhard Stejneger represented the U. S. National Museum, and Mr. F. W. Hodge the Bureau of American Ethnology on this occasion.