

three years, the great insurance corporation of Lloyds has reported that over 134,000 tons of shipping in which they were interested, had mysteriously disappeared, involving a loss of over \$13,000,000.

Whilst the first duty of the expedition will be to accurately chart the seas, the vessel will carry a staff of twelve scientific men, who will make a thorough investigation of all places visited, and in little known regions, parties will be left for short periods to carry on work in many branches of science. The expedition has been fortunate in enlisting the practical support of many governments, and after consultation with hydrographers in many parts of the world, the following itinerary has been agreed upon.

Leaving London in June, surveying work will be carried on in the North Atlantic, particularly in the vicinity of the sinking of the *Titanic*—where on three occasions a rock has been reported—thence down the Atlantic, after calling at several ports in this country, to the Panama Canal.

For the next four years investigations will be made in the Pacific Ocean, calling at most of the little known islands, and extending in its operations from the Sea of Okhotsk to King Edward VII. Land.

On leaving the Pacific, the expedition will continue its work amongst the islands of the East Indies thence to Zanzibar by way of Columbo, Seychelles and Mombasa. Later considerable time will be spent in the unknown waters south of Madagascar. After calling at Natal, the vessel will once more sail for Antarctic waters, and endeavor to find the coast line between Queen Mary Land and the Weddell Sea. On leaving these latitudes a thorough investigation will be made of the Sandwich Islands, which are at present unsurveyed. Continuing westward oceanographic work will be carried on around South Georgia and the Falkland Islands. From Port Stanley a line of soundings will be made to Montevideo, examining several shallow patches in the South Atlantic, and thence by way of Trinidad, Martin Vaz and Cape Verde Islands to London.

A FOSSIL BOTANICAL GARDEN

THE New York State Museum has received from Willard Lester, Esq., a deed of gift of about three acres of land in the town of Greenfield, two miles west of Saratoga Springs, which include the widely known "Cryptozoon Ledge," and this little property is set apart as a public geological park to be preserved and protected by the state because of its scientific interest.

The acquisition of this natural monument by free gift from a distinguished citizen of the state is not only the expression of a fine sentiment, but it brings under authoritative care a noteworthy natural phenomenon. The Cryptozoon is a marine calcareous alga which grew in great spherical bodies and in the Cambrian seas which deposited the limestones of this park, they were so abundant as to form extensive reefs. The Hoyt (Cambrian) limestone here forms a ledge which has been planed off by the ice sheet so that the Cryptozoa are smoothed down to a level surface and their interior structure beautifully displayed over an area of about a half acre. The gift, however, includes the extension of this ledge into other natural rock faces and abandoned workings of the old Hoyt quarry from which the geological formation takes its name.

The little property which is to be known as the "Lester Park" is of great natural beauty, both in itself and in its approaches, but not the least interesting thing about it is the fact that it is given to the state because of its geological and educational worth.

JOHN M. CLARKE

RECENT CHANGES IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BOSTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

ON Wednesday evening, November 18, Professors H. L. Clark and Alexander McAdie addressed the first of the general meetings of the society which are being resumed this season. Dr. Clark spoke on New Australasian Echinoderms collected by S. S. *Endeavor* and Dr. McAdie spoke upon Exploring the Air. The interest shown by the large number of members present and the number of informal