that these principles had been so stated as to convey a meaning quite different from that intended. It is hoped that these notes concerning the writer's statements that have been criticized will throw a somewhat different light on their interpretation.

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AN IMPROVED METHOD OF HOLDING LARGE SPECIMENS FOR DISSECTION

MR. JOHN M. LONG[1] recently published a scheme for holding large specimens open while dissecting them in which he uses "trays of galvanized iron with four or more loops of metal soldered on the sides to which ordinary heavy rubber bands are attached. To these rubber bands are tied small fishhooks which have had their barbs filed off. These hooks are to be fastened to any part of the anatomy so as to hold the specimen firmly, or to pull certain parts to the desired position." As these rubber bands with the sharp fishhooks attached are permanently tied to the sides of the trays, there is some danger and inconvenience in handling the latter. This difficulty can be overcome and the whole scheme improved upon by fastening small, blunt hooks to the rubber bands at the opposite ends from the fishhooks, thus making them so that they can be easily removed from the trays. It is also a good idea to file the points of the fishhooks down somewhat so that they are not so dangerous to handle, and yet they can be easily thrust through the skin or flesh of the specimen to be held.

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SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

South. The Story of Shackleton's Last Expedition, 1914–1917. By SIR ERNEST SHACKLETON, C.V.O. With 88 illustrations and diagrams. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1920. $6.00.

It has been well said that peace has its victories as great as those of war. Too much praise can not be given the men who for country alone, or for the whole world, have struggled and suffered, bled or died. But peace, not war, is the normal phase of our life, and its unwarlike victories—material, mental and spiritual—most deeply affect us. For this reason the world delights to read this straightforward tale of Shackleton, wherein are embodied high adventure, unique experiences and thrilling situations with displays of courage and persistence, of fidelity and solidarity—qualities which ennoble mankind.

The scientific work in view was the most comprehensive and ambitious ever attempted by a polar expedition. In extent and importance it approached, if it did not surpass, the International Polar Conference program of 1881–1884. Geographically the vast ice-clad continent of Antarctica was to be crossed from Weddell Sea to Ross Sea, and its glacier-lined, unknown coasts charted by cruises in unvisited waters of the Antarctic Ocean. Scientifically were to be studied the fauna of the sea, the hydrography of the ocean, the geology of the land, the meteorology of the air, and the mysteries of magnetism. The primary base, under Shackleton personally, was to be established near Vachsel Bay, Luitpold Land, discovered in Weddell Sea by Filchner in 1912.

It is of special interest that this south-polar area, through the comprehensive policy and timely application of England's colonial methods, is a part of her empire. By proclamation of July, 1908, this region was declared to be British territory which was defined as "Situated in the South Atlantic Ocean to the south of the 50th parallel of south latitude and lying between 20 degrees and 80 degrees west longitude."

The second party—to enter Ross Sea—will be later considered. Sailing from Plymouth, August 8, 1914, after the Admiralty had declined the offer for war purposes of his ship *Endurance,* Shackleton made his final arrangements at Grytvikin, South Georgia whence he steamed south on December 5. His ship was fitted for every contingency, and his crew

[1] SCIENCE, Vol. XLIX., pp. 120–121.