

SCIENCE

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THE WHITNEY SOUTH SEA EXPEDITION OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

THROUGH the personal influence of Dr. Leonard C. Sanford, a trustee and honorary fellow of the American Museum of Natural History, Mr. Harry Payne Whitney agreed in 1920 to finance a zoological expedition in Polynesia. The main object of the expedition is to collect birds at the various islands of the South Sea and on the intervening ocean areas. The sum generously contributed by Mr. Whitney was considered sufficient for five years' work, including provision for the purchase of a vessel which would assure the field workers of the Museum an opportunity to visit a large number of islets which are far from the trade routes or ordinary lines of communication. The expedition is perhaps the most comprehensive that has ever been planned and equipped for ornithological science.

The Whitney South Sea Expedition is under the direct administration of a committee appointed by the Trustees of the Museum and consisting of Doctors Leonard C. Sanford, Frank M. Chapman and Robert Cushman Murphy. As field representative, the Museum has been fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Rollo H. Beck of San José, California, a veteran naturalist and collector of marine birds who had previously rendered the institution years of noteworthy service, particularly while he was in charge of the Brewster-Sanford South American Expedition of 1912-1916. Mr. Beck is accompanied in the field by Mrs. Beck, who was his constant companion during the South American littoral work, and by an assistant, Mr. Ernest H. Quayle, whose training at Stanford University has admirably fitted him for the responsibility. In September, 1920, the members of the party sailed from San Francisco to Tahiti and from the latter base they have

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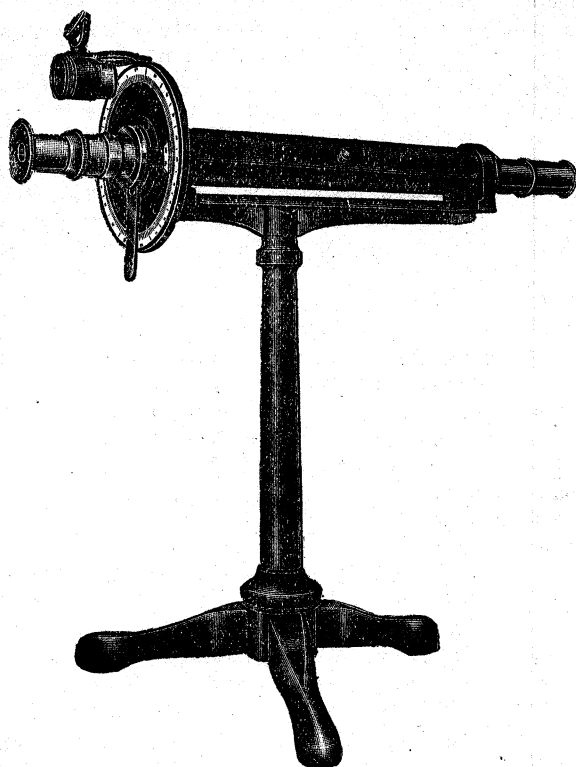
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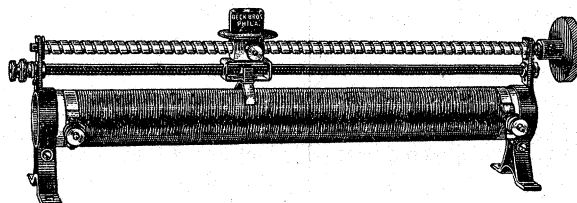
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