

advanced age of seventy-six and in the fifty-seventh year of his religious life as a Jesuit. His first historical paper published in 1900 related to Snell's measurement of the earth's meridian; his last contribution which has reached us is a Preface to Gillain's *Arithmétique Egyptienne*, dated October, 1927. Between 1900 and 1928, Bosmans issued a steady flow of papers relating mainly to fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth century mathematicians, most of whose works are not generally accessible. He remained active to the last, notwithstanding his partial blindness in later years. A noteworthy incident was his borrowing from the Louvain Library one of the very few copies still extant of Simon Stevin's book, *Le Thiende*, on decimal fractions, and thereby saving it from destruction, for while the book was in his possession the Louvain Library was burned. Bosmans was of a kindly disposition. Some years ago, when the present writer happened to state in a letter that he was working on the evolution of the theory of limits, and ought to have access to Gregory St. Vincent's geometry, Bosmans had passages in that work photographed which he sent with his compliments. His keenness of mind as well as his sympathetic and appreciative nature are seen in his numerous book reviews.

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE EXPLORATION OF THE ARCTIC REGIONS BY MEANS OF THE AIRSHIP (AEROARCTIC)

MORE than three years ago the society under consideration was organized in Germany. It attracted a number of people of different countries interested in the investigation of the Arctic regions, and, so far as Europe and Asia are concerned, it has a good representation in nearly all the countries of the Old World. The society was well represented at its first international meeting, which was held in Berlin from November 9 to 13, 1926. The second meeting will be held in June of this year at Leningrad, U. S. S. R. Beginning in 1928 the society will publish a quarterly journal, *Arctis*, under the editorship of Dr. Fr. Nansen, president. Among the collaborators of the journal in the United States are Dr. L. A. Bauer, director of the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, V. Stefansson, and the writer. Besides Dr. Nansen, the membership list of the society contains a number of people well-known in connection with the exploration of Arctic regions in their respective countries as well as internationally.

The epic heroic period of Arctic travels might be considered finished with the last memorable Peary expedition, but Arctic regions are still very little known and much less explored and investigated. The new international society attacks the problem from different points of view. Being ready to send Arctic expeditions in an airship and already preparing them, the society puts the greatest weight on the conquering of Arctic regions by means of a regular siege, which will be possible only if all the countries bordering the Arctic will cooperate in carrying on systematic work within their national borders. The program of the society can not be accomplished by any one country alone, but is an international enterprise which has to be worked out in national frames.

The United States and Canada, the countries of the New World having Arctic possessions, have not been represented previously in this international organization. However, the Canadian branch is now being organized, and the American branch for the United States has come into life during this year. The officers of the American branch are: *President*, Dr. L. A. Bauer; *vice-president*, Dr. J. A. Fleming, of the Carnegie Institution of Washington; *secretary*, I. P. Tolmachoff, of the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh. Any information concerning the new organization can be obtained from the secretary.

Dr. Fr. Nansen in May of this year is expected in this country to attend the meeting of the American Peace Society at Cleveland, Ohio, and it may be also possible for him to give some lectures on the activity of the International Society for the Exploration of the Arctic regions, its achievements and the program of the future work.

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THE REORGANIZATION OF THE POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL

THE appointment of Dr. Edward Hicks Hume, former president of the Colleges of Yale-in-China and for many years identified with national and international hospital and medical educational work, director of the New York Post-Graduate Medical School and Hospital, recently recorded in *SCIENCE*, marks a change in the policies of the institution. It follows a survey made of the personnel and resources of the institution, which Dr. Hume has been working on since May, 1927, which proposes certain administrative and teaching rearrangements, and makes recommendations regarding a new building program and better integration with the nation-wide plans for graduate medical teaching. Under the new régime, responsibility will