

The *Dana* is a steam trawler of the Lord Mersey type, purchased by the Danish government from the admiralty after the war, a sister ship of the English research vessel *George Bligh* and the Scottish *Explorer*, and normally employed, like them, in investigations of sea fisheries in pursuance of the concerted program of research of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea.

According to the provisional arrangements, the *Dana* will first visit Spain and Portugal, the Straits of Gibraltar and the western part of the Mediterranean, and will then sail *via* Madeira and the Azores to the West Indies, and thence through the Panama Canal into the Pacific, visiting Tahiti, the Fiji Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand and East Australia. After a stay of two months in East Australian waters the expedition will proceed northwards in the early spring of 1929 to Japan and China, and thence to the Malay Archipelago, the Dutch East Indies and Siam and across the Indian Ocean from Java to Madagascar. From Madagascar the route will follow the east coast of Africa, and the expedition will return through the Red Sea and the Mediterranean probably in the spring of 1930.

The areas selected for most intensive examination are the Straits of Gibraltar, the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb, the sea round New Caledonia and the most easterly part of the Mediterranean. The purpose of the expedition is general oceanography, physicochemical as well as biological. Special attention will be paid to ocean depths, for which purpose the ship is equipped with up-to-date echo-sounding apparatus, but every branch of oceanography is provided for, both in the technical apparatus of the ship and in the qualifications of her expert staff. Investigations of the fauna of the sea bottom will be limited, owing to the expenditure of time which they involve, to certain selected areas, notably the waters about New Caledonia.

The investigations as a whole will form a logical continuation of Dr. Schmidt's former expeditions in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, and it is Dr. Schmidt's intention, without interfering with the general oceanographical program, to pay particular attention to the life histories of all the species of eel to be found in Indo-Pacific regions. The way has been prepared for these investigations by a preparatory voyage made by Dr. Schmidt two years ago, and by the examination in the Carlsberg Laboratory at Copenhagen of large collections of specimens procured from the Pacific and the Indian Ocean.

#### AN INTERNATIONAL FUEL CONFERENCE

PLANS for the Fuel Conference to be held in London from September 24 to October 6, 1928, under the

auspices of the World Power Conference, and in which the United States will take part, were made public on July 19 by the executive secretary of the Federal Power Commission, O. C. Merrill, who is general chairman of the American committee of the World Power Conference.

According to Mr. Merrill, each national committee will be permitted to send two official delegates to the Fuel Conference, which will deal with fuels as a source of heat and power. Among the delegates of the American Committee, as announced by Mr. Merrill, are the following:

Dr. Gustav Egloff, petroleum technologist, Universal Oil Products Company, Chicago, Ill.

H. W. Brooks, consulting engineer, 316 Metropolitan Tower, No. 1 Madison Avenue, New York City. (Representing American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the International Railway Fuel Association.)

O. P. Hood, chief, technologic branch, U. S. Bureau of Mines, Washington, D. C. (Representing American Society of Mechanical Engineers.)

Martin Frisch, manager of Field Engineering, Combustion Engineering Corporation, New York City.

G. A. Orrok, consulting engineer, 130 East 15th Street, New York City. (Representing American Society of Mechanical Engineers.)

David B. Rushmore, formerly consulting engineer, General Electric Company, New York City.

O. C. Merrill, general chairman, American committee, World Power Conference.

The Fuel Conference, which is to be held at the Imperial Institute in London, was organized as a sectional meeting of the World Power Conference by the British national committee with the approval of the international executive council of the World Power Conference. The Earl of Balfour is honorary president of the conference and Sir Alfred M. Mond is president.

The technical program is divided into five classes—solid fuel, liquid fuel, gaseous fuel, fuel utilization and general aspects, and under these heads will be discussed the composition and classification of fuels, preparation of fuels, storage, handling and transmission of fuels and the utilization of fuels.

#### GIFTS FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

It was recently announced that the University of Pennsylvania has received from Edward B. Robinette, an alumnus and banker of Philadelphia, a proposal to establish a foundation that, according to the founder's plans, may eventually have a capital of at least \$1,000,000 and that is to receive immediately \$250,000 of that sum.

In carrying out this plan, the first \$250,000, which is to be given at once by Mr. Robinette, will be used by

the foundation for the establishment of a clinic for the study, treatment and prevention of diseases of the heart and circulatory system. In particular it is the donor's desire that an agency for treatment of patients at the clinic should become operative at once and that the clinic staff should immediately direct its efforts toward the ultimate prevention of such diseases.

The sum of \$250,000 more is to be added to the resources of the clinic as needed, and the donor has further informed the university that he hopes to present, in due time, at least \$500,000 more to the foundation for the development of education in the liberal arts.

In his letter to the trustees setting forth the plan to establish the foundation, Mr. Robinette said in part:

The provision as to the clinic for the study, treatment and prevention of diseases of the heart and circulatory system is made because I am convinced that through this means a very great contribution can be made to the betterment of human welfare. Therefore it is my desire that the clinic should devote special attention to the study and treatment of diseases of the heart and circulation whose cure and relief will mean so much to all. When some other disease or group of diseases displaces heart and circulatory diseases from the position of first importance, I wish the clinic to concentrate upon the study and treatment of such other disease or diseases.

I do this so that the work of the clinic may never be restricted to a field of treatment and study in which there may no longer exist a predominating menace, and so that the clinic may always devote itself to the attack upon that disease which at the time is the greatest obstacle to the continued activity of people of middle age and beyond, and especially those who are the leaders of our national life.

The University of Pennsylvania has also received an anonymous gift of \$100,000 to carry on a study of the leucaemias and lymphomata in the Henry Phipps Institute for the Study, Prevention and Cure of Tuberculosis, one of the medical departments of the university. The study will be made in the institute under the direction of Dr. Eugene L. Opie, director of the institute's laboratory and director of the department of pathology of the University of Pennsylvania's School of Medicine.

#### GRANTS FROM THE DANIEL GUGGENHEIM FUND FOR THE PROMOTION OF AERONAUTICS

At a recent meeting in Port Washington, New York, the board of trustees of the Daniel Guggenheim fund for the promotion of aeronautics authorized an appropriation of \$290,000 to the University of Washington for the purpose of constructing an Aeronautics building. The appropriation was made at the

request of Dr. M. Lyle Spencer, president of the university, and was granted in view of the work already accomplished at the university in establishing an aeronautical engineering course and in recognition of its outstanding importance as an engineering institution in the Northwest. It was announced that the board of regents of the University of Washington would request the legislature of the state of Washington to provide funds for the proper equipment and instructional staff of the building.

The fund also authorized an appropriation of \$15,000 for the Harvard University graduate school of business administration for the purpose of establishing a research fund over a period of three years for the study of the economic and industrial effects and possibilities of commercial aviation.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology received \$34,000 to organize a three-year course in meteorology in that institution "in view of the need for meteorological instruction to keep pace with the development of commercial aviation."

In addition several smaller appropriations covering a wide variety of objects have been made. These included \$25,000 to finance the weather reporting services on the Los Angeles-San Francisco airway; \$2,500 for research in the development of a sensitive altimeter on the acoustic principle in the laboratory of the Technical University of Delft, Holland; the financing of the services of the aerologist for the Byrd Antarctic expedition, and \$500 to the college of engineering, New York University, to underwrite a course of aeronautical meteorology to be given at the university during the second half of the current school year.

It has also been announced that the fund will transfer its emphasis from assisting commercial aviation and stimulating public interest in its development to the consideration of the scientific problems involved in the mechanical structure of the airplane and the study of environmental conditions necessary for safe operation, particularly meteorology and the problem of fog-flying.

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#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

At the recent meeting of the International Astronomical Union held in Leyden, Holland, Sir Frank Dyson, British Astronomer Royal, was elected president for the next meeting, which it was decided to hold in the United States in September, 1932. This date was chosen in order that visiting astronomers might be in the United States at the time of the total eclipse of the sun, which will be visible in New England and eastern Canada on the afternoon of August 31, 1932.