

His wife, who is a qualified surgeon, accompanies him and will act as medical officer to the expedition. The expedition includes biologists, chemists, botanists, zoologists and geographers.

Dr. Yonge stated that:

Each member of the party is a specialist, and so the work done on the reef will be simply an extension of the investigations which have already been carried out in Britain. In addition to our inquiry into problems which have at the present only an academic interest, we intend to tackle several important economic problems, but our work will be very definitely limited by the means at our disposal.

Many species of edible fish abound in the channel between the reef and the shore, but for a full investigation of these from the commercial aspect a steam trawler would be necessary, so we do not hope for any striking results in that direction. The search for sponges of commercial value will be similarly limited. The culture of the pearl oyster and of the trochus shell, both very valuable articles in the world's trade, will probably yield good results, for we will be able to experiment with these during our thirteen months' stay on the reef.

Molluscs are comparatively easy to rear, and from my experience of the oyster beds on the French coast I believe that it should be possible to produce these in large quantities on several parts of the reef. We hope, too, to begin work on the migrations of the edible turtle and the hawk's-bill turtle, from which the valuable "tortoise-shell" of commerce is obtained. Until the wanderings of these animals are understood, it is hopeless to attempt to frame legislation to protect them by controlling the industry. The one thing certain is that promiscuous killing of them will ruin a valuable commercial asset.

The expedition will cost £10,000, of which £8,000 has already been subscribed by various scientific and other bodies, the Commonwealth of Australia and a number of private individuals. The chief purpose of the enterprise is research into the composition and formation of the coral reefs and their biology, and in order to examine the growth and feeding of the coral polyps in every season the expedition will continue work for more than a year.

#### THE FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY OF THE FOREST SERVICE

WITH one man in four of the technical staff in the field, the forest products laboratory of the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has carried on more investigations outside its own walls this summer than it has for some years past.

Twenty members of the staff have been detailed to studies in forests and sawmills from the Appalachian region to the Pacific Northwest. Some of the men were out for a few weeks only. Others have been away from the headquarters at Madison, Wis., for several months.

The increased amount of field work has been occasioned largely by the efforts being made to get fundamental lumber moisture data, and by the increasing tendency of laboratory studies to dovetail with management problems of the Forest Service on the national forests. The National Lumber Manufacturers' Association, through its trade extension organization, is cooperating with the laboratory in the moisture content study.

R. D. Garver, J. B. Cuno, Ray Miller and A. C. Wollin have been in North Carolina and Virginia for several months on an Appalachian logging and milling study similar to the studies already completed for the Lake States and Arkansas regions.

E. M. Davis, R. P. A. Johnson, G. C. Morbeck and F. E. Durfey are making observations on characteristic defects of western species in Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon and California.

Rolf Thelen, L. L. DeFlon, E. C. Peck, E. C. Rietz and O. W. Torgeson are obtaining information on the shipping moisture content of lumber at mills in California, the Inland Empire and the Pacific Northwest.

F. L. Browne is engaged in inspections of paint test fences in the southwest, in California, in the Pacific Northwest and at intermediate points.

A. O. Benson is in northern Wisconsin on a study of small dimension stock production.

W. K. Loughborough is making a survey of moisture content of lumber at southern pine mills for the Southern Pine Association. The objective of the association in this study is eventually to be able to make moisture content a part of specifications for each lumber grade.

R. F. Luxford has been in California for two months collecting redwood logs for mechanical tests.

J. D. MacLean is visiting western states from Montana to New Mexico to get information on the preservative treatment of Rocky Mountain tree species and Coast Douglas fir.

M. Y. Pillow is studying the occurrence of compression wood in western species in the California-Pacific Northwest-Inland Empire region.

R. M. Wirka is engaged in an inspection of treated crossties in service in Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Nevada and Arizona.

#### THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

THE 1928-29 sessions of the graduate school of the Department of Agriculture will open with the week beginning October 15.

According to tentative plans, probably four graduate courses will be offered and conducted by the school if justified by demand. These courses are: