The National Geographic Society has followed the splendid development of your Antarctic project, from which you and the gallant men of your command are contributing so much to world knowledge of geography. Our trustees and research committee have voted to double the society's original grant, therefore an additional $25,000 is available when desired. La Gorce joins in best wishes for safety and continued success to you and your men.

DESTRUCTION OF THE NON-MAGNETIC SHIP "CARNEGIE"

THE Carnegie Institution's non-magnetic ship *Carnegie* was burned as the result of a gasoline explosion in the harbor at Apia, Samoa, on November 30, which killed its master, Captain J. P. Ault.

According to a *Science Service Bulletin,* scientific records obtained on the voyages of the ship have been mailed back as she touched various ports. As the ship had been at Samoa for several days, it is supposed that all of the latest data had already been mailed, and that none of the scientific records were destroyed. W. C. Parkinson, senior scientific officer under Captain Ault, who has been made acting commander, reported to the institution that the destruction of the ship was complete, and that only the cash and the ship's books had been salvaged.

The main purpose of the *Carnegie* was to make magnetic observations in all the seven seas. Because the magnetic poles of the earth, towards which the compass needle points, are not at the geographical poles, the compass does not point directly north or south. Instead there is a certain declination for every point on the earth's surface, which is the angle that it deviates from a north and south line. This must be allowed for by navigators of ships and by surveyors on land. As the magnetic poles do not remain in the same place, the declination at any point constantly varies. Previous voyages of the *Carnegie* had determined these values for the first time in many points in the oceans. In 1915, Captain Ault took the *Carnegie,* then on its fourth cruise, around the South Polar regions in the latitudes between 50 and 60 degrees south. During the coming months it had been planned to cover much of the same track, to determine the variations in the last fifteen years. In fact, many parts of the route for the present cruise were planned to duplicate previous tracks, for the same reason.

Though magnetic observations of declination, intensity, etc., were the first purpose of the *Carnegie's* voyages, and the reason why it was especially built with scarcely a ton of iron or steel in its make-up, to avoid interference with the delicate magnetic instruments, many other researches entered into the program. Observations of the electricity in the atmosphere, of the cosmic rays that constantly bombard the earth from outer space, of the relation of these things to radio reception, of the depth of the ocean over which they sailed and biological studies of the organisms in the ocean were also in progress.

On May 1, 1928, the *Carnegie* left Washington for what was intended to be a three-year cruise. On board was a crew of 17 and a scientific staff of 7. The first leg was across the Atlantic to England and Germany, where some additional instruments were obtained. Then she sailed to Iceland, south of Greenland, down the Atlantic and through the Panama Canal into the Pacific. Thence she cruised around the Pacific, finally reaching Japan, and returned to San Francisco last summer, having covered 33,000 miles. Leaving San Francisco on September 3, she sailed to Honolulu and then to Apia, covering an additional 8,100 miles. On the rest of the trip, it was intended that she would sail to New Zealand, then across the south Pacific, passing south of Cape Horn to the south Atlantic, and touching at Cape Town, then across the Indian Ocean to Colombo, Ceylon, then to Australia, back to New Zealand, across the south Pacific again, but farther north than the previous voyage, around the Horn, north to Montevideo, Uruguay, and back to Washington by July, 1931.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

AT the anniversary meeting of the Royal Society on November 30 officers were elected as follows: *President:* Sir Ernest Rutherford; *Treasurer:* Sir Henry Lyons; *Secretaries:* Dr. H. H. Dale and Dr. F. E. Smith; *Foreign Secretary:* Lord Rayleigh; *Other members of council:* Dr. E. J. Allen, Dr. C. Bolton, Professor A. E. Boycott, Professor C. G. Darwin, Dr. C. G. Douglas, Sir Alfred Ewing, Professor E. W. Hobson, Sir Frederick Hopkins, Dr. W. H. Mills, Professor E. A. Milne, Sir Peter Chalmers Mitchell, Professor J. C. Philip, Dr. A. B. Rendle, Mr. A. A. C. Swinton, Professor W. W. Watts and Professor C. T. R. Wilson.

AMBROSE SPERRY, head of the American delegation to the World Engineering Congress at Tokio, has been decorated with the second order of the sacred treasure in recognition of his services for Japanese-American friendship.

THE medal of the Holland Society, awarded annually for outstanding performance in literature or science, was on November 26 conferred on Dr. Theobald Smith, head of the department of animal biology of the Rockefeller Foundation at Princeton, New Jersey. The presentation was made by Charles M. Dutcher, president of the society. Dr. Smith was introduced by Dr. L. O. Howard and Dr. Fenton B. Turck.