

GRANTS BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL ON THE EFFECTS OF RADIATION UPON LIVING ORGANISMS

THE committee appointed by the division of biology and agriculture of the National Research Council to collect and administer funds for the support of research upon the effects of radiation will complete the second year of its existence on June 30. After the period of solicitation and preliminary organization, as reported in *SCIENCE*, January 4, 1929, the committee found itself able to vote grants totaling over \$25,000 for the year beginning July 1, 1929. These were distributed among some twenty-five investigators in amounts varying from \$100 to \$2,000. In addition to such financial support, the committee has made substantial assignments of apparatus donated by manufacturers, and has introduced individual investigators to the research departments of various industrial establishments for advice and other assistance. Two hundred milligrams of radium have been available as a part of this service and also radium emanations. It is hoped that similar assistance can be continued during the five-year period originally contemplated. In addition to its functions of solicitation and distribution, the committee has plans for a survey of the field of investigations.

As now constituted the personnel of this committee includes the following individuals:

Standing Committee: D. H. Tennent, L. L. Woodruff, W. C. Curtis (*Chairman*).

Sub-committee on Allotment of Grants: C. E. Allen, William Crocker, W. C. Curtis, H. S. Jennings, G. H. Parker, L. L. Woodruff, D. H. Tennent (*Chairman*).

Sub-committee on Survey: A. F. Blakeslee, Janet Howell Clark, Max Ellis, C. S. Gager, F. B. Hanson, E. E. Just, S. O. Mast, H. W. Pöpp, B. M. Duggar (*Chairman*).

C. E. ALLEN, *Chairman*
Division of Biology and Agriculture
of the National Research Council

THE POSTPONEMENT TO 1931 OF AERO-ARCTIC'S FIRST EXPEDITION

It is with great regret that the postponement must be announced of the first expedition to the Polar regions of the International Society for the Exploration of the Arctic Regions by Means of Aircraft (Aeroarctic) which had been planned for April and May, 1930, on the *Graf Zeppelin*. Although all financial arrangements as well as the construction, preparation and tests of the necessary scientific apparatus and methods for the extended observational

program had been made, it developed about the middle of December that, contrary to its expectations and agreement with Aeroarctic, the Luftschiffbau-Zeppelin Company could not obtain from underwriters insurance covering the ship and crew for the proposed Arctic trip—an obligation which the company had assumed as a part of its original contract with the society for the use of the airship.

The Central Executive Committee of the Society has now taken up independently the question of insurance and, according to latest advices, has received assurance of acceptance by responsible parties of the greater part of the insurance risk. Unfortunately this assurance was received too late to permit forwarding of the great amount of airship supplies and equipment necessary to reach the several base-stations in Norway and at Fairbanks, Alaska, in time for the needs of the ship in April, 1930. The meteorological conditions of the Arctic are unfavorable for the success of the expedition as planned after April and May.

Through the most energetic application of the various scientific and technical commissions of the society, the scientific equipment, methods and constructions had all been remarkably well prepared, involving an expenditure of 350,000 marks, according to the information received from the Central Executive Committee. Thanks to the enthusiastic endeavors of the citizens of Fairbanks through its Commercial Club, the Territorial Government of Alaska and the Alaska Road Commission of the U. S. War Department, an especially well-fitted landing field has been prepared at Fairbanks involving an expenditure of about \$12,000, all of which, except for \$1,800 supplied by the society, was provided locally.

That the executive committee of the society fully expects to realize in 1931 its carefully laid plans for 1930 is indicated by the following extracts from a letter dated January 20 at Berlin:

The Executive Committee of Aeroarctic takes this opportunity to request all the national sections to continue to work most energetically for the achievement of the society's purposes. The committee is convinced that the accomplishment of the investigational program is of the greatest economic and scientific importance. It will put forth all its forces to insure that the expedition takes place in April to May, 1931.

Aeroarctic is under special obligation to the governments of Germany, U. S. S. R., Norway, Denmark, Spain, United States and Canada, which have taken such great interest in the practical advancement of the enterprise. The committee accordingly requests the presidents of the national sections to express the thanks of the society to the proper offices of the above-named governments and to request their support of its future plans.