

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.

As in all pioneer work such as this, initial delays and disappointments must serve only to spur on its sponsors. The importance of increasing our geophysical knowledge of the Polar regions is so great in every sense that the delay in the realization of the plans of the society will doubtless be compensated

for in the greater achievement which must come with any effective realization of these plans in 1931.

JNO. A. FLEMING

*Acting Vice-president, American
Section, Aeroarctic*

WASHINGTON, D. C.

FEBRUARY 28, 1930

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. CHRISTINE LADD-FRANKLIN, lecturer in psychology and logic at Columbia University, died on March 5, in her eighty-third year.

DR. ROBERT W. WOOD, professor of experimental physics and chairman of the department of physics of the Johns Hopkins University, has been elected an honorary member of the Academy of Sciences of Leningrad.

THE Franklin Institute has awarded Franklin medals for the year 1930 to Sir William Bragg, director of the Davy-Faraday Research Laboratory of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, in recognition of his original and valuable contributions to the knowledge of atomic structures and of his inspiring leadership of the Royal Institution; and to Dr. John F. Stevens, because of his solutions of the engineering problems involved in making the plans and effecting the engineering organization for construction of the Panama Canal, and because of his distinguished success in the location, erection and administration of railroads, both in the United States and in foreign lands. The medals will be presented at the annual medal-day exercises of The Franklin Institute, to be held in the hall of the institute in Philadelphia on the afternoon of May 21. Both Sir William and Dr. Stevens will be present to receive their medals and will read papers before the meeting.

THE Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, which has never given an honorary degree since it was founded seventy-five years ago, will break its custom to confer upon Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd the title of doctor of science at the annual commencement exercises in June. The people of Virginia will present a sword of honor to Rear Admiral Byrd under a resolution passed by the General Assembly.

THE George Montefiore prize for the year 1929 has been awarded to R. D. Evans and C. F. Wagner, Westinghouse engineers, in conjunction with three other engineers—Algeri Marino, of Rome, and H. Parodi and Pestarine, of Paris. This triennial prize presented by the Fondation George Montefiore of Liège, Belgium, for the best original work contributing to scientific advancement in the technical applica-

tions of electricity was given to Messrs. Evans and Wagner for their papers on "Studies of Transmission Stability" and "Static Stability Limits and the Intermediate Condenser Station." The amount awarded to Messrs. Evans and Wagner was 3,000 Belgian francs. The two previous Montefiore prizes of 1925 and 1922 were awarded to Dr. J. B. Whitehead, professor of electrical engineering and dean of the faculty of engineering of the Johns Hopkins University, for his papers on "Gaseous Ionization in Built-up Insulation" and "The Corona Voltmeter and the Electric Strength of Air."

THE Colorado Engineering Council on January 23 presented its gold medal of award to A. J. Weinig for meritorious engineering service in the field of metallurgy, "in recognition of his valuable services to the mining industry of Colorado and the whole nation, for his application of the theoretical to the practical in metallurgical practices and for his contributions to improvements in the flotation method of concentrating ores."

SIR ALFRED YARROW has been elected an honorary member of the British Institution of Civil Engineers.

GEORGE STUART GORDON, president of Magdalen College and honorary fellow of Merton College, Oxford; Professor Owen Willans Richardson, director of research in physics, King's College, London; Mr. Henry Thomas Tizard, rector of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, have been elected members of the Athenæum Club, under the provision which empowers the annual election by the committee of a certain number of persons of distinguished eminence in science, literature or the arts, or for public service.

DR. A. C. D. CROMMELIN has been elected president of the Royal Astronomical Society, London.

DR. WILLIAM H. ROBESY, clinical professor of medicine at the Harvard Medical School, has been re-elected president of the American Heart Association. He is also president of the New England Heart Association.

AT Harvard University Dr. L. W. Collett has resigned the professorship of geology which he has