the theoretical possibility that vaccines might revert to virulence, it held this was not practically admissible in this case. In the Luebeck Hospital laboratory Calmette cultures were prepared side by side with human tuberculosis bacilli, he said, and these two must have been accidentally confounded.

Such a mistake, the court held, was indicated by expert opinions, especially those regarding conditions in the hospital laboratory. The laboratory, while good enough for ordinary purposes, was unfit for the preparation of vaccine, and the court was convinced that the catastrophe had been caused by defects in the institution. The responsibility, therefore, rested primarily on Dr. Deycke, who as an expert bacteriologist knew the danger of a possible mistake or contamination. The precautionary instructions he had given were inadequate for certainly preventing them, the court held, the more so since, being overworked, he could not always supervise the laboratory personally.

The court held further that it had been established with a probability bordering on certainty that the catastrophe would have been averted had the vaccine been tested on animals before it was administered and that the tuberculosis outbreak would not have reached such dimensions had control through inoculation of animals been established. The responsibility for the omission was therefore held to rest also on Dr. Altstaedt, whose duty it was as chief health officer to make sure of the safety of the laboratory procedure.

Professor Albert Calmette, of Paris, the originator of the Calmette anti-tuberculosis serum, did not appear at the trial, but pleaded for the German physicians, saying that the hospital equipment was inadequate and that his colleagues should not be blamed. The serum was provided from the Pasteur Institute in Paris in July, 1929.

THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION

THE Department of the Navy has issued a statement to the effect that the *U. S. S. S-48* and the *U. S. S. Chewink,* naval ships on board which scientists of the International Scientific Expedition will cruise for two months while measuring ocean depths and the pull of gravity in the vicinity of the West Indies and the Bahamas, sailed on Sunday, February 7, from Guantanamo Bay on the first loop of their cruise.

The part of this first loop to be covered by the two ships lies southward of the Island of Jamaica and around the west end of Cuba, including 18 gravity stations, cruising about 1,125 miles and ending at Key West on February 11. There, computation of recorded data and a check-up with shore gravity stations were undertaken, after which the two ships left on the second portion of this loop, extending up the Florida Straits and the Old Bahama Channel.

Investigators embarked in the *S-48* and the *Chewink* are Dr. F. Vening Meinesz, member of the Geodetic Commission of the Netherlands; Mr. Harry Hess, proctor fellow in geology at Princeton University, and Mr. Townsend Brown, of the United States Naval Research Laboratory. Lieutenant Commander Allen H. Gosnell, U. S. Naval Reserve, is accompanying this unit of the International Scientific Expedition in the capacity of historian.

Professor Richard M. Field, director of the expedition, has sailed from Miami for study of the structural geology of the outer Bahamas, this study to be supplemental to the gravimetric survey being made beneath the sea by Dr. Meinesz.

In commenting in his dispatch on preparations made since the Meinesz unit of the expedition sailed on January 27 from Norfolk on board the *U. S. S. Tarbell,* destroyer, Lieutenant Commander Gosnell reports as follows:

> Set up gravity apparatus on deck of *Tarbell* in lee of Crooked Island January 29. Dr. Meinesz, Hess and Brown in Santiago during earthquake of February 3. Escaped safely from hotel and spent remainder of night on bench in Plaza. *S-48* and *Chewink* arrived at Guantanamo February 4. Commenced work on iron framework for apparatus.
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> On February 5, ships successively at sea testing all depth-finding installations. February 6, charging batteries and completing preparations for test of all gravity apparatus. This test in progress February 7 alongside dock. Prior to arrival of ships, party was engaged in working up results of tests made at Naval Research Laboratory.

SCIENTIFIC PROBLEMS OF THE ARCTIC

THE United States has been slow about joining the other nations in plans for studying scientific problems in the colder regions of the earth during August, 1932, to August, 1933, but Science Service reports that it will probably take part and establish a station at Fairbanks, Alaska. All that is needed is the money —$30,000—and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has reported out the bill authorizing this expenditure. It is expected to pass, despite the depression, and the economy program of the administration. Recommendations in its favor were made to the committee both by President Hoover and Secretary of State Stimson.

Twenty-six nations have arranged to take part in this "Second Polar Year Program." The United States will make the number twenty-seven. Subjects to be studied are the magnetism of the earth; the