

DISSOLUTION OF THE AMERICAN SECTION OF THE AEROARCTIC

AMONG different scientific institutions which suffered in connection with the program of economy in government expenditures is the American section of the Aeroarctic. When this international society for the exploration of the Arctic regions by aircraft was organized in Germany, it was decided that every country which took part should contribute for the work a certain amount, which would be based on its population. For the countries with a population of over fifty million people this amount was fixed at \$300 per year.

The American section of the Aeroarctic was founded in 1928.¹ The following year the Congress passed a bill making an annual appropriation of \$300 for a period of five years (1929-1933). The appropriation for 1933, however, has been cancelled by the Congress. Through this act the American section of the Aeroarctic lost not only the necessary funds, but also its international standing. The American ambassador in Berlin was instructed by the Department of State to take the necessary steps to give up the membership.

The section could not continue its work as a national organization. The membership dues of \$1 a year are hardly sufficient to pay for routine expenses. To increase the dues under present conditions is not advisable and there is no hope of procuring private funds. The transformation of a section of an international society into a national society would require complete reorganization.

Taking into consideration all these conditions, the executive committee of the section has decided to discontinue its activities. A vote of the members of the section showed that a large majority of members recognized that its dissolution is unavoidable.

During the brief time of its existence the American section contributed a great deal to the common cause of the Aeroarctic. It was instrumental, through co-operation with the citizens of Fairbanks, the United States War Department and the Alaskan Road Commission, in establishing a landing field, costing about \$12,000, at Fairbanks, Alaska. This field was prepared in anticipation of the plan of the Aeroarctic for its first flight across the North Pole, which unfortunately was not realized because of economic conditions. The American section took an active part in finding means for the construction of a special double compass for observations on the *Graf Zeppelin* during its flight of July, 1931, for the Aeroarctic. On that flight the American section was represented by Lieutenant-Commander Edward H. Smith, of the United States Coast Guard.

In view of the important results achieved by Aero-

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arctic's Polar expedition in the *Graf Zeppelin*, it is to be hoped that ultimately plans for polar flights with scientific programs prepared by the Aeroarctic may be realized. They would add much to geophysical knowledge.

I. TOLMACHOFF

CARNEGIE MUSEUM,
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

CEREMONIES to mark the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Harvard Medical School, in which President James Bryant Conant and Dr. A. Lawrence Lowell will take part, will be held on October 6 and 7, according to an announcement made by Dean David L. Edsall.

According to the records of the Harvard Corporation, the opening of the Medical School dates from October 7, 1783, with the induction into office of John Warren as professor of anatomy and surgery and Benjamin Waterhouse as professor of the theory and practise of physic.

The ceremony will be held at the Harvard Medical School and at three of its affiliated hospitals, the Massachusetts General Hospital, the Boston City Hospital and the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital. Following an inspection of these hospitals in the morning, an afternoon program has been arranged for the alumni, including a series of lectures by members of the faculty on work now being done at the school. The one hundred and fiftieth anniversary dinner will be in the evening.

On October 7, formal ceremonies will be held in Cambridge to celebrate the anniversary. The corporation records contain a long-hand account of the original exercises in 1783, and the program for October 7 has been designed to repeat in part the original exercises.

At 10:30 a procession of university officers and faculty and alumni of the Medical School will form at University Hall in the College Yard, and will proceed to Sanders Theater. Here the program will include a brief speech by President Conant and an address by Dr. Lowell, the original inauguration orations of Professors Warren and Waterhouse, and the psalms which were sung at the occasion one hundred and fifty years ago. Dr. Warren's oration will be read by Dr. J. Lewis Bremer, Hersey professor of anatomy, and Dr. Waterhouse's oration by Dr. Henry A. Christian, the present holder of the Hersey professorship of the theory and practise of physic. These chairs are the two oldest endowed professorships in the school.

In 1788, the university conferred its first medical