

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

degree on two students. Since then the school has grown steadily, and at commencement last June it granted 131 degrees. The faculty has grown from the original three professors to a present teaching staff of over one hundred and thirty members.

RECENT DEATHS

DR. E. N. LOWE, director of the Mississippi State Geological Survey since 1909, and professor of geology at the University of Mississippi since 1924, died on September 12, at the age of sixty-nine years.

THE death is announced on September 4 of Dr. John Playfair, a past president of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, and consulting physician to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "Herman Paul Sachse, who had devoted his life to the design and production of scientific instruments, died August 12, 1933, at the age of fifty-three years. Mr. Sachse, who was born in Germany, first entered the scientific instrument industry as an apprentice in the Zeiss Op-

tical Works in Jena. In 1911 he came to America to accept a position as superintendent in the plant of Eugene Dietzgen Company in Chicago. His skill in the testing and inspection of optical instruments later opened an opportunity to enter the employ of the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company in Rochester, as general inspector. In 1918 his services were secured by the Central Scientific Company for the making of optical devices for the control of gun fire in the war. At its close he assumed full charge of the production of scientific instruments and laboratory apparatus in the factory of this company, first as factory superintendent and later as factory manager. Mr. Sachse's unusual ability as an apparatus and instrument designer, his intimate knowledge of manufacturing processes and his well-developed artistic sense enabled him to develop instruments of precision which could be produced economically in the small quantities in which such products are made, but still of the perfect proportions and pleasing appearance that really fine instruments justify."

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

SIR WILLIAM BATE HARDY, fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, and director of Food Investigation at the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, has been nominated as president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science for next year when the meeting is to be held at Aberdeen.

DR. HERMAN SCHLUNDT, professor of physical chemistry and since 1911 chairman of the department of chemistry at the University of Missouri, is suffering from a severe attack of encephalitis lethargica.

PRESIDENT ROBERT G. SPROUL, of the University of California, calls attention to the fact that the award of the Langmuir Prize by the American Chemical Society to Dr. Frank H. Spedding, instructor in chemistry, is the third in succession that has been made to instructors or graduates of the university. The first award was made to Dr. Linus Pauling, lecturer in chemistry, and the second to Dr. Oscar K. Rice, Ph.D. (California, '26), now at Harvard.

PROFESSOR DOUGLAS JOHNSON, of Columbia University, has been decorated by King Alexander I of Yugoslavia with the Order of Saint Sava, Second Class, with Star. The presentation was made in New York City by the consul general of Yugoslavia.

DR. OTTO RENNERT, professor of botany at Jena, has been elected a member of the Saxon Academy of Sciences.

HONORARY doctorates have recently been conferred by the Agricultural Institute at Vienna on Dr. Otto

Appel, director of the Biological Institute for Agriculture and Forestry, Berlin; on Dr. Hans Molisch, professor of plant anatomy and physiology at Vienna, and on Dr. Christoph Wagner, professor of forestry at Freiburg i. Br.

DR. WALTER A. COOK has been appointed head of the department of chemistry at the University of Akron, to succeed H. E. Simmons, who has been elected president of the institution. Dr. Cook has been connected with the department of chemistry at the University of Akron for the past seven years. Dr. Howard I. Cramer, research chemist with the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, has been appointed to take charge of classes in rubber chemistry and inorganic chemistry at the university.

DR. GEORGE STEPHEN JOHNSON, professor of psychiatry at the University of Colorado Medical School and director of the work of the Colorado Psychopathic Hospital, has been appointed professor of neuropsychiatry at the Stanford Medical School. Dr. Johnson will carry on the work of the late Dr. H. G. Mehrrens, who died on February 28.

DR. G. C. CHANDLEE, head of the department of chemistry at the Pennsylvania State College, will act as dean of the Graduate School this year during the absence of Dean F. D. Kern, who will be acting dean of the College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts of the University of Puerto Rico.

IN the issue of SCIENCE for September 15, it was stated that Dr. Harry M. Zimmerman had been ap-