

THE SECOND JOINT EXPEDITION OF YALE UNIVERSITY AND THE WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION

THE second oceanographic expedition to the Central American Seas, sponsored jointly by Yale University and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, left Woods Hole on Saturday, January 20, on the research ship *Atlantis*. Professor A. E. Parr, curator of the Bingham Oceanographic Collection of Yale University and research associate at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, will be in charge of the scientific work.

The cruise, which is the third in the series of expeditions to these waters begun by the Yale expedition on the *Mabel Taylor* in 1932, will complete the investigations of the previous two cruises by hydrographic observations in the sectors between Jamaica and Central America and between the Caiman Islands and the southern coast of Cuba. Parallel with the completion of the hydrographic sections, the problems of the quantity, nature and origin of the floating Sargasso-weeds and the biology of the animals that live among them will also be taken up for investigation, and a study will be made of the flying fishes.

There are few biological phenomena in the sea of a similar magnitude which have been subject to such entirely contradictory views as have the floating Sargasso-weeds. During the cruise preliminary attempts will be made to apply to floating Sargasso-weeds a method recently developed by marine botanists for inducing the formation of fruit-leaves and causing reproduction of marine algae under experimental conditions. If the treatment should prove effective, it would offer a possibility of settling the question as to origin, although final results are not to be expected during a single short cruise.

By continuous towing of a surface collector of a standard size, the expedition will also attempt to obtain approximate figures for the actual amount of floating weeds present in the areas visited. Heretofore the records of distribution are based chiefly upon such observations as the frequency with which large rafts have been noticed from passing ships, which gives no information as to the actual quantities present in terms of weights or measurements.

C. M. Breder, assistant director of the New York Aquarium, will participate in the cruise, as a research associate of the Bingham Oceanographic Laboratory, to study the habits, development and relationships of the flying fishes. Other participants are M. D. Burkenroad, assistant in the Bingham Oceanographic Laboratory, and M. B. Bishop, assistant in zoology in the Peabody Museum.

AWARD OF THE GOLD MEDAL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE

"For pioneering in industrial research," the General Electric Company was presented on February 1 with a gold medal by the American Institute of the

City of New York. The American Institute, which was founded more than a hundred years ago, includes among its objectives the recognition of achievements in science which have profoundly influenced human affairs.

The council on awards of the institute decided that the establishment and maintenance by the General Electric Company of its large laboratory for pure research has been of lasting benefit to human progress and industry. This laboratory, which was created in 1900, when Dr. Willis R. Whitney went to Schenectady from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to assume the position of research director for the company, has been the scene of scientific discoveries which have greatly expanded existing industries and have created in several notable instances large new industries.

The exercises on February 1 took place at the American Museum of Natural History, where a dinner was served, followed by the presentation speech by the president of the American Institute, Dr. H. H. Sheldon. The medal was accepted by Dr. William D. Coolidge, the present director of the General Electric Company's research laboratory. An hour's program of laboratory demonstrations was then given by members of the laboratory staff.

The text of the citation accompanying the medal is as follows:

For pioneering in industrial research . . . for great achievements in pure science that have furnished gainful occupation for thousands of workers and that have raised the standard of living and increased health and happiness, the American Institute of the City of New York awards its gold medal to the General Electric Company.

Following the medal presentation a demonstration was given of many of the recent scientific developments made in the laboratories of the General Electric Company, by Ellis L. Manning, a member of the laboratory staff.

The American Institute has not made an award of this sort for many years. The General Electric Company has never before received an award as a corporation, although many of the investigators and engineers working for the company have received awards for individual achievements. The most conspicuous of these was the award to Dr. Irving Langmuir, associate director of the research laboratory, of the Nobel prize in chemistry for 1932. Dr. W. R. Whitney, founder and upbuilder of the laboratory, retired from its directorship in 1931, but retains the title of vice-president in charge of research.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS FOR THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

THE National Nominating Committee of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, consisting of