

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

members from various parts of the country, has nominated the following official ticket of candidates for the offices becoming vacant on August 1.

For President

J. Allen Johnson, chief electrical engineer, Buffalo, Niagara and Eastern Power Corporation, Buffalo, N. Y.

For Vice-presidents

Northeastern District:

W. H. Timbie, professor of electrical engineering and industrial practise, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

New York City District:

R. H. Tapscott, vice-president, New York Edison Company, New York.

Great Lakes District:

G. G. Post, vice-president, Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light Company.

Southwest District:

F. J. Meyer, vice-president in charge of operation, Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company, Oklahoma City.

Northwest District:

F. O. McMillan, research professor of electrical engineering, Oregon State College, Corvallis.

For Directors

F. Malcolm Farmer, vice-president and chief engineer, Electrical Testing Laboratories, New York.

Nevin E. Funk, vice-president in charge of engineering, Philadelphia Electric Company, Philadelphia.

H. B. Gear, assistant to the vice-president, Commonwealth Edison Company, Chicago.

For National Treasurer

W. I. Slichter, professor of electrical engineering, Columbia University.

These official candidates, together with any independent nominees that may be proposed later in the manner specified by the constitution and by-laws, will be voted upon by the membership at the coming election in the spring of 1934.

OFFICERS OF THE WASHINGTON ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THE result of election of the officers for the Washington Academy of Sciences was announced at its annual meeting as follows:

President, L. B. Tuckerman.

Non-resident Vice-presidents, E. C. Andrews, E. T. Wherry.

Corresponding Secretary, Paul E. Howe.

Recording Secretary, Charles Thom.

Treasurer, H. G. Avers.

Members of the Board of Managers for the three year term ending January, 1937, William M. Corse, John E. Graf.

Vice-presidents, representing the various affiliated societies of the academy:

Anthropological Society, Matthew W. Stirling.

Archeological Society, Walter Hough.

Bacteriological Society, N. R. Smith.

Biological Society, Chas. E. Chambliss.

Botanical Society, Charlotte Elliott.

Chemical Society, D. B. Jones.

Engineers, Paul E. Whitney.

Columbia Historical Society, Allen C. Clark.

Electrical Engineers, E. C. Crittenden.

Entomological Society, Harold Morrison.

Geological Society, C. N. Fenner.

Helminthological Society, G. Steiner.

Mechanical Engineers, H. L. Whittemore.

Medical Society, H. C. Macatee.

Military Engineers, C. H. Birdseye.

National Geographic, F. V. Coville.

Philosophical Society, H. L. Dryden.

Radio Engineers, H. G. Dorsey.

Society of Foresters, T. S. Palmer.

THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

THE forty-sixth annual meeting of The Geological Society of America was held at the University of Chicago on December 28, 29 and 30. More than five hundred persons were in attendance, and a total of more than one hundred scientific papers were presented at the various sessions.

The address of the retiring president, Professor C. K. Leith, on "The Pre-Cambrian," was delivered on the evening of December 28 in Mandel Hall, and was followed by a smoker held in the Reynolds Club. The annual dinner was held at the Shoreland Hotel on the evening of December 29, when the sixth award of the Penrose Medal of The Geological Society, for distinguished service and fundamental contribution to the advancement of geologic science, was announced, the recipient being Professor Waldemar Lindgren, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The council of the society authorized twenty-six additional research grants at this time, from the income of the bequest to the society under the will of the late Dr. R. A. F. Penrose, Jr. A total of sixty-six grants have now received support from this fund, involving prospective expenditure of \$72,000.

The newly elected officers of the society for the year 1934 are:

President, W. H. Collins, Ottawa, Canada.

Past-president, C. K. Leith, Madison, Wisconsin.

Vice-presidents, Arthur L. Day, Washington, D. C.;

Eliot Blackwelder, Stanford, California; Percy E.

Raymond, Cambridge; John E. Wolff, Pasadena,

California.

Secretary, Charles P. Berkey, New York.

Treasurer, Edward B. Mathews, Baltimore.