

whose death has since been announced. On this occasion the Robert Koch-Stiftung for the combating of tuberculosis, which had been destroyed by the period of inflation, was reestablished. The new organization, however, will be devoted not only to combating tuberculosis but also to other scientific research for the combating of infectious diseases. Donors of substantial

sums may possibly become members of the honorary committee or may be permitted to inscribe their names in the so-called Goldenes Buch. Thus far 100,000 marks (\$40,000) has been collected, and further sums are being added from time to time. The basal donation is a gift of a group of Japanese physicians, dating from 1932."

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

AN OXFORD EXPEDITION

IN the latter part of July the Oxford University Arctic Expedition, 1935-36, arranged under the auspices of the Oxford University Exploration Club, left England to spend fourteen months on the unknown coast of the barren, ice-clad North-East Land. The expedition, according to the *London Times*, consists of the following members: A. R. Glen, glaciologist and leader; Andrew Croft, dog driver and second-in-command; A. Dunlop-Mackenzie, organizer; A. S. T. Godfrey, R.E., surveyor; R. A. Hamilton, physicist; D. B. Keith, ornithologist; R. Moss, physicist; A. B. Whatman, Royal Corps of Signals, wireless; J. W. Wright, surveyor, and Dr. A. Ballantine. The average age of the members is twenty-three years.

Of these, Croft and Godfrey were members of last year's British expedition which sledged across Greenland and southwards along the eastern mountains, while Keith and Wright have been on summer Cambridge Iceland expeditions. Glen was leader of the 1933 Oxford Spitzbergen expedition, and it was while he was in Spitzbergen during the summer of 1934 that the idea of this present expedition was suggested to him by the Swedish explorer, Dr. Ahlmann, of Stockholm. The preparations for the expedition have been decentralized so that each member of the personnel was responsible for some branch of the plans. The University of Oxford, the Royal Society and the Royal Geographical Society have supported the expedition generously, as have various other societies and funds, notably Oxford and Cambridge colleges. The War Office has attached two officers and has lent a great deal of wireless equipment, and scientific equipment has been lent by the Admiralty, the Meteorological Office and the National Physical Laboratory. Moreover, the expedition has been presented by British firms with goods of the estimated value of no less than £2,000.

Although only three expeditions have worked in the interior of North-East Land and although no expedition has yet wintered there, the west coast was surveyed by the Swedish-Norwegian Expedition as long ago as 1899-1901, and as one of their trigonometrical points was near North Cape it is hoped that it will be

possible to join the survey to theirs, and continue the theodolite framework eastwards, filling in the detailed topography by plane table. As the coast is open to the full strength of the Polar Sea, there is some danger that a south wind may bring down the pack ice, with heavy pressure near the coast, in which case the party will have to make all speed in running for shelter to one of the small inlets which are often to be found inside the lateral moraines of the glaciers, and which generally give safe landing places.

The sun dips below the horizon for the first time on August 23 and early in September the first of the winter storms may be expected. As two stations are to be maintained on the inland ice over the winter and into the spring of 1936, it is of the utmost importance that these should be established, with full supplies of food, fuel and equipment, by the end of August. One of the stations will be on the summit of the eastern area of inland ice at a height of some 2,600 feet, about 60 miles direct from the base hut, which will be established at Rijps Bay, midway along the north coast of North-East Land, and the other between the higher station and the base, near the edge of the ice cap on one of the glaciers flowing into Dove Bay.

Although every effort will be made to change the personnel periodically at each one of these stations, it is not improbable that the weather may make this impossible. In that event the two men at each station will have to be prepared to spend at least six months by themselves, four months of which will be total darkness, relieved only by moonlight and the periodical displays.

It is expected that the expedition will return to England on *The Polar*, the expedition ship, in September, 1936.

EXPEDITIONS OF THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES OF PHILADELPHIA

THUS far this year the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia has sponsored twenty-four expeditions for collecting and field work in thirteen foreign countries and various parts of the United States, according to an announcement made by Charles M. B. Cadwalader, managing director. Mr. Cad-