ORGANISATION AND DUTIES OF THE DIVISION OF NAVIGATION AND HYDROGRAPHY OF BRAZIL.

(Extract from the Anais Hidrograficos, Tome VII, Rio de Janeiro, 1939).

For documentation we give below the plan of the organisation governing the services assigned to the Division of Navigation and Hydrography and following this the principal duties of each of its sections.

Ist Section. - Surveys. — Hydrographic Surveys, instructions for their execution. Orientation of the work in the field, presentation of the plotting sheets and the field sheets to the section of Chart Construction. Revision in course of construction. Elaboration of instructions for all the other field work of interest to the Service and independent determination of the geographical positions, elements of the terrestrial magnetic field, study of the tides, the currents, etc. Execution of photogrammetrical surveys. Oceanographic Research, its conduct, preparation of the instructions and the selection of the data obtained. The acquisition, custody, preservation and supply of all material, instruments, printed matter etc; needed in carrying out the surveys. Statistics.

2nd Section - Chart Construction. — The sketching of nautical charts from data supplied by new surveys, compilation, large corrections etc. Engraving, reproduction and printing, corresponding bureaux with their current material and their replacement. Storage and preservation of the original plane-table sheets and the documents for compilation. Development and reproduction of aerial photographs and other photographic work of interest to the Service. Search through all sources for information concerning modifications to be applied to the charts. Proposals for new publications. Reprints as a result of large corrections and new editions. Topography.

3rd Section. - Maritime Security. — Organisation, publication and keeping up to date of the publications dealing with safety of navigation: Sailing Directions (Roteiros) Light Lists (Lista de Farois), List of Radio-Telegraph Stations (Lists de Sinais de Radio) etc; Preparation, printing and distribution of the Notices to Mariners (Aviso aos Navegantes). Charge of the centralisation of Notices to Mariners. Comparison of the fair sheet with the fair sheets of the other publications. Revision of the charts before they are sent to press. Notices regarding accidents at sea. Study and proposals regarding new buoyage or the modification of existing buoyage in order to insure a greater degree of safety of navigation.

4th Section. - Section of Navigation. — Instruments and the installation aboard naval vessels of instruments serving for navigation and meteorology. Custody and preservation of navigational material in the supply depots. Proposals for the purchase of said material. Organisation for the supply of charts and other publications to the vessels of the Navy. Organisation of the courses. Study of the courses (tracks) as a result of the reports on the voyages. The publication of manuals, tables, diagrams, tables for computation designed for navigation and the manœuvre of vessels. Bureau of compasses, of chronometers and for optical instruments and instruments of precision.

5th Section. - Distribution. — Custody and preservation of stocks of nautical charts and publications concerning navigation and the safeguarding of other publications of the Hydrographic Service. Keeping up to date of the national charts and the foreign charts which are part of the normal supply to naval vessels. Keeping up to date of charts destined for sale in accordance with the standard collection of the Section of Maritime Security. Distribution of the printed Notices to Mariners. Administration and financial control of the service for the sale and distribution of charts through the authorized agents. Statistics. Catalogue of Charts and other publications.

6th Section. - Technical Archives. — Custody of the technical archives of original documents. Custody of the Library and the Chart Room, including the catalogues as well as the instructions regarding the use of apparatus and instruments. Correspondence with the International Hydrographic Bureau and with the Hydrographic Services of foreign countries or similar foreign institutions. The preparation and publication of the Anais Hidrograficos. General statistics of the work of the Division.

It should be noted that a part of the duties of this Section devolve provisionally on the Section of Chart Construction and the Section of Maritime Security.

Aerial navigation (charts and other publications, Notices to Aviators, etc.) constitutes a separate subject which has not yet been included by superior order in the duties of the Division owing to the fact that it is treated by the Joint Committee - Navy, Army and Aviation.

