



THE HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

IN the *Hydrographic Review*, Vol. I, No. 2, on page 195, a brief summary of the contents of a monograph of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey was given.

The readers of this Review may be aware that Hydrographic work of the United States is shared between two Bureaux, the Coast and Geodetic Survey of the Department of Commerce which deals with the home coasts and those of the Territories and insular possessions of the United States and the Hydrographic Office of the Navy Department whose work lies in foreign waters and on the high seas.

Captain F. B. BASSET, Hydrographer of the U. S. Navy, has sent to the Bureau the following note on the organisation and work of the Hydrographic Office which forms a complement to that published in the last number of the Review on the subject of the Coast and Geodetic Survey.

I. The Hydrographic Office is charged with topographic and hydrographic surveys in foreign waters and on the high seas ; the collection and dissemination of hydrographic and navigational information and data ; the preparation and printing by its own personnel and with its own equipment of maps and charts relating to and required in navigation, including confidential, strategical, and tactical charts required for naval operations and manœuvres ; the preparation and issue of sailing directions (pilots), light lists, pilot charts, navigational manuals, periodicals, and radio broadcasts for the use of all vessels of the United States and for the benefit and use of navigators generally ; the furnishing of the foregoing to the Navy and other public services ; and the sale to the mercantile marine of all nations and to the general public, at the cost of printing and paper. It maintains intimate relations with the hydrographic offices

of all foreign countries and (through branch hydrographic offices and sales agents) with mariners and the general public.

2. TABLE SHOWING THE MOST IMPORTANT PRODUCTIONS
OF THE UNITED STATES HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE

| No. | Item | No. | Notes |
|-----|---|------------|---|
| 1 | Charts (foreign). | 2,650 | |
| 2 | Ice supplement to Pilot Chart, North Atlantic Ocean. | 52 | Iceberg and ice on trans-Atlantic lanes and elsewhere. |
| 3 | Pilot Charts, North Atlantic Ocean. | 12 per yr. | |
| 4 | Pilot Charts, Central American Waters. | 12 " " | Show navigational, hydrographic and meteorological data. |
| 5 | Pilot Charts, South Atlantic Ocean. | 4 " " | Backs of charts used for publication of important and valuable information, navigational and other. |
| 6 | Pilot Charts, North Pacific Ocean | 12 " " | |
| 7 | Pilot Charts, South Pacific Ocean. | 4 " " | |
| 8 | Pilot Charts, Indian Ocean. | 4 " " | |
| 9 | Daily Memorandum. | 12 " " | Important changes in aids to navigation, etc. |
| 10 | Weekly Bulletin. | 306 " " | |
| 11 | Notice to Mariners. | 52 " " | Important articles on navigation. |
| 12 | Extracts, Notice to Mariners (Great Lakes). | 52 " " | |
| 13 | Reprints of hydrographic information. | 9 " " | |
| 14 | Radio broadcasts, when occurring. | | Important reports from ships at sea <i>re</i> ice, navigational obstructions, etc. |
| 15 | Mine warnings, when occurring. | | |
| 16 | Notices to Aviators. | 12 " " | 38 in year 1922. Important notes <i>re</i> landing fields, etc. |
| 17 | Sailing Directions (Pilots). | 58 " " | Navigation not possible without these or similar books. In United States published by Hydrographic Office only. |
| 18 | Supplements, Sailing Directions. | 58 " " | |
| 19 | Light Lists (foreign countries). | 6 " " | |
| 20 | Corrections to Light Lists. | 52 " " | |
| 21 | American Practical Navigator H. O. 9. | | |
| 22 | Useful Tables from American Practical Navigator H. O. 9-II. | | |
| 23 | Azimuth Tables of Sun H. O. 71. | | |
| 24 | Azimuth of Celestial Bodies H. O. 120. | | |
| 25 | Star identification Tables H. O. 127. | | |
| 26 | Altitude, Azimuth and Line of Position H. O. 200. | | |
| 27 | Simultaneous Altitudes and Azimuths H. O. 201. | | |
| 28 | Moon Interval, Tables H. O. 202 | | |
| 29 | Tables of Distances, H. O. 117. | | |

| No. | Item | No. | Notes |
|-----|---|-----|---|
| 30 | Sumner Line of Position, furnished ready to lay down upon the chart by means of Tables of Simultaneous Hour-Angle and Azimuth of Celestial Bodies. H. O. 203. | | Navigation not possible without these or similar books. In United States published by Hydrographic Office only. |
| 31 | International Code of Signals H. O. 87. | | Necessary to ships of different nationalities to communicate at sea. |

Note 1. — The Hydrographic Office is the only agency of the Government that by the statutes is directed to provide manuals of navigation, without which, or without similar publications, vessels cannot navigate. Among these publications, issued by the Hydrographic Office, are those numbered 21 to 30, inclusive, which have been prepared and are being supplied by the Hydrographic Office to both the Navy and Mercantile Marine.

Note. 2 — A table, H. O. 204, will in the near future be published that will extend the declination from 28°, as shown in H. O. 203 to 63° to include all stars that are used in navigation.

