

THE WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION

RESEARCH VESSEL "ATLANTIS"

The Second Annual Report (1930-1931) of the Director of this Institution contains some information as to the equipment which is being provided for research work at sea.

This includes the Research Vessel *Atlantis* which was built to the order of the Institution at Copenhagen (Denmark). She was launched on the last day of December 1930 and completed her trials on 18th June 1931, on which day she was delivered. During these trials she developed a speed of 9.8 knots, nearly two knots more than the contract speed. She was surveyed by Lloyds and classified 100 *AI*; her total cost, including the special winches constructed in New-York, was \$ 208,130. Most of the appliances with which the ship is equipped were purchased in England, Germany and Norway at a cost of about \$ 19,000. These include deep-sea thermometers, water-sample bottles, drag and trawl nets and chemical and meteorological apparatus. The U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey has loaned a deep-sea wire sounding apparatus and the U. S. Navy, a ship theodolite. The question of fitting the *Atlantis* with radio for communication and with echo sounding gear is being studied.

While crossing the Atlantic on her maiden voyage (Plymouth, England, to Boston, Mass.) the *Atlantis*, with the cooperation of the *Deutsche Seewarte* of Hamburg, undertook some scientific researches which consisted of physical and chemical observations at stations closely spaced along the meridian of 30° W. from Lat. 53° N. to a point about 200 miles south of the Azores. Other stations were made further to the westward. Experiments as to the penetration of light and the vertical distribution of plankton were carried out, as also were some drags for the collection of eel larvae.

In addition to this sea-going vessel the Institution has caused a launch to be constructed specially for inshore work. The *Asterias*, as this launch is called, was completed in June 1931, is 40 ft. (13 m.) long and cost \$ 6,560.

