

Tally Antarctic Studies

See Front Cover

► ROSS ICE SHELF in the Antarctic, which is about 1,000 feet thick and about as large as France, floats on water that is more than 2,000 feet deep.

This is one of the findings made by American scientists in the Antarctic during the International Geophysical Year which marked its first anniversary on July 1.

Highlights of U. S. activities at the U. S.-IGY Antarctic stations were reported in Washington and in Moscow. They were prepared for the Russian newspaper Izvestia which made a specific request for information about this country's Antarctic research program during the past year.

Scientists at the six U. S. Antarctic stations reported the following:

1. The low temperature of 102.4 degrees below zero Fahrenheit was recorded on Sept. 17, 1957, at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station at the very bottom of the world. Scientific personnel at the Station were the first ever to winter over in the continent's interior.

2. A new Antarctic mountain range with peaks of 9,000 feet and large ice-free areas, one of which contained a fresh-water lake with plant life, were discovered by scientists at the Ellsworth Station.

3. Wind velocities up to 133 miles per hour during an April storm that blew away anemometers were recorded at the Wilkes Station.

4. The floating Ross Ice Shelf was discovered by personnel at the largest Antarctic Station, Little America. Scientists also found that ice temperatures 30 feet below the surface at Little America were slightly warmer than at the surface because of the influence of ocean heat.

5. Ice 14,000 feet thick and resting on a rock bed 8,200 feet below sea level was found by Byrd Station scientists. It may be the thickest ice layer measured anywhere in the world. Byrd Station investigators also think they sit on a frozen inland sea or fiord.

6. Interesting correlations between auroral and ionospheric phenomena have been found at the Hallett Station, manned jointly by the U. S. and New Zealand scientists.

The photograph on the cover of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER is a view upward from the bottom of a crevasse taken during IGY studies in the Antarctic. The glaciologist descends by rope to study ice at depths not otherwise attainable and returns by cable ladder. The snow bridge, sometimes many feet thick, over the crevasse has been broken open.

Science News Letter, July 12, 1958

Salk vaccine preparation involves growing the virus in tissue cells of monkeys' kidneys, harvesting a liquid containing the virus, filtering and storing the liquid under refrigeration at five degrees centigrade.



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