

ENGINEERING

Lack of Research Weakens New Naval Construction

THE ADMINISTRATION is taking steps to give Uncle Sam a Navy second to none. Over \$300,000,000 of the federal public works funds will be spent on some 37 new ships, on reconditioning existing ships and for airplanes of the new Navy.

Coincidentally with this dual purpose project, a reaction to disarmament failure and to domestic unemployment, serious limitations are being made in the scientific research of the Federal Government. About \$10,000,000 is being pared off Congressional appropriations in the name of economy. For instance, the National Bureau of Standards has lost a third of its highly trained personnel.

Laboratories and the Navy

What have scientists in laboratories to do with the Navy? The scientists are the real men behind the guns, the engines, the armor plate, and the "mechanical brains."

Destroy the search for new methods of building and operating the Navy and it is obsolete and licked before it puts to sea or fires a shot.

It is not too much to say that if the complete creative aid of American science is not utilized by the Navy in its rejuvenation, millions upon millions of dollars will be wasted in lulling Naval officers and the public into a sense of false security.

The latest developments of science must be built into the new Navy. The

accumulated knowledge of the U. S. Naval Research Laboratory should be used and that group of buildings at Bellevue, on the bank of the Potomac below Washington, should be humming, busier than any shipyard, turning out new facts that will allow the Navy to build more cheaply and better. Radio, steel, paint and other experts of the Bureau of Standards should be enlisted in research just as though there were a war in progress. The U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey should have its survey ships operating night and day making and correcting the charts so essential to naval operation. The Bureau of Mines and the Geological Survey can give aid on problems of oil, explosives, mineral resources and other materials for the new Navy.

In fact, when U. S. Navy authorities and designers wanted information on technical points they have turned freely to the scientific bureaus of the government. It should be part of the new Navy program to see that these bureaus are not crippled and thus made ineffective in answering these science calls.

Products of Research

Imagine an American Navy or a possible enemy navy that can:

Foretell its weather conditions a week in advance.

Send a radio scout plane, with robot pilot, that will reconnoiter an opposing fleet and television the prospective battle scene for the advancing fleet.

Make harder steel for better armor plate.

Make its guns shoot a little farther and a little harder.

Cruise a few hundred miles farther on the same amount of oil.

If the American Navy does not enlist science to bring to it such superior advantages, it must remember that foreign navies are doing so. The American public must be ready to take the consequences.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Mosaic Floor Found in Corinth Building

IN THE RUINS of an enormous building in old Corinth, archaeologists have found a mosaic floor believed to date from the second century A.D., Prof. Richard Stillwell of Princeton University announced. The expanse of mosaic covers 31 by 24 feet, and has in the center a picture of a victorious athlete bearing a palm and facing a woman representing good fortune. The border is adorned with twelve medallions decorated with birds and geometric designs.

Prof. Stillwell, who is director of the American School of Classical Studies at Corinth, has returned here following the season's digging at the ancient city. He plans to continue the Corinthian excavations on an extensive scale during the coming year.

The huge building in which the mosaic floor was found is 541 feet long and 98 feet wide, Prof. Stillwell said. The Romans remodeled it from an earlier Greek market place of the fourth century B.C. The older Greek structure had contained a double row of 66 little shops, with a colonnade along the front.

Near the market place, the archaeologists excavated a temple, the existence of which had long been known. Enough fragments of columns and decorative features were found to enable the archaeologists to learn all the architectural detail of the temple.

Digging in the temple of Aesculapius, god of healing, the expedition discovered numerous life-size models of hands, feet, and other parts of human anatomy. These models, made of terra cotta, had been offered to the temple by invalids seeking relief from infirmities.

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