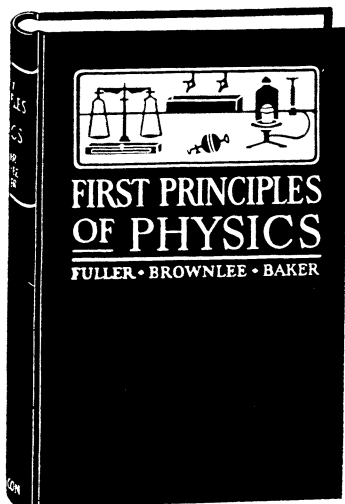


PHYSICS AND HUMAN PROGRESS

RECENT EVENTS throw into striking relief the contributions which science in general and physics in particular have made to human progress. The first event, the death of General Greely recalls the heroic struggle of his party of twenty-five men some fifty years ago. For nearly three years they lost all contact with the outside world, and when the rescue party found them only six were alive.



The experience of Greely's party brings to mind the famous expedition of Sir John Franklin and its tragic end, and the later expedition of Scott, which successfully reached the South Pole, but also ended in tragedy when the party perished before they could get back to their base.

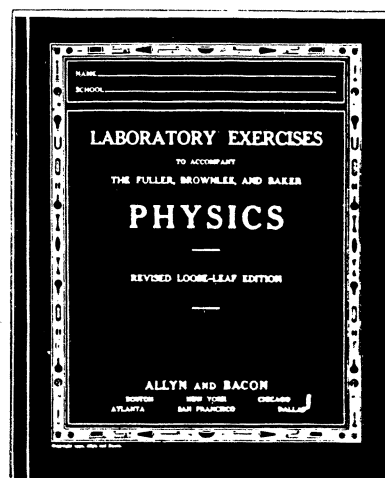
These heroic expeditions and those of Peary and Amundsen, which though more successful, were nevertheless filled with hardship, are monuments to the indomitable will in the heart of man to surmount the obstacles that stand between him and the mastery of his world.

Physics has banished most of the terrors of arctic exploration. It has conquered the twin horrors of darkness and isolation by its development of the electric light and of the radio.

The latest evidence of these splendid contributions to the progress of science is best presented in the little message "Alive and Well." These three words recently flashed forth from Little America to inform the world that Lincoln Ellsworth, American explorer, and Herbert Hollick-Kenyon, Canadian Royal Air Force flyer, are safe and sound after their daring Antarctic flight.

Physics gives the explorer, in the Arctic or in the interior of vast continents, conquest over space. With the camera in his airplane, he can explore and accurately record the geography of wide horizons which could not be mapped by months of travel on the earth.

Physics has gathered the corners of the earth ever closer and closer together by means of great ships that float, long trains that run on shining tracks, arched bridges that balance from shore to shore, wires that carry voices, and radios that make the world a whispering gallery.



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