FOREWORD

This book is part of a report submitted to the National Academy of Sciences by its Committee on Oceanography appointed in accordance with the following resolution voted on April 27, 1927: 'That the President of the Academy be requested to appoint a Committee on Oceanography from the sections of the Academy concerned to consider the share of the United States of America in a worldwide program of Oceanographic Research and report to the Academy.'

The President of the Academy, Professor A. A. Michelson, accordingly appointed Messrs. William Bowie, E. G. Conklin, B. M. Duggar, John C. Merriam, T. Wayland Vaughan, and Frank R. Lillie (Chairman) as members of the Committee. The Committee engaged as its Secretary Dr. Henry B. Bigelow, Curator of Oceanography in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University.

The results of the study, including various conferences, journeys, and visits to institutions of oceanographic research, were gathered together by the Secretary into a report which was submitted to the Academy in November, 1929. The part of the report dealing with the Scope, Problems, and Eco-
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 stringify Importance of Oceanography was in a very special sense Dr. Bigelow's own contribution. On account of its general interest the Committee, with the consent of the Academy, has approved its separate publication. The book is an attempt to appraise the present condition of oceanographic research with reference to the more outstanding problems, so as to take bearings for future research. It is in no sense a textbook or a compendium of oceanographic knowledge.


Frank R. Lillie

Chairman
Committee on Oceanography
National Academy of Sciences