

CHAPTER XX

THE INTERNATIONAL CIRCUMPOLAR STATIONS

THE importance of scientific research in the polar regions has been more or less appreciated since the beginning of the 19th century. Only within the past fifty years have the natural sciences been regularly represented on polar voyages, and valuable as were the results they were restricted and inconclusive. A revolution was wrought in this respect through the efforts of Lieutenant Charles Weyprecht, Austrian Navy, which eventuated in the establishment of the International Circumpolar Stations.

His experiences in the *Tegetthof* (Chapter XIV) bore fruit in an address to the German Scientific and Medical Association, at Gratz in 1875. Demonstrating that extended polar explorations were essential to the elucidation of the laws of Nature, he urged that scientific methods should dominate future action. Scientific research should be the primary object, and geographic exploration should be pursued in such directions as would increase our knowledge in some branch of science. Subjects of study should be carried on in specially selected