

b-024201

PICCARD'S ATTEMPT

Arrival at the Navalmeccanica yards in Castellammare (Naples) of the globe seven feet in diameter built in the iron works of Terni (central Italy), which fastened under a big cigar-shaped iron fuselage built in Trieste shipyards, completes the new bathysphere with which prof. August Piccard is going to attempt deepest dive beneath sea.

The bathysphere has been named Trieste, hoists Swiss and Italian colours, costs a reputed \$ 80,000 and is designed to withstand a pressure of 132,000 pounds per square inch.

The bespectacled 69-year-old Swiss born scientist who has already been up ten miles in the stratosphere in a special balloon of his own invention, was greeted here by Adm. Girosi conveying to him the good omen of the whole Italian Navy.

Incom having the exclusivity of this enterprise coverage, our cameraman engineer De Sanctis is given the privilege to peer into the bathysphere which will be lowered by the gradual release of the gasoline and its displacement by water. This will enable Piccard to stop at any level he wants simply by checking the flow of the special gasoline that will be supplied by a refinery in the south Italian town of Bari.

The bathysphere will move underwater just like an aerostatic balloon moves in the air, that is to say in absolute freedom, without any connection with the escort ship after the first 60 or 90 feet. For moving around horizontally while submerged the bathysphere has two separate propelling units.

Once the bathysphere reaches bottom and the studies are complete, Piccard will be able to release the metal ballast by manipulating the electromagnets, with the buoyancy of the hull and the remaining gasoline providing the upward pull.

Actually, ^{Piccard} is making only shallow "test" dives, ~~in the~~ the workouts will be in the Mediterranean, off Capri. If the globe reaches a depth of 300 feet without springing any leaks or showing other signs of strain, then Piccard says he will try for a record plunge of about 13,000 feet - about two and a half miles down. He added he would study cosmic radiation as well as marine animal and plant life at the heretofore unreached depths.