

FOREWORD

The event of chief interest in the polar regions in the first six months of 1938 has been the safe conclusion to the dramatic polar drift of the four Soviet scientists when they were picked up off East Greenland in February. The world still awaits the full account of their experiences, and scientists are eager to examine the results they must have obtained with respect to the depth and movement of the sea over which they drifted. The four men have been honoured by their Government with decorations.

The portrait of Sir George Simpson in this issue marks his approaching retirement from the office of Director of the Meteorological Office, a post which he has filled since 1920. He will be remembered by the polar fraternity largely for his work on meteorology with Scott's Last Expedition, but he has always taken the keenest interest in polar work in general, and polar meteorology in particular.

We have to record the retirement of Miss F. E. Creswick from her appointment as assistant to the Director of the Institute. She is about to be married to Mr James Moore, lately of the British Graham Land expedition. After seven years' loyal service at the Institute, she will be remembered by many visitors for her courtesy and her deep knowledge of polar affairs. This journal has owed much to her sub-editorship. Her place has been taken by Miss D. Fetherstonhaugh of Newnham College.

The Polar Record has occasionally been able in the past to publish authoritative articles on the technique of polar travel. An example is the description of the kayak and its method of use, in No. 7. The demand for back numbers including such articles has encouraged the Editor to make them a regular feature in the future. The series continues with the description in this issue of the method of building snow houses, by Graham Rowley, who from 1936-37 was with the British Canadian Arctic expedition. Plans for future articles include such subjects as Footgear, Fuel, and Rations. Since most of these subjects are matters of experience and of differing opinions, it is hoped that correspondence will arise as a result of the articles. It will be welcomed and as far as

space permits it will be published, since the object of the articles will best be served by quoting all aspects and every kind of experience.

The Australian members of the Antarctic Club, being so far away, have arranged that they shall constitute a branch of the parent organisation, holding their own meetings, with their own local officers. Under the presidency of Dr J. G. Hunter (Australasian Antarctic expedition, 1911–14) and backed by the organising ability and energy of Dr Ingram (B.A.N.Z.A.R.E. 1929–30), there is every prospect of much activity in the new branch.

The death of Major Frederick George Jackson, on March 13, 1938, has taken from us one of the few remaining polar explorers who go back into the nineties of last century. He organised and led the Jackson-Harmsworth expedition to Franz Josef Land, 1894–97, whose field work is rather apt to be overshadowed by its relief of Nansen and Johansen after their more famous fifteen months' journey from the *Fram*.