

# THE POLAR RECORD

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## FOREWORD

It is becoming increasingly difficult to publish news of work in the polar regions since most of it now has a direct bearing on the War.

Two recent accessions to our library will give pleasure to those of our readers who are interested in the history of polar exploration. A large collection of pictures and letters, as well as nearly two hundred diaries, covering the period 1809 to 1871, have come to us as a legacy by the will of the late Miss Jessie Lefroy, great niece of Sir John Franklin. These were formerly the property of Lady Jane Franklin and Miss Sophia Cracroft, and provide a rich store of material for historical research into that very active period of the Franklin expeditions and the Franklin search.

A very useful collection of Arctic books has also been received by courtesy of the Finsbury Public Library. These were formerly owned by J. R. Brown, son of John Brown, F.R.G.S., who collected the books and was the author of *The North-West Passage and the Plans for the Search for Sir John Franklin* (London, 1858).

Recent awards of the Polar Medal will be noted with satisfaction by our readers. The medal in bronze has been awarded to ninety-seven members of the R.R.S. *Discovery II* and R.R.S. *William Scoresby* for services on the expeditions of the Discovery Committee between the years 1925 and 1939, and in silver to the nine members of the Oxford University Arctic Expedition, led by A. R. Glen, which wintered in North East Land in 1935-36.