

## FOREWORD

To a world already somewhat overburdened with the publications of societies and institutions the advent of a new journal requires both explanation and justification.

The Scott Polar Research Institute, founded in 1926 in memory of Capt. R. F. Scott, has as one of its aims the collection and utilization of information on polar matters. Neither of these tasks is as simple as might be expected, for at the present time there is so much exploration and exploitation in the polar regions, the news of which appears in so many forms and languages, that it would require the services of many helpers before the whole could be recorded to our complete satisfaction. Nor is the dissemination of the information when collected an easy matter with the present slender resources of the Institute.

Nevertheless, the Committee of Management decided at a meeting held on December 10, 1930, that a beginning should be made by the publication of a bulletin to appear half-yearly. In the first place an attempt will be made merely to record the chief polar events of the preceding six months; but it is hoped that the scope of the journal will gradually be extended. The main body of *The Polar Record*, therefore, is a résumé of polar news extracted from the best available sources. The Editor is the Director of the Institute; of which this record is the official organ, although it disclaims responsibility for opinions quoted from other sources.

So much for explanation: the justification of its appearance rests with the *Record* itself. Those responsible for its publication hope that here will be found an outline of the most recent polar endeavour such as is not otherwise available to anyone who is not in a position to consult foreign literature, press articles, correspondence, blue books and the like which regularly come under the notice of the Editor and his assistant.

It is reasonable to expect that this task will, in time, become easier and the information fuller by the co-operation of readers of the *Record* who may be able to communicate items of information unlikely to reach us in other ways.