William Scoresby and in conducting his own studies of the bottom topography of Antarctic seas. In 1949, with the rest of the Discovery Committee's staff, he joined the National Institute of Oceanography and became more and more fully occupied with ship management, in which he was largely responsible for the design and equipment of the replacement of *Discovery II*. He did, however, continue his own sea ice studies and was in charge of work during a voyage in the north Atlantic as part of an IGY programme. After the Natural Environmental Research Council took over responsibility for the National Institute of Oceanography in 1965, he was given charge of a unit at Plymouth which attends to the management not only of the *Discovery* but of other research ships under the Natural Environment Research Council.

It is probably true to say that Herdman was for many years the leading expert on the equipment of deep-sea research ships. His long experience gave him unique knowledge not only of the problems of scientific equipment in relation to ship design, but also of the manning of research ships and division of responsibilities between scientists, technicians, deck officers, and engineers. He had a remarkably retentive memory of past events and experiences which was often of great value in new projects, and he played a considerable part in the development of oceanographic techniques in this country.

His principal publications appeared in the *Discovery Reports* and include two papers on soundings (Vol 6, 1932 and Vol 25, 1948), one in collaboration with L. H. Pemberton on deep-sea thermometers (Vol 19, 1950) and one in collaboration with N. A. Mackintosh (Vol 29, 1940). N.A.M.

THERKEL MATHIASSEN, the distinguished Danish archaeologist, was born on 5 September 1892 and died on 14 March 1967. He made his first contact with Eskimo culture as a member of the Fifth Thule Expedition, 1921–24, in company with Knud Rasmussen, Peter Freuchen and Kaj Birket-Smith. The ten volumes of the *Report on the Fifth Thule Expedition, 1921–4*, published in København at various dates between 1927 and 1946, contain six contributions by Mathiassen, including "The archaeology of the Central Eskimos" (1927), a work of fundamental significance in the field of Eskimo archaeology. His excavations at Naujan in Repulse Bay, at Pond Inlet in Baffin Land, at Kuk in Southampton Island and at many minor sites in those areas and around Hudson Bay, linked with previously isolated observations by other investigators, demonstrated the far eastern origin of the Thule culture and its westward penetration from Alaska to Greenland. After the return of the expedition, he began a systematic investigation of the pre-history of Greenland, starting at Upernivik in 1929 and returning to a new area each year until 1934. The discovery of the Inugsuk culture, a later form of the Thule culture but showing specifically Greenlandic characteristics and some Norse influences, was part of the fruit of these investigations. In 1932, as a member of Rasmussen's Seventh Thule Expedition, he excavated sites around Angmagssalik in south-east Greenland, but most of his work was carried out in the west. He held successively the posts of inspecktør and overinspecktør (1946–52) at the Nationalmuseet, København, and was a regular contributor to *Meddelelser om Grønland*, *Geografisk Tidssrift* and other periodicals.

ERRATA

Polar Record, Vol 13, No 86, 1967

Page 607, line 48 *Add* G. H. Siebert (McGill University), Oceanography

Polar Record, Vol 13, No 87, 1967

Page 405, line 31 *Add* "Esperanza", lat 63° 24′ S, long 57° W