

FOREWORD

It is now nearly a year since the new building of the Institute was occupied, and it is very satisfactory to record that the number of visitors has increased steadily throughout the year. The research rooms also have been in constant use; one of them by Dr Fritz Loewe of the Wegener Greenland Expedition 1930–31, a research guest of the University of Cambridge. The increased interest in the Institute has been marked also by a very large number of gifts. These have been acknowledged in the annual report of the Committee of Management, presented to the University and published in the *University Reporter*.

Space does not permit of a reprint of the list of donors in *The Polar Record* and we can express our grateful thanks here only in general terms. There have also been some very kind gifts of money for special purposes.

The financial position of the Institute, however, is far from satisfactory as yet, as the increased number of visitors involves increased expenditure on light and heating, while there has been no corresponding increase of the Endowment Fund.

It is pleasant to welcome home in these pages expeditions which have contributed to our knowledge of the Polar regions. Special mention may be made, therefore, of *Discovery II* and the *William Scoresby* after their long and useful commissions in Antarctic seas. The expedition of Admiral Byrd has also returned safely to civilisation and we look forward to the publication of their geographical results.

A special event of interest in the United States is the recent presentation of the Congressional Medal of Honour to Major-General Greely, who, amongst leaders, must be regarded as the Veteran of Arctic Exploration. Though he never returned to the scenes of his labours in 1883, he has always kept up his interest in the Arctic and has contributed both by speeches and articles to discussions on polar topics.

The subject of our frontispiece is another veteran who can claim both ends of the world as his spheres of action. The work of Dr Charcot dates back to the beginning of the century, and he is still making almost annual trips to Greenland in his now famous ship *Pourquoi pas?* His keen interest in the work of all polar men and his ready help to them on all occasions have endeared him to all nations.

Dr Charcot has evidently more fear of the camera than he has of the rigours of high latitudes, for this was the only recent photograph of him that could be obtained.