

FOREWORD

It is not often that the Polar Regions figure prominently in International affairs, but in the last half year two important pronouncements have appeared. The dispute between Norway and Denmark as to their respective claims in East Greenland was settled by the Court of International Justice at the Hague, the decision being given in Denmark's favour.

An Order in Council issued on February 7, announced the transfer of a large part of the Antarctic continent to the authority of the Commonwealth of Australia. The sector extends from 45° E. Long. to 160° E. Long., except that Adélie Land, in which France claims an interest, is specially excluded.

As we go to press, the International Polar Year is about to close, and once more there will be a mass of data about polar meteorology for slow assimilation by the branches of science concerned. Though few of the expeditions are far inside the Arctic circle, it is satisfactory to be able to report that, up to date, there has been no loss of life, such as attended so tragically the Polar Year of 1883.

It is a pleasure to record the recognition of polar service by the Royal Geographical Society, by the award of its Royal Medals this year to Professor Eric von Drygalski and to Mr J. M. Wordie. The members of the *Sibiriakov* Expedition, who accomplished the North-East Passage last year, have been awarded the Order of Lenin.

The annual report of this Institute which is required by Ordinance to be published yearly in the *University Reporter* has now become too long for repetition in full in *The Polar Record*, including as it does a complete list of gifts and subscriptions made during the year.

The cost of printing the *Record* at its present size is causing some concern to the Committee of Management, and it is feared that, unless the Institute receives substantial endowment for this purpose in the near future, the price will have to be raised from 1s. to 2s. 6d. per copy. In the past, the expense has been met largely from the general income available for maintenance of the Institute, but the increasing demands on the Maintenance Fund (it is only £300 a year) make it imperative to render the journal more nearly self-supporting.