

EDITORIAL

It is with much excitement, but also trepidation, that I step into the shoes, not only of Dr Alan Cooke, but of all my distinguished predecessors. There are changes to be made and, needless to say, schedules to be tightened, but the standards that have made this journal one of the most highly respected in the field I naturally hope to maintain.

Most of the innovations that I would like to introduce involve the format of *Polar Record*. For example, I hope to incorporate regular feature articles and a 'news in brief' column. One innovation in particular will only succeed with the support of *Polar Record* readers. I would very much like to reserve a certain amount of space in each issue for readers' correspondence. There must be many articles or notes published in *Polar Record* that provoke more than a casual interest, and many subjects that would appeal to our readers that, for lack of information or space, have never been mentioned in these pages. I would be happy to receive letters relating either to past *Polar Record* material or to items of current polar interest and will endeavour to publish as many as possible. I would also like to expand the book review section and would be glad to hear of any titles that might be of interest to *Polar Record* readers.

Among the articles in this issue are two of considerable 'human' interest. William Barr has written a vivid account of naval activities in the Kara Sea during World War II. Important convoys were understood to be using the Northern Sea Route and *Admiral Scheer*, a German "pocket battleship", was sent to stop them. The Arctic climate played no small part in determining the outcome. René Lesel and Philippe Derenne examine the lives of the various animals that have been introduced to the Iles Kerguelen. How successfully the different species have adapted to the environment, and what effect they are having on the ecological balance of the archipelago, are two of the questions that the authors are asking. The second question has wide and urgent implications for the reader beyond the local context. Of special interest among the notes is William McKenzie's theory as to the true identity of Gateshead Island. From the evidence that he has found it would seem that a major map changing task lies ahead.

I am sorry that my first issue must also be the issue in which an increase in the price of *Polar Record* is announced. Since 1971 the price has remained unchanged and it is clear that *Polar Record* is now considerably underpriced. Faced with ever-rising printing bills we must, reluctantly, make a realistic charge for the journal. As from January 1976 the new annual subscription will be £7.50 (\$21.00) and single copies £2.50 (\$7.00) each. There will be a 10% discount off the annual subscription charge for individual subscribers.

Sadly, *Recent Polar Literature* will no longer accompany *Polar Record* free of charge. Some readers will have received a questionnaire concerning this useful bibliography. These have been sent out in order for us to decide on the future of the publication, which will be announced in due course.