

OBITUARY

The tragic death of Professor Alfred Wegener has removed a figure as prominent in polar exploration as in geophysics, for he was a member of four major expeditions to Greenland. He took charge of the meteorological work in the expedition under Mylius-Ericksen in 1906-08, and returned again in 1911-13 when he crossed the Greenland ice-cap with Colonel Koch at its widest part. The last two expeditions were his own, a reconnaissance in 1929 for the larger venture of 1930. The circumstances of his death are not yet exactly known for the search for his diaries has been unsuccessful. It is not often that a leader in scientific thought fulfills the rôle of a leader in polar exploration as well, and it is interesting to see the originator of the theory of continental drift returning at the age of fifty to the polar land where he began his life as an explorer. In Professor Wegener the world has certainly lost a stimulating thinker and an accomplished explorer.

We have also to record with regret the deaths, in the latter months of 1930, of two members of the Nares Expedition of 1875-76. Admiral Pelham Aldrich, C.V.O., who died on November 12, was prominent in that expedition as the leader of their western party, which made important discoveries along the north coast of Ellesmere Island and discovered Cape Columbia, its northernmost point. Admiral of the Fleet, Sir William May, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., who died on October 7, was a lieutenant on the *Alert* at the same time, and besides taking part in all the ordinary activities of the expedition did a great deal of relief sledging.