

## EDITORIAL

With these pages, the *Polar Record* completes its 40th year and attains its 100th issue, a modest achievement compared with many other journals, but one that distinguishes it as the oldest journal of its kind.

The object of the *Polar Record*, as described in the foreword to the first issue, was "merely to record the chief polar events of the preceding six months". The changes in editorial policy explicit or implicit in the pages of the journal to some degree reflect the changing relevance of the polar regions to world affairs during the last four decades. It would, of course, be presumptuous to claim that the *Polar Record* has always kept abreast of trends and events, but at least it has attempted to achieve this. The last word on the old order came in the editorial of Vol 15, No 94, 1970:

The old concept of series of small, privately financed expeditions, each separate and distinct, has been replaced almost entirely by government-sponsored, continuing enterprises. Long-term planning now extends over several seasons, and is carried forward by relays of scientists. Detailed investigations of a discipline or of an area are today practical possibilities whereas scientists of an earlier day, with the time, the means and the energy at their disposal, could achieve little more than reconnaissance.

The progressively more and more indigestible records of large-scale field work in recent years have been replaced by periodic reviews of work accomplished in particular disciplines or in particular regions, and the Field Work section is now restricted to reporting distinct, self-sufficient enterprises.

Issue No 1 had 35 pages and cost 5p. This 100th issue has 195 pages and costs £1.25. The regular polar bibliography, which began with 16 entries in No 1, reached 666 in No 100 under the title "Recent Polar Literature". In 1959, a valuable connection was formed with the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) of the International Council of Scientific Unions, whose Secretariat is in the Institute, when the *SCAR Bulletin* began to be published in the *Polar Record*.

The journal has had three editors: Frank Debenham (1931-45), Douglas Blyth (1950-55), and the present editor, whose term ends with this issue. From 1946-50 there was an editorial committee only. Membership of the editorial committee has changed through the years because of appointments and death; the following have served from time to time:

B. B. Roberts (1937- ),	G. de Q. Robin (1959- ),
G. C. L. Bertram (1945-51),	T. E. Armstrong (1962- ),
W. L. S. Fleming (1945-49),	A. G. R. Cooke (1970- ),
J. M. Wordie (1945-62),	H. G. R. King (1970- ),
F. H. S. Kendon (1951-57),	C. W. M. Swithinbank (1971- ).
J. A. Steers (1957-58),	

The new editor, Alan Cooke, has been closely associated with the *Polar Record* for some time as assistant editor, as well as being assistant librarian and archivist of the Scott Polar Research Institute.