

FOREWORD

To the Institute itself, the most important event of the past six months is naturally the opening of its new building, to which we devote a good deal of space in this issue. Our sincere thanks are due to all those who contributed to making the ceremony a pleasant and successful one, not least to Mr Baldwin himself, whose stirring speech will be a lasting memory to those who had the privilege of hearing it. We desire to give our general thanks also to those who have recently given donations both in money and kind to the Institute.

Of notable events in the polar world, reference must be made here to the termination last summer of the three years' intensive exploration of East Greenland organised by the Danish Government. Under the able direction of Dr Lauge Koch an attack, which for size and persistence has no parallel outside the Soviet, has been made on the scientific and topographic problems of East Greenland. Organised, as such attacks should be, on a wide plan, using large personnel and all modern aids, and with a careful co-ordination of effort, Denmark's three years' scheme of investigation will be a lasting example to other and richer Governments who have interests in the polar regions. The results are steadily appearing in the volumes of the *Meddelelser om Grønland*, rendering that series of publications still more a model than it was before. We wish to congratulate Denmark and Dr Daugaard Jensen, the general director of its Greenland affairs, on the successful carrying out of this work.

It is pleasant also to record the publication of the results of the German Expedition under the late Dr Wegener, whose scientific effort has been somewhat overshadowed by the tragedy of his death and the circumstances of the relief of the inland party. It is satisfactory to note that it is now being universally recognised that no expedition has completed its work until it has published its results, and this is so even with the briefer summer expeditions of University undergraduates, which continue to go north from several countries each season.

An echo of a narrowly averted tragedy of the north comes in the recent kindly recognition by the Government of the United States of the gallant work of the skipper and crew of the trawler *Lord Talbot* in rescuing the "Flying Family", on the east coast of Greenland, two years ago. The message of gratitude from the President of the United States must have been even more gladly received than the gifts which accompanied it.