

FOREWORD

In accordance with our usual procedure we print in this issue the annual report of the Committee of Management of the Institute to the University, which to some extent takes the place of the Foreword.

An outstanding event, which was only brought to a happy conclusion after our last number had gone to press, was the magnificent flight of 2340 miles across a large sector of the Antarctic by Mr Lincoln Ellsworth, and his pilot, Mr Hollick-Kenyon. The flight was not only productive of topographic results, but sets a new standard for polar aviation, in that no less than 4 successful landings were made on the way, for the purpose of fixing position and avoiding bad weather. The only hitch throughout was the failure of their wireless equipment, which gave rise to considerable anxiety, and led to the race between R/R/S *Discovery II*, and Ellsworth's ship, the *Wyatt Earp*, to search for the missing airmen at the Bay of Whales. The former won by two days, as related elsewhere in this issue.

Mr Ellsworth has been awarded the Hubbard Medal of the National Geographic Society, presented to him by President Roosevelt; and the medal of the Explorers' Club of New York.

The steady work of the Soviet Union in the scientific exploration of their Arctic Seas has recently been clouded by a tragedy whereby at least 11 members of an expedition have died, as a result of being caught in a storm in an open boat in the Barents Sea. Details are not yet available, but it is feared that a vessel which set out to rescue the party is itself missing.

The frontispiece of this issue is a portrait of Dr Schmidt, who is probably most familiar to our readers as the leader of the *Chelyuskin* Expedition, the survivors of which were gallantly rescued by Soviet airmen in 1934.

The many friends of the late Mr H. G. Watkins will note with pleasure the announcement in the annual report of the anonymous gift to the Institute of a bronze plaque of him, modelled by Mr Cecil Thomas, and now hung in the main hall of the Museum.