

# THE POLAR RECORD

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## FOREWORD

Those who have known the Institute in recent years will be very sorry to hear that the Assistant to the Director, Mrs John Wright (formerly Miss Dorothy Fetherstonhaugh), has left. She has gone to take up a post in the Sudan where her husband has been serving since the beginning of the war, first in the Survey service and then in the Army. Mrs Wright succeeded Miss Creswick as Assistant in 1938, and has worthily carried on the traditions of friendliness and enthusiasm which have always been associated with the post. She has done so much for the Institute, particularly under the difficult conditions of war time, that it is hard to find words to express at all adequately the thanks which all friends of the Institute must owe her. For the time being her place is being filled by Mrs Benest, one of our former voluntary helpers.

It is hardly possible to refer in these pages to the specific war deeds of members of former polar expeditions who are now in the services. An exception, however, must be made in the case of Commander R. E. D. Ryder, R.N., whose gallant conduct and disregard of danger in the St Nazaire raid have led to the award of the Victoria Cross. Congratulations must have reached him from many individual polar men, and we take this opportunity of doing so in the name of all others.

The joint Committee consisting of representatives from the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the Royal Physical Society of Edinburgh and the Royal Scottish Geographical Society has awarded the W. S. Bruce Memorial Prize for 1942 to Dr G. C. L. Bertram for his Biological work in the Arctic and Antarctic.

The difficulty during the war of obtaining information about work in the polar regions has, in recent numbers, considerably affected the character of *The Polar Record*. The recording, for instance, of current activities in polar regions has almost disappeared. It is, however, the declared policy of the Committee of Management that *The Polar Record* shall continue to appear, and, if possible, without any marked reduction in size. These circumstances explain the growing length of special articles on polar topics.