

## FOREWORD

It has been calculated that roughly 18 tons of raw materials are consumed every year by each man, woman, and child in the United States of America. The total tonnage is made up as follows: 7 tons of fuel, 5 of building materials,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  of ores (providing nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton of metals),  $2\frac{3}{4}$  of agricultural products (including  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton of food) and more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  ton of miscellaneous non-metallic materials. In June 1952 the report of the President's Materials Policy Commission stressed the probability of still further great increases in consumption in North America, and elsewhere, in coming decades. This is not the place to discuss what is possible nor what is desirable, but there is no doubt that pressure upon resources is rapidly increasing and will continue to increase as the total population of the world rises at a rate of thirty millions each year.

The polar regions, comprising one-seventh of the land area of the world, must play their part in the massive drive for additional materials. First comes exploration, then exploitation. The efforts of scientists, engineers, technicians and artisans will all be needed in full measure in high latitudes in coming years. The Scott Polar Research Institute, which was originally founded as the repository of general information and experience acquired by the comparatively infrequent polar expeditions of the past, has in recent years been called upon to fulfil an incomparably more difficult task: the accumulation and dissemination of knowledge concerning not only every aspect of life and travel in cold climates but also the many different fields of scientific research which are now undertaken in the polar regions.

John Elbo, whose obituary notice appears in this number, was known personally to many readers. For seven years he held the part-time position of Assistant in Scandinavian Studies at the Institute. Although his primary work lay in the linguistic field, the wide range of his geographical and anthropological interests is shown by the variety of his contributions to the *Polar Record*. Despite the physical disabilities which he increasingly suffered, he was always willing, and indeed eager, to turn his attention to new problems. The courage which he showed in face of his illness made a deep impression on all who knew him. Elbo leaves a widow and daughter, to whom all will offer their sincere sympathy.

Two distinguished members of the Committee of Management of the Scott Polar Research Institute have recently received public recognition. The award of a knighthood to the Hydrographer of the Royal Navy, Vice-Admiral Sir Archibald Day, was announced in the New Year Honours List. In March 1954 the Patron's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society was awarded to the Deputy Director of the National Institute of Oceanography, N. A. Mackintosh, for his research and exploration in the Southern Ocean since 1924.

It was announced on 18 February that an Australian station had been established on the mainland of Antarctica in lat.  $67^{\circ} 36' S.$ , long.  $62^{\circ} 53' E.$  It has been officially named Mawson, in honour of Sir Douglas Mawson, the distinguished Australian who has contributed so much to the exploration of the Australian Antarctic Territory.

*June 1954*