

## FOREWORD

Although the *Polar Record* will long bear the signs of his care and initiative, the editorship of J. D. M. (Douglas) Blyth has ended. The Institute and the *Polar Record* are very conscious of loss in their good wishes for his future in the Foreign Service.

For six years, first as Assistant Editor, later as Editor, the *Polar Record* has grown under his care. Earlier reliance upon an Editorial Committee was gradually diminished as he took over responsibility. His editorship coincided with a period of great activity in the polar regions, and the *Record* clearly demonstrated the change. From a slim journal averaging 75 pages each six months, it has increased, despite smaller type and other tricks of compression, to 100 pages each four months.

The *Polar Record's* function is implicit in its name. The Editor is responsible far more for the digestion of material which can then be put out in clear perspective than for the blue pencilling of articles prepared by others. Inaccuracy and verbosity are a good Editor's constant foes, and Douglas Blyth by tact, knowledge, and effort overcame them valiantly.

L. M. Forbes has been appointed Editor as from 1 January 1955.

The frontispiece shows a photograph of the model of the Lensfield site as it will be when the new University Chemistry Laboratories are completed. The south block is already roofed, and site-clearing for the remainder has begun with the demolition of Lensfield House, the home of the Institute from 1925 to 1934.

Early in the 1930's this site was set aside by the University for small Institutes and departments and the first of these, the present building of the Scott Polar Research Institute, was built in 1934. It was also to be the last for, by 1947, a scheme was accepted by the University for the erection of chemistry laboratories over the remainder of the site. As a result of considerable criticism and opposition, the scheme was eventually modified to allow for the reservation of an area behind the Institute for future development, a reduction in height of the new building fronting Lensfield Road, and the setting back of this building by a few feet. The photograph shows, however, how little could be done to preserve the appearance and amenities of the Institute.

G.C.L.B.

*February 1955*