

Reviews

NEW ZEALAND ANTARCTIC SOCIETY: A JUBILEE

LOOKING SOUTH: NEW ZEALAND ANTARCTIC SOCIETY'S FIRST FIFTY YEARS 1933–1983. Peat, Neville. 1983. Wellington, New Zealand Antarctic Society. 96p, illustrated, maps, soft cover. ISBN 0-473-00208-6.

The New Zealand Antarctic Society, second in seniority only to the United Kingdom's Antarctic Club, celebrated its golden jubilee in November 1983. Unlike the British club, which restricts membership to the relatively small body of men who have wintered in the Antarctic, the Antarctic Society embraces all who have an interest in the Far South, be it historical, scientific or philatelic. *Looking South* is the well-researched story of this dynamic organization, by the vice-chairman of its Wellington branch. He is to be congratulated not only on the depth of his research but on the eminently readable presentation of the facts.

It is interesting to learn that as long ago as 1878 a Dunedin journalist, C. W. Parnell, was agitating for a joint New Zealand-Australian expedition to Antarctica. The first spur to positive action came in 1923 when a British Order in Council established the Ross Dependency under New Zealand administration. Ten years later Arthur Leigh Hunt, an 'entrepreneur and schemer of bold schemes', enthused by his friendship with the explorers Byrd and Mawson, founded the New Zealand Antarctic Society in Wellington to interest New Zealanders in their Antarctic heritage and to press on government the need for a national expedition. Plans were shelved in World War II, but with the post-war International Geophysical Year and complementary Trans-Antarctic Expedition, the society was reactivated, helping to persuade government to establish New Zealand's first Antarctic scientific station, Scott Base, in 1957.

Since then the New Zealand Antarctic Society has continued to stimulate public interest in antarctic work at branch level by means of lectures, exhibitions and displays. The building of Canterbury Museum's antarctic wing, with its nationally important museum and library collections, owes much to the society's lobbying and encouragement. The society also involves itself directly in Antarctic work through its interest in the welfare of Scott Base personnel, and has even raised volunteers from its ranks to work in the field on the restoration and conservation of historic huts. The society also awards student bursaries in support of scientific research, and an annual Conservation Trophy. Finally, the erection of memorial plaques insures that explorers of the past are properly commemorated.

To the world at large the society is probably best known through its publications. Its house journal *Antarctic*, first edited as a cyclostyled newsheet by the late Les Quartermain in 1950, today boasts an international reputation for its excellent cosmopolitan coverage of Antarctic news and activities. It circulates in 21 countries and has some 900 subscribers. Two society publications in particular have proved landmarks in polar research. *The Antarctic Today* (1952) edited by Frank Simpson and *Antarctica* (1965) edited by Trevor Hatherton, were both in their day the best generally available books on Antarctica.

Tribute is generously paid throughout this book to the single-minded perseverance of the society's founding fathers—Arthur Lee Hunt, Robert Falla, Les Quartermain, Harold Griffiths and others like them. Now new problems have arisen and must be surmounted; New Zealand will need to play its part in any proposed new minerals regime and there

is a pressing need for an Antarctic ship. A new generation will come to grips with these problems. It is gratifying to note that the first woman branch chairperson, Dr Margaret Bradshaw of the Canterbury Branch, took office in the jubilee year. The editor of *Polar Record*, an active member of that branch in his Christchurch days, will join with all readers of this journal in extending to the New Zealand Antarctic Society sincerest good wishes for its second half century. (H. G. R. King, Scott Polar Research Institute, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

THE DIARIES OF TRYGVE GRAN

THE NORWEGIAN WITH SCOTT: TRYGVE GRAN'S ANTARCTIC DIARY 1910-13. Hattersley-Smith, G. (editor), McGhie, E. J. (translator), 1984. London, HMSO. 258 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0 11 290382 7. £9.95.

This is the first publication in English of the diaries kept by Trygve Gran who, as a Norwegian ski-ing expert, took part in Captain R. F. Scott's Antarctic expedition in 1911-13. Gran (1889-1980) was the youngest member and last survivor of the expedition. His original diaries of the expedition are no longer available but a Norwegian edition was published in 1915 (*Hvor Sydlyset Flammer: Leir-og Ekspeditionsliv paa Antarktis*. Oslo, Gyldendalske Boghandel, Nordisk Forlag.) and his biography (*Fra tjuagutt til sydpolarer*. Oslo, Ernst G. Mortensens Forlag.) appeared in 1974. This translation by Gran's daughter includes the foreword that he wrote for the 1915 edition. Gran's active life is summarized in an introductory biography, and the editor has included extracts from the diaries of other expedition members, geographical notes and other information giving reference to the events of the expedition. When news was received of the diversion of Amundsen's 'northern' expedition to reach the South Pole, Gran was placed in a somewhat difficult position; his thoughts, actions, loyalty to Scott's expedition and responses of other expedition members are well illustrated by his writings. Similarly much light is spread upon the personalities and motivations of Captain Scott and the others involved. Gran was a member of the search party which discovered the fate of the polar party and found the body of Scott on 12 November 1912. The book is illustrated with an excellent selection of contemporary plates, and a detailed map. It is a most welcome addition to the recent literature about the expedition. (R. K. Headland, Scott Polar Research Institute, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

ANTARCTIC EARTH SCIENCE: ADELAIDE SYMPOSIUM

ANTARCTIC EARTH SCIENCE: FOURTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM. Oliver, R. L., James, P. R. and Jago, J. B. (editors). 1983. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press. 697 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0 521 25836 7. £45.00, US\$79.50.

The 100th anniversary of the birth of Sir Douglas Mawson, the antarctic explorer, geologist and leading scientific figure in Australia, was fittingly celebrated in Adelaide in August 1982. This was the venue of the Fourth International Symposium on Antarctic Earth Sciences, which was attended by over 200 scientists representing 16 countries. In a five-day period, 183 papers were presented in four concurrent sessions; the proceedings volume contains the texts of some 174 papers and abstracts. The wide-ranging content of *Antarctic earth science* probably comes as a surprise even to those who assiduously attended as many as possible of the symposium sessions. As might have been expected,