

OBITUARIES

VICE-ADMIRAL SIR PERCY DOUGLAS, K.C.B., C.M.G., died in November 1939. Admiral Douglas became a member of the Discovery Committee early in 1928. He was Chairman of the Ship Sub-Committee, which advised on the building of a new steel ship, specially designed for oceanographical work in the Antarctic seas, to take the place of the old wooden *Discovery*, an auxiliary sailing ship, which had proved too heavy and cumbersome for the work. Douglas, therefore, played a decisive part in the history of *Discovery II*, launched in 1929, and was in charge when after ten years of voyaging she was finally laid up in June 1939, by then the most travelled of all Antarctic ships. He was much the most active of the Committee in ship affairs, including the choice of personnel, in which he was most successful. The success of the work at sea must be in a large part attributed to his high standards of fitness and to the routine supervision, which, in collaboration with the Crown Agents, he ungrudgingly gave to the work at home.

As Hydrographer, Admiral Douglas produced the first issue of the *Antarctic Pilot* in 1930, and his last Antarctic service was as Chairman of the Advisory Committee to Rymill's British Graham Land Expedition, 1934-37, to which he gave very considerable, but always unobtrusive assistance. J. M. W.

ADMIRAL SIR GEORGE LE CLERC EGERTON, K.C.B., C.B., R.N., who died on March 30, 1940, at the age of 87, was the last surviving officer of Sir George Nares's Arctic Expedition of 1875-76. He was a sub-lieutenant of the *Alert*, which wintered on the northern coast of Grant Land. He made many sledge journeys from the ship.

Admiral Egerton was naturally by far the oldest member of the Arctic Club, and maintained his interest in polar work to the end of his life.

OLIVER GATTY died at Cambridge on June 5, 1940, at the age of 32, as the result of an accident while he was engaged on important research in the service of his country. In 1933 he went to Spitsbergen with the Oxford University Arctic Expedition. His companions found in him a man whose intellectual originality and personal charm infected them with the same energetic delight which he himself took in all aspects of the expedition's work and life. W. L. S. F.

In April 1940, PAVEL GOLOVIN was killed in an aeroplane accident after a distinguished career of Arctic flying. On May 4, 1937, he flew to the Pole on a preliminary reconnaissance flight from Franz Josef Land, in preparation for the establishment of the North Pole Camp and subsequent polar flights. In February 1938 he piloted one of the three planes which made the difficult flight from Moscow to Kotelny Island, and took off 134 persons from the ice-breakers *Sedov*, *Sadko* and *Malyguin*, which had been imprisoned in the ice at the end of October 1937.

JOSEPH GRINNELL, who died in May 1939, made important contributions to our knowledge of the birds and animals of the Kotzebue Sound region of Alaska, where he spent a year in 1898-99. He was known chiefly for his work in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at the University of California.

By the death on May 31, 1940, of E. R. GUNTHER, who was accidentally shot while on active service, the Discovery Committee is deprived of a senior member of its scientific staff, and marine biology loses a man of great ability and the highest promise. Gunther, who was 37 years of age, joined the Discovery staff in 1924 and was conspicuously successful in work which covered an unusually wide range of activity. Antarctic plankton, the hydrography of the Peru current, the habits of whales, whale-marking and the trawling potentialities of the Falkland plateau were among the many subjects on which he worked with sterling independence, tenacity and great thoroughness.

S. K.

News has only recently reached this country of the death on March 12 of GUSTAV HOLM, Captain in the Royal Danish Navy, the oldest of Greenland explorers and the discoverer of the Angmagssalik Eskimo in 1884. He was born in 1849, and made his first visit to Greenland in 1876 on an expedition preliminary to the institution in 1878 of the Commission for Investigations in Greenland. From the very first, therefore, Holm played an important part in this great organisation and its famous publication, *Meddelelser om Grønland*. As Lieutenant Holm he led the Danish Konebaad (Umiak) Expedition to Greenland's East Coast in 1883-85, and it was during the second season's work that he discovered, and wintered at, Angmagssalik. Any faint hope which might have been held at that date that the old Eastern Settlement of the Norsemen was on the east coast, or that any considerable number of the early Norse settlers had lived there, was finally dispelled. In 1896 Holm became one of the Commission of three, later increased to five, responsible for the Greenland Investigations. His work for the Commission is in itself a great achievement, but to most men his name will always be connected with Angmagssalik and the preservation of this colony of pure Eskimo stock.

J. M. W.

The death on February 27, 1940, of FRANCIS CHARLES ROBERT JOURDAIN leaves an irreparable gap in ornithology. He will long be remembered for his intimate and exact knowledge of the breeding biology of the birds of the Palæarctic Region, and it may be safely said that no one was his equal on this subject. He was untiring in his search for facts both in literature and from correspondents in all parts of the world. Jourdain organised, and led, the first Oxford Expedition to Spitsbergen in 1921, and went there again in 1922. He spent several years writing a comprehensive book on the birds of Spitsbergen, but unfortunately this was never completed and published.

B. B. R.

ERNEST MILLS JOYCE died on May 2, 1940. He was born in 1875 and entered the Navy at the age of 15. During the Boer War he was attached to the Naval Brigade, and was transferred to the National Antarctic Expedition of 1902-04 as an A.B., when the *Discovery* called at Simon's Town on her way south. Later he joined Shackleton's *Nimrod* Expedition, 1907-09. In 1910 he chose dogs at Copenhagen for Mawson's Australian Antarctic Expedition and took them to Tasmania. During 1914-17 he was a member of Shackleton's Ross Sea party. He is probably best known for the strenuous sledge journeys he undertook while laying depots on Shackleton's two expeditions. Shackleton wrote in 1914: "If there is one man I can trust to lay the depots it is your good self. . . that was proved at a critical time in 1908 when I returned from the long

trek south." After the rescue of the Ross Sea party, Joyce was commended for a journey that ranked with the highest deeds of polar exploration. For this achievement he was awarded the Albert Medal. D. H. M.

WILLIAM LASHLY died on June 12, 1940. An Appreciation by Apsley Cherry-Garrard appears on p. 331.

JAMES ARMSTRONG RICHARDSON, who died on June 26, 1939, had been a member of the Canadian Committee of the Hudson's Bay Company since 1927, and he contributed very largely to the opening up of the Canadian Arctic. With a faith, which he was prepared to back with his own fortune, he inaugurated the airways of the north. Not only did this accelerate mining development, but in the daily course of passenger and freight transport, his planes undertook countless life-saving flights, which will place his name high in the history of his country.

DR JOHN COLIN VAUGHAN died in New York on January 12, 1940, at the age of 69. When gold was discovered in Alaska in 1898, Vaughan set out with several companions by the overland route. From 1899 to 1901 he was the official mail carrier between Nome and Dawson. He joined the Fiala-Ziegler Expedition of 1903-05 as second Assistant Surgeon and Veterinary Officer in charge of the dogs.

JUDGE JAMES WICKERSHAM died at his home in Juneau at the end of 1939. He was United States District Judge for the Third Division of Alaska from 1900 to 1907, and Alaska Delegate to Congress from 1909 to 1921, and again from 1931 to 1933. In 1903 he led the first attempt to climb Mount McKinley with a rival expedition to that headed by Dr Frederick A. Cook. His *Bibliography of Alaskan Literature, 1724-1924*, will long remain the fundamental source of information on Alaska.

PETTY OFFICER T. S. WILLIAMSON, who died in January 1940, served under Captain Scott in the *Discovery*, 1901-4, and *Terra Nova*, 1910-13. He took part in many sledge journeys, including that of the search party to find Captain Scott.

D. W. WILTON, who died on January 10, 1940, was a member of the Jackson-Harmsworth Expedition to Franz Josef Land in 1896-97, when his companions included A. B. Armitage, R. Koettlitz and W. S. Bruce. From 1902 to 1904 he was a member of the Scottish Antarctic Expedition under W. S. Bruce in the *Scotia*. Wilton was at one time in business at Archangel, but for many years had been a King's Messenger, at first attached at St Petersburg, and later in London. R. N. R. B.