

Register, May 11th, 1919.

sun touches on the chilly antarctic seas?—and the crisp, illuminating words of the lecturer, harmonized in a wonderful way. No wonder the audience rose and applauded Lieut. Shackleton. He bowed quickly, resumed his seat, and ostentatiously rolled up the electric wire with which he had signalled to the lanternist for pictures! Just like the man.

THE NIMROD'S MOVEMENTS.

WORK IN SOUTHERN WATERS.

SYDNEY, May 9.

The Nimrod left yesterday for Macquarie Island, where a collection of specimens will be made for Lieut. Shackleton. Then a search will be made for Emerald Island, Doherty Island, and the Nimrod Group, the existence of all of which has been in doubt for nearly a century. Surveys will be made of these southern waters, and as much scientific information as possible be gathered. To assist the party in taking observations several instruments have been lent by the Meteorological Department. In order to make a study of currents bottles will be thrown overboard at noon daily. Subsequently the Nimrod will call at Monte Video or Rio de Janeiro for coal. The vessel will then proceed direct to Falkmouth.

AFTER THE SOUTH POLE.

SOME VOYAGES SINCE 1770

An instructive and succinct record has been compiled of the men who have laid siege to the South Pole, and in view of Lieut. Shackleton's visit, the list of some of the principal voyages since 1770 is doubly interesting.

James Cook, with the Resolution and Adventure, 1772-1775. January 17, 1773, was an epoch in the world's history, for just before noon on that day the antarctic circle was first crossed by Europeans.

Admiral Bellingshausen, with the Vestok and Mirni, 1819-1821. A Russian expedition, which started from Portsmouth; was stopped by a solid wall of ice at 69 deg. 52m. S.

James Weddell, with the Jane, and Beaufoy, 1822-1824. He reached 74 deg. 15m. S., where he found open water, but returned on account of the lateness of the season. This was partly a sealing expedition.

Benjamin Morrell (American) in the Wasp, 1822-1823. Much doubt has been cast upon Morrell's statements. He declared that at 70 deg. 14m. S. he found the way open before him, clear and unobstructed, air and water mild, the wind fair, but had to return, as he lacked fuel and water.

Dumont d'Urville (French), with the Astrolabe and Zelee, 1837-1840. Was quite unable to advance beyond land and a massive barrier of ice.

Charles Wilkes, with the American Exploring Expedition, 1838-1842. Discovered and mapped a large tract of land within the antarctic circle.

James Clark Ross, with the Erebus and Terror, 1839-1842—the English Antarctic expedition. An active volcano and a range of mountains discovered 16 deg. from the pole. Discovered a great ice barrier 1,000 ft. thick, at 78 deg. 11m. S., by far the highest latitude attained till 1900.

George S. Nares, in the Challenger, 1874. Only reached 65 deg. 42m. S., where he was stopped by dense pack ice. The first steamer to cross the antarctic circle.

Adrien de Gerlache, in the Belgica, 1897-1899. A Belgian expedition. The ship was blocked in young ice at 71 deg. 35m. S., and a winter with 70 days' night endured.

C. E. Borchgrevink, in the Southern Cross, 1898-1900. Landed a party of 10 on antarctic land, which stretched away in mountains; reached 78 deg. 59m., higher than Ross. English expedition.

Robert F. Scott, in the Discovery, 1901-1904. This ship was almost entirely equipped by men of the Royal Navy.

E. von Drygalski, 1901-1903, in the Gauss, German.

W. S. Bruce, in the Scotia, 1902-1904, English.

ANTARCTIC ANECDOTES

CHIEF JUSTICE A VOLUNTEER.

"HOW WE WIPED THE PLATES."

Had Lieut. Shackleton been given his choice on Monday night whether he would prefer to be back along that hunger-stricken return route from farthest south or remain where he was to face the ardent expressions of Sir Samuel Way's ecstatic admiration the odds would favour the land of tight belts. Anyhow, to a "sport" given to watch or any such indications of where to place his wager, the explorer's face would have suggested that answer. Still, more unfortunately for the man who has been "down there," his countenance had lost the hirsute mask which then would have hidden his blushing discomfort. Lieut. Shackleton looked thoroughly unhappy, and the 1,200 people who with him occupied the Elder Hall gave of their keenest sympathy. It was when the crowd had stopped cheering him and had turned their attention to Mr. Douglas Mawson that the leader's face beamed. That is a fair indication of the quiet man upon whom the adulatory searchlight has been so strongly turned. As the Chancellor put it when introducing the sailor-journalist-explorer-lecturer, it had been discovered that folk could enjoy the views about as well from behind the great screen as in front. So 200 chairs were placed on the stage, and were availed of to the last stick. It was, in fact, a record audience for the Elder Conservatorium. Early in the day every seat in the hall was bespoken, and it was no good thereafter to seek admission with coin. A reserve ticket was the only passport.

—Unique Position.—

As for the lecture, it was just the grand, simple story retold. In form it was all too skeletal. One could have wished that this and that slide would have got jammed in the lantern, and that Lieut. Shackleton might have gone into description, down to the veriest detail. It made one only the more keenly look forward to the promised book that is to tell the complete tale. The feature that stamped itself with such stirring significance upon the audience was the absolute uniqueness of the moment. Here were pictures not merely of the little known antarctic—wonderful reproductions of wonderful scenes, too—but photographs of the land beyond and hitherto undreamed; silent, ghostly white, terribly towering ranges; they filed in frozen-calm loftiness into the shadowed South that is still unsolved. Land of "Come and Find Me." All this, and not only this; but the man who is half-telling about it, he it is who has been there. Truly, one could hear almost the thrill within his neighbour's heart.

—Sir Samuel to Blacken Boots.—

But one must return home and chronicle the newest sensation. The Chief Justice has volunteered as a member of the next expedition which Lieut. Shackleton may see fit to lead to the South Pole! The explorer has accepted Sir Samuel's services. His Honor has already apportioned his own duties, down there amid the penguins, the frost-bitten toes, and the food-dreams. He is to blacken the boots of the remaining members of the party. He knows he may go, because he possesses the qualifications. That settles it. All these important matters were divulged in a series of thrilling announcements by the gentleman most nearly concerned when introducing the explorer in the early phases of the evening. The qualification referred to lies in that Sir Samuel, like the intrepid Professor David—be of the "old brown hat"—has passed the half-century milestone. Just to emphasize the Sydneysider's proposition that the "youngsters" are not the only ones who can do a bit of exploration, the Chief Justice has offered to give judgment in regard to the shine on a man's boots from the dignified rostrum of the Mount Erebus crater—or beyond. Just why Sir Samuel's thoughts turned to the heroic feat of polishing heroes' feet-covering, is the probable outcome of a story told by Lieut. Shackleton as to Professor David's dips into the mysteries of domesticity.

—David and the Dishes.—

Everybody had to do something when the light went out for a few months' lapse. Generally the geologists were worrying over some bits of rock, but the leader put the professor to dish-washing for a change. In the preliminary rounds with the plates David would gingerly dry one side, then the other, and would finish with a thoughtful polish of the thick rim. The end of the first week found him, however, breezily, cursorily flicking the swab about and sousing the plates into the tub with the best of the old stagers. But of the broom the professor, like his comrades all, was apt to fight shy.

—Beautiful Pictures.—

Reverting to the pictures, a word of congratulation is due for their excellent production as lantern slides. It was as big a screen as has been seen in Adelaide, and a special projecting instrument had to be erected to meet its capacity. Mr. A. O. Thomas, in charge, received merited commendation from the lecturer. At the instance of the President of the branch of the Royal Geographical Society (Mr. W. B. Wilkinson) cheers were given for Lieut. Shackleton and for Mr. Mawson, who was associated with him upon the stage.

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ANTARCTIC EXPLORATION.

LIEUTENANT SHACKLETON'S SECOND LECTURE.

Though to many it was a twice-told tale, Lieutenant Shackleton's graphic account on Monday evening of the expedition to the South Polar regions was quite as fascinating as the lecture of Saturday night, and the Elder Hall was again crowded to the doors. Indeed, early in the day an intimation was made that all the tickets had been sold, and that no further seating accommodation was available. The Chancellor of the University (Sir S. J. Way) presided, and, in a particularly happy speech, introduced the intrepid leader of that heroic band who went south in the Nimrod. Sir Samuel also remarked that as a memento of the party's achievements the Royal Geographical Society had caused a special medal to be issued for presentation to all the members of Lieutenant Shackleton's company. The Royal Society also for the first time in its history sent a telegram of congratulation, and another telegram came from his Majesty the King. (Cheers.) They were all very proud of the part the Australian scientists had played in that great expedition which had achieved more than any other in the interests of science; and they must feel especial pride in the great work done by that brilliant scientist and lecturer, Mr. Douglas Mawson, of Adelaide. (Cheers.)

Lieutenant Shackleton then took possession of the platform, and again delighted a large audience with his account of the expedition, showing again the fine series of pictures presented on the Saturday evening.

Mr. W. B. Wilkinson, president of the South Australian branch of the Royal Geographical Society, in moving a vote of thanks to the lecturer, said they must all recognise the magnificent work done by the expedition, and feel profoundly impressed with the conduct of the leader and every man of the party. Though Lieutenant Shackleton did not say much about himself, they had to recognise that the success of the expedition largely depended on the leader's great powers of organisation and his application to every detail. (Cheers.)