

The British Polar Exhibition.

DURING the past few years there has been a remarkable revival of expeditions to the polar regions, and it is to this revived interest in polar lands and seas that the idea of holding a British Polar Exhibition in London is largely due. In opening this exhibition at the Central Hall, Westminster, on July 2, Col. Sir Charles Close, president of the Royal Geographical Society, pointed out that Great Britain had been intimately associated with exploration in the Arctic regions for the past 400 years and in the Antarctic regions for 150 years. It was therefore an opportune moment to recall the great deeds of the past and to direct attention to the possibilities of the future by bringing together a collection of relics, pictures, maps, and documents; to demonstrate more particularly modern means of scientific exploration, especially through aerial methods, and to assist, if possible, the Scott Polar Research Institute at Cambridge with funds for further research work.

Commander L. C. Bernacchi, the organising director of the exhibition, and Capt. L. W. G. Malcolm, assistant director, have been extraordinarily successful in collecting some hundreds of exhibits, every one of which has some personal interest attached to it, and they have arranged the exhibits particularly well so that the ordinary visitor may examine each object without difficulty. The personal kit and notebooks of individual explorers occupy the widest space, and among the numerous interesting exhibits may be mentioned Shackleton's boat in which he made his famous journey of 750 miles from Elephant Island to South Georgia, thus saving the lives of twenty-two members of the crew of the *Endurance*; the sledge used by Shackleton in 1908 when he got within a hundred miles of the South Pole; a large Antarctic camp scene showing the ship *Discovery* in the background; a large group arranged by the Hudson's Bay Company to illustrate Arctic Canada. One room is mainly devoted to the relics of Franklin and Scott; these relics include Sir John Franklin's signature, his sextant and medicine chest; the autograph journal of Capt. Scott showing the last entries he made in it; Scott's camera, satchel, Bible, and many others. Exhibits such as these naturally appeal to human feeling, and are undoubtedly of great value in stimulating interest in exploration.

The various models of Arctic scenes, together with the Arctic products, will enable the visitor to realise to some extent what the polar regions are actually like. The economic importance of the northern seas can be studied from the large map of the north polar region, showing the fishing grounds from which in 1929 Great Britain obtained 280 million pounds weight of cod, 110 million pounds of haddock, and large quantities of other kinds of fish. These statistics are shown on a large chart. For the scientific student, instruments such as thermometers, compasses, and chronometers used on polar expeditions may be examined. A programme of lectures on polar subjects has been arranged by the exhibition committee, and among the lecturers are Commander Bernacchi and Mr. Stefansson. On certain days some of Ponting's films of the Scott expedition are being shown. The educational advantages of the exhibition are still further augmented by the "Polar Book" which has been compiled specially for this purpose; in concise book form, the various aspects of polar work have been brought together in a series of articles written by well-known experts in Arctic knowledge, and two of Bartholomew's maps showing the polar regions are bound up with the book.

In passing through the various parts of the exhibition, one cannot but be impressed by the enterprise,

courage, endurance, and achievements of the men who faced the dangers and hardships of polar exploration; also of the changed conditions under which explorers now set out and of the difference in outlook of men taking part in expeditions at the present time. The economic aim of a Frobisher searching for gold in his *Meta Incognita*, the scientific expedition of Sir James Ross studying magnetic conditions in the Antarctic regions, the spirit of adventure which urged Shackleton to explore polar lands and seas, are still powerful motives. With the more extensive knowledge of the Arctic regions, due to the work of these early explorers, two new ideas have been gradually coming into prominence since the beginning of the present century. First a political factor has begun to present itself with regard to the ownership of polar lands, and secondly a search for suitable stations for air transport. In fact, some recent expeditions have had as their main or partial object the claiming of new territory and the examination of areas for the establishment of landing-places for aeroplanes. Not only then does the Polar Exhibition remind us of the wonderful deeds of men in past times, but it also provides accurate knowledge of the vast regions around the poles at the present day, and suggests some of the problems that still await solution.

University and Educational Intelligence.

CAMBRIDGE.—The vice-chancellor has given notice that a meeting of the electors to the Woodwardian professorship of geology will be held on Friday, Aug. 1. The stipend of the professor is £1200 a year, or, if he holds a fellowship with dividend, £1000 a year. The professor, as head of the Department of Geology, is paid £200 a year in addition to his stipend as professor, or, if he holds a fellowship with dividend, not more than £100. Candidates are requested to communicate with the vice-chancellor on or before Tuesday, July 22.

The Faculty Board of Economics and Politics has received from Mr. Montague Burton an offer to endow a professorship in the University to be called the Montague Burton Professorship of Industrial Relations. The Faculty Board proposes that the duties of the professor should be defined as "to study and give instruction upon the conditions of employment and the relations between employers and employed, with special reference to the causes of industrial disputes and the methods of promoting industrial peace".

The Harkness Scholarship for 1930 has been awarded to Miss K. M. N. Paterson, of Newnham College, and the Wiltshire Prize to R. N. Quirk, of King's College.

The governing body of Corpus Christi College has awarded to Dr. R. Hilton, assistant physician, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, the Copeman Medal for research in medical and biological sciences. This medal was presented by Dr. S. Monckton Copeman, formerly a scholar of the College. The present award is the first which has been made.

DUBLIN.—The honorary degree of Sc.D. was conferred upon Sir James Jeans on July 4, and the honorary degree of Litt.D. upon Mr. C. Leonard Woolley.

DURHAM.—Honorary degrees were conferred on June 26 as follows: *D.C.L.*—Lieut.-Gen. H. B. Fawcus, director-general Army Medical Services, and Baron Alexander Mevendorff, London School of Economics. *D.Sc.*—Dr. F. G. Donnan, professor of inorganic and physical chemistry at University College, London; Mr. Wilfred Hall (of Newcastle), and Dr. R. E. Slade. *D.Litt.*—Dr. N. Kemp Smith, professor of logic and metaphysics in the University of Edinburgh.