

MET. MEN FIND ESCAPE AS DURBAN GETS STICKY

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WHEN the sticky, muggy Durban heat gets you down, there is nothing as salutary as a trip to the Antarctic, say Mr. G. M. Artz and Mr. J. Bothma, the two Durban Airport meteorologists who leave today for a 12-month spell at Halley Bay, on the Caird coast in Coats Land, Weddell Sea, Antarctica.

They were in Pretoria today before leaving for England from Jan Smuts Airport. In London, they will join the British party which will travel to Halley Bay via Montevideo, leaving on November 21, and arriving at about Christmas.

They will be at Halley Bay for a year to assist with meteorological observations.

Mr. Bothma is a bachelor with a passion for cold climates. He has spent two years at the Union's weather station on Marion Island.

"I am allergic to heat," he told The Daily News correspondent in Pretoria.

Mr. Artz is married, with a 10-year-old daughter.

"I am going to miss my family terribly, but a trip to the Antarctic is an opportunity that cannot be overlooked," he said. "My wife was very sympathetic."

The men were chosen by the

Department of Transport from a number of volunteers. Both have considerable experience, and Mr. Artz was in the meteorological section of the S.A.A.F. during the war.

While in the bleak Antarctic, they will be on regular pay, plus a special "disability allowance." "That is to compensate for the cold," they quipped.

Mr. Bothma, who is 31, spent two successive years on lonely, windswept Marion Island, at the Union's weather station there. He wanted to spend another year there, but the authorities decided he had had enough and sent him to Durban last year.