

To facilitate the co-ordination and formulation of research programmes in Antarctica, SCAR established eleven working groups for the various scientific disciplines and other essential activities, such as logistics and radio communications. These working groups constitute the scientific core of SCAR. They meet once every second or third year with SCAR, or at other suitable occasions, but during the intervals deliberations are carried out by correspondence. They sponsor occasional symposia on Antarctic investigations, e.g. the exceptionally successful symposium on Antarctic geology which was held in Cape Town during September last year.

SCAR members publish annual reports which contain information on work done during the preceding year and the planned programmes for the next year. The South African reports for the past few years can be obtained from the Information Branch of the CSIR, which is responsible for compiling and publishing the reports.

The Eighth Annual Meeting of SCAR was held in Paris from 24th till 28th August this year. South Africa was strongly repre-

sented by Dr. S. M. Naudé (delegate) and four advisers, viz. Prof. van Zinderen Bakker (biology), Mr. A. M. van Wijk (geomagnetism and upper air physics), Mr. W. C. Watson (cartography) and myself (meteorology). The delegation was chosen in order to have representation on all the working groups which had to meet on this occasion. Three members of the delegation had considerable other work to carry out in Europe.

I will not attempt to discuss the lengthy reports and recommendations approved by the meeting. The atmosphere was cordial, even between the representatives of South Africa and the U.S.S.R. As far as my knowledge goes this was the first meeting of SCAR at which representatives from all twelve SCAR countries were present.

An important decision was taken about future meetings of SCAR. It was decided that SCAR will in future meet only when the Executive considers that a meeting is justified. Thus the next meeting will probably be held in 1966 in Chile. It will be the occasion for celebrating ten years of international scientific co-operation in the Antarctic.

## NEWS FROM SANAE AND THE ISLANDS

### SANAE—23rd July:

We here at SANAE welcomed the return of the sun on 21st July, having seen it last on 27th May. During the past two months, spent mostly indoors, we have found that man is indeed able to conquer his environment. Indoor life has not been found to be so much of a handicap as anticipated. During these months all possible indoor work was done in anticipation of the coming summer, including the ordering of all next year's supplies. Our indoor supply of diesel is also running short and this means some back-breaking work after the inactivity of winter. With the return of the sun we expect to see the snow petrels and skuas soon again. The skuas will pester the huskies in the hope of getting a stray scrap of seal meat.

Various problems have been experienced with our motorised toboggan but we hope to use it soon for a short trip to the sub-station, which is only three kilometres from the edge of the ice shelf. We should be able to inspect the frozen buktas in the vicinity.

Another coreless winter is being experienced again, for down here the winters do not reach a climax. Weather conditions oscillate back and forth. This phenomenon is characteristic of Antarctic winters and should normally continue for another two months.

Our doctor and deputy leader, Tollie Traut, has been keeping a close check on our health. Every now and then a blood sample is taken and numerous tests performed with same. He states that everybody is in good health. We also undergo exposure tests from time to time, when the doctor takes numerous body and skin temperatures within a fixed time interval. We simply love these tests. The husky, Flap, was seriously ill recently, but after treatment he is now recovering.

### SANAE—30e Julie:

Met die son se verskyning is die winter wat ons betref verby en gaan ons vol goeie moed die tweede helfte van ons verblyf aanpak. Voorbereidings word getref vir die veldekspedisies. Buite-aktiwiteite neem toe namate die dae langer word. Die lang, donker winter is nou 'n herinnering wat ons nie sal vergeet nie. Die hoogtepunt was natuurlik midwintersdag, wat ons baie lekker gevier het, maar daar was ook drie verjaarsdae om te vier, naamlik dié van Tollie Traut, Noel Jay en Trevor Robertson. Die verjaarsdagvierings is altyd baie gesellig. 'n Besondere ete word vir die aand voorberei deur die kok op diens en daarna lewer Zac Ezekowitz, ons seremonie-meester, sy toespraak ter ere van die jarige. Presente word uitgereik en toesprake word oor-en-weer gelewer. Veral Trevor Robertson verstaan die kuns om lank te praat en tog niks te sê nie. Die manne se harte trek maar sterk huis-toe. 'n Paar kalenders met kleurprente wat Rheta aan Skroef van Zyl gegee het is uitgedeel en pryke nou in die kamers en woonvertreke.

### SANAE—27th August:

The long Antarctic summer is just round the corner now. Back are the dark glasses to protect our eyes from the glare of the snow. It is not surprising that with summer approaching there is already talk of going home, particularly among the married men.

Monday, 24th August, saw the departure of geomagneticist Trevor Robertson, geologist Andre du Plessis and diesel mechanic Noel Jay on a geomagnetic survey past the old Norwegian base, various ice rises, numerous buktas and on to the sub-station. We wish them good luck with this trip and hope the weather will be

kind to them. At the base Trevor's geomagnetic programme has been taken over by Zac Ezekowitz. Together with Tollie Traut he will also manage Andre's driftsnow measurements. Franco du Toit is meanwhile taking care of Trevor's airglow apparatus.

With the advent of warmer weather outdoor work can be undertaken more readily now. Pieter de Waal is busy erecting a new rhombic antenna beamed on Mawson. We extend congratulations and thanks to mechanics Koos Pretorius and Noel Jay for getting the muskeg and Oliver tractor snow-worthy again. This took much painstaking effort at very low temperatures.

Ionosphericist Zac Ezekowitz keeps his ionospheric programme going very efficiently. The vertical incidence programme has been functioning soundly so far. The ionosonde transmits every quarter hour and by now we are all used to its never-failing noise caused on the radio receivers. Zac compiles reports of the values obtained from the ionograms and these reports are regularly transmitted to the Republic. He also runs an oblique incidence programme between SANAE and Rhodes University in Grahamstown. He intends to install an oblique incidence receiver soon for which an extra rhombic antenna will have to be erected. Last but not least, Zac plays a major role in the handling and feeding of the dogs. He hopes to stay at SANAE for a further year. In fact he has already applied for the post of geomagneticist. We wish him good luck.

### MARION—28e Julie:

Hier op Marion gaan dit baie goed. Die ballonne gaan mooi hoog op en veral die Darex-ballonne gaan klokslag hoër as O mb—"into outer space", as'tware. So van die buitenste ruimte gepraat, Steve en Wolfie is ywerig aan die vuurpyle maak. Een van die dae as die wind weer so sterk waai dan stuur ons 'n rocketsonde op. Hulle salpeter-en-suiker-aangedrewe vaartuie het dusver 'n knaende onwilligheid getoon om die aarde te verlaat. Die rookwolke en indrukwekkende lawaai is darem daar. Hulle verseker my dat die verdere ontwikkelings later sal kom. Juliemaand was die maand van die groot "droogte" hier, vanweë toegeeste waterpype vir etlike dae. Hier was net geen water beskikbaar vir ander doeleindes as koskook en drink nie. Ons moes mettertied amper daaglik water uit die poele in die riviertjie pomp vir skottelgoed was. Verder word die dae reeds langer. Die klein albatrossies word nou groot. Almal sien net uit na Desembermaand se skip. Ons het 'n ernstige tekort aan tamatiesous. Wolfie kom kort-kort tevoorskyn met 'n konkoksie wat hy tamatiesous noem. Cedric Roberts maak weer gemmerbier en yslike potte van die goed staan aljimmers in die spens en gis. Ons sal so 'n bietjie by die R.S.A. smous as hulle in Desember hier aankom.

### MARION—1st September:

This has once more been a very cold month on Marion. We had some heavy snowfalls and at one stage actually experienced a real blizzard with drifting snow and zero visibility. We had the opportunity to use unusual parts of the present weather code. In some places snow piled up to three feet and everybody, including Oubaas (the dog), enjoyed frolicking in the snow. Meanwhile everybody on Marion seems to be making something. Roberts of P.W.D. hammered together a trumpet to call the family for meals. This diabolical instrument is rapidly driving Oubaas past his normal state of semi-madness. A model steam engine was constructed by the local Met and, strange to tell, the thing actually

works with the application of two blowlamps and a primus. We intend building a go-cart this month but the project is still definitely in the planning stage. In view of the growing tendency to put on weight, people can be found at odd hours of the day doing physical jerks and weight-lifting, but in view of the uneven struggle against odds, some have already given it up again. In short we are all healthy and happy here on Marion Island.

#### GOUGH—12e Augustus:

Hier op Gough is die onderwerp wat die tweede meeste bespreek word, die naderende koms van die kreefskepe na hierdie uithoek van die wêreld. Soos maklik verstaan kan word is die belangrikste besprekingspunt natuurlik die gehalte van Suid-Afrikaanse rugby. Dit gebeur ook slegs die enkele kere wanneer Noord-Transvaal, die Vrystaat en selfs Westelike Provinsie nie onder bespreking is nie. Die toetsneerslaag (teen die Franse) het so 'n indruk op party van die manne gemaak dat hulle reeds die reëls van dameshokkie deeglik bestudeer het. Die vernaamste dryfveer vir hulle toetrede

tot die spel sal natuurlik die feit wees dat dit so 'n vinnige spel is. As 'n mens egter die weer van die afgelope paar maande in aanmerking neem sou waterpolo miskien 'n meer paslike spel gewees het. Op die tradisionele vraag: "Hoe gaan dit?" kan ons as maatstaf van ons welvaart die feit noem dat selfs die trietsige rooi hoendertjies (of was dit kuikens?) wat saam met ons gekom het, nou so tuis voel dat hulle ons toegooi onder die eiers. Die hoender vraagstuk het sulke buitensporige afmetings begin aanneem dat ons al etlike Sondae genoodsaak was om afsprake vir ons geveerde vriende met die oond in kombuis te reël. Dit was 'n dawerende sukses, sodat die hoenders nou dikwels in die kombuis onthaal word. Ons oorvol spyskaart word verder aangevul met die enkele verwaalde kreef wat hulle weg na ons nete vind. Selfs die gehardste Vrystaters onder ons het al 'n sagteplekke vir die rooi krappe ontwikkel. Ons hoop dat die 5e Augustus 'n gedenkwaardige geleentheid sal word want op daardie dag is 20 eiers in die plaaslik vervaardigde broeikas geplaas en al wat ons nou kan sê is dat almal in spanning wag om te sien of dit 'n broeriery of brouery sal uitloop.

## NEWS OF THE ASSOCIATION

**Meeting of 30th July 1964:** This meeting was one of the most successful held by the Association to date. It was attended by 27 members and about 80 visitors, most of them Pretoria Boys' High School and Afrikaanse Seuns Hoërskool pupils.

Two films were shown, viz. "Die Koue Suide, Deel 3" and "Scott's Last Journey".

"Die Koue Suide, Deel 3" deals with the activities of the third South African National Antarctic Expedition. It shows the erection of the buildings of the present SANAE, trekking over from the old to the new base, life at the new base, the scientific programmes and the summer expedition to the mountains. Most members of the team co-operated in taking the film, sometimes under severe conditions. Martin du Preez, leader of SANAE III edited the film and it was produced by State Film Productions (Department of Education, Arts and Science). The film is in colour and forms a worthy record of SANAE III. It is also obtainable in English.

The following members of SANAE III attended this first public showing of "Die Koue Suide, Deel 3" and they were introduced by Martin du Preez: Henry Fulton, Sean Kavanagh, Charles Lautenbach, Dirk Neethling, Douw Moller and Sewes van Wyk.

"Scott's Last Journey" is a masterful composition of the photographs and filmed record of the fateful last expedition of Captain Robert Falcon Scott in 1910/12. Herbert Ponting's photographs, many of which are masterpieces which can hardly ever be excelled, are skilfully used to give the impression of motion. These photographs are interwoven with the cine film and so the effect of the still photographs are hardly noticed. Dr. Frank Debenham, one of the expedition's geologists, was interviewed and this personal link with the expedition lends a great deal of reality to the film.

**Vergadering van 31e Augustus 1964:** Mnr. W. A. Nieman van die Aardrykskunde-departement van die Universiteit van Suid-Afrika het oor seers gepraat en veral oor die ystoestand wat gedurende die vaart van die "RSA" ondervind is in Desember 1962/Januarie 1963 na en van SANAE. Mnr. Nieman het 'n weldeurdagte en bestudeerde voordrag gelewer oor die vorming van seers, die vorme waarin dit voorkom en die prosesse wat dit gedurig vorm, naamlik waterbewegings, die drukking van wind, sneeueerslag en smelting. Dit was besonder welkom om die Afrikaanse benamings van die veelvallige vorms van seers in 'n voordrag te hoor. Mnr. Niemann het kleurskryfies van die ys wat hyself geneem het vertoon. Hy het ook kortliks melding gemaak van die seetemperatuur wat gedurende die vaart gemeet is. Soos by vorige geleenthede is die skerp daling wat die Subtropiese Konvergensie kenmerk weer by 42/43°S gevind; daarna betreklike vinnige afname tot by die Antarktiese Konvergensie naby 51°S en dan die stadige afname verder suidwaarts tot by die ongeveer -1.5°C wat gewoonlik gevind word waar die pakys aanwesig is.

#### Suid-Afrikaanse Antarktiese Medalje

The following members of the S.A.A. Medal Award Committee were appointed:

W. J. Chapman (chairman), I. H. Lloyd, E. R. Boden, with Mrs. C. M. Taljaard as *ex officio* secretary.

Nominations for the 1965 award of the medal were stipulated to be deposited before 15th September.

#### Uitstalling by die Pretoriase Industriële Skou

Die Vereniging het 'n spesiale poging aangewend om 'n interessante uitstalling te hou by geleentheid van die jongste Pretoriase Industriële Skou. Bo-en-behalwe die materiaal wat deel is van die Permanente Wetenskaplike Uitstalling is daar vanjaar 'n model van die stasiegeboue van SANAE, asook 'n versameling van Antarktiese gesteentes te sien gewees. Die stasie Modelle is deur die Departement Vervoer geleen en die gesteentes is deur die Geologiese Opname uitgestal. Die model van Antarktika, wat deur die Aardrykskundedepartement van die Witwatersrandse Universiteit geskenk is, is ook vir die eerste keer gedurende die Industriële Skou te sien gewees. 'n Aantal fotos van Antarktika en die Eilande is deur die Weerburo geskenk.

#### OBITUARY: PROFESSOR R. W. JAMES

Professor James was one of the three honorary members of the South African Antarctic Association. We were fortunate to have received a contribution from him for publication in the *Bulletin* shortly before he died in Cape Town on 7th July of this year. This article appeared in the previous number of the *Bulletin*.

Reginald William James was born in Paddington, London, on the 9th January, 1891. He was educated at the Polytechnic School, Regent Street, London, and at the City of London School. In December 1908 he won an Entrance Scholarship for Natural Science at St. John's College, Cambridge and on leaving the City of London School in July 1909, he also won the Beaufoy Mathematical Scholarship, tenable at Cambridge. He entered St. John's College in October 1909 as a Foundation Scholar and obtained First Class passes in Physics, Chemistry and Geology. After obtaining the B.A. degree in 1912 he worked as a post-graduate student in the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, under Sir Joseph Thomson from 1912 till 1914. Meanwhile he also obtained the B.Sc. degree of the University of London, with First Class Honours in Physics in December 1913 as an external student.

From July 1914 till November 1916 he took part in the ill-fated "Endurance Expedition" of Shackleton to the Weddell Sea. From 1917 till the end of the War he was in France with the Royal Engineer's Sound Ranging Section. For the next 18 years he was on the staff of the Physics Department of Manchester University under Professor W. L. (now Sir Lawrence) Bragg. He specialised in X-ray diffraction and published several works of high standard on this subject.

From 1937 to 1957 he was Professor of Physics at Cape Town University and from December 1956 till January 1958 he was Acting Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University.

He was awarded the Polar Medal for participation in Shackleton's Expedition. In 1938 he was elected to Fellowship of the Royal Society of South Africa, of which Society he was President during 1950-53. The D.Sc. degree (*honoris causa*) was conferred on him by the University of the Witwatersrand in 1957.

The Association elected him as honorary member in his capacity as an Antarctic veteran which chose to settle in South Africa. The first South African Antarctic Expedition under Hannes la Grange in 1960 also honoured him by naming one of the sledges after him.

(The editor wishes to express his gratitude to Mrs. Anne James and Prof. E. S. W. Simpson for supplying the above details of Prof. James' career.)