

last decade, few people perhaps realize to what extent his enthusiasm and inspiration were responsible for the recent advances in our knowledge of glacier phenomena.

At one of his earlier lectures on Vest-Skautbreen work I remember being particularly impressed by the keen controversy which he led and by the way he had collected together a team of geographers, geologists, physicists and engineers to find out just how that small glacier was moving. It was not long afterwards that Lewis's enthusiasm overtook me and I found myself, together with John Nye, John Glen, Cuchlaine King and scores of willing assistants, thoroughly involved in a study of the motion of the much larger glacier in Austerdalen. Lewis had heartily inveigled us all into a lot of healthy, hard work. There was nothing he enjoyed more than to provide his students and friends with opportunities for testing their ideas about the action of glaciers and to join in the free discussion which invariably developed over the evening meal in camp.

In the midst of our work on Austerdalsbreen Lewis took on the task of tutor at Trinity College, but this job, in addition to his many other activities, proved too great a strain for him. He was obliged to relax for the sake of his health. It was then that his friends, who willingly relieved him, appreciated just how much he had undertaken. On his last visit to Austerdalsbreen in 1959 he had regained his usual vigour and he was already talking of his plans for the trip to the United States and Alaska which came to such a tragic end.

Vaughan Lewis was a delightful companion, he treated everyone in the same friendly way and gained the respect of all. The Society has lost a great friend for there are many of us in whom he instilled a lasting interest in glaciology.

W. H. WARD

#### ALAN W. REECE—1921–60

THE death of Alan Reece in an aircraft accident in the Canadian Arctic in May 1960 came as a shock to his many friends in the glaciological, geological and polar spheres.

He was a Londoner born and bred who had an absorbing interest in wide fields of polar work. After experience in the meteorological branch of the Royal Navy during the war he joined the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey. He spent 1945 in charge of the base at Deception Island and 1946 at Hope Bay, where his glaciological interests developed. He joined the British Glaciological Society in 1947 as a founder member, while he was studying for a degree in Geology at Imperial College where he obtained his B.Sc. in 1949 and Ph.D. in 1958.

As a member of the Norwegian-British-Swedish Antarctic Expedition of 1949–52 his hard work and drive in arranging the details of stores and equipment were much appreciated as were his frank and lively comments, and his capacity for friendship. After writing up expedition equipment reports he spent three years in Uganda as a geologist before returning to polar regions in the summers of 1956 and 1957 as a field geologist in East Greenland. In 1959 he joined the prospecting firm of J. C. Sproule and Associates in Canada. While working from Resolute on Ellesmere Island on 28 May 1960, his light plane landed to help another plane down on the sea ice. Whiteout conditions which had developed at the time caused his plane to crash during the return to Resolute.

The loss of Alan Reece while engaged on active polar work will be mourned by his many friends in the Society, whose sympathy goes out to his wife and baby daughter.

G. DE Q. ROBIN