

REVIEWS

The Place Names of Svalbard. *Skrifter om Svalbard og Ishavet*, Nr. 80. Oslo: Norges Svalbard- og Ishavs-Undersøkelser, 1942. 540 pp., map, Kr. 50.00.

Over three centuries of exploration by whalers, sealers and explorers of various nationalities have led to more than ten thousand place-names in Spitsbergen. Many are duplicates, others have varied spellings, and a great number have been translated or modified in usage. Until Norway took over control of the group in 1925, in terms of the Spitsbergen Treaty of 1919, there was no controlling authority and there were no standards of reference. Owing to the widespread use of the Admiralty Chart (No. 2751) English forms tended to predominate. Now a committee under the Norwegian State has produced an authoritative list which gives under each name its origin, position, synonyms and discarded equivalents. Generally the oldest name has been accepted, but this practice has not been slavishly followed for features of which the original name has fallen out of use. Some names and all the geographical terms are translated into Norwegian. In all names, except those of royal persons, the article is added as a suffix. A few names have been arbitrarily changed to avoid duplication and a few have been added to commemorate important Norwegians and others. Some names have been discarded as being applicable to features that do not require names, presumably on the present small-scale maps, a principle of doubtful wisdom since large-scale maps are sure to come in time. The disappearance of familiar names such as Ice fjord, now Isfjorden, Green Harbour, now Grönfjorden, and Bear Island, now Björnöya, is unwelcome but inevitable.

All names are in one vocabulary with cross-references, the accepted in heavy type, the discarded in italics. English is used throughout. Heights are given above mean sea level and so do not agree with those on the charts which are referred to mean highwater level. The name Spitsbergen remains for all the islands except Kvitöya (White Island), Kong Karls Land (Wiche Islands), Hopen (Hope Island), and Björnöya (Bear Island). Svalbard includes Spitsbergen and the above four islands and island groups. There are very few slips or omissions: the list however does not include names given after 1934. A few decisions may be questioned, e.g. Kong Karls Land for Wiche Islands, the use of Gipshuken (Gips Hook), and Van Mijenfjorden for Low Sound, but drastic changes are few and generally justified. There is a long preface on the history of nomenclature and exploration. An appendix gives a fairly complete bibliography and there is a modern map on a scale of 1 : 2,000,000. The volume was printed and published during enemy occupation of Norway and thus is not widely obtainable at present. The compilers are to be thanked for a thorough and most useful piece of work of a kind that is needed for most parts of the polar regions.

R. N. R. B.

Geographical Narrative and Cartography. *Scientific Reports, Australasian Antarctic Expedition, 1911-14*. Series A, Vol. 1. By Sir DOUGLAS MAWSON. Sydney: Alfred Henry Pettifer, Acting Government Printer, 1942. 363 pp., 30 text-figs., 7 map plates, 124 photographic plates, 2 folding maps. £3. 7s. 6d.

The long-awaited first volume of the scientific reports of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition, 1911-14, has now been published. The delay was due

to many causes of which the most important was the usual difficulty that scientific expeditions have to face, namely lack of funds. The outbreak of war following immediately after the conclusion of the Expedition also made impossible any immediate work on the collections and publications of reports. This large volume contains 350 pages of text, nine maps, and a very large selection of illustrations. The text is divided into two sections: Narrative and Cartography.

The Narrative has of course, long been anticipated by Sir Douglas Mawson's *Home of the Blizzard* (1915) and by Capt. J. K. Davis's *With the Aurora in the Antarctic* (1919). However, the official record now published contains a detailed account of the operations of the various units of the Expedition set out in historical retrospect, recording the discoveries, and progressively demonstrating the geographical environment in the widely spread regions visited. It will be of the greatest value to all students of the Antarctic, and especially to future explorers. The maps of various parts of the coast include a large-scale plan of the surroundings of the Expedition's base at Cape Denison in King George Land, and maps of Queen Mary Land, King George Land, Adélie Land, and the Charnockite coast east of Commonwealth Bay; also several track charts of the voyages of the *Aurora*.

The second part of the volume deals more specifically with survey and cartographical matters. A particularly useful feature, which might well be more frequently adopted in such survey reports, is the inclusion of gazetteers of all place-names, together with notes on the character of each feature and the origin of the name.

On the covers of this volume is a complete list of the ninety-one scientific reports of the 1911-14 Expedition which have so far been published by the Government printing offices of Adelaide and Sydney. The series is now complete except for one report on Macquarie Island in Series A, Vol. v, and Sir Douglas Mawson writes that this will be published shortly. With a view to limiting the cost of printing, data relating to certain aspects of the work (general discussion of Antarctic geology and glaciology, the reports on birds, mammals and some invertebrates, and two volumes of summary and discussion of the A.A.E. meteorological observations) are being incorporated in publications dealing with like subjects which are now being printed as reports of the British Australian New Zealand Antarctic Research Expedition, 1929-31. All the original records, maps, photographic negatives, and so far as possible, the scientific collections and relics of the 1911-14 Expedition have been handed over to the Government of New South Wales. The manuscript material is to be preserved at the Mitchell Library, and the natural history collections at the Australian Museum. Sir Douglas Mawson is to be congratulated on bringing to a successful issue a work which must at times have seemed impossible to complete.

B. B. R.