

tended between those on the two ships were of a most enthusiastic character. "Where's Dr. Mawson?" was a question repeatedly asked by those on the pilot boat.

"There he is!" excitedly exclaimed one, and the leader of the expedition was simultaneously observed on the bridge deck with Captain Davis. Three cheers for Dr. Mawson were then given, and the Aurora acknowledged the compliment by dipping her flag. For a time the doctor was missed, but ultimately he again appeared on deck garbed in a light tweed coat, cream trousers, and white shoes. He eagerly scanned the small gathering on the Conqueror, and then an expression of disappointment came over his countenance. "He is evidently looking for someone who is not here," remarked Mr. T. Ryan, who, with other representatives of the Adelaide University, went off to congratulate the party upon its safe return.

The Pilot on Board.

Passing round the stern of the Aurora the Conqueror was brought abreast of her port quarter. As the vessel had not been granted pratique by the health authorities no one except the pilot was permitted to go aboard, but across the rails of the two steamers hearty handshakes were indulged in. Letters and telegrams were sent on board, and eventually the boats were separated beyond talking range. On the lower fore deck were 11 dogs, each chained on the starboard side. Their howls were audible a long way off, and occasionally a few of them so savagely attacked each other that brute force had to be used to separate the animals.

Waiting for the Doctor.

While awaiting the arrival of the health officer (Dr. Gething), who was engaged at another steamer in the roadstead, the Conqueror and Aurora again drew close to each other. Mr. C. T. Madigan, who was the South Australian Rhodes scholar of 1911, conversed with the University registrar (Mr. Hodge), who was on the Conqueror. "Is the chancellor well?" was his first enquiry, and upon receiving an affirmative reply he appeared quite satisfied. Mr. R. Hodgman, a Port Adelaide boy, who spent two years in the icebound regions, was also observed in earnest conversation with friends and relatives on the launch. "Yes, we have had a good trip," he remarked to his brother, "although we experienced a fairly stiff blow in the early stages." His face was bathed in perspiration, and, mopping his brow, he asked how the mercury stood. "It must be about 90 in the shade," came the reply, "but we had it up to 111.9 several days ago." A few photographers who were on the launch were anxious to obtain good snapshots of Dr. Mawson, but the leader would not pose for them. "You can take whatever photographs you like," he remarked in reply to a question, and he then stood out of view. There were still no signs of the doctor, and the crowd on the launch was becoming impatient. Scanning the space between the ships and the shore, some of them repeatedly enquired, "When is the doctor coming?" However, another launch was subsequently observed making its way to the Aurora and it was not long before Dr. Gething was aboard. He found everything in good order and had no hesitation in granting the vessel a clean bill of health. In the meantime, the fine four-masted barques, Archibald Russell and Vimeira, which were lying in the open roadstead, dipped their flags to the Aurora, which returned the compliment. The collier Prophet, outward bound, also made a similar signal.

Pleased to be Back.

Everyone on board the Aurora was pleased to be back. Besides Dr. Mawson, the party included Messrs. C. T. Madigan, K. Hodgeman (both South Australians), R. Bage (Melbourne), A. N. H. Bickerton (London), McLean (Sydney), and S. Jeffries (wireless operator). Those who went down to Adele Land included Messrs. F. Hurley (photographer), J. Hunter (biologist), P. Correll (photographer), G. F. Amworth (meteorologist), H. Hamilton (biologist), L. B. Blake (geologist), and C. Sandell (wireless operator). The four last named were members of the party on the previous trip. Three men—Messrs. Henderson (wireless operator), Powe (meteorologist), and Ferguson—have remained at McQuarie Island. When Messrs. Hodgeman, Bickerton, and Madigan were approached for an interview by a reporter of "The Daily Herald" they respectfully declined. "I am sorry," said Mr. Hodgman, who explained that Dr. Mawson had issued instructions to give no information to the press.

IN THE ICE

SEEKING AN OUTLET

A TALE OF THE AURORA.

Back from the ice. And what a wonder-world it was. Information about Antarctic doings was hard to glean upon the Aurora, but from remarks made on board yesterday it was evident that the adventures which usually befall the Polar voyager were not absent in the case of the Aurora's last journey to Adele Land. In the frozen land of the south rigging was transformed into wondrous crystal networks. Ropes sparkled with a burden fairylike in its formation, and the whole garb of the ship synchronised with the marvels of Antarctica. Between the great ice barrier and the floating pack-ice a channel of water extended, and into this the Aurora was taken through a passage-way in the mass of pack-ice. The great ice-barrier was described as an astounding sight. Cliffs of crystal rising sheer from the land were not uncommon, and impressed with their beautiful grandeur. The channel between the great barrier and the floating ice varied in width, and certain portions of the vessel's work were carried on inside this ice-protected sea, so said the narrator of a certain episode. According to his accounts the Aurora endeavored to find an opening other than the one she had entered by in the bar of pack-ice which separated the channel from the outer seas. "Days of steaming were ineffectual," the story went on, "and then the ice closed in alarmingly, and fears were entertained. So narrow did the channel become that the hope of trying to find a new outlet was abandoned, and then followed a race back over about 800 miles of water to the original entrance. The passage occupied about eight days." Some idea of the width of the ice-pack can be gained by consideration of the fact that the outlets in some instances take about a day and a half to negotiate.

FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS

BIG UNIVERSITY FUNCTION

AND PUBLIC MEETING.

The Deputy-Governor and Chancellor of the Adelaide University (Sir Samuel Way) has made arrangements for a grand welcome to be tendered to Dr. Mawson at the University on Monday or Tuesday next. Sir Samuel has issued invitations by telegram and letter to his Excellency the Governor-General (Lord Denham), the Prime Minister (Hon. Joseph Cook), the Minister of External Affairs (Hon. P. McM. Glynn), and the Premiers of the three States, contributing to the expenses of the expedition—New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia. An invitation has also been sent to Professor Masson (acting chairman of the Antarctic exploration committee) and others will be issued to representatives of various societies in South Australia.

The Mayor of Adelaide (Mr. A. A. Simpson) stated last night that the civic welcome to Dr. Mawson would take the form of a public meeting in the Town Hall. This will be held the day after the function at the University.

Dr. Mawson will call upon Sir Samuel Way at Government House at 11.30 a.m. to-day.

TWO MEMBERS' DEATHS

It is safe to say that the members of the expedition did not anticipate that their stay in the Antarctic would be so full of incidents as it eventually proved to be. Terrific hurricanes upset calculations in several directions. On December 4, 1912, when on a sledging expedition with Dr. Mawson, Lieutenant Ninnes met with a tragic end through falling with a dog-sledge containing provisions into one of the many deep crevasses with which the Antarctic regions abound. Dr. Mawson and Dr. Mertz continued the journey back to their base alone, and, being in need of food, they killed their dogs one by one, and ate them. Eventually on February 8, 1913, Dr. Mawson struggled back to his base, but Dr. Mertz had died about a fortnight previously. The irony of it was that a few days before Dr. Mawson's return to his base the Aurora had arrived there to pick up three sledging parties. Captain Davis waited in Commonwealth Bay until the rapid approach of the winter season rendered it necessary for him to steam away, which he did without Mawson and the small party with him, who were compelled to winter once more in Adele Land. The Aurora returned to Australia, but left again for the Antarctic in September, 1913. On arrival at Commonwealth Bay Dr. Mawson and party were embarked, and a start was made for civilisation once more. The experiences of the voyagers on their journey to South Australia are detailed in another column.



MAIN DECK OF THE AURORA.