

Register, April 16/10

Mr. H. L. Brose, the Rhodes scholar, has received an intimation from Oxford that he has been entered at Christ Church College. This is the largest and probably most historic of the 21 colleges connected with the university. It is intended to tender a farewell concert to Mr. Brose during June, and he will probably leave for England on July 3. Meanwhile he will take part in the Sir Isaac Pitman centenary celebrations in Adelaide on May 21.

Register, April 19/10

WITH MAWSON AT THE POLE.

EXPEDITION'S REQUEST TO SCIENCE.

INTERVIEW WITH CAPT. DAVIS.

Capt. J. K. Davis (commander of the Aurora) has returned from the antarctic with almost the tanned complexion of a "wayback." His long sojourn amid ice and snow has imparted a rich colour, in striking contrast to the leaden-hued features one would associate with the southernmost regions. Literally, he looks "in the pink of condition." The Aurora reached Hobart on March 15, and Capt. Davis, who passed through Adelaide on Friday, en route for England, had a fund of information to impart to reporters apropos of the scientific nature of the Mawson expedition. Seated in Professor Henderson's rooms at the Adelaide University, in the short half-hour prior to his departure for the Orana, he gave an interesting account of a land hitherto practically unknown. Dr. Mawson's probably covered a more extensive area than any other expedition, and his work should be of the greatest value to science. The magnetic pole party went inland 370 miles.

—Meteorology.—

"One of the most important things in connection with our trip," commenced Capt. Davis, "was the meteorology of the land. The expedition had two stations, nearly 1,300 miles apart, and the comparison of data obtained at each will, it is hoped, add considerably to the information we have regarding the atmospheric circulation. Mr. H. A. Hunt (Commonwealth Meteorologist), whom I saw in Melbourne, has expressed the opinion that a great deal of valuable information will be available when the results are worked up. He pointed out that the antarctic disturbances have a direct bearing on Australian meteorology."

"And particularly in South Australia," interposed Professor Henderson. "We get the current straight away from there."

"There are three stations in the antarctic," continued Capt. Davis, "at Macquarie Island, Adelle Land, and a western station, where continuous records have been kept for the past 12 months. Meteorological information is now daily sent up by wireless to Melbourne and Wellington from both Macquarie Island and the antarctic, and there is no doubt that the important results thus obtained will be a guide to the weather conditions of Australia."

—"Detention a Boon to Science."

Referring to the magnetic work of the expedition, the explorer remarked that both Professor David and Mr. Kidston, who had an opportunity of seeing the results obtained on a journey towards the south magnetic pole, and also by means of the recording instruments at both the main stations and the western base, were much pleased with the data, which they characterized as being some of the most remarkable that had been obtained in the antarctic. "Dr. Mawson was particularly fortunate in having his main station situated practically within the magnetic pole area. The detention of the party at Adelle land for another year will be, in the opinion of those best able to judge, a distinct boon to science. It is particularly important that another year's meteorological and magnetic records should be obtained, with a view to ascertaining what are the exceptional and what the normal conditions pertaining in this region. From the wireless messages we have received, we have learnt that this work is all being carried out successfully. A great advantage is the excellent working of the wireless installation, which will enable Dr. Mawson to accomplish an important part of his programme in the establishment of a fundamental meridian in the arctic by means of wireless time signals, which are transmitted direct from the Melbourne Observatory."

—Australia Connected with the Antarctic.—

"With regard to the oceanographical work we have been particularly fortunate in securing a complete section of sea floor between Hobart and Adelle land. In a paper that Dr. Mawson read before the Royal Geographical Society, he expressed his belief in the previous land connection of Australia with the antarctic. During our recent cruise we traced 200 miles south of Hobart an extensive area of comparatively shoal water, which is regarded as the remnant of this former bridge. On our next trip south further investigations will be carried on in the vicinity of this discovery with a view to tracing its extent. Two biologists will accompany the vessel, and when we get Dr. Mawson on board, an extensive programme of geographical and oceanographical work will be carried out in the hitherto unknown waters westward of Adelle land."

—The Next Voyage.—

The Aurora is at present laid up at Hobart. On Capt. Davis's return from England, in September it will be recommissioned, and then overhauled in Melbourne before again leaving Australia, on November 15. "During my stay in England," concluded Capt. Davis, "I intend to visit the Monaco Museum, with a view to securing a further programme in connection with deep-sea investigations."

The party left at the antarctic number six, and include Mr. C. T. Madigan (Rhodes scholar, who had charge of the relief party). Professor Henderson communicated that the Chief Justice (Sir Samuel Way) had cabled to England, to secure another year's leave for Mr. Madigan.

Advertiser, April 19/10

THE MAWSON EXPEDITION.

CAPTAIN DAVIS IN ADELAIDE.

Captain J. K. Davis, who was master of the Aurora during the Mawson expedition to the Antarctic, is now on his way to England by the Omrah, which left the Outer Harbor yesterday. He paid a flying visit to Adelaide, and was seen at the rooms of Professor Henderson, at the University by a representative of "The Advertiser" on Friday. Captain Davis has had previous experience of the Antarctic regions, having been with the Shackleton Expedition, and during the latter part of the expedition, he was master of the Nimrod. The Mawson Expedition was undertaken solely for scientific purposes, and it possessed several new features, the most striking of which was the wireless telegraphy equipment, by means of which it has been able to keep in communication with Australia.

Meteorological Work.

Captain Davis said:—"One of the most important enterprises of the expedition is the work connected with meteorology. The expedition had two stations, nearly 1,300 miles apart, one in charge of Dr. Mawson and the other under the direction of Mr. Wild. Comparisons of data obtained by each it is hoped will add greatly to the information available regarding atmospheric conditions. While in Melbourne I saw Mr. H. A. Hunt, the Commonwealth Meteorologist, who expressed the opinion that a great deal of useful and valuable information will be obtained when these results are classified and carefully compared. The Antarctic disturbances have a direct bearing on Australia, and particularly on South Australian meteorological conditions. There are three wireless stations in connection with the scheme, one at Macquarie Island, one at Adelle Land, and the western station, and continuous records have been kept for the last 12 months. Wireless meteorological information is sent up daily from each to Melbourne and Wellington. There can be no doubt that important results will accrue, and these will form a valuable guide to the weather conditions of Australia."

Magnetic Work.

Captain Davis referring to the magnetic work of the expedition, said Professor David, of the Sydney University, and Mr. Kiosm had had an opportunity of seeing the magnetic results obtained on the journey toward the south magnetic pole, and also by means of the recording instruments at both the main stations and the western base, and they were very pleased

with them. They had, however, as some of the most remarkable that had been obtained in the Antarctic. Dr. Mawson was particularly fortunate in having his main station situated practically within the magnetic pole area. The detention of the party at Adelle Land for another year will be, in the opinion of those best able to judge, a distinct boon to science. It is of great moment that another year's meteorological and magnetic records should be obtained, with a view to deciding what is exceptional and what normal in the records already made of the conditions of the region under observation. The wireless messages received show that the work is all being carried out successfully. The successful working of the wireless installation, too, is a great advantage, as it will enable Dr. Mawson to carry out the important part of his programme—the establishment of the fundamental meridian of longitude in the Antarctic by means of wireless signals transmitted direct from the Melbourne Observatory.

The Bed of the Ocean.

"The oceanographical work of the expedition, with which we have been particularly fortunate, will have far-reaching results. We have succeeded in investigating a complete section of the sea-floor between Hobart and Adelle Land. In a paper which Dr. Mawson read before the Royal Geographical Society some time back he expressed the opinion that there had previously been a land connection of Australia with the Antarctic. During our recent cruise we discovered and traced 200 miles south of Hobart an extensive area of comparatively shoal water, which is regarded as a remnant of this former land bridge. On our next trip south further investigations will be made in the vicinity of this discovery, with a view to tracing its extent. Two biologists will accompany the vessel, and when we are able to get Dr. Mawson on board an extensive programme of geographical and oceanographical work will be carried out in the hitherto unknown waters to the westward of Adelle Land."

Professor Henderson, at the close of the interview, remarked that Captain Davis' modesty had prevented him saying that the expedition had covered a more extensive area than any previous Antarctic expedition. To this Captain Davis added that the expedition had succeeded in going 370 miles inland from the main base. He reached Hobart with the Aurora on March 15, and after his return from England it was proposed to sail for the Antarctic on November 15. He hoped to procure more instruments for the oceanological work while in Europe.

Advertiser, April 23/10

MAWSON EXPEDITION.

THE MAGNETIC POLE.

Wellington, April 21.

Mr. E. N. Webb, son of Mr. S. R. Webb, of Lyttelton, who was magnetician with the Mawson Antarctic Expedition, said, in an interview to-day, that he formed one of the party under the command of Lieutenant Bage, which was detailed to the direction of the South magnetic polar area. The party travelled about 300 miles from the expedition's base, and at that point, which was 50 or 60 miles from the magnetic pole, they found that the magnetic dip obtained by a series of mathematically rigid observations, was 89 deg. 43.3 min., or 16.7 min. from the vertical. They obtained a chain of observations, which were almost unique, into the South magnetic polar region. They reached their extreme southerly point in latitude 70.36 deg., longitude 148.14 deg. east. They left on the return journey on December 21, 1902, and met with overcast weather. They spent several days in a fruitless endeavor to locate a depot 68 miles from the base, and a dash for the coast was eventually decided upon, and was undertaken on one-third rations. They ultimately reached a depot five miles from the base and their base but.

Mr. Webb said it was a near thing to a disaster similar to Scott's, and it was largely owing to luck that the party reached safety. The scientific results of the expedition were exclusively magnetic, and observations were being continued by Lieutenant Bage, who, with nine others remained at the base to search for Dr. Mawson, who, however, arrived shortly after the Aurora left the base.

The magnetic field results obtained by Mr. Webb have been prepared for working up, and will be sent to the Carnegie Institute, which has undertaken to work them up. The observatory results are to be worked up, probably by the Kew Observatory.