

OBITUARY

Any review of the principal events in polar circles in 1930 must begin with a reference to the death of DR FRIDTJOF NANSEN, the outstanding Arctic explorer of the last two generations. Though occupied very fully in recent years with League of Nations' business, and famine relief, Nansen remained keenly interested to the last in polar work, and was even contemplating a voyage by air in the Graf Zeppelin over the Arctic seas. But for the misfortune of the general strike in England in 1926 Dr Nansen would have formally opened the Scott Polar Research Institute, and the aims of the Institute have been the subject of warm letters of encouragement from him.

By a strange fate he has been followed after a few months by his old comrade, Otto Sverdrup, who captained the *Fram* on her memorable three year drift. Afterwards he took her to the Canadian Arctic Archipelago on an expedition of his own, and did very much more solid work than many others which have claimed a greater share of public attention.

Captain William Colbeck, R.N.R., who died on October 19, 1930, was the magnetic observer of the *Southern Cross* Antarctic Expedition under Borchgrevink in 1899. Subsequently he was in command of the relief ship *Morning* in 1902 and 1903, which kept up communications with Scott during the National Antarctic Expedition of 1901-04.

Reference must also be made to the death, in 1930, of one other polar explorer. Rear-Admiral C. W. R. Roys, who died on December 31, was the First Lieutenant of the *Discovery* in the National Antarctic Expedition, 1901-04. He will be remembered as the leader of a very notable sledge journey half way across the Ross Barrier, in 1903. It was at the cape named after him that Shackleton wintered in 1907-09.