

OBITUARY

FRANCIS DANA COMAN died on 28 January 1952 at the age of fifty-six. During the First World War he served in the French army. Afterwards he studied medicine, and in 1923 worked for a time in Labrador with the International Grenfell Association. In 1928 Coman, at that time staff surgeon of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, accepted the post of medical officer of the United States Antarctic Expedition of 1928–30, led by Rear-Admiral R. E. Byrd. On his return he was appointed head of the psychiatry clinic at Johns Hopkins University. In 1934–35 he was medical officer of Lincoln Ellsworth's second antarctic expedition in the *Wyatt Earp*. He became president of the American Polar Society in 1949.

Professor WILLIAM HERBERT HOBBS was born at Worcester, Massachusetts, on 2 July 1864, and died at Ann Arbor, Michigan, early in January 1953. He was educated at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, where he made a special study of industrial design. Upon graduation in June 1883 he taught for a year at a country school, and then went to Johns Hopkins University at Baltimore to study first chemistry and physics and later geology, in which he took his degree in 1888. After a year's post-graduate work at Heidelberg Hobbs returned to the United States as an instructor at the University of Wisconsin and curator of the geological museum there. In 1891 he was appointed Assistant Professor of Mineralogy and Petrology and nine years later became full professor. Between 1885 and 1900 he was also employed from time to time by the United States Geological Survey in New England, and made a special study of methods of discovering faults by means of surface relief. In 1905 Hobbs was in Italy at the time of the Calabrian earthquake and formed the opinion that there was no epicentrum, or centre of heavy shock, but many intersecting "seismotectonic" lines of shock with the heaviest shocks at their junctions. He published this novel conclusion in *Earthquakes: an introduction to seismic geology* (New York, 1907).

As a result of these investigations Hobbs had become more interested in dynamic and structural aspects of geology than in mineralogy and petrology, and in 1906 he accepted the post of Professor of Geology at the University of Michigan, where he remained until retirement in 1934. He first became interested in glaciology in 1906, when he visited Switzerland, and five years later published *Characteristics of existing glaciers* (New York, 1911), a useful text-book in which he emphasized the wide differences between valley glaciers and ice sheets. *Earth features and their meaning* . . . (New York, 1912) was another important contribution to physical geography.

Hobbs was a keen traveller and spent much time in Europe, north Africa, and on the islands of the Pacific Ocean. In 1926, when he was over sixty, he led the first University of Michigan Expedition to Greenland. His object was to find evidence in support of his belief that a permanent "glacial anticyclone" over Greenland governs atmospheric circulation in the northern hemisphere. Although his hypothesis was later shown to be inconsistent both with the observed facts and the theory of the polar front, Hobbs continued to assert that the characteristic circulation of the northern and southern hemispheres depends upon the existence of the ice sheets of Greenland and Antarctica, acting as down-shafts for the restoration of air to lower latitudes. Again in 1927 and in 1928 he led parties to south-west Greenland and later published a general account of their achievements in *Exploring about the north pole of the winds* (New York, 1930). During the Second World War it was Hobbs who suggested Søndre Strømfjord, where his expedition had worked, as a site for the United States air base which came to be known as Blue West Eight.

After his retirement Hobbs turned his attention to the historical aspects of polar exploration. He entered whole-heartedly into the bitter controversy between Frederick A. Cook and Robert E. Peary, and wrote a biography entitled *Peary* (New York, 1936) strongly supporting the American admiral's attainment of the North Pole. Hobbs also devoted much attention to the history of the discovery of the antarctic continent, and published the results of his investigations in 1937. In exceptionally strong and outspoken terms he sought to show that it was a New Bedford sealer, Nathaniel Brown Palmer, who first sighted continental Antarctica although there is no doubt that William Smith and Edward Bransfield were the first to do so. Hobbs's attempt to discredit Bransfield and James Weddell was a source of great embarrassment to his many friends in England.

Whatever doubt there may be as to the worth of Hobbs's contribution in some fields, of his vigour and enthusiasm there can be no question. He was never afraid to state his views, however controversial, but was rarely prepared to admit, in the face of overwhelming evidence, that he had been mistaken.

J.D.M.B.

Kommandørkaptein ROLF VON KROGH, who was born on 23 October 1872 and died 1 October 1951, combined a long period of service in the Royal Norwegian Navy with active participation in arctic exploration. He specialized in hydrography, and after 1924 took part in many expeditions to Svalbard. He led a hydrographic expedition to Bjørnøya in 1929, and between 1930 and 1933 was in charge of survey work in the fjords of East Greenland. In 1938 he commanded the *Haug III*, the tender for aircraft making a photographic survey of eastern Svalbard. After the end of the Second World War he returned to Svalbard for the summer seasons of 1947 and 1948.

HENNING JAKOB HENRIK LUND, the national poet of Greenland known there as INTAL' ERAQ, was born on 29 September 1875 at Nanortalik in south-west Greenland and died on 17 June 1948 at Narssaq near his birth-place. He was educated at the seminary at Godthåb and in 1900, after spending a year in Denmark, went as a catechist to Angmagssalik in East Greenland. He went back to West Greenland in 1909, but was not finally ordained until 1936.

Lund's first poems were published soon after his return from Angmagssalik, but he had already written several hymns for use by Greenlandic congregations. He soon became well known among Greenlanders as a writer of poetry for the people. In 1923 he was elected to the Sydgrønlands Landsraad, upon which he served until 1932.

Although Lund wrote in Eskimo and was inspired by a deep love of Greenland, he was strongly influenced by European ways of thought. He composed lyric, epic and didactic poetry. It was Lund who wrote "Nunarput", which has become the national anthem of Greenland.

RUFUS HARVEY SARGENT died on 28 December 1951 at the age of seventy-six. He was born at Sedgwick, Maine, served for fifty years in the United States Geological Survey as a topographical surveyor and was responsible for mapping many thousands of square miles of unsurveyed territory in Alaska. He also worked for short periods in China, Mexico, and South America, and between 1906 and 1912 lectured at the University of Chicago.

PROVST CHRISTIAN WILHELM SCHULTZ-LORENTZEN, who was born on 14 November 1873 and died on 23 March 1951, exerted a powerful influence in Greenland for more than fifty years. He first went to Greenland in 1898 and in 1901 became principal of the seminary at Godthåb. He made great and successful efforts to improve the

training of native catechists and to modernize the school system. In 1906 he founded the religious association known as Den grønlandske Kirkesag in order to bring about a closer connexion between the churches of Denmark and Greenland. In the same year he was appointed *provst*, a position which gave him direct supervision of all church and school affairs in Greenland. He later became official adviser to the Danish Government on these matters.

Schultz-Lorentzen was a keen student of the West Greenland Eskimo language, of which he published a dictionary (*Meddelelser om Grønland*, Bd. 69, 1927) and a grammar (*Meddelelser om Grønland*, Bd. 129, 1945, Nr. 3). He favoured the teaching of Greenlandic rather than of Danish in the schools, but in this he was criticized by the more progressive Greenlanders.