DR. MAWSON'S ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

After a long and perilous expedition, extending over two years and three months, Dr. Mawson and his intrepid party have returned from their great Antarctic explorations, and to the influence and thoughtfulness of the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Samuel Way, South Australia has the honor and privilege of being the first to welcome them back. Dr. Mawson's connection with the Adelaide University and the institutions of two doubtful McIntoshes was fitting that Adelaide should enjoy the signal pleasure of being the first place to give the welcome joyousness of home. The greetings yesterday were hearty and wholehearted, but they are only the beginning of the manifestations of joy and appreciation in Australia of the splendid work which Dr. Mawson and his party have accomplished. It cannot be known and realized, but when the details have been published there can be no doubt that the name of Dr. Mawson will rank among the best of those who have devoted themselves to Antarctic exploration.

At the outset it must be borne in mind that Dr. Mawson has not yet rounded himself with his party, but is still retreating to the northward, on an arduous and adventurous trip to the northward. He has applied himself solely to exploration and scientific research in that delightful icy region. When the Aurora set out from Hobart in November, 1911, it was anticipated that the return journey would have been made last year, but, though the ship came back, through unforeseen misadventure, Dr. Mawson was left to endure another winter, in the field. Whether fortunate or unavoidable, thanks, however, to the installation of wireless telegraphy—what marvel of modern science—the world has been assured from time to time of the wellbeing of the explorer and his comrades. Without these wireless communications the general public would have endured the greatest anxiety as to the fate of the men who left the ship and went on the eventful and perilous Antarctic storm. They died like heroes, and the immortals of world-wide lamentations endure their memory, but the spontaneous joyousness of the homecoming salutations are still tinged with the sorrow which the vacant places engender.

Admiration of Dr. Mawson's efforts should be even greater than for the bravery and perseverance of Captain Scott, who reached the pole under circumstances which will live in history probably when Dr. Mawson's achievements are forgotten. The probability here, however, that his explorations and discoveries in Adelie Land and his scientific observations during his two years sojourn in the Antartic stationes will be of more practical advantage to the world at large, and certainly to the Southern Hemisphere, than a mere catalogue of the facts they contain, is not as nothing compared with the fulness, history of the expedition's doings which Dr. Mawson will be able to impart. He will, no doubt, supply ample details of the disasters which befell Lieutenant Ninnis and Dr. Mertz, and he will also have much of interest in connection with the Adelie Land. It was a season of more than ordinary severity, in which tremendous difficulties and perils had to be faced and met, not with the resources of a well-provisioned commissariat and a plentifully equipped outfit, but with what was left of a laden deer that had been cut, and camp implements and paraphernalia which afterwards had to be taken to the Antarctic storm. The story is sure to be full of interest, for the fascination of these Arctic and Antarctic journeys is equal to, if not greater than, the stories of the journeys to the north and south in these three years, and it is to come in the manner as it weakens public interest, while the same which has been done will not have been in vain. The data they have collected will be the basis of future scientific calculations, just as the observations and notes of the men who have explored the interior of Australia are the guide and direction of those who have undertaken the survey of the interior of South Australia. However, in the public mind the element of physical courage is the dominating factor, and the usefulness of what has been accomplished is largely lost sight of, so that, among the enthusiastic plaudits which herald Dr. Mawson's return, there will be few who will be inspired by a knowledge of the magnificence of his enterprise. It is all that he has been accustomed to, and the results of little consequence so long as he receives the proper recognition and recognition of his dauntless courage, his enduring patience, his splendid leadership, and his scientific achievements. If he had not been assisted by a loyal party equally well endowed the success of the expedition which is the result, there would have been a good deal of trouble and discomfort, but from his generosity generally extends to his colleagues, as they, with equal liberality and appreciation, give the Society to him.