
Antarctic Biography

It is always refreshing to read of the lives of men who dare to die for an ideal—the goal of accomplishment. Edward Wilson, who accompanied Scott on his fatal expedition to the South Pole, was a man of moral fearlessness, great physical courage and the possessor of a “modesty which comes of a true sense of proportion.”

The expedition adventures of Dr. Wilson (M. D.) are of secondary importance in the book, the author's object being to give to the world the thoughts and feelings of a man of character.

Dr. Wilson's interest in birds has been strengthened by his association with fellow members of the British Ornithologists' Union—particularly, Sharpe, Selous, Thorburn and Lodge. His chief talents were sketching ability and devotion to chosen objectives. He completed a series of panoramic sketches of Antarctic mountain ranges which were unique in the annals of polar exploration, and were later reproduced by the Royal Society. His pioneer observations of the Emperor Penguin recall those later made of the same species by members of the Byrd Expedition.

The book is not a great scientific or literary contribution—it is not intended to be. Quotations from diaries and journals of Dr. Wilson make up half the book. These bits of experiences and adventures are used to portray a character of inspiration, and to analyze the psychological and religious influences which shaped a life.

—*L. E. Hicks.*

Edward Wilson of the Antarctic, Naturalist and Friend, by George Seaver, with an introduction by Apsley Cherry-Garrard. xxxiv+301 pp. New York, E. P. Dutton & Co., 1937. \$3.00.