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978-1-108-07191-8 - Manual of the Natural History, Geology, and Physics of Greenland and the Neighbouring Regions: Prepared for the Use of the Arctic Expedition of 1875, under the Direction of the Arctic Committee of the Royal Society

Edited by T. Rupert Jones

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This 1875 manual presents a detailed scientific picture of Greenland and its Arctic environment. Edited by the geologist Thomas Rupert Jones (1819–1911), it was prepared for the British Arctic Expedition of the same year in order to inform and instruct the explorers. The work presents previously ascertained information, ranging from astronomical data, including observations of the northern lights, through to material on plant and animal life. Sir George Nares (1831–1915), the expedition's leader, had hoped the North Pole could be reached. Though this proved impossible, a team of his men set a record for the furthest northern latitude attained at the time. Underpinning the expedition's gathering of important scientific and geographical results, this manual clarifies for modern readers the specific objectives of late Victorian polar research. Nares' official 1876 report and his 1878 two-volume account of the journey are also reissued in the Cambridge Library Collection.

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OF
G R E E N L A N D
AND THE NEIGHBOURING REGIONS;

PREPARED FOR THE USE OF THE ARCTIC EXPEDITION OF 1875, UNDER THE
DIRECTION OF THE ARCTIC COMMITTEE OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY,

AND EDITED BY

PROFESSOR T. RUPERT JONES, F.R.S., F.G.S., &c., &c., &c.,

TOGETHER WITH

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SUGGESTED BY THE ARCTIC COMMITTEE OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY

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INSTRUCTIONS

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TO

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[More information](#)

P R E F A C E.

THE President and Council of the Royal Society were informed by a letter from the Secretary of the Admiralty dated 4th December 1874, that it was their Lordships' intention to despatch an expedition, in the spring of 1875, to endeavour to reach the North Pole, and to explore the coast of Greenland and adjacent lands; and were invited to offer any suggestions which "might appear to them desirable in regard to carrying out the scientific conduct of the voyage."

This letter was referred to a Committee consisting of the President and Officers, Prof. J. C. Adams, Dr. Carpenter, Capt. Evans, Mr. J. Evans, Mr. F. Galton, Dr. Günther, Prof. Ramsay, Sir H. Rawlinson, and Mr. Scott, with power to add to their number. The Committee decided that it was desirable to prepare (1) a Manual of Scientific Results already obtained in Arctic Expeditions, (2) Instructions for future observations.

To prepare the instructions, the Committee divided the branches of science which were to be represented among several sub-committees, consisting partly of its own members, partly of other scientific persons who were specially conversant with the respective branches. It has been thought best that the several portions into which the instructions are divided should appear with the names of those by whom they were individually drawn up in the first instance, and who, after consultation with their colleagues, are held responsible for their final form.

In a few instances it will be found that the same subject has been mentioned by more than one of those concerned in

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[More information](#)

the preparation of the instructions. In such cases it has been thought best not to incorporate the instructions relating to the same subject, but to leave them under the names of those who drew them up ; partly to maintain the principle of individual responsibility, partly because the observers would more readily enter into the spirit of the instructions if the different points of view from which the same subject was regarded were separately presented to their minds.

The preparation of the Manual of Scientific Results was entrusted to the care of Prof. Rupert Jones, F.R.S., as Editor in chief, who also undertook himself to compile the part relating to Zoology, Botany, Geology, and Mineralogy. The Committee appointed Prof. W. G. Adams, F.R.S., Sub-editor, to assist Prof. Rupert Jones by compiling the part relating to Physics. The Manual will be found at the end of the Instructions.

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE USE OF THE ARCTIC EXPEDITION, 1875.

C O N T E N T S.

PART I.—PHYSICAL OBSERVATIONS.

I.—ASTRONOMY.

	Page
1. Astronomical Data. (Eclipses of the Sun and Occultations.) By J. R. Hind, F.R.S., Superintendent of the Nautical Almanac	1
2. Suggestions for Observations of the Tides. By the Rev. Prof. Haughton, M.D., F.R.S.	5
3. Pendulum Observations. By Prof. G. G. Stokes, M.A., Sec. R.S.	8
4. On the Detection of Meteoric (Cosmical) Dust in the Snow of Arctic Regions. By Prof. H. E. Roscoe, B.A., F.R.S.	10

II.—TERRESTRIAL MAGNETISM.

1. On Determination of Elements and use of Magnetical Instruments. By Prof. J. C. Adams, M.A., F.R.S.; and Capt. F. J. O. Evans, R.N., C.B., F.R.S.	11
---	----

III.—METEOROLOGY.

1. Meteorological Instructions. By Robert H. Scott, F.R.S., Director of the Meteorological Office	14
2. Note on Auroral Observations. By Prof. Stokes, M.A., Sec. R.S.	19

IV.—ATMOSPHERIC ELECTRICITY.

1. Instructions for the Observation of Atmospheric Electricity. By Prof. Sir William Thomson, LL.D., F.R.S.	20
--	----

V.—OPTICS.

1. Spectroscopic Observations. Observations of the Spectrum of the Sun and of the Aurora. By Prof. G. G. Stokes, M.A., Sec. R.S.	24
2. Polarisation of Light. By W. Spottiswoode, M.A., Treas. R.S.	26
3. Instructions in the use of the Spectroscopes. By J. Norman Lockyer, F.R.S.	28

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

1. On Saline Matter in Ice. By Dr. Rae, F.R.G.S.	32
2. Hints towards Observations in the Arctic Regions. By Prof. Tyndall, D.C.L., F.R.S.	34

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Edited by T. Rupert Jones

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

vi

CONTENTS.

PART II.—BIOLOGY.**I.—ZOOLOGY.**

	Page
1. On collecting Specimens of the Mammalia of Greenland, and making Observations thereon. By Dr. Albert Günther, F.R.S.	36
2. On collecting Specimens of the Cetacea of the Arctic Seas, and making Observations thereon. By Prof. W. H. Flower, F.R.S.	39
3. On collecting and observing the Birds of Greenland. By P. L. Sclater, M.A., F.R.S.	45
4. On collecting Specimens of the Fishes of Greenland, and making Observations thereon. By Dr. Albert Günther, F.R.S.	46
5. On collecting the Mollusca of the Arctic Regions, and making Observations thereon. By J. Gwyn Jeffreys, F.R.S.	48
6. On the Collection and Preservation of Hydroids and Polyzoa. By G. J. Allman, M.D., P.L.S., F.R.S.	51
7. On the Construction and Method of Using the Towing Net, and Notes on the Animals which may be obtained thereby. By G. J. Allman, M.D., P.L.S., F.R.S.	52
8. Supplementary Instructions. By Prof. Huxley, LL.D., Sec. R.S.	60

II.—BOTANY.

1. Instructions in Botany. By J. Dalton Hooker, M.D., C.B., Pres. R.S.	62
--	----

III.—GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY.

1. General Instructions for Observations in Geology. By Prof. A. C. Ramsay, LL.D., F.R.S., Director General of the Geological Survey, and John Evans, F.R.S., Pres. Geol. Soc.	68
2. On Collecting Mineralogical Specimens, and making Observations thereon: <i>a</i> Minerals and Rocks; <i>b</i> . Meteorites. By Prof. N. Story Maskelyne, M.A., F.R.S.	77
3. On the Observations which should be made in case Volcanoes or Evidences of Volcanic Action should be met with. By J. W. Judd, F.G.S.	83