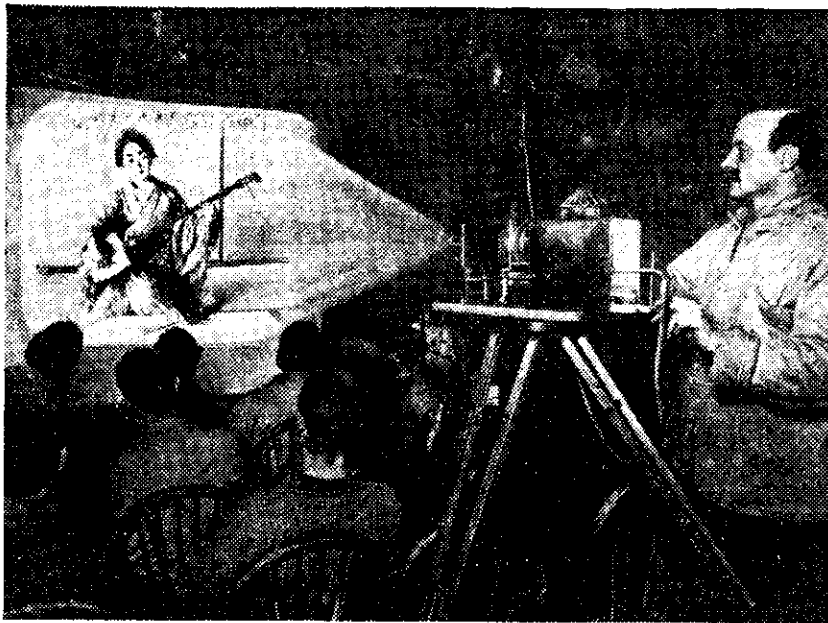




"THE PATTERN OF SELF-AMUSEMENT": H. G. Ponting gives a lantern lecture to the men of Scott's expedition, a photograph from the Turnbull Library's Ponting Collection

Mawson's men, but still the pattern of their amusement is quite different. Once a fortnight they had what they called "Ding Nights." Sometimes they sat and drank beer, and played the gramophone, sometimes they had discussions. Twice a week, though, they had "picture nights," at which their films were shown over and over again. *Weekend at the Waldorf* had four consecutive showings—surely the badge of men who don't know what to do to amuse themselves.

They too had a local paper, the *Heard Island Times*, produced and completely written by one man alone. Feelings were ruffled by letters to the editor, and the paper died after the third issue. "A pity," says the author, "for the newspaper had shown such great promise in relieving the winter gloom at Base Camp."

But the men were in radio communication with the outside world in a way which would have opened the eyes of Mawson's men in wonder. Some of them could talk with their wives; they all could hear special programmes broadcast to them from Australia by a glamorous woman announcer. The world was with them in a way which the explorers of 1911 could not have expected.

One feels that the men of 1952 wouldn't have thought that the fooling of 1911 was funny, that it was too naive. Our pattern of amusement has something of a febrile feel about it, we have too much high pressure entertainment available, we have lost somehow that capacity the Edwardians had for enjoying themselves. Which group would you rather have spent the winter with—the men of 1911 or the men of 1952?

At the same time as these two books appear there comes out an excellent piece of journalism by a New Zealander, Norman Kemp*** who wants to show the British and New Zealand Antarctic Expeditions of the International year in the light of the past exploration of the South. I use the word "journalism" here as a compliment, for this is up-to-the-minute writing at its best. I submitted it to a friend who has just returned from the Antarctic, and he said that its details satisfied his expert eye. The author turns aside to discuss the careers of some of the more interesting of the personalities, notably Sir Edmund Hillary, and though these are interesting

I feel he sometimes goes a little too far—the hobbies of Dr Fuch's wife are a little irrelevant to the conquest of the Antarctic. If you want to see what our men are now doing in the Antarctic this book will give you the background, and place the work of the expeditions in the framework of the International Geophysical Year.

**SOUTH WITH MAWSON*, by Charles F. Laveron; Angus and Robertson, Second Edition, 1957. Australian price 21/-.

***TWELVE CAME BACK*, by Peter Lancaster Brown; Robert Hale, English price 18/-.

****THE CONQUEST OF THE ANTARCTIC*, by Norman Kemp; Allan Wingate, English price 16/-.

GIVE SOMETHING SUPERIOR THIS CHRISTMAS



SOBRANIE
Cocktail
VIRGINIA CIGARETTES

Gold Tipped—in lovely Pastel Shades to match Evening Dresses and Party Frocks.

Sole N.Z. Distributors:

JOSEPH NATHAN & CO. N.Z. LTD.
Auckland Wellington Christchurch

THE EXPERIENCE OF AGE

Founded 1808

Norwich Union
LIFE  INSURANCE
SOCIETY

THE VIGOUR OF YOUTH

1956 New Business Exceeded £110,000,000

1956 Premium and other Income Exceeded £26,000,000

A Fully Mutual Society

Branches, Sub-Offices and Representatives
throughout New Zealand.