AURORA AUSTRALIS

For three weeks, prior to their departure for the South Pole, Sir Joseph Cauton & Sons, Ltd., had the pleasure of instructing the members of the Shackleton Expedition (1907-1909) on how to print and illustrate books. They also gave them the entire printing and lithographic outfit, including paper, inks, types, etc. The instruction and their understanding of it was thoroughly well studied from a glance at this unique book.

Shackleton, in his preface, writes:

"The reader will understand better the difficulty of producing such a book quite up to the mark when he is told that, owing to the low temperature at the base, the only way to keep the printing ink in a fit state to use was to have a candle burning under the inking plate; and in, if some pages are printed more clearly than others it is due to the difficulty of regulating the heat and, consequently, the thickening or thinning of the ink.

"Again, the printing office was only the size of a room and had accommodation for two men, in the lack of room was a disadvantage. The printing was entirely done by Joyce & Willich, the lithographs and etchings by Martin, and the covers, made of special cases, were manufactured by Day. It is, therefore, in these few that the carrying out of the "Aurora Australis" is due. I trust that all who have a copy will shrink hardly of the first attempt to print a book and illustrate it in the depth of an Antarctic Winter."