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DR. NANSEN'S SCIENTIFIC RESULTS.

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On Dr. Nansen's return from his perilous Arctic expedition, doubt was expressed in many quarters as to the utility and value, scientific or otherwise, of any results which he might give to the world. Even in scientific circles, the risks and hardships involved were regarded by some as greatly overbalancing probably meagre additions to our knowledge, and the question "Cui bono?" was not infrequently urged. Many critics, indeed, did not hesitate to pronounce the North Pole expedition to be a somewhat foolhardy enterprise. Nothing could be further from the truth, as those felt who knew Nansen as a scientific worker, and especially those who knew him personally as a friend.

It cannot, of course, be denied that the chief aim of some Arctic discoverers, so-called, has been self-glorification. Their object was achieved when the columns of the newspapers were filled with accounts of their elaborate preparations, or their theatrical embarkations. Even an explorer like Peary, of the United States Navy, declared to the American Geographical Society (in Chickering Hall, 1897), that "his aim had always been to push the Stars and Stripes to the very apex of the globe!"

Wholly different were Dr. Nansen's aims. His methods were entirely the reverse of that. His object above all was to add to the world's knowledge, and Lord Lister succinctly expressed the truth upon this matter when he said, addressing the