- I was met by Ernst Krenkel' himself, then a most popular person, who had spent a winter on a drifting station with the first expedition, the one led by Papanin. He asked me what I could do in the Arctic. I shrugged. "Will you work with ice?" "I will" - I answered hurriedly, having no idea what that work involved, just anxious to be accepted.

- This is how I became a polar researcher. I stayed on the island for two years. I became involved in the work and there was no end to my questions. Of course, one expedition proved to be too little. So after Uedinenie island, I spent a winter on Chelyuskin, then on Dikson, then on a drifting "SP-4" polar station; there followed numerous trips to the Arctic, ascending the glaciers of Zailiyskiy Alatau and the Caucasus and, finally, an expedition to Antarctica...

- And all the time you were surrounded by ice. Were you not tired of that cold, monotonous, gloomy desert?

- You are wrong. Ice is a puzzling story that never ends. For a long time it remained, as it were, outside the boundaries of the earth science. Meanwhile, it is preciously the ice that molds the currents in the world ocean, participates in the circulation of water in nature, and influences the climate. Ice is a remarkable building material. Mountain and continental glaciers are sources of pure water and the basic water resources for irrigating the lands of Central Asia and the Caucasus.

- You probably will be surprised when I say that old ice massifs are capable of undergoing a change of their strength. During my winter stay at a drifting polar research station, I once noticed that