

' Hoping to find out more about the New Harbour glacier, on the 21st they dragged their sledges over a rise of 1,000 feet towards its entrance. They had great difficulty with the steep descents, but eventually made their way down safely. A second examination of this region did not give any more promising results than the first, and Armitage came to the conclusion that to attempt to reach the mainland by this route was impracticable. On the 22nd they started their homeward journey, skirting now around the base of the long snow-slope on recently formed sea-ice. It was about this time that, in cogitating over recent events in the journey, Armitage began to suspect that there was something wrong with the health of the party. Several men had complained of sprains and bruises which seemed to give pain without much cause; he thought, too, that they tired more easily than strong men should have done, and it seemed especially curious that such an active officer as Ferrar should have collapsed under a hard day's work. The thought of scurvy, however, did not enter the leader's head, and he was inclined to put the troubles down to the horrible weather conditions and to the fact that so few of them had been able to sleep.

' As the party gradually made their way back to the ship, things got worse and his alarm grew. The light sledges hung heavily on the men, and though there were no complaints, several seemed only to keep themselves going with an effort. The evening of the 25th found them within a few miles of the ship, and in such a crippled state that Armitage thought it wiser to struggle right on till they reached her, which they did at 6 A.M. on the 26th.

' The result of Wilson's medical examination of this party on their return has been handed to me; the gist of it is that Heald, Mr. Ferrar and Cross have very badly swollen legs, whilst Heald's are discoloured as well. Heald and Cross have also swollen and spongy gums. The remainder of the party seem fairly well, but not above suspicion; Walker's ankles are slightly swollen.

' Of course there is no good blinking our eyes to the fact