

ORIENTATED DOLERITE SAMPLE FROM DRONNING MAUD LAND

By D. J. BLUNDELL*

MUCH interest has been shown in the palaeomagnetism of Jurassic dolerites from Antarctica. Most of the rocks that have been examined came from south Victoria Land, but a few have been collected from the Theron Mountains (Blundell and Stephenson, 1959). More information is required, especially from rocks of this age from western Antarctica, so every sample that is brought back is to be welcomed. During a brief visit to a group of nunataks known as Milorgknausane in western Dronning Maud Land, G. Blundell and M. J. Winterton collected one orientated sample of dolerite from a locality at lat. 74°S ., long. 15°W .. The direction of natural remanent magnetism of two specimens cut from this sample has been measured and is directed with a declination 40° east of true north and an inclination 56° UP. Making the assumption that the rock was magnetized at the time of formation in the Earth's field and that this had a dipole character, the palaeomagnetic pole position is calculated to be at lat. 48°S ., long. 147°W .. This is in accord with pole positions similarly calculated for Jurassic dolerites from other localities in Antarctica (Blundell, 1962). Because only one sample is available, no statistical analysis can be made so it is impossible to estimate the accuracy of the result. If rocks of a similar age from Graham Land could be measured successfully, then evidence might be provided to show whether or not there has been any movement of this part of the continent relative to the rest since the Jurassic.

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* Sub-department of Geophysics, Department of Geology, University of Birmingham.