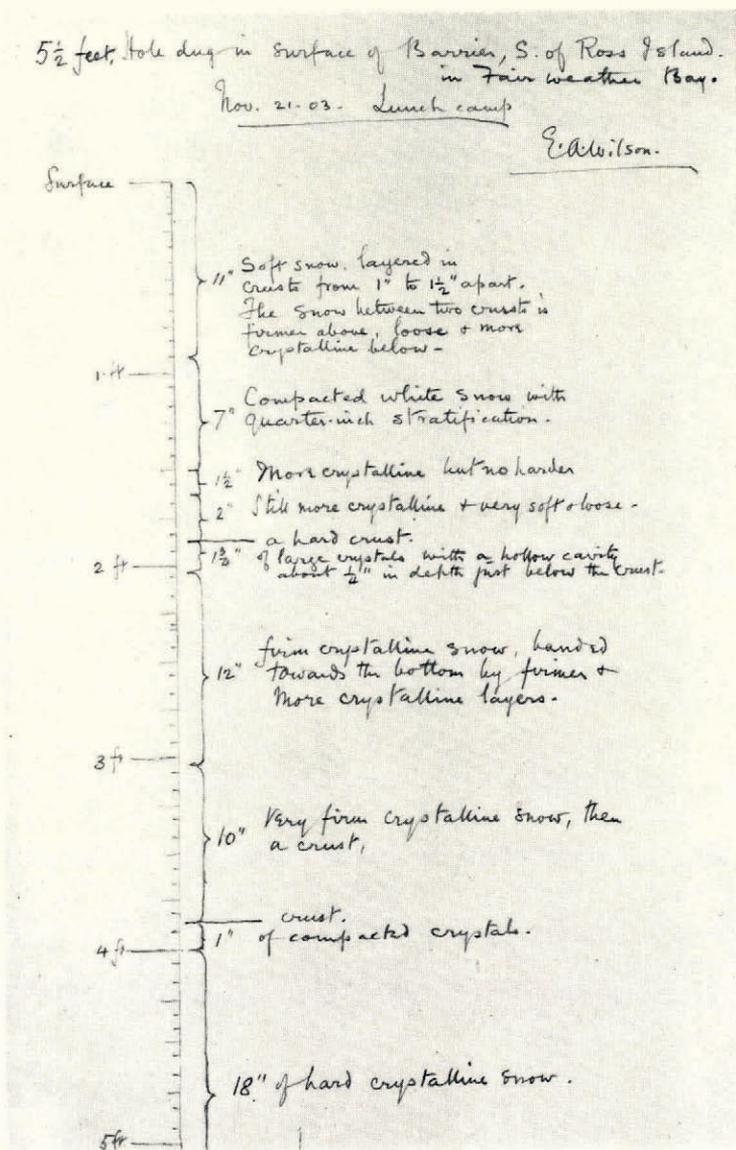


EARLY DISCOVERERS

IX

Dr. E. A. WILSON'S RECORD OF A PIT SECTION DUG
IN THE ROSS ICE SHELF IN 1903



Dr. C. W. M. Swithinkbank writes as follows:—

AMONG the records preserved at the Scott Polar Research Institute is a description by Dr. E. A. Wilson of a pit dug in the surface of the Ross Ice Shelf on November 21, 1903 (Fig. 1). His observations are of interest in that they may represent the earliest attempt to study snow structure in Antarctica. "Fair Weather Bay" is on the south side of Ross Island in long. 168° E. Captain R. F. Scott describes it as a "curious windless area" (*The Voyage of the "Discovery"*, Vol. 2, p. 304). The "hard crust" at 1 ft. 10½ in. and the "crust" at 3 ft. 10½ in. may be due to mid-summer air temperatures near 0° C. If so the pit indicates that the year 1902 gave 24 inches (61 cm.) of snow.