

Third woman winters at Pole

Only one of more than 75 American and New Zealand women who worked in Antarctica last summer has remained for the winter. She is Cynthia McFee, the third of her sex to winter at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station. Her predecessor last winter was Martha L. Kane, a cosmic ray investigator.

Miss McFee, who will share her isolation, except for radio links, with 16 men, will continue long-term measurements of trace atmospheric elements that may influence climate. During the winter she and Mr Edward Green will measure carbon dioxide, surface ozone, winds, pressure, air and snow temperature, atmospheric moisture, and other trace constituents.

This winter neither the United States nor the Soviet Union will have exchange scientists at their bases. Last year a Soviet geologist, Dr Vladimir Samsonov, wintered at McMurdo Station. His intended successor, however, failed to pass his medical tests.

A United States exchange scientist, Dr Rex Hanson, of Stanford University, spent last winter with the Soviet team at Vostok, deep in the heart of the continent. He made magnetometer studies of plasma waves as a part of the International Magnetospheric Study, and

measurements of VLF waves over the polar regions.

Dr Hanson was not replaced this winter because the IMS had been completed, and the United States programme was phased out last season. He and his equipment were brought back to McMurdo Station by the United States Navy Hercules aircraft which made the annual flight to Vostok Station on December 18.

Fewer Americans are wintering in Antarctica this year because Siple Station in Ellsworth Land has been closed until next summer. There are 91 men at McMurdo Station, 16 men and one woman at Pole Station, and six men at Palmer Station on Anvers Island off the Antarctic Peninsula.

