

Cylindre, of the acolytes of the Vignemale, nor of many other summits. Neither have I made any allusion to winter expeditions, although an ascent of Mont Perdu in January, and others, in powdery snow up to one's neck, in freezing hurricanes, or in the calm serenity of the full moon, have left both my friends and myself the most delightful memories. Those expeditions are the speciality of my friend the Comte Roger de Monts. I only developed the most important themes, leaving aside many variations.

And now I am seized with a very natural terror. What will be thought of these pages, if they happen to read them, by those who have conquered the most inaccessible aiguilles and the most inextricable glaciers of the Alps? The least they can do is to smile at my 'naïveté,' and to class me with the zealous but imprudent and awkward friends of the Pyrenees, denounced by Mr. L. Smith. But should they be tempted to be severe let them learn that I am a neighbour of the Garonne, and let 'extenuating circumstances,' in consequence, temper their severity in pronouncing sentence.

IN MEMORIAM.

JOHN GARFORTH COCKIN.

J. G. COCKIN was born at Pendleton, Manchester, in the year 1846. After completing his articles to a leading Halifax solicitor he commenced his study for the Bar, and was called in 1870. He had chambers at first in Lincoln's Inn, but after some years removed to Liverpool. Many years ago he made a lengthened tour in the United States, Mexico, California, &c.; but his intense interest in and devotion to mountaineering commenced somewhat late in life.

Although during the few preceding years the record of his ascents in the Alps had been of an exceptional character he did not become a member of the Alpine Club and known to its members till after his first expedition to the Caucasus in 1883. In that expedition, after the departure of his friends, he made the first ascents of Janga, Shkara, and the northern peak of Ushba. These achievements gave evidence of the indomitable perseverance and resolve which were so characteristic of Cockin. He always spoke of his ascent of Shkara as perhaps the greatest trial of endurance he had ever experienced. To conquer Ushba it was necessary to cross the Zanner Pass late in the season, without the aid of any interpreter to procure and direct porters to convey all his mountaineering equipment, and to make his way through Suanetia to the foot of the mountain he desired to climb. It was not until the third attempt that his efforts were crowned with success. At the time he made little of this ascent. It

was only after renewed visits to the mountain and the discovery of its usually hazardous and difficult conditions that he thoroughly recognised the value of the achievement. He was exceedingly interested in the Caucasus as a mountaineering district, having paid five visits to the country, the grandeur of the peaks and the solitude and complete stillness of the country having for him a wonderful attraction.

After 1892 he ceased to employ guides, and his great delight in Switzerland was, without guides, to repeat the ascents over which he had previously been led. As a climber he was endowed with extraordinary strength, great power of resisting cold and of enduring hardships and fatigue, whilst his sureness of foot and power of climbing in the dark were often the envy of his companions.

Though a good rock-climber he had greater experience in and appreciation of snow and ice work, and used to express regret that so many modern mountaineers devoted themselves so exclusively to rock-climbing. He made few intimate friends, but was loyal and devoted to those with whom he had become acquainted; in case of disagreement he never spoke an unkind word of those from whom he differed.

After his retirement from practice at the Bar he devoted himself to the Latin prose authors, to books on travel and on mountaineering, and to works of general literature, taking every day his 'ten-mile walk,' so as to be in condition when the opportunities occurred for again visiting the mountains. He was not personally known to many members of the Club, but for those who knew him best his loss is the loss of a loyal, true, warm-hearted friend; and many a Swiss guide and Caucasian peasant will regret to hear that they will see his face no more.

ALPINE ACCIDENTS IN 1900.

In 1899 and in the previous year we spoke at length in these pages of the Alpine death roll of those two seasons, and gave tables of the principal accidents, with their causes. This year the list of accidents is again very saddening. We do not, however, propose to offer more than a few brief remarks upon it. But one member of our Club has lost his life, but in Mr. J. G. Cockin, the conqueror of Shkara and U'shba, we mourn one of the most experienced and skilful of climbers. Yet our sorrow finds some consolation in the thought that he lost his life through his courageous determination to save his companions. J. Simond on the Géant was struck by lightning, and FÜRrer's death on the Matterhorn was apparently due to the same cause, but the majority of so called accidents seem to have been due to neglect of well recognised rules of climbing. That on the Cima di Rosso involved the neglect of almost all those rules.

Besides the disasters of which longer accounts are given below, and others which we do not mention, in accidents at heights of