

added to by winter conditions, and greater, not less, experience is demanded to ensure safety. The summer mountaineer will note with some amusement that contumely is poured on some of his great landmarks, such as the Weisshorn.

Every mountaineer—for Mr. Lunn's splendid enthusiasm cannot fail to be a serious pitfall even to the most rigid of summer devotees—owes Mr. Lunn a debt of gratitude for the great labour the preparation of such a book involves. We hope that Mr. Lunn will allow us to suggest that he read his proofs a little more carefully; thus on page 85 there are seven misspelt words, while his conversion of the côte 1920 does not agree with his useful tables—so the R.G.S. is in good company!

CORRESPONDENCE.

OLD MEMORIES.

J. E. C. Eaton, Esq.,
Hon. Secretary Alpine Club.

DEAR SIR,—Your favour of the 22nd ult. reached me at the address below, and I would have answered promptly but was disabled by illness, from which I did not expect to recover. However, I am now much better, and, if I pull through the winter, may last a while longer. In any case, shall probably remain at this address for the rest of my life.

My climbing days, for recreation, were ended, of course, long ago, but I spent many years in South America, doing missionary duty there, and several times I had the privilege—it was real happiness—of crossing the Cordilleras, and my mind then went back to those days of early romance, when, in company with honoured and ever-remembered friends of the dear old Alpine Club, I revelled among the Peaks and Passes of Switzerland. Especially have I always held in loyal remembrance one with whose kind friendship I was favoured, Sir Leslie Stephen, who was then plain Leslie Stephen, of Trinity Hall, Cambridge. He staggered me once by saying (I didn't believe him) that I was the 'best walker' he had ever seen.

I have now entered my eighty-first year, having returned to my old haunts in the North only a year ago.

Thanking you, dear Sir, for having taken the pains to hunt me up, and for your courtesy in writing to me,

I remain,

Most sincerely yours,

JAMES KENT STONE
(Father Fidelis).

Passionist Retreat,
Norwood Park, Chicago,
Illinois, U.S.A.,
December 22, 1920.

[Father Fidelis's portrait appeared in 'A.J.' xxxii., opp. p. 226.]

THE NEW ZEALAND A.C.

DEAR CAPTAIN FARRAR,—The 'A.J.' from time to time brings home to one how many stalwarts of the A.C. have 'gone west' during the last few years. I refer specially to Dent, Charles Pilkington, Wicks, Woolley, and A. G. Topham, and, though not a member, to dear old Miss Walker. These and others who are still with us did a great deal to help us in the early days of Alpine climbing in New Zealand, and as their influence on the ideals of the N.Z.A.C. was very great, it may not be out of place to recall the days of thirty years ago.

In 1891 Mannering and I called the first meeting to form the N.Z.A.C., and we were especially anxious to start and keep the Club on strictly A.C. lines, and generally build it up on the same high ideals and standard of qualification.

Mannering and I had just been elected members of the A.C. when I went to London in 1892, and I hoped to be able to meet some of the leading A.C. men during my short visit; but the kindness and consideration of those named above, together with Horace Walker, then President, F. F. Tuckett, D. W. Freshfield, Cecil Slingsby, C. E. Mathews, and many others, exceeded my wildest hopes.

To begin with, Miss Walker took me in hand at Zermatt and made a point of introducing me to the leading members there, and she and Horace Walker invited me to join their annual Alpine house party at Liverpool, where I first met Woolley. From there we went on to stay with Charles Pilkington for a few days, and, if I remember rightly, some of us went afterwards for a day or two to C. E. Mathews. In London Dent and Freshfield invited me to the Alpine Dining Club, and there I first met Cecil Slingsby and others who have since taken so kindly an interest in our work in New Zealand.

This may seem to you rather a small matter, but imagine what it meant to Alpine climbing in New Zealand and to our Club! I was only a youngster, and secretary of the youngest Alpine Club, and it speaks volumes for the kindness and zeal of these men (my seniors by many years) that they all went out of their way to encourage and help us, by their flattering interest in our work, both then and since by much correspondence.

Remember that in those days there were only about half a dozen pioneer Alpine men here—Mannering, Dixon (now too 'gone west'), Malcolm Ross, myself, and one or two others. We were attacking without expert knowledge or assistance an unexplored mountain system as great as Switzerland, and under much more difficult conditions. When you remember this, you will realise what encouragement it was to us to find ourselves taken into the heart of things by such men as I have mentioned, for I always recognise

that the kindness shown to me was as the representative of that small pioneer band out here.

Curiously enough, many of the men I knew best at home in the A.C. were much senior to me, for beyond one or two seasons in Switzerland I did very little climbing in Europe, and therefore I feel a special sadness when I realise, every time I open a new JOURNAL, how many are leaving us.

As this aspect of their zeal in the great cause of Alpine exploration has not been touched upon in the JOURNAL, you may perhaps think it worth while to publish some of the above as an acknowledgment from the N.Z.A.C., through its President, of the great debt our Club owes to these men for the inspiration and kindly advice given at a critical period in our history. It has formed a link between the two Clubs which we hope to maintain.

The N.Z.A.C. is again becoming an active organisation and still has those high ideals steadily before it.

Yours truly,

ARTHUR P. HARPER.

Wellington Club,
New Zealand,
January 10, 1921.

THE EARLY USE OF CRAMPONS.

To the Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

SIR,—I have recently read, either in your paper, or in Mr. Winthrop Young's book, a reference to the antiquity of crampons. I think they were spoken of as having been employed at least 300 years ago. In fact, their use is much more ancient. I have not had time to make any special investigation of the matter, but the following instances of early examples have come in my way.

The earliest, dating from the first Iron Age, comes from Hallstatt, and may be referred to about 500 B.C. This example is, I believe, in the museum at Vienna. Other examples of not much later date were found at Karlstein, near Reichenhall, and at Ottmanach in Carinthia.

Crampons were also used by the Gauls in Roman days, and several which were found at Mont Beuvray (Bibracte) are to be seen in the Musée Saint-Germain-en-Laye.

As Hallstatt was a very early Celtic centre, and the other examples come likewise from the Celtic area, crampons were probably a Celtic invention and carried to Gaul by Celtic immigrants.

MARTIN CONWAY.

Imperial War Museum,
January 1921.