

reached the valley when we were suddenly stopped by a precipice. Owing to the twilight, we did not dare let ourselves down there, and were compelled to return and make an attempt in another place. But darkness coming on, at 11 P.M. we were forced to camp out on a mossy shelf surrounded by dwarf birch trees. We tied ourselves by the rope to a root and, tired as we were, at once fell asleep. After a while we woke up shivering with cold, and tried a bout of wrestling to keep ourselves warm.

At 4 A.M. day dawned; we unroped and found a tedious path through the morass, which finally led us down into the valley.

ARNE RANDERS-HEEN.

[We are much indebted to the writer, and understand that this ascent is possibly the most difficult yet effected in Norway.—*Editor 'A.J.'*]

IN MEMORIAM.

JOHN SHORTT.

(1839–1932.)

JUDGE SHORTT, the doyen of County Court Judges, died at his residence, 36 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1, on Sunday, May 8, after a protracted illness of over two months, during which he underwent two severe operations.

He was an LL.B. of Dublin University, and was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple in 1866.

Jointly with Henry Godefroi he was the author of *The Law of Railway Companies* (comprising the Companies Lands and Railway Clauses Consolidation Acts) published in 1869. Author of *The Law relating to Works of Literature and Art* (comprising the Law of Copyright and Libel) published in 1884. Author of *The Information (Criminal and Quo Warranto), Mandamus and Prohibition*, published in 1887.

He was a Judge on the Cambridgeshire County Court Circuit from 1901 to 1905 and on the East Kent Circuit from 1905 to 1922.

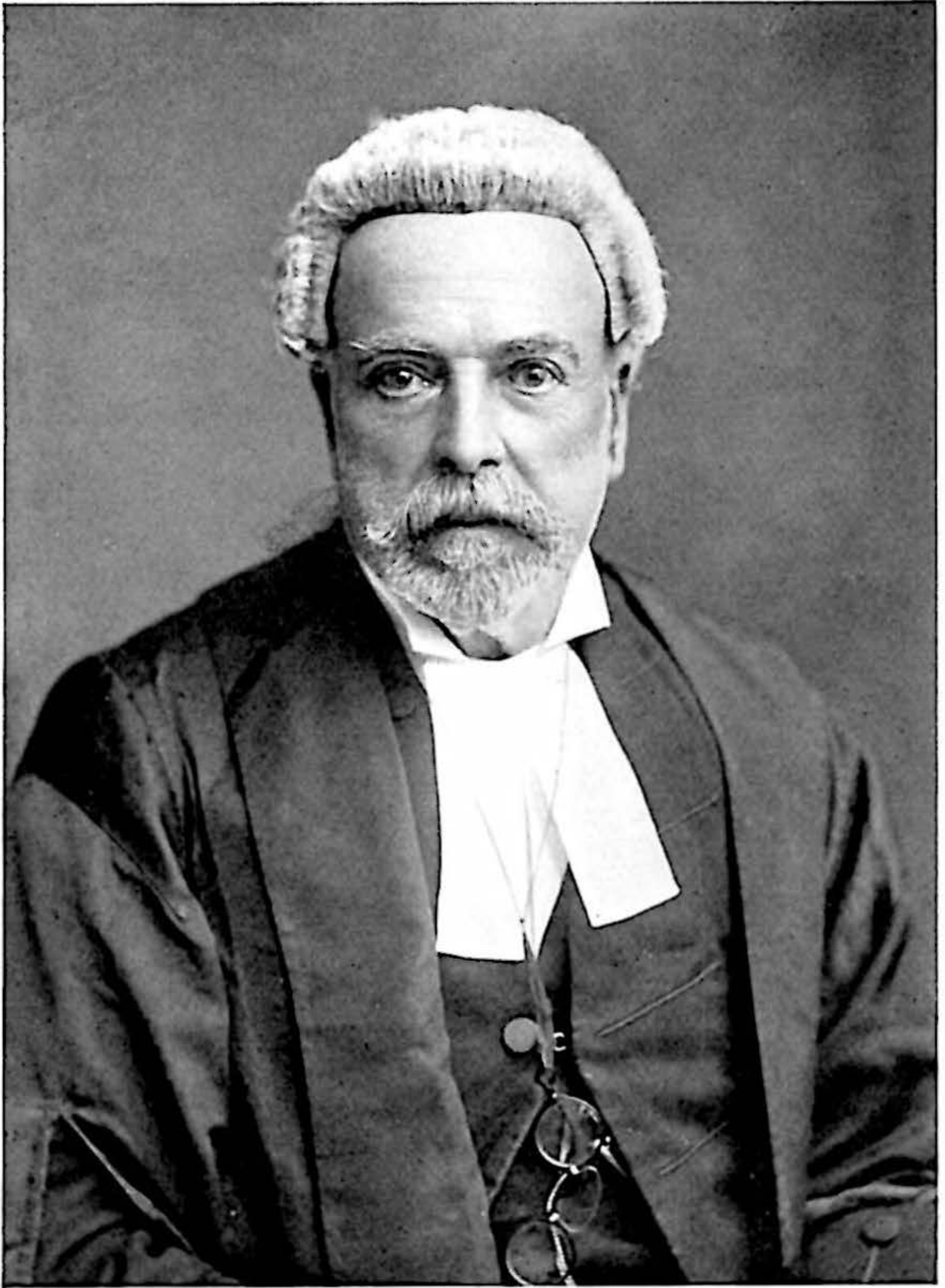
An all-round sportsman, Judge Shortt took a keen interest in cricket, golf, mountaineering and angling. He was known as the angling Judge, and even as recently as last year and at the advanced age of 92, spent a fishing holiday alone in Scotland.

He was a member of both the Middlesex and Surrey County Cricket Clubs and was a familiar figure at Lord's and the Oval.

He was the last surviving original member of the Devonshire Club and was also a member of the Garrick, the Baldwin and the Alpine Clubs.

He became a member of the Alpine Club in 1877 and as a younger man spent most of his vacations in mountaineering.

C. W. S.



JOHN SHORTT (*ca.* 1922).
1839–1932.

[*To face p. 286.*

HORATIO GEORGE BROKE.

(1861-1932.)

BORN on November 27, 1861, George Broke was educated at Eton (Austen Leigh's House), and University College, Oxford. He entered the Diplomatic Service in 1884, serving at Constantinople and Brussels. He left the service in 1889 and took Holy Orders in 1890.

His Alpine career, commencing about 1880, was a most distinguished one. He joined the Alpine Club in 1886. For many years he was regarded as one of the chief authorities on the Lepontines and the ranges between the Grimsel and the St. Gotthard, where he had made many important first ascents. But, unquestionably, he knew the Alps as a whole in a remarkable way.

In 1887 Broke made the first ascent of the Mittelrück, followed by the first ascent of the Laquinhorn by the N. arête (with Coolidge), as also the traverse of the former combined with the Rossbodenhorn in a single day. In 1888 he made with Harold Topham and William Williams, the first exploration of the Alaskan, Mt. St. Elias, range, including the crossing of the great Malaspina Glacier and an attempt on the S.E. face of Mt. St. Elias itself. He described the journey in an interesting work entitled *With Sack and Stock in Alaska*.¹

In 1893 Broke married Miss Mary C. Adlington, who survives him. Between 1889 and 1892 he made new routes on the Alphubel, Gabelhoerner, Hüllehorn, Grand Cornier and Nollenhorn. Following these years we find in the *Alpine Register*, iii, the following first ascents or new routes—some with Mrs. Broke—of such peaks and passes as the Vorder Helsen, Unter Schienhorn, Laquinjoch, Forcla del Robbia, Ritter Pass, Turbenjoch, Saashoerner, Wasenhorn, Galmihoerner, etc. In 1901 he read a very interesting paper before the Club, entitled 'With Ladies in the Lepontines' ('A.J.', 20, 449-466), many of the peaks described being quite unknown to the JOURNAL. In 1900 he rendered great service by a letter on the bad mountaineering practices of many of the Tyrolese guides ('A.J.', 20, 292-24), provoking a bitter but quite unconvincing reply in D. & Oe. A.-V. *Mitt.*, 1901, pp. 77, 118-20. The said malpractices continue to this hour ('A.J.', 43, 383).

Broke's greatest deed in the interests of the Club was without doubt his editing of *Ball*, Central Alps, Part ii. This work, with much of which he was connected, having himself written the 'Formazza' and 'Como' districts, had for a variety of causes hung fire when almost ready for press. Broke nobly stepped into the breach in 1910 and actually brought the book out in 1911. When it is considered that much of the otherwise excellent letter-press had once more to be brought up to date, Broke's intensive labours will be appreciated still better. Moreover the work is as

¹ Longmans, 1891. Reviewed, *A.J.*, 16, 125-6.



H. G. BROKE.
1861-1932.

regards everything save inns, roads and railways, as precious to the British mountaineer in 1932 as in 1911. It has always appeared to the writer that the extraordinary services rendered by the three editors of the last edition of this great work have never been appreciated at their true worth. Be that as it may, there can seldom have been a more painstaking—or charming—editor to work with than George Broke.

Among Broke's Alpine friends and companions were Coolidge, Conway, C. M. Thompson, Harold Topham and Williams. A grave illness stopped serious climbing after 1907, and a second attack of pleurisy prevented Broke from even visiting the Alps after 1913.

About 1914 a greater misfortune overtook him. Always short-sighted, although a good shot, his eyes now began to fail him altogether and by 1931, he could see nothing but light. Nevertheless, he was able to walk about the grounds of Holme-Hale Hall, Thetford, his wife's place, quite unattended. He had resigned his last post, as Rector of Melton, Suffolk, by doctor's orders in 1914. Wireless became his chief recreation, but he still continued his interest in the Club and *ALPINE JOURNAL*. As lately as 1928, he wrote and pointed out to me an error in the latter regarding the direction of a new ascent of the Hüllehorn (Leptontines).

The life of a very fine mountaineer, courteous and lovable friend, was ended by a sudden heart-attack when in normal health and spirits, on September 3, 1932. The Alpine Club and his friends will not forget the name of George Broke.

E. L. S.

GODFREY W. H. ELLIS.

(1865–1932.)

By the death, on August 24, 1932, of Godfrey W. H. Ellis the Club lost a member who in his time had rendered it great service. He was Hon. Librarian from 1910 to 1919, and had his advice been accepted by the Committee of that time, the Club to-day would have possessed a magnificent collection of fine Swiss Prints, as in those days prices were not so prohibitive as they are now. He had a very good knowledge of early Alpine books and amassed a collection second to none in the country, which recently passed into the hands of the writer of this notice. He took a great interest in the Club library, where his real knowledge of Alpine literature was of great advantage to us.

For many years he collected Swiss prints when they were regarded as of very little interest, and for long his collection was the finest in this country. He was not a mere gatherer of prints, but had a wide and intimate knowledge far surpassing that of any other collector of his time. He will be remembered as being responsible for the very excellent exhibition of Swiss Coloured Prints at the Alpine Club in December 1909.



G. W. H. ELLIS (*ca.* 1895).
1865-1932.

In his day he made many ascents round the great centre of Zermatt with Alois Biner, and is best known for the two new cols he crossed in 1902 with this guide and Ulrich Almer, the Weisshorn Pass ('A.J.' 21, 295 *et seq.*) and the Wellenjoch; in the same year he made the first crossing of the Strubelegg Pass with these guides. After the Wellenjoch expedition he was the recipient of a letter from an unknown lady, reading: 'An old and experienced traveller has read with extreme disgust of the persistency of Mr. Godfrey Ellis in discovering and negotiating safely an unknown pass between the Ober Gabelhorn and the Wellenkuppe. Instead of making a boast of his performances in the newspaper, Mr. Ellis will do well to attend to the advice of the guides who must know better, and whose lives are too often sacrificed in seeking those who through their foolhardiness make such useless attempts in order to bring their names before the public.' This no doubt caused him much amusement. It is really astonishing the number of people who write letters about matters they do not understand.

He gave up climbing a few years before the war, although retaining to the last his interest in the mountains.

Godfrey W. H. Ellis was the son of Edwin Ellis, of 'Summersbury,' Shalford, Surrey, and was born on July 16, 1865, passing away at Brighton on August 24, 1932. He retired from his business as a tanner shortly before the war and went to live in Wales, where about nine years ago he had a stroke which left him a semi-invalid. Under a somewhat shy and abrupt manner was a heart of gold, and his death is an irreparable loss to his old and intimate friends.

R. W. L.

E. REGINALD TAYLOR.

(1873-1932.)

EDWARD REGINALD TAYLOR, of Medomsley, Sidcup, died on May 14, 1932, after a short illness. He was born at Birstall, Yorkshire in 1873. He read for the Law, passed the final Law examination, with second-class honours in 1900, and commenced practice as a solicitor. He was elected a member of the Alpine Club in 1908, his qualifications for membership showing that he had climbed extensively at Zermatt, in the Engadine, among the Dolomites, in Tyrol, Chamonix and Arolla. His sister always accompanied him as a climbing companion and he made no ascents without her. After the war years he confined his Alpine activities chiefly to long walks and passes, visiting latterly during his holidays the less frequented European countries, such as Czechoslovakia, Dalmatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina. He was especially interested in the condition of the people who had suffered in the reshaping of the political boundaries of post-war Europe. Although he had not achieved anything spectacular in Alpine ascents, he was an exceedingly keen and true lover of the mountains. He visited Switzerland



E. R. TAYLOR.
1873-1932.

over thirty times and possessed a very thorough general acquaintance with the different districts. He was a regular attendant at the Club gatherings and a most interesting companion. Of a retiring nature, but few of those who met him at the Club realised the extent and variety of his other activities. He was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London and on the Council of that Society in 1930-31. He was also Hon. Secretary of the British Archæological Association since 1924, and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. He had also held the posts of Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and was five times President of the Sidcup Literary and Scientific Society. He was also on the Council of the London and Middlesex Archæological Institute, and a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society. He had held for many years the post of Hon. Solicitor to the Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club. Lecturing was one form of social service to which he devoted much of his time, and he was on the staff of voluntary lecturers for the Social and Political League, the Selbourne Society and other organisations. He would give some twenty lectures each winter, both in districts such as Limehouse and Whitechapel, as well as to small country societies in remote villages. One of his last lectures was given in Maidstone Prison, where he said he had never had a keener or better audience. His activities were very varied and whatever he undertook he carried through with a zest and enthusiasm which was always a great stimulus to his fellow workers.

H. R. S.

CHARLES FELIX STOEHR.

(1886-1932.)

LIEUT.-COLONEL C. F. STOEHR was born in January 1886 ; he was educated at Repton and the Royal Military Academy, where he was an under-officer, and was commissioned into the Corps of Royal Engineers at the age of 18½ years.

He went to India early in his career and took part in the Mishmi operations. When the Great War broke out Stoehr was in England. He returned to India with a shipload of Indian Army officers in the P. & O. s.s. *Dongola*, when the ship was so crowded that it is stated officers took it in turn to sit down ! Stoehr spent the first few months of the war in Aden, then, after training a freshly raised field company in India, he took this unit to Mesopotamia, where he joined the 15th Division. He was wounded twice and mentioned in Dispatches. After the Great War he was in the Iraq operations and spent over two years in North-West Persia as C.R.E. to the small force there. He served in Waziristan, 1921-24,² during this

² Where he was again mentioned in Dispatches and received the O.B.E.

time working for the Staff College, and, in spite of being handicapped by lack of books and other means of study, obtained a vacancy at Quetta. His first staff appointment was at the War Office; this was followed by another in Malaya, after which he was appointed C.R.E. at Delhi. He was on leave from Delhi when he was killed.

Stoehr started mountaineering as a boy, and had climbed both in the Alps, Norway, and in Kashmir, when he was elected to the Alpine Club in 1922. He was also a keen skier, and would go to Mürren now and then for a 'course' of racing to improve his technique, in much the same way as a keen rider to hounds schools his hunters at the beginning of the season. He possessed balance and agility as well as great powers of endurance. This natural aptitude for mountaineering he improved by theoretical study and as much practice as the Service allowed him. He did not advertise his skill and would never thrust himself into the lead unless asked. His cool courage was a great asset in any party and he never seemed to have an 'off day.'

Stoehr was a man of exceptional intellectual honesty. His mind was very logical, and his clearly reasoned arguments were at times rather disconcerting, especially for men who are apt to speak and act by instinct or blind adherence to custom. Stoehr was too far-seeing to have much sympathy with such points of view, and he would never be persuaded by mere public opinion against his own judgment.

He died a keen soldier and a fine mountaineer. Let this be remembered of him, that there was only one man in the world who was allowed to tell his subordinates off, and that was Stoehr himself. May all commanders be as loyal to their subordinates as he was.

He perished in the unfortunate accident on Peak 17,243 ft., near Panjtarni, Kashmir, August 12, 1932. He leaves a widow and three young children, who were all in England at the time of his death, and to whom the greatest sympathy is extended.

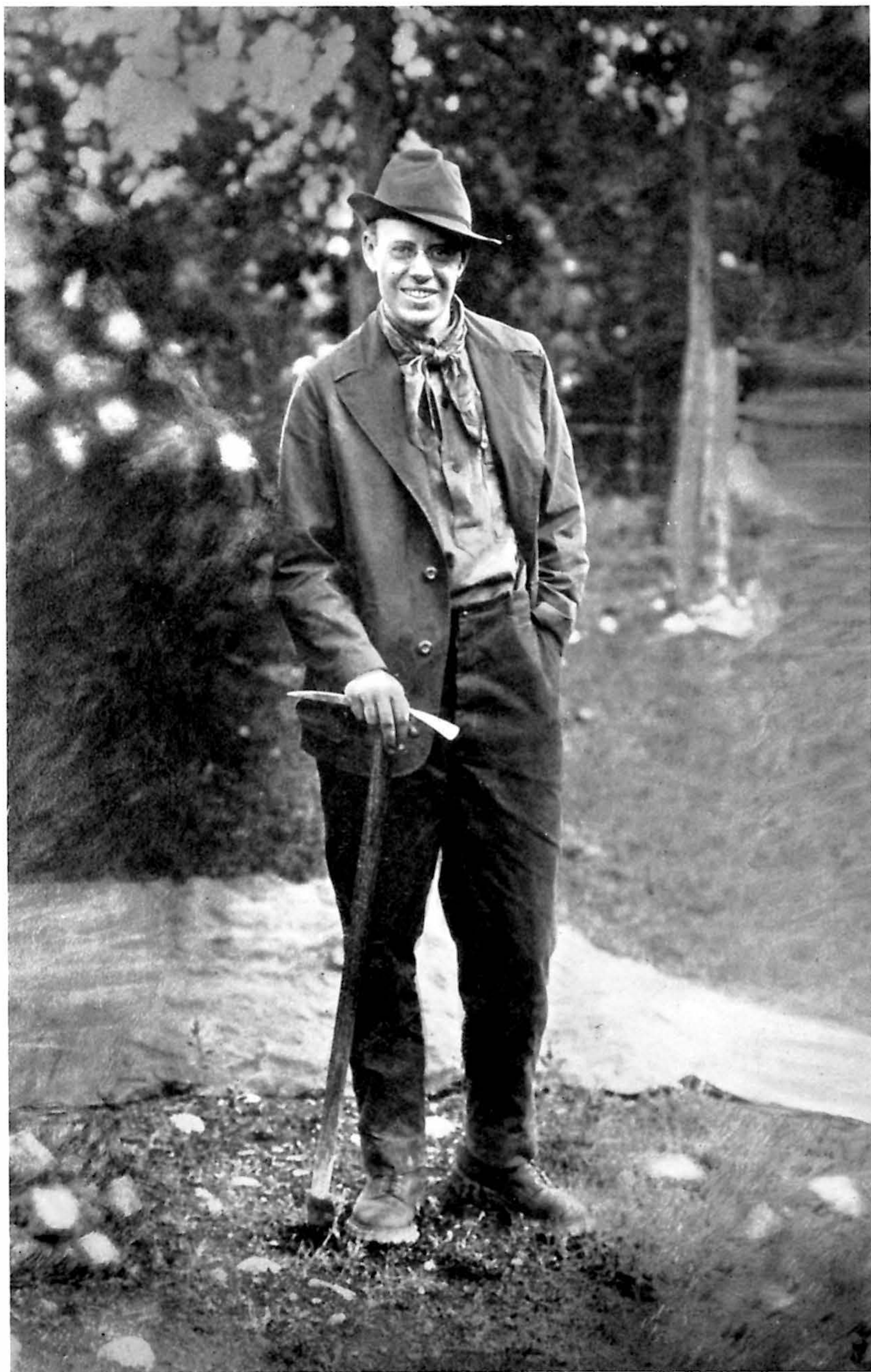
E. G.

ALLEN CARPE.

(1894-1932.)

IN the death of Allen Carpe, American mountaineering has lost one of its most enthusiastic and accomplished advocates. He was born in Chicago, December 20, 1894; a great-grandson of Ezra Cornell, founder of Cornell University; grandson of the American poet, Coates Kinney. His father, Professor Adolph Carpe, was an accomplished musician, but died while Allen was still young. His mother, a brilliant woman, survives him, as do his wife and two small daughters.

Carpe spent his early years in Xenia, Ohio, at his mother's home.



Photographer unknown]

ALLEN CARPE.
1894-1932.

[To face p. 291.

He was taken to Germany at ten years of age for his preliminary academic training. There he completed his gymnasium courses with honours. After a year at the University of Berlin he returned to New York, where he graduated from Columbia with a degree in electrical engineering. The Great War broke into his academic work. Leaving it, he joined the Officers' Training Corps at Plattsburg and received his commission as 2nd Lieutenant in the Coast Artillery Section Officers' Reserve Corps, August 15, 1917. December 1917 saw him as a Battery Officer 51st Artillery, Coast Artillery Corps. With it he went through the St. Mihiel offensive, his battery being especially cited 'for the manner in which it pushed its guns forward into the conquered territory in spite of constant shell-fire and bombardment of mustard gas.' He was gassed and wounded slightly, but out of action for five days only. Entering the Service as a 2nd Lieutenant, he left it as a Captain, and in 1924 was made a Major, Coast Artillery Officers' Reserve Corps.

In 1920 he entered the service of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company as a member of the Department of Development and Research. He contributed in a large way to the development of systems for multiplex transmission by means of modulated high frequency currents. He had much to do with the development of a standardized product in several models which had a large sale to the operating units of the Bell system. He knew the technical aspects of the business thoroughly, and held a number of patents in it and related fields (telegraph and radio). Besides this, his knowledge extended to cost studies, economic and business surveys. He had the responsibility of comprehensive tests and investigations, and had been called upon to act in the capacity of a consultant in a number of cases. His knowledge of foreign languages made him sought out to advise in regard to foreign patents and systems.

His love of the mountains was formed in his school-days while in Germany. He soon acquired the habit of spending his vacations in the Carpathian mountains or various groups in the Eastern Alps. Rock climbs first interested him, and he soon excelled in this type of climbing. For about six years he gave his attention almost exclusively to rock work, some of which was most exacting. In 1912 and 1913 he experienced his first work with snow and ice, but not until he came to the United States did he become greatly attracted to actively glaciated peaks.

In the mountains of Canada he found not only the appeal of high peaks, but that of the wilderness also. He delighted in venturing alone on expeditions of several days' duration which gave him both climbing and forest travel. His activities in the Selkirks, the Cariboos and Rockies are well known to all who have followed North American mountaineering literature.

In 1925 he was a member of the expedition which ascended Mt. Logan. He considered this one of his greatest adventures. In 1926 he tried Mt. Fairweather: 1927 saw him making first ascents again in the Cariboos. That winter he married Miss Kathleen

MacBain, and in 1928 they visited the Gold Range and Mount Robson, climbing together in each region.

But Alaska constantly called more and more persistently. In 1930 he made, with Andrew M. Taylor and Terris Moore, the first ascent of Mt. Bona. In 1931 he and Moore reached the summit of Mt. Fairweather—a much-coveted goal. He told me afterwards that it was the most difficult snow and ice ascent he had made.³ A quotation from a letter written to Mrs. Carpe as he sailed northward in March of this year expresses well his love for the Alaskan mountains. 'This country has lost none of its fascination for me in the last four years which have changed so much else in my life. . . . It is wild and sombre, very different from those Canadian mountains you visited. It is more like Albreda than Jasper or Robson, but is probably more like Norway or some parts of Scotland. Those places we visited in Canada one can readily think of as casual vacation resorts, but this country stays with me. It has haunted me for years, as you know, and I doubt if I will ever be really satisfied until I have tried to live in it.'

Allen Carpe was a quiet, shy man. He had a great fund of information on all sorts of subjects, and, when he so chose, contributed in an informative and authoritative manner to any conversation. He had a clear, calculating mind, was precise in his methods, and had little patience with inefficiency. I have known no other mountaineer more careful than he, nor have I ever seen or known of his making a false step. His judgment of probable routes on a mountain was excellent. He was always thoughtful of others, and when wearing the rope very careful and watchful in its management. He had great self-confidence and unusual courage and daring. He was not a rapid goer, nor did he show speed in step-cutting. All his efforts I shall think of as being governed by one motive—'precision.' He joined the Alpine Club in 1923.

Although not an easy mixer, Carpe had an engaging smile and pleasant manner. His diffidence was due rather to shyness than to stand-offishness. He was likely, in his accounts of adventure, to be matter-of-fact in the extreme, being rather afraid that he might err on the side of the romantic. He was not superstitious, and his philosophy had a decided Nietzschean flavour. He was not troubled by the problems of the next life, but felt that this world would be the happier if more of us bent our efforts in making heaven on earth rather than preparing for it elsewhere. With this, he had an enthusiasm for life and adventure which at times showed forth in outbursts of contagious delight.

W. S. LADD.

³ Mountaineers may be interested to learn that Carpe in a letter to me attributed his success to the unselfishness displayed by Messrs. Ladd and Taylor in descending from the high camp, so as to leave sufficient food for the other two of the party to complete the ascent.—*E. L. S.*

H. GEORGE WATKINS.

(1907-1932.)

H. G. WATKINS, whose death by drowning in Greenland took place towards the end of August, was one of the youngest of our members and the most notable of the new generation of explorer-climbers. He was born in 1907, commenced Alpine work in 1923, led his first Arctic expedition in 1927, and in 1932, at the early age of 25, was awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Geographical Society for explorations in Greenland. These are the brief facts of a short but brilliant career. At the time of his death he was establishing winter quarters for further work in Greenland. Telegraphic reports indicate that Watkins was seal-hunting at the time of the accident; later in the day his kayak was discovered filled with water, and some clothes were also found on an ice-floe. A prolonged search followed, but no further traces were found, and it must be assumed that some chance accident made it necessary for him to take to the water, and that he was overpowered by the cold before being able to get back into his kayak.

Watkins' first climbing experiences were made in the Lake District, where he was taken by one of the masters from his school at Lancing. Hill-walking was hardly sufficient to satisfy him, and he soon became the leader in rock climbs of increasing difficulty. While still at school he had climbed the Eagle's Nest direct. At the same time he had begun Alpine work, partly in the Eastern Alps, where his father initiated him in chamois-hunting, partly in the Chamonix district with a French student. In 1923 and 1924 he made one or two climbs as a boy with guides: these included the Grands Charmoz, the Petits Charmoz, and the Aiguille de l'M. In 1925 he made two climbs with Charles Gysin, a young student of 19, the son of a guide, who was hoping himself to qualify for his guide's certificate; one of these was the traverse of the Petite Dent de Veisivi. Later in the year Watkins was shooting with his father in Tyrol, and had a narrow escape, falling about 150 ft. down steep rocks. His big Alpine year was in 1926, when he made about a dozen or more first-class expeditions, all guideless, with his friend Gysin. These included the Aiguilles de Grépon, de Blaitière, du Moine, de la Tsa; Les Courtes, Les Droites, Pointe de la Glière, Col du Géant, Mont Velan, traverse of Monte Rosa from the Bétemps hut, Macugnaga to Zermatt *via* the New Weissthorn and Cima di Jazzi, and traverses of Mont Grépillon and Mont Dolent. His name was suggested for membership of the Alpine Club a few months later, but he was under age, and his actual election did not take place till 1929, when he was 22.

Watkins' first Arctic expedition was made in 1927. He was then in his second year at Cambridge, and, like many others, had been fired with polar enthusiasm by Mr. R. E. Priestley's lectures on



H. G. WATKINS.
1907-1932.

[To face p. 294.]

polar exploration. I remember his first coming to my rooms about this time, and the promise I gave to take him on my next Arctic expedition. This was the beginning of a six years' friendship and of mutual sharing of plans and equipment. I was unable to go north in 1927, and Watkins immediately decided, though without previous experience, to make up a party of his own. Edge Island, in East Spitsbergen, was chosen as the main objective. He chartered the *Heimen*, a small Tromsø sealer, and with a party of eight (among them H. T. Morshead) spent some four weeks on the island. The weather was most unfavourable, while the results proved interesting though not, perhaps, as important as expected, but the expedition showed Watkins' natural gift for leadership, and the short taste of the Arctic was sufficient to incite him to further adventures.

The years were not moving quick enough, and he decided to interrupt his Cambridge career in order to make a winter visit to Labrador. At that time the decision on the Quebec-Labrador boundary had just been announced, and the suggestion had been made to Watkins that he should examine the position of the boundary to see if it could be mapped and properly laid down. More important, however, was the opportunity which now came of learning dog sledging. J. M. Scott was his companion on this expedition, which lasted from July 1928 till the spring of 1929, and which led to the discovery, among other things, of unknown falls on the upper reaches of the Hamilton River.

Events now moved rapidly. The idea of an Arctic Air Route to Canada had already taken shape in his mind. The boundary problem in Labrador was put aside. Watkins learned to fly, and was in the fortunate position of being an experienced Arctic traveller before taking up flying. His experience showed him the mistake so often made of assuming that flying has taken the place of sledging. Discoveries, he knew, were possible from the air, but exploration had to be done on the ground.

The proposed Arctic Air Route required much exploratory ground work in South-East Greenland. An advisory committee was formed in London, and what was originally a small venture soon grew to be a major expedition equipped with two aeroplanes, and with a total *personnel* of fourteen. As on his previous expeditions all the plans and proposals were made by Watkins himself, and it was his own personal expedition. This, his third and greatest, lasted from July 1930 to October 1931, and was the most important Arctic expedition which has gone from this country since 1875, or from any other country in the last twenty-five years. The *Quest* was chartered from Norway, and in the first two months explored for 200 miles north of Angmagssalik; air photographs were taken and connected up by ground control to form the first adequate map of the region. Among other discoveries an entirely new range of mountains, 12,000–15,000 ft. high, was seen by Watkins from the air in 69° N., but their extent and nature still remain uncertain. In the autumn of

1930 numerous sledge journeys were made inland over the Ice Cap, and a meteorological station was set up at 9000 ft. ; later on Courtauld stayed here for five months as solitary observer. The spring sledging journeys included one to Mount Forel, which was climbed to within 800 ft. of the summit ; Watkins himself was prevented, however, from going on this journey by the necessity of relieving Courtauld. Finally in the summer of 1931, two sledge parties crossed the Ice Cap to Ivigtut and Holsteinborg respectively ; and Watkins himself with Courtauld and Lemon made a hazardous motor-boat journey of 400 miles southwards round Cape Farewell to Juliannehaab. On this journey the party 'lived on the land.' Watkins had made himself an expert hunter by kayak, and the seals which would thus be obtained made a boat-load of food unnecessary ; extra petrol was carried and, but for this, so long a journey would have been impossible.

The amount of new ground covered by the expedition easily outdid anything previously attempted in Greenland. Watkins, however, felt that the data for determining the Arctic Air Route were still insufficient, and the present winter's expedition, limited this time to four members, was designed to fill in the blanks. A base had been chosen, and Watkins was hunting to lay in the winter food supply when the accident which caused his death took place.

Watkins was of slight build, but of unexpected toughness and strength. He has been described as an 'exquisite,' and it was as natural for him to be well-groomed in London as it was at other times to be dressed suitably as a native in Greenland. As a leader, he ranks with Nansen and with Shackleton : he had a special aptitude for choosing the right men. To his subordinates wide latitude was allowed, and risks were taken no doubt, but without them there would have been no measure of success. He was an easy and delightful companion to all with whom he came in contact. Organisation came easily, and his expeditions were equipped with the minimum of fuss and time. Trivial details were ignored, but the critical ones most carefully watched and provided for. A marked feature was the way in which each succeeding expedition saw notable improvements both in food and equipment. Watkins in fact was master of all he undertook and carried out. To his friends, his greatness will be that he attempted and achieved, and that though his life was short the accomplishment was so big.

J. M. W.

HAMILTON STUART VERSCHOYLE.

AMONG the senior members of the Club there may be some who have recollections of Mr. Verschoyle (who died June 18, aged 88) when he was summer chaplain at Courmayeur in the 'eighties. Although never a member of the A.C., his decease deserves notice, not only

for his being a link with days almost forgotten (of how many mountaineers now living can it be said that they ceased climbing as long ago as 1873 ?), but as a great lover of Switzerland and for his association with one of the 'classic' Alpine tragedies, the death of Professor Francis Maitland Balfour and Johann Petrus in 1882. When alarm arose over their non-return, Mr. Verschoyle posted a notice on the church door at Courmayeur to say there would be no Sunday services, and started with six guides for the Fresnay Glacier, where the bodies were found ('A.J.' 11, 90-3). In an interesting letter I received only last year, he recalled in vivid detail his experiences on this task.

But it is as a 'relic' of a bygone age that he principally interests mountaineers. He visited Switzerland in 1867 and 1869, but made walks only, and it was not till 1871 that he began climbing. A chance meeting with a guide at Macugnaga when he was intending to cross the Monte Moro to Saas led to his trying the Pizzo Bianco instead, thus awakening an enthusiasm for climbing that never left him. He crossed the New Weissthorn to Zermatt and climbed the Breithorn in company with Bishop Ellicott (the Bishop was very keen, but had to mountaineer surreptitiously ; he aspired to the Matterhorn, but feared it would cause him notoriety and lead his diocese to say he was behaving in an undignified manner !) He returned to Saas over the Alphubel, but had to leave for England before more climbs were made.

The year 1872 was an eventful one for Mr. Verschoyle. A chance meeting with Canon Girdlestone on the journey out was followed by another on the top of the Buet, and they went down to Chamonix together. Girdlestone induced Verschoyle to try Mt. Blanc with him, on the understanding that the latter's guide, Jean Rey of Champéry, did not lead. The summit was reached all right, but the trip proved no less exciting for Mr. Verschoyle than was usually the case with Girdlestone's expeditions—for Girdlestone went through into a crevasse, and was with difficulty extracted after 40 minutes, nearly senseless, by the skill of the aforesaid Rey. Other climbs this year were the Col du Géant, Adler and Allalin Passes.

His last climbing season was 1873, for, like Leslie Stephen, his marriage entailed the cessation of mountaineering ; it accounted for the Wildstrubel, Wetterhorn, Monte Rosa and Triftjoch, as well as various smaller passes. With the exception of Piz Corvatsch and the Balmhorn and a few small fry round Courmayeur, he never climbed again, but he lived abroad a great deal, particularly in Italy (he was a fine Dante scholar), and, providing himself with porters, would 'valley-thump' all over the Alps. Mr. Freshfield's *Below the Snow Line* would be a book after his own heart, and, within the limits thus set, he knew the Alps with a thoroughness given to very few. It was really remarkable to hear him, fifty years or so after a visit, describe with Baedeker-like precision some obscure Alpine valley ; and those who accompanied him on a walking holiday were

not likely to forget the event. He would know the parish clergy in these outlying parts and pay a visit to some penurious priest living high up on an alp ; the gusto of their conversation (he spoke the patois of many districts) ; his striking personality and outlandish clothes ; these were pictures indelibly impressed upon the memory. Almost to the end he retained his vigour and love of walking, and for his age, and with many other concerns, he was astonishingly up-to-date in mountaineering literature. One of the last letters I received from him said how greatly he was enjoying Camillo Guissani's 'Chiacchiere d'un Alpinista,' the review notices of which had only appeared a week or so before. He recommended me *Mountain Craft* and *The Making of a Mountaineer* before I had read them myself ; the Pope's climbs, the Everest Expeditions—he enjoyed them all.

His work among the villages near San Remo which were desolated by earthquake was rewarded in 1888 by the Cross of the Crown of Italy.

He was a man of great kindliness and of the finest character, whom his friends must deeply mourn, as the Church of Ireland must lament the passing of a devoted servant ; and even climbers who never knew him may regret the breaking of one of the few remaining links with the golden days of mountaineering.

T. S. B.

ALPHONSE PAYOT.

(1852–1932.)

ALPHONSE PAYOT sprang into note when, with his famous brother Michel, he accompanied James Eccles in the first ascent of Mont Blanc by the Brouillard and Fresnay Glaciers. Incidentally, by passing over Mont Blanc de Courmayeur they made the first ascent of that summit. He did not travel much from Chamonix, but amongst peaks in the Mont Blanc group he made the first ascents of the A. du Plan, A. de Rochefort, Mont Blanc from the S., mentioned above, A. du Tacul, Dôme de Rochefort, and Aiguilles Dorées. In all these ascents he accompanied James Eccles along with his brother Michel.

In 1882, with A. Cupelin, he accompanied W. W. Graham, on August 20, to the S. point of the A. du Géant, the N. point of which had been attained on the previous July 29 by the Sellas, with Jean Joseph, Baptiste, and Daniel Maquignaz.

In 1878, with James Heelis, whose guide Jean Martin afterwards joined us at Bonneval-sur-Arc, I made a number of ascents in the Western Graians in which Alphonse was my guide. It is a long time ago, but my memory of Alphonse is very distinct. I found him an excellent fellow with all the good qualities which one looks for in a first-rate guide, added to the abounding energy of youth.



ALPHONSE PAYOT (ABOUT 1878).
1852-1932.

We ascended the Ciamarella, Albaron, Central Levanna, and A. de la Grande Sassièrè, as well as minor points, and traversed the Pointe de la Galise, which affords a most perfect panorama of great mountains in a district famous for its glorious viewpoints. Much of our work was new.

The next year (1879) he met me at Martigny, and, as showing how keen I was to get to the mountains, I may perhaps mention that after two nights in the train I walked up to Orsières on the afternoon of my arrival at Martigny. We had that year a delightful time climbing the Punta Ceresole, Ondezena, and Gran Sertz, at Cogne, and crossing the Grand Paradis to Ceresole Reale.

This, which was the first passage over the mountain between Cogne and Ceresole, was made on a perfect day, and gave Alphonse an opportunity of showing his excellence as a guide. I remember it as one of the most enjoyable climbs in a long experience, even after a lapse of more than fifty years. Perhaps, as I cannot now climb, those old days have acquired an exaggerated pleasure, but Alphonse holds a prominent place among them. We then walked from Ceresole to Liverogne in Val d'Aosta, where we picked up a decrepit carriage for Courmayeur (none could be found at Villeneuve) which broke down long before we reached that happy haven. Eventually we crossed to Chamonix over the Col du Géant.

In 1880 we made an attempt on the A. du Plan, but snow up to my knees and very rotten was too much for me after spending a night in an ice-cave. Hoping for better times in the Graians, we walked to Tignes, but finding the weather there obdurate, started back to Chamonix in a downpour; but before we reached Mégève the weather cleared, and the Mont Blanc group in sunshine and new snow remains with me as an entrancing spectacle. But no ascents were made that year.

In 1884, with Séraphin Henry of Courmayeur, Alphonse Payot went with me to the Oberland, and, making our headquarters at Ried in the Lötschenthal, climbed the Lauterbrunnen-Breithorn, the Breitlauhörn, the E. peak of the three Lonzahörner, the Wilerhorn, and other small peaks departing over the Baltschieder Joch in bad weather, which prevented the more ambitious scheme which I had in view. I met Alphonse but once after this, when he was with C. E. Mathews at Courmayeur in 1896, but I shall always remember him as the accomplished guide, the skilful route-finder, and the pleasant companion.

It may be of interest to recall that Payot especially distinguished himself in the sensational descent, in a storm, of the Aiguille Verte by the Charpoua Glacier in 1881. The party consisted of Sir Edward Davidson, Messrs. F. C. Hartley and J. Eccles, with Laurent Lanier, Hans von Bergen, Michel and Alphonse Payot (see *Pioneers of the Alps*, 2nd edition, pp. 118-9). Alphonse was also in the second crossing of the Col *dit* Infranchissable in 1871—the first of his *tours de force*.

Payot paraded with the veteran guides of Chamonix for the unveiling of the Paccard Memorial last August.

His death on September 9 in the Nant Favre torrent was caused, probably, by a fall on a steep slope known as *la Montagne de Mossoux*, above the hamlet of that name, close to Chamonix. The accident was doubtless the result of a seizure incidental to his advanced years.

But he lived longer than most guides, and now sleeps in the shadow of the great White Mountain which he had so often climbed.
R.I.P.

G. YELD.

AMBROS SUPERSAXO

(1853-1932.)

THE struggles of the Baron Supersaxo against Cardinal Mathias Schinner during the sixteenth century are still commemorated: the name of Supersaxo belongs to the history of Valais.⁴ The records of mountaineering likewise will preserve the name, rendered famous by Ambros, who died early this year at Saas Fee.

Some five or six family names alone exist at Fee. To prevent confusion parents seek out in the calendar the most unusual Christian names. In spite of all, it is often difficult to distinguish between members of families, and *two* Ambros Supersaxo, both guides, were living at the same time at Saas Fee. One of these Ambroses—pronounced 'Amros' in the valley—has died recently.⁵

In the fullest meaning of the word he was a great guide. For 50 years he climbed all over the Alps, from the Dolomites to Chamonix, from the Engadine or Oberland to Valais—there being hardly a summit in these regions unknown to him. More than 30 first ascents prove his worth: for 19 years he led Sir Seymour King. Ambros Supersaxo was a good father and brought up his family with rigid care. Three of his sons have become well-known guides, Oscar, Othmar and Heinrich; they are sought out deservedly. One of his daughters married a guide of the Imseng family, well known equally in Alpine circles.

A keen member of the Municipal Council of Fee, he succeeded during the course of his Presidency in causing the erection of a very large church to replace the small chapel of Saas Fee—the latter a true gem of architecture, as is the attractive neighbouring church of Balen.

Ambros Supersaxo's characteristics were wit and light-heartedness: his passion for mountains—rarer among guides than is sometimes thought by the mere plain-dweller—his enterprise

⁴ A Baron's coronet crowns the arms of the Supersaxo above the door of the house of Othmar and Heinrich (sons of Ambros), at Saas Fee.

⁵ His namesake is still living.



AMBROS SUPERSAXO (ABOUT 1890).
1853-1932.

for exploration combined with all that *flair* and courage entail, finally his gift in dangerous situations of rallying the powers and courage of demoralised or scared companions.

The following is a list of his principal expeditions with Sir Seymour King: Eigerhörnli from the N. (1887); Gspaltenhorn; Jungfrau by the Rotbrett-Silberhorn (September 23, 1887); Kingspitze (Engelhoerner); Aiguille Blanche de Péteret (July 31, 1885: Supersaxo *led*); Mont Collon, E. face; Bouquetins (N. to Central Summits); Ober Mominghorn (1886).

Other first ascents or new routes include; Tête du Lion (N. face with J. H. Wicks and not since repeated, August 7, 1881); Fletschhorn by W. face; Laquinhorn, W. face and S. arête with Herbert Speyer (1898); Sonnighorn, W. arête; Egginer, N. arête; Strahlhorn, N.W. arête; Rimpfischhorn, N. arête; Stellihorn, E. arête, near Col d'Antrona; Lenzspitze, E. arête and descent by W. face (1882 with W. W. Graham), also new routes by W. arête and W. flank (1888 with R. F. Ball); Matterhorn by Matterhorn Glacier and Z'mutt arête; Cinque Torri in Dolomites, etc.

It would be superfluous to add a word or the name of a peak to this list. It speaks for itself to the extent of the loss suffered by the pastime of mountaineering through Ambros Supersaxo's death. I regret that to my unworthy pen has fallen the duty of sketching the career of this great guide; at the same time I am grateful to the editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL for the privilege he has granted me. I express also my thanks to Oscar Supersaxo for the details he has kindly provided.

E. R. B.

[Sir H. Seymour King writes:—'I would gladly comply with your request if I felt competent, but it is 32 years since I was last in Switzerland and saw Ambros; time has worked its wicked will and my memory is not what it was. Also, I have lost all my notes of the 20 happy years I spent in his company. He was a great mountaineer and fearless climber, but I do not feel I could now do justice to him. . . . I am over 80 and must ask you very regretfully to excuse my doing more.']

NEW EXPEDITIONS.

Dauphiné.

AIGUILLE MÉRIDIONALE D'ARVES, 3514 m. = 11,529 ft. (3510 m., *Helbronner*.) By the W. face. July 11, 1932. Messrs. J. L. Longland and Peter Lloyd.

In 1928 Mr. L. R. Wager and the writer made an attempt to climb this very steep face by the well-marked central rock couloir which splays out directly under, and some 600 ft. below, the actual