

About half-way to the hut we met two Englishmen coming down, who indignantly asked if the girl was carrying our things, and demanded our names. I suppose they meant to denounce us to the Swiss Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, if there is one, and they seemed only half to believe our explanation. However, we gave them a note for the hotel people at Saas Grund, who had provided the porter, to tell them what had happened and then hurried on. At the foot of the rocks we overtook the girl, who had evidently had more than enough, and was quite unable to carry the load any further. Her father deserved a good thrashing, and I hope he got a verbal one anyhow.

I have recounted elsewhere ³ how our sending a porter ahead in the Cogne district ended in something like tragedy.

We had got leave from the *Garde-Chasse* to sleep in the Herbetet chalets, which constituted a royal hunting-box, and the porter was to leave our sack in the hut and give us the key when we met—only we did *not* meet. He went by a new path which we knew not of, and we went by the old one marked on our map, which we found a good deal cut away and rather dangerous in places. When we reached the chalets at about 8 P.M. we saw our sack through the window in the principal hut, with no way of getting at it except by breaking into a Royal Residence. There was nothing for it but to return to Cogne. We had to dine off three raw eggs between us, without bread or other accompaniment. Perhaps this episode may have cured us of sending porters ahead, because another year when we were going to the Fare hut in Dauphiné for the Grandes Rousses, we took our porter with us. He was a cheery individual, neatly dressed in a blue serge suit. The day was hot, the sack was heavy and when we unpacked it at the hut, we found that a good deal of our bread was moist and had acquired a distinctly bluish tinge. After this experience we sewed a large piece of batiste on the inner side of the big sack, which formed a waterproof barrier between the man's back and our provisions, so that for the future they were not impregnated with porter, whether blue or otherwise.

EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS AT THE ALPINE CLUB, 1933.

THE Exhibition of Alpine Photographs was held in the Club Gallery from December 11 to 30. It afforded definite proof of the rise in the standard of general excellence of Alpine photography. I cannot recall any previous exhibition which displayed so uniform a level of excellence, with the rather curious result that hardly any of the exhibits stood out as superior to the rest. This may have been partly due to the small dimensions of practically the whole of

³ *A.J.* 29, 321-3; *Alpine Days and Nights*, pp. 116-8.

the exhibits. To be really effective in an exhibition, I think it is necessary to enlarge photographs up to a considerable size, and this was probably the reason why few pictures of any large dimensions caught the eye immediately.

Of the latter, Mr. J. Osborne Walker's 'Clouds over Italy,' a very fine subject, if perhaps a little hackneyed, showed how much is gained by this; while two other exhibits stood out for the same reason, although it must be added that they were also two of the best in the room, *i.e.* Dr. Longstaff's 'Valdotain Clouds,' with its well-thought-out composition, and Mr. F. S. Smythe's 'Gauri and Hathi Parbat,' in which the single tree placed in the centre foreground was a real inspiration. All of these were examples of unerring artistic sense of that which goes to make a beautiful picture.

In actual fact there were many other pictures of equal beauty, but their small dimensions handicapped them when it came to a question of comparison with the three exhibits already referred to. There was nothing better in the exhibition than an extraordinarily lovely rendering of the light and shade of a stormy sky in Mr. H. J. Gait's 'Morning View from Monte Cristallo,' which, I think, may fairly be given pride of place as the best thing in the exhibition. Almost equally successful as studies of atmospheric effects were Major Blow's 'Ever-changing Light and Shadow,' Mr. Foot's 'Sunrise from the Spannortjoch,' Mr. Morrish's 'Clouds and Crag, Cadini Dolomites,' while Mr. Henry Speyer in 'An Approaching Storm,' Mr. Arthur Gardner in two charming Scottish landscapes 'Loch Quoich' and 'The Rough Bounds, Ben Aden,' and Mr. Hugh Gardner in 'Stormy Evening near Ballachulish,' showed their usual perfection of technique. Mr. Courtney's 'In the Oetzal Alps' and Mr. Ransome's 'Mischabel from the lower slopes of the Weisshorn' were two other fine examples of cloud effects, while Mr. Gerald Seligman was highly successful in the very difficult task of getting atmosphere into the deep shadows of his 'Finsteraarhorn.'

Sir William Lister's mastery of the photographic art was once more asserted in all his exhibits, and I would like to single out particularly a delightful picture of 'Etna from the Portella Mandrozzi.' Although there were many exhibits meriting special attention, I will content myself for lack of space with stating that work of the highest degree of excellence was shown by Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Speaker, Mr. A. L. Foster, Mr. Everington, Dr. Finzi, Mr. G. A. M. Lister, Mr. Lawford, Mr. Overton, Mr. Brettell, Miss Whymper, Miss Davidson, Mr. Gunther and Mr. H. Meyer. The two last named may be complimented on the artistic framing of their pictures, a detail of much greater importance than many realize.

Mr. H. S. Bullock's exhibits showed a charming impressionism which needs the expert hand to carry out with success. Mr. Duncan Marsh sent some excellent and interesting small studies of the climbing on the Drus; while Mr. Ashcroft set a good example

in displaying some beautifully executed enlargements showing unfamiliar scenes in the Eastern Swiss Alps.

The dark figure standing out in the evening light against a background of distant peaks in Dr. Fothergill's 'On Cinque Frati, Corsica,' was singularly effective, and his 'On the Col du Dôme, Mont Blanc,' showed with extraordinary faithfulness the texture of the snow surface—in fact with almost too much detail.

Mr. Harold Morrish provided a pleasant change from mountain subjects in a delightful little picture of a waterfall at Engstligenalp, and Professor O. K. Williamson made a welcome reappearance with an imposing picture of the Victoria Falls of the Zambezi, although exception might be taken to it as an Alpine subject. But it should be added that he also showed two very fine pictures taken from Mont Mallet and the Aiguille de Rochefort. Mention should be made of an attractive little picture of a peep through trees of Lake Lucerne from the Isental—by no means an easy photograph to take.

Very few winter scenes were shown, one being a most charming study of broken lights in the snow with a chalet at the bend of a road, by Mr. Athole Murray, and another delightful picture of ice crystals on the frozen surface of a stream near St. Anton, by Mr. F. S. Smythe.

There were a few good character studies: Mr. Bond's 'I'd have him range a climber' showed Mr. H. S. Bullock's small son preparing to follow in his father's footsteps. Miss Pawsey sent a charming little group of children at Flüelen, and Mr. Smythe provided an interesting and characteristic 'Himalayan Shepherd.'

Miss Margaret King showed as usual a pretty group of hand-coloured photographs, one of which, entitled 'A Native of Riederfurka,' evidently found favour, as the frame bore no fewer than four red spots.

The distant regions of New Zealand and South Africa were represented by several interesting photographs exhibited by Mr. Charles Pasteur and Mr. Basil Goodfellow, while Mr. J. O. Walker showed a good photograph of the Sigiri Rock in Ceylon.

A melancholy interest attached to the very beautiful group of enlargements from photographs taken by the late Mr. H. E. E. Howson. Members need not be reminded that he was one of the most artistic photographers in the Club.

In conclusion, we may say that as regards the quality of the work displayed this exhibition has probably never been surpassed, but we should like to see more exhibits of a larger size than those shown on this occasion.

As usual, the Club is indebted to Mr. Sydney Spencer for the care he has devoted to the hanging of the frames and the general success of the exhibition.