

CORRESPONDENCE.

*Bakhtiari Mountains of S.W. Persia.**To the Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL.*

SIR,—In the most interesting article under this title by Mr. Falcon in the 'A.J.' of last November, there is a statement that in the interests of glaciology and climatology requires comment, and probably correction. The author says, 'There is no permanent snow, no ice, and no relics of any former glaciation' (p. 355); and again (on p. 357), 'There is no permanent snow on the Bakhtiari mountains. By the end of July or August all the snow has melted, except perhaps in a few cracks on the northern slopes.'

Prof. A. Desio, however, has reported to the Italian Glaciological Committee (see *Geographical Journal*, Oct. 1934, p. 366) the existence of small glaciers in the mountains of western Persia, and four of them are described as lying on the northern slopes of Zardeh Kuh, one of the ranges visited by Mr. Falcon's party, whose highest peak was measured by that party as 14,920 ft., and the culminating point probably of all these mountains.

Prof. Desio considers that the glaciers referred to have remained unnoticed in all probability, because owing to their small size they are difficult to distinguish from neighbouring snow patches. The largest of them on the northern slopes of Kulang-ci is of cirque type, with an area of 70 hectares, and its lowest point is at an altitude of 4105 metres. A rather smaller glacier was seen north of Ato Beki, and two much smaller ones on peaks north of Haft Panun. No movement in these glaciers was able to be determined, but frontal moraines were present, and surface crevasses were seen. He concludes that the snow-line on these ranges may be assumed to be at about 4000 metres, although from the data provided one can scarcely agree that this represents the true climatological snow-line.

It was while on geological reconnaissance on the S.W. fringe of these wild ranges early in 1924, that from an eminence near Asmari Mountain I looked beyond the great bend of the Karun River towards the snow-flecked higher ridges of the interior, and I longed to reach them. But it was not to be, for the country was then in a state of unrest, and on one occasion I was well 'shot-up' on a mountain top and, with my accompanying and equally terrified 'Farrash' (servant), was obliged to do a four-mile 'marathon' back to the shelter of camp.

It has been, therefore, of peculiar interest to me to read of Mr.

Falcon's unimpeded explorations, and Dr. Harrison's fuller descriptions of journeys made and researches undertaken (see *G.J.*, Sept. 1932, with map) in this little-known and fascinating region of the Iranian mountains.

I am, etc.,

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N. E. ODELL.

The Tibetan Name of Everest.

To the Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

SIR,—In view of my note on 'The Supposed Tibetan or Nepalese Name of Mount Everest' in your last issue, the letter to *The Times* of August 8, 1935, by Sir Charles Bell, under the heading 'Tibetan Name for Everest,' is not without considerable and perhaps surprising interest. My note pointed out, on the earlier evidence which Sir Charles had communicated to Sir Sidney Burrard, that the word 'Chomolungma,' adopted by the Royal Geographical Society, the Mount Everest Committee, etc., for the name of the mountain, was a spurious rendering of 'Chamolung,' signifying the 'Bird Country,' in which the mountain that we know as Everest is situated. Sir Charles on a recent visit to Tibet has now confirmed the latter fact, but has ascertained the important fresh information that in reference to the great snowy mountain which dominates the 'Bird Country' the rendering Kang Chamolung, or Chamolung Kang, or alternatively Chamolung Kangri, is used by dzongpens, lamas, and others in the district. Kang means snow, and kangri implies snow-mountain, forms which are widely in use. 'There can,' concludes Sir Charles, 'be no doubt that the correct Tibetan name of Mount Everest is Kang Chamolung. And the meaning is "The Snow of Bird Land."'

I am, etc.,

August 24, 1935.

N. E. ODELL.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall, 23 Savile Row, London, W. 1, on Tuesday, April 2, 1935, at 8.30 P.M., Col. E. L. Strutt, *President*, in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT announced that His Majesty The King of the Belgians had been graciously pleased to accept Honorary Membership of the Club.

The PRESIDENT also mentioned the deaths of the following Members—namely, The Hon. Mr. Oliver Wendell Holmes who was elected an Ordinary Member in 1866, and was made an Honorary Member of the Club in 1932, and Mr. H. B. de Villiers-Schwab, who was elected in 1921.