

MR. A. J. MACKINTOSH.—Failing health has caused Mr. Mackintosh to sever a connection of forty years with the Alpine Club and JOURNAL. Throughout this period Mr. Mackintosh's services have been invaluable to the Club: the work he has accomplished in connection with the Library will be remembered and appreciated by past and present officers and members.

He has well earned the general gratitude and esteem of the Club.

CORRIGENDUM.—'A.J.' 46, 375, footnote 2: the last sentence should be deleted.

At the moment of going to press, we much regret to announce the death, on March 15, of our American member Mr. H. B. de Villiers-Schwab, at the early age of 48 years. Mr. Schwab was an ex-President of the American Alpine Club—to the members of which, as to his relatives, we express our deep sympathy.—E. L. S.

NEW ZEALAND NOTES.

MR. A. P. HARPER writes of a remarkable 'manless' ascent of MT. SEFTON (10,350 ft.), accomplished by his daughter, Miss Rosamund Harper, Miss Betsy Blunden and Miss L. Davidson. The actual date is omitted, but it was in December 1934.

' . . . The girls had to transport over 150 lbs. of stores and camp up the Copland River¹ to Scott's Creek and then establish a high camp 2000 ft. above the river—50 lbs. load for each girl! They only took a horse up to Scott's Creek and then, in a day and a half, relayed this load up to the site and established their camp—"hot and monotonous" . . . the keas tackled their dumps and simply ripped their packs . . . Left camp at 03.40, had good slopes of snow for some time, followed by very hard snow and ice, in which they had to cut steps for some hundreds of feet in spite of their crampons. She [Miss Harper] says the slope was steeper in places than anything they had ever seen. They met with huge crevasses and schrunds, encountering with difficulty in crossing one steep and frail snow-bridge. They had a perfect day, no wind, good visibility and were back in camp at 18.00—14½ hours. On the way down the snow, one abrupt step was inclined to avalanche and they had to use great care. . . . The whole time they could hear the almost continuous roar of avalanches falling on to the Douglas Glacier away

¹ See N.Z. 'FitzGerald' 1 inch map.

below. I described these avalanches in my book. They could not get into the head of the Twain River, as proposed, because the packs were too heavy for the great snowfields . . . they came down to the Douglas hut in the Copland just as the weather broke, and to civilization after two days' spell over the Copland Pass, with their camp, etc., on their backs. . . . The staging of that camp, through 2000 ft. of rough bush and scrub in such a country, means more than one realizes until one has done it oneself. . . . The height to be ascended from the bivouac to the summit of Sefton was about 6000 ft.

'The girls had previously done some guideless work together including the FOOTSTOOL (9073 ft.) and some minor peaks. . . . They now propose to tackle La Pérouse (10,034 ft.).'

[Captain H. E. L. Porter comments: . . . 'It was certainly a splendid feat for three girls. Their route was that of the second ascent of Sefton in December, 1909, by our members L. M. Earle and Captain Head with Alec Graham and Clarke,² repeated by Sam Turner in 1912.³ . . . but that does not detract from the merit of the performance. . . . Miss du Faur traversed the mountain, ascending by FitzGerald's route and descending by Earle's, in bad weather⁴ . . . it being difficult to strike the correct point to leave the névé from above without a track to direct one. . . . The whole valley is horribly isolated and almost as liable to storms as the Hooker.']

Mr. Harper adds that the season in New Zealand has been unique. No rain or snow in November or December, and less snow lying about than ever known at the time of the year. He goes into camp on the Godley Glacier to celebrate his 75th birthday.

CAUCASUS NOTES.

THE French expedition to the Caucasus in August 1933 (of which a brief account was given in 'A.J.' 46, 221-4, and a fuller narrative in *La Montagne*, May, 1934, pp. 162-188) is of special interest to British mountaineers because its work was done in a region which was first explored by our countrymen, and which is hallowed in our memories by the disappearance of W. F. Donkin and H. Fox (with Johann Fischer and K. Streich) on Koshtantau in 1888, and by the romantic discovery of the site of their last bivouac by the search party of 1889. It seems, therefore, worth while to correct some errors and confusions which have crept into the summary account of the expedition published in the JOURNAL.

It may be convenient to recall that Donkin and Fox in August 1888 camped at the lower end of the Ullu-az Glacier, and after

² *A.J.* 25, 184.

³ *Ibid.* 38, 15.

⁴ *Ibid.*