## ALPINE NOTES

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DIPLOMATIC CHANGES.—We regret the departure of M. Henri de Torrenté, the Swiss Minister in London for a number of years, and a familiar figure to members of the Alpine Club. He has been transferred to Washington and in his place we welcome M. Arnim Daeniker, till recently Swiss Minister in Sweden.

Personal.—We congratulate Sir Evelyn Baring on receiving the G.C.M.G. in the New Year's Honours; and Mr. E. E. Shipton on receiving the C.B.E.

We notice Sir Robert Robinson has been elected President of the

British Association for 1955.

H. J. Chaytor (1871–1954).—The late Henry John Chaytor, formerly Fellow, Senior Tutor and Lecturer in Modern Languages, St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, and later Master of St. Catharine's, joined the Alpine Club, late in life, in 1932, and resigned his membership in 1946. All his climbing appears to have been done prior to joining the Club: he had been out in the Alps intermittently since 1898.

He had a high reputation as a tutor and was especially noted for his

knowledge of French literature.

Kangchenjunga.—The expedition sailed from Liverpool on February 12. The members of the party are Messrs. R. C. Evans (leader), G. C. Band, J. Brown, N. Hardy, J. A. Jackson, T. Mackinnon, N. Mather, H. R. A. Streather, and Dr. J. Clegg.

ALPINE CHRONICLES (continued from A.J. 59. 465).—Nord End, Santa Caterina arête: the first ascent of this ridge was made in 1906 by V. J. E. Ryan and the Lochmatters, but Alpes Valaisannes and other authorities have been content to give the year only and no actual date.

Mr. Winthrop Young has ascertained from Joseph Knubel, who had discussed the climb with the Lochmatters when the Ryan-Young parties joined for the assault on the South face of the Täschhorn, that the date was almost certainly July 27. Knubel's recollection confirms Mr. Young's own opinion, that the Nord End climb had taken place some little while before he met Ryan.

This is corroborated by our knowledge of Ryan's movements, as shown in Sir Edward Davidson's diary [A.C. archives]. Ryan is accounted for from July 29 to August 5 inclusive, and as Mr. Young arrived from Chamonix on August 7–8, by appointment with Ryan, it may be stated fairly confidently that the Santa Caterina climb could not have been made in the early days of August and must, therefore, have been before the Dent d'Hérens by the East arête (July 30).

THE ASCENT OF EVEREST CHALLENGED.—Professor G. O. Dyhrenfurth, we notice, has made a pungent rejoinder to the absurdities of S. M. Goswami's book, Everest—is it conquered? He points out in particular that if Mr. Goswami had even rudimentary knowledge on the matter, he would know that Hillary's photograph (Plate 45 in The Ascent of Everest) could only have been taken from the summit of the mountain. If a comparison is made of it with Somervell's photograph taken from 28,000 ft. in 1924, it is evident that Hillary's picture was taken at approximately 1,000 ft. higher, as anyone with a little knowledge of 'back-bearings' would realise.

HEIGHT OF EVEREST.—After all that has been written about Mount Everest in recent years it is surprising to learn from *The Times* that the Survey of India reports the mountain to be between 30 ft. and 40 ft. higher than the present official figure.<sup>1</sup> The position shown on the maps is also stated to be incorrect, there being an error of about 40 ft. both in latitude and longitude.

Dr. Karl Blodig, Celebrated his ninety-fifth birthday in October last, and is thus the oldest surviving member of the Alpine Club. We offer him, somewhat belatedly, our congratulations and best wishes.

FRITZ KASPAREK.—Die Alpen reports the death of Herr Fritz Kasparek, who was killed last summer in the course of an attempt on Salcantay. He will be remembered as Herr Harrer's companion on the first ascent of the Eigerwand.

RUDOLF TAUGWALDER.—Not all our readers may know that Rudolf Taugwalder died in July, 1953, at the age of 86. As the caretaker of the museum, he must have been familiar to many visitors to Zermatt between the wars. Taugwalder had been to the Caucasus and had accompanied the Bullock Workmans to the Himalaya. He was one of Miss Peck's guides on the first ascent of the North peak of Huascaran in 1908, and during the descent, in bad weather, was so severely frost-bitten that his climbing career was brought to a premature close.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See A.J. 41. 419 and 58. 407.

ALPINISME.—After an independent existence of twenty-nine years, Alpinisme, the review of the G.H.M., was amalgamated with La Montagne at the beginning of this year. The C.A.F. is responsible for the new publication, which appears under the title of La Montagne et Alpinisme. During its relatively short career, Alpinisme had won a remarkable place in Alpine literature.

FROM CHAMONIX.—In August last, electric trains were brought into use on the Chamonix–Montenvers railway. The time for the upward journey has been reduced to twenty minutes.

had work notice among more windows and modernation? of

Col du Pain de Sucre (See A.J. 59. 461).—The first ascent of the North-east slope was made on August 13, 1931, by M. and Mme. P. Dalmais, with Georges and Marcel Charlet.

Scheideg Wetterhorn.—The North-west face was ascended on August 12–13, 1954, by Herren Niedermann and Abderhalden. The great vertical rock pitch in the upper part of the route was climbed direct for the first time. This can be clearly seen as a triangular-shaped black rock, above the point where the route makes a final turn to the east in the illustration in A.J. 42. 7. Dr. N. S. Finzi, with Josef Knubel and Franz Josef Biner, made the first ascent of the face on September 10, 1929.

Afforestation in the Lake District.—The Friends of the Lake District are concerned to check further encroachment by the Forestry Commission. Some modification of the 1936 Agreement appears to be necessary, but the Friends continue to insist that the character of the Lakeland scene should not be altered, that the traditional use of the fell sides for rough grazing should continue, and that replanting should be of native hardwood, not of commercial softwood.

Winter Ascents by Italian Parties.—Some notable expeditions were carried out by Italian mountaineers in the early months of 1953. Among them may be mentioned:

Mont Blanc: First winter ascent by Route Major. A. Ottoz and A. (Toni) Gobbi (two Courmayeur guides), March 23.

Mont Blanc: First winter ascent by the Innominata ridge. S. Viotto and G. Panei (two Courmayeur guides), March 25.

Monte Rosa: First winter ascent by the East face (Silbersattel).

O. Elli and E. Amosso (both of Milan), March 9, 10, 11.

Cima Ouest di Lavaredo: First winter ascent by North face (Cassin route). W. Bonatti of Monza and C. Mauri of Lecco, February 22, 23, 24.

A Mystery Solved.—On July 18, 1880, Dr. Haller and the guides Peter Rubi and Fritz Roth set out to cross the Lauteraarjoch to Grindelwald to attend the inauguration of the Gleckstein hut. They never arrived, and despite the efforts of numerous search parties no trace of them was found. It was generally assumed that they had fallen into the bergschrund on the Grimsel side of the pass.

In September last, seventy-four years after they had disappeared, their remains were found on the Lauteraar Glacier, being identified by, among other objects, an inscribed watch given to Rubi by a British climber.

Rubi took part in several new expeditions including the first ascent of the Weisshorn from the Schalliberg Glacier, but perhaps he is best known to fame for his part in the first crossing of the Jungfraujoch when he carried the ladder and 'appeared to think it rather pleasant than otherwise . . . to have his head fixed in a kind of pillory between two rungs of a ladder, with twelve feet of it sticking out behind and twelve feet before him.'

Punta Giordani.—Referring to G. B. Gugliermina's new route up the South face of this peak (see A.J. 59. 343), the route goes directly up the face from the Glacier di Bors, and can be regarded as rather easy. The ascent took the whole day (August 31, 1953). The party consisted of G. B. Gugliermina (aged 80), F. Ravelli (aged 69) and the latter's daughter.

LORD CONWAY AND ILLIMANI.—Readers of *The Alps*, perhaps the most fascinating of Lord Conway's books, may remember that, in the chapter on 'The Human Interest,' he leaves the Alps and takes us to the Andes, for his most striking instance of this. He relates how, before his ascent of Illimani, he had heard 'an ancient tradition that once, long, long ago, an Aymara Indian had gone aloft, seeking the abode of the gods, and that having found it, he was taken by the gods to themselves and never returned to his people.'

Conway forgot the tale until, during the descent, he was resting on the summit which he afterwards named Pico del Indio, where by chance he found 'a fragment of goat-hair rope, such as the Indians of the Bolivian plateau have used from time immemorial. Instantly the old legend was called to my remembrance. It was true! The Indian had actually been here where I was sitting.' He goes on to relate how 'for the remainder of our resting-time the whole view was animated by thoughts of this man. I wondered whether his gods had appeared to him; whether he had beheld visions and dreamed dreams, and what those visions were like.'

In The Mountain World, 1953, it is stated that 'in 1877 Pico del Indio . . . was climbed by Carlos Wiener<sup>2</sup> and Jose Campo, with three

<sup>2</sup> The Central, and lowest, summit of Illimani was first climbed on May 19, 1877, by M. Charles Wiener, with a young Peruvian, J. M. de Ocampo, and the Russian, G. B. de Grumbkow, accompanied by three native porters. M. Wiener published an account of the expedition in his book, *Pérou et Bolivie* (Hachette et Cie, Paris, 1880).

bearers.' Conway was aware that 'M. Wiener and his Indians' had made a considerable ascent on the same side of Illimani as himself. He says 'M. Wiener's published description, though I am unable to understand the whole of it, seems to imply that he went up the gully rather than the ridge, and climbed the rock-wall pretty much where we climbed it; but what he did, having arrived at the snowfield above, what peak he chose and how he got up it, I am altogether unable to ascertain. It seems certain that a high elevation was arrived at. . . .' (Bolivian Andes, p. 115.)

Evidently it did not occur to Conway that the piece of goat-hair rope might have been left by Wiener's party. But, if they really climbed the Pico del Indio it is, of course, far more likely to have been left by them than by the legendary Indian. I decline, however, to abandon my implicit belief in Conway's pleasing story until I know the evidence

as to whether they reached that summit.

Another disturbing piece of news contained in the same article (by Hans Ertl) in *The Mountain World* is that the highest peak climbed by Conway is not, after all, the highest peak of Illimani, but that the North peak, climbed by Herr Ertl's party (a very fine achievement) is 100 ft. or so higher.<sup>3</sup> Thus, the true conquest of Illimani is put back from 1898 to 1953, a truly momentous year in mountaineering history.

C. R. P. VANDELEUR.

CENTENARIES.—The centenaries of the following first ascents and passages occur in 1955:—

Col du Mont Maudit (4,354 m.) crossed on July 31 by J. H. Ramsay with Joseph Marie 'Turin' Chabod, Pierre Joseph 'Gros' Mochet and Joseph Marie Perrod. '... At last we found ourselves on the top of the Mont Maudit [sic], separated by an easy descent from the Mur de la Côte, the so-called "wall" at the foot of the Calotte, down which a large party from Chamonix were at that moment descending. ... We met at the foot of the Mur de la Côte, and the guides exchanged a few civilities. ... British reserve prevented any communication between the voyageurs on either side. ... '4

DUFOURSPITZE (4,634 m.) ascended on August 1 by J. Birkbeck, C. Hudson, C. and J. G. Smyth and E. J. Stevenson with Ulrich Lauener and Johann and Matthias zum Taugwald. '... It was necessary to have a good head and sure foot in order to traverse this last ridge with ease and comfort, for many of the blocks were moveable and partly covered with snow, and the sides, to a depth of several hundred feet, were very precipitous. All of our party who had already or have since,

<sup>4</sup> A.J. 28. 267–8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> We are indebted to M. Kurz for the information that Ertl and Schröder, with boiling water and aneroid, measured the North Peak as being 6,480 m., and the South 6,450 m. These figures, however, will remain doubtful until a geodetic survey has been made.

ascended Mont Blanc consider Monte Rosa by far the more difficult mountain of the two, though it requires much less time. Christopher Smyth and I [Hudson] made a few observations with the theodolite, brought by the former, and then joined our companions to gaze on the wondrous panorama extended at our feet....<sup>5</sup>

Mont Blanc du Tacul (4,248 m.) ascended on August 8 by a member of Charles Hudson's guideless party (C. Ainslie, C. Hudson, E. S. Kennedy, C. and J. G. Smyth and E. J. Stevenson). '... We had now a rather stiff climb of three hours in order to ascend the snow-slope, the steepest part of which is near the top and which by accurate measurement made with our goniometer we found inclined at an angle of 52 degrees. After passing, by means of a snow-bridge, a crevasse which crossed the slope at its steepest part, and in a longitudinal direction, our leading man proceeded a short distance further, and from the summit of Mont Blanc du Tacul he had a view of the Monts Maudits and of Mont Blanc...'6

Weissmies (4,020 m.) ascended in August (second half) by J. C. Heusser with Peter Josef Zurbriggen. '... Ich fand diesen Chloritoïd zufällig beim Besteigen des Weissmies-Horns, und es ist derselbe das einzige Bemerkenswerthe, was sich bei diesem Unternehmen ergab; weiter oben, so weit das Gestein vom Schnee frei ist, kommt rein nichts vor als ein gewöhnlicher Gneis...'

J. Sanseverino.

HIMALAYAN EXPEDITIONS, 1953.—In addition to those already mentioned in previous issues of the ALPINE JOURNAL, the following have been brought to our notice:—

Bandar Punch (Black Peak) was attempted by the North ridge on June 25 by J. T. M. Gibson of the Doon School, accompanied by one of his pupils (aged 17 years!) and the Sherpa, Pemba Norbu. The attempt was pushed to within 330 ft. (?) of the summit.

Major N. D. Jayal, with Pemba and Puran Singh, made the second

ascent of Abi Gamin on June 17.

A Japanese expedition organised by the A.A.C. of Kioto University made an unsuccessful post-monsoon attempt on Annapurna II and IV. The South face was first examined but was considered too steep and difficult for laden porters. The expedition then decided to make an attempt from the north side by Tilman's 1950 route. Five camps were established, the highest at approximately 23,600 ft. Two Japanese and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> C. Hudson and E. S. Kennedy, Where there's a Will there's a Way: An Ascent of Mont Blanc by a New Route and without Guides (2nd edition), pp. 135-6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Ibid. (1st edition), pp. 15–16.

<sup>7</sup> Extract from an article by J. C. Heusser entitled 'Die Mineralien des Binnen—und Saasthales' in Mittheilungen der Naturforschenden Gesellschaft in Zürich, vol. iii (1853–5).

the Sherpa, Da Namgyal, spent November 3 at this camp, unable to venture out owing to the high wind. The next day, the nylon tent having been damaged by the wind, they were compelled to descend and no further attempt was made.

In 1954, too, there was considerable activity apart from the out-

standing success of the Italians on K2 in the Karakorum.

J. O. M. Roberts took a small party to the Dhaulagiri area, after the monsoon, and made a thorough examination of D.II (25,729 ft.) and D.III (25,067 ft.) from the north, north-east, and north-west. After the ascent of two peaks of about 20,500 ft., Major Roberts and Ang Nyima ascended Putha Hiunchuli (23,750 ft.) on November 11, under very cold conditions. We hope to publish an account of this expedition in our next number.

Makalu.—The American expedition to Makalu in 1954, under the leadership of Dr. Will Siri, has yet to be described fully, but a short note appears in the Sierra Club Bulletin for October, 1954. For two weeks desperate attempts were made in clouds and storm to force a way up the steep South face to the South-east ridge, but all efforts failed owing to the exhaustion of the climbers and the bad weather. The climbing is described as being tricky and difficult, and many artificial aids were employed. On May 31, Long and Unsoeld launched a last determined assault with the three best Sherpas (the only fit ones left). They reached the South-east ridge and established Camp V at over 23,000 ft. This was the highest point reached, although the route above, so far as could be seen, looked considerably easier. The weather grew steadily worse and with the monsoon expected within a very few days, the attempt was abandoned.

A French reconnaissance expedition, led by M. Jean Franco, visited Makalu in the autumn with the object of finding the best route to the summit for the assault this year. The col between Makalu I and Makalu II was reached for the first time on October 15; a camp was established here and several attempts were made to set up a higher camp, but all failed, because of the violent wind, the cold, and the exhaustion of the high-altitude porters. On October 22, J. Franco and L. Terray, with two Sherpas, made the first ascent of Makalu II (25,130 ft.). Several lower summits were also climbed by various members of the expedition, including Pethangtse (second ascent).

Сно Оуи.—Two members of an Austrian expedition, Dr. Herbert Tichy, of Vienna, and Sepp Jöchler<sup>8</sup> of Landeck, with the Sherpa Pasang Dawa, made the first ascent on October 19, 1954. There is still some doubt as to whether Cho Oyu or Dhaulagiri is the higher;

<sup>8</sup> Among Dr. Tichy's previous achievements may be mentioned his expedition to Gurla Mandhata in 1936. He described this journey in his book, Zum heiligsten Berg der Welt (Vienna, 1937).

Herr Jöchler was already well known for his ascents of the Eigerwand with Hermann Buhl in 1952 and, in the following year, of the North face of the

Matterhorn with Ernst Sepp.

Cho Oyu (26,750 ft. ?) ranks as either the sixth or seventh highest summit in the world.

After the Austrian success, Raymond Lambert and Madame Claude Kogan made an attempt during which they reached a height of nearly 25,300 ft., the greatest height yet reached by a woman.

GAURISANKAR.—An expedition under the leadership of Raymond Lambert visited this group to explore and map the district. According to press reports, Lambert does not view very favourably the prospects of an ascent of either Gaurisankar or Menlungtse.

CORDILLERA BLANCA.—An American expedition visited this range in the summer of last year. Members of the party made the second ascent of Tschopi Kalki (20,058 ft.). Aganapaccha and Pisco were both ascended for the first time.

IRAN.—M. Bernard Pierre took a party to the Elburz Range<sup>10</sup> in August, 1954. Among the expeditions made were: Chane Kuh (4,300 m.), first ascent of the South ridge, East face. Alam Kuh (5,150 m.), first west-east traverse. Takht-i-Suleiman (4,600 m.), first complete south-north traverse.

The East ridge of Demavend (5,671 m.) was ascended for the first

time.

KARAKORUM.—A German expedition made an unsuccessful attempt on Broad Peak last autumn. Dr. Karl Herrligkoffer, the leader, is reported as having said that the expedition failed 'because we reached Skardu three weeks later than our scheduled programme.'

SHERPA TIGERS.—After the successful Mount Everest expedition, 'Tiger' badges were awarded to Ang Namgyal, Ang Nyima II, Ang Temba III, Annullu, Dawa Tensing, Gombu, and Pasang Phutar.

ALASKA.—The outstanding mountaineering achievement in North America last year was the ascent of Mt. McKinley by the south buttress. A party of four, Messrs. Thayer, Wood, Viereck, and Argus, set out on April 17 using the Ruth Glacier approach. Additional supplies were dropped on the glacier from an aeroplane piloted by Wood's wife. The highest camp was established at 17,000 ft. and from here the summit of Mt. McKinley was reached at 2.30 P.M. on May 15.

The party returned to camp for the night and next day commenced the descent by the usual route, Harper Glacier—Karstens Ridge—Muldrow Glacier. While attempting a traverse to avoid the direct descent of a steep ice pitch on the Karstens Ridge, Thayer, the last man, slipped

<sup>See A.J. 45. 41, for the first ascent. An illustration will be found opposite p. 39 of the same volume.
See A.J. 45. 334 and 49. 245.</sup> 

and the whole party came off, sliding nearly 1,000 ft. down the slope towards the Muldrow Glacier. Thayer was killed instantly and Argus

dislocated his hip; the other two had no serious injuries.

A camp was set up and for a time it was hoped that Argus might recover sufficiently to move. When it was apparent that this hope was vain a fresh camp was established at a safer spot 1,000 ft. lower. Here Argus was left with all the available food, and Wood and Viereck set out in search of help on May 23. A rescue party was flown by helicopter to the Muldrow Glacier. Ascending to Argus's camp, they brought him by sledge to the helicopter at McGonagall Pass, whence he was flown to the hospital at Ladd Field.

THE R.A.F. MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION is sending an expedition to the Himalayas this summer. The party will be under the leadership of Wing-Commander A. J. M. Smyth. The leader and one other member of the party have had previous Himalayan experience.

It is hoped to explore the glacier system of the Kulu Lahul water-shed<sup>11</sup> and to ascend one or more unclimbed peaks of over 20,000 ft. A photographic survey will be undertaken and a film of the expedition

will be made.

The Royal Air Force Mountaineering Association was founded in January, 1948; one of its declared objects was to send an expedition to the Himalayas.

HIMALAYAS, 1955.—In addition to the expeditions already mentioned, a British party is going to the Menlungtse-Gaurisankar region, the Canterbury Mountaineering Club of New Zealand is sending an expedition to Masherbrum (25,660 ft.),<sup>12</sup> and six Kenya mountaineers will attempt Himal Chuli (25,810 ft.).

The Japanese are making another attack on Manaslu, and a new assault on Dhaulagiri will be made by a German-Swiss expedition. Other German expeditions are said to be going to the Annapurna

massif and to the Karakorum.

Raymond Lambert and Canon Detry of the Great St. Bernard monastery are taking a party to explore the Langtang group in Nepal.<sup>13</sup>

Mrs. Monica Jackson will lead what is said to be the first all-women climbing team to visit the Himalaya. Her party of four intends to spend two months exploring the Jugal Himal range on the Nepal-Tibet frontier.<sup>14</sup> Only the leader has had previous experience of Himalayan climbing.

A small party of Americans, Austrians and Swiss, under the leadership of Norman G. Dyhrenfurth, will make an attempt on Lhotse.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> See A.J. 59. 288.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> See A.7. 50. 199 for the 1938 attempt by J. Waller's party.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> See  $A.\mathcal{F}$ . 57. 305.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> The highest summit of the Jugal Himal is an unnamed mountain of 23,240 ft. Other important peaks are Dorje Lakhpa (22,929 ft.) and Phurbi Chyachu (21,344 ft.). See A.J. 57. 311–12.

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RUWENZORI (A.J. 59. 407).—Signor Piero Ghiglione calls attention to the omission from the list of expeditions to the Ruwenzori of his two trips in 1938 and 1950, to which reference is made in *Rivista Mensile*, 1951, p. 151.

Nanga Parbat.—Dr. Monroe Thorington corrects a mistake in Dr. Frauenberger's address on the Nanga Parbat expedition of 1953 in A.J. 59. 372. Rand Herron, who was killed by a fall from the Great Pyramid in 1932, was not a German but an American born in Italy. 15

A VISIT TO WESTERN TIBET. Sirdar Gurdial Singh spent twenty days in June–July 1954 on a visit to Mount Kailas and Manasarowar Lake. He had no political problems to overcome as by Art. III, para. 1, of the agreement on Tibet signed last year between the Government of India and the People's Republic of China, 'pilgrims from India of Lamaist, Hindu, and Buddhist faiths may visit Kang Rimpoche (Kailas) and Mavam Tso (Manasarowar) in Tibet region of China in accordance with custom.' The Sirdar crossed the Zaskar Range by the Tunjun La (16,250 ft.) in Upper Garhwal, and thence due north across the Sutlej, and via Missar to Kailas. After making the parikrama or circuit of Kailas, he visited Manasarowar Lake, and proceeded via Parkha, Lejandak, and Chumersela to Gyanyima. From here onwards his route was identical with Dr. Longstaff's in 1905, except that he reentered India by the Marhi La (16,430 ft.).

Pilgrims from India are not allowed to take with them into Tibet guns, ammunition, binoculars, or cameras, so the Sirdar could not

collect any photographs of his trip.

(Information extracted from a letter from Sirdar Gurdial Singh to Mr. Blakeney.)

Another Dethronement.—A recent survey has revealed that Champagne Castle is not the highest peak in the Drakensberg Mountains of South Africa; latest measurements show that it is overtopped by Thabantshonyana (11,425 ft.).

Mrs. Phillips.—We are sure that all members of the Club will join with us in expressing our deep regret at the death of Mrs. Phillips, wife of the Club Caretaker. She had not been in good health since she was knocked over by a car a year ago. Last December she had to go into hospital with a heart affection, and passed away in February of this year.

16 See A.J. 23. 225; 40. 23 and 55. 316.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Rand Herron was born at Pegli, Italy, on July 23, 1902, his father being Professor George Herron and his mother (née Caroline Rand) the daughter of the founder of the Rand School in New York.—D.F.O.D.