

IN MEMORIAM

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY:		<i>Year of Election</i>
Bullock, H. S. (resigned 1921; re-elected 1927)	.	1897
Rolleston, L. W.	.	1898
Ashby, R. C.	.	1911
Andrews, A. N.	.	1918
Beetham, B.	.	1922
Oldham, J. B.	.	1929
Grosvenor, J. E.	.	1930
Slingsby, F. H.	.	1932
Macphee, G. G.	.	1934
Baume, P. A.	.	1953

ARTHUR NEWTON ANDREWS

1888-1962

THE sudden death of A. N. Andrews on October 15, 1962, came as a shock to many of our older members, for in the 1920's and 30's he had been a very familiar figure in the climbing world in London, especially with the Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club, in which he had played a leading part from 1912 to 1936.

He was born on October 7, 1888, and was the only son of Arthur Andrews, J.P., who was Mayor of Ryde, I. of W., from 1920 to 1923. He was educated at Portsmouth Grammar School and New College, Oxford, qualified as a solicitor in 1912, and then went into industry, joining the firm of A. Strauss & Co., with whom he remained until 1939, except for the First World War, when he served with the 1st Battalion, Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry.

He was elected to the Alpine Club in 1918, having been out in the Alps every year from 1907 to 1913. Between the wars, he climbed regularly in Switzerland with his wife; he was particularly fond of the less famous valleys, especially in the Oberland and regions adjacent to the eastward, and if his list of climbs has no very notable ascents in it, he usually had a good 'bag' of lesser climbs each year. He and the late C. T. Lehmann were the original Trustees of the Sir William Ellis Trust for guides of Swiss nationality, and he made a habit, when he went to Switzerland, of looking up some of the beneficiaries of the Trust.

During the Second War he served with the Hampshire Territorials, but early in 1940 he went back to live in the Isle of Wight, and since then wartime restrictions, local activities and, lately, indifferent health

kept him away from Club meetings. His interests in the Isle of Wight were very varied. He was Chairman of the Vectis Building Society and Income Tax Commissioner for the Island. He was also President of the Ryde branch of the British Legion, and a Vice-President (and former joint Honorary Secretary) of the Royal Isle of Wight Agricultural Society, acting as ring steward at their annual show in Newport for many years. He was a skilled judge of light horses and for a time was Honorary Secretary of the Isle of Wight Hunt. He leaves a widow and two daughters, to whom we tender our sympathy in their loss.

M. N. CLARKE.

MICAH GEDLING BRADLEY

1882-1962

M. G. BRADLEY, who died on September 8, 1962, one day short of his eightieth birthday, was educated at Uppingham and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he read law; he qualified as a solicitor but never practised, and during the First War served in France with the Middlesex Regiment, holding the rank of Major. He was elected to the Alpine Club in 1904 on the proposals of A. E. Field and Claude Wilson, with a qualification list that included traverses of La Meije and Les Ecrins; sat on the Committee, 1920-22, and was Vice-President of the Climbers' Club, 1937-40. He had been a scratch golfer at the Royal Wimbledon Club, Addington, and St. George's, Sandwich. Such are the bare facts.

But several generations of younger men, myself included, will remember him best as one who was always ready to offer them his friendship and guide their footsteps in the hills; he seemed happier leading beginners up a favourite route than in breaking new ground in experienced company. He was a good judge of a climber, too, and thought Hermann Steuri, Menlove Edwards, and Brenda Ritchie the best rock climbers he had seen at work; and a few days with Wilfrid Noyce were enough to tell him that he had a brilliant future—though he came off once in an easy place. (The fate of these two has been sadly linked; he took Wilf on his first alpine climb, and the announcement of their deaths was made to the Club together). 'He climbed down the South-west arête of the Mönch', Bradley told me, 'and then fell off the snow-slopes below and was fielded by a member of the Pinnacle Club!' I recall that on that night the three of us lay in a hideously crowded Strahlegg hut; at 5 p.m., when there was standing room only, the horrified occupants saw thirty school-children

approaching, joined by one piece of clothes-line. (From his Journal: 'Aug. 8th, 1935. Self, W.N. Strahlegg hut, 7 hours. Crowd awful. Aug. 9th started with W.N. for Schreckhorn but weather turned us on to Strahlegghorn'.) A mass migration followed, but the writer was not so lucky, Willy Steuri taking a nervous beginner up the Schreckhorn in a snowstorm. 'You must have had a windy time?', asked Bradley that evening in the 'Spotted Cat'. I had.

He started climbing when at Cambridge and soon showed an appetite for steep rock, for which he was physically endowed; tall and strong, with long arms and a low centre of gravity. For a man who was to spend so much of his life on exposed faces, it is interesting that after his war experience he temporarily lost his nerve and had to restore it from a flask, even on scree. He went much with G. R. Speaker in the 1920's and '30's and, like him, had pet climbs, especially on rock, all over the Alps, which he enjoyed introducing to younger men and women. The Eastern Oberland seems to have attracted him most; he spoke German fluently and knew the Engelhörner group better than most Swiss, and it was here that he made his only first ascent; the Engelhorn by the West wall straight up, with Niklaus Kohler (*A.J.* 34. 168-9). It contains some V.S. pitches on rotten rock, and Niklaus seems to have spent a considerable time standing on Bradley's head; at any rate, his published account ends with the words, 'neither of us wishes to repeat this climb'. 'After which,' he told me, 'I had the temerity to lead it myself.'

It is to his sister, Mrs. Phyllis Armstrong, that I am indebted for a sight of the daily journal that he kept from 1920 to the year of his death, and in which he faithfully recorded every one of his climbs and, between the lines, much of his inner life as well. The early entries are full of social and sporting life; later a note of pessimism creeps in.

In his early Alpine years, Niklaus Kohler was usually in the lead; later he went guideless, often with Speaker, and his list reads more like the *Führerbuch* of a Meiringen guide than of a visiting amateur. It shows strikingly his preference for favourite routes (207 expeditions on fewer than 80 peaks) and for rock climbs. The most frequently repeated climbs are:

Gr. & Kl. Simmelistock, 23 ascents; Kl. Wellhorn, 15; Fünffingerstöcke, 12; Kingspitz, ord. way, 7, by Teufelsgrat, 5; Tannenspitze, 7; Sattelspitze, 11; Mittelspitze, 10.

Much of his time he lived a bachelor life in London, but during the Second War he took up his permanent residence at the Bryn Tyrch Hotel, Capel Curig, and quickly established himself there as the 'autocrat of the breakfast-table' or, as I would prefer to phrase it, the aristocrat of the dinner-table, and entertaining younger climbers in his room. Here he would solve your problems over a 'Baby Blue',

express individual views on climbers and musicians, and perhaps himself warble in a pleasing baritone. In 1947, after a short illness, he decided to leave the Bryn Tyrch, and his journal records the last climb: '31st August, 1947. Ivy Chimney'.

A sister was found and he went to live with her in Kegworth, Derby. Those interested in this very human man will find a rough analogy between the illness that clouded his last weeks in Wales and the theme developed by Somerset Maugham in *The Lotus Eaters*; though by good fortune the dénouement was of an opposite kind, and he was spared to spend the rest of his days happily with Mrs. Armstrong.

With M. G. Bradley passes a survivor of a more gracious age. Whether dining a lady or leading a novice, he could make it charmingly clear that, in Guiseppe's words from *The Gondoliers*, he was, like all good guides, 'your equal in everything but his calling, and in that at once your master and—your servant'. I count it a privilege to have known him and to be asked to write in his memory. He was an exemplar of the apophthegm, "ripeness is all".

GUY N. CARRELL.

HERBERT SOMERSET BULLOCK

1871-1963

H. S. BULLOCK, who died on February 4, 1963, was a member of the Alpine Club from 1897 to 1921, when he retired, only to be re-elected in 1927. At the time of his death he had completed over fifty-nine years of membership.

He was a man of varied interests. Born September 3, 1871, he was the son of the Rev. Charles Bullock, sometime Rector of St. Nicholas, Worcester, and later engaged in publishing some popular newspapers, *Home Words*, *The Fireside Magazine*, and others. Somerset Bullock was educated at Blackheath and at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, where he studied law, taking his degree in 1892. At Cambridge, in addition to playing tennis and hockey for his College, he obtained his half-blue for Chess, playing for the University against Oxford in 1892. He continued his legal studies at Lincoln's Inn, but gave up the law to join his father in editing and publishing his various magazines, becoming full-time Assistant Editor and, on his father's death in 1911, Editor.

He did not forsake his athletic interests, however, and represented Sussex (and later, Surrey) at hockey, lawn-tennis and badminton (as well as at chess); his tennis in particular was in a high class and he played frequently with the Doherty brothers and the Allens.

His Alpine climbing began in 1887 and was continued in 1890, '94, '95 and '97, the last being the year of his election to the A.C. He generally climbed guideless, Walter Weston being his most frequent companion; in 1899 he was with Weston and Dr. Longstaff in the Oberland, the latter being his favourite region. He had climbed also with that unpleasant person, Aleister Crowley, both in the Alps and on Beachy Head, and in the first volume (p. 91) of the *Climbers' Club Journal* (he was an original member of the C.C.) he wrote a paper on 'Chalk Climbing on Beachy Head', describing scrambles in 1894 and later.

Several notes on alpine climbs appear in the *A.J.* concerning some of Bullock's climbs (19. pp. 89, 550, 622; 20. pp. 50, 263, 330; 23. p. 277), and he contributed a paper, 'August 1901 in the Bernese Oberland' to vol. 20 (p. 507). He also contributed obituary notices on his companions, Walter Weston and A. C. Downer.

Bullock was married twice, in 1902 to Christina Cardwell and secondly, in 1916 to May Morten Bond. He continued his editorial work, founding the *Church Standard* and continuing *Home Words*; the former ceased during the Second World War, but *Home Words* continues to this day, and has a huge circulation. In all, Bullock edited for nearly sixty years. In the parish of Stoke, near Guildford, he was for many years a regular reader of the lessons, and was also for some time Secretary to the Parochial Church Council.

An ardent photographer and an experienced lecturer, he often gave lectures on what was perhaps his favourite pursuit, mountaineering. The latter liking was inherited by at least one of his sons, Hugh Desmond Bullock, who was tragically killed in July 1949, during the A.C. Meet at Zermatt, when descending from Pollux.

H. S. Bullock's death removes from the Club's lists one of its few remaining members who were elected in the nineteenth century. To his widow and family we tender our sympathy in their loss.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

GIOVANNI BATTISTA GUGLIERMINA

1873-1962

Now the other of two famous brothers has left us. A few years ago it was Giuseppe; now is the turn of Battista, who, though a little younger, set bravely forth towards his ninetieth year, so that to see him strong and slender, as though made of some fine wood, one might certainly have expected him to attain it.

They were from Borgosesia and therefore it is natural that the beginning and ripening of their mountaineering, which I think started about 1893, began in their own valley which ends up against the splendid Valsesian face of Monte Rosa. In the publications of the C.A.I. we find them already mentioned in 1894 for an ascent on the Punta di Straling (3,115 m.) by the South-east face, and the South-west ridge, so even then they were in search of new routes.

But it is not necessary to turn the leaves of our own bulletins and reviews, or those of foreign clubs, to form a precise picture of their magnificent alpine deeds. Fortunately there exists a fundamental work in our literature, a large book entitled *Summits*, produced by them and their faithful companion and friend, Professor Giuseppe Lampugnani of Novara, which summarises and illustrates all their unprecedented expeditions in the Alps.

In fact, not all: Battista wanted thoroughly to celebrate his eightieth birthday in 1953 with a new route to Punta Giordani (4,046 m.) in the Monte Rosa group, forty-five years from the day when on that same mountain he had been the first to open the route by the North-east ridge. On this final expedition he had with him Francesco Ravelli, for so many years his faithful companion and friend, and his daughter. I have never worked out the number of years the party added up to on this occasion!

Let us open then *Summits*, which is a book of some 361 pages, excluding the index. There we find the first crossing of the Colle Vincent (4,100 m.); Punta Gnifetti (4,560 m.), the first ascent of the Valsesian face by the Colle Sesia and the South-west ridge; the first crossing of the Colle Zurbriggen (4,250 m.); Punta Giordani (4,046 m.) with the first ascent by the North-east ridge; Punta Grober or Monte delle Loccie (3,498 m.), where they were the first to climb the Flua ridge; and finally Corno Bianco (3,320 m.) where they took a different route on the North ridge, and then the Otro face and the North-east ridge. All these were in Valsesia.

We leave these and go to Sempione: the Fletschhorn (3,996 m.), of which they made the first climb by the East ridge; we turn to the Lyskamm (4,538 m.) with the first ascent of the East (highest) peak by the South-west face. We move on to Valtournanche with their exploration of the South ridge of Pic Tyndall on the Matterhorn, and finally we climb to the Mont Blanc range. Here was the first crossing of the Col Emile Rey (4,007 m.), then, on Mont Blanc, the first ascent by the South-west ridge and the first complete climb of Pic Luigi Amedeo (4,472 m.), thus named in honour of the Duke of the Abruzzi.

On Mont Blanc too the Guglierminas scaled the Innominata ridge, but this time they were the second to do so as another party had

preceded them. Let us continue with the first crossing of the Col Aiguille Verte (3,800 m.) and the Aiguille Verte itself (4,121 m.) where they were the first to climb the Nant Blanc glacier; Col Maudit (4,051 m.), and finally the first scaling of Punta Gugliermana (4,000 m.) on the Aiguille Blanche de Peuterey (4,109 m.).

But this is only a list of 'firsts', and the two brothers, using their limited holidays as keen and conscientious workmen, had been able to produce a remarkable 'curriculum' of other expeditions. I met them for the first time in the magnificent summer of 1911 while we were leaving the Schönbühl Cabin, they with Ravelli, myself with two German companions to climb the Zmutt ridge, a sizeable undertaking in those days. How often did we climb Mont Blanc by various routes, or other peaks in this or that range!

The Gugliermas (I am talking of Battista, but I must put them in the plural for they formed one single spirit) normally preferred to go without a guide: indeed one could probably count on the fingers of both hands the times they took one. But sometimes for their higher expeditions, lacking companions, they would take some local man with them to help in heavier duties but not in the planning of the expedition, nor on the actual rope-work.

It is sometimes remarked that the two brothers were rather slow judging by the remarkable number of their bivouacs. Apart from the normal heavy equipment of their time, Giuseppe was always laden with a huge and very heavy camera, complete with its plates, with which he took accurate photographs of the landscapes and characteristic events of the expeditions, often waiting at length for the right light, and admittedly losing time, but with what results! You can consider the photographs in *Summits* but a fragment of the collection. It cannot be said that too many bivouacs endangered their safety if one lived to be over eighty, and Battista came near to ninety.

Of the two, Battista was usually at the head of the rope. Like his brother he was a really good man, modest and incapable of hard feelings or jealousy, and because of this he was everybody's friend. Even in the most tragic moments of the civil war, when Borgosesia was one of the hot-beds of partisan and anti-partisan strife, the Gugliermas were never troubled by either side.

Abroad, especially in England, a country which is wary of sudden friendship, they enjoyed a very high regard. A climber never turned in vain to them for explanations, down-right advice, or requests for illustrative material. So I was not surprised when the Alpine Club discreetly sounded me out as to what would be thought in Italy of the idea of nominating them for honorary membership. They were, in fact, made honorary members in 1953, the year in which they were similarly honoured by the Italian Alpine Club.

At the Centenary of the Alpine Club it was right and proper that the names of the two brothers should be duly recorded amongst those who have most greatly honoured Italian mountaineering.

ALDO BONACOSSA.

ATHOLE EVELYN MURRAY

1881-1962

THE Reverend A. E. Murray, who died on April 27 last year, was born in Dorset and educated at Wimborne Grammar School, St. Edward's School, Oxford, and at Keble and Cuddesdon Colleges. He was ordained in 1905 and appointed Curate at High Wycombe, moving later to Chislehurst (1913-18). Although he continued active as a preacher, he was obliged to resign parish work at an early age, owing to persistent bad health. During the Second World War, however, he was in charge at St. Andrew's, Orpington.

He was elected to the A.C. in 1917, having been climbing spasmodically between 1903 and 1910 in the Alps, accomplishing a number of the standard big peaks in the Mont Blanc group and round Zermatt. In 1912 he visited Iceland, an expedition he described later in the *Alpine Journal* (vol. 40, pp. 85 sqq.). During the First World War he managed to get in two seasons in Wales, and there is a record of a return to the Alps in 1924, when he was still fit enough to do the Zmutt ridge of the Matterhorn. Ill health, however, dogged him and he climbed little in his later years except for a few peaks in Norway. But he never lost in any way his affection for mountains, and for the Alps most of all, and he had visited them only two months before his death. His wife, who often accompanied him on climbs, died in 1960.

He was a very keen photographer, contributing to many magazines as well as to A.C. Exhibitions. An amateur musician of some talent, he had written many pieces of Church music, and was also an enthusiastic collector of gramophone records.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

CHARLES WILLIAM NETTLETON

1871-1962

WHEN Nettleton died, on September 13 last year, a month after his ninety-first birthday, the Alpine Club lost one of its most popular figures and a member of over sixty-one years' standing. For long he

was regularly present at Club meetings, whilst his record of attendances at A.C. annual dinners extended (including his coming as a guest) from 1893 to 1960 without a single dinner missed.

Born August 16, 1871, he was educated at Whitgift School, Croydon, and at the time of his election to the A.C. his profession was given as that of Accountant to a Brewery. But his professional life was the least side of him, whilst the range of his athletic interests was almost incredibly large. As a boy at his school sports, in 1882, he won, in a single afternoon, every event (ten of them) open to boys under twelve. From boyhood, too, he had been a horseman and a cyclist, the former activity later including polo and hunting, the latter done during the days of the old 'penny-farthing' cycle. In the 80's and 90's he made extensive cycle tours in Europe; in 1889, on a 58½-inch 'wheel', he broke the one hour record with over 22 miles, and in 1894 the standing-start mile in 2 mins. 23½ seconds.

He drove his first motor cars in 1895, in Switzerland and France, nearly two years before they were permitted on the roads in England, and he claimed to have covered a million and a quarter miles by 1950. Among his other athletic interests were Rugby football, which he played for over twenty years; golf, hockey, lacrosse, tennis, rowing, ski-ing, curling, skating, tobogganing and water polo. But he did not consider himself much good at cricket.

He commenced climbing as a boy, on British hills, and went to the Alps for the first time in 1891, being elected to the A.C. ten years later, proposed by E. A. Broome and seconded by C. E. Mathews. The record of all his climbing is not before me, but he had made over 500 ascents in the Alps or elsewhere (Matterhorn seven times), these including a novel route up the North face of the Aletschhorn in 1904 and the first descent of the South face of the Bietschhorn in 1905 (*A.J.* 24. 88, and 59. 465). The Oberland appears to have been a favourite region of his.

At home, he accomplished the first ascent of Vanishing Gully, Craig-yr-Ysfa (Abraham, *Rock-Climbing in North Wales*, pp. 74-77) in 1904, and the following year made the second ascent of the East buttress of Lliwedd and a new climb on Snowdon (*id.*, pp. 221-7). He seemed to have met all the pioneers of British hill climbing, and he entertained a happy memory of how, in the 90's, he had a fight with that peculiar individual, Aleister Crowley, and gave him a black eye.

To many people interested in the literature of mountaineering, he was very well known as a collector and dealer in rare Alpine books, and the A.C. library has stood indebted to him on more than one occasion. The other interest that will occur to anyone who knew him was his enthusiasm for archery. He was never a great performer himself (he only took it up about 1930), but he became a great figure on the

organizing side of the sport and ran many competitions both at home and abroad. He was Hon. Treasurer of the Royal Toxophilite Society from 1934 to 1956; President of the Grand National Archery Society from 1946-50; and for many years a Vice-President of the International Federation for Archery. Mrs. Nettleton (whom he had married in 1898) was a famous archer, being joint World Lady Champion in 1938 and British National Champion in 1939. She was, of course, also a distinguished mountaineer, and President of the Ladies' Alpine Club from 1920-1923.

Until the last two or three years, Nettleton was a familiar figure in the Alpine Club, though after he had moved to Devon he could attend meetings less frequently. But it is difficult to think of any member in his time who exemplified better the first principle of Rule 2 of the Club, the promotion of good fellowship among mountaineers, and it is safe to say that all who knew him will feel his death sincerely. To his son and to his daughter, Mrs. Moxon, we extend our sympathy in their loss, which is one that we all share.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

JAMES BASIL OLDHAM

1882-1962

BASIL OLDHAM, who died on November 24, 1962, was one of those rare people that a family may produce every other generation. More often than not such men are associated with the Church, or a monastic foundation, with an Oxford or Cambridge College or, as in his case, with a school. He was born on February 28, 1882. The three generations of his family before him, both on his father's and on his mother's sides, belonged to the Victorian professional class, medicine, the Church, finance. Its members were highly cultured, one or two exceptionally so, perhaps to the point of eccentricity. Oldham's mother was twice married, on both occasions to a parson: his father, the Ven. A. L. Oldham, became Archdeacon of Ludlow. One of his collateral ancestors was Bishop Oldham of Exeter (1519) founder of Manchester Grammar School whose rebus (an owl) appears on the Oldham coat of arms. His godfather was Bishop King (1829-1910), the nearest thing, he averred, to a saint in modern times. By tradition, therefore, as well as by environment, Basil Oldham was associated with the Church, of which he acquired a deep knowledge. If one seeks to explain the two sides of Oldham's character it would seem that his

originality derived from his father; his traditionalism from his mother for whom, as the youngest of her six sons, he had great affection.

Oldham was at Shrewsbury School in Moser's House (1897-1901); at Christ Church, Oxford, from 1901-1905. He joined the staff at Shrewsbury as History master under Moss in 1906, an appointment confirmed in 1908 by the Rev. C. A. Alington, who said in later years that it was one of the best things he had done for the school. Oldham became School Librarian in 1910, and was appointed as housemaster in 1911. His House started at No. 2, Quarry Place until the completion of the new house in September, 1912, known since 1932 as Oldham's Hall.

In July, 1960, he had been a master at the School for fifty-four years, longer than any other in its history. On his retirement as Librarian on December 20, 1960 (the day on which he received the Gold Medal of the Bibliographical Society), after more than fifty years' service, he was honoured as Librarian Emeritus, and his portrait was commissioned to be hung in the room in which he had worked for so long.

What meant most, however, to Oldham in his life was his twenty-one years as a housemaster, by which he wished to be remembered. But he will also be remembered for his scholarship. Though he missed a First Class degree at Oxford, he had a first class intellect, a retentive and exact memory that remained all his life. Talented, erudite and unusually sensitive, he had, as a boy, enjoyed the influence of a home where culture came second only to religion. His contributions to learning were made mostly in relation to his lifelong devotion to Shrewsbury School, particularly his *History of Shrewsbury School, 1552-1952*, commemorating its fourth centenary. But in terms of scholarship his work on the School's history must take second place. Outstanding, even internationally recognised, is his work on book bindings: *Shrewsbury School Library Bindings* (1943) and his later volumes of 1949 (the Sanders Lectures of 1948) and of 1958. These led in 1954 to his election to a Fellowship of the Society of Antiquaries and, what gave him most pleasure of all, to the award of the Gold Medal of the Bibliographical Society in 1960. In thirty-two years the medal has been awarded sixteen times only, and only eleven times to British bibliographers. To celebrate his eightieth birthday in 1962, the March number of the *Library* was dedicated to him as a *Festschrift*.

Those whose privilege it was to know Basil Oldham will remember him essentially as a humanist in the Christian tradition. His ideal was that of service, service to God through what use he could be to others, a call that upheld him all his life. His influence touched any who had contact with him, whether they liked it or not. Those in his life whom he helped were innumerable; some financially for their education. His father had left him a modest competence; he ended

with practically nothing, owning only the roof over his head without the means to keep it up. And up to his last years he was still helping old ladies with annuities he could ill spare.

After his love for boys came his love for mountains. Since childhood at Bridgnorth, Oldham had enjoyed the hills, and later went on walking tours in Wales. As a young schoolmaster at Shrewsbury he used to take boys walking in the holidays, occasionally to Switzerland to skate or ski. It was a way a housemaster could get to know those who were to become monitors. What had put him off climbing was his dislike of the jargon talked by the rock devotees he met in the Welsh inns. But in the Easter of 1925 he met Sydney Spencer, then Honorary Secretary of the Alpine Club, at Pen-y-pass, and was persuaded to try the real thing. That summer the head-elect of his house happened to be rather a diffident boy, and feeling that initiative might derive from climbing, Oldham proposed a holiday at Grindelwald where Spencer introduced him to Hans Kaufmann. The attraction of their first ascent, the Jungfrau, of the High Alps and of mountaineering was immediate; from the age of forty-four all his summer holidays were spent climbing with a boy or two who did not, however, participate in the more difficult ascents. Grindelwald, at the Hotel Schöneegg, was Oldham's favourite centre, but he seldom failed to visit Zermatt, and on occasion Chamonix, Kandersteg, Adelboden or Arolla.

Though always a strong walker Oldham had started climbing too late to become technically proficient, and to acquire the confidence to climb without guides. Most of his ascents were made with Hans Kaufmann from Grindelwald or with Franz Imboden from Zermatt; he had at first no thought of joining the Alpine Club, and only did so on Spencer's urging after two good seasons in 1928 and 1929.¹ In the second he made a traverse of the Matterhorn from the Schwarzsee by the Swiss and Italian routes, returning by the Furggjoch in thirteen hours. He also assisted in the accident on the Dent Blanche in which Franziskus Taugwalder lost his life (*A.J.* 41. 435). His election to the Club in December, 1929, gave him the satisfaction it gives to all who are not great mountaineers, and a happiness which lasted his life. Indeed it is difficult to convey how much his brief contact with mountaineering meant to him. To the schoolmaster concerned to discipline mind and body, it balanced the intellectual achievements of a man not formally athletic. Mountains may not make a man religious, but they purify his religion; and some of the happiest days of Oldham's life were spent in the Alps with boys he took there. In the Alpine Club he

¹ He was elected on December 9, 1929, and his application form bears the endorsement by the then President Claude Wilson, 'very good', which indeed it was, considering that Oldham was then forty-seven, and he had accounted for a good many of the greater peaks of the Oberland.—T.S.B.

found a tradition of adventure and scholarship combined with friendliness which brought lecturers to the Schools: Frank Smythe, who replied to one of his letters 'by return of post' from the North Col, a letter now in the School Library; N. E. Odell, whose son went to Shrewsbury; Charles Evans, himself an Old Salopian, and others. From 1932, on account of a nervous breakdown, he did not climb in Switzerland again, but returned to walking Welsh hills in which Beddgelert and Dolgelly were favourite centres. He never ceased to stress the value of hill walking as a means of character training, and his war and post-war work amongst cadets and club boys encouraged many to find themselves by camping in the hills. In his seventy-third year he made the ascent of Cader Idris three times within a week; and his last ascent of Snowdon was made at seventy-six.

A. E. GUNTHER.

LANCELOT WILLIAM ROLLESTON

1869-1962

DR. L. W. ROLLESTON, the senior member of the Alpine Club at the time of his death on December 7 last, had completed sixty-four years of membership. He was born in New Zealand on October 30, 1869, the son of William Rolleston, formerly of Maltby in Yorkshire, who had emigrated soon after leaving Cambridge, in 1858; the father became a distinguished figure in the political world of New Zealand.

L. W. Rolleston (the 'Long Man' as he was known to many of his friends, for he stood six-foot-four—at college he was nicknamed 'Chang', after the famous Chinese giant of that name in the last century) was educated first at Christchurch College, Canterbury, N.Z. and then came to England to study at Durham University and at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. He worked for a while at Bart's under his relative, Sir Humphrey Rolleston. On leaving, he specialised in mental work, first at Tooting and later at Napsbury Hospital, near St. Albans. During the war of 1914-18, Napsbury was turned into a military hospital; Rolleston remained there as Lieut.-Colonel in charge, and was afterwards made a C.B.E. He retired from medical practice at the age of fifty-five.

Rolleston commenced climbing in 1895, though he had visited Switzerland before that. His climbs for qualification to the Alpine Club, to which he was elected on December 12, 1898 (Proposer, S. F. Still; Seconder, H. V. Reade) included Jungfrau, Trifhorn and joch, Rimpfischhorn, Ober Gabelhorn, Zinal Rothorn traverse, Dent Blanche, Weisshorn, Grands and Petits Charmoz, and Grépon traverse.



L. W. ROLLESTON

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In 1899, with H. V. Reade and H. A. Beeching, he climbed the North peak of the Dent des Bouquetins by a new route (*A.ŷ.* 20. 114) and the year following, with Reade, made a variation on the Fletschhorn (*A.ŷ.* 20. 329). 1902 found him in the Alps with Dr. Tom Longstaff, and a very active holiday included a partly new route on the Pte. de la Glière (20. 335) and the first guideless ascent of Mont Herbetet by the South ridge (see Longstaff's paper, 'An Eccentric Holiday' in *A.ŷ.* 21. 377).

In 1903, after a visit to the Lake District in April with Longstaff and Cajrati-Crivelli, Rolleston set out with Longstaff alone for the Caucasus. Most Caucasian expeditions up to then had had guides or had been large parties, but the two of them had a most successful visit, with five first ascents (*A.ŷ.* 22. 93-105). Other novel routes in the Alps included, in 1907, a variation in the descent of La Nonne, East face (*A.ŷ.* 59. 465). In 1911 he ascended the Nord End from Macugnaga and, in a long day, traversed the Dent Blanche by the Viereselsgrat, descending by the Ferpècle ridge and reaching Zermatt the same evening over the Col d'Hérens. In 1913, with H. C. Bowen, on a traverse from south to north of the Grépon and Grands Charmoz, they made a variation on the ascent of the Grépon (the 'Lochmatter' chimney—*A.ŷ.* 28. 83).

Although, as Farrar once remarked (*A.ŷ.* 29. 353)—and he had climbed for several seasons with Rolleston—no one seemed less to need the services of a guide than he (and indeed, most of his climbing was done guideless), he came in his later seasons to like the convenience of a guide, Josef Lochmatter being his favourite. The two Lochmatters, Franz and Josef, have become classic names by now; it is of interest that Rolleston considered that Josef was the better all-round mountaineer of the two brothers, though Franz was the finer rock climber.¹

Rolleston did not climb, apparently, after 1913. The break of the war years, and increasing weight, decided him not to resume mountaineering, and he took to salmon fishing, becoming very expert. He had long been a keen golfer, playing regularly at Walton Heath, and his other great passion was bridge, frequenting the bridge room at the Portland Club and, later, at the St. James's. He was also a member of the Bath Club.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

DR. LONGSTAFF writes:

Lance Rolleston was the finest all-round mountaineer with whom I have ever climbed. I had the good luck to meet him when we both

¹ Not everyone will share this opinion; but I once asked the late R. W. Lloyd what he thought of Rolleston's view, and he said he agreed with it.—T.S.B.

wanted to climb guideless and we decided to 'go it alone', two only on the rope, although in those days this was considered quite unorthodox. We agreed that two are always faster than three; speed is a definite source of safety, and unless the third man is equal in every way to the others, he is a liability.

Rolleston was a formidable man—six-foot-four and physically tireless. A Scottish inn-keeper once described him as 'a deil of a mon' and this gave him the nickname, 'The Deil'. A leader must dominate his environment; this Rolleston always did. As a result, he radiated a confidence which inspired his companions.

After two seasons in the Alps together, I persuaded him to come to the Caucasus, and it was here that his magnificent icecraft and sense of timing showed themselves most clearly. In five first ascents, we were only once overtaken by darkness on the mountain and forced to bivouack—and this, from the start, we knew to be inevitable.

His balance on ice was superb and he was a mighty step-cutter. He also had the ability to find the quickest way on to, up or down, and off a glacier which he had never seen before. How often did he shout to me, 'Get on; you're too slow!' and he would take over the lead himself. When it came to rock he would say: 'Here, up you go', and, as the light-weight, I would get shouldered up on to some awkward mantelshelf, to lead in my turn.

Temperamentally, we were very different. Rolleston was something of a sybarite and, in the Alps, would prefer a longish day rather than exchange his comfortable hotel bed for a hut. After an especially memorable climb, the quality of our wine would be calculated according to the tariff of the guide we had done without.

More important, Rolleston's profession came first with him. Six years older than I, he was already a distinguished alienist and a pioneer of the more reasonable treatment of mental illness. He could not spare the time for Himalayan exploration. I had taken a medical degree only as a step towards my goal of mountain travel. So, after 1905, to my regret, we had little opportunity of climbing together. Now, when looking back to those early days, I think that they were unique for pure enjoyment and good fortune. Neither on snow, ice or rock did I ever see Lance Rolleston take a chance. He was always secure: to me, security itself.