PERSONAL.—M. Armand Charlet, Herr Albert Eggler, and Mr. C. F. Meade have been elected Honorary Members of the Alpine Club.

M. Charlet has recently retired after forty-seven years climbing as a guide; in the course of his career he made nearly 3,000 expeditions in the Alps, ninety-nine of them since becoming a grandfather! After twenty years’ service he is not standing again for election as Mayor of Argentière.

Herr Albert Eggler is President of the Swiss Alpine Club and was leader of the successful Swiss Mount Everest expedition of 1956.

Mr. C. F. Meade is known for his Himalayan travels and particularly for his attempts on Kamet; to him is due the credit for discovering the only practicable route up the mountain and he was unlucky not to have reached the summit. In the Alps he made many expeditions including the first descent of the North-east arête of the Jungfrau with Ulrich and Heinrich Fuhrer in 1903—eight years before the first ascent of the ridge.

We congratulate Mr. A. E. Gunther on having been elected an Honorary Member of the Club Andino Venenolano de Merida.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.—Although the first ascent of the Matterhorn overshadowed all other achievements in 1865, several notable ascents were made in the course of the summer. A. W. Moore and Horace Walker broke away from contemporary practice by carrying out an extensive tour with only one guide, Jakob Anderegg. Among their first ascents were Piz Roseg, the Ober Gabelhorn and the Pigne d’Arolla.1 Joined by G. S. Mathews and Frank Walker with Melchior Anderegg they also made the first ascent of Mont Blanc from the Brenva glacier. Such was the reputation of the old Brenva route that by the end of the century it had only been repeated six times. The ascent was one of Jakob Anderegg’s greatest achievements and Moore considered it a ‘providential circumstance’ that Jakob, and not Melchior, was in the lead when the famous ice arête was reached.

Whymper too had a remarkable run of successes before reaching Zermatt on July 12. The West (lower) peak of the Grandes Jorasses,

1 Whymper had examined the Ober Gabelhorn from all sides a few weeks previously and ‘had declined its ascent on account of its apparent difficulty’. Scrambles, 1st edition, p. 385.
the Aiguille Verte, the Col de Talèfre, the Col Dolent, and the Grand Cornier all fell to him and his guides. A veritable race took place on the Lauterbrunnen Breithorn, where the Swiss, Edmund von Fellenberg, and his four guides reached the summit only some five or ten minutes before J. J. Hornby and T. H. Philpott with Christian Almer and Christian Lauener. This famous pair, Hornby and Philpott, also made the first ascent of the North-west face of the Silberhorn, a route that was not repeated for over sixty years. The Gross Nesthorn was climbed by H. B. George and A. Mortimer with Christian Almer; the latter’s son Ulrich, then a sixteen-year old lad, was also in the party.

Among peaks of the Eastern Alps to be climbed in 1865 for the first time were the Cima Tosa, Monte Cevedale and Monte Cristallo, while at the other end of the Alpine chain, Thomas Blanford and his friends made the first ascent of the Tsanteleina.

Swiss mountaineers were also active; von Fellenberg, with Peter Egger and two other guides, climbed the Gross Griinhorn, while the Dammastock fell to Albert Hoffmann-Burckhardt.

Some enterprising Pontresina guides made the first ascent of Piz Aela and brought upon themselves the wrath of a future President of the Alpine Club for having dared to make a first ascent without a ‘Herr’! ‘Unaccompanied by any impediment in the way of Herrschaft’, wrote Douglas Freshfield, the ascent was ‘an accountable proceeding which surely calls for our most severe reprobation. The gamekeeper who should choose the moment when his employer’s game was nearly exhausted to go out by himself and shoot off the few remaining pheasants would, it seems to me, be guilty of an offence venial in comparison to that of these guides, for maiden peaks, unfortunately for us, cannot as yet, like pheasants, be bred on the farmyard, or sent down by the morning express from town.’

E. N. Buxton, F. C. Grove, and R. J. S. Macdonald, after making the first ascent of the Aiguille de Bionnassay at the end of July, on August 8 crossed from Chamonix to Courmayeur by way of the Dôme du Goûter and glacier du Dôme. This was the first expedition in which ‘Young’ Peter Taugwalder is known to have taken part after the Matterhorn disaster, but his presence in the party resulted in the withdrawal of one of the Chamonix guides, who refused to travel with him; a consequence of the wild tales and insinuations about the disaster spread in the village by Michel Croz’s brother, Jean-Baptiste, who had recently returned from Zermatt.

A GIFT TO THE ALPINE CLUB.—Colonel C. A. N. Hudson, grandson of the Rev. Charles Hudson, has, as a Matterhorn Centenary gift,
presented to the Club a portrait in colour of his grandfather. It is a
full-face portrait, possibly rather earlier in date than those already
familiar to readers, and it will fill a serious gap in the Club’s pictures of
its early members. The thanks of the Club go to Colonel Hudson and
other members of the family who have selected so appropriate a year
for making the gift.

WALTER WESTON.—Although a quarter of a century has passed since
the death of the Rev. Walter Weston, it is pleasing to know that he is
not forgotten in Japan. A few of his Japanese admirers have recently
erected a small monument at Tokimata in memory of his journeys down
the river Tenryu. Incorporated in the memorial is a flint from the
garden of Weston’s former home at Wimbledon.

Professor Okamura of Tokyo has recently translated into Japanese
one of Weston’s books, Mountaineering and Exploration in the Japanese
Alps, and during a visit to London in June he presented a copy of the
Japanese edition to the Alpine Club.

These tributes to the memory of Walter Weston will be greatly appre­
ciated by all members of the Alpine Club and are further evidence that
he was held in high esteem in Japan.

A CORRECTION.—M. André Roch has written to me to say that there
is a mathematical mistake in his paper, ‘An Approach to the Mechanism
of Avalanche Release’, published in our last number (A.J. 70. 57–68).
He says: ‘In the formula given on p. 59, note 3, a plus sign has been
used instead of a multiplication sign. The formula should have read
\[ H_T = H_0 \times T^{0.26} \].’ M. Roch goes on to say: ‘Even so, the formula is
physically incorrect. It is sufficient to say that the tensile strength
of snow is proportional to the power of the temperature in degrees
Centigrade without the negative sign, up to about three degrees below
freezing. However, the conclusions drawn in the paper regarding the
influence of a change of temperature on the strength of the snow are
correct.’

On p. 57, note 1, acknowledgement was made to Dr. de Quervain for
his suggestions on the French text of M. Roch’s paper. I should have
mentioned in that note that Dr. Marcel de Quervain is the Director of
the Weissfluhjoch Institute (the Swiss Institute for Snow and Avalanche
Research), and is a son of the geophysicist, Alfred de Quervain, who
crossed Greenland in 1912 from the West coast to Angmagssalik.

A. D. M. Cox.

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL.—On re-reading L. S. Amery’s Days of
Fresh Air, I think it is clear that Sir Winston Churchill did not have
Amery with him on his ascent of Monte Rosa, as I inadvertently stated
on p. 134 of our last issue, but climbed the mountain independently.

T. S. B.
Cecil Arthur Hunt (1873–1965).—Cecil Hunt, the well-known artist, died last August at the age of ninety-two. He had been a member of the Alpine Club from 1908 to 1952, and was the doyen of British watercolour artists. Educated at Winchester and Trinity College, Cambridge, he was trained as a barrister, and practised until 1919, when he devoted himself entirely to painting and rapidly established his fame. He specialised in mountain scenes and had a markedly Turner-esque touch. The Alpine Club is the possessor of one or two of his works, and others are in the collections of the British Museum, Victoria and Albert Museum, and in galleries in all parts of the world.

Matterhorn Centenary.—Some corrections and additions may be made to the articles in our last issue. As mentioned on p. 37 of that number it was hoped that more climbs by ‘Old’ Peter Taugwalder might be brought to light. One, unaccountably omitted by the writers of the article (for they had noted it in A.j. 61. 501), was the Zermatt Breithorn, on September 2, 1861. This was made with E. G. Schweitzer and ‘Young’ Peter and is recorded in P.P. & G., 2nd series, vol. 1, 343 sqq. Although an ascent of the Breithorn does not amount to much, Schweitzer’s good opinion of ‘Old’ Peter deserves quoting, for he speaks of him as ‘one of the most trustworthy and experienced icemen of Zermatt’.

P. 14, (32): For ‘Nostovski’ read ‘Mostowski’.

P. 15, (35): Mention might well have been made of two unsuccessful attempts on this West face, those of Amilcare Crétiez and Leonardo Pession in 1931, and of Luigi Carrel and Carlo Taddei in 1947.3

Illustration No. 9: This is not accurately captioned; the photograph was taken from the Hohbalm which, though it can be used as a route to the Schönbiühl hut, should not be described as ‘the Schönbiühl path’.

The July issue of Der Bergsteiger was entirely devoted to the Matterhorn and contained a photograph of a letter from the Rev. W. H. Hawker to Edmund von Fellenberg which reveals that Whymper’s letter to the latter, dated July 25, 1865, was first given to Hawker and handed by him to Herr P. Ober of the Hotel-Pension Schlössl at Interlaken, for translation into French and German before being transmitted to von Fellenberg.

The City of London and Exploration.—On May 11, 1965, a Livery Dinner was held by the Fishmongers’ Company, at Fishmongers’ Hall, London Bridge, it being made the occasion to emphasise the connection that has long existed between the City and exploration. The Alpine Club was well represented, for not only was the dinner presided over by an A.C. member (A. D. Malcolm), as Prime Warden of

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the Fishmongers’ Company, but other representatives of the Club were the President (Eric Shipton), the Vice-President (Sir Douglas Busk), H. W. Tilman and John Tyson. The Royal Geographical Society and the Mount Everest Foundation were also represented. The other half of the picture, the City’s connection with enterprise in the widest exploratory sense, was represented by a number of concerns, among which a special place of distinction was held by the greatest of the remaining Chartered Companies, the Hudson’s Bay Company. The toast of the Guests was proposed by the Prime Warden, and Lord Rennell, a past President of the Royal Geographical Society, proposed that of the Fishmongers’ Company.

**Mont Blanc: Early References in America.**—Dr. Monroe Thorginton has found further evidence that publishers in the U.S.A. were on the look-out for Alpine material in the first part of the last century. In addition to the four entries already noted (A.J. 69. 285), the following occur:


(7) *The New Yorker*, September 13, 1851. The ascent of Mont Blanc by Albert Smith.


**Guides.**—Camille Ravanel, doyen of the Chamonix guides, died on March 1, 1965, in his ninety-first year; he was a brother of the famous Joseph Ravanel, ‘le Rouge’.

Camille’s most notable achievement was the first crossing of the Col des Droites in August, 1902, with Fräulein Rochat of Stuttgart, and Jean Ducroz. The ascent of the Argentière side of the pass took fourteen hours, the col being reached at 7.15 p.m. The great couloir on the Talèfre side was descended during the evening and early part of the night, and not until 12.15 a.m. did the party find a suitable place for a bivouac. Twenty-eight years elapsed before the second passage was made.

Camille had the distinction of being with the first French party to ascend Mont Blanc by the old Brenva route when he was M. Manoury’s guide in 1906. He also made the first winter ascent of the Tour Noir.

The death of Franz Steiner, at the age of eighty, is reported from Austria. After two years as porter, Steiner became a guide in 1906.
On September 22, 1909, he and his brother acquired fame by forcing a route up the central portion of the great South face of the Dachstein, emerging just west of the summit—the Steinerweg, a great achievement in those days and one that ensures a place for the two brothers in mountaineering history.

César Petrig died at Zermatt in April. He was in his seventy-seventh year when he led his last party up the Matterhorn.

The Season of Winter Ascents.—*Alpinismus*, June 1965, p. 7, attributes the first winter ascent of the Swiss ridge of the Matterhorn to G. Corona and four guides in 1875. Studer (*Ueber Eis und Schnee*, vol. ii, p. 181) reveals that this ascent was made on May 12; it is not, apparently, accepted as a winter ascent by that great authority, M. Marcel Kurz, who assigns the first winter ascent from Zermatt to Charles Simon with Alexander Burgener and Alois Pollinger on March 27, 1894.

The suggestion that an ascent made on May 12 should rank as a winter ascent prompts an investigation into the qualifying dates for such expeditions.

Coolidge is said to have declared that a winter ascent must be carried out between November 15 and March 31 and a reviewer in *A.J.* 40. 208 adds that this definition should stand. If it is adhered to, many so-called ‘first winter ascents’ fail to qualify (including two of those listed on the Matterhorn in *A.J.* 70. 8. sqq.).

The point is taken up by *Alpinismus* (June, 1965, p. 58), which suggests that the period should be even shorter than that proposed by Coolidge and should be limited to the calendar winter, December 21–March 21. The three volumes of the Vallot Guide to the Chain of Mont Blanc record more than sixty first winter ascents. A number of these were achieved in April and the latest date is May 10 (Aiguille du Peigne). On the other hand, G. A. Hasler, when he made the first ascent of the Grindelwald Dru on May 13, 1901, (*A.J.* 20. 466) made no claim for it to be considered a winter ascent.

Coolidge’s first date of November 15 would seem to be as early as can be admitted; the very most one could stretch his second date would be by one month, thus allowing climbs made in April to count as ‘winter’ ascents.

A May ascent would seem to have little or no claim to qualify. However bad and wintry the conditions may be, the daylight hours (i.e. between sunrise and sunset) are approximately double as long in mid-May as in mid-December; nor would such low temperatures be expected in May as in the winter months.

Having regard to all the considerations mentioned, it would seem that

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*See *A.J.* 34. 135 and 70. 11.*
perhaps the most suitable range of dates would be from December 1 to April 30.

We would be glad to hear from members of the Club, and others, what their opinions may be.

**Swiss Glaciers.**—The *Commission des Glaciers* in its report for 1962–3 once again confirms the continued retreat of most of the Swiss glaciers.

Ninety-three glaciers were observed; ten of these were advancing, six were stationary and the remainder were retreating.

The Cambrena glacier, in the Adda basin, made the greatest progress, advancing by 93 ft.; the glacier du Trient advanced by 63 ft., while in the Bernese Oberland the Rosenlau, Ober Grindelwald, and Eiger glaciers all showed advances of 30 ft. or more.

Several glaciers shrunk by more than 200 ft., the Ferpecle glacier showing the biggest retreat, 600 ft. In the Pontresina district the Roseg, Tschierva, Morteratsch, and Palü glaciers were all shrinking and the Rhone glacier retreated by 225 ft.

**Winter Mountaineering.**—A few days before Walter Bonatti’s remarkable solo ascent of the North face of the Matterhorn in February, Italian parties achieved two other notable winter ascents.

On February 4–5, L. Betteneschi, F. Jacchini, M. Pala, and L. Pironi made the first winter ascent of the Dufourspitze of Monte Rosa by the East, or Macugnaga, face. Leaving the Marinelli hut about midnight they were overtaken by a severe snowstorm later in the day and had to bivouack at 4,500 m.; during the night the temperature fell to \(-40^\circ\text{C.}\) They reached the summit at 11.15 a.m. on the 5th. These men were guides of Macugnaga and were excellently equipped with special boots and a wireless transmitter, though this broke down and the consequent silence caused concern in Macugnaga. Contrary to some of the published reports, this was not the first winter ascent of the Monte Rosa Ostwand. On March 9–11, 1953, E. Amossi and O. Elli crossed the Silbersattel from Macugnaga to Zermatt. They bivouacked twice at 3,900 m. and 4,300 m. and like the 1965 party were overtaken by bad weather and suffered severe frost-bite, Amossi losing all his toes and several finger joints.\(^5\)

Three other Italian guides, Alessio and Attilio Ollier and F. Salluard made the first winter ascent of Mont Blanc by the *via della Pera*. This party left the Torino refuge on February 9 and reached the summit of Mont Blanc at 8 p.m. next day. As on Monte Rosa very severe cold was experienced with temperatures as low as \(-38^\circ\text{C.}\). With this ascent

all the four great routes on the Brenva face of Mont Blanc have now been climbed in winter.

In the period March 9–13 a Polish party made the first winter ascent of the North face of the Aiguille Verte by the ‘direct’ Contamine route; a French party opened this route in 1962. Four bivouacs were needed, three of them on the great rocky triangle separating the Couloir Couturier from the Couloir Cordier. Conditions were bad, the rocks being covered with loose snow and in some place with verglas. The summit was reached soon after sunrise on March 13.⁶

**Ball’s Pyramid.**—The expedition referred to in the footnote on p. 137 of our last issue succeeded in making the first ascent of the Pyramid. A party of seven effected a landing on the rock on February 10 and established a Base Camp 50 ft. up the cliff face. Bryden Allen and David Witham had a lucky escape in the course of a reconnaissance next day when a 20 ft. high pinnacle being used as a belay collapsed and toppled off the ridge. Three days later they camped at c. 1,200 ft. on the South ridge of the Pyramid and after a final climb of 500 ft. up a jagged, knife-edge arete, reached the summit, 1,843 ft., at 2.30 p.m. on February 14; a few minutes later they were joined by John Davis and Jack Pettigrew. The summit consisted of a small, level platform about thirty yards in diameter on top of the steep final tower of the Pyramid.

**Greenland.**—A Royal Navy mountaineering expedition will visit Greenland in the summer of 1966. It will consist of twelve men, nine from the Royal Navy Ski and Mountaineering Club, one each from the Army and R.A.F., and a civilian geologist. The leader will be Lt.-Cdr. M. B. Thomas, A.C., who has both Alpine and Himalayan experience.

The expedition proposes to climb and explore in the Schweizerland area of East Greenland.⁷ The majority of the peaks near the coast have been climbed by previous expeditions but further inland there are vast unexplored areas.

A Base Camp will be established about forty miles inland and with this object in view it is intended to lay depots in spring when sledding conditions are at their best and to travel light in mid-July when temperatures are more suitable for difficult mountaineering.

**South Georgia.**—Readers of one of the most vivid books of travel ever written, Shackleton’s *South*, are presented there, amid much else, with two outstanding episodes: the great boat journey from Elephant Island to South Georgia and the first crossing of the latter island by Shackleton, Worsley and Crean to get help sent from the whaling station at Stromness to the three other members of the party left behind at

⁶ For an account of this expedition see *Alpinismus*, July 1965, pp. 10–11.
⁷ This district was discovered and so named by the de Quervain expedition of 1912.
King Haakon’s Bay. In 1955 Duncan Carse was able to repeat some of the land journey, and in 1964 a Combined Services Expedition led by Lt.-Cdr. M. K. Burley, R.N., included in an ambitious programme a re-tracing of the whole route followed in 1916. This was achieved with great precision and the party, after experiencing formidable blizzards, duly arrived at Stromness, ‘tired and saturated but immensely elated and with a deep and profound admiration for those three great men who had taken this route nearly fifty years ago’.

This repeat journey after so many years was a fine achievement and bears comparison with W. M. Herbert’s traverse of Amundsen’s Axel Heiberg glacier journey, also fifty years later, noted in A.J. 68. 340.

T. S. B.

KILIMANJARO.—Kaiser Wilhelm Spitze, 19,340 ft., the highest point of Kilimanjaro, has been renamed Uhuru Point.

MOUNT EVEREST FOUNDATION.—Applications for grants for the 1966 season should be received at the M.E.F. offices (c/o Royal Geographical Society, Kensington Gore, London, S.W.7) by January 1.

The M.E.F. has completed ten years of existence. Up to March 31, 1965, and including sums distributed in 1954 by the Joint Himalayan Committee, prior to the formal incorporation of the M.E.F., the Foundation has supported 210 expeditions and made grants totalling £127,190.

MOUNT EVEREST AND THE MONSOON.—Weather conditions govern in no small way the chances of success on Everest, as on other mountains, and past records of climbs have contained discussions on meteorology, mostly from the northern side of the mountain. In the Indian Journal of Meteorology and Geophysics., vol. 15, April, 1964 (offprint in the A.C. library), T. M. K. Nedungadi and T. R. Srinivasan present the results of a study of daily precipitation, temperature and winds during the months of May and June from 1952 to 1962, on the southern side. Their conclusions are:

(i) That winds post-monsoon are stronger than pre-monsoon.
(ii) That although post-monsoon weather is more stable than pre-monsoon, the latter period is preferable for mountaineers, since one is ahead of monsoon snowstorms and avalanches. By the end of October to early November, the westerly gales are too strong for an expedition.
(iii) The start of continuous or heavy precipitation over the Everest area is, on average, about May 24, and the setting in of steady monsoon conditions is, on average, June 24. Hence it is suggested that expeditions should plan to get to heights of about 8,000 m. by early May, with sufficient equipment and food for ten to fifteen days.

T. S. B.
MISTAKEN IDENTITY.—A brief note was published on p. 138 of our last issue about an expedition of the Berlin Section of the D.A.V. reported as having made an unsuccessful attempt on K6, 23,885 ft.

A note in the April issue of *Alpinismus* reveals that the Germans had mistaken their mountain and did not attempt K6 but the near-by K7, 22,735 ft.

More than a century has passed since William Mathews found himself on top of the Combin de Corbassière, believing it to be the Grand Combin. Mistakes of this nature might perhaps be avoided today by a more intensive study of the maps and literature of the area to be visited.

THE NEPALESE BAN.—As is now generally known the Nepalese Government is restricting mountaineering expeditions. An application to the Royal Nepalese Embassy for further information elicited the reply that owing to ‘the lack of communication facilities between the expedition parties up in the mountains and the authorities concerned’ of the Nepalese Government the latter ‘has put restrictions on mountain climbing in Nepal for an indefinite period’.

We understand that in the post-monsoon period of 1965 two expeditions are being permitted to enter Nepal, the R.A.F. expedition to Dhaulagiri IV and a Yugoslav expedition to Kangbachen in the Kangchenjunga group. After these, Nepal may be closed to climbing expeditions for a time. The Government has said that the ban is only temporary.

It is understood that the ban applies only to mountaineering expeditions, and parts of the interior of the country are still open to trekkers and hikers, subject to their obtaining the necessary permits.8

HIMALAYAN HEIGHTS.—Mr. R. Lawford, honorary secretary of the Himalayan Club, has been kind enough to mention that the Survey of India, as a result of recent observations, has amended the heights of a number of the highest mountains.9

Among the fourteen 8,000-ers the revised height of Manaslu, 26,760 ft., shows an increase of 102 ft. over the old figure. Kangchenjunga is now 28,208 ft.; Lhotse has been raised by 33 ft. to 27,923 ft. and Makalu by 34 ft. to 27,824 ft. The height of Cho Oyu is confirmed at 26,750 ft. and that of Dhaulagiri as 26,810 ft.

Elsewhere, the revised height of Nuptse is 25,726 ft. A certain amount of confusion has existed over the height of Nuptse; in the past, the official figure recorded by the Survey of India was 25,700 ft., yet it was not infrequent to find the mountain allotted a height of 25,850 ft.

8 Details of these areas have been received but owing to lack of space cannot be listed here.
9 I am also grateful to Dr. G. O. Dyhrenfurth for having written about this subject.
HIMALAYA 1965.—The Indian success on Everest, after the valiant attempts of 1960 and 1962, will be universally welcomed. A. S. Cheema and Nawang Gombu reached the summit on May 20 from a camp at 27,930 ft. Gombu is the only man to have been twice to the top of Everest, his previous ascent having been with James Whittaker in 1963. Two days later Sonam Wangyal and Sonam Gyaltso were successful, the latter, at forty-two, being the oldest man to have attained the summit. C. P. Vohra and Ang Kami reached the top on May 24.

The first ascent of Ngojumba Ri (Cho Oyu II), 25,720 ft., was made by a member of a Japanese expedition and a Sherpa on May 5. According to a new measurement by Erwin Schneider, this modest ridge hump is said to be only 25,610 ft. in height. The leader of the expedition is reported as saying that one of the objects of the expedition was to find out ‘how high man could climb in the Himalayas without oxygen’. An ascent of Ngojumba Ri without oxygen provides no answer to the question. More than one 8,000-er was climbed without oxygen and greater heights, apart from summits, than the top of Ngojumba Ri have been reached without its aid.

As recorded elsewhere, Gangapurna was climbed for the first time and the same German expedition, led by Günter Hauser, also made the second ascent of Glacier Dome, 23,810 ft., first climbed by the Japanese in October, 1964, and in the same group the ascent of Tent Peak.