

CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor,
The *Alpine Journal*.

P.O. Box 776,
Salisbury,
S. Rhodesia.

16th June, 1965

SIR,

It has been a major objective of Presidents, Committees and officers of the Club in the post-war period to restore the A.C. to its earlier standing as a fully international society of mountaineers. I should like to congratulate them on the success which has been achieved.

A check with the recently issued List of Members shows 155 with addresses outside the British Isles, almost exactly 25%. It is true that addresses are unreliable indications of nationality; such a classification for example, counts Fosco Maraini as British and Alan Blackshaw as French. Nevertheless the A.C. is almost a world-wide organisation, though it appears to lack members lurking behind curtains of iron or bamboo.

The United States comes easily first, after the U.K., with 39 resident members; Switzerland follows with 17, New Zealand 16, Italy 12, Canada 11, while South Africa and India have 9 each. The rest of Europe provides 19, the rest of Africa 10, the rest of Asia 7, South America 4, Australia and the West Indies one each.

Members resident thousands of miles from South Audley Street have few opportunities of using the Library or of attending meetings. Their link with the Club is almost wholly through the Journal, which emphasises the paramount importance of the *A.J.* to the cohesion, indeed to the existence, of the Club.

Yours faithfully,
F. H. KEENLYSIDE.