[Our reviewer's language was, as Mr. Davidson's quotation shows, in exact accordance with the facts. The slip of the pen referred to occurs in an entry in Almer's 'Führerbuch' describing the joint climbs of Mr. Davidson and a friend, and the first signature under it is 'W. E. Davidson.' Mr. Davidson can hardly need to be reminded that both in law and literature we are all responsible for what we sign. The reviewer made no researches into handwritings in this or in any other instance; nor would they have been material to his object, which Mr. Davidson has probably misunderstood. It never entered into his mind to set up an order of 'colleagues in cacography,' in which it appears from the autograph at the beginning of the volume all who spell Allmer with one *l* would have to be included! To attach the slightest importance to slips of the pen in documents not meant for reproduction or publication would seem to the reviewer foolish, if not worse. His intention was to emphasise the absurdity of this kind of criticism by pointing out an instance in which such a slip had escaped even the microscopic eye of an accomplished ex-secretary of the Alpine Club.—EDITOR *A. J.*]

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING was held in the Hall of the Club on Tuesday, February 4, at 8.30 P.M., Mr. Charles Pilkington, *President*, in the chair.

The following candidates were balloted for and elected members of the Club: Messrs. G. A. Arbuthnot, A. M. Bartleet, Capt. L. S. Blackden, R. L. Bowles, E. R. Clarke, C. S. King, Rev. H. Martin, E. H. Spender, Rev. P. S. Whelan.

The HONORARY SECRETARY AND TREASURER presented the accounts for 1895; he explained that he had divided the expenditure into two headings, viz. ordinary and extraordinary. Notwithstanding the fact that the former included 8 months' rent for the old rooms in St. Martin's Place and 6 months' rent for the new premises, or an increase of 128*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* over the previous annual charge for rent, and that wages, light, and firing (costing 27*l.* more than in 1894) were all considered as ordinary expenditure, there was a small excess of 8*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.* in the income over the ordinary expenditure. The only other item under the latter heading which called for any remark was the cost of the 'Alpine Journal,' viz. 112*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*, against 62*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.* in 1894. In case members should go a little further back and compare the cost of Vol. XVII., 174*l.*, with the previous vol., XVI., which was but 57*l.*, he pointed out that the former was larger, *i.e.* it contained more pages. The illustrations had been more numerous, but left much to be desired, and he trusted that in future they would be fewer in number and better in quality. The number of copies printed had been increased, and the sale of back numbers had diminished, owing to so many being out of print. Nos. 107 and 116 were no longer to be obtained from the publishers, but the Assistant Secretary had two or three bound copies of Vols. XV. and XVI., which members could obtain from him. Turning to the

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extraordinary expenditure, he thought it was hardly necessary to refer to any particular item; the total amount was large, but every member who had seen the new premises seemed pleased with them, and he was sure the money had been well spent. The Treasurer's cash account showed that it had been necessary to sell out the investment in Consols, and that the total deficiency was 558*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*, of which 350*l.* had been borrowed at Consols rate of interest and the remainder had been paid out of 1896 income. With the increased subscriptions which had been promised he thought that the total deficiency might be paid off in three years, provided that the Club was strictly economical.

Mr. HORACE WALKER hoped that something would be done to improve the illustrations in the 'Journal.'

Sir W. M. CONWAY explained that the illustrations were good in themselves, but the paper used was unsuitable for their reproduction. Illustrations were specially important in an 'Alpine Journal,' and he hoped that with the new paper which had been chosen a great improvement would be obtained.

Mr. F. O. SCHUSTER said he would like to have a budget for the coming year, and to know how many members had increased their subscriptions. Many had come forward when the circular was first issued and had agreed to pay two guineas in future, but many had held back. There were a few who offered to pay at the increased rate for a fixed number of years, but the Committee did not see their way to accept such individual offers. It would be advisable, in his opinion, to clear off the debt by an increase of ordinary income, *i.e.* by an increase in the number of members paying two guineas.

The HONORARY SECRETARY said it was difficult to form a correct estimate of future expenditure yet. He considered that he was near the mark in saying, as he had, that the deficiency might be wiped out in three years. Excluding the members elected since April last, when the alteration to Rule XV. was carried, the number of members was 552, of whom 21 were honorary members or paid no subscription under Rule XVII., so that there were 531 who were invited to pay the increased subscription. Of these, 288 had formally promised; 11 had paid the two guineas without promising, which meant that they would have to continue to do so; 93 had definitely refused, thus leaving 139 who had not in any way intimated their intention. Some of these, he hoped, were only waiting to see whether, in their opinion, the new premises justified the increased subscription, and would send their assent as soon as they had satisfied themselves as to this. At present he calculated that the increase in income of this year would be 340*l.*, and the increase in ordinary expenditure over 1895 he put down as 160*l.*, but much depended on the actual cost of the 'Alpine Journal' and of exhibitions, &c.

The PRESIDENT thought that as much as was possible had been done in regard to asking members to increase their subscriptions, but that no doubt there were still a certain number out of those who had not replied who would consent to do so.

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On the motion of the Honorary Secretary, seconded by Mr. HORACE WALKER, the accounts were unanimously passed.

Dr. J. NORMAN COLLIE read a paper entitled 'Climbing on the Nanga Parbat Range,' which was illustrated by lantern slides. A short discussion ensued, in which Mr. Horace Walker, Mr. D. W. Freshfield, and Sir W. M. Conway took part. The PRESIDENT again expressed the sorrow all the members of the Club felt at the fatal accident to Mr. Mummery, who had found his grave amidst the finest mountains in the world. The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to Dr. Collie for his extremely interesting paper.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall on Tuesday, March 3, at 8.30 P.M.; Mr. Charles Pilkington, *President*, in the chair.

The following candidates were balloted for and elected members of the Club: Messrs. H. W. C. Bowdoin, P. G. W. Eckford, E. S. Grogan, G. Macartney, W. D. Monro, C. E. Shea, Rev. C. H. Thompson.

Mr. E. A. FITZGERALD read a paper entitled 'First Ascents of Mounts Sefton, Tasman, and Haidinger,' which was illustrated by lantern slides and by an exhibition of enlarged photographs and sketches of the New Zealand Alps, which remained on view in the Hall for a fortnight. In the discussion which ensued Messrs. Stogdon, Grove, and Barrow took part. Mr. FitzGerald in reply said that he had found crampons to be very useful, and, although when in New Zealand he climbed a good deal with Zurbriggen alone, he was sure it was a bad plan to have two men only on a rope, and that it should be avoided in all cases where it was possible to do so. The President congratulated Mr. FitzGerald on the difficult and dangerous ascents which he had successfully made. He also congratulated the members of the New Zealand Alpine Club upon the climbs and the explorations they had effected in their formidable range of mountains without professional teaching or assistance, and in spite of the absence of trained porters for establishing efficient bases from which to work. He proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. FitzGerald for his paper and for the very interesting collection of photographs which he had brought together. This was unanimously carried, and the proceedings terminated.

A GENERAL MEETING was held in the Hall of the Club on Tuesday, April 14, at 8.30 P.M.; Dr. Savage, *Vice-President*, in the chair.

Mr. F. W. OLIVER read a paper entitled 'Mont Herbetet and its Southern Ridge,' which was illustrated by lantern slides. A short discussion ensued, in which Messrs. Yeld, Carr, Solly, Wilson, and Sir W. M. Conway took part. Mr. Oliver in replying stated that a large number of the views which he had shown were lent by Signor Vittorio Sella, who wished it to be known that he would be glad at all times to lend members any of his photographs or lantern slides for the purpose of illustrating any paper which was read to the Club.

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to Mr. Oliver for his interesting paper, and to Signor Sella for his kind offer.

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