

before us is a dreary one, until Haller appears to versify on Alpine beauty and Scheuchzer to join the fearful wonders of a past age with the mental fearlessness of a new. Immediately after them—and it is strange how soon the exact Saussure followed the believe-all Scheuchzer—comes the beginning of the modern time, when the peaks of the great mountains were first trodden on: and with the advent of this time the volume before us closes.

The book is very richly illustrated with pictures from drawings, paintings, etchings, &c., showing how the hills have been represented in art throughout the ages, and this is a very valuable part of the work. Portraits of persons famous in alpine literature appear—Vadian, Gesner, Scheuchzer, Paccard, and many others. The labour of collecting all this material must have been great, but M. Grand-Carteret is rewarded by producing a book which will have a permanent place in the literature of mountaineering.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the Hall on Monday evening, December 15, at 8.30, Sir Martin Conway, *President*, in the chair. Messrs. R. F. Backwell, R. W. Broadrick, R. L. G. Irving, L. D. Nicholson, J. A. Parker, R. K. Parr, W. A. Purton, A. C. Roberts, A. T. L. Rumbold, and R. B. Shipley were balloted for and elected members of the Club.

The *PRESIDENT* referred to the losses sustained in the past year, by the deaths of several members. Among these were Mr. Croft, a follower of George Barnard, who was one of the earliest draughtsmen to pay careful attention to the Alps. At one time his pictures were very popular, and he had painted several works of mountains of more than ordinary merit. Mr. F. C. Grove also had died. His memory would remain green as long as the 'Alpine Journal' was treasured among mountaineers. He was less known by the younger members, but older members would remember how his speeches were always looked forward to. As a climber he would probably be chiefly remembered for his traverse of the Matterhorn, which was among the first. The Club had also lost Mr. Maund, who was well known as a climber; Mr. Vernon, an energetic athlete, mountaineer, and cricketer; and Mr. Patch, who was much beloved by many and whose loss would be keenly felt by those who knew him.

On the motion of Mr. C. T. DENT, seconded by Mr. C. E. MATHEWS, the President (Sir Martin Conway) was unanimously re-elected.

On the motion of Dr. SAVAGE, seconded by Mr. TOPHAM, Mr. C. Hopkinson was unanimously elected a member of Committee, in place of Mr. Haskett-Smith, whose term of office expired.

On the motion of Mr. D. W. FRESHFIELD, seconded by Mr. WITHERS, Mr. G. W. Prothero was unanimously elected a member of Committee in place of Mr. Broome, whose term of office expired.

On the motion of Mr. SLINGSBY, seconded by Mr. HEARD, the Vice-Presidents (Messrs. W. Leaf and H. Woolley) and the other members of Committee who were eligible, viz. Messrs. W. Pickford, F. W. Newmarch, S. Spencer, C. Schuster, A. V. Valentine Richards, and R. N. Arkle, and the Hon. Secretary (Mr. A. L. Mumm), were unanimously re-elected.

Mr. D. W. FRESHFIELD then moved as follows :—

That the Committee be requested to frame a regulation providing that in future years all past and present officers of the Club (including the editors of the 'Alpine Journal') and all present members of Committee shall be entitled to not less than one guest ticket for the Winter Dinner, and the remaining guest tickets shall be balloted for by the other members of the Club.

He said that he purposely meant only to meet the present situation as long as it should last. He understood that the Committee were not at present prepared to recommend the Club to transfer its dinner to a larger room. The motion was made entirely on his own responsibility and not at all in conjunction with the Committee. He had a strong feeling that it was prejudicial to the success of the Club's chief annual function to leave it to chance whether the chief members of the Club or the last elected members should be able to bring guests. It seemed expedient that the members or Committee should have privileges as well as duties, as in other clubs. Judging by past years the numbers of tickets which would be absorbed under the motion would be only about six more than have been obtained by the officers referred to when coming under the ordinary ballot.

Mr. TUCKER thought the motion would secure a very proper privilege for those who had worked hard for the Club, and begged to second it.

Mr. CADDICK criticised the wording of the motion, but was otherwise in favour of it.

Mr. C. PILKINGTON thought the experiment was a doubtful one, for the younger members of the Club should have every possible chance of supporting the Club and bringing guests to the dinner. He would perhaps make one suggestion—that the men who were to speak might have guest tickets.

Mr. PICKFORD moved as an amendment that the privilege proposed in Mr. Freshfield's motion be restricted to ex-Presidents. He did not see why the members of Committee should have any privilege given to them over other members of the Club. On the other hand a member who had been raised to the position of President was entitled to some special privilege. The ex-Presidents were distinguished men, and moreover were a small class whose privileges would not much interfere with the rights of others.

Mr. C. E. MATHEWS seconded this amendment. The ex-Presidents had always brought some eminent persons to the dinner, whom all were glad to see.

Mr. WILLINK supported the amendment for two reasons : first, he did not like to see too many tickets taken from the ordinary

members of the Club, and, secondly, he did not care to see any privileged class of members formed where all should be equal, unless some very strong reason were shown for doing so.

Mr. LEAF hoped that nothing definite would be carried. The whole question would have to be seriously considered. Mr. Freshfield had spoken as if there would always, as this year, be ninety tickets to dispose of. But probably there would need to be some restriction in this number next year. The question of moving to other rooms was a serious matter, but was involved in any consideration of the motion or amendment.

Mr. WITHERS moved as an amendment that the present motion stand over for consideration, and that a definite proposal to have the dinner at some other rooms be considered at the same time. The ballot seemed to work with great hardship on some. He therefore moved as an amendment that this motion stand over for further consideration, and that the whole question be referred to the Committee for consideration as to moving the dinner elsewhere.

Mr. TUBBY seconded Mr. Withers's amendment.

Mr. DENT said that the real issue was, Was there to be some form of ballot, or should the Club move to a larger room? And moving to a larger room meant moving to the Hotel Cecil. The present difficulty would, of course, increase with the increase of the Club. The great feature of the dinner was the after-dinner speaking, and he was sure that that would be interfered with by moving elsewhere, but at the same time he moved that the dinner of 1903 be held at the Hotel Cecil.

Mr. WALLROTH seconded this amendment.

The PRESIDENT said that the Committee considered that the matter was one entirely for the Club to settle. The Committee's duty was to carry out absolutely what the Club wanted, as the dinner was the principal function of the Club in common, and the Committee wished therefore to be directed by the Club in the matter.

Mr. FRESHFIELD said he would be pleased if Mr. Dent's amendment were carried, though he did not think that the speaking would be interfered with to the extent Mr. Dent feared.

Mr. PICKFORD remarked that if the larger question were raised both Mr. Freshfield's motion and his own amendment were unnecessary.

Mr. PUCKLE pointed out that if the motion as worded were carried it would partly defeat the object in view, as the present Committee would get tickets, but not their successors.

Mr. FRESHFIELD accepted a verbal alteration correcting this.

Mr. SOLLY doubted the wisdom of the President's advice in withdrawing the subject from the discretion of the Committee. The stronger the Committee was, the stronger would be the management of the Club. The main object of the dinner was to bring together the town and country members. It was important to have the dinner in a room belonging to an hotel, for a great part of the enjoyment of the meeting consisted in the country members,

to the number of about fifty in past years, living in the hotel adjoining the room in which the dinner had been held, and thus meeting together. He approved of Mr. Pickford's amendment.

Mr. PROTHERO thought that Mr. Dent's amendment was unsatisfactory. He agreed in Mr. Dent's non-agreement with his own amendment. There was a great deal to be said in favour of keeping the dinner within moderate numbers and in a room of moderate size, and of having no guests except those who came as guests of the Club. Members were sufficient for themselves. He agreed with Mr. Solly that it would be better if the Committee were to make some proposal.

The PRESIDENT said that he knew that Mr. Bryce, who had very wide experience of the different rooms in London, was much against moving from our present room, on account of the comparative ease of speaking there and the relative difficulty in speaking at the Hotel Cecil. On this Mr. Bryce felt very strongly. The Committee were, however, anxious to know the sentiment of the Club as a whole on the matter.

Mr. WITHERS withdrew his amendment; and, on being put to the meeting, Mr. Dent's amendment was lost by a considerable majority. Mr. Pickford's amendment was then carried, and, finally, Mr. Freshfield's motion, as amended by Mr. Pickford's proposal, was carried by a large majority, viz. 'that the Committee be requested to frame a regulation providing that in future years the ex-Presidents of the Club shall each be entitled to a guest ticket for the Winter Dinner, and the remaining guest tickets, other than those allotted to the officers and reserved for disposal by the Committee under the existing regulations, shall be balloted for by the other members of the Club.'

Dr. TEMPEST ANDERSON read a paper on 'The Recent Eruptions in the West Indies,' which was illustrated by lantern slides.

Mr. FLETT, who took part in the expedition with Dr. Anderson, said that in the West Indies there was a great range of mountains reaching to 15,000 ft., of which, however, only some 3,000 ft. or 4,000 ft. were above the level of the sea. The summits of this range formed a series of volcanoes. Before eruptions in the West Indies there had always occurred earthquakes in Central America. The volcanic phenomena were only parts of a great mountain-building process going on in the readjustment of the earth's crust.

The proceedings closed with a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Anderson for his paper.

THE Winter Dinner was held in the Whitehall Rooms, Hôtel Métropole, at 7 P.M. on the evening of Tuesday, December 16, Sir Martin Conway, *President*, in the chair. Two hundred and seventy members and guests were present, among the latter being Dr. Carlin, the Swiss Minister, Lord Justice Romer, Lord Hawke, Sir Alfred Dent, K.C.M.G., Sir Alfred Jones, K.C.M.G., Sir Felix Semon, Sir H. Trueman Wood, Colonel Pears (British Resident in Nepal), the Rev. Canon McCormick, Dr. A. M. Stein, and Messrs.

F. Carruthers Gould, Maurice Hewlett, Horace Hutchinson, H. W. Lucy, and Francis Storr.

AN Exhibition of Himalayan Drawings and Paintings was held in the Hall of the Club from December 2 to 24, and was attended by about one thousand persons. Refreshments were provided on the afternoon of December 16.