PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall on the evening of Tuesday, February 2, 1904, at 8.30, Sir Martin Conway, *President*, in the chair.

Messrs. R. Cajrati, J. E. C. Eaton, C. F. Meade, P. J. H. Unna were balloted for and elected members of the Club.

Mr. E. H. F. Bradby was unanimously elected a member of committee in place of Mr. C. Schuster, who had resigned.

The proposed new rules were then taken into consideration.

The PRESIDENT said that the proposed new rules were the result of a great deal of hard work on the part of the sub-committee and afterwards of the committee. He thought that the best course to take would be that a motion be made that the existing rules of the Club be abolished and that the new rules, as amended by the meeting, be enacted in their place. The rules would be then taken one by one, and amendments might be proposed on each rule as it was brought forward.

Mr. LEAF then moved that the existing rules of the Club be abolished, and that the proposed new rules, as amended by the meeting, be adopted in their place.

The motion was seconded by Mr. JUSTICE WILLS.

The proposed rules were then considered rule by rule and agreed to, after discussion, with some amendments, and with the exception of the proposed rule 46, which dealt with the summer dinner and corresponded to the old rule, which was struck out on the motion of Mr. C. T. DENT. Mr. Leaf's original motion was then put to the meeting and was carried unanimously.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall on Tuesday evening, March 1, at 8.30, Sir Martin Conway, *President*, in the chair.

A large number of photographs of the Eastern Alps, taken by Würthle, of Salzburg, were exhibited on the walls of the Hall.

Messrs. J. K. Parker and A. Woods were balloted for and elected members of the Club.

The PRESIDENT said, 'I am sure that it is the wish of the meeting that I should make reference to the sad loss that the Club has experienced in the death of its fourth President, Sir Leslie Stephen. This is not the place to refer to his record as an author, as perhaps the soundest and sanest critic of literature and life that we had among us. We here remember him as a mountaineer, a lover of mountains, and a lover of this Club. His memory will long be cherished by our members, both those whose joy and privilege it was to be numbered among his friends and those who knew him through his books and his fame as a mountaineer. Only recently he sent us as a gift two old ice axes and an old alpenstock that had been his. At the winter meeting of the Club you

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accepted my suggestion that we should send him a message of sympathy in his illness, and of thanks for those evidences of his thoughtfulness for us; I accordingly wrote to him in the name of the Club, and received this letter in reply, dated December 17:—

'DEAR CONWAY,—I am deeply touched by your letter and its proof that I am kindly regarded by so many members of the Club. I shall never be able to take any part in the proceedings of the Club, but those quaint old poles reminded me of some of the pleasantest days of my life. My membership of the Club has been a source to me of unmixed pleasure, and of kindly feeling from my comrades, which is one of the best things in life.

'I wish you all good-bye most cordially. Yours truly,

'LESLIE STEPHEN.'

Mr. BRYCE said, 'I cannot refuse to add a few words to what the President has said, for I knew Sir Leslie Stephen for more than forty years, and I am one of the few surviving members of the Club who have travelled with him. It may surprise some of you to know that he was famous as a climber before he was famous in any other capacity—in 1855 and 1856, when he had hardly written anything—and that it was by his writings on mountains that he first made his literary reputation. He was a delightful companion to climb with; with an immense capacity for enjoyment, bold and enterprising, but at the same time very cautious and careful. I was never in company with any one who more studiously exerted himself to avoid all unnecessary risks, to consider weather, routes, and all other conditions of success and safety. He had, as you all know, a great love for the mountains. He climbed them not only for the scenery but for the sake of the exercise and the excitement, and the qualities of skill and courage which climbing called forth. I should not be going too far in saying that the two most striking writers on mountain travel and climbing have been J. D. Forbes and Leslie Stephen. Stephen was, in his manner and style, quite unlike Forbes, and one would hardly have thought it possible for two men to deal with the same theme in ways so different and at the same time so excellent. Stephen really introduced a new way of treating mountaineering, and his influence has been felt by every one who has written since, just as the influence of Gibbon and of Macaulay has been felt by all who have since their time sought to write history. Forbes was best appreciated by those who had some knowledge of science, while Stephen, touching deeper springs of universal human interest, appealed to all by his graphic mode of presentation and by the unexpected touches of humour with which he lit up every scene he described. He had also a great influence on the Club and on the confraternity of climbers in that he set an example of looking upon mountain-climbing as a means of promoting good fellowship, an example we have always tried to follow. Those who may have met him in the old days will remember the atmosphere of geniality and kindness that his presence always brought. He was the most true and loyal and

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steadfast of friends. I do not suppose that any of us will ever know any one more pure-minded and more high-minded in small things and great, and I trust that the Club will always preserve him, as one of its founders, in affectionate remembrance.' Mr. Bryce concluded by suggesting that the President should transmit to Sir Leslie Stephen's family an expression of the sympathy of the Club.

Mr. C. E. MATHEWS said, 'I agree with and second Mr. Bryce's suggestion. I knew Leslie Stephen for forty-four years, and I accompanied him on a memorable ascent of the Bietschhorn. He was one of the most admirable and brilliant climbers and one of the most charming men of letters. His 'Playground' will always be a classic, and there are passages in it which show that he was a poet as well. Under a somewhat brusque exterior he concealed one of the sweetest and kindest hearts ever given to the sons of men.'

The PRESIDENT said that he would convey to the family of Sir Leslie Stephen an expression of sympathy, as desired by the meeting.

The PRESIDENT then called the attention of the meeting to a petition to be presented to the Board of Trade for the safeguarding of the scenery in the building of a light railway from Beddgellert to Bettws-y-Coed, in North Wales. The Club, as a club, could take no official action, at all events not without notice; but he understood that time pressed, and members interested were invited to sign the petition. He did not know the circumstances, but now, as so often before, he could call on Mr. Bryce to explain them.

Mr. BRYCE said that the railway threatened to spoil some of the most lovely and hitherto untouched scenery in Britain. Under the Light Railways Act the Commissioners to whom plans were submitted must have regard to scenery, and any one was entitled to object to them on the ground that scenery would suffer; the Commissioners had passed the line, but the National Trust for preserving Natural Beauties had set on foot a memorial, addressed to the Board of Trade, before whom the scheme would come, directed to ensure that the damage to scenery should be averted or kept within as narrow limits as possible, and it was felt that signatures of members of the Club would appreciably strengthen the memorial. The petition was signed by about forty members.

The HON. TREASURER then presented the accounts for 1903. He had little to say with regard to receipts; there was the usual slight rise in subscriptions, owing to the larger proportion of subscriptions of 2*l.* 2*s.* There were thirty entrance fees, the highest number since the record year 1893; it looked as if there would not be so many in 1904, but, for his part, he considered that the members of the Club were increasing quite fast enough. The sum of 1,000*l.* on deposit had been invested in consols at $86\frac{13}{16}$, which he hoped the Club would consider a sound investment. As to expenditure, there were two notable features—the large deduction from rent due to sums received for the hire of the Hall on the one

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hand and the large amount spent on special furnishing and repairs on the other. Apart from these, and from the cost of the 'Journal,' which was unusually high, the ordinary expenditure was higher than that of 1902 by only 34*l.*, and the actual difference was even less, for the rise in firing and electric lighting was partly attributable to the letting of the Hall, and in order to arrive at an accurate view of our own expenses somewhat more should have been attributed to Hall expenses, so that the net rent ought to be rather higher than appears and general expenditure rather lower. The large deduction from the rent was mainly due to the letting of the Hall for two evenings a week to the Cosmopolitan Club, an arrangement which would be continued during the present year. Of the 300*l.* spent on special furnishing and repairs about 100*l.* was attributable to inside painting, 80*l.* to the new stove, 20*l.* to new bookcases demanded by the Hon. Librarian, and 11*l.* to repairs of the electric lighting apparatus, and about 140*l.* had been spent on new carpets and new tapestry for the Hall. He was not able to make any definite announcement as to the prospects of the second volume of the 'Climber's Guide,' but he might say that Mr. Valentine Richards was devoting himself to it with unflagging industry, and that steady progress was being made.

Mr. ROLLESTON then read a paper on 'Climbing in Suanetia,' which was illustrated by lantern slides.

Mr. FRESHFIELD said his acquaintance with the Caucasus was now antiquated. He had written a small book about the Caucasus, which he had hoped would induce others to go there, but after its publication people seemed to think that everything had been done, and no one had gone there since. He was very glad to hear that Tetnuld had once more been climbed, for it was a delightful expedition with a most glorious view. The party had reached Suanetia by crossing the Leila, and he thought that further information about this approach would be useful.

Mr. LONGSTAFF said that they had gone to the country simply to climb and not to explore, for which they had not time. The presence of the German party had stimulated them to do more, perhaps, than they would otherwise have done. The secret of success in the Caucasus was to read up the country well beforehand, and to find out from those who had been there what were the best places for camps. They had done all their climbing from four base camps. A great point was to be far enough from villages to avoid the inquisitiveness of the people, but not too far for sending for any provisions required. They had no dragoman and did not find the trip more expensive than a visit to Switzerland. Once in the country there were no expenses. Sheep were 10*s.*, chickens 5*d.*, and eggs $\frac{1}{4}d.$; and probably they paid double what they ought to have paid. Neither wine, tea, nor sugar was to be had, and, as the bread was not good, it was well to take a supply of biscuits. They had a Whymper tent and a Mummery silk tent for the higher camps. The lighter the baggage the better, as a great deal of time may be lost in hiring horses, though it was always easy to

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get one or two. It was to be remembered that in making long journeys the natives never stop to eat, so that the traveller must be provided with some loose ready provisions. The riding was rough, as there were only bridle paths, but the natives were intrepid riders with whom it seemed to be a point of honour never to dismount at any difficulty. The climbing, he thought, was more difficult than in the Alps, for snow conditions were bad. He did not know what to say on the delicate subject of climbing two on a rope, but he might mention that the rope was a silk one.

Mr. DENT said that it was interesting that the highest peak of Ushba was attained by what was known as Burgener's route, nearly twenty years after he had pointed it out. He wished to add his congratulations to the party on their climbs. They had been so modestly told that only those who knew the mountains could appreciate the very remarkable season that had been gone through. There was no climb more remarkable and more creditable than the ascent of Shkara from the S. The year must have been a very exceptional one for the Caucasus. The snow conditions were for the most part treacherous, and in consequence mountains apparently simple might be very difficult and dangerous. Probably in the past year the snow was in quite an exceptional condition. A knowledge of snowcraft was absolutely essential in the Caucasus. The afternoon conditions were often totally different from those in the morning.

Mr. WOOLLEY was glad that our own members had secured a fair share of the brilliant series of ascents in the Caucasus in the past year. The climb of the S. side of Shkara was a very fine one. Although Latsga and Bashil-tau were less than 14,000 ft. the ascents were something to be proud of. No doubt Tiktengen was very difficult. In 1893 his party had met with such a decided check on the S.W. ridge that he would hardly think of attempting that route again. The distance from base camps in the Caucasus was always very great. The party had shown not only great energy and endurance but great good judgment. They fully deserved the success they had met with.

Mr. SOLLY said the paper had indicated a totally different condition of the snow from anything that he had seen in the Caucasus. Persons were to be avoided who tried to find unsuitable reasons for success. No doubt this party owed a good deal of theirs to having been only two, and also to their having crampons. He thought that a holiday of seven weeks was quite enough to allow of a visit to the Caucasus. The German party on Ushba must have been men of great endurance and strength. The weather too must have been warmer than was usual, or drier, to help them to stand the exposure at high altitudes.

The PRESIDENT considered that a better illustrated paper had not been before read to the Club. It had been very easy to follow the routes made. 1888 had been the great year for the conquest of the Caucasus, but after that interest had seemed suddenly to cease.

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He had never himself been in the Caucasus, and probably never would be, but it was to be hoped that the paper read would influence some of the members to go out. He wished to emphasise what had been said of the usefulness of crampons, which ought to be much more largely used in the Alps.

The meeting was brought to a close with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Rolleston.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall on the evening of Tuesday, March 29, 1904, at 8.30, Mr. H. Woolley, *Vice-President*, in the chair.

Messrs. W. R. Caesar, J. H. Clapham, and J. B. Slack were balloted for and elected members of the Club.

Mr. W. RICKMER-RICKMERS read a paper on 'Climbing in the Caucasus,' which was illustrated by lantern slides.

Mr. FRESHFIELD congratulated Mr. Rickmers and his companions on their wonderful feats. He had never listened to a more dramatic paper read before the Club. An important fact had been brought out, the great charm of the scenery of Suanetia as compared with that of the northern valleys. In the one case you have a beautiful valley with five or six glaciers running into it, while in the other you are cooped up between high rock walls. The S.W. corner of Ushba always seemed to him to offer the best point of attack. He could not quite make out where the lower snow-field was. The height of the wall was 400 ft., and above that no great difficulty seemed to have been met with. He would like to have heard more of the expedition in which the two peaks were crossed, what the party carried, what they slept in, what they ate, what cold they encountered at night. He should also like to know their impressions as to the relative height of the two peaks. In Russian maps there was a difference between them of from 7 to 20 ft., the northern being the lower. There were now three routes up Ushba —Cockin's by the eastern couloir, that by the western glacier, and the route by the southern peak.

Mr. NEWMARCH joined his congratulations to those of Mr. Freshfield. Personally he had found the weather bad in the Caucasus. Rickmers's party had been very strong and his organising power extraordinary. He was glad to find that Cockin's idea about the south peak had been proved practicable.

Mr. ROLLESTON had been much struck by the wonderful organising power of Mr. Rickmers. When he and Longstaff had reached Betsho they had seen Schulze and the party who had done Ushba, and he thought that Schulze's leading so soon after his accident was one of the pluckiest things that had been done in mountaineering. He was glad to have an opportunity of publicly thanking Mr. Rickmers for his kindness in the Caucasus and for the advice he had given them there.

Mr. LONGSTAFF also wished to thank Mr. Rickmers for his kindness.

Mr. WOOLLEY said we had been indebted to Mr. Rickmers on

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previous occasions for very interesting papers, and this evening we had to thank him again for an excellent account of the series of brilliant ascents made last summer by himself and his companions. He was uncertain what to admire more, the endurance and determination of the conquerors of Ushba and Janga or Mr. Rickmers's self-denial in sacrificing so much of his own climbing in the interest of his friends.

Every one who had seen the magnificent S. face of Janga could appreciate the great difficulty and the considerable danger of the feat accomplished by Herr Schulze's party. The surprising thing was that they were able to take a native porter with them. It was interesting to note that the route taken on Janga was that chosen in 1890 by Ulrich Almer when with Messrs. Cockin and Holder. He need not dwell on the carefully planned and brilliantly executed first ascent of the S. peak of Ushba. Members of the Club were sufficiently familiar with the mountain from photographs and descriptions to realise the merit of the achievement. But the second ascent—the traverse made by Messrs. Distel, Leuchs, and Pfann—must strike every one as an extremely bold undertaking, because, in crossing the N. peak and descending on to the saddle, these gentlemen were possibly burning their boats and staking everything on the chances of continued fine weather.

Mr. Rickmers, in reply, said that round the S.W. corner where they went up there was a small snowfield which took them up 300 ft., which was invisible from the S. The S.E. corner looked broken from below, but the blocks were as large as the Hall and quite sheer, and the cracks were filled with icicles. The S.E. corner was quite impossible. With regard to the base of the lower snowfield, they ascended to a small col connecting the two glaciers, and looked up a sheer wall of 300 ft. fringed with icicles at the top formed from the frozen water of the lower snowfield. The party who had traversed the two peaks carried very little, and were able to do with very little food. He could not say which of the two peaks was the higher.

The proceedings came to an end with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Rickmers.

NEW EXPEDITIONS IN THE ANDES.

We are indebted to Mr. W. R. Rickmers for the following notes on new expeditions in the South American Andes.

Of the many ascents made by the German Geological Expedition the following are probably new:

Cerro Campanario (5,240 m.; 17,180 ft.).—On October 10, 1903, Baron Bistram, Dr. H. Hoek, and Professor Steinmann reached this summit, which is laborious but not difficult. This is most probably the culminating point of the great Victoria Range.

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