

It is probable that the rock peak behind Mount Everest, photographed by Signor Sella, may be identified with the peak here referred to as T. 45, the sixth peak of the Himalaya, 26,867 ft. This height is the result of observations from three stations. The peak called 'Kambachen' (really the name of a district), 25,782 ft., is the most western summit of Kinchinjunga.

We must note that the Survey has decided to return to the spelling Kinchinjunga and to substitute Jano for Jannu. We trust these are final changes.

The Report contains two charming full-page illustrations from drawings by Colonel Strahan. A dozen photographs of typical subjects would have added more to its scientific value. It is also furnished with many valuable maps, diagrams, and panoramic outlines. The latter would be still more instructive had some detail besides the sky-line been given, and that might have been shown with greater sharpness. Nearer and more distant ranges cannot be distinguished. Mr. Tuckett's outlines in old numbers of this 'Journal' are examples of a method we prefer.

We note that on one of the outlines (chart vi.) the second peak of Kabru is assigned the height of a lower buttress on the west of the double summit and much lower (21,970 ft.), and that Siniolchum is omitted.

Club Alpino Italiano: Guida dei Monti d'Italia. Giovanni Bobba, 'Alpi Marittime.' Pubblicazione della Sezione di Torino sotto gli auspizi della Sede Centrale. 1908. Pp. xxxi and 416.

THIS little book will be welcomed by all visitors to the Maritime Alps. It is well printed on thin paper, so that it weighs very little, and is well furnished with excellent maps, sketches of individual mountains (from photographs), and panoramas. It has a list of guides and porters as well as a full tariff. In short, with this excellent book and the Alpine Club Edition of Ball's 'Western Alps,' it should now be easy to plan a tour in this, in its own way, fascinating district, which has been too much neglected by our fellow-countrymen. Those who have to time their visit to the Alps in June and early July will do well to consider the claims of the Maritime Alps. We heartily congratulate Signor Bobba and the Italian Alpine Club on the appearance of this volume, as we did on the publication of its predecessor, the excellent 'Guida delle Alpi Occidentali,' by SS. A. Martelli, G. Bobba, and L. Vaccarone, on which this work is founded.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall on Tuesday evening, May 5, 1908, Mr. Hermann Woolley, *President*, in the chair.

The PRESIDENT said: Since we last met, Mr. Francis Vaughan Hawkins has died, at the age of seventy-four. He was the sole survivor of the meeting at Ashley's Hotel when the Alpine Club was finally constituted. His best known expedition was the

attempt on the Italian side of the Matterhorn, made in 1860 with Prof. Tyndall and the guides Carrel and Bennen. Mr. Hawkins left the Club some years ago, but was present at the Jubilee Dinner. Another old member, Mr. C. E. Layton, died a few days ago after a long, hopeless illness. He was a good friend and a most estimable man, who in a quiet, unobtrusive way did a great amount of useful public and charitable work. The Committee have elected as an Honorary Member Mr. A. O. Wheeler, of the Canadian Topographical Survey and President of the Alpine Club of Canada. He has done valuable work in exploring and surveying the Selkirks, has made many new ascents, and has recently published a book on the range. This, I believe, is the first time that a representative of the Imperial Dominions has been placed on our honorary list.

This year, as in former years, we are indebted to Mr. S. Spencer for undertaking and carrying out with his usual ability and success the management of the exhibition of photographs. I am sure that I am only giving effect to your wishes in thanking Mr. Spencer for the time and trouble he has devoted to this work.

Mr. C. SCHUSTER read a paper on 'The Middle Age of a Mountaineer.'

Mr. NEWMARCH thought that English climbers did not devote enough time to wandering. They stayed too much at centres at which they lived a life as English as possible. The great interest of a holiday was to have a change, and that was best obtained with one's rucksack on one's back, in the way Germans do. More variety was got by moving about, crossing passes, sleeping each night at a new inn. In that way one accumulated far more reminiscences to look back upon. Mr. Schuster had referred to the inexhaustibility of the Alps, which was just what one found in getting about with a rucksack. His plea was for more wandering and change of scene.

Mr. WITHERS agreed with the last speaker. Each year he was more struck how members of the Club herded together.

Mr. LONGSTAFF was doubtful of his *locus standi* as a middle-aged mountaineer, but he wished to give his definition of an 'off day' as one in which a climber did not put on his boots.

Mr. A. J. BUTLER said that the difficulty of wandering was the difficulty of finding rooms. It was undoubtedly the most delightful way of seeing the Alps. But people would soon need to carry tents if they wished to do it.

Mr. YOUNG thought that it was good to wander, but that it was also good to work from a centre.

Mr. WOLLASTON wished to know who the middle-aged mountaineer was. Was there any reason to give up climbing until really obliged? Members had not forgotten Godley's words:—

Yet I hope that till you die you will annually sigh
For a vision of the Valais with the coming of July,
For the Oberland or Valais, and the higher, purer air,
And the true delight of living as you taste it only there!

The PRESIDENT said that it would probably be allowed that Tirol was the Alpine district specially suited to the middle-aged mountaineer; but he could also recommend the rock-climbs in Lofoten, where, the main valleys being submerged under the sea, one could generally proceed to the foot of one's peak in a boat and begin to climb from the water's edge. Moreover, during the summer months, early rising was quite unnecessary. As there was no night it was impossible to be benighted.

They had had the pleasure of listening to an excellent and most entertaining paper, and he tendered, on behalf of the meeting, a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Schuster.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall, on Tuesday evening, June 2, 1908, Mr. Hermann Woolley, *President*, in the chair.

The following candidates were balloted for and elected members of the Club: Messrs. Leslie Hood, F. G. Lucas, and E. E. Roberts.

The PRESIDENT said: As many of those present are aware, the Council of the Royal Geographical Society have awarded the Gill Memorial to Dr. Longstaff for his important exploring work in the Himalaya and Tibet. I am sure that you will all most heartily congratulate him on having received this award.

The PRESIDENT having briefly explained the nature of the proposed alteration of the Club Rules,

Mr. PROTHERO said: I have to propose that Rules 25, 26, 31, and 33 in future read as follows:—

'25. The management of the Club shall be vested in a Committee consisting of the Officers, of nine elective Members, and of such extra Members, not exceeding five in number, as may be appointed in the manner hereinafter provided. Five shall form a quorum.

'26. The Officers and elective Members of Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting in December, to hold office for one year, from January 1 following. They shall be eligible for re-election, provided always that the President and Vice-Presidents and elective members of Committee shall not, except as provided in Rule 33, serve for more than three years consecutively, after which term of service they shall not be re-eligible till after the expiration of one year.'

'31. The Committee shall have power to appoint as an extra Member of Committee any Member of the Club who has served as President, Vice-President, Hon. Secretary, or elective Member of Committee, or who has served or is serving as Honorary Librarian, or Editor or Assistant Editor of the "Alpine Journal," provided that the extra Members of Committee shall not at any time exceed five in number.'

'33. In the case of a casual vacancy occurring in the office of President, the Committee shall appoint one of the Vice-Presidents to fill the office until December 31 next following. In the case of

a similar vacancy occurring in the office of Vice-President or Honorary Secretary, the Committee shall appoint any Member of the Club to fill the vacancy for the same period. In the case of a vacancy in the Committee the Club may proceed, at the next or any subsequent General Meeting, to elect a member to serve for the same period, and the period of such service shall not be deemed part of the three consecutive years specified in Rule 26.'

And that Rule 27 be deleted, and the Rules subsequent be accordingly renumbered.

Mr. READ said: I should like to say a few more words as to the reasons which have led the Committee to propose these alterations in the rules. First, as to the change to nine members of Committee. It was felt that the large increase in the number of members since the rule was formed justified adding another member to the Committee, and that the Club would welcome a change that would pass a greater number of members through the Committee. The second change is proposed to make the period of service more regular, three years in every case, three and a fraction for a member elected after the beginning of the year. Under the present rule, while some members have served four years, some have only two. It has been the experience of those on the Committee that a member's third year of service is the most useful to the Club. Thirdly, as to widening the field of selection for extra members. At present it is confined to ex-officials, which leaves a very narrow selection; practically only some ten members are available, and the same persons are therefore chosen over and over again. If the alteration is agreed to there will be about sixty from whom to select.

Mr. BROOME thought the alterations proposed would be thoroughly approved by the Club in general.

Mr. Prothero's motion was then put to the Club, each rule separately, and carried unanimously.

The regulations for the Winter Dinner, proposed by the COMMITTEE, were approved of.

Mr. C. W. RUBENSON read a paper on 'Kabru,' which was illustrated by lantern slides.

In introducing Mr. Rubenson the PRESIDENT said: On the rare occasions when we have a paper read by one who is not a member of the Club the subject of the address is generally, as is the case this evening, one of exceptional interest to us. In asking Mr. Rubenson to address you I can promise him a most sympathetic audience, and assure him that we shall follow his story with the keenest attention.

After the paper Dr. LONGSTAFF said: I am very glad to have the privilege of being the first to congratulate Mr. Rubenson and his companion, Mr. Monrad Aas, on this very fine ascent. That the achievement was carried through by their own unaided efforts makes it, I think, the most remarkable in the annals of Himalayan mountaineering. It is, if not the highest, at least the highest

unchallenged ascent that has ever been made, those of Graham and Johnson having been disputed on various grounds. It is a very great pleasure to me to find that Mr. Rubenson has not himself in any way called in question Graham's ascent of the highest peak of Kabru in 1883. But he has dealt with his own doings in such a sportsmanlike way that his very sportsmanlike treatment of Graham will cause no surprise.

Mr. Rubenson has told us so little of his own doings, and mentioned so many interesting side-issues, that this discussion ought to be very full of interest to many of us here to-night. To me the most striking thing is that he remained a fortnight on this great peak, and did a lot of hard step-cutting day after day without apparently suffering from the effects of continued lowered atmospheric pressure. I can only say that if on Trisul we had experienced half as much difficulty I should have turned back long before I got near the summit. With regard to the question he raises of native *versus* Alpine guides, I can only say that it depends on the race and tribe of native, and on the character of the European professional. I have only employed Serpa coolies on easy ground in Sikhim, but they reminded me of the Garbyang Bhotias I had with me on Gurla Mandhata, the best native hill men I have met. Alpine guides must be selected for very special qualities if they are to succeed in new ranges and in countries unknown to them. I can confidently assert that the two Brocherels, from Courmayeur, whom we had with us last summer, and who accompanied me also in 1905, are very much superior for high ascents to any race native to the Himalayas. Bad food and hardship seem to be nothing to them, and their reserve force is much greater. Personally, I don't think I should have got up Trisul without them. Perhaps it is because I have done some good climbing without guides that I so thoroughly appreciate their value. And for the same reason all guideless climbers will join in congratulating Mr. Rubenson and Mr. Monrad Aas on this the most remarkable of all guideless ascents.

I should like to add a word as to the season—October—of this climb. I think that the sufferings of the party from cold rather reinforce my contention that the period after the rains is rather too late. I think that it will be found that in Sikhim, as in Kumaon and Garwhal, it is possible to climb amongst the snows for some time after the rains have already broken over the hill stations—that is to say, in the latter half of June to the first half of July, when the weather is much warmer and not *much* more unsettled than it is after the rains in October.

Let me congratulate Mr. Rubenson very sincerely on this climb. I hope he will again make a successful attack on some other high mountain.

Mr. MUMM said: As I listened to the paper I hardly knew which to admire most, the substance of what Mr. Rubenson has told us or the style in which he told it, or the graphic series of photographs

with which he illustrated it. If there was one thing which impressed me more than another, it was his astonishing skill in managing the coolies and his enterprise and success in training them to ice-work. Indeed, the more one realises the length and the arduous character of the expedition the more one is struck by the patience and the quiet, unhurrying perseverance displayed by the party. I am glad to have this opportunity of offering them my congratulations.

Mr. SLINGSBY said: As one who has been much in Norway, I am certain that when we, as Englishmen, hear that a high ascent has been made there is no one by whom we should with greater pleasure hear it had been made—when not made by an Englishman—than by a Norwegian. I most heartily congratulate them. I think they showed marvellous tact in getting coolies to over 22,000 ft.

Dr. COLLIE said: I am glad to add my congratulations to those of other members. It was a noble achievement indeed. It forms one of a series of achievements accomplished by Norwegians since first they discovered America, long before Columbus.

The PRESIDENT said: The ascent which has been described this evening is certainly a distinct landmark in the history of mountaineering. We must all admire the enterprise, self-reliance, and determination which enabled Messrs. Rubenson and Monrad Aas to form four successive camps above 19,000 ft., to lead coolies to a height of 22,000 ft., and to gain the summit ridge of Kabru entirely without the help of guides. It is obvious that during the twelve days occupied by the ascent from the base camp extraordinary difficulties were encountered, and that these difficulties were surmounted only by indomitable resolution and tenacity of purpose. Mr. Rubenson mentioned the great services rendered by the coolies, but one cannot help thinking that their good behaviour was in a great measure the result of the consideration and care with which they were treated. The members of the Alpine Club are very much indebted to Mr. Rubenson for coming to England to give us this most admirable address. I can assure him we highly appreciate his kindness.

A very cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Rubenson was then agreed to.

Mr. RUBENSON, in reply, said: The heights were taken with aneroids, but I do not regard the height as the most interesting feature of the expedition, but rather the long time that we were able to stay at over 19,500 ft. As to the weather, we went up in October, which is a cold month. As a rule we had clear weather, with clouds below us. I thank you for the patience you have shown in listening to me, and the kind way in which you have pretended not to notice the mistakes I have made.