

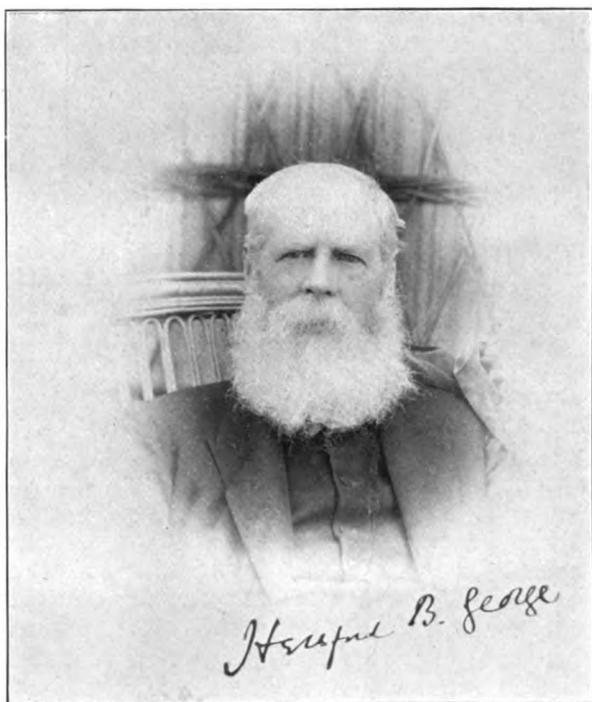
IN MEMORIAM.

H. B. GEORGE.

THE Club has lost an old and devoted member, a link with its earliest days, and the lifelong friend of many of its leaders, by the death of the Reverend Hereford Brooke George, which took place at his house in Oxford on December 15, 1910. Mr. George was the first editor of this Journal (1863-7), a Vice-President 1878-1880, and as a climber had taken part in many memorable expeditions. His health had from time to time in recent years, and especially in the autumn of 1910, given anxiety to his friends; but his mind was active and vigorous to the last, full of interest in all practical questions of the present, not least in those by which Oxford is stirred. In his own college his ripe experience and single-minded loyalty were much and increasingly valued by his younger colleagues, and by others among whom and for whom he lived. He was always thoroughly informed as to the proceedings of the Club, and the doings of its members in all parts of the world; he formed a careful opinion on all questions where difference was possible, and, until quite lately, seldom missed any important gathering. He was often to be met in Alpine places, and delighted in introducing younger friends to the glacier regions.

Hereford Brooke George was born in January 1838 at Bath, where his father was a well-known medical man. He was much attached to his native city and to the west country; it was in part at least patriotic feeling which led him to take an active share in the foundation and endowment of the University College (now the University) of Bristol, and in other undertakings which considerably affected his own career later on. Family acquaintance with John and Philip Duncan, two great-hearted citizens of Bath, well known outside it in the first half of the nineteenth century, opened a connexion with Winchester and New College, the latter of which societies he entered in 1856, becoming a full fellow, according to the usage of those days, in 1858, and graduated B.A. in 1861, having taken high honours, both classical and mathematical. For some time he took a share in the tuition of his college, and then left Oxford for the Bar, to which he was called in 1864, and for three years went the Western Circuit. In 1867 he returned to New College to take charge of the teaching for the Law and History School (after 1872 the 'History School'). He was ordained in 1868, and in 1870 married Miss Alice Cole, a sister of Mrs. Bartholomew Price, wife of the Professor well known to many generations of Oxford men, afterwards Master of Pembroke College. From that time his only home was in Oxford, and his interests were steadily centred in his college, the University, and the city.

In 1891 he retired from college lecturing, and in 1893 was left a



HEREFORD B. GEORGE.

widower with two sons. The years of comparative leisure which followed his retirement were also years of varied and continuous work. The *Oxford Magazine* writes of him :

'He was one of a very small number of unofficial members of Congregation who are familiar with the intricacies of University finance. . . . For forty years he was a Delegate of the Local Examinations, and the Delegacy owes much to his fertility of resource, his sound judgment, his long experience, and his readiness not only to initiate but also to accept new ideas.' He always himself took a large and laborious share in the actual work of examination.

Several books, on a greater or smaller scale of importance, belong to this period, and should be mentioned here, because it was the author's interest in practical geography, especially in problems touching military history, which first brought him to the Alps, and made him a pioneer. His 'Napoleon's Invasion of Russia,' brought out in 1899, is probably the work which he would most wish to live ; it is marked by careful use of authorities, and by a spirit of studied fairness to the chief actor. It appeared just as the Boer War was beginning, when military interest was diverted into another channel, and so started at some disadvantage, but Mr. George told me with pleasure last autumn that every copy of the book had been sold, and that it was then not procurable. 'Battles of English History' (1893) had a more popular scope. 'Relations of Geography and History' (1901), which includes chapters on 'Italy,' 'The Alpine Passes and their History,' and 'Switzerland,' is of special interest to us. 'Geography of the British Empire' followed in 1904. Several minor works, such as a collection of 'Poems of English Country Life,' in which Mr. W. H. Hadow, an intimate friend of the later years, joined him, seem to show a capacity of unbending, of playing with 'the falling leaf,' which it is pleasant to note in a strenuous mind. But two books which close the list are altogether serious, and are highly characteristic. One of them appeals in the first place to a limited public. It is a careful and judicial summary of the events which had raised his own college from a very small to a very large one. It will be of the highest interest to future members of the society, as Mr. George rightly judged, and probably to many outside it, that such a record should have been passed down by one who added to first-hand knowledge of the whole period an extraordinary power of recollecting details. It was drawn up in 1906, when Mr. George completed his fifty years on the foundation. This occasion was duly commemorated by his many friends in Oxford, to whom he made a feeling acknowledgment of the good fellowship which had redeemed his later years from any touch of loneliness. 'Historical Evidence' (1909) is a closely reasoned inquiry into the principles by which the evidential value of the different sources of historical information may be estimated. It is the work of a 'full man,' and abounds with pertinent illustration from instances gathered in an unusually wide field.

Mr. George was one of the first to join the University Rifle Corps. His attestation number is 28, and the date June 22, 1859. Through its good and bad fortunes he was a stalwart supporter: he took great pleasure in the doings of the present Officers' Training Corps, and his funeral (which took place in vacation) was attended by the Colonel, an old pupil, and several other officers, in uniform. He was a founder of the Kriegsspiel Club and a pillar of it. His figure was a familiar one on the old Magdalen cricket-ground, and in the parks, and he always had a shrewd opinion as to the composition of the University Eleven. He took a genial interest in the College Eight, which he judged by results, and would speak his mind freely if these were below what they should have been.

George's first visit to Switzerland was in 1860. In a note contributed to Maitland's 'Life of Leslie Stephen,'* he speaks of his arrival at Zermatt with a friend. 'Next day Stephen offered to conduct us with two more Oxford friends up to the Riffel by the circuitous but very interesting route of the Gorner Glacier which then extended nearly down to Zermatt. For me, and I think for others of the party, it was a totally new experience to go on a glacier, and we were greatly impressed by the way in which Stephen, aided by his favourite guide Melchior Anderegg, set himself to give four total strangers, for none of us had seen him till the day before, a pleasant introduction to the ice world.' †

In 1861 a casual meeting with Christian Almer led him to begin mountaineering. With another novice, and another Swiss guide (Peter Perren), they climbed Mont Blanc together, without assistance from Chamonix. This was the beginning of a warm friendship, which lasted till Almer's death in 1898, and was also a turning-point in the career of the great Grindelwald guide, who was already famous in the Oberland, but hardly outside it. As all George's later work was done with Almer, a record of it might be extracted from the full memoir of the latter written by Mr. Coolidge for the Swiss Alpine Club. In 1862 he made three new passes, ‡ the Sesia Joch and the Jungfrau Joch, the latter immortalised in the 'Playground of Europe,' and the Mischabel Joch, and a first ascent of the Gross Viescherhorn.§ In 1863 || came the remarkable passage of the Col du Tour Noir, 'probably one of the most dangerous and severe expeditions' on Almer's record. It was not a fruitless one. As Mr. George writes ¶—'The performance from a geographical point of view was well worthy of some consideration; we had finally settled the long-debated question about the relative positions of the heads of the Argentière, Tour, and Saléna glaciers, which every successive map had professed to explain in a different way.' In later years he was fond of referring to one discovery of his which had 'altered the map of Europe.' This was the first occasion

* P. 93.

§ *Ibid.* p. 97.

† *A. J.* xix. p. 201.

|| *Ibid.* p. 125.

‡ *A. J.* i. p. 49.

¶ *Ibid.* p. 286.

on which Christian Almer and Melchior Anderegg had combined forces, and George writes with warm admiration of the spirit which they showed. 'Rivals in reputation, they yet work together like brothers.' It is only what we should expect to hear of the two men, but it is good to have it on record from this early date. George's companion was R. J. S. Macdonald, and the expedition brings him into relation with another delightful personality of the Golden Age. At a meeting of the Club on May 3, 1864, Mr. A. Adams Reilly read on 'A Rough Survey of the Chain of Mont Blanc,' and at the same meeting Mr. H. B. George read on the 'Col de la Tour Noire' (as the name was then written).

In 1866 appeared 'The Oberland and its Glaciers,' the account of a tour made in the autumn of 1865 by a party which included two ladies and a photographer. Mr. George was himself no mean photographer, and practised the art for years in its wet-plate and early dry-plate stages,* but the views in this book were taken by Mr. Ernest Edwards, B.A. The subjects were skilfully chosen, and it is a pleasure even now to look at the frontispiece, the noble upper ice-fall of the Ober Grindelwald Glacier seen from the Glectstein, unfaded after forty-five years. The objects of the book were to popularise the glacier theory of Tyndall, which is very lucidly stated, and to show how much of the pleasure of the upper regions is within the reach of a mixed party. It includes accounts of two interesting first ascents made during the same autumn,† that of the Jungfrau from the Wengern Alp with Sir G. Young, and that of the Gross Nesthorn with Mr. Alexander Mortimer. In a favourable notice which appeared in this Journal,‡ Sir Andrew Ramsay observes that 'these ascents are recorded with a pleasant humour, yet soberly, and therefore without that chaffiness, either hilarious or grumbling, which sometimes is too apt to pervade Alpine literature.' The remark may be applied to George's conversation also. He knew the importance of detail too well, and too much resented inaccuracy and vagueness, to be a ready jester. Yet he much appreciated the humorous side of things; he loved Thackeray and knew him well; perhaps his own standard of humour was drawn from that source, perhaps also, it may be said in passing, a sound and far-reaching philosophy of life which often served him well. Though never averse from talking of himself and his experiences, he seldom, I think, used to go back to his early Alpine exploits, for such they really were, certainly not to magnify his own part in them.

It was in the course of this tour that the excellent photograph of Almer—a beardless Almer—reproduced in vol. xix. was taken on the Wengern Alp by Mr. Edwards.

The first three volumes of the Journal are George's direct legacy to the Club. It speaks well for the publisher and the first editor

* See 'Notes on Photography in the High Alps,' *A. J.* iv. p. 402.

† *A. J.* ii. pp. 210, 211.

‡ *Ibid.* p. 419.

that we are now far on in vol. xxv. and still receive the numbers in the familiar form, though no doubt when the volume is completed we are aware of some lateral extension. Mr. F. Morshead, who was resident in Oxford during part of the sixties, writes as to the inception :—‘ It was started in George’s rooms at New College on Sunday evening. George and I used to have Alpine Sundays once a term to which we invited distinguished A.C.s from Birmingham, Liverpool, etc., and after dining in Hall we adjourned to George’s rooms and talked over possible improvements to the Club, and soon saw the advantage of a Journal and of George as Editor.’ In the Introductory Address, which is dated March 1863, the question is raised whether it is too late to start a Journal when so many of the great peaks have already been climbed. The Editor is reassuring, the Alps are not nearly exhausted, and we may look on to the Himalayas and to ‘ the numerous ranges in all parts of the world which the Englishman’s foot is some day destined to scale.’ The three volumes record little done outside Europe, indeed little outside the Alps proper. But in vol. ii. the Editor, in a paper recalling the abortive expedition of a Russian General in 1829,* raises the war-cry of the Caucasus, and vol. ii. has two Indian papers. Of the Editor’s own contributions, attention may be called to his accounts of the Col du Tour Rond, already mentioned †; and of the interesting passage of the Sesia Joch. ‡ The short topographical paper on the Finsteraar Joch § is very characteristic. The editorial note upon a paper describing an attempt upon the Mönch from the Valais side || is also worthy of attention. The Editor with A. W. Moore had on the same day tried the mountain from the Wengern Alp, but had been turned back by the great wall of blue ice to be mounted. After pointing out that the failure was due to the exceptional scarcity of snow in that year, he concludes :—‘ With a reasonable amount of snow on the slopes, which we found to be hard ice, I am fully convinced that the Mönch would be accessible in one day from the Wengern Alp, and I trust that the present (1863) summer may prove this opinion correct.’ Mr. Macdonald, who climbed the Mönch from the south side in 1863, writes of the previous failure upon the north side as ‘ not unnatural.’ The third successful attempt from the Wengern Alp was made by Mr. Moore in 1872 in one day of moderate length, ¶ the two previous ascents, by Herr von Fellenberg in 1866, and by Herr Bischoff in 1871, having been prolonged and laborious expeditions. Mr. Moore concludes :—‘ This year the snow was in such an exceptionally favourable state, that the ascent was free from serious difficulty, and was several times repeated.’ The story, as a whole, illustrates the sanity, touched perhaps by his invariable optimism, of George’s outlook, and his just appreciation of special conditions.

* Vol. ii. p. 168.
§ *Ibid.* p. 249.

† Vol. i. p. 274.
|| *Ibid.* p. 85.

‡ *Ibid.* p. 49.
¶ Vol. vi. p. 94.

Vol. iv., edited by his successor, contains a paper on 'Axe *versus* Alpenstock.' High authority and public opinion made it difficult in those days for any novice to appear in public places armed with an ice-axe; the 'Club Room of Zermatt,' in which George himself figures, shows some fine examples of the older weapon. This paper is a kindly stroke in favour of emancipation, which common sense, and perhaps also the *Zeitgeist*, have absolutely endorsed.

The Journal reached its hundredth number in May 1888, and the President (Mr. Dent), in welcoming that number,* reminded us of the 'vanished hands' whose touch was in the earlier pages. Several of the contributors even to these earliest pages are happily with us now, and in full activity. The first Editor will not be with us when the two-hundredth number appears; may his handiwork keep his memory green!

No notice of Mr. George would be satisfactory to himself which did not make some reference to the Oxford Alpine Club. As we have already noticed, Alpine friends were from the earliest days his frequent visitors; Moore, Macdonald, W. E. Hall, and many others in the older times, and, then and later on, his tried and constant friends C. E. Mathews and Horace Walker. In the seventies, there were resident veteran enthusiasts such as W. F. Short, R. St. John Tyrwhitt, T. J. Prout, and others distinguished as travellers though not all Alpine climbers. Younger men, who were acquiring an interest in the Alps, delighted to be brought into such company, and yearly dinners were arranged. George saw that there was room for a Club to which members should come of their own right. He laid down the lines upon which such a Club has been successfully worked: he presided, kept the accounts, secured the attendance of successive Presidents of the Alpine Club, who have most kindly responded, and of other leading members (C. E. Mathews never failed). He went to great pains to secure suitable entertainment for the meetings, such as the Norwegian pictures of Mr. Tyrwhitt, and the beautiful photographs of Mr. Donkin and Dr. Tutton. He was President to the end, but was relieved of the secretarial duties, in the first place by the present Head Master of Rugby. Lastly—the crown of all Oxford enterprises—there is now a Cambridge Alpine Club, projected, I believe, upon the same lines.

George struck those who were brought into closest contact with him as a man of remarkable powers, of which he was rightly conscious, powers which possibly did not have their whole fulfilment, and which may, in some directions, be more fully recognised later on. So far as this Club is concerned, his main work was done in a time now growing remote, and its fruits are before us. The Alpine Club was one of the most constant pleasures in a not unchequered life; he rejoiced in all its expansion, in its swelling numbers, and its multiplied fields of

* Vol. xiii. p. 497.

activity; and he rejoiced in its faithful adherence to the old ideals, and to the wisdom of its founders. In the life of his friends he leaves a very real gap. He was intolerant of inaccuracy of statement and of any slackness of effort; he was never intolerant of opposition, and well understood how to give and take. He had many minor antipathies—tobacco came about the middle of the scale—but was always ready to sink them after a protest which was meant to be entertaining and was certainly good-humoured. They knew him to be a man who felt deeply, a warm-hearted and most disinterested friend, and a loyal colleague, and will cherish his memory with lasting and affectionate regard. A. O. P.

WALTER FRANCIS SHORT.

THE Rev. Walter Francis Short, who died in December last, a few days after Mr. George, being a considerably older man (he was born in 1831), was a member of the Alpine Club from 1860 to 1891. He had been a Fellow of New College, Oxford; he was for some years headmaster of Oswestry Grammar School, and filled several other educational posts; he died at Donhead St. Mary, in Wiltshire, of which parish he had been rector since 1882. He rowed in the Oxford Eight of 1854 and was the winner of the Sculls in 1853 and 1854. He was a keen enthusiast, and had many interests of very varied kinds, and was a delightful companion. Henry Kingsley had been one of his early friends. His name frequently occurs in the 'Life of Sir Leslie Stephen,' with whom he climbed in 1860, and in 'Vacation Tourists.' He always retained a most genial love for the Alps and for all which was connected with them.

BENJAMIN WAINEWRIGHT.

THE sudden death of Benjamin Wainewright at Pontresina in August last has deprived the club of one of the truest devotees of the Alps ever numbered among its members. Born in 1853, he studied for the medical profession in Edinburgh and graduated M.B. in 1880, and was elected F.R.C.S. in 1883. He devoted himself especially to the study of the eye and was for some years Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Medical Aid Society. He was surgeon to the Charing Cross Hospital and the Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital. He also held the post of Surgeon in charge of the Aural Department of the West London Hospital, and was at one time Senior Resident Surgeon of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and demonstrator of anatomy at the University of Edinburgh. He was a Fellow of several of the London Medical Societies and published various articles in the Medical Journals.

He spent his first season in the Alps in the summer of 1873, and from that year to the day of his death, he only missed two climbing seasons in the mountains. He visited the Zermatt district and the Dolomites several times, but by far the greater number of his summer

holidays were spent in the Engadine, and it is with this district that his name will always be associated. It was to Pontresina that he returned year after year, and he came to regard it almost as his home. Beside repeated ascents of his favourite peaks, some of which he ascended literally scores of times, he accomplished several ascents by new routes. Among them may be specially mentioned his ascent of Piz Roseg by the S.E. slope of the S.W. Arête in 1878; the Monte di Scerscen by the S. face and the traverse of the Bernina-Scerscen arête to the Piz Bernina (1886); the Piz Bernina by the W. face (1880); the Piz Prievalusa by the N. arête (1882); and the Punta Rasica by the N.E. face with descent by the S.E. slope. He climbed for many years with old Hans Grass and his brother Christian of Pontresina, and it was the former who by his grand mountaineering instinct saved the rest of the party on the occasion of the well-known accident on the Palü after the cornice had given way. There is little doubt, however, that but for Wainwright's presence of mind on this occasion, Hans' efforts alone would have been unable to prevent a fatal accident.

He was elected a member of the Club in 1879, and contributed a paper on his ascent of the Monte di Scerscen printed in the August number of the Journal for 1887.

Wainwright was among the earlier members of the Club who dispensed with professional assistance in mountain ascents when he considered it unnecessary, and he several times made the ascent of Piz Bernina and other well-known peaks without guides.

He died suddenly at Pontresina, of heart failure, on August 29, and was buried at his own request in the little cemetery above the village, in full view of his favourite peaks. All the local guides and leading inhabitants, to whom he was well known, attended his funeral, and those who had been most closely associated with him carried him to rest.

No more delightful companion than Benjamin Wainwright can possibly be imagined, nothing could ruffle his quiet, happy and lovable disposition, and even in circumstances of difficulty or danger the humorous side of the situation always appealed to him.

He was universally beloved and was among the few about whom it may truthfully be said that they had not an enemy in the world.

DR. THEODOR CHRISTAMANOS.

THE death at Meran, on January 30, 1911, of this distinguished member of the Alpine world is announced. Born at Vienna in 1854, of Greek extraction, he was educated at the Universities of Innsbruck and Strassburg, where an accident in fencing left him with a permanently disabled right hand. He became in 1891 President of the Meran Section of the D. and Ö. A. V. and threw his whole energies into forwarding the interests of his beloved Tirol. He was to a great extent instrumental in getting the Gomagoi-Sulden road built,

which for twenty years was kept in order by the Austria and Meran Sections. He had much to do with the negotiations, requiring the greatest tact, which resulted in building the great protective works in the Martell Thal. His endeavours to improve the Fremden-industrie, which meant so much to his country, led him to get together sufficient financial support to build the hotels at Suldén, Trafoi and Karer See, which can fairly hold their own with first-rate Swiss hotels.

He took up with great vigour and induced the sections, Innsbruck, Bozen and Meran, as well as the interested communes, to support with their whole power the proposal, to build the magnificent Alpine road from Welschnofen in the Eggenthal to Vigo in Val Fassa and over the Pordoi and Falzarego passes to Cortina which is now an accomplished fact.

He was a member of the Tiroler Landtag and of the K.K. Railway Council.

His Alpine publications included a monograph on the Rosengarten and Latemar groups and a book 'Suldén-Trafoi.'

As a rock climber he was considerably handicapped by his lame hand, but he was an indefatigable snow wanderer and once traversed in the day the fourteen summits between the Cevedale and Pizzo Tresero and, likewise in a day, the three great peaks the Königs-*spitze*, the Zeburu and the Ortler.

To Englishmen he always showed in the highest degree the splendid Austrian courtesy.

J. P. F.