

actual highest point of the summit ridge now gained by the Archdeacon's party :

' I should like at this time to correct the statement that the peak of Mt. McKinley rose 300 feet above us. If the summit of Mt. McKinley had ended in a peak we could have climbed it, as our only difficulty was our inability to see clearly where to go *and how to get back*. The summit of Mt. McKinley is a long horse-shoe-shaped ridge. On a clear day it would require at least an hour to explore this ridge and make the necessary observations.

' While we were climbing straight up from the narrow north-eastern arête all was well, but on reaching the edge of the flat summit it was impossible for us to find our way to the low rise in the ridge through the clouds of blizzard-driven snow.

' The hummock that formed the highest portion of the summit ridge was only a short distance away, and reaching it under good weather conditions would have required no more labour than one encounters in walking along a city street. Our danger was the intense cold and the difficulty of correctly retracing our steps through the storm. But the dome on which we stood *was the summit of Mt. McKinley.*'

Professor Parker and Mr. Belmore Browne made two previous expeditions to Mt. McKinley before their final success. The second of these expeditions is fully described and the previous attempts reviewed in an article in this Journal, vol. xxv. 644-648. It is undoubtedly due to the splendid pioneer work of these two men, added to the energy and skill of the Archdeacon and his men, who had with them their maps and data, that the Archdeacon's party were able to put on the coping-stone.

Karstens is the Alaskan guide who led the Charles Sheldon expedition in 1907-8, while Tatum is a mission worker under the Archdeacon.

The Archdeacon is to be greatly congratulated on the successful carrying out of this great expedition. It is to be hoped that he will find time to write a full account of it, which will be looked for with as much interest as Mr. Belmore Browne's already announced book on his various expeditions.

J. P. F.

THE FATAL ACCIDENT TO DR. PAUL PREUSS.

THE news will be received with great regret that Dr. Paul Preuss, the well-known Austrian climber, was killed about October 2 on the precipitous hitherto unclimbed N. face of the Mannldkogel, a difficult rock peak in the Salzkammergut. As he was alone the cause of the accident is obscure.

Dr. Preuss's latest achievement was the traverse of the Aig. Blanche de Peuteret from the Col between it and the Dames

Anglaises, a very difficult expedition requiring great judgment as well as first-rate climbing powers.

One has to go back almost to Emil Zsigmondy to match, at such an early age, the great reputation that Dr. Preuss had won for himself as much by his great powers as a climber as by his clear and vivid descriptions of some of his great climbs. He was on the high road to a European reputation and his premature death is much to be lamented.

Freiherr von Saar has been good enough to accede to the request to furnish to the *ALPINE JOURNAL* an account of the accident and an appreciation of his late friend which unfortunately was not received in time for inclusion in this number and will appear in February, while one of the best known of our members adds below a characteristic testimony.

Dr. Preuss's name will be in the recollection of British mountaineers in connection with the accident to Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Jones on the *Monts Rouges de Peuteret* in August 1912. For those who were concerned, his promptitude and courage at the time, and subsequently his admirable tact and sympathy, will remain a lasting memory.

Among Continental mountaineers, Austrian, Italian and German, his name was already widely known. He stood alone in his generation, both for the number and the difficulty of his ascents in the Eastern Alps. As a master of every principle, detail and variety of rock climbing he was without an equal in the extent of his experience and without a superior, among amateurs, in the finish and power of his performance.

His ascents were made largely alone. The mountains came first, and he could find few companions who would not be comparatively an encumbrance. He belonged to, and led, a strong school of thought in the Austrian Alps which holds that the constant 'moral' use of the rope encourages careless climbing and multiplies unequal associations unfitted for exceptionally difficult climbs. He based his practice, and his considered teaching, on the principles that have been worked out and found applicable by himself and other experts in this their own region. He did much to encourage and instruct beginners in climbing, and was insistent upon its serious aspects; on the necessity of preliminary training, fitness, careful previous reconnoitring and constant precaution.

It was not until 1912, I believe, that he was first attracted to the greater Western Alps, but the rapidity with which he mastered the technique of ice and snow on some of the most difficult glaciers around *Mont Blanc* was remarkable. Independently and alone, in a few days, he worked out the problem upon which H. O. Jones and I were engaged, to find a 'safe' route up the *Aiguille Blanche de Peuteret*, a question which we settled by our exploration on *La Pointe Isolée*. He returned in 1913 and made the ascent with

the Count Bonacossa and Signor Prockownick. It may have been due to other considerations, but I should like to mention it as very characteristic of his delicacy of feeling, that he avoided the approach to the S. ridge which our ascent had established as safe and easy, but which would have taken him back to the Gamba Hut and the Fresnay Glacier, the scene of the accident, and took what was known to be the more dangerous and difficult wall of approach from a bivouac on the Brenva Glacier.

His reliance upon his own skill was justifiable. He had a sounder knowledge of mountaineering principles and practice, assimilated from all quarters as well as from personal experience, than most of us who are now content to sit back and advise others. If he has fallen, it has been from no ill-considered daring or neglect of the precautions held necessary by his school. Accidents in mountaineering occur to the ablest no less than to the least enterprising. Solitary climbing will always have its critics as well as its devotees. But with the feeling of regret for the premature death of a great climber and a fine personality comes also the feeling of pride that there are still men of the highest intellect in our generation who, with full knowledge of all the easier and more profitable alternatives that life has to offer, continue to match their skill as it increases against increasing difficulty, and accept the issue with calm courage.

G. WINTHROP YOUNG.

ALPINE ACCIDENTS IN 1913.

ACCIDENT ON THE TÜRMLIHORN (2491 m.) IN THE SIMMENTHAL. DEATH OF THE REV. PAUL BAUMGÄRTNER.

ON June 22, by a most unfortunate accident, this young and enthusiastic mountaineer, one of the best of the young Swiss, lost his life. He and Herr Bratschi were engaged in ascending the Türmlihorn (about 8200 ft.), N.W. of Adelboden, by its jagged E. arête. The climb is difficult, but well within the powers of the party. Herr Baumgärtner was pastor of St. Stephan, an adjoining village in the Simmenthal, and had often made the ascent.

Everything went well until they arrived above the gap between the two E. gendarmes. Here they roped. Bratschi then descended into the gap. Baumgärtner was following when a loosened block of rock swept his legs away from underneath him. The quite good rope broke, probably cut by a stone, as the edges were quite sharp, and Baumgärtner fell past his companion first into a little couloir and then over the high rocks down to the scree of the Rüggenenthal. His companion reached him within half an hour, but from the terrible injuries to the head death must have been instantaneous. The body was carried down by a party of the deceased's parishioners.

By a somewhat tragic coincidence the first ascent of the Türmlihorn