As to Mrs. Bullock Workman, her energy is boundless. Neither fatigue nor hardship, burning heat nor arctic cold, can daunt her, and she brings the same fighting spirit into the onslaughts which, almost to the point of monotony, she constantly makes on a well-known traveller whose own writings can never be said to be wanting in appreciation of his companions and of his predecessors. I am amused at her feeling that she suffers under 'sex-antagonism.' I have no recollection that we felt in the old days anything but good comradeship and admiration towards Miss Walker, Mrs. Burnaby, Mrs. Jackson, Miss Richardson and others.

And I do beg you, my dear lady, to consider well before you exhort your sex to 'begin to compete with men in this field' of exploration. They may take you too literally! It may be that they will eschew the company of any mere male in their journeys and will send to Mr. Sherring[2] for some of those Amazons he tells us of. I am not sure that their cares will be lessened thereby, and do consider our loss!

J. P. Farrar.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MONTE ROSA.

To the Editor of the Alpine Journal.

Dear Sir,—The record of the early ascents in the October number is so exhaustive that it may as well be made perfectly accurate.

My companion (p. 318) was Charles Faiseau Lavanne, a Notary of Paris and plucky climber, for he was ill during the whole ascent. My second ascent was twenty-eight (not twenty-six) years later, of course with axes and ropes, neither of which were found in the party of 1856. I fancy I detect an atmosphere of polite incredulity when I assure present-day climbers of this, and that the first time I saw such appliances was in July 1863, in the first ascents of the Palü and the Sella (Engadine).[1] I have seen pictures, of an earlier date, of guides with short-handled hatchets in their belts, but never saw one used, and the combination of axe with Alpenstock was unknown, to me at any rate, in 1856.[3]

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[2] *Western Tibet and the British Borderland*, by C. A. Sherring. Arnold. 1906.

[1] Cf. *A.J.* i. 339 *seq.* 'The Glaciers of the Bernina,' by E. N. Buxton.

[3] [The use of the rope is mentioned by Simler in 1574, *vide Les Origines de L'Alpinisme*, p. cxlv (Mr. Coolidge's edition), and Mr.

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I ought really by now to be an O.M. of the A.C., and I fancy the only one. I was summoned to meet Hinchliff to discuss forming the Club early in 1858, but had just engaged to be married and considered the idea of climbing entirely at an end and did not go. I have regretted it any time these sixty years.

Little did I think I should go up Monte Rosa again in my fiftieth year.

Yours faithfully,

Woodford Green,
Jan. 1, 1918.

ANDW. JOHNSTON.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall, 23 Savile Row, W.1., on Monday, December 10, 1917, at 8.30 P.M., Captain J. P. Farrar, D.S.O., *President*, in the Chair.

The following candidates were balloted for and elected members of the Club—namely, Major C. T. Carfrae, M.C., Rev. A. E. Murray, Mr. A. R. Thomson, and Major Robert Workman.

The PRESIDENT, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 29, declared the following gentlemen to be duly elected as officers and members of Committee for 1918.

As *President*, Captain J. P. Farrar, D.S.O.

As *Vice-Presidents*, Lieut.-Col. E. L. Strutt and, in place of Mr. George Yeld whose term of office expires, Mr. C. H. R. Wollaston.

As *Honorary Secretary*, Col. G. E. Gask, D.S.O., R.A.M.C., F.R.C.S.

As *Members of Committee*, Mr. H. W. Belcher, Major J. P. Somers, Lt.-Col. A. H. Tubby, C.M.G., M.B., F.R.C.S., M.S., Rev. W. C. Compton, Mr. W. H. Ellis, Mr. E. B. Harris, and Captain S. L. Courtauld, Major W. G. Johns and Mr. H. F. Montagnier in place of Messrs. J. H. Clapham, W. T. Kirkpatrick and Claude A. Macdonald, who retire by effluxion of time.

Mr. C. H. R. WOLLASTON returned thanks to the members for the honour they had done him in electing him a Vice-President.

It was proposed and seconded and carried unanimously that Messrs. G. E. Howard and R. S. Morrish be elected auditors to audit the Club Accounts for the current year.

The PRESIDENT said: I am sure you will all be glad to hear that our Honorary Secretary, Col. G. E. Gask, D.S.O., has recently been promoted full colonel.

Coolidge's *Swiss Travel*, p. 19. The Oberländers were mainly responsible for the evolution of the present ice-axe, the early form of which is shown in the illustration *A.J.* xxx. 284.

The short hatchet was used by the Chamonix men as late as 1854 (cf. *A.J.* xxx. 288 note).]

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