

the author of an 'Anthology of the Poetry of the Alps,' 'A. W. Moore, a British Mountaineer,' and other works which bear testimony to an unbounded capacity for methodical and painstaking work and to his love for the mountains. He was a brother of our member Mr. J. Eberli.

On July 21 the Herren F. ALTMANN, G. Horatschet and B. Bosset attempted to ascend the S. face of the DACHSTEIN by the so-called Pichl route—a very formidable and long climb which their previous experience did not warrant their undertaking. About 4 P.M., when just below the very difficult, long, black Kamin, the decisive point of the climb, Altmann, the leader, fell, probably through the giving way of a hand or foothold. The rope broke, and so the two others escaped, but were unable to move without assistance. Herr Pichl himself happened to be on the summit and was a witness of the occurrence. Quickly getting together a party, he rescued the two others at 2 P.M. next day, while the body of the victim was recovered by the guide Georg Steiner.

ALPINE NOTES.

'BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE.' THE WESTERN ALPS.—Copies of the new edition (1898) of this work can be obtained from all booksellers, or from Edward Stanford, Limited, 12 Long Acre, W.C. 2. Price 12s. net.

'BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE,' THE CENTRAL ALPS. PART I.—A new edition (1907) of this portion of 'The Alpine Guide,' by the late John Ball, F.R.S., President of the Alpine Club, reconstructed and revised on behalf of the Alpine Club under the general editorship of A. V. Valentine-Richards, Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge, can be obtained from all booksellers, or from Edward Stanford, Limited, 12 Long Acre, W.C. 2. It includes those portions of Switzerland to the N. of the Rhône and Rhine valleys. Price 6s. 6d. net.

'BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE,' THE CENTRAL ALPS. PART II.—A new edition (1911) of this portion of 'The Alpine Guide,' by the late John Ball, F.R.S., President of the Alpine Club, reconstructed and revised on behalf of the Alpine Club under the general editorship of the Rev. George Broke, can be obtained from all booksellers, or from Edward Stanford, Limited, 12 Long Acre, W.C. 2. It includes those Alpine portions of Switzerland, Italy, and Austria which lie S. and E. of the Rhône and Rhine, S. of the Arlberg, and W. of the Adige. Price 7s. 6d. net.

MAP OF THE VALSESIA.—Some copies of the Map issued with the ALPINE JOURNAL, No. 209, and of the plates opposite pages 108

and 128 in No. 208, are available and can be obtained from the Assistant Secretary, Alpine Club, 23 Savile Row, W. Price for the set (the Map mounted on cloth), 3s.

GUIDE DES ALPES VALAISANNES.—Vol. III., du Col du Théodule au Simplon, has just been published. The price of the volume (to members of the S.A.C.) is 5fr. 15c. Post free from the Quæstor of the respective section. The book is so well furnished with route-marked illustrations that a very scanty knowledge of French suffices for its use.

The volume from the Col Ferret to the Théodule is in the press.

Volume IV., du Simplon à la Furka, par Marcel Kurz, has just appeared.

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY.—

	Date of Election.
Hermann Woolley	1888
C. S. Bayley	1889
E. A. Broome	1889
M. J. Dixon	1893
A. McAndrew	1907

SIR THOMAS CLIFFORD ALBUTT, K.C.B., &c., &c.—The King has been graciously pleased to approve that Sir Thomas Clifford Albutt, K.C.B., M.A., M.D., D.Sc., &c., be sworn a Member of his Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

MILITARY HONOURS FOR WAZIRISTAN CAMPAIGN.—Simla, June 11.—The following details of acts for which immediate awards have been given for gallantry and distinguished service in the field in connection with the operations of the Waziristan Force are published :

MILITARY CROSS.

'Captain Henry Darrell Minchinton, 1-1st (K.G.O.) Gurkha Rifles, attached 2-9th Gurkha Rifles.—For conspicuous gallantry in action and fine leadership. During the withdrawal down the Badder Toi, on April 8, when his company had been ordered to retire through the rearguard party, the enemy followed up closely, and suddenly opened a hot fire at close range. Captain Minchinton remained behind with a few men who had not already withdrawn and assisted in the withdrawal of a picquet of another unit. When forced to retire to a less exposed position in the rear he went forward again with a non-commissioned officer to recover a casualty, and covered the bringing in of the wounded man by giving covering fire himself. By his sense of duty, and disregard of danger, he

materially assisted the bringing in of a picquet under difficult circumstances, besides checking the enemy and helping to bring in a wounded man, who would otherwise have fallen into the enemy's hands.'

A MOUNTAINEERING EXPEDITION TO NORWAY IN 1855.—Mr. A. F. R. Wollaston sends the interesting note given below.

Mr. Eardley J. Blackwell was climbing in the Alps as early as 1850 (*cf.* Mr. Coolidge's *The Alps in Nature*, 231-3, and 'A.J.' xxxii. 53), and made in 1854 the virtually first ascent of the Wetterhorn from Grindelwald. It is to be regretted that no further information is available of the mountaineering career of a very strong and determined climber.

In looking through letters and journals connected with a Life of the late Professor Alfred Newton, F.R.S., of Magdalen College, Cambridge, I have come across allusions to a mountaineering expedition in Norway of a very early date. As there is, so far as I am aware, no note about this in the ALPINE JOURNAL, the following details may be worth recording.

In the spring of 1855 two young Cambridge graduates and naturalists, Alfred Newton (afterwards Professor of Zoology at Cambridge and F.R.S.) and W. H. Simpson (afterwards called Wilfred Hudleston, F.R.S.) made a voyage to Lapland, where they joined their friend John Wolley, a well-known ornithologist of that time. Mr. Simpson kept a very complete journal, and in it occur the following entries, which may be of interest to students of mountain exploration.

'May 18, 1855. Left Shelford early. Meet Newton at Ely and compare notes with him to Peterborough, where we first encountered Eardley J. Blackwell on his way to Norway with Gideon Balmat the Chamouny guide. Of Blackwell I had heard much during my visit to Switzerland last year, as a great mountaineer, he having ascended the Wetterhorn, whilst I was staying at Interlaken. He knew Norway well, having travelled there before in company with Biddulph, and was now taking every necessary apparatus for a prolonged residence in the Jotun Fjeld. He had 600 lbs. of luggage, comprizing tent, bedding, camp-equipage, preserved meats and all sorts of things. We dined together at Hull, but the accommodation was indifferent.

'May 19. Off at 7 A.M. Amongst our passengers were Mr. Lund and his wife (who never appeared until we got across), Blackwell and Balmat, Scott and Torr, and some Norwegians; all fraternized well.

'May 22. Christianssand. Missed the Bergen steamer, for which I was very glad, as I wished to see something more of Blackwell, Scott and Torr—all three very good fellows.

'May 23. Christiania. Blackwell of immense service in choosing carriages.

'May 25. Minde. Blackwell said there was a very wild district between here and the Glommen, where Elks had lately been killed.

'Our party met for the last time together at supper here, and sorry I was that it should be so, for we had been remarkably merry hitherto and indeed, apart from this, Blackwell was of immense service to us all from his knowledge of the language and the people.'

(Newton and Simpson were in a hurry to reach Trondhjem to catch the steamer to Hammerfest, so they parted at Minde from Blackwell and Balmat, who followed more leisurely along the same road to the Jotun Fjeld. It would be interesting to know who Biddulph was.)

A. F. R. WOLLASTON.

Mr. Slingsby writes to Captain Farrar:—

'In the late fifties, the sixties and early seventies the name of Blackwell was well known in Central Norway, where he had a house and, I think, a good deal of land in Vaage, a rich and fertile district on the Northern edge of the sterile Jotun Fjelde, in which wild terrain he used to go reindeer stalking, especially in the rugged glens which converge on Lake Gjendin—the scene later of "Three in Norway, by two of them." He married a very handsome Norse girl, who came to London with him, how often I do not know. I think they had a family.

'Once I crossed the North Sea with Du Chaillu, who was on his way to pay a second visit to Blackwell, whom he knew very well. Blackwell would certainly know something of the glaciers in the wild Leirungsdal, as well as those of Knytshviltind. Of the two great rival sports in Norway, reindeer stalking and mountaineering, undoubtedly the former was that which appealed the strongest to the "Engelskmand Blackwell," who is still remembered with great respect in Vaage. About his mountaineering very little is known.'

THE MAIN RIDGE OF THE BLACK CUILLIN.—Mr. Geoffrey Howard sends the following note of the time lately taken by Mr. T. Howard Somervell on this ridge:

Left Glen Brittle	7.11 A.M.
Top of Gars Bheinn	9.16
Sgurr nan Eag	9.58
Sgurr Dubh na Dabheinn	10.41
Alasdair	11.43
Tearlach	11.50
Mhic Choinnich	12.18 P.M.
Dearg (inaccessible Pinnacle)	1.17
Dearg Cairn	1.25 to 2.11 (rest)
Banachdich	2.40
Ghreadaidh	3.32
Mhadaidh	3.50
Bidean Druim nan Ramh	4.42 to 5.0 (rest)

Sgurr na Fhionn Coire	6.13
Bealach nan Lice	6.20 to 6.50 (rest)
Bhasteir (<i>via</i> Tooth) (Naismith's route) .	7.21
Sgurr nan Gillean	7.45
Sgurr H'Uamha	8.05
Sligachan	9.29

Total, 14 hours 18 minutes.

Total rest, 1 hour 34 minutes.

Total on ridge, 9.16 to 8.05 = 10 hours 49 minutes.

Mr. Leslie Shadbolt in reply to an enquiry writes:—

'I traversed the ridge of the Coolin in 1911 with A. C. McLaren, and we took, apparently, the same route as Mr. Howard Somervell. We took it as an ordinary climbing expedition and were concerned only to fit the climb to the limits of a reasonable day. We started fast but slowed down about noon when we saw we had time in hand. I sent a note of times to the *S.M.C. Journal*, as up till then the estimates of time required to do the expedition had varied much, and many people thought it could not be done in a day. We took 16½ hours altogether including halts. I think Mr. Howard Somervell's times are remarkably fast and would mean very hard going all day long.

'I have details of all our times if you want them, but I think they are not of very great interest and it would be rather a pity to set up a competitive standard for a fine climbing expedition of this sort.'

SCHWEIZER ALPEN-CLUB.—The published accounts to December 31, 1919, give the following information:—

Total number of Members, including 3308 new

Members	17,962
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Total income, inclusive of the gross receipts

from the <i>Jahrbuch</i>	Frs. 173,927 = £6957
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The principal items of expenditure are:—

	Frs.
New huts	6,400
Repairs to huts; furniture, insurance, &c. .	5,717
<i>Alpina</i>	25,184
<i>Jahrbuch</i> , Vol. 53	82,334
Assurance of guides	5,410
Instruction of guides	2,401
Part assurance of Members	13,354
Rescue arrangements	3,336
Various subventions	2,300
Reserve fund for amortisation of stock of	
Guide-books, &c.	20,000
General expenses, &c.	23,785

190,221 = £7609

WHAT IS A SPORTSMAN?—As I understand the breed, he is one who has not merely braced his muscles and developed his endurance by the exercise of some great sport, but has in the pursuit of that exercise learnt to control his anger, to be considerate to his fellow-men, to take no mean advantage, to resent as a dishonour the very suspicion of trickery, to bear aloft a cheerful countenance under disappointment, and never to own himself defeated until the last breath is out of his body.

(the late) W. E. T. BOLITHO,
Lieutenant-Colonel.

September 5, 1918.

Colonel Bolitho was the old Harrow and Oxford cricketer and a very good all round man.

(Sent in by Mr. Claude Macdonald.)

DR. ALEXANDER SEILER AND AUGUSTIN GENTINETTA.—In the course of a sermon preached on July 25 in the English Church at Zermatt Canon Durham made the following allusion:—

‘There are lights and shadows on the hills; and as I watch the shadows they speak of those which fall athwart our lives. Many of us since last we looked upon the Alps have known sorrows of which we hardly dare to think. But it is not of the shadows that have fallen on our homes that we would speak to-day. There are shadows here in Zermatt too; there are sorrows mingling with our joy in being here again. There are faces which we miss; there are hands which we shall never clasp again. Here in this English Church this morning I express for the English visitors to Zermatt the deep regret we feel at the death of Herr Alexander Seiler. We English have ever had a kindly—and more than a kindly—welcome here in Zermatt, and from none more than from the late Herr Seiler. He was at all times a friend to us; but it was when the war broke out that we learnt how good a friend he was. I was not myself then at Zermatt, but I know, and many of you know, what happened—how Herr Seiler told his English guests that his hotels were at their disposal as long as they cared, or were compelled, to stay; and not only so, but that none need think of payment till after their return, while he was ready to advance money to any who required it. We cannot thank him now in person, but we can and do express our true and lasting gratitude, and our sympathy with all members of the Seiler family.

‘There are others whom we miss to-day in Zermatt. Among the guides, Augustin Gentinetta, a man highly esteemed in the community, beloved by those of us who had been his companions on the mountains—and his brother Joseph. It saddens our return to the Alps that they are no longer here, but we would like to think that they may know that English friends cherish their memory, and here in our English Church we commend them to Him Who is their God and ours.’

THE LATE FREDERICK GARDINER.—In the notice on p. 99, the date of his ascent of the Matterhorn is given as 1870 instead of 1871, and on p. 102 it should read that he was elected a member of the Club in 1871 and a member of the Committee in 1879.

LE C.A.F.—M. Jacques de Lépiney writes that a 'Groupe de Haute Montagne' has been formed, the principal object of which is the furtherance of guideless climbs.

VISITORS TO THE HUTS OF THE S.A.C.

	1917	1918	1919
Bétemps	216	260	705
Schönbühl	318	233	306
Dom	54	73	216
Weisshorn	43	65	124
Mountet	365	317	557
Bertol	330	265	595
Chanrion	412	227	570
Panossière	225	230	420
Orny	683	626	1005
J. Dupuis	743	623	1125
Britannia	465	556	925
Solvay	54	57	
Mutthorn	807	964	
Oberaletsch	77	102	168
Koncordia	774	790	805
Finsteraarhorn	205	205	564
Strahlegg	172	217	277
Gleckstein	216	196	491
Damma	116	95	146
Clariden	1084	976	1292
Fridolin	477	399	629
Boval	1537	904	1739
Tschierva	605	494	
Sciora	48	19	14

MONT AIGUILLE.—The fourth ascent of the N. face was done on June 1, 1919, by MM. Plossu and Main. The ascent took three hours and was a variation on M. Escarra's route described in *La Montagne*, xii. 1916, p. 1.

THE MEIJE.—The same climbers made the second ascent by the route Brèche de la Meije—Brèche du Petit Doigt and the Glacier carré (August 2, 1919).

WINTER ASCENTS.—In 'A.J.' xxxii. 275, is a note of a winter ascent of the DENT D'HÉRENS by Herr Hafers, said to be the first. The first winter ascent was, however, done on January 16, 1910,

by Signor Mario Piacenza with G. B. Péliissier and G. Carrel, from the new Rifugio Aosta (Rivista Mensile, 1910, 158). Hafer's ascent is the second. I did the third on January 28, 1920.

All the higher peaks of the Pennine range have now been ascended in winter.

In February I succeeded in ascending the last two, viz. Ober Gabelhorn and Täschhorn. Thanks to the good conditions and fine weather these ascents did not require much more time than in summer. I did both expeditions alone with Josef Knubel, who is at any rate the best winter guide in Zermatt. The particulars are as follows :

February 3.—**OBER GABELHORN.** Left Trifthotel 4.45 A.M. On ski up to the Schulter of Wellenkuppe, where ski were left (8.45–9.20). Wellenkuppe 10.10. Top of Grd. Gendarme 10.50–11.05 (about 100 feet of rope have been fixed to the N. side of the Grd. Gendarme last summer by the 'Führerverein' of Zermatt). Foot of final rock ridge 12.05–12.20 P.M. Top Gabelhorn 12.50–1.10. Grd. Gendarme 2.0–2.10. Top of Wellenkuppe 3.10–3.20. Ski 3.50–4.05. Trifthotel 5.10.

On January 31 and February 1, it snowed incessantly in Zermatt. In spite of that we found the mountain in pretty good condition.

On February 4 we ascended **SCHALLIHOHN** (1st winter ascent) with ski up to the Ob. Schallijoch.

February 7.—**TÄSCHHORN.** Left Hotel Täschalp 3.15 A.M. (moonlight)—on ski to the foot of Weingarten moraines. Then with crampons on hard snow. Halt on Weingartengl. 5.45–6.05. Rock rib (between 2 branches of Weingartengl.) at about 3700 m. 7.40–8.30 (–22° Celsius !); Mischabeljoch 9.40–10.15. Summit (by S.E. arête) 12.45–1.20. Back at Täschalp 5 P.M.

Mountain in excellent condition. Splendid weather, but N. wind very cold.

On *February 10* I ascended the **MATTERHORN** with Knubel by the Hörnli arête (5th winter ascent). We intended to come down by the Z'Mutt arête, and took raquettes with us to the top. But a furious S.W. wind prevented our trying the proposed descent, as that side gets no sun all day, so we descended same way. I never saw the Z'Mutt arête in better condition. On the ordinary route we found more snow than usual as far as the Solvay hut, but higher up the conditions could not have been better, all ropes being free and the rocks perfectly dry. We found the old steps on the shoulder. The ascent took us 5 hours actual going.

MARCEL KURZ.

Neurhâtel, March 15, 1920.

THE S. FACE OF M. BLANC ('A.J.' xxxiii. 129), Mr. Oliver writes :

Courtauld and I with Aufdenblatten climbed the Innominata two days before our ascent of Mont Blanc, in order to examine the

route very carefully. We then definitely decided that the left-hand arête was the proper route to the summit. The points in doubt were :

(a) Whether the continuation on the face of Mont Blanc of the Fresney arête (*i.e.* right-hand arête) could be climbed. This cannot be seen from the Innominata or the Aiguille Noire or any other point I had previously reached.

(b) At what point we should cross the great couloir, but it was evident that we ought to cross it as high as possible to avoid risk of stone falls.

The height at which we left the Fresney arête was, according to the aneroid, about 13,600 feet, and I noticed that we were then considerably higher than the Aig. Blanche, and apparently somewhat lower than the Jorasses. From this point we were able to trace our route across the couloir and on to the left-hand arête.

We did not therefore seriously examine the possibility of continuing on the Fresney arête to a higher point, but the continuation certainly looked uninviting. Moreover, even if the ascent of the Fresney arête could be continued to its end, it joins the second arête at a point considerably below where the latter meets the Brouillard ridge.

There are two or three very difficult rock pitches shortly below our breakfast place, one of which was climbed by Adolphe Rey (a great rock expert) by standing on his brother's head. If one looks at this pitch from down below, it seems very difficult, while the pitch next above it (though, in fact, it is less difficult) looks from down below quite impossible.

THE FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE CRIST' AGÜZZA SATTEL.—It will be remembered that the bodies of the three Swiss tourists who fell into a deep crevasse could not be recovered. To mark the place, as well as the rate of progress of the glacier, a stout brass cylinder 8 ins. long and 4 ins. diam., containing details of the accident, has been lowered into the crevasse. It is calculated that it should reach Morteratsch in 100 to 150 years.

HERR ERNST PÜHN, the well-known German climber, who had to his credit all the 4000^m. summits, was killed in a carriage accident near Evolena.

The **ALPINE JOURNAL**, vols. vii.—xxvii, half bound in leather, in perfect condition, and vol. xxviii in parts, is for sale. Apply Canon Burn, The Vicarage, Halifax.