Map 2 of May. The peak is indicated, but without height, at the head of the small branch glacier which joins the East Rongbuk glacier opposite the word ' East.' The view is taken looking in a westerly or north-westerly direction, with a branch glacier in the foreground, which is not shown on the map, but is situated S. of the branch glacier previously mentioned. (See also Notes on Plates 4 and 5 above.)

Peak 22,580 is probably identical with the one just to the right of the centre of Plate 10 of May, and which is seen towards the S.W., in which direction of view the long streak of rock running down the face, but not visible in Plate 12, might become opened up. It should be mentioned that Map 2 was prepared before the East Rongbuk valley had been fully explored, and that the correct delineation of the branch glaciers thereon cannot necessarily be depended upon as an aid towards the identification of peaks appearing in the photographs of either side of this valley.

Plate 13.—This view embraces the northern half of the slope leading to the North Col. The whole width of slope is visible in Plate 9.

Plate 15.—The peak on the extreme left of this picture is peak 22,580, the telephotograph being a large-scale view of the distant parts of Plates 4 and 5, but taken from a position rather further to the right hand than these two pictures. The line of sight slopes upwards in Plate 15, with the result that the summit of Changtse appears to be almost directly below the top of Everest, whereas the N. ridge of Changtse extends for a greater distance towards Everest, the highest point visible being immediately beneath the word ' Changtse ' on the plate. The upper parts of the two snow gullies, which form a conspicuous feature in Plate 3, just show over the ridges of Changtse and peak 22,580 respectively.

P. J. H. U.

The Everest Expeditions.

Conclusions.

TWO expeditions have now been made. The mountain is still unconquered. It is well to examine in the light of the past the measure of hope for the future.

The expedition of 1921 yielded all the results that were hoped for. Mallory discovered a probably possible route

to the summit by way of the N. face, and actually gained the N. Col. When the mountain is eventually climbed, whether he be of the party or not, no mountaineer will ever fail to give him the credit of this essential discovery. His name, with much greater justification than has been the case in many similar instances, ought to be attached to one of the great features of the mountain. The N. Col might well bear the name of the first white man to gain its crest. The splendid services of Col. Bury and the other members have been already recorded.

This year's expedition was to be an attack in force. A very strong party was got together, and the Everest Committee sanctioned and procured, not only every kind of stores and equipment that *might* be wanted, but, of the more critical articles of equipment, sent out as many as three or four alternatives. In the equipment was included a supply of oxygen in portable bottles, together with breathing apparatus.

The party reached the base camp in great fettle and with marvellous punctuality, due, as is admitted on all sides, to the driving power, tact in handling men, and organising ability of General Bruce.

The instructions were 'to make a determined effort with every available resource to reach the summit.'

About the capacity of Finch, Mallory, Norton, Somervell, to reach great heights and to stand cold and exposure there was no doubt. In experience of high ascents in the Alps, more especially in winter and summer snow conditions, and in perennial fitness Strutt, an older man, was scarcely to be equalled by any mountaineer, whether still active or not. He rendered solid services, spending weeks at over 20,000 ft. Morshead had attained over 23,500 ft. on Kamet, and had shown himself in the expedition of 1921 as a man of great endurance, in addition to eminent technical abilities. Wakefield and Crawford were more uncertain factors, but they rendered yeoman service and reached the N. Col. Geoffrey Bruce was a dark horse.

The indomitable Longstaff, with his great Himalayan experience, counted himself no longer on the active list, but his counsel was invaluable.

Starting from the N. Col on May 21, Mallory, Norton, Somervell, Morshead—Strutt, with great self-sacrifice, standing down—camped at about 25,000 ft., and on May 22, in quite passable weather, the first three gained a height now computed at 26,985 ft.—an advance of nearly 2400 ft. on the

previous recorded altitude attained. It is obvious from the official report, and from conversations with the men, that great hardships and dangers were encountered, while the attempt will remain as perfect an exhibition of unselfish mountain team-work as even our race can show.

A possible reason why a supply of oxygen was not taken with this party is that the apparatus needed overhauling. This could only be done by Finch. It was May 22, the actual day of the first attempt, before four sets of the apparatus could be passed ready for use.

So far as one can gather it had been decided, however, for some time, to make the initial attempt without the aid of oxygen.

There is this to be said for this decision: No one could foretell the much longer time for recovery, if indeed full recovery ever takes place, required by men exposed to such quite inordinate fatigue and hardships—nor foresee that the early arrival of the monsoon might allow insufficient time for such recovery and for a further full-power attempt, with oxygen, to which some of the forces detailed for the first attempt were essential.

It is as idle to conceal the fact that the absence of faith in the value of oxygen by several of the party contributed to the decision as to speculate what might have been the result had it been possible to use the whole resources of the expedition for one great attempt, before proceeding to make an interesting experiment.

And this absence of faith is scarcely to be wondered at, for, only last May, on high authority it was written: 'And this [the failure of the climbers to tolerate the restraint of the oxygen apparatus] would be a good thing, because it seems to us quite as important to discover how high a man can climb without oxygen as to get to a specified point, even the highest summit of the world, in conditions so artificial that they can never become "legitimate" mountaineering.'

This acclamation of a possible failure, this advocacy of a fresh objective, were not calculated to foster singleness of purpose.

I am aware that the article from which I quote could not have been actually seen by any of the climbers, but it is indicative of the atmosphere already created in the minds of some of them.

The point of view indicated in the quotation is difficult to fathom.

The Germans in using gas may well be held to have created an 'artificial' position. Were we not entitled to use an equally 'artificial' agent to re-establish equality? Let us conceive that, instead of using gas, they had created a very much rarefied zone of air—ought we to have dashed into this with no 'artificial' appliances? Would it be unsportsmanlike?

Yet Everest is to be allowed to clothe itself with air containing a far less proportion of oxygen than is needed for the development of the full powers of man, and the mountaineer who attempts to make good the deficit is held to create 'conditions so artificial that they can never become "legitimate" mountaineering.' As Finch, the protagonist of oxygen, puts it: One may use extraordinary clothes to counteract the cold, any kind of food or drink, yet when an essential to full efficiency requires to be administered by a tube from a receiver instead of being drunk out of a bottle, it is liable to condemnation as sinning against the canons of "legitimate" mountaineering!

One cannot afford to handicap oneself or to allow the mountain any points when Mt. Everest is the opponent.

Dr. Collie, with an authority that no one will gainsay, has stated the case once for all: 'What is oxygen but air? You are fairly certain to get up with its help—you *may* possibly get up without?'

Do we want to be *fairly certain*, or should we spend further thousands of pounds on an off-chance?

To come now to the attack with oxygen:

Finch, Geoffrey Bruce, and the Gurkha N.C.O. Tejbir left the N. Col on May 25, spent two nights and a day in a tent at about 26,000 ft., in weather such as few men have experienced and survived, and on May 27 the two Englishmen, carrying 40 lbs. apiece, attained a point on the N. face, 27,300 ft. high.

Finch's indomitable and reasoned will to win is nothing new to the men who know him. I need add nothing to the glowing words in which Geoffrey Bruce's, no longer the dark horse, gay submission to extreme hardship and undaunted resolution are described by his leader.

The party, for the object in view, was too weak, and, moreover, hopelessly handicapped by the conditions, yet they added a page to the history of the expedition that need fear no comparison.

To the great services rendered by Captain Noel, the official

photographer, and by Captain Morris, transport officer, all alike bear enthusiastic testimony.

Another horse, no longer dark, is the ready adaptability of the native porters to high mountain conditions. This much facilitates the lay-out of camps or oxygen supplies, and by so much relieves the European climbers of much of the burden of carrying, and so conserves their strength. The full powers of these natives have yet to be fathomed.

There is every hope of sending out one more expedition. If this is held over until 1924, it will allow time for the collating of the experiences of the earlier party and for an even more careful selection of stores and equipment.

Moreover, it will permit of giving candidates some training in *winter* snow conditions, more essential even than in Europe.

The conquest of the mountain is not worth men's lives. 'Do or die' has no place in the ethics of the Alpine Club, and the enormous cost of these expeditions precludes experiments, however interesting, while the objective is still unattained. This objective must be kept steadily in view, and its attainment be attempted with the determination we know our men to possess, with such reasonable amount of risk as their experience justifies, and with 'every available resource.'

J. P. Farrar.

IN MEMORIAM.

THOMAS BLANFORD.

1836—1922.

Thomas Blanford, who died on March 24, aged 85, was elected a member of the Club in December 1860, and thus belongs to the small body who have appeared in our Club Lists for more than sixty years. His name is now probably known to but few, but in his day he earned an honourable place among the Conquerors of the Alps, having played a part fully equal to that of R. C. Nichols during the seasons of 1863–64–65 in the exploration of the Tarentaise. His own special conquests were the Dent Parrachée and the Grande Motte, expeditions which he described in a Paper on 'The Maurienne,' 'A.J.' ii., and he joined with Nichols in the first ascents of the Granta Parei and the Tsantaleina, and an almost successful attempt on the Bec de L'Invergnan, also assisting him with his well-known map. Mr. Blanford was a Past Master of the Cordwainers' Company. Of his six sons two were killed in the War, while a third received the M.C.