Since it was impossible for General Bruce to attend in person, the Mount Everest Committee nominated Lieut.-Colonel E. L. Strutt, the second in command of the Expedition of 1922, to represent the Expedition, and at a great assembly on the Skating Rink at Chamonix on February 5, thirteen handsome silver-gilt medals were handed to him—one for each British member of the party. Monsieur le Baron Pierre Coubertin, President of the Comité International Olympique, in an eloquent speech, referred in most flattering terms to the hardships undergone by the party, and expressed his sincere hopes for the success of General Bruce and the Expedition of 1924. The Baron also referred to the fact that this was the first occasion on which the Olympic Prize had ever been awarded for a mountaineering feat, and expressed the hope that General Bruce would see that one of these medals was deposited on the summit of Mount Everest this year. The speech was received with loud cheers from the Olympic competitors and spectators, numbering several thousands, and the band of the 27th Chasseurs Alpins played the British National Anthem as Colonel Strutt advanced to receive the prize.

The Mount Everest Committee have conveyed to the President of the Comité International Olympique and the Comité Olympique Français their high appreciation of the distinction conferred upon General Bruce and the members of the Expedition by this award.

IN MEMORIAM.

THOMAS GEORGE BONNEY,[1]
1833–1923.

It is to the honour of the Alpine Club that mere athletics has been but a part of its pursuits. It is a note of our Club that, brilliant as are its records for skill, daring, and adventure, its members have been no less distinguished for accomplishment in science, art, and letters. Of such a company Professor Bonney, whose death we now deplore, was a shining example; his climbing record is good,

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[1] Portraits of Professor Bonney appeared in *A.J.* xxxi. 18 and xxxiv. frontispiece. He is the last survivor of Whymper's famous group at Zermatt in 1864.

remarkable for the early days in which much of it was done; he had no little skill with the pencil, and as a man of science, especially as a geologist, he stood in the front rank, the rank of original discoverers. He had that blend of imagination with method and busy practical experience which discloses new fields and new principles of knowledge. Bonney's geology was no mere fossil collecting; he had the larger vision to comprehend the design and the evolutionary forces of the earth's making.

Thomas George Bonney was born on July 27, 1833, at Rugeley; the son of the Rev. Thomas Bonney, sometime Fellow of Clare College, Cambridge, master of the Rugeley Grammar School, rector of a neighbouring village, and father of ten children. Happily, he had private means enough to enable him to educate his children well. Like his son, he seems to have been a man of energy, of character, and wide attainments. The family was of Huguenot descent, and inherited the talents, sociability, and fine manners of that interesting group, and not least of Professor Bonney himself.

Both father and mother were keen botanists, as was the Professor likewise; indeed every member of the house seems to have been interested, one way or another, in natural history. From a lad T. G. Bonney's inclinations were towards geology. While a boy at school, under Holden at Uppingham, he collected fossils, and in those days fortunately, his propensities met with some scholastic encouragement. As head of the school, Bonney proceeded to St. John's College, Cambridge, where he won a scholarship. At that time the Natural Science Tripos was in existence, but open only to candidates with a degree in Arts. Bonney had received a good classical education, and had a bent to mathematics; accordingly he took a Second Class in the Classical Tripos and in mathematics was twelfth wrangler.

Soon after his degree Bonney ardently pursued his geological labours in the Isle of Wight, especially on the Tertiary beds of the island; and made also his first visit to Switzerland. Moreover the coprolite industry in Cambridgeshire had given him opportunities of working in the Greensand beds, rich in animal relics. He accepted a post as mathematical master at Westminster, but soon afterwards returned to College as Fellow and Dean, and as a candidate for Orders. He was tutor from 1868 to 1876.

In 1858 Bonney paid his second visit to the Alps, the second of an almost unbroken series of annual visits extending almost into old age. He joined the Alpine Club on May 25, 1859. On this second visit he crossed the Strahleck—an 'icewall' of which we were wont then to speak with some awe—and the Weissthor. During the next four Long Vacations he explored the French and Italian Alps, then a comparatively new field. His contemporaries, Taylor and Pendlebury, were also Fellows of St. John's.

Soon after his return to College Bonney was appointed Lecturer in Geology at St. John's, but it soon fell to him also to assist his

great master, Professor Sedgwick, then declining into old age. On Sedgwick's death he failed by a small majority to obtain the Chair of Geology. His academic duties had prevented his publishing much of his garnered materials, and always he was modest even to diffidence in making claims for his own work. When, on his return to Cambridge in 1905, the Cambridge branch of the Alpine Club was founded, Bonney was caught in the act of proposing as the first President a friend of not half his own qualifications for the honour. The Club soon put that right.

In 1877 Bonney was elected Professor of Geology in University College, London; but he continued to lecture at St. John's until his appointment, in 1881, as Secretary of the British Association, when he left Cambridge to reside in Hampstead. He was now more at liberty to undertake literary work. A man of marvellous activity both of mind and body, at work at 6 A.M. in all seasons, thenceforward to the end of his life he completed more than 200 articles, greater and less, and on various subjects; especially geology, mountaineering, and architecture: he wrote many biographies for the 'Dictionary of National Biography.' Bishop Browne, in his book of recollections, 1915, spoke of Bonney's hospitable rooms in St. John's as a charming centre of interests—Alpine, scientific, literary, and artistic. He possessed many water-colour drawings by Walton and other artists. 'In the Alps Professor Bonney found himself *in mediis rebus*; he had left the outskirts for the very centre of the arcanum, and ever since had been engaged in trying to decipher the history of the crystalline schists and gneisses in that chain, as well as in other lands.'[2]

Bonney accumulated a pile of sketch-books, and by his artistic tastes formed a long friendship with Elijah Walton, to whom, and after his early death to whose family, Bonney was able to be of no little service. His obituary notice of Walton appeared in the ALPINE JOURNAL, Volume X. His own sketches were chiefly perhaps technical records; but not a few of the best were of architecture, of which art he had more than an amateur's knowledge. He wrote much of the descriptive text of the 'Abbeys and Churches of England' (1881), and of 'English Cathedrals'; he contributed largely also to two volumes of the British Isles in 'Picturesque Europe' (1876–9).

Throughout his geological and climbing essays the spirit of the artist and lover of nature is as manifest as the eye of the geologist and the skill and endurance of the mountaineer. His love for nature was none the less for appearing to him with the forms of geology. The outlines and planes of the architecture of a mountain and of an abbey or stronghold attracted him alike. The sculpture of the hills and vales and the carving of the patterns of the earth's surface were his joy. He followed lovingly the work of the creative chisel,

[2] *Geol. Mag.*, September, 1901.

the work of such immediate agents as water, and of heat and contortion, in moulding the face of the earth, and its lake basins, its highlands and its pinnacles ; the anatomy of river or peak and the ranges of ' dynasties of hills.'

In his day much was claimed for the erosion effects of glaciers, even to the formation of the greater lakes and other large contours of the earth. By his own observations Bonney showed that such effects could not have been produced in this way; and in his Address as President of the British Association at Sheffield in 1910 he dealt with these great problems in a large and masterly manner. On the other hand, seeing the infinitely great in the infinitely little, in his Rede Lecture in 1892 he described the contribution of the microscope to the earth's physical history. In the application of the microscope to detect intimate rock structure Bonney was a pioneer ; and his lectures on petrology in London, and again in Cambridge after his return, were held in high esteem. It is to him indeed that we owe the detection of the birthplace of the diamond in the rare igneous rock called Eclogite. In forming these large conceptions founded upon intimate knowledge, Bonney walked the Alps, as he says, ' from Viso to Salzkammergut '; not to mention the Lake country, where much of his work first and last was done,[3] Wales, Cornwall, Charnwood, and the Highlands of Scotland. In all difficult problems he would return again and again to the mountains for solutions.[4] His views on glacier action and the moulding of the earth's surface are fully verified in the recent Report of Weight and Priestley in Scott's ' Antarctic Expedition ' and in Taylor's ' Physiography of McMurdo's Sound.'

On some of his excursions Bonney took pupils ; and not infrequently he walked in the Alps with his geological friends Canon Hill, Bishop Browne (ice caves) and Mr. Eccles. One of them tells me, as an instance of his acute observation, that at a miserable little inn, after a hard day on ice caves, they were lodged in a room with two beds, one remarkably tidy for such a place, the other bare and grimy. They tossed. Bonney won and chose the grimy. The man in the tidy bed was eaten alive : Bonney slept like a top. ' Yes,' he said in the early morning, ' I chose the iron bedstead ; they don't breed there.'

Another of his early friends, one of whom he spoke always with great affection, was our distinguished member and first President,

[3] His first glacial paper, published in 1866, dealt with the Lake District.

[4] For a closer survey of Bonney's scientific work, and a full bibliography of his publications, the reader is referred to an able paper in the *Geological Magazine*, N.S., D. iv. vol. viii. No. 9. For these references and other aid I am indebted to the kindness of Professor Marr, Dr. Rastall of Christ's College, Bishop Browne, and members of Dr. Bonney's own family.

John Ball, F.R.S., author of the well-known *Alpine Guide*, and likewise an eminent man of science. Of him Bonney wrote in this Journal (xv. 23–36) a charming biographical notice which (it has been said) might in a way be applied to Bonney himself.

In many books on mountaineering chapters by Bonney are to be found; for example, in Whymper's 'Travels among the Great Andes of Ecuador' (1891); Fitzgerald's 'Climbs in the New Zealand Alps' (1896); Freshfield and Sella's 'Exploration of the Caucasus' (1896); and Mathews' 'Annals of Mt. Blanc' (1898). He also described (in separate memoirs) specimens collected in the Selkirks and Canadian Rockies by Whymper and J. N. Collie. In 1921 appeared a charmingly written little book entitled 'Memories of a Long Life,' in which Bonney set forth his reminiscences of early days at home and at school, of Cambridge, and of travel and climbing, 'with a wealth of anecdote and many graphic sketches of the days now long gone by.' [5]

But his travels went far beyond Switzerland, the Austrian, French, and Italian Alps, and Britain: he visited Scandinavia, Canada, and the East, but always with the same eye for scenery and geology and love for the open-air life. His geological researches were of the open air, not of the cabinet only. He spent many long and strenuous days in the hills when over eighty years of age.

Among the principal Alpine peaks ascended by Bonney were Monte Rosa (1859), M. Pourri, Rutor, Grivola, Ortler, Tofana, Glockner, Matterhorn (1874), M. Leone, Venediger, Weissmies, Diablons; but, as already indicated, he was much more of the mountaineer-traveller than a climber, and this led him to cross a multitude of cols which for his purpose were much more instructive.[6]

In 1905, having resigned his official duties, Bonney returned to Cambridge and took a house in Scroope Terrace, about a mile from St. John's and the Museum. Ever young himself, he was sympathetic with young men, and over his pupils had a most beneficent influence. Professor Marr tells me that 'on his return to residence in Cambridge he began to give demonstrations in the Geological Museum, and continued these until the beginning of the October term 1923. He spent many hours in the work, and his teaching was highly esteemed by the students.' A friend writes: 'With unfailing patience he would spend hours in explaining small difficulties to a succession of inquirers, enlivening his discourse with witty illustrations and caustic comment.'

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[5] Obit., T. G. B., *Geol. Mag.*, February, 1923.

[6] A complete itinerary will be found in Mr. Mumm's exhaustive *The Alpine Club Register.* (Arnold, 1923.) The cols included the New Weisstor, Théodule, du Says, du Sélé, de l'Eychauda, de Monei, Rutor (1st complete passage), de Goléon, de Vénosc, de la Muande (1st English passage), de Zinal (1st passage), Triftjoch, de Breney, Ammertensattel, Sella, Scerscen, Brunni, and many others in all parts of the Alps.

Exercise in the open air was still a passion with him. A light, sinewy figure, of active build, quick step, almost unconscious of fatigue, he rarely failed to take his daily walks. Methodical in all things, in these later and more leisured years he turned out regularly in all weathers about eleven in the forenoon, and again in the afternoon, for a brisk walk; his rule being at least seven miles a day. During the last year of his life, as strength failed him, it was pathetic to witness the conflict of relentless will with enfeebled limbs—the determination to keep up the old life even to the last. But this was the man all through: tenacity, strict method, resolute work, high purpose. In Cambridge he dined in Hall, walking from his house to College and back. He never worked after dinner; he went to bed at ten o'clock, so as to be ready for his work early the next morning.

Bonney was a charming companion: grave, earnest, and exact in temperament, but with a reserved sense of humour, and glad in the society of his friends. He was not a man of swift resolve, and therefore not a man lightly to change. He talked with a gentle note of authority and the easy argument of a master; and this not in his own speciality only.

He was a very staunch friend, that best kind of friend who is not uncritical. This meant rather trenchant mislike of certain types of fellow-creatures not unrepresented on the list of Fellows in his younger days. His clear vision and quick mind were not very indulgent to duller folk. If this side of his nature had been less frankly shown, he would probably have been Master of St. John's. That he was not elected Master was one of his great trials, and it was a loss to the College and to the University. Moreover in that generation the College would have done well to have given more heed to his advice both in geology and architecture.

Dr. Bonney was an excellent preacher, as broad, clear, and rational in his opinions as he was earnest in his spiritual life. As Whitehall Preacher, Hulsean Lecturer, in Manchester Cathedral, in the pulpit of St. Mary's and of the churches of his friends, his sermons were very telling. Naturally restrained in his feelings, these rarer appeals were the more impressive, while the breadth and independence of his views won the respect of hearers of all shades of opinion. And even on such occasions he was not incapable of a shrewd and at times ironical wit.

Such is the imperfect story of a long and beneficent life, full of manifold work which has borne much fruit, literary, scientific, and social.

[Amongst his honours may be mentioned the following:—Doctor of Science, Cambridge, Dublin, and Sheffield; LL.D., Montreal; Fellow and sometime Vice-President of the Royal Society; Secretary and President of the Geological Society of London; President of the Mineralogical Society, and of the Alpine Club; Whitehall Preacher; Hulsean Lecturer; Rede Lecturer; Hon. Canon of Manchester.] C. A.

EDWARD NORTH BUXTON.

1840–1924.

The late Mr. Buxton was elected to the Club before he was twenty years of age. Between 1860 and 1865, with his brother, Sir T. F. Buxton, Tuckett, Stephen, and other well-known mountaineers, he carried out a series of expeditions which rank among the most notable of the day. Thus he made, in 1861, the first ascent of Nordend, of the E. Piz Palü, the first passage of the Studerjoch, seldom done since, and an ascent of the Weisshorn, at that time a very notable performance. The following year he made, with his brother, H. E. Buxton and Tuckett, a new route across the Bernina chain by the Fuorcla Crast' Agüzza, Zupo Pass and Passo di Verona, the first ascents of the Monte Cristallo and the Königsspitze, the fifth ascent of the Ortler, and with Stephen, the first ascent of the W. summit of Lyskamm by the W. arête.

The following year, with F. C. Grove and Reginald Macdonald, he made the first ascent of the Aig. de Bionnassay and a very notable traverse of the Dôme du Goûter from Chamonix to Courmayeur. On this occasion the descent by the Glacier du Dôme was first made, thus opening the present usual route from the Italian side. This expedition was the subject of a very vivacious paper read before the Club (('A.J.' ii. 332). He was a man of very vigorous physique and writes of his adventures in a manner savouring more of the style of a much later period.

After 1865 he abandoned mountaineering and during the next thirty years became one of the most noted big game hunters, the pursuit taking him to the Alps, Pyrenees, Rocky Mountains of Wyoming, Algeria, Sardinia, Asia Minor, Sudan and Sinai, Somaliland, Daghestan and East Africa. These journeys were admirably described in 'Short Stalks' (two series) and 'Two African Trips.'

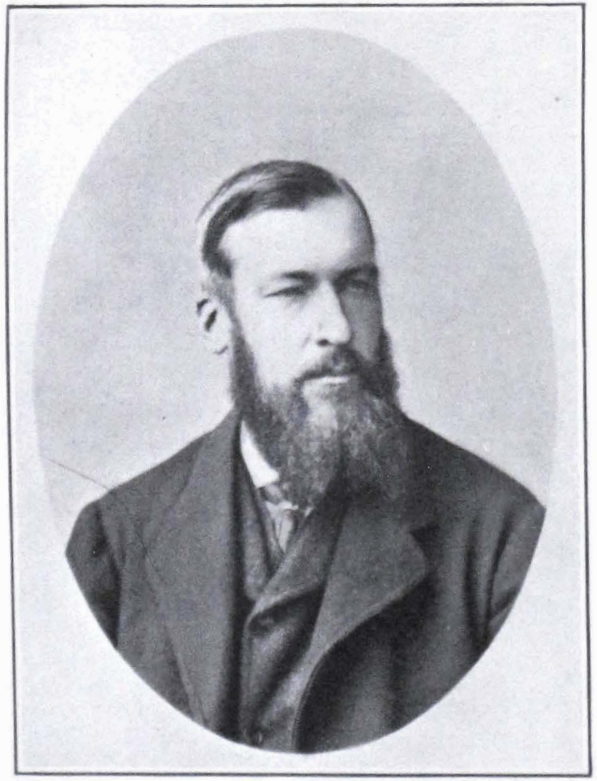
Mr. Buxton's services to the Nation in connexion with education, the preservation of commons, and many other subjects are too well known to need recapitulation here. By his will he left to the public about 350 acres of the Old Deer Park of Hatfield Forest, near Bishop's Stortford, thus supplementing his services in safeguarding and adding to Epping Forest.

HENRY TUKE MENNELL.

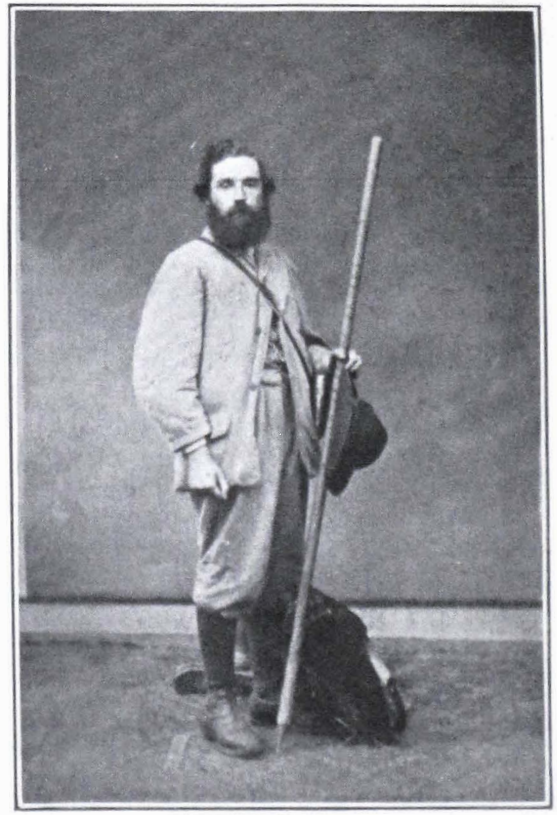
1835–1923.

In 'A.J.' xxxi. 138 there appeared a letter from a vigorous veteran of 82, whose decease we now have to record. The letter was an exhibition of that delightful enthusiasm with which mountaineering seems to console the latter days of its devotees.

Mr. Mennell was elected to the Club in 1865, proposed by his



EDWARD NOEL BUXTON
(in 1865).



HENRY TUKE MENNELL
(in 1865).

close friend and fellow traveller, Mr. Robert Spence Watson, and seconded by Mr. G. Whitwell, on what was for those days a good qualification, viz. Mont Blanc, Monte Rosa, Levanna, Mont Pourri, Breithorn, Adler, Col du Géant, Triftjoch, Weissthor, Col Carro, and other expeditions. Even up to his seventy-fifth year Mr. Mennell paid regular visits to the Alps, and when in his seventy-third year he attained an altitude of 12,000 ft. on the Grand Combin.

In 1884 he paid a visit to the Rocky Mountains, and the following extract from a letter in 1901 from his son, Mr. R. O. Mennell, then in Montreal, makes an interesting disclosure :

'Prof. Macoun [at that time head of the Geological Survey of Canada] wants me to tell you that when you and he were climbing together and saw that wonderful view, near Field, of a lake (Sherbrooke Lake) with a great glacier and creek in the distance northward, you discovered—and you were the first white men to discover—the now world-famous Yoho Valley, the Mecca of the Rockies. Prof. Macoun went there two years ago and found to his delight that Yoho was the very same as you and he had gazed at together in 1884. It was opened up by the C.P.R., and proper horse tracks made in 1903. Lord and Lady Minto, and their daughter, went over to see it, riding straddle like the Indians on horseback.'

Mr. R. O. Mennell has been good enough to present to the Club one of those old axe-alpenstocks used in the 'sixties. He also sends us the bill for an ascent in 1865 made by his father and Dr. Watson with three guides and a porter, in which wages account for 295 fr. ; wine for 38 fr. ; provisions for 42 fr. ; 'firing cannon' 6·10 fr. ; certificates 10 fr.—rather more moderate than the earlier and more recent ascents.

Mr. Mennell was a member of the Society of Friends, and took a worthy share in the Relief Work in devastated France in 1870–1, and in the Irish Famine of 1880, while later he was instrumental in transferring the Dukhobors to Canada. He was a fellow of the Linnæan Society and much interested in scientific pursuits, especially botany, his Alpine rock garden being a great joy to him.

Mr. J. Coleby Morland writes :

'H. T. Mennell was a very close friend of Robert Spence Watson, of Newcastle, a very distinguished member of our Club and for many years a leader in Liberal thought in the North of England. It is a matter of much interest to note how many Quaker members of the A.C. there have been. Speaking from memory only, the names of Tuckett, Fox, Spence Watson, Mennell, Doncaster, Backhouse, occur to me, and there are others among past and present members. Alpine exploration evidently makes a strong appeal to the Quaker temperament.

'Mennell was nearly 30 years my senior, but I had known him from boyhood. I did not meet him in the Alps until after

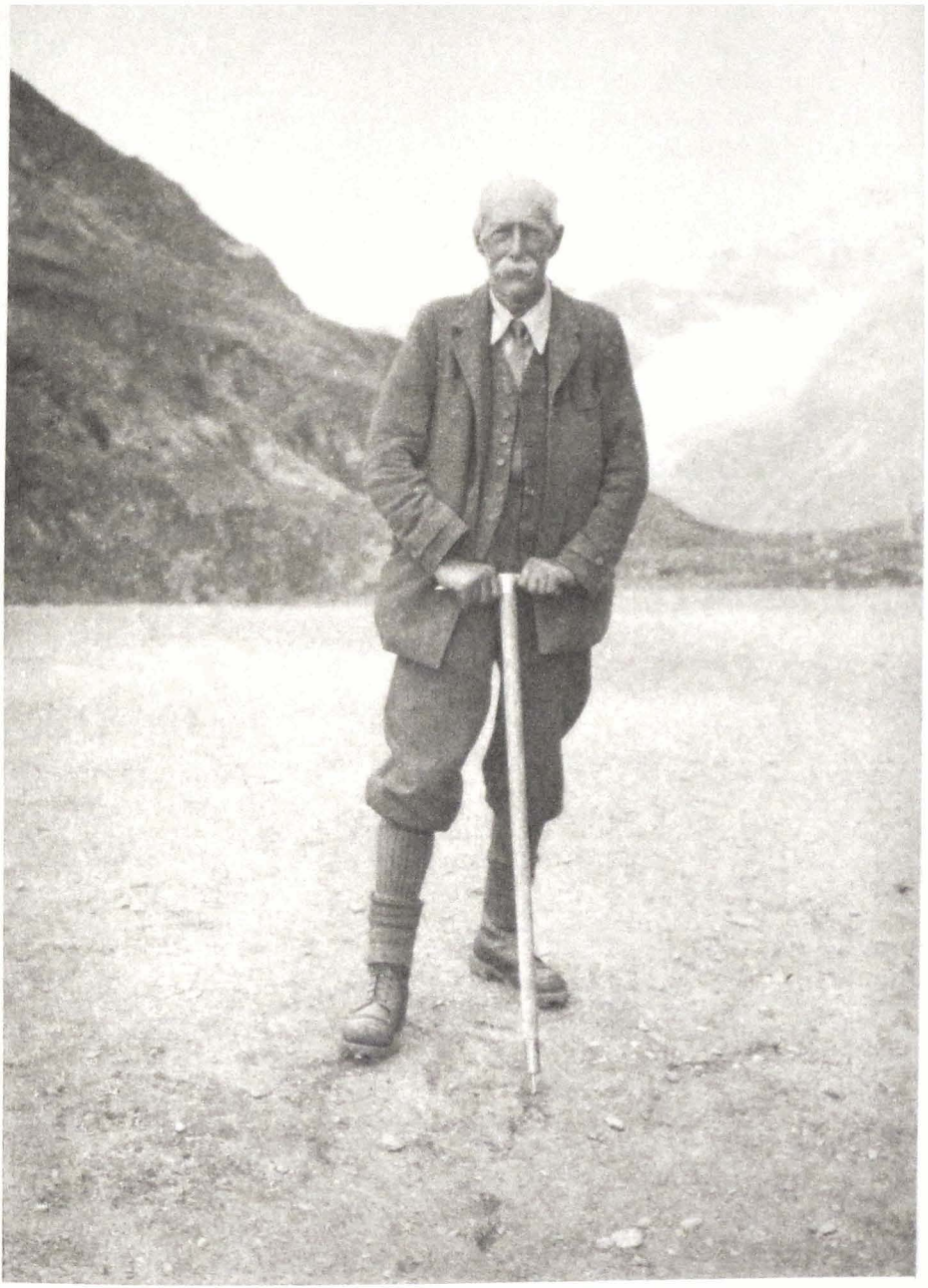
1900, when for some years I was frequently at Fionnay and Mauvoisin, meeting Mennell, Girdlestone, Orde, and others there. The expedition I remember most clearly with Mennell was a traverse of La Salle and Pleureur in 1902 when Mennell must have been about 69 years old. We slept at the Vasevay Chalets, leaving at 4.25 A.M. and reaching Mauvoisin at 5.55 P.M. It was just about as much as he could do ; I remember Maurice Bruchez, our guide, spending three hours in hard cutting on a black ice slope to the shoulder of La Salle, with a wind so cold that I had to give Mennell all my spare clothing to keep him going. Our last expedition together was in 1903, when, with Maurice Bruchez and a fairly numerous party, we did the Ruinette, from Chanrion, descending to Mauvoisin. Mennell was a climber of the old school, sound on ice and snow, horribly fast uphill in the early morning, but with no love for rock work, which he did not understand. I never heard that he had an accident of any sort. He was a most delightful companion, cheerful, and always thoughtful of others.'

WILLIAM ALFRED WILLS.

1862–1924.

DR. W. A. WILLS, who died on April 1, 1924, in his sixty-second year, at his home at Midhurst, was the second son and third child of the late Sir Alfred Wills, who was one of the founders, and the third President, of the Alpine Club. He was educated at Fettes College, Edinburgh, and subsequently studied medicine in London, where, after obtaining minor diplomas, he eventually secured the highest distinctions in the 'medical,' as contrasted with the 'surgical,' side of his profession—viz. the M.D. of the London University and the Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians. He served for many years on the honorary staffs of the N.E. Hospital for Children and of the Westminster Hospital, and he contributed important articles to the medical press and to two leading encyclopædias of medicine, while gradually establishing his position as a London consulting physician. But his work during these years was frequently broken by ill health, and in 1905 he decided to retire from the active pursuit of his profession. He left London and went to live at Midhurst, where, however, his professional attainments were put to excellent use in the discharge of public duties, to which he unstintedly gave his time and his energies ; for, both as a County magistrate, and as a member of the County Council, his expert knowledge was of the greatest value, and was highly appreciated by his associates as an invaluable addition to the more general services in which he shared.

In 1894 Wills married Miss Rosamond Powell, whom he survived by five years, and he leaves behind him a son and a daughter, both



William Alfred Wills.

Schwarzsee Sept. 2. 1921.
after the traverse of the Cervin.

now in their twenties. All through his adult life he was pursued by the anxieties incident to ill health, both in his own person, in that of his wife, and also in the case of various members of his father's family—his brothers and sisters. His judgment was so sound that his assistance was invariably invoked in every family emergency. And, indeed, when trouble of any kind came to any of his relations or friends, the natural instinct was to write to 'Billy,' as he was throughout his life affectionately styled by all his intimates; and no one ever applied to him in vain. With the highest ideals as to conduct and integrity, he combined a true sympathy for suffering and trouble of all kinds, the results of which were generally evidenced more in practical help and valuable advice than in mere words of comfortable intent, though these were by no means lacking. The true geniality of his disposition was perhaps somewhat obscured to those who did not know him well by a softened seriousness of mien which is not uncommon in those who have suffered uncomplainingly for years, as he had done. But his sincerity could never be doubted by anyone who came in contact with him even for half an hour, while his rare and lovable disposition became manifest to all who had opportunities of enjoying his society for a few days.

No memoir of Wills, however brief, should omit some reference to his astonishing inborn aptitude and skill as a mechanic. There was practically nothing he could not make or mend in wood and metal work; and his workshop at Midhurst contained every imaginable tool, including a wood lathe, a metal lathe, a drilling machine, and hundreds of little boxes with glass tops, each containing nails, screws, rivets, etc., in graded sizes, and suited for every conceivable emergency in the construction or repair of any household requisite. As a boy he made, single-handed, a model locomotive about two feet in length, which ran, on lines of his own making, all over his father's garden at Esher, and about the exploits of which many wondrous tales were at one time current. But he could have made anything, from a bookshelf to a chiming clock, a motor car or a steam launch. These activities, added to a love of books and pictures, formed his chief indoor recreation. Out of doors he was always happy in any coastal, rural, or mountain district where walks could be indulged in; but he was never devoted to games, fishing, or shooting, and mountaineering may be said to have been his only 'sport.' Most of his holidays were spent amongst the mountains, but he was fond of travel, and had visited the Argentine, Egypt, Turkey, Greece, and Italy.

Wills joined the Alpine Club in 1888; he served on the Committee 1893–96, and he acted as Honorary Secretary 1897–1900. In this last-named capacity he worked hard, as indeed all those who have filled this office have done, and his name will live in the Club lists among that devoted band to whom the rest of us can never feel sufficient gratitude.

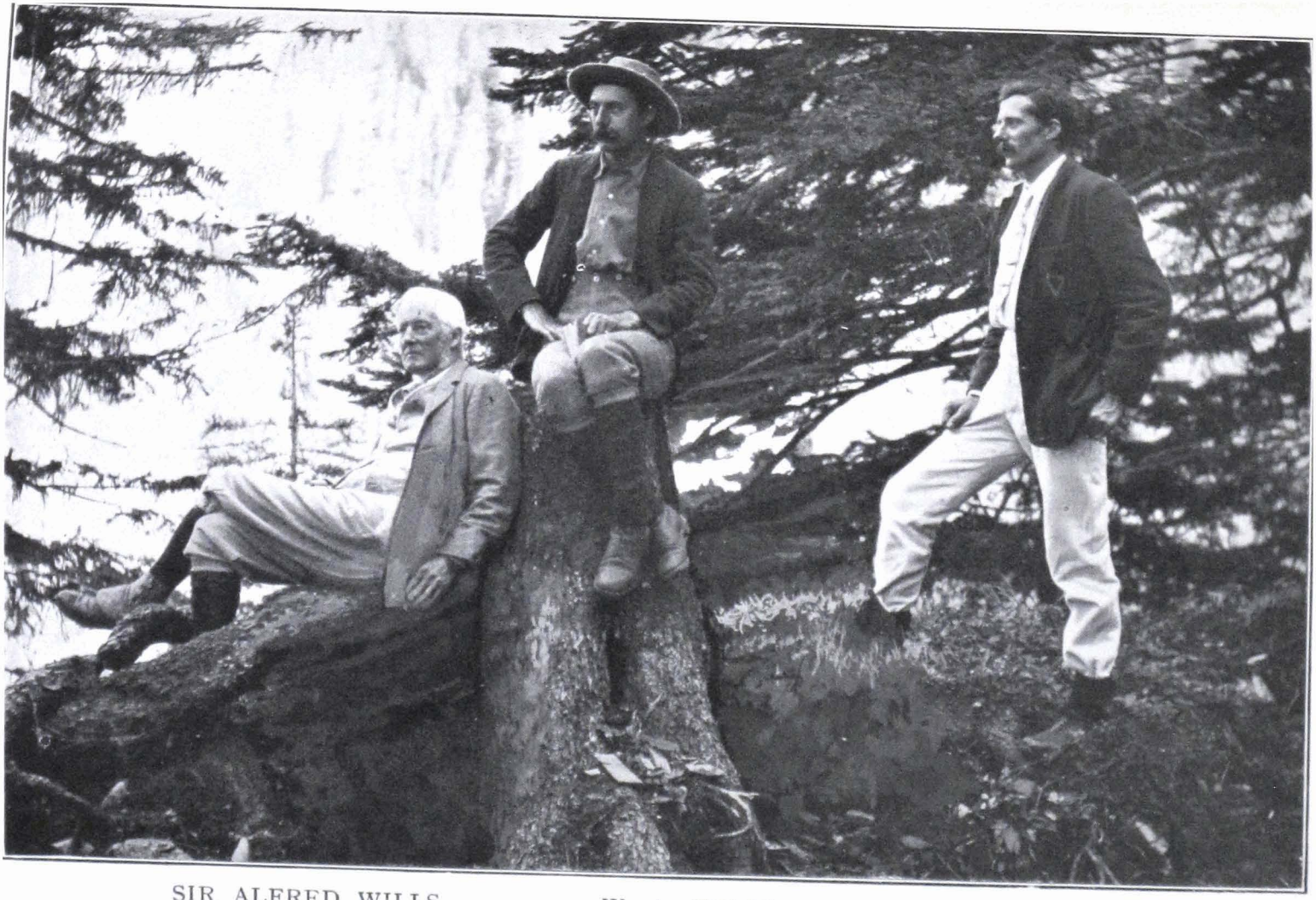
His climbing career began almost in his infancy, for he spent the summer holidays of his childhood at the Eagle's Nest, where,

as a boy, he learned all that is to be known about steep grass, about smooth limestone—that most difficult of all rocks from the climber's point of view—and about crumbly schist, on which, as his brother Jack once said, the footholds are 'good enough to step on, but not to stand on.' He also learned how to find his way up and down mountains in all weathers, and he acquired a fair knowledge of snow and ice. In 1871, when under nine years of age, he was taken by his father to Chamonix and up to the Grands Mulets, though carried much of the way on a guide's back. It was said at the time that he was the youngest person who had visited the Grands Mulets.

During his adult years there were many seasons when his health prevented him from climbing at all. But he never allowed health considerations to interfere with his mountaineering when he felt himself physically able to do it; and, as late as 1921, he made a number of first-rate expeditions, including the traverses of the Schreckhorn and of the Matterhorn, while in his last Alpine holiday (1922), though suffering from bad nights and serious physical disabilities, he made, among other expeditions, the sensational traverse of the Cima del Largo in a day from the Maloja and came in at a pace which sorely tried the writer of these notes. A majority of his climbing holidays were spent for the most part at Sixt, but he had made many of the best expeditions in many Alpine regions, including Dauphiné, the Graians, the Mont Blanc Group, the Pennines, the Oberland, and the Bregaglia.

In his earlier years he climbed chiefly with his brother Jack, but he had also been with his father and M. Loppé, and, later on, with Sir Alexander Kennedy, Sir George Savage, Sir George Morse, and Captain Farrar. He first joined our guideless party in 1899, and was with us during six seasons before the war and in three seasons since, though in the two last (1921 and 1922) we often took a guide.

During the war his health suffered from the development of a serious complication, and it seemed at one time hardly likely that he would ever climb again. He was, however, able to accompany the writer for a fortnight each year to Cumberland, where he became familiar with many of the best Lakeland climbs. In one of these vacations we were joined by his daughter, and in one by his son and daughter, and both were with us at Argentière in 1920, when we made an ascent of the Aig. du Chardonnet, a traverse of the Périades, and several expeditions among the Aiguilles Rouges. In 1921 his daughter was again with us at Grindelwald, when we made, with Bradby, Hasler, and Farrar, an ascent of the Wetterhorn, which was alluded to in these pages ('A.J.' xxxiv. 177); and, later on, Wills and his daughter accompanied Farrar and the two Almers on a number of arduous expeditions. This was his last season of hard climbing, but, as already mentioned, he was at the Maloja in 1922, whence, in addition to a few climbs from the Forno and Albigna huts, he made two or three single-day climbs of twelve to fifteen hours' fairly continuous exertion.



SIR ALFRED WILLS. W. A. WILLS. J. T. WILLS.

A great mountaineering family.

Of Wills's qualities as a mountaineer it is impossible to speak too highly. He was absolutely reliable on every kind of surface, at any angle, and in all conditions of mountain and of weather. If he had a 'special' gift it lay, perhaps, in his wonderful aptitude in threading his way *down* unknown precipitous descents which threaten an *impasse* above the glacier or the valley. Our party has had much experience in this kind of situation when climbing in fresh districts and without local assistance, and we have generally managed to find a way down. But I can recall at least two occasions when we might well have been benighted, had it not been for his splendid leading, and one occasion when, had he been with us, we might very likely have escaped that unpleasant experience.

Wills never hurried unless for an emergency; but then, especially in his younger days, he could go at an almost incredible speed. But, for his years, and in spite of his infirmities, he was always a fast goer on mountain, path, or road. He walked on the level and on gentle slopes with a peculiar lilt of gait which was quite individual, and so characteristic that one could pick him out of a group on a road, or tell if he was with a party, as soon as they came in sight round a corner, say, half a mile away.

As a travelling and climbing companion he was ideal—always genial, always considerate, and, in this as in every other aspect of life, always 'reliable.' If one were to try to sum up his character in a single word, this would be it.

His passing from our midst marks a period in the mountaineering record of his family. He is the last of the second generation to climb mountains, though two sisters survive him. But in his daughter the climbing aptitude is inherited in a very exceptional degree, while his nephew, Colonel E. F. Norton, who owed his selection for the Everest Expedition of 1922 to his uncle's suggestion and advice to the Committee, will, we may hope, carry on the fame of the family to the supreme achievement.

Wills had known for many years that his tenure of life hung by a fine thread, and many times when stricken by painful and alarming symptoms, he went to bed fully realising that the end might be very near. But he never grumbled, and as soon as he was able he was up and doing again. But last year he was not well enough to go abroad, and during the last few months of his life his strength waned, and the 'will to force his heart and nerve and sinew to serve his turn long after they were gone' (Kipling) was bound at last to lose in its unequal fight; so that to those who knew his serious plight the news that the end had come was no surprise.

No one can put into words what his loss will mean: he will be missed very sorely by the few, and very widely by the many, for, besides being the wise and trusted counsellor of his family and friends, there were many—hardly more than acquaintances—who turned to him when in doubt or difficulty. He was trusted by everyone and was an influence for good on all who knew him. This influence and the kindly memory of his comradeship will live as

long as his friends live, and none of us would wish to call him back, for, even to his nearest, the irreparable loss is tempered by a feeling of thankfulness that his long-drawn sufferings are over and that his brave spirit at last sleeps the peaceful sleep of the just.

C. W.

NEW EXPEDITIONS.

Mont Blanc Group.

Mont rouge de Peuteret (2951 m. = 9680 ft.), ascent by E. arête, descent by N. arête. August 30, 1923. MM. J. and T. de Lépiney.

Only one ascent of this peak is recorded, viz. in 1905 by Wilson, Wicks and Bradby, by the N. arête ('A.J.' xxii. 615). Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Jones and the guide Truffer were killed in attempting to gain the N. arête from the Gamba hut.

Leaving the new hut on the Fauteuil des Allemands at 11.20 A.M. (after rain), the rocks were attacked at about the same level and the E. arête gained direct and followed, finally by a couloir facing S.E., to the top (13.55). The difficulties are scarcely greater than on the ordinary route up the Aig. Noire. At 14.35 the descent was commenced by the N. arête, a veritable cockscomb of rocks of the most elegant aspect. The first group of gendarmes was turned on the Fauteuil side. A descent of about 80 m., then a delicate traverse to rejoin the arête at a well-marked gap. The arête was then followed almost exactly, the descent of one tower requiring 30 m. doubled rope; Col des Chasseurs 18.30, hut 10.15.

'The route, involving very abrupt faces, sharp cut-off crests of no solidity, is difficult and needs rather skill than strength.'

La Montagne, 1923, p. 257 (with sketch).

Punta Baretti (3966 m. = 13,009 ft.), of the Mont Brouillard, by the E. flank and the S. arête. August 21–22, 1923. MM. H. Bregeault, P. Chevalier, J. Lagarde, J. and T. de Lépiney, and A. Migot of the G.H.M., C.A.F.

The intention was to ascend M. Blanc from the Gamba hut by the Brouillard arête, involving a new route from the hut to the Punta Baretti.

The party on two ropes (to avoid stones) left the hut at 3.10 and 5.0. The much-crevassed Brouillard Glacier was crossed at about 2900 m. and a long steep couloir about 400 m. high in the foliated and loose E. flank of the S. arête of the Mont Brouillard ascended to a Col (about 3260 m.), which the climbers propose to name Col du Brouillard,[1] separating the Aig. Rouges from the Mont

[1] See however a prior claim on this name—*A.J.* xxxiv, 171, 335.