

King; 'Lyskamm, Monte Rosa, from Pollux,' by Mr. J. C. Gait; 'Aiguille du Roc au Grépon,' by Miss Nea E. Barnard; 'Mischabelhörner,' by Mr. Julian A. Osler; 'The Bietschhorn,' by Mr. Philip H. Pilditch; 'The Summit of the Gross Schreckhorn,' by Mr. E. Montague Jackson; 'Matterhorn from Schwarzsee Path,' by Miss M. Neve; 'The mist climbed slowly putting out the stars,' by Mr. H. S. Bullock.

Mr. H. R. Williams's photograph 'On the Aiguille du Chardonnet' (reproduced in the JOURNAL) was one of the best figure studies we can remember.

The skilful arrangement of the Exhibits was, as usual, carried out by Mr. Sydney Spencer.

It is a remarkable fact that in almost every Club there is found a member who is willing to devote considerable time and attention to its service, but we venture to think that the Alpine Club is unusually fortunate in this respect.

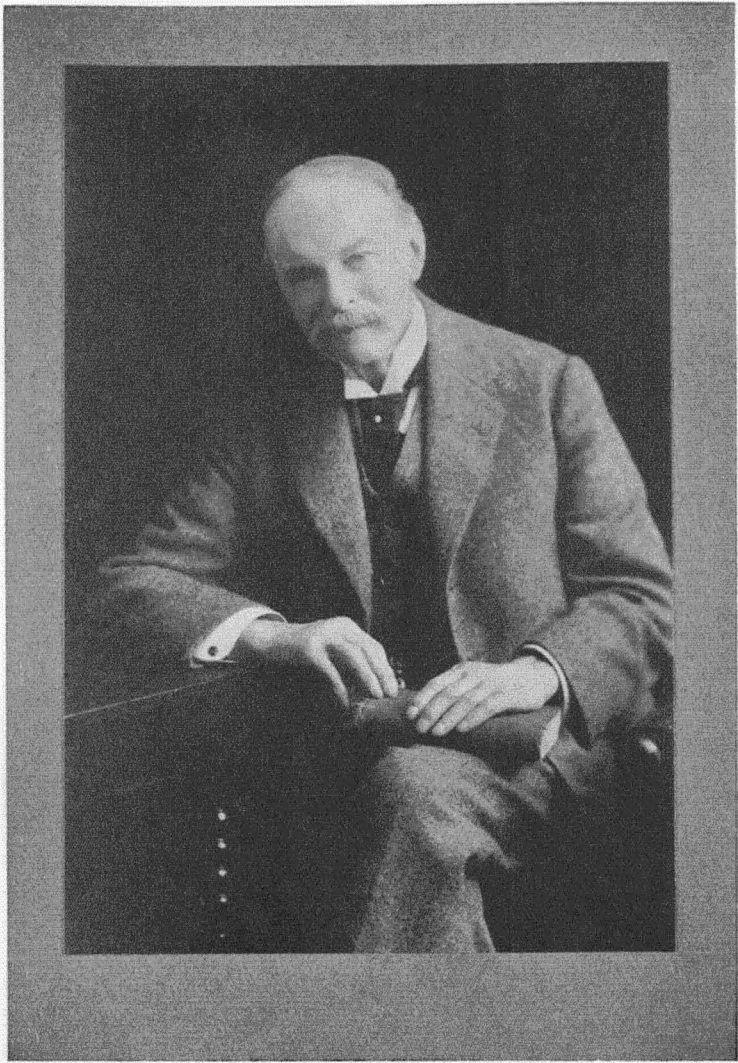
IN MEMORIAM.

ELIOT HOWARD.

(1842-1927.)

By the death of Eliot Howard at the age of 85, the Club loses one of its rapidly vanishing band of survivors of the pioneering '60's. He was elected in 1867, but his career as an active climber was prematurely cut short by a shooting accident by which he lost an eye, and he was thereafter so much troubled by inability to focus properly, especially going downhill, that he had to give up serious expeditions. The youngest son of Robert Howard of Tottenham, he was one of that remarkable circle of men of Quaker origin or connections who did so much to found the traditions of the Club. Kinship, circumstances, and personal charm brought him into more or less intimate association with a number of eminent men of the time such as Sir Edward Fry, Sir Edmund Gosse, Dr. Hodgkin, Sir Alfred Waterhouse, Sir E. B. Tylor among the non-climbers, and F. F. Tuckett, the Mathews, John Ball, Douglas Freshfield, the Buxton cousins, J. H. Fox and others who early became prominent members of the Club. Some of these connections were due to his friendship and subsequent marriage with Charlotte Fox Tuckett, sister of the great 'F. F. T.' and also of the brilliant Elizabeth Tuckett, in whose 'Zigzagging among Dolomites' he figured as 'E. H.'

Most of his climbing was done with Tuckett in the Eastern Alps, and he wrote an account of their earliest ascent of the Terglou



ELIOT HOWARD.
1842-1927.

(Triglav) in this JOURNAL¹ in 1869. It is curious to note that he brought the first rucksack from Styria into Switzerland, where it created much interest and was speedily adopted universally. (In these days it is equally curious to recall that his nephew Gerald Fox brought the first pair of ski from Norway to that country only about thirty-seven years ago.)

Though cut off from active climbing, he always retained the keenest interest in the mountains, and in a journey round the world with Tuckett in 1891 took a share in founding the New Zealand Alpine Club.

He was chairman of Hayward Tyler & Co. Ltd., the London and Luton engineers, but devoted much time to public and philanthropic affairs. He was chairman of more bodies than can be mentioned in a short notice, but one may perhaps note that he was for 49 years a member and for long chairman of the Beacontree bench in Essex, his *obiter dicta* being a regular feature of the London evening papers on Saturdays. He was also lay-chairman of the Medical Committee of the Church Missionary Society from its inception and an active worker in various religious organizations such as the London City Mission, the Spezzia Mission, etc.

His cultured and receptive mind was a storehouse of knowledge, ranging from the practical work of his profession—incidentally he was the oldest member of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers—to ethnological and antiquarian research. He wrote a good deal in an unobtrusive way on antiquarian and religious subjects, his most important publication being 'The Eliot Papers,' which has been widely appreciated both here and in America for its literary charm and historical interest, some of the family records and diaries being contemporary with Pepys and Evelyn. The mainspring of his life was an unswerving devotion to his Christian beliefs and to the public weal. He served his generation well.

G. E. H.

JOHN HERTSLET WAINEWRIGHT.

(1848-1927.)

By the death of John Hertslet Wainewright on December 11 of last year the Club loses one of its older members, elected in 1875. Born on October 27, 1848, the son of John Wainewright, the last of the Taxing Masters, he was called to the Bar, but as he was then considered to be suffering from heart trouble he was advised to give up all idea of practising and was sent to Homburg, Spa, and other cure resorts. In 1872 he paid his first visit to Switzerland and spent three weeks on the Rigi as an after-cure. Thence he moved to Camper, paying his first visit to the Engadine, which was to

¹ 'The Terglou and Mangert in Carniola,' *A.J.* 4, 345-65.



HERR L. GREDIG, HANS and CHRISTIAN GRASS, J. H. WAINEWRIGHT
about 1888.

become his second home. The air there worked wonders, and to the end of his life he maintained that he felt better there than anywhere else. During this visit he had his first experience of a mountain ascent. A curious expedition constituting a party of eight, including Admiral Horton, Lord Chelsea, Lord Mahon, Dr. Burney Yeo, Wainwright and others, was equipped and provisioned almost on the lines of a Himalayan or Arctic expedition and drove to Pontresina for the ascent of Piz Languard, while their families and friends waited tense with excitement for their return! In after years when he conducted excursions up the Languard or over the Diavolezza two or three times a week, he often smiled at the recollection of this historic occasion. One day, however, during a walk through the woods past the Statzersee he had noticed a friendly brown village lying on the other side of the river shining in the afternoon sun and at once decided that this was the place for him. He moved his quarters first to the Hôtel Roseg and later to the Kronenhof, and from this time onwards Pontresina remained unrivalled in his affections as a summer resort.

In the Upper Engadine and neighbourhood he ascended all the principal peaks with Hans and Christian Grass and other leading guides, while in later years he conducted almost daily expeditions up the Piz Languard, over the Diavolezza, or on to the Morteratsch Glacier. These expeditions are remembered by his numerous friends as their first introduction to snow and ice, and to many he appeared as the father of the place. He was ever ready with advice to the inexperienced, and new-comers to the district found him a mine of accurate information on all expeditions and ascents in the region; indeed one of the leading characteristics of his mind was his retentive memory and extreme accuracy regarding details of old ascents. Certainly the happiest times of his life were spent in the mountains. His first winter in the Alps was spent at Samaden in 1875 at the Hôtel Bernina with those admirable old-fashioned hosts the Fanconis, and for many years he was a constant winter visitor to the 'Kulm' at St. Moritz. He made several winter ascents, including the first ascent of the Piz Palü in winter on February 27, 1890,¹ which occupied 17½ hours, with his friend, the still active Major W. H. Bulpett.

In 1877 he visited Zermatt and climbed the Matterhorn, Lyskamm, and several other peaks with François Dévouassoud, and in 1878 spent the early summer at Grindelwald with François, ascending the Jungfrau, Wetterhorn, and Schreckhorn, but was prevented from carrying out his full programme by a severe attack of sciatica.

In September of the same year, however, he visited Tyrol with his wife and François, ascending many of the peaks then in vogue. He returned to Tyrol with his brother Benjamin a few years later, and again climbed at Zermatt in 1879.

¹ *A.J.* 15, 153.

In the Upper Engadine he appears to have climbed practically every peak except the Piz Scerscen and made expeditions in the neighbouring Arosa, Bergün and Bregaglia districts. He made the traverse of the Güssfeldt Sattel for the first time in one day.

He also travelled in the Italian Alps and ascended Monte Viso.

Wainwright, though not robust and never thoroughly at home in rock-climbing, was a splendid walker and excelled on snow peaks, where he revelled in soft snow, often to the discomfort of his companions, including the guides. As a rule, he stuck to the usual mountain routes, but in 1889 made a variation of the route previously followed up the Piz Roseg, which is the route now usually taken. He was a true lover of the Alps, and there can be no doubt that he owed his improved health and comparative longevity to his frequent sojourns in the Engadine both in summer and winter.

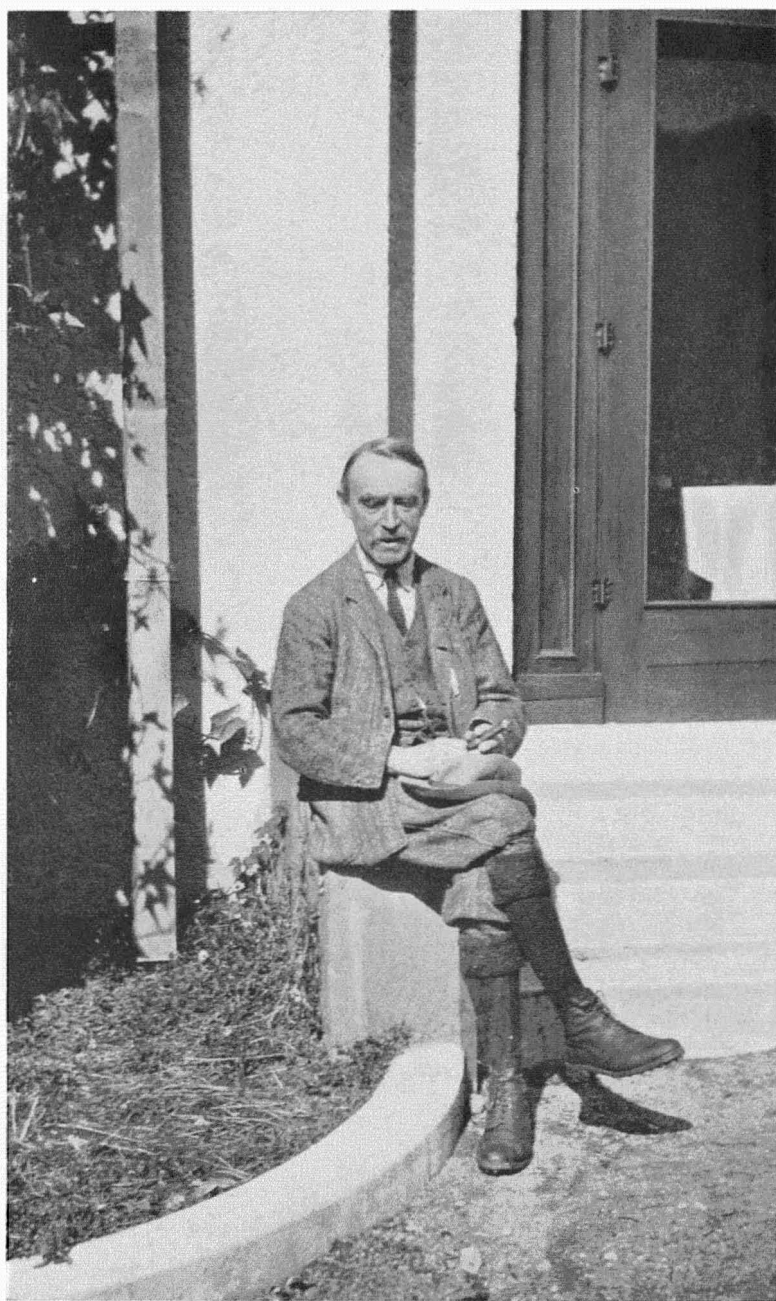
E. J. G.

[I first met Mr. 'Jack' Wainwright at St. Moritz during the winter of 1895-96. He had then given up mountaineering 'officially,' but was still an indefatigable walker. It was his practice, during that and many following winters, to walk in the morning to Pontresina, which in those days had only a *Gast Stube* (i.e. one general sitting-room in the Kronenhof) open in winter, returning to St. Moritz for lunch. Immediately after his meal he walked to Silvaplana and back. This was his invariable daily habit, fine or snow—a distance of some 20 miles, since at that time only the main roads were open. He always carried a prodigious alpenstock some 10 ft. long and was burned a rich brown by exposure.

He did all in his power to encourage winter mountaineering—which pastime he may be said to have been a pioneer—among all his numerous friends and acquaintances, but his success was not great. I well remember his walking up with the late Rev. Cecil Watson, in boots and through deep snow, to the old Boval Club Hut (an awful hovel) to greet me on my return from the third winter ascent of Piz Bernina in 1897. In fact, there were few winter ascents that I had the luck to accomplish in the years 1896-99 when I was not greeted at some portion of the descent by the slight active figure with its quaint gaiters and formidable *bâton*!

I last saw him at Pontresina during the so-called 'August' of 1924. I shall long remember the warmth of his greeting—and his remarks on the climate even of his beloved Upper Engadine. He, Mumm and I nearly reached the summit of Piz Languard in a blizzard. I do not think that it was Wainwright or Mumm who refused to continue, but Moritz Inderbinen had wisely turned back long before.

If in no sense a great mountaineer, there was no truer member of the Alpine Club or lover of the Alps than the old friend whose face Pontresina and the Gredig family will sorely miss.—E. L. S.]



ARNOLD LOUIS MUMM.
1859-1927.

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(1859-1927.)

ARNOLD LOUIS MUMM was born in London in 1859, the second son of Julius Mumm, of London, Reims and Cologne. His father was at that time one of the proprietors of a famous brand of champagne. His mother was an Irish lady, a daughter of a Dublin solicitor. After the death of her husband she made her home in England, where her four boys were educated. She had for many years a house in Hyde Park Street where Arnold Mumm lived with her till her death in 1917, when he set up for himself a bachelor establishment in Gloucester Terrace, a more remote part of Tyburnia.

Arnold Mumm's elder brother was sent to Harrow, but he and his next younger brother went to Eton as Collegers, and the youngest as an Oppidan. In both aspects, in work and in sport, Mumm's Eton career was a distinguished one. He won, in 1874, the Prince Consort's German prize, he was in the Select for The Newcastle in 1877 and 1879, and when he left was Captain of the School. Both in the Field and at the Wall—the Collegers' game—he was a noted football player. He also became joint editor of the *Eton College Chronicle*.

In 1879 he went up to Oxford where he won a scholarship at Corpus. He followed up this successful start by getting three Firsts, in Classical Moderations, Literae Humaniores, and Jurisprudence. They were won—an Oxford contemporary writes—'with some ease.' A year or two later he stood for a Fellowship at All Souls; and it was currently reported that the Examiners had some difficulty in making up their minds between Mumm, the present Vice-Chancellor, and the present Bishop of Durham. Despite his successes in the schools Mumm found time and energy for sport and was one of his College football team during a season when it remained unbeaten.

On leaving Oxford Mumm came to London to study for the Bar, and in July 1886 was admitted in Lincoln's Inn, where he read in the chambers of Mr. C. Ackworth James, proposing to practise as an equity draftsman and conveyancer. He became a sound lawyer, and might have made himself a practice had he cared to do so. But he never laid himself out seriously for legal work. He had two serious impediments in his path: a sufficient private fortune and an exceedingly retiring disposition which was coupled throughout life with a complete absence of ambition.

One who knew Mumm well at this period writes: 'I have never met with anyone of Mumm's really great knowledge on many subjects, who was so modest about it. In fact, I doubt if he himself ever appreciated how wide his range of knowledge was, although everyone else who saw much of him was constantly impressed by it. He seemed totally devoid of self-assertion or ambition. With his wonderful industry and critical power, he could, I believe, had he wished it, have become prominent in many ways: he preferred not

to be so, and probably with his temperament it was to his own greater happiness.'

Having failed to find the pursuit of the Law congenial, Mumm had the happy thought of looking for occupation in literature: but it was to the practical and critical side of it, rather than the creative, that he turned. In 1894 he joined the publishing firm of his relative, Mr. Edward Arnold, and took part in its management for many years—until 1925—both as a Partner and Reader.

In many of the situations of life Mumm was inclined to play the part of a sympathetic but detached spectator. To his friends and associates he may have at times seemed too reluctant to accept the challenge of circumstance; too ready in everyday affairs to cultivate a philosophic calm. Yet his habitual reticence was in great part the result of a fastidious intellect, of a desire to weigh the matter in hand before he discussed a proposal or dealt with an argument.

With not a few of the habits and tastes of the painstaking and sedentary scholar and critic, Mumm kept up to the end a keen zest for sport and out of door pursuits. These two cross elements in his character remained constant. His intimate friends both at College and in after days were drawn mainly from literary and intellectual circles: but he was also an excellent shot and a good rider to hounds, and he became in turn a bold and persistent mountaineer and an adventurous traveller. It is in the latter qualities that we have to commemorate him here.

The earlier portion of Mumm's Alpine career may best be indicated by quoting the table of his qualifications put before the committee of the Club on his election in 1889. It shows that he had begun to climb at an early age, fourteen, and that he had in successive summers piled up a list which, for the length of the period covered, the variety in the districts visited, and also for the progressive character of the climbs—passes as well as peaks—might well serve as a model for future candidates. On these grounds, as well as for its personal interest, it seems worth quoting here in full.

QUALIFICATIONS :

- 1873 Titlis.
- 1874 Piz Corvatsch, Piz Morteratsch.
- 1876 Piz Glüschaint.
- 1877 Breithorn (Zermatt), Cima di Jazzi, Monte Rosa, Zinal-Rothhorn, Alphubeljoch.
- 1879 Monte Tofana, Cristallo Pass, Marmolata, Bildstöckljoch.
- 1881 Beichgrat, Petersgrat, Jungfrau (Mönchjoch), Weissmies, Adler Pass, Cols d'Hérens and de Bertol, Pas de Chèvres, Col de Mont Rouge, Col de Sonadon, Col du Géant.
- 1884 Isenthal to Engelberg over Griessen Glacier, Wendenjoch, Thierberg, Sustenlimmi, Galenstock—Triftlimmi.
- 1886 Lower peak of Balmhorn, Unter Gabelhorn, Rimpfischhorn, Col Durand, Moming Pass, Wellenkuppe.

- 1887 Lo Besso, Grand Cornier, Rothhorn (from Mountet to Zermatt), Matterhorn, Riffelhorn from Glacier, Ober Gabelhorn, Col de Valpelline, Mt. Brulé, Col de Chermontane, Grand Combin.
- 1888 Fletschhorn, Nadelhorn, Weissthor, Col delle Loccie, Lysjoch, Grivola.

In the summer following his election to the Club, Mumm set to work in earnest in Dauphiné, where he climbed the Sommet des Rouies, the Barre des Écrins, the Pelvoux, the Aiguille du Plat and the Meije. A long gap followed till in 1902 and 1904 he made a few minor expeditions in eastern Switzerland. He was one of the principal authorities on the Tödi Group.

In 1905 he surprised his friends by accepting an invitation to join Mr. Freshfield in the expedition to the Mountains of the Moon, described in the *ALPINE JOURNAL* (vol. 23). This African adventure, though unsuccessful in its main object, afforded Mumm some sport, and it also roused in him a new ambition to combine exploration with climbing. Accordingly, in 1907, we find him joining General Bruce and Dr. Longstaff in an exploration of the Garhwal district of the Himalaya, in the course of which Dr. Longstaff succeeded in making the first ascent of Trisul (23,400 ft.). Mumm gave the world a full and lively account of the party's doings, their successes and troubles in his chief contribution to mountaineering literature, a portly volume entitled *Five Months in the Himalaya*. Dr. Longstaff writes thus of Mumm's share in what proved a very arduous campaign: 'What struck me most during the whole of our trip was Mumm's extraordinary patience and unflinching good temper under discomfort, which was often aggravated in his case by indifferent health. It was wonderful how he endured those awful two nights and three days when we were weather-bound at our high camp (20,000 ft.), on the occasion of our first abortive attempt on Trisul. Never once did he complain, and he stuck it out to the last possible moment on the chance of pushing home the attack, though his guide Inderbinen and three of our Gurkhas had given in after the first night.'

To Moritz Inderbinen, his frequent companion in his many visits to the Far West, as well as in his African, Himalayan and Alpine travels, Mumm was warmly attached. Moritz was to Mumm an almost indispensable fellow-traveller, a friend as much as a guide. Moritz had seen something of the world in his youth; he had spent several years in the household of Dr. Butler at Harrow; he had married an English wife. On the mountains he was a capable rather than a brilliant leader. But he possessed a rare quality among Alpine peasants: he could enjoy distant travel, and make himself popular among all sorts and conditions of men. He died two years ago, aged seventy; Mumm's tribute to him will be found in our pages ('A.J.' 33, 300-2).

In all these distant expeditions Mumm proved himself a most capable traveller; in the more serious trials of camp life, whether in

the pathless jungles of Ruwenzori, or among the gorges and glaciers of Garhwal, he was an enduring, helpful and unselfish comrade. He had nerves; but he kept them as a rule under strict control. It needed some sudden catastrophe, such as the sight of the sack containing his climbing boots being dropped by a porter and swept away by an African torrent in flood; or a strange incident, such as an irrepressible monkey dancing at midnight among the mosquito curtains of his bed at Mombasa, to modify his habitual attitude of *mitis sapientia* and stir him to vigorous language or retributive action.

Safe home from the Himalaya, Mumm found a less strenuous field in which to indulge his lately-formed passion for the wilderness. He turned his steps to the Far West, where he made himself a welcome guest in the summer camps of the Canadian Alpine Club. We find him there repeatedly in the summers of 1909, 1910, 1911 and 1913. He climbed and explored in the Rockies and Selkirks vigorously and in every direction. In 1909, in company with Mr. Amery and Mr. Hastings, he made an expedition to the then remote Mount Robson, of which he wrote an account for the *Canadian Alpine Journal* (see also 'A.J.' 25). After a long interval caused by the War, when he served as a Special Constable, he returned to Banff in 1920.

In 1921 he reverted to the Alps and climbed the Dent Blanche and the Dent du Midi among other expeditions, his last great climbs.

In 1922 he set out alone on a voyage to the Antipodes. After paying what proved a farewell visit to the many hosts and climbing companions he had found in Canada he crossed the Pacific to visit his old Oxford friend, Sir Charles Eliot, the British Ambassador in Japan. There even Mumm failed to evade publicity; he was welcomed by the local press as 'a wide-world-renowned mountaineer.' He was even greeted by an interviewer as 'a benefactor' on the ground that while Secretary to our own Club he 'had been so good as to act as midwife at the birth of that now flourishing body the Japanese Alpine Club.'

Mumm proceeded to climb Fujiyama and to make several expeditions among the so-called Japanese Alps. Sailing on to New Zealand he spent four weeks at the Hermitage, viewed the glaciers, and 'almost completed' the ascent of Mt. Hamilton.

He read a paper to the Club on this journey under the title of 'A Mixed Bag' ('A.J.' 36).

In the autumn of 1923 Mumm was again in the Alps celebrating by its repetition his earliest ascent, that of the Titlis, made fifty years before. This was followed next year by a few minor climbs in the Adula and Bernina groups; but 1925 was apparently a blank in his climbing record.

It may be added that his taste for travel, once excited, grew and became independent of mountain climbing. He went more than once to Morocco; and he joined his friend Sir Alexander Kennedy

in a visit to Petra, with the object of making an air survey of the ruins. This was secured by the help of the Government of Palestine Survey ('A.J.' 38, 138).

In 1926 while travelling in Tyrol with some old friends, Mumm's powers suddenly failed him. He had probably through life taxed to the full his physical force, and on his return to England he was warned to spare himself. Last summer he set out on a voyage to the Far East in company with Sir Charles Eliot. At Hong Kong he became seriously unwell and had to go for a time into the local hospital. He recovered, however, sufficiently to start on the return voyage alone. He wrote to the Club that he hoped to be home in time to attend our Annual Dinner. But on assembling for the Meeting we were met by the sad news that our old colleague had succumbed to his illness in the Bay of Biscay and died and been buried at sea on December 2.

His death is felt as a personal grief by his numerous friends; both in our own Club and also in the Canadian Club, in which he took much interest, it will be reckoned as a serious loss.

It remains only to add a few lines as to Mumm's official connexion with the Alpine Club. He was elected on the Committee in 1899, and served as Secretary from 1901 to 1905. From 1919 to 1922 he was one of the Vice-Presidents. It was due entirely to his characteristic diffidence that he did not succeed to the Presidency. He recognized and probably exaggerated what he felt his natural disqualifications for the post. As Secretary his benign and cheerful presence lent a grace even to the most formal of 'Proceedings.' He could drop, no one better, *obiter dicta*, often humorous and always fitted to the occasion. But an after-dinner speech addressed to an audience of 150 presented itself to his imagination as a task alien equally to his mentality and his physical powers.

But if Mumm shrank from the duties of the Presidential Chair it was not from any lack of devotion to the welfare of the Club. His interest in its affairs grew with years, until it culminated in his undertaking the onerous work of compiling by his unassisted labour and at his own cost a detailed *Register of Members of the Alpine Club*. The two volumes already published comprise the records of members elected up to 1876 inclusive. He has left a third volume ready for the Press. The task was a difficult one, for the material was widely scattered and often hard to come at. But Mumm found in it a congenial occupation and he gave himself up to it with unflagging energy.

The writer of this note has to thank several of Mr. Mumm's contemporaries and companions for much of the material embodied in the preceding pages.

D. W. F.

ROBERTSON LAMB.

(1865-1927.)

To many of us it is difficult to realize that Robertson Lamb has answered his last summons and left his comrades to mourn; for he seemed to have learned the secret of perennial youth. 'A man's age,' he used to say, 'should not be reckoned by his years, but by his feelings, and the condition of his mind and body.' And, indeed, measured by his own standard, Lamb died a very young man. To the last he retained his youthful exuberance and zest in living, and attributed it all to the hills for the health and inspiration they gave him. No opportunity of a walk on the hill-sides, a scramble among the fells, or an arduous climb on crag or mountain was ever allowed to pass unheeded. Only four days before the commencement of his last short illness he formed one of a party to climb the 'Devil's Kitchen'; and he climbed it well, without fatigue—in his old sure and cheery manner.

It was at a comparatively late period in his life that Lamb learned to climb. Though always devoted to healthy forms of out-door exercise, he was well advanced in the 'thirties' when, for the first time, he joined a climbing party at Wasdale, and at once realized that he had found the recreation at which he would excel. The little half-decked sailing yacht was sold, and thenceforth his eyes were lifted ever into the hills. He soon became a well-known figure at Wasdale, Pen-y-Gwryd and Sligachan, and other climbers often referred to him as too venturesome and a dare-devil; and they were wrong. Lamb was certainly quite fearless, but he knew his own strength and never strained it to breaking-point. And, moreover, he never willingly led a really difficult part of a climb without first making sure that the rest of his party was safely anchored in case of any accident to himself.

He spent several guideless seasons in the Alps—in the Dauphiné, Tarentaise, Central Alps, Oberland and Engadine. Perhaps the most noteworthy of his achievements were: Traverse of La Meije (1910), Mont Pourri (1911), Gross Simmelistock and other peaks of the Engelhörner (1913), Z'mutt arête of the Matterhorn (1921).

On the British hills two feats stand out from his innumerable climbs: the second ascent (with a new variation) of the N.W. face of Pillar, and the first ascent (not yet repeated, except by himself) of the gorge between the 3rd and 4th Pinnacles of Sgurr-nan-Gillean.

Robertson Lamb was a successful Liverpool merchant, and at one time councillor of his native borough of Bootle. He was always thoughtful of the interests of his employees, and his kindly and lovable nature endeared him to a host of friends, whose number extends far beyond the circle of his comrades on the hills.

J. M. D.

MISS KATHERINE RICHARDSON.

(1854-1927.)

THE Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL¹ did me a great honour when he asked me to write something about Miss Katherine Richardson, but I am sorry that I am not better qualified to do full justice to the climbing career of one who in the 'nineties had eclipsed all other women mountaineers, yet who, thanks to her modesty and beautiful character, had never aroused a trace of envy in any one of them.

Miss Richardson had already a magnificent series of ascents to her credit before I began to climb, and as the earlier of my chief ascents were made in winter it was a long time before I had the honour of meeting her. But I often heard of her doings through her famous guide, Emile Rey, and my own guide, Edouard Cupelin, and read of them in Alpine literature, so that before the red-letter day for me arrived when we met face to face I had conceived a great admiration for her both as a woman and a climber.

From that time onwards, though we rarely saw each other, we were never quite out of touch, and several of her neatly written, perfectly expressed letters lie before me, the last of which reached me when I was organizing the British Empire Fund towards the Restoration of Reims Cathedral, in which she took keen interest.

Miss Richardson was born in 1854, and during the eleven seasons she spent in the Alps she made 116 first-class ascents and 60 minor ones, a number of the latter without guides. I owe many details of her career to an article in *La Montagne* of December 1927, written by Mademoiselle Mary Paillon, with whom Miss Richardson had resided for many years. Mademoiselle Paillon has been a friend of mine for nearly as long a period.

After ascending several of the less important of the Engadine peaks in 1871, Miss Richardson returned there and in 1879 crossed the three summits of Piz Palü, thus making the first of her many notable new climbs or combinations. In 1882 she accomplished a remarkable *tour de force*, ascending the Rothhorn (16 hours, including halts from Zinal to Zermatt), the Weisshorn, Monte Rosa, and the Matterhorn (18 hours up and down from Zermatt, including halts) in eight days. The times of all her ascents show how quick she was on the mountains, and this was due to the excellence of her climbing and not to any special attempt to break records.

In 1888 Miss Richardson made the ascent of the Aiguille de Bionnassay and crossed the arête thence to the Dôme du Gôûter, the first time that this had been accomplished. Up to then many experienced climbers had considered the feat impossible. For a

¹ As one of the two most distinguished lady mountaineers of the time, it is most fitting that Mrs. Le Blond should have acceded, so kindly, to my request.—E. L. S.

long time the party had to progress along the narrow ridge *à cheval*, and during the climb, which took 16 hours 10 minutes actual going, nearly an hour was lost owing to an enforced rest due to the fatigue of the guide Bich. Two days later Miss Richardson climbed all five peaks of the Aiguille des Grands Charmoz, and the same season had the great satisfaction of being the first lady to reach the summit of La Meije. In connection with this ascent Mademoiselle Paillon relates an amusing anecdote. It seems that while at Chamonix Miss Richardson saw a paragraph in a paper to the effect that an Englishwoman had arrived at La Bérarde with the intention of attempting the ascent of the Meije. As Miss Richardson had made her plans for some other climbs before going to Dauphiné she could not hurry off there immediately, but as soon as she had accomplished what she had intended she started for La Bérarde, feeling very anxious lest a peak which she had set her heart on being the first lady to ascend should have been wrested from her. Wondering who the enterprising Englishwoman could be, Miss Richardson found when she arrived that she had been chasing her own shadow, for the lady in question was herself!

Not only was Miss Richardson the first lady to climb the Meije, but she was the first person to do so from La Bérarde without sleeping out. She left her hotel at 9 P.M., and, halting for two hours on the rocks to await daylight, reached the summit at 7.30 A.M. and was back at the village at 5.30 P.M. Two days later she crossed Les Écrins, again making her start from the hotel and taking 15 hours from door to door.

In 1889 Miss Richardson ascended the Aiguille de la Za by a new route up the W. face overlooking Arolla. The same season her wonderful endurance was shown in the following five expeditions accomplished in six days: Mont Blanc de Seilon, Pointe de Vouasson, Dent Perroc, Pigne d'Arolla by a new route, and the traverse of the Aiguilles Rouges, *en col*. But this series of climbs was excelled the same year by the ascents of the Aiguille Verte, the Aiguille de Talèfre, and the two peaks of the Dru, the three expeditions being made in five days. The latter climb was done for the first time from the Petit Dru to the Grand Dru (August 1) and necessitated at that period the presence of two parties on the mountain at the same time who should arrive from opposite directions, the one party pulling the other up the vertical slabs of the Grand Dru, and subsequently being let down by them. Miss Richardson's party consisted of herself and the guides Emile Rey and Jean Baptiste Bich, while the other was an English party, that of Messrs. Nash and Williams, with François Simond, Frédéric Payot, and Edouard Cupelin. All left the Montenvers at the same time and arrived on their respective summits within five minutes of each other. When Miss Richardson reached the top of the wall of the Grand Dru, their rope was thrown down to the others, but it caught in the rocks and the latter party had to content themselves with a portion

of it which they managed to cut off. This delayed their descent and they were obliged to spend the night on the mountain. Miss Richardson regained the Montenvers at 10.15 P.M.

The following year (1890) Miss Richardson, the day after ascending the Lyskamm, crossed Pollux to Zermatt, making the first descent by the N. face, and the same season she made the first ascent of the Aiguille du Chardonnet by a lady and by a new route.

Miss Richardson and Mademoiselle Paillon were together on the Southern Aiguille d'Arves, till then unclimbed by a lady, and the former insisted that her friend should step ahead and so be actually the first to reach the summit. In 1893 they made the third ascent of the eastern peak of the Meije and the first by ladies. The last climb made together by these two ardent lovers of the mountains was that of the Pelvoux. Mademoiselle Paillon's eyesight had begun to trouble her, and a slip on an ice slope was the result of imperfect vision, so after that she gave up first-class climbing and Miss Richardson insisted on doing the same. A peak in Dauphiné was called after her by Monsieur Maurice Paillon, and when she heard of it her surprise was great!

Like not a few great mountaineers, Miss Richardson had many interests and excelled in various pursuits. She was a good musician, an artist of no mean powers and a delightful companion, and so modest that except for short records in Alpine periodicals no accounts of her achievements were ever written by her for publication. She passed away at Oullins (Rhône) on August 20, 1927, under the roof of that friend to whom she had been as a sister for so many years.

Miss Richardson joined the Ladies' Alpine Club, on my invitation, very soon after it was formed, and she was our Vice-President for France. We mourn her loss very deeply.

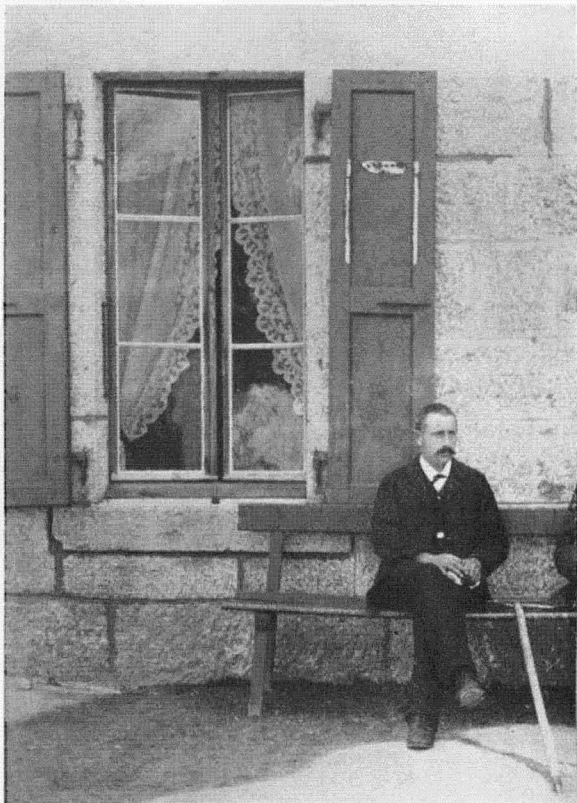
E. LE B.

ALFRED SIMOND.

(1851-1927.)

ON December 2, 1927, Alfred Simond passed away at the age of 76. He was one of a family of guides well known to habitués of Chamonix some forty years or so ago, and his elder brother François, who first ascended the Grépon from the S., is still alive and over 80 years old.

Both gave up climbing somewhat early in life, and took over from the Tairraz family, somewhere about the year 1888, the Montenvers Hotel and Chapeau restaurant, on lease from the Commune of Chamonix, and held it until the War broke out. Alfred was in charge at the Montenvers and François managed the Chapeau, and therefore Alfred will be remembered by many members rather as an innkeeper than as a guide. But he was really



ALFRED SIMOND.
1851-1927.



JALOVEC IN WINTER.

more than that, for to the climbing fraternity at the Monteners he was the kindest and keenest and most helpful of friends. Nothing was too much trouble for him, either as regards finding a guide or discussing an expedition, and he was as pleased as the climber himself if the expedition resulted in success.

Occasionally he would desert his hotel and join one for a climb, and if back in time for table d'hôte, you would see him attending to his duties as courteous as ever, and few would guess that he had probably started at 2 A.M., and had had a long and arduous day.

The late Sir Edward Davidson referred to his climbing powers in 'A.J.' 25, 57, and I can thoroughly endorse what Christian Klucker told Sir Edward, for Simond was, I think, the nearest rock climber I have ever had the good fortune to climb with.

In August 1923 I went down to Lavancher and called on him at his house to which he had retired, and I shall never forget his pleasure at meeting me again and talking over old times.

So another old guide has passed away, and there are many of us who feel that we have lost a friend who contributed in no small way to our pleasure and happiness in the scrambles in the Monteners district during his long sojourn at that unique hotel.

G. H. M.

NEW EXPEDITIONS.

Mont Blanc Group.

CAPUCIN DU REQUIN, 3047 m. = 10,097 ft., *Vallot*. August 4, 1927. The guides V. Hugonnet, Alfred Couttet, Marcel Bozon and Edouard Ravanel. From the Refuge du Requin, cross the great adjacent snow slope towards the N.E. and clamber on to the Capucin's rocky ridge at the lowest depression. Climb the awkward crest for some 150 ft., and then traverse by a *descent* on the right towards a gully; go up its left branch to an overhang which is turned with difficulty to the right. Eventually the crest is regained and followed to near the base of the summit aiguille. Go up a rock outcrop on the face by a difficult chimney and, from the platform thus reached, throw a string by means of a weight over the top; the rope is then attached and drawn gently over the top, when you swarm by it up to the summit, which affords comfortable room for four persons (? 3 hours). From *La Montagne*, 1927, p. 342.

AIGUILLE DE ROC DU GRÉPON [Mummery's 'Crag on the Grépon'], 3409 m. = 11,187 ft., *Vallot*. August 6, 1927. Miss Miriam O'Brien with Alfred Couttet and Georges Cachat. Leaving Monteners at 02.20, party took the route of the Grépon by the Mer de Glace face ('Red Tower'). Halt on first platform above Glacier de