



Carl Rungius

BOW LAKE

The climb up the wall is very severe on account of its steepness, and also partly owing to the rock in some places being dangerously loose. The climb is considered the most difficult one in the Horungtinder.

The summit was reached at 15.00 after 3½ hrs.' climb from the gap. Descent was made on the opposite side by Jernskarrenden to Midtmaradal, up to the Skagastölshut, and Turtagrö was reached at 19.00.

BOYE SCHLYTTER.

ALPINE NOTES.

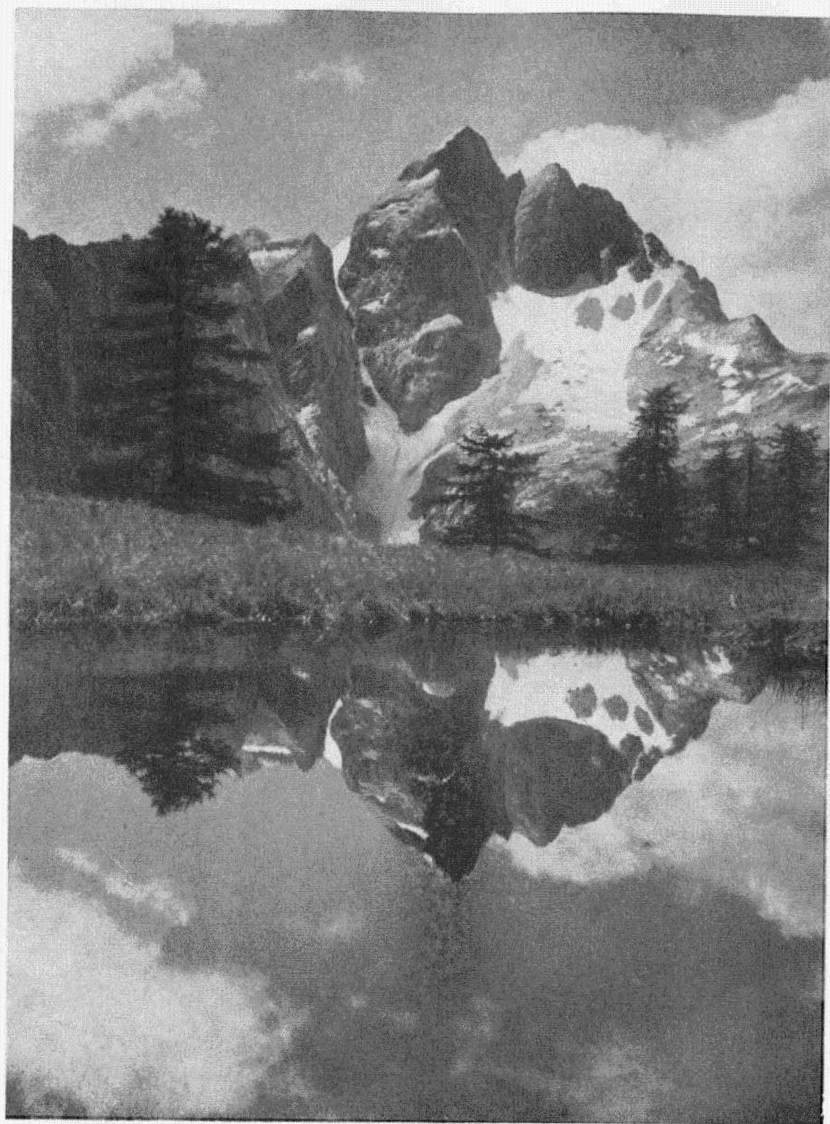
THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :	Date of Election
Crossman, A.	1871
Wainewright, J. H.	1875
Bainbridge-Bell, Rev. F. C.	1889
Mumm, A. L.	1889
Tribe, Wilberforce N.	1891
Monro, Rev. C. G.	1892
Neame, G. H.	1903

BOW LAKE (*see frontispiece*) in the Rocky Mountains of Canada forms the most northerly Continental Divide source of the South Saskatchewan River. Well stocked with trout, the lake is frequented by travellers *en route* to the Freshfield, Lyell and Columbia Icefields. The foreground shows the stream from Bow Pass entering the lake, the adjacent meadows forming a delightful camping ground which may be reached in a day and a half, with horses, from Lake Louise. The mountain wall in the background supports the Crowfoot glacier, and mountaineers, in a single day, can climb from the lake, traverse the expanses of the Waputik Icefield and descend to the camps in Yoho valley.

The illustration is from the painting by Carl Rungius, well known for his Canadian landscapes and studies of big game. It is copyrighted by Harper & Brothers and reprinted with their permission.

We express our warm thanks to Dr. J. Monroe Thorington for generously presenting the print to the ALPINE JOURNAL.—*Editor*.

AN ITALIAN COMMISSION ON THE DIVISION OF THE ALPS.—A new arrangement of the Alps in a series of arbitrary regions and districts is the subject of the report of a military commission, appointed in 1924 by the President of the Italian Geographical Society, which has been recently analyzed and commented on by Mr. Douglas Freshfield in the January number of the 'Geographical Journal.' Such an arrangement, it is obvious, would, if it met with general acceptance, be of great value to writers on Alpine science as well as to travellers and handbook compilers. Mr. Freshfield



Phot. E. Planinšek.

JALOVEC FROM N.W.

(The modern route is up rock-buttress to left of couloir.)

describes the governing principle adopted by the Italian Commission as sound and practical. 'It has,' he writes, 'set aside arguments based on racial or linguistic considerations, or on geological, botanical or climatic conditions. It has altogether ignored political frontiers. It has preferred to look on the Alps as from an aeroplane with a single eye to their Surface Relief.'

The Commission accepts the division of the Alpine chain into three main regions, but it differs from previous geographers in fixing their limits. Thus the line between the Alps and Apennines is drawn at the Col di Cadibona (sometimes called the Col d'Altare) behind Savona. Again, a boundary between the Western and Central Alps is found in the Val d'Aosta and the Petit Ferret; that between the Central and Eastern Alps is furnished by the lower Adige Valley, the Brenner Pass and the valley of the Inn. The former Mr. Freshfield accepts, but he points out that the latter would take away from the Eastern Alps not only (as Mr. Ball has done) the Ortler, Brenta and Adamello Groups, but also the essentially Tyrolese Ötztal and Stubai Ferner. This he disapproves and, fortified by Mr. Coolidge's authority, he proposes as an alternative a line running past Lago d'Iseo up Val Camonica and over the Aprica and Umbrail Passes to the Reschen Scheideck and the Inn Valley and Arlberg.

As regards districts the proposals of the Commission are to a large extent accepted by their critic. Those who care to follow them in detail may be referred to the 'Geographical Journal,' where they are set out in full with the help of a map; here we confine ourselves to indicating the main points in which Mr. Freshfield questions the conclusions of the Commission. He resents the transfer of Mont Blanc to the Graian Alps, and suggests that it should be allowed the dignity of a separate district with the Petit St. Bernard and Petit Ferret as its boundaries.

The 'Rhaetian Alps' of the Commission extend from the Splügen and the Oberalp to the Brenner, with for their limits 'on the south the Adda, the Aprica Pass, the Oglio, the Croce Domini Pass, the Chiese, Lago di Ledro, head of Lago di Garda, gap of Loppio; to the east the Adige, the Isacco (Eisack), the Brenner road; to the north and west the Inn, the Arlberg Pass, the Rhein, and the Hinter Rhein.'

This comprehensive medley of distinct and incongruous groups is characterized by Mr. Freshfield as inadmissible. The Albula and Silvretta-Rhätikon should, he holds, form one district as the Rhaetian Alps; the Bernina another; the Ortler, Ötztal and Stubai Ferner might well be united under the title of the Tyrolese Alps. The Adamello Group should include the Brenta. Thus, according to the division into regions already proposed, the Ortler and Adamello would be restored to the Eastern Alps, with which (except in the pages of the 'Alpine Guide') they have been generally associated.

CARTES DU MASSIF DU MONT BLANC par Henri, Joseph et Charles Vallot.—These maps of Mont Blanc begun by Henri and

Joseph Vallot, continued, edited and published by Charles Vallot, include :

(1) One map on a scale of 1 : 20,000 in 3 colours with contours at 20 m. intervals, containing 13 sheets. Of these sheets the following have now been published : 'Chamonix' (provisional), 'Le Tour,' 'Argentière,' 'Talefre' (permanent). The next sheet will be 'Le Tacul.'

(2) One general map on a scale of 1 : 50,000 in 4 sheets issued in 3 colours with contours at 40 m., *including* the Swiss and Italian portions of the Chain. The N.E. portion will be published in June 1928.

(3) One general map on a scale of 1 : 100,000 in 1 sheet, 3 colours with contours at 40 m. *In preparation.*

(4) One general map on a scale of 1 : 200,000, 1 sheet in 3 colours with 'pencil' relief. Issued in 1927.

This great map, long eagerly awaited, is to be used always conjointly with the Guide Vallot. The two works are to be considered as one, and each supplements the other.

As a mark of affection for our former Ally and of respect for himself, His Imperial Highness PRINCE CHICHIBU OF JAPAN has been elected an Honorary Member of the Alpine Club.

SIR MARTIN CONWAY (President 1902-4), SIR FELIX SCHUSTER (Vice-President 1899-1901), and MR. GEORGE YELD (Vice-President 1915-17) have all completed 50 years' membership of the Alpine Club.

THE 1927 SEASON IN THE JULIAN ALPS.—Mrs. Copeland writes : 'The season was exceptionally fine and dry, with the result that many successful expeditions were recorded. There were several first ascents of difficult "walls," notably on the N. face of the JALOVEC [Jalouz], ŠKRLATICA, TRAVNIK, MOISTROVKA, "Devil's Ledges" (ŠPIK), and in the TRIGLAV massif. All go to the credit of native climbers, above all to Dr. Stanko Tominšek, Mr. Jože Čop, Mr. Martelanc, Miss Pavla Jesih, Messrs. Prevec and Hudnik, Mr. Miha Potočnik. Important, chiefly, because of its associations is the successful ascent of Triglav N. face by the diagonal route which Dr. Klement Jug was attempting when he lost his life. Dr. Tominšek and Jože Čop accomplished its first ascent and then—independently—Messrs. Hudnik and Prevec.

'I enjoyed several good climbs this year. Jože Čop even took me up a new route up the Moistrovka wall. It was only a 4 hours' climb, so that there was time for me to do my own work throughout. My last trip was over the MARTULJEK. The first snow had fallen, and when we were near the ridge our party (we were three) got into difficulties owing to ice, for which we were insufficiently equipped. So we had to take to the rock and had 4 hours' icy climbing in a fairly strong N. wind. Under ordinary circumstances that trip is easy and one of the most picturesque we have.

'Dr. Friedrich Kroeber, of Halberstadt, a German climber with thirty years' experience of mountaineering in Switzerland, had come

for a first visit to the Julian Alps, being prompted to this by Dr. Kugy's lectures and book (*Aus dem Leben eines Bergsteigers*). He enjoyed several successful trips. The last of these expeditions was an ascent of the Jalovec by way of the ridge (July 17), when he joined a party of members of the mountaineering club *Skala*. Two days later he fell and was killed on an ascent of Mt. PRISOINIK by the new rock route. Dr. Kroeber was alone on this trip, and the exact cause of the accident will never be known.

'There was a sensational rescue in the Triglav range early in the year, when two students who had gone off for a few days' ski-running got snow-bound and very nearly died of starvation. They were found by a search party from Bohinj, when they were at the last gasp, and that they were found at all was due to the merest chance.

'Another brave rescue was achieved when Miss Jesih and Mr. T. Guera climbing the N. face of the Špik in July were fog-bound on the "wall" for 36 hours, and Mr. Guera was overcome by cramp. Miss Jesih gained the top of the great chimney alone, when she was met by Jože Čop (who had in the meantime reached the summit by the ridge), and the two between them hauled up Mr. Guera.'

There are no true professional guides in the Julian Alps. During the Austrian régime a certain number existed, but all these were killed or incapacitated during the war. Mr. JOŽE ČOP, a distinguished local mountaineer, is willing to act as *professional* companion to any British parties visiting the district, while the hunter, MIHA OJTZL, in Kranjska Gora, is stated to be a reliable mountaineer.

The AKADEMISCHER ALPENKLUB, BERNE, has courteously informed the A.C. that its members will be admitted to the A.A.C.B.'s huts, *i.e.* the Engelhorn and Bietschhorn, with the same privileges as accorded to its own and S.A.C. members. The charge for spending the night amounts to 1 franc. The Alpine Club much appreciates the favour. Herr Oesterle remains President of the A.A.C.B., while Herr H. Bürgi replaces Herr Amstutz as *Hüttenchef*.

We regret to learn of the death of Monsieur FELIX PERRIN, the distinguished French mountaineer. M. Perrin will be remembered as the last surviving member of the famous trio, Mr. Coolidge and Capitaine Henri Duhamel, joint authors of the classic *Guide du Haut Dauphiné* (1890) and *The Central Alps of the Dauphiny* (2 editions, 1892 and 1905). M. Perrin was, of course, intimately connected with Mr. Coolidge as regards the publishing and editing of *Josias Simler et les origines de l'Alpinisme jusqu'en 1600* (1904).

The death is announced of Dr. KARL DIENER as having occurred on January 6 last. Dr. Diener (Hon. Member A.C. 1911-16) was Professor in the University of Vienna and a very well-known mountaineer and writer. We hear of his death with regret.

CAPTAIN J. P. FARRAR has been elected an Honorary Member of the American Alpine Club.

'CHARMOZ AND GRÉPON.'—In the charming obituary of the late Miss Katherine Richardson by her great friend Mademoiselle Mary Paillon, *La Montagne*, 1927, pp. 326–34, it appears that on August 15, 1888, Miss Richardson, with Emile Rey and J. B. Bich, accomplished the first 'lady' traverse of the Aiguille des Grands Charmoz. Mademoiselle Paillon kindly informs us that Miss Richardson's notes read as follows: 'Aiguille des Charmoz, première traversée féminine des 5 pointes, pointe Nord-Ouest 3443·8, Pointe Sud 3444·5' [3444 m. is the Vallot height of *le Bâton Wicks*, 3445 m. is the Vallot height of the highest point]. It would appear, consequently, that the expedition was a N.-S. traverse. On the other hand, M. Maurice Paillon's son remembers perfectly Miss Richardson telling him that the traverse was made 'in the opposite to the usual way,' from which it might have been from S.-N.

The matter is of small importance, but should be noted in connexion with Sir George Morse's paper, 'A.J.' 39, 251, in which the statement about 'the first traverse by ladies' should be modified accordingly.

THE ITALIAN 'ADULA' FRONTIER.—In connexion with the numerous new reservoirs that are being made on the Italian side to develop electric power, a number of excellent paths have been made. They start well, but are very apt to lead the climber astray, especially by lantern light.

Rough quarters and some food can be had at the house by the dam at the end of the Vannino Lake. There is no intention of making it an inn, and possibly this may cease when the workmen have left. The OFENHORN is climbed easily from here or taken on the way to the new Italian hut on the 'Gemsland' alp about one mile from the snout of the Hohsands Glacier on the left bank of the stream. This new hut, the 'Citta di Busto' (caretaker), will be convenient for the peaks at the head of the Hohsands Glacier.

The new ADULA HUT (S.A.C.) on the Piotta Pass is *bewirtshaftet*. The U.T.O.E. Hut is about one hour higher up on the way to the RHEINWALDHORN. A comfortable one-room hut. Not provisioned and no wood.

H. E. NEWTON.

Sir George H. Morse, President A.C., has very kindly presented a *Lettre de M. Bourrit sur le premier voyage fait au sommet du Mont Blanc* (see 'Annals of Mont Blanc,' C. E. Mathews, p. 98). This letter contains the first printed account of the first ascent, 1786. There are only two other copies in existence, one of which is in the Library, Geneva, the other being in the possession of the de Saussure family. (See Mr. H. F. Montagnier's 'Bibliography of the Ascents of Mont Blanc,' 'A.J.' 25, 608–40.)

An attempt was made on the N. arête of the AIGUILLE NOIRE DE PÉTÉRET, July 31, 1927, by Herren E. Allwein and F. Gäbler. The party attained with much difficulty (3 hrs. from the Fresnay Glacier

bergschrund) the gap ¹ between the Dames Anglaises, *Punta Jolanda*, and the Aiguille Noire, *i.e.* Kurz's Brèche Sud des Dames Anglaises, *ca.* 3500 m. Thence *descending* on the E. slope, a traverse was made on to the Aiguille Noire's N.E. face in the hope of being able, by this face, to attain the middle of the N. arête near the flattish step. The party, having overcome great difficulties and a certain height, were forced to return by the same route. Another attempt was made on the same day by an unnamed Austrian party; this latter endeavoured, from the Brèche, to follow the crest of the arête, which proved quite impracticable. *Jahresbericht des A. A. V., München, 1926-7*, pp. 38, 44.

The BRÈCHE CENTRALE DES DAMES ANGLAISES, *i.e.* the gap between l'Isolée and the Aiguille Blanche de Pétéret ('A.J.' **39**, 336, footnote 3), was first attained from the Fresnay side, July 22, 1913, by Signori G. B. Gugliermi, G. Lampugnani, F. Ravelli and A. Zanutti ('A.J.' **28**, 82-3; *Kurz*, 1927, p. 351), and has subsequently been reached from the Fresnay side by at least one French party.

A. BONACOSSA.

Dr. W. von Kehl sends the following interesting 'times' for his ascent of MONT BLANC *via* the AIGUILLE BLANCHE DE PÉTÉRET as reported in 'A.J.' **39**, 336-7. The party consisted of Herr von Kehl with Fritz Amatter, Fritz Suter and Lucien Proment, 'the latter of whom accompanied the Gugliermi party on their well-known ascent of Mont Blanc from the E.'

August 3, 1927	Courmayeur	dep. 15.00
	Gamba Hut	{ arr. 08.30
August 4		{ dep. 03.30
	Fresnay Glacier	arr. 04.30
	Brèche des Dames Anglaises	{ arr. 08.20
		{ dep. 09.20
	Aiguille Blanche de Pétéret	{ arr. 15.25
		{ dep. 16.00
	Col de Pétéret	{ arr. 18.15
August 5		{ dep. 04.10
	Foot of 'Grand Gen-	
	darme'	arr. 06.10
	The <i>Eckpfeiler</i>	arr. 07.20
	Mont Blanc de Courmayeur	arr. 11.45
	Mont Blanc	arr. 12.20
	Cabane Vallot	{ arr. 12.45
		{ dep. 13.40
	Courmayeur (<i>via</i> Dôme	
	Glacier)	arr. 21.30

¹ This gap, never traversed *en col*, was attained from the Brenva side, August 12, 1899, by Signori A. Hess and O. Leitz with Laurent Croux and Alexis Brocherel (*R.M.* 1899, 477-86; *Kurz*, 1927, p. 354).

The party 'ascended from the Col de Pétérêt in a direct line *via* the watershed to the great red gendarme on the upper part of the Pétérêt arête. The route hitherto usually followed lies a good deal more to the right, E. In very good snow conditions my route is preferable.'

It is reported that LE PÈRE ÉTERNEL,¹ the extraordinary pinnacle at the extremity of the N.W. arête of the Aiguille de la Brenva (see 'A.J.' 25, 503, 741-2, and especially the fine illustration facing 503), has been climbed by 'two young fellows of Courmayeur.' They are stated to have worked for days with chisels, iron spikes and fixed ropes. This sort of exploit is quite beyond the pale and is a degradation of mountaineering. Any steeple-jack could have done the work better and in a tenth of the time.

The A.C. narrowly avoids ROYAL CENSURE. We are permitted by Sir John Murray to publish the following extracts from 'The Letters of Queen Victoria,' Second Series, vol. 3, 1879-85. Edited by George Earle Buckle. Published by John Murray, London, 1928:—

'Sir Henry Ponsonby to Mr. Gladstone.

'24th August, 1882.

'DEAR MR. GLADSTONE,—The Queen commands me to ask you if you think she can say anything to mark her disapproval of the dangerous Alpine excursions which this year have occasioned so much loss of life.—HENRY F. PONSONBY.

'*Editor's Note.*—Professor Frank Balfour and guide were killed 19th July; Mr. Penhall and guide on 3rd August; and Mr. Gabbett and two guides on 12th August.

'Mr. Gladstone to Sir Henry Ponsonby.

'IWERNE MINSTER HOUSE,

'25th August, 1882.

'MY DEAR SIR H. PONSONBY,—I do not wonder that the Queen's sympathetic feelings have again been excited by the accidents, so grave in character, and so accumulated during recent weeks, on the Alps. But I doubt the possibility of any interference, even by Her Majesty, with a prospect of advantage. It may be questionable whether, upon the whole, mountain-climbing (and be it remembered that Snowdon has its victims as well as the Matterhorn) is more destructive than various other pursuits in the way of recreation which perhaps have no justification to plead so respectable as that which may be alleged on behalf of mountain expeditions. The question, however, is not one of wisdom or unwisdom; but viewing it, as you put it, upon its very definite and simple grounds, I see no room for action.

¹ Kurz, 1927, p. 222, under name of 'Capucin de la Brenva.'

'My attempt at yachting came to grief, and the chance of renewing it is small.

'Yours sincerely,

'W. E. GLADSTONE.

'*Editor's Note.*—Mr. Dismore was killed on Snowdon on 20th August.'

Professor F. M. Balfour and his guide, Johann Petrus, of Stalden, were killed whilst making the ascent of the Aiguille Blanche de Pétéret, on July 19, 1882, 'A.J.' 11, 90-3.

Mr. William Penhall and his guide, Andreas Maurer, were overwhelmed by an avalanche on August 3, 1882, whilst ascending the Wetterhorn, 'A.J.' 11, 93-7.

Mr. W. E. Gabbett, a lecturer in the University of Durham, with his guides Joseph M. Lochmatter and the latter's eldest son, were all killed whilst making the ascent of the Dent Blanche on August 12, 1882, 'A.J.' 11, 97-9.

According to 'Die Alpen,' the ALTELS Glacier, which caused the disaster of 1895 in the neighbourhood of the Gemmi path, is again giving cause for uneasiness. Several large clefts are opening out and the snout is giving signs of being but loosely attached to the smooth rocks. A proposal to blast part of the lower portions away has been unfavourably reported on, but the glacier will be carefully watched throughout the summer of 1928.

A German expedition is reported as about to visit the BOLIVIAN CORDILLERAS. Illampu (6600 m.) is the principal objective. Herr Hans Pfann is to be the leader. Another German expedition is to leave for the ALTAI mountains (Turkestan). Herr E. Allwein will be leader of the mountaineering section of the party.

Count Aldo Bonacossa had a narrow escape on the N. buttress of PIZ BADILE on July 24. 'The leader took a terrible fall and in holding him I cut my left hand severely and dislocated my thumb. Fortunately, I had an English rope, which held. I was laid up for 2 months and am not quite fit yet, but my companion, who smashed his foot, is quite all right again.' [I cannot help drawing my friend's attention to 'A.J.' 37, 144, para. 2 and 153, last para. ! —E. L. S.]

When the ITALIAN HIMALAYAN EXPEDITION materializes, H.R.H. the Duke of Spoleto, brother of the Duke of Apuglia, will be leader.

One of the pleasantest features of the last seasons in the Alps has been the large increase of BELGIAN mountaineers. Many of these parties are as remarkable for their skill as all are conspicuous for their modesty.

DR. VON KEHL has very kindly presented a series of stereoscopic views of the Aiguille Blanche de Péteret—Mont Blanc ridge. These views, which are of great interest, can be seen at the Alpine Club.

GENERAL SIR GEORGE F. MILNE, G.C.B., etc., Chief of the Imperial General Staff, has been created Field Marshal of the British Army. The new Field Marshal, affectionately known to many thousands of British soldiers as 'Uncle George,' will long be honoured by our French Allies as the foremost British exponent of European 'mountain' warfare. To the Royal Serbian Army and the (Hellenic) Cretan Division—fiercest of mountain fighters—the appointment will equally appeal. Those members of the Alpine Club who have served in the Balkans will appreciate the honour as much as its self-less Recipient.

The GROSS GLOCKNER has been ascended by what is claimed to have been the first complete traverse of the famous *Pallavicinirinne*. The party consisted of Herren W. Welzenbach and K. Wien—July 16, 1927. The Obere Glocknerscharte was attained in 4½ hrs. from the bergschrund, step-cutting in hard ice for some 350 m., *Jahresbericht des A.A.V., München, 1926-7, p. 42.*

The same annual reports the discovery of new routes up the GSCHNITZER (2957 m.) and PFLERSCHER TRIBULAUN (3102 m.). The ascent of the latter, a fine dolomitic peak, used to count as one of the hardest in the Eastern Alps, but has now become an everyday occurrence.

The same annual reports a total of no less than 2794 EXPEDITIONS, of which 316 were in the Western Alps, for the season of 1927, accomplished by the members of the A.A.V., München.

The disastrous floods in the Grisons at the end of last September have played havoc with the beautiful VAL BREGAGLIA. The chief village, Vicosoprano, had to be evacuated, and much damage was caused at Casaccia, Stampa, Borgonovo and Castasegna. At Promontogno, the picturesque old bridge connecting Bondo with the Maloja road was swept away by the Mera; the same fate happened to the Stampa bridge. The strong construction of the houses was responsible for the avoidance of loss of life, but the total damage is estimated at more than 20,000,000 francs. One of the most unfortunate results has been the renewal of the demand for barraging the LAKE OF SILS (draining in the opposite direction!) as well as the 'harnessing' of the Ordlegna and Albigna torrents, together with sluices for the Mera. The local gossip in Val Bregaglia is to the effect that the Upper Engadine having been ruined aesthetically by the construction of the Grand Hotel, St. Moritz and the Maloja Kursaal—the worst eye-sore in the Alps—Val Bregaglia has a perfect right to desecrate its own unique scenery!

HIGH LEVEL PATH IN THE MASINO DISTRICT.—A new path, similar to those in the central massif of the Brenta, is to be constructed to connect the Gianetti-(Badile)-Allievi-Cecilia Club huts. The path will be at an average height of 7000–8000 ft., and the gradient will be as level as possible. The distance between the Gianetti and Cecilia (Disgrazia) huts is nearly 11 miles. A new hut, to be an inn in summer, is to be constructed close to the old Cecilia hut. The path will traverse some of the wildest scenery in the Alps and should be a boon to old and young mountaineers alike. It is hardly possible to speak too highly of the scheme, since the one drawback to the Baths of Masino has been, hitherto, its lack of walks during doubtful weather. The Gianetti and Allievi huts are Inns in summer and a new Club hut—equally served by the path—is constructed near the head of Val Torrone at a height of 2600 m. and will be opened in May 1928. It will be known as *Capanna Paolo Ferrario* (from the C.A.I., *Sezione di Milano*, monthly, January 1928, with a panoramic sketch of the path and terrain).

A new S.T.D. Club hut—REFUGE ADÈLE PLANCHARD—was opened last August. It is situated at about 3200 m. on a spur descending to the S. of the Jumeaux de Roche Méane. It will be useful for the ascent of the Grande Ruine group. About 4½ hrs. distant from the Refuge de l'Alpe du Villar d'Arène; accommodation for 12 persons. From *La Montagne*.

A bibulous burglar. The guardian of the New Chalet Hôtel on the COL D'ISÉLAN, on returning to the Inn at the end of last autumn, perceived through an opened window a gentleman in course of disturbing the furniture. The guardian surrounded the inn with armed friends and sent—to Bourg St. Maurice—for gendarmes. In the fulness of time these latter arrived and 'rushed' the intruder, while feeding and drinking at the Inn's expense. He stated that he had arrived that morning, cold and hungry, over the Col de la Galise. His subsequent fate is not recorded, but he had consumed over 200 francs' worth of champagne alone. From *La Montagne*.

The projected road over the Col d'Iséran—one of the main thoroughfares of the ROUTE DES ALPES—which appears as duly constructed on several maps has not yet (January 1928) even been commenced. The Chalet Hôtel mentioned above is well constructed but badly placed. It must be in one of the most windy spots in the Alps.

A 'mountaineering' film called *The Wrath of the Gods* is being shown all over Great Britain. In view of the introductory title which states that the film is 'an enterprise by the Alpine Club and its members,' it may be well to state that the Alpine Club has not, nor ever has had, any connexion with this or any other film. We may add that some of the photography of the above film is excellent, the story absurd, and the acting grotesque. The scene always purporting to be in the

same spot, is laid, alternately summer or winter—according to the whims of the photographer—at Zermatt, Engelberg, St. Ulrich, Sils-Maria, Silvaplana and several other places, including the seaside. Among the mountains concerned are the inevitable Matterhorn, the Langkofel Group, the Torrone peaks and Ago di Cleopatra. For the scene of the final and ridiculous tragedy, no better setting, however, could be found than the frozen water conduit leading to the Silvaplana electric-light turbine! Any mountaineer visiting this film will acquit the Club of any participation in such an atrocity.

AN EVEREST *potin*. The American press is stating that a well-known traveller and photographer with several famous athletes are 'in training' for a further attempt on the mountain. It may be added that the Mount Everest Committee and H.M.'s India Office are in complete ignorance of the project and that no further developments with the Tibetan Government have occurred. It will be recollected that a party of 36 Swiss guides were stated, in 1924, to be busy injecting oxygen, 'subcutaneously,' into themselves previous to their departure for India, and also, that a recent 'authority' has recommended that Olympic teams *vice* mountaineers be employed 'not to assault but to *walk up* the mountain'!

WINTER ASCENTS. First winter traverse of LES ÉCRINS, January 15, 1928; the guides Casimir Rodier and Pierre and Henri Turc. The party left the new Vallon hut at 04.30, the Col des Avalanches at 08.00, where an icy wind was encountered, and attained the summit at 11.15. The weather was superb with a warm sun. Leaving the summit at 11.45 they reached the Col des Écrins at 13.05. The bergschrund being entirely closed, a very rapid descent brought them to La Bérarde at 16.00, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ hrs. from the Col. (From *La Montagne*, 1928, pp. 62–3.) It will be recollected that on February 21, 1926, Monsieur P. Armand-Delille accomplished the first winter ascent ('A.J.' 38, 125–6).

First winter ascent and traverse of the AIGUILLES DES DRUS. February 25, 1928; the guides Armand Charlet and Camille Dévouassoud. ' . . . We have just accomplished this formidable expedition in the direction Petit-Grand Dru. Weather magnificent. Expedition from and to the Charpoua hut took exactly 10 hrs. With M. Blanchet on September 7, 1926 [? September 9], we took 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ hrs., the quickest traverse known to me. This winter, the easiest part of the entire climb proved to be the ascent of the "Z." The descent of the Grand Dru to the bergschrund was one of the most awkward that I have ever accomplished—19 *rappels* instead of the normal 7. It took 3 hrs. and we were able to reach Argentière the same night' (Letter from Armand Charlet to M. Blanchet). The expedition must rank as one of the most extraordinary ever accomplished in the Alps. This and the traverse of Les Écrins show what professionals are capable of *when on their own*.

The G.H.M. now possesses 301 members, an increase of 56 since 1927. The record of expeditions, even for the 'summer' of 1927, is a very fine one. The *Annuaire* publishes a very seasonable note of warning: 'Le Comité n'a pas manqué d'être impressionné par des imprudences qualifiées commises cet été . . . il faut se persuader qu'on ne passe pas impunément sans transition des courses de troisième ordre aux courses extraordinaires.' One cannot fail to be impressed, unfavourably, both in the *Annuaire* and in our own JOURNAL, by the number of expeditions, of a more or less high order, accomplished, or at any rate completed, in the most execrable weather.

The ARÊTES DE LA MEIJE were reached for the third time on August 14, 1927, by MM. E. Stofer and A. Arnaud, the watershed being attained between the second and third teeth. The 'times' were 10½ hrs. from the Promontoire to the ridge. 'Expedition the finest and most difficult of our experience.' [The first ascent of the Etançons face of La Meije was made, of course, by the Herren Mayer with Angelo Dibona and L. Rizzi, July 28, 1912, 'A.J.' 26, 462. On this occasion the watershed was attained between the *first* and *second* teeth.] The 1927 party discovered in a sheltered spot some 120 ft. above the triangular névé patch, some articles of equipment probably belonging to M. de Ruz de Lavison who perished on this face in 1911, 'A.J.' 26, 77. From G.H.M. *Annuaire*, 1928, pp. 16-19.

Other interesting DAUPHINÉ expeditions, reported in the *Annuaire*, took place on Pic Gaspard, Roche Méane, Pic Bourcet and on Col Maudit, Col de Blaitière, Aiguille Verte, by the Charpoua face (twice), Les Droites, etc., in the MONT BLANC Group.

Alpinisme, the excellent Journal of the Club Alpin Français Académique, is now run as an independent publication. M. Henri de Ségogne, the well-known mountaineer, is the Editor. No. 8 contains an interesting account of the conquest of the N.W. slope of the COL MAUDIT. The expedition was a *very* dangerous one.

M. JACQUES DE LÉPINEY, now resident in Morocco, will be in the Alps again this summer.

S.A.C. HUTS.—*Die Alpen* gives the number of visitors as 51,815 in 1927 as against 46,076 in 1926. In the 102 Club Huts, the percentage of S.A.C. members to others works out as 33. The Boval Hut with 2814 visitors again heads the poll, while the Balmhorn with 46 and the Sciora with 50 are among the 'also ran.'

JUNGFRAUJOCH.—Dr. Claude Wilson writes: 'Mr. Oliver's paper ('A.J.' 39, 49-51) and Mr. Macdonald's comment (*Ib.* 340) would seem to indicate that this expedition is made much less frequently than one had supposed. I should have thought it was made three or four times every year; and, in any case, I feel sure that this

pass is crossed far more frequently than any other breach in the great wall—between the Scheidegg and the Wetterlücke. The late Frederick Gardiner crossed it on August 1, 1889 (with two Almers), and we (Wicks, Kesteven, and myself) followed in their steps next day. May not these be examples of what is not really uncommon? Hotel telescopes are not very busy between 5 and 7 in the morning.

‘But if individual records are desired, I would add that the expedition is more comfortably undertaken without sleeping in a hut. On the only occasion on which we slept at the Guggi (for the N. route up the Mönch) a storm burst upon us in the night and we returned empty-handed through four or five inches of fresh snow. On the other hand, we dined in comfort with our friends on two consecutive evenings, having crossed the Jungfrauoch and Mönchjoch in the interval. Starting much earlier than was needful as we meant to climb the Jungfrau, we never lit a lantern, reaching the upper Guggi plateau by moonlight, which made for slow progress among the crevasses and séracs. Though the night was fine it was hot, and the snow on the plateau was soft at daybreak. This was disconcerting so far as the Jungfrau was concerned, but we noticed a track of recently cut steps up the great ice-wall of the Jungfrauoch. Naturally, our plans underwent a change, for the steps, though rounded and shallowed by the hot sun of the previous day, only needed clearing and trimming. The traverse to the left at the top of the steep slope is, as Mr. Oliver remarks, “quite sensational.”

‘If a record of our “times” is of interest—it is thus :—

Wengern Alp, August 1	22.00
Old Guggi hut, August 1	23.50
August 2	00.45
Below Bergschrund	05.10–05.35
Top of ice-slope	07.00
Jungfrauoch	07.30–08.20
Ober Mönchjoch	09.20
Bergli hut	10.10–11.00
Bäregg	13.45–14.15
Grindelwald	15.00

‘Thence by train back to Scheidegg, and walked on to Wengern Alp.’

THE SKI-ING ACCIDENTS, 1927–28.—The English papers alone report to date over 70 fatal accidents. In *The Times* of January 9, seven such accidents were noted, but this has now been exceeded by an accident on the SONNBLICK (3103 m.) in the RAURIS, when thirteen ‘practised’ young men, out of seventeen, perished. They appear to have been sheltering, standing actually on a so-called *Schnee-brett* or thick layer of newer snow adhering insufficiently to the older snow, so that the upper layer broke away carrying them down and burying them.

The snowcraft, even of ski-ers, would still seem to be ‘a rudimentary science.’ We were assured in the last JOURNAL that the

ski-er's 'constant preoccupation' . . . 'is responsible for the comparatively small number of accidents.' Such an assurance must count for little in view of the appalling sacrifice of this winter.

We cannot do better than repeat the remark made in vol. 29 of this JOURNAL :

'Mountaineering on Ski has come to stay, and within limits they are certainly admirable adjuncts to the tour, but it is idle to deny that they do induce and enable men to venture into places requiring great care, even in summer conditions, and doubly dangerous when masked by winter snow. The loss of many good men bears all too eloquent testimony to the truth of this assertion.'

PROPOSED INCREASED FACILITIES IN THE MT. AUX SOURCES REGION (Drakensberg).—Mr. H. G. Botha Reid, son-in-law of the late General Louis Botha, writes to Mr. Amery . . . 'You may be interested to hear that the Natal Mountain Club proposes erecting a three-compartmented hut on the Mt. aux Sources plateau near where the baby Tugela plunges over the edge into Natal. It will be constructed of local stone with a thatched-tripped roof and will not offend the susceptibilities of the aesthetic-minded. The key will be kept by Zancel at Gudu Hostel, and all visitors who love the mountains will be welcome to make use of the hut. The need for another hostel at Gudu, on a more pretentious scale, has been impressed upon the National Park Advisory Committee to such an extent that representations were recently made . . . The new place will be located at the base of Broom Hill ridge commanding an unrivalled view of Mt. aux Sources and the whole range as far as Cathkin Peak. There will be accommodation for 200 guests on a scale impossible of achievement at the existing hostel . . . an 18-hole golf course, tennis courts, swimming pool fed by Berg streams . . . will be constructed. . . . Bound up with the development is the building of a motor-road along the lower slopes of the Berg from Mt. aux Sources to Garden Castle in the Underberg District, a distance of approximately 150 miles. . . . The Minister of Finance, recently, for the first time paid a short visit to Mt. aux Sources, and it is understood that he is not unsympathetic. . . . Given a modern hostel at Gudu . . . and the Berg motor highway, this little portion of the Commonwealth should be able to attract many visitors. We also possess the unique advantage of an all-the-year-round season . . .'

THE following extract from *Nature* of March 3, 1928, p. 315, gives an indication of the greatest possible SPEED attainable by human beings for comparatively short ascents. It appears in a review of Prof. A. V. Hill's 'Muscular Movement in Man: the Factors governing Speed and Recovery from Fatigue':—

'The greatest speed which can be maintained during exercise is therefore determined by considerations of the energy expenditure.

An example is given on p. 23, where the author estimates that a fit man might climb the Woolworth Building (792 ft.) in New York in eight minutes, finishing with an oxygen debt of 15 litres, which is about all a man can tolerate. A footnote adds that the newspapers reported that the feat had actually been accomplished in nine minutes.'

We understand that Messrs. Farrar, Unna and Smythe are thinking of proceeding to New York to compete for the speed record; Mr. Smythe would act as time-keeper.

MR. J. A. B. BRUCE has been elected an Honorary Member of the Geneva Section of the S.A.C.

THE HELLENIC ALPINE CLUB was founded on the highest summit of Mount Olympus, September 12, 1928. We wish it every success and prosperity.

M. le BARON GABET has been promoted Officier de la Légion d'Honneur.

MONSIEUR le DOCTEUR HENRI FAES, President S.A.C., was a guest of the A.C. at the annual dinner of December 13. In honour of the great services rendered by him to mountaineering and as a mark of esteem for the S.A.C.—the eldest of our children—Dr. Faes was elected an Honorary Member of the Alpine Club before the General Meeting held on December 12, 1927.

MONSIEUR le LIEUTENANT-COLONEL REGAUD, Président du C.A.F., Honorary Member A.C., was also with us at the dinner of December 13. His genial presence and eloquence gave great pleasure to all, especially, if we are to credit current gossip, to a senior and very distinguished member. It is credibly reported that Colonel Regaud's presence alone deterred the said member from doing himself a serious, perhaps fatal, injury!

After an unseemly dispute between the numerous competitors, the Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Curator of Slides and Exhibition Selection Committee, has succeeded in—clandestinely—electing himself to the further post of HONORARY LIBRARIAN to the Alpine Club. All this despite the strenuous opposition of the Editor, 'A.J.,' naturally disgruntled at the (attempted) restriction on the number of his illustrations.

The title of the ALPINE JOURNAL has remained unchanged since its first appearance in 1863. Nevertheless, we notice with surprise that several British periodicals not unconnected with mountaineering, as well as individual writers, persist in referring to it as the ALPINE Club JOURNAL! Corresponding continental publications have never, to the best of our knowledge, fallen into this error, a quite inexcusable one in British reviewers.

CORRIGENDA.

MONT BLANC FROM THE BRENVIA GLACIER.—The *French* party of July 26, 1927, was composed of MM. Sauvage, R. Tézenas du Montcel and d'Aubigné, 'A.J.' 39, 335-6; while the British party of August 1 (*not* July 27) included Mr. G. S. Bower and *not* Mr. Brown. *Ibid.*, 336.

E. L. S.

SCHRECKHORN BY THE S.W. ARÊTE.—With reference to Mr. Slater's ascent ('A.J.' 38, 332), my friend, M. Jacques Lagarde, reminds me of the late Dr. Thomas Thomas's ascent ('A.J.' 25, 183), made in 1909 with the late Auguste Blanc, unfortunately killed on Mont Dolent in 1911. I much regret the oversight.

J. P. F.

HIMALAYAN NOTES.

THE HIMALAYAN CLUB.

WE have much pleasure in publishing *verbatim* a copy of a letter that we have received on the formation of the above-mentioned Club.

NEW DELHI,
December 20, 1927.

We are writing to you on a matter which has long been in our minds, and possibly also in yours. It is believed that there are now many in India who are interested in the Himalaya. Some of us have travelled in the Himalaya for one purpose or another. There are probably many more who are only deterred by ignorance of local conditions. The information now available is difficult to obtain, and even those who are familiar with one locality know little or nothing of conditions elsewhere.

We live within reach of the greatest mountain range in the world which, geographically and scientifically, is of extraordinary interest, and offers unique opportunities for mountain travel, exploration, and mountaineering. It has been suggested that a Himalayan Club should be formed with the object of assisting Himalayan travel and increasing our knowledge of the Himalaya in all its aspects. We are now writing to you to ask your views on this proposal.

The objects of the Alpine Club include the promotion of mountain climbing and mountain exploration, and of better knowledge of the mountains through literature, science, and art. We think that the scope of a Himalayan Club should be not less wide. We would suggest, therefore, that the objects of the Club should be a better knowledge of the Himalaya and of Himalayan geography, to encourage Himalayan science, literature, and art, and to assist