

seems to actually overhang the Darwin Glacier, 1000 ft. below on the W. side.

On the 19th we returned to the Mackinder Valley (we could not get our porters up to the 'Curling Pond') and thence down from the mountains.

Readings of the aneroid gave the following results :

Nelion, 17,150 ft. ; Batian, 17,200 ft. ; Point John, 16,200 ft.

We took a hypsometer with us, but did not use it, as we had lost our thermometer in a crevasse.

E. E. SHIPTON.

## ALPINE NOTES.

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :	Date of Election
Dent, Edward . . . . .	1874
Bury, H. E. . . . .	1878
Blake, M. Locke . . . . .	1882
Fry, Very Rev. T. C. . . . .	1891
Tubby, A. H. . . . .	1894
Fox, Adam . . . . .	1903
Murray, D. G. . . . .	1914

**ALPINE JOURNAL.**—Index to Vols. 16 to 38. This Index is now ready. Copies may be ordered from the Assistant Secretary, Alpine Club, 23 Savile Row, London, W. 1. Price 10s. 0d., post free.

Index to Vols. 1 to 15, including P.P.G. Copies may still be obtained, unbound, price 2s. 6d., post free.

'THE CLOSING OF THE ITALIAN ALPS.'—We are informed by the Italian State Railways' Official Agency that the following passes are now open : Col de la Seigne, Col du Géant, Théodule, and Colle San Giacomo. In other words, no mule or glacier passes are available in the Maritime, Cottian, Graian, Adula, Bernina, or Eastern Alps. The above Agency adds, naïvely, 'that the opening of the Passes for the convenience of mountaineers results in rather considerable expense in posting Customs and Passport officials.' We wonder what expense is incurred by blockading the whole of the Italian slope of the Alps<sup>1</sup> with armed guards and fascist militia!

After all, our Italian colleagues are the worst sufferers.

*Latest news* : The opening of the Colle S. Giacomo is doubtful. The COL FERRET remains closed.

<sup>1</sup> To say nothing of the network of new strategical roads.

H.R.H. THE DUKE OF SPOLETO has accepted Honorary Membership of the Alpine Club. The Duke has very kindly presented to the A.C. a magnificent series of Karakoram photographs, including several of K<sub>2</sub> and one of the wonderful Mustagh Tower.

Professor E. J. GARWOOD has been elected President of the Geological Society.

The late REV. W. A. B. COOLIDGE.—A most admirably written obituary of Mr. Coolidge by our Honorary Member, Monsieur Henri Mettrier, the distinguished mountaineer and writer, appears in the *Bulletin de la Section de Géographie*, 1929. The 'In Memoriam' was, we believe, intended originally for publication in *La Montagne*, but, owing to its length (59 pp.) and general interest to mountaineers, geographers and historians throughout the world, was transferred to the above valuable periodical.

It will be sufficient to state here that the article does full and sympathetic justice to the memory of the great mountaineer and historian.

DUFOURS PITZE of Monte Rosa.—The new 'Touring Club Italiano' 1:50,000 coloured map, *Il Cervino e il Monte Rosa*, is guilty of a gross and very peculiar error: the Dufourspitze is placed on the frontier ridge in the position occupied by the so-called Grenzgipfel. Although in every respect far inferior to the *Siegfried*, this map comprising the head of the Valpelline, the Valtournanche, Gressoney, Alagna, and Monte Moro districts will prove very useful—it is to be hoped in the not too distant future—to foreign mountaineers.

The I.G.M. (1922) coloured map, 1:20,000, *Conca del Breil*, is extremely valuable for the 'Grandes Murailles' Ridge.

EAST FACE OF MONTE ROSA.—Herren K. Wessely and K. Willvonsender. After spending two days in Pedriolo Alp owing to continuous bad weather, party left for Marinelli Hut.

*July 27, 1929.* Marinelli Hut left at 02.30, conditions appalling, deep fresh snow, avalanches, falling stones, etc.—route not reconnoitred owing to previous bad weather—bivouac in crevasse above the highest séracs.

*July 28.* Left bivouac, similar conditions, 2500 steps cut, rocks of Grenzgipfel highly glazed, bivouac on rock ledge near that peak, then forced to descend lower owing to bad weather.

*July 29.* Left lower bivouac, storm continued, no food or drink left; Willvonsender severely injured by falling stone. Grenzgipfel turned by [?] W. slope [*sic*]; Dufourspitze attained 16.00 hrs., lost way in descent, got on to rock rib to the right (N.), bivouacking in bergschrund; storm continued.

*July 30.* Left bivouac, perfect weather; severe ice work, long

descent with *rappel*, finally spare rope compulsorily abandoned. Way not found for hours; Bétemps Hut attained.

*August 1.* Arrived at Zermatt; Willvonsender forced to leave at once for Brigue hospital where operation performed, Wessely escaping with seven frost-bitten toes.—From *Æ.A.Z.*

The extraordinary folly of the party was exceeded only by their daring.

MONT BLANC by 'La Sentinelle.'—Herren W. Stösser and Hall—both Germans—made the second ascent during the course of last summer. The 'Sentinelle' bivouac was left at 05.30 and the top of Mont Blanc attained at 15.00. No date.—From *Æ.A.Z.*

An epidemic of MOUNTAINEERING FILMS, as of more or less revolting war books, appears to be on us. Of the former one only seems to us worthy of a visit. The 'Ascent of the Aiguilles Mummery and Ravel' is a pure mountaineering exploit and, as such, of great interest. These aiguilles lend themselves particularly for the purpose, and every episode of difficult scrambling by those versatile *artistes*, Armand Charlet and Arthur Ravel, is represented quite faithfully. An absurdly faked entry and bivouac in a bergschrund—in a *confetti* snowstorm—somewhat mar the general effect.

The latest film, known by various titles, but aptly presented in the version we were unfortunate to visit as the 'Horrors of Piz Palü,' is more difficult to review. The author, Arnold Fanck, already notorious for the 'Wrath of the Gods'<sup>2</sup> and the shameless 'Matterhorn'<sup>3</sup> films, has thrown away enough good photography to furnish a dozen 'Secrets of Nature' studies. As usual with this producer, but little or nothing of the actual ascent of the mountain in question is given. The climb purports to be, summer or winter, as ski are used, by one or other of the N. arêtes. Of these we obtain some successful shots, especially those taken from an aeroplane, but of the actual climbing of these ridges nothing is shown. We can hardly blame the producer for this omission: none of the actors, except possibly the very lightly clad lady, furnished with a true sex-appeal squint, are capable of such an exploit. They cut steps vigorously up perpendicular or overhanging ice, but we note they invariably place their feet where no steps have been made. There may be some virtue, after all, in Tartarin-like crampons! The inevitable accident, or accidents, take place: a party of Swiss Academicals—the one kind of guideless caravan likely to be immune—is overwhelmed by an avalanche of sugar or flour. The first party then falls off and a member breaks his leg. Having accomplished this feat, he performs a more difficult one: he snaps an ice axe across his shin and secures the shaft to his leg for a crutch. His

<sup>2</sup> *A.J.* 40, 186-7.

<sup>3</sup> *A.J.* 41, 255-6.

movements, hitherto a cause of anxiety to us, now become far safer—in fact he climbs well, although hampered by affectionate motions of the lady. The other member meanwhile has gone mad. The Swiss are found, mutilated in the depths of a bergschrund, by a rescue party provided with inexhaustible Roman candles. The bodies are brought down on tea-trays by skiers, coupled two and two, moving at magical speed down the icy slopes of the N. arêtes. The scene appears to be the eastern side of the Fuorcla Pers Palü; the crest of the Palü N. arêtes is the S. ridge of *Piz Bernina*, taken from that summit!

An aeroplane starts to rescue the man with the crutch, together with his affectionate and insane companions: it takes off from the frozen Lake of St. Moritz and secures some truly superb sunset and mountain views. On approaching the N. face of Piz Palü—still more astounding photography—the aeroplane nose-dives and loops the loop, within a few feet of the rocks. At this stage we left the hall and remain in ignorance of the *dénouement*.

The story, lasting some hours, is, of course, slush.

For one small mercy we may be grateful: the 'talkie' has not invaded the Alps so far and we are spared the sorrow of hearing 'Swiss' guides speaking American.

PRESENTATION to the Alpine Club.—Mr. A. E. Donkin has been kind enough to present the revolver and belt found in the last bivouac of Messrs. W. F. Donkin and H. Fox on Koshtantau in the Caucasus in 1889.

ALPINE WEATHER REPORTS.—A considerable improvement is to be noted in the daily reports published in *The Times* and *Morning Post*, for the winter season of 1929–30. We became, however, rather tired of reading of a certain much advertised resort 'Sun and frost, 5 ft. of powder snow, perfect conditions' for weeks on end—which most certainly was not the case. Nevertheless, fewer anachronisms such as 'KLOSTERS. Perfect conditions; sun, frost and powder snow; no good snow below 5000 ft.,'<sup>4</sup> now appear. The height of Klosters (Platz), as given on the Siegfried map, is 1209 m. = 3967 ft., while Klosters (Dorf) is 1127 m. = 3698 ft.

The climax of optimism is provided by a correspondent in the *Continental Daily Mail* of January 18, describing the magnificence of the sport afforded by the bob-sleigh run of Les Avants, whose daily weather report, on the same page, issues the laconical statement: 'No snow.'

EXHIBITION OF ALPINE ART IN BUDAPEST.—The Hungarian *Turisten Verband* is to be congratulated on the organization of a remarkable exhibition in Budapest, open from March 22 to April 22,

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<sup>4</sup> *The Times*, February 14, 1930.

1930. A catalogue has been received in which 112 of the 1232 pictures exhibited are illustrated, and these include examples of the regrettably few British representatives among the 285 artists from eleven countries who have contributed.—J. E. M.

The Hôtel Schwarzhorn, GRUBEN, Turtmantal, was burnt down last February. It is to be rebuilt.—H. B.

Memorial to Capitaine ADRIEN DURAND.—A monument to the memory of Capitaine Durand (1787–1835) has been erected near the Ailefroide Chalets and on a spur of Mont Pelvoux. Capitaine Durand was the first cartographer and founder of *La Carte de l'Etat Major*, and made the first ascent of the Pyramide, 3938 m., of Mont Pelvoux, 3954 m., on July 30, 1828. He also spent several days on the summit.—From *La Montagne*.

The death of JOHANN GRILL II occurred on December 3, 1929. He was suffering from an incurable disease. An admirable history of the two 'Köderbacher,' father and son, together with a list of their principal expeditions, by Herr W. von Freriks will be found in the D. and Œ.A.V. *Zeitschrift* for 1929.

With reference to this list, it is interesting to note that in the *Führerbuch* of Johann Grill I there is an entry by his employer, Herr H. Loschge of Nürnberg, to the effect that the pair had made 'an ascent in 1875 of the Aiguille Verte from *Argentière* by a new route'! It appears that a Venetian (*sic*) guide was also present, but Herr von Freriks rightly questions whether Grill, even with such 'assistance,' could have succeeded in so serious an undertaking. Nevertheless, Herr Loschge's other statements seem to be always worthy of credence, and, together with Herr von Freriks, we must leave it 'to posterity to unravel the tangle.'

In our opinion—for what it is worth—although the start appears to have been from *Argentière* [? Lognan], the route taken was *via* the Col des Grands Montets-Couvercle-'Whymper' couloir.<sup>5</sup> Excluding this possible ascent, the Aiguille Verte, it seems, has been climbed, by its N.E. or *Argentière* slope, on three occasions only, in 1876, 1924, and 1929.<sup>6</sup>

Memorial to CHRISTIAN KLUCKER.—A gravestone, consisting of a large granite block specially brought from the Albigna glen, was

<sup>5</sup> Or, 'Mauvais Pas'-Mer de Glace-Couvercle-'Moine' ridge.

<sup>6</sup> We are not forgetting, of course, the tremendous expeditions made in 1895 by Messrs. Fynn and Goudet; and by the Signori Gugliermina in 1901. But of these routes—starting from points far more to the S.—the former led to the Grande Rocheuse and the latter to the Col de l'Aiguille Verte.—*A.J.* 24, 615–7.

unveiled to the memory of this great guide, in the little churchyard of Fex on November 3, 1929. A very large number of members of the S.A.C. and friends of the deceased attended the service.



*Photo, Steiner.]*

CHRISTIAN KLUCKER'S GRAVE.

The inscription on the tombstone reads as follows :

In Memoria da nos  
Christian Klucker  
Guida  
1852-1928  
Secziun Bernina dal C.A.S. ed Amihs  
dal A.C. d'Inghilterra.

A photograph of the cemetery and gravestone, kindly presented to me by the 'Bernina' Section, S.A.C., was exhibited in the A.C. December Photographic Exhibition. E. L. S.

**FIESCHERWAND.**—The second ascent of this startling N. face was accomplished on September 14, 1929, by Herren W. Welzenbach and H. Tillmann. The route was the same as that of the first party, the redoubtable Swiss pair, Herren von Schumacher and Amstutz, 'A.J.' 38, 215-18, with an illustration. Leaving the Schwarzegg hut at 04.00, the second party reached Point (?) 3800 m., W. of the Gross Fiescherhorn, 4049 m., at 17.00. Descent over Ober-Mönchjoch to the Jungfrauoch, 21.30 hrs.—From *Jahresbericht* des A.A.V., München, 1928-29.

The CAMP of the Alpine Club of Canada will take place this year at Maligne Lake, Jasper Park, from July 28 to August 16. A cordial invitation is issued to all members of the Alpine Club. Interesting articles on the mountains bordering Maligne Lake will be found in the present and last numbers of the JOURNAL.

'SCHNEEBRETT' Avalanche.—The best and most instructive photograph that we have seen is published in *Der Bergkamerad*, No. 10, 1930, p. 78. It is by Franz Wagner and deserves careful study by all mountaineers and ski-runners.

**WINTER ASCENTS.**—The first winter ascent of Piz Bernina by the N. arête, or so-called *Biancogrät*, was accomplished on March 15, 1929, by Herr C. J. Kollmus with Caspar and Ulrich Grass. Leaving the Tschierva Club hut at 04.00, the Fuorcla Prievlusa at 06.50, Pizzo Bianco, 3998 m., was attained at 11.30. Conditions were good, and little ice, extremely unusual in winter, was encountered. The summit of Piz Bernina was reached at 13.25 and left at 14.10, the descent being accomplished *via* the S.E. arête and the 'Bruch.' The Morteratsch restaurant was attained at 17.10.—From *Die Alpen*.

Raquettes were employed from the Tschierva hut to the Fuorcla Prievlusa, and ski—previously dumped there—from near the Boval hut to the Morteratsch restaurant. The rocks from the Pizzo Bianco to the summit of Piz Bernina were quite dry, and a strong

icy wind <sup>7</sup> (always to be expected in winter on this long, narrow and most exposed ridge) was the only serious hindrance. The expedition will be reckoned amongst the most remarkable of winter ascents, and the 'times' are very fast, rivalling the quickest in summer.

WELLENKUPPE.—N.W. face and N. arête. *Die Alpen*, 1930, pp. 72-4, reports a 'first' ascent by the former route, and a descent by the latter, as having been accomplished on August 24, 1929. The N.W. face was first taken August 22, 1881, by the Hon. Gerald Fitzgerald and Mr. J. Heelis with J. Mooser and J. Taugwalder, 'A.J.' 10, 359; while the N. arête was accomplished August 1, 1885, by Mr. T. P. Jose with Peter and Caesar Knubel, 'A.J.' 13, 124.

*Alpes Valaisannes* (1930) gives full particulars and sketches of both these routes which are, moreover, noted in *S.A.C. Jahrbuch*, xxii, p. 312; xxvi, p. 394; xxxv, p. 301.

MONT BLANC by the Brenva route.—In 'R.M.', xlvi, pp. 333-34, is described a variant consisting, roughly, in joining by a perpendicular line the figures '2' and '11' on Mr. Holmes's photograph, 'A.J.' 26, facing p. 204. This variation (1929) possesses, unquestionably, the distinction of being by far the most dangerous yet discovered. One of the new Italian SHELTER HUTS has been constructed on the rocky island separating the upper séracs of the Brenva Glacier.

The first ascent of MONT BLANC by the Brenva route.—It has generally been assumed that the first party,<sup>8</sup> after spending the night on the rocks of the Brenva Glacier above Point 2727 m., gained the central bay of the upper glacier and reached the buttress of the Brenva route (*arête Moore*) over the *Col Moore*. This supposition does not tally with Moore's own account in 'A.J.' 2, 369, and in 'The Alps in 1864,' where it is curious that he makes no mention at all of the steep ascent to the *Col Moore* and its *lower*, long and narrow ridge. There is an icefall of the central part of the Brenva Glacier opposite the S.E. end of *Pic Moore* (not indicated accurately on the B.I.K. map). In his description, Moore says definitely that they did not gain the upper névé of the glacier above the fall. The party appears not to have ascended completely the ridge upon which they bivouacked, but to have gone up to the left, W., of the ridge until they reached the glacier. Their route then passed directly across the glacier towards the foot of the Col de Pétéret. As they went, the sun rose and its beams crept down 'the great wall of

<sup>7</sup> A party failed from this cause as far back as February 1899.

<sup>8</sup> July 15, 1865. Messrs. A. W. Moore, F. and H. Walker and G. Mathews, with Jakob and Melchior Anderegg.

precipices before us.' Having crossed the glacier *with difficulty*, a smooth slope of snow 'between the foot of the cliffs on our left and the icefall' led them to the base of the Brenva buttress. Avalanche débris from hanging glaciers rolled actually across their path. They then reached a steep slope of hard snow, up which they ascended until they gained the rocks of Moore's arête. This description cannot apply to the usual route by way of *Col Moore*. There are no cliffs on the left, and there are no hanging glaciers under which they would pass without going much out of their way. On the other hand, the description accurately applies to a route which, traversing the Brenva Glacier to near the foot of the Col de Pétéret, ascends into the W. bay of the glacier, and reaches the *arête Moore* by the steep snow descending on the W. from *Col Moore* and the foot of the *arête Moore*. This is apparently the route marked on the map printed on p. 130 of the first edition of 'The Alps in 1864' (reproduced on p. 133 in Kennedy's second edition, 1902). The route there marked is identical with that drawn in red ink by Moore himself on his own travelling map (pasted into his manuscript journal for 1865 in the Club Library). Moore was very careful with regard to topographical detail, and it may be regarded as probable that the route suggested in this note was that actually followed on the first ascent of Mont Blanc from the Brenva Glacier in 1865. Coolidge ['A.J.' 26, 428] would appear to have followed the same route<sup>9</sup> in 1870.

T. GRAHAM BROWN.

IRRESPONSIBLE SCRAMBLING.—There was a time when mountaineers, having achieved an absurd and useless variant of an already dangerous route, refused to publish details. We ourselves, when writing a *Climbers' Guide*, have come across instances of such abnegation, even in the case of a true 'new' route. Nowadays it is fashionable to blazon forth these follies throughout the Alpine world.<sup>10</sup> In a well-known foreign quarterly will be found a glaring specimen: A party consisting of a very youthful amateur with *three* guides repeated, by means of a monstrously dangerous variation, the ascent of a classical route on a famous mountain. We give a few excerpts from the said amateur's note: An attempt, made a fortnight previously, having been repulsed by falling stones, the party again sets out. The guides proceed to reconnoitre the base of the couloir and, having crossed the bergschrund, return to the hut. Ten minutes later an immense avalanche sweeps the couloir ' . . . obliterating every trace of steps: I have never seen anything

<sup>9</sup> Mr. Graham Brown's reasoning is interesting if not conclusive. But Mr. Coolidge, about the year 1908, informed us that he *had* gone up in 1870 by the then (1908) usual route, *via* 'Col Moore.'—*Editor*.

<sup>10</sup> See *Der Bergsteiger*, 1930, No. 3: 'Alpinismus und Journalismus,' by Dr. W. Bing.

resembling such a fall; there was one boulder, at least 8 metres square, which executed bounds of more than 200 m., scooping out craters in the black ice which, as we saw on the following morning, were 4 m. deep. . . . we consoled ourselves with the thought that two similar falls do not occur on two successive days.' <sup>11</sup> On the following morning, accordingly, the party mounts the said couloir, finally being driven by the fall of some of the still remaining stones on to its marginal rocks, equally exposed to stone-fall, with the additional inducement of tottering séracs immediately above. They reach the summit—in extraordinary time. They descend by another route ('A.J.' 41, 37-8), considered until recently as one of the longest and most trying in the Alps: ' . . . the descent of the arête is ridiculous . . . the corniches are easy, while the . . . couloir appears flat.' [A mere 52°, as the Editor caustically points out.]

The hut on the other side is reached in still more wonderful time: ' . . . there we had to swear on the Bible before its occupants would believe that we had crossed the . . . in 10½ hrs. from hut to hut.'

The 'guides' were more to blame than the light-hearted amateur. We could wish for the pen of the late Charles Edward Mathews.

'UN GRAND MATCH.'—In *Alpinisme*, No. 17, will be found a most amusing paper with the above title. The article, by M. Etienne Bruhl, is enriched by futurist drawings. It describes the first ascent of the Grandes Jorasses by the N. face in A.D. 1957. The paper shows what will happen when competitive and advertised mountaineering, accompanied by cups and money prizes, rules the day. For all its levity, it deserves close study by those persons now, unconsciously perhaps, engaged in promoting such 'sport.'

Height of the GREAT GENDARME on the Aiguille Blanche de Pétéret (*Punta Gugliermia*).—This point, usually credited with a height of about 4000 m., <sup>12</sup> appears to be considerably lower. As the Aiguille Blanche, *Punta Gugliermia*, and Aiguille Noire de Pétéret lie almost in a straight line, and nearly at right angles to the line joining the Dames Anglaises to the Torino hut, it is fairly easy to make a rough estimate of the height of the Great Gendarme from

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<sup>11</sup> On September 9, 1895, an enormous fall of rock took place at 1 P.M. immediately below the 'Great Tower' on the Italian ridge of the Matterhorn; ' . . . constant falls of stone poured down it during the remainder of the afternoon . . . the mountain was not subsequently, it is believed, ascended or descended on the Italian side until the year 1897 ' (*A.J.* 25, 52, footnote). And *this* fall took place on a ridge!

<sup>12</sup> See *Kurz*, 1927 edition.

the hut by a simple sum in proportion. Last summer a party tried to do so, and came to the conclusion that the Gendarme was about 100 m. less than its reputed height. A photograph taken from the Col du Géant should allow a fairly close measurement to be made, provided that the plate was exactly horizontal. In the absence of any accurate photographs I have tried to calculate the height from a series of eight photographs, none of which is known to have been taken with any precaution as to levelling. The result gives an average of 3883 m. as the elevation of the Great Gendarme. Four of the eight photographs gave a figure within 10 m. of the average; two of them gave elevations of about 3860 m.; and the greatest elevation was 3904 m. Of course these calculations make no pretence to exactness (some of them were made from picture post-cards), but it is curious that two of the photographs taken by accurate photographers gave elevations of exactly 3883 m. each. The elevation of this point is of some interest to 'four-thousanders.'

T. GRAHAM BROWN.

FUJI-SAN.—The altitude of Fuji-san, the great sacred mountain of Japan, has from quite ancient times formed a subject of conjecture or calculation among interested persons. The earliest on record is that of a famous Japanese poet of about a thousand years ago who declared in well-known lines that 'The mountain which I found higher to climb than I had heard, than I had thought, than I had seen—was the peak of Fuji.'

In modern days, however, it has been subjected to the more critical scrutiny of scientists of many lands, and though there has been always some divergence of view as to the exact height, it has been generally accepted that 12,400 ft. is probably as close to the mark as anything. As a matter of fact, there is good reason to believe, on the authority of eminent modern seismologists, that some volcanoes may actually at times *decrease* in height, owing to a process of subsidence of their eviscerated strata. It is possible that a phenomenon of this kind may be taking place in the case of Fuji-san itself.

In *Die Alpen*, 1929, [p. 190], a statement was quoted from *La Montagne* to the effect that 'Foujiyama . . . hitherto regarded as the loftiest point in the Empire of the Rising Sun, has just been dethroned from its sovereignty. . . . It is relegated to the position of *sixth*, being surpassed by five peaks in the island of Formosa. The highest summit in that island, which, as we know, belongs to Japan, is Mount Niitka, 4013 m., whilst . . . Foujiyama only reaches 3767 m.'<sup>13</sup>

The above statement is sufficiently misleading to call for correction in the interests of accuracy.

Until the cession of Formosa, nearly forty years ago, after the

<sup>13</sup> *A.J.* 41, 421.

China-Japan War, Fuji-san, as the Japanese themselves style the sacred peak, was very properly, as its name implies, *the* 'peerless' mountain, no other summit approaching its height within some 1900 ft.

When, however, Formosa became an integral part of the Japanese Empire it introduced into the list of Japanese mountains others of loftier altitude, of which the two highest have long been familiarly known to European travellers by their English titles of Mount Morrison and Mount Sylvia. The Emperor Meiji, however, in the interests of scientific accuracy, decided, without abandoning the title 'Fuji' (literally: 'no two,' 'no rival'), to qualify it by renaming Mount Morrison *Niitaka*, i.e. 'the new loftiest peak,' whilst 'Mount Sylvia' was dropped for *Tsugitaka*. Comparatively recent Ordnance surveys have shown that not only these summits (3950 m. and 3931 m. respectively) were, as had long been known, higher than Fuji, but in addition to them were three others overtopping her height by 150–250 ft.

Nevertheless, none of these is comparable in beauty or picturesqueness of form to the sacred peak in question, and her claim as 'The Peerless One' is in that respect never likely to be challenged.

WALTER WESTON.

ALPINE ACCIDENTS.—Two Germans, accompanied by a lady, were attempting the ascent of *Piz Bernina* on February 25, 1930. Wearing ski, they had reached the upper slopes of the so-called *Bruch* below the Crast' Agüzza Sattel, when the leader, Johann Amann of Munich, fell into an enormous crevasse. The rope broke and the unfortunate man perished. The survivors were, naturally, unable to do anything to help.

The well-known guide, Hermann Perren of Zermatt, was making the ascent of the *Breithorn* (Pennines) with Fräulein Karolina Ecker of Lucerne on February 25. Some 200 ft. below the summit—one account says right *on* the summit—the lady, who, according to a following party, was quite close to the guide with the rope trailing on the snow between and behind them, fell together with Perren into a crevasse where 'no person had ever suspected the presence of one.' Both fell a distance of about 100 ft. and were apparently killed instantaneously, their skulls being fractured. Desperate but unavailing efforts were made by the leader of the following party, the guide M. Kronig, to reach the victims. A search party from Zermatt found and brought down the bodies on the following day.

The accident, at first sight, may be attributed to the improper use of the rope and also to the party consisting of two persons only, of whom one was a very big and heavy man; corniches and snow bridges are notoriously brittle in winter. Still, bearing in mind the fact that the *Breithorn* is visited by hundreds of persons, summer and winter, and that no sign of a crevasse or chasm has ever been

remarked at that spot, the accident may be attributed more to bad luck than bad mountaineering.<sup>14</sup>

Hermann Perren, who was aged about 68 years, was still one of the best guides in Zermatt. Extremely enterprising, active and strong, he was well liked<sup>15</sup> by mountaineers of all nationalities. He is stated to have climbed the Matterhorn more than 140 times; at the time of his death he was manager of the Tourist Hôtel, Zermatt. The funeral was very largely attended.—From *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* and 'communicated.'

SKI ACCIDENTS.—In spite of a recrudescence late in 1930, we gladly note a great diminution as compared to former years.

KANGCHENJUNGA EXPEDITION.—The international party composing the 1930 Expedition left Europe at the end of February. Their names are as follows: G. O. Dyhrenfurth,<sup>16</sup> leader, A.C.; H. Hoerlin, U. Wieland, H. Richter (Germany); Marcel Kurz, A.C., C. Duvanel (Switzerland); E. Schneider (Austria); Enrico Gaspari (Italy); F. S. Smythe, A.C., G. W. Wood-Johnson, J. H. Hannah (Great Britain), together with a Gurkha N.C.O. lent by the C.-in-C., India.

Colonel Norton, Captain Geoffrey Bruce, and Messrs. T. H. Somervell and E. O. Shebbeare were all invited to take part, but, owing to various causes, were unable to accept.

Lt.-Colonel H. W. Tobin (Great Britain), who had experience with the Bavarian party of 1929, has taken over the duties of director of transport.

We wish the expedition all success.<sup>17</sup>

HIMALAYAN EXPLORATION.—Istor-o-nal, 24,271 ft.—the biggest mountain mass in the neighbourhood of the Atrek Glacier and

<sup>14</sup> It must be remembered, however, that Perren had been involved in *two* previous fatal accidents caused by breaking through snow bridges when on ski. The first when Herren Koenig and Flender perished on the Grenz Glacier in February 1902, he himself escaping after 2½ hrs.' immersion (*A.J.* **21**, 137–39); the second a few years ago, on the self-same Breithorn, when he was rescued after lying 36 hours alongside of his dead companion. Perren, of all guides, should have learnt prudence.

<sup>15</sup> For a warm appreciation, see *A.J.* **32**, 297–304.

<sup>16</sup> Frau Dyhrenfurth will accompany the party to the base camp.

<sup>17</sup> The latest report states that the expedition is proceeding through Nepal. See Mr. Freshfield's topographical note, 'How to climb Kangchenjunga,' *A.J.* **22**, 122–4; this contains the only illustration of the possible approach to the mountain from the N.W., the Kangchenjunga Glacier.

second only to Tirich Mir—consists of a horseshoe of peaks of over 24,000 ft., three of which were fixed by triangulation and the above name, = 'the Horse's Shoe,' given to the highest.

Following several reconnaissances, a bold attempt was made to scale Istor-o-nal on July 21, 1929. The party consisted of Major Dutton, Captains E. R. Culverwell and Coldstream, and Lieut. D. M. Burn. The party from Ataq mounted the Atrek Glacier and from a base camp at about 18,000 ft. climbed up a snow-gully, attaining the peak's main W. arête at a height of 20,200 ft. At the foot of the N. slopes of the said arête a very torn glacier, ignored by the Survey, was visible. One of the party, accompanied by a porter, proceeded 2 hours further up the difficult arête and had passed the most awkward steps before want of time compelled a retreat. Bad weather then set in, the party having spent nine nights at 18,000 ft. The failure was brought about largely by the superstitions of the Chitrali porters.—From the *Himalayan Journal*.

[In future HIMALAYAN NOTES will be suppressed, as with the advent of the *Himalayan Journal* all such are best left for publication in that excellent annual to which readers of the ALPINE JOURNAL are now referred.—*Editor*.]

## CAUCASUS NOTES.<sup>1</sup>

A NOTE from Professor Nikoladzé, of the University of Tiflis, recording the activities of the Alpine branch of the Georgian Geographical Society in the years 1924-5-6, will be found in Vol. 39, p. 162, of the ALPINE JOURNAL. He now sends us the further list of subsequent expeditions which is here analysed. It includes several ascents of both Kasbek and Elbruz in 1927 and 1928, made by large parties of men and women. In 1927 several climbers from Tiflis joined by five from Moscow visited the neighbourhood of ELBRUZ and climbed the western peak and the summit S. of Urusbieh known

<sup>1</sup> Such place-names as occur in the following note are printed as far as they can be identified in the form in which they are found in the map of the Caucasus published with Mr. Freshfield's *Exploration of the Caucasus*, the document most likely to be accessible for reference to our members. No uniform system of spelling has been arrived at for geographical nomenclature among the mountains. Turkish or Georgian place-names collected on the spot by the Russian surveyors have naturally been recorded in Russian characters on their maps. These in their turn are variously transliterated by French, English, and German authors, until they often, when pronounced, become unintelligible to the natives of the country.