

P. Frazer, Frank, J. Simkin, Douglas, and Crosby-Spratt, and Messrs. H. A. Liddle, W. E. Marriott, L. B. Ripley, J. L. Simkin, and O. K. Williamson. The first ascent to the gap between the Inner Tower and the main Drakensberg had been made by a party led by Mr. Topp a few days previously. The route from this point to the plateau had been followed in a previous year on the descent by Mr. H. A. Liddle in the course of an ascent of the Inner Tower. Thus our route, although it had not previously been used as a means of ascent of Mont aux Sources, was not new in its component parts. Having left the camp about 8 A.M. the party followed the bed of the main stream. Some 2 hrs. up the valley the direction which had previously been more or less W. bends to a more northerly course, the rock scenery being magnificent. After a time the walls of the valley closed in to form a gully, enclosed by precipitous rocky walls. The gully steepened and some ice was met with. The last 200 ft. or so consisted of grass interspersed with a few rocks, and the party thus reached the narrow gap between the Inner Tower and the edge of the plateau at about 1.30 P.M. A steep chimney on the true right of the gully starting a few feet below the gap was now climbed. It was about 60 ft. high, not difficult, but contained some loose rocks. A slightly ascending traverse to the left with an awkward ledge on it brought the party to a series of steep and easy gullies, containing, however, many discredibly loose rocks and rising about 200 ft. : these led up to the Mont aux Sources plateau at a point (about 2.30 P.M.) where this rises in a S.W. direction about 400 ft. to the top of Mount Amery.⁵ Turning to the left the easy slopes of this were ascended to the summit of Mount Amery, reached just before 3 P.M., where a bonfire was made. After a night spent in the excellent new hut on the Mont aux Sources plateau, the descent to camp from the plateau was made on July 8 by the route of ascent. Perfect weather was experienced on both days, a little snow being met with in the gully.

O. K. W.

ALPINE NOTES.

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :	Date of Election
Browne, The Rt. Rev. Bishop G. F.	1864
Hoare, H. Seymour	1873
Jose, T. P. H.	1877
Layton, E. J.	1877
Carr, Ellis	1888
Dixon, H. B.	1894
Hope, R. P.	1899
Wollaston, A. F. R.	1903

⁵ *A.J.* 40, 110.

	Date of Election
THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY (<i>continued</i>) :	
Jenkins, A. Stuart	1907
Dawson, Rev. Canon J. E.	1908
Allen, Dr. Freeman	1911
Nansen, Fridtjof (Hon Member)	1902
Gabet, Baron F. (Hon. Member)	1920

'THE CLOSING OF THE ITALIAN ALPS.'—There is nothing fresh of importance to report in this matter. Two glacier passes and a grass pass have been thrown open to travellers, from July 1 to September 15, in the chain of Mont Blanc and the Pennines. But this concession affects only a minimum of the entire length of the Alpine frontier. We trust that the time is at hand when the Italian Government may be convinced that there is no adequate reason why the restoration of normal regulations on the said frontier should be delayed any longer.

ARMAND CHARLET.—We regret to hear that this well-known guide met with another very severe accident while skiing this spring. Descending from Lognan at full speed, he collided with a tree, fracturing his thigh and suffering further serious injuries.

MATTERHORN by the 'Penhall' couloir.—This ascent was effected on July 18–19, 1929, by Herr Fritz Hermann,¹ *alone*. Excluding a very exposed bivouac high up on the N.W. face, the time of the ascent was 13 hrs. This, we believe, is the first attempt on the mountain by this route since the 1879 success and the 'mad adventure' of Herren Lammer and Lorria in 1887.—From *Allgemeine Bergsteiger Zeitung*.

CLUB HUTS in the Mont Blanc Group.—A much-valued contributor and very experienced mountaineer writes as follows: 'It is very evident [1930] that huts in this district are becoming useless unless *bewirtschaftet*, and even then the Couvercle is a Black Hole of Calcutta, worse than an overcrowded guard-room: of the others, the Vallot, Argentière, Aiguille du Goûter (and, of course, the Couvercle), are filthy beyond words, while the Midi has fortunately departed this life, or so it is written. One decent hut, the Requin, seems to have escaped the notice of the hotel-keepers, but the overcrowding of it in August can be appalling. The Charpoua is decently kept, but, as the guides point out, it belongs to them and is not a *Club* hut. Moreover, it is frequented by serious climbers and not by picnickers come to view the sunrise. As to the Leschaux hut, there seems to be a conspiracy of silence, for its popularity might clash

¹ Herr Hermann is one of the two amateurs who disappeared on the E. face of the Zinal-Rothhorn this July, p. 350.

with that of the Couvercle or Requin. It was clean and unvisited when we went there early in the season. No doubt a few . . . would soon convert it into a sty to suit their own requirements. There is a new hut endowed by some crank and built on the Mer de Glace face of the Grépon.² . . . A month ago I wrote in the Argentière hut book that I had not had time to clean out this "Augean stable," and its condition has not changed.'

We are in complete agreement with our correspondent and, in fact, his description would apply to very many of the *cabanes* in the French Alps, with the possible exception of those *bewirtschaftet* huts in the Western Graians. The contrast between these ill-built and badly-found Mont Blanc and Dauphiné huts and the vast majority of those belonging to the S.A.C., and of *all* those of the D. & C.E.A.V., must be humiliating to serious French mountaineers. Government action prevents us from passing any personal comments on the present condition of Italian huts, but reports are favourable.

Mr. Meade, who has spent five months in the Mont Blanc Group this summer, strongly advises mountaineers not to use any of the huts, but to take tents, as the condition of the former is a 'monstrous scandal and disgrace.'

C.A.I. SHELTER HUTS.—A small hut of the 'improved' type was opened last August on the N.E. spur of the Pizzo di Scotès (2976 m.) in the BERGAMASQUE—or as Professor Corti, a great authority, prefers to call them—'Orobian' Alps. From Armisa in the beautiful Arigna glen, the hut, situated at about 2500 m., is accessible in about 4 hrs. Constructed by the Valtellina Section, C.A.I., it is appropriately named 'Alfredo Corti.' This new hut should open out the interesting district round about the Pizzo di Coca, 3052 m., now completely neglected by British mountaineers.

An interesting ascent of the MATTERHORN.—'Miss Ethel Whymper, only child of the late Edward Whymper, traversed the Matterhorn on August 27, thus just about 65 years after her father's first ascent—July 14, 1865.

'She was accompanied by myself, with the guides Johann Summermatter and Ludwig Zurbriggen, and the ascent was made in beautiful weather by the ordinary route, from the Belvedere to the summit, with descent to Breuil. The mountain was in very good condition and we had a most enjoyable day. We fully expected to be stopped by frontier guards, armed to the teeth, and were positively disappointed to reach the hotel at Breuil without having caught sight of even one!

'I may say this was Miss Whymper's second season of serious climbing, and she "went" as was only to be expected of her father's daughter.'

G. DAVIDSON.

² Cf. *A.J.* 41, 220.

WETTERHORN from the Grosse Scheidegg.—The mountain, according to press reports, was scaled in 9 hrs. by [?] Dr. Finzi's route to the Scheidegg-Wetterhorn³ and thence over the N.W. arête, on August 2, 1930, by a Mr. W. G. [?] Standing with Joseph Georges, *le skieur*, of Arolla. The route appears new only in combination, but the 'times,' if given correctly, are remarkably rapid.

JAPANESE MOUNTAINEERING.—An overseas expedition by a group of Japanese mountaineers is now being considered. This would embrace the ascent of KLUCHEVSKAYA as first item on the programme. This mountain, the highest (16,124 ft.) in Kamchatka, is an active volcano hitherto unconquered. We wish our Japanese colleagues complete success.

MT. FAIRWEATHER.—This very difficult peak, 15,400 ft., situated on the Canadian-Alaskan boundary, has now been the subject of two attempts. The first, made a few years ago by Messrs. W. S. Ladd and Allen Carpe with Andy Taylor, resulted in a height of 9500 ft. being attained when a great notch in the ridge, apparently inaccessible, stopped the party. In 1930 another attempt was made by a party of six, led by Mr. Bradford Washburn. This party, perhaps underestimating the time and length of the expedition, turned back, wisely if reluctantly, at an altitude of about 7000 ft.

In both expeditions a dangerous landing had to be made through the surf of the Pacific.

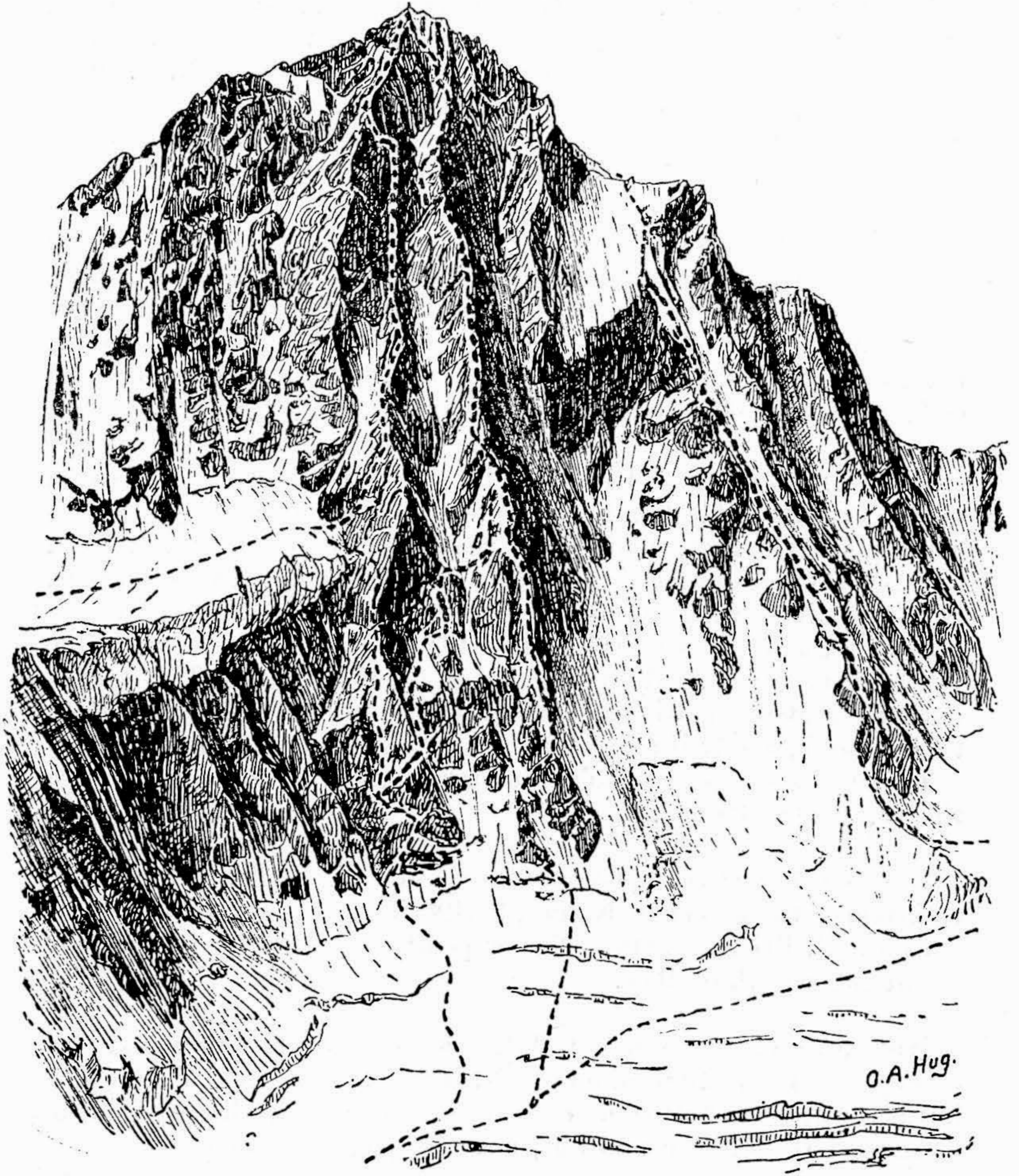
BRITISH HIMALAYAN EXPEDITION.—Mr. F. S. Smythe intends to attempt the ascent of Kamet, 25,400 ft., in the summer of 1931, with an all-British party. The expedition would be in position about the month of May.

Huts at COGNE.—A new C.A.I. 'shelter-hut' has been built at a height of about 2400 m. on the N. arête of the Roccia Viva. The hut is easily accessible from Valnontey. No attempt has been made to restore the Piantonetto hut, now completely ruined.

FINSTERAARHORN, N.E. face.—The third (or fourth, counting the Ober Studerjoch 'arête' or rib as part of this face) ascent was accomplished on September 3, 1930, by Miss Miriam O'Brien with Adolf and Fritz Rubi. From the base of the 'Grey Tower' ('A.J.' 34, 272-3) the party was obliged to bear to the *right*, N., the N.W. arête being attained some 300 ft. from the summit. Times: Strahlegg hut dep. midnight; N.E. face commenced 04.30; summit, 17.30. Conditions so bad that it 'approaches the limits of possibility, and for over 100 metres was just flirting with death'—so Adolf Rubi.

H. L.

³ A.J. 41, 404-6; 42, 1-15.



Drawn by O. Hug.]

N.E. FACE OF FINSTERAARHORN.

Showing (left to right) 1929, 1906, 1904 'Bell rib,' and 1904 routes, latter to Hugisattel; also route over N. slope of Ober Studerjoch.

GIESSEN GLACIER.—This crevassed and precipitous glacier was descended throughout its entire length to the Trümletenthal in 3 hrs. from the foot of the Klein Silberhorn. The glacier resembles the Kühlauenen, but is about six times as long. Much danger from falling ice: August 19, 1930, Herr E. Glättli with Christian Rubi. Dr. Lauper's route ('A.J.' 38, 315-21) is far safer.

PIZ BERNINA.—According to press reports, it is proposed to construct a railway from Morteratsch to the summit. We wish the scheme all manner of material and financial disaster.⁴

AIGUILLE NOIRE DE PÉTÉRET, S.E. arête.—Sinister rumours have been circulating to the effect that this superb ridge, with its great, mostly unclimbed towers and gaps, was being made 'safe for democracy.' A certain firm interested in the sale of mountaineering requisites was reported as having been engaged—through the agency of four young men—in festooning the crest with ropes and stanchions conspicuously marked with the said miscreants' trademarks. Such an act, while proving the utter imbecility of its originators, is positively wicked both on sporting and moral grounds. Now we get the sequel. The four youngsters 'were waiting to find someone who would pay them well enough and then take him to finish the climb. Two Bavarians (Herren H. Schaller and K. Brendel) heard and took advantage of it; the four Courmayeur boys got what they deserved.' [The upper portion of the arête, above the *Pointe Welzenbach*, is declared to have been 'quite extraordinarily difficult.'] The 'ascent' took two whole days, August 26–27.—*Communicated.*

It will be recollected that a similar outrage was committed on the *Père Eternel* and *La Vierge* of the Dames Anglaises.

MATTERHORN by the Furggen ridge.—On September 2, 1930, Signor E. Benedetti of the C.A.I. with Louis Carrel and Maurice Bich left the Pavillon de Riondet, *ca.* 2755 m., at 03.30, the Col du Breuil at 06.00, and attained the Furggen shoulder at 10.30. The leader, Carrel, succeeded in reaching the summit at 13.30.

'The party, following the example of Signor Piacenza [in 1911], descended from the Furggen Shoulder on to the S.W. or Italian face, thus avoiding the direct ascent. Thence they discovered a line of ascent *between* the Piacenza route and the *true* crest of the arête. *In my opinion*, the true arête, with its great overhang which stopped my ascent, has still to be overcome. It was, of course, descended by Blanchet. [Cav. Rey with a ladder and ropes had accomplished the entire ridge, up or down, in 1899—*Editor.*] It seems to me, therefore, that the "Furggen" still maintains, from the shoulder to the summit, some exciting moments for another and bolder mountaineer on the look-out for a "first" ascent! But this in no way detracts from the merit of the climb in question.

⁴ A very eloquent protest appears in *Die Alpen*, 1930 [pp. 203–4], from Dr. Anton Hoessli, ex-President 'Bernina' Section S.A.C., supported by another from Herr C. Eggerling of the 'Rhaetia' Section. The editor adds that it is to be hoped that the 28,500 members of the S.A.C. will be able to achieve something towards scotching this disgraceful proposition—and so say all of us.

'I stayed more than two months in Breuil; the weather was not fine, but, in spite of that and old age, I find always great physical and moral rest in those quiet surroundings amidst familiar peaks, which I am now content to contemplate from below.'

GUIDO REY.

A full account, received subsequently through the courtesy of Dr. U. Balestreri and confirming Cav. Rey's views, will be published in the next number.—E. L. S.

AIGUILLE DE GRÉPON.—The 'Grand Gendarme' was ascended in the course of a S.-N. traverse by its *Nantillons* face and without artificial aids or the help of a rope from above, on August 26, 1930, by Mr. M. Vyvyan with Joseph Georges, *le skieur*. 'Rubbers' are stated to be obligatory.

PIZ BADILE, N. FACE.—Walter Risch with a (?) Swiss mountaineer is reported to have accomplished the ascent last August in some 11 hrs., while on August 22 Herren K. Wien and Königk accomplished it in 7 hrs. from the *Einstieg*, and on August 28 Herren Königk and Hartmann repeated it in 6 hrs.! 'Sic transit gloria Bregagliae.'

H. L.

Herr PAUL SCHUCAN.—We much regret to report the death of this very distinguished Grisons mountaineer at the age of 51.

BERNESE OBERLAND, *Climbers' Guide*.—Dr. Hans Lauper (31 Bahnhofstrasse, Zürich) requests members to send notes of any new or unusual expeditions, accomplished between Gemmi and Grimsel, to him *without* delay.

GRANDES JORASSES, W. to E. traverse.—This remarkable feat was performed by a British lady climber, Miss Geraldine Fitzgerald, with Alfred Couttet and Marcel Bozon, on August 31. The point of departure was the Leschaux hut, which was regained some 22½ hrs. later. The ascent of *Pointe Young* from the Col des Grandes Jorasses seems to have caused most trouble.

'Times' : Leschaux hut	. . .	dep. 03.10
Col des Grandes Jorasses	{	arr. 07.15
	{	dep. 07.30
<i>Pointe Young</i>	. . .	09.50
<i>Pointe Walker</i>	. . .	14.30
Col des Hirondelles	. . .	19.40
Leschaux hut	. . .	arr. 01.30

COL DU LION.—Herr von Kehl's party last August, starting from the Schönbühl hut, reached the Col du Lion from the N. (? sixth ascent + one *descent*), ascended the Matterhorn by the Italian ridge

and descended by the Z'mutt to Zermatt—apparently all in *one* day and a very remarkable combination.

F. O. S.

CÉSAR OLLIER.—The death of this well-known guide as the result of a non-mountaineering accident is announced. He was the sometime leader of H.R.H. the Duke of the Abruzzi and of Sir Halford Mackinder on Ruwenzori and Mt. Kenya, respectively.

NANGA PARBAT.—We are informed by the Secretary of the Himalayan Club that Dr. W. Welzenbach, the distinguished Bavarian mountaineer, intends to attempt the ascent of this formidable peak, 26,620 ft.—where Mummery disappeared in 1895—with a party of about 6 fellow-countrymen, during the summer of 1931. The expedition will be financially assisted by the A.A.V. Munich and the D. & C.A.V.

Death of SIR GEORGE YOUNG, Bart.—We much regret to announce the death, at the age of 93, of a mountaineer famous in the 'sixties.⁵ It is hoped to publish an obituary in the following number. Mr. Geoffrey Winthrop Young was Sir George's second son.

MONT BLANC, 'La Sentinelle' route.—The third ascent was achieved and the descent completed *via* the Col du Midi in 5 days from and to Courmayeur (July 30–August 3) by three young fellows, financially assisted by the D. & C.A.V.⁶ Weather and conditions were bad and the risks taken appear outrageous.—From the *Reichenhaller Tagblatt*.

MATTERHORN FILM.—The press reports the total banning of Fanck's revolting travesty throughout the United Kingdom. The film, although barred at Zürich, was exhibited in Zermatt during Miss Whymper's visit until Dr. Hermann Seiler's personal intervention.

The grave of EDWARD WHYMPER.—Owing to adverse reports as to the condition of the stone, inscription, etc., reaching the Alpine Club, steps were taken to ensure the necessary repairs and Mr. C. F. Meade, who was at Chamonix, was requested to make a report. This was less unfavourable than feared, but repairs have now been completed satisfactorily.

⁵ Perhaps his best-known feat was the first ascent of the Jungfrau from the Wengern Alp, August 29, 1865, with the Rev. H. B. George, led by Christian Almer, *A.J.* 2, 210–11.

⁶ A fund is set aside by the D. & C.A.V. for assisting promising young climbers whose finances do not permit of distant travel. But it is a far cry from the Kalkalpen to the Brenva face of Mont Blanc!

CHANGE OF ADDRESS of C.A.F.—The Headquarters of the Club Alpin Français are now situated at 121 Boulevard Haussmann, Paris (VIII^e), telephone Élysées 65-47, having migrated from Rue du Bac.

'CLASSIFIED' MOUNTAINS and 'GRADED' ROUTES.—Certain mountaineers have for some years been in the habit of classifying mountains and their routes in order of danger and 'interest,' as also of expressing their contempt of those 'ungraded' peaks and routes finding no place in their personal catalogues. This habit has long been the custom in the Dolomites, where we are accustomed to hear of the last variation on a well-thumbed peak described—yearly—as 'the most difficult climb in the Alps,' and verging on or surpassing 'the limits of human achievement,' regardless of the fact that at least one route up the said peak is often accessible to an active and long-eared quadruped. This was said in the 'eighties of the Croda da Lago and Kleine Zinne; in the 'nineties of the Delagothurm and Fünffingerspitze; in the dawn of the new century of the Guglia di Brenta and Marmolata; in the period thence to 1914 of the Croz' dell' Altissimo, Tschierspitze or Campanile di Val Montanaia, and lately of the Alleghe face of the Civetta—first conquered in 1895!

The disease is, unfortunately, now spreading from the Wilder Kaiser to the Western Alps. A serious mountaineering periodical describes the N. face of the Dent d'Hérens as the last word in ice difficulties. The classification is seldom applied save when the route in question is vanquished by a climber hailing from E. of the Western Alps.

Two young scramblers speaking to a veteran world-famous for his mountaineering and still more for his literary abilities, inquired of the latter his views on the modern fashion. The reply was, 'I am too bored to be even interested.' This opinion will be shared by all those youngsters still guilty of occasional lucid intervals.

FUTILE RECKLESSNESS.—An American tripper, accompanied by a Zermatt guide, accomplished the ascent of the Matterhorn, last summer, in 1 hr. 50 min. from the Belvedere (Hörnli). They stayed 10 mins. on the top and descended in 1 hr. 5 mins.: a total of 3 hrs. 5 mins., up and down. The guide was ill for several days after, and for such crimes the ordinary death penalty is inadequate.

HEREDITARY MOUNTAINEERS.—Miss Sylvia Longstaff, aged 16, accompanied by Adolphe Rey, took her aged [*sic!*] father up and down the Italian ridge of the Matterhorn on August 24; she traversed the Lyskamm, Gnifetti to Q. Sella hut, S. ridge and *Cresta Perazzi*: 17 other expeditions from Belalp, Valtournanche, Val d'Ayas, and Gressoney.

T. G. L.

CRESTA DI SAAS.—Such is the local name for a ridge over 5 kilometres in length between the Sonnig Pass and the Latelhorn. On it there are 10 officially named or measured points and a large number of teeth. One or two of these tops are mere walks over loose boulders, but the majority, as well as the teeth, provide excellent scrambling. The traverse can be thoroughly recommended when bigger expeditions are out of the question.

Our times including halts were: Sonnig Pass–Latelhorn, 9 hrs. (Almageler Alp–Saas-Fee, 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ hrs.).

E. B. B.
E. G.

MATTERHORN, N. FACE.—M. Blanchet, with Mooser and Lärjen, made an attempt on September 4. Above the Matterhorn Glacier the rocks were entirely ice-glazed. After 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.' slow progress the retreat was sounded, Mooser having been hit three times. The party were lucky to escape with their lives.

SWISS COLOURED PRINTS.—With the completion of Volume 42, we gratefully acknowledge our indebtedness to Mr. R. W. Lloyd for the privileged use of half a dozen of his prints, several of which were presented free to the JOURNAL by their owner. It is hoped to continue the reproduction in future numbers.

E. L. S.

A valuable GIFT.—The Rev. A. V. Valentine-Richards has been kind enough to present to the Alpine Club Library an original copy of the famous *Relation Abrégée* of H. B. de Saussure, printed 'à Genève, chez Barde, Manget et Cie., Imprimeurs-Libraires,' for which welcome gift the Alpine Club tenders its grateful thanks.

S. S.

CENTENARY OF THE R.G.S.—We publish the following address, presented by the President, Alpine Club:—

TO THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.—The President and Committee desire on behalf of the Alpine Club to join heartily in the chorus of congratulation which will reach the Royal Geographical Society from all quarters on attaining its centenary celebrations, and to emphasise the Club's appreciation of the congenial relationship which has always existed between the two institutions, fostered by many mutual members, by the happy coincidence of a common President, and by many mutual aims culminating in the essential and friendly co-operation in connection with the three Everest Expeditions.

The Alpine Club desires further to express its admiration of the vast record of achievement which the Society can boast in every quarter of the Globe, and its confidence in the beneficent and

distinguished future which lies before the second century of the Royal Geographical Society.

(Sd.) CLAUDE WILSON, *President*.

(Sd.) SYDNEY SPENCER, *Hon. Secretary*.

October 21st, 1930.

Latest. The PIZ BERNINA Railway.—Owing to general protests the promoters of this scheme, *before* the poll had taken place at Pontresina, dropped the proposal and substituted an insidious alternative, a railway up PIZ MORTERATSCH, a summit that would have been tapped by the railway *en route* for Piz Bernina.

A meeting held at Pontresina on October 16 divided on the original 'Bernina' proposal, although officially dropped, and vetoed it by a huge majority. A second division was then taken on the 'Morteratsch' proposal, which was also thrown out by an overwhelming majority. It appears that the strong protest sent by telegram from the President and members, A.C., proved valuable at the meeting of the voters.

We offer our warmest congratulations to the S.A.C., and especially to the 'Bernina' and 'Rhaetia' sections, on the splendid result of their efforts.

CAUCASUS NOTES.

THE very successful Bavarian expedition of 1928 met with no hindrances from the authorities, neither have any of the following parties. In 1930, however, a large party of Viennese mountaineers and excursionists found the Balkar and Bezingi glens, leading from Naltshik into the Central Group, closed to tourist traffic. Hoping these glens would be opened eventually, they deviated into the Elbruz region.¹

After a delay of 14 days, the party left Naltshik, on August 2, to visit the Dykhsu district. The members of the expedition consider Ailama, 14,850 ft., as the finest peak of the region that contains also the higher summits of Shkara, Dychtau and Koshtantau.² A camp was pitched with great difficulty on the Dykhsu Glacier at a height of 2500 m., distant two days' march from Kunnium.

Kolchaja, 3700 m., was climbed by one group, while another made the first ascent of Fytnargin, 13,789 ft., from the N. Later again two members made a very difficult ascent of a peak (*ca.* 4100 m.) between Nuamkuam and Shkara, the summit being attained by a remarkable ice ridge. Thence they effected the first traverse to Nuamkuam,

¹ For the result of this deviation, see p. 362.

² See *A.J.* 26, 96-7, and 30, 194-6, for list of first ascents in the Caucasus.