

cloud-effects make a desolate country look comparatively delectable. Mr. T. H. Somervell's contribution consisted of an excellent oil painting of Nanda Devi in Kumaon, some water-colours of the Kangchenjunga group in Sikkim made on the occasion of an unsuccessful climb in 1922 and a reconnaissance of the Kabru region in 1928, also some curious photos taken between 27,000 and 28,200 ft. from Everest, which must be the highest altitude photos ever taken by a man on foot. These last show various 25,000 ft. peaks seen from above, and a bird's-eye view of the routes of the successive Everest expeditions.

Except for a few photos from Sikkim and Bhutan, Somervell's were the only pictures of the Eastern Himalaya shown. Mr. B. J. Gould's photos were of Kabul and the Kurram, chiefly around the Peiwar Kotal, the pass forced by the 1897 expedition and the scene of the present restlessness on the N.W. frontier.

Ski-ing, a sport still in its infancy in India and apparently confined so far to the Kashmir Valley, was represented by photos of trips above Gulmarg and on the Pir Panjal range by Squadron-leader C. C. Durston and Mr. M. D. N. Wyatt. Mr. D. M. Burn's survey duties in Chitral entailed his reaching altitudes above 21,000 ft., and resulted in some fine photos. Major B. J. Cripps's photos dealt with the lower end of the same (Chitral) valley, above Kila Drosh.

Photos by Major Keith Dawson, Messrs. E. F. Neve and C. H. Donald dealt with Kashmir and the Baspa and Sulej Valleys, and Mr. G. Carter sent in a very fine series covering Chamba state and Ladakh. Lahul and Zaskar (Baltistan) were dealt with by Capt. D. G. Lowndes and Mr. C. A. Mead.

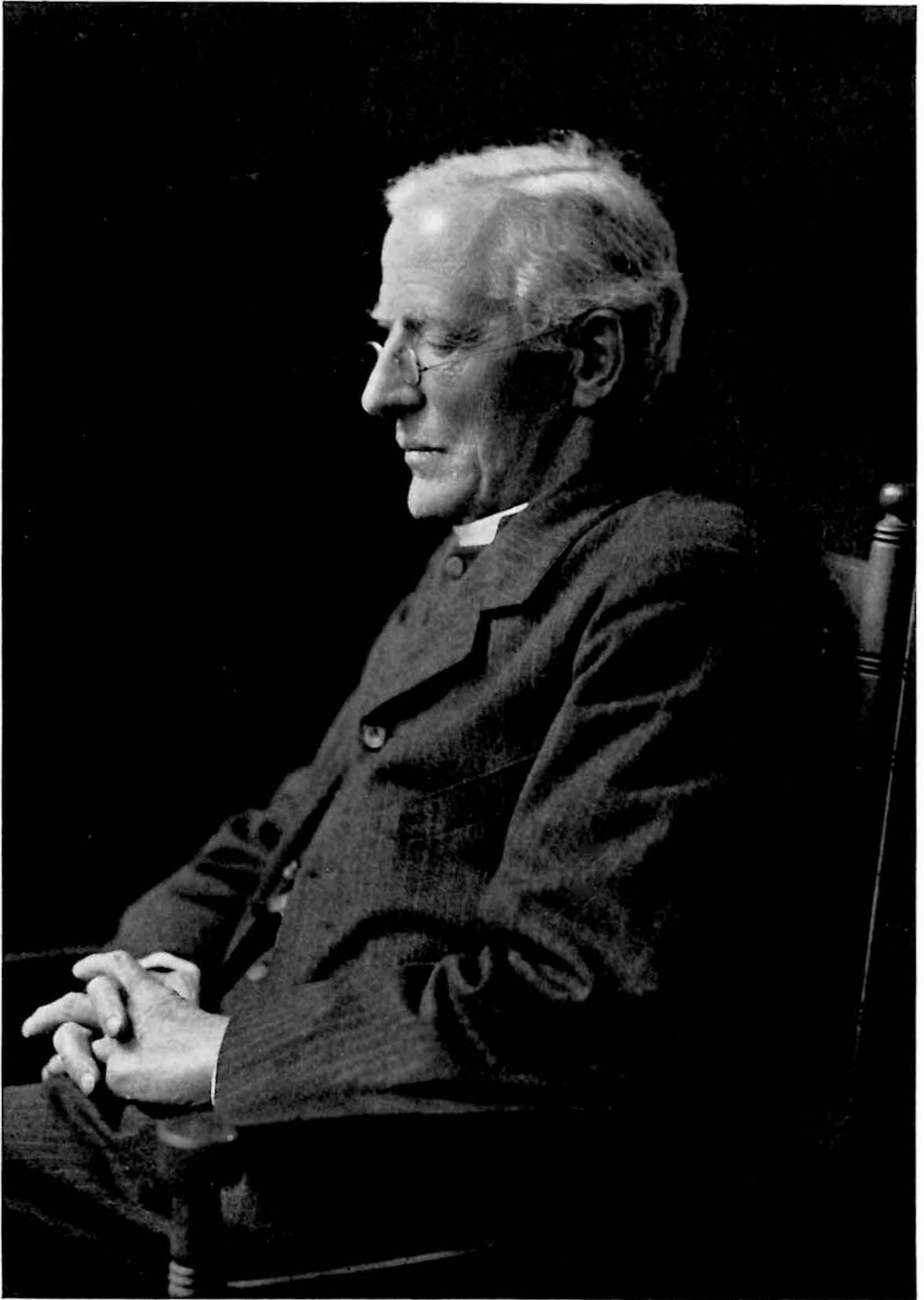
A series of Himalayan forest photos by Mr. H. M. Glover show the causes and progress of deforestation and erosion, and apart from technical interest contain some excellent views in the Kagan Valley, Hazara.

IN MEMORIAM.

JOHN TRANT BRAMSTON.

(1843-1931.)

IN the Reverend John Trant Bramston, who died on January 12 at his house in St. Cross, near Winchester, we lose one who is remembered with much affection by several generations of climbers, a familiar presence in Zermatt during more than half a century. Born in 1843, he came of an old Essex family; his second name, by which 'for love and for euphony' he was very generally known,



J. T. Bramston.
1843-1931.

being that of his mother's ancestors. There was a strong Wykehamist connection. His father, the Vicar of Witham, who became Dean of Winchester in 1872, and an uncle, were in the historic 'Old Commoners' (which came to an end in 1841), and there were several cousins in 'New Commoners,' which he himself entered in 1856, passing on into college later in that year. He became Prefect of Hall, and won the Goddard Scholarship unusually early. In 1861 he went up to New College as a scholar, took first classes in the classical schools, and was ordained in 1866. He became an assistant master at Wellington College under Dr. Benson, with whose family he remained closely intimate, making friends here with Charles Kingsley, who introduced him to climbing round Snowdon. He returned to Winchester as a tutor in 1868. In 1869 Commoners was broken up, and the inmates, some 100 boys, drafted into five new boarding houses, of which four had to be built. The charge of one of these was assigned to Bramston, and it remained his first interest until his retirement in 1908. How devotedly he carried out his own generous ideals, and how continuous was the response, is shown with sympathy and insight in a notice which appeared in *The Times* of January 13. As another of these four Houses was undertaken by Mr. Frederick Morshead, coming in from the Headmastership of Beaumaris, and a fifth opened by the Rev. C. H. Hawkins, Alpine interests were securely entrenched in and about the new 'Quadrilateral' of Culver's Close. While he lived in and for his House, Bramston was very active outside it, as a form master, as a chaplain and preacher to boys, by his care for all games and athletics, by music and the new 'humanities' of literature and drama which his friend C. H. Hawkins was zealously promoting. He was a skilful and diligent photographer. He retired in 1908 to a house of his own building in St. Cross, which became a new centre of hospitality. He kept up the old interest and the life-long fellow-feeling with the young; he had the happiness of seeing grandsons in the school. He remained a chaplain till 1913, and was for some years a Prebendary of Chichester.

In 1875 he married Miss Jane Ady, daughter of the Archdeacon of Chichester. Their only son, a young man of singular promise in many directions,¹ died in 1906, too soon to be followed by his mother. Their daughter became the wife of the late Rev. H. D. Beloe, for many years Headmaster of Bradfield College.

Bramston was early drawn to the Alps. In 1864 he was up Mount Pilatus and at Chamonix, and he did much mountain travel in the following years. In 1867 he was at Zermatt and the Riffelhaus, and crossed the Jung Pass. His diary records Grove's return from the Matterhorn and a conversation with M. Alexandre Seiler, who showed him the site of the future Riffel Alp Hôtel, not to open its

¹ 'Johnny' Bramston, the son, was a golf-genius, but his promise did not stop there.

doors till 1884. Returning through Germany in 1870 he saw shells falling on Strasbourg, and at Cologne heard the news of Sedan. There were meetings with persons of note in these years, with Archbishop Benson, with Dr. Hort,² in whose company he climbed the Sidelhorn, with Miss Walker and Melchior Anderegg, with Ulrich Lauener, and with Miss Fanny Kemble.

In 1871 Bramston and Hawkins, who usually walked together, with Nägeli, a capable guide and a humourist, were joined at Macugnaga by their colleague F. Morshead. When Morshead came to Winchester in 1869 he had been for eight years a member of the Alpine Club and had a long record of high mountain work. But he never wearied of repeating familiar climbs for the sheer pleasure to himself, and to introduce friends to the ways of first-rate guides. Morshead's company implied that of Melchior Anderegg, and often that of Christian Lauener. The friends made several ascents and crossed several passes in that year, beginning with the Weissthorn and ending with Monte Rosa. In 1873 they were joined by H. Schütz Wilson, who describes an assault on the Balmhorn with much detail in his usual airy manner. The Matterhorn followed, and Mont Blanc. In 1874 an attempt on the Weisshorn was defeated by weather, as was one on the Rothhorn in 1875, successfully renewed in 1876. Monte Rosa was always a favourite. The last recorded climb was that of the Wellenkuppe in 1888. But year after year he never failed to revisit Zermatt in sunshine and in shadow. He was there in 1882, a year saddened by rains and by the triple disasters on the Aiguille Blanche de Pétéret, Wetterhorn and Dent Blanche. In 1881 he had been accompanied by Mrs. Bramston, and later on their daughter's birthday was a yearly festival. There were countless meetings with friends of well-known names. That of E. M. Kynnersley reminds us that Bramston himself had a fund of Alpine anecdotes which he told readily and well, always a centre of goodwill and cheerfulness, as befitted a member of the Club since 1872. In 1922 he returned to Zermatt to introduce a grandson. *Opera feliciter consummavit.*

A. O. P.

JOHN STAFFORD ANDERSON.

(1851-1930.)

J. STAFFORD ANDERSON, who died on December 31 at the age of 79 years, was elected a Member of the Club in 1881. He was a very small man, but very wiry and of great staying power. In the early 'eighties he was an active climber, and a yearly visitor to the

² J. F. A. Hort, scholar and botanist, was an original member of A.C. ; incidentally, he demurred to the original guinea subscription as being possibly prohibitory !



John Stafford Anderson,
1851-1930.
With **Ulrich Almer** (left) and **Alois Pollinger**
About 1882.

Alps. To him belongs credit as pioneer of the first ascent of the N.E. arête of the Dent Blanche, followed in 1883 by a new route up the Schreckhorn by the N.W. arête. He also added to his bag of original work, 'New tracks on the Eiger and Breithorn.' Each of these expeditions called for papers which were read before the Club. He also with F. A. Bowlby made a partly new ascent of Mont Blanc ('A.J.' 14, 151). A full list of his ascents will be found in Vol. III of Mr. Mumm's *Alpine Club Register*.

Since 1890 he has rarely if ever been seen at our meetings. To the present generation of members he would therefore only be known by name, but that name will always be honoured, for he was the discoverer and originator of the conquest of what is now generally known as the *Viereselgrat* of the Dent Blanche. This sarcasm had its origin in the exclamation of Ulrich Almer, who on reaching the summit remarked with all solemnity: 'Wir sind vier Esel.'

As I was Anderson's companion on that occasion (now more than forty-eight years ago), it may not be out of place if I give my recollection of one incident in the climb which clings to my memory. It was when we were nearing the summit and the arête narrowed. We had on our right a sheer drop of 4000 ft. On our left was a wall of hard snow of varying thickness, formed by the driving winds from the N. rolling the snow over and fashioning in places this wall on the S. side of the arête. As we proceeded the said wall was useful, for it enabled our guides to cut pockets in the snow which we used as handholds. It was the rough crystal snow of these pockets which caused the damage to Anderson's hands by tearing the skin as recorded in his paper ('A.J.' 11, 158-72). When at last the arête came to an end we found ourselves confronted by a wall of snow perhaps 20 ft. high at an angle of 70° to 80°, its base on the arête and sloping down the southern face of the mountain. Up this wall lay the route and when the upper snow-capped slope was reached, only then did we realize the danger of the snow giving way under the weight of the leaders. Word was passed down to me, fourth on the rope, to be prepared if called upon, to throw my body over on to the N. slope of the arête, a feat Ulrich Almer had performed with such skill on the Ober Gabelhorn some years earlier (*Pioneers*, pp. 94-5).

Anderson's favourite guides were Ulrich Almer and the 'ever cheery' Alois Pollinger, père, of whom Ulrich still survives. They were the leaders on all Anderson's best-known expeditions.

This *Viereselgrat* route may be regarded as a very sensational if not hazardous climb. I observe the second ascent was only made sixteen years later, but is becoming more frequent of late years. The N.W. arête of the Schreckhorn, now known as the *Andersongrat*, is from accounts given by present-day climbers considered as very striking but quite safe.

G. P. B.



From a drawing by Sir E. Burne-Jones.

Edward A. Fitzgerald (*ca.* 1895)
1871-1931.

EDWARD A. FITZGERALD.

(1871-1931.)

THE death of Major E. A. Fitzgerald recalls to me a whole chapter of mountain exploration long since closed and partly forgotten. His name will always be associated with expeditions in the New Zealand Alps and the Andes of Chile and the Argentine.

I first met him by chance in an inn in the Valtournanche. How either he or I came to be there I have entirely forgotten, but we were both marooned in the same house during a couple of days of bad weather. He struck me then as a singularly solitary and reserved young man. If circumstances had not thus forcibly thrown us together we should not have spoken to one another; as it was the ice was finally broken and presently he began to talk. He was no ordinary person. When I got to know him I found him to be full of ambition to accomplish something, but he did not know what.

We fell to talking about mountain exploration, and he said that he would like to attempt something in that line. Before we separated he declared that he would forthwith go to New Zealand and have a try at Mt. Cook. We also talked of the Andes as tempting for future adventure. I was at that time planning to do the 'Alps from end to end' in the following summer (1894), and he asked to come with me. He did in fact come. He would stay with me for a few days, do one or two expeditions and then he would fly away to London or Paris for an interval of comfort and good food. That was the trouble with him. He would not stick to his job. Being endowed with plenty of this world's goods from boyhood, all he wanted had come to him too easily. If he had been obliged to work for his living he would, I am sure, have made a name for himself in any career he might have chosen. He was a good mathematician, but he threw up that study at Cambridge when he failed to be chosen as cox of the University boat.

He set forth for New Zealand with my old Himalayan guide, Mattias Zurbriggen. While he was on the sea his intentions became known to the New Zealand climbers and they determined that the first ascent of Mt. Cook should not be made by a foreign guide. The first news that Fitzgerald received on landing was that Mt. Cook had been climbed. He was always unlucky in such ways. His ambitions just failed of attainment. Returning to England he produced a very interesting and well-written account of his Antipodean adventures³ and then proceeded to organize another expedition on a larger scale.

One day on the 'Alps from end to end' trip, he and I met a German traveller in a hut. Talk fell on Aconcagua, and the stranger drew us a picture and a sketch-map of that peak. The conversation fired Fitzgerald's fancy and he retained the memory of it thenceforward.

³ *Climbs in the New Zealand Alps.* Fisher Unwin, London, 1896.

Thus it was quite in the natural order of things that he should make that mountain the goal of his next expedition. He again retained the services of Zurbriggen and he had the good fortune to secure the help of Mr. Stuart Vines as his chief assistant. They set to work to organize their undertaking in a very thorough manner and regardless of expense.

Vines was trained as an expert surveyor. Sir Edmund Gosse's son was engaged as naturalist. The best instruments for surveying, photography, and so forth were provided. The support of the Chilean Government was freely given and in due course the party set forth. They were extraordinarily well advertised. When I went to Bolivia a year after their return I found the whole of South America full of talk about Fitzgerald and his doings.

He made his base-camp at the mouth of the Horcones Valley, opposite the Baths of Inca on the main trans-Andine road where now the railway runs. It was no small affair, this base-camp, which Fitzgerald occupied for several months. A mountain of bottles, tins, broken cases and other débris marked the site when I passed by. From this camp Fitzgerald sent forth one expedition after another, but chiefly in the first instance to explore the Horcones Valley and to form subsidiary camps, as also to survey the surrounding region and to climb to various points of view. One of these expeditions made the first ascent of Tupungato, the second highest mountain of the group. Two or three parties in succession were sent to examine in detail the way up Aconcagua and to pitch camps at various stages.

When all was ready for the final ascent Fitzgerald himself set forth, but he was never willing to get into training and he broke down before reaching the summit. Another attempt had the same fate. They were very high up this time and Zurbriggen (if I remember rightly) was sent on to complete the ascent alone. A second ascent was made by Vines and Zurbriggen. Thus if Fitzgerald did not win the glory of making the first ascent of the highest mountain in the Western Hemisphere he at least organized it, and he brought back an excellent survey of the most interesting part of the Andes in that region.

Returned to England, Fitzgerald and his men spent many months working out their results, and he himself wrote a very interesting and valuable account of his enterprise.⁴ That, however, was the end of his mountaineering. Thenceforward he took no interest in mountains and he regarded the few years he had devoted to them as an episode completed and laid aside. He presently married, becoming the second husband of a lady, admired as the brilliant authoress of 'A Girl in the Carpathians,' a book that attained great popular success, which it well deserved.

⁴ *The Highest Andes.* Methuen & Co., London, 1899.

Fitzgerald served with the Imperial Yeomanry in the South African War, whence he received a commission in the 5th Dragoon Guards, a transfer following to the Inniskilling Dragoons. He retired as a Major but served again in the European War. Later, I believe he and his wife settled down to a quiet English country life, but I never saw Fitzgerald again. He remains in my memory as one singularly well endowed both by nature and fortune, who might have accomplished very great things. In fact, he did accomplish one considerable work and will occupy a niche in the temple of such fame as attaches to the exploration of one of the great mountain ranges of the world. He joined the Alpine Club in 1892.

MARTIN CONWAY.

JAMES A. B. BRUCE.

(1859-1930.)

ON the last day of 1930 James A. B. Bruce died in a nursing-home at the age of 71.

Bruce was an old Harrow boy, a barrister and a member of the Middle Temple; in the old days, a Liberal in politics and a member of the Reform, he became Secretary to the well-known 'Eighty Club'; he was elected a Member of the Alpine Club in 1903.

He will long be remembered in mountaineering circles, owing to the fact that in 1909 he was the founder of that successful organization, The Association of British Members of the S.A.C. (now numbering more than 700 members); not only was he the founder, but he was the untiring Hon. Secretary of the same from 1909 to 1912, Hon. Treasurer 1912 to 1928, and Vice-President 1919 to 1930.

His previous experience with the Eighty Club helped considerably to enhance his value as an organizer and secretary; discarding politics, he spent all his spare time in furthering the interests of the Association, and his indomitable energy and capacity for hard work were fully appreciated by all his fellow members. His older friends will remember with a smile the caricature, by Sir F. C. Gould in the old *Westminster Gazette*, of Bruce flying around shedding papers, notes, memoranda out of his bag and every bulging pocket, with the legend 'The busy B.' written underneath.

Bruce was an Honorary Member of the Geneva Section of the S.A.C., and was a *persona grata* with all the authorities; he did more than his share in promoting the cordial friendship between British and Swiss mountain lovers. Personally, I owe him an immense debt of gratitude for the opportunity he afforded me of establishing lasting friendship among keen followers of the noblest sport yet invented by man. I know of many another who, for similar reasons, will ever remember the name of James Bruce.

H. L. R. D.



Photo, F. N. Ellis.

The late **J. A. B. Bruce** and **Dr. H. Dübi.**

[Dr. H. Dübi writes : ' I hear that our friend J. A. Bruce died on December 31. I beg to offer to my fellow-members of the A.C. and Association of British Members of the S.A.C., the expression of my regret and sorrow on hearing this sad news. I was much attached to Bruce since the good old days when we built and opened together the Britannia hut. We missed him greatly in 1929, when we inaugurated the enlarged hut, and we were sorry to hear of the illness from which he was destined not to recover.

' I shall never forget his great kindness and the unselfish manner in which he handled all matters concerning our two beloved Clubs. ']

GEORGE SANG.

(1875-1930.)

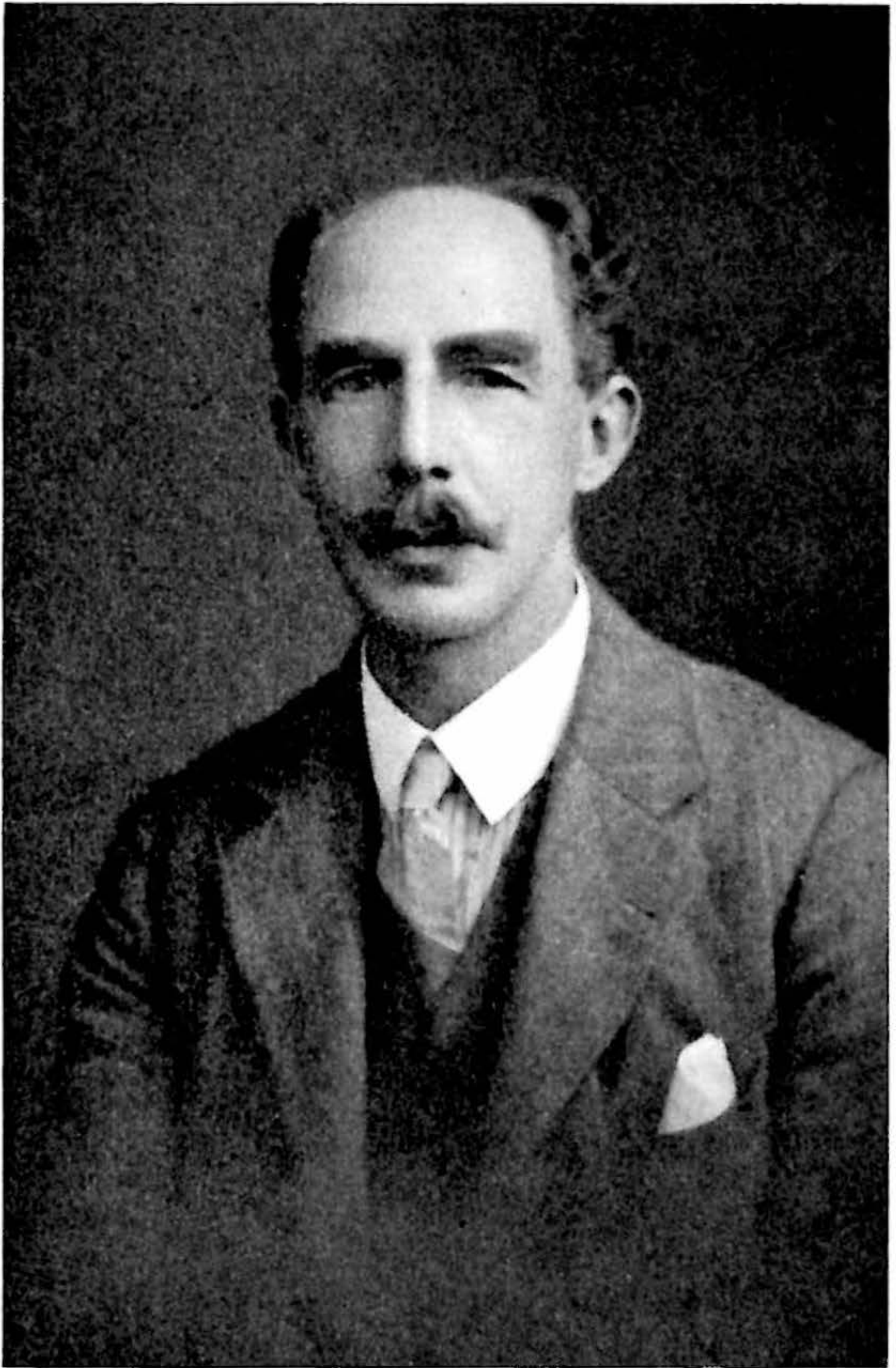
THE untimely death of George Sang came as a great shock to his many friends in the Club and elsewhere, for it was only in December 1929 that, apparently in the best of health and spirits, he delighted the company at the Annual Dinner with an admirable and witty speech in proposing the toast of the guests.

Educated at the Edinburgh Academy and Edinburgh University, he adopted the Law as his profession and in 1899 entered the Society of Writers to the Signet, and carried on a practice in Edinburgh. An ardent cyclist, he soon began to explore his native country, and to one of his temperament the call of the mountains was irresistible.

In 1898 he joined the Scottish Mountaineering Club and from that time he was a constant attendant at its meets, throwing himself with enthusiasm into all the activities of the Club, while devoting a great deal of time and labour to its service. He served on the Committee, then as Custodian of Slides and Assistant Secretary, and from 1914 to the time of his death he guided the destinies of the Club as Honorary Secretary through a very difficult time with the greatest success. Just before his death he was nominated for the position of President.

For some years before the war he was also Honorary Secretary of the Scottish Ski Club. His first visit to the Alps was in 1908, when with his wife he visited the Dolomites. This was repeated in 1909. In 1910 he was at Zermatt and climbed the Wellenkuppe, Trifhorn, Lyskamm, Zumsteinspitze, Dufourspitze, traversed the Rothorn, crossed Col Durand, Weisshorn in bad weather, and Unter Gabelhorn. In the fine summer of 1911, with the writer, he climbed or traversed ten peaks in seventeen days, beginning at Saas Fee with the Weissmies, Portjengrat, Nadelhorn, Lenzspitze ; over the Rimpfischhorn to Zermatt, Matterhorn, Dent Blanche, Mont Blanc de Seilon and Grand Combin.

In the following year, 1912, we were also out together in the Chamonix and Cogne districts, and the writer had the honour of



George Sang.
1875-1930.

proposing him for membership of the Club, to which he was duly elected.

In 1913 he was in the Brenta group with his wife, also an accomplished climber, and in 1914 he was again in the Dolomites with his wife and W. A. Morrison, and later joined H. MacRobert and the writer in the Graians, climbing the Grivola, Herbetet, and traversing the Paradiso. On the outbreak of war the party made its way to Genoa and returned in the s.s. *Cretic* to England.

During the war he spent arduous days in an explosives factory at Roslin, and while there was awarded the Edward Medal for his heroic action in saving lives at the risk of his own during an explosion.

In 1921 he was in the Alps again with the writer and climbed the Bietschhorn, and with the addition of H. C. Bowen to the party, traversed the Lyskamm, and climbed the Vincent Pyramide, Signal Kuppe, Zumsteinspitze, and Dufourspitze.

In 1922 and 1923 he was out again with his wife and daughter and the writer at Saas Fee, Zermatt, Arolla and Cogne. In 1923 he was elected to the Committee of the Alpine Club and proved a most useful member.

In 1925 he was with a party of S.M.C. members, which crossed the Oberland.

In 1927 he was again in the Dolomites with his wife and did some good climbs, traversed the Cime Figlio and Cugilio, and Cimone della Pala, also the three Vajolet Towers.

The last three summers have been spent in exploring the Highlands.

He wrote many charming and humorous articles for the S.M.C. Journal, illustrated by most admirable photographs, in which art he was a past master.

He was a most delightful companion with whom to travel. A first-rate mountaineer, as skilful and safe on ice and snow as he was sound and graceful on rocks; always cheerful under the most adverse circumstances, and considerate for others.

His lovable disposition and kindly humour gained him many friends, and his death leaves a sad blank in the lives of all with whom he was brought into contact. May he rest in peace, a loyal friend and a worthy son of the mountains.

W. N. L.

NEW EXPEDITIONS.

(a) CANADIAN ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

(1) *Yoho-Waputik Group.*

ST. NICHOLAS PEAK, 9616 ft. First ascent, June 27, 1930. Dr. J. M. Thorington, with P. Kaufmann. From Bow Lake by way of the snowfield above the southern Bow Glacier, and the E. face, 4 hrs.