

- Hauser, Dr. Walter : *Im Marokkanischen Atlas (Der Bergsteiger, April 1932) ; Im Marokkanischen Atlas (Die Alpen, Sept. 1929).*
- Jacqueton, G. : *Excursion dans l'Atlas Marocain (La Montagne, 1912, 8, 10).*
- Lépiney, Jacques de : *The Mountains of Morocco (A.J. 40, 221–34) ; Djebel Aksoual et Djebel Likoumt par l'arête Ouest (La Montagne, Mai–Juin 1929) ; Djebel Iguenouane (3782 m., S.G.M.) par l'arête Ouest (La Montagne Mai–Juin 1929) ; Djebel Ifni ou Toubkal (La Montagne, Juillet 1923).*
- M.G. : *Aus dem Hohen Atlas (Oe. A. Z., November 1931).*
- Neltner, Louis : *Impressions d'Atlas ; Au Toubkal (La Montagne, Avril 1928) ; Notes sur le Haut Atlas (La Montagne, Juillet–Août 1929).*
- Schibler : *I. Durchquerung der Djurdjurakette und Besteigung der Kredidja, 2308 m. ; II. Besteigung des Dj. Chélia, 2328 m. im Sahara Atlas (S.A.C.J., 1909–10).*
- Segonzac, Marquis de : *Au Maroc (La Montagne, Février 1923).*
- Zeller, Dr. A. : *Aus dem algerischen Atlasgebiet Cedernpick und Dschebel Metlili (S.A.C.J. 1910).*

The following reviews may also be consulted.

*La Revue de géographie marocaine*, organe de la Société de Géographie du Maroc, Casablanca.

*Le Bulletin de la Section marocaine du Club Alpin Français* (Palais de la Bourse, Casablanca).

See also under 'Atlas,' 'Berbers,' 'Morocco,' etc., in the leading Encyclopædias.

[We would express our great indebtedness to Dr. de Pollitzer for his exhaustive and valuable article.—*Editor 'A.J.'*]

## THE ALPINE CLUB : 1920–1932.

BY T. GRAHAM BROWN.

(An article written for the *III<sup>e</sup> Congrès d'Alpinisme*, held at Chamonix, August, 1932.)

THE theme, the day, and the man were in happy conjunction when the late Arnold Mumm read his paper on the 'History of the Alpine Club' to the *Congrès d'Alpinisme* at Monaco in 1920. Few knew so intimately the early history of the club he loved, or the climbing achievements of its founders and later members. The time was propitious. For half a decade there had been a truce in climbing, while war held Europe ; and men, deprived of the mountains, had turned their thoughts during these barren years to the origins of mountain-climbing. If the mountains were left in quiet, the researches of Freshfield, Farrar, Montagnier and many others opened a new field of interest and gave us a mass of information for which we might almost forgive the cause. During that interval, it was possible to take stock of climbing history and to re-estimate values. Mumm did so and gave us a history of the Club and of its beginnings which covered the great period of Alpine Exploration. He is no longer here, but his knowledge is happily preserved in his 'Alpine Club Register'—a treasure of Alpine history.

Although few can have realized it at the time, the outbreak of war marked the end of an epoch in mountaineering. Until then, mountaineering was the pleasure and interest of a comparatively small number of men—small, that is, in comparison with the numbers who crowd the huts to-day. Convention was strong. There was a feeling that nearly everything which could be done in the Alps had already been accomplished; but this was no new idea, for Hudson and Kennedy had written, 'The knapsack of Alpine lore is closing,' in 1856! Along with this feeling of finality there was a rather widespread conventional attitude that some of the still unsolved problems were unjustifiable, and there was a certain blindness to possibilities.

The effect of the war was not only to increase the interest in mountaineering, but to weaken the bonds of convention and tradition. A generation of young climbers was lost, and when the yet younger post-war climber came to the mountains he had less contact with, and was less influenced by, the older traditions of climbing than would have been the case had there been more direct continuity. The war also lowered the value set on human life and gave a lesser respect for danger. Young eyes, less bound by tradition, saw much that was previously neglected; young minds questioned the validity of older techniques. The party of two, once 'certainly wrong,' as a climbing number, has become almost conventional; crampons, once looked at with misgiving, are used almost universally—and are sometimes misused; pitons, once considered to be 'bad form,' have extended their aid from rock to ice. The standard of climbing has risen greatly; and every year there are left still fewer unsolved problems in the Alps.

The victories which have left so little now to conquer have not been bloodless; but many of them, and many of the defeats, have been marked by a bravery for which much must be forgiven. It is doubtless a justifiable criticism that while the attempted (or conquered) routes have themselves been justifiable, and while some of those who have attacked them (to succeed or fail) have been strong enough for the attempt and sufficiently armed in technique, yet there has sometimes been an insobriety of judgment as to the states of the mountain and the weather on the day selected for the attack. What is unjustifiable, however, is criticism that a certain route is itself unjustifiable under any conditions—for it is possible that *any* route, however dangerous it seems to be, is a safe one (as far as objective danger is concerned) under *some* special conditions of weather and mountain. Two things must be allied in attempts upon the few unsolved problems of the Alps—sobriety of judgment and intoxication of courage ('daring,' if you will). To criticise any attempt for the absence of the one or the presence of the other would be to invite reference to Lincoln's words when told of Grant's intemperance—'find out his brand of whisky, and send a cask apiece to all the other generals.' So, too, in this case: sober judgment is useless if not allied

to adventurousness. But that the two—bravery and judgment—may be mated in their extreme forms was shown by the retreat of the Bavarian party in its 1931 attack upon Kangchenjunga. That decision to retreat was the greatest and bravest feat of modern mountaineering—a far finer thing than would have been the conquest of the mountain. In view of ill-advised pronouncements about the impossibilities of Kangchenjunga and of the ‘Bavarian’ ridge in particular (J. D. Forbes called such ‘the lazy dogmas of impossibility’), Freshfield’s belief in the practicability of the upper part of the Bavarian route is refreshing. That the veteran mountaineer, with his unparalleled authority and experience, sees with young eyes and speaks for the brave view, is a matter of pride to the Club.

I would like to turn for a moment from these greater themes to our own British rocks, which we mention so rarely that the foreigner is in danger of thinking that there is no climbing at all in our country. Their discovery and early exploration was due largely to members of the club—it is sufficient to mention the names of Slingsby, Solly, O. G. Jones, and Haskett-Smith in the ‘second generation.’ The earlier climbs in the English Lake District were chiefly made on rocks of a standard such as might be met upon a mountain in the Alps. The standard then rose until climbs were made up rocks as difficult as those to be found upon the harder Chamonix Aiguilles, rocks which represented, as it were, short portions of Grépon or Dru. There is no better illustration of this similarity than the fact that the question could be debated again and again—which is the harder, Kern Knotts Crack, or Mummery’s chimney on the Grépon? The secret is still well kept! Those who climbed these rocks before the war will remember that there were certain conventions, and that certain conventional climbs were repeated again and again; although there were such notable exceptions as the wonderful ascents by Herford and Sansom on the face of Scafell Cliff. After the war, in England as in the Alps, there was not only a great increase in the number of climbers, but older conventions became weak and were openly questioned. The discovery of the thin rubber shoe was soon followed by an entirely different, and higher, standard of rock-climbing, and the eyes of the post-war generation of climbers found new and difficult routes up old crags and discovered new crags which their forerunners had overlooked. It is safe to say that the new climbs—as instanced by the ‘Girdle traverses’ of Doe Crags and Pillar Rock, by the new routes on Gimmer Crag and Scafell and elsewhere in England, Scotland and Wales—have reached the limit of difficulty possible to overcome without the use of the piton. For one convention certainly remains in Great Britain—pitons are *not* allowed upon British rocks, and the fact that Norman Collie made an artificial rock step in Moss Ghyll forty years ago is still remembered as an historic instance of unconventionality! But this modern specialization and rise in standard (as well as other factors

to which reference will be made later) have tended to divorce the interest of many British rock-climbers from the Alps ; the British climbs have become an end in themselves, whereas to the pioneers they were stepping-stones to Alpine climbing. This, and the pressure of financial stringency, have kept many from the Alps who would otherwise have found that goal, and have tended to attract those British climbers who have gone abroad rather to the rocky peaks of Chamonix and Dauphiné than to the problems of ice and snow—the things, that is, which Farrar called the more intellectual side of mountaineering. But that this divorce is not a necessary one is shown by the fine discovery and ascent of the W. buttress of Clogwyn-d'ur-Arddu by Longland, and the achievements of the late S. B. van Noorden and many others—all of whom have done fine work on the greater snow mountains.

It is probable that as many British climbers visit the Alps to-day as did before the war, but their proportion in relation to the numbers of climbers of other nations has certainly declined. Even in face of the undoubted increase in the number of climbers at home, it is natural that this should be so. The long railway journey is a formidable expense. But there is another factor which has certainly tended to lessen the numbers of younger climbers who might otherwise have gone to the Alps. The younger generation has seen that the glamour of new exploration has almost passed from the Alps, and it has naturally turned to less hackneyed and more adventurous fields. From the Merton College Expedition to Spitsbergen in 1921 (when Odell made his explorations of its mountains), through the Cambridge Greenland Expeditions of 1923, 1926 and 1929 (when Petermann Peak fell to Wordie), to the fine Greenland expeditions, so brilliantly led by Watkins in 1931, the series of these and other arctic and sub-arctic expeditions have attracted groups of young British explorers who would formerly have found their natural outlet in the Alps.

If, however, we consider the Alps themselves, the activities of the Club—of the foreign members, whom we so greatly welcome in our ranks, and of our own countrymen—have been by no means of small account.

Turning to the Bernese Oberland, it is pleasant to recall Montandon's repetition of the ascent of Gspaltenhorn over the Rothe Zähne—one of G. W. Young's last climbs before the war ; and Farrar's belated first ascent of Ebnefluh by the N. arête with Miss Wills in 1924. In 1921 the 'Mittellegi' arête of the Eiger fell to Yuko Maki, a Japanese member of the Club ; and the S.W. arête of the Wetterhorn was climbed by his compatriot and fellow-member, Uramatsu, in 1928. In 1929 Blanchet captured Aletschhorn from the S.E. But the Oberland is Lauper's own hunting-ground, and his fourth ascent of Bietschhorn by the S. face with Richardet, his climb of the Ebnefluh-Mittaghorn arête with Hug, and the route which he and von Schumacher made on the N. face of Jungfrau, as

well as the Lauper-Liniger route on the N. face buttress of Mönch, will be remembered as long as is that great first ascent of the Fiescherwand in 1926 by Amstutz and von Schumacher. Finally, in 1929, Finzi solved one of the last problems of the Oberland when he ascended Wetterhorn by the N.W. face, after many occasions of careful study and exploration.

In Valais the post-war period is memorable for many fine ascents. Marcel Kurz made the first winter ascents of Ober Gabelhorn and Taeschhorn—the two remaining great summits which had not yet surrendered to winter assault. In 1921 R. W. Lloyd attained the Ober Schallijoch for the first time from the Zinal side. Finch, Peto, and Forster made a new route up the N. face of Dent d'Hérens in 1923—a model of careful planning. In the same year Oliver succeeded in attaining the most easterly summit of Breithorn direct from the Schwarzthor; and in the following year he crossed the rarely attempted Col du Lion. Blanchet was active in Valais, but it is impossible here to mention more than his ascents of Lyskamm (W. Summit) by the N.E. face in 1927, and Zinal Rothhorn by S.E. arête and E. face in 1928, and his descent of the Matterhorn by the Furggrat in 1929. In 1928 I. A. Richards and his wife solved one of the few remaining problems of the mountains of Valais when they made the first *ascent* of Dent Blanche by its difficult N. arête. To refer to lesser ascents, a cloud of superstition was lifted from the Klein-Triftje arête of Breithorn when it was ascended by members of the Club in 1930, while its first guideless ascent was made in the following year by Longland and P. Bicknell. Kehl's climbs speak for themselves.

The Bernina Group in the E. seems to have given up most of its secrets, but Zürcher and the writer found a direct way from the Tschierva Glacier to Piz Bernina itself in 1930, when they also ascended Piz Roseg by its rarely attempted N.E. face. Of the mountains of Dauphiné in the W. there is too little to record, but Harold Raeburn's *solitary* traverse of La Meije is a feat to be remembered, although perhaps not to be emulated; nor must the ascent of Pic sans Nom from the N. by de Ségogne, Dalloz and Lagarde be forgotten.

When climbing was resumed after the war, the ranges of Dauphiné and Mont Blanc perhaps contained more unsolved problems than any other region. Most of these have now been solved—although 'there is always the N. face of Grandes Jorasses' (or at least it is still there and unclimbed at the moment of writing). In 1919 Raymond Bicknell, Shadbolt and Porter reached Mont Dolent from the Argentière Glacier, and crossed the Col des Grandes Jorasses, the first guideless repetitions of two magnificent climbs. In the same year R. W. Lloyd made the first ascent of the French side of the Col de Bionnassay; and in 1926 (having in the interval made the rare passage of the Col *dit* Infranchissable) he returned and made the first ascent of Aiguille de Bionnassay by its splendid N. face.

The year 1919 was a fruitful one. Mallory and Porter, besides ascending the Grands Charmoz from the Glacier de Trélaporte, made a new and sound route to the Aiguille du Midi from the N. ; but that year will chiefly be memorable for the first ascent of Mont Blanc de Courmayeur by the Innominata arête, from the Col du Fresnay, by Courtauld and Oliver—who thus solved one of the most difficult and most often attempted of the classical problems. Two years later, in 1921, Courtauld, Finch and Oliver made what was only the second ascent by Eccles's original route up the same mountain. Oliver, who had previously crossed the rare Col du Mont Dolent, also traversed the yet more unusual Col du Tour Noir in 1926. In 1924 de Ségogne and others made the first complete ascent of the Aiguille du Plan by the N. face, and Ségogne's party also ascended the Aiguille Verte by the N.E. face ; while in 1925 they made the ascent of the same mountain by the Grands Montets ridge. Blanchet and Chaubert made the first ascents of two of the points of the Aiguilles du Diable in 1925 and 1926. The fine ascent of Mont Blanc de Courmayeur from Col Émile Rey up the Brouillard arête was repeated in 1925 by Wyn Harris and van Noorden after many years of neglect. In 1927 Ogier Ward made the first ascent of Aiguille de Leschaux from the French side, Bell and Smythe repeated Ryan's route up the Aiguille du Plan, and the latter and the present writer succeeded in making for the first time the direct 'Sentinelle' route to Mont Blanc from the Brenva Glacier. In the following year the same party made the first ascent of Mont Blanc de Courmayeur from the Brenva Glacier ; Rivetti conquered the Aiguille Noire de Péteret by its N.E. face, and the Calotte de Rochefort by its S. face, the *ascent* of the N.E. arête of the Grandes Jorasses having been accomplished in 1927. In 1931 Goodfellow and the writer gained Mont Mallet by the N.W. arête ; while Bonacossa in the years since the war has discovered new routes throughout the Alps.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Since the above was written and up to the end of the 1932 season, we find the following new ascents and routes accomplished by members of the Club: Borchers made, among other climbs, the first ascent of Huascarán, the highest mountain in the Peruvian Cordillera ; in Dauphiné, the W. face of the S. Aiguille d'Arves and the N. face of Le Sirac were effected by Longland, while Morin and his wife accomplished the ascent of Mt. Pelvoux by its difficult E. arête. In the Mont Blanc Group can be noted the crossing of Col Maudit and ascent of the E. face of Mont Brouillard by Graham Brown himself. Blanchet, in the Pennines, discovered a most difficult access to the Zinal-Rothhorn from the east. Finally, in the Bernese Oberland, we come to Lauper's and Zürcher's magnificent ascent of the N. face of the Eiger, the last problem of any importance in that district.—*Editor*.

Such a long list of successful ascents shows that members of the Alpine Club have not forgotten the Alps, but we must look to more distant and less explored fields for their more important activities.

The main exploration of the New Zealand Alps was completed before the war, but the post-war period has been remarkable for many fine ascents. In 1921 H. C. Chambers reached La Pérouse for the first time from the Hooker Glacier, and for the second time in all. The year 1925 saw the first of Harold Porter's expeditions. In that year he repeated FitzGerald's original route up Mt. Sefton, for the second time only ; in 1927 he and Marcel Kurz made the first traverse of Mt. Tasman (descending its N. arête for the first time), and also the fourth, and by far the quickest, traverse of Mt. Cook ; in 1929 Porter ascended Mt. Teichelmann (the last unclimbed 10,000-ft. point on the main watershed) for the first time ; and at the end of the same year (but in the next climbing season) he made the first ascent of Glacier Peak from the E. side. In 1921 Minchinton visited and described the hills of Tasmania.

In contrast to New Zealand, the mountains of Canada and Alaska offered a wide field for exploration during the post-war period ; and our transatlantic members seized the opportunity to such good purpose that in 1924 alone there were more than thirty first ascents. In such a rich harvest it is impossible to do more than glance at some of the achievements. V. A. Fynn's campaigns of 1918, 1919 and 1922, chiefly in the Lake Louise district, yielded the ascents of Mt. King George and Assiniboine, the first traverse of Glacier Peak, and several fine new routes. In 1922 Howard Palmer and Thorington attacked the rarely visited Freshfield Group, where they conquered Mt. Barnard, the highest in the group, and made at least four other first ascents. In the following year Ladd and Thorington paid a successful visit to the Columbian Icefield in the little-known Thompson Pass area. There they had the fortune to make the first ascent of the North Twin—the highest mountain entirely in Alberta, and the third in height of the Canadian Rocky Mountains. They also made the first ascent of Mt. Saskatchewan, and the first traverse of Mt. Castleguard. Their second ascent of Mt. Columbia was memorable for the fine panorama of the summit view made by Thorington and reproduced in the *ALPINE JOURNAL*. In that same year Hickson conquered Mts. Rhondda and Hector in the Lake Louise district, de Villiers-Schwab made the first ascent of Mt. Clemenceau in the Northern Rockies, and Howard Palmer and the late Allen Carpe ascended Mts. Henry MacLeod, Brazeau and Unwin, in the Maligne Lake area.

The year 1924 was an active one in Canada. The visit of Fynn and Wates to the Rampart Group was remarkable for the first ascents of Mts. Barbican and Geikie—the latter being one of the most difficult. Thorington's visit to the Athabasca Pass and Whirlpool areas not only secured the first ascents of Mt. Hooker (after three attempts), Mt. Kane and Mt. Oates, but it gave rise to a most

valuable historical and topographical monograph which appeared in the JOURNAL. In the Cariboos, Allen Carpe made eight first ascents, and Hickson and Howard Palmer climbed Mt. King Edward in the region of the Athabasca head-waters. The following year, 1925, saw the invasion of Canada by Yuko Maki, a Japanese member of the Club. He and his party were successful in the first ascents of Mts. Alberta and Woolley. In the same year Fynn made the first ascent of Hungabee by the N. arête; Thorington captured Simon Peak in the Tonquin Valley district and made the first ascent of the N. arête of Mt. Resplendent. In 1926 Hickson and Howard Palmer visited the Northern Rockies, when Mt. Fryatt, Lapensée, Throne Mountain and Castle Mountain fell to them (the latter to Hickson alone). Thorington attacked the Forbes-Lyell Group in the same year, and with such success that he made the first ascent of Mt. Forbes from the N., and ascended Peaks 1, 3 and 5 of Mt. Lyell for the first time. The two latter summits were ascended in the same expedition—the first occasion upon which two major Canadian summits have fallen to the same climber on one and the same day. In 1927 Mt. Welcome and Mt. Kiwi fell to the late Allen Carpe in the Cariboos. Thorington and his companions, in 1928, conquered four new peaks in the Whirlpool Group, and five new peaks in the Purcell Range. The year 1929 was memorable for the first ascent of Mt. Amery by its godfather—the only occasion upon which a mountain has been ascended for the first time by the man for which it had *previously* been named. In 1930 O. E. Cromwell and Thorington again attacked in the Freshfield Group and elsewhere, and secured eight peaks—including Mts. Ayesha, Skene and Conway—as well as the first ascent of Mt. Forbes by the N. arête; and the same party climbed Mt. Findlay and five other summits in the Purcell Range. In the same year C. G. Crawford and N. E. Odell had a successful campaign in the Maligne Lake Group and the Selkirks, conquering four new summits, and making four new routes—amongst them, Mt. Sir Donald from the E.

Splendid as is that record, it must yield place to the achievements of arctic mountaineering in the North American continent. In 1925 MacCarthy and his companions conquered Mt. Logan in an expedition notable not only for determination in the face of difficulties, but for the excellence of its careful planning and execution—an expedition which is amongst the greatest and most dangerous ever undertaken. J. M. Wordie and his band of young explorers, after a preliminary examination during the Greenland expedition of 1926, conquered Petermann Peak in 1929 under difficult conditions of weather. In 1930 Alaska was visited by Allen Carpe, when Mt. Bona fell; and the same lamented explorer, after Ladd and Taylor had most chivalrously retired to leave sufficient food for their companions, conquered Mt. Fairweather there in 1931 after two months of endeavour. These two expeditions were neither so long nor so dangerous as was the ascent of Mt. Logan, but the

technical difficulties of the mountains were greater, and these magnificent ascents will be a worthy memorial to a great mountaineer.

It is a far cry from these cold northern mountains to the summits of tropical Africa, but there too the Club has been active. A reconnaissance of Ruwenzori by H. B. Thomas was followed by two determined attacks in 1926 by G. N. Humphreys. During the first of these he made the first ascent of a slightly higher point to the N. of Point Vittorio Emanuele, to which he traversed; he also crossed the Roccati and Cavalli passes for the first time, and travelled for eight days through previously unexplored country on the N.W. flanks of the range. At his second visit Humphreys ascended the two highest points of Ruwenzori for the second time and made first ascents of Points Trident and Johnston. The third ascents of the highest points fell to Shipton and Tilman early in 1932, when they also conquered King Edward Peak and traversed Mt. Baker. The Mount Kenya Range also had to suffer from three determined attacks by Shipton and his companions. Early in 1929 Wyn Harris and Shipton made the first ascent of Nelion, and the second of Batian—the highest point of the group. At the end of the same year Shipton and Russell made the first ascent of Point John. In 1930, before again visiting that group, Shipton and Tilman made two new ascents in the Kilimanjaro range. They then paid their most successful visit to Mt. Kenya, making the first ascents of Dutton Peak, Point Peter, Point Piggott and the difficult Midget Peak. Their ascent of Batian, the highest point of Mt. Kenya, for the first time by the W. arête, and its subsequent traverse was a climb that will live in Alpine history. This long and very difficult traverse was made without even the moral support of the presence of companions or porters at their camp, while the route traversed a ridge of exceptional severity at an altitude of more than 16,000 ft. When Shipton made the first ascent of Kamet with Smythe he reached the highest summit *known* to have been reached by man—a mere 'record'; his ascent of Batian was great mountaineering.

I must only glance at the visits of Travers-Jackson, Kingdon and Williamson in the Drakensberg and other mountains of South Africa; of Odell to Spitsbergen and to Northern Labrador; of Elmslie and Sleeman to Olympus; of Archer to Korea; of Vallepiana to the Caucasus; of Rickmers and Borchers to the mountains of Turkistan; of Sleeman to Albania—for the Himalayas have seen some of the Club's greatest activities. But the mere mention of these lesser ranges is sufficient to show how wide is the Club's interest.

The Himalayas have captured public fancy since the war, and the newspaper publicity and popular interest in the large and elaborate expeditions which have visited them are reminiscent of the great days of arctic and antarctic exploration. But side by side with the more advertised attacks there have been a number of valuable and scarcely known expeditions in the older tradition. In 1920 Kellas

and Morshead attempted Kamet, and, had not trouble with their bearers frustrated their attack when within sight of victory, they would undoubtedly have walked quietly to the top. During 1920 Kangchenjunga received attention from Harold Raeburn in two different expeditions, and the results of his explorations were of a value which it is difficult to overestimate. In his first expedition Raeburn investigated the S.E. side of the mountain and made the first adequate exploration of the Talung Glacier. His second visit, with Crawford later in the year, was devoted to the S.W. side and the Yalung Glacier; and these two explorers also made the passage of the Rathong La. The Vissers explored the Sasir group of the Karakoram Mountains in 1922, and again visited the Karakoram in 1925, on each occasion making valuable contributions to the topographical knowledge of almost unknown regions. In 1925 Carfrae, Ruttledge and R. C. Wilson explored the Kumaun Himalayas; and the two latter, with Somervell, again visited that district in 1926. After Somervell had to leave, Ruttledge and Wilson traversed the rare Ralam and Trail's Passes, the latter of which had not been crossed for 64 years. In 1926 came Mason's exploration of the Shaksgam; the Duke of Spoleto's great expeditions to the Karakoram took place in 1929 and 1930; and the last of Schomberg's series of valuable explorations in the Himalayas and the Tien Shan district was made in 1931.

During the period under review the Himalayan Club has come into existence, and its members have accomplished many notable ascents and much useful exploration. To the details of these it is not possible here to give the attention which they merit, but mention must be made of the capture of Lhonak Peak by Eversden and Gourlay with careful planning, but without elaborate assistance. This, one of the latest feats of the young Club, is remarkable as showing what can be done in the older manner of mountaineering, and without great expense or publicity.

It is naturally to the greater expeditions—and especially the three Everest attacks—that interest has been chiefly directed. But before we speak of Everest, mention must be made of Dyhrenfurth's expedition to the N.W. side of Kangchenjunga, and subsequent circuit of the mountain, in 1930—when he, Kurz, Smythe and others made the second ascent of the Jonsong Peak a few days after its conquest by Hoerlin and Schneider. In 1931 Kamet was ascended by Holdsworth, Shipton and Smythe, an ascent repeated by other members of the party on the following day, and several other smaller peaks and passes also fell to members of the expedition. Shipton's feat in making new ascents (some of them very difficult, and one of them exceptionally severe) of Kilimanjaro, Mt. Kenya and Ruwenzori in equatorial Africa, and of Kamet and *nine* other peaks in the Himalayas with various companions, all within the space of little more than 18 months, will surely live in Alpine history.

The Alpine Club had an even more intimate interest in the three

Everest expeditions of 1921, 1922 and 1924, which it conducted in partnership with the Royal Geographical Society, and for which it provided practically *all* the climbing members. These expeditions will be remembered for the hardship and difficulties encountered in attacking the great mountain from so far a base, for the many fine feats of endurance and determination on the mountain itself, for the attainment of the highest elevation which man has yet reached upon the mountains of the world (or can reach until Everest is conquered with certainty), and, above all, for the final tragedy and the unanswered question, Did Mallory and Irvine reach the summit? There are many who think that they must have done so, and that the highest mountain-summit of the earth has already fallen to man's effort; but there is no certainty, and the question must remain unanswered for the present—perhaps for ever. When, however, a fourth expedition becomes possible, the feats of the younger members of the Club in Greenland, Alaska, Africa and the Himalayas themselves show that we have climbers who will reach the summit unless the weather forbids them.

While this necessarily meagre and restricted list of achievements is sufficient to prove that the Alpine Club is as vigorous, as catholic in its tastes, and as world-wide in its interests, as at any previous time in its history, it must not be thought that the Club has forgotten its cradle—the Alps. Reference has already been made to the awakening of interest in the history of early climbing which occurred during the war. Farrar and his colleagues then made an heroic effort to maintain the ALPINE JOURNAL—not only to keep interest in mountaineering alive, but to bring a little happiness and relief into the lives of members who were serving at the front. He was successful in maintaining the JOURNAL, and in making its war volumes amongst the most interesting of the whole series. This interest in the history of the Alps did not die down when the war ended, but has been maintained since although naturally with less intensity. Amongst the many papers of historical interest published mention may be made of Montagnier's—his early history of the Col du Géant is an example; and Stevens's attempted reconstruction of Dr. Paccard's 'Lost Narrative' of the first ascent of Mont Blanc is a piece of careful scholarship almost without parallel in the whole range of mountaineering literature and, at long last, *gives the credit of the ascent to him to whom it is due*. Such masterpieces (and these are but instances of many) are usually the product of domestic tranquility—and the domestic history of the Club since the war has been a tranquil one.

If the Alps were the cradle of the Club, they must also continue to be the mountaineering cradle of each generation of climbers, while to many members they must of necessity continue to provide the only attainable snow mountains. This being the case, there is a possible danger to British mountaineering in the great publicity which is now given to more distant explorations, even where the

technical difficulties of the mountains are slight, although their elevations above sea-level may be great. The fact that few *new* ascents remain to be done in the Alps may in itself diminish their attraction as a field of adventure to younger men ; and, knowing that the more distant (and better advertised) ranges, and what they may quite wrongly think to be the only satisfaction of their proper ambition, are alike denied to them, the younger men may despair from taking to the greater mountaineering at all.

There is danger in the common catch-word that 'the Alps are played out.' This is not the case—and such defeatism was combated before the present writer was born. The truth is that each new season makes of the Alps a new and unexplored mountain range. Winter has wiped the slate clean ; each peak is a new adventure. Much of the feeling that the freshness of a route has departed because someone (perhaps many people) has been up it before is purely subjective and unnecessary. It is fostered by the modern guide-book, with its elaborate detail ; but a little reflection shows it to be false. Many a new route has been made by mistake, whilst the party thought that it was ascending an old one : was there less adventure because the novelty was not realized at the time ? Many an old route has been reascended in the thought that it was new : was there less adventure because some previous party had happened to go up that way before ? What is more or less denied to the present generation of climbers is the publicity of mention in the guide-books ; but if these and the high Alpine huts were to be burnt, climbing to-day would differ little from climbing sixty years ago, for the mountains and their problems remain the same. The absurdity of this feeling that repetition of ascents by the many has lessened the individual adventure of each ascent is shown further by the fact that every true lover of the hills can turn to the books of Whymper and Moore again and again. Few of their routes are of high modern standard, some of them are repeated on almost every day of a normal season ; but even repeated reading of the old adventure does not lessen the freshness of the story—why then should repeated ascents of a mountain lessen the freshness of a climb ?

All this has been said again and again, and that it is referred to here is because it has a bearing upon the *future* history of the Club, and because this present period of its history contains some disquieting factors. If the Club itself is to flourish, and thereby to nourish and send out young mountaineers to the greater ranges, the Alps *must* continue to be its cradle in the future as in the past. Anything which diminishes the first attraction of the Alps and makes the great Alpine faces and ridges seem to be of a second-rate standard of difficulty (false though such seeming is), may make young British climbers refrain even from trying the only available snow mountains, and will make them turn to our own rock-climbing as a sufficient end in itself—for there is nothing second-rate about

the standard of rock-climbing at home, which certainly represents the present limit of difficulty in that special form of our sport. Such factors, in the long run, may reduce the number of recruits to our ranks and lessen the part to be played by British mountaineering in the now unexplored ranges of the world. That such a loss would be disastrous is shown by the very excellence of the record of the Club's achievements since the war. But there is little need for pessimism if we can kill the idea that 'the Alps are played out.' The young climber—the possible recruit—need only be convinced that what modern British rock scrambles are to any possible rock climbs, so are modern Alpine ridges and faces to any possible mountaineering routes. The Alps present a multitude of problems, where the highest possible (and still surmountable) difficulties of ice, rock and snow are encountered. They present a great field of adventure, a sufficient end in itself, or a training-ground for yet greater mountains, as the case may be. And they will always do so. As long as this is *realized* by successive generations of young British climbers, all is bound to be well.

Such, then, is the brief story of the Alpine Club since Mumm reviewed it at the close of the War. If this paper be but a post-script to that masterly account, the accomplishments with which it deals may claim to be as excellent as any in our long history. The JOURNAL, under the editorships of Yeld, Farrar and Strutt, has more than maintained its great tradition. Sydney Spencer's self-effacing and invaluable work has continued that of a series of distinguished Hon. Secretaries. The Club itself, under the leadership of great Presidents—Farrar, Collie, C. G. Bruce, Morse, Claude Wilson and Withers—has more than kept up its standard of mountaineering achievements, and looks forward to a yet greater future.

'In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength.'

#### EXHIBITION OF PICTURES AT THE ALPINE CLUB, 1932.

ON the whole, the Exhibition of Pictures held at the Alpine Club Gallery in December last was a successful one and compared favourably with those of recent years.

Unfortunately the space allowed for a review in the JOURNAL is necessarily limited, and does not permit of any such detailed notice as so much of the work deserved.

Many thoroughly typical and beautiful pictures can only be alluded to briefly, and many have to be omitted altogether.

In spite of the variety of styles, one characteristic marked the collection as a whole, and that was the maintenance of a distinctive individuality by the various artists. Most of them, too, in the words of a former reviewer, 'had something to say and better still not a few succeeded in saying it.'