

ALPINE NOTES.

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :	Date of Election
Methuen, Field-Marshal Lord (Hon. Member 1927) .	1870
Thompson, C. M.	1899
Clark, W. Inglis	1899
Douglas, W.	1899
Jenkins, H. C.	1930

THE CLOSING OF THE ITALIAN ALPS.—So far as we are aware, no change has occurred in the present deplorable conditions, but modifications *may* be announced later. Perhaps the Alpine Congress to be held at Cortina in September may be able to obtain some amelioration.

MT. EVEREST, 1933.—Mr. N. E. Odell has been obliged to cancel his intention of taking part in the expedition, leaving Mr. Crawford the sole representative of earlier attempts. Messrs. L. R. Wager and T. A. Brocklebank, both experienced mountaineers, have accepted the invitation of the Committee. The party now consists of 14 British members.

Progress of the party, as reported in Mr. Ruttledge's dispatches, will appear in the *Daily Telegraph*. The expedition is proceeding *via* Kalimpong—Jelep La—Chumbi valley—Phari—Kampa-dzong—Shekar-dzong—Pang La—Chödzung—Rongbuk Monastery. The leader hopes to be in position at the Rongbuk Base Camp by April 20.

ALPINE CLUB.—Honorary Membership has been conferred on M. Maurice Paillon, by reason of his long and distinguished services in the interests of mountaineering.

MATTERHORN, E. face.¹—In 'R.M.' lii, pp. 11–21, will be found a fully illustrated account of the ascent of this face. The line taken was virtually straight up the centre of the glacis to the final step. Hereabouts it inclined slightly to the left, then, by a kind of snow-covered ledge (see illustration 'A.J.' 42, facing 26), proceeded diagonally to the right, N., in close proximity to the ordinary, N.E. arête, route. A further diagonal movement to the left, S., then permitted a final direct assault.

Compared with the recent ascents of the N. or even the S. faces of the mountain, the expedition is devoid of interest and, with the exception of the last 600 ft., probably the easiest (while unquestionably the most dangerous) line yet discovered. The conquest of the

¹ *A.J.* 44, 342–3.

last precipitous step is an example of that complete and objectionable mechanization so common in the Eastern, but from which the Western Alps have been hitherto comparatively free. But a 'Wilder Kaiser' or 'Gesäuse' party would have accomplished the scramble in half the time!

Historically, the expedition is of value solely owing to the fact that three of its members took part in the first conquest of the S. face,² as also in a variation *ascent* of the Furggen ridge.³

AN INTERESTING EXTRACT.—In 'The Life of Joseph Chamberlain,' vol. i, 1836–1885, by J. L. Garvin, pp. 73 *et seq.*, we find:

'The very first letter of Chamberlain's own that we have is written to his mother from Switzerland in August 1857, a few weeks after his twenty-first birthday. At that time the craze for mountaineering was as romantic amongst young men in Birmingham⁴ as elsewhere. Of scenes so familiar now to every imagination, yet always as fresh to first sight as though no one had known them before, Joe writes from near Chamonix with full enthusiasm expressed in short strokes: "Here we are on our route to the Jardin and after six days, averaging nine hours walking in each, exclusive of all halts, in first rate spirits and not the least tired. . . . I have lived, *i.e.* I have actually crossed three glaciers."

'He goes on to say that from the top of the Col St. Théodule he has had his first great view of the Alps; and everyone knows what that means: "Far as the eye could stretch from the ground at one's feet to the horizon—one vast expanse of snow-covered mountains—some of the loftiest in Europe—snow-fields and glaciers. There is the great Matterhorn, the most extraordinary mountain in the world, rising like a pyramid, solitary and towering, over an immense snow-covered glacier—here, the grand Breithorn magnificent in form and dimensions, round-crested and enormous—part of the Monte Rosa chain, vividly white in the distance—the Lyskamm—the two mountains some 11,000 to 12,000 feet [14,000–15,000 ft.] high, Castor and Pollux—the three Queens, sister peaks, literally dripping with glaciers—the mountains of Italy. . . ."

'Twice after this he returns to Switzerland for his summer holidays. The next time he takes, with elated vigour, a fine round demanding hard going and endurance; he does nothing by halves. He sees the Lake of Lucerne, walks from Flüelen to Andermatt, thence over the St. Gotthard into Italy; from Domo d'Ossola he turns towards Macugnaga at the foot of Monte Rosa; zigzags backwards across the frontier to the Weisshorn. After brushing acquaintance with the Gorner Glacier, he swings on again from Zermatt by the Théodule Pass to Aosta. This not being enough for

² *A.J.* 44, 75–8.

³ *Ibid.* 43, 58–63.

⁴ Largely through the influence of Mr. Chamberlain's friends, the Mathews.

him, he proceeds to crowd into this holiday nearly as much more. Marching back towards Mont Blanc, he crosses from Courmayeur over the Col du Géant to Chamonix. Swinging round again into the heart of the Alps, he strikes over the Col de Balme down to the Rhône Valley, and then to Kandersteg and Grindelwald, finishing in brave style by climbing the Wetterhorn.

'To our peril in life do we seek to repeat great joys in the same places. His third and last Alpine effort was by no means an equal success. It was in the summer of 1860, a wretched season of rain and cold. After many disappointing days he obstinately climbed the Breithorn in bad weather, feeling very unlike himself; "Presently I got rather knocked up. I was perfectly sensible and laughed with the guides; only absolutely done up. I never felt before that feeling, sometimes described by travellers in the mountains, of utter listlessness and indifference as to the future, with only the one constant yearning for rest and sleep. Of course, they would not let me sleep, but somehow or other they dragged me to the top. We saw nothing." (Letter to his mother, August 2, 1860.)

'With difficulty they got him down again from the summit of the Breithorn to the Riffelhaus. His bitten face swelled, his lips were hideously distorted; next the skin began to come off "like paper," as he remarked, and he was miserable for a week until rapid healing began. Then he started to tramp again harder than ever, in spite of infamous weather, and had some great views. We can pass over the details of this itinerary. One touch is like him. "Soon we got out of the storm and then commenced gliding down the snow like fun . . . a particularly agreeable way of locomotion—fast, humorous and yet comfortable."'

Mr. Chamberlain was a member of the Alpine Club from 1858 to 1861.

AN ACCIDENT IN THE JULIAN ALPS.—On July 12, 1932, Dr. Fran Jesenko, Professor of Botany at Ljubljana University, started from Ljubljana *via* Bohinj to join his botanical class at a hut in Seven Lakes Valley (Dolina Zajezeram) in the Triglav range, where, with the assistance of some of his students, he was at work upon the task of converting part of the valley into a natural Alpine garden on a very large scale. This was in connection with the scheme to set aside this stretch of the Triglav range as a National Park—a scheme he had greatly at heart. While on his way up the Komarča rocks, he left the path, apparently to look more closely at an uncommon plant on the rocks, never troubling to slip off an exceptionally heavy pack before venturing on the treacherous slope of rotten rock and clay. There he must have lost his balance, falling so unfortunately that his head was forced back deep into the mossy ground below by the weight of his pack and his spine broken. In this plight he was eventually discovered by Croat tourists and conveyed to Ljubljana Hospital, where he lingered on for two days, fully conscious, but injured beyond hope of recovery. He died on July 14. Fran Jesenko (1875–1932)

was a botanist of international standing, and a great authority on the rich and interesting flora of the Yugoslav Alps. He was a great lover of the mountains, with an intimate knowledge of his native Alps, although for many years past he had no time for mountaineering except incidentally to botanical research. He was also a keen winter sportsman and one of the pioneers of ski-running in Jugoslavia. On his scientific travels he had learned many languages—fifteen, I have been told; for myself, I know that he spoke both English and Swedish well. By his death Yugoslav science has sustained a great loss. What Ljubljana University and the Institute of Botany have lost in him it would be difficult to over-estimate. Although a typical naturalist, quiet, reserved and shy, a man who came forward only in the cause of his work, Fran Jesenko had very many friends at home and abroad, by whom he is sincerely mourned.

F. S. COPELAND.

GIFTS TO A.C.—The Club has received from the executors of the late Mr. C. M. Thompson two valuable water-colours by E. T. Compton: 'Jöchli near Engelberg' and 'Oberstein, Susten Pass'; also an excellent oil-painting by G. Thompson, 'Storm coming on: Murgthal, Walensee.' Sir John Withers has presented 'Schönheiten der Alpenstrassen,' three volumes. Following an ancient ritual, Lord Conway has presented his original ice axe to be added to the collection of Presidents' axes. We understand, judging from the venerable appearance of the said weapon, that Lord Conway is intending to purchase a modern 'Willisch' or 'Bhend' model. For all these gifts the Club expresses its warm thanks.

The Club has also received from Dr. Claude Wilson a most delightful and unique present in the form of Dr. Wilson's book on *Mountaineering*,⁵ with the pages mounted on separate large sheets (size 13 × 10 ins.), with the original drawings of the illustrations by the late Mr. Ellis Carr, in addition to many of the latter's drawings which were not included in the text of this work. The volume is superbly bound in whole morocco. Truly, a princely gift.

S. S.

THE ACCIDENT ON THE PETIT DRU.⁶—'Here again a case of too much competition: the two German victims were at the Leschaux hut with an Austrian and an Italian party, all intending to try the N. face of the Grandes Jorasses. The weather was bad. The German and Austrian parties heard the Italians whisper something about the Dru and thereupon decided to start for the N. face of that peak on the first fine morning. The Austrians agreed to accompany the Germans, but on a separate rope—they had seen Toni Schmid fall on the Wiesbachhorn.⁷'—*Communicated.*

⁵ 'All England Series.' London: George Bell. 1893.

⁶ *A.J.* 44, 336.

⁷ *Ibid.* 330 (footnote 2), 348–9.

THE SISSONE-TORRONE-RASICA TRAVERSE.—The expedition referred to in 'A.J.' 44, 330-1, was accomplished, on July 30, 1932, by Dr. J. A. Fruin, of Rotterdam, with one of the Imseng family of Saas Fee. Leaving the Forno hut at 01.00, Monte Sissone at 05.00, the party passed over the Eastern, Central and Western Pizzi Torrone to the Colle Rasica. Then, from the notch W. of the latter pass, they accomplished a variation of the usual watershed route by descending a couloir on the N. slope by means of two *rappels*, and then traversed the N. face of Punta Rasica. This traverse was risky, as the rocks were rotten and there was much snow. From the summit of Punta Rasica, back to the pass, then down to the surface of the Forno Glacier. Hut at 21.30.

On *August 13* the same party, leaving the (Pennines) Marinelli hut at 01.00, passed the séracs at 05.00, attained the Silbersattel at 07.00, the Nordend of MONTE ROSA at 07.30, whence, *via* the Dufourspitze, Zermatt was reached eventually.—*Communication* from Mr. DE BRÜYN.

This must be the first time for many years that the Macugnaga slope of the Silbersattel has been traversed. In 1911 the Marinelli couloir was descended by Dr. Otto Stein with Heinrich and Alfred Burgener ('A.J.' 26, 349, 374-6), and this 'indiscreet expedition' was repeated later in 1932 ('R.M.' lii, pp. 34-6, illustrated).

'Last summer (August 9), Franz Biner and I repeated Graham Brown's route up PIZ BERNINA by the direct W. face. The snow part of the climb, though steep, gave no difficulty: bergschrund simple; two tiers of séracs easily crossed. But the rocks at the top, which are steep, slabby and loose, were covered largely with snow or ice and caused us considerable trouble. They were much the hardest part of the climb—which is a magnificent one. 6 hrs. 50 min. from the hut. Descent by *Bianco* ridge.' ('A.J.' 44, 332, footnote 5.)

R. L. M. UNDERHILL.

AMNI MANCHIN RANGE.—We have had practically no word from Terris Moore that gives anything more definite than the early dispatches to the newspapers. The mountain they climbed is very likely MINYA KONKA,⁸ and it is the mountain pictured in the *National Geographic Magazine* for October 1930. We know that the party did their own back-packing, that they established camps up as high as 20,000 ft., and that Moore and Burdsall attained the summit. Emmons was prevented by a cut hand. I received word recently that Emmons also froze his feet so badly that he has lost all his toes and half of one foot. I have also heard, second hand, that Burdsall lost some fingers. Moore, having had more experience in very cold weather on high mountains, probably did not lace his

⁸ According to newspaper reports, the height of the mountain is said to exceed 24,000 ft. See also p. 153.

shoes so tightly, and was more careful about his hands. We ought to have more specific data any day.

The American Alpine Club has suffered three serious losses in the last two years for which there would seem to be no excuse. Waffle on Robson, Carpe on McKinley,⁹ and Rand Herron on the second pyramid.¹⁰ Exactly what happened is not known in any case. I believe each fatality could have been avoided if greater care had been taken.

W. S. LADD.

AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB.—By the death of Mr. H. G. Bryant the A.A.C. has lost one of its most distinguished early members. Born on November 7, 1859, Mr. Bryant was essentially an explorer and geographer, but he accomplished three good seasons in the Alps, as well as much excellent work in the Canadian Rockies. His list of expeditions ranges from Spitsbergen to Popocatepetl, Mauna Loa, Mt. St. Elias (an attempt), and the Californian Sierra Nevada. He was second in command of the 1894 Peary Relief Expedition and had explored in Alaska and Labrador. Mr. Bryant was prominent in the founding of the A.A.C. and was its first Secretary (1902–1911), Vice-President (1911–1914), and President (1914–1917). His death, which occurred on December 7, 1932, is much regretted and we express to the A.A.C. the sympathy of the Alpine Club.

AIGUILLE VERTE MASSIF.—The N. or Argentière slope was ascended on July 22, 1932, by M. Paul Dillemann with Armand Charlet and Jules Simond, the main ridge being attained at the notch¹¹ between the A. du Jardin and the Grande Rocheuse. On July 27 Dr. Karl Blodig, *alone* and quite ignorant of the previous ascent, leaving Argentière at 00.00, attained the notch at 15.00, the Grande Rocheuse at 17.55, whence he descended to the notch, regained at 19.30. On the following day, leaving the notch at 05.30, Dr. Blodig attained the A. du Jardin at 07.10, descended to the notch (07.55–08.15), whence he descended the Argentière slope, regaining Lognan at 18.00 hrs., No pitons were used in the ascent and but 3 in the descent. Conditions absolutely perfect; no stone or ice falls.—From *La Montagne*.

The feat of the veteran mountaineer (in his sixty-ninth year,¹² we believe) is one of the most remarkable related in these pages. It is the first time the tremendous N.E. face of the Aiguille Verte massif has been *descended*¹³ at any spot.

⁹ *A.J.* 42, 367; 44, 357–60; 45, 92–3; 162.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* 44, 193, footnote 2.

¹¹ This notch has been christened absurdly *Col Armand Charlet*, cf. *Vallot*, ii.

¹² Cf. *A.J.* 26, 252.

¹³ Captain Farrar's and Mr. Odell's parties in 1898 and 1920, respectively, were forced to retreat from about halfway up, the attempts having been made by way of the great rib S.E. of the main N.E. couloir. *A.J.* 33, 382–6.

THE ACCIDENT ON MT. MCKINLEY.—When Lindley met Beckwith at our Informal Dinner of December 6 they were able to establish that Carpe was *not* using ski, although Koven was. Merl LaVoy recovered Carpe's camera—a few of these pictures were shown at the Annual Dinner of January 21—and from the packs, etc., that he found in the tent it would appear that Carpe and Koven on their fatal march intended to proceed only to the top of the upper crevassed slope (it is hardly an icefall), in order to see if the other members of their party were approaching from the base camp. You will note that we now consider it certain that they were together.

On the day following the Annual Dinner, Beckwith, Spadavecchia and Palmer were at my house, and we held a long discussion as to how the ice axe—presumably Carpe's—came to be sticking in the snow by the sunk-in edge of the crevasse, with a pair of crampons slung over it. Our surmise—and it seems a logical one—is that Carpe halted an instant, drove his axe into the snow, and slung his crampons, which he had been carrying, over it, while he fell out for a moment. At this instant he broke through without warning. Koven being some yards on ahead on ski returned, side-stepping along the crevasse and broke through also.

In the photograph of Mt. McKinley in 'A.J.' 44, 358, the designations of the N. and S. summits are *reversed*.

H. B. DE VILLIERS-SCHWAB.

THE ACCIDENT NEAR PANJTARNI, KASHMIR.—Since the last number of 'A.J.' went to press further information has been received.

It is now clear that the shikari and tiffin coolie never completed the easy ascent to the ridge running W. from Pt. 17,243 ft. Stoehr and Burn had had no food since 05.00, but the former habitually carried a slab of chocolate. When deciding to go down the N. face they probably considered this would suffice for the short descent to the new camp. They must have started down about 10.00. Every day for the past few days there had been some rain, and clouds at midday. However, an exceptionally severe storm broke shortly before noon and lasted until about 14.00.

The accident occurred about 14.40. It was originally thought that the snow avalanched under their feet. But the avalanche started only 500 ft. from the top of the ridge and it is hard to account for such little progress since 10.00. If the technical difficulties of descent were so great they must surely have retraced their steps and gone round by the path, for they were NOT temperamentally fool-hardy. Such a course would also have been indicated if, as has been suggested, an accident had already occurred to Stoehr's foot, for one boot of his was found by itself afterwards; this, however, is hardly evidence of such a mishap.¹⁴ On the other hand, it is possible that

¹⁴ Cf. the relics in the Zermatt museum.



C. F. STOEHR.
1886-1932.



PEAK 17,243 FT., KASHMIR.

* slip occurred; ° bodies found.

the avalanche swept down on to them from above. The exact locality of the climbers when the avalanche occurred must remain a matter of conjecture.

E. G.

(The accompanying photograph shows Pt. 17,243 ft. on the left, with its west ridge running to the right. The point where the avalanche started and the place where the bodies were found are marked.)

AIGUILLE VERTE, N.E. Face.—With reference to the (involuntary) 'descent' of this face, referred to in 'A.J.' 44, 331, 337, we are informed that the '700 m. fall' did not exceed some 15–20 metres! Referring to this 'accident,' a well-known mountaineer and valued correspondent writes: 'Two days after this lucky escape I met a heavily-bandaged man, features indistinguishable, in a boot shop in Chamonix, searching for an extra large shoe for his swollen left foot. Pity filled my heart as I had met the two boys at the Torino before their departure for a successful ascent of the Brenva route, and I exclaimed, "You have been in that avalanche on the Verte." The only reply I received was: "Non, pas si bête, c'était un accident d'auto."'

LE RÂTEAU, N. Face.—Concerning a statement of an alleged ascent of the 'Central Peak' by a solitary individual,¹⁵ *La Montagne* (*loc. cit.* 1932, p. 428) announces that this person merely attained the E. tooth of the mountain by its N. slope. 'The N. face of the Central Peak still offers one of the few but tremendous problems existing in Dauphiné . . . competitors for its conquest can study this terrific climb without fear of having been preceded.'

CONGRATULATORY.—The wedding of Mr. R. L. M. Underhill and Miss Miriam E. O'Brien took place on January 27, 1933.

Messrs. A. O. Prickard (elected 1866), C. A. Heurtley (1868), and G. E. Marindin (1868) have completed their 90th, 95th, and 92nd birthdays, respectively.

MONT BLANC, early American ascents.—In attempting to learn something about the American climbers listed in Stephen d'Arve's *Les Fastes du Mont Blanc*, I received an interesting letter, a copy of which I send you. It is from Mr. Tucker Daland, of Brookline, Massachusetts, who climbed Mont Blanc on August 25, 1874.

Mr. Daland is now in his eighty-second year. He graduated from Harvard in 1873, where he was a noted oarsman. Later he sailed some famous racing yachts. His son informs me that they climbed

¹⁵ *A.J.* 44, 140, taken from *La Montagne*. The JOURNAL (*ibid.* footnote 11) drew attention to the probable irresponsibility of the individual concerned.

the Zugspitze together in 1904. Mr. Daland's letter reads as follows :

' Your letter has stirred up a very old affair. I never thought my ascent of Mont Blanc was a very important matter, but I find that I have preserved the Certificat d'Ascension, which I think I shall send to you some day. It is numbered 26, but it does not seem possible that I was the 26th person to ever go up that easy mountain. I know nothing about any Americans going up just previous ; but a fortnight or so later I met two Harvard friends in Geneva—Wendell Goodwin and Amory Hodges, of Harvard '74—and advised them to take the same trip that I did, and they did so.

' My going was quite accidental. Two Englishmen (names on certificate) asked me to join them, and I consented, thinking that if they could manage it, I could also. There was no risk in it, as the snow was in perfect condition, and no danger from avalanches.

' On the way down we stopped a little while at the hut (Grands Mulets) and I met two other Englishmen, named Dent, who had been up the mountain that same day. The elder Dent was, I believe, President of the Alpine Club at that time.¹⁶ They asked me to join them in a trip over the Col du Géant to Aosta and over Col St. Théodule to Zermatt, which I did ; and then we went together up Monte Rosa. Both the Col du Géant and Monte Rosa were much more of a climb than Mt. Blanc, but neither was a first-class climb. My friends the Dents went up the Matterhorn, but, as I had promised my people that I would not try that, I left them at the foot of the mountain and walked down to Visp on my way out to Geneva.

' This is about all the Swiss mountaineering I ever did, except a few minor mountains, excursions rather than climbs, but I am glad to have it to look back on.'

I cannot explain the low number of Mr. Daland's certificate. I have recently examined the certificate of Joseph Mickle Fox, of Philadelphia, who ascended on August 20, 1873. It is numbered 520, and is signed by the guides François Cachat, Simond Joseph fils de Louis, Simond Médéric, and by the *guide-chef*, Balmat.

The information about the Dents is not in the A.C. *Register*, and I doubt whether anyone could identify Goodwin and Hodges from Stephen d'Arve's transcription of their names.

The certificate of Dr. James Bourne Ayer, of Boston, who ascended with Dr. William Oxnard Moseley, Jr. (killed on the Matterhorn in 1879¹⁷), on July 7, 1874, is also in existence. These are the three earliest American certificates I have run across.

J. MONROE THORINGTON.

¹⁶ Clinton T. Dent was President A.C. 1887–1890. William Longman was President 1872–1875.

¹⁷ *A.J.* 9, 372–4, where the date is given as August 14, 1879. The scene of the accident is well known as the *Moseleyplatte*.

MOUNTAINEERING FILMS.—*Das blaue Licht*. At last we have a really beautiful film of German make and consequently unequalled photography. It is directed as well as 'starred' by the attractive Fräulein Leni Riefenstahl. This lady's work has been spoilt hitherto under the direction of the notorious Fanck in the grotesque *Piz Palü*, *Sturm über Mont Blanc* ('Avalanche') and other faked atrocities. Under self-direction she now comes deservedly into her own.

The story is a slight but pretty legend, which we shall not summarize. The scene is laid in the upper Sarco glen and Pinzolo; the mountains concerned are the Crozzon di Brenta, the two Castelletti and the Campanile di Vallesinella. Some of the most beautiful 'shots' are taken from the beech-woods of the Upper and Lower Vallesinella alps. The heroine, skirted and stockingless, climbs in beautiful style despite extremely inadequate *Kletterschuhe*. She never looks like falling till the tragedy at the end—of her own seeking. We are informed that one other only of the caste is a 'professional,' but he is certainly not a professional mountaineer. The peasants of 'Sta. Maria' (? Pinzolo) act excellently and look extremely picturesque. One criticism must be made. We have never heard of crystals, 'The Blue Light,' being found in limestone ranges, but it would be meticulous to spoil a charming legend by drawing too much attention to mere geology.

Das blaue Licht is, we repeat, a beautiful and magnificently photographed film, and in a class altogether above anything of this nature hitherto shown in this country.

CAUCASUS.—It has been pointed out to me that it was not—as stated in my recent review of Dr. de Pollitzer's *Montagne bianchi e Uomini rossi*¹⁸—a Caucasian native, but Dr. de Pollitzer's friend and companion, who reached alone the western summit of Elbruz and brought back the card left by Cav. Vittorio Sella as a record of his ascent in 1889. A facsimile of this card is produced in Dr. de Pollitzer's volume. Sella has recorded on it, in pencil, with characteristic minuteness the names of his Italian porters and the fact that he had just taken, at about 16,700 ft., a photographic panorama of the chain of the Caucasus.¹⁹ The result was a magnificent success both from the artistic and the topographic point of view.

D. W. F.

HEREDITARY MOUNTAINEERS.—Miss Anne Murray made the following climbs, with her father, in Norway, in the Norangsfjord district :—

1929—*Slogen* (5114 ft.) from Öie, at the age of 9½ years.

¹⁸ *A.J.* 44, 361–2.

¹⁹ This panorama is considered generally as the finest mountain view and photograph ever taken. It is reproduced in Mr. Freshfield's *Exploration of the Caucasus*, vol. ii.

- 1930—(i) *Saksa*, from Urke, at the age of 10 years.
 (ii) *Miendalstind* from Saebö. We climbed this peak by the hitherto unclimbed W. ridge, and found some of the bones of W. C. Slingsby's goat still on the top (see 'The Northern Playground,' p. 374). Descent by the E. ridge.
- 1932 (12 years old)—(i) *Kjeipen*.
 (ii) *Smørskredtind* (5343 ft.). The peak was traversed, in bad weather conditions, from Skylstad to Lyngstöl. Time 12 hrs. This was the first traverse (and second ascent) of the peak by a 'lady.'
 (iii) *Kviteggen* (about 6000 ft.) from Hangen.

All the climbs, except *Kviteggen*, were made from sea-level. The guide for Slogen was Bernhard Öye; for all the others Johan B. Öye. Each expedition was, of course, the 'first ascent by a child.'

ATHOLL G. MURRAY.

KANGCHENJUNGA and MT. EVEREST.—Herr Paul Bauer courteously informs us that the top of the N.E. spur of Kangchenjunga attained by his party in 1931 ('A.J.' 44, 20) has been photogrammetrically measured as 7700 m. The aneroid measurements obtained on the spot by Herren Hartmann and Wien, on September 17 and 18, gave 7940 m. and 8000 m. respectively (*ibid.*).

This diminution of the altitude attained does not of course diminish in the very slightest degree the splendour of the Bavarian performance. But it may cause heart-burnings to those Alpine periodicals 'obsessed with the fetish of 8000 m.'

With reference to the article, 'The English Everest Expedition, 1933' ('A.J.' 44, 262-3), and in view of certain comments appearing in the German Alpine press, it may be remarked here that the expression 'German invasions' was NOT used in any sense hostile to the German Himalayan expeditions of 1929-32. The term²⁰ was meant to designate the *large number of members* composing the said expeditions, one and all of which, we understand, have left the best possible impressions behind them in India.

E. L. S.

THE FLIGHT FOR EVEREST.—In 1932 a British aeroplane reached a height of 44,000 ft. A few weeks later R.A.F. heavy bombers cruising in formation flew over Nanga Parbat (26,620 ft.), Rakaposhi, Domani, Haramosh—all over 22,000 ft.—on their lawful occasions to Gilgit. Two specially supercharged machines are now about to attempt to fly over Everest, not, as might be expected, starting from this country, but conveyed by sea and rail to a specially constructed aerodrome as near Everest as possible.

²⁰ Cf. p. 127, line 5.

An article has appeared in *The Times* of January 11, 1933, under the signature of Lord Peel, of which the following is an extract: ' . . . In the course of that climb, they will pass over what is virtually unknown country. *No surveying party has even attempted to map it. . . .*'²¹

It requires courage even from an ex-Secretary of State for India to publish such a statement. The *whole* of Nepal, over a very small portion of which the said aeroplanes will fly, has been mapped between November 1924 and March 1927 by the *Survey of India* on the $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch scale. Should the aeroplanes, as is likely and to the probable local detriment of the climbing party, be compelled to fly over or even land in Tibetan country, they will find the ' Expedition ' map of Mt. Everest on the $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch scale, together with the ' Expedition ' $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch sheets of the country to the N. and E. of the mountain, of great assistance to them.

The Times article went on to state that the aeroplanes will not cross the Tibetan border: in other words, will not visit the northern slopes of Everest. To illustrate these highly laudable intentions, a photograph of the Base Camp on the *Rongbuk* Glacier extremity belonging to the 1924 Expedition was reproduced without acknowledgment of its source.

The flight over Everest has, of course, no connection with the A.C. and R.G.S. expedition. To our mind, it might with advantage have been postponed for another year on account of possible political trouble to the climbing party.

Everest was flown over on April 3.

SKI ACCIDENTS.—Perhaps owing to the absence this winter of snow in many districts, the roll appears to be lower than usual. A sad accident occurred on March 19 on the Col d'Anterne, where an avalanche caused the death of Commander Eric Norton, R.N., and Miss Felicia Somers, the third member of the party escaping. Commander Norton was a brother of our members, Brigadier E. F. and Major J. H. Norton, to whom we express the deepest sympathy of the Club.

An accident on Piz Bernina to three German mountaineers is reported as having occurred about March 19.

At the moment of going to press, we learn with grief of the death in Somaliland on March 18, 1933, of H.R.H. THE DUKE OF THE ABRUZZI, elected to the Alpine Club in 1894 and Honorary Member, 1925. His Royal Highness was a mountaineer and explorer of world-wide fame, and his death is a serious loss to the Club. An obituary will appear in the November number of the JOURNAL.

²¹ The italics are our own. This ' virtually unknown country ' contains a railway constructed by British engineers.