

NEW ZEALAND NOTES.

An Outstanding Rescue.

January 22, 1933.—Miss Ida M. Corry with Mark Lysons climbed Mt. Matenga. The guide, Joe Fleurty, was expected to reach the hut that evening, but owing to illness he did not arrive until 22.00 hrs. on the 24th.

January 23.—Climbed Mt. Conway with Lysons.

January 24.—As the weather was very fine they decided to attempt Mt. Goldsmith (9532 ft.) without a second guide. Left hut 03.30 and made the *first* ascent of MT. GOLDSMITH. On the descent, about 200 ft. below the summit they decided not to trust a snow-bridge which they had crossed on the ascent, but to jump the crevasse at another point. Miss Corry jumped, landing knee-deep in snow. Lysons following, struck a stone concealed in the snow, pitched forward and went headlong down the slope. The rope had been hitched over Miss Corry's axe and he was lowered to a safe position where it was ascertained that the fibula of the right leg was broken. Fortunately, Lysons had in his sack two pieces of wood for use as pitons. These were bound to his leg by puttees, forming a splint. Some distance had to be descended on steep, icy snow, Miss Corry cutting steps; she then reascended, lowering Lysons and repeating the process. The descent of the steep slope occupied from 13.00 till 16.30.

Later on an ascent had to be made across a spur; Lysons used his knees on the rocks and snow, making fairly good progress on the ascent, and getting easily down the other side of the spur by a couloir. The rest of the descent, about 6 miles of névé, appears to have been without any objective difficulty. They reached their old descending tracks after dark and kept going all night with occasional short halts, Lysons using the two axes head downwards as crutches. The weather was fine but cold.

When they had reached the steep slopes above the hut, Miss Corry left Lysons and was greatly relieved to find that the guide Fleurty had arrived. They went back for Lysons and all reached the hut at 07.30 on the 25th.

Fleurty immediately went down to Waiho, making the descent in the record time of $2\frac{3}{4}$ hrs. On the glacier he met Dr. King—who was not a mountaineer—and a guide. They went on at once to the hut which they reached at 18.00; Lysons' leg was set an hour later. A relief party of 10 men, including Peter and Alec Graham, arrived during the night and early morning. Miss Corry says all were required, and that they did splendid work. The descent from the Almer Hut to Waiho took just over 12 hrs. On the following day Lysons was taken to Hokitika Hospital, where it was ascertained that his leg had been accurately set in the hut.

Mr. Arthur P. Harper writes: 'For several hundred feet below the scene of the accident was a steep ice slope down which the party had to descend. Miss Corry cut a large enough step for Lysons to sit in, then went down the length of the rope cutting steps with an extra big one at the end. She then reascended and steadied the guide with the rope while he slipped from one step to another on one leg—the crampons saving the situation. He then rested in the lowest big step while Miss Corry came down past him and repeated the performance.

'I consider this a very outstanding rescue, even had it been performed by an experienced man, and I think it will stand out as a record so far as a girl climber is concerned. I know of nothing like it, but possibly you may have records of something similar¹ . . . Miss Corry herself takes no credit for her own performance, it was according to her, the only thing to do and she can say nothing but express her wonder at Lysons' pluck and endurance. . . . but this, to my mind, does not discount her own resource, skill and courage.

'The scene of the mishap was not in a frequented locality as it would have been in Switzerland. It was a first ascent in an unfrequented part of even the N.Z. Alps, with no possible prospect of meeting with assistance. When the accident happened they both knew that they had to escape entirely on their own. The more one thinks of it the more remarkable does it seem.' . . .

[There is no mountaineer better acquainted with the N.Z. Alps—in all their moods, in all their utter desolation, in all their storms—than Mr. Harper, with his knowledge of some 50 years' standing.

Such being the case, and having been requested to comment on what might have proved a tragedy, we have no hesitation in concurring with Mr. Harper's verdict and pronouncing this rescue an 'outstanding performance' in Alpine history. But, having been privileged to accompany Miss Corry on a few expeditions of her earliest youth, I may be permitted to add that the skill, devotion and courage she has displayed are no greater than were to be expected from our member's daughter.

As for the extraordinary endurance and pluck of the guide, Mark Lysons, described as a very young man, it was in keeping with that reputation acquired by his countrymen on other and more distant scenes.—E. L. S.]

The weather in New Zealand has been very bad. . . . Mt. Cook has been climbed three times this season. During the Christmas holidays the second ascent was made of Mt. D'Archiac at the head of

¹ We can recall only Mme. Pibernik's (now Mme. Debelak) great rescue on the N. face of the Triglav of her injured companion (*A.J.* 39, 332-3), and a similar act of gallantry by Mlle. Pavla Jesih on the N. face of the Špik (*A.J.* 40, 180). But both these rescues were performed on steep rock.—*Editor.*

the Godley Glacier. Since then Scott and Alf. Brustad have made the *first* ascent of MT. MOFFATT, the last important Godley peak. The Canterbury mountaineers were very active at Christmas up the Rakaia, and in the Otago district, despite bad weather and more than their usual share of swollen rivers to be forded with gigantic swags.

In the prevailing weather Miss Kate Gardiner, who is at the Hermitage, has secured only one peak, Mt. Lendenfeld. Our first objective for March in the south is Sam Turner's Tutoko; Peter Graham will conduct the expedition. (*Letter from Captain H. E. L. Porter.*)

REVIEWS.

Um den Kantsch : Der zweite Deutsche Angriff auf den Kangchendzönga, 1931.

By Paul Bauer. Pp. 191 + 72 illustrations, 2 panoramas and a map. Munich : Knorr und Hirth. 1933. Price 12 marks.

THE story of Herr Bauer's 1929 attempt on Kangchenjunga as told in the JOURNAL (vol. 42, 185-202) has been incorporated into 'Great Travel Stories of all Nations.'¹ His book, relating the same adventure² and reviewed in 'A.J.', 43, 192-4, is long out of print after undergoing many editions. All these facts indicate that a magnificent expedition has been commemorated worthily by its leader. In *Um den Kantsch*, Herr Bauer gives us the narrative of his last equally gallant but even more unlucky attempt. I use the word 'unlucky' purposely. The expedition gained a height of over 26,000 ft., and then with all the serious difficulties overcome, within 1800 yds. horizontally and 2000 ft. vertically of the summit, saw their hopes dashed to the ground by a wretched patch of bad snow resting on ice only a very few score of feet in height. The fact that this great party was wise and brave enough to retreat has proved how well they understood and respected the ethics of mountaineering. Their members' fame is sealed for ever.

Reading between the lines of the story of 1931, we realise at once in a self-effacing narrative why 'the soldiers of the 10th Legion were devoted to Cæsar.' Sahibs, porters, whether belonging to high altitude parties or to L. of C., seem to have had no idea for personal comfort, providing their efforts could bring the advance nearer the goal. The start from Darjeeling was encouraging, Sherpas and Bhutias from all parts poured in as anxious recruits and, if a short hold-up did occur, this was due to prior events in no way connected with Bauer's party (pp. 15-16). Peace was restored quickly and these first pages of the book form a touching memorial to the relations of Sahibs and porters throughout. Several Sherpas and Bhutias have died since, including Herr Bauer's personal porter,

¹ *Op. cit.* (pp. 893-905). Edited by Elizabeth D'Oyley. London : Harrap, 1932.

² *Im Kampf um den Himalaja.* Munich : Knorr und Hirth, 1929.