

CORRESPONDENCE.

' ANCIENT FACTS AND MODERN FICTION ': ' THE
FIRST ASCENT OF PIZ BADILET. ' ¹

To the Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—As my replies to your articles as above, I beg you to publish the annexed protocol made after my excursion to the Badilet on September 17, 1932, and dated September 18, 1932. Thanking you in advance,²

I am,

Very faithfully yours,

H. A. TANNER, Major.

Section ' Bernina, ' S.A.C.

Berne,

October 31, 1932.

(Translated from the original Italian.)

17. ix. 32.

Having started for the Badilet (*Punta Sant' Anna*) with the intention of verifying and confirming the story of the early attempts and first ascent, we arrived on the summit from Val Codera at 14.30 in magnificent weather. We searched in vain for traces of the presence of the late Count Lurani, of Tanner [*sic*], of Klucker, of Strutt, or of Rütter. We found however, below the first tooth at a distance of 3 m. 22 cm., a bottle with the cards *le quali il Magg. Tanner copio tanto che furono* [*sic*] legible. On the crest, towards Piz Badile, of what may be called the second tooth (which might be termed the third, being separated from the second by a 'step'), we found another bottle containing numerous cards, of which the last was that of Signor Ragg. Arnardo Piccoli with the guide Giacomo Fiorelli and his son Mario Fiorelli, aged sixteen years, dated 15. ix. 32 (*letta da F. del Prà* [*sic*]). We measured the distance from the first tooth to the bottle as being 3 m. 22 cm. above the latter, and 2 m. between the first and second teeth. The guide Christian Zippert of Ponte and the porter Filippo del Prà of Codera each estimated the difference in height between the two teeth (the second being the higher) as 90 cm., and declare that it is virtually impossible to leap from one tooth on to the other.

¹ *A.J.* 27, 402-17; 41, 371-7.

² In English.

The niche where the leader found the bottle below the first tooth has a northerly aspect.

Confirmed.

Bresciadega, Sunday, 18. ix. 32.

The Writer : HERMANN TANNER, Major.

The Witnesses :

CHRISTIAN ZIPPERT, Guide.

DEL PRÀ, FILIPPO.

Identified the three above :

C. TANNER.

P.S.—The cairn below the second tooth which Major Tanner states he erected with Klucker, and the Tanner-Klucker cards placed in the said cairn, we no longer saw : that point was then (yesterday) free from any traces.—ZIPPERT : DEL PRÀ.

As a token of our presence on the summit, we inserted in the bottle on the top a box of Indian cigars [*sic*!], Hediger, Reinach [*sic*]. Zippert and del Prà declare that the top of a mountain is not reached until the actual summit has been attained, especially when the latter is separated from the 'antecima' [*sic*] by a great cleft considerably higher than the first ! [*sic*].—CHRISTIAN ZIPPERT.

[How this curious statement can alter the fact that Count Lurani and his companions made the first ascent of Piz Badilet on July 26, 1893, passes our comprehension.

The correspondence must now cease.—*Editor*, 'A.J.']

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall, 23 Savile Row, London, W. 1, on Tuesday, November 1, 1932, at 8.30 P.M., Sir John J. Withers, *President*, in the Chair.

Mr. Peter Averill Daniell was balloted for and elected a Member of the Club.

The PRESIDENT gave a short account of the work that is being done in connection with the 1933 Mount Everest Expedition.

Mention was made of the deaths of the following Members :

The Rev. George Broke, elected 1886. Allen Carpe, elected 1923. W. G. Collingwood, elected 1899. Godfrey W. H. Ellis, elected 1899. Leslie Hood, elected 1903. Field-Marshal Lord Methuen, Ordinary Member 1870–85, 1906–9 ; Honorary Member 1927. Colin B. Phillip, elected 1884. His Honour Judge Shortt, elected 1877. E. Reginald Taylor, elected 1908. Lt.-Col. C. F. Stoehr, elected 1922. H. G. Watkins, elected 1929.