CORRESPONDENCE.

'ALPS AND MEN.'

To the Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

SIR,—(1) In an editorial footnote to the review of my book, *Alps and Men*, which appears on pp. 179 and 180 of 'A.J.' **45,** you state that I have '"*borrowed*" *largely*' from the works of your reviewer, Mlle. Engel, '*without acknowledgment of any kind*' (italics mine).

On referring to my book, I find as follows:

p. 7, a reference 'to those excellent works of . . . Dr. Engel';
p. 17, 'as Mlle. Engel suggests';
p. 27, 'Dr. Engel in her tender and delightful study . . . says';
p. 40, 'according to Engel';
p. 90, 'as Engel has skilfully shown';
p. 104, 'Engel states';
p. 135, 'as Engel points out';
p. 224, 'According to Engel';
p. 242, full references to Mlle. Engel's published works.

I may add that in a light work of the type of *Alps and Men* it is not usual to burden the text with detailed references, and my bibliography, which runs to thirteen pages, is, I am confident, quite adequate to enable the reader to trace the sources of my information. Nevertheless, in order to emphasize my appreciation of Mlle. Engel's works, these references to her are in the actual body of my text, and not in footnotes. I therefore repudiate your statement that I have made no acknowledgment of any kind to Mlle. Engel.

(2) Your reviewer states that '*The greater part of the chapter on "The Scientists" is an almost literal translation of M. Charles Gos's recent book, "L'Hôtel des Neuchâtelois."*'

The greater part of my chapter contains matter for which a reader may look in vain in M. Gos's excellent little book. Where we are on common ground, dealing with Agassiz and his friends, we have drawn upon the same sources, and it is not surprising that there should be a similarity in lists of names. Where, however, as on p. 157, I am indebted to M. Gos for information, I find in my text the words 'recorded by Gos,' although your reviewer states that I omit precise references.

(3) Your reviewer asks why I do not explain how I came across the first engraving of my plate XIV, and I doubt whether any reader of her review could avoid the impression that I had committed an act of piracy in reproducing without acknowledgment a picture the original of which she states is in the possession of a person who gave permission for it to be reproduced in M. Gos's book.

The picture in question on plate XIV of my book happens to have been reproduced from an old lithograph in my private collection, and I am not in the habit of making acknowledgments to myself.

(4) Your reviewer claims to have detected a misprint on plate XII of my book, saying that '*The figure named "Louis Agassiz" is really Edouard Desor.*'

Plate XII of my book, in fact, contains views of the Wetterhorn, etc., and your reviewer is really referring to plate XV. But no matter. M. Gos, in his book identifies his reproduction of this same portrait with Desor. Reference to Desor's book (*Excursions et séjours dans les glaciers*, 1844), the title-page of which states 'avec le portrait de M. Agassiz,' to well-known portraits of Agassiz in later life, and to the portraits of both Agassiz and Desor in the plates illustrating Rupe's article in Vol. III of *Die Alpen* (1927), will, I think, satisfy any person interested in this matter as to which of us is in error.

G. R. DE BEER.

June 16, 1933.

To the Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

DEAR SIR,—Thank you so much for sending me Mr. de Beer's letter. I can as readily understand why he disliked my review of *Alps and Men*, as I can be certain that my criticisms were not unfair.

(1) Mr. de Beer quotes in his letter nine passages in which he has referred to my books. Of course, that means some sort of acknowledgment. Yet I can point out a number of other passages which have been 'borrowed' without any reference whatever. It would be tedious and useless to give too many instances. Here are just two of them: *Alps and Men*, Chap. II, p. 34: 'With the progress of the French Revolution the emigration of royalists and priests to Switzerland began as a summer excursion which was destined to prolong itself and become converted into an exile under more or less miserable circumstances. So numerous were the fugitives that, according to the Abbé Desnoues, the way from Chamonix to the Valais by the Tête Noire was obstructed and blocked with caravans. The duc d'Enghien shared his room in Lauterbrunnen with three persons, and the marquis d'Osmond led the mule on which his daughter crossed the Saint-Gothard.' Compare this with *La Littérature Alpestre*, p. 94: 'De toutes parts, ce fut la fuite. . . . De plus, c'était l'été. Ce voyage forcé ne pouvait être de longue durée. Et, le long des routes bien connues, se pressa, plus nombreuse que d'habitude, la théorie des touristes. . . . La Révolution suivit son cours, les aimables pèlerinages devirrent l'Émigration; pour la plupart des exilés, des difficultés de tous genres s'ajoutèrent aux souffrances morales. . . . Le duc d'Enghien dut partager sa chambre [in Lauterbrunnen] avec Cayla, Choiseul et d'Espinchal.

. . . Mlle. d'Osmond et sa famille dut quitter l'Italie par la voie du Gothard. . . Il leur fallut passer le col en hiver ; le marquis conduisait la mule qui portait sa fille.'

No one previous to myself has mentioned the travelling experiences of the Abbé Desnoues. Mr. de Beer, after the publication of his book, wrote to me, asking where I had read Desnoues' *Émigration*, which he had been unable to find in any library.

Compare, moreover, *Alps and Men*, Chap. V, p. 85 : 'Byron was soon assailed with shouts that the boat he had taken belonged to an English gentleman who turned out to be none other than Shelley himself.'

Byron et Shelley, p. 11 : 'Un valet de l'hôtel, l'air menaçant, lui cria ' (to Byron): '"Le bateau appartient à un monsieur anglais" et lui intima l'ordre de rentrer au plus tôt. Le monsieur anglais était Shelley.'

My authority was Polidori's *Diary*, which is not mentioned in Mr. de Beer's bibliography.

(2) In Mr. de Beer's chapter on 'The Scientists,' I find very little matter for which I could 'look in vain' in M. Charles Gos's *L'Hôtel des Neuchâtelois*.' On the contrary, I find that both writers have either taken or left out the same episodes. M. Gos (pp. 28–30), relating Desor's journey to Zermatt, mentions the Lauber inn and the story of the glacier which could not be safely crossed except by pilgrims. So does Mr. de Beer, but both omit Desor's three other excursions, the local legends he relates, his exasperation when offered mutton with every meal. Mr. de Beer (p. 168) says that the last remains of the Hôtel des Neuchâtelois, a slab of rock with names scratched upon it by the scientists, was discovered by Professor Mercanton. Now, Professor Mercanton's book is not mentioned in the bibliography of *Alps and Men*, while M. Charles Gos quotes it and reproduces three photographs (plates 26, 27 and 28). On p. 169, Mr. de Beer writes : "But on the way down, young Dollfus-Ausset escaped death by a miracle, and Desor was so upset that he resolved to do no more climbing." It sounds very much like a translation of : 'Le miracle qui sauva de la mort le jeune Dollfus à la descente le [Desor] bouleversa au point qu'il renonça désormais à toute escalade' (*Hôtel des Neuchâtelois*, p. 121). M. Gos's authority is *Une dernière ascension*, by Desor, published in *La Revue Suisse* (January 1854), which is not quoted by Mr. de Beer. I might give other examples, but I do not think it necessary to go on.

(3) As for plate XV, it is much to be regretted that Mr. de Beer did not state that it came from his own private collection. Such a reference includes no boast at all, and might have helped the reader to know whether the original was an *engraving*, similar to the copy belonging to Agassiz' daughter, or a *lithograph* like the one in *Alps and Men*.

(4) The story of the Desor-Agassiz portrait is rather strange.

Apparently someone has made a confusion. Yet, if Mr. de Beer is right, why did he not write a note stating that the previous attribution was wrong? No one has ever discussed the inscription M. Charles Gos put under the portrait, not even Agassiz' daughter: I have the latter's own word for it. The copy of *Die Alpen* (1927), that Mr. de Beer quotes as his authority on the subject, is not mentioned in his bibliography. The blame he rather unfairly tries to throw on the older book does not rely on one single conclusive fact.

Please excuse this long letter, but I think it necessary to point out how groundless are Mr. de Beer's protests.

Yours very sincerely,

ZERMATT, *August* 4, 1933. CLAIRE-ELIANE ENGEL.

[Mlle. Engel's letter, paragraph (1), effectively justifies the editorial comment complained of by Mr. de Beer, 'A.J.' **45,** 180, footnote 1.—*Editor*, 'A.J.']

THE CONQUEST OF KAMET.

To the Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

DEAR SIR,—Professor Graham Brown writes in the ALPINE JOURNAL, vol. **45,** p. 128, that when Mr. Shipton, with Smythe's expedition, made the first ascent of Kamet 'he reached the highest summit known to have been reached by man—a mere "record"; his ascent of Batian was great mountaineering.'

I am very ready to believe this as far as the ascent of Batian is concerned, but my opinion of this peak is of little value, as I have not been to Africa. In respect of Kamet, however, I am in a position to contradict the allegation, and I am confident that all those who are acquainted with this great mountain will warmly agree with me. Kamet in a normal season will always be a formidable mountaineering proposition, and the ascent was much more than 'a mere record.'

Yours faithfully,

PEN Y LAN, MEIFOD, C. F. MEADE.
MONTGOMERYSHIRE,
August 1, 1933.

DEAR SIR,—Anyone who attempts to write an account of the recent activities of the Alpine Club must necessarily be under the disadvantage of personal inexperience—so widespread are they. Reliance must be placed upon the literature, and that seemed to me to be clear in the case of Kamet. To arrive within striking distance of the summit is a long and formidable expedition which requires great capacity in organization and exploration. That exploration —the 'spade work'—had been done long before the successful

ascent. Mr. Meade himself and Dr. Kellas had reached to within striking distance when ill fortune prevented the actual ascents. That no great technical difficulties were then in front of them seemed to be shown by the fact that the second party to reach the summit did not use the safeguard of a rope.

Whether an *ascent* is a 'mere record' depends upon its reasons rather than upon the nature of the mountain. Here, although I am perhaps mistaken, the literature seemed to me to speak clearly. The preliminary advertisement of the expedition emphasised the 'record' nature of the attempt. The subsequent book, 'Kamet Conquered,' gave little space to the other peaks climbed by the members of the expedition—peaks apparently of greater technical difficulty than Kamet, but of lesser height and unknown to the public. These two facts seemed to me to indicate emphasis on the 'record' rather than on true mountaineering. Having said this about the *ascent*, I must apologize to Kamet. I think that it must be clear from the context that I meant to convey nothing but admiration for Mr. Shipton's splendid climbing.

Yours faithfully,

CARDIFF, *September* 29, 1933. T. GRAHAM BROWN.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall, 23 Savile Row, London, W. 1, on Tuesday, April 4, 1933, at 8.30 P.M., Sir John J. Withers, *President*, in the Chair.

The following candidates were balloted for and elected Members of the Club, namely, Mr. William Allsup and Mr. J. S. M. Bingham.

The PRESIDENT referred to the deaths of His Royal Highness the Duke of the Abruzzi, who was elected an Ordinary Member of the Club in 1894, and accepted honorary membership in 1925, and Dr. T. C. Porter, late Science Master at Eton College, who was elected in 1901.

The Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. Sydney Spencer, presented the accounts for the year 1932, and these were adopted *nem. con.*

Mr. R. S. MORRISH proposed a Vote of Thanks to the auditors, Messrs. H. J. Macartney and H. J. Gait. This was duly seconded and carried with acclamation.

Mr. EUSTACE THOMAS then read a Paper entitled 'Aiguilles and Dolomites,' which was illustrated by lantern slides, and at the conclusion of his Paper he showed a film illustrating climbing in the Dolomites, with particular reference to methods of 'roping-down.' Messrs. R. Corry, R. W. Lloyd, R. I. Simey, and W. M. Mordey took part in the subsequent discussion, and in conclusion Mr. Eustace Thomas received a very cordial vote of thanks for his Paper and the slides and film which he had shown.