

On the fourth day, after starting at 05.30 the first prominence on the snow rim, *Gillman Point*, was reached at 10.30, and *Kaiser Wilhelm Spitze*, the highest point, at midday.

Proceeding S. along the rim, *Furtwängler*,¹⁴ another point slightly lower than K.W.S., was reached at 12.30 and from there a descent of about 200 ft. was made into the crater and a bivouac found under an overhanging rock. In the afternoon a smaller inner crater about a quarter of a mile to the N. was visited; this is very perfectly formed with an outer rim of about 400 yds. diameter, and a lower inner one of 200 yds. Sulphur fumes were issuing from this outer lip and pieces of sulphur lay about.

The night was fine but cold and at dawn next morning a return was made direct to *Gillman Point*, following the inside of the wall of the great crater instead of the usual route along the top of it as taken on the way up. The upper hut was reached by 08.00 and Pieters at noon, where the night was spent; the Marungu Hotel, the starting point, being regained next morning at 11.00. The weather below Pieters hut was still wet and misty as it had been on the way up.

H. W. T.

[We understand that this ascent was accomplished during the course of a solitary trip on a (push) bicycle across Africa from East to West!—*Editor.*]

ALPINE NOTES.

	Date of Election
THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :	
His Majesty Albert I, King of the Belgians (Honorary Member)	1912
Freshfield, Douglas W. (Ordinary Member)	1864
(Honorary Member)	1924
Gallet, Julien (Honorary Member)	1918
King, Sir H. Seymour, Bt.	1880
Maude, G. E.	1880
Makins, Major-General Sir George H.	1888
Bode, J. E.	1890
Brant, R. W.	1891
Lloyd, G. W.	1902
Millington, H. A.	1907
Edwards, H.	1909
Howard, Lt.-Col. Henry	1910
Francis, E. C.	1913

¹⁴ So called after a German doctor who made the first ski ascent of Kibo in 1912.

ALBERT I.

*Si fractus illabatur orbis
Impavidum ferient ruinae.*

Shepherd and comrade of that little band
Who dared a blow world-shattering to withstand,
Peer of the Kings whom Ilion lured to die,
Fallen he lies in his lone majesty ;
Not at the base of Alp or Dolomite,
Realms where death waits close neighbour to delight
And even to the nameless man may bring
Peace and a little praise. In his own land
A hundred feet sufficed ; he died its King.

MEMORIAL SERVICE TO HIS MAJESTY KING ALBERT I.—
Sir John J. Withers, M.P., President, represented the
Alpine Club at Westminster Abbey on February 22. Other
members of the Club also attended.

M. le Sénateur H. Speyer and Count Xavier de Grunne
represented the Club at the Funeral Service in Brussels.

ITALIAN ALPS.—In a courteous letter from the President of the
C.A.I., we are informed that British members of the Alpine Club
will, on production of their passports, be able to obtain from the
local authorities or Consulates permission to leave and enter Italy
by glacier passes. These facilities are exactly the same as those
granted to Italian subjects.

Many more passes will be opened from July 1, especially on the
Austrian frontier.

MOUNTAIN EXPLORATION.—Members requiring information con-
cerning out-of-the-way regions are invited to communicate with the
Honorary Secretary, Alpine Club, who will put them in touch with
persons possessing special knowledge of the mountain districts they
may desire to explore.

'LES ALPES DE SAVOIE.'—Commandant Gaillard announces that
Part iii of Vol. VI, 'Mont Blanc,' is now ready. This is, of course,
one of the excellent series of *Climbers' Guides*, written by the well-
known mountaineer and historian.

SOUTHERN ALPS, N.Z.—Mr. J. A. Sim, editor of the 'N.Z.A.J.,'
writes: 'We are very lucky in N.Z. Mountaineering for the first
time in our history is exercising a wide appeal, and the Club which
used to languish from want of members has now a membership of

200, of whom the majority are keen young climbers. . . . In a few years we shall have a race of guideless mountaineers ready to tackle the big major problems still remaining. . . . By the way, an article in the May "A.J." [? 45, 126] gives the impression that the first ascent period in the N.Z. Alps is over, and this will be commented on in our next number because it is very far from being the case, and it is remarkable how A.C. members have neglected some districts. L. M. Earle did a lot of climbing round about 1909 in the Otago country, etc. Harold Porter has made one venture only outside the Hermitage-Franz Josef district, when he climbed Aspiring. S. L. King did a little before his unfortunate death, but apart from these, the districts I speak of are unknown to your members. We have plenty of virgin work for your young guideless adventurers who are not afraid of hard work. Nothing would give us greater pleasure than to have them among us. Once the expense of the fare to N.Z. is met, this type of climbing can be indulged in for weeks on end at a cost of £1 to £2 a week.'

Miss Gardiner has climbed Tasman from Pioneer hut on the Fox Glacier by the N. arête, and another party climbed it shortly after. One of the guides of the latter party was Mark Lysons.¹

Mr. Harper adds: 'Eight chamois arrived in 1907 in N.Z., gifts of the Emperor Franz Josef, and two in 1910—total 10. They now extend to Arthur's Pass, and are in *hundreds*, one party told me they were "thick as rabbits"!'

ALOIS PINGGERA.—The death of this well-known veteran Sulden guide at the age of nearly 85 is reported on November 12, 1933. He was the brother of Johann Pinggera, Payer's companion, and uncle of Hans Sepp and the late Franz Pinggera. Alois in his time led many famous mountaineers: Minnigerode, the Tauscher-Geduly, Christomannos, Farrar and others. His name is associated with nearly all the more difficult first ascents in the Ortler Group. In our opinion he was the leading guide of his generation in that district, but Farrar considered Peter Dangl—at his best—as Pinggera's superior. Be that as it may, Alois was first rate as an ice-man; on rocks he was less skilful. In appearance he was small and dark, with extremely intelligent and refined features. He was well educated and very religious. As a mountaineer he had climbed widely in the Western Alps, especially in the Pennines, Bernese Oberland and Bernina. He led the writer (in 1894) in one of the early ascents of the *Marltgrat* of the Ortler and in the ascent of the N. face of the Trafoier Eiswand and traverse thence to the Thurwieserspitze. With him I also accomplished the ascent of the Königsspitze by the N.E. (Sulden) face, while in 1895 we had a good season together in the Western Alps. In 1893 (August 19) our ascent of the Ortler by the original route, the S.W. face or *Hintere Wandl*,

¹ *A.J.* 45, 168–9, 306–7.

conspicuous for its really dreadful rocks, remains in my memory because of a remarkable incident in the vicinity, visible to us when nearing the top of the 'wall.' I had the pleasure of hearing from Alois as recently as last summer.—*R.I.P.*

E. L. S.

NOMENCLATURE IN THE FRENCH ALPS.—In a recent number of 'La Vie Alpine'² will be found a very entertaining paper by M. Paul Guiton. It appears from the new Dauphiné *Service Géographique de l'Armée* 1 : 20,000 map, that PIC SANS NOM, 3915 m. (*Duhamel*), has once and again been rechristened. Its name on the above not too successful sheet is now *Pic de Sialouze ou Pic de Salvador Guillemin*. The JOURNAL has many times protested against the latter and absurd alternative since its first attempted adoption sometime after 1879.³ M. Guiton now proves that if the peak is to preserve the memory of MM. Salvador de Quatrefages and Paul Guillemin and yet be recognised by its original name, it should be labelled on the map, *Grand Pic sans Nom Salvador de Quatrefages et Paul Guillemin et de Sialouze!* M. Guiton adds: 'ce serait un peu long pour une carte de visite. Heureusement les pics n'en usent pas.' The origin of 'Sialouze' is one of the secrets of the *Etat Major* and no one outside the magic circle has succeeded in unravelling it. On the 1 : 20,000 map the PETIT PIC SANS NOM is now called *Pic du Coup de Sabre*—'voilà ce que c'est d'avoir des officiers pour parrains.'

The first ascent of Pic sans Nom was made in 1877 by Messrs. Pendlebury and Colgrove, who were content, as its conquerors, with the old name. In 1879 came the second ascent by MM. S. de Quatrefages and P. Guillemin, followed by the proposal to rechristen the peak after these gentlemen. Mr. Coolidge, learning that the 1877 party 'was strongly in favour of retaining the old name (Pic sans Nom),' very logically turned down the proposal. As M. Guiton points out, labelling the peak 'Salvador Guillemin' is equivalent to printing 'Théophile Hugo et Victor Gautier.'

As regards the very rarely climbed and much lower Petit Pic sans Nom, 3588 m. (*Duhamel*), Mr. Alfred Holmes records his first ascent in 1892 under this name.⁴ The JOURNAL will accordingly continue to maintain the historic names, quoted by Whymper in 1861, of PIC SANS NOM and PETIT PIC SANS NOM.

Continuing his remarks, M. Guiton points out that the preposterous 'personal' name suggested for the splinter—not even a boulder—point 2851 m., *Vallot*, on the Dent du Requin was proposed by the *municipality* of Chamonix: '. . . emet, en ce qui le concerne un

² *Loc. cit.*, November, 1933, pp. 188–90.

³ *A.J.* 15, 455–6; *Climbers' Guide* (1905), p. 119, footnote.

⁴ *A.J.* 16, 258–9. The *Climbers' Guide*, p. 120, states 'also called Petite Lame.'

avis favorable à la dénomination [*Pointe Paule Brunaud* ! ⁵] dans le *massif (sic)* du Requin.' Without having 'la parole [trop] dure,' we can state that members of the municipality of Chamonix are hardly the persons competent to name a new rock, while the vast and confusing number of names in the Mont Blanc group has become a curse as well as a laughing-stock to mountaineers of all nationalities. At least half of these should be suppressed altogether.

As showing the incompetence of Chamonix in nomenclature, M. Guiton publishes an amusing story. In 1859, a Professor at Berlin, one Pitschner, made 'non sans peine' an ascent of Mont Blanc. In 1861 he climbed the point 3289 m. near the Grands Mulets and enjoyed a sojourn on the summit of 16 days while pursuing his studies. On his return to Chamonix, the chief gendarme christened the 'peak,' *Pointe Pitschner*. This appellation survived the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, but not the European trouble. In 1918, *Pointe Pitschner* was solemnly rebaptized *Pointe du Président Wilson* and has so continued until quite recently. Suddenly it was discovered that the long departed Herr Professor was really M. le Professeur Pitschner—a Belgian and not a Prussian. Now there are whigs on the green: the Right elements of the commune wish to perpetuate the President's name by the 'débaptisement' of the Aiguille de la République, while the Left earnestly desire to so christen the long-established and favourite Aiguille du *Moine*! The name of the obscure Professor would thus once more enrich its former shrine, and chaos reigns complete.

We are glad to learn from M. Guiton's article that the 'new' name for Mont Blanc de Courmayeur ⁶ is nothing else but a myth.

NANGA PARBAT, 1934.—An exceptionally strong German party will re-attempt the ascent this year. Led, as in 1932, by our member Herr W. Merkl,* the other participants consist of ⁷: Herren Wieland,* Peter Aschenbrenner,* Schneider,* Baumeister, Bechtold,* Drexel, Müllritter, Welzenbach, Bernard,* Finsterwalder* and Raechl.* To these will be added Captains Frier and Sangster, also possibly Captain Gregory of the Indian Army. The presence of Dr. Finsterwalder is especially interesting as envisaging a new map of the region.

It would be difficult to find a more formidable attacking force, to which is added, we understand, a contingent of the 1933 'Everest' porters. The best wishes of all British mountaineers will accompany the party.

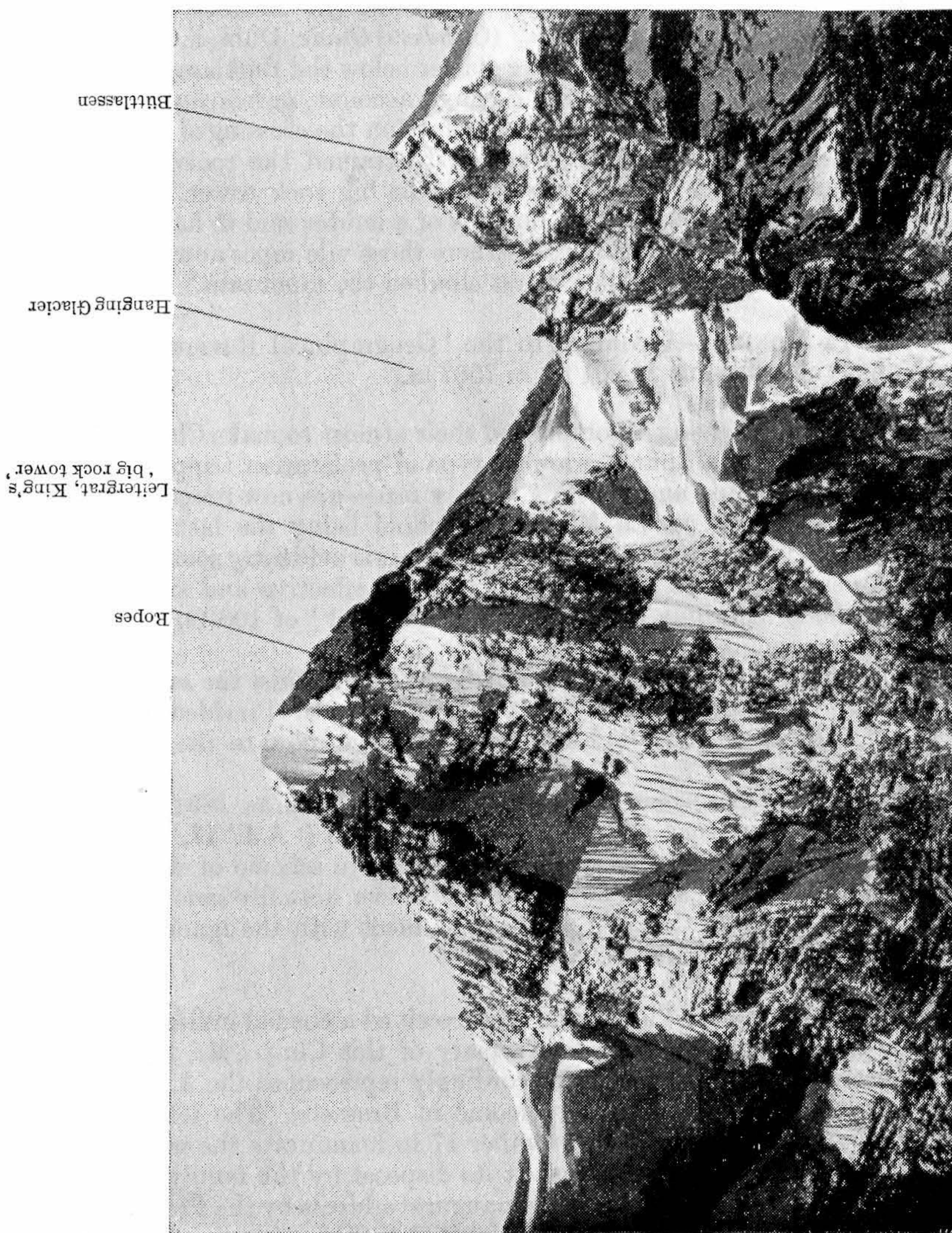
GSPALTENHORN.—With reference to the ascent, August 15, 1891, of this peak 'from the N.E.' by the late Sir Seymour King ('A.J.' 16, 270), Dr. Lauper writes: 'King's route up the Gspaltenhorn

⁵ *A.J.* 44, 330.

⁶ *A.J.* 39, 337.

⁷ Those marked * possess Caucasian, Asiatic or Andean experience.

crosses the E. or S.E. face of the Büttlassen. On the accompanying photograph, you will see the "big rock tower just below the ropes"



GSPALTENHORN, N.E. FACE

of King's account and the hanging glacier up which our friend M. Montandon and his wife went in 1894. Montandon also made mention of King's *gîte*. Welzenbach (as Amstutz and Michel had done previously, "A.J." 41, 214-5, with illustration), climbed up

the Kilchbalm (*S. map*) rock rib, but abandoned this about halfway up in order to attack the true N.E. face of the Gspaltenhorn.⁸ King, however, took the route to the Sefinen Furrge, mentioned the "lake," Hinterm Horn (*S. map*), then took the hunters' path or Montandon's "crumbling ledges" (*Climbers' Guide*, Dübi, ii, p. 142), over which he reached the hanging glacier below the Büttlassenlücke. King crossed this glacier (reading King's account, or hearing of this climb, most probably suggested to Montandon the crossing of the said Büttlassenlücke), and at this spot first attained the rocks of the spur running hence upwards towards "the big rock tower." This tower we call the *Leitergrat*, as remains of a ladder said to have been used to conquer the *mauvais pas*—where those vile ropes now hang—were still there in 1915 when I first climbed the mountain.'

MINYA KONKA.—According to the 'Geographical Review,'⁹ the height is now fixed at 24,891 ft. = 7587 m.

LA MEIJE.—Having accomplished their utmost to make Chamonix uninhabitable to all but the lowest type of proletarian trippers, the authorities—aiding and abetting, at any rate—are now proposing to erect a *téléférique* up La Meije. Dauphiné being the last almost completely unspoilt district left in the Alps, it is evidently somebody's aim to eliminate this reproach by the most effective and surest of all methods, entailing, *inter alia*, the 'removal' of 100 ft. off the top of the mountain!

The C.A.F. is sending in the strongest appeal against the sanctioning of this outrageous scheme. At the request of the President of the C.A.F. the Alpine Club is lending its fullest support to the C.A.F. protest.

There is nothing new in the idea; as far back as 1894 it was proposed to construct a railway up the mountain ('A.J.' 17, 453-4), and when this was turned down, an alternative scheme of similarly defacing Le Râteau (*ibid.*, 557) was, we believe, actually sanctioned! We can only trust that the project will meet with the ignominious fate of the Piz Bernina railway.

C.A.B. JUBILEE.—The Alpine Club received a cordial invitation to be represented at the 50th anniversary of this Club. Mr. Sydney Spencer, Honorary Secretary, accordingly represented the A.C.; he met with a most hospitable welcome in Brussels. The festivities began with a reception on November 17 to inaugurate the new seat of the C.A.B. in a house placed at its disposal by the family of the late M. Ernest Solvay. After the inaugural address by the President, M. La Fontaine, Mr. Spencer was invited to say a few words. On the 18th our member, Count de Grunne, delivered a lecture in the afternoon at the new Club premises, which was attended by the King.

⁸ *A.J.* 44, 313-4.

⁹ *Loc cit.*, xxi, pp. 118-28.

Mr. Spencer and the delegates of the other foreign Clubs were presented to His Majesty, who accorded them a most gracious reception. The festivities concluded with a banquet in the evening.

On the 20th Mr. Spencer accompanied a large party of Belgian members in a delightful motor-car trip to the valley of the Meuse beyond Dinant, remarkable for some striking limestone cliffs, which offer an excellent training-ground for young Belgian climbers.¹⁰ Several of the party took the opportunity of indulging in some scrambles, some of which are distinctly difficult.

On behalf of the Alpine Club Mr. Spencer desires to express to all his sincerest appreciation of the splendid reception accorded to him by the members of the C.A.B., and in particular to his host, our fellow-member, M. le Sénateur Herbert Speyer.

GROSSE ZINNE.—The admirable photographs and tracings of the N. face ¹¹ (in 'R.M.', 1934, pp. 5–12) show clearly that a *via directissima* yet remains to be accomplished. We can fully appreciate the justice of the remark attributed to Dr. Kugy after the performance of last August: 'Now we know at last that the North Face *is* impossible.'

COL DU GÉANT.—A project is afoot to construct a *téléférique* from Courmayeur to the col. Courmayeur is thus threatened with the fate of Chamonix; we wish the scheme all manner of physical and financial disaster.

FRENCH CLUB HUTS.—On several occasions in recent years the JOURNAL has published notes derogatory to certain of these buildings and the condition of their immediate neighbourhood.¹² These remarks, written in every case by mountaineers, members of *both* the C.A.F. and the Alpine Club, should in no way be regarded as attacks on the C.A.F. itself, but as criticisms of inanimate objects, in some cases not even the property of the said C.A.F. In reply to a protest received from the President of the C.A.F. we have pleasure in publishing this statement, as also of adding that the C.A.F. is improving the condition of their huts generally—*vide* the new Couvercle and Argentière buildings.

We regret that our remarks ('A.J.' 45, 401) appear to have been open to ambiguous interpretation. Our intention was to convey that the number of Club huts in France—as indeed *throughout* the Alps—had in our opinion grown infinitely too large. Such multiplication is resulting in an increase in climbing in bad weather, besides assisting still larger numbers of irresponsible persons to

¹⁰ The scene of the fatal accident to His Majesty on February 17 lies nearer to Namur—*below* the junction of the Sambre and Meuse.

¹¹ *A.J.* 45, 373–4.

¹² *Ibid.* 42, 337; 43, 184, 393; 45, 401.

approach localities they should be content to view from a distance.¹³ A flagrant example of this kind is the new (Italian) shelter-hut constructed near the Brèche N. des Dames Anglaises.

GIFTS TO THE A.C.—We have received from Mrs. Montagnier a considerable number of valuable books, some very rare and not in the possession of the Club, from the library of the late Mr. H. F. Montagnier. Also several volumes of correspondence between Mr. Montagnier and well-known mountaineers. These gifts are duly indexed in the *Alpine Club Library* chapter of this number. It remains to us to express the most sincere thanks of the Club to the generous donor.

We must also express our thanks to Mlle. Engel, who together with Mrs. Montagnier was kind enough to select those works not existent in the Club library.

Herr W. Merkl has kindly presented an album containing excellent photographs of Nanga Parbat. Through the generosity of Mr. G. R. Girdlestone, nephew, and Mr. P. J. Freke, legatee of the late Rev. A. G. Girdlestone (1842–1908), the kind of climbing journal kept by that well-known mountaineer is now the property of the Club. This 'Journal' consists of a very long series of letters from Mr. Girdlestone to his mother, and appears to have extended over his entire climbing career.

'Dictionnaire Historique et Biographique de la Suisse.'—This monumental work in seven volumes has now been completed. It has been in course of publication, by subscription only, since 1921, and through the generosity of the late Mr. Henry F. Montagnier, who paid all subscriptions, the Club's library has been enriched with this valuable contribution.

Mrs. T. H. Philpott has very generously presented the Club with an interesting photograph (? ca. 1865) of 'Hornby and Philpott' with Christian Almer and Christian Lauener (published in 'A.J.' 30, facing 232), also the two certificates of her husband's traverse of the Col du Géant and ascent of Mont Blanc in 1861.

S. S.

MOUNTAINEERING FILMS.—The film of the Everest Expedition, 1933, taken privately by Mr. Wyn Harris on a small apparatus carried by himself and weighing some 5½ lbs., is certainly the most successful effort in genuine mountain cinematographic work that we have seen. In interest it far surpasses and in beauty of photography at least equals the professional efforts of 1922 and 1924. Mr. Harris carried the instrument to No. VI Camp, 27,400 ft., whereas in 1922 and 1924 the North Col, 4000 ft. lower, proved the limit of the cumbersome mechanism requiring seven or eight porters for its transport alone. Nearly all the reels are good; the views taken of the

¹³ *A.J.* 44, 123, footnote 3.

summit from 27,000 ft. and over are equal to any still photographs known to us. Perhaps the very best of all are scenes of the party crossing a river on the return journey. There are no unpleasant features in the film, while the inevitable and boring devil-dances are reduced to the absolute minimum.

Altogether, we may congratulate Mr. Harris very warmly. Without handicapping his companions in any way as regards portorage, he has produced pictures worthy of both mountain and party.

THE HON. MARY PICKFORD.—We much regret to read of the death of Miss Pickford, daughter of Lord Sterndale (President, A.C., 1914–16) and Conservative M.P. for North Hammersmith since 1931. A very charming and accomplished lady, she had achieved many fine climbs with her father and members of the Pollinger family in the period 1908–1914. Miss Pickford died on March 6, 1934, of pneumonia after a very short illness.

LOST MEMENTOES OF ALBERT SMITH.—Albert Smith was one of the most prolific letter-writers of his time. Many of his notes still exist, and a collection of several hundred could probably be obtained from London dealers alone. But letters to Albert Smith are exceedingly rare, which is not strange, as he was usually the ‘celebrity’ in the exchange. One discovers, however, that a considerable amount of material dealing with Mont Blanc, once in his possession, has disappeared. Where, for instance, are the following—all of which should have come into possession of the Alpine Club?

1. Letter from de Saussure to Jean Pierre Tairraz, written August 18, 1786, and presented to Albert Smith by Edouard Tairraz in the autumn of 1852. (Reprinted in ‘The Story of Mont Blanc.’)

2. Letters from François Favret, replying to Smith’s. (‘Mont Blanc Sideshow,’ Appendix I.)

3. Letter from Auguste Balmat to Albert Smith in 1856. (Mentioned by Smith in correspondence in my possession.)

4. Smith’s certificate of ascent of Mont Blanc, and his ‘alpenstock’ portrait, once owned by J. Ashby Sterry, and exhibited by him at the Victorian Exhibition, New Gallery, London, during the winter of 1891–2. (Catalogue in British Museum.)

5. John MacGregor’s diary and drawings of the 1853 ascent. (Reproduced in part in Edwin Hodder’s ‘John MacGregor’ (1896).)

6. Invitation to first performance of ‘Mont Blanc,’ which Arthur à Beckett once saw hanging in the dining-room of the Punch Club. (‘The à Becketts of *Punch*,’ 1903.)

7. The fans, with views of the ascent; examples of ‘The New Game of Mont Blanc’; the sheets of ‘Twelfth Night Characters,’ once to be had at Egyptian Hall.

8. Beverley’s paintings of Mont Blanc, which are *not* in the British or South Kensington Museums.

9. (a) A copy of the second edition of ‘The Story of Mont Blanc,’

with a long presentation inscription to Robert Keeley. (b) An unpublished poem, entitled 'Chamounix,' in Smith's handwriting, signed by him and addressed to Mary Keeley. (c) A 16-page quarto manuscript, written by Robert Keeley, describing the Mont Blanc performance at Egyptian Hall.

These three were offered to me by E. Verney, 54 Claremont Road, Manchester, in August 1933. Verney formerly had a book-store at 65A Oxford Road, Manchester. This low fellow retained the small sum forwarded, and left for parts unknown, neglecting to send me the much-desired items!

Are there any detectives in the Alpine Club who would like to apply Edgar Wallace methods to this case?

J. MONROE THORINGTON.

AN EARLY BRITISH ACCIDENT IN THE BERNINA.—In my paper, 'The Oetzthal Glaciers in History and Cartography before 1800' ('G.J.' lxxv, p. 232), I called attention to the fatal accident in 1701, recorded by Joseph Walcher in his *Nachrichten von den Eisbergen in Tyrol* (Vienna, 1773), which antedates by nearly a century the death of Eschen on the Buet (1800), which Coolidge (*Swiss Travel and Swiss Guide-Books*, p. 30) mistakenly called 'the first recorded accident to a tourist in the snow regions.'

For their Publication No. 12, the Gesellschaft Alpiner Bücherfreunde (Munich) has issued a reprint of J. B. von Tscharners's *Die Bernina*, 1786, a poem in hexameters, in which the following passage occurs:

'Doch es enthüllen von Schnee geweissete Streifen dem klugen Jäger die Todesgefahr: er sieht sie und weicht dem Ort aus; denn sonst möchte ihn auch das Schicksal treffen das einstens, hinter dem *Ugwaljux*, auf dem zahmen Gletscher *Müretto*, (da wo durch ewiges Eis du von *Malenk* nach *Maloja* reisest, am Scheidweg *Bergells* und nahe dem Ursprung des *Innstroms*) einen verwegenen Lord vor achtzig Jahren getroffen. Kühn, aber kühn nur allein, eilt er dem schrecklichen Berg zu, steigt auf dem Gletscher und lacht der hasenherzigen Jäger; springt über Spalte und Riss', wie man sonst über ein Brett springt; tritt mutig daher auf dem verharteten Schneegrund; glaubt sich sicher und—glischet—plötzlich hinunter zum Abgrund. Von ihm ertönte das Geschrei der harten Verzweiflung; denn ihn hört niemand. Allein reist er, alleine auch stirbt er.'

This British fatality may be calculated to have taken place in 1706, two years before William Burnet's visit to Grindelwald. Will someone with knowledge of the Bernina region (and of Burke!) kindly tell us something more about this English 'milord' who ventured so recklessly on the Muretto Glacier in the days of Queen Anne?

J. M. T.

[This accident is referred to in the *Climbers' Guide*, i, pp. 187–8, repeated in ii (Strutt). It is also mentioned in S.A.C. *Jahrbuch*, vol. xxxvi, p. 227, and in Lorria and Martel's *Le Massif de la Bernina* (Zürich, 1894, 1895), p. 227. The Muretto Glacier no longer encroaches on the Swiss slope of the Muretto Pass. Mr. Coolidge saw no reason for considering the victim to have been a genuine 'milord.'—E. L. S.]

SIGNOR ENRICO GHISI.—We much regret to report the death of this distinguished mountaineer on December 30, 1933. Born on November 17, 1854, Signor Ghisi was an ex-President of the Milanese Section of the C.A.I. He was educated partly in England. His name is associated with the early Italian explorations of the Bernina, West Wing, made in company with his great friend, the late Count Francesco Lurani (1857–1912), a member of the Alpine Club.¹⁴ Gifted with a singular charm of manner, highly cultured and a good friend to this country, Enrico Ghisi will be much lamented in Italy: we convey our sympathy to his relatives and to the C.A.I.

WINTER MOUNTAINEERING.—Fritz Amatter together with Fritz Kaufmann-Almer accomplished on February 12, 1934, the first winter traverse of the Eiger by the *Mittellegigrat*.¹⁵ Leaving the hut of that name at 08.15, the summit was reached at 12.00. The Eigergletscher station was attained *via* the Eigerjoch at 17.30.

Our old friend Amatter has thus staged a magnificent return, at the age of 68, to the profession he has adorned so long.—H. L.

MARIE BINER.—Our members will hear of the death of our old friend 'Marie,' the *coiffeuse* of Zermatt, with universal sorrow. For some 50 years she was one of the figureheads of the village and was affectionately known to generations of mountaineers. Always brimful of news and most kindly gossip, she contributed much to the charm and gaiety of the place. She died on February 26, 1934, at the age of seventy-four. R.I.P.

THE LATE DALAI LAMA.—The late Dalai Lama of Tibet was one of the outstanding figures of Asia. Though he was born to his position and had not to make his way there, as the head of a Christian Church has to, he turned out to be a man of considerable ability and force of character, and well able to hold his own among those rather headstrong personages, the Abbots of the great monasteries.

A Dalai Lama is an incarnation of a Buddhist lesser deity. He is holy, therefore, from his birth. Since babyhood he is treated with the reverence paid to a god. Holiness sits, therefore, as naturally on him as royalty on a king. And his word has all the authority of a Divine Command.

¹⁴ *A.J.* 27, 68–9.

¹⁵ Amatter was of course the leader in the first ascent by this ridge—*A.J.* 34, 166–7.

This sometimes leads in practical life to strange consequences. When Tibetan Commissioners told me in 1904 that it was the Dalai Lama's orders that my Mission should return to India, they were quite unprepared for what might happen if instead of going back to India we went on to Lhasa. On the near approach of the Mission to Lhasa the Dalai Lama wrote me a letter—the first ever written to an Englishman by a Dalai Lama—begging me not to proceed to Lhasa, and urging that if I did his religion would be spoilt. I replied that I had to advance, and the Dalai Lama then retired to Mongolia for three years' spiritual contemplation. Subsequently, he returned to Lhasa till on the approach of a Chinese force he again retired, but this time to India. There he was well received by the British authorities, and always retained a grateful remembrance of his reception. On the retirement of the Chinese he returned to Lhasa, where he remained for the rest of his life.

Though the late Dalai Lama was so far favourably disposed to Western influence as to send Tibetans to be educated at English public schools, to learn surveying and engineering, and also to India for military training, although he invited Englishmen to Lhasa, and in particular showed much favour to Sir Charles Bell, who remained there for nearly a year in almost daily communication with him, he was yet very determined in keeping up the true Tibetan spirit. The Tibetans are at heart a really religious people, and the Dalai Lama meant to keep them religious. Perhaps it was due to a genuine fear of danger to religion that he hesitated to grant permission for Everest Expeditions, although he did on four occasions give it.

The choice of a successor is a delicate and intricate proceeding. Dalai Lamas are celibate. There is therefore no hereditary successor. He is an incarnation. His spirit is supposed to enter a baby born about the time of his death. About three years hence several children will be collected who were born at this time. And the one who embodies the late Dalai Lama's spirit will indicate who he is by the way in which he will handle certain personal belongings of his predecessor. Until he is eighteen years old the country will be governed by a Regent. And whether any Regent would give permission for another Everest Expedition is doubtful.¹⁶ Anyhow, the chances for the present are small.

FRANCIS YOUNGHUSBAND.

OXFORD ALPINE CLUB.—We have received the following letter :

January, 1934.

DEAR SIR,—It is proposed to hold a meeting on Saturday, March 10 (the last day of Full Term) in Magdalen College at 7.15 P.M., for the purpose of discussing the formation of an Oxford Alpine

¹⁶ It is interesting to compare these well-reasoned conclusions with the utter nonsense published in the *Sunday Express* of March 4.

Club. The meeting will be short and followed immediately by the Inaugural Dinner, at which there will be no speeches. The cost of the dinner will not exceed 12s. 6d. We hope that you will be present. If you are able to come to the dinner, please communicate before March 1 with A. M. Binnie, who will be glad to receive the names of others to whom this notice might appropriately be sent.

The object of the proposed Club is the holding of an annual dinner in Oxford for past and present members of the University (other than under-graduates in residence), who are interested in mountain-climbing. It is proposed that there shall be no subscription.

Yours very truly, A. M. BINNIE (New College), C. RAYMOND GREENE (Pembroke), H. E. L. PORTER (Corpus), J. H. WOLFENDEN (Exeter).

The Oxford Alpine Club is for graduate members and, of course, in no way competes with the O.U.M.C. We hear that 22 members attended the dinner, which proved a great success in every way.

CANADIAN ROCKIES.—Canadian and American mountaineers will hear with regret of the death of Tom Wilson of Banff in September 1933. He was the well-known and popular outfitter of innumerable exploration parties in the Rockies and Selkirks.

BRÈCHE DU GLACIER CARRÉ, between La Meije (Grand Pic) and Le Pic du Glacier Carré: from La Grave to La Bérarde.—*La Montagne* (1933, pp. 363–72) publishes a well-illustrated and spirited account of the first crossing of this 'col,' August 13, 1933, by the guides Casimir Rodier and Maurice Fourastier ('A.J.' 45, 404, footnote 11).

Although—to judge from the narrative—affording great self-satisfaction to one at least of the participants, the expedition involving the clamber up the great slanting *couloir en Z*, does not appear to offer much interest beyond danger. The *couloir* consists of very steep slabs varied by ice slopes, all swept continuously by stones. Mechanized methods were employed several times.

From a bivouac on the Glacier de la Meije close to the base of the *couloir*, the party took just under 12 hours to attain the watershed. The descent on the La Bérarde slope was accomplished by the usual route of La Meije.

The Editor of *La Montagne* adds a very interesting note (*loc. cit.*, pp. 375–6) on the history of the various attempts on the N. slope of the massif. M. Dalloz points out that although the *massif* has been crossed from N. to S. at two or three points, the N. face of the Grand Pic—despite some claims to the contrary—has never yet been scaled.

KARAKORAM EXPEDITION.—The international expedition leaving Europe on April 13 is composed as follows: Dr. and Mme. G. O. Dyhrenfurth, MM. Marcel Kurz (A.C.), Winzeler, Angst, André Roch (Switzerland); Herren H. Ertl, Höcht, von Friedl (Germany); J. Belaieff (Great Britain); P. Ghiglione (Italy). *Leader*, Dr. Dyhrenfurth, A.C.—G. O. D.

BERNINA GROUP.—Mountaineers coming from the *Swiss* side of the chain will be allowed to make use of the Marinelli Club hut during the summer. This permission is a great concession as the hut is by far the best starting-point in the entire Central Bernina Range.

GUIDE DE LA CHAÎNE DU MONT BLANC (4th Edition).—This well-known *Climbers' Guide* by Marcel Kurz will be republished early in 1935. M. Kurz requests that notes and suggestions be sent to him to 7 Rue St. Honoré, Neuchâtel, *before* December 31, 1934, when the book goes to press (Payot et Cie., Lausanne).

Since its first appearance in 1892, the volume has been indispensable to mountaineers and will now once again be brought thoroughly up to date.

R.G.S. HONOURS.—The King has approved of the award of the Founder's Medal to Mr. Hugh Ruttledge for his journeys in the last eight years in the Kumaon and Garwhal Himalaya, and for his leadership of the Mt. Everest Expedition, 1933.

MOUNTAIN CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA.—Professor O. K. Williamson has been elected an Honorary Member.

BELGRAT-UNTERBAECHHORN RIDGE.—The ridge from the Sparrhorn to the Unterbaechhorn, owing to its close proximity to Belalp, is the obvious objective for the climber who wants a short expedition from Belalp. Although the Hohstock, point 3175 of the *old* map, is fully dealt with in the new S.A.C. *Climbers' Guide*, the Belgrat ridge is not dealt with at any length.

The ridge of the Belgrat can be followed from the Hohstock, point 3175 of the old map, to point 3343 (*Graf* of the Conway-Coolidge *Climbers' Guide*) and this is described in the new Guide. The expedition can, however, be shortened by *descending* between point 3257 (*Bonne Poupée*) (of the Conway-Coolidge) and 3225 (*Mauvaise Poupée*), as the S.W. wall between these two points can be ascended or descended without great difficulty almost anywhere, though the rocks are somewhat loose and steep. An even easier descent can be made from the lowest point between point 3343 (*Graf*) and point 3298 (*Wittwe*) to the glacier on the S. side.

On the old map there are two heights marked by the name Unterbaechhorn, 3576 and 3517. In the new map, point 3517 has been given the altitude 3554 metres, which agrees with the relative heights of the two points; point 3554, the point where the Gisighorn and Belgrat ridges join being not very much lower than point 3576. As there is a definite summit on the ridge between point 3554 (*new* map) and point 3343 (*Graf*), and as this point is more definite when seen from the N., it would appear that the height 3517 perhaps applied to *this* point, which is about 120 ft. lower than point 3554 of the new map. The ridge from point 3343 (*Graf*) to this point consists

of easy snow or easy rocks, and from the summit the head of the couloir (S.A.C. *Climbers' Guide*, 2nd edition, iii, Route 140) employed to ascend the Unterbaechhorn, can be reached without difficulty. The ridge from the head of this couloir to the Unterbaechhorn provides more difficult climbing. The last piece of the ridge, on which the rock is loose and difficult, can be easily turned by a traverse on the N. side to a point immediately below point 3554 (*new map*) which can then be reached up snow, or easy but loose rocks.

H. BOOTH.

D. W. F. ON THE DEATH OF FRANÇOIS DÉVOUASSOUD (July 20, 1905) :

Knight-errant of the glacier-cleaving blade,
Whose homestead lies hard by the narrow way,
Trodden in summer by the world at play—
The world that hurries back to ply its trade :

Then left to silence in the double shade
Of winter and Mont Blanc, where no warm ray
Breaks the white darkness of the shortest day,
And rope and ice-axe on the shelf are laid.

Let the frosts bite : they cannot chill the glow
Lit from the memories of other years ;
Embers in which shines the far Syrian snow
Or Caucasus its conquered peaks uprears ;

Smoke-wreaths that frame old friends, young faces too,
For every age finds guide and friend in you !

From the original pencil MS. in the possession of Mr. Willink.

JULIAN ALPS, *Corrigenda*.—With reference to the titles of illustrations, 'A.J.' 45, 389 and 394, the name 'Martuljek' should be deleted. The party of August 5, 1932 (p. 392), is the same as that of July 11 (p. 387), and *not* as that of September 9 (p. 390).—F. S. C.

CAUCASUS NOTES.

*The French Expedition, 1933.*¹

LEAVING Naltshik on August 8 at 21.00, the party attained the hamlets of (?) Koshtantau and Mukhol, then, crossing the Dumala Pass (*ca.* 10,000 ft.), entered the Dumala glen watered by the Ulluaux Glacier torrent, which they followed to the foot of the glacier.

¹ The party consisted of MM. J. Lagarde, R. Tézenas du Montcel, R. Gaché and L. Valluet.