

ALPINE NOTES

				Year of Election.
THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :				
Willink, H. G.	.	.	.	1880
Paillon, Maurice	.	.	Ordinary Member	1891-1892
			Honorary Member	1933
Heywood, N. A.	.	.	.	1895
Martel, E. A.	.	.	Ordinary Member	1896-1902
			Honorary Member	1918
Filippi, Cav. Filippo de	.	.	Ordinary Member	1898-1935
			Honorary Member	1935
Mordey, W. M.	.	.	.	1901
Harper, C. J. S.	.	.	.	1903
Tutton, A. E. H.	.	.	.	1909
Schiller, F. N.	.	.	.	1920
Wood, Harrison	.	.	.	1936

BRITISH ARMY AND R.A.F. MEMORIAL TO KING ALBERT I.—This stained-glass rose window was unveiled by His Majesty King Leopold, accompanied by Queen Elisabeth, in Ypres Cathedral on May 21. A detachment of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, the regiment of which King Albert was Colonel-in-Chief, was present, together with the Band of the Royal Fusiliers and a party of R.A.F. Many ex-soldiers of the Ypres League and others attended. Major-General the Earl of Athlone, K.G., accompanied by two Field-Marshals and numerous British Generals, handed over window and the commemorative plate to His Majesty after an impressive ceremony in the Cathedral, concluding with *Réveillé* sounded by the trumpeters of the Inniskilling Dragoon Guards. A further parade of the Belgian 3^e Regiment, which so distinguished itself in the Yser battles, and the British detachments took place under the magnificent Menin Gate. King Leopold received the British and Belgian officers after inspection of the Inniskillings, of which His Majesty is Colonel-in-Chief, and the other Belgian and British contingents.

A reception at the Town Hall by the Burgomaster of Ypres, followed by a luncheon, concluded a very successful ceremony. The weather was reminiscent of campaigning in the Salient at its worst.

THE ALPINE CLUB, many of whose members served in Flanders, 1914-1918, subscribed towards the erection of the memorial. The Club received a special invitation from the Chairman of the Memorial and Ypres League; it was represented officially.

We acknowledge with gratitude the courtesy of the Ypres League for permission to publish the accompanying photograph of the Memorial Tablet.



TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN HONOURED MEMORY OF
ALBERT I. KING OF THE BELGIANS
KNIGHT OF THE GARTER. FIELD MARSHAL OF
THE BRITISH ARMY AND COLONEL-IN-CHIEF
OF THE 5TH ROYAL INNISKILLING DRAGOON GUARDS
THE ROSE WINDOW IN THE SOUTH TRANSEPT
IS GIVEN TO
BELGIUM

BY

THE BRITISH ARMY AND THE ROYAL AIR FORCE
THIS MEMORIAL GIFT WAS SUBSCRIBED FOR IN
THE YEAR 1935 BY ALL RANKS ACTIVE AND RETIRED
THE WOMEN'S SERVICES & THE DOMINION FORCES
WHILST SPECIAL ASSISTANCE WAS GIVEN BY THE 5TH
ROYAL INNISKILLING DRAGOON GUARDS, THE LEAGUE
OF REMEMBRANCE (1914-1919), THE BRITISH LEGION &
THE YPRES LEAGUE. WE THE SUBSCRIBERS ARE MOST
HAPPY TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR
HIGH ESTEEM AND APPRECIATION OF KING ALBERT'S
NOBLE SERVICE IN THE GREAT WAR. THE SUBJECT OF
THE WINDOW IS THE GLORY OF GOD AS TESTIFIED IN
THE TE DEUM. THE CRESTS ARE THOSE OF BELGIUM
HIS MAJESTY'S ARMY, THE ROYAL AIR FORCE AND
THE 5TH ROYAL INNISKILLING
DRAGOON GUARDS



"MY SWORD I GIVE TO HIM THAT SHALL SUCCEED ME IN MY
PILGRIMAGE - MY COURAGE & SKILL TO HIM THAT CAN GET IT.
MY WOUNDS & SCARS I CARRY WITH ME, TO BE A WITNESS FOR
ME THAT I HAVE FOUGHT HIS BATTLES WHO WILL NOW BE MY
REWARDER" - SO HE PASSED OVER AND ALL THE TRUMPETS
SOUNDED FOR HIM ON THE OTHER SIDE.

THE ROYAL VISIT TO PARIS, 1938.—We congratulate M. Pierre Dalloz, Editor of *La Montagne*, on his selection by the French Government to edit the volume published in commemoration of the visit of their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. The volume, which has now been presented to the Club Library, contains 100 photographs illustrative of French life, culture, architecture and scenery, with 40 pages of text by MM. Daladier, Paul Claudel, André Maurois and other distinguished writers. Many of the arrangements for this visit were in the capable hands of M. Henry de Ségogne, as Secretary to the Vice-Président du Conseil.

MEDALS, AWARDS AND HONOURS.—His Majesty the King has approved the award of the Patron's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society for 1938 to Mr. Eric Shipton, for his explorations around Nanda Devi and Mount Everest and his conduct of the Shaksgam Expedition of 1937.

The Council of the Royal Geographical Society have made the following awards :

The Murchison Grant to Mr. Martin Lindsay, for his journey across Greenland in 1934.

The Cuthbert Peek Grant to Mr. Bradford Washburn, for his explorations and glacier studies in Alaska.

The Back Grant to Mr. L. R. Wager, in recognition of his researches in mountain physiography, mainly in East Greenland, but also in the Himalaya.

In the Birthday Honours List of June 3, 1938, Mr. A. E. Cutforth was created a Knight Bachelor, and Mr. F. S. Copeland, Reader in English at Ljubljana University, received the O.B.E.

We offer our warm congratulations to the recipients of these honours.

WATERCOLOUR DRAWING BY H. G. WILLINK.—We are indebted to members of Mr. Willink's family for the reproduction of the water-colour drawing of the Lower Grindelwald Glacier, which forms the frontispiece to this number.

OBITUARY.—We regret to announce the deaths of three of our Honorary Members: M. E. A. Martel, whose *In Memoriam* notice appears in this number, Cav. Filippo de Filippi, K.C.I.E., M.D., and M. Maurice Paillon. We hope to publish *In Memoriam* notices of these two distinguished mountaineers in the May 1939 number.

THE LATE MR. ROBERT L. BEAUMONT.—On August 15, 1938, R. L. Beaumont was leading A. D. M. Cox and H. E. Kretschmer up the Western Gully in the cliffs of the Black Ladders, on the N. face of Carnedd Dafydd in North Wales. This party of O.U.M.C. men was engaged in preparing the Carnedd sector of the series of *Guides* to North Wales published by the Climbers' Club.

A traverse had been made to the right and cracks and ledges ascended to avoid an impasse in the bed of the gully. Beaumont had led back

into the deeply-cut gully out of sight and had gained a stance. Kretschmer had just begun to follow, when sounds of a fall were heard, and he was able to hold Beaumont on the rope after he had fallen 80 feet. They were able to help him on to a ledge where he remained in a semi-conscious condition until Cox returned with help. Owing to the inaccessible position of the crag, it was eleven hours before he was brought to Bangor Hospital where he died 24 hours later. The cause of the accident remains a mystery.

Beaumont had a genius for foreign languages and was experienced in travel in the more inaccessible corners of Europe. He was therefore an invaluable member of our expedition to the Caucasus last year and the success and friendship of our party depended to a large extent upon his strength and energy, his scholarship and remarkable fund of knowledge and his characteristic sense of humour. What impressed us most was his indomitable courage. He had had no experience of difficult climbing and had not done a long *rappel* in his life. Yet he followed Hodgkin and Taylor on that long and difficult ascent of Ushba without once holding up the party, and he made the long series of exposed *rappels* on the descent without hesitation.

His death at the age of 24 is a great loss to Oxford mountaineering and an even greater one in the field of scholarship. In conclusion, I quote the words of Mr. R. H. Dundas in *The Times*: 'The death of Robert Beaumont . . . adds a crowning disaster to the study of Greek History in Oxford and England. . . . His mind was swift, restless and untiring. . . . He was an expert climber—last year he climbed in the Caucasus and tried to get leave to return there this year. . . His friendship, sensitive, retiring, tender and dashed with little gusts of impatience, was a thing to make recipients proud. In him his school and his two colleges have lost the best and most eager mind of his generation of scholars.'

J. R. J.

THE LATE LEON PAYOT.—For some years the standard of guiding at Chamonix, apart from one or two outstanding exceptions, has, to the regret of all mountaineers, been deplorably low. It was therefore with the greater enthusiasm that one could welcome the appearance on the scene of one or two young guides with a future of brilliant promise. It is tragic to record that the best of them, Léon Payot, was killed on September 13 by an avalanche which fell from the neighbourhood of *Pic Wilson* and carried him into a crevasse. He and the porter Marceau Charlet, who was also killed, had reached the Grands Mulets with their party and were breaking trail for an ascent of Mt. Blanc next day by the ordinary route. They were so deeply buried that even if help had been immediately to hand there would have been no hope of extricating them alive.

Léon, who leaves a young widow, was only in his first year as a guide, after a period of probation as porter, but his style and keenness assured a brilliant future for him and had impressed the severest critics. The mountaineering world will be the poorer for the death of one of the

rare stars in the Chamonix firmament, and his friends will regret a modest and charming companion with whom one could talk mountains as well as climb them.

D. L. B.

THE LATE OTTONE BRON.—Ottone Bron, one of the best-known guides of Courmayeur, was killed on the Col du Géant on July 25, 1938. Bron was leading two Italian clients from the Torino hut to the Requin hut when, just at the beginning of the séracs, a snow bridge gave way. His companions tightened the rope at once; but while Bron was still swinging on the rope it was cut by a blade of ice in the crevasse itself. Bron fell 40 m.; and although help arrived promptly from the Requin, and the porter Laurent Cretton descended into the crevasse, Bron's injuries were such that he died while being brought to the surface.

As one of the French papers said: 'Bron était un gars solide, tel que la montagne sait les former. Qui, à Chamonix, ne connaissait ce profil bronzé aux traits accentués et énergiques, toujours souriant, et à la lèvre, toujours la blague.' Bron was a man of exceptional strength and endurance, as well as great force of character. He had climbed in nearly all the main regions of the Alps, and had done particularly good work on the S. face of Mt. Blanc and in the Paradiso district. Those who had the privilege of climbing with him will remember him not only for his skill and prudence but also for his high conception of his calling. In that, and in his attitude and equality with his clients, he resembled the great guides of a past generation. He took pleasure in teaching his clients all that was possible of technique and knowledge; and whether his companions were distinguished Italians, or the few English with whom he climbed over a period of years, his independence and authority, his mixture of good humour and stinging rebuke, remained unaltered.

Bron began climbing just after the war, and one of his first engagements was with George Mallory and his party, who planned to do some climbs on the S. face of M. Blanc. Bron was engaged as porter, but in fact he did a good deal of leading and step-cutting, and he always looked back with pleasure to Mallory's entry in his book. A little later he climbed with Dr. Longstaff.

In winter, Bron was ski-ing instructor at Sestrières; in spring he carried out long ski tours around Zermatt, and in early summer he directed the Scuola Monte Bianco which he had founded at the Torino hut. He was as much at home, and as much liked and admired, on the French side of Mt. Blanc as on the Italian, and a deputation of Chamonix guides came to his funeral at Courmayeur. 'C'était un Valdôtain, et l'on peut dire un gars de chez nous.' He died at the age of 41, and leaves a widow and one child.

M. R.

THE LATE M. ALBERT GATINE.—We much regret to announce the death of this distinguished French veteran which occurred in Paris on

June 28, 1938. M. Gatine was a great authority on the Queyras region. Members of the ALPINE CLUB visiting Paris or the Dauphiné will remember his and his family's invariably kind welcome and great hospitality. He was an Honorary President of the C.A.F. *R.I.P.*

MONTAGNIER MEMORIAL.—Commandant E. Gaillard acknowledges with thanks the receipt of £12 from members of the Club resident in the United Kingdom, towards the creation of a bench in the neighbourhood of Champéry to the memory of the late Henry F. Montagnier.

The subscription list is still open.

THREE GREAT ITALIAN GUIDES.—In the month of August 1890, within one week, Italian mountaineering lost three of its greatest guides, all of whom died on the mountain side: Jean-Antoine Carrel and Jean-Joseph Maquignaz of Valtournanche, and Antonio Castagneri of Balme, Val di Lanzo. The story of these deaths is too well known to call for repetition here. It is sufficient to recall that Carrel died of exhaustion at the foot of the Tête du Lion, on August 25, after a day and night of struggle against storm to save his party, Signor Leone Sinigaglia and the guide, Charles Gorret; and that Maquignaz and Castagneri vanished mysteriously, with their employer Count Umberto di Villanova, on August 18 somewhere on the S.W. flank of Mt. Blanc, according to one account on the arête Col de Bionnassay—Dôme du Goûter, though others hold that the party may have perished on the Brouillard—Innominata face.

In remembrance of these distinguished guides, the C.A.I. published the *In Memoriam* picture reproduced in this number, which is now a rare document and perhaps almost unknown to British mountaineers.

C. G.

DR. JULIUS KUGY.—Our Honorary Member, Dr. Julius Kugy, celebrated his eightieth birthday at Valbruna, in the Julian Alps, on July 19 of this year. A lunch was given in his honour at the Trattoria Gelbmann, which faces the home of Anton Oitzinger's family where Dr. Kugy resides in the summer holidays. During lunch the postman arrived from Ugovizza with two rucksacks full of letters and telegrams, forming part of the 1500 greetings received, including one from the ALPINE CLUB. The celebrations continued throughout the day, as car after car arrived till the village streets were overflowing.

We rejoice to announce that Dr. Kugy, despite his fourscore years, is now engaged on a history of Monte Rosa, to form a companion volume to his *Fünf Jahrhunderte Triglav*. It will be recalled that Dr. Kugy made his first entry into Switzerland, in 1886, by the E. face of Monte Rosa.

REMARKABLE EXPEDITIONS.—The following was accomplished by the Misses Ursula Corning and Hermione Blandy, with Alexander Graven and Sigismund Perren:

WEISSHORN, 4512 m., by the S.W. arête, August 27, 1938. The party

In Memoria delle Guide

CARREL, MAQUIGNAZ
&
CASTAGNERI



GIO ANTONIO CARREL

1841 - 1907



GIO GIUSEPPE MAQUIGNAZ

1841 - 1907



ANTONIO CASTAGNERI

AL MONTE PENNO IL TREDECEME

G. Varale sez. Biella C.A.I.



V. B. MARCONI 1910

left the Weisshorn hut at 03.00, attaining the Schallijoch at 07.45. The summit was reached at 12.15, whence departing at 13.00, the party arrived at Randa at 18.00, *via* the E. arête.

Conditions were good and rocks dry, but the Schalliberg Glacier being much crevassed, some time was expended in attaining the col. It will be remembered that Mr. E. A. Broome, Miss Corning's grandfather, made the first complete ascent of the *Schalligrat* in 1895 (*A. J.* 17. 581-2; 18. 145 *sqq.*).

PIZ BADILE, 3308 m., by the N. buttress, August 2, 1938. Miss Hermione Blandy and Herr Carl Nater, with Walter Risch. Bivouacking at Sassfurà, the party started at 04.45, attaining the base of the climb at 06.30 and the summit at 12.00. The party returned by the S. face and Passo di Bondo. Leaving the latter at 16.00, they regained Promontogno at 20.30.

Conditions were good on the peak, but the Bondasca Glacier was much crevassed. The climb is becoming so popular that the Sciora hut is now often overcrowded and climbers compelled to bivouac at Sassfurà. H. B.

WINTER ASCENTS.—Signor Angelo Calegari together with the guides Virgilio and Giacomo Fiorelli of San Martino (Masino), made the first winter ascent of PIZ BADILE, 3308 m., on March 16, 1938.

Having attained the Gianetti Club hut on ski in 6 hrs., they reached the summit in 7 hrs. mostly by the edge of the S. buttress or its slopes. Conditions dangerous; much fresh snow and glazed rocks. The upper part of the 'face in the angle' was especially hazardous. The descent by the same—ordinary—route took 7 hrs. Weather fine and cold. The party had made two previous attempts in the same month.

On March 6, Signor Calegari with V. Fiorelli made mostly on ski, what is stated to have been the first winter ascent of PUNTA TORELLI, 3137 m.

On March 29, Signori M. Pinardi, R. Minazzi and G. Cristofaro made the ascent of PIZ SCERSCEN, 3967 m., from the Marinelli Club hut by the 1879 route¹ *via* the Schneehaube, 3877 m. The ascent took 6 hrs. and conditions must have been favourable.

From *Lo Scarpone*.

The first winter ascent of Piz Scerscen was accomplished in March 1924 by Walter Risch, *alone*.² The route taken in the ascent and descent was over the formidable 'Eisnase.'³

On February 7, 1938, Mlle Erika Stagni and M. Marcel Gallay with R. Lambert,⁴ arrived at the Requin hut. On the following day they attained the shelter-hut on the Col de la Fourche de la Brenva.⁵ On

¹ S.A.C. *Climbers' Guide* (Kurz), route 159, pp. 175-6.

² *A. J.* 37. 145, footnote 23.

³ *Kurz*, route 156, pp. 168-71.

⁴ A Swiss professional resident in Geneva.

⁵ *A. J.* 47, illustration facing 357.

February 9 the party started for the AIGUILLES DU DIABLE:⁶ they turned the Corne du Diable, climbed the Pointe Chaubert and La Médiane, bivouacking on the summit of the latter. Bad weather with snow set in during the night. On February 10, despite falling snow and evil conditions the party persevered, climbing Pointe Carmen and attaining the summit of Mt. Blanc du Tacul where they bivouacked yet again. On the 11th the party attempted to descend in the direction of the Col du Midi but in the continuous blizzard could only reach the depression of the Col du Mont Maudit⁷ where they sought shelter in a crevasse. There was no improvement in the weather during February 12, the party remaining marooned on the col with no food since the 10th. On the 13th Lambert, alone, attempted the descent and, after missing the way several times, succeeded in gaining the direction of the Col du Midi and the slopes of the *Gros Rognon*.

During this period with a delay of two or three days, a party of twenty Geneva mountaineers, including MM. R. Gréloz and F. Marullaz, left Geneva and spent the night of February 12 at the Chapeau, the weather being atrocious. During the ascent the party crossed two guides returning from the Requin hut without news of the missing party. On the 13th the entire Geneva party proceeded to the Requin hut, some of them going in the direction of the *Combe Maudite*, where in an icy tempest they searched the bergschrund of the Col de la Fourche, while others explored the base of the Col du Diable. Wind and cold stopped the hunt and at 14.00 the party turned back to the Requin hut. At 15.00 while turning the Capucin's buttress, they perceived, during a momentary clearing and at a great distance, Lambert descending. Hastening towards him they contrived to convoy him to the Requin hut, which they attained about 18.00. Two of the party, Mlle Boulaz and Gréloz, then descended to Chamonix to fetch a guides' rescue party, many of the Geneva men (and women) being by now quite exhausted. During the said descent they met a guide, Paul Demarchi and two porters, Franchino and Payot, who had received telephonic instructions from the family of Mlle Stagni to search for the party. Gréloz directed the professionals to the Requin hut, whence at 06.00 on the 14th, having obtained information from Lambert, they set out for the Col du Mont Maudit bivouac. They brought Mlle Stagni down to the Requin hut, meeting the ordered guides' party on the Col du Midi who succeeded in conveying Gallay to safety in the said hut. Here it was discovered that many of the rescuers were badly frost-bitten. On the same day, February 14, Mlle Stagni and Lambert were conveyed to Geneva, while on the following day the injured were brought on sledges to Chamonix.

Mlle Stagni escaped scatheless; Gallay has lost all his toes. Lambert has had a foot amputated and all his toes, together with three fingers of the right hand. Demarchi has lost a foot, while Payot and Franchino have been four weeks in hospital; M. Marullaz has likewise lost

⁶ See *A. J.* 43, 232-40, illustrated. A more unsuitable set of peaks for winter scrambling could hardly have been chosen.

⁷ See *B.I.K.* map.

several toes—a sad reward for the devotion of all who brought aid in an expedition which should never have been undertaken.—From *Alpinisme*.

MT. EVEREST EXPEDITION, 1938.—The Mt. Everest party reached Rongbuk on April 6 and occupied Camp 3 with 30 porters on April 26. After reconnoitring the N. Col and taking stock of conditions—wind, cold, and health of party—it was decided to withdraw to the Kharta valley and to return late in May. The party crossed the Lhakpa La *en route* for Kharta on the 28th. Cold and wind continued unabated until May 5 when snow fell and continued to fall for the next week and the mountain was never again in condition. The party returned to Camp 3 on May 18 and the N. Col was occupied for the first time on the 28th. There was too much soft snow to do anything, so the party retreated to Camp 1 on the 31st. A party of four with seventeen porters occupied the N. Col from the west on June 5. A strong wind had been blowing for 48 hrs., and it was hoped that conditions had improved. This party occupied Camp 5 next day, finding the snow on the lower part of the N. ridge hard. Shipton, Smythe, and seven porters stayed there and the two former occupied Camp 6 on the 8th. No progress could be made above this owing to deep powder snow. Tilman and Lloyd came up on the 10th (Lloyd trying the oxygen apparatus) and on the following day attempted to gain the summit ridge west of the N.E. shoulder, but were unable to climb the rock wall above Camp 6. The N. Col was evacuated on June 12 and on the 20th the party left Rongbuk.

H. W. T.

We hope to publish a full account of this expedition in the May 1939 number.

GARHWAL.—In *A. J.* 50. 64, Mr. Smythe mentions that last summer he ascended from the Thiapap side to the col that I traversed in 1912 (*A. J.* 26. 436) on my cross-country journey from Mana to Niti (travelling in the opposite direction to Smythe). The appropriate name for this pass would be the Kulhia Khanta, as it is situated at the head of the Kulhia glen. Both my recollection and my diary confirm that the crossing in 1912 was very easy and it was, in fact, practicable for sheep. In a letter, Smythe tells me that on the Mana side conditions have completely changed so that the easy snow-walk of 1912 has become an icefall requiring step-cutting.

Himalayan glaciers are so active that changes of this kind can easily occur. I gather that Smythe is certain of the pass's identity, and he refers to it as the only possible direct way to Mana from the Bhyundar Khanta. I first heard of the route from the Bhotias of Mana who have a tradition that a dog once crossed by it, coming from Niti alone.

C. F. M.

AFRICA.—Miss Una Cameron was climbing in Africa with two Courmayeur guides, Edouard Bareux and Elisée Croux early this year. In the Ruwenzori (Mts. of the Moon) they climbed Mt. Speke, Mt.

Stanley (Alexandra Peak), Mt. Luigi di Savoia (Punta Sella), and Mt. Baker by a new route direct from Scott-Elliott Pass. Later they went eastwards and climbed both summits of Mt. Kenya. It was already the month of March and all snow had melted except for the gap between the peaks, 'the gate of the mists.' Finally, they climbed Kilimanjaro (Gilman Peak) which was as a climb merely tiring and dreary, but was interesting on account of the excellent huts and arrangements made by the Mountain Club of East Africa.

A party from the Stuttgart section of the D.A.V. also visited the Ruwenzori district. Among their expeditions were Mt. Margherita, N.E. face, Mt. Albert, Mt. Alexandra in the Stanley group; Mts. Semper and Edward in the Baker group; Mt. Stain in the Savoy group. The party further mapped the upper regions and studied the ethnology of the native mountain tribes.

A SWISS EXPEDITION TO GREENLAND.—An expedition organized by the A.A.C.Z., under the leadership of M. André Roch, set out for East Greenland in June. The objective of the expedition was the ascent of Mt. Forel (3400 m.), the second highest summit in Greenland, which was successfully accomplished. A further objective was the study of the inland ice-cap, to be conducted by M. Michel Perez, the Genevese geologist and explorer of Greenland.

AMERICAN NOTES.—Donald (Curly) Phillips, who took part in early attempts upon Mt. Robson (*A. J.* 25. 297, *Canadian A. J.* ii. 2. 21 sqq.), was killed by an avalanche while ski-ing in the Robson district last March. Dr. J. M. Thorington is in possession of Phillips' trapping diaries, covering the period 1906–1923, which he hopes to publish with the aid of subscriptions next year, as a small companion volume to Conrad Kain's autobiography.

Mr. Bradford Washburn, whose paper 'The Ascent of Mt. Lucania' appeared in the May issue of this year, conducted an expedition this summer to the Matanuska Glacier, on the N. side of the Chugach Mountains (behind Prince William Sound), the highest peak of which, Mt. St. Agnes, was climbed. We hope to have further details later.

The first ascent of Mt. Sandford, 16,000 ft., was made this summer by Messrs. Terris Moore and Bradford Washburn.

Mr. Washburn has since, we regret to learn, been involved in a terrible aeroplane disaster near Seattle, in which although he himself as pilot escaped with very slight injuries, two of his companions were killed. The accident has not deterred Mr. Washburn from setting out on a further mountain exploration.

HIMALAYAN EXPEDITIONS.—Mr. C. S. Houston led an expedition this summer to the Karakoram, during which, after failure to obtain footing on the N.W. ridge of K₂, the party ascended the N.E. ridge to a height of 26,000 ft.

Dr. Paul Bauer led an expedition to Nanga Parbat. During the second half of July the party succeeded in reaching a height of 7000 m.,

in the course of which the bodies of Herr Willy Merkl and Gay Lay were discovered close by the rocky point known as the *Mohrenkopf* (*A. J.* 46. 427). Two parties each of two climbers pressed on to a height of 7250 m., but were then forced to return owing to bad weather.

A party led by Dr. R. Schwarzgruber arrived in the Badrinath-Kedarnath group early in September.

We hope to publish further particulars of these expeditions.

THE FUTURE OF ALPINE CLIMBING.—In an editorial note in the October 1938 issue of the *Ö.A.Z.* the ascent of the Eiger Nordwand is marked as the close of exploration in the Alps. The question is asked, on what lines will true mountaineering now develop, whether by a broadening of outlook or by the forcing of hitherto unknown routes. The Editor of *Ö.A.Z.* invites views on this subject for publication.

ÖSTERREICHISCHER ALPENKLUB.—This club has now become a branch of the D.A.V.

WEST ALPEN CLUB.—A mountaineering club of this name has lately been formed in Zürich, consisting at the moment of 30 members; it is designed to gather together, within the framework of the S.A.C., the most active members of that club, one necessary qualification being that the candidate must be capable of leading on the classic Alpine routes. The club defines its policy as opposed to record-breaking and *Hakenklettere*i. It has the further object of promoting exploration in foreign lands.

ACCIDENTS IN 1937.—The official figures given by the D.A.V., as reported in the *Allgemeine Bergsteiger Zeitung*, no. 793, number 594 accidents, of which 79 were fatal; of these figures, 368 were concerned with ski-ing and avalanches, 11 being fatal, and 77 with falls, 49 being fatal. Fuller details are given in *Mitteilungen* for 1938, p. 210.

JAPANESE HONOUR.—We are glad to publish a photograph of the tablet erected at Kamikochi by the Japanese Alpine Club in honour of our Member, the Rev. Walter Weston, who received last year the further honour from the Emperor of Japan of the Order of the Sacred Treasure.

THE NEW VALLOT HUT.—This new hut, belonging to the C.A.F., was opened this year on August 21, the work of reconstruction having been in the hands of M. Pirali, the St. Gervais guide. The opening ceremony was to have taken place at the hut itself, but owing to bad weather the ceremony was held at the Tête Rousse.

ALBERT HEIM HUT.—Few British mountaineers seem to know this hut, easily accessible in 1 hr. from Tiefenbach on the Furka road. This excellent hut (*ca.* 2547 m.) has been in existence for about 10 years, but was rebuilt and enlarged by the Section Uto of the S.A.C. last year.



Photo, Yuko Maki.]

TABLET IN HONOUR OF THE REV. WALTER WESTON, AT KAMIKOCHI, JAPAN.

It is now a model of its kind (1938). It is a good centre for climbs such as the Gletschhorn and Galenstock and Göscheneneralp is easily reached. The hut is much favoured by geologists: most of the surrounding peaks abound in fine crystals.—U. C.

ALBERT I^{ER} HUT.—This (C.A.B.) hut is very fashionable at the present moment. It is plated with tin, shines like silver and is well appointed within. Otherwise its position and amenities appear overrated. Like nearly all Mt. Blanc huts, it is apt to be grossly overcrowded, especially in *doubtful* weather.

The old SAMOAR hut, well known and popular with British visitors to the Oetztal, is to be rebuilt. It will be renamed Hermann Goering Schutzhaus.

S.A.C. HUTS IN 1937.—The total number of visitors to 115 huts amounted to 78,297, an increase of 2787 compared to 1936. The Britannia hut with 3423 was again an easy winner, whereas the Gspaltenhorn hut received but 41 callers. The percentage of S.A.C. members works out as 35 compared to 37 in 1936.—From *Die Alpen*.

THE REFUGE CHEVALIER, 3460 m. = 11,352 ft.—This refuge is situated on the crest of the Périades ridge, a few metres to the N.W. of and above the Brèche Puiseux. It is triangular in section and constructed entirely of wood. It can accommodate four persons, but, as there are only eight blankets, parties of more than two climbers are advised to provide themselves with sleeping-bags.

The refuge is easily gained from the Glacier des Périades by the Couloir Puiseux, while from the Mt. Mallet Glacier it is reached from a snow saddle to its N. by traversing a snow slope to the left, which leads to the broken rocks below the refuge.

It is admirably situated for such climbs as the N. arête of Mt. Mallet, the Rochefort ridge, the N. face of the Calotte de Rochefort, the Col des Grandes Jorasses, the W. arête of the Grandes Jorasses, etc. Excellent rock climbs may be found on the needles of Les Périades, some of which appear singularly inaccessible.

J. R. J.

THE SPIRIT OF MOUNTAINEERING.—Our attention has been drawn to an excellently written article in *The Montreal Gazette* of August 19, 1938, on 'English Alpinism: Reaction to Tedium.' This article is now with the collection of newspaper cuttings in the Club Library.

SLOVENE ALPS.—Members who contemplate a visit to Jugoslavia may be glad to know that Mrs. F. S. Copeland and Mme Debelakova have published *A Short Guide to the Slovene Alps*, for British and American tourists (Kleinmayr and Bamberg, Ljubljana, 1936). This gives details of mountain expeditions, hotels, and huts.

CENTENARY.—September 3, 1938, was the centenary of Mlle Henriette d'Angeville's famous ascent of Mt. Blanc, to which reference is made on p. 268 of this number.

VETERAN TOURS.—Mr. Edgar Foa celebrated his eighty-first year by making the ascent of Piz Languard from Pontresina. He was accompanied by General Sir Aylmer Haldane, aged seventy-six.

M. Blanchet, in commemoration of his sixty years of age, made the ascent of Laquinhorn entirely alone in one day from and to Almagel, *via* Saas-Grund and the Weissmies hut.

A REMARKABLE ACCIDENT.—In the middle of August of this year many ice-blocks from the Great Aletsch Glacier floated out into the Märjelensee and were blown by the wind to the further shore. Some hundreds of these blocks formed a veritable ice-village with streets, bridges and grottoes, and thus proved a source of attraction to many tourists who wandered about this 'village' photographing and filming, unconscious of danger.

On August 24 two Zürich tourists, brother and sister, while passing through one of these ice-streets, were trapped by falling ice. Nobody witnessed the accident. Fortunately the sister was able to call for help, and still more fortunately the wind carried her cries to some herdsmen who were nearly a mile distant. They summoned help from two tourists who had just come down the Aletsch Glacier, equipped with ice-axes. The latter were able to free the imprisoned brother and sister, but not without grave danger to all during the process of cutting away the flimsy surrounding structure of ice.

FREAK EXPEDITIONS.⁸—An Italian drove a military *elastico* motor car, from the Forno (Ortler) glen up to the Cedeh hut, and thence to the new Casati hut, near the Cevedale Pass, 3270 m. On the following day the journey was continued over the Cevedale Glacier and down the Martelltal into the Vintschgau.

PUNTA GUGLIERMINA, 3888 m.⁹—This extremely difficult gendarme situated on the S.E. arête of Aiguille Blanche de Péteret (first ascended in 1919 by the well-known brother after whom it is named), was climbed from the S.S.W. (*sic*) by Signori G. Gervasutti and G. Boccalatte on August 21, 1938. The ascent of the *ca.* 2600 ft. wall took 19 hrs., the party having to undergo a 'lassoo' bivouac 300 ft. below the summit. The climb is mechanized throughout, without the slightest possibility of a return anywhere—a very modern variation to a tooth on a ridge.

EVILS OF FREAK SCRAMBLING.—In the August, 1938, number of *Die Alpen*¹⁰ will be found a most interesting and well-written article

⁸ From *Lo Scarpone*.

⁹ *Kurz*, p. 428.

¹⁰ With a superb marked illustration, *loc. cit.*, pp. 307-12.

by the Swiss guide, Fritz Zurbrügg. It modestly describes the writer's solitary attempt to discover the bodies of the 1935 victims of the Morgenhorn N. face.¹¹ This gallant effort remained fruitless, but it is inconceivable how an experienced leader could have been insane enough to attempt such a route. The dangers incurred by the writer in going to the very place of the fall prove clearly the irresponsibility of those modern climbers who are not merely callous of their own but also of the lives of those who are obliged by their profession to attempt a rescue.

ORTLER GROUP.—The rapid disintegration of glaciers continues. This is especially to be noticed in the Sulden (Solda) valley, where the glacier of that name has become quite invisible from the glen, while the small Marlt and End der Welt are represented by mere piles of ugly moraine. Altogether, after a warm spell, the splendid cirque, Königspitze, Zebrù and Ortler itself, is a sad sight compared to the shining mass of but a decade ago. In particular, the Sulden slope of the Königsjoch, formerly represented by a broad and steep ice or snow couloir, is now an unsightly and crumbling rubble-wall in which a path meanders. The glacier at the foot has so withered away from its containing walls that the ascent of Königspitze from the Schaubach hut now commences with a *descent* of 150 ft.

The said hut, officially now Città di Milano, is still in the capable hands of the genial Hans Sepp Pinggera, who expresses great sorrow at the almost complete absence of British mountaineers.

At the frontier, Taufers (Turba), the Italian officials are capable and pleasant, the native inhabitants charming as ever, although it is difficult to understand the strange jargon now spoken by the rising generation. Food (except bread) is fair: prices in the simpler inns are quite moderate. This is especially the case in the excellently managed C.A.I. Club huts, all of which appear suitable and *bewirtschaftet* for a prolonged stay.

Many expeditions appear to be accomplished by Italian and German climbers. The most notable seems to have been an ascent of Zebrù in 1938 by the notoriously rotten S.E. face. This route, accessible from the Suldenjoch, is adjacent to the S.E. rib, climbed in 1880. Both routes are devoid of interest or much height but are exceedingly dangerous from loose rocks.

WITHOUT COMMENT.—An Alpine expedition consisting of three men and a woman will start tomorrow [July 14, 1938], to climb Mt. Blanc by the glacier route. It will be the first time that this has been attempted for many years. The climb is expected to take 20 days.—From *Yorkshire Post*.

A MATTERHORN FILM.—The Committee of the Geneva section of the S.A.C. has published a protest against a film entitled *The Matterhorn*

¹¹ *A.J.* 47. 377-8.

Tragedy, which has recently appeared in Geneva. 'Without insisting on the curious way history, geography and chronology were treated, we feel it our duty to protest against the manner in which Whymper—one of the most glorious characters of Alpinism—was represented. The readers of the admirable *Scrambles amongst the Alps* who, allured by the blustering way in which the film was advertised, went to see it, openly showed their regret at that misrepresentation of facts, sites and characters.'

In 1928 there was produced on the continent a film entitled *The Fight for the Matterhorn* (Fanck). This film, besides being a mere caricature of the facts of Whymper's and Carrel's struggles, was also a model of bad taste. Owing to the excellent commonsense of the then Chief Censor, its exhibition was forbidden throughout the British Empire (*A. J.* 41. 255-6; 42. 343). Some years later a revised and greatly modified version was permitted.

Now in May 1938 appears yet another version of the story of the first ascent of the Matterhorn, entitled *The Challenge*. The producers declare that certain episodes have been slightly altered for the sake of the story—but this caption is but a mild rendering of what really occurs. Why bring in the story of the Matterhorn at all? Why not produce another and fictitious tragedy of the mountains? The Matterhorn is notoriously difficult to film on account of foreshortening, a fact which became evident doubtless to the producers, since all the climbing, and the accident, take place on the Riffelhorn. In fact, the only *motion* pictures of the Matterhorn are the views of the party on the summit ridge.

We can dismiss the story in a few words. The parts of 'Whymper' and 'Carrel' (Luis Trenker) are played adequately. 'Hudson' resembles the butler of low comedy and climbs correspondingly—a grotesque misrepresentation of the best amateur of his time. 'Francis Douglas' hardly appears, while 'Hadow' is evidently overburdened by his coming responsibilities. 'Croze' is overshadowed by 'Whymper' and shows no sign of skill. The 'Taugwalders' are quite colourless. It is almost superfluous to point out the absurdities of the story. When Whymper fell on the Matterhorn, he was alone, and Carrel (pronounced Karrl) was not on the mountain. The former regained Breuil under his own steam; he was not found or carried down by Carrel. In the descent the two Taugwalders did not go last. The film order was doubtless arranged so that 'Whymper' might be suspected of cutting the rope—an accusation never made against his original. Whymper did not throw away the broken 'sash line,' still less did Carrel (apparently) come over the mountain from Breuil and find the said article on the mountain's N. face. The original Carrel was at work during this period making the first ascent from the Italian side. The village of Breuil is represented by Zermatt; it is disconcerting to find Favre's inn occupying the site of the present Riffelhaus and in full view of the Mischabel and Monte Rosa. The actors—except Trenker—are all British; in the minor parts none bear the slightest resemblance to the Swiss and Italian peasants they are supposed to represent. Giordano

never accompanied Carrel on the latter's attempt of July 14, so why caricature the former as falling from an overhang and then renouncing the climb? Such are a few of the travesties effected in this film.

Communicated.

TOPS OF MOUNTAINS.—It is reported that the 'top of the Matterhorn' was recently sold in Geneva for 5 fr. 50 c. The slab in question, some 12 ins. long and 10 ins. wide, was brought down by M. F. Thioly in 1868, and duly certificated by the Commune of Zermatt, after which the relic with the certificate was preserved by M. Thioly's family in Geneva. The actual top of the Matterhorn, presented by Edward Whymper, has been in possession of the ALPINE CLUB since 1866.

In this connection, we are permitted by the courtesy of the Editor, *The Times*, and of the writer to reprint the following letter:

To the Editor of *The Times*.

SIR,—If ever your leading article on 'Tops of the Matterhorn' appears in the columns of the Argentine newspapers, it is bound to cause considerable heart-burnings in many an Argentine household.

The most treasured possession in numerous families is the actual summit of Aconcagua, the highest mountain, not only in America but of the world, outside Asia.

As more than 40 years have elapsed since Aconcagua was conquered, perhaps I will not be considered guilty of an indiscretion if I reveal a secret which is known only to myself.

The first man to reach the top was the guide, Mattias Zurbriggen, and, when he returned to our base camp, the leader of the expedition, Edward FitzGerald, allowed him to go down to Mendoza for a few days' rest and allowed me, then a boy, to accompany him.

Zurbriggen might be described as a good 'mixer,' and thoroughly enjoyed being lionized by the more important citizens of Mendoza. On the evening of our arrival there, both of us, dressed in the ragged clothes we had worn for several months, repaired to the largest and smartest café in the town. Zurbriggen was immediately surrounded by a crowd of admirers who wished to drink his health and that of the expedition.

From time to time, during the evening, I noticed that the hero would retire with one or other of his admirers to a quiet corner of the room, and that on each occasion Zurbriggen would take something out of his pocket which he gave to his new-made friend, and that the latter appeared to hand something to the guide in return.

As Zurbriggen and I were proceeding back to our hotel I ventured to inquire the explanation of these mysterious transactions.

The explanation was this: During the evening the enterprising guide had sold at least a dozen 'actual summits' of Aconcagua. He disposed of several more before we left Mendoza and afterwards did a brisk trade in them in Chile.

If ever these tops of Aconcagua come to be examined by a geologist, the result may well puzzle and baffle him, for most of them were—I regret to say—gathered by the wayside.

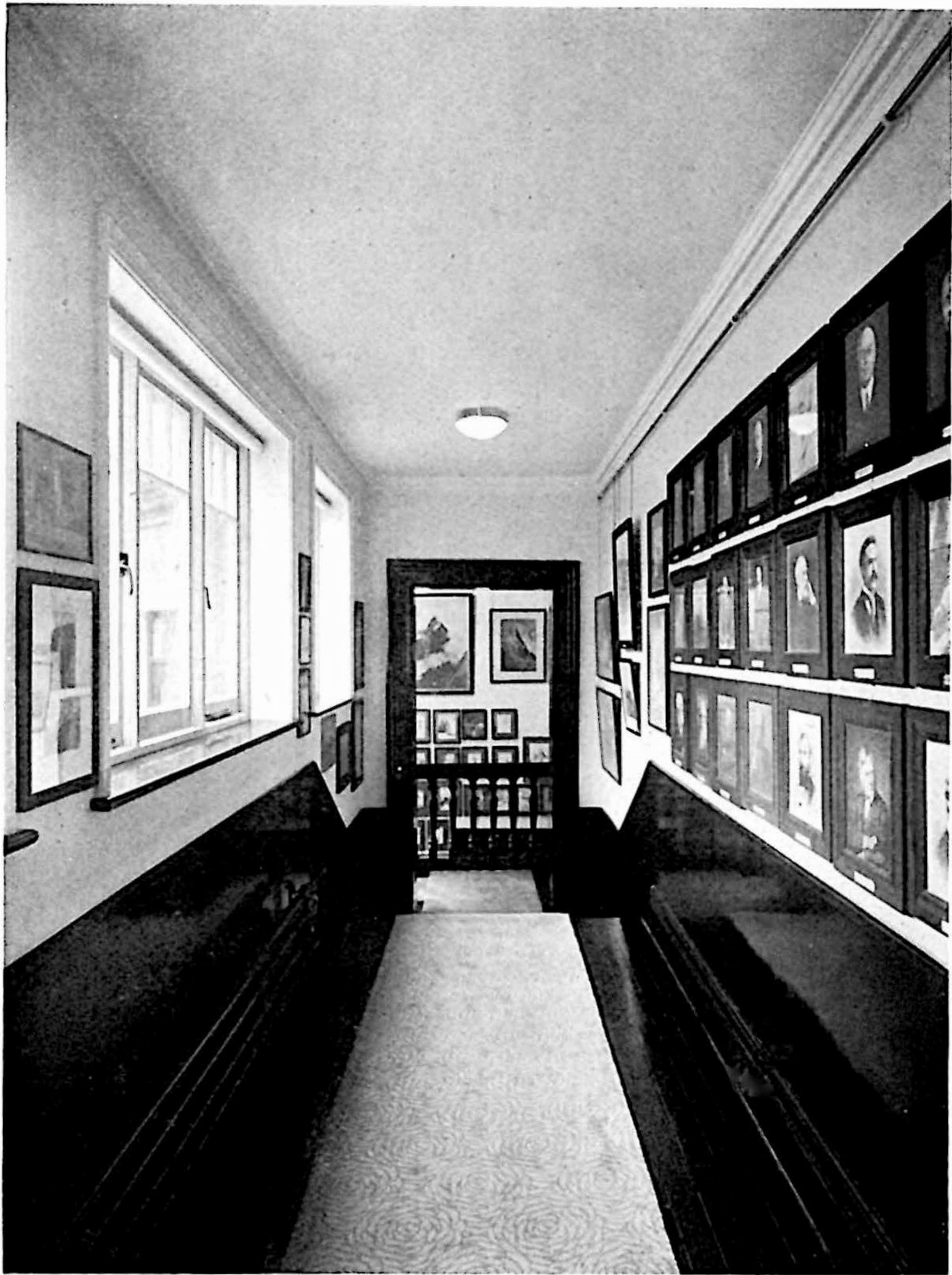
Yours faithfully,
PHILIP GOSSE.

THE IBEX.—Mountaineers interested in big game, who find themselves in N.E. Switzerland, should not fail to visit the Peter and Paul Park on the outskirts of St. Gallen, where ibex and chamois are bred for the National Park. This reserve, situated on high ground, commands a



Photo, copyright, Alpine Club.]

COMMITTEE ROOM, ALPINE CLUB, 74 SOUTH AUDLEY STREET.



Photo, copyright, Alpine Club.]

THE PRESIDENTS' GALLERY, ALPINE CLUB, 74 SOUTH AUDLEY STREET.

remarkable panorama of the Lake of Constance, and the animals are maintained on natural cliffs. The ibex were brought from the Italian herd at Cogne, having been extinct in Switzerland since the sixteenth century, and since being released have now reoccupied their original ranges, numbering several hundred head in the main park areas N. and S. of the Ofen Pass. Another large herd maintains itself on the Harder, above the Lake of Brienz, while breeding is also being carried out at the small park at Interlaken Ost.

In St. Gallen one should see the Jägerstube in the Hotel Walhalla, whose late proprietor, Herr Mader, was primarily responsible for the rehabilitation of the ibex in Switzerland. Besides an unusual collection of antlers and horns, the room contains an excellent small portrait of Christian Klucker, as well as one of the renowned hunter of Pontresina, Jan Marchet Colani (1772-1837), who brought down 2700 chamois, two ibex, two wolves and two stags during a hunting career of 35 years. Another portrait of Colani is to be seen in the Rhaetic Museum at Chur.

At the library of the Stiftskirche one can see the well-preserved fifteenth-century manuscript maps of Switzerland by Aegidius Tschudi (*A. J.* 46. 146 *sqq.*). St. Gallus was an Irish monk who founded the monastery in the seventh century, and he had many followers—which may account for the numerous red-headed children in this part of Switzerland.

J. M. T.

FROM CHAMONIX.—In connection with the celebrations attending the visit of British Royalty to France, M. Paul Payot, at the Ruskin stone, read a paper on 'The Englishman at Chamonix,' and exhibited in the window of the Pâtisserie des Alpes various appropriate items from his remarkable collection of prints and manuscripts. A wreath was placed below the Paccard plaque by members of the American Alpine Club present at the time.

Our attention was called to the neglect into which the unique local Alpine Museum of the Hôtel de Ville has fallen, it being now closed to the public and many of its exhibits in danger of destruction. As this is due to the indifference of the Conseil Municipal, it is hoped that steps will be taken to reopen the rooms, which contain much that is interesting to visiting mountaineers and travellers.

With reference to the note in *A. J.* 50. 144 on Messer, it is stated in *Oscillations*, a rare work by Venance Payot (1879), p. 192, that Messer made his *third* ascent of Mt. Blanc on August 27, 1851. This would imply two ascents prior to Albert Smith; these are not mentioned by Montagnier.

J. M. T.

S.A.C.—We congratulate the S.A.C. on attaining its seventy-fifth birthday on October 23 of this year. *Die Alpen* commemorates this by a special number of xl + 163 pages (October 1938). This excellent monthly gives full accounts of the history of the flourishing Club now

consisting (June 1938) of 31,226 members with a satisfactory yearly increase since 1917, when it fell to but 13,658. There are some interesting further papers, notably on Guides, Huts, Winter Climbing, etc., but the article by M. Louis Seylaz, *Evolution de l'Alpinisme*, must be singled out in a special degree. This most admirable paper should be learnt by heart by every youthful aspirant to mountaineering honours, though the writer laments that whatever advice be given by age and experience, modern youth will feel bound to spurn it.

The illustrations to this number are of great interest. They include portraits of the great Swiss pioneers, Conrad Gesner, Placidus a Spescha, Albrecht Haller, H. B. de Saussure, Gottlieb Studer, Melchior Ulrich, G. H. Dufour, J. J. Weilenmann and the long-lived (1822-1918) Johann Coaz, Desor, Javelle, Albert Heim, and last but not least, our own member, Dr. Heinrich Dübi, who has just celebrated his 90th birthday. These figure worthily among the Alpine immortals. Of the great guides of the past, likenesses appear of Christian Almer, Melchior Anderegg, Alexander Burgener and Christian Klucker. The pictures of the two first-named are, however, but poor reproductions of Sir William Abney's splendid portraits in *Pioneers of the Alps*, and are much inferior to those of Burgener and Klucker. In the instructive photograph of *Ancien Equipement*, the reviewer is pleased to recognize an exact replica of a bear-paw worn by himself in winter expeditions in the 'nineties!

Altogether, we have nothing but praise for this number commemorating the success of the Swiss Alpine Club, our own Club's senior godchild, to whom we wish every possible success now and in the future.

PAIN DE SUCRE, AIGUILLE DU PLAN, CROCODILE.—The routes detailed on the illustration facing p. 305 are as follows:

1. R. Gréloz and A. Roch, 1937.
2. R. Gréloz and F. Marullaz, August 13, 1931. *La Montagne*, 1932, 255-262.
3. M. and Mme Paul Dalmais, with Georges and Marcel Charlet, August 13, 1931. *Annuaire*, G. H. M., 1932, 54-55.
4. V. J. E. Ryan, with Franz and Josef Lochmatter, June 20, 1906. Cf. *A. J.* 39. 318-320; 48. 58-61. *Kurz*, 288.
- 4x. Variation by R. Gréloz and A. Roch, August 27, 1933. *Kurz*, 487.
5. P. Allain and J. Leininger, 1937.
6. Same party, 1935.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP.—This honour has been granted by the S.A.C. to Brigadier-General the Hon. C. G. Bruce and Sir William Ellis, and by the G.H.M. to Mr. R. W. Lloyd. We congratulate the recipients warmly.