

ALPINE NOTES

	Year of Election.
THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :	
Prickard, A. O. . . . (Hon. Member 1932)	1866
Kesteven, T. L. (C. 1896, V.-P. 1933)	1891
Bruce, Brig.-Gen. The Hon. C. G. (C. 1921, P. 1923)	1892
Osborne, His Honour Judge R. E.	1904
Brook, C. H.	1910
Ednie, G.	1926

THE ALPINE JOURNAL.—It is sincerely hoped that the ALPINE JOURNAL may, as hitherto, be published at regular intervals, even if present conditions should continue. As it may now be less easy to obtain material, the Editor would be most grateful for contributions from members, whether in the form of articles or of notes for inclusion in 'Alpine Notes' and 'Expeditions,' of topographical, historical, scientific or personal nature, and of photographs.

BRIG.-GEN. THE HON. C. G. BRUCE.—We regret that owing to the international situation it has not proved possible to obtain a full In Memoriam notice of the late General Bruce's career in time for inclusion in this number. We hope to publish the notice in May 1940.

AN INAUGURAL SUMMER DINNER with ladies as guests was held on June 27, 1939, at Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London, W. 1. Covers were laid for 175, and the chief guests were Miss B. M. McAndrew, President of the Ladies' Alpine Club, Mlle. Claire Éliane Engel the well-known writer, Mrs. O. St. C. O'Malley, Mrs. Robert Jeffrey, Miss J. M. E. Bell, President of the Ladies' Scottish Climbing Club, Miss A. Wilson, and Sir Francis Kyffin Taylor, G.B.E., K.C. The toast of 'The Guests' was proposed by the President, Sir Claud Schuster, G.C.B., C.V.O., K.C., and Mrs. I. Armstrong Richards, Vice-President of the Pinnacle Club, replied. The toast of 'The Chairman' was proposed by Mrs. R. S. T. Chorley. Those present voted the occasion a great success.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP.—General Gouraud, the distinguished French General whose name is closely associated with the attack of the Allied forces in the Dardanelles region in 1915, and M. Charles Gos, the well-known Swiss mountaineer and writer, have been elected Honorary Members of the Alpine Club.

HONOURS.—We congratulate Major-General E. F. Norton on receiving the Order of C.B., and Mr. Cyril Bailey on receiving that

of C.B.E. ; and Armand Charlet, the distinguished Chamonix, on being made Chevalier of the Légion d'honneur.

CASTOR, N. FACE.—In *A. J.* 50. 309, and *A. J.* 51. 133, there is reference to a variation on the northern approach to Castor. M. Marcel Kurz informs us that this route was first taken on August 10, 1890, by Miss Richardson with Emile Rey and J. B. Bich in descent, as referred to in the *Guide des Alpes Valaisannes*, vol. iii (1937), p. 107. Miss Richardson's party diverged eastward to join the Felikjoch route. The first party to take this route in ascent was that of Messrs. Finch and Mantel in 1909 (*see* fig. 94, reference as above). The majority of parties coming from the Bétemps hut approach the E. foot of Castor and finish the ascent by the E. slopes and the S.E. frontier arête (route 92 of guide above-mentioned).

ENGLISH POETS IN THE ALPS.—*Le Alpi*, April 1939, contains an article by Dr. Carla Merzaghi, entitled 'Poeti inglesi sulle Alpi.' The article deals with Coleridge, Byron, Ruskin, Dickens and Robert Browning, with portraits.

MOUNT EVEREST.—*Nature*, no. 3631, for June 3, 1939, contains an article by Prof. Yandell Henderson on the physiological aspects of 'The last 1000 feet on Everest.'

HIMALAYAN PHOTOGRAPHS.—We are most grateful to Dr. Rudolt Schwarzgruber for the gift of several magnificent photographs taken during his expedition to Garhwal last year.

MRS. WILLIAM WARREN, OF BANFF, ALBERTA.—On March 23 of this year the death occurred of Mrs. William Warren, formerly Mrs. Schaffer, who was well known to many visitors to Banff. Of American birth, she married in 1889 Dr. Charles Schaffer, of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. With her husband she paid constant visits to the Rockies to study their fauna and flora. After his death in 1903, she collected all his research work in the form of a book entitled *Alpine Flora of the Canadian Rockies*, compiled with the help of Mr. Stewardson Brown. An incentive to further exploration came from a crude Indian map, sketched by Sampson Beaver, of the unknown hinterland, which showed an uncharted lake. In 1909 Mrs. Schaffer equipped an expedition for a six months' trip, employing William Warren as chief guide. With Miss Adams as her companion, she made her way eventually through unexplored tracts of roughest country to what is now known as Maligne Lake, near Jasper. In 1911 she repeated this route, taking material for constructing a boat by the lake. Using this boat, she made a survey of the shore line and of the surrounding peaks, most of which she named. These names stand today in the Dominion Survey maps. From 1911 onwards she devoted most of her time to writing and lecturing, thus making the district first known to tourists. In 1915 she married

William Warren. She was an original member of the Alpine Club of Canada.

[From notes supplied by Major F. V. Longstaff, of Victoria, B.C.]

A TOWER OF BABEL.—In *Der Bergsteiger* of August there is reference, not to the peak of this name in the Tannheim group, but to the Guglia di Brenta. On August 19, 1909, Mr. C. F. Meade and Pierre Blanc, having followed the *Albergo al sole* terrace on to the S.E. side, were busy making a direct and a very difficult climb to the summit. At the worst point, voices from below endeavoured in vain to redirect their steps. The party below consisted of the Baronesses Ilona and Rolanda von Eötvös, with Antonio Dimai and Agostino Verzi. French, English, Italian and German, Hungarian and Latin alike failed to establish contact between the two parties.

GERMAN OVERSEAS EXPEDITIONS.—According to information contained in *Der Bergsteiger*, August, 1939, the expedition to Nanga Parbat led by Herr Peter Aufschnaiter explored the Diamirai flank of the peak; part of the expedition was due later to visit Rakaposhi.

The Munich party, consisting of Herren Grob, Paidar and Schmaderer, who will be remembered as having made the second ascent of Siniolchu (*A. J.* 50. 139), reached Lachen on May 3, establishing their base camp by the Green Lake (4880 m.) on the Zemu Glacier on May 8. In the course of the next month they made the first ascent of Tent Peak and attempted the ascent of The Twins, but were driven back by bad weather after passing beyond the saddle between Sugar Loaf and Twins.

In the Peruvian Cordillera a party led by Prof. Kinzl climbed Nevado Contrahierbas (6036 m.), Palcaraju (6150 m.), Ranrapalca (6165 m.) and Cerro Morado (5060 m.).

GARHWAL.—The Swiss expedition to Garhwal led by M. André Roch made the first ascents of Dunagiri (7060 m.) and of Wedge Peak. We congratulate the party on this success, and hope to publish details later.

POLISH EXPEDITION TO NANDA DEVI.—This expedition, the first from Poland to visit the Himalaya, succeeded in making the ascent of Nanda Devi, E. peak, on July 2. The two climbers who made the ascent were MM. J. Bujak and J. Klarner. Unfortunately an accident on July 19 led to the death of MM. A. Karpiński and S. Bernadzikiewicz on Trisul above the Milam Glacier. M. Karpiński was the leader of the expedition. We express our warm sympathy to all who have suffered through this disaster and our congratulations for the successes achieved by the expedition.

LE RÂTEAU.—*La Montagne*, July 1939, contains an interesting account by M. Maurice Fourastier of the ascent by the N. face (*A. J.* 50. 301).

AN ASCENT OF THE PALLAVICINIRINNE.—It is recorded that this famous couloir, over 2000 ft. high, on the Gross Glockner was climbed by a party of German mountain troops in full equipment, carrying mortars and machine-guns. They took 11 hours cutting their way up to the Glocknerscharte.

DR. FLAVIO SANTI.—We regret to record the death, at the age of 82, of this distinguished mountaineer, formerly Vice-President of the Turin section, C.A.I. He began climbing at the age of 20 and maintained his interest in mountaineering throughout his life. He published many articles in the *Rivista*, C.A.I., and was an acknowledged expert on the topography of the Eastern and Central Graians.

CANON JULES REY.—We regret to announce the death, on July 19, at the age of 62, of Canon Jules Rey, son of Emile Rey. He was educated in Aosta, under the care of the cathedral organist, and after being ordained priest he was successively vicar of Rhêmes St. Georges, Villeneuve and Arvier. In 1907 he was appointed organist of the cathedral at Aosta, a post which he held until his death. He served also as Chancellor to three bishops. His courtesy, his patience, and his discretion won the affection of countless friends.

AMERICAN EXPEDITION TO K₂.—Few details have hitherto been received concerning this expedition. A message from Bombay states that one member of the party, Mr. Dudley Wolfe, and three Sherpa porters lost their lives in stormy weather high up on the mountain. We regret that we are not as yet in a position to give further information.

BRITISH EXPEDITION TO THE KARAKORAM.—The following is an extract from a letter dated August 19, from Mr. R. Scott Russell :

THE SNOW LAKE,
BIAFO GLACIER.

‘ . . . We left Gilgit in early July and for the next six weeks the party worked up the Hispar Glacier, engaged mainly in survey and botanical work. Several of the side glaciers were explored and the second crossing of the Nishek La was made to Arundo. Six days ago we crossed the Hispar Pass to the Snow Lake at the unexplored head of the Biafo Glacier. Shipton and I hope to explore this in a few weeks’ time. At present Shipton and Fountaine, our doctor, are setting off to make a photographic survey of the Panmah Glacier, while Mott (surveyor) and I hope to cross to the Cornice Glacier for a fortnight’s work.

‘ We have climbed the peak which the Workmans climbed on the Snow Lake—not difficult but quite the finest views I’ve seen. Although mountaineering is incidental rather than the primary purpose of the expedition, we’ve had quite a little most enjoyable climbing.’

COLOMBIAN EXPEDITION.—This expedition was organised by Mr. Thomas D. Cabot of Boston, and included Messrs. W. A. Wood, jun., Henry S. Hall, jun., Anderson Bakewell, Manuel Ujeta (Colombian), Henry Praolini (Swiss-Colombian) and Frank B. Notestein (geologist). It spent six weeks early this year in the Sierra Nevada di Santa Marta, during which the highest peak of the range (*ca.* 18,750 ft.) was climbed by Bakewell, Praolini and Wood. The climb, over ice and rock, was made on the second attempt from a camp at 16,400 ft., which was reached after 12 days of combined animal transport and back-packing.

We hope later to receive a full account from Mr. Wood.

A HIGH-LEVEL ROUTE IN THE MONT BLANC RANGE.—Messrs. F. S. Smythe and J. M. L. Gavin, starting from the Pavillon de Trélatête, traversed the Aiguille de Béranger and Dôme de Miage to the Refuge Durier on the Col de Miage. Next day they ascended the Aiguille de Bionnassay in 3 hours, mostly by the S.E. face, and followed the arête to the Vallot hut. On the following day they crossed over Mont Blanc, descending by the Brenva route; conditions were so good that they were able, with crampons, to descend from the summit of Mont Blanc to the ice arête in $1\frac{1}{4}$ hrs. The Torino hut was reached via the Col de la Fourche. On the fourth day they traversed the snow arête leading to the Aiguille de Rochefort, descending to Courmayeur.

The same party also climbed the Innominata route on M. Blanc. Leaving the Gamba hut at 01.11, they traversed the mountain to the Vallot hut. After a cold night the day became extremely hot, and three hours after sunrise the face was streaming with water right up to Mt. Blanc de Courmayeur. The condition of the upper slopes was bad, slush on ice, and called for 4 hours' step-cutting.

Mr. Smythe notes that, contrary to the directions given by Gaillard, the best way up Pic Eccles is to keep to the E. side on snow. He considers that both the above route and the Péteret ridge may be climbed under normal conditions direct from the Gamba hut, without occasion for a bivouac.

MME. JENNY VISSER-HOOFT.—It is with great regret that we learn of the death of Mme. Visser-Hooft, wife of our member, Dr. P. C. Visser. She will be remembered as the constant companion of her husband on his many expeditions, both in the Alps and in the Karakoram. Our sincerest sympathy is given to Dr. Visser in his grievous loss.

MEMORIAL TO MR. H. F. MONTAGNIER.—On July 16, 1939, being the sixth anniversary of Mr. Montagnier's death, a monument was dedicated to his memory at Champéry. The monument consists of a seat made from Val d'Illez stone surmounted by a commemorative plaque, designed by M. Léon Casasus and executed by M. Gaist of Val d'Illez. It is situated on the edge of the road leading to Barmaz.

The ceremony was conducted by our Honorary Member, M. Emile Gaillard, representing the C.A.F., who recalled Mr. Montagnier's many services to Alpine literature and his numerous benefactions. The Alpine Club was represented by Mr. R. W. Lloyd, Vice-President, who also spoke in the name of the Alpine Club. The Club acknowledges its sincere gratitude to Mrs. Montagnier for her help in honouring the name of one whose services are known to us all.

HERR LOUIS FRIEDMANN.—This well-known Austrian mountaineer, one of the earliest members of the Ö.A.K., died in Vienna a few months ago. He will be remembered as having played a leading part in the exploration of the Eastern Alps, and as a frequent companion of Dr. Karl Blodig, who refers to him often in *Die Viertausender der Alpen*.

THE ASCENT OF THE MATTERHORN, 1865.—By the kindness of M. Paul Payot of Chamonix we are enabled to print the following letters written by the curé, M. J. Chasseur, to Canon Georges Carrel. These letters, together with a detailed report from the four Italians who made the first ascent from Breuil, are included in an article by Signor Giulio Brocherel in *Le Alpi*, February 1939.

Valtournanche. 14 Juillet '65.

1. Monsieur le Chanoine,

Un commissionnaire venant de Gioment vient de me donner la bonne nouvelle que l'ascension du Mont-Cervin n'est plus un rêve, c'est une réalité : aujourd'hui, à 1 heure de relevée, nos guides faisaient flotter un drapeau sur la tête indomptée jusqu'ici de ce 3^{me} roi des Alpes. Vous en recevrez du reste la nouvelle officielle. Hâtez-vous de venir, il convient de faire une petite fête à cette occasion.

Agreez l'assurance de mon respect sincère et croyez-moi toujours, votre très humble serviteur

M. J. Chasseur C.

Valtournanche, le 16 Juillet '65.

2. Monsieur le Chanoine,

Je suis obligé de faire aujourd'hui une triste et bien douloureuse retractation à la lettre que je vous adressais le 14 p. Au moment où toutes les lunettes d'approches du Breil et du Gioment examinaient l'existence et la présence de 4 ou 5 hommes se promenant au sommet du Mont-Cervin, Mr. l'ingénieur Giordano qui avait dirigé la compagnie de nos guides de Valtournanche, pour cette importante ascension, persuadé que ces hommes étaient ceux qu'il avait envoyés à l'assaut, se hâta d'en donner connaissance à St. Vincent par le télégraphe et Mr. l'Abbé Gorret m'en avertissait aussi par lettre pour vous en transmettre connaissance ; tout ceci se passait le vendredi soir 14 du courant.

Quel désappointement, que celui du 15 au matin, lorsque la compagnie de nos guides, qui avait déjà poussé les travaux jusqu'à l'épaule, arriva le 15 au matin, annonçant que les individus qu'on a aperçus au haut de la cime, étaient une compagnie de guides valaisans dirigés par Mr. l'Anglais Wimper . . . aussitôt on dépêche une contre nouvelle au télégraphe et la tristesse succède bientôt à la joie.

Cependant nos guides ne se découragent pas, encouragés par le Sr. Carrel

J. Antoine ils sont repartis ce matin accompagnés de l'Abbé Gorret pour tenter à tout prix l'ascension du Mont, du côté de Valtournanche. Nous attendons, en attendant croyez-moi toujours votre tout dévoué serviteur.

M. Chasseur curé.

Valtournanche. 19 Juillet 1865.

3. Mr. le Chanoine,

Deux mots à la hâte pour vous tenir au courant des opérations de nos guides.

Carrel J. Antoine, Mr. l'Abbé Gorret et deux autres avec eux recommençaient l'ascension du Mont-Cervin le 16 au matin, après avoir entendu la messe au Breil, la journée ainsi que celle qui la suivit étaient belles ; le jour suivant vers les 2 heures du soir ils arboraient le drapeau tricolore au sommet de la montagne, qui ne leur offrit aucun plateau, c'est un dos d'âne, en s'y mettant à cheval les jambes pendent des deux côtés. Après cela et un séjour de 15 minutes, il redescendaient jusqu'à la tente, sains et saufs. Cette nuit fut affreuse, ils se sont réveillés couverts d'un demipied de grêles.

Mardi vers les 2 à 3 h ils arrivaient au Gioment. Ce fut une vraie ovation, feux de joie le soir, chants patriotiques, drapeaux déployés de toutes parts etc. etc.

Quant à ceux qui encouragés par l'Anglais Wimper, avaient fait l'ascension de la cime du côté de Zermatt, sur sept qui firent l'ascension, 4 ont péri dans la descente. On n'en a retrouvé que les membres horriblement meurtris et dispersés, il y avait 3 anglais et le 1er guide de Chamonix. Cette circonstance fera perdre l'idée de remonter de ce côté, il y a à Zermatt deuil et consternation générale ; on dit que ce sinistre fera beaucoup perdre aux maîtres d'hôtel en détournant ailleurs les pas des touristes.

Mr. l'Ingénieur vient de repartir pour Turin, tout joyeux de l'heureux résultat. Nos guides c'est-à-d. Carrel et Gorret partent demain pour Zermatt¹ pour aller étudier la route suivie par les premiers et donner ensuite un mémoire sur les deux routes. Je vous raconte peut-être, ce que vous savez déjà ; mais, si vous ne le saviez encore pas le griffonage aurait encore quelque importance.

En tout cas agréez mes hommages et croyez-moi toujours,

votre tout dévoué
et très humble serviteur,
M. Chasseur.

Giomein. 19 Juillet 1865.

4. Monsieur le Chanoine,

Le 17 Juillet à deux heures et demi après midi nous plantions le drapeau au sommet du Mont-Cervin. Les guides qui m'accompagnaient étaient l'intrépide Carrel Jean Antoine, Bic Jean Baptiste (Bardolet) et Meynet Jean Augustin. Je pars pour Zermatt² avec Carrel pour voir le chemin parcouru par Whympet et ses victimes avant de vous envoyer une relation plus détaillée.

Votre très humble
Abbé Gorret Amé.

CONCERNING AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—Mr. Arnold Lunn writes : Mr. R. L. G. Irving in his anthology *The Mountain Way* quotes a long passage from the late Pope Pius XI. Among his acknowledgments at the beginning of the book he remarks that 'the editor has been unable to get into touch with Achille Ratti.'

Achille Ratti, also known as Pope Pius XI, did not die until some months after this anthology was published. A letter addressed to the

¹ and ² Note by Canon Carrel : Ils ne sont pas partis pour Zermatt.

Vatican would probably not have been returned 'unknown' or 'gone away.'

Salute to Irving, Wykehamist,
Of Mountains *the* anthologist,
Who thought a passage from a Pope
Would sanctify his Alpine dope,
And wrote—for Manners Makyth Man—
'Your Holiness, I trust I can
Weave into my anthology
A Papal patch. Yours gratefully. . . .'
This tribute from an Alpine fan
Has never reached the Vatican,
For Mr. Irving gave up hope
Of tracking down th' elusive Pope.

Manners they learn at Wykeham's College,
But little else of general knowledge.

A. L.

Mr. Irving replies :

I said : 'Here is a Pius garb for Sunday,
The owner's name can still be read on Lunndi.'

Not ignorance has been my sin, but shyness ;
A man not made for *sesto grado* highness,
In *quarto basso* timidissimo
Should not approach an Undicesimo.

Alas ! 'twas sadly wrong, this inhibition ;
Arnold will none of it in his tradition.
Swift from the Hill, a shaft has found the heel
Beneath the borrowed splendour of Achille.

R. L. G. I.

You've scored a bull : he takes the bun.
We thank you for your sally, Lunn.

EDITOR.

POEM BY ROBERT SOUTHEY.—We acknowledge with gratitude the gift from Sir Edmund Phipps, C.B., of the MS. journal written by Miss Foskett in 1818, from which the poem printed on p. 145 of this volume is taken.

LORD FRANCIS DOUGLAS' ATTEMPT ON THE OBERGABELHORN.—In an article in the *Journal de Genève*, July 10, 1939, M. Charles Gos prints, in French text, the following entry by Lord Francis Douglas from the old hotel-book of the Hôtel Durand at Zinal.

Lord Francis Douglas, in company with old Peter Taugwalder and

Peter Inäbnit, made the first ascents of the Untergabelhorn, Trifthorn and Wellenkuppe. The 'Trift' mentioned below is the Triftjoch, and the nameless summit is the Wellenkuppe. Compare with this entry Moore's diary for July 5, 1865 (printed in *A. J.* 29. 275 *sqq.*) and Conway's references to the naming of the Wellenkuppe and to this entry in *A. J.* 31. 150.

Hôtel Durand, Zinal. July 6, 1865.

After two fruitless attempts to ascend the Gabelhorn from Zermatt, I came here with Peter Taugwald to renew the attempt from this side. We were crossing the Trift; Peter had made a careful study of the Gabelhorn and had just told me that we could easily ascend it from this side, when we heard a noise above us and saw three men and a flag on the summit of the Gabelhorn. I have no idea from where they started; it was not from Zermatt or Zinal.

The first thing we did after leaving Zermatt had been to climb the Untergabelhorn and follow the arête uniting this first summit to the Obergabelhorn to a height of about 13,000 ft.; but this arête proved impracticable.

The summit which dominates the Trift has no name, but I cannot understand why, for it is almost as high as the Gabelhorn. In crossing the Trift from here it is immediately on one's right. On the summit there is a wall of ice about 15 ft. high, very tough and overhanging, which took us about twenty minutes' cutting.

With the aid of a telescope, one might easily see from Zermatt the place which we had to tackle to reach the summit. I recommend the ascent of this nameless peak; there is some enjoyable rock scrambling, a very steep ice slope leading to the top, and a magnificent view.

Guides: Peter Inaeb (Grindelwald), Peter Taugwald (Zermatt). Seven or eight hours. Leaving Zinal to attempt the ascent of the Obergabelhorn.

S.A.C. HUTS IN 1938.—The total number of visitors to 116 huts amounted to 83,108, an increase of 4811 compared to 1937. The Britannia hut with 3275 was again easily first, while the Grünhorn (Tödi) with 97 proved the least frequented. The percentage of S.A.C. members works out as 36·5 compared to 35 in 1937.—From *Die Alpen*.

FAULHORN REVISITED.—Our Swiss member, Mr. G. A. Hasler, made his 151st ascent of the Faulhorn on June 5 of this year.

A GIFT IN MEMORY OF HERMANN WOOLLEY.—Mr. J. P. Buckley, nephew of Hermann Woolley, President of the Alpine Club 1908–1910, has presented to the Club five pieces of rock labelled as follows:

Piece of rock taken from the cairn built by Donkin and Fox on the Ullu-az Pass, Central Caucasus in 1888. Found by D. W. Freshfield, H. Woolley and C. Jossi. July 1889.

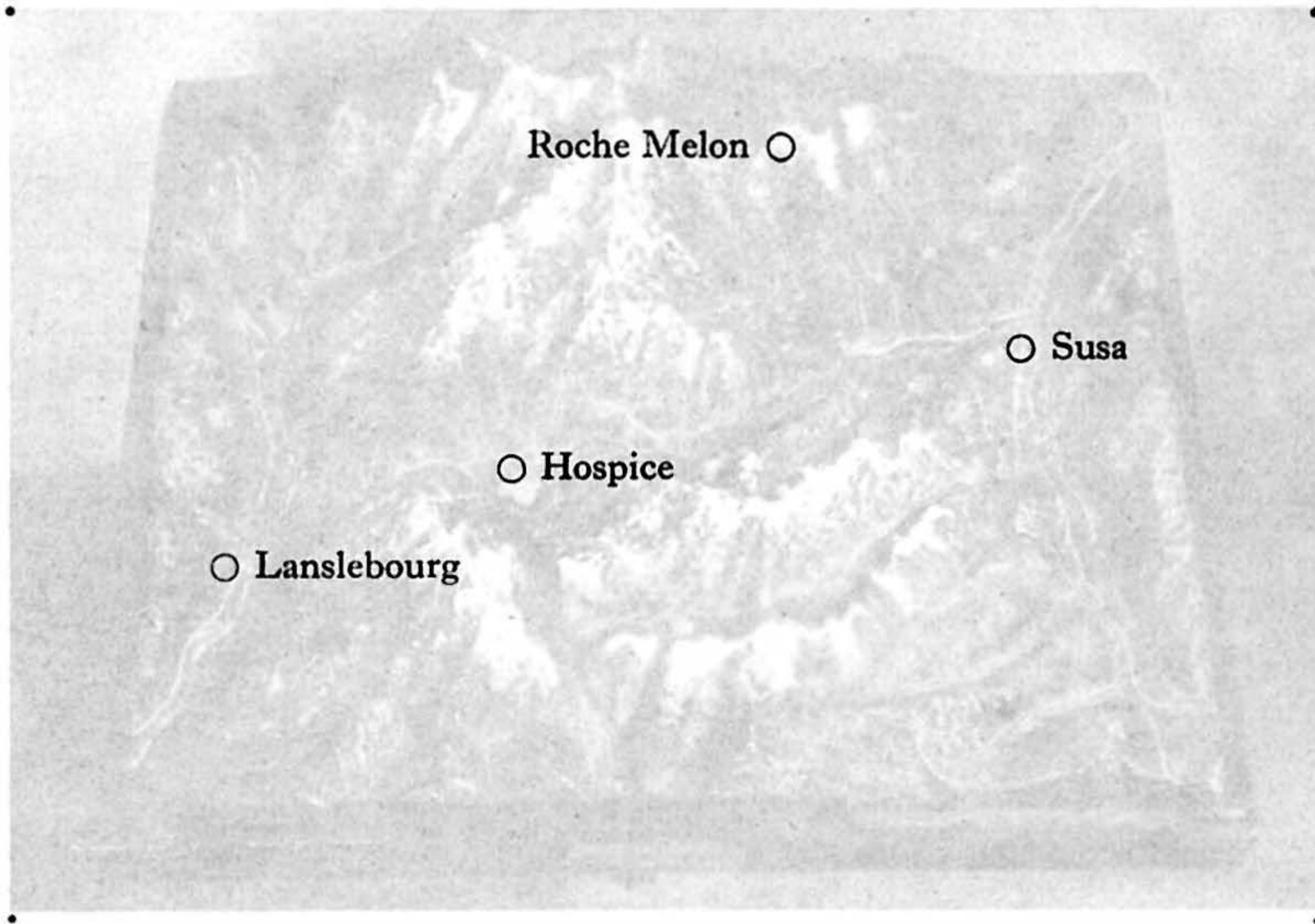
Piece of rock found at Donkin and Fox's last bivouac (1888) below the Ullu-az Pass, Central Caucasus by Dent, Freshfield, Powell and Woolley. July 1889.

Piece of granite from top of Dychtau.

Rock from summit of Elbruz.

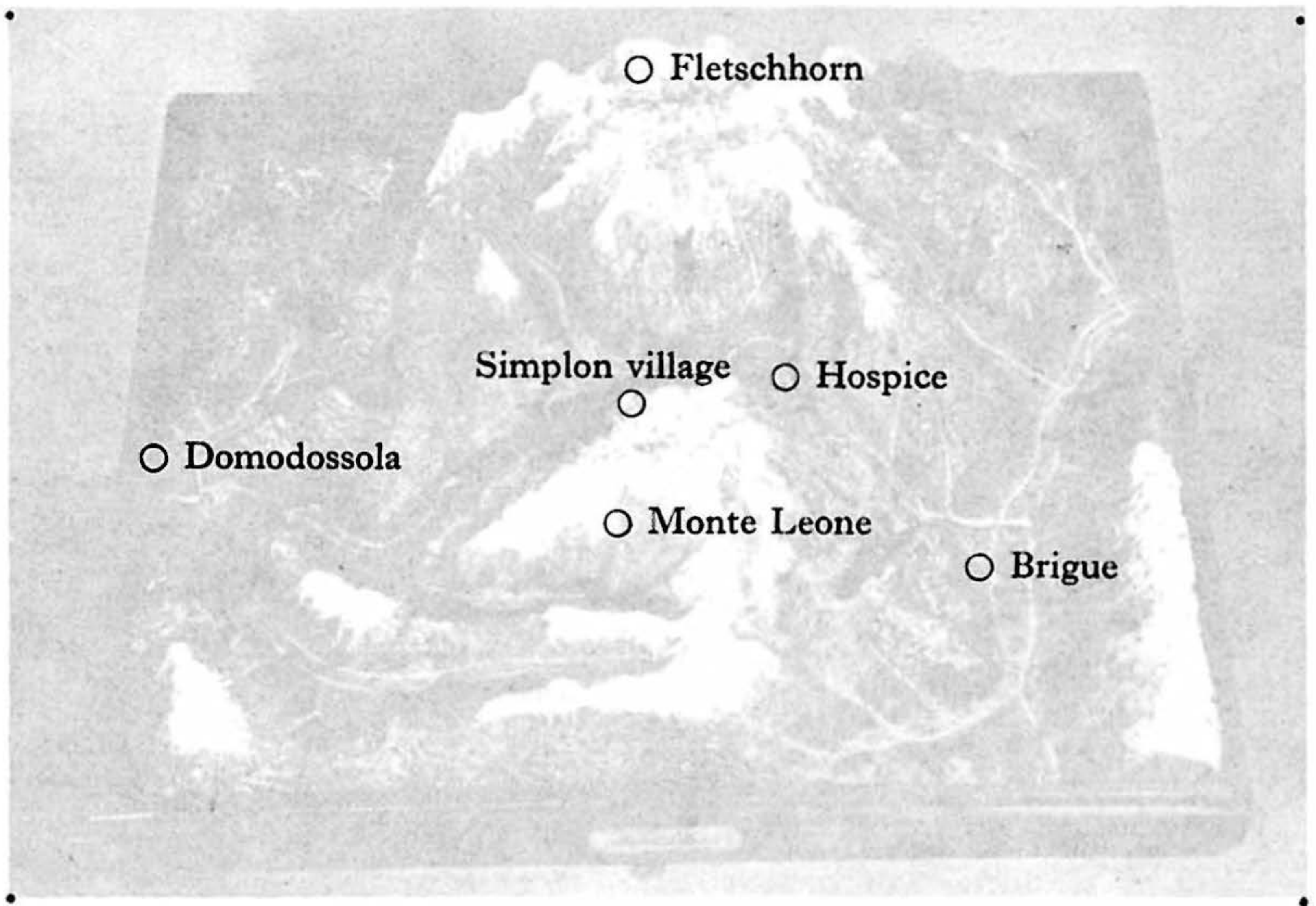
Andesite (?) from rock on N. slopes of Elbruz.

We acknowledge this gift with gratitude, as a tribute to the memory of an honoured mountaineer.

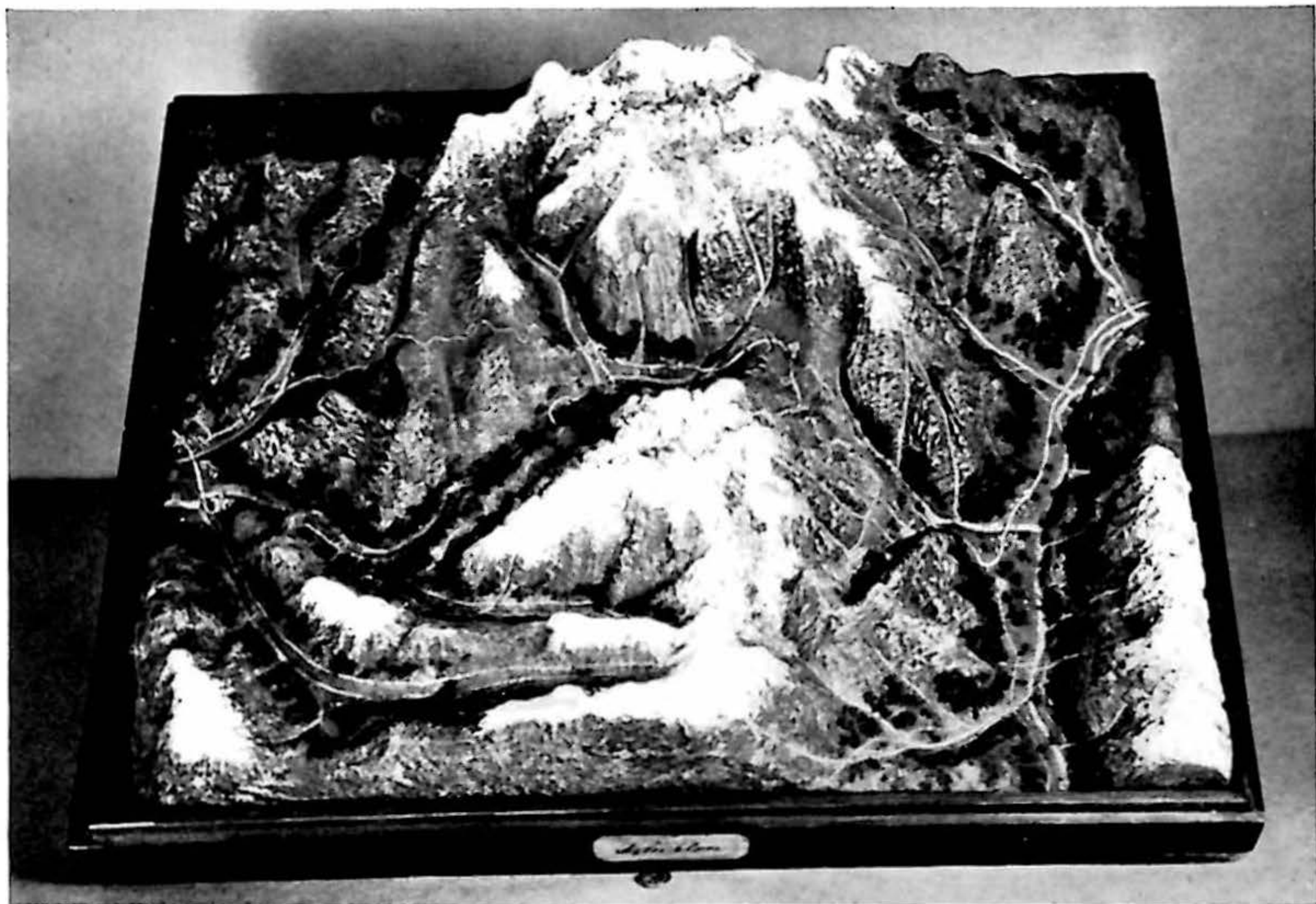


Relief of MONT CENIS PASS, by J. A. Troye, ca. 1815.





Relief of SIMPLON PASS, by J. B. Troye, ca. 1815.



[To face p. 334.]

A CENTENARIAN ASCENT.—The Rev. Walter Weston has sent us a cutting of a Reuter message, which states that at the age of 109 Mr. Toichiro Itoh has achieved his ambition of climbing to the summit of Mt. Fujiyama.

MR. HERMANN ROOS.—We regret to learn that on April 26, after a long illness, Mr. Hermann Roos died at Zürich. A member of the Alpine Club from 1909 to 1931, he maintained after his retirement his interest in mountaineering, being a regular subscriber to the ALPINE JOURNAL. Most of his expeditions were made in the company of Louis and Benoit Theytaz of Zinal, to whom he was sincerely attached. After the death of Louis Theytaz on the way down the Pigne d'Arolla on January 31, 1911 (*A. J.* 25. 445-7), he was one of three patrons of the late guide who took the initiative of raising a fund for the widow and children, a fund which was only wound up in January 1934; during all this period Mr. Roos was in close touch with the management of the fund. On his 70th birthday in 1934, accompanied by Benoit Theytaz, he visited the Refuge Baumgartner (3270 m.) on the Col de Tracuit. Writing to Mr. Alfred Basset, he says: 'I *had* to give myself some strong impressions and this is pre-eminently a spot to supply them. A guide is not needed, but, of course, I had Benoit with me, who is in excellent health. I shall stay here overnight to enjoy all to the fullest extent, as I was born 70 years ago.' His last walk in the Alps was in September 1937, from the Schwarzsee to the Belvedere.

(From notes supplied by Mr. Alfred Basset.)

TELEPHONES IN HUTS.—In order to ensure as far as possible that help may be rapidly at hand in case of accident, the S.A.C. are organising a telephone service to various huts, the work planned being distributed among certain firms according to the district concerned. Last year telephonic communication was established from Grindelwald with the Gleckstein hut and the Bäregg. This year wireless telephonic communication connects the Concordia via the Jungfrauoch with Lauterbrunnen. Mr. G. A. Hasler informs us that he was rung up in Lausanne from the Concordia by the simple process of dialling.

From *Die Alpen*, May 1939.

EARLY ALPINE RELIEFS.—Two small reliefs made by J. B. Troye in London about 1815 have recently come into my possession and appear to be hitherto undescribed. C. F. Exchaquet, early explorer of the Col du Géant and director of the mines at Servoz, was making and selling reliefs of Mt. Blanc and other massifs about 1790, one of which was presented by Baron de Gersdorf to the Görlitz museum. Troye, pupil and workman of Exchaquet, migrated to England, setting up a small printing business and continuing to make reliefs.

The Troye reliefs under discussion are made of papier mâché, mounted in wooden cases 11 by 13 in., in the lids of which are keys

to the various numbered points. The scale is approximately 2 in. to 1 mile. They are made with meticulous fidelity, forests and individual clumps of trees being represented by fine green fabric fluff, while rivers and roads are carefully painted, with tiny paper bridges thrown across the streams. Tunnels are actually cut through the buttresses, and each relief has more than a hundred minute red-roofed houses arranged to show the location of cities, villages and even isolated chalets. The average size of these houses is 1 cub. mm., and an attempt is made to show relative scale, hospices being larger than ordinary houses. The tower of the Mt. Cenis hospice is 2 mm. in height, and the appearance is far more real than that of General Pfyffer's relief of Switzerland, at Lucerne, where church steeples are often as high as nearby peaks. The mountains are painted in natural colours, snowfields ending in glaciers made of crystal fragments.

PASSAGE OF THE MT. CENIS.—On this model the road is shown in zigzags from Lanslebourg to the pass, but a straight blue line marked *La Ramasse*, indicates the sledge route, long a feature of the descent on the N. side. A bit of blue glass indicates the Lac du Mont Cenis. S.E. of the pass are the Roche Melon and Roche Michel, the winding road with its villages and bridges being shown as far as the city of Susa. A road curving S.E. from Lanslebourg is called *Route établie par le Roi de Sardaigne*.

MODEL OF THE SIMPLON, WITH THE NEW ROAD AND ROCKS EXCAVATED BY NAPOLEON BUONAPARTE TO FACILITATE THE PASSAGE OF THE FRENCH ARMY INTO ITALY, is the lengthy title of the second relief, which dates within a few years after 1805. It extends from the Rhône (valleys of St. Niklaus, Saas and Binn) southward, the road winding through tunnels and across bridges from Brigue to Domodossola, passing the hospice and village of Simplon.

The Saffischjoch (Binn to Bérisal) is called *Passage de la Furca*. East of the pass the following peaks are noted: Frugerhorn, Mederhorn (1900 fathoms, accessible), and Pic du Lion (Monte Leone); to the west are Fluschn (Fletschhorn) and Frigishorn. The named glaciers are Alatsch (Aletsch), Remi-Gels, Breitshorn, Kalt-Wasser and Mont Rosboden, 1600 fathoms. Brigue is said to be 207 fathoms above the Mediterranean.

These are among the earliest, possibly the first, reliefs of the Alps made in England, and their accuracy and detail are extraordinary for that time.

J. M. THORINGTON.

CREVASSE RESCUE.—The problem of rescuing a man from a crevasse has often been discussed. There is little doubt that sheer man power is the most effective method, but unfortunately this is often lacking. It is now generally considered that a party of two, provided that *both* are experts, is the ideal number for general work. Two climbers, however, are at a grave disadvantage if one falls into a crevasse. It may



FOOT SLING (i).

This shows discomfort caused by full weight on chest.



FOOT SLING (ii).

Compared to (i) this is a position of comfort.
No restriction of breathing.

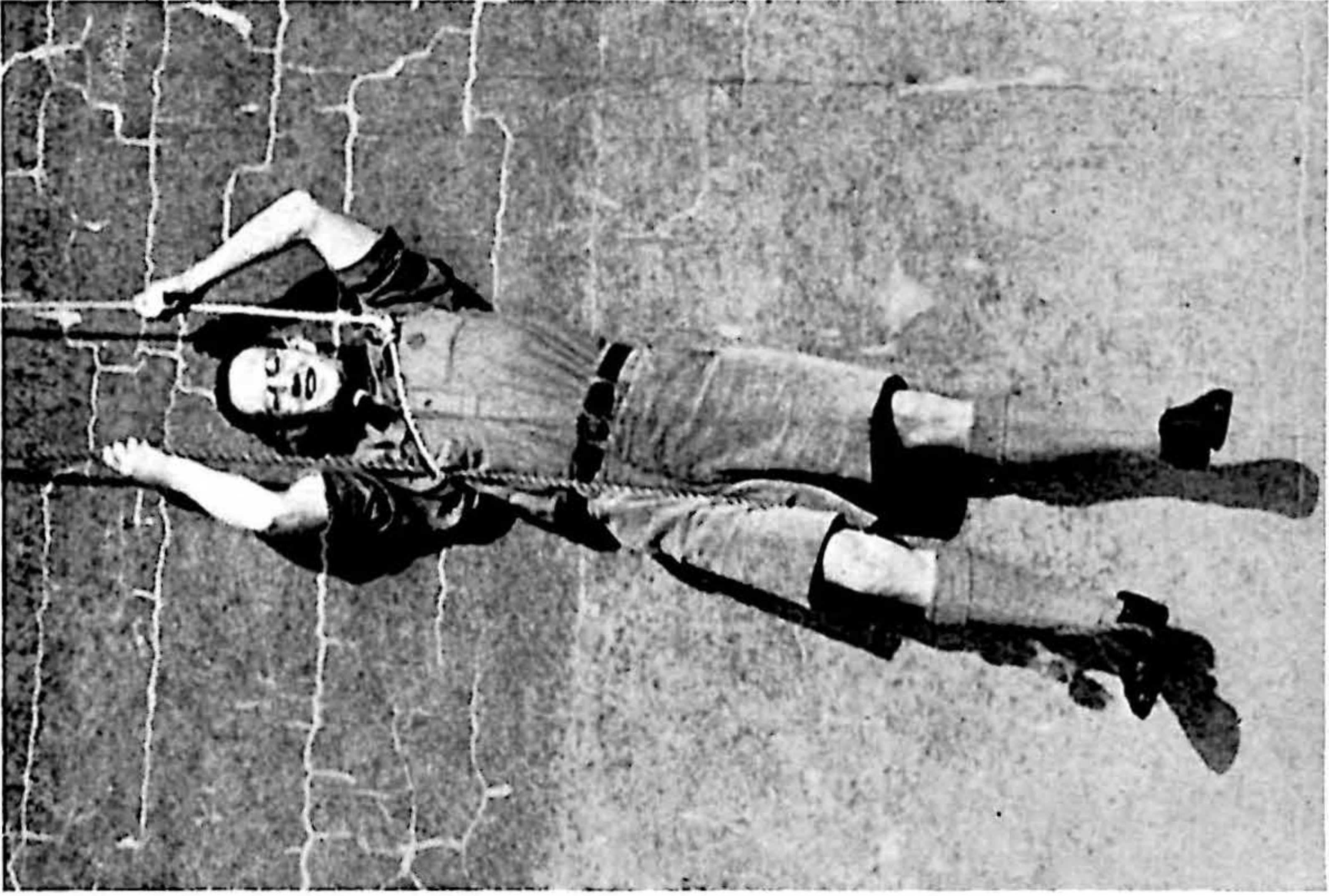
be argued that such climbers should not fall into crevasses. This is generally true, but in certain seasons the bridges become unexpectedly rotten. It may be necessary to cross a badly crevassed glacier late in the day or worse still in fog. In the latter case and particularly after fresh snow it is exceedingly difficult to detect crevasses.

There are three main methods of crevasse rescue advocated for a party of two. First, to climb on two ropes, suggested by Mummery; then the Bilgeri method, using a spare rope; and lastly, the Prusik sling, using only the one rope.

In all these methods the climber who is in the crevasse must be capable of assisting the man outside. If he is injured by the fall then little can be done. If he is hanging with the rope round his chest—it will of course immediately slip up there when the fall occurs—he will soon be rendered powerless to do anything. It is therefore of the greatest importance to have a foot loop to take the strain off the chest. This can be arranged by tying the waist knot some five feet from the end and making an ordinary overhand knot in this piece of spare rope. When not in use this loop is twisted round the waist, but should a fall into a crevasse occur it can be detached in a second or two and the foot thrust into it, and with the leg straightened all the weight will be taken off the chest. The climber will thus be able to rest quite comfortably and take active part in his own rescue. It is of course essential to see that the loop is sufficiently large and of the proper length.

Turning to the methods of raising the climber. The double-rope method is simple but has grave disadvantages. The principle is that each man should pull on one rope and thus take half the weight. Unfortunately the ropes get twisted when the fall occurs and this makes it very difficult to see which is which; added to this the friction of the ropes and snow greatly increases the effort required. I do not believe that this method has any real advantage, and in addition the handling of two ropes in ordinary climbing is troublesome and the provision of foot loops difficult.

Bilgeri's method is sound but unsuitable for two climbers. It could be used with advantage by parties of three as two men would be above the crevasse, but even two men experience the greatest difficulty in raising one man by simple haulage. For a party of two who wish to try this method, each man must carry spare rope. With three climbers spare rope is unnecessary as the second rope can be obtained by untying the end man. If the middle man falls in there should be no difficulty in raising him. Even in the worst case he has two ropes already attached to him. When the fall occurs the man in the crevasse immediately puts on his foot loop. Then the spare rope is lowered with a loop tied in the end. The other end of this rope *must* be attached to a climber's waist. The man in the crevasse passes this spare rope through his waist rope, down inside his leg and round the calf to the outside, putting his spare foot in the loop. The weight is now taken on this spare rope and he can discard his original foot loop. The rope which previously held him is now slackened and he then pulls



BILGERI METHOD (i).

Spare rope has been lowered and strain now taken on it.



BILGERI METHOD (ii).

Climbing rope now passed inside the waist loop. Weight placed on it and spare rope raised. Climber starts to ascend.

it down through his waist. He ties another loop in this rope at a suitable position and puts his other foot in it, passing it round his leg in the same way. Then by raising first one foot and then the other the men at the top can haul in the slack and he simply walks up the rope. Even with an overhanging lip he should be able to get out by this means. The reason that this method is unsuitable for two climbers is that one man cannot manage the two ropes. He needs two axes to belay with, and I feel sure that both ropes could not be taken in round one axe. The axe, if properly buried in the snow, would leave too short a space and the weight cannot be held with one hand.

The Prusik method is much more convenient. It is only necessary to carry in the pocket two Prusik slings. These are pieces of strong cord about 10 ft. long, their ends being joined by a splice. They should not be too thick, about half the thickness of ordinary Alpine line. One should be about a foot longer than the other, giving loops of 5 ft. and 5 ft. 6 ins. Their method of use is as follows. The man who has fallen into the crevasse first puts on his foot loop and then extracts his two slings from his pocket. He attaches these to the climbing rope by thread loops, the longer sling being attached above the shorter. If the rope is iced it would be advisable to use a double loop to make a surer grip. He passes the other ends of the loops through his waist rope and attaches them to his feet, at the same time discarding his original foot loop. It might be an advantage to make an overhand knot on each Prusik sling for attachment to the feet. This would certainly eliminate the risk of the feet slipping out of the slings. Then he raises himself by his feet as with the Bilgeri method, except that each time he raises his foot he slips the Prusik sling higher up the climbing rope. These slings grip the main rope firmly when weighted but can easily be slipped up when the weight is removed. One point must be remembered: the waist rope should be raised well up the body, round the chest. Little weight is taken on the chest, but if the waist rope is too low there will be a tendency to over-balance backwards. The higher the waist rope the more comfortable will be the ascent, and if properly executed it will be a triumphal march. The only difficulty will be met at the top of the crevasse where the climbing rope has cut into the snow and the Prusik slings cannot be operated. However, at this stage the man at the top should lower a piece of spare rope and assist the final exit.

In conclusion, the safest and most practicable method for two climbers to use on glaciers would seem to be to carry Prusik slings in their pockets, each carrying two; to attach themselves some 20 ft. from the end of the rope, thus each carrying spare rope; and, most important, to see that a foot loop is always ready. This should be twisted round the waist and the remainder of the spare rope coiled. These precautions are extremely simple and cause no trouble while climbing.

T. A. H. PEACOCKE.



PRUSIK SLING (i).

The slings have been fixed and weight taken on them. Note free loop in climbing rope and the discarded foot loop. The right hand is used to maintain the balance.



PRUSIK SLING (ii).

Upward progress has started. Note the two Prusik knots, one above and the other below the right hand.