

## IN MEMORIAM

CHARLES GRANVILLE BRUCE

1866-1939

CHARLES GRANVILLE BRUCE was born in 1866, and obtained his first Commission, through the Militia, in the Oxfordshire Light Infantry in 1887, but having soon decided on a career in India, in preference to one in the British Service, he was, in 1889, appointed to the 5th Gurkha Rifles—a regiment in which he served most of his military life, and of which he was Colonel from 1931 to 1936.

Active service with the Military Police in Burma gave him his first experience of war, and this was followed in rapid succession by the Frontier expeditions of the Black Mountain in 1891, Miranzai in 1891, and Waziristan in 1894. The next few years were peaceful ones spent in the regiment as a company officer and adjutant, though he took every opportunity of exploring the neighbouring passes of the Khagan Valley and the closer Himalaya, and making for himself a name as a mountaineer of repute. In 1892 he joined Mr. Martin Conway's expedition to the Karakoram, and in 1895 he was a member of Mr. Mummery's tragic exploration of Nanga Parbat, from which he returned with an attack of suppressed mumps, necessitating a severe operation, which affected him all his life.

In the meanwhile he had commenced a serious study of Gurkhali (the chief language of the Gurkhas) as well as some of the minor dialects, and became extraordinarily proficient and fluent in them all. With most oriental races, Bruce had an uncommon sympathy; he seemed to be able to enter into their thoughts and speak to them as one of themselves, while he had a wonderful tolerance for, and understanding of their minds, which gave him an influence over them greater than many others could ever acquire. His never-failing humour and love of fun, often on the horse-play side, appealed especially to the simple mind of the Gurkha, over whom he gained a lasting hold.

Besides wrestling, fencing, running and almost every form of athletic sport (except tennis), hill climbing was his main hobby, and to him was chiefly due the institution of the annual Khud Race, unsurpassed as a spectacle among athletic contests, which firmly established the Gurkha as practically invincible on the hillside, and which in effect also speeded up military hill work in general. At the same time Bruce wholeheartedly interested himself in organising as Scouts men specially trained to work on the steepest hillsides and selected for their wiry physique, fleetness of foot and skill as marksmen.

The general uprising along the whole of the North-West Frontier in 1897 put to the severest test the training that these men had been subjected to. A small contingent of Scouts, numbering about 120 men,



C. S. Bruce.

from the 3rd and 5th Gurkhas, was organised under command of Capt. F. L. Lucas, with Lieuts. Bruce and Tillard (3rd Gurkhas) under him. These Scouts did yeoman service during the ensuing Tirah campaign, the hardest ever fought on the Frontier till then. They were called on for advance, flank and rearguard work by day and night; independent and dangerous missions were given them to do; no column felt complete without the Scouts accompanying them, and the success they achieved in protecting their own troops and taking toll of the enemy makes, for all time, a proud chapter of Frontier history. This original small contingent was later raised to a full battalion, 600 strong, and still under Lucas and Bruce finished the campaign in the Khyber area.

It was at this time that owing to Bruce's representations 'shorts' were introduced into the Army for the first time. The Scouts led the way by cutting off at the knee the long khaki trousers then worn with puttees, thus adding to freedom of movement in rough places. In spite of some official opposition, shorts were thus born, and their vogue became universal throughout the British Army. Incidentally it may be of some interest to note that these Scouts were the first of the whole Indian Army to be re-armed with the magazine Lee-Enfield rifle, in place of the old Martini, which from then on was gradually discarded, for up to then the British and Indian regiments of the Army in India had not been similarly armed.

Bruce, for his outstanding services in this campaign, was twice mentioned in Dispatches and was promoted Brevet Major. His name as a trainer of scouts was made, and for many years afterwards he held an annual Scout camp for the instruction of officers in hill-lore, rapid movement and reconnaissance. Those attending these camps, besides the specialised military knowledge acquired, brought back with them many happy memories of nights spent under the stars, and the boisterousness and skill as a raconteur of their ever-cheery commander.

For the next seventeen years Bruce had not the good fortune to go on service again, but his reputation grew as a fine soldier, a good friend and companion, and a great mountaineer.

In May 1914 he was given command of the 1/6th Gurkha Rifles, who also, like the 5th, were permanently stationed at Abbottabad, and in August of that year the Great War broke out. In November the 1/6th sailed from India for Egypt, and forming part of the 29th Indian Brigade were encamped at Kantara on the Suez Canal, while his old regiment, the 1/5th, in another brigade, camped at Ismailia, further down the Canal.

Here, in February 1915, the Turkish attack on Egypt was met and repulsed, and three months later the Gallipoli campaign was launched. The 29th Indian Brigade, under Major-General Cox, joined the 29th Division at Helles on May 1, and from then onwards the 6th Gurkhas took a very prominent part in all major operations till the evacuation in December. In May, the 6th, under Bruce, most skilfully seized and permanently established themselves on an important tactical

position on the extreme left of the line, called thereafter Gurkha Bluff, in memory of that fine feat of arms. Early in June the 1/5th Gurkhas joined the 29th Brigade and from then onwards these two battalions fought alongside each other till the end of the campaign. In the battle of June 28, casualties amongst officers and men were so severe and strengths so much reduced, that Bruce took over command of both battalions and worked them as one for the remainder of that desperate conflict, which lasted to July 5, by which time the ground in front of their area was strewn with the corpses of 3000 dead Turks, and the number of British officers left in the whole Brigade (including the Staff) totalled only eight. But unfortunately Bruce was severely wounded in the leg during the latter phase of the battle and was evacuated home and was not reported fit for service again till 1916. He was promoted Colonel for his brilliant work on the Peninsula.

While in Gallipoli it may be mentioned that he found an opportunity of making friends with the French troops who held the extreme right of the line at Helles, from Eski Himarlik Point westwards, some two miles distant from Gurkha Bluff, and that he managed to obtain from them a small keg of wine, which was duly appreciated in his own mess. It is not on record how the keg was transported from one flank to the other, but it is not unlikely that the Colonel carried it himself, for in his scouting days in the Khyber, to keep himself fit, he used to carry his orderly on his back many hundred feet up to an eminence called Mount Pisgah, from which the plains of Jellalabad, the Promised Land, were visible. And talking of wine, it is no secret that Bruce was a convivial man and liked a glass of whisky as much as anyone. But when in Egypt he found it advisable to become a strict teetotaller, he did it completely and did not allow this sudden change in his habits to affect his manner in any way; he sang his Welsh songs, and danced his dances and laughed with and at himself with as much gusto on water as he had formerly done on a stronger beverage. In this he showed a fine example of great self-control.

On Bruce's return to India in 1916, he was appointed Brigadier-General and given command of the Bannu Brigade and the North Waziristan Column operating against the Wazirs, and he also took a minor part in the Afghan campaign of 1919, for which he was twice mentioned in Dispatches and awarded the C.B. But active and powerful man as Bruce was, he was not at his best in great heat, and Bannu is one of the hottest spots on the whole Frontier. He stood it for two hot weathers, but with the advent of the third, his health broke down, and a Medical Board invalided him out of the Service, advising him to live thereafter a very quiet and sedentary life as he was no longer fit for any great exertion. To what extent he carried out this advice, the records of two of the Mount Everest expeditions bear testimony. And so in 1920 he retired from the Army, after 32 years' distinguished service; but his greatest mountaineering feats were yet to come, of which accounts are given elsewhere.

In 1931 he was appointed Colonel of the 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles, to the great joy of himself and of all ranks of his old regiment among whom his name will be long remembered. During the tenure of his colonelcy he several times went out to India to visit the regiment, spending many cheery days with one or other of the battalions in Waziristan or in the Khyber, but finally, in 1936, on attaining his 70th year of age, he had to vacate this appointment and sever his career with the Indian Army, which he had served so well.

Charlie Bruce was a unique character, full of mirth and full of matured wisdom, widely read in many abstruse subjects, and of a very lovable disposition. The annual gatherings at the Gurkha Brigade Dinner will in future lose much of their hilarity by his absence, but talk of 'Old Bruiser' and legends about him will endure for many years. And so when we took our last farewell of him in St. Martin's Church, in July 1939, the gathering of his many friends was not a sad one, but was almost merry and bright, and its tone undoubtedly was one that Charlie himself would have been the first to enjoy.

M. R. W. NIGHTINGALE.

PROBABLY no man since the time of the Schlagintweits had a wider knowledge of the Himalaya than General Bruce. No one ever had so intimate a knowledge of so many of its peoples. Bruce's climbing experience extended from the Safed Koh to Sikkim. He was with Conway on his notable expedition to the Karakoram, and with Mummery and Collie in the first attempt on Nanga Parbat. The snows of Khagan and Kulu were his happy hunting ground. In 1907, the Jubilee year of the Alpine Club, he nearly arranged the first exploration of Mount Everest; but at the last moment the plan was vetoed in London for political reasons. Again in 1910 he got leave from the late Maharaja of Nepal to explore Everest from the Nepalese side; but again at the last moment this had to be given up for fear of arousing religious hostility.

By profession a soldier, he was an acknowledged master in the difficult technique of fighting on the North-West Frontier. His influence with his own Gurkhas was phenomenal; indeed, his desperate wound at Gallipoli was counted equal to the loss of a battalion. But mine is not the pen for an account of that side of his life. I never heard him allude to his fighting days except once: a lady asked him about his Frontier experiences, and he merely replied, with a modesty invariable in my experience, 'I think I have run away from every Pathan tribe on the Frontier at one time or another.' He was equally modest about his mountain climbing, as I well remember when I first met him forty years ago at Zermatt, with some of his Gurkhas, whom he was training in Alpine work.

His greatest contribution to mountaineering came through his wide knowledge of the tribes of the Himalaya. It was he who first trained Gurkhas for serious mountain work. He started the Baltis of Kashmir and the Bhotias of Garhwal on the upward path, a lead which

Kellas so ably followed. But his great discovery was the value of the Sherpa, a Tibetan tribe long settled in Nepal. These, with their purer Tibetan cousins, have been the mainstay of every Himalayan expedition of recent years. Owing to him it is no longer necessary—though it may still be extremely advantageous—to take European Alpine-trained guides and porters to the Himalaya. The cause of his success was his sympathy with and knowledge of the language and habits of these varied peoples.

In 1923 he was elected President of the Alpine Club. In 1915 he was awarded the Gill Memorial, and in 1925 the Founder's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society. He was an Honorary Member of S.A.C., C.A.F., and G.H.M.

It was the adventure, not scientific interests, which absorbed him during his climbing holidays and longer expeditions. Of the latter, the Everest expedition of 1922 stands out. He made an ideal leader. But it is as a companion, the perfect one, that I most remember him: especially with Arnold Mumm and myself in Garhwal in 1907. He was the most invariably considerate, pleasant and uncomplaining companion it is possible to imagine. Not even the injured knee which deprived him of climbing Trisul with his devoted Subadar Kharbir Burathoki drew one word of disappointment or complaint from him. Bruce's name became a household word: but only his friends knew his real worth.

T. G. LONGSTAFF.

CHARLIE BRUCE was a half brother of the late Lord Aberdare and uncle of the present Peer. He married a daughter of the late Colonel Sir E. F. Campbell, Bart., who predeceased him in 1932 (*A. J.* 44. 329). They had the misfortune to lose their only child, a son, who died as an infant in the Himalaya. This sad event, so Charlie once told me, was the greatest blow in his life.

I seem always to have known him, but it was probably after his family had become connected with mine by marriage that I saw most of him. He was our leader in the 1922 Everest Expedition as well as in that of 1924, and none could have desired a more ideal one. There was no fuss and no worry; his sense of humour, his cheerfulness just smoothed away any difficulty. Gurkhas, porters, Tibetan natives, all at once acknowledged the great Leader and came under his spell. I can still hear the yells of delight from a small band of natives descending from the Jelep La, who had recognised his thick-set figure from afar. I can still see their greeting of him which was terminated only by Bruce catching hold of the foremost by the slack of his breeches and applying some resounding slaps, while volubly relating amidst shrieks of laughter a Rabelaisian story to the rest. With the Lamas, Dzongpens and Tibetan officials, Charlie's dignity was but equalled by his geniality.

Our only trouble was to prevent his going too high on the mountain; his great heart was not perhaps *practically* equal to 20,000 ft. Organically, he had not altogether recovered from his wounds, while his age was too

advanced. He still appeared impervious to cold; he used to sit or stand about for hours in the bitter weather of the Base or No. 1 camps, clad only in khaki shorts, vest and a thin jacket. The photo-group facing p. 46 of *The Assault on Mt. Everest, 1922*, is characteristic, with the rest of us mostly muffled up to the ears. But once only in six months did I see him ruffled, and that was when a well-meaning individual, one of those 'who only England know,' referred disparagingly to the colour of Charlie's Gurkhas. Bruce rose to his feet blazing with wrath, while I hurriedly interposed myself between him and his luckless victim. To my relief, he burst out laughing—for truly the honour of the Gurkhas was as his own.

One more reminiscence, this time at the Sorbonne in November 1922. After our joint lecture and when Bruce had been presented with the Gold Medal of the Société de Géographie, he and I were ushered into a small room where the late Maréchal Fayolle and that gallant veteran General Gouraud—now our Honorary Member—were awaiting us. Charlie's knowledge of French was as elementary as the Frenchmen's English, but somehow Bruce and Gouraud ascertained that each, previously unknown to the other and badly wounded, had been evacuated on the same trawler from Cape Helles. Gouraud thereupon gently put his one arm round Charlie and embraced him—they had met but that once since 1915. This simple act seemed to me deeply pathetic, a forecast of the further Alliance of September 1939.

Bruce contributed four important books to Himalayan literature, *Twenty Years in the Himalaya, Kulu and Lahoul* (A. J. 28. 415), *Assault on Mount Everest, 1922* (A. J. 35. 306), *Himalayan Wanderer* (A. J. 47. 178). All breathe the indomitable jovial spirit of the author—especially the latter with its characteristic tale of M. de Blacasse. To the JOURNAL, Bruce contributed 'The Ascent of Ishpéro Zorn' (16. 494 *sqq.*), 'Christmas at Dharmsala' (17. 234 *sqq.*), 'Mountaineering in the Himalayas' (19. 321; 20. 305 *sqq.*), 'Himalayan Contrasts' (43. 1 *sqq.*), etc.

Charlie Bruce had many relations while all his acquaintances were his friends. How many of these, I sometimes wonder, have realised what his life has meant—and still means—to those gallant Himalayan soldiers and sturdy, great-hearted natives, whose loyalty to the British Empire and to Bruce Sahib remains equally illimitable?

E. L. STRUTT.

We have received the following letter from our Honorary Member, Mr. A. P. Harper:

Wellington Club,  
Wellington, N.Z.,  
August 3, 1939.

Though Bruce was not known to many out here the members of the N.Z.A.C. feel that they knew him more or less through my talks about him, and in any case they all feel, as you do at home, that the mountaineering world has lost an outstanding personality. It is hard to realise



John S. Withers

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that he has gone—he was always so full of life and seemed to have everlasting youth. I knew him well by correspondence for many years before I met him in person somewhere about 1923—and his letters were always full of good things.

I remember in 1892, when in London and just joined the A.C., how everyone said that Conway's success was largely due to 'young Bruce' and I felt that his work in that expedition was not realised by the public generally.

I expect the Committee of the N.Z.A.C. will pass a formal resolution of sympathy and send it home, but even if they don't you might mention the fact in your notice of Bruce in the *ALPINE JOURNAL* that New Zealand climbers feel that the whole climbing world has lost an outstanding man in Bruce's passing.

In saying this I am not saying more than is literally true.

To his personal friends, of which I feel that I was one, his loss will be very greatly felt—but I suppose that we must expect more of these gaps amongst the 'Old Guard' in the ordinary course of nature. We *are* getting old, never mind how young we may feel!

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## JOHN JAMES WITHERS

1863-1939

JOHN JAMES WITHERS was born on December 21, 1863, the son of James Tuck Withers, a solicitor of good standing and substantial practice, carrying on business in Bedford Row and Arundel Street. He was educated at Eton (Mr. Everard's house) and King's College, Cambridge, where he took his degree with Classical Honours, having been honourably mentioned for the Porson Prize. At Cambridge he rowed, was Captain of the College Boat Club, and was elected to Leander. He was admitted a solicitor in 1890, and went into partnership with his father; but in the year 1896 he severed his connection with his father's firm, and, with his brother, laid the foundations of the now famous business which at the time of his death was still conducted under his name. In 1897 he became London solicitor of King's College. He held office for some time as a member of the Council of the Law Society; during the war he worked in the Department of Propaganda and for the Ministry of Information and received the C.B.E. in 1918; in 1920 he was elected a Fellow of St. Catharine's College, and in 1926 he became Member of Parliament as a Unionist for the University of Cambridge, holding the seat until his death; in 1927 he acted as a Judge Delegate of the University; he was knighted in 1929; and in 1930 he received from the University the honour of an Honorary LL.D. He died at his flat in Circus Road on December 29, 1939.

Withers was elected a member of the Alpine Club in 1893, being proposed by George Prothero and seconded by Arnold Mumm. He served on the Committee in 1904, was Honorary Secretary from 1909

to 1911 ; a Vice-President from 1925 to 1926 and President from 1932 to 1934.

Such a brief epitome of Withers' achievement and of his connection with the Club gives but a faint idea of his manner of life or of the main-spring of his actions. It will be gathered from it that he was a man capable of success and determined to succeed ; but success was acceptable to him only on his own terms and was welcomed mainly because of the extended sphere of influence and of action which it opened to him. His deliberate choice to depart from the safe anchorage of his father's firm and to set up for himself was an act of faith. He was then newly married, and such connections as he had were solely those effected by personal contacts. He brought to the task which he had set himself complete independence of mind, courage, untiring industry and a very clear view of what he believed to be right and wrong, both in business and in every other relation of life. He felt friendly, and he inspired in others a feeling of friendliness and confidence towards himself ; but he was completely without affectation and, in particular, without the simulated goodfellowship which easily acquires a large circle of acquaintanceship. He had many firm and deeply attached friends ; and he was in a sense a connoisseur of humanity, often choosing as friends men to whom he seemed to be attracted by their oddity and their difference from the rest of the world. This peculiarity, coupled with a rich, but restrained, sense of humour, was of great service to him in the conduct of his large and varied practice. He was always interested in his clients, and, being a man of great natural generosity both in thought and with money, he, on many occasions, employed his professional talents gratuitously, and spent his own money on counsel's fees for those whom he thought wronged or misunderstood by the world. It was not from nothing that he had come near to the award of the Porson Prize—a prize given for the translation of a passage from an English poet into Greek verse. Throughout his career, there ran a vein of other-worldliness which was rarely suspected and still more rarely disclosed, but which explains many of the incidents of his life. He was able to do his professional work with all his might, because causes and interests, some within the sphere of a lawyer and some without, were always present with him, not as distractions or idle hobbies but as reminders that a full man needs other sustenance besides a bill of costs. With this inspiration, controlled by his power of concentration, he appeared almost always serene and often gay ; but he had also moments, especially under stress of work, when he seemed to be torn with fears both for himself and for the ordered and progressive civilisation in which he believed and to suffer agonies of doubt, which were almost physical.

Withers started in life as a Liberal. From early life he was associated with the Women's Suffrage movement, and, when he entered Parliament, though he was a consistent and conscientious supporter of the Conservative party he remained faithful to his old ideas on such subjects as still seemed to him to require reform, particularly labouring

on the legislative enactments which are usually associated with the Women's movement. He was also a watchful critic of all attempts, however innocent, to withdraw the actions of the executive Government from the control of Parliament. In the House he was regarded as a sane and safe adviser and, though he disliked public speaking, and indeed possessed none of the tricks or trappings of oratory, he was heard with attention and respect.

In the law, apart from his own practice, he should be remembered as one of the foremost advocates for many years of two reforms. He was engaged in the earliest attempts to force an entrance for women into the legal profession; and he was assiduous in an endeavour to persuade the profession of which he was a member to take such measures as would safeguard clients from the misdeeds of its less reputable members. His independence of character caused him on this issue to leave the Council of the Law Society, though the difference between him and them was rather one of method than of principle.

The two great interests of Withers' life outside his professional career, were Cambridge and the Alps. The author of the obituary notice in *The Times*, writing obviously with sympathy and close personal knowledge, has given an account of Withers' career at King's and of its meaning to the College, which it would be presumptuous for anyone coming from another College and another University to amplify. Mention however must here be made of his compilation of the King's College Register, a labour of love, but also of great toil, which for many years occupied all the time which could be spared from business. In riper age he found in his connection with St. Catharine's opportunity for further gratuitous work and for a widening of his sympathies. For close on twenty years he laboured for that foundation, of which he was an adopted son, with zeal and devotion, giving to it the fullness of his affection and the service of his wisdom and experience. Almost every weekend of an unusually full and laborious life he spent in College rooms, attending College meetings and doing the business of the College. He saw the place grow in wealth and in stature and in respect year by year. It was his great pleasure, so long as he retained his strength, to gather together three or four people from London to be guests at the Annual Feast, and, devoid of personal vanity as he was, he shared sufficiently in our common humanity to take a manifest delight in the occasion.

It is impossible to ascertain the date on which Withers began to climb. Such record as he preserved begins abruptly in the year 1887 with the entries, July: Mutthorn from Furka Hotel and back to Rhone Glacier. Monte Rosa (Dufourspitze) from Riffelhaus. August: Matterhorn by E. face and N.E. arête, ordinary route from lower hut and back to Zermatt, with Mr. George Broke, A.C., and guides Heinrich Zurfluh, Alois Graven and another. But long before that he had been in the habit of going to the Alps—he seems to have paid his first visit in the first summer holidays after he went to Eton—and had walked all over Switzerland. The following summary will give an

idea of his principal ascents and of his favourite haunts from the time when he began to climb seriously.

In 1890 he went for the first time to Dauphiné, and, though hampered by bad weather, made the first ascent of the Balme Rousse from the Carrelet hut (*A. J.* 15. 294). In 1891 he was at Arolla and in 1892 at Zinal, making the first ascent of the Dents des Rosses (*A. J.* 16. 318); in 1893 he was in the Oberland making what seems to have been a new descent from the Klein Wannehorn, and in 1894 in the Val de Bagnes. In 1895 he seems to have been able only to get out late in the year and climbed the Riffelhorn on November 1; in 1897 he was again at Arolla; in 1898 and 1899 he was in Dauphiné, ending the former season by a visit to Pralognan, where he climbed the Dent Parrachée, and to Chamonix where he climbed the Aiguille du Géant, during the latter again paying a flying visit to Pralognan and ascending the Aiguille de Polset. In 1900 he secured the Galenstock and, going then to Arolla, crossed Mont Collon and ascended the Aiguille de la Tsa by the W. face. All these were short seasons, for his practice was growing and his opportunity for holiday was short.

The question was now in agitation whether the Club should continue the work of the re-publication of Ball's Guide. Withers threw himself into the project with enthusiasm, and, characteristically enough, undertook the responsibility for work which many would have found irksome—the revision in part at least of Sections 24 (Bernese Oberland), 30 (St. Gotthard), 35 (Albula), 36 (Bernina) and 37 (Ofen Pass).

He spent most of the next three seasons, 1901, 1902 and 1903, mainly in the Lower Engadine, climbing the minor and little known summits of that area, though in addition he managed to accomplish the ascent of Piz Bernina (1902) and in 1903 to return to his old love, the Galenstock, which he ascended by the S.E. face. In 1904 he effected the first ascent of the Schweinberg (*A. J.* 22. 326) and made a new ascent of the Grand Combin from the N.E., writing a paper on the latter expedition which is published in *A. J.* 22. 520, *sqq.* In 1905 he ascended the Jungfrau from Concordia, and then, going to Saas, went up the Fletschhorn and the Portjengrat. In 1906 he visited the Alps twice, crossing the Passo di Zocca in early June, and returning in August to the Engadine and Bregaglia, his most noteworthy expeditions being the crossing of the Fuorcla Fex-Scerscen and the ascents of Piz Badile, Pizzo Cengalo and Monte della Disgrazia. 1907 saw him back again among the Pennines, where in less than three weeks he ascended the Laquinhorn and Weissmies, crossed the Schwarzenberg Weisstor, ascended the Lyskamm, crossed back to Saas by the Adler Pass and recrossed by the Windjoch to St. Niklaus, to end the season with the Gabelhorn and Weisshorn. In 1908 he visited Chamonix where he ascended Mont Blanc and found and crossed the new Col des Cristaux (see his paper in *A. J.* 24. 613, *sqq.*). In 1909 he revisited Chamonix, and then, making a dash to La Bérarde, succeeded at last in accomplishing what had always been one of the objects of his ambition, the traverse of La Meije, a mountain for which

he retained to the last a most lively affection. In 1910 he paid a flying visit to Zermatt in the spring ; but his autumn journey was short and disappointing, spent in the neighbourhood of Champex and the Argentière Glacier. 1911 was not much better, though he succeeded in climbing the Grand Paradis, the Herbetet and the Grivola. In 1912 he was one of a large and merry party (including Edward Broome and Charles Wollaston as well as two companions who are still alive). They spent the last days of May at Macugnaga, ascending Pizzo Bianco in very deep snow and having several pleasant walks in the neighbourhood. He could not get to the Alps in his usual holiday time. In 1913 he was again in Dauphiné—his principal expedition being the Grandes Rousses (Pic Bayle) by a new route. Then came the break caused by the war. He was back in the Alps in 1919, spending his time for the most part at the Planet Hotel near Argentière, and once more ascending Mont Blanc. In 1920 he was in the Oberland, where he crossed the Ebnefluh, ascended the Mönch and Aletschhorn, then going to Saas and taking the Strahlhorn on his way over the Adler Pass to Zermatt.

In each of the remaining years of his climbing career he visited the Alps and succeeded in making at least one expedition. His favourite haunts during this period were Zermatt and its neighbourhood, and the Engadine, where he again climbed Monte della Disgrazia ; but he made one further visit to Dauphiné, combined with a successful ascent of the Viso, and one to Tyrol, where he went up the Ortler. In 1931 he made his last ascent—Piz Palü.

As may be inferred from these brief examples of his Alpine experience Withers was not a climber of the modern sort. He usually, and after his early years always, climbed with guides. The discovery of the Col des Cristaux, a new pass over one of the best known ridges in the Alps, speaks to his talent for seeing the lie of the land. He was not a gymnast. Probably he was never benighted. He had no experience of pitons or *Kaarbiner* or the art of *Abseilung*. He was a steady mountaineer of the old school, strong and enduring and safe, with an immense enthusiasm and an unquenchable love of the mountains and of the actual business of wandering among them. Never discouraged or out of temper, full of delight at all the little things that happen in an Alpine day, he was an ideal companion on the mountain or in the valley. He was the spiritual heir of many of the climbers of the golden age, scholars and gentlemen, who, under the necessity of labouring well and truly to get their own living in plains or cities, turned to the Alps for pastime and adventure and found in them the fullness of life.

Any account of Withers' life would be incomplete if it contained no reference to Lady Withers, his almost constant companion in the Alps, though not upon the mountains, from the commencement of their married life until the end. Nor must we fail to notice the darker side. The unselfish discharge of his many heavy responsibilities, public and professional, told at last even on his fine constitution. He was persuaded to seek some relief from incessant work ; but it came too late. His

resilience was gone, and his later years were clouded by failing strength and by the anxieties of the political situation. His life had been full of struggle and of attainment. None had been to him more decisive or more delightful than those on Alpine slopes to Alpine heights.

CLAUD SCHUSTER.

I FIRST met Withers at Evolena in 1892 when he brought over to Charles Freeman and myself an errant guide from Zinal after he had learnt that we had a better claim to him than he had himself. It was characteristic of the man to do the right thing, though it meant the ruin of his month's climbing, as he could get no other guide at Zinal, and we of course had no means of enforcing our claim. In the years which followed we met at odd times in the Alps; we walked up the Argentière Glacier, for instance, on the morning he made the first crossing of the Col des Cristaux, but we never climbed together until after the 1914 war, when in 1919 we were together in a large English party at the Planet Hotel at Argentière. Withers was then 56, and his youth and the strenuous days of 1914-18 were behind him (besides his legal work he spent all his leisure serving in the ranks of a London Defence Corps). The share he had taken in the war propaganda had not made him *persona grata* with the Swiss authorities, and for the time being he was not allowed to enter that country. But he had his old guides from the Saas valley to meet him, and he resumed his mountaineering with zest and enthusiasm. That season he climbed the Buet, the Tour Noir and Mont Blanc by the Dôme du Goûter route. Pontresina and the Riffelalp were his two favourite resorts as he grew older and he rang the changes on them pretty regularly, but he was in the Dauphiné in 1925 and climbed Monte Viso via the Col de Traversette. The Ortler came in 1929 and just before he was elected President in 1931 he crossed the Palü—a noteworthy performance for a man of 67. This was, I think, his last mountain, though he went out to the Alps for the next three or four years and in 1932 was present at the International Alpine Congress at Chamonix, representing the Club, and speaking on its behalf at the banquet.

As a climber Withers belonged to the old school of mountaineers and did not pretend or aspire to be a rock gymnast. Nor did he care as a rule to go without guides; most of his climbing life he had the companionship of the Saas men, Adolf Andenmatten and Andreas Anthamatten, in whom he had every confidence. On snow and ice he was excellent: he always had good judgment and was cool and skilful in an emergency. When necessity arose he could moreover get over rocks with speed and safety. I saw him on the Disgrazia in 1922 when bad weather was approaching coming down the mountain as fast as his guides.

I have not spoken of the many activities of his long and busy life, because I have known him only as a holiday companion. As such, he was of the gayest: never so happy as when he was planning or

carrying out an expedition, or on a mountain summit such as the Viso or the Breithorn, with a panorama of Alpine peaks before his eyes.

He never expressed any regret at not having climbed elsewhere than in the Alps; they were the centre of everything for him. Yet he showed, especially when he became President, that he was well acquainted with, and took keen interest in, the development of mountaineering in the Himalaya and elsewhere.

Always loyal to the Club, his experience and advice helped to surmount many a difficulty in its history, and it was no empty or meaningless compliment when he was elected to the Presidency: few, if any, deserved that honour more. He leaves behind to all who knew him the memory of a wise counsellor, a gallant comrade and a faithful and generous friend.

H. C. BOWEN.

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G. E. MARINDIN

1841-1939

THE death took place on February 23 of Mr. G. E. Marindin, the oldest Eton master, at the age of 97. He entered Eton in the Rev. E. Balston's house in 1852, before going to College, and remained for eight years. He was in the Newcastle Select in his last two years, and then went to King's College, Cambridge, of which he was a Scholar. He became a Fellow of his college in 1863, and in the following year obtained a First Class in Classical Tripos.

In 1865 he returned to Eton as a master and stayed for twenty-two years. While at Eton he built Cotton Hall House, and was the tutor of many boys who subsequently attained distinction, among them being the present Provost of Eton. After leaving Eton he was examiner in Greek at the University of London, 1888-93 and 1895-1900.

He published several books and was joint editor with Dr. Smith and the Rev. W. Wayte of a revised and enlarged edition of Smith's *Dictionary of Greek and Roman Antiquities*. He was elected to the Alpine Club in 1868.

Marindin was in many ways a perfect schoolmaster. He ruled entirely by love, and spoke always with a gentleness and humour that took the harshness out of a law, and the bitterness out of a rebuke. He was no athlete, yet even in their games inspired his boys with his example. He was an ever present counsellor with an abundance of tact and kindness and learning. *The Times* writes: 'His long life, unsullied and unspoilt, was consecrated to the two noblest of human objects, learning and virtue. *Litterarum quaesivit gloriam, videt Dei.*'

(Reprinted, by the courtesy of the proprietors, from the *Eton College Chronicle*, March 9, 1939.)

## ALFRED HOPKINSON

1851-1939

To be the last man on the rope in the descent from a formidable rock pinnacle, or across an inevitable dangerous couloir and over the bergschrund on to the glacier is a position of no light responsibility. So it is with the writer to whom has been decreed the task of writing a memorial notice of this member of a band of brothers—John, Alfred, Charles, Edward, together with Bertram, John's elder son, who have now passed the Great Divide.

I would say at the outset that this tribute is written not for the general public but for my fellow members of the Alpine Club, the greater brotherhood to which it has been my joy and privilege to belong.

In *The Times* of November 13, 1939, an admirable obituary notice from a far abler pen has presented to the general public an account of Alfred Hopkinson's life in so far as it touched the spheres of education, the law, politics, national service and social betterment. Tributes from Sir Michael Sadler and Sir Alfred Davies appeared in *The Times* issue of November 15, together with an account of the memorial service in Lincoln's Inn Chapel, attended by his fellow Benchers and friends from far and near. Further, my brother despite his assertion to the contrary wrote his own biography in his book *Penultima*, published in 1930. In it those who wish may learn what manner of man Alfred Hopkinson was, and what his contribution to his day and generation.

When the sun has set beneath the horizon one still sees the heavenly vision in the clouds or maybe later the wondrous Alpine glow. That is what I hope will be seen in the vision of my brother to whom I, as one many years his junior, owed much, and who gave to me as did my other brothers the confidence which my profession of medicine invited.

He taught me as a small boy to love the stories of classical mythology and Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* became an early delight. Kingsley's *Heroes* and Cox's tales were made special favourites.

His eldest son, the Rev. A. Wells Hopkinson, has sent me his recollection of how his father taught his own children in like manner at their home in Fallowfield in the early 'eighties.

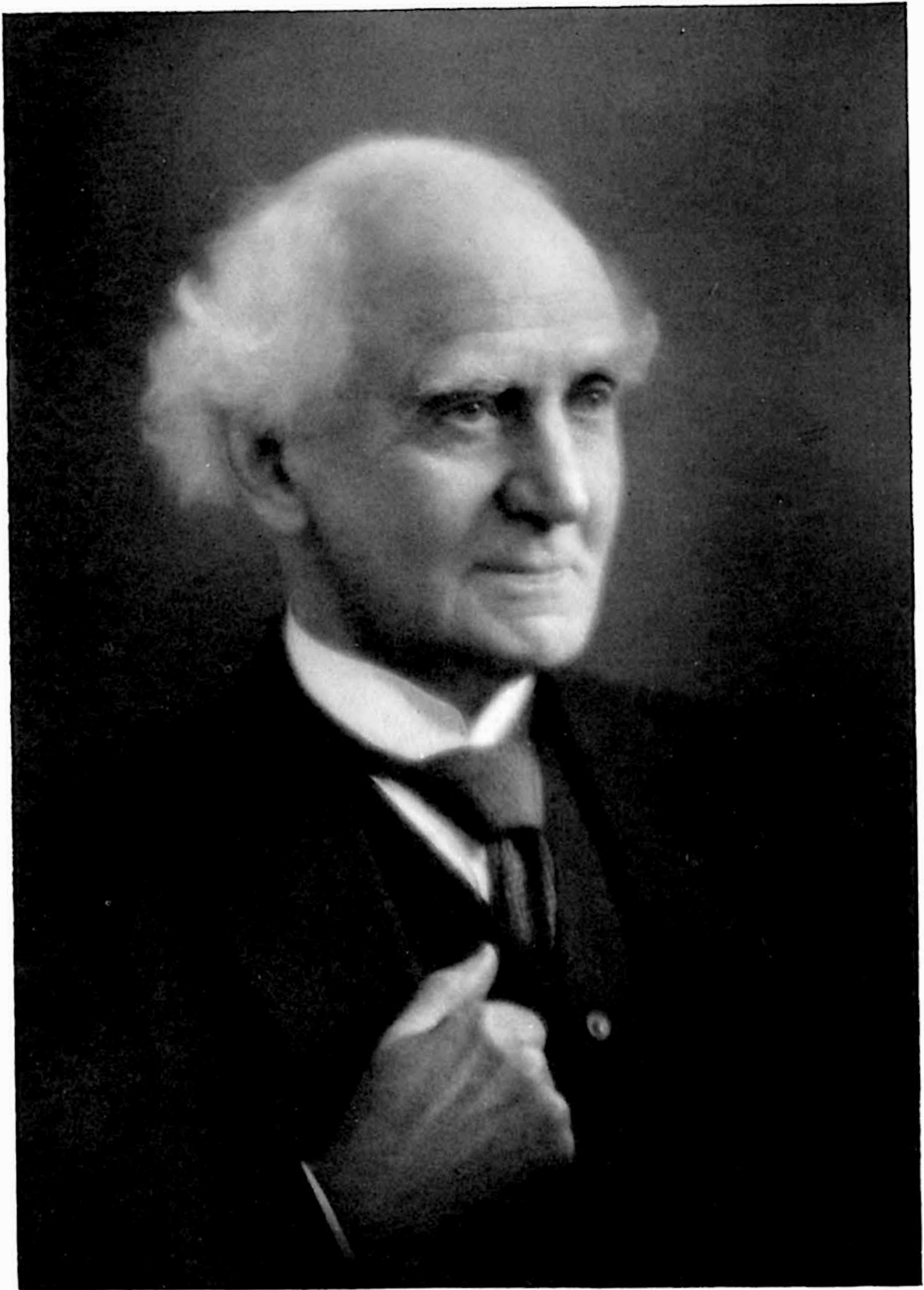
'Over one of the fireplaces in the dining-room was a stone platform, bulging out into a bay window. Four or five children, with their father, bearing many cushions, clambered on to the platform, and lay about, while he read to them. Usually it was Kingsley's *Heroes* or Stanley's *Jewish Church*.

'But there were times when he recited or read poetry to us—Milton, of whom our father was very fond, but whom we did not much like, or Tennyson, whom we did, especially the *Revenge*.

'For so vigorous a man he read this latter with a remarkable inflection of sympathy. He loved all good poetry and could infect with his love all but the dullest of his hearers.'

A man's character is formed it seems to me, by two great factors, heredity and environment. As regards the first, Alfred and his five brothers and five sisters acknowledge with love and reverence the in-





*Photo, Harrods Ltd., London. ]*

ALFRED HOPKINSON.

1851-1939.

*[To face p. 114.]*

fluence of our parents to whose example and training we all owed whatever was of good in our several lives. Alfred used to say that our mother was the best teacher he ever had. She was a Dewhurst, of a Yorkshire family widely respected in Craven, and she passed on to her sons something of her father's sturdy independence. Our father, a mechanical engineer, was a 'Lancashire lad,' widely known in pre-electric days as the man quickly to rectify a breakdown in a works or cotton mill. He by his services to his native city of Manchester was in due course elected Mayor.

Thus each of the two great counties famed in the Wars of the Roses gave us a parent, and this fact is portrayed in the Coat of Arms which Alfred and Edward designed for the glass panel in Lincoln's Inn Chapel, which Alfred, as Treasurer of that famous Inn, had to provide. It is set close to those of Lord Oxford and Asquith, and of Lord Haldane, his friends and sometime opponents in politics and in the law courts. Beneath the Coat of Arms is the motto ΤΙΣ ΗΜΑΣ ΧΩΡΙΣΕΙ, Who shall separate us?—a truly appropriate one, for we were indeed a united family, and death has not separated us.

Ingrained in Alfred was a love of beauty, of the æsthetic and of poetry. At Oxford he had the good fortune to come under the influence of Ruskin, who was then Slade Professor of Fine Art, and whose lectures drew to the Sheldonian Theatre packed audiences of dons and undergraduates. Alfred's veneration of Ruskin he passed on to Charles and Edward who, when severally awarded Telford premiums, bought with them editions de luxe of Ruskin's works. *Crown of Wild Olive*, *Sesame and Lilies*, and *Stones of Venice* were, after the Bible, moulding factors in Alfred's intellectual outlook.

While at Oxford he became engaged to be married to Miss Esther Wells, whose uncle and guardian was a collector of *objets d'art*, many of which may be seen in South Kensington Museum. She bore him four sons and three daughters.

Nature gave to Alfred, quite early in life, a great asset for his legal and parliamentary career and later as Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University, a head of silvery white hair with a halo of short curls. This feature was the basis of a classic anecdote in the family. John, the eldest brother, was on one occasion leading across a glacier, when a guide, second on the rope, noting the leader's pace and white-haired *Herr* behind, called out, 'Now young man, don't go so fast, you will tire the old gentleman'.

One of the most charming traits in Alfred's character was his loyalty to and admiration for John, in which we all shared, for he was incomparably the ablest of us, and according to Charles Pilkington, a brilliant rock climber.

I would conclude this imperfect tribute to my brother's memory with an extract from that of Sir Alfred Davies :

'Above all a christian gentleman, to whom religion was a thing which he regarded as vital, not only in his own life, but in that of any nation.'

ALBERT HOPKINSON.

## THOMAS LAWRENCE KESTEVEN

1863-1939

LAWRENCE KESTEVEN was a great lover of the mountains, a very fine climber and always keenly interested in everything that had to do with this Club. To quote Leslie Stephen, 'the Alps were his playground,' and he enjoyed every minute he spent among them, whether it were on a stiff climb or sauntering along the lower Italian valleys for which he had a particular affection.

Kesteven was born on February 6, 1863, the son of Thomas Thorneycroft Kesteven of Wolverhampton. He was educated at Marlborough, and, after leaving school, he read law, entering the firm of Lawrence, Graham & Co., Solicitors, Lincoln's Inn, in 1879, where he was articled to his uncle, Nathaniel T. Lawrence. He remained with this firm the whole of his business life, becoming a partner in 1898, senior partner in 1920, and retiring in 1926. In 1896 he married Anne, the youngest daughter of Sir William Tyrone Power, K.C.B., of Annaghmakerrig, Ireland, who survives him with their two daughters.

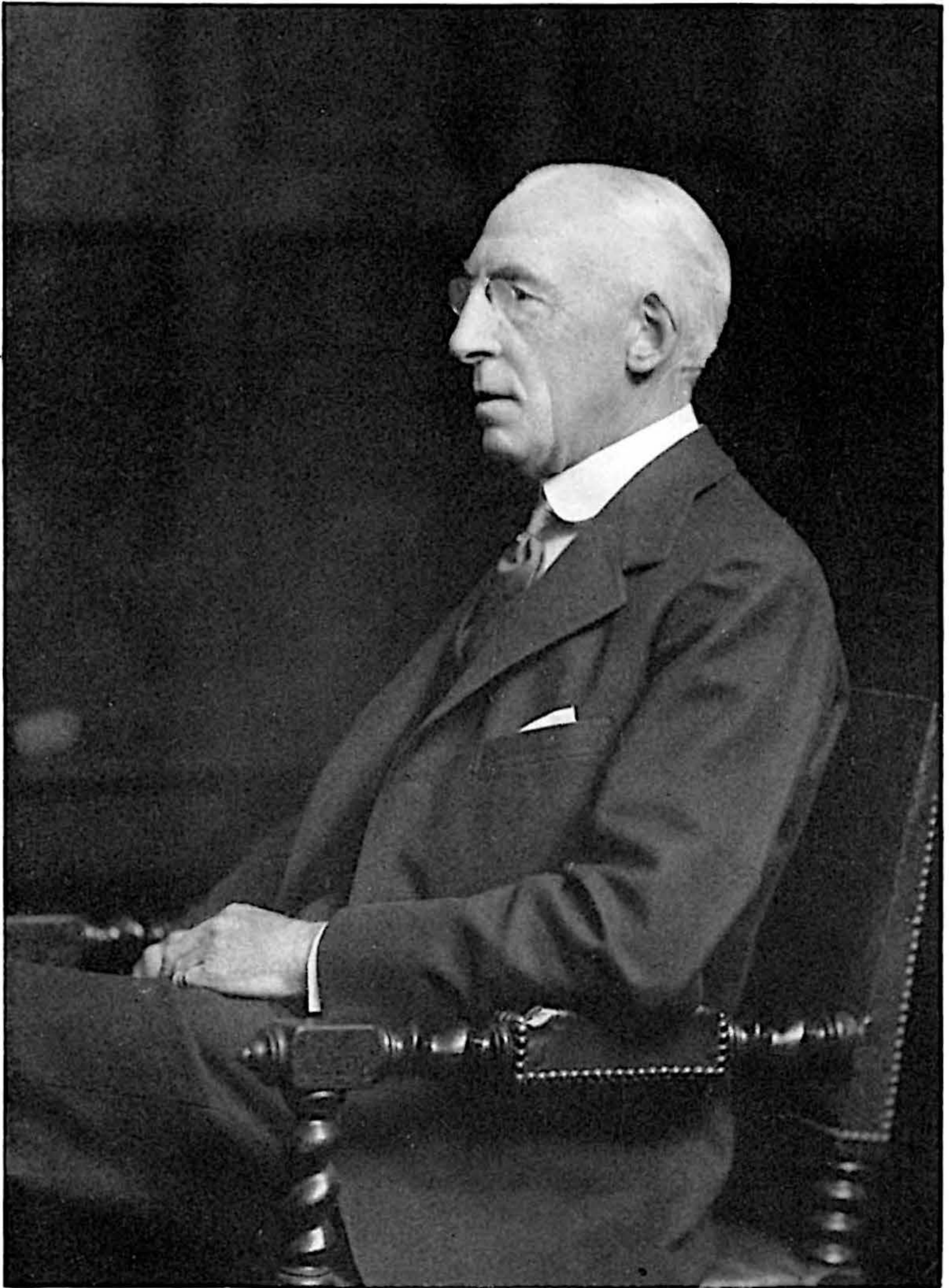
Kesteven was elected a member of the Alpine Club in 1891; he served on the Committee from 1896-1899 and became Vice-President in 1933. Though a busy man, he always found time to give his services and advice to the Club whenever they were required.

He first went to the Alps in 1885, and, with the exception of 1899, he climbed every season up to 1902. In 1903 he underwent a severe operation after which he gave up serious climbing.

In his early days he and his brother Charles explored many of the lower and less known valleys, chiefly in Italy and Tyrol, and ascended a number of secondary peaks, gaining thereby a knowledge of climbing and guiding which were invaluable when he took to more serious guideless climbing.

It is unnecessary to give a detailed list of his climbs which included nearly every district in the Alps. In 1885 he was at Sulden, 1886 in the Dolomites, 1887 in the Engadine, 1888 in the Gross Glockner district, 1889 in the Ortler and Presanella district, 1890 at Zermatt and Saas, 1891 Zermatt and Montenvers, and in 1892 he explored the High Level Route and the adjacent peaks. I have been unable to find any record of his companions and guides in these earlier years, but I believe that many of the climbs were guideless.

In 1893 he was at Chamonix with A. M. Marshall, guides R. Kaufmann and J. Gentinetta. Their climbs included Grand Dru, Petit Dru, Mt. Blanc by the Glacier du Mont-Blanc, a variation of T. S. Kennedy's route, Aiguille du Géant and other smaller climbs. In 1894 he climbed with J. P. Farrar in the Dauphiné accompanied by Maximin Gaspard. Their climbs included Pelvoux, Aiguille du Plat, Pic d'Olan and the traverse of La Meije. Later in the season he joined George Morse at Montenvers, and accompanied by Alfred Simond they climbed the Grépon both by the C.P. route and by Mummery's Chimney. In 1895 he joined Claude Wilson and J. H. Wicks and these three climbed together in 1895, 1896, 1898 and 1900, E. H. F. Bradby joining them



*Photo, Ellicott & Fry, Ltd.]*

T. L. KESTEVEN.  
1863-1939.

*[To face p 116.*

in 1898 and 1900. Here again it is unnecessary to enumerate their climbs which are detailed in Claude Wilson's In Memoriam notice (*A. J.* 50. 117) and in his book *An Epitome of Fifty Years' Climbing*. Sufficient to say that it was a magnificent record of guideless climbing and that it was carried out without accident of any sort.

As a climber Kesteven was physically very well adapted to his work. Tall, with a very long reach, he had an inexhaustible wind and he could walk very fast when occasion demanded. His guiding instinct was excellent. Possibly rock-climbing was his strongest point, but he was very good both on snow and ice, and there were few guideless parties forty years ago which would not have been strengthened by his presence.

I only had the privilege of climbing with him during his last season, in 1902. We finished with a magnificent walk over Mt. Blanc from the Tête Rousse hut over the Aiguille and Dôme du Goûter, Mt. Blanc, Mt. Maudit, Mt. Blanc du Tacul and back to Montanvers by the Col du Midi—a perfect day when nature was at its best and by its unusual beauty seemed to pay a special tribute to a great climber on his last climb. He was a delightful companion on a mountain. With a few friends in his beloved Alps he was like a schoolboy on a holiday, and his enthusiasm would communicate itself to all who were with him. Everything in the mountains appealed to him; whether it were the scenery, Alpine flowers, autumn tints or the beauty of a difficult climb, he found intense pleasure in all of them.

Most of his fellow-climbers have, alas, passed away before him. To the few who are left his death is a very real loss. May he rest in peace.

C. H. PASTEUR.

It was in 1898 that I learnt that Kesteven who had previously climbed with Claude Wilson and J. H. Wicks in 1895 and 1896 was going to rejoin them in 1898. As I had previously climbed with Wicks and Wilson in 1897 and was again to be a member of the party it was natural that I should wonder whether Kesteven would welcome a newcomer who had but recently become a member of the Club and had but a limited experience of climbing. He welcomed me with, as it were, open arms and we soon became and remained firm friends. How could it be otherwise when I found a man who gloried in the mountains and everything to do with them and was desperately keen on climbing.

Perhaps I may mention an incident which shows how keen a climber he was. Wicks, Wilson and myself were about to start one morning on an expedition when Wilson came down and told us, when we were having the usual early and dismal breakfast, that Kesteven had a touch of appendicitis and that he had told him that he would not be able to climb again that season. This was naturally a great blow. Kesteven however got better and stood it for a few days lounging about the hotel and then came to Claude and said: 'Look here, Claude, I come to you not as a doctor but as a friend and I am going to ask you a plain question and want a true answer. What would you do if you were in my place?' And Claude answered: 'Well, as the weather is so fine,

if I had come out to climb I suppose I should climb.' Kesteven did climb and was none the worse for it, but he must have known, having regard to what was previously told him, that he ran some risk.

Of the various expeditions I made with him I best remember a new route on the Aletschhorn from the Eggishorn via the Mittelaletsch Glacier where we had a terribly cold breakfast, then up the S.E. arête, descending by the E. arête to the col between the Aletschhorn and Dreieckhorn, and thence by the Mittelaletsch Glacier to Eggishorn, a long and tiring but interesting day. A very different expedition, which Kesteven who was always interested in seeing new country persuaded the other members of the party to undertake, was to cross the Rutor from west to east. We knew that it must be a snow grind, but he pointed out that as it was so conspicuous from all the neighbouring peaks he had always wished to explore the mountain and that we must surely agree that it was a desirable expedition. So we drove one dark night from Courmayeur to La Thuille and the drive seemed endless. I shall never forget the remarks that Kesteven, who had a great sense of humour, made during that drive about our horse. We descended to Livrogne and had another long drive to Courmayeur on the following morning. He was indeed a valuable asset to a guideless party, as is mentioned by Pasteur. Often when the leader was beaten by a stiff bit of rock he would come to the rescue with a longer reach and a good balance. He would talk with me about his previous walks and climbs and mentioned with special enthusiasm a season he had with J. P. Farrar, when apparently they seldom took a day off and covered enormous distances, for both were untiring walkers.

Those who knew him well found that he had a very distinctive personality with strong opinions upon various subjects. By making an apparently innocent remark about something upon which one knew he had strong views one could lead him on to express them in very forcible language, and then suddenly he would burst into laughter and say 'You are pulling my leg.' He was a man that you could not help loving when once you got to know him. He was extraordinarily kind and thoughtful, a charming host and a friend you could rely on if you asked him for advice, for you knew he would give you his honest and sincere opinion whether it pleased you or not. Looking back over the long period that I knew him I cannot remember his ever having said to me an unkind word or one that would hurt, and he was as staunch and true a friend as one could have.

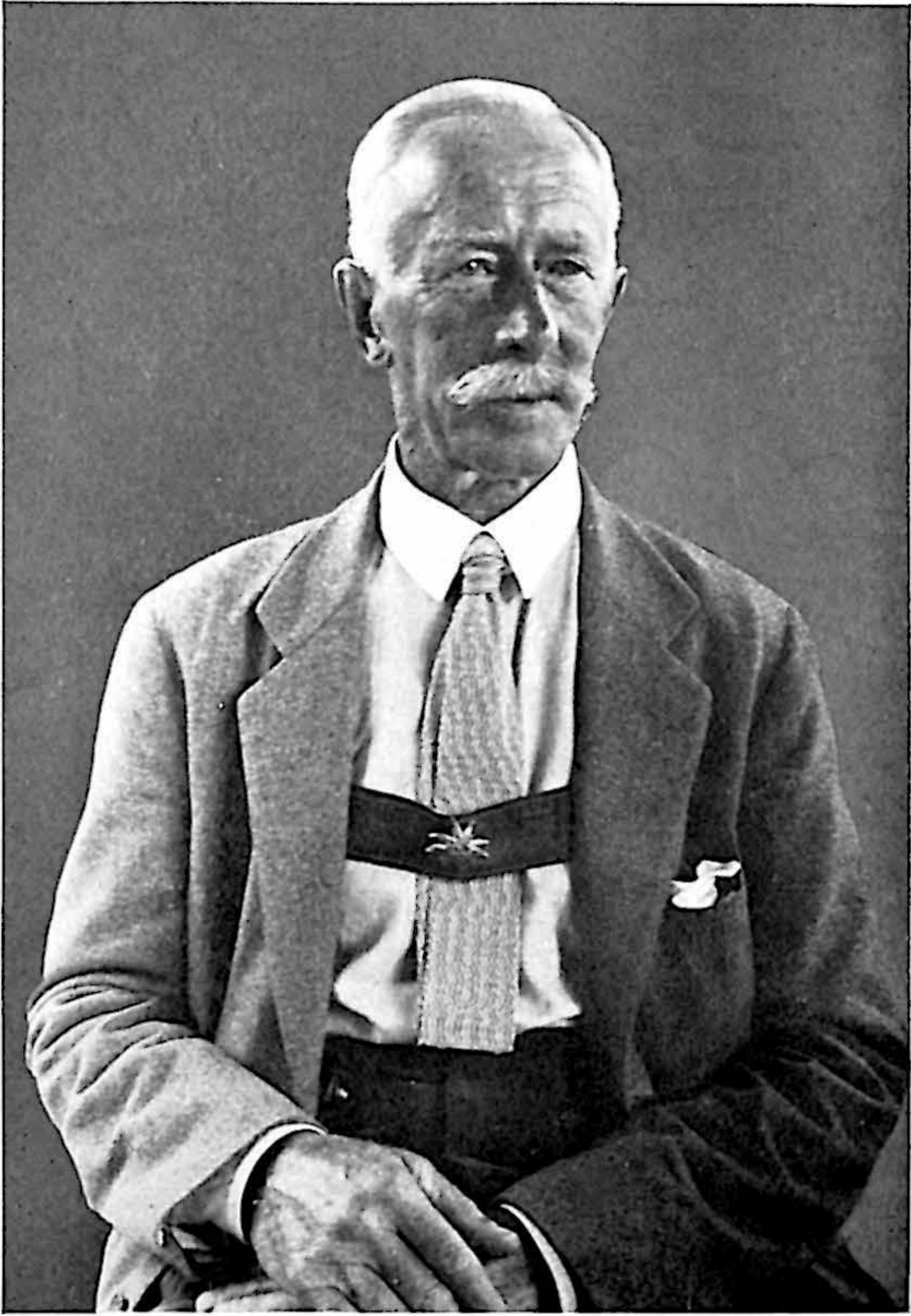
E. H. F. BRADBY.

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## JAMES WILLIAM WYATT

1857-1939

WHEN J. W. Wyatt was elected to the Alpine Club in 1902, he had been climbing since the season of 1874. His qualifications included a large number of peaks from the Jura—where he had made many ascents and wandered much—to the far Eastern Alps and Dolomites. In his



J. W. WYATT.  
1857-1939.

[To face p. 118.]

first year he had crossed the Old Weisstor and failed through bad weather on the Matterhorn. It would be difficult to discover a district concerning which he was ignorant—while on many he was considered a veritable authority, notably Arolla, Western Oberland, Oetz and Stubai, Tauern and the Gesäuse. He wrote an exhaustive monograph on the latter group—which he had explored in 1932—entitled ‘*Ennstaler Alps*’ in *A. J.* 44. 245 *sqq.* Other interesting papers written by him are ‘*Two rock climbs from Arolla*,’ *A. J.* 22. 185 *sqq.*; ‘*Some experiences across the Oberland*’ (25. 382 *sqq.*); ‘*Climbs in the Swiss part of the Mont Blanc range*’ (28. 165 *sqq.*); ‘*Some 1911 climbs*’ (36. 362 *sqq.*); ‘*The Dent du Midi landslide*’ (38. 246 *sqq.*); ‘*Stubai*’ (41. 294 *sqq.*). He also contributed the obituary of E. T. Compton.

Wyatt had many Alpine friends with whom he had climbed and wandered, notably W. H. Gover and the brothers Compton. He was proposed for membership by T. W. Jex Blake and Sir George Morse. He had climbed also a great deal with the famous Josef Lochmatter of St. Niklaus and his still active brother, Gabriel. A severe accident in England, resulting in a fractured thigh, put an end to his active career quite recently. But for this misfortune there seemed no reason why his tall, slim frame should not have permitted ascents right up to the end of his life. Even so, he continued his mountain walks, with the aid of two sticks, and as late as 1937 he ascended the Gamskarkogel above Hofgastein, tackling the final rocks on hand and knee.

His tabulated list of expeditions is remarkably long, including most of the big climbs round Zermatt, and covers almost every year up to 1932. From 1913 many expeditions were made on ski, and it is notable that in the winter of 1926–27 he ascended over 100,000 ft. on ski and over 50,000 ft. in walking. His wife, one of the first members of the Ladies’ Alpine Club, was his constant companion on ski runs, and in earlier days she shared many summer climbs with him.

Of distinguished appearance with charming and genial manners, he leaves many sorrowing friends. His great mountaineering powers, topographical and botanical knowledge have descended in full measure to his artist son, our present member.

E. L. STRUTT.

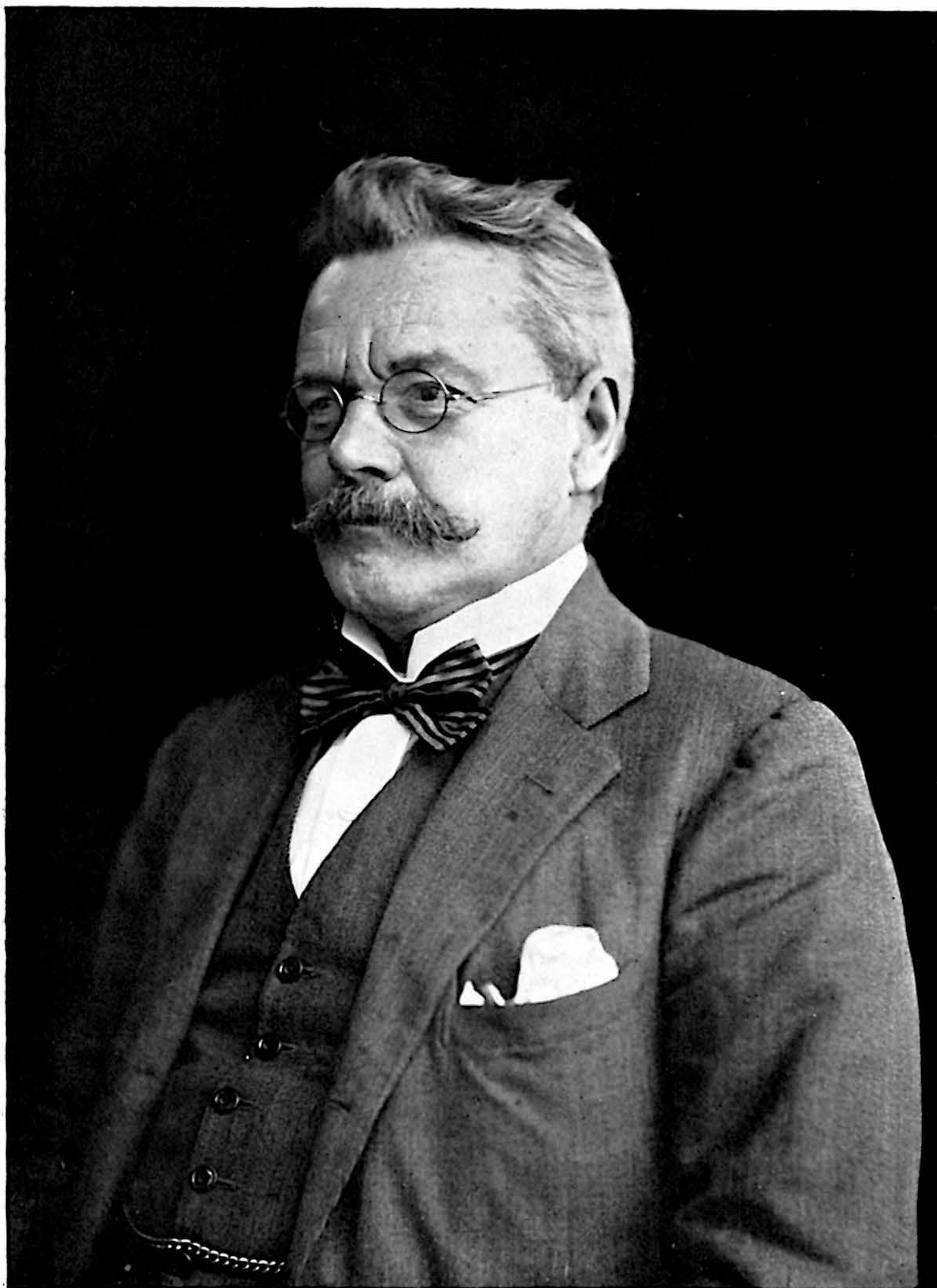
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## HARRY LORD RICHARD DENT

1859–1940

By profession Dent was a doctor who by hard work, skill and tact had established a successful practice in Kensington, and I think I am justified in saying that by many of his patients he was regarded as much more to them than just their medical attendant. Luckily in former and more prosperous times Kensington’s health seemed to improve as July neared its end, so with a clear conscience he would eventually give himself five or six weeks in the mountains.





H. L. R. DENT.  
1859-1940.

My lucky year came in 1897, when Dent asked me to go out with him and his wife to Champex. Our climbing and holiday partnership was continuous till last August, when it was abruptly ended by summary ejection from our hotel in N. Wales.

He had started somewhat earlier in very modest fashion, and then the fascination of the Alps grew and his passion for climbing developed. He was a true lover of the mountains with a keen sense of their grandeur and beauty apart from their facilities for indulgence in the best of all sports. One of Dent's characteristics was a spirit of independence in the right sense of the word. This was largely a factor in the adoption of guideless climbing; he could thoroughly appreciate the powers of a first-class guide, but he wanted to lead, not to be led, and it was good to follow him as an amateur guide. This brings me to a second marked characteristic—determination. It had to be a very tough proposition on ice slope or rock which could turn him back, but withal he was never unduly rash. He was a good judge of weather and snow conditions; should either of these threaten danger he would retire with no false shame at defeat; the mountain would still be there for a return match under more favourable conditions with odds on its being won.

Dent's own enthusiasm was boundless, and it was also infectious. In addition to my own case may I give another, rather amusing instance? A member of the Club, who had become bored with personally conducted tours, had announced his decision to chuck climbing; he had the luck to come into contact with Dent: result—the would-be renegade became regenerate under the guideless system and enjoyed many more seasons in the Alps.

I will not weary readers with a bald list of his very many ascents, but they ranged through Switzerland, France, Austria, Italy and the British Isles. Dent knew his limitations and never attempted anything spectacular or acrobatic; an orthodox route was good enough for him. No records stand to his name, except possibly for length of time spent in gaining some summit or on the top itself; I expect few members of the Club have spent three hours or so on the top of the Dent Blanche.

Among his assets were topography, map-reading and route-finding, even if he did at times reach a top by an original line of approach.

Dent was elected to the Club in 1903 and served on the Committee in 1926–7. He was an original member of the Committee which started the Association of British Members of the S.A.C., and a generous supporter of the Britannia hut scheme. He was President of this Association from 1923 to 1926, and a Vice-President to the end. He held strong views on the moral obligation of British climbers to show their gratitude to the S.A.C.

Latterly various circumstances put a stop to Alpine visits, but the same eager spirit was ever there even if he had to confine himself to flatter places on his good earth.

Dent had other interests in life apart from his profession. In early

days he was a keen Rugby football player ; though no musician himself he loved good music ; he was a powerful swimmer, and no fool with a lawn-tennis racket or billiard cue. The Club has lost a fine member, and I am very far from being the only one who has lost a true and valued friend. Our sympathy goes out to his devoted wife and family, one of whom follows in his father's footsteps as a member of the Club.

I cannot do better than close this attempt with an extract from the letter of an old comrade on the rope : ' I shall always remember Harry Dent with affection and gratitude for the pleasant memories of some of the happiest days in my life. He was a fine fellow—a proper man.'

H. G. PULLING.

## ROBERT ERNEST OSBORNE

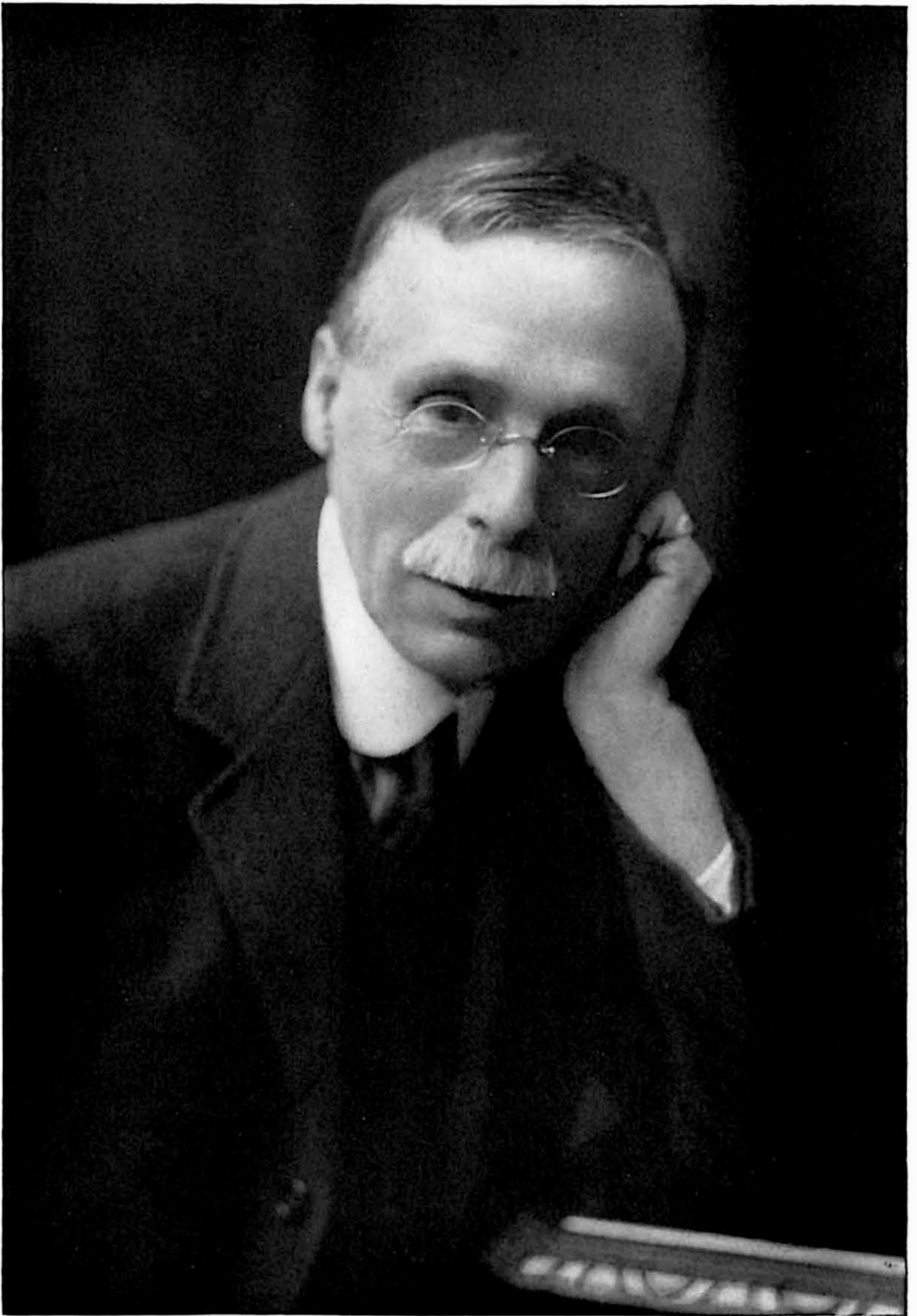
1861-1939

ROBERT ERNEST OSBORNE was called to the Irish Bar in 1886 and practised on the North-West Circuit where he made his reputation as an Equity lawyer of outstanding ability. In 1914 he took silk and in 1919 was appointed Recorder of Londonderry and County Court Judge. Most of his life he had lived in Dublin, but after his wife's death in 1927, a blow from which he never really recovered, he made his home with his sister Miss M. Osborne, a former President of the Ladies' Alpine Club.

In his young days he was an enthusiastic hill-walker, and delighted in tramping over the Cairngorms. This enthusiasm he never lost and his list of peaks, extending from La Meije to the Gross Glockner, never dwarfed his pleasure in a walk over easy hills.

In 1896 Miss Osborne and he went to Norway and did some climbs in the Jotunheim. In 1898 they went to Switzerland, and in 1899 began a series of expeditions with Hans Kaufmann, and after his death Christian Jossi, as leading guide and Fritz Amatter as second guide, which covered the best known peaks in the Alpine chain. From 1915 to 1919 they were regularly at Sligachan, which they knew already, and climbed steadily each year. From 1920 till 1924 they were climbing at Zermatt and Saas Fee and in Tyrol, while still keeping up their visits to Skye which continued to the end. How often he had been over the Pinnacles I should not like to say, but each time he set off with an enthusiasm that never failed. From 1925 to 1937 they went to Pontresina each year, but though they were continually on the hills, the climbs grew fewer. His last climb was the traverse of Piz Morteratsch when he was seventy-four. For the last few months of his life he had been a very sick man and the end came peacefully on July 29 last year.

No one who knew Ernest Osborne could ever forget him. He was one of those men who never went out without something amusing happening. It was not merely that he was quick to see the amusing



*Photo, Yerbury & Son, Edinburgh.]*

R. E. OSBORNE.  
1861-1939.

*[To face p. 122.]*

side of things and had the ready wit to turn an annoyance or a petty mishap into a jest, but somehow something amusing in itself happened. There are such men, and lucky are those who are in their company. For not only will there be added delights to a climb, but meetings away from the hills will be a renewal of the same cheerful humorous times when long trudges home, even in Skye rain, never seemed wearisome. A fine climber, a delightful companion on a climb or in a hotel, almost to the last brimming over with energy and good spirits, he will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

H. E. NEWTON.

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## LORD TWEEDSMUIR

1875-1940

FEW men touched life at more points and with greater zest than the late Lord Tweedsmuir, better known to a host of friends and an even wider circle of readers as John Buchan. The astounding range of his activities, literary and political, has been fully recorded elsewhere. But the readers of the *ALPINE JOURNAL* would not wish his too early loss to pass without at any rate a few lines to record the fact that he loved the mountains and was for over thirty years a member of the Club. Most of his climbing, indeed, was done in his own beloved Scotland, and he could boast that in a series of seasons he had climbed nearly all that was to be climbed in the Coolins, as well as all the five great buttresses on the N.E. face of Ben Nevis, the Arran and Glencoe peaks and much besides. When on Lord Milner's staff in South Africa he went up Mont aux Sources and tried such rock climbing as Table Mountain affords. In the Alps he did a little rock climbing both at Zermatt and at Chamonix, but, so far as I know, never climbed extensively after his election to the Club in 1906. Other preoccupations, no doubt, interfered, and later on health as well. But his interest in the mountains and in mountaineering never flagged. In a notice in this *JOURNAL* (*A. J.* 32.109) on Brigadier-General Cecil Rawling he described how before the last war he worked with that fine soldier and mountaineer at plans for an attempt on Everest. In more recent years he eagerly seized the opportunities afforded by his position as Governor-General to revel in the delights of camping in the Rockies. Even on his Arctic tour in 1937 he found an opportunity for a face climb up a bold cliff on the Mackenzie River and told me, not without a touch of whimsical pride, how he had managed to scale the last vertical pitch which defeated his staff.

Apart from a couple of early articles in *Blackwood's* none of his writings was directly concerned with mountaineering, though descriptions of mountain scenery abound in them, and now and again, as in the cave scene in *Prester John*, a short descriptive passage recalls the actual excitement of a difficult climb. His biography of Montrose is prefaced by a dedication to a younger brother, the favourite com-



*Photo, Elliott & Fry, Ltd ]*

JOHN BUCHAN, LORD TWEEDSMUIR.  
1875-1940.

panion of his climbing days, which is worth quoting as a fit epitaph for any mountaineer :

Ah no ! 'Tis we who fade and fail—  
 And you, from Time's slow torments free,  
 Shall pass from strength to strength, and scale  
 The steeps of immortality.

L. S. AMERY.

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### HENRY WOOD

1872-1940

COLONEL HENRY WOOD, R.E. (retired) was born on October 28, 1872, at Hursley, Hampshire. He was elected to the Alpine Club in 1919, being proposed by that well-known explorer and mountaineer the late Sir F. de Filippi. His very active climbing qualification comprised some 20 Himalayan peaks of over 19,500 ft., all these ascents (guideless) being made whilst he was engaged on the Trigonometrical Survey of India, his chief work. In 1913-1914 he accompanied Sir F. de Filippi on his expedition to India and Central Asia, when he carried out a good part of the survey work. He was also a member of Lieut-Col. Sir Francis Younghusband's expedition to the upper sources of the Brahmaputra. His published works include *The Identification and Nomenclature of Himalayan Peaks* and *Explorations in the Eastern Karakoram and Upper Yarkand Valley*. Active service included the Tibet Expedition of 1904, and the European war 1914-1918 (Dispatches thrice) for which he received several foreign decorations. He died on January 21, 1940. He was held in the highest regard by the few of the older members of the A.C. who knew him and who could appreciate his extremely valuable work in India and in other spheres.

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### WALTER MEAKIN

1876-1939

WALTER MEAKIN, second son of the late James Meakin, of Darlaston Hall, Staffordshire, had wide interests both at home and abroad. He was well known in his native county where he played a considerable role, and also in London, as for many years he belonged to the Liberal Party Executive. He died at the rather early age of 63, which is considered young in the Alpine Club.

He was a keen mountaineer who had climbed in many countries, an energetic traveller who devoted whole years to visiting and studying the problems of all parts of the British Empire and of very numerous foreign countries, a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, a man of scholarly tastes who held various degrees, a learned barrister, an active politician, and finally, what was perhaps even more important, at all times a public-spirited and patriotic citizen.



HENRY WOOD.  
1872-1940.



WALTER MEAKIN.  
1876-1939.

[To face p. 124.]



Born in Staffordshire in 1876, he was educated at Pembroke Lodge, Bournemouth, Clifton College, and Trinity College, Cambridge. He took first class Honours in both parts of the Law Tripos and received the degrees of B.A., LL.B., and M.A. On leaving Cambridge he was articled to a London solicitor. He took Honours in the Final Examination of the Law Society.

Later on he spent three years visiting the overseas Dominions, as well as the United States of America, the West Indies, Japan, Korea, China, South Africa, India, Burma, Straits Settlements, Egypt and the Sudan. He recorded the results of his studies and impressions in a book called *The Life of an Empire*. In 1906 he was admitted as a student at the Middle Temple and also studied Sociology at London University. In 1909 he was called to the Bar and also took his B.Sc. degree (in Economics). During the Great War, Meakin held a commission in the 5th Bn. The North Staffordshire Regiment and served in France. He subsequently edited a history of his regiment. He took a lively interest in the affairs of the British Legion and was for a number of years President of the Staffordshire branch. He was twice married and is survived by his second wife, *née* Denise Gardes, of Paris, whom he married in 1937.

For fourteen years the deceased was a Justice of the Peace in Staffordshire, where his deep legal learning commanded the respect of all his fellow magistrates who attached great importance to his opinions.

Walter Meakin was elected to the Alpine Club in 1922, his Proposer being Mr. H. J. Macartney, while the Rev. Walter Weston was his Secunder. Before that year Meakin had already had seventeen seasons climbing in the Swiss, French, Italian and Austrian Alps, the Pyrenees, and further afield, in the Blue Mountains of Jamaica, the Rocky Mountains of North America (including Mt. Rundle and Mt. Sir Donald), and even in the mountains of Japan (including Fujiyama, Asama Yama and Aso San), as well as in the mountains of Ceylon.

After 1922 he climbed chiefly in the Alps and in the Balkans, more particularly in Bulgaria and Yugoslavia.

Meakin displayed great interest in and sympathy for the land and people of Bulgaria, who heartily reciprocated his friendly feelings. The role which he played in Anglo-Bulgarian relations was somewhat similar to that of the Buxton brothers a number of years earlier.

He was an excellent and interesting lecturer who gave his listeners a most vivid and coloured description of all the scenes he had visited.

He will be greatly missed both in Staffordshire and many other places.

S. DE V. MERRIMAN.