

ALPINE NOTES

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :	Year of Election.
Powell, Legh S.	1882
Robertson, R. A.	1887
Mannering, G. E. (Honorary Member 1935)	1891
Bradby, E. H. F.	1897
Booth, Sir Alfred	1899
Doncaster, J. H.	1899
Maylard, A. E.	1901
Paravicini, C. R. (Honorary Member)	1925
Courtney, H. G.	1928
Rogers, Alfred	1929
Giuseppi, P. L.	1933

PENSIONS FUND APPEAL.—Mr. Oughton, the Assistant Secretary and Librarian, after 37 years' service with the Club, having expressed a wish to retire on account of his health at the end of the year, the Committee suggested at the meeting of the Club on March 2, 1948, that he should be granted a pension of Three hundred and fifty pounds a year, which was cordially agreed to.

Mr. Mitchell and his wife who have been caretakers of the Club for 22 years, are growing old and find the work too heavy for them. They retired on March 31. The Committee have decided to grant them a pension of One Pound a week each.

The Committee are of opinion that the capital funds of the Club, although sufficient for their normal requirements, should not be drawn upon for these pensions, as it is necessary in these uncertain times to conserve the Club's resources.

They have, therefore, decided to create a Pensions Fund, which will be quite separate from the ordinary funds of the Club and in the hands of Trustees. A proper trust deed is being drawn up. The Pensions Fund is intended to provide for the above pensions, and, so far as not exhausted, to be available for provision of pensions in the case of future employees.

The members of the Club are asked to contribute to this fund, either by way of :

- (a) Donations, which the Committee hope will realise £4,700.
- (b) An undertaking to subscribe each year a small sum, from 10s. upwards.
- (c) To execute a seven years' deed of covenant in the usual form, which will be allowed against their Income and Sur-taxes and can be renewed at the end of that period if desired.
- (d) Legacies.

Yearly contributions are important, but the Committee hope that a capital sum such as they mention or some near figure will be realised.

A capital sum that could be invested, combined with yearly support, is the ideal combination.

Particulars of all donations, subscriptions and deeds of covenant will be published in the ALPINE JOURNAL from time to time.

All letters, etc., should be addressed to R. W. Lloyd, Esq., Treasurer, Alpine Club Pensions Fund, at The Alpine Club, 74 South Audley Street, London, W.1.

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS

A = Donations.

B = Bankers' Orders for Annual Subscriptions.

C = Promises to execute a Seven Years' Deed of Covenant.

	A.			B.			C.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Aitchison, I. G., Esq.	10	0	0						
Amery, Rt. Hon. L. S.							2	2	0
Anonymous	200	0	0						
„	100	0	0						
„	20	0	0						
Bailey, C., Esq.	1	0	0						
Baker, G. P., Esq.	60	0	0						
Ball, Rev. W. A. R.		10	0						
Barratt, Maj. Geoffrey	7	7	0						
Barrow, Walter, Esq.	10	10	0				10	0	0
Bartrum, G. L., Esq.	10	10	0						
Blow, Maj. J. E.	5	0	0						
Bozman, E. F., Esq.	1	0	0	1	0	0			
Brocklebank, T. A., Esq.				2	0	0			
Byam-Grounds, J., Esq.	2	2	0						
Caesar, W. R., Esq.	10	10	0						
Carr, J. D., Esq.							2	0	0
Chorley, Rt. Hon. Lord	5	0	0						
Clarke, M. N., Esq.	15	15	0						
Courtauld, A., Esq.	5	0	0						
Courtauld, Capt. S. L.	10	0	0						
Dangar, D. F. O., Esq.	2	0	0						
Davidson, J. M., Esq.	5	0	0	1	0	0			
Donkin, Bryan, Esq.	25	0	0				10	0	0
Donkin, S. B., Esq.	10	0	0						
Elliott, C. A., Esq.	10	0	0						
Field, A. E., Esq.	10	0	0						

	A.			B.			C.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Gillett, Col. W. A.							2	0	0
Graham, R., Esq.	4	0	0						
Gueterbock, Brig. E.	5	0	0						
Gurdon, Lt.-Col. B. E. M				10	0		10	0	
Hadfield, Dr. C. F.				10	0				
Herbert, Sir Edwin S.							5	0	0
Herbert, H. R., Esq.	10	0	0						
Howard, G. E., Esq.	15	0	0						
Hunt, Cecil A., Esq.	2	0	0						
Huntington, J. F., Esq.	1	1	0						
Irish, H. J., Esq.	10	10	0						
Irving, R. L. G., Esq.	5	0	0						
James, J. E., Esq.	10	0	0						
Joseland, H. L., Esq.	1	0	0						
Lawford, B., Esq.	5	5	0						
Lehmann, C. T., Esq.	10	10	0						
Letts, L. C., Esq.	2	2	0						
Leyden, A. R., Esq.	3	0	0	1	0	0			
Ling, W. N., Esq.	20	0	0						
Lipscomb, G., Esq.	5	0	0	1	1	0			
Longstaff, Dr. T. G.	50	0	0						
Macrae, H. A., Esq.	10	0	0						
MacRobert, H., Esq.							5	0	0
Malcolm, A. D., Esq.	50	0	0						
Markbreiter, P. J., Esq.		10	0	10	0				
Meade, C. F., Esq.							5	0	0
Mears, R. P., Esq.	2	0	0						
Medley, Rev. J. F.	1	1	0						
Medlycott, T. A. H., Esq.	3	0	0						
Montgomery, J. E., Esq.				1	1	0	1	1	0
Morrish, R. S., Esq.	20	0	0						
Murray-Rust, D. M., Esq.	5	0	0						
Nettleton, C. W., Esq.	25	0	0	3	3	0			
Oldham, J. B., Esq.		10	0						
Oulton, E. V., Esq.	5	0	0						
Pasteur, H. W., Esq.	1	0	0						
Peacocke, T. A. H., Esq.							2	0	0
Pilkington, D. F., Esq.	20	0	0				5	0	0
Porter, C. R., Esq.	2	2	0						
Porter, H. E. L., Esq.	20	0	0	1	0	0			
Pryce, Hugh L., Esq.	10	0	0						
Pye, Dr. D. R.	5	0	0						

	A.			B.			C.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Robinson, A. M., Esq.	3	3	0						
Ross, Brig. D. B.	4	0	0	1	0	0			
Rumbold, T. A., Esq.	7	0	0						
Runge, A. J. R., Esq.				2	0	0			
Runge, Harry, Esq.				2	0	0			
Sedgwick, W., Esq.	5	0	0						
Shadbolt, L. G., Esq.	25	0	0				5	0	0
Sharp, F. C., Esq.	1	1	0	10	0				
Sharp, Major P. H.	1	1	0						
Smith, G. O. Howard, Esq.	10	10	0						
Smith, K. C., Esq.	2	2	0						
Smythe, F. S., Esq.	10	10	0						
Spencer, S., Esq.	20	0	0						
Stead, F. B., Esq.	2	0	0						
Struve, K. C. P., Esq.	5	0	0	2	0	0			
Summers, Geoffrey, Esq.							1	0	0
Suzannet, M. le Comte	10	0	0						
Tallerman, Dr. K. H.	2	0	0	10	0				
Tatham, M., Esq.	10	0	0						
Tilman, Major H. W.	10	0	0				10	0	0
Trench, Lt.-Col. B. F.	1	0	0						
Tyndale, H. E. G., Esq.							1	0	0
Vandeleur, Rev. C. R. P.	1	0	0						
Vyvyan, J. M. K., Esq.				1	0	0			
Wadsworth, A. M., Esq.	1	0	0						
Waller, Major J.	2	0	0						
Warren, Dr. C. B. M.	4	0	0	1	0	0			
Warren, Nigel S., Esq.	5	5	0						
Wedgwood, John H., Esq.							1	0	0
Westmorland, Lt.-Col. H.				10	0				
Williams, Dr. Gwyn	5	5	0						
Young, S., Esq.	25	0	0						

	£	s.	d.
Totals on April 30, 1948 : A . . .	1,048	12	0
B . . .	23	5	0
C . . .	67	13	0

Grand Total . . . £1,139 10 0

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP.—We announce with pleasure the election to Honorary Membership of the Alpine Club of Monsieur Albert Bois de Chesne, who for many years maintained a garden at Santa Maria di Trenta where every species of flora from the Julian Alps was to be

found. This garden, which is close to the source of the Isonzo, is no longer accessible. During last summer Monsieur Bois de Chesne formed *in situ* a complete collection of water colour drawings and diapositives of Julian flora, from such parts of the Julian Alps as are still within reach, and presented the results of his journey to the Civic Museum of Trieste, where two rooms are now devoted to this unique collection.

MR. AND MRS. MITCHELL.—On the occasion of the retirement from work of our caretakers at the Alpine Club, we wish to express the sincere gratitude of all our members for their 22 years of service and every good wish for their future.

AN UNKNOWN ASCENT OF MONT BLANC.—M. Ch. Vallot a très justement fait remarquer dans l'*A.J.* 56. 186, que l'ascension de David Payot, signalée dans l'*A.J.* 56. 47 *sqq.*, comme encore inconnue est, au contraire, connue depuis longtemps. La lettre de David Payot au Dr. Gosse, datée du 14 août 1808, est la copie d'une lettre écrite par J. François Simond, le 14 juillet (deux jours après leur ascension) au Sous-Préfet de Bonneville (1). Cette lettre (reproduite dans la *Revue Alpine*, 1896, p. 115 *sqq.*), qui existe aux Archives de la Haute Savoie, a été lue par l'archiviste-adjoint Eloi Sérand à la Société Florimontane d'Annecy, le 9 novembre 1888. Signalée dans la *Revue Savoisienne* 1888, p. 323 et dans la *Revue Alpine*, cette ascension est connue de tous les alpinistes qui s'intéressent à l'histoire du Mont Blanc. Le texte de la lettre D. Payot contient beaucoup d'erreurs, qu'il n'est pas inutile de relever pour en faciliter la compréhension ; ci-après les principaux errata :

Texte de l' <i>A.J.</i>	Texte des Archives (R.A. 1896)
p. 48 ligne 8 au-dessous 10 primes, après quelques repos. Dans	au-dessus parvînmes après quelques repos dans
11 en côté	encore
20 rampées	rampes
21 un pied de neige et plus, de façon	un pied de neige et plus, nous avons trouvé cette cabane remplie de neige de façon
23 cabane de glaçons	cascade de glaçons (2)
24 faire	repaire
29 retrograder au roc	rétrograder pour venir au roc
31 couvertes de redingotes	couverts de deux redingotes
34 devoir franchir	avoir franchi
39 ce paysage nous apparut aride	ce passage nous a parut rapide
p. 49 ligne 4 le vent du Nord s'ébat- tait	le vent de Nord-Est battait
13 je n'ai eu tant de plaisir pour ainsi dire ;	Je n'ai vu tant de déserts pour ainsi dire contigus ;
16 remuées	ramollies
18 de leurs ponts	de tant des ponts
25 mais	non

En cette année 1808, il y eut trois ascensions de Chamoniards, mais aucun touriste, et c'est sans doute pour cela que H. F. Montagnier, dans sa liste des ascensions au Mont Blanc (*A. J.* août 1911), ne les a pas signalées, bien qu'il les connût. En plus de l'ascension Payot-Simond du 12 juillet 1808 et de celle Balmat-Marie Paradis le 14 juillet, il y en avait eu une le 8 juillet par Joseph-Marie Simond, dit Montillet, seul (3); de sorte que cette année-là le Mont Blanc a vu quatre premières :

- 1° Première ascension solitaire, de Montillet.
- 2° Première ascension féminine, de Marie Paradis.
- 3° Première ascension d'un enfant de 14 ans, de Gédéon Balmat.
- 4° Première ascension d'un homme de plus de cent kilos, de Victor Amédée Tairraz, jeune homme de 28 ans, qui pesait 116 kilos et faisait partie de la caravane Balmat.

(1) La fin du premier paragraphe de la lettre *m'impose de vous en rendre compte comme je dois* s'explique dans une lettre administrative adressée au Sous-Préfet, mais non dans une lettre adressée à un particulier, comme celle de David Payot au Dr. Gosse.

(2) C'est la cascade de séracs sous le Dôme; il n'y a jamais eu de cabane à cet endroit et Saussure, dans son bivouac au Rocher de l'Heureux Retour, a couché sous sa tente.

(3) Dans la Statistique des ascensions au Mont Blanc de Stephen d'Arve, l'ascension du 14 juillet est seule indiquée, mais par erreur en 1809 au lieu de 1808 et avec la mention seule de Victor Tairraz et Marie Paradis. Les ascensions du 8 et du 12 juillet n'y figurent pas. L'ascension solitaire de Montillet a été signalée également dans la *Revue Alpine*, 1895, p. 114.

COMMANDANT EMILE GAILLARD.

THE COLUMBIA ICEFIELD.—Half a century has elapsed since the day, August 18, 1898, when Norman Collie and Hermann Woolley, on making the first ascent of Mt. Athabaska, saw a new world spread at their feet and, to the westward a vast icefield 'probably never before seen by human eye, and surrounded by entirely unknown, unnamed and unclimbed peaks.'¹

When Dr. Ladd and the writer, with Conrad Kain, visited the area in 1923 few climbers had been there in the interval, and Collie, in 'Old Memories: The Columbia Icefield,'² was over-optimistically inclined to think that primitive conditions would long remain. 'In those days [1898], he wrote,

'things were very different from now. There was a total lack of knowledge of where the few mountains that had been named by Dr. Hector exactly might be. . . . Looking back to those times, it is with little regret that we did not climb the summits of more of the monarchs that watch over those faraway valleys. . . . Snow-draped peaks we passed by, and turquoise lakes set amidst the old pinewoods and ringed round by gaunt precipices, and above, the snow.'

¹ *Climbs and Exploration in the Canadian Rockies*, 107.

² 'Old Memories: The Columbia Icefield.' *A. J.* 35. 46.

But prophecy seldom comes true, and when Collie adds,

'It is a regret that this delectable land is so far away. But it will be many a long year before much change can happen to the country round Mt. Columbia, it is too far away from the railroads,'

he was indulging in wishful thinking with which all subsequent visitors have been in full sympathy.

Things had changed but little by 1923 ;³ it still took six days to go with pack train from Lake Louise to Mt. Athabaska, and only toward the close of another decade did one realise that a road was coming. From 1933 onward our expeditions northward were shortened by the progress of this work until, in 1940, the highway was opened from Lake Louise to Jasper. A chalet now stands beside the tongue of the Athabaska Glacier, making it possible to drive there in a few hours from Lake Louise or Jasper and climb the next day.

Mt. Columbia and other ascents can be made from this point without an outlying camp or bivouac if conditions are favourable, and the long journeys across the icefield are shortened by the use of ski, which one scarcely thought of in 1923, such accessories being even more difficult than ice-axes to pack on a horse. During the war this area was a training centre for mountain troops. In 1942 the U.S. Army (87th Mountain Infantry) maintained a large camp near the tongue of the Saskatchewan Glacier, and from this site tested many types of snow vehicles, which were driven up the glacier to the Columbia Icefield and even to the summit of the Snow Dome. During the winter of 1942-43 the Lovat Scouts, whose members were chiefly from the north of Scotland, used this area as well as the terrain adjacent to the Icefield Chalet.⁴⁻⁵

From the building material salvaged at the Saskatchewan Glacier a hut has been built,⁶ now the property of the Alpine Club of Canada, from which additional climbs can be made. Sleeping bags, mattresses and cooking utensils will be found there and the hut is accessible from the main highway by a branch road 3 miles in length, over which cars can be driven to its door.

It will be seen that things not contemplated by Collie have occurred since 1898 and 1923. But even now Collie has not turned out to be entirely wrong and the days of a quarter-century ago, when we seldom met other human beings on our journeys, can still be relived in treasured corners of the Canadian Rockies. When the Saskatchewan stream is in flood the road goes under water and motors no longer reach the hut, and if one walks to Castleguard meadows or Thompson Pass the solitude is as of old. One may camp beside spraying waterfalls and watch the sunset on Mt. Bryce, knowing that life away from political turmoil can still be peaceful and satisfying.

J. M. THORINGTON.

³ 'The Mountains of the Columbia Icefield.' *A.J.* 35. 178.

⁴ 'Troop Training in the Canadian Rockies.' *C.A.J.* xxix. 77.

⁵ 'Training Mountain Troops in the Canadian Rockies.' *A.A.J.* xix. 201.

⁶ 'The Saskatchewan Glacier Hut.' *C.A.J.* xxix. 202.

THE BEAST OF THE VALAIS.—Two years ago, in April 1946, the strange appearance of large beasts of prey was reported in the region of the forest of Finges, between Sierre and Raron, and especially in the Turtmann valley. There was every manner of guess: panther, bear, wolf or lynx. Almost everywhere in these lonely valleys, Naters, Törbel, Gruben, Chandolin, Zinal, Evolena, Bagnes, there were traces of the passage of the animal or animals. Sheep and goats vanished mysteriously, or their mangled remains were found. Despite the activities of all the huntsmen in the canton and the organisation of large methodical beats, the beasts always succeeded in passing through the cordon.

Finally, on the night of November 26–27, 1947, in romantic moonlight, a poacher while fox hunting near the village of Eischoll, in the district of Raron, encountered a large, dark, aggressive animal. He killed it by a shot through the eye. It was a large wolf. As the animal was not more than one and a half years old, there is every reason to believe that it was born in the Valais and that its fellows, male or female, are still at large.

The number of cattle killed by this animal or by the pack is about two hundred sheep and goats, four cows and a pig. It is of interest to recall that the last predatory animals killed in the Valais were in Val Ferret, between Praz-de-Fort and La Fouly, a bear in 1813 and a wolf in 1868. Alexandre Dumas, however, speaks of a generous portion of bear which he ate with appetite at Martigny about 1835. But one must remember that the author of *The Three Musketeers* had a vivid imagination.

The wolf of Raron is to be sent to the Zoological Museum of the Collège de Sion, where all can admire its remains.

CHARLES GOS.

FROM GARHWAL.—Messrs. A. D. Malcolm and H. L. Pryce spent three weeks in Garhwal between September 16 and October 5, 1947. No mountaineering of any importance was achieved, but the visit seems worth recording because it was the summer holiday of two business men who work in London, and it is hoped that others may be encouraged to follow their example. The total holiday taken was six weeks and transport to and from India was by air. The plan provided for four weeks in the hills, but owing to exceptional delays on the journey out and across India this was in fact reduced to three weeks.

Two Sherpas, Pasang Dawa and Gyalgen Mickje, had previously been engaged by post and travelled to Ranikhet independently. Some camp and climbing equipment had been sent by sea and was collected in Delhi, and some more was borrowed from the Himalayan Club in Delhi. Col. Gordon Osmaston, in charge of the Club equipment, was extremely helpful and was also able to provide a proof sheet of the still unpublished new survey map of the Trisul—Nanda Devi area ($\frac{1}{2}$ inch No. 53 N./S.E., 1946 edition).

At Ranikhet it was discovered that the Sherpas had not, as promised, brought any mountaineering clothes; however, boots had been

brought from England and battle dress was obtained from the local Army Leave Camp ; socks, etc. were bought in the bazaar. All the food, both tinned and fresh, was bought in Ranikhet, but rationing of flour, rice and sugar necessitated substantial purchases of the former in the black market at twice the normal price. Warning was also received that no flour would be available in the hill villages, so that the entire supply for three weeks had to be obtained before starting. The Sherpas had brought a supply of tsampa from Darjeeling. Thirteen Dhotial coolies were engaged with no delay or difficulty.

The party proceeded via Gwaldam, up the Kail Ganga, which descends from the S. side of Trisul. Camp was established at 13,000 ft. on the moraine of the Bidalgwar Glacier (on previous maps called the Kurumtoli or the Kail Glacier). Bad weather was almost continuous, heavy snow and thunderstorms occurring practically every day on the mountains. Baraltoli Peak (17,308 ft.) was climbed without difficulty. This lies immediately to the S.W. of the peak which Noyce climbed in 1943, and refers to as Simsaga, but which is called Tharkot on the new map. A short reconnaissance was made up the Bidalgwar Glacier which showed that it is impossible to make a pass on the E. of Trisul to the Trisul Glacier and that it looks hazardous to climb any of the peaks of Trisul from S. or E., although further investigation might find a practical route up the southern peak from E. The return was made by the same route. The monsoon continued violently until at least October 6 when the party left Ranikhet.

Such a holiday entails the expenditure of a little more time and much more money than does one in the Alps, but it is a glorious experience which will never be forgotten, and which every mountaineer should undertake at least once in his lifetime if he possibly can. During the war Noyce and others have shown that three or four weeks' leave is sufficient for a successful mountaineering holiday in the Himalaya, and that it is possible to climb a peak of over 20,000 ft. in that time.

A. D. MALCOLM.

THE FRANZ JOSEF HOTEL, NEW ZEALAND.—All who have stayed at this hotel will be sorry to hear that the Grahams have sold it to the Government. From a small beginning, when visitors to the Waiho were few and far between, the Graham brothers built up a comfortable and well appointed hotel. What the work meant, a visitor now will hardly realise. It included bringing water from a small lake up in the hills by a race of some miles through rough country, and still most of the equipment and food, not produced on the farm, has to come 100 miles by lorry from railhead. There was an atmosphere about the hotel that reminded one of the Swiss hotels, that can still be found in valleys that are not commercialised tourist resorts.

Unfortunately, before the sale was completed, a fire broke out in the annexe and this reduced the sale price considerably. But it was much worse than the financial loss. A large party arrived late that night, and when one of the Grahams went round the last thing, as was their

usual custom, at 2 A.M., all was normal. At 2.30 the wooden annexe was a few red hot girders and of the nineteen people in it four, who were in the upper rooms, were dead. The origin of the fire is unknown, possibly a lighted cigarette carelessly thrown down. Anyone who knows the Grahams will understand how deeply they have felt this tragic ending to their work at the Waiho. They have not sold their own houses and are living in them.

H. E. NEWTON.

EARLY MEMORIES OF VALTOURNANCHE.—By the kindness of M. Charles Gos, we have received an article from *L'Union Valdôtaine* of December 17, 1947, written in 1873 by the Abbé Amé Gorret, who will be remembered as one of the Italian party of July 17, 1865, on the Matterhorn, and reprinted on the fortieth anniversary of his death. The article begins with the arrival at Châtillon in 1850 of three tourists, described as 'des anglais, anglais et demi.' It is noteworthy that even as late as 1873 the word 'anglais' is used locally as a synonym for climber. These tourists halted for an hour at the *Lion d'Or* auberge for beer and coffee, tea being then unknown; they left for Valtournanche where, in the absence of an inn, they found refuge at the presbytery. They were planning next day to traverse 'Mont Cervin,' no distinction then being drawn between the Matterhorn and the Théodule Pass. At that time there were only five guides in the valley who would have faced a glacier crossing. A guide was fetched from a distant chalet, a fee of L.25 was fixed for him and a companion to safeguard his return, and the expedition was successful. The priest refused money for entertainment, but sanctioned a present to his sister who kept house for him.

A week later seven more 'anglais' arrived, demanding two guides and five porters for the passage of the Théodule. Of the five porters engaged, two put on their National Guard helmets for the journey. The remaining three were all brothers. On hearing the news of the proposed glacier crossing of *La Rouèse*, the mother fainted, while the wife of one brother suffered even more severely. All five porters eventually became excellent guides.

The years that followed brought an increasing number of 'anglais' from England, Prussia, Austria, Switzerland, France, America, Russia and Italy. 'On vit même des anglaises. Ô stupeur! Ô bêtise humaine!' In 1854 'un anglais de Biella,' better known as Quintino Sella, went up Valtournanche on his way to ascend the Breithorn. He wrote a lively account of this ascent in the Théodule hut book, but in 1871 Gorret discovered that the page was missing. The party had three miserable ropes taken from bundles of faggots; the leading guide cut steps with a wood-axe, which he tucked into his waistcoat when not in use. This same axe was taken by three natives who attempted the Matterhorn in 1855, armed also with alpenstocks. They lost a dog on the Mont Thabor Glacier. The party's main achievements were to roll stones down from the Tête du Lion, to empty a tobacco pouch into their pipes and then melt snow in the pouch.

CONGRATULATIONS.—We congratulate the Climbers' Club on their 50th anniversary, and the Mountain Club of South Africa on the issue of the 50th number of their Journal.

INTER-UNIVERSITY MEETS.—We are glad to learn that this scheme, which was begun in 1946 with an Inter-University Meet of Geneva and Oxford in the Alps, has been repeated between these two universities, and that similar hospitality has been extended by the A.A.V. Zürich to the Cambridge University Mountaineering Club.

FROM CHAMONIX.—We regret to report the death at the age of 46 of Arthur Ravanel, son of Ravanel *le Rouge*, who acted as porter to his father when accompanying King Albert I of the Belgians. He was a well known skier, and was for several years in charge of the Couvercle hut.

FROM COURMAYEUR.—We regret to announce the death, on February 13, 1948, of the guide Alphonse Chénosz. His name was well known locally, and among his more notable expeditions were the first ascent of the Grandes Jorasses from the Col des Hirondelles, with Adolphe Rey and Signori Francesco Ravelli, Guido Rivetti, G. Gaia and S. Matteoda, on August 10, 1927; also the first ascents of the Aiguille Noire de Péteret from the N. and of the Calotte de Rochefort by the S. face and E. arête, these two climbs being made in the company of Adolphe Rey and Signor Guido Rivetti, on August 7 and 11, 1928.

THE MATTERHORN, FURGGEN RIDGE.—On September 18, 1947, this ridge was climbed for the first time by a woman, Mlle Anne Pellissier, with her brother Camille and her cousin Arthur Pellissier, both Val-tournanche guides. The party reached the Furggen shoulder in three hours from the Breuiljoch, and then climbed direct to the summit by the route taken by Louis Carrel in 1941.

ASCENTS IN MARCH.—During the exceptionally dry and warm weather of March the Matterhorn has been climbed several times, once by the Zmutt ridge, once by the S.W. ridge, two or three times from the Hörnli, with one N.E.-S.W. traverse. Other climbs include the Dent Blanche, the Aiguille du Géant, the Aiguille Verte (ascent by the *couloir en Y* and descent by the Moine ridge), and even the ascent of the Hirondelles ridge of the Grandes Jorasses by the guides Antonio Grobbi and Thomasset.