### IN MEMORIAM

### CLAUDE A. MACDONALD

1859-1949

CLAUDIUS AUGUSTUS KERR MACDONALD, second son of Major C. C. Macdonald (22nd Regt.) of The Auburn, Queensland, Australia, was born at 40, Montagu Square, London, on March 21, 1859. He was educated at Vevey College, in Switzerland, for two years, and from 1874 to 1879 was at Harrow, where he was Head of the Modern side. He was in the Football XI in 1878; was head of Mr. Hutton's House; and passed straight from Harrow into Woolwich.

His father had died in 1874, and the executors came to disapprove of an Army career for Claude Macdonald, and he joined his elder brother in sheep farming at Wantabadgery, Wagga Wagga, N.S.W., becoming

a partner in 1881.

A few weeks after his arrival in Australia (Sept. 1879) Wantabadgery was 'stuck up' by bushrangers, who had possession of the house for two nights and a day, and were only dislodged after a pitched battle with the police during which one policeman and two bushrangers were killed. This was the last episode of the sort in the country and the leaders, under the famous Captain (Andrew George Scott) 'Moonlight' (who was a Dublin university graduate and engineer) were hanged. (See Archibald Campbell's Sunny Australia, pp. 71, 82, 168–73.)

From 1886 to 1908 Claude managed the station alternately with his brother Falconer Macdonald, each brother paying periodical visits to England; in 1908 the station was divided into 'EAST' and 'WEST' and worked separately. Claude Macdonald was chiefly instrumental in settling a formidable strike which broke out in 1906

between wool growers and wool buyers.

He was the founder of the Riverine Club, Wagga Wagga, in 1883; was elected to the Union Club, Sydney in 1880 and to the Melbourne Club in 1884; was one of the founders of the Melbourne Polo Club; and Vice-President of the Murrumbidgee P. & A. Association for many years. In London he was a member of the Oriental Club, being elected in 1885, President in 1917–18 and again in 1926–27.

He married in 1898 Ethel, daughter of W. Henry Greene, of Melbourne, one time Commissioner for Railways for Victoria, by whom he had one son and three daughters, all born in Australia. She died in

1940.

A very keen shot, he was interested in hunting and driving, swimming and boxing, the latter craft standing him in good stead in many incidents of a varied career. In 1875 he swam from La Tour to Bouberet, across

the Lake of Geneva—a distance of 4 miles. From 1889 to 1898, during his holidays in England, he hunted regularly with the Grafton Hounds from Towcester.

During the first World War he joined F. Division of the Metropolitan Police in August 1914, becoming sergeant in 1916 and senior sergeant

in 1918 (long service medal with clasp).

He was elected to the Alpine Club in April 1890, served on the Committee from 1915-17 and again in 1935, and was Vice-President from 1932-33. At the time of his death he was the second senior member of the Club, and had been made Honorary Member only a few months before.

His climbing career commenced in 1884, with the Jungfrau, Schreckhorn and minor expeditions, and the following are but a selection of the principal climbs in the ensuing years:

Finsteraarhorn; Oberaarhorn; Lauteraarjoch, Oberaarjoch.

1886 Zinal Rothhorn; Matterhorn; Alphubel; Adler Pass; Petersgrat; Beichgrat.

Various expeditions among the New Zealand glaciers.

Dent Blanche from the rocks on the Schönbuhl glacier; Weisshorn; Obergabelhorn; Dom, by S.-W. arête; Eiger; Mönch.

First descent of the Schreckhorn to the Lauteraarsattel, which he described in a note in A.J., 15. 370, together with some remarks on his ascent of the Dom in 1889 and also of his climb on the Dent Blanche the same year, by which, it may be said, he established the usual route from the Schönbuhl.

1894 An attempt on the Mittelleggi arête of the Eiger, with a descent by the N. face  $(A.\mathcal{F}. 40.329)$ . After the defeat on the Mittelleggi, Christian Jossi (sen.) asked to be allowed to bring a bag of pitons the next time they tried the arête, as they could then easily surmount the final cliff; 'but I laughed and deprecated all such artificial aids.' A very different standard of climbing ethics reigns to-day!

First ascent of the Ebnefluh by the N. face (A.J. 18.45); 1895 Lauitor; Mönch (tr. Jungfraujoch to Wengen Alp).

Klein Schreckhorn, first ascent by N.-W. arête; and Simmelistock, first ascent (see  $A.\mathcal{F}$ ., 19. 325–30).

New Zealand; made two attempts on Mount Cook—see A.J., 21. 475, 'A Month's Holiday in the Mount Cook District.'

Finsteraarhorn traversed (ascent by Farrar's 1883 route, descent 1905

by N.-W. arête and Agassizjoch—A.J., 23. 339).

1909 New Zealand; fifth ascent and second traverse (with new descent) of Mt. Sealey; first passage of Green's Saddle; first ascent of Coronet Peak (after an attempt on Mt. Green); third ascent and first traverse of Maltebrun.

His usual guides in the Alps were Christian Jossi and Rudi Almer.

Mr. Charles H. Pasteur sends us the following note:

As an old friend of the Macdonald family, I would like to add a few words to what has already been written about Claude Macdonald.

We were very old friends, probably of more than sixty years' standing, and although he passed a large part of his life in Australia, we never lost touch with one another. I never happened to be in the Alps at the same time as he was, and I can therefore add nothing to what has already been said about his climbs.

One curious story about a storm on the Lyskamm, which he told me himself, might be of interest. He and his two guides were caught in a violent thunder storm near the top of the mountain, during which he was struck by lightning, and his guides thought he had been killed. After a few minutes, he recovered consciousness and got up. After a careful examination, the only mark that could be found was a small ring on his head, from which all the hair had been burnt, leaving a bare place like a priest's tonsure. There was no mark whatever on his hat.

For many years he was in the habit of giving small Alpine dinner parties the day after the A.C. dinner, at many of which I had the

privilege of being present.

The loss of his wife and the death of his only son, who died of wounds in Malay during the late war, proved a heavy blow to him but the devoted care of his three daughters was a great comfort and help to him during the last few years of his long life.

Claude Macdonald was a very brave man, whether on a mountain, on a horse, or in the water, and for him the word fear did not exist.

He was also a very true and loyal friend, and a perfect host. May he rest in peace.

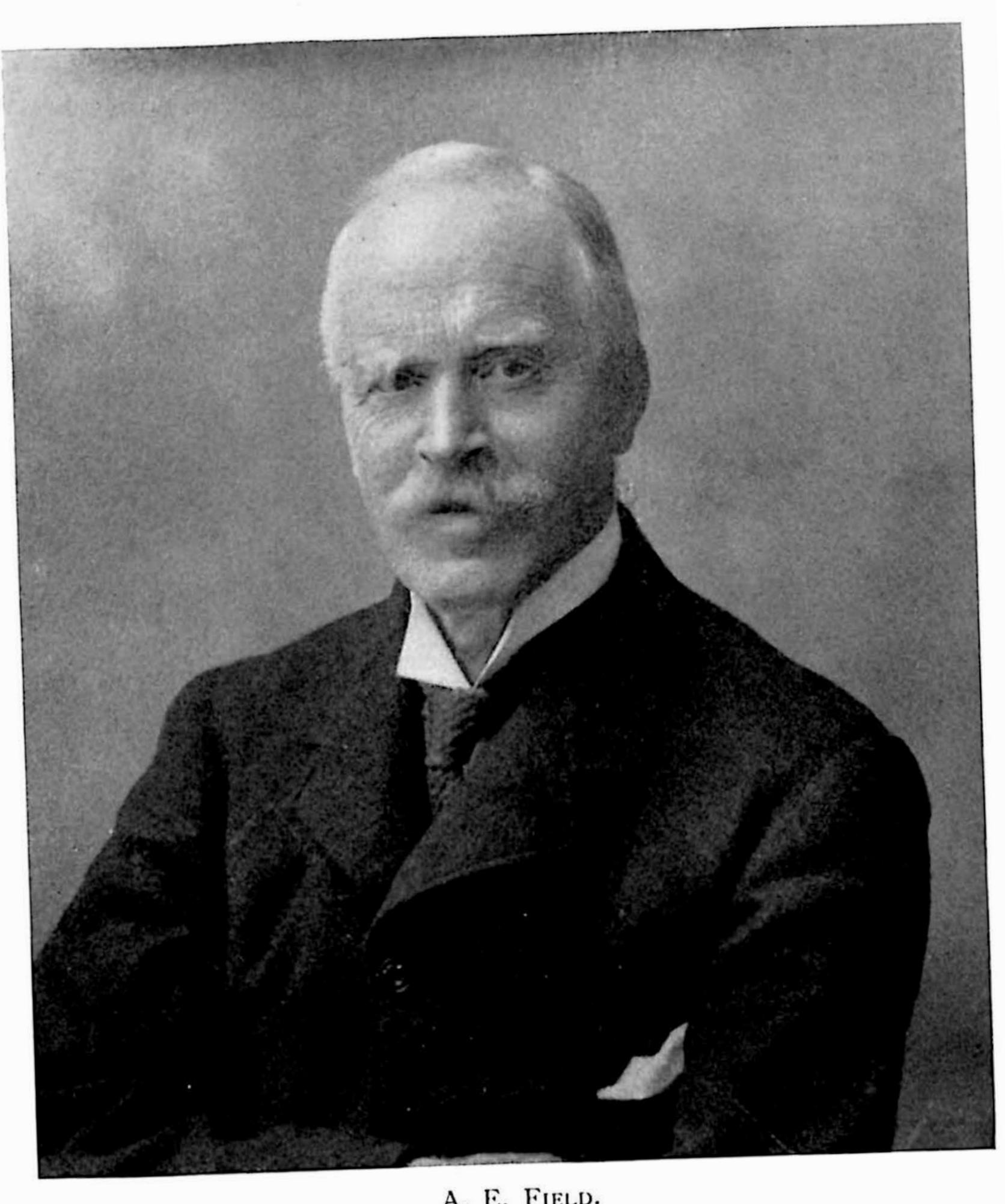
# A. E. FIELD 1864-1949

Alfred Ernest Field was born at Buckingham on January 31, 1864, the son of a chartered accountant. He went from Bedford Modern School with an open scholarship in mathematics to Trinity College, Oxford, and obtained first-class Honours in Mathematical Mods. and the Final Mathematical Schools, and second-class Honours in Science.

He became a member of the staff at Bedford School in 1888 and retired in 1929, after a long and distinguished career. For some years before retirement he was in charge of the Form which catered specially for the Woolwich Entrance Examination and the Royal Navy, and had a long list of successes.

The following sentence, with which all who had the privilege of knowing him will agree, is taken from an obituary notice by a colleague:

'His clearness of mind, his grasp of detail, his encyclopaedic knowledge, his amazing memory and his vigour won our respect



A. E. FIELD. 1864-1949.

and admiration, but our affection for him was due to his unbounded generosity, his kindness of heart, and his readiness at all times to help anyone in need.'

After his retirement he did much quiet and useful work in the town on the Committee of the County Hospital and the Committee for the Blind and as Accountant for the W.V.S. and the Red Cross Comforts Fund for Prisoners of War.

His Alpine career commenced in 1895 and between then and the first World War he made a large number of first class expeditions, including the ascent of the Aiguille Sans Nom with the first passage of the ridge leading thence to the summit of the Aiguille Verte, in 1902 (A.J. 21) and a traverse of the Klein Nässihorn, Wellhorn and Wetterhorn (with the first passage of the West face of the Wellhorn) in 1903 (A.J. 22). He had an exceptionally wide knowledge of the Alps and had climbed also in the Pyrenees and Norway. He loved best the Eastern Alps and the Dolomites, and the Graians, on which he read a paper (A.J. 23), where one could still wander undisturbed even on the roads, and mingle freely with the inhabitants. He was greatly interested in their customs and could speak the local dialects fluently.

He visited the Alps again every year from 1923 to 1928, but confined himself to minor expeditions and walks. He delighted to take young companions to the mountains at home and abroad, and especially his loved half-sister, Dr. Kathleen Field, of Reading, who survives him.

He became a member of the Alpine Club in 1899, served on the Committee in 1930-32, and again in 1946. In 1932 he edited with Sydney Spencer the Third Series of *Peaks*, *Passes and Glaciers*.

He was a familiar and popular figure in the Club and attended meetings to within a few months of his death, although this meant coming up from Bedford. He died tranquilly, and rather suddenly, on July 12, 1949.

Having known him intimately from my first visit to the Lake District in 1917, when he extended to my wife and myself the kindness he habitually showed to the uninitiated, I can think of no more appropriate words to describe him than those which he wrote about his climbing companion, Broadrick, killed on Scafell in 1903:—

'He was in all senses and upon all occasions a cultivated gentleman, refined in his tastes, courteous, kindly, of strong but not fanatic opinions, broadminded, sympathetic, simple.'

His equinimity was remarkable and he preserved it to the end of a happy life which had brought much happiness to others.

#### C. G. MARKBREITER.

Mr. Ashley P. Abraham has kindly contributed the following note:—

'A. E. Field started serious rock climbing in 1895 when Dr. Collier, A. D. Godley and I took him up Kern Knotts Chimney and the Napes

Needle. Thenceforth he climbed regularly in the Lake District, making the ascent of nearly all the courses listed by O. G. Jones, including most of the exceptionally severes. His outstanding exploit was the first ascent of Walker's Gully on Pillar Rock with O. G. Jones and G. D. Abraham early in the New Year of 1898. In fine weather with dry rocks this is extremely difficult; blizzard conditions and icy rocks made the ascent one of the most difficult he ever achieved. In 1910 at Skye with G. F. Woodhouse and myself he spent two whole days on the Pinnacle route on Sgurr Nan Gillean, and on account of verglas, high wind and powdery snow we only attained the top of the Third Pinnacle.

'He climbed many of the difficult courses in North Wales, including the first ascent, with C. W. Nettleton and myself, of the exceptionally severe Route II of the Eastern Buttress of Lliwedd on April 2, 1905.

'He was a useful addition to any climbing party, keen and helpful, game for anything; an uncommonly genial and well-informed com-

panion; a loyal and trusty friend.'

# JOSEPH MURISON DAVIDSON

### 1871-1949

THE tragically sudden death of J. M. Davidson, while on a walk in the Welsh hills with the Wayfarer's Club, leaves a sad blank in the ranks of the Alpine Club.

His Alpine climbing career began in 1901 with the guides, Fritz and Peter Ogi of Kandersteg, and for the next six years he was

thoroughly grounded in the art, as his list shows.

1901 Tschingelochtighorn; Wilde Frau; Grosser Lohner; Kleiner Lohner; Tschingelhorn over Petersgrat; Wildstrubel.

1902 Pyrenees. Attempts on Pic de Nethou and other mountains failed owing to lateness of season (late October).

1903 Dent du Midi (traverse) Jungfrau from Rottal (traverse) Lauterbrunner Breithorn.

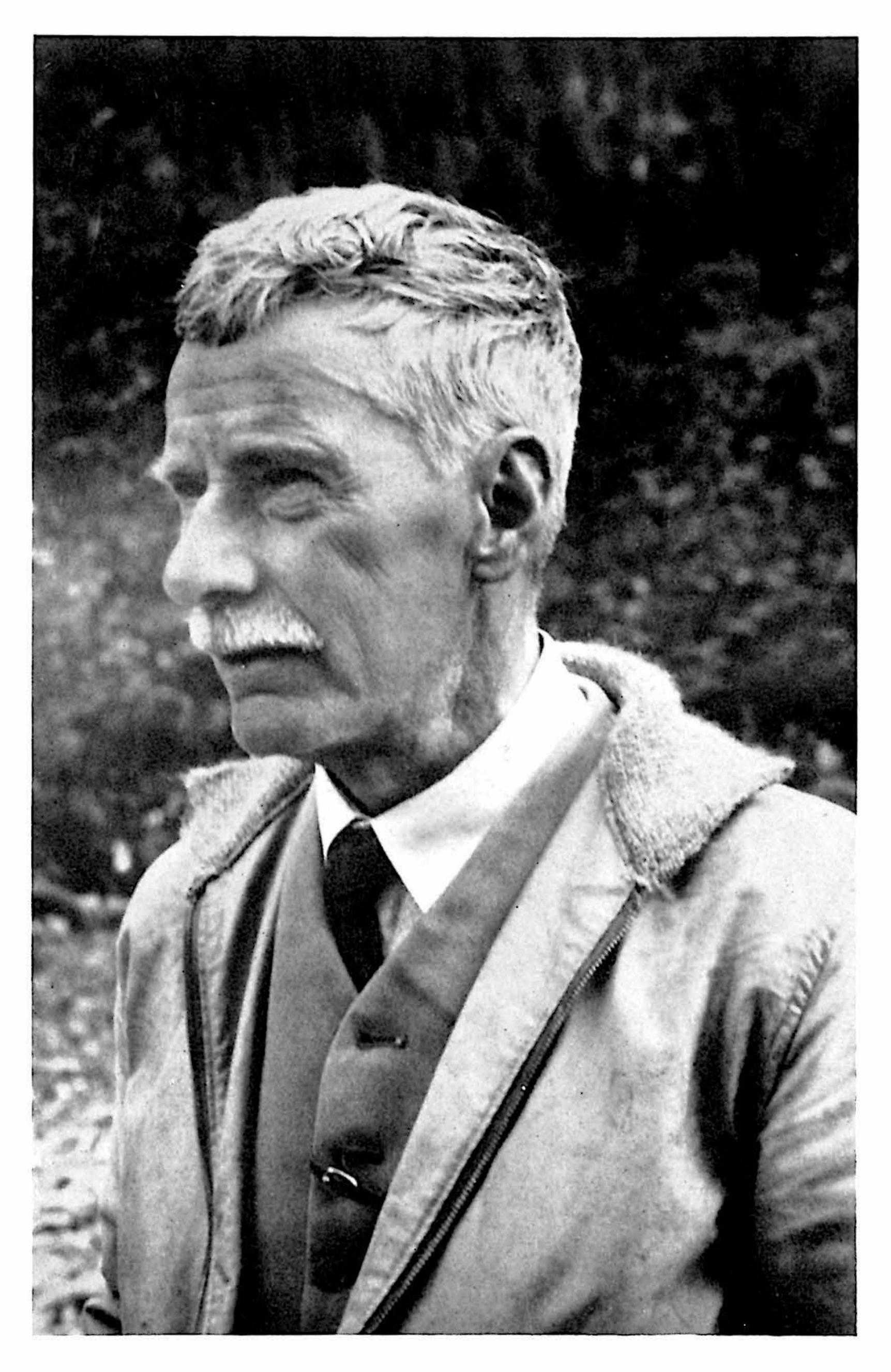
Traverse of Blumlisalp to Oeschinenhorn (said to be new);
Matterhorn; Dom.

1905 Gr. Combin; Ruinette; Dent Blanche; Weisshorn.

1906 Zinal Rothhorn; Monte Rosa; Lyskamm; Obergabelhorn. 1907 Aig. d'Argentière; S. peak of Charmoz; traverse of Grépon.

1908 Guideless with E. E. Roberts and E. A. Baker. Ulrichshorn;
Alphubel; Rimpsfichhorn; Zinal Rothorn traverse to
Mountet; Obergabelhorn traverse to Zermatt; High Level
Route, Zermatt to Chamonix.

1909 Guideless with E. E. Roberts, L. J. Oppenheimer and A. R. Fox. Col du Géant to Courmayeur; traverse M. Blanc by



J. M. Davidson. 1871–1949.

Dôme du Gouter; Dent du Géant (bad storm); W. peak Charmoz.

Dauphiné. Guideless with E. E. Roberts and Robertson Lamb. Pic. d'Arsine; Pic du Neige Cordier; Col Emil Pic and Gl. Blanc to Ailefroide; Pelvoux (3 peaks) Col Sélé to La Berarde; Râteau; Meije traverse; S. and N. Aigs. d'Arves, etc.

Modane to Chamonix with Robertson Lamb, guideless. Dent Parrachée; Gr. Casse; Gr. Motte; Mont Pourri; Tsantaleina; then with E. E. Roberts and J. V. Hazard; Dent du Géant; Rochefort and Mont Mallet; traverse Charmoz

N. to S.; traverse Grépon.; Grand Dru.

1912 In the Maderanerthal with J. V. Hazard guideless. Oberalpstock traversed; Claridenstock; Todi; Gr. Windgälle. Thence to Rosenlaui; Finsteraarhorn traverse; Ewigschneehorn traverse and Engelhörner.

1913 Rosenlaui with E. E. Roberts, R. Lamb, and L. J. Oppen-

heimer for the Engelhörner; Gr. Simelistock etc.

1914 Guideless with E. E. Roberts and R. Lamb. Engadine.

1920 Found him at Argentière with a guide, with whom he climbed the Argentière, Chardonnet and Aig. du Tour.

1921 and 1922 he was at Grindelwald with J. P. Farrar, W. A. Wills and Claude Wilson; Wetterhorn; Schwarz Mönch etc.

1923 and 1926 with Hans Kaufmann; traversed Shreckhorn (Anderson Grat) Mönch (By N.W. buttress); Jungfrau (from W Guggi) and Grüneckhorn.

1927 Rosenlaui with M. G. Bradley. Traversed the Mittel Gruppe.

1928 Grindelwald with E. A. Baker; Wetterhorn.

1930 Macugnaga with guide Lagger. Punta della Roccia and Gr. Filar.

1933 Macugnaga again; Strahlhorn Pizzo Bianco; Cima di Jazzi etc.

1934 Again; Monte Rosa; then Rosenlaui; Klein Simelistock etc.

1935 In Skye.

1936 Grindelwald with guide Peter Bernet; Mönch; Grosser Fiescherhorn etc.

He joined our party, R. Corry, P. J. H. Unna and myself at the Berliner hut where the Gr. Greiner and Ochsner were climbed, and then on to Oetzthal, where the weather was bad, but we

got the Wilde Leck.

The same party were in Maderanerthal, Oberalpstock, Gr. Scheerhorn, Düssistock and Gr. Windgälle, where he led well under difficult conditions. We went on to Göschenenalp, where bad weather only allowed us to climb the Gwächtenhorn and Fleckishock, our last high mountain. During the war, in spite of his age, he worked untiringly as Air Raid Warden and Civil Defence instructor in Liverpool, which suffered so severely, and later near London, which was a heavy toll on his strength.

1947, 1948, and 1949 We were again in Maderanerthal where our energies were only equal to walking up to huts and on the glacier.

His alpine climbs were only part of his mountain activities; in North Wales, the Lakes and the Highlands he did a great deal of climbing. He was President of the Wayfarer's Club, as well as of the Yorkshire Ramblers, and a member of the Scottish Mountaineering Club. He was elected to the Alpine Club in 1912 and served on the Committee in 1929. He was a delightful companion and a most competent mountaineer, equally good on rocks or ice and snow and thoroughly dependable and reliable. He was a banker by profession, in Lloyds Bank at Liverpool, where he was manager. In 1919, after the first world war, he was sent to Cologne to open a bank for Lloyds and the National Provincial Bank. There he spent three strenuous and difficult years with heavy responsibilities, with complete success, which was helped by his linguistic abilities; and having established the bank he returned to Liverpool. Later he went to Milan as acting general manager of the Banca Italo Brittannica for a year, and finally retired in 1930. His wife, a Swiss lady, was equally devoted to the mountains and he will be sadly missed by her and his large circle of friends to whom his life will always be a fragrant memory.

W. N. LING.

# W. A. MOUNSEY 1871-1950

The passing of Wilfred Arthur Mounsey ends one of those long, but by no means rare, connections of a family, or group of families, with the Alpine Club, the families, in the present instance, being those of East Coast Quaker bankers. Thus, John Henry Backhouse, who joined the club in 1865, and who was a partner of Backhouse & Company, of Darlington, later to be absorbed by Barclay's, and Henry Backhouse, who joined in 1876, and who was connected with the same bank, were cousins of Edward Backhouse, a member from 1904 to 1922, in which year he was killed on the Leiterspitze; and Edward was Mrs. Mounsey's brother.

Mounsey, himself, was also connected with the Bank, being a local director of Barclay's, and in charge of their Sunderland branch. He first went to the Alps in 1889, but did not start regular climbing until 1895. Then came his election as a member of the club in 1900, and of the Scottish Mountaineering Club in the following year; while in 1904 he started ski-ing in the Alps. But as it is now about a quarter of a century since he gave up climbing, and as he was seldom able to attend meetings of the club, he must be to a large extent unknown to many of the younger generation. On the other hand, in the years before, and

for some time after, the first world war he was a regular attendant, usually with his brother-in-law, at the meets of the Scottish club; and many of its older members must deeply feel his loss. Personally I have the happiest recollections of three trips to the Alps, once in summer when we were with a party of six; and twice in the winter, alone in the Engadine, and again with four others in the Silvretta. And one thing is certain—the club has lost an old and ardent member it can ill-afford to lose.

P. J. H. Unna.

# BERTRAND EVELYN MELLISH GURDON 1867–1949

GURDON was of the vintage of Bruce, Manners-Smith and Young-husband, the makers of the old North-West Frontier of India and the Keepers of the Marches. He came to his career by inheritance on both sides, for his father was a general in the old Indian Staff Corps and his mother a daughter of General Sandeman, so celebrated in earlier Frontier history.

From Haileybury and Sandhurst he joined the Indian Army and was soon transferred to the Foreign and Political Department for frontier duty. He served through the siege of Chitral in 1895, when he was mentioned in despatches and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order. In 1900 he was given the C.I.E. and in 1903 he was appointed Political Agent at Gilgit, where, as at Fort Gupis, the writer of this notice heard his name on the lips of every chief and notable fifteen years later. He was given the very responsible post of the Khyber in 1908. Next he was transferred to Rajputana and was promoted Lieut.-Colonel in 1912. Finally he was appointed Resident to the Phulkian States from 1913 to 1916.

His great influence with the Tribes was due to a combination of his fighting record and the courtesy of his manners, the latter a quality even more essential in dealing with Orientals than with Europeans. Despite his high reputation he never tried to push himself forward nor sought honours. Indeed, being quite certain of himself and of his own standing, he seemed to be rather of a retiring and modest disposition.

He was elected to the Alpine Club in 1917 on his record of travel and exploration in the least known parts of the frontier ranges. He prized his membership, and in later years, when reasons of health prevented him from coming up to Town from his home in Sussex, he several times wrote expressing his regret that he was unable to attend our meetings: I believe ours was the only club membership which he kept up to the end of his life.

He can hardly have been known to the present generation, but in Gurdon we have lost an historic figure who was an ornament to the club besides being a most charming and entertaining companion.

# ARTHUR WILLIAM WAKEFIELD 1876–1949

ARTHUR WAKEFIELD was born at Kendal, Westmorland, in 1876. He was educated at Sedbergh School, Trinity College, Cambridge, and the London Hospital, at each of which he achieved a reputation for all round sportsmanship, particularly in rugby football, rowing (his College boat was head of the river), swimming, boxing, and cycling in which he was awarded his half blue.

After isolated ascents in the Alps in 1893 and 1899, he took to mountaineering seriously in 1904 with a good bag of Peaks, including the Matterhorn, Ober-Gabelhorn, Zinal Rothhorn and Weisshorn—which he climbed directly from Täsch. In the same year he made a record walk of the Lake District fells, which he improved upon in 1905, and thereafter it stood until beaten by Eustace Thomas in 1920.

About the same time, he was introduced to British rock climbing by the Abraham brothers of Keswick, with whom he had holidays in North Wales (1904), taking part in a number of new ascents, and Skye (1907) where he climbed most of the standard courses of that period. In Lakeland, which was his own country, he spent much more time, and there can have been few of the accepted courses which he did not climb. He could, and did, make the most severe ascents, but confined his leading to the 'difficults.'

His further career as a homeland mountaineer was cut short, however, by his accepting an appointment with Grenfell of Labrador as medical officer to the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen. His work with the Mission was held in the highest esteem by Grenfell, who regarded him as one of his most valuable lieutenants, and it was only terminated by his return to Europe to take part in the War of 1914–1918 with the Newfoundland Regiment, R.A.M.C. During this period of devoted service, he was mentioned in despatches.

At the end of the War he returned to Canada for a short time, but soon decided to take up general practice in England, and settled in Keswick, Cumberland, where the remainder of his life was spent.

While in Canada he travelled extensively in Labrador and had two seasons in the Rockies—1908 (autumn) and 1920. The latter of these, which he spent with the Canadian Alpine Club, gave excellent sport, and among other peaks climbed were Assiniboine, Wonder Peak, Magog, Nairet Peak and Mts. Terrapin, Sturdee, and Randell: several of these were new or by new routes.

After settling in England, he at once became prominent in the Fell and Rock Climbing Club of which he was President from 1923–5. Although, by this time, he was getting somewhat old for severe rock-climbing, his exceptional fitness, great strength, agility, and natural aptitude soon enabled him to undertake the most difficult rock climbs, and he took part in a number of severe first ascents, notably with G. S. Bower in the Scawfell group. His speed and endurance on long fell

walks hardly seemed to have diminished since 1905. Although much above the age of other climbing members of Everest expeditions he was selected for that of 1922, but he acclimatised very slowly and was unable to take part in any of the assaults on the summit. In the succeeding years he was a member of more than one successful Alpine party, visiting Chamounix in 1924, Zermatt in 1926, and Chamounix and the Engadine in 1927.

He worked himself so hard in his extensive and hilly practise in Cumberland that his later years were marred by more than one severe illness, and the onset of arthritis, so that his capacity for big expeditions, though not his enthusiasm for the mountains, began to diminish.

Of a forthright, uncomplicated personality, Wakefield was beloved by an unusually wide circle of friends. His philosophy of life was composed of a few profoundly held beliefs; in his religion, in his country, in his family, in his work. Whatever he did, he did with the utmost enthusiasm and a full expenditure of his energy. His friendliness was unusually warm and attractive, but his reaction against cowardice, selfishness or meanness was vehement and lasting, As a member of a climbing party he was a perfect companion, cheerful, tireless, ready for any adventure, a demon for work: for example, throughout the 1924 season—which was the only one which I was fortunate enough to spend with him—he suffered from an enormous carbuncle which would have completely laid out any ordinary mortal. Yet, despite the exceptionally bad weather conditions of that season, he accomplished several long and gruelling expeditions, including the Aiguille de Blaitière, the Aiguille Ravenel, and two attempts on the Aiguille Sans Nom, without losing his enthusiasm or good humour in the slightest degree.

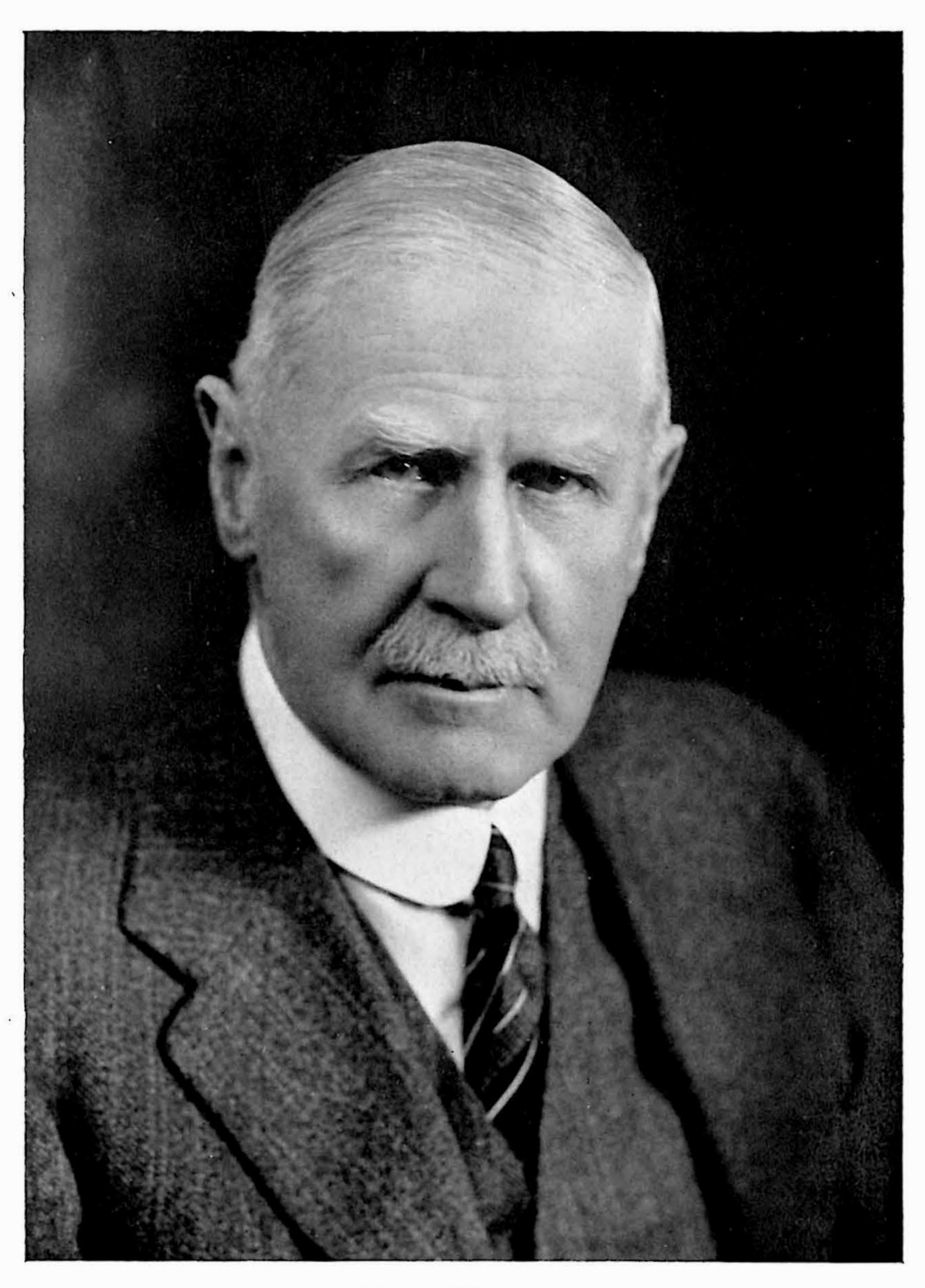
Those who were fortunate enough to have shared his rope will

always hold his memory in affection and respect.

CHORLEY.

## ROBERT WORKMAN 1879—1949

ROBERT WORKMAN, who died after an illness and operation on September 29, 1949, in his seventy-first year, was one of a well-known Ulster family. At the outbreak of war in 1914 he was commissioned in the 13th (County Down) Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles, and was wounded at the Battle of Ypres in 1917. He was a man of high literary standing and a fine all round sportsman, especially as a yachtsman, being the Commodore of the Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club for 17 years, member of the Royal Cruising Club, Royal Thames Yacht Club, and representative for Northern Ireland on the Yacht Racing Association. He was Chairman of the Down County Council, Chairman of the Down Regional Education Committee, Member of the



ROBERT WORKMAN. 1879-1949.

Senate of the Queen's University of Belfast and High Sheriff of County

Down in 1940.

I first met Workman in 1921 at Arolla and so began a climbing partnership which lasted till he gave up serious mountaineering eight years later. We climbed together at Chamonix, Zermatt, Engelberg, Binn and the Simplon Kulm and most of all at Pontresina where we had our best climbs such as the Bernina Biancograt, Crast' Agüzza, Piz Roseg, Pizzi Palü traverse, etc. But our best expedition was the traverse of the Wellenkuppe-Gabelhorn-Arbengrat starting from Zermatt and meeting, when still high up on the Arbengrat, the violent freak storm of August 22, 1922, which laid the Alpine valleys under deep snow for two weeks. Workman's imperturbable calmness was very helpful on that most unpleasant descent. He was a grand companion on the mountains, sure-footed, always good tempered and reliable; he had a curious trick of pretending to be completely lazy and requiring to be driven to climbs, quite at variance with his real nature. I remember returning from a long climb in the Engelberg district with him, when we passed two peasants descending a steep field, carrying such enormous bundles of hay that only their legs from the knee downwards were visible. Workman watched them admiringly and then remarked to me, 'Lucky fellows! They can stop at home and work and don't have to go and climb.'

K. C. P. STRUVE.

#### SYDNEY SPENCER

1862–1950

SYDNEY SPENCER was born in 1862, the son of George Spencer,

engineer, by his second wife, Emily Sarah Sas-Ploszczynska.

He was educated at University College School and afterwards qualified as a solicitor in 1886, but found that a legal career did not appeal to him. He therefore joined the Company of George Spencer, Moulton & Co., Ltd., Rubber Engineers, which had been founded by his father.

On the latter's death in 1889, the business was carried on by Sydney's three elder brothers, Alfred, Alexander and Frank, and it is still a

flourishing concern.

From 1906 to 1919, Sydney was manager of the Company's factory at Bradford-on-Avon, while he resided during this period at Bath. In 1918 he visited the Company's Rubber Estates in Malaya, returning

to England viâ Japan.

In the following year he was transferred to the Head Office of the Company in Westminster, to act as Director of the Rubber Estates—a post which he later combined with that of Secretary of George Spencer, Moulton & Co. He continued to hold this position until he retired in 1936.

After this date, he spent a good deal of time abroad—in the South



SYDNEY SPENCER. 1862-1950.

of France, and in Switzerland and in southern Spain, in the company of his sister, the late Mrs. Sealy Clarke.

The war caught them in the South of France, whence they returned to England by an adventurous journey in a coal boat, via Gibraltar. An Italian submarine tried unsuccessfully to sink them, but their naval gunner claimed to have destroyed the would-be mischief maker.

Sydney then lived for some years with his younger brother, the late Major H. E. Spencer, C.B.E., at Byfleet, and on the death of the latter, he moved to Biddenham, near Bedford, where he was most devotedly cared for by his landlady, Mrs. Burton, till his death on January 1, 1950.

His mountaineering career started in 1892, and he was elected to the Alpine Club in 1895, his proposer being C. T. Dent, and his seconder H. Woolley. His qualification list was as follows:

1887 Tschingel Pass.

Wetterhorn; Eiger; Mönch; Finsteraarhorn; Strahlegg Pass; Lauteraarjoch; Mönchjoch.

Aig. du Tacul (tr. up N.-W., down S.-W. arêtes); Grand Dru; Zinal Rothhorn (Zinal to Zermatt); Riffelhorn; Petersgrat.

Dom (Jan. 13—first winter ascent); Berglistock (tr. Lauteraar Gl. to Berglijoch); Gross Grünhorn; Gspaltenhorn; Rosenhorn, Mittelhorn, 2nd Wetterhorn (last 3 peaks in one day); Mont Blanc (Courmayeur to Chamonix); Finsteraarjoch; Mönchjoch; Col des Grands Montets.

In 1896 he traversed the Pic du Vallon des Etages with A. L. Clover and Hugh Stutfield and ascended the Meije with the latter. They also organised the search party which discovered and brought down the bodies of MM. Thorant and Payerne, who were killed on the Meije (A.J. 18, 263-65).

found Spencer again in the Dauphiné, where he ascended Le Plaret, the Aiguille du Plat (traverse) and the Pic Coolidge.

In this year he made a magnificent new ascent of the Blaitière from the Nantillons Glacier by the Couloir Spencer. This was described as a very fine piece of ice-work on the part of Chr. Jossi, senior. He also ascended the Dru, but no particulars as to this climb appear to exist.

Spencer in that year tried, with J. N. Collie and Hugh Stutfield, to reach the main chain of the Rocky Mountains from the W., viâ the untrodden valley of the Bush River, but were frustrated by the difficulties of the route and the bad weather. Collie and S. S., however, made the first ascents of Goat Peak and (with Stutfield) of a peak S. of Bush River (c. 8880 ft.) (A.J. 20, 470, 493).

Also in the Selkirks, first ascent of Mr. Swanzy  $(A.\mathcal{J}.\ 20, 278, 557)$ .

Lofotens: first ascent of W. Peak of Landstrandtinder with J. P. Somers (A.J. 22, 160).

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- 1907-14 Spencer's activities from 1907-14 were as follows:—
- 1907 Egginergrat; Fletschhorn (tr.); Nadelhorn; Schwarztor; Castor and Pollux by Felikjoch.
- 1908 Furgggrat; Brunnegghorn; Brunneggjoch; Ofenhorn (tr.).

1909 Portalet; Mt. Vélan (tr.).

- 1910 Ofenhorn (tr.); rest are names I cannot make out for certain.
- 1911 Pte. Dt. de Veisivi; Roussette; Mt. Blanc de Seilon (tr.); Col de Seilon; Col. de Collon; Col du Mont-Rouge; Furggjoch.
- Roussette; Pte Dt. de Veisivi; Pigne d'Arolla; Col de Collon; Furggjoch; Untergabelhorn.
- 1913 Almost blank, owing to bad weather.

1914 Roussette.

- 1920-22 The Records of Expeditions, instituted by J. P. Farrar, give the following climbs for the years 1920-22:
- 1920 Wellenkuppe; Adler Pass; Obergabelhorn; Unter-Gabelhorn.
- Egginergrat; Portiengrat (tr.); Stellihorn (tr.); Gemshorn and Ulrichshorn; Unter-Gabelhorn; Riffelhorn (from glacier).
- Roussette, Col and Pte de Bricolla; Pigne and Col de l'Allée; Frilijoch.

It is most difficult to give an adequate and worthy account of S. S.'s services to the Alpine Club.

No one, I think, ever surpassed him in devotion to that Club, and it is not too much to say that it formed almost his chief interest in life.

Elected, as has been said above, in 1895, he served on the Committee in 1901, was Hon. Secretary 1923–34, Librarian 1928–48, Vice-President 1935–36, and Hon. Member 1937–50.

He was one of the most accomplished of Alpine photographers and a

regular exhibitor at the Club Exhibitions from 1894 to 1922.

A view of Mr. Blanc from the summit of the Aig. Verte and another of Mt. Dolent were presented by him to the Club, and now hang on its walls.

Since the Exhibition of August 1899 he was entirely responsible for the arrangement of the Exhibitions and the hanging of the Photographs, and he contributed the section on 'Photography in the High Alps' to the revised *Introduction to the Alpine Guide*, 1899.

In his later years he became much interested in water-colour painting, and he showed considerable skill as an amateur. He was also a good linguist, and had some excellent translations from the French to his credit.

And now I come to what is, perhaps, the most difficult part of my task: namely, to write an adequate appreciation of Sydney Spencer as a man and a friend. His charm of manner and tact always made rough paths smooth, though at the same time he was perfectly firm in upholding his opinions.

He was persona grata everywhere, and all his friends were ever delighted to welcome him in their homes, whether these were Swiss chalets, Italian villas, English country houses or Scottish islands.

He was loyal, generous and kindly. An example of the second

characteristic may be quoted here:

At one time he and his family were accustomed to visit the Lido, where they always employed a gondolier called Giovanni. It came about that Giovanni was stricken with a severe illness which could only be cured by a very difficult operation. Spencer succeeded in obtaining permission from the Italian and Austrian governments (who were at war with each other!) for a famous Viennese surgeon to travel from Vienna to Italy, in order to operate on Giovanni.

History does not relate what all this cost.

Another characteristic of Sydney's was his modesty. Although I was no doubt one of his closest friends, he never told me of his exploits and achievements, which I have had to discover for myself. Well, he has left us, and somehow the world is not quite the same place without 'Uncle Spencer.'

J. E. C. EATON.

### PHILIP HAROLD PILDITCH

1890-1949

Through the sudden death by accident on December 6, 1949, of Sir Philip Harold Pilditch, the Club has lost one of its keenest and most devoted members. He was present at a meeting of the Club the evening before he slipped while walking, as he frequently did, on the roof of his office building.

Pilditch was born on October 30, 1890, the eldest son of Sir Philip Pilditch, Bart., a well known architect and surveyor and, for many years, Member of Parliament for the Spelthorne division of Middlesex. He was educated at Winchester (where he was in Morsheads', of which house the late Frederick Morshead was housemaster) and at Cambridge, where he took the History Tripos and played several times for the University at Association Football without getting his Blue. A keen territorial officer, he served throughout the 1914-18 war in the Artillery on the Western Front and was mentioned in despatches. After that war he completed his training as an architect and surveyor and joined his father's firm, of which he remained a member until his death. During the recent war though well above military age he resumed active service for a considerable period as a Battery Commander in the Anti-Aircraft defences of London. He succeeded to the Baronetcy on the death of his father on December 17, 1948, and is himself succeeded by his son Frederick.

From boyhood Pilditch was passionately devoted to the mountains, both the Alps and the Lakeland Hills. For family reasons his opportunities of climbing were intermittent but he always took them. He

will be remembered well as a regular and much loved member of a Wastdale Easter party. His climbing career was brought to a premature end by a riding accident which caused a fractured spine, but he continued to love, visit, and walk among the mountains, and to revel in mountain literature and pictures.

in mountain literature and pictures.

Pilditch was elected a member of the Club on November 1, 1927, and served on the Committee from 1933 to 1935. During the uncertainties of the Club's last few years at Savile Row, and the move to South Audley Street, his professional knowledge and skill were invaluable. It was he who found the Club's present premises, saw their possibilities, and planned and supervised the alterations which made it possible to have the Club Rooms and Hall under the same roof. So the traditions of Savile Row were carried on, which for a long time seemed to be impossible.

Pilditch was a very gentle, modest and retiring man, and shy of making himself conspicuous. The only way to get him to take a position carrying any kind of prominence was to persuade him that duty required him to take it. Once in office he devoted himself to the business with the quiet efficiency that was so characteristic of him. Few members can have done more for the Club and at the same time kept themselves so inconspicuous. His death robs the Club of a valuable member and his friends of a companion of many mountain walks and talks.

E. S. HERBERT

## ALBERT HOPKINSON 1863-1949

Albert was the youngest and the last surviving of the five Hopkinson brothers, all of them distinguished both in the scientific and mountaineering worlds. John the eldest had genius; his elder son, Bertram, Professor of Applied Mechanics at Cambridge and an early Pen-y-Gwryd climber, was killed flying in the first war; and his younger son Jack, also a Pen-y-Gwryd climber, was killed, with his father and two sisters, in the most tragic of our Alpine accidents. The second brother, Sir Alfred, was Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University and Member for many years of a Manchester Division. Edward and Charles were notable as engineers, and also as mountaineers. Edward's daughter, Katharine (Lady Chorley) has also carried the mountaineering distinction into the next generation.

The brothers climbed as a guideless team, sometimes with their cousin Cecil Slingsby, and again with Hermann Woolley. They were well known in the Oberland, where one of the Fusshörner bears their name, and their reputation for superb team-work lasted long in that region. They were also among the few Alpinists who were pioneers in English and Welsh rock-climbing, and their name is perpetuated again

upon Dow Crag and Scafell.

Albert was a very agile and bold climber, and already as a boy he was put in the lead by his brothers upon new and difficult rock ascents, notably upon Dow Crag. But his life-long work as a much trusted and beloved surgeon in Manchester left him little leisure to continue climbing, more especially abroad. In 1880, he climbed the Gross Glockner, Gross Venediger, etc. In 1884, he was climbing in Norway. In 1886, he did a number of the well-known Zermatt and Arolla peaks. In 1888, he made ascents in the Titlis region, including a new pass from the Thierberg to the Goschener alp. In 1890, he made Arolla ascents with his brother John and nephews Bertram and Jack Hopkinson. In 1912 he made his last Alpine ascent, La Rôchetta.

He was elected to the Club in 1921, with Bryce proposing and Slingsby seconding, and with a list of supporters such as caused Slingsby to write with characteristic enthusiasm—'You will spring

into the Club!'

In later years, when Cambridge found that it 'could not do without a Hopkinson,' he was appointed Lecturer in Anatomy to the University and elected into a Fellowship at Emmanuel College. A man of great refinement, many talents, and of exceptional personal charm—meriting, if ever a personality did, the word angelic—he lived to a great age, happy in his descendants and his many friends. To mountains he remained devoted, and to climbing talk; and one of his principal later pleasures was his presidency of the Cambridge Alpine Club.

With him closes an episode probably unique in our mountaineering history: the record of five brothers, all men of distinction, all becoming keen and able mountaineers, continuing moreover to climb together

and without guides, and all members of the Alpine Club.

GEOFFREY WINTHROP YOUNG.

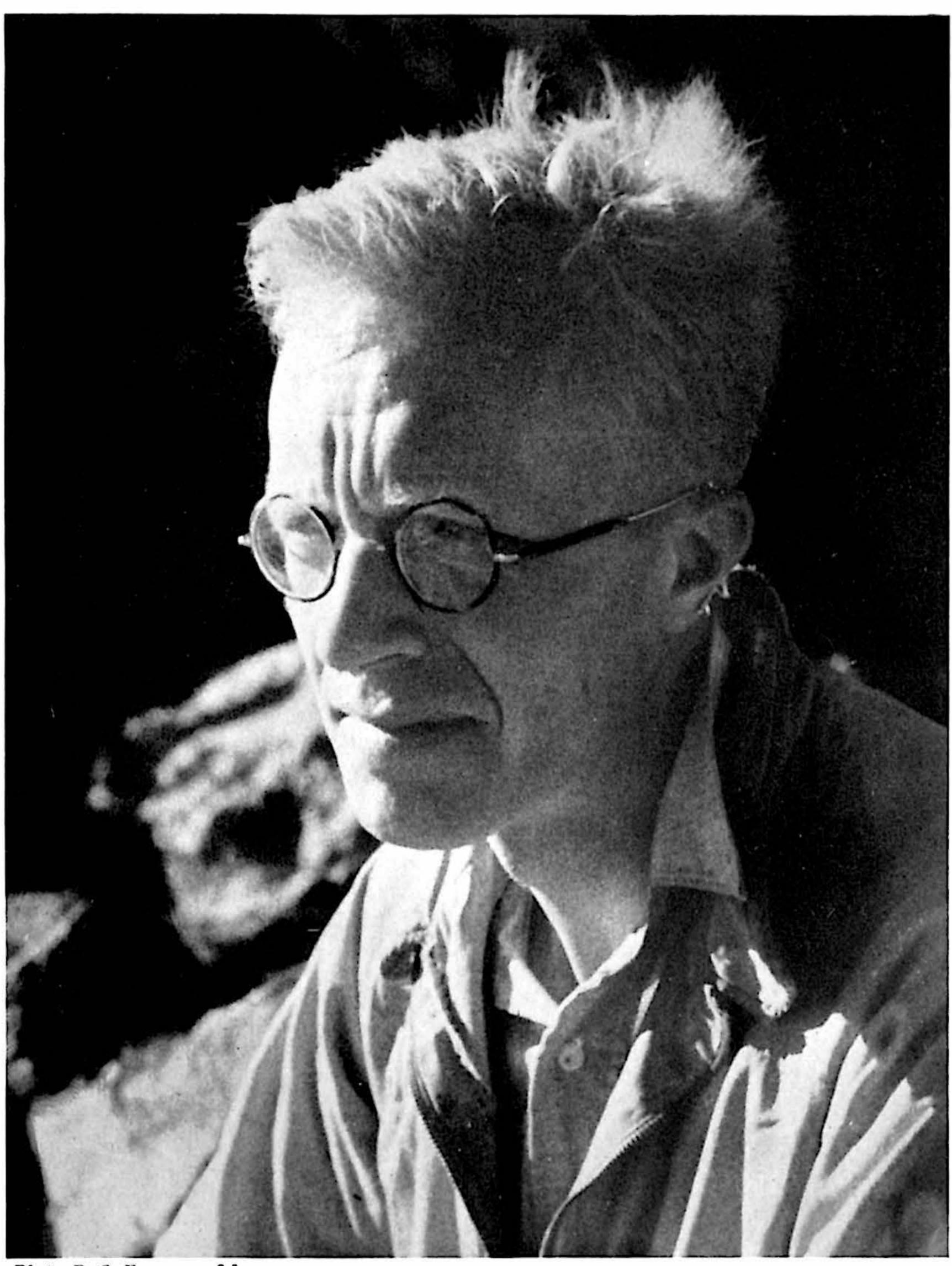
### RICHARD ALBERT HULL

1911-1949

RICHARD HULL was a fine companion and a skilful climber. Sparing of words, shrewd to appraise his fellows, impatient of any pretence, very ready to say exactly what he thought, he had nevertheless a great capacity for friendship, for he was thoughtful of others and tolerant, as well as strictly honest and direct in manner. Outwardly he was a very serious man, but his sense of humour was keen and responded invariably to the frequent conflict between his own deliberation and his friends' more impetuous ways.

He went up to Oxford in 1929 and in 1944 was elected a Fellow of Brasenose. He was a gifted teacher with great personal interest in his pupils and he did much valued work at Oxford, not only in the Clarendon laboratory, but also outside his own subject of Physics, in his college and in the university.

college and in the university.



Photo, R. C. Evans, 1948.]

R. A. Hull. 1911–1949.

Hull began his mountaineering, while still a schoolboy, by climbing Snowdon when on holiday at Beddgelert. After this, for several years, he did a great deal of hill walking and was introduced, by chance, to rock climbing. Before the war he went to the Dauphiné and to the Austrian Alps but it was not until after the war that he could turn seriously to Alpine climbing. By that time he had made himself a sound and capable leader on our own rocks and he attacked the task of learning the more varied technique of the Alps in a characteristically methodical way. His work rarely allowed him to leave Oxford in term-time and so, although he became a member of the Alpine Club nearly two years before his death, he attended no meetings until, as a leader, he joined this year's meet at Täsch.

Richard Hull always climbed with his head; his choice of a route to suit his party, his route finding on the mountain, and his way of tackling the individual difficulties of a climb were the result of careful observation and thought. He was happy climbing, and especially so when he led; but at the same time he knew that his friends sometimes felt the same, and he was generous in giving them their share of the leading.

He enjoyed, too, taking out beginners and there are many who started their rock-climbing under his clear and patient instruction, soldiers during the war, students from his laboratory, and even chance visitors met at Ogwen.

His interests were wide and he derived his pleasure from many aspects of mountaineering; he loved the look of the mountains and took many excellent photographs of them while climbing; he enjoyed exploring the valleys and making friends with those who lived there, and he spent many contented days, in bad weather, hearing and learning Swiss songs in the huts.

The physical action of climbing pleased him, of course, and he delighted in a good pitch, whether on an Alpine ridge or, at home, on his beloved Lliwedd. 'That was nice' he would say, poised near the top, lingering on the last holds as he worked over it again in his mind, from above, and his second would know that a satisfying bit was to come. Difficulty did not in itself attract him, at least in the Alps. The climbs which interested him there were the 'classic' ones, great because of their history and position, or because of the quality of the climbing they offered. Many of these he was able to do before his career was cut short, and his last completed expedition, the old Brenva route and his own first ascent of Mont Blanc, was one of those he had most wanted to do.

His death is a great loss to the Alpine Club and to those who climbed with him.

R. C. Evans.