

## ALPINE NOTES

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :	Year of Election.
Smuts, Field Marshal J. C. [Hon. Member] . . . . .	1932
Scott, Lord Justice . . . . .	1909
G. D. R. Tucker . . . . .	1918
Lancaster, G. H. . . . .	1921
Robinson, Anthony M. . . . .	1931
Williams, W. J. . . . .	1903

VISITORS.—We are glad to record visits from three overseas mountaineers, in the persons of Mrs. E. S. Cowles, former Vice-President of the American A.C. ; Mr. Sydney R. Vallance, K.C., President of the Alpine Club of Canada ; and our own member, Mr. Joel E. Fisher.

PERSONAL.—We congratulate Mr. F. Spencer Chapman on the award of the Lawrence Memorial Medal for 1950 by the Royal Central Asian Society.

In May last, upon the occasion of the installation of the new Chancellor (Dr. G. M. Trevelyan, O.M., the Master of Trinity) of the University of Durham, there were conferred Honorary Degrees upon the President of the Alpine Club and upon two past-Presidents.

Mr. C. A. Elliott and Mr. L. S. Amery received the Hon. D.C.L. for distinction in the varied walks of life associated with their names.

Upon Mr. G. Winthrop Young was conferred the Hon. D.Litt. for his writings both in poetry and prose, and for the success with which, by both precept and example, he has brought mountaineering into the life of the young as an educational force.

We note the publication of a collection of essays on Medicine presented, on the occasion of his seventy-fifth birthday, to Professor G. E. Gask. These essays cover a very wide range of interests, from the strictly technical to studies of the medical schools in ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome, and of the army medical services in the campaigns of Edward III, Henry V and Marlborough.

GIFTS TO THE CLUB.—We are indebted to Miss C. G. Astley-Nicholson, of Arisaig, Inverness, for a series of sepia drawings made by the Rt. Hon. J. F. Cheetham (*A. J.* 30. 223) during the course of his eventful expedition to the Himalayas in 1859 (*A. J.* 3. 118). John Frederick Cheetham died in 1916, in the 50th year of his membership of the A.C., after a distinguished life of public service ; he sat in Parliament from 1880 to 1909 ; was made Privy Councillor in 1911 ; and was a Governor of Owens College, Manchester. He was elected to the Club in 1866 largely on the strength of his Himalayan expedition (Kulu and Lahoul ; Ladakh and Kashmir), but he had also climbed in

Switzerland. His brother, Francis Henry Cheetham elected to the Club in 1867, was a member for even longer, dying in 1922 in his 55th year of membership. (Mumm's *A.C. Register*, vol. ii).

Under his will, J. F. Cheetham left these drawings to Miss Astley-Nicholson, his niece, and thence to the Alpine Club, and we are grateful to her for having presented them to us in her lifetime.

We have also to thank our member, M. de Lusy, for the gift of his collection of several hundred Alpine photographs, size  $9\frac{1}{2} \times 7$  in. The collection covers the Swiss Alps, the Mont Blanc group, and the Dauphine. It will be known as 'The de Lusy Collection,' and it is hoped to form a card-index of it to facilitate its use.

We record our thanks to Mr. C. W. Nettleton for having presented to us four books to replace those missing from the Library.

We are greatly indebted to Dr. Monroe Thorington for presenting to us a fine copy of Aegidius Tschudi's *Alpina Rhaetia* (to shorten a lengthy title), of 1538; and Johann Leopold Cysat's *Der Vier Waldstätten-See*, of 1661.

C. A. HEURTLEY (1845-1935).—It is remarkable that no obituary notice was ever published of the Rev. Charles Abel Heurtley in the ALPINE JOURNAL (but see *A.J.* 57. 100), although he was one of the oldest members we have had, both in years and in length of membership. He died at the age of 90, in the 67th year of his membership, for the last three years being an Honorary Member. With the aid of the Club Records; Mumm's *A.C. Register*, vol ii; the *D.N.B.*; and MSS. now deposited at the Society of Genealogists by his son, Mr. W. A. Heurtley, Litt.D., F.S.A., it is possible to give the following information.

He came of Huguenot descent and was the oldest child and only son of the Rev. C. A. Heurtley, Professor of Divinity at Oxford, and Jane, daughter of the Rev. W. B. Harrison, Vicar of Goudhurst, Kent. He was born in 1845 (not 1838, as stated by Mumm), at Fenny Compton and was educated at Harrow and Oriel College, Oxford, where he gained a 3rd Class in Law and History, 1869. He was ordained the same year and appointed Curate of Ickleham, Surrey (1869-71) and of Frant in Sussex, not far from Tunbridge Wells. His other ecclesiastical appointments may be summarised: Vicar of Shirburn, a small village in Oxfordshire, 1874-78; Rector of Ashington, Sussex, 1878-1909; Commissioner to Bishop of Athabasca, 1889-1905; Chaplain of Thakeham Union, 1884-1909; Rural Dean of Storrington, 1905-9; Licensed Preacher in the diocese of Oxford, 1909-11; Vicar of Binsey, Oxfordshire, 1911-19.

He married April 26, 1870, Mary Elizabeth Brown, daughter of William Brown of Clapham Park; she died, aged 72, on September 21, 1917, and he married a second time (October 15, 1919) Mary Frances, the widow of an old friend, Frederick W. Groves, of Hampstead. On his retirement from active church work he bought a house in Woodstock Road (No. 193) Oxford, and lived there for the remainder

of his life, surviving his second wife, and dying at the age of 90. He had eight sons and two daughters; one son and one daughter died in infancy and two sons died later at an early age. The other daughter, Evelyn, was the wife of Dr. H. G. Ley, Precentor of Eton College, and died March 3, 1946. The eldest son, Archie, joined the Roman Catholic Church and was a priest of Birmingham Oratory and at one time curate of St. Peter's, London Docks. He died November 1, 1948.

Heurtley was elected to the Alpine Club on December 9, 1868, his proposer being the Rev. C. H. Pilkington, and seconder Edward Whymper. His climbing qualifications were the Strahlegg, Weissthorn and Adler passes; Monte Rosa and Mont Blanc.

He was elected an Honorary Member of the Club in 1932 (*A. J.* 44. 131).

DEATH.—We notice the death (May 9, 1950) in his 80th year of Lt-Colonel C. Alan Cathcart de Trafford, who was one of E. A. Fitzgerald's companions on his famous expedition to South America. Col. de Trafford was not a member of the A.C., but Fitzgerald's expedition is a landmark in climbing history, and the death may appropriately be recorded. de Trafford was the 4th son of John, 3rd son of Sir Thomas de Trafford, 1st Bt., of Trafford Park, and was born February 8, 1871, and educated at Stonyhurst. He joined the West Yorkshire Militia, but after six years' service he resigned his commission in order to join Fitzgerald's party, in which he acted as heliographer and was in charge of the commissariat. He served in both the First and Second World Wars, in the latter as a sergeant in the Home Guard.

CORRECTIONS.—(1) *A. J.* 57, p. 439, 'Books and Articles.' For 'Allani, Pierre,' read 'Allain, Pierre.'

(2) JOSEPH-MARIE COUTTET.—Students of Alpine history will be misled if they rely on the information given in footnote 6, p. 299, of Mlle. C. E. Engel's paper in *A. J.* 280, vol. lvii, May, 1950. The date of the ascent of Mont Blanc by Fellows was 1827, not 1823; by Mlle. D'Angeville 1838, not 1843; by Dr. Ordinaire 1843, not 1846. So many ascents are given in which Joseph-Marie Couttet acted as first guide that it is not clear why two more should not have been included; those by M. Barry in 1834, and by W. Bosworth, 1843; for they were memorable.

G. R. DE BEER.

(3) H. B. DE SAUSSURE.—Students of Alpine history should note that the date of the certificate of de Saussure's candidature for election to the Royal Society that appears at the head of p. 315 of my article in *A. J.* 280, vol. lvii, May, 1950, should not read 1897 but 1787.

G. R. DE BEER.

AN EARLY MENTION OF THE ALPINE CLUB.—It would be interesting to learn if any member knows of an earlier mention of the Alpine Club in fiction than the following passage in Dean Farrar's novel, *Julian Home : A Tale of College Life* :

Chapter 16 (locality is Murren ; there is a description of an ascent and a storm on the mountain side. The speaker is Julian Home, concerning the guide they take for the Schilthorn—9754 ft.)

'. . . he'll carry all our provisions and plaids today up to the top, which is more than most of your A.C.'s would do.'

'A.C.—what does that mean?' asked Violet. 'One sees it constantly in the visitors' books.'

'Don't you know, Vi.?' said Cyril. 'It stands for athletic climber.'

'Alpine Club, you little monkey,' said Kennedy, throwing a fir-cone at him. 'You'll be qualified for the Alpine Club, Miss Home, before the day's over, I've no doubt.'

'No,' said Julian, 'they want 13,000 ft., I believe, and the Schilthorn is only 9000 ft.'

*Julian Home* was published in 1859, and the rule about 13,000 ft. was Rule VII of the original prospectus. Lord Schuster tells us (*Postscript to Adventure*, pp. 175-6) that this rule was abandoned at the meeting of the Club on February 3, 1858, but evidently the report of it got about, for Dean Farrar was never a member of the Club, yet quotes it accurately, though out of date in doing so. He did not alter the remark in any later editions of *Julian Home* that we have seen.

NEW CONQUEST OF THE MATTERHORN.—Mummery's well-known three categories of climbing difficulty—an inaccessible peak—the most difficult ascent in the Alps—an easy day for a lady—may stand in need of amendment, in view of the report (*The Times*, September 7, 1950) of an ascent of the Matterhorn by a 10-month old kitten. Seeing the prowess of lady climbers nowadays, it might not be inappropriate to alter the third category to read 'an easy climb for a cat.'

Comte Alain de Suzannet has kindly sent us some particulars that correct the versions of the climb already in print. The kitten was 4 months old, not 10 ; and it followed a party led by Edmund Biner on August 18, but could not keep up and spent the night somewhere on the rocks. On August 19, Biner, with another party, saw the kitten on the mountainside and this time it kept pace with them, scaling the Moseley rocks to the right and left of the slabs and finding no great difficulty until the first rope was reached. From there up he (or 'she,' for the animal's sex seems unfathomable, changing from one to the other and back again in a bewildering manner) kept up with the party, but slightly to the right of the ropes, falling several times for short distances, but always stopping himself and never losing sight of the party. He reached the Swiss summit with the climbers and followed them to the Italian summit. As Biner was to descend the Italian ridge, he asked another guide, August Julen, to carry the kitten down to the

Belvedere ; but the animal refused and tried to stay with Biner and was eventually captured by a young guide from Breuil, named Pellisier, who took him down to the hotel above Breuil, the owner of which, Carrel, has promised to restore him to his mistress, Josephine Aufdenblatten, of the Belvedere. The stories of a night at the Solvay refuge and of fattening on mice, would appear to be inventions.

As a sporting venture, this episode will surely appeal to cat-lovers ; to mountaineers it might well suggest that a good case has now been made out for the removal of all the ropes and chains that disfigure the Hörnli arête, since the kitten succeeded in making the climb without any of these superfluous aids.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

'THE WHITE TOWER.' A film of this novel by J. R. Ullman was shown in August at the Odeon, Leicester Square, and through the courtesy of the producers we received tickets for the opening day.

Whatever mountaineers may have thought of Mr. Ullman's book, with its many lapses of taste, the film which Hollywood have made of it is amongst the best of its kind. The highly improbable story remains, and a party of six almost total strangers, each of a different nationality, assault an unclimbed Alpine peak of Himalayan proportions. The film has been taken around Chamonix. From the valley the White Tower is the Aiguille Verte. The approach to the peak is below the Aiguilles Rouges, the rock climbing to the 'first and second camps' below the Dru, the snowfields below the Midi, and the final assault is on the Plan. The climbing is seen at close range, so that the Hollywood actors have no chance of doubling their parts. As rock climbers they acquit themselves admirably, although the lack of exceptional difficulty makes it surprising that the White Tower remained unconquered for 100 years. One scene<sup>1</sup> only is false in quality and in setting, where there is a clash of American and Nazi temperament near the top against a deplorable painted background. The photography of Chamonix granite, of snow

<sup>1</sup> The end of the film is rather hurried and scamped, and the fatal accident to the German, though the falling body is well staged, occurs at a place that so experienced a climber would easily have managed by the simple expedient of clearing the loose snow from the rock traverse involved.

Other faults in the film concern equipment ; two of the party have only walking sticks, and the American has neither gloves nor goggles. They seem rather needlessly to choose the most exposed place possible for their third camp, and as they all appear to sleep in their boots, in this upper camp at least they would probably have been badly frostbitten. Crampons and ice-axes are carried, but apparently only for show—the axe is not used on the last 'fatal' traverse, where any experienced climber would have employed it vigorously, and the reputedly great climber who falls to his death did not even try to dig his fingers into the hard snow—far less did he think of nicking a handhold. His rock technique is also defective—he jumps up for handholds just out of his reach, and he uses his knees. A technical defect is the hollow wooden sound of the boots on the built-up rock scenery in the close-up views. Some of the excellent snow and ice scenes are taken in the Junction and from the Grands Mulets.—*Editor.*

and ice and sky in colour is a constant enchantment to the eye. The film must have been made under Chamonix' best guidance.

B. R. GOODFELLOW.

TIRICH MIR (see *A. J.* 57. 422).—In view of the success which has attended the Norwegian party this summer—we are informed that two ascents of the peak were made—and as we hope that a fuller account of their great climb will be made available to us later, we confine ourselves here to printing a note kindly sent us earlier in the year, compiled by Professor Arne Naess, the leader of the 1950 party, showing what was achieved in 1949. We have left Professor Naess's note entirely unchanged save for the addition of the exact *A. J.* reference in his second paragraph.

#### A RECONNAISSANCE OF TIRICH MIR 1949

Tirich Mir (25,263) is the highest mountain west of Rakaposhi, but there have been few attempts to climb it. There was in 1935 an attempt by Germans, and there have been at least two attempts by Englishmen. No records of the latter attempts have so far been available.

In the papers of R. I. Lawder and Schomberg in the *ALPINE JOURNAL* No. 250–252 (*A. J.* 47. 368; 48. 118–123, 124–133) there are some allusions to Tirich Mir and several good photos.

The idea of making a reconnaissance in 1949 was first put forth by Professor Morgenstierne, who is a specialist of Hindukush languages. During his stay in Norway, Eric Shipton described the beautiful mountain in strong words and made us make up our minds.

In the beginning of July the two Norwegian climbers, Arne Naess and Arne Randers-Heen, reached the South Barum Glacier—a long fairly smooth glacier leading from *ca.* 10,000 ft. to the south-east wall of Tirich Mir at *ca.* 17,500 ft. From quite a distance, D. H. Foskett had seen the south-east ridge of Tirich and suggested that it might be the best way to try. It proved to be a valuable advice.

After one day on the glacier, the porters from Chitral left us. They seemed to be disappointed about the glacier with its exasperating morass, and also about the pay which was only 200 per cent. above ordinary tariffs. Undoubtedly they had many other things to do in July, a month in which they, as good Mohammedans, also were handicapped by neither eating nor drinking from 4 A.M. to 8 P.M. That we did not understand a word of what they said, may also have had its effect in spite of the fact that our ignorance was due to Norway's lack of an Empire and thus testified to our friendly intentions.

It has often been suggested that the Chitrali are unqualified as porters because of their superstitions about high mountains in general and Tirich Mir in particular. It was our impression that, at least among younger people, superstition about mountains is not the rule, and that

they might be trained to do their job as porters under masters who have the necessary time and opportunity to instruct them.

Two very strenuous weeks were used to bring our 350 pound equipment to the base of the south-east wall—a very steep wall between the twin summit and South Barum Glacier. We had one week left, and went firstly up to the main South Ridge at *ca.* 21,000–21,500 ft. between a point marked 20,860 ft. on the map and the summit. The slopes were so steep that under most circumstances the danger of avalanches would have been excessive. The snow was of a peculiar kind, however, which made snow friction very strong. There were big avalanches day and night, but only from calving glaciers. The fall of ice cliffs down the walls was much retarded by the extraordinary resistance of the deep snow.

The south ridge leads directly to the summit and seemed to afford a short and interesting route. But under average snow conditions, the picture might have been quite otherwise due to the risk of snow avalanches.

We then went from the base of the south-east wall up to the south-east ridge at a rather low point, *ca.* 20,000 ft. The ascent gave us some scrambling, but no difficulties of technical kind. The ridge seems quite manageable as far as we could see. Probably less dangerous under normal conditions than the south ridge, but somewhat longer.

Time was out and we strolled down the glaciers again. The aesthetic aspect of the three weeks' experience among the fascinating walls of the Tirich Massive was somewhat blunted by lack of time to acclimatize, lack of porters and the avalanche-proof snow, which was very loose and very deep.

To be fair about the porters, it is our duty to mention that when we were down from the south-east ridge, two porters suddenly appeared outside our camp at 17,500 ft., equipped with nothing but a big basket with heavenly apricots. The taste was so unworldly delicious, that the suspicion of hallucinations certainly would have been well founded. The porters were real enough, however.

ARNE NAEISS.

ANAPURNA.—It is with the greatest pleasure that we congratulate the Club Alpine Français on the success of the French expedition to the Nepal Himalaya, and on the conquest, by MM. Herzog and Lachenal, of Anapurna (8078 m. = 26,504 ft.), on June 3, 1950—the highest actual summit which has as yet been attained by man. We hope to publish an account of this remarkable achievement in a later number of the JOURNAL.

PERSONAL.—Mr. C. W. Nettleton, who, in addition to his long devotion to mountaineering, has been distinguished in athletics and was a very early racing motorist, has this year received well-earned recognition of the notable part he has played in the development of Archery. He was one of the founders of the International Archery

Association and has attended most (and shot in some) of the World Championship Meetings held in different parts of Europe. In August 1950, at Copenhagen, he received the medal of the Legion of Honour of the Belgian Archery Federation.

The University of Lausanne has recently conferred the degree of Docteur-ès-lettres, *honoris causa*, on Dr. G. R. de Beer, whom we congratulate upon this well-earned recognition of his historical researches.

THE LATE DR. RICHARD HULL (*A. J.* 57, 415). Mr. Cyril B. Machin writes: 'I happened to be staying at Pen-y-Pass one wartime week end at the same time as Richard Hull, and had the pleasure of taking him on one of the easier routes on the East face of Lliwedd. Later I was to be well repaid with Richard leading me up Longland's on Clogwyn Du'r Arddu, also on a new route on Lliwedd, between Horned Crag and Yellow Slab. This he named Potentilla Rib, and he also led the Gurdle Traverse of Lliwedd afterwards.

'Though an interval of five years had elapsed since climbing with Richard; when he heard from a friend that I was joining a party in the Sunnmore Alps, Norway, he forwarded some very useful notes he had gathered, and these proved of great value. This was only a few days before he went on his last journey to the Alps.

'I echo Dr. Evans's remarks that his death is a great loss to the Alpine Club and to those that have climbed with him.'

THE LATE MR. F. S. SMYTHE.—We have to thank Mrs. F. S. Smythe for the gift of a valuable set of maps of Garhwal which was collected by her late husband.

ALPINE UPLIFT.—(see *A. J.* 57. I, 341).

#### THE RESTORATION

'Howard has murdered uplift, torn from you and me  
The wingèd thoughts that could give buoyancy on scree;  
Then came the avenging knight; the upward way is free,  
And, if we must descend, let it be quick, on ski!'

R. L. G. I.

ALPINE CLUB PENSIONS FUND APPEAL  
SIXTH LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

A = Donations.

B = Annual Subscriptions.

C = Promises to execute a Seven Year's Covenant.

	A.			B.			C.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brady, Dr. J. W. S. (2nd donation)	6	15	4						
Cocker, Dr. Ralph „ „	2	2	0						
Dix, Professor V. W. . . .							2	2	0
Harrison, Alex., Esq. . . .							2	0	0
Hickson, Professor J. W. A. .	5	0	0						
Howard, G. E. (2nd donation) .							10	0	0
Morrish, R. L. „ „ .							3	3	0
Veazey, Canon H. G. . . .	4	4	0						
Totals on March 8, 1950 :	£18	1	4				£17	5	0
	£2,500	5	6	£56	19	0	£207	9	0
Totals on September 1, 1950 :	£2,518	6	10	£56	19	0	£224	14	0

R. W. LLOYD,  
Treasurer, Alpine Club Pensions Fund.