

IN MEMORIAM

GEORGE PERCIVAL BAKER

1856-1951

THE death of G. P. Baker removes a great figure from the Alpine Club. He was the senior member and had been Honorary Member since 1946, and had become almost a legend in his own lifetime. Best known to mountaineers as the last of the 'four asses,' from whom the Viereselsgrat of the Dent Blanche took its name, he had given up climbing very largely before most members of the Club had begun, and before not a few of them were born.

His father, George Baker, and the latter's brother-in-law, John Wallace, were originally garden designers. Wallace was offered two jobs at the same time, one in America and one in Turkey. He chose the former and left the task of designing the garden at the British Embassy at Constantinople to George Baker (1848). The latter, having completed the work, founded the firm of G. & A. Baker, in Constantinople, dealing in oriental carpets. G. P. Baker, born February 16, 1856, was educated first at a French Franciscan school and later in a British school in Pera, until at about the age of twelve he and his brother Harry were sent to England and continued their education at a private school, Woffington House, Knights Hill, Norwood. On the death of an uncle, James Baker, 'G. P.' took over the London agency of his father's firm. Later, he went into partnership with his brother in the manufacture of cretonnes at Crayford.

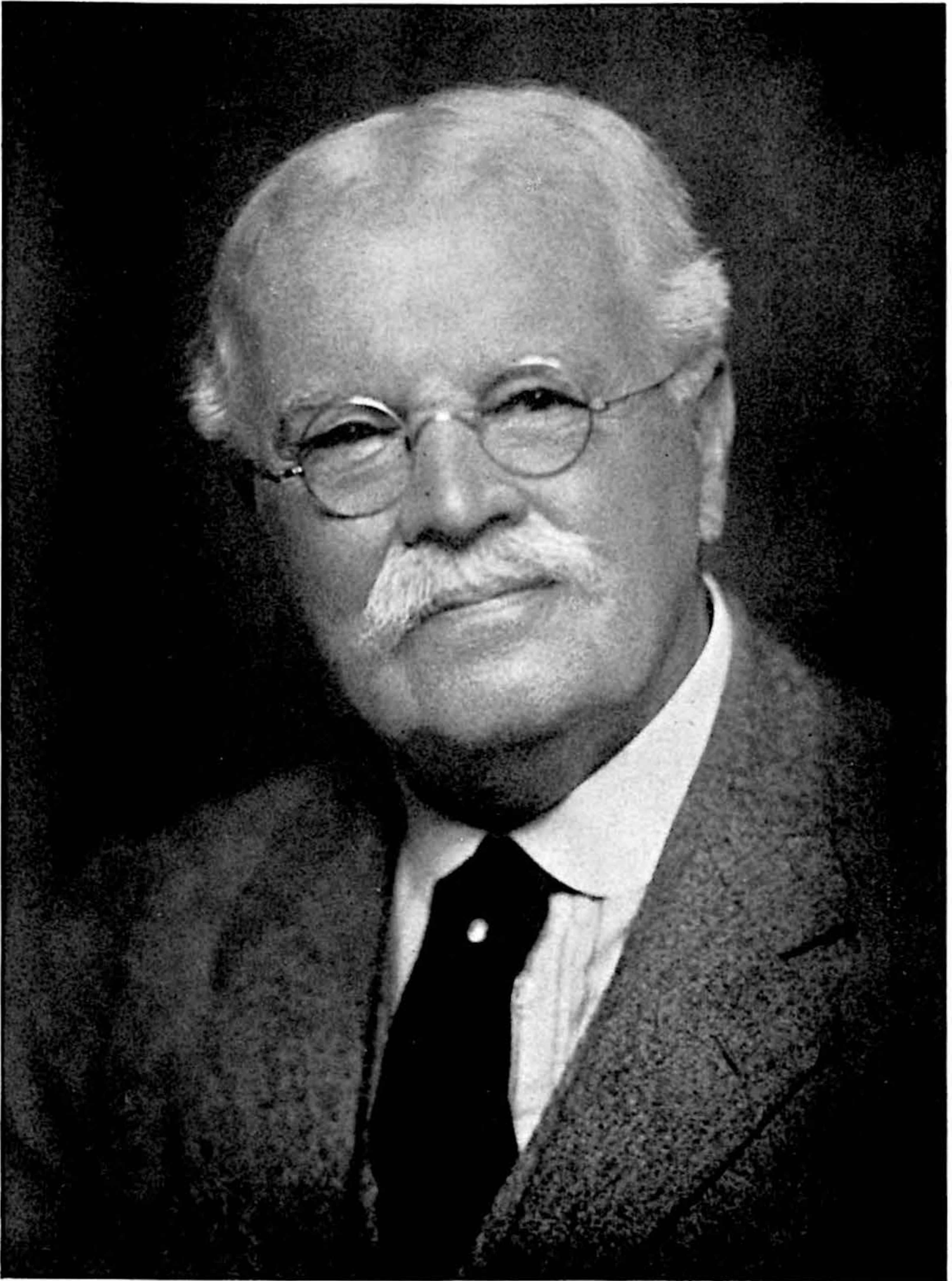
For many years Baker lived at Bexley, where among other activities he helped to run the Boy Scouts and held office as churchwarden. During the First World War he suffered heavy family bereavement, three sons being killed; in memory of them he erected a room for youth institutions at Crayford. In 1924 he moved to Sevenoaks, where his annual garden parties achieved some fame; the last of them he gave at the age of 93, entertaining from his wheeled chair.

A man of many pursuits, 'G. P. B.' was a fine oarsman and a keen photographer, taking a very early interest in colour photography; he travelled widely in his business, and had been a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society since 1878. His distinction in horticulture is being dealt with separately.

As a mountaineer, it is sufficient to mention the following expeditions, some made with his brother-in-law, J. Stafford Anderson, some with George Yeld, Solly, Norman Collie, Slingsby and other climbers famous in their day:

1878—Mount Ararat (*A. J.* 9. 318).

1881—Grivola, 1st ascent by W. arête; Herbetet, 2nd ascent by a new route by E. arête.



[Elliot and Fry

G. P. BAKER

[To face p. 392.

- 1882—Dent Blanche by Viereselsgrat, 1st ascent.
 1883—Schreckhorn, 1st ascent by N.W. arête ('Andersongrat').
 1884—Climbing in Norway (*A. J.* 12. 268).
 1890—Eastern Caucasus (*A. J.* 15. 320 ; 16. 83).
 1892—Made 1st ascent of the Eagle's Nest arête, Great Gable ; and 1st ascent of the Arrowhead.
 1897—Several new routes in the Canadian Rockies.

Baker was elected to the A.C. Committee in 1894, and as Vice-President in 1930. He had nearly completed seventy years of membership of the Club when he died on December 29, 1951. Although increasingly confined to his room during the last few years, he remained very active mentally, and not only read voraciously, but even wrote a book of reminiscences at the age of 92 (*A. J.* 58. 282).¹ All who knew him have testified to the dignity of his character and the courtliness of his bearing, as also to the great sense of loss that his passing will mean. He was, in truth, a grand old English gentleman.

W. B. CARSLAKE.

Dr. H. R. Roger-Smith writes :

After thirty years of strenuous and distinguished mountaineering and exploration, as described in his mountaineering obituary, George Percival Baker gave up serious climbing in 1911 and thereafter devoted himself to plant hunting in a number of European countries, including the Caucasus, with his life-long friend George Yeld, three visits to Crete, Morocco, the High Atlas, Corsica, Greece, Asia Minor, the Lebanon and Palestine, the Riff Mountains of French Morocco, the Pyrenees and Switzerland, and from each he brought back treasures to beautify his garden as well as to benefit horticulture generally. Amongst his most dramatic introductions was *Jankea Heldreichii*, a hairy leaved difficult gem from Mt. Olympus in Greece ; a specially fine type of the 'Prophet Flower' (*Arnebia echioides*) from the Caucasus ; *Onocyclus* Irises from the Lebanon and a dainty pure white *Narcissus Wattieri* from Morocco.

Alpine plants were a great interest to him and he held the post of President of the Alpine Garden Society, of which he was an original member and helped to found in 1930, but I think his chief horticultural interest was in Irises, of which he raised a large number of exquisite hybrids and was for some time President of the Iris Society. He always opened his fascinating garden to visitors in June, when his Irises were at their best and it was invariably a very lovely show to which all Iris lovers flocked.

I had the privilege of joining him in a plant-hunting expedition to the Pyrenees, when we covered the district from Luchon to Perpignon pretty thoroughly and brought back much loot, but the district has been too thoroughly combed botanically for it to be possible to find any new

¹ Bibliographers may note that the 1951 volume of Baker's reminiscences was a reprint in book form of a pamphlet privately printed some years before.—*Ed.*

plant there. Baker was an ideal travelling companion, immensely keen, full of energy, never upset by any contretemps, with a delightful sense of humour, and was withal a thoroughly sound field botanist. I was much struck with his extensive knowledge of plants and specially so during our visit to the Scilly Isles and the semi-tropical gardens at Tresco, where Major Smith Dorian has collected a great number of exotic plants with which Baker seemed quite at home. I have plant-hunted with him in the Engadine and in Greece, where we turned the last of the Hellenic Tours in 1939 into a botanising expedition and where his acquaintance with modern Greek was a great asset.

His interests were by no means limited to Irises and Alpines; his garden, one of the most interesting I know, was full of beautiful trees and shrubs and at every turn one found something exciting. He had I think the finest specimen in the country of the Serbian Spruce, the most graceful of all the Fir trees; he possessed the only living specimen of the Cretan 'Iron Tree' (*Zelkova cretica*), which he collected and sent home by air and which is now a well-grown little tree some 10 ft. high; he had a beautiful *Styrax* tree, about which the well-known authority William Robinson remarked that it was worth while travelling to Sevenoaks to see this one plant in flower. He had a very fine collection of species Hellebors collected in his travels and also of Peonies, which gave a fine show in the summer. He was an active member of the various committees of The Royal Horticultural Society, who, to mark their appreciation of his assistance to horticulture, awarded him the Victoria Medal of Honour, the highest award the Society can bestow, and as recently as 1949 he was given the Reginald Cory Memorial Cup for the best hybrid plant of the year, a new Saxifrage, one parent being a plant he had collected on Mt. Olympus. When Professor Lyttell, President of the Alpine Garden Society, presented his Merit Cup to be awarded to the member who had done meritorious work in connection with alpine plants, the first award was unanimously voted to Baker. Everyone in the Society loved him and when he was referred to it was always as 'dear old G. P.' His passing leaves a blank almost impossible to fill, for he represented a type of courteous gentleman, which is unfortunately seldom met with now, and with a simple Christian faith that governed his life. He will be greatly and very generally missed.

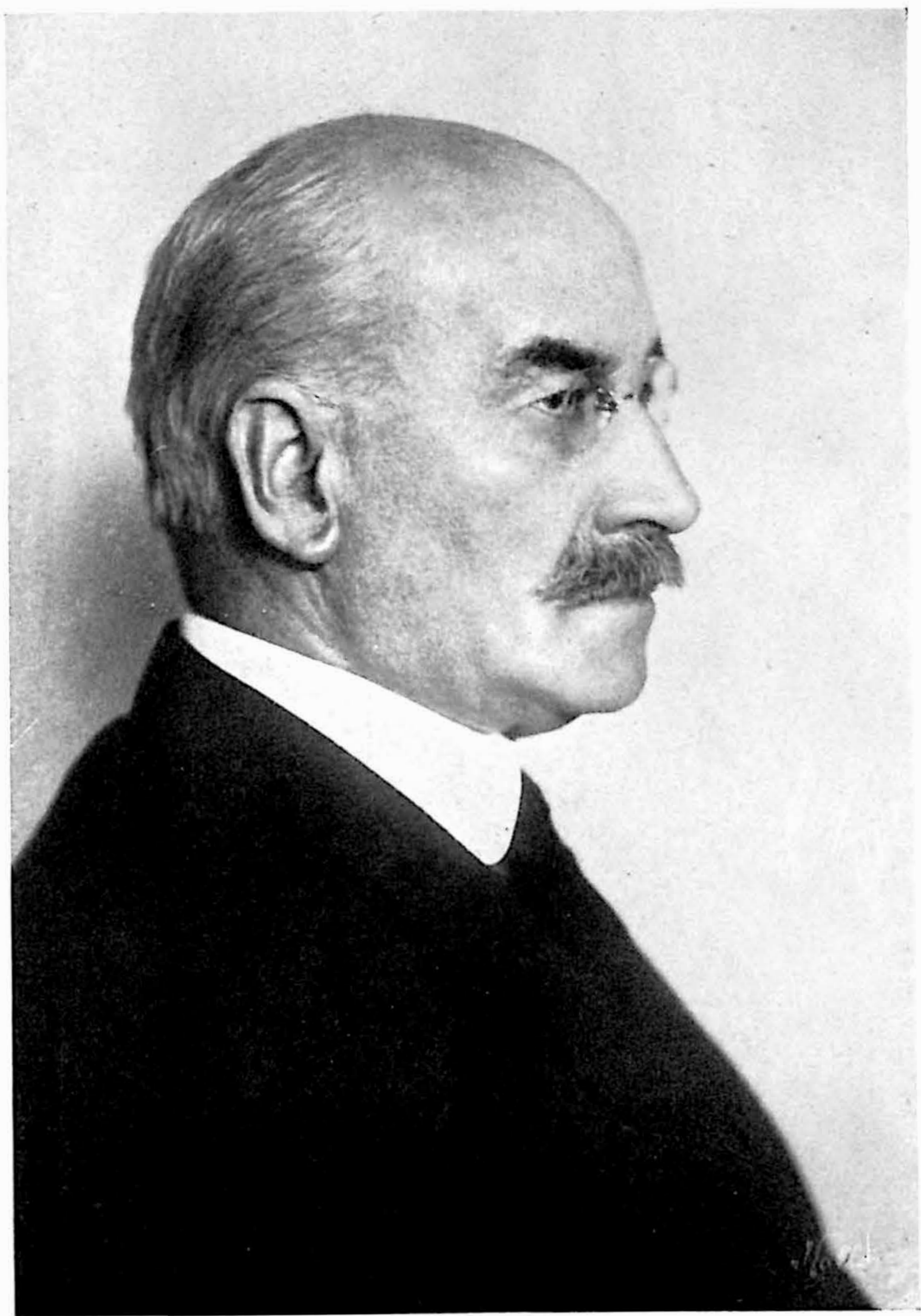
HANSON KELLY CORNING

1860-1951

DR. H. K. CORNING was born in New York on November 19, 1860, and died there on February 7, 1951, in his ninety-first year.

His schooldays were passed in Switzerland and he studied medicine at Heidelberg and Berlin and later became Professor of Anatomy in the University of Basel, a post he held with very great distinction.

His well-known work, *Textbook of Topographical Anatomy*, was



H. K. CORNING

published in 1904 and is a classic in medical literature. He also published in 1921 a *Textbook of Embryology*. Both works are of the greatest value to students of medicine.

Under Dr. Corning's supervision the new Anatomical Institute in Basel was planned, built and equipped to replace the old historic Vesalianum. It was inaugurated in 1921.

In 1929 Corning retired from his active career in Basel. In 1939 the title of Honorary Doctor in Medicine was conferred on him by the University of Basel, and in 1944 he was elected the first honorary member of the Swiss Biological Society. Much more might be written of his distinguished professional career.

I think that H. C. Bowen and myself are now the only members of the A.C. who have climbed with Corning. We have the happiest memories of a month's climbing in the Dolomites with him and his father-in-law, E. A. Broome. Mrs. Corning, her daughter, and Miss Broome, though not climbing, helped to make it a delightful holiday.

Corning was an ideal climbing companion; he was, of course, an expert mountaineer and his organising power and complete unselfishness made all our expeditions go without any hitch.

We had many good climbs at San Martino, Canazei and Karer-See and Bowen has written of them (*A. J.* 27. 377).

Corning became a member of the A.C. in 1901 with a very good and extensive list of climbs for qualification. He climbed for at least a month every year up to 1913 and his list is a very long and varied one. I think he had made nearly all the big climbs from Zermatt, Chamonix, in the Oberland, and had also climbed much in the Dolomites. Before his marriage in 1902 he climbed alone with guides and often with his friend A. M. Bartleet, and after 1902 with his wife and his father-in-law, E. A. Broome. His daughter, Ursula, inherited his love of the mountains and is a very well-known and active mountaineer.

With Broome in 1906 he made the first ascent by the West face of the Teufelswandspitze (*A. J.* 23. 334); the Diamantidi Thurm from the North; and Rosengartenspitze by the South-east face (*A. J.* 23. 364-79).

In 1908, again with Broome, they climbed Laurinswand; Östliche Diamantidi Thurm (new ascent by North face); a new route on the Rosengarten Rothwand by the West face (*A. J.* 24. 353-4); Marmolata Sudwand, and the Vajolet Thürme (*A. J.* 24. 463-71). In 1911 they traversed the Nord End of Monte Rosa from the Marinelli Hut to Zermatt (*A. J.* 26. 369), and in 1913 they were out again together, their ascents including the Aig. Noire de Pétéret.

After his retirement in 1929 he had more time for the study of Greek, which had always been a great interest with him; and for drawing and painting in water-colours. All who knew him are glad to think that his well-earned years of rest were passed so happily.

L. W. ROLLESTON.

WALTER SEDGWICK

1877-1950

WALTER SEDGWICK, who died December 29, 1950, was educated at Uppingham School and Cambridge University where he distinguished himself as a mathematician.

On coming down from Cambridge he became a solicitor and joined the firm of parliamentary agents, Messrs. Rees & Freres. He became the senior partner in this firm and remained so for many years. In that capacity he handled the Parliamentary affairs of numbers of local authorities, dock and harbour undertakings, water authorities, and electricity and gas companies.

In spite of a serious physical disability Sedgwick was an assiduous and enthusiastic climber and walker. Up to 1939 he visited the Alps with almost unflinching regularity and usually climbed some half a dozen peaks. During these visits he must have ascended most of the major peaks in the Central Alps. He was elected a member of the Alpine Club in 1905.

Although he led an extremely busy life he was a great week-end walker and those who have accompanied him will have vivid recollections of the speed and determination of his progress.

Sedgwick was a man of many interests. His home was a centre of very active social life. With his gifted wife he formed a collection of works of art of considerable interest mainly in the form of ceramics.

Sedgwick was a very modest man shunning publicity in any form. But he touched life at many points and was an enthusiastic member of the Club.

E. S. HERBERT.

BERNARD MEREDITH ALLEN

1864-1951

THE late Dr. Allen died on May 8, 1951, and had outlived most of those who might have written his obituary notice.

He was born at Stoke Newington on May 30, 1864, of Quaker origins (he became a Unitarian in later life), his great-grandfather, William Allen, F.R.S., being the founder of the noted firm, Allen & Hanbury. Other well-known relations were Percy S. Allen, the editor of the letters of Erasmus, and Sir Ernest Satow, the Japanese scholar and diplomat.

Charles Allen, the father of B. M. Allen, was Secretary of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, and thereby met Gordon after the latter had resigned his post in Egypt and returned to England (April, 1880). Bernard Allen met Gordon too, and the impression made bore

fruit many years later in a very successful study *Gordon and the Sudan* (1931), in which he vindicated Gordon's character from the petty denigrations of Lytton Strachey.

B. M. Allen was educated at Highgate School, going on with a scholarship to Balliol in its great days under Jowett. He obtained a first in 'Greats' and went for a while as a master to Harrow, where on one occasion he had the duty of 'keeping in' Winston Churchill for neglecting his work ('an able but an idle boy'). A few years later he joined the Education Department of the L.C.C.

He married in 1895 and during the first World War Mrs. Allen founded and organised the Belgian Hospitals Fund, providing clothing and equipment for Belgian hospitals in Northern France. In the second War the Allens (who celebrated their Golden Wedding in 1945), then living in Torquay, engaged regularly in Red Cross work and in visiting the large hospital there for Canadian airmen.

Dr. Allen retired from the L.C.C. in 1925 and indulged in foreign travel, for which his aptitude for languages stood him in good stead. During these journeys abroad he obtained the materials for his literary work, the best known, apart from his study of Gordon already mentioned, being *Gordon in China* (1933); a biography of Sir Robert Morant (1934); a life of the Emperor Augustus in connection with the bi-millenary of his birth; and, in his latter years, his autobiography, *Down the Stream of Life*.

He was elected to the Alpine Club in 1911, at which time he had spent 27 summers in Switzerland or the Tyrol. His earliest recorded expedition is in 1887, and most of his climbing seems to have been in the Valais or Oberland.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

FRANK NEWTON TRIER

1878-1951

THE late F. Newton Trier was born November 1, 1878, and was educated at Dulwich College, later studying engineering in London. He joined his father in the family business of Trier Bros., noted for the manufacture of grease and in the working out of numerous 'gadgets' and inventions. The factory later became his own until his retirement about 1948, when he settled on the coast of East Anglia. He died on December 26, 1951.

He was elected to the club in 1908, and during the years 1897-98 he had climbed mostly in the Oberland, making ascents of a number of the standard peaks such as Wetterhorn, Mönch, Lauterbrunnen Breithorn; also the Jungfrau from the Rottal Hut. He was fond of the Tyrol, climbing there in various years between 1901 and 1907, including winter ski-ing in 1906-7.

He and his wife were keen skiers and he was for many years a member

of the Ski Club of Great Britain, and also a member of the Alpine Ski Club. Most of his serious climbing was done before 1912, the year of his marriage, but though he climbed comparatively seldom after that date his interest in mountaineering never lapsed.

His interests were many and varied, leaning towards the artistic, photography being a favourite hobby for many years.

Mr. W. R. Caesar writes :—

‘ I climbed with Frank Trier in the years 1906 and 1909 ; in the first year we were at Arolla, climbing the Aiguilles Rouges (traverse), Mont Collon, Za and others ; also the Ober Gabelhorn in threatening weather, when we left the breakfast place at the foot of the ridge at 7 A.M., reaching the summit, with snow falling, at 7.50, and hurrying down to Zermatt where we arrived at 12.30.

‘ In 1909 we did the Gr. Combin and the Combin de Corbassière ; Aig. de l’M and Pet. Charmoz ; the Requin ; crossed the Col des Hironnelles to Courmayeur, and returned to Chamonix via the Dent de Géant. Descending from the Gr. Combin, we crossed a scorching glacier to the Corbassière ; Frank, loaded with a heavy camera (what gorgeous photographs he took !), sat on a rock half way up while the rest of us toiled to the summit. On our return to the Val Fionnay we found the Panossière hut crowded and we were received coldly, which amused us as two of us were A.C.’s and also members of the S.A.C. and had the entrée. However, we left them to it and refreshed ourselves a short distance away. I entered our names in the hut book as customary and could not resist adding our climbing qualifications ; and presently the people from the hut came out profuse with apologies and felicitations, and all ended with much cordiality.’

EDMUND FREEMAN

1867-1951

THE Reverend Edmund Freeman was, at the time of his death (October 30), one of the senior members of the Alpine Club, to which he was elected in 1900. He was the son of P. T. Freeman, of Keswick, and was educated at King William’s College, Isle of Man, and at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he rowed for his college (1st Boat, Lent, 1889), graduating in 1889 and being ordained a year later. After curacies at Newcastle-on-Tyne, Birkenhead and elsewhere, he was appointed vicar of Donington, in Lincolnshire (1903-18), and finally became vicar of Hensingham, where he remained until his retirement in 1940. He was a staunch Evangelical all his life, but without losing sympathy or understanding for those who sincerely differed from him. He proved a great worker at Hensingham, which was a very badly paid living, and which thanks to his efforts was increased in value from only £220 a year to £470 at the time of his retirement.

All his life he retained an interest in rowing, especially in the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race ; his recreations included golf and chess, but mountaineering perhaps was his favourite relaxation so far as time permitted. While curate at Claughton, Birkenhead, he and the late G. A. Solly became fast friends, and as late as 1939 they, together with Lord Chorley and G. R. Speaker, were climbing on the Pillar Rock (*Fell & Rock Journal*, Vol. 12, p. 307), in celebration of Solly's eightieth birthday !

He had visited the Alps every year between 1895 and 1900, the year of his election to the Club, except for 1898, when he went to Norway. He made no pretensions to being a notable mountaineer, but climbed for pleasure and for the aesthetic appeal of the mountains. His greatest delight was to go guideless, and he claimed the first recorded guideless traverse of the Tödi by the West arête to Linthal.

He married late in life (June, 1939) Miss Marjorie Chapman, of Gloucester, and the years of his retirement were spent happily at Grange-over-Sands, overlooking Morecambe Bay.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

AUGUSTUS JULIUS RUDOLPH RUNGE

1874-1951

A. J. R. RUNGE was born in London in the year 1874 and died on November 6, 1951. He was elected to the Club in February, 1908, his proposer being C. H. R. Wollaston and seconder his brother Harry Runge. Part of his schooldays was spent at Ouchy, whence no doubt long walks were taken in the foothills of the Alps. Later, at week-ends, he would tramp in the neighbourhood of Dorking and Guildford. This keenness for long walks formed his introduction to the High Alps. In 1895, 1896 and 1897 he climbed in the Eastern Alps, including Ortler Similaun, Königsspitze and Cevedale. There followed—

1898—Wilde Frau, Weisse Frau, Wetterlücke, Piz Palü.

1899—Gross Glockner, Grosse Zinne.

1900—Doldenhorn, Balmhorn, Altels, Jungfrau, Titlis.

1902—Mönch, Blümlisalhorn.

1904—Grand Paradiso (traverse), Mont Blanc, Gspaltenhorn, Wetterhorn (traverse).

1906—Pigne d'Arolla, Collon (traverse), Aiguille de la Za, Lyskamm.

1907—Eiger, Neue Weissthorn, Dom, Weisshorn Claridenstock and pass, Tödi.

1908—Finsteraarhorn, Pollux-Castor (traverse Schwarzthor to Felikjoch), Lyskamm (traverse).

As will be seen, his qualifications for election show how widespread was the range of his activities. Between 1909 and 1913 he was mostly in the Oberland and Arolla districts, and among his climbs one notes Gross Fiescherhorn, Grand Combin, Velan, Mont Blanc de Seilon, Aiguilles

Rouges and Schreckhorn. He was out again between the war years in Saas, Zinal, Oberland and Engadine, but does not seem to have made any of the higher ascents. He was not given to strenuous rock climbing. Indeed his preference was for the great snow peaks and passes where he could enjoy unhurriedly the beauty and grandeur of the surroundings. He loved the mountains and valleys and in later years was never happier than when visiting Kandersteg, the home of his guides the Müllers, there to recall past climbing days. He but rarely missed a meeting of the Club.

WILLIAM R. CAESAR.

ROBERT STUART LOW

1875-1951

THE name of R. S. Low will be remembered by many in connection with a remarkable feat of endurance after an accident in the New Zealand Alps. For ten days he lay above the snow line with a broken ankle, entirely alone and with very little food, before the rescue party found him. An account follows this tribute, written by Canon H. E. Newton, who took part in the rescue work.

This experience left Low lame in one leg but in no way damped his enthusiasm for mountaineering and his love of the hills. Naturally strong and wiry, he could still move over rough ground with speed and certainty with the help of an alpenstock. For many years he was one of a party of intimates who met each spring and autumn for a few days' climbing in North Wales or the Lakes. He was the ideal companion. A Scotsman to the marrow, he had a pawky way of looking at things and a sense of humour which never failed. Mountain travel attracted him irresistibly and he had the means and opportunity to indulge his passion to the full. From his home in Angus, as a youth, he ranged far and wide among the Scottish hills and there were few rock-faces and ridges with which he was not familiar.

He was born April 7, 1875, and in 1900 he first went to the Swiss Alps and climbed the Rimpfischhorn, the Wellenkuppe and the Matterhorn, the last taking seventeen hours in severe conditions. The following year he visited the Selkirk range in British Columbia and in 1902 India and the hills of Rajputana. In 1903 he went to the Dolomites and climbed the Fermedatum and the Fünffingerspitze by the Schmidt Kamin. Then South Africa in 1904 and a trek by ox-wagon to the great Drakensburg escarpment and Mount-aux-Sources. The two following years he carried out successful tours in the New Zealand Alps. With Dr. Teichelmann and Canon Newton he made the third ascent of Mount Cook in 1905 and the first ascents of Mount La Perouse and Mount Hicks in 1906. It was while returning to his base after this tour that the unlucky slip occurred which put a term to his more ambitious climbing.

He married Miss Bell, whom he met in New Zealand, and on their

return to this country settled down in Oxford. Elected to the Club in 1913, he served on the Committee in 1928 and for many years was a familiar figure at the Club functions. After the second war his health began to fail and we saw him but seldom, but he never lost interest in the mountains and mountaineering lore.

J. O. WALKER.

The Rev. H. E. Newton writes :

I met Robert Low first at the Hermitage in New Zealand in 1905. Dr. Teichelmann, Alec Graham and I had come over from the West Coast and were told that a member of the Scottish Mountaineering Club was staying at the Hermitage. In those days visitors to the Hermitage were few and climbers very rare. He returned that evening and we joined up and soon found that his skill and determination were a source of increased strength to the party. That year we made the third ascent of Mt. Cook with the guides, Jack Clark and Peter Graham, spending a night at about 10,000 feet. Teichelmann, Alec Graham and I returned by the Copland, and a few days later Low came over to the Franz Josef with Peter Graham by Graham's Saddle.

In 1906 Low joined us up the La Perouse Glacier. We made first ascents of La Perouse and Mt. Hicks and a small peak between the Balfour and La Perouse Glaciers. A fuller account is given in *A.J.*, Vol. 29, 'Two Seasons on the West Coast of New Zealand.' We all returned to the Franz Josef. Teichelmann and I went home and Low stayed on. He wanted to get back to the Hermitage and decided to go back by Graham's Saddle, since he knew the route and it was much the quickest way.

The weather broke, and it was not till February 20 that he started with Graham, and they slept that night near the first snow. Graham was to watch him over the snow-fields to the Saddle and then return home. In my opinion, Low was running no unjustifiable risk. He knew the route and once over the few crevasses and the schrund below the Saddle there was nothing of real danger. He knew that his boot nails were worn, but the nearest nails were 70 miles away and the mail only came once a week. He promised to send Graham and Teichelmann a telegram when he got to the Hermitage. But the Hermitage was then 76 miles from a telegraph station and there was a mail only twice a week.

He got to the Saddle at 9 A.M. and started down. He was very near the flat glacier but the sun had not reached that part, and he slipped on some hard frozen snow and struck a rock and broke the socket of his ankle and lost his axe. As the sun got on to the snow he managed to get down to the flat glacier by kicking steps with his good foot and using his other knee. That glacier is covered with a thick coating of sharp shale. He had a light rope with him, so he tied one end to his swag and crawled on hands and knees to the end of the rope and then hauled his swag up to him. One day snow fell and he had to lie up in his bag. It took three days to cover the $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the De La Bêche bivouac,

which is merely an overhanging rock on the moraine. There he found a little dry wood and $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. tin of cocoa. All he had brought with him was half a loaf of bread as he had expected to get to the Ball Hut for lunch. There he lay till March 3, getting weaker and weaker, his hands and knees badly cut by the sharp shale on the glacier.

Meanwhile Teichelmann and Graham did not get anxious at first: the weather, when Low had to lie up, might have made the river unfordable and no one expected him to send a special messenger over 70 miles to take a telegram 'Reached Hermitage safely.' But when no telegram came after the second mail from the Hermitage, anxiety grew. On March 1, Dr. Bell, his future brother-in-law, whom Low was due to meet, and Professor Marshall rang up from the Franz Josef to say they had left the Hermitage on February 26 and Low had not arrived. Bell then telegraphed to the Hermitage and to the Post Master at Tekapo, telling him to spare no expense in sending the message on to the Hermitage. Clark and Graham arrived back at the Hermitage after climbing the third peak of Mt. Cook a few hours before the telegram arrived. They set off at once with two men carrying a stretcher and went through the night, reaching the De La Bêche bivouac at 4 A.M. on March 3, ten days after the accident. They gave a shout and a weak cry came back. Tired though they were they raced to the rock and found Low in a terrible state. They sent a pigeon off; left one man with Low, and came over to stop the West Coast party.

Fortunately a doctor was staying at the Hermitage and he came up with the men to carry the stretcher. They carried Low to the Ball Hut and there rolled him in blankets and a sheet of 6 foot roofing iron and fixed it on a pack horse. When they came to the river, and it is a rough ford, they had to let the horse find his own way across. He knew the ford and he seemed to know what was wanted and he edged his way across the rapid river and the boulders without a fault. There a buggy was waiting to drive Low some 70 miles to the railway and Timaru hospital. He made a marvellous recovery.

This is the story of one of the greatest feats of pluck and endurance in alpine history. Low was a man who never talked of himself and I do not think this account has ever been published in England. Many know that he had an accident but that is all. But the story ought to be told as a tribute to Low's determination and endurance. He was a member of whom the Club may well be proud.

REGINALD CHILDERS CULLING CARR

1864-1951

THE death of R. C. C. Carr on April 30, 1951, at the age of 86, removes from our company, and from a very wide circle of friends, a personality whom it was a joy to know. It is some years since he was able to visit the Club premises but there will be many members who recall this

vivacious figure and engaging friend, and who will feel a great sense of loss at his passing.

Born August 3, 1864, he was the third son of Francis Culling Carr, formerly a Judge of the High Court, Madras, South India. He was educated at Charterhouse and went up to Trinity College, Oxford, where he was cox of the College VIII in 1885 when L. S. R. Byrne (House-master at Eton) rowed 7 and Quiller-Couch was stroke. In the same year he entered the Indian Civil Service. He served in the Madras Presidency, becoming a member of Council, and for five years was British Resident in the states of Travancore and Cochin, after Mysore the most important states in southern India. On his retirement in 1916 he immediately undertook war work, and became a Regional Controller in the Ministry of Food, being awarded the O.B.E. for his services.

He was in his fifties—during the years of World War I—when his interest in mountaineering was first aroused. He began in the Lake District and North Wales, and became a competent although not particularly dashing rock climber. He first climbed in the Alps in 1920, at the age of 56, and continued active climbing until 1933. During those years he visited all the districts from the Dauphiné to the Oberland and he attended several Alpine meets of the O.U.M.C. and of the Climbers' Club. He was elected to the Alpine Club in 1922, being proposed by Claude Wilson and seconded by J. P. Farrar, at the same time as his son Herbert. His qualifying peaks included Tour Noir (1920), Weissmies by Nord Grat, Wetterhorn, Nadelhorn (1921), Grande Casse, Grand Paradis, Mont Blanc de Seilon and Monte Rosa (1922). In the years which followed he ascended Mont Blanc and the Matterhorn, the latter being certainly his finest expedition, at the age of 61. He made the first crossing of the mountain from Italy to Zermatt in the 1925 season, with his son and Alfred Couttet of Chamonix. Bad weather had encased all the ropes in ice, so that unusual difficulty was encountered, while, immediately after leaving the summit, a storm of great severity rendered the descent to the Solvay Hut a most trying experience.

From 1925 to 1935 he lived in Lausanne, a familiar figure at the English church and at the golf club.

In 1936 he went to Harrogate where, until crippled by arthritis, he continued his services to the church as a Lay Reader. His wife Enid (*née* Kenney-Herbert) died in 1944. He leaves one son.

The writer first met him in 1925, in his own (the writer's) first Alpine season, and did several climbs with him and his son, including Mont Blanc. He was then approaching his 61st birthday but he climbed the tiring route by way of the Grands Mulets and the Vallot Refuge with vigour and determination, keeping up a continuous (mainly one-sided) conversation from beginning to end. He found the long descent to Les Bossons rather trying, but still retained enough energy for examining botanical specimens (one of his many interests) and enough breath for conversation, which by now had become completely one-sided. The writer was privileged to climb with him again in succeeding years and

found him a never-failing source of inspiration and an ever-pleasant companion in all that was undertaken. He had the right attitude towards the mountains: he was eager for any expedition, particularly with his son Herbert, in whom he had a well-placed confidence, but he always regarded mountains with respect and would not scruple to turn back if advised to do so. He was well read in mountain literature (and by no means only in this) and would talk knowledgeably about expeditions long after he was able to undertake them himself. He was kindly in the extreme and there are many others besides the present writer who owe him deep gratitude for help and encouragement in their own early days. Such friendships are among life's most precious gifts and the inevitable breaking of them will always rank as a sorrow, coupled with thankfulness for having been able to enjoy them.

JOHN POOLE.

HENRY WILLIAM HOEK

1878-1951

DR. H. W. HOEK died in November, 1951, in Liechtenstein, where he had been living for the last few years.

He was a very old member of the Club, and was originally elected in 1905, having been proposed by W. R. Rickmers. He was born in Holland, but before the first war assumed German nationality because of his profession, that of a Geologist. Between the wars he acquired Swiss nationality, and went to live in Switzerland, where he became well known as an author of books in German and English on mountains and ski-ing.

His original qualification paper shows, between 1898 and 1904, a very large number of peaks and passes, mostly in the Eastern Alps, very often made during winter ski tours. Amongst them were :

Piz Buin, Fluchthorn, in 1898.

Dammastock, Tödi, Bifertenstock, Oberaarjoch, Finsteraarhorn, Adler Pass, Strahlhorn, in 1901.

Piz Bernina and Piz Zupo in 1902.

Wetterhorn, Gr. Spannort in 1903.

In 1903-4 he visited Bolivia and Chile, where he made a number of ascents (see *A. J.* 23. 19).

He was elected an honorary member of the Alpine Ski Club in 1909.

He was better known as a ski mountaineer than as a climber, but his knowledge of the medium peaks of the Alps was probably unsurpassed, and he had a profound knowledge of snow and ice.

Anyone who accompanied him on even a day tour would be certain of seeing something missed by the ordinary ski runner and no expedition would ever be spent completely on beaten tracks.

He will be greatly missed by his English mountaineering and ski-ing friends, not only for his achievements in the Alps, but as a man ; for his insight into character, his friendliness and his quiet charm.

I. G. AITCHISON.

ASHLEY PERRY ABRAHAM

1876-1951

ASHLEY P. ABRAHAM died October 9, 1951. Mr. G. Winthrop Young writes :—

‘ I have not seen Ashley Abraham for many years, so I can picture him still as we knew him, and climbed with him, in his dynamic youth. A figure as agile and quick as he was tall, broad and powerful, with great Cumbrian legs and a southern high colour, fire and enterprise. We never thought of the brothers apart. They complemented each other perfectly : George the more often leading, graceful, supple and balanced ; Ashley, a moving column of strength and aggressive energy, in support. In all team-play brothers, from a kindred sympathy, collaborate the more closely ; and the Abrahams were a pleasure to watch in their combination upon Scafell precipices—or to listen to in their light-hearted exchanges up and down a new climb. They were, I think, our first entirely local rock climbers, who tackled new routes on their own. They sped over mountains with enterprise and enthusiasm ; and they had the intelligence to see the untrodden ground which opened before them as professional photographers and protagonist lecturers and writers of guidebooks. If there was some criticism of this aspect of their climbing fifty years ago, the mountaineering world has long since followed in their tracks. Ashley, and his brother with him, had the true love of climbing. When climbers were few, and techniques unheard of, he showed a fresh initiative, and a cheerful courage in facing the unknown and a novel type of danger and difficulty. He was a pioneer of Lakeland rock exploration ; and he has earned a long memory among the cliffs and fells of his home country.’