

IN MEMORIAM

EMILE GAILLARD

1877-1952

COMMANDANT EMILE GAILLARD was elected to Honorary Membership of the Alpine Club in 1938, in recognition of his distinguished services to Alpine literature and to mountaineering in general. By his death, last October, we have lost one of the most scholarly Alpine historians that any country has produced. Like his friend and collaborator, H. F. Montagnier, he was a specialist in the early exploration of the Mont Blanc range and, again like Montagnier, he was a historian who combined elegance of style with the most exacting requirements of scholarship.

But the Mont Blanc massif did not exhaust his energies; countless travellers to the Dauphiné have been indebted to his masterly guide books to those regions; whilst his practical knowledge of the Graian Alps was perhaps even more thorough than that of either of the other districts. Indeed, the limits of his knowledge of mountain regions cannot readily be assessed.

Apart from his guide books, he wrote a study of Mlle. d'Angeville's ascent of Mont Blanc (reviewed in *A. J.* 56. 296) and, with Montagnier, produced *Lettres de H. B. de Saussure à sa Femme* (1937) (*A. J.* 50. 168) and the masterly studies of Saussure's activities, *Journal d'un Voyage à Chamouni & à la Cime du Mont Blanc* (1926), and *Le Mont Blanc et le Col du Géant* (1927). His admirable articles in recent numbers of this JOURNAL, on Edouard Ordinaire (*A. J.* 57. 501) and 'British Travellers in the Dauphiné' (*A. J.* 58. 453) will recur to many readers.

In addition to mountaineering, he was a learned student of Rousseau, whilst his military record was long and distinguished. He received the Croix de Guerre in the 1914-19 War, and was a Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur: but it is probably true to say that he prized as much as either decoration his British Military Cross. In every sense he was a notable man and this Club deplores his loss.

G. R. DE BEER.

We are indebted to the *Revue Alpine* (No. 375) of the Section Lyonnaise, C.A.F., for permission to translate their tribute:—

Emile Gaillard, who died at the end of October 1952, did work of the greatest value both for the *Revue Alpine* and for his Lyons section of the Club Alpin Français, of which he had been a member for close on fifty years, in his last years an Honorary Member. As a mountaineer, as well as a writer, he was one of the best known and most esteemed. The field of work he covered is far too extensive to be dealt with in these few lines. It received official recognition in the William Huber

and Eugène Potron prizes, awarded by the Geographical Society of Paris, and in the coveted title of Honorary Member of the Alpine Club. He was also a member of the Académie de Savoie.

In his long mountaineering career he ascended or crossed about a thousand different peaks and passes, some of them perhaps a dozen times. Though he paid visits to the Mont Blanc and Dauphiné massifs, the Graian Alps were his special district. We doubt if any other mountaineer has had or ever will have such a knowledge of that region, on the subject of which he was supreme and where his loss will be irreplaceable.

Thick-set, sturdy, of average height, he was always a fast goer and his stamina was astonishing. On ascents classed as *easy* or *moderate* his times were those of a guide ; when nearly 65 his pace uphill was still about 1,500 ft. an hour. His knowledge of mountains and of snow conditions was profound, and he was a capable skier, enterprising as well as tough.

His work as a writer was of the same high quality as his mountaineering. The *Guides Gaillard* are his masterpiece. It is to Gaillard that we owe an immense debt for providing guides to the Tarentaise, the Maurienne, the Belledonne, Allevard and Beaufort massifs and to the limestone mountains of Haute-Savoie ; and what a vast undertaking it has been ! He had some first-rate helpers : Deplasse, René Godefroy, Henri Mettrier, Robert Perret ; but he took the bulk of the work upon himself.

He wrote many other works and articles in reviews. He was interested in mountaineering, in alpine geography, in map-making and in folklore. We also owe to him translations of books in English, German and Italian, for he had a good knowledge of all three languages.

He was a distinguished soldier as well as mountaineer. His family came from Piedmont and he had a perfect knowledge of the dialect of that region. In the years before 1914, working in the Intelligence Service of the French Army, he went through some amazing adventures on the Franco-Italian frontier and occasionally in Italian forts. After being wounded in 1914, he was given an important piece of work on the Franco-Swiss frontier. In the course of it he succeeded in identifying the location of the Hindenburg Line, when it was still only in the making.

In these too brief lines there must be many omissions of what his friends remember. And all who have been friends of Emile Gaillard must mourn his loss as they recall that familiar figure in his house above Chambéry, in his beloved Savoy, the hours of pleasant, lively talk, the work they did in common, the memories, the hosts of memories. . . .

JEANNE AND BERNARD LECLERC.

SYDNEY BRYAN DONKIN

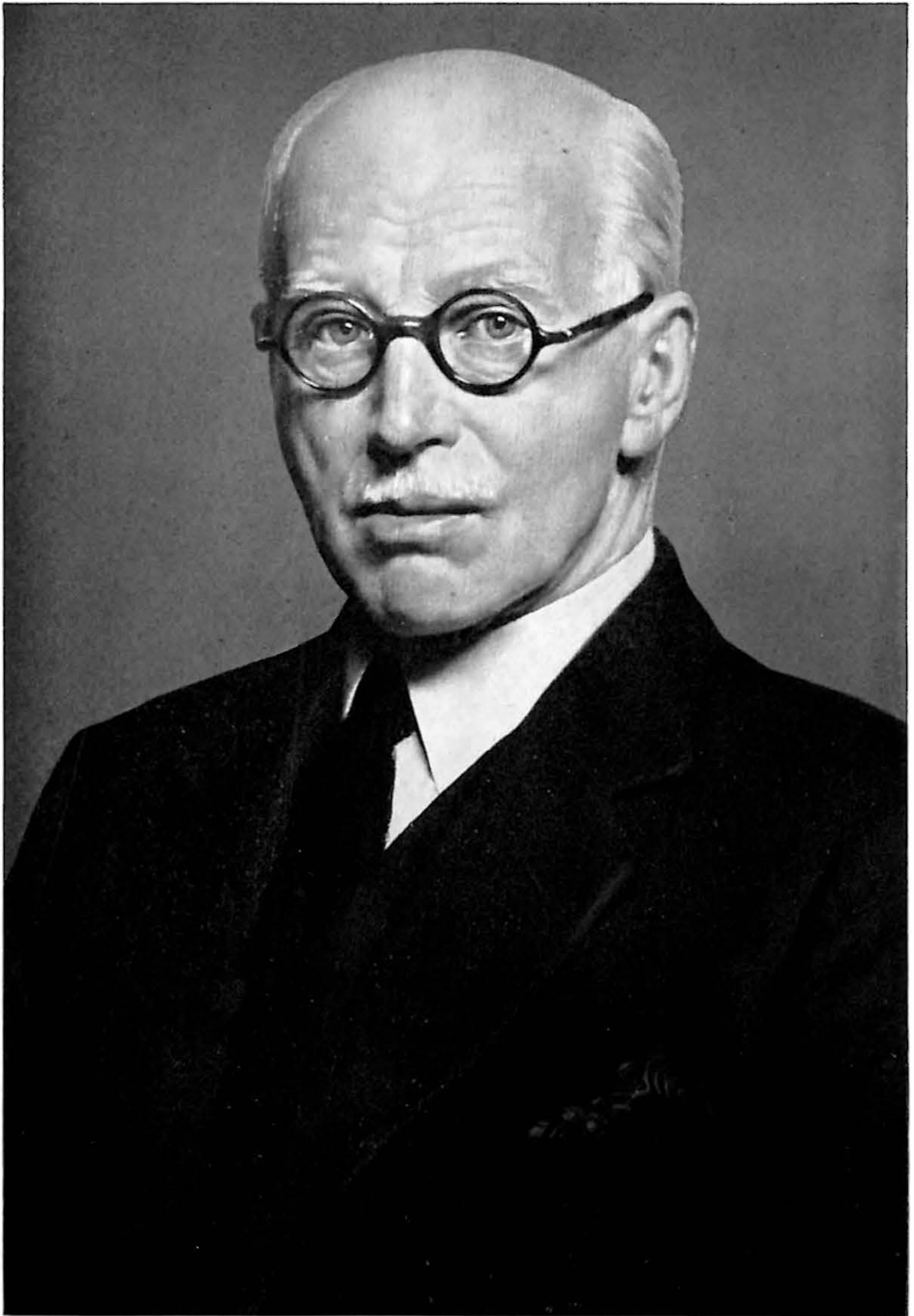
1871-1952

THE news of the death of Sydney Bryan Donkin on the 12th November last must have brought a shock to many of us, which was all the more acute because it was so unexpected. The untiring energy that he had displayed all his life and continued to display until he became seriously ill about a fortnight earlier had almost made us forget that he was mortal like the rest of us and that he could even be survived. I last saw him at Newtonmore just a month before his death. He was then on his way, with three members of his staff, to Loch Affric for the opening of the great electric power station there for the design and construction of which his firm, jointly with Sir William Halcrow and Partners, had been responsible. It was entirely characteristic of him that then, at the age of eighty-one, he was bearing his full part as the senior partner in the firm of consulting engineers with which he had been connected ever since 1897.

That this energy played a great part in his mountaineering it is hardly necessary to say. Indeed, when I first knew him in the early nineties, I think it played a greater part in that than in anything else. Certainly his enthusiasm did. He would make no secret of his irritation at having to be content with a mere three weeks' holiday in the Alps, and at the necessity of returning so soon to bread-winning. Later on, as the interest and importance of his work increased, he came to accept all its exigencies; and in the latter part of his life it was, I think, his friends even more than himself who wished that he could spare more time for the hills.

He was not one of those whose first desire is to break with tradition. Both of his great interests, engineering and mountaineering, had been interests of his forbears. His name is chronologically the third in the line of Bryan Donkins distinguished in engineering, the first being that of his great-grandfather, Bryan Donkin, F.R.S., born in 1768, and one of the founders of the Institution of Civil Engineers. When, in 1897, Sydney Bryan made his one and only change of job, it was in the firm of a well-known member of the Alpine Club, Sir Alexander Kennedy, that he became an assistant. Of that firm he became a partner in 1908 and the senior partner in 1934.

He bore a prominent part in the formation and development of the electricity supply industry in the last half century. He and his partners were responsible for the design and construction of many electricity generating stations, including hydro-electric stations, both throughout Britain and overseas. His firm was one of the firms appointed to advise the Central Electricity Board, and was reappointed by the British Electricity Authority. He was one of the panel of advisers appointed to assist the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board, and later his firm was one of the firms appointed to advise the Board. He and his partners have recently been responsible for two great hydro-electric



S. B. DONKIN.

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schemes on the Nile, those at Owen Falls in Uganda and at the existing barrage at Aswan. He was one of three engineers appointed in 1943 to reexamine the possibility of a Severn Barrage hydro-electric scheme. In the later years of his life he was greatly interested in improving the efficiency of thermal power stations by the use of back-pressure turbines to produce both heat and electricity; and his work on this resulted in the first thermo-electric district heating scheme in London, that of the Westminster City Council's Churchill Gardens Estate at Pimlico. He served from time to time on various committees of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and was on the General Board of the National Physical Laboratory from 1922 to 1927. He was President of the Institution of Civil Engineers 1937-8, Chairman of the Association of Consulting Engineers 1927-8, and again 1943, and President of the Association of Supervisory Electrical Engineers 1925-31. He was elected a fellow of University College, London, in 1946.

Whether the fact that he was a nephew of W. F. Donkin really played any part in first attracting him to the mountains I do not know. What certainly did play such a part was his father's happy thought of sending him in 1892, after he had completed an engineering course at University College, for a period of apprenticeship with Messrs. Sulzer, the well-known Swiss firm of engineers whose works were at Winterthur. He seems from the first to have availed himself at every opportunity of the convenient proximity of Winterthur to the Alps. I know that he paid many visits to the Glärnisch range, for he often spoke of it as his climbing nursery, and some to the Säntis group; and he also went up the Tödi and Urirothstock. His companions on these early expeditions were mainly Swiss amateurs; guides were I think seldom taken. In 1894 he ascended the Ewigschneehorn and the Galenstock.

He does not seem to have kept any regular record of his later ascents. They included a good proportion of big peaks. Monte Rosa, the Zinal Rothhorn, the Matterhorn (traverse), the Dent Blanche and the Dom were certainly among them. And he was, perhaps, just as happy wandering guideless among and over lesser summits with the half-plate stand camera with which he produced such fine effects, and which he carried on all his climbs in his younger days. Many members will remember some of the enlargements of his photographs that used to hang on the walls of the Club. Two of these, 'Dawn on the Ferpècle Glacier' and 'The Écrins from the Meije' recur to my memory as particularly fine. Such summits that he is known to have ascended include Mont Vélan, Ruinette, Aiguille de la Tsa, Portiengrat, Laquinhorn, Weissmies, Pointe de Bricolla, both Aiguilles d'Arve, Turnerkamm, Grosse Mösele, Grosse Greiner, Furtschagelhorn, Oberalpstock, Grosse and Kleine Windgälle, Bristenstock, Elmauer Halt, Gross Mörchner, Ahornspitze, Zsigmondyspitze (this delightful climb, which we did in 1896, he repeated 39 years later), Schwarzenstein, Durreck, Hochgall, Scesaplana, Gross Litzner and Piz Buin. On the dozen or so last named of these I was with him. They, except the

Zsigmondyspitze, were done without guides, as were the majority of his climbs. There were, of course, a very great many others. Many of his climbing companions have left us. Among those with whom he climbed more or less frequently were Unna, Myles Matthews, M. K. Smith, Mordey, Henry and Charles Candler, and A. J. Clark. Others of them still happily with us are A. W. Andrews and Noel Rooke.

I first made his acquaintance in or about 1894; and in 1895 I was lucky enough for the first time to share part of his Alpine holiday, at the Col du Lautaret; and we had delightful days on minor summits near the pass, the Combeynot, Grand Galibier and others. Then came for him a notable week with my brother E. R. Clarke and the guides Clemenz Zurbriggen, father and son. On a traverse of the Meije to La Bérarde from a bivouac on the Rocher de l'Aigle which they had left rather late (6 A.M.) on little or nothing but cups of hot coffee the whole of their provisions were lost before they had breakfasted, *vin compris*. This happened owing to the younger Zurbriggen's sack, one of the old villainous hook-and-ring kind, falling from his shoulders while he was making the difficult descent to the Brèche Zsigmondy. The exhaustion caused by the abstinence thus enforced so much reduced the pace of the party after they had reached the Grand Pic that even with the aid of a moon that enabled them to continue climbing through the next night until 2 A.M. they were unable to get down to the Glacier des Étançons till 6.30 on the following morning, and only reached La Bérarde and food at 9.30.

Two days later, on a traverse of the Écrins, they had descended the steep and icy upper part of the north face, and had, fortunately, just crossed the bergschrund, when a falling stone hit the elder Zurbriggen on the nape of the neck and stunned him, and he fell, pulling after him the rest of the party except Donkin, who happened to be unroped. The three fell about 350 feet on snow before young Zurbriggen and my brother could get their picks in and arrest the descent, when the elder Zurbriggen was seen to be lying unconscious at the end of the rope below them. He was not long in coming round; but it was then found that one of his knees had been injured in the fall. Getting the party down proved to be a very difficult and arduous job in the course of which Donkin went on ahead, carrying two rucksacks and all four ice-axes, to fetch a mule up as far as possible. When at length the others reached easy ground at the Pré de Madame Carle, Donkin met them with the mule, but without the ice-axes, all of which, during an attempt he had made to cross the Saint Pierre stream in order to reach the Refuge Cézanne, had been carried away by the force of the torrent, which had all but carried him away too. The axes were subsequently found; and three weeks later Zurbriggen had completely recovered, and was climbing again.

Either of these climbs might have ended less happily if it had not been for the magnificent weather of 1895. I remember my brother saying that on the top of the Écrins there was not a breath of wind, nor a cloud to be seen, nor the least haze to obscure the view in any

direction ; and they spent two whole and glorious hours there (from which we may perhaps conjecture that the mistake made on the Meije had not been repeated).

I have mentioned these two expeditions in a little detail because it is possible that they were the most adventurous that Donkin ever had. Of adventure in the sense of coming near to disaster he had, I think, very little. He was above all things a safe climber. I do not think I have ever climbed with anyone whose presence in a party gave one a feeling of more absolute security. It seemed impossible that he could have an accident ; and, apart from what I have mentioned, I do not think he ever had one. His competence as a mountaineer was of a high order on every kind of terrain, and whether it were a question of finding a route or of overcoming any difficulties met with upon it. I never saw him make even a slight slip, except intentionally in descent. With this there went in his earlier days a tireless physique that I especially envied, and always a sound judgment that in any difficulty was never obtruded, but was always sought, and, I think it is safe to say, always followed.

On short holidays at such times as Easter and Whitsuntide he almost always climbed in Britain, usually in North Wales. He was, of course, on the committee of the Club in 1933, and he was president of the Climbers' Club from 1936 to 1939. He married in 1902 Miss Phoebe Smiles, a grand-niece of Samuel Smiles, and survived her by less than eight months. He and his charming wife were at all times very faithful friends to all who had been his companions in the mountains. By these, and by his many friends in the Club, and by many others, he will be greatly missed.

L. W. CLARKE.

Mr. NOEL ROOKE writes :

The qualities described by Mr. L. W. Clarke always seemed to me to be the result of Donkin's highly finished thinking, which even in moments of rapid effort kept an appearance of leisured polish. There were never any loose ends about anything he did or said ; he took with him up a mountain his own atmosphere of unhurried ease, combined with swift accuracy of thought and movement.

Carrying his heavy half-plate camera with its large wooden legs and glass plates must, on a big mountain in an unguided party, have been a considerable physical achievement. An incentive additional to the obvious one, must have been pleasure in using his very fine powers of selection. The results were photographs which, with perhaps Sella's, were in a class apart, even now unsurpassed except in ways made possible by modern laboratory research.

As he possessed an unusual faculty of being able to use his eyes, he was interested in painting ; his friendship with Arnold Forster, and his knowledge of his work, meant a great deal to him. On at least one occasion his aesthetic judgment and his engineering knowledge were brought to bear on the same object ; and everybody who frequents

British hills, moors and even flat country has reason to be grateful to him. When the Electricity Grid was being planned about twenty-five years ago, a certain influential and powerful man, now dead, tried hard to have the pylons made of a shape modified by nostalgic memories of the Eiffel Tower, thus revealing the same looseness of thought and of visual perception which has defaced the country with sham 'Olde Elizabethan Tea Shoppes' and imitation mediaeval petrol stations. I heard about it from Donkin during his fight against it. It is to him that we owe the victory; our country is crossed by frank structures, modified only by visual principles formerly used imperceptibly but effectively by the Greeks, which make no bogus appeals to bemuse our senses.

SVEN ANDERS HEDIN

1865-1952

DR. SVEN HEDIN, who died on November 26, 1952, in his 88th year, was one of the boldest and most ambitious explorers in history. Before he was 21 he had travelled widely in the Caucasus, West Persia and Mesopotamia, and had mastered the Persian language. Five years later he was sent as interpreter with a Swedish-Norwegian diplomatic mission to the court of Nasir-ud-Din Shah at Tehran, where he distinguished himself by climbing Demavend and stealing three human skulls from a Parsee Tower of Silence for the Craniological Museum at Stockholm. The latter feat was typical of him. Once he had made up his mind to attain a particular object, no consideration of other people's feelings, convenience or even safety was ever allowed to deflect him. Not only did he sacrifice ruthlessly his faithful riding and pack animals when crossing desolate wastes, but he deliberately exposed his native companions as well as himself to the risk of a horrible death. His crossing of a hundred-mile stretch of the dreaded Takla Makan desert, during which two of his four men and all but one of his camels died of thirst, is one of the ghastliest stories in the history of exploration. On another occasion, on the lofty plateau of north-eastern Tibet, ten out of his twelve horses, four out of his seven camels and one of his men died of cold and hunger.

It must be conceded, however, that he shared every risk with his men, and he certainly got results. In his own words, the adventure and the 'conquest' of an unknown country, and the struggle against the impossible, all had a fascination which drew him with an irresistible force. As a result he mapped with remarkable accuracy the main features of vast areas in Eastern Turkistan and Tibet, and blazed the trail for the epoch-making archaeological discoveries of Sir Aurel Stein and others. But to him exploration in the field was only half the battle; its results had to be recorded for all time to the glory of Sweden and Dr. Sven Hedin; so between expeditions he laboured indefatigably at his books, which are monuments of industry and erudition.

Incidentally, he was a born journalist, and his more popular works are very readable, though marred at times by verbosity and a needlessly assertive temper. He dramatised himself ; as if he did not have enough real dangers and narrow escapes to describe, he made adventures out of trivial incidents.

Though completely untrained in mountaineering, Hedin burned to 'conquer' at least one really high mountain, and this urge, assisted by some remarkably good yaks and Kirghiz, took him in August 1894 to a height of 20,160 ft. on Muztagh Ata. His failure on this occasion, in spite of repeated attempts, to get within measurable distance of the summit taught his self-confidence a lesson, and he never again tried conclusions with any of the major peaks which he mapped.

His greatest contributions to geography were undoubtedly between 1900 and 1909 when he mapped the main features of south-western Tibet and visited the sources of the Indus and Brahmaputra (*Trans-Himalaya*, 1909 ; *Southern Tibet*, 1922). He had already, however, mapped large areas in the Pamirs, the Tarim Basin, and Northern Tibet (*Through Asia*, 1898), and thirty years later, at the age of 62, he organised and led a large-scale scientific expedition on behalf of his government to Inner Mongolia, Western Kansu and Sinkiang. For six years this amazing man, in his late middle age, directed the work of an international team of specialists in the field ; not content with this, in his 69th year he carried out for the Nanking Government a survey of the ancient Silk Road through Central Asia. Then he went home and spent the next twelve years, in spite of increasing blindness, writing up and editing the results in three large quarto volumes (Volumes I-III of the Report of the Sino-Swedish expedition, Stockholm 1943-5).

By temperament Hedin was a Nazi, to whom exploration was a *Kampf*, a struggle not only against the forces of Nature but also, on paper, against rival explorers. It is not surprising that he espoused in turn the causes of Kaiser Wilhelm II and Hitler. The generous help and encouragement he had received from Britain and India—Lord Curzon recommended him for his honorary K.C.I.E. and Lord Kitchener was his intimate friend—were forgotten in 1914 and again after 1933. In the last three or four popular books he published he betrayed his anglophobe bias and belittled the work of practically all his British rivals except Stein. The Royal Geographical Society had awarded him a Gold Medal in 1898 and its Victoria Medal in 1903, but during the First World War his name was removed from the roll of Honorary Members.

His relations with the Alpine Club suffered the same strain. He was elected an Honorary Member in 1899 ; but in the autumn of 1914 his outspoken comments on the English, whom he stigmatised as 'barbarians' for having brought Indian troops to Europe to fight against Germany, called for an explanation. His defence, however, only made matters worse, for he would admit of no criticism, whether from the English or the Swedish press, and avowed his detestation not only of Indian troops operating against Germany, but of the Russian

invasion also. In the face of his repeated defence of Germany, the Committee of the Club had no course but to remove his name from their list of Honorary Members, a decision that he accepted with dignity and restraint.

These matters should not, however, be allowed to detract from our estimation of his monumental achievements in the field of Central Asian exploration. He was fortunate to live and travel in the last decades of the Golden Age of geographical adventure, and he made full use of his opportunities.

C. P. SKRINE.

RANSOM PICKARD

1867-1953

By the death of Colonel Ransom Pickard, on February 9 last, the Club has lost one of the most distinguished medical members in its list.

He was trained at St. Bartholomew's, where he was an outstanding student, gaining First Class Honours in the London M.B., 1889, with a gold medal, and a First Class in the B.S. examination, 1891. He specialised in ophthalmic surgery and, after several posts in London, settled in consulting practice in Exeter, where he rapidly became the leading ophthalmic surgeon in the West of England and one of the best-known figures in Exeter.

During the 1914-19 War he served in France and Italy in the A.M.S., being five times mentioned in despatches and receiving the C.B. and C.M.G.

He had always taken a keen interest in local affairs in Exeter, being Sheriff in 1906-07 and Mayor in 1926-27. He was deeply interested, also, in the history and archaeology of his neighbourhood and was a Past-President of the Devonshire Association.

He was elected to the Alpine Club in 1909, on an unusually long qualification of expeditions, having climbed every year from 1902 onwards, his climbs including most of the standard routes in the Oberland, Valais and Chamonix. After the War he resumed his activities in the Alps, being out regularly from 1921 onwards, but the record after 1925 is incomplete. His interest in mountaineering was never lost, though in late years he was but an occasional visitor to the Club.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

JOHN PEARCE

1866-1952

JOHN PEARCE, who died on December 22 last, was educated at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, and, after various appointments became

Vicar of Wanborough, Surrey, in 1909. He remained there until his retirement a few years ago, following a serious motoring accident when crossing the Hog's Back on his way to his little church, which he loved so dearly and for which he worked so hard. He was a zealous parish priest and had a beautiful and simple faith. A friend of his in his last years told me that 'J. P.' went every Sunday to the eight o'clock Celebration at Compton Church almost to the end of his life, although it often took him an hour and a half to walk the short distance between his home and the church.

He visited me for the last time in the autumn of 1951, when he was obviously quite unfit to travel owing to the lameness which he never lost after his accident. He bore his affliction very bravely and without complaint.

John Pearce had climbed in North Wales and Switzerland, mostly with the late W. E. Durham, G. D. R. Tucker, and myself. He was elected to the Alpine Club in 1909 and was also a veteran of the S.A.C. His interests, however, were far from confined, for he was very musical and played the organ well, knowing a great deal about the instrument. For many years he was a member of the Oxford and Cambridge Musical Club.

An enthusiastic gardener, he spent much time in his garden at Monks Grove, Compton, and was very successful, particularly with Carnations. He was a frequent visitor to The Royal Horticultural Society's shows in Vincent Square.

I have lost a very dear old friend—the last climbing friend of all—and whilst I grieve at his passing, for him it was a happy release.

ALAN GREAVES.

MERVYN FREDERICK RYAN

1884–1952

RYAN was born in December 1884 and died in Argentina on April 28, 1952. He had a very varied career. He was educated at Stonyhurst College, where he rapidly came to the front and showed especial aptitude in science and mathematics. He made railway engineering his profession; studied for a while at University College, Nottingham and, from 1903 to 1906, was a pupil in the Midland Railway Works, Derby. Thence he went to the United States to take an electrical course at Schenectady, followed by some practical experience of railway working on the Pennsylvania Railroad.

On his return to England he filled several posts in the Midland Railway and the London & South-Western Railway and elsewhere; but on the outbreak of World War I his services were requisitioned by the Government to assist Sir Henry Fowler in the Ministry of Munitions, in the production of precision instruments and fuses. Later he became Director of Munition Gauges and was awarded the C.B.E.

In 1919 he went to the Argentine as Chief Mechanical Engineer of the Central Argentine Railway, and henceforth made his home in the Argentine. In 1925 he became Assistant General Manager of the Buenos Aires & Pacific Railway, succeeding to the General Managership three years later, and retaining that post for seventeen years. Whilst holding this position he was closely associated with Sir Montague Eddy in the sale to the Argentine Government of the British-owned railways. For a short time he was 'Co-ordinator' of all the various systems that had been taken over by the Argentine Government, until an Argentine Military Officer was appointed. He was then asked by the International Monetary Bank to go to India to survey the railways there, and thence on to Thailand for the same purpose; and that about finished his professional activities. He was to have gone to Chile, but his health forbade.

It would be tedious to enumerate all his other activities, professional and social. He was a very popular member of the British community in Buenos Aires and appears to have been Chairman or Vice-Chairman at one time or another of most organisations flourishing in the country. He was a born leader of men and a first-rate organiser. Perhaps outside his profession, and mountaineering, Education took first place in his interests; he was Vice-Chairman of the Education Committee which was largely responsible for a scheme which enabled more children of British descent to receive a better education than they had hitherto had the opportunity to obtain: and before leaving this country for the Argentine he had been closely associated with various educational schemes.

He was a great sportsman—fishing and shooting chiefly, but at one time was an enthusiastic tennis player and a very keen golfer. He was elected to the Alpine Club in March 1926, and although he had only had one season in the Alps, he had put in five consecutive seasons in the Andes, culminating in 1925 with guideless ascents of Almacenes (17,100 ft.), Tolosa (17,500 ft.) and Aconcagua (23,080 ft.). He was, I think, a cousin of V. J. E. Ryan, with whom Geoffrey Young used to climb; and he married (as his second wife—*d.* 1938) a niece of Walter Larden. Although I proposed him for the Club I did not know him well: the first time I met him was in 1922, on the Gerner Glacier, when he was returning from the Bétemps Cabane. When he learned of my connection with the Argentine, and I knowing of his, we soon improved the acquaintance and I heard all about his ambitions in the Andes.

As a man, apart from his obvious professional gifts, he was forthright and cheerful, very charitable in a carefully unostentatious way, delighting in his many friends, afraid of nothing, not even of death. For the last two years of his life he was ill with cancer, suffering more and more as the months went by. But he was quite undaunted, welcoming his friends and joking with them, and would discuss his approaching death with an interested curiosity such as an explorer might show in discussing a forthcoming expedition. At his own request he was

buried in Puente del Inca, in the Andes, the starting point of Fitzgerald's ascent of Aconcagua in 1897, and of his own.

On his retirement he had intended to settle down in Ireland and had in fact bought an estate there ; but his illness prevented his ever occupying it. He leaves a widow, and two sons by his first marriage.
S. YOUNG.

GEORGE ANSLOW LISTER

1879-1952

GEORGE LISTER, who died at his home, Plas Aran, Beddgelert, on December 19, was known to many mountaineers, especially to those resident in the Midlands and his native city of Birmingham.

After graduating at Birmingham University, he lectured there for a time, but in 1906 he entered into partnership with Dr. D. K. Morris at Coventry in the manufacture of electrical equipment. The firm expanded rapidly between 1914 and 1918 owing to the urgent need for the British to make magnetos, which before 1914 had all been imported from Germany ; in 1930 the M.L. Magneto Syndicate was taken over by Joseph Lucas. From 1939 until 1945 he was the General Manager of the Lucas factory in South Wales. He was also a keen Mason.

His interest in the mountains dated from 1909 when he went to North Wales for the first time ; between 1923 and 1934 he visited the Alps regularly and made a number of expeditions from Arolla, Zermatt, Chamonix, Saas-Fée, Bonneval and Val d'Isère ; he also went out for winter and spring skiing on several occasions, on one of which he was buried by an avalanche which fortunately missed the other members of the party who were able to save him in the nick of time. He was elected to the Club in 1925 ; his proposer was Winthrop Young and he was seconded by myself. I remember he had in those days the very brief leisure of a busy man of business, so it was necessary to do as many peaks and passes as possible for his qualification in the few days he had available. In 1924, therefore, he was rushed up to the Gornergrat by the last train on the day of his arrival from England and we used that repulsive edifice for the start of our walk over the Lysjoch to the Gnifetti Hut, which had been chosen as the ideal base for peak bagging operations. I should not now consider the 3,000 ft. descent to the glacier an ideal prelude to a high glacier tour on the first day of an Alpine holiday, and I fear it may have contributed to poor George's sufferings on the endless snowfields we had to plug over later in the day. Guideless expeditions in his first three seasons included traverses of the Bouquetins, Lyskamm, Monte Rosa and an ascent of Mont Blanc, while in later years he did the Matterhorn and Gabelhorn (both traversed with guides), Weismeiss, Albaron and Tsanteleina. He was President of the Midland Association from 1931 to 1933 and in 1934 organised the M.A.M. meet at Saas-Fée. He had climbed in

the Lakes, Scotland and Skye, but it was with the Snowdon mountains that he was most intimately associated. He married in 1912 a granddaughter of Pen-y-gwryd's famous landlord, Harry Owen, a Miss Annie Williams of Plas Colwyn, Beddgelert, so it was natural that he should retire to that lovely valley, where he built himself a charming house in 1938; it stands just outside the village on the Caernarvon road.

From 1920 to 1925 we devoted much of our leisure to editing a collection of essays which were published by the Bodley Head under the title *The Mountains of Snowdonia*; a revised second edition was brought out by Crosby Lockwood & Son after the last war. The book has been popular and its success was in large measure due to George's organising ability, his careful attention to detail and his sound common sense. In preparing the chapter on the early visitors, he made a considerable collection of ancient maps and guide books. Recently, with Mr. Orkney Work, we printed a small Walker's Guide to the Beddgelert district. George also acted as our Sales Manager, so we very quickly sold out; the steep rise in printing costs makes it impossible to reprint the book.

He lies beneath the walls of the ancient church of St. Mary in the village he loved so well. He leaves a widow and a daughter.

H. R. C. CARR.

ALFRED FORBES BROUN

1858-1953

It is likely that the late A. F. Broun, who died on January 20, was at the time of his death the oldest member of the Club in years, though not, of course, in length of membership. It seems almost incredible that we can be commemorating in 1953 a man whose first Alpine peak was climbed as long ago as 1865!

He was born on April 27, 1858, in Travancore, being the son of John Allan Broun, F.R.S., a noted scientist who was awarded, in 1878, the Royal Medal of the Royal Society for his life-long work on magnetism and meteorology. In 1865 the father left India (where he had built an observatory in Travancore State) and went to live in Lausanne. The son was educated in Switzerland and France, studying Forestry, and later entered the Forestry Service in India, working also in Burma, and being appointed Director of Woods and Forests, Ceylon, in 1888. In 1900 he was lent to the Sudan Government, to organize the Department of Forestry and Agriculture; he retired in 1912. During the First World War he undertook the charge of timber felling in Devon for the British Government, retiring finally in 1920.

He had married, in 1893, Miss Hilda Howard, a niece of Howard Barrett (A.C.), and this brought him into an inner circle of mountaineering relationships, for Farrar was a cousin by marriage of Barrett. Mrs. Broun accompanied her husband on many of his climbs, just as

in Ceylon she took part in his jungle trips (she made herself an accomplished botanist), for he was a famous shot and his house at Ampthill, Bedfordshire, was a regular museum of trophies, both from Ceylon and from the Sudan.

His life abroad in the East had interfered with his mountaineering, else he would doubtless have been elected to the Alpine Club before February 1902. Few details of his climbing have been preserved and the best season of which we have a record was in 1898. Joining the Club relatively late in life, and living abroad so much, it may be that there are few now who have climbed with him, or even knew him. But we owe a debt of gratitude to these old members who, though they are seldom seen on the premises, faithfully retain their membership and form an invisible backbone to the Club.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

JULIAN ALFRED OSLER

1879-1953

JULIAN OSLER, who died on February 3, 1953, after a long illness, was the youngest son of Alfred Clarkson Osler. He was educated at Shrewsbury School, leaving as Head of the School in 1898. He entered the family manufacturing business in Birmingham and continued to work there until illness obliged him to retire.

His climbing dated from 1899, when he made a number of ascents in Canton Valais in company with his brother John and other friends. Business then took him to India for a period. On his return he had a series of climbing holidays in Switzerland and the Tyrol. Afterwards his climbing holidays were at irregular intervals. He was elected a member of the A.C. in 1909. Apart from a visit to the Canadian Rockies in 1920, nearly all his climbing was in the Alps, mostly from Arolla, Zinal, Zermatt and Saas.

His interests were varied, among them may be mentioned his many years' connection with the Midland Institute, the Birmingham Botanical Gardens and the Birmingham Public Picture Gallery Fund, founded by his grandfather. He was fond of travel and photography, and was a fisherman. His photographs included pictures in colour in the Alps and Canadian Rockies.

G. O. HOWARD SMITH.