

IN MEMORIAM

ALBERT BOIS DE CHESNE

1871-1953

ALBERT BOIS DE CHESNE, who died in July 1953 at Trieste, came from a well-known Swiss family for long resident in Trieste. In spite of their loyalty to the country of their residence the members of the family always retained their Swiss citizenship.

While still at school A. Bois de Chesne used to go climbing in the Dolomites and the Glockner massif and also made many ascents in the then practically unknown Julian Alps.

From 1889 until 1892 Bois de Chesne studied forestry and botany at the Federal Technical College at Zürich, where his inborn love for botany was strengthened and deepened through the influence of his teacher Prof. C. Schroeter. During these years Albert Bois de Chesne climbed many summits in the Swiss Alps, mostly without a guide. He used his vacations to go climbing in the Valais and the Bernese Oberland together with his friend Dr. Julius Kugy (1858-1944) an honorary member of the Alpine Club.

From 1892 until 1905 A. B. C. resided again in Trieste and his climbing activities were concentrated on the Julian Alps where he made a number of first and second ascents. As his profession caused him to spend some years in Cernik (Slovenia), which is far away from his beloved mountains, he took up botany and hunting as his hobbies.

After the First World War he returned to Trieste and founded the Alpine Garden Juliana, near St. Maria di Trenta in the Isonzo Valley. His great knowledge of botany and alpine flora in particular caused him to nurse and augment this unique alpine garden with never-ceasing enthusiasm and patience until this district was closed to him through the war and the ensuing 'peace.' He then used his never-failing energy in going for long excursions in the Julian Alps together with an artist and made a large collection of aquarelles of the alpine flora of the Julian Alps. This unique collection, compiled by a botanist and an artist was presented to the Civico Museo of Trieste by Albert Bois de Chesne.

In 1948 he was made an honorary member of the Alpine Club in recognition of his work for the Alpine Garden Juliana and his vast knowledge of the alpine flora of the Julian Alps. Those of his many friends who go through the 'Juliana Rooms' of the Museum of Trieste will recall with sadness and gratitude the lost splendour of the Juliana garden and the hospitality of its founder in the Valley of Isonzo, as well as in Trieste.

HANS VON TSCHARNER.

JOSEPH GIBSON

1877-1953

THE Club has had severe losses of late among its members living in the Lake district, Glover, Ling, and Gibson all dying within a few months of one another. Major Gibson was the senior of the three in length of membership, having been elected to the Club in March 1899.

Born March 27, 1877, he was the son of Henry Ernest Hollins, of Mansfield and Mary Anne, daughter of Joseph Gibson of Whelprigg, Kirkby Lonsdale. He took the name of Gibson in 1898, after inheriting Whelprigg from an uncle.

After education at Haileybury and Pembroke College, Cambridge (B.A. 1st Class Law Tripos, 1899), he entered the well-known firm of chartered accountants, Price, Waterhouse & Co., but left them in 1914. He served in France during the first war from 1915-18, in the R.A.S.C., being twice mentioned in despatches and winning the D.S.O. in 1917.

He was a J.P. for Westmorland and Lancashire and sat frequently on the bench of magistrates at Kirkby Lonsdale and at Hornby. Much interested in education, he was for many years Chairman of the Governors of Sedbergh, and a Governor also of Giggleswick and other schools. He served for over thirty years as a member of the South Westmorland Rural Council and, since 1936, had been a member of the Westmorland C.C.

An all-round sportsman and one of the best shots in his county, he was also a keen angler. It is unfortunate that few details seem to have been preserved of his climbing. He first visited the Alps in 1896, when the Wetterhorn, Jungfrau, Monte Rosa and Aig. du Midi were the principal ascents made; in 1897 he returned to the Oberland and Valais climbing Eiger, Mönch, Finsteraarhorn, Dom, Strahlhorn, Rothorn, Obergabelhorn, and Weisshorn, as well as crossing a number of passes. In 1898 he records ascents of Monte Cristallo, Croda da Lago, Kleine Zinne, Ortler, Cevedale, and Bernina, amongst others. In 1900 he accounts for the Meije, but after that the record is blank.

He was a very active man in all his affairs and had been closely associated with the public life of Westmorland for fifty years, only curtailing his engagements somewhat about two years ago, owing to failing health.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

REGINALD GRAHAM

1866-1953

REGINALD GRAHAM died on October 8, 1953, at the age of 87, after many years of suffering bravely borne.

He was educated at King's College School and after leaving school he joined the staff of the Westminster Bank in St. James's Square where

he worked in the Securities Department until 1928 when he resigned owing to ill-health.

He was a very keen mountaineer. He climbed in the Alps regularly from 1901 to 1914 and again from 1919 to 1930, when he became crippled with rheumatoid arthritis. He did most of his climbing in the main centres, but after the first World War he visited the Tatra and the Drakensberg. He joined the Alpine Club in 1915 and served on the Committee from 1926 to 1929. His proposer was the late F. W. Hill, who was the sole survivor of the O. G. Jones disaster on the Dent Blanche.

For the last twenty years of his life he was a hopeless cripple and was confined to an invalid chair. It was a cruel fate for one who had always led such an active life, but his fortitude and endurance even up to the end were truly remarkable. In spite of this he continued his subscription right up to the end; and less than nine months before his death, although he knew that he could never set foot in the Club again, he paid the additional subscription which the Club were asking for, because he loved the Club and all that it stands for. It was a fine gesture and comes as a breath of fresh air in times like these when so many people will only join a Club for what they can get out of it.

He was a very fine character and he will be sadly missed by all who knew him. We desire to tender to his sister, who survives him, our deepest sympathy in her great loss.

M. N. CLARKE.

GUSTAV ADOLF HASLER

1877-1952

THE delay in publishing an obituary notice of this outstanding Swiss mountaineer of the older generation is much to be regretted, but was due to causes beyond control.

Originally elected to the Alpine Club in February 1901, Hasler resigned in 1905 and was re-elected in 1918. Something of his early life is contained in the essay on him in 'The Mountain World 1953' (Geo. Allen & Unwin) by Herr Othmar Gurtner. At an early age, Hasler inherited from his father the family business, 'Hasler S. A.—manufacture d'appareils téléphoniques et de précision,' a small factory then, but which he developed into one of the leading manufacturing organisations in Switzerland. They celebrated their centenary in the year he died.

Hasler was not less notable as a mountaineer than as a forceful personality in Swiss industry. No attempt will be made here to list his expeditions. As Farrar noted enviously (*A. J.* 35. 252), Hasler was apt to spend from May to September at Grindelwald and he made abundant use of the advantages that came to him from proximity to the mountains. It may be remarked that his original qualification paper for

admission to the Alpine Club already indicated his interest in winter ascents, of which a long list is given by Herr Gurtner. He travelled widely throughout the Alps, but primarily his name is connected with the Oberland, of which few men can have had greater knowledge.

He contributed a number of articles and notes to the *ALPINE JOURNAL*, particularly in vols. 20-23, and he read a paper on the north-east face of the Finsteraarhorn to the Club on December 12, 1921 (*A. J.* 34. 268). In later years, his great knowledge of the Oberland guides made him a natural source of information for obituary or similar notices (e.g. *A. J.* 54. 161; 56. 404; 58. 121).

He had collaborated with Coolidge in preparing the new (1902) edition of the 'Conway-Coolidge' guides, being responsible for the volume covering 'Gemmi to Mönchjoch.' But, like others, he fell into disgrace with the irascible editor-in-chief, and became the object of much vituperation.

Though he climbed with guides of such calibre as the elder Jossi, Fritz Amatter, Johann von Allmen, Peter Bernet and others, he climbed as an equal and was himself a certified guide, and one of the finest ice-men in the Oberland. The ascent of the north-east face of the Finsteraarhorn was, perhaps, the greatest feat in his immense mountaineering career, but he is also commemorated by the 'Hasler rib' on the Aletschhorn, and had made a number of fine expeditions across that formidable rock-and-ice wall that closes in the Lauterbrunnen valley.

Hasler made the second descent of the Mittellegi ridge of the Eiger in 1904, and had attempted that same year, as again in 1906, to make the ascent (*A. J.* 34. 167). Unluckily for him, he was too much occupied in succeeding years to be able to return to this great objective, and his old companion, Fritz Amatter, took another employer up the arête for the first time (*A. J.* 34. 166), much to Hasler's chagrin.

With his passing, we lose a member of great renown, and the mountaineering fraternity a climber of surpassing distinction.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

GODFREY LIPSCOMB

1863-1953

GODFREY LIPSCOMB was born April 21, 1863 and died in his ninety-first year. He was educated at Charterhouse and was by profession a land agent, being one of the founder-members of the Land Agents' Society, of which he was President in 1916-17.

He had been intimately associated with Bath and the Western Counties for very many years and on his retirement from business, as Agent to the Margam Estate in South Wales, he settled at Batheaston, where he died on July 2 last. He had been connected with the organisation of the Church of Wales, both before and after disestablishment,

and was a member of the governing body till 1923. Subsequently, while living at Bath, he became a member of the finance committee and of the dilapidations board of the Diocese of Bath and Wells.

He was elected to the Alpine Club in December 1898, having begun to climb relatively late in life. His first visit to the Alps consisted of a 5-days' walking tour round Monte Rosa in 1892, and it was not until 1894 that he made his first real climb. He then visited the Alps for the next four years in succession; in 1897, with F. G. Leatham, Jean Maître, and Pierre Maurys, making a new route up l'Evêque d'Arolla by the eastern face (*A. J.* 19. 60), and in 1898, with the same companions, making a variation on the Grand Combin (*A. J.* 19. 247), in addition to traversing the Obergabelhorn from the Mountet to Zermatt, and climbing the Dent Blanche.

He does not appear to have visited the Alps again till 1902, when he was once more in the Arolla area, with Pierre Maurys as guide; and then there is a long gap, till he returned to his old haunts in 1925 and renewed acquaintance with his favourite guide. 1934 was, apparently, his last year in the Alps.

If the early promise of his climbing career was not fulfilled, his interest in the Club never waned. One of the last letters received from him was in the autumn of 1952, giving his views on the proposals then afoot in relation to the future of Club premises. It is likely that Lipscomb was not widely known to present-day members of the Club, but we can ill afford the loss of any of that steadily shortening list of members who were elected during the last century. In Bath, Lipscomb will certainly be greatly missed by the many who knew him.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

WILLIAM NORMAN LING

1873-1953

THE death of William Ling on December 30, 1953, must have come as a great shock to his many friends. He had not been ill. He was on his way to the New Year Meet of the Scottish Mountaineering Club, had a sudden seizure at the house of the writer, and died quite peacefully within a few hours. In the manner of his passing none can regret that there was no lingering illness; it is just, one imagines, how he would have liked it to be.

He was born on March 4, 1873, the son of Mr. Christopher Ling, who was a corn merchant in Carlisle and Mayor of that city at the turn of the century. He was educated at Winchester, and on leaving school entered the family business which he continued to run until his retirement a few years ago. As a young man he spent a year in Danzig, where his firm had interests, and while there he perfected his knowledge of German which must have been of great assistance to him in his many journeyings in the mountains of Europe. For twenty-one years he

acted as Chairman of the Carlisle and North Western Savings Bank ; he was also a General Commissioner of Income Tax. In his home village of Wetheral he was for a time Chairman of the Parish Council. He was interested in music and literature but his ruling passion was undoubtedly mountaineering in all its forms.

He was elected to the Alpine Club in 1903, his proposer being F. Morshead and seconder C. E. Mathews ; served on the Committee 1912-14 and as Vice-President 1929-30. In the light of his later eminence as a mountaineer it is intriguing to note that he was rejected by the A.C. in 1901 as insufficiently qualified ! He joined the S.M.C. in 1898, served twice on the Committee, was Vice-President 1914-19 and President 1919-22. During his long association with that Club he acquired an almost unrivalled knowledge of the Scottish mountains. Ling commenced his climbing in Wales in 1893, in the Lakes in 1894, in Scotland in 1897 and in the Alps in 1899. His last visit to the Alps was in 1950 when he was in the Stubaital with Unna.

His climbing career covered so wide an area and his ascents were so numerous that it is impossible, without being tedious, to list them all, but it can be assumed that he did most of the standard climbs of his day.

Among his more notable climbs may be mentioned a season in Norway in 1903 when three new climbs were made including the face of Slogen direct from the fjord ; in 1906 the first traverse of the South Peak of the Aig. d'Argentière ; the Schreckhorn by the Andersongrat with descent by the south-west arête and the first British guideless ascent of the Matterhorn by the Zmuttgrat, descending by the Italian ridge. In 1908 the highlight of the season was the first British guideless ascent of the Dent Blanche by the Viereselgrat ; in 1909 Monte Rosa by the Macugnaga face and in 1910 the first ascent of Monte Disgrazia by the north face. In 1913 he paid an extended visit to the Caucasus and made five first ascents there.

As is well known, Ling was particularly associated with the late Harold Raeburn¹ in their great series of guideless climbs but other of his companions were Lawson, Glover, C. W. Walker, George Sang, H. MacRobert, P. J. H. Unna, Robert Corry and J. M. Davidson. Although he preferred to travel guideless he was not averse on occasion to the services of a guide.

For some years he went to the Alps regularly in winter but he was late in doing so and never really took to ski-ing. He enjoyed climbing on skins and finding his way in all conditions of weather and snow across unknown country but he hated going downhill !

He contributed a number of papers to the ALPINE JOURNAL the most important being :

- 'A Traverse of Monte Rosa and other Expeditions,' 25. 97.
- 'Some New Climbs in the Caucasus,' 28. 131.
- 'The North Face of Monte Disgrazia and Other Climbs,' 35. 36.
- 'The Years Between—Days to Remember,' 55. 279.

¹ Raeburn dedicated his book 'Mountaineering Art' to Ling.

Small and wiry and tough, Ling had exceptional staying power and was always trying to carry more than his share of the load. He was a delightful climbing companion with a great fund of quiet humour, full of sympathy and understanding and utterly reliable in an emergency. Few men can have had a greater love of the mountains than he had, for, as his diaries show, apart from the war years, he hardly missed a season in all his sixty years of climbing.

His death will leave a great blank among his large circle of friends, for not only did he keep up all his old friendships but, as time went on, he made many friends of a younger generation who looked to him for help and inspiration and never in vain.

R. JEFFREY.

HUGO NICOLAUS PALLIN

1880-1953

LT.-COL. H. N. PALLIN was a distinguished explorer of Swedish Lapland and much of his climbing had been done in Polar or near-Polar districts. A good many of his climbs were made in winter, including the first winter ascent of Kebnekaise, the highest peak in Swedish Lapland. He described his climbing in these regions in his book, *Kebnekaise* (1927).

In 1920-21 he went as cartographer on the Swedish expedition to West Patagonia, under Professor Otto Nordenskjöld, and made several first ascents in the neighbourhood of Kelly inlet. In 1922-23, and again in 1928, he led expeditions of his own to Spitzbergen, and in 1936 he visited Western Greenland, and took the opportunity to do some climbing, which he described in an article in the *ALPINE JOURNAL* (vol. 49, p. 190). He was the author of numerous articles on mountaineering in Scandinavia in the year-books of the Touring Society of Sweden, and he acted for some years as Editor of *Ultima Thule*, the year-book of the Lapland Alpine Club, of which he was also the Secretary. He was elected a member of the Alpine Club in 1929.

An officer in the Royal Engineers, Swedish Army, he became Professor of Engineering at the Teknik Universitesi, Istanbul. As with so many other Continental members, all contact with him was lost during the war, and our first news of him was in January 1949, when he handsomely paid nine years of back subscriptions that he had been unable to transmit hitherto. He maintained a keen interest in the Club and was one of the earliest to send us, on June 3 last (some three months before he died—on September 18), on behalf of the Lapland mountaineers, his congratulations on the ascent of Everest.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

WALTER MEAKIN ROBERTS

1876-1953

WALTER MEAKIN ROBERTS, O.B.E., M.A. ('Martin' at home and 'Bill' at 'The Shop'), who died on October 16, 1953, in his seventy-eighth year, was a member of this Club from 1910 to 1948. He was a distinguished mathematician. As a scholar of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, he won both the junior and senior mathematical scholarships awarded by the University, and achieved a first in the Final Honours School of Mathematics. After teaching for a few years at St. David's College, Lampeter, he joined the staff of 'The Shop' (the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich) in 1904, where he served as a civilian instructor and where he later became Professor of Mathematics. A warm tribute to his services there appeared in *The Times* of November 10, 1953. He did his best to join the Army when war broke out in 1914, but it was some time before he was released from civilian duties, when he was not too late to see active service with the Gunners, many of whose regular officers he knew so well. When war broke out again in 1939 and 'The Shop' closed down, he was once more commissioned in the Royal Artillery and did valuable work as an instructor with the rank of major. All his life he followed with interest the careers of the many sapper and gunner officers whom he had taught as gentlemen cadets.

His mountaineering began in 1904 with guided expeditions from Arolla, but from 1909 onwards he climbed guideless, often with his brother Ernest and with H. L. R. Dent and J. H. Hollingsworth. Resuming his climbing after the First War, he delighted in introducing to the Alps many beginners, who will remember him with the greatest affection, recalling his sound judgment, his humour and patience and, above all, his endeavours to find something to suit the varying capabilities of every member of his party. Martin Roberts was one of those few generous people who are prepared to take younger men on their rope year after year and to train them. He encouraged his pupils to lead or to come down last on suitable ground. In advising them he would see that their plans provided variety and interest, yet did not exceed the safe limit for all to take their due share of responsibility. As they grew more proficient he encouraged them to undertake more difficult expeditions without him and made useful suggestions from the wealth of his own experience.

Though intensely interested in competitive sports, particularly athletics, Roberts had no ambition to apply competition to the mountains. A modest and selfless man, he detested conceit and pose and regarded climbing as a sport to be enjoyed, not as a desperate international contest. He admired sound achievement, but bravado was utterly foreign to his nature. In the later years of his mountaineering, glaciers, snow, and ice, interested him more than rocks, and route-finding more than gymnastics. He had an immense knowledge of

those little things which mean so much in moving surely and steadily, in economising effort and in the team work of climbing. Perhaps his greatest characteristic was consideration for other people, and acts which showed lack of appreciation would always receive appropriate censure. Negligent mismanagement of the rope might cause it, but incompetence necessitating a rescue party was more serious; indeed, he taught that this was one of the major crimes in the mountains. Loyalty was another of his endearing virtues; he would always apply this criterion in making his judgments and would cheerfully accept the many inconveniences that might follow. In the mountains Martin seemed able to make the early breakfast in a hut endurable and bad weather interesting; the way off an awkward glacier would be found without undue difficulty. Those who had the privilege of his company and guidance will always remember him and be thankful for so much.

His knowledge of the Alps was not confined to any one district, but extended from the Dauphiné to the Stubaital. From 1923 to 1931 he was one of the joint honorary secretaries of the A.B.M.S.A.C. and from 1931 to 1933 was president of that Association. He was also a member of the Yorkshire Ramblers Club.

His marriage to Kathleen King in 1926 proved an outstandingly happy one. For the last three years of his life he suffered from increasing disability, yet even when quite helpless physically, after a second stroke early in 1953, he never complained and his interest in life never deserted him, whilst his eyes would light up on seeing old friends. Throughout his illness he had unstinted loving help from his wife, whose courage and cheerfulness matched his own.

E. A. L. GUETERBOCK.

F. H. SLINGSBY.