

ALPINE NOTES

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :	Year of Election.
Gibson, Joseph	1899
Wigner, J. H.	1902
Ling, W. N.	1903
Hutton, H. L.	1908
de Brüyn, I.	1913
Graham, Reginald	1915
Rooke, Noel	1921
Pallin, H. N.	1929

EVEREST.—We are pleased to report the presentation of the Hubbard Medal of the National Geographic Society, U.S.A., to the Everest Expedition. President Eisenhower made the presentation to Brigadier Sir John Hunt in Washington and replicas of the medal were also presented to Sir John Hunt, Sir Edmund Hillary and to Tenzing. The Hubbard Medal is the highest award of the National Geographic Society and has only been awarded on 16 occasions.

PERSONAL.—We congratulate Mr. W. G. Lowe on the award of the O.B.E. in the New Year's Honours List.

We notice that Sir Robert Robinson, O.M., Waynflete Professor of Chemistry at Oxford, Nobel Prize-winner in 1947, and past President of the Royal Society, has been made an associate member of the Japanese Academy.

HONORARY MEMBERS.—The Club welcomes three new Honorary Members: Monsieur Marcel Kurz, whose outstanding achievements both as mountaineer and as historian and cartographer of mountaineering, need no introduction; and the two veteran Italian mountaineers, G. F. and G. B. Gugliermi, whose names are inseparably connected with the early exploration, in particular, of the Italian faces of Mont Blanc. These two great climbers have been active in the Alps for 65 years, and we learn with pride and envy that one of them ('G.B.') has as late as August last, made the first ascent without a guide of the South wall of the Punta Giordani (Monte Rosa)—4,055 m.—straight from the glacier di Bors.

DIAMOND JUBILEES.—We extend warm congratulations to the four members who have recently celebrated the sixtieth anniversaries of their elections to the Club. Mr. H. C. Bowen and Mr. Harry Runge were both elected in December 1893; Lord Schuster and Mr. Walter Barrow were both elected in February 1894.

Mr. Bowen's climbing career is too long and varied to admit of summary; perhaps the Gletscherhorn, more than any other peak, rises to

mind in association with his name ; but he is no stranger to Norway or the British hills—among his climbs in the last were the first ascent of the Arrowhead ridge of Great Gable, and the second ascent of the Eagle's Nest ridge. Mr. Runge was with Dr. Rickmers in Transcaucasia in 1895, and readers of Farrar's early summaries of the climbing of the old Brenva ridge up Mont Blanc will recall that Mr. Runge made the fifteenth ascent by this route.

Lord Schuster, our senior past-President, is known to all as mountaineer, writer and an old and tried friend of the Club. Mr. Barrow is a valued representative of the Midlands and of Birmingham in particular ; Mr. Barrow was proposed for the Club by C. E. Mathews whose family were equally prominent in Birmingham and in our Club.

WHYMPER'S ENGRAVINGS.—Some time ago Sir Arnold Lunn sent the following contribution to the JOURNAL, and we must express our apologies to him for the delay :

' I may be permitted a belated comment on Graham Brown's most interesting and valuable article on " Girdlestone and the Matterhorn Accident " (*A. J.* 57. 369). That Whymper was not in the least inclined to understate his own achievements or to claim less than his due for a joint venture emerges very clearly in his " unfair attack " on Hudson (p. 383) and in the references to Douglas quoted and commented upon on p. 374. There is nothing in what we know of him which lends any support to the theory that he deliberately belittled his own contribution to the engravings in *Scrambles*, and I am therefore at a loss to understand why Graham Brown should describe as an " obvious understatement " Whymper's assertion that he only supplied " slight memoranda " for the engravings. Some of these were obviously done from photographs. Others, such as the engravings of the Col Dolent, probably from a pretty exact drawing by Whymper ; but in default of real evidence to the contrary I think we must accept Whymper's statement that his share was nothing more than the " slight memoranda " for the drawing of most of the engravings, and, of course, the actual engraving.

' I once raised this point with the late Lord Conway, who was perhaps even more distinguished as an art critic than as a mountaineer. He certainly accepted the " slight memoranda " thesis and I remember his enthusiastic remarks about the greatest of all the engravings, the cannonade on the Matterhorn. " I have never understood," said Conway, " why the man who drew that picture did not become more famous. His power to crystallize a dramatic moment is not more striking than his sense of composition." Conway ranked Whymper very high as an engraver but not so high as an artist.'

CENTENARIES.—The year 1954 marks the passing of a hundred years since the first ascent of the Strahlhorn (4,190 m.) by Edmund, James Grenville and Christopher Smyth with Franz Andenmatten and Ulrich Lauener on August 15, and of the Fletschhorn (3,996 m.) by Michael

Amherdt of Glis (Valais), the Curé of Simplon, with Johann Zumkemmi and Friedrich Klausen on August 28. September 1, 1954, is also the centenary of the first recorded tourist crossing of the Triftjoch (3,530 m.) by Robert Fowler with Arnold Kehrli and Ignaz Biner. Mention must also be made of Alfred Wills' famous ascent of the Hasli Jungfrau (Wetterhörner) in 1854, and of the six attempts on Monte Rosa made by four different British parties in that year, the first ascent of the Ostspitze being made by the three Smyth brothers on September 1.

J. SANSEVERINO.

ALEXANDER POLLINGER.—We very much regret to learn that Alexander Pollinger of St. Niklaus died of a heart attack on November 21, 1953, at the age of sixty-six. Employed almost exclusively by British climbers before the last war, he ranked high in his profession and was a worthy representative of the famous Pollinger family. Mr. K. C. P. Struve, one of his early employers, writes: ". . . I am extremely sorry to hear of Alexander's death; he was a first-rate guide and I have had many good climbs with him, most notably, I think, the complete double traverse of the two Grünhorns. It is many years now since I last climbed with him, as my serious climbing days are over, but I always think of him as a good friend . . . there was a real comradeship between us . . ."

A. P. HARPER: 1869 and 1954.—In a letter dated January 12 last, received from Mr. A. P. Harper, we learn that the Queen, at the State Luncheon held the day before, particularly referred to the thrill that the announcement of the Everest climb had given her on her Coronation day.

Mr. Harper was expecting to meet, informally, the Duke of Edinburgh a few days later. As he observes, and as readers of *Memories of Mountains and Men* (p. 15) will remember, it is not the first time that he has met a Duke of Edinburgh in New Zealand. But the 1954 meeting is likely to be more gratifying to our Member than was that of 1869. On that occasion Mr. Harper (who was at the frivolous age of four) was bitterly disappointed because the Royal visitor unfortunately omitted to comment on the fact that the small boy who opened a gate to him was wearing braces for the first time in his life.

NESTHORN, SOUTH-EAST RIDGE.—After reading Mr. Dixon's account of his party's ascent in August 1953 (*A. J.* 59. 208), Mr. H. Booth writes to point out that the long climb over the Unterbächhorn can be avoided by ascending to point 3,553 m. from the Oberaletsch hut when the snow is good. (See the account in *A. J.* 46. 390-93.)

The whole of the ascent over the Unterbächhorn was done by another party in July 1953. (*Climbers' Club Journal*, 1954.)

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE THÉODULE PASS.—The enthusiasm in America for the Master of Baker Street is well known and a recent

contribution to Holmesian studies comes from one of the regular subscribers to the *Alpine Journal*, Mr. A. Carson Simpson of Philadelphia. In his brochure, *Sherlock Holmes's Wanderjahre*, Part I, he investigates with Coolidge-like thoroughness the route by which Holmes, after throwing Professor Moriarty over the Reichenbach Falls, 'took to my heels, did ten miles over the mountains in the darkness, and a week later found myself in Florence.' After arguing the pros and cons of various routes open to Holmes, Mr. Simpson concludes that he must have escaped via the Grimsel to the Rhone Valley, and thence to Zermatt and the Théodule. He clinches his argument with a photograph of Sigerson (*née* Holmes) standing on the Pass!

T. S. BLAKENEY.

CORRECTION.—We regret that the names of the party that made the (apparently first) ascent of point 3,675, as reported in the last number of the JOURNAL (*A. J.* 59. 209), were confused with another party who had been climbing in the same district about the same time. The correct names of the five who climbed this point are: S. N. Booth, R. N. Davidson, C. Ineson, W. E. Janvier and G. F. Dixon.