

IN MEMORIAM

WALTER BARROW

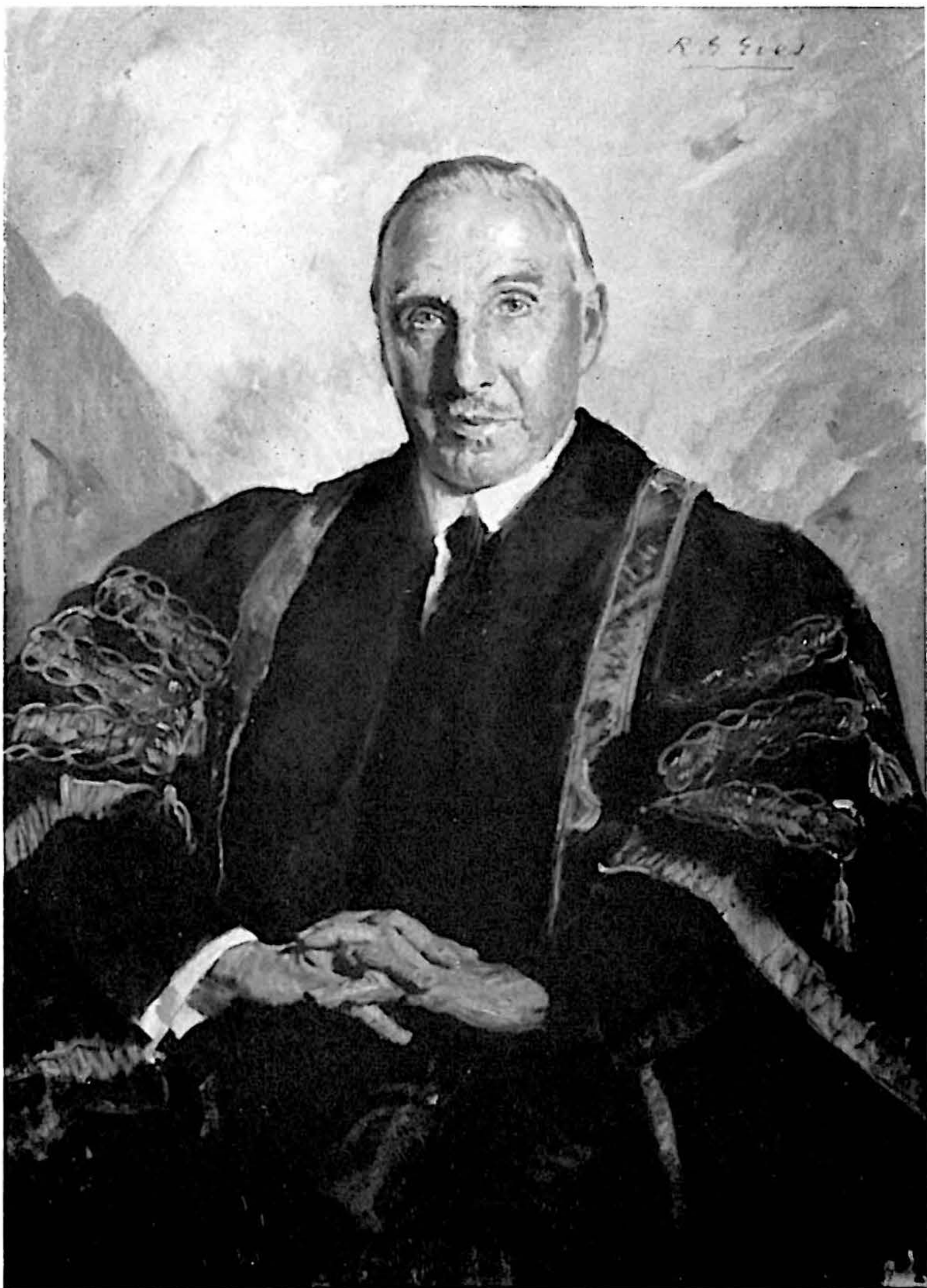
1867-1954

WALTER BARROW died on June 21, 1954. In February of this year he had completed sixty years membership of the Alpine Club, a rare achievement and one which makes it difficult to obtain any first hand information about his mountaineering exploits. I must therefore rely for these on such records as the Club possesses and on my recollection of what he had told me.

His boyhood climbs in Cumberland and Scotland showed an early love of mountains. At the age of twenty he made his first acquaintance with the Swiss Alps, but I think that in later life he looked back with most pleasure on his climbs in Norway, which he first visited in 1890 with Howard Priestman, who became his companion on many expeditions in that country, in Switzerland, the Dolomites and the British Isles. His election to the Alpine Club under the sponsorship of C. E. Mathews and W. C. Slingsby followed what was probably his most successful season with Priestman in the Tyrol the preceding year.

By the time I first got to know Walter Barrow, in 1919, he had given up all thought of resuming those climbing activities which had been interrupted by the war. He was by then over fifty and was becoming more and more engrossed in his many business activities and in public service. In 1918 he had joined the Board of Cadbury Brothers Ltd., to which firm he had been solicitor since 1905. He took a leading part in finance and in schemes for the welfare of the employees, notably in the establishment of the Men's and Women's Pension Funds and of the Works Councils. He found time to retain his partnership in the firm of Wragge and Co., Solicitors. His public life, as a Councillor for the Ladywood Ward of Birmingham at the turn of the century, as a Governor of King Edward Schools, as President of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce in 1929, culminated in his office of Pro-Chancellor of Birmingham University from 1933 to 1939. He was made an Honorary Master of Laws and the picture reproduced is from a portrait of him in his academic robes.

Despite these and many other activities, such as his notable contribution to the adult education movement in Birmingham, he maintained his interest in mountaineering, particularly by the encouragement of the younger generation. He gave many lectures illustrated by slides from his own photographs and took a prominent part in the formation of the Midland Association of Mountaineers of which he was President from 1935 to 1937. He was also President for many years of the Birmingham University Mountaineering Club, whose founding he had fostered, and was a member of the Scottish Mountaineering Club and of the Climbers' Club.



WALTER BARROW
1867-1954.

[To face p. 448.]

The secret of Walter Barrow's success in the fields of law, of finance and of administration lay, I believe, in the combination of a clear, methodical, and painstaking mind with a spirit fostered by his Quaker tradition which sought to serve in any field where his talents could be of value. He was a kindly, patient friend to all who sought his advice. I am sure that he would have been a delightful and steadfast companion in the mountains, enthusiastic, sane and safe.

As he gradually relinquished his burdens he moved from his home in Edgbaston to a house he had built at Willersey near Broadway. Here he busied himself with his fruit trees and his garden. He survived four years the shock of the loss of his wife. The day before his death he had been active in his garden on the escarpment of the Cotswolds with its view across the Vale of Evesham, mowing his lawn despite his eighty-seven years. He died very suddenly the next morning with no suffering.

M. TATHAM.

JOHN HARRISON WIGNER

1873-1954

THE death took place on March 13 of J. H. Wigner, Ph.D., at his home in Cheshire. He was born in London and was 81 years of age. He studied Chemistry at Heidelberg University, where he obtained his degree. Afterwards he became assistant to the Professor of Pharmacology at St. Andrews University and, later, Professor of Chemistry at University College, Dundee. After a short time he obtained the appointment of Head Chemist at Messrs. Gossage's Soap Works at Widnes, Lancs. He remained in this position until about twenty years ago, when he retired. He was the author of a standard book on Soap-making, and was responsible for an article on that subject in the new Chambers's Encyclopaedia.

He was proposed and seconded for the Alpine Club in 1902 by the well-known guideless couple, R. P. Hope and W. T. Kirkpatrick, and he wrote the obituary notice of the latter for the ALPINE JOURNAL in 1941 (vol. 53, p. 160). His qualification list was unusually long, numbering 45 peaks or passes.

In 1899, when he was at Ried in the Lötschental, in company with T. S. Muir, an assistant master at Morison's Academy, Crieff, he met Cecil G. Brown, the Town Clerk of Cardiff, and myself, and the four of us joined forces and climbed together on a number of occasions in that and the following years.

In 1899 the ascents included the Lauterbrunnen Breithorn and the Tschingelhorn (both from Ried), the Beichgrat, the Ofenhorn from Binn with descent to Italy, the Monte Moro Pass to Mattmark, and the Schwarzberg Weisstor Pass to the Bétemps Hut for an ascent of Monte Rosa, which was, however, stopped by bad weather. For some of these we had as guides Josef Kalbermatten of Ried, and Franz Anthamatten of Saas Grund, and others were guideless.

In 1900 we foregathered at the Mont Collon Hotel at Arolla, and at the hotel were Hope and Kirkpatrick. The latter having to return to England, Hope joined forces with us, the following climbs being carried out, Anthamatten generally acting as guide, namely:—Petite Dent de Veisivi, Dent Perroc and Pointe des Genevois (traverse), and Mont Blanc de Seilon (traverse). On the ascent of the Aiguille de la Za there was a shower of stones, one of which laid Anthamatten's head open, and another so badly injured a member of a party in front of us that we had to carry him down and abandon the expedition. By way of the Col de Bertol, the Dent Blanche and the Dent des Bouquetins were also climbed. The ascent of the former was made in a storm of sleet which glazed the rocks and made the expedition one of great difficulty.

In 1901 our expeditions included a traverse of the Ober Gabelhorn from the Mountet Hut to the Trift Inn, a traverse of the Zinal Rothorn from the Trift to the Mountet Hut (guides Theodor Kalbermatten of Ried and Joachim Theytaz of Zinal), the Weisshorn (guide Johann Kalbermatten) and a traverse of the Matterhorn from Zermatt to Breuil (guides Johann Kalbermatten and Peter Aufdenblatten).

In 1902 we were joined by the late W. G. Clay. All our climbing was guideless and comprised part of the 'Alps from End to End' (Conway), namely:—the Diablerets, the Wildhorn and the Wildstrubel, and then the Balmhorn, Blümlisalpstock, Blümlisalhorn, Gamchilücke, and over the Petersgrat to Ried, the Beichgrat and the Fusshörner by the North-east arête, the South face and the South-east arête, the last named being a very long rock climb and our movements being leisurely on account of the heat with the result that we had to spend the night out.

In 1903 all our expeditions were again guideless and our party had been joined by J. Wontner Brown and Wentworth Price. The weather was bad for much of the time. We ascended the Dôme de Chasseforêt from Pralognan, and the Pointe de la Galise, descending to the Val Savaranche. From Dégioz we traversed the Herbetet to Cogne and then crossed the Col de Monei to the Piantonetto hut for the Roccia Viva. Our expeditions concluded with the Eastern and Central Levanna from Ceresole.

Earlier in 1903 Wigner went to the Caucasus with Rickmers' expedition (*A. J.* 22. 197; *S.M.C. J.*, viii. 82), in addition to climbing he was engaged on mineralogical research; and in 1904, with T. S. Muir, he accomplished the first crossing from east to west of the Vatnajökull snowfield in Iceland, the largest snowfield in Europe (*A. J.* 22. 436; *G. J.* xxv. 209; *S.M.C. J.*, viii. 219).

He was one of the earliest to take up ski-ing in this country and was a first-rate photographer of mountains and an expert on Alpine flora.

He was remarkably active up to twelve months ago, when he had to undergo a severe operation from which he never recovered. His wife survives him and to her we extend our sympathy.

S. R. HOBDAY.

FRED HARRISON

1867-1954

FRED HARRISON, who died on May 1, in his 87th year, was elected to the Alpine Club in December 1896, his proposer and seconder being Wm. Cecil Slingsby and H. B. George. His usual climbing companions were H. L. Joseland and H. L. Hutton, both of whom he outlived. Hutton (who is briefly commemorated in this issue) has written of their climbing holidays together (*A. J.* 57. 241). Harrison's and Joseland's qualification forms for the A.C. (1892-96) are identical: Hutton joined the pair in, apparently, 1901 and from then onwards they went out year after year, sometimes accompanied by friends and relations, doing guideless climbing of moderate difficulty. All three were schoolmasters, and had much in common.

Harrison was educated at Giggleswick and won a scholarship to New College, Oxford, where he took a first class in Maths. Mods. (1885) and in Finals (1887) and in Physics (1889). From 1889 to 1892 he was Physics Master at Manchester Grammar School and from 1892 to 1900 was head of the Engineering side at Dulwich College. From 1901 to 1925 he was Headmaster of the High School, Newcastle, Staffs. He had been a Fellow of the Physical Society for many years.

On his retirement, he settled at Godalming and took a keen interest in local affairs, being elected to the Borough Council in 1927 and becoming Mayor in 1929. His other interests included the Chairmanship of the Board of Governors of Godalming County Grammar School and of Godalming Technical Institute; he was a Governor of Godalming Church of England Primary School and on the governing body of the Meath Home. He was also a J.P.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

HENRY LEONARD HUTTON

1867-1954

H. L. HUTTON's climbing career was so intimately linked with those of F. Harrison (commemorated in this issue) and of H. L. Joseland (see *A. J.* 57. 241) that it would be largely duplication to chronicle his mountaineering activities. He has himself written of them in his obituary of Joseland.

Hutton was born on October 5, 1867, and took to climbing in 1898, being elected to the A.C. ten years later. Educated at Haileybury and New College, Oxford, he took second class honours in Classical Mods. and 'Greats.' He then studied abroad at the Sorbonne, Freiburg, and Berlin, and was a master at Franklin College, Dresden, before going to Dulwich College (1896-1901), where he taught modern languages. From Dulwich he went to Merchant Taylors, where he was senior modern languages master until his retirement in 1929. After retiring,

he became a university examiner and an Inspector of Schools. From 1902 to 1916 he was Chairman of the Modern Language Association.

He married in 1902 Julie, daughter of C. P. H. Rieu, Professor of Arabic at Cambridge. He had made his home in Dulwich for nearly sixty years and died there on January 23 last.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

NOEL ROOKE

1881-1953

NOEL ROOKE died on October 5, 1953. Such a life as his seems so unmistakably to partake of the permanent as to mitigate the shock of his passing. He might well have been expected to live longer. His father, Thomas Matthew Rooke, lived to be ninety-nine, and would almost certainly have lived longer had he not been compelled, in the first world war and in his hundredth year, to leave his home in Bedford Park and move to the Midlands. Both father and son were distinguished artists, but while painting was the father's life-work Noel's profession was teaching. He taught at the L.C.C. Central School of Arts and Crafts until his retirement in 1947. This, perhaps, we may be tempted to regret, as if his main work had been the practice and not the teaching of art he would doubtless have left behind him a much greater number of paintings, including paintings of his favourite subject, mountains. But of course his old pupils might tell a different story.

How good a painter of mountains he was, many members will know from having seen work of his at our own exhibitions. One in particular of his exhibits at Savile Row is fresh in my memory. It was a view of the Aiguille Verte and the Dru done near the Flégère. Its great virtue was, I think, scale. I have never seen a water-colour drawing of a mountain which more convincingly conveyed size and distance. Another striking feature of this picture was the skill with which the appearance of rock or snow half obscured by mist was given.

It was the occasional privilege of seeing such work as this that made some of us wish Noel Rooke had made painting his principal pursuit. Indeed painting was not even the form of art that he mainly taught. For the greater part of his time at the Central School he was head of the school of book-production. Typography and book-illustration were thus two of his main concerns. It is interesting to notice his opinion as to how these can best be made to harmonise with each other. In his monograph on 'Woodcuts and Wood Engravings,' which was published by the Print Collector's Club in 1926, he wrote 'Woodcuts and Wood Engravings are the only means of pictorial expression in a printed book which are not antagonistic in character with the rest of the book.' It was therefore natural that he should take up these arts himself; and of the many delightful cuts and engravings, dating from the 15th century onwards, reproduced in that monograph, none is,

I think, more charming than the cut showing two girls picnicking under a tree on page 35. He omitted to say whose work it is, but we can guess. Fine examples of his woodcuts may also be seen in a little book published by the Golden Cockerel Press in 1925 entitled *The Birth of Christ*. It consists of Saint Luke's account, the text being that of Barker's quarto edition of the Authorised Version of 1612, and both the arrangement of the book and the illustrations are Noel Rooke's. He made and exhibited cuts and engravings of a wide variety of subjects including, of course, mountains. There is, for example, a remarkable woodcut of the summit of the Aiguille de Blaitière, worked out from a drawing which he made, surprisingly enough, at Montenvers. This, considering that it is from a drawing made at that distance, and comprising only the minutest fragment of the view that was before him, is astonishingly forcible. He had a way of picking out a tiny bit of a view and making a fine picture of it.

All this must have been a later development than his work with the brush. That, at the latest, must have begun at the Slade School, to which he went after leaving school in the more ordinary sense (in his case the Lycée de Chartres and the Godolphin School) and before he went, as a pupil, to the L.C.C. Central School. From the first he must have been attracted to mountains as subjects. As early as 1909 he was painting in the Mont Blanc group, and painting at high altitudes. There is in the possession of Mr. F. Gurney Salter a beautiful water-colour of a view taken on, and looking up, the Glacier de Trélatête, with the Tête Carrée at the head of it. Although he was intensely serious in everything he did, Noel Rooke was never solemn; an example of his playfulness is shown in this very early work where two figures are seen climbing up a steep and smooth-looking chimney below the Dôme de Miage on the left side of the picture. They are in the middle distance and minute, but their obviously boundless energy and intense enjoyment are most engaging; the latter is positively infectious. In spite of this, as is the case with all his work, the fidelity and care, and indeed the reverence, with which the picture has been painted, are unmistakable.

Not very many members of the Club have been elected on a qualification in which, in accordance with rule 39, contributions to mountain art played a part. Noel Rooke was one of them. But, going where he went, he was far too spirited and gifted a man to fail to become a mountaineer. In his early visits to the Alps he often reached considerable altitudes alone. It is not difficult to imagine what an excellent early training for a mountaineer that must have been. And by the time he came up for election to the Club in 1921 he had made, as a competent member of a guideless party, such expeditions as ascents of the Aig. de Pierre Joseph, the Aig. du Moine and two of the peaks of the Aigs. Rouges d'Arolla, the crossing of the Cols des Vignettes, de l'Evêque and Collon, and traverses of the Petite Dent de Veisivi and Mont Blanc de Seilon, and after his election he continued to avail himself of every chance of climbing whether likely to provide an opportunity of

sketching or not. He climbed and painted in Wales, Cumberland and Skye, as well as in the Alps. He was once lucky enough to stay at the post office at Glen Brittle at a time when the other guests there consisted of Norman Collie and Colin Phillip (O tempora !), and he brought back, I remember, a superb water-colour of Sgurr Alasdair. And there was another lovely one of Scafell from the top of Great Gable.

He was about as near to being a perfect companion anywhere, but especially on a mountain, as anybody can be. I never felt this more, I think, than when his and my one and only unpremeditated bivouac took place one September night when we two and Woodward had failed before dark to find a direct way down from the Glacier du Mont de Lans to the Chalets de la Selle. We were ill equipped for a night out, and it was neither warm enough nor comfortable enough for any sleep to be possible. But Noel Rooke, not at all a robust man, kept us almost happy with the good humour with which he took the whole affair and the good talk with which he entertained us through the hours until there came the intense cold which immediately precedes the dawn.

After his marriage in 1938 he did not go so frequently to the Alps. In his later years he did a good deal of boating on the Thames in a small and very trim house-boat of his own design, and came to know the river well from Putney almost to its source. Last year he was planning to write a book on the Thames, and had collected a good deal of material for it, which perhaps included sketches of his own.

We cannot hope to meet with many of his like.

L. W. CLARKE.