

ALPINE NOTES

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :	Year of Election.
Pasteur, C. H.	1890
Harper, A. P. (Hon. Mem. 1932)	1892
Amery, L. S.	1899
Visser, P. C.	1913
Schjelderup, F.	1915
Fothergill, C. F.	1923
Williams, Gwyn	1942
Firmin, A. H.	1954

PERSONAL.—We congratulate Lt.-Colonel J. B. Harrison on receiving the O.B.E. in the Birthday Honours ; and Major J. O. M. Roberts and Mr. R. Syme on receiving the M.B.E.

HONORARY MEMBERS.—The Committee has elected to Honorary Membership of the Alpine Club Lord Adrian, O.M., President of the Royal Society and Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, and Mr. C. W. Rubenson, elected an ordinary member in 1908.

GIFTS TO THE CLUB.—We have to record our thanks to Dr. T. Howard Somervell, who has presented the Club with a painting by himself of Nanga Parbat and the Rakaposhi range.

MAJOR-GENERAL W. W. FOSTER.—Colonel H. Westmorland writes :—

Perhaps it was a mark of his personality that he was almost always referred to as ' W. W. Foster ', not as ' Foster ' or by his Christian name, which, after all these years, I still do not know.

When I first met him in 1912 he was Deputy Minister of Public Works for British Columbia, and a very good friend he was to me.

Whatever he did he did extraordinarily well, from clerk on the railway to Deputy Minister of Public Works, from a captaincy in a Canadian Militia (Territorial) Squadron of the B.C. Horse to command of an infantry battalion in the great last 1918 push, and later to major-general with many decorations.

In the Alpine field he made the first ascent of Mt. Robson, the highest mountain in the Canadian Rockies, with Captain MacCarthy and Conrad Kain, and again with MacCarthy, the first ascent of Canada's highest peak, Mt. Logan, just under 20,000 ft.

Never, in my thirty-four years in Canada, did I hear a derogatory word about W. W. Foster or from him about anyone. In a position in which there must have been strong political currents his integrity was beyond question.

He was fortunate in his climbing partnership and in his friendship with Captain A. H. MacCarthy, and equally so was MacCarthy.

In my seventy years I think W. W. Foster was the best all-round man I ever knew, remarkable for his real friendship, strength, delightful sense of humour and his terrific effectiveness. They come no better.

AMERICAN ALPINE JOURNAL.—Mr. Francis P. Farquhar, A.C., will take over the Editorship at the beginning of next year. He was for many years Editor of the *Sierra Club Bulletin*.

MONTE ROSA.—Although the centenary of the first ascent of the Dufourspitze has been celebrated this year, confusion still exists in regard to both the date of the ascent and the composition of the party. The source of this can be attributed to the original entry in the Visitors' Book of the Riffelberg hotel made by one of the brothers Smyth. This is dated 'July 31st,' and incorrectly names 'G. Stephenson' as a member of the party.

A copy of the entry can be found in *A. J.* 32. 313, but a photograph of the original shows that several alterations have been made to it, including the substitution of 'E. J. Stevenson' for 'G. Stephenson.' No one named Stephenson took part in the ascent.

The evidence that the date of the expedition was August 1, and not July 31 as stated in the original entry, is to be found in a letter from the Rev. J. G. Smyth (dated August 9, 1855, and quoted by Whymper in *Zermatt and the Matterhorn*, 5th ed., p. 170), who wrote '...we were called at 11 P.M. . . . on Tuesday, July 31, breakfasted about $\frac{1}{4}$ to 12 and started at $\frac{1}{4}$ past 12.'

Hudson, in his account of the ascent, wrote that he and his friends 'finally decided to start on the 31st of July,' meaning, that on July 31 they reached the decision to start (because the weather was suitable for the expedition) and, as is evident from the Rev. J. G. Smyth's letter, they left the Riffelberg at 12.15 A.M. on Wednesday, August 1. It was a happy coincidence that the highest summit of Switzerland was reached for the first time on the Swiss national fête day.¹

OBER GABELHORN.—The first traverse of the Wellenkuppe-Ober Gabelhorn ridge was made in 1890 by L. Norman Neruda with Christian Klucker. On this and other early ascents the great gendarme on the ridge was not climbed direct but was avoided by a traverse on the North face of the mountain.

A query has been raised as to who was the first to make the ascent of the gendarme. There is no doubt that Sir Edward Davidson passed over the top of it on August 20, 1895² with Christian Klucker and Daniel Maquignaz. Of this expedition he wrote in his diary: 'Left Wellenkuppe at 9 A.M. and took one hour to get over the big gendarme which is marked on the Swiss Federal map. Reached foot of the rocks of Gabelhorn arête at 10.40 A.M. and Summit of Gabelhorn at 11.23 A.M.' (Davidson's party descended by the Arbengrat.)

Later in the diary, at the conclusion of his entry for August 20, he

¹ See also *A. J.* 55. 224.

² *A. J.* 25. 194.

wrote: '... on the big gendarme of the Wellenkuppe-Gabelhorn arête there was a piece of rope about 15 feet long hanging. It was English A.C. rope and must have been left there by some party ascending the gendarme.' In a note written three weeks later Davidson added: 'We afterwards found out that this piece of rope was left in 1894 by a party under the leadership of Daniel Maquignaz's brother Antoine. According to Daniel he was with an *Austrian* called Bois de Chene (*sic*). The party had ascended the Wellenkuppe and were on their way to ascend the Gabelhorn when bad weather came on, and they had to return from the other side of the gendarme. They fixed their rope to facilitate their *descent*.'

This looks as though the 1894 party was the first to reach the summit of the gendarme, but from the Gabelhorn side, and that Davidson and his party first made the more difficult ascent from the Wellenkuppe side. The 1894 party consisted of Albert Bois de Chesne with Antoine Maquignaz and a young Pelissier. Julius Kugy watched them from the summit of the Ober Gabelhorn³ but does not mention their having returned over the summit of the gendarme.

Among other early ascents may be mentioned those of Mr. G. Winthrop Young with Louis Theytaz in 1898⁴ and of Mr. E. A. Broome in 1903.

MATTERHORN.—The guide Cesare Maestri ascended the Matterhorn by himself on May 4–5, by the Italian ridge. This is said to be the first solitary ascent of this ridge since that of the late Sig. G. Gervasutti in December, 1936.⁵

A CANINE MOUNTAINEER.—Maccabeo, an Irish setter belonging to a Gressoney hotel proprietor, crossed the Col de Lys by himself in May last. He disappeared from his home one morning and the same evening was seen on the Garstelet glacier making for the pass. Several days later he was found exhausted at Zermatt by an Italian mountaineer who identified him by the owner's name on his collar.

Maccabeo is not, as has been suggested, the holder of the canine altitude record. Polici, a Tibetan mastiff, reached a height of at least 21,000 ft. on Kamet in 1931. More than one dog has ascended Mont Blanc, including Coolidge's 'Tschingel,' who also went up Monte Rosa and many other peaks.

AIR TRANSPORT IN THE ALPS.—Some notable helicopter flights were carried out by Swiss pilots in February last. A Hiller-type machine, piloted by S. Bauer, carried ninety passengers and nearly seven tons of baggage between Brigue and Zermatt, making thirty-four landings in five days. A few days later the same machine flew from Brigue to the Simplon Pass, where a passenger was landed, in twelve minutes. On March 3 and 4, Jean Daboz, piloting a small French machine, a Djinn,

³ *Alpine Pilgrimage*, p. 260.

⁴ This was not the first ascent, as is sometimes thought.

⁵ See *A. J.* 49. 126.

made numerous landings with passengers on the Jungfrauoch and even effected a landing on the summit of the Mönch, while on June 6 a helicopter piloted by M. Jean Moine landed on the summit of Mont Blanc. It is evident that the helicopter can play a useful part in the transport of victims of mountaineering accidents and many will feel that its use in the high Alps should be limited to this purpose.

Herr Geiger with his small Piper aircraft carried out a noteworthy rescue in April, when three skiers were injured as a result of a fall on the Zermatt Breithorn. Taking off from Sion he landed near the injured men, one of whom, with minor injuries, was conveyed to the Théodule Pass. Twenty minutes later Herr Geiger picked up the other two members of the party, who were more seriously injured, and flew them back to Sion. Within two hours of the accident they were under treatment in Sion hospital. Herr Geiger effected several other rescues during the course of the summer.

THE MOUNTAINEER AND THE LAW.—At Whitsuntide last year a married couple of Zollikon set out to cross the Kammlilücke in bad weather and lost their way. The husband's cries for help were heard at the Planura hut, but when the rescue party was within 300 yards of the climbers, the couple moved on, and after wandering for some time decided to bivouac. Next morning the husband went to the Clariden hut for help; the second rescue party was misled by his inaccurate directions and by the time it reached the bivouac the wife was dead. The couple had no rope, no extra clothing, and little food, and the bivouac is said to have been poorly constructed. The husband, stated to be an excellent climber, was subsequently tried and found guilty of manslaughter. He was sentenced to a year's imprisonment. This is stated to be the first case in Switzerland in which a climber has been sentenced for imprudence and neglect.⁶

R. M. STEPHENSON AND E. J. STEVENSON.—A note on these two pioneers may be of interest; they are not infrequently confused with each other in connection with the first ascent of the Dufourspitze on August 1, 1855.

Russell Maule Stephenson, born in 1846, was educated at King's College, London, and Trinity College, Cambridge. He was a member of the party that made the first ascent of the Lyskamm in 1861, being then little more than fifteen and a half years of age.⁷ A year previously he had been up Monte Rosa and in 1862, with C. H. Pilkington and C. S. Parker, made a variation on the usual route up the Jungfrau.

Stephenson was elected to the Alpine Club in March, 1863, but Mumm does not record any expeditions by him after that year. He subsequently went to Canada, resigned his membership in 1872, and died in April 1927.

⁶ For a comparable case in Germany, see *A. J.* 41. 423.

⁷ It would be interesting to know whether anyone younger has ever taken part in an important first ascent.

Edward John Walter Stevenson was born in 1832 and went up to Caius College, Cambridge, in 1851. It was here, doubtless, that he became acquainted with E. S. Kennedy (who entered the College as a Fellow Commoner in 1852, at the age of thirty-five). He joined Hudson's party in 1855 and with him, Birkbeck, and the brothers Smyth, made the first ascent of the Dufourspitze on August 1. A few days later he took part in the attempt to reach the summit of Mont Blanc from Courmayeur by the Col du Midi route, but when Hudson and his companions made the first ascent of Mont Blanc from St. Gervais on August 14 Stevenson was not well enough to go further than the night quarters in the 'cabane' at the foot of the Aiguille du Goûter.

He was never a member of the Alpine Club and there seems no record of his climbing after 1855. He was ordained in 1856 and spent the last forty-six years of his life at Stoke-in-Teignhead, Devon, first as curate and from 1879 until his death in 1912 as rector.

WILLIAM WINDHAM'S 'ICE-AXE.'—Shortly after William Windham, the elder (1717–61), returned from the Grand Tour, during which he visited Chamonix in the summer of 1741 as a member of the first British party to the Mer de Glace, his portrait was painted at Felbrigg Hall, Norwich, by John Shackleton. This picture was reproduced as an engraving of the head and shoulders only, and appears in Alpine anthologies dealing with the early history of Mont Blanc.

The most complete biography of Windham is to be found in R. W. Ketton-Cremer's *Early Life and Diaries of William Windham* (London, 1930), which includes a photographic copy of the entire full-length portrait. One finds (p. 37) the arresting statement: 'Shackleton painted his portrait in a fantastic uniform worthy of one of Baron Trenck's Pandours; although, as he is grasping an ice-axe (presumably symbolical of his feats on the Mer de Glace), this disguise is not certain evidence of his service under the Queen of Hungary.'

In an attempt to elicit further information we wrote to Mr. Ketton-Cremer, pointing out that 1741 was an unusual date for an ice-axe, and that, even in Saussure's time such an aid was apt to resemble a Tower of London halberd, or, more commonly, a modified agricultural implement such as a mattock.

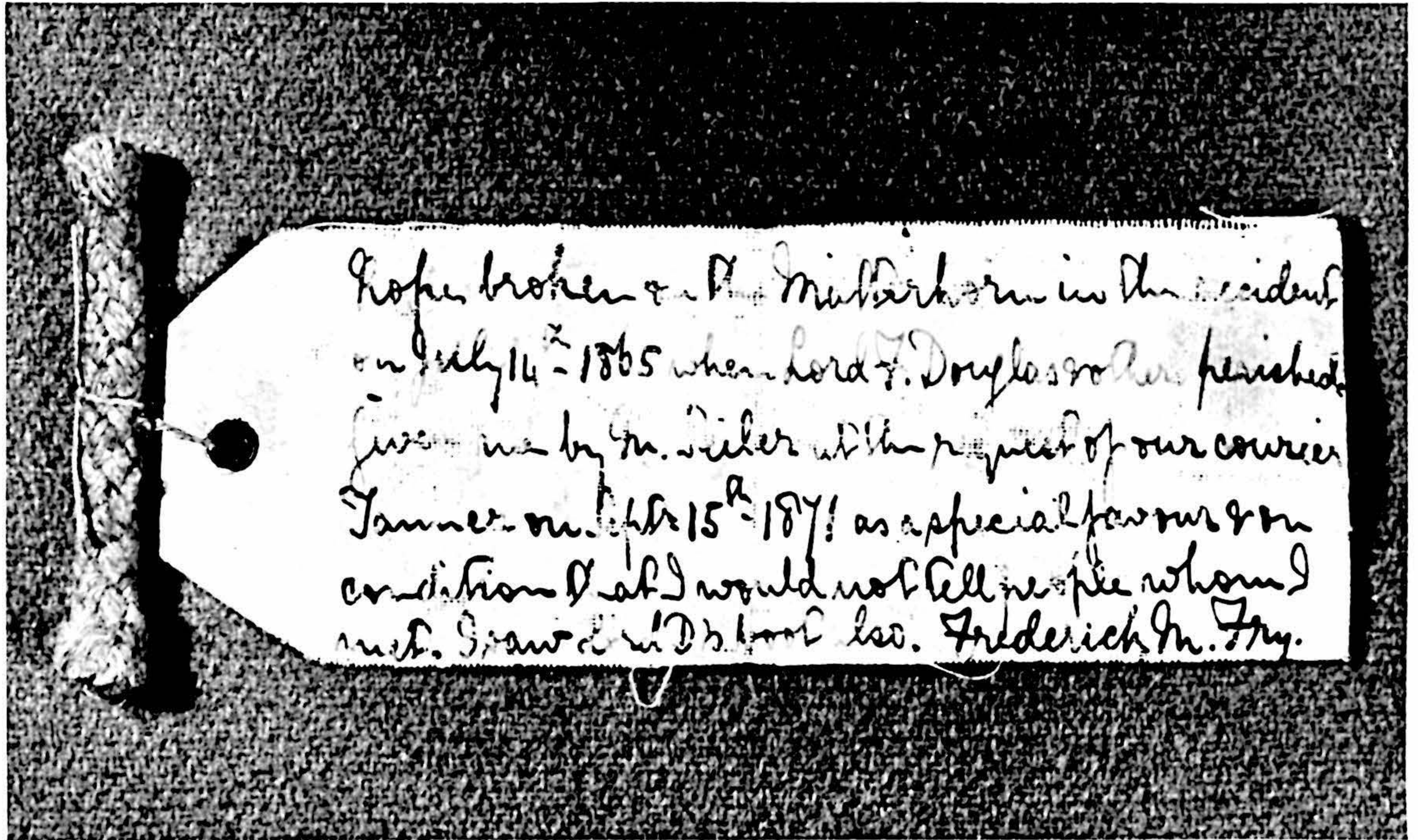
Mr. Ketton-Cremer, the present incumbent of Felbrigg Hall, kindly sent the following reply: 'Since I published the book to which you refer, in 1930, I have had the portrait cleaned; and the weapon has become much more distinguishable. I enclose a sketch of it. The head is of polished metal, and is quite distinct from the shaft, which is either of wood or of some contrasting and duller metal.'

'I hope the drawing is distinct enough for you to be able to judge whether the implement is an ice-axe or some form of halberd. It does not closely resemble the forms of halberd which I have seen; but the uniform is an outlandish Hungarian or Croatian affair, and the weapon may have been equally unlike any conventional English weapon. I am no mountaineer, and would not know how closely it resembles the ice-axe



WILLIAM WINDHAM'S 'ICE-AXE.'

[To face p. 380.]



ROPE BROKEN ON THE MATTERHORN, 1865.

used either then or today ; but with its abbreviated shaft and its spiked rather than cutting edge, it does not look a very effective weapon of offence for a cavalryman.'

Judging from the proportions of the figure, the shaft of the implement did not exceed 3 ft. in length, which would be shorter than the early axes shown in old prints of that time. While the answer is still in doubt, even with due allowance for artistic licence, it seems unlikely that the portrait figure is holding an early Chamonix ice-axe.*

J. MONROE THORINGTON.

A RELIC OF THE MATTERHORN.—We are indebted to Mr. G. E. Hale, of Saunderton Lea, Bucks., for the photograph of a piece of the rope broken in the Matterhorn accident of July 14, 1865.⁸ This fragment of rope, with the label attached, was found in a small vase bought from a dealer in Princes Risborough in March, 1951 ; the buyer's son told Mr. Gale how he discovered it, wrapped in tissue paper, inside the vase.

The statement by Mr. Frederick M. Fry, to whom the piece of rope was given by Herr Seiler, that he also saw Lord Francis Douglas's boot (now in the Zermatt museum) is of interest. Whymper wrote⁹ that the only trace ever found of Douglas was a sleeve of his jacket. Charles Gos, however, states¹⁰ that three articles of Douglas's equipment were found near the bodies of the other victims, a pair of gloves, a belt, and a boot.

We believe that Studer is alone in asserting that a few years after the accident Douglas's body was found hanging on the rocks and was brought down with much difficulty and danger.¹¹

AIGUILLE DU GRÉPON : *Pointe Balfour*.—The first recorded ascent of this point was that of F. M. and G. W. Balfour with Johann Petrus and Peter Knubel on July 19, 1881,¹² and it is surprising now to learn that there may have been an earlier ascent.

Mummery, writing to Coolidge on October 8, 1881,¹³ states that the point gained by the Balfours was 'apparently the same as that reached by Mr. Whitwell in 1875.'

Until 1892, when M. Louis Kurz published his *Climbers' Guide* to the Chain of Mont Blanc, the Grépon and the Charmoz were classified as one and called the 'Charmoz.' If Whitwell made an attempt on the Grépon and reached the summit of Pointe Balfour, it is, indeed, unfortunate that there is no account available of the expedition. Mumm does not record it and we must assume that it was one of the 'numerous attempts' referred to in *A. J.* 10. 399.

* Some will recognise this as the first 'marteau-piolet.'—EDITOR.

⁸ For another photograph see *Scrambles*, 1st ed., p. 398.

⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 404.

¹⁰ *Alpine Tragedy*, p. 34.

¹¹ *Ueber Eis und Schnee*, 1870, vol. ii, p. 97. The statement, of course, is incorrect, and was not repeated in the second edition.

¹² See *A. J.* 10. 397 and 39. 251-2.

¹³ See *A. J.* 60. 125-7.

When making the first ascent of the Aiguille de Blaitière in 1874, Whitwell remarked to Christian Lauener 'how easy of access the Charmoz looked,'¹⁴ and, so thinking, he may have made an attempt in the course of the following summer.

Can any reader provide information about Whitwell's 1875 expedition?

NEW ZEALAND.—A regrettable accident took place on Mount Cook in January, resulting in the deaths of Mr. John Hammond, Mr. J. E. Young, and Mr. J. J. Vidulich. The party left the Empress Hut on the west (Hooker) side of Mount Cook at 3 A.M. on Saturday, January 22, intending to make the ascent by the west ridge of the Low Peak, the only one of the three routes from the Hooker Valley which was in good condition at the time.

As they had not returned by Monday afternoon search parties were sent out and covered the whole area, but without success. Unfortunately, the weather was so bad that aircraft could not assist.

The last steps cut by the party were found in a patch of frozen snow at about 10,000 ft. half-way up a steep triangular rock-face. It seems almost certain that a slip took place on the ice-covered rocks, though it is possible that a rock fall caused the disaster; this, however, is not considered likely in view of the early hour, 7 A.M., at which the party is estimated to have reached the spot.

The three victims were experienced mountaineers, and the ascent was well within their powers. Both Mr. Hammond and Mr. Young were former members of the Cambridge University Mountaineering Club.

RONALD LADKIN.—The Mountain Club of Uganda has suffered a grave loss in the death of Ronald Ladkin, an ex-President, and Chief Medical Officer of the Protectorate.

He was not a member of the Alpine Club, but his early and sudden death from poliomyelitis should be recorded in memory of his great achievements in the Ruwenzori. With Bere and others he participated in several expeditions and in particular helped to clear up the complicated topography of the Portal Peaks. He also made several first ascents.

He will be remembered with gratitude above all because of his generous work in establishing in the range the chain of huts that are so invaluable to climbers. A memorial to him is to be placed on the Kitandara hut.

He had achieved his prominent professional position at an early age and his skill and organising ability will be sadly missed in Uganda.

D. L. BUSK.

SKYE.—At least ten members of the Alpine Club were in Skye at Whitsun 1955, and enjoyed faultless weather, with scarcely a cloud in the sky for ten days.

On June 1 six of them traversed the main Cuillin ridge. One was

¹⁴ *A.J.* 7. 423.

with a Yorkshire Ramblers' party whose meet was camping below Curuisk; the other party, which included Lady Hunt and three members of the A.C. Committee, took only 7 hours 35 minutes on the move from Garsbheinn to Gillean. The day was too brilliant for haste, and they spent nearly four hours in all for halts. They were met and fortified on the way, on top of Bruach na Frithe, by three less meteoric members of the Club loaded with refreshment. This is the third time the present Honorary Secretary has made the traverse. His predecessor, who was in the support party, was content to have done it in 1924.

CORDILLERA BLANCA (see *A. J.* 60. 176).—More information has now been received of the American expedition referred to in our last number.

In addition to the summits mentioned, both peaks of Huascarán were climbed. Members of the party also made the second ascent of the highest peak of Huandoy¹⁵ and the first ascent of the West peak, until then the highest unclimbed summit in Peru. Mr. J. C. Oberlin kindly informs us that Pisco had been climbed twice previously and that the height of Tschopi Kalki is now accepted as being almost exactly 21,000 ft. He also states that the first ascent of Nevado de Santa Cruz was made by a Swiss party, and not by an Austrian party as he inadvertently stated in *A. J.* 60. 73.

PAMIRS.—The Pic de la Révolution, 22,918 ft., one of the highest summits of the Pamirs, was climbed for the first time by a party of Russian mountaineers in August, 1954.

THE ARGENTINE DHAULAGIRI EXPEDITION, 1954.—As very briefly reported in *A. J.* 59. 462, this first South American expedition to the Himalayas attempted Dhaulagiri in 1954, and established a height record of 8,000 m. on the mountain, which at the time of writing still stands (it has recently been reported that the 1955 German-Swiss expedition was turned back at about 7,200 m. before reaching the West ridge). The following summary of the Argentine attempt is based on the account by D. Bertoneelj in *Anuario del Club Andino Bariloche*, 1955, No. 23.

The leader of the expedition, which enjoyed the full patronage and support of the Argentine Government, was Lieut. F. Ibañez, whose notable Andean mountaineering record included his participation as liaison officer in the French FitzRoy expedition of 1952. The other climbing members were A. Magnani, G. Watzl, D. Bertoneelj, F. Grajales, R. Busquet, and F. Godoy. The approach march with 15 tons of equipment and 400 coolies was made by the same route as the Swiss, the pattern of whose first five high-altitude camps was also closely followed.

The Swiss had emphasised the lack of any suitable camp site on the

¹⁵ The first ascent, was made by Herren Hein and Schneider in September 1932, and proved 'quite remarkably difficult and dangerous.' See *A. J.* 45. 42.

steep rocks of the 'Pear,' a state of affairs which the Argentines remedied by dynamiting a small level ledge at 7,000 m. for their Camp VI; this took their explosives expert, Sergeant Godoy, the best part of three days! From Camp VI an assault party of four climbers and five Sherpas established Camp VII at 7,500 m. just below the West ridge. On June 1, Watzl, Magnani, and two Sherpas, on reaching the latter, found to their surprise that the way was barred by an impossible series of rock towers which had to be turned with much difficulty on dangerous ledges. The ridge was regained at 5 P.M. at about 8,000 m., and here the party, without tents or sleeping-bags, spent the night in a snow hollow. The next morning it was snowing, and although the way to the summit 170 m. above was clear, they wisely turned back, as in their weakened condition, without food or shelter, they would never have succeeded in re-negotiating the dangerous traverses below the arête. As it was, they only reached Camp VII at 9 P.M. on June 2, where they found Ibañez, who had remained in support, already badly frostbitten. With great difficulty he was got down to base by his companions, most of whom were also seriously affected, but his condition, aggravated by a temporal abscess and the trying conditions of the return journey in monsoon conditions, grew steadily worse, and he died in hospital at Khatmandu on June 30.

Despite its tragic aftermath, the Argentine achievement in reconnoitring the final unknown portion of the West ridge of Dhaulagiri and reaching the highest point yet attained on the mountain, is a fine one for a party without previous Himalayan experience, and the ultimately successful expedition will undoubtedly owe much to their efforts.

T. CROMBIE.

RUWENZORI (see *A. J.* 60. 105).—Mr. D. L. Busk points out that in the illustration in *A. J.* 60, opposite p. 106, he has incorrectly indicated the position of the bivouac on the . . . (German) route. The bivouac should be marked at the right where the other line of dots begins.¹⁶

A misprint occurs in *A. J.* 60. 106, footnote 1, where '19,500' should read '14,500.'

CHOMO-LÖNZO.—*La Montagne et Alpinisme* reports that this peak, c. 25,600 ft., was climbed for the first time by the French Makalu Reconnaissance Expedition last autumn.

LHO LA.—*Die Alpen* reports that this has been reached from the south for the first time by Ernst Senn, of the International Expedition to Lhotse, accompanied by the porter Pemba.†

¹⁶ See *A. J.* 59, Plate 1, opposite p. 408.

† *Die Alpen* refers to the pass as the 'Khumbu La.' We feel bound to protest against the continued attempt to substitute this name for the well-established Lho La, which has been in use for more than thirty years.

The matter has been dealt with at some length by Professor N. E. Odell in

HIMALAYAS, 1955.—The outstanding achievements of the year were the first ascents of Kangchenjunga and Makalu. Seven of the ten highest mountains in the world have now been climbed.

A tragic misfortune overtook the party of Kenya mountaineers attempting Himal Chuli. Mr. Arthur Firmin, one of the joint leaders, broke his thigh in a fall on the mountain on May 16 and died before he could be brought back to Pokhara. The expedition had already been abandoned because of bad weather.

The Merseyside Himalayan Expedition, led by Mr. Alfred Gregory, climbed two peaks south of the Rowaling and in April went up the Tolam Bau Glacier where a plane table survey was made and eight more peaks were climbed. The party also visited and mapped the Menlung Valley. Mr. Gregory's opinion of the possibilities of ascending Menlungtse or Gauri Sankar agrees with that of Raymond Lambert.¹⁷ Later, the party crossed a pass leading from the Ripimu Valley to the Menlung Valley. In all, nineteen peaks were climbed.

The R.A.F. Mountaineering Association's expedition led by Group Captain A. J. M. Smyth was troubled by abnormally late snow and had to abandon operations in the Kulti-Spiti-Lahul district. On June 8, however, two adjacent peaks of 19,000 and 19,500 ft. in the Kulti valley were climbed, probably for the first time.

The New Zealand attempt on Masherbrum was seriously delayed during May by illness among the porters, one of whom died from pneumonia, and by heavy snowfalls, with the result that the party was caught by the monsoon at over 23,000 ft. and compelled to withdraw.

The Scottish Women's Expedition, under the lead of Mrs. Monica Jackson explored the Jugal Himal. Mrs. Jackson and one of her companions reached the summit of an unnamed 22,000-ft. peak.

After an unsuccessful attempt on June 28, the second ascent of Kamet (25,447 ft.) was made by members of an Indian expedition on July 6. On the same day others of the party, including Mr. Gurdial Singh, made the third ascent of Abi Gamin (24,130 ft.). The weather was fine and both parties could see each other's progress all the way.

A party led by Raymond Lambert and Canon Detry visited the Langtang Himal, and, on May 14, Lambert, accompanied by four Sherpas, reached the summit of the White Dome (c. 22,000 ft.).

The German-Swiss attempt on Dhaulagiri had no more success than the two previous expeditions. According to Press reports the failure was attributed to the extreme cold, strong winds, and heavy snowfall.

Members of a German expedition to Nepal made the first ascents of Annapurna IV (24,688 ft.) on May 30, and of Kang Guru (23,229 ft.) on July 3. The Frankfurt-am-Main Section of the D.A.V. sent a party to the Chogolungma Glacier in the Karakorums. Three members of this

A. J. 60. 132, and we are in agreement with all that he has written. We would venture the opinion that the col will always be known to British mountaineers as the Lho La. If only as a tribute to the pioneers who first reached it, and so named it, we consider that **Lho La** should be retained.—EDITOR.

¹⁷ *A. J.* 60. 176.

expedition, Herren Sander (the leader), Tietze and Diepen made the first ascent of Pyramid Peak on July 5. Their aneroid indicated a height of 23,164 ft.¹⁸

PERSONAL.—M. Bernard Pierre has been awarded the Grand Prix Littéraire de la Montagne for his book on Nun-Kun. An English translation is being prepared.

GIFT TO THE ALPINE CLUB.—We have to thank Mr. E. V. Townshend for the gift of a complete set of *A. J.* to date, this set to be for the use of the Editor. Future editors, as well as the present incumbent, will have much cause to be grateful to Mr. Townshend.

¹⁸ Pyramid Peak appears to be the highest point of the ridge named by Conway 'Golden Parri' or 'Ghenish Chish,' beyond the head of the Chogolungma glacier in his Karakorum map (1892). The same point is named Yengutz Har (23,056 ft.) on P. G. Mott's map of the explorations of the Shipton 1939 expedition. (*G. J.* (1950), Vol. 116, p. 89.)

The only previous attempt on Pyramid Peak was made by Dr. Bullock Workman (with Joseph Petigax and Cyprien Savoie) in 1903. He claimed to have reached a height of 23,394 ft. (*A. J.* 22. 504) before turning back. It seems that Dr. Bullock Workman overestimated the height of the mountain.