

## ALPINE NOTES

(Compiled by D. F. O. Dangar)

	Year of Election
THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :	
Gillett, W. Alan . . . . .	1909
Pigou, A. C. . . . .	1913
Culforth, A. E. . . . .	1916
Wood, Joseph, Jnr. . . . .	1924
Hardy, H. H. . . . .	1928
Hodgkinson, D. A. (resigned 1942, re-elected 1947) . . . . .	1936
Courtauld, A. . . . .	1947
Travis, G. L. . . . .	1948

HONOURS.—We congratulate Captain M. E. B. Banks on the award of the M.B.E. in the New Year's Honours List.

R. W. LLOYD.—An exhibition was held at the British Museum in February last of a selection of the Turner paintings and coloured Swiss prints, Japanese ceremonial swords and Chinese lacquer-work, bequeathed to the nation by the late Mr. R. W. Lloyd.

SCHWEIZER ALPEN CLUB.—Mr. E. Gordon Spencer represented the Alpine Club at the *Fête centrale* at Basel on November 15–16, 1958, and in a short speech conveyed the Club's good wishes to the S.A.C.

Dr. Georg Calonder has succeeded Dr. Robert Wenck as President on the expiry of the latter's term of office.

ÖSTERREICHISCHER ALPENKLUB.—The O.A.K. celebrated its eightieth birthday last year, having been founded at Vienna on December 5, 1878. We extend our congratulations and best wishes. It has a membership of about 600, the small number being due to the fact that, unlike many of the Continental alpine clubs, it requires a qualification list of climbs from intending members.

SWISS GLACIERS.—The Swiss *Commission des Glaciers* in its report for 1956–7 reveals that the great majority (85 per cent) of the eighty-eight glaciers under observation were in retreat; 3 per cent were stationary, and 12 per cent were in growth.

The Grosser Aletsch retreated by nearly 80 ft. and both the Grimsel and the Oberaar by more than 100 ft. In the Bernina Alps the Morteratsch, Roseg, and Tschierva have all retreated by more than 100 ft.

The Allalin was the most important glacier to be in growth and advanced by more than 50 ft. Two photographs in *Les Alpes*, however (1958 ; No. 3), one taken in 1916 and the other in 1955, show clearly how much it has shrunk in recent years.

ACCIDENTS.—The annual summary in *Les Alpes* records that in the summer of 1957 there were fifty-three accidents in the Swiss Alps resulting in seventy-five deaths ; of these, twenty-two accidents and forty-one deaths occurred in the High Alps.

On June 29 nine Italians were killed through the breaking of a cornice on Piz Palü, one of the worst disasters in the Alps since 1870, when eleven people perished on a storm on Mont Blanc.

CIMA GRANDE DI LAVAREDO.—The first ascent of the North face was made in 1933 by Emilio Comici and Angelo and Joseph Dimai by a route which kept to the right-hand section of the 1,900 ft. high wall.<sup>1</sup>

A *via direttissima*, in the centre of the wall, was made by an Austro-German party on July 6–10 last year, after preparatory work on 600 ft. of the face had been carried out during the previous year. About 200 pitons were employed but reports that a battery-driven drill was used are understood to be incorrect.

Four other parties, including the distinguished French pair René Desmaison and the late Jean Couzy, had repeated the ascent before the end of the season.

EIGERWAND.—As briefly mentioned in the November issue, the Eigerwand was climbed last summer by the Austrians Kurt Diemberger and Wolfgang Stefan.<sup>2</sup>

This was the first ascent since 1953 ; seventeen lives have been lost in the course of the numerous unsuccessful attempts.

The publicity that surrounds the participants is an unpleasant feature of any attempt on the Eigerwand. In the case of Diemberger's ascent various accusations were made against both the climbers in some of the Continental papers, and in certain mountaineering periodicals, of such a nature that both Diemberger and Stefan considered it necessary to publish statements refuting the charges. The Österreichischer Alpenklub did likewise.

A few days before this ascent the face was attempted by an Austro-German party, one of whom had his right hand badly cut by a falling

<sup>1</sup> *A. J.* 45. 373.

<sup>2</sup> About a week later the same pair climbed the North face of the Grandes Jorasses (Pointe Walker). They ascended the North face of the Matterhorn together in 1956. Diemberger was a member of the party which made the first ascent of Broad Peak and was Hermann Buhl's companion on the ill-fated attempt on Chogolisa.

stone. They managed to effect the descent without outside assistance. The guide Werner Stäger, one of a rescue party which was standing by in case its services were needed, records that a photographer, cinematographers and a representative of a foreign broadcasting company with a tape recorder were waiting to assail the climbers as soon as they had completed the descent.

The Eigerwand has now been climbed more than a dozen times and further ascents cannot have the news value of the early successes. Many will consider that, whatever the rights and wrongs of the case, sensation-seeking press and radio reporters were mainly responsible for the unhappy polemics of last summer.

*Berge der Welt.*—The Swiss Stiftung announces that Herr Hans Richard Müller has been appointed to succeed the late Othmar Gurtner as Editor.

*Himalayan Journal.*—The Editor has for disposal the following volumes of the *Himalayan Journal*, all in good condition :

Year 1929 ; years 1931 to 1937 inclusive.

The donor wishes these volumes to be sold to the highest bidder and the proceeds to go to the Mission to Lepers. Would those interested please write to the Editor and state the amounts which they are prepared to give. The latest date for application is July 1. Immediately after that date the Editor will notify the highest bidder and on receipt of his cheque, made out to the Alpine Club, will despatch the volumes to him.

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL.—At Trento in Italy during October, 1958, the Seventh International Film Festival for Mountaineering and Exploration was held and this year the organisers chose to honour Sir Vivian Fuchs, Sir Edmund Hillary, and Walt Disney.

The Festival, which lasts a week, performs a double purpose ; the first is to show films, which start in the morning and run with only breaks for meals until midnight ; the second is to act as a reunion for mountaineers from many countries. This year saw an almost complete gathering of those—some forty people—who had climbed the North faces of the Eiger and the Grandes Jorasses.

The greater number of films submitted were from Italy, Germany, Switzerland, France and Japan. Only one film from Great Britain was entered and this was about sailing. The films which won the prizes were professionally-made travelogues not altogether to do with mountaineering or exploration. Even so, the French and Swiss have made some superb short films on climbing technique which might well be shown at the Alpine Club.

GEORGE LOWE.

**HIMALAYAN EQUIPMENT.**—An exhibition of Himalayan equipment was organised at Trent in October, 1958, in connection with the Seventh International Festival of Films concerned with mountaineering and exploration. Equipment displayed included that used by the Austrians (Gasherbrum II, 1956), the French (Makalu, 1955), the Germans (Kangchenjunga, 1929, Karakorum, 1954), the Japanese (Manaslu, 1956), and the Swiss (various Himalayan parties). The Italians staged a large exhibit of items used on many expeditions, including those of the Duke of the Abruzzi to Alaska, the Ruwenzori and the Karakoram ; of Vittorio Sella to the Caucasus ; Gasherbrum IV, 1958 ; K2, 1954 ; and others to Ala Dag, the Elburz and the Andes.

The British contribution, organised by Sir John Hunt, included items from Everest, 1922, 1924, 1933, 1953 ; Kangchenjunga, 1955 ; Muztagh Tower, 1956 ; Haramosh, 1957 ; Machapuchare, 1957 ; Rakaposhi, 1958 ; Andes, 1956 and 1957 ; and Caucasus, 1958.

The most venerable items were in the Italian exhibit relating to the expeditions of Vittorio Sella and the Duke of the Abruzzi in the '80s and '90s of the last century. The oldest British exhibit was a pair of gloves worn by Professor Finch when he established an altitude record on Everest in 1922, followed by Professor Odell's windproofs from Everest in 1924, when he twice surpassed 27,000 ft., and the Willisch axe found in 1933, which probably belonged to Mallory. From more recent expeditions were oxygen apparatus, tents, boots, home-made pitons from the Pumasillo expedition, sleeping bags, torches, mitts, etc.

**DOLOMITES.**—A monument in honour of the French geologist Déodat de Gratet, Marquis de Dolomieu (1750–1801), after whom the Dolomites received their name, was unveiled at Cortina last year.

Théodore, son of the great H. B. de Saussure, suggested the name 'dolomie' or 'dolomite' for a rock, a specimen of which Dolomieu had sent him for examination, but Gilbert and Churchill, joint authors of *The Dolomite Mountains*, are mainly responsible for the adoption of the word in this country as the designation of the mountain region now known as the Dolomites.

Dolomieu himself, it may be added, on being asked by Théodore de Saussure what he proposed to call his rock replied that he would have liked to name it after de Saussure had its discovery been of sufficient importance.

The word 'Dolomite' is said to have first appeared in print in a pamphlet published in 1802, describing a journey of Dolomieu and a Danish friend in the St. Gotthard and Simplon districts.

**AIGUILLE DU GÉANT.**—The statue of the Madonna, which had stood on the summit for more than fifty years, was blown from its position

in a storm last year and is believed to have been buried in the snow at the foot of the North face.

ANDES.—In the course of last summer three Italian expeditions visited the Andes where, favoured by good weather, they made many interesting ascents.

A seven-man expedition under the leadership of G. Frigieri, organised by the Milan section of the C.A.I., went to the Cordillera di Apolobamba and climbed eighteen peaks, some virgin, including Riti-pata (18,045 ft.), Ananea (19,166 ft.), Calijon (19,107 ft.), Chaupi Orco (19,830 ft.), Ichocolo (18,865 ft.), Palomani Cunca (19,292 ft.), and Palomani Grande (19,423 ft.). Eleven other first ascents were made and the peaks named by the expedition.

The Como section of the C.A.I. organised a party led by L. Binaghi which worked in the massifs of Veronica, Yukay and Chicon. This group made eleven first ascents and assigned names to all the peaks climbed.<sup>3</sup>

The third Italian expedition, led by P. Fornelli and organised by the Gruppo Occidentale del Club Alpino Accademico Italiano, went to the Cordillera Blanca and made four new ascents including that of a peak in the Ranrapalca group.<sup>4</sup>

All three expeditions carried out topographical and survey work.

ANDINE 'FIRST' ASCENTS.—With the increase of expeditionary activity in the Andes a rather peculiar situation seems to be arising in that what are claimed to be first ascents, on examination prove to be incorrect; such are the cases of Ranrapalca and Pucaranra in the Cordillera Blanca of Peru, and of Palomani and Chaupi Orco in the Cordillera Apolobamba between Peru and Bolivia.

Ranrapalca was claimed as a first ascent by the members of an Italian party who reached its top last summer; however, it must be remembered that the Austrians W. Brecht, S. Rohrer, K. Schmid and S. Schweitzer had ascended it in 1939.<sup>5</sup>

Pucaranra (20,168 ft.) was also claimed as a first ascent by the Lambert expedition of 1957.<sup>6</sup> Actually they made the third ascent,

<sup>3</sup> We presume that these names will be subject to approval by the Peruvian authorities. It is traditional to deprecate the naming of mountains after personalities, however distinguished, but there has been no consistency, even in the United Kingdom. 'Welsh' climbers deplore the use of personal names for climbs in the Lakes, forgetting Mallory's Slab, Longland's, Pigott's, etc.

<sup>4</sup> This ascent was erroneously reported in several mountaineering journals as being the first ascent of Ranrapalca.

<sup>5</sup> *Die Alpen*, 1948, pp. 180, 238. K. Schmid: *Eisgipfel unter Tropensonne*.

<sup>6</sup> See *La Montagne*, June 1958, p. 234, where Madame Claude Kogan rectifies the mistake.

the first having been made by the Swiss B. Lauterburgh, F. Marmillod, S. Schmid and F. Sigrist on July 5, 1948,<sup>7</sup> and the second by the Peruvians M. Guimaray, V. Lopez and C. Sanchez on July 23, 1955: the Peruvians seem to have left no written record of their expedition.

As for the Apolobamba peaks, both Palomani and Chaupi Orco were believed to be first ascents by the members of the 1958 Milan expedition led by Sig. G. Frigieri, but, as in the case of Ranrapalca both were second ascents. Palomani was climbed by a Bolivian army captain before 1932<sup>8</sup>; Chaupi Orco was ascended on August 1, 1957, by the Germans W. Karl, H. Richter and H. Wirmer.<sup>9</sup>

Members of prospective expeditions to the Andes are urged to make inquiries during the planning period regarding previous climbs in the area to be visited and to continue these inquiries once their destination is reached, as local mountaineering activity has increased noticeably in Peru and other Andean countries.

EVELIO A. ECHEVARRIA.

GREENLAND.—A small Franco-Swiss expedition visited the West coast last summer, going by air from Geneva *via* Copenhagen to Søndreströmfiord and thence by whaler to Sukkertoppen, the principal base.

From there the party went to Ikamiut fiord and Agpamiut fiord, from both of which several first ascents were made of peaks from 1,200–1,700 m. in height. The climbs in this district were rock climbs comparable with those among the Chamonix aiguilles.

After returning to Sukkertoppen for a few days in the middle of August a fishing boat took the party to Evigheds fiord and further expeditions were made in this district including the first ascent of Pt. 2140, the culminating point of the massif to the south of the fiord. The climbs here resembled those of the Valaisan Alps.

During a stay of a little less than six weeks in Greenland, ten first ascents were made. Owing to the low level of the camps, about 10 m. above sea level, these involved expeditions of fifteen to twenty hours' duration and climbs of 1,500–2,000 m.

The weather, with only three wet days, was good, as was the health of the party, apart from the consequences of three minor mishaps. The myriads of mosquitoes, on the other hand, were a real nuisance and the members of the expedition suffered much from their virulent attacks.

The Staunings Range in North-east Greenland was visited in July–August by the nine members of the Scottish East Greenland Expedition, who arrived by air at Mestersvig on July 10. At first, operations

<sup>7</sup> *Alpinisme*, Sept. 1949, pp. 239, 242.

<sup>8</sup> *Die Alpen*, 1932, pp. 130–6.

<sup>9</sup> *A.A.J.*, 1957–8, p. 102.

were limited to the eastern side of the range, where exploration of the Baersarker and Kismul glaciers was carried out and the ascent of five virgin peaks made. When the fiord ice broke up near the end of July, the party moved to the head of Alpe fiord, a long arm cutting off Nathorst Land from Scoresby Land. From a base here the expedition explored the Sefstrom and Sporre glaciers, climbing in all eighteen peaks. The range was crossed in a north-south direction for the first time, enabling two parties to visit the northerly Eskimo settlement of Syd Kap. The speed and ablation of the Sefstrom glacier were measured, and the heights of peaks in the Sefstrom area surveyed.

On evacuation at the end of August, one party succeeded in traversing the range in a west-east direction *via* the Gully and Baersarker glaciers, making the first crossing of the highest pass in the range, the Col Major.

JEAN COUZY.—We record with deep regret the death of this distinguished French mountaineer, who was killed on November 3 by a falling stone whilst climbing the South-west face of the Crête des Bergers.

Couzy was born on July 9, 1923, and when still a boy made his earliest expeditions in the Pyrenees. In 1947 he made the third ascent of the North face of the Dent du Requin, and every season thereafter he was in the Alps or the Dolomites, achieving a large number of the most difficult ascents.

In 1950 he paid his first visit to the Himalayas as a member of the successful Annapurna expedition, and with Schatz and Oudot discovered the best approach to the mountain by way of the Miristi Khola.

In the three Alpine seasons that elapsed before his next Himalayan expedition he made, amongst others, the ascents of Piz Badile by the North-east face and of the Grandes Jorasses by the North face (Pointe Walker), new routes on the Aiguille de l'M and Les Droites, the first winter ascent of the South face of the Pavé, and several of the most arduous Dolomite climbs.

Couzy was invited to join the Makalu reconnaissance expedition of October, 1954. The fact that this reconnaissance was completely successful in that it found the route for next year's first ascent was not enough for him; across the frontier lay the unclimbed Chomo Lönzo, 25,640 ft., and with Lionel Terray he reached the summit on October 30.<sup>10</sup> Seldom, if ever, has a great Himalayan peak been conquered so quickly—or with so little publicity.

The following year he and Terray stood together upon the summit of Makalu and in the Alps he repeated Welzenbach's route on the North face of the Nesthorn.

<sup>10</sup> *The Mountain World*, 1956-7, p. 130.

His greatest triumphs came in the years that followed and his name will be associated with some of the most difficult climbs of the Alps, such as the North arête of the Aiguille Noire de Peuterey and the direct ascent of the North-west face of L'Olan. Both these he accomplished with his friend René Desmaison and with him, last summer, he made the first ascent from the North of the Punta Margherita of the Grandes Jorasses.

A man of most modest disposition, Couzy, in spite of his great achievements, was but a name to the general public in France. Mountaineering was to him a vocation and to it he gave of his best. No detail about a climb, whether technical, historical or geographical, was too small for his attention. He learned Italian, and re-learned German in order to read and understand guide-books in those languages.

With Jean Couzy has passed one of the greatest of the generation of post-war French climbers and his death is a loss, not only to France but to mountaineering throughout the world. He lies buried in the little cemetery of Montmaur, in the department of the Hautes Alpes, near to the scene of his last climb.

H. H. SYMONDS.—Though not a member of the Alpine Club the Rev. Henry Herbert Symonds, who died on December 28 last, at the age of seventy-three, deserves a brief tribute in these notes.

By profession Symonds was a schoolmaster. Retiring on his fiftieth birthday, he went to live in the Lake District and for the rest of his life strove ceaselessly to preserve the beauty of rural England; seldom can the countryside have had a more valiant champion. Lovers of the Lake District in particular and all who enjoy our National Parks owe him an immeasurable debt. He opposed relentlessly the erection of a nuclear power station in the heart of Snowdonia and even in his last illness was doing his best to prevent the erection of a similar horror on the beautiful Lley Peninsula.

Symonds wrote one of the best guide books to the Lake District, *Walking in the Lake District*, and another of his books, *Afforestation in the Lake District*, did much to save the central dale-heads from afforestation.

Although Symonds did more than anyone else to bring about the creation of National Parks, and his knowledge on the subject was probably unrivalled, it was not until within about a year of his death that he was invited to become a member of the National Parks Commission.

OTHMAR GURTNER.—Othmar Gurtner, director of the Swiss Foundation for Alpine Research, died at Zürich on August 17, 1958. Born at Lauterbrunnen on December 2, 1895, Gurtner early became an expert

mountaineer and skier, made a name as a sporting journalist, and in the twenties was a convincing and influential champion of the British campaign for the recognition of Downhill and Slalom ski-racing. Ski races, in spite of the speed, are often dull to watch and usually even duller to read about. Gurtner could dramatise what was interesting and his astringent wit, sometimes faintly touched with innocent malice, often gave pain to serious-minded officials and organisers of races, whose defects he took a puckish delight in exposing. As a result *Sport* (Zürich), of which he was the ski-ing correspondent, was read with delight by the public and the select minority of ski officials whose more sensitive corns had not attracted his agile foot. Othmar was fortunate in his declining years to count on the unfailing support of generous friends and doubly fortunate to be appointed editor of *The Mountain World*. He had every qualification for the position, an authentic literary gift, critical acumen and a vast knowledge of the subject. I can testify from personal experience to his skill and tact as an editor, for he edited my *A Century of Mountaineering* for the Swiss Foundation for Alpine Research. He was a good friend and the most entertaining of companions.<sup>11</sup>

ARNOLD LUNN.

ALPINE PICTURES.—In a note on the Club's pictures I remarked that the Alps had not yet inspired great pictures.<sup>12</sup> At the time of writing the note I did not know that Oskar Kokoschka, an artist of very considerable stature, had painted Alpine scenes. I have now seen two of his Alpine pictures (included in the section of the Brussels Exhibition devoted to modern European art); they impressed me greatly—one of Chamonix and Mont Blanc in particular. It appears from H. M. Wingler's memoir of Kokoschka that this artist painted a number of Alpine subjects; it follows that at least one outstanding artist of the last half century was inspired by the Alps.

A. M. CARR-SAUNDERS.

CANADA.—Mr. H. R. R. Fedden writes: 'I thought it might be useful for members visiting Montreal to know that there is excellent but limited rock climbing in Quebec province—an area which one certainly does not associate with rock.'

'When I was recently in Montreal, John Brett, President of the Alpine Club of Canada, arranged some climbing for me. He would certainly do so for other members of the A.C. His address is 4180 Melrose Avenue, Montreal 28.'

<sup>11</sup> We are indebted to the Royal Geographical Society for permission to reprint the above from the *G.J.*, Dec. 1958.

<sup>12</sup> *A.J.* 63. 101.

' The climbing developed by the Montreal Section of the A.C.C. is in the Val David, about two hours north of Montreal. There are three groups of cliffs, Mont Cesaire, Mont Condor, Mount King. Granitic rock of superb quality ; the longest unbroken climbs were only about 400 ft., but the difficulty varied from Grade II to Grade VI. There are also some artificial climbs. The climbing was reminiscent of Wales, but the country, wonderful in its way, was of course very different ; hills between two and three thousand feet, covered mostly with birch and conifer forest, stretching—or so it seemed—to the North Pole ! '

CAUCASUS.—In addition to Sir John Hunt's expedition, French and Austrian parties visited the range last year. The French ascended Elbruz and were surprised to find on the top busts of Lenin and Stalin. In spite of unfavourable weather and fresh snow they also reached the summit of Ushba. M. Bernard Pierre mentions that acrobatic ascents, as performed by the modern expert on Grade VI sup. are not in favour in Russia ; he was struck by the complacency with which Soviet climbers regard the ' red tape ' which is so prominent a feature of even their mountaineering life.<sup>13</sup>

The Austrian party, evidently favoured by better weather, climbed eleven summits in all, among them Elbruz, Ushba (North summit), and Peak Shchurovsky (V+).

HÖRNLI HUT.—Erected in 1899 this hut, so familiar to all who have climbed the Matterhorn by the ordinary route, is in a sorry state and is likely to be enlarged. With this object in view discussions have been going on for some time between the Commune of Zermatt and the owners of the hut, the Monte Rosa section of the S.A.C. The Commune, as proprietors of the nearby Belvedere hotel are not in favour of too large a Hörnli hut ! We understand that if the proposed enlargement takes place the hut will have sleeping accommodation for thirty-seven people.

The Belvedere hotel is also to be enlarged to have a sleeping capacity of about one hundred and twenty.

An enlarged Hörnli hut is highly desirable in view of the growing number of those who wish each year to ascend the Matterhorn. On August 16 last no less than one hundred and fifty people are reported to have reached the summit. Another Matterhorn ' record '.

ZERMATT MUSEUM.—It will be recalled that the chalet in which the museum was housed had to be demolished owing to the building of a new Seiler hotel. The formal re-opening of the museum in a new

<sup>13</sup> *Der Bergsteiger*, Jan. 1959, contains an interesting account of the organisation of mountaineering in Russia.

building which had been completed a few yards to the south of the old chalet took place on August 23, 1958. Speeches were made, and toasts were drunk. About sixty people were present. The pictures, relics, and other articles are now well housed and attractively displayed. The building is in some respects more suitable than the original one.

The opening was followed by the Annual Dinner of the Alpine Vereinigung Zermatt, which took place in a Zermatt hotel. It was a much larger affair than usual. M. Egmond d'Arcis was in the chair and some thirty diners of both sexes were present. The guests included M. Petit-Pierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, representing the Federal Government, Dr. R. Wenck, President of the Swiss Alpine Club, Dr. Franz Seiler, M. H. Bernard Seiler, and two members of the Alpine Club, the Bishop of Leicester and Mr. T. A. H. Peacocke.

The table decorations were particularly attractive and the dinner and wine excellent. Formal speeches were made by M. d'Arcis, M. Petit-Pierre, and Dr. Franz Seiler. M. d'Arcis and M. Petit-Pierre both referred to the Italian proposal to build a railway to the summit of the Matterhorn and the latter gave an assurance that the Swiss Government would in no circumstances permit the scheme. In a final speech, Mr. Peacocke, on behalf of the Alpine Club, expressed appreciation that the museum with all its valuable and historic relics, had been safely housed in its new premises.

T. A. H. P.

A VENTURESOME MOUSE.—Much has been written in late years about mountaineering dogs and climbing cats and we may now record the feat of a mountaineering mouse. When the guide Alfred Couttet was descending Mont Blanc last September, a mouse crossed his path on the Grande Bosse, at a height of *c.* 14,800 ft. Probably the creature was a resident of the Grands Mulets or the Vallot hut but it had attained a height considerably in excess of that reached by any other alpine mouse whose doings have been recorded in this JOURNAL.<sup>14</sup>

ETHIOPIA.—We are indebted to Dr. Hugh Scott for a copy of his brochure, *Biogeographical Research in High Simien (Northern Ethiopia) 1952-53*, from the Proceedings of the Linnean Society of London, 1948. Like all Dr. Scott's work it is extremely thorough and while dealing primarily with his own scientific objectives, is an invaluable work of reference for anyone who wishes to visit the range. The photographs are excellent, and with its maps and very full bibliography it should be most useful to a mountaineer or to anyone else who may be contemplating further travel or scientific researches in these regions.

<sup>14</sup> See *A. J.* 57. 100, 257 ; 58. 272. The animal encountered by Couttet may in fact have been a snow vole.

We are also indebted to Mr. D. L. Busk for the gift of the volume of off-prints referred to in *A. J.* 61. 347, which has now been placed in the Club library.

ANTARCTICA.—Ascents were made of both Mount Erebus and Mount Terror in the early part of the year. The summit of Terror (10,148 ft.) was reached for the first time during the week commencing January 11 by a party of three, B. Alexander, J. Wilson and M. White. The ascent was made from Cape Crozier in two stages, with a second camp at *c.* 5,000 ft. One hour was spent on the top while Alexander took angles on prominent features of the Ross Island coast-line.

Another first ascent was that of Mount Discovery (9,090 ft.) at the head of McMurdo Sound. This was climbed on Christmas Eve by E. B. Fitzgerald, H. J. Harrington and J. Harrison.

Three members of the New Zealand Geological and Survey team reached the summit of Mount Erebus on January 4, having started the climb from near Windless Bight on December 30. They were followed on January 6 by a two-man American party.

There is, unfortunately, only a passing reference in this JOURNAL to the first ascent of Mount Erebus.<sup>15</sup> Although one of those who took part in the ascent, Dr. A. F. Mackay, read a paper to the Club about the expedition, it was never published in these pages.

Erebus was so named by Sir James Clark Ross in 1841, after the leading ship of his expedition, but it was not until March 10, 1908, that the first ascent was achieved. On that day five members<sup>16</sup> of the British Antarctic Expedition 1907-9 reached the top, having left Cape Royds five days earlier. March 8 found the party confined by a blizzard to their third camp at 8,750 ft. Next day, in better weather, a final camp was pitched at a height of nearly 11,400 ft., some 50 ft. below the level of the old crater. On the final day, a four-hour climb sufficed to bring the party to the summit (13,200 ft.) at 10 a.m. on March 10.

The second ascent was completed on December 12, 1912, by G. P. Abbott, T. Gran, F. J. Hooper and R. E. Priestley. This party, with a surveyor, F. Debenham, and his assistant H. Dickason, left Cape Evans on December 2 but were fog-bound for two days at their first camp, and again for one day, December 11, at the highest camp. The day of the final ascent was one of perfect weather; the summit of the active crater was attained within three hours of leaving camp.

A VETERAN'S CLIMB.—Mrs. F. S. Copeland, at the age of eighty-eight, last autumn made the ascent of Triglav, 9,400 ft. She is reported as

<sup>15</sup> *A. J.* 25. 95.

<sup>16</sup> J. B. Adams, T. W. E. David, A. F. Mackay, E. S. Marshall, D. Mawson. A sixth man, Sir P. L. Brocklehurst, remained at the highest camp suffering from frost-bitten feet.

saying that she ' felt fine ' after the climb, which lasted fourteen hours. Mrs. Copeland is not unknown to readers of the *A. J.*, having made several contributions to the *JOURNAL*.<sup>17</sup>

AMA DABLAM.—The British-Italian Himalayan Expedition, led by Alfred Gregory and of which the veteran Piero Ghiglione was a member, spent the months of October and November in the Everest region. During October an attempt was made on Ama Dablam by its South-west ridge. A Base Camp was made at 16,000 ft. and two other camps were placed on the mountain. After extremely difficult climbing the party (J. Cunningham and G. Pirovano) abandoned the attempt at about 20,000 ft. by reason of the great technical difficulties caused by steep rock and ice. Following this attempt a journey was made around the mountain and all ridges and possible routes were examined. No feasible way of climbing the mountain was found and with the weather becoming increasingly cold all idea of climbing this very difficult peak was given up.

The expedition then explored the upper reaches of the Imja valley to the south of Everest and whilst there made a reconnaissance of Lhotse II. Owing to the lateness of the season and the extreme cold no attempt could be made on this peak but a feasible route was found, a discovery which will be useful to any future expedition. In this region a mountain of 20,300 ft. was climbed.

Another attempt on Ama Dablam is to be made in May by the British Sola Khumbu Expedition under the leadership of J. H. Emlyn Jones.

OBSTRUCTION IN THE HIMALAYAS.—A small Japanese party which went to reconnoitre Himal Chuli, 25,801 ft., last autumn met with considerable obstruction from the local villagers. The inhabitants of Lidanda refused to let the party pass but those of Namru agreed to let it through on payment of Rs. 300 in cash and goods to the value of Rs. 400.

The Japanese had received the authorisation of the Nepalese Government and are understood to have paid a fee of Rs. 2,000. Now that a charge is payable for all expeditions to Nepal it is to be hoped that the Government of Nepal will take the necessary steps to ensure that there will be no recurrence of this kind of incident.

This is not the first occasion on which the Japanese have been so treated in Nepal. The 1954 expedition to Manaslu was driven out of Sama by the hostility of the local inhabitants, who refused to recognise the pass issued by the Nepalese Government, and thus being unable to approach Manaslu had to switch its efforts to the Ganesh Himal.

<sup>17</sup> See *A. J.* 40. 331 and 52. 90, among others.

HIMAL CHULI.—Two Japanese members, Ichiro Kanésaka and Shojiro Ishizaka, a liaison officer Gopal Raj Pant, and three Sherpas, Lakpa Tenzing, Gyaltzen Norbu and Pasang Tempa, started from Kathmandu with thirty-nine porters on an expedition to reconnoitre Himal Chuli on September 5, 1958, and arrived at Namru on the 19th *via* Trisuli Bazar, Arughat Bazar and the monsoon road in the Buri Gandaki valley. After setting up their base there, though they met with interference by the Tibetan villagers in the upper Buri Gandaki because of religious objection, the members solved the problem, and reconnoitred Himal Chuli, with the assistance of the three Sherpas and two porters from Kathmandu, from a valley which runs into the Buri Gandaki from below Namru and is called the Shurang.

They set up Advance Base at a height of 13,616 ft. in a grassy part of the Shurang valley on September 30. They traced the valley to its source, and advanced their camp, C. I, to a col named the Lidanda Nokkoshi (Pass), at a height of 16,733 ft., on October 2. Just after the monsoon was over they followed a spur leading to the East ridge of Himal Chuli, and settled C. II at a height of 18,865 ft. on the ridge. On the next day, October 8, they made a final reconnaissance up to the base of a steep gendarme, at a height of 20,506 ft., on the East ridge. The glacier begins from C. II, and on the lower part snow is seen occasionally in that season. The East ridge is so wide and gentle that even a weasel can climb, except at the gendarme.

The Himalayan Committee of the Japanese Alpine Club requested the expedition to reconnoitre a valley that runs into Lidanda as well, but the leader of the expedition could not make the Lidanda villagers change their firm conviction, and took photographs only from a hill on the left bank of the valley.

After reconnoitring, the expedition left Namru for home with fifteen porters on October 11, and arrived at Pokhara on the 26th *via* Sama, Larkya Pass, Thonje and Khudi.

A climbing expedition of the Japanese Alpine Club is going to try the route which was found by the reconnoitring party. The problems of climbing are supposed to be the transporting of about one ton of equipment and provisions across the gendarme on the East ridge and the climbing of a precipice leading to the North-west shoulder of the final peak, of which the height was measured as about 2,300 ft.

ICHIRO KANESAKA

(*Leader of the Japanese Himal Chuli  
Reconnaissance Expedition, 1958.*)

THE FIRST ASCENT OF CHOGOLISA.—Some further details of this ascent, mentioned in the November number, are now available.

The expedition, organised by the Academic Alpine Club of Kyoto and led by Professor T. Kuwabara, set up a Base Camp on the moraine at the foot of the North-west ridge of Baltoro Kangri on July 8. Following a route up the ice-fall between the massifs of Baltoro Kangri and Chogolisa, Camp I was pitched at 17,717 ft. and Camp II at 19,357 ft., near the Kondus Saddle.<sup>18</sup> Camp III was placed at 20,998 ft. at the foot of the Ice Dome on the South-east ridge of Chogolisa, and a fourth camp 1,000 ft. higher. Near this camp were found the remains of the tent used by Diemberger and Buhl at their highest camp. On July 29, after cutting across the slopes of the Dome in bad weather, Camp V was pitched on a rock shelf at 22,966 ft.

Two days later, M. Fujihira and K. Hirai made the first attempt on the summit from this camp but, having spent more than four hours in descending the steep and dangerous ridge to the col between the Dome and the main peak, were forced to give up at 4.30 p.m. at a height of 23,620 ft. In the course of the ascent they had observed that a better route seemed possible to the south of the Dome and, returning by this, they arrived back at Camp III without difficulty after a seventeen-hour day.

It was decided to make the second attempt by this route to the south of the Dome. Camps IV and V were dismantled and New Camp IV erected at 21,980 ft., some 660 ft. below the col.

On August 4 Fujihira and Hirai left this camp at 4.30 a.m. in splendid fine weather and in forty minutes had reached the col. Using oxygen they followed the South-east ridge; the enormous cornices on the North side demanded ceaseless care and attention. The snow was deep and in places very soft, the party sometimes sinking to chest level.

By 1 p.m. the last of the oxygen had been used but three hours later the summit ridge was reached and, after climbing some 120 ft. of rocks, Fujihira and Hirai reached the summit of Chogolisa (25,110 ft.) at 4.30 p.m. to be greeted by the sight of a ' Brocken monster in the mist '. The top was too small to be occupied by both men at the same time. After half an hour's rest the descent was begun and the party reached camp, with the help of a head-lamp, at 10.30 p.m.

Two other peaks were climbed by members of the expedition, a 22,156 ft. peak to the south of the Kondus Saddle and a summit of c. 22,970 ft. to the south of the Ice Dome. These were named Kondus Peak and Kaberi Peak respectively.

HIMALAYAS 1959.—An Austrian expedition, sponsored by the Osterreichische Himalaya Gesellschaft, will attempt Dhaulagiri this

<sup>18</sup> As in the original account. It is not clear why the party was so far east, instead of making for the Chogolisa (Kaberi) Saddle; there may have been a confusion of names.

spring. It will be led by Fritz Moravec, who was leader of the successful Gasherbrum II expedition, and Pasang Dawa Lama, of K2 and Cho Oyu fame, will be the chief Sherpa. Moravec's intention is to try the ascent during the first half of May. An Argentine party is due to make an attempt in the autumn and the Nepalese Government have granted permission for a Swiss expedition in 1960.

Women mountaineers are to attempt their first 'eight thousander'. Madame Claude Kogan is to lead an international expedition of ten women to attempt Cho Oyu (26,750 ft.). This will not be Madame Kogan's first visit to Cho Oyu; in 1954, in an attempt on the summit with Raymond Lambert, she reached a height of *c.* 25,300 ft., which still remains the women's altitude record.

Raymond Lambert is taking a party to Disteghil Sar (25,868 ft.), which was reconnoitred by a British expedition in 1957, when it was found that a possible route by way of the col to the east of Disteghil Sar was too dangerous because of avalanches. The most promising route seems to be by way of the West col; the approach to this col is very steep and is, in fact, a face climb.

Ama Dablam, Himal Chuli and Jannu are also due to be attempted this spring.

THE HIGHEST MOUNTAINS.—Since the publication of the list in *A. J.* 62. 165, several additional ascents have been made, details of which are given below.

One peak must be deleted from the original list, No. 39, 'Unnamed, *c.* 23,945 ft.' The height was deduced from an aneroid reading on the summit. When the results of the survey had been worked out on the return of the party the correct height was found to be only 6,845 m. (22,457 ft.).<sup>19</sup>

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| 57 | 1956 | Aug. 30 | PIK POBEDA, 24,407 ft. Tien Shan.<br>V. Abalakov and ten other Russians.<br><i>A. J.</i> 64. 74.                                 |
| 58 | 1957 | June 19 | SKIL BRUM, <sup>20</sup> 24,147 ft. Karakoram.<br>M. Schmuck, F. Wintersteller.<br><i>Der Bergsteiger</i> , Sept. and Oct. 1957. |
| 59 | 1958 | June 25 | RAKAPOSHI, 25,550 ft. Karakoram.<br>M. E. B. Banks, T. Patey.<br><i>A. J.</i> 63. 159.   |

<sup>19</sup> See *O.A.Z.*, No. 1295, p. 171.

<sup>20</sup> So named, after the first ascent, by the Government of Pakistan.

- 60 July 5<sup>21</sup> GASHERBRUM I, 26,470 ft. Karakoram.  
A. J. Kauffman, P. K. Schoening.  
*A. J.* 63. 242.
- 61 Aug. 4 CHOGOLISA, 25,110 ft. Karakoram.  
M. Fujihira, K. Hirai.  
*A. J.* 64. 134.
- 62 Aug. 4 HARAMOSH, 24,270 ft. Karakoram.  
F. Mandl, S. Pauer, H. Roiss.  
*A. J.* 64. 12.
- 63 Aug. 6 GASHERBRUM IV, 26,000 ft. Karakoram.  
W. Bonatti, C. Mauri.

<sup>21</sup> Not July 4, as originally reported. For the explanation of how the mistake arose see *The Saturday Evening Post*, Jan. 31, 1959, p. 64.