

## IN MEMORIAM

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :	<i>Year of Election</i>
Crawford, C. G. . . . .	1914
de Wesselow, O. L. V. . . . .	1914
Carslake, W. B. . . . .	1922
Price, S. J. . . . .	1928
Cochran, N. J. . . . .	1951
Knowles, G. J. F. . . . .	1954
Fraser, G. J. . . . .	1958

## AUGUSTINE COURTAULD

1904-1959

AUGUSTINE COURTAULD, who died on March 3 last, was elected to the Alpine Club in 1947. Educated at Charterhouse and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took his degree in engineering and geography, he immediately embarked upon that career in Polar exploration by which his name will be principally remembered. His qualification form for the Alpine Club is very unusual:

- 1926 East Greenland.
- 1927/28 Southern Sahara.
- 1929 East Greenland, with ascent of Petermann Peak.
- 1930/31 Greenland (this was the occasion of his well-known sojourn for five months alone throughout the winter, on the Greenland ice-cap).
- 1934 Winter climbing in Skye.
- 1935 East Greenland (Watkins mts.)
- 1946 Champéry—various minor ascents.

His companions on his various adventures included such names as J. M. Wordie, F. R. Rodd (now Lord Rennell) and Peter Rodd, V. E. Fuchs, H. G. Watkins, F. Spencer Chapman, J. L. Longland, and, most frequent of all, L. R. Wager.

Courtauld was an able and enthusiastic yachtsman, holding a Board of Trade Yacht Master's Certificate. Throughout the War in 1939-45 he served in the R.N.V.R., and after the war he threw himself into public work in Essex, becoming a J.P., a County Councillor, Deputy Lieutenant and (1953) High Sheriff.

Courtauld did not play an active part in Alpine Club affairs, and indeed his health began to deteriorate soon after the time of his joining. He had served, however, on the Council of the Royal Geographical Society and was one of their Honorary Secretaries from 1948-51. As is well-known, he became seriously disabled, but his interest in exploration continued unabated, and in June 1958 he attended for the last time at the R.G.S., in a wheeled chair, to hear Sir Vivian Fuchs's Trans-Antarctic lecture.

He was a most modest, unassuming man, who seemed quite unable to understand why people should make a fuss of him after his fame had been established by his winter alone in Greenland. He proved a brave and resourceful explorer, and the same spirit sustained him through the trials of the long illness that marked the close of his life.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

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### COLIN GRANT CRAWFORD

1890-1959

THERE may be more glorious ways of dying, even for a mountaineer, than hitting a ball for six out of the local cricket ground, as is reported had taken place a few minutes previous to Crawford's death at Rosemarkie, Ross-shire, when in his seventieth year. But such was the character and enthusiasm of the man that he would have been the first to acclaim the merit as well as humour of it!

It was just after the first Great War that I met Crawford; and in the company of C. F. Holland and H. M. Kelly we had some excellent climbing in the Lake District. These two were at their zenith as cragsmen; and Crawford, whilst the chief humorist of the party, was no wit behind them in skill on steep rocks. He had already served for nearly five years with the I.C.S., including about two years' war service (1916-18) with a Gurkha regiment in Mesopotamia.

Crawford had been born on June 3, 1890, and he was the son of the Hon. Henry Leighton Crawford, C.M.G., of the Ceylon Civil Service. From Clifton College, where he was in the XV, he gained a classical scholarship to Trinity Hall, Cambridge (*not* Trinity College, as reported in *The Times* of 17. viii. 59), at which he matriculated in 1909. He was in the College Cricket XI, and was Secretary of the Rugby Club in 1910, as well as being something of a tennis player. He took a good 'Second' (not a 'First,' as cited by 'A Friend' in *The Times* of 21. viii. 59) in the Classical Tripos of 1912, and followed this up next year with a 'Second, Div. 1' in the Historical Tripos. He proceeded to his B.A. in 1912, and his M.A. in 1919.

He was elected to the Alpine Club in February 1914, his proposer being A. V. Valentine-Richards, and seconder G. A. Solly. Commencing in boyhood, he had put in some seven seasons in the Swiss Alps, mostly guideless, but at one stage with the great Chamonix guide, Armand Charlet. After climbing in the Liddar valley, Kashmir, in 1918 (*A. J.* 32. 394), and again in 1919, he joined H. Raeburn in his reconnaissance of Kangchenjunga from the Yalung Glacier in 1920 (*A. J.* 34. 43), when it was concluded that the possibility of eventual success on the mountain was extremely remote. Two years later he accompanied the Mount Everest Expedition (1922) as 'an assistant of the climbing party' (*The Assault on Mount Everest*, p. 20); and although he did not go high, he was one of those who escaped with his life at the time of the disastrous avalanche on the North Col slopes. Writing many years later E. L. Strutt declared (*A. J.* 44. 245, 344): 'Crawford's great powers were neglected sadly almost up to the end of the expedition—a crime for which I was chiefly responsible.' Crawford did not go again to Everest until the expedition of 1933, when he was already forty-three, and the veteran in experience of the party; but he accomplished admirable work with Brocklebank in support of the high-climbing parties. Ruttledge refers to 'their great series of six ascents and descents of the North Col slopes, revictualling Camp IV, and escorting porters. This hard work . . . and the fact that it was carried through without a single accident reflects the greatest credit on both the skill and the energy of the pair.' (*Everest 1933*, pp. 111 and 112). Of relevant interest is Crawford's Everest diary of 1933, which was published in *A. J.* 46.111. He had, incidentally, already acquired the nickname of 'Ferdie' (on account of his reputed resemblance to Tsar Ferdinand I of Bulgaria), an appellative that stuck to him ever afterwards.

Having retired from the I.C.S. in 1930, he decided that summer to visit the Canadian Rockies, and the writer surprisedly found him at the annual camp of the Alpine Club of Canada at Maligne Lake in the Jasper district. There he made an excellent impression with his comic gestures and droll ways, as well as by accomplishing a number of new ascents, in one of which the writer participated, and all of which Crawford described later in his paper to the Club (*A. J.* 43.258). The latter describes, too, our protracted foray on Mount Robson in the company of Terris Moore, fresh from his own successful ascent of Mount Bona in Alaska, and already an able mountaineer. Crawford afterwards accompanied me to the Selkirks, where together with Lady Rosemary Baring we made a new ascent from the east of Mount Sir Donald, and a new traverse of Mount Tupper. Just previously we had spent a pleasant week in the same range with the Harvard Mountaineering Club party. Thence, to the main range of the Rockies at

Banff, where followed the exciting climb of Mount Louis by a difficult variant of the usual route, on which Crawford's and Lady Rosemary's rock technique each had full scope; and also an ascent of Mount Victoria from Abbot Pass, where, as notably had been the case on Robson, he demonstrated his great ability on snow and ice.

In the 1930's he did Community Service Council work in Durham, and in 1934 he was elected a member of the Alpine Club committee. During the second Great War he was a temporary master at Eton, 'unorthodox but highly effective', as well as a night-patrol leader of boys attached to the Home Guard, himself armed, it is said, with a villainous-looking kukri knife.

In 1940 he had married Margaret MacIver, of Aberdeen, and they and their two daughters settled at Rosemarkie, Easter Ross, where he turned his attention to fishing, often with his not-distant neighbour, Tom Longstaff, in Wester Ross. Strongly built, enthusiastic and witty, his interest in the local council, the youth and cricket clubs will be sorely missed; and those of us privileged to have climbed with him will not soon forget his standing as a mountaineer of the highest ability, as well as his great sense of humour. Our sympathy goes to his bereaved family.

N. E. ODELL.

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## GEORGE JAMES FRASER

1931-1959

GEORGE FRASER, who was lost with Michael Harris close to the summit of Ama Dablam, was prominent among that very happy group of Cambridge climbers whose influence is continually spreading beyond the boundaries of the University. From Winchester, he gained a major scholarship to King's College where he read engineering, took an honours degree and did some fast cross-country running. Later he was employed by Binnie, Deacon and Gourley as a civil engineer specialising in dam construction.

He had climbed extensively in Britain, especially in his native Scottish mountains and recorded some very fine first ascents in the Carnmore area. While still an undergraduate he celebrated one Christmas vacation in the Hoggar mountains of the Sahara where, in less than a fortnight, the party of three consumed a gazelle, a goat and a mouflon and were still able to make several new and notable ascents.

Then immediately after our final examinations the two of us flew out to join the Cambridge Rakaposhi expedition of 1954. This was where I first had the pleasure of climbing with him, although bad weather

hampered the expedition's progress and our success was limited. Subsequently, although he had only just passed his driving test and I had yet to fail mine, we succeeded in bringing back the expedition's battered car from Teheran to England without mishap except for a minor ricochet from a water buffalo. So I came to appreciate some of his sterling qualities—on the mountain his strength and stamina and judgement and in the deserts and garages of the Middle East his patience and practical ability.

Thereafter his Alpine seasons were often dogged by bad weather but he steadily recorded good climbs such as the Flatiron ridge of the Piz Gemelli in the Bregaglia which he wrote about in *Cambridge Mountaineering* and, in 1958, the East face of the Grand Capucin. He was also the first British climber on four ascents in the Pyrenees.

Although his job tied him to London he seemed to manage plenty of weekend climbing, so that at a time when many of us start complaining of old age, his technical ability was continually improving. He joined the élite who have led Cenotaph Corner and with Michael Harris must have been a very strong combination on Ama Dablam. Nobody knows how misfortune overtook them but, as we have seen too often in the last few years, even the very best are not immune. At their deaths one can only feel a very deep and sincere sorrow which one shares with their relations and many friends.

In London, George would often be the host at a leisurely evening devoted to showing holiday slides. I can see now the glint and gladness in his eyes when he told us about Scotland and Easter at Carnmore. In particular I remember the infectious excitement with which he recounted a superb first ascent with Michael O'Hara which they have described in the *Climbers' Club Journal*. 'We named the climb Dragon,' wrote O'Hara, 'partly because it was fierce, and partly because it was George who won the victory.'

G. C. BAND.

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### WILLIAM ALAN GILLETT

1879-1959

SIR WILLIAM ALAN GILLETT, who died on February 18, 1959, lived almost long enough to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of his election to the Club in March 1909. Sir Alan Gillett was one of those faithful members of the Club who, without ever achieving any ascents that get into print, climbed regularly and steadily for many years and always, even after he ceased active mountaineering, remained deeply interested both in mountaineering and in the activities of the Club.

He first climbed in the Alps in 1898 and except for the year 1902 he climbed annually up to and including the season of 1908. Thereafter, although he frequently visited the Alps and walked a great deal, like so many mountaineers of his day, he felt that serious climbing was incompatible with family responsibilities. He was particularly fond of the Valais, especially the Arolla district but his knowledge of the Alps was wide and general. Much of his climbing was done guideless which was by no means a common practice amongst English climbers of the day and, as we well know, was sometimes frowned upon by the Club.

Gillett was a solicitor and for a good many years was the senior partner in a well-known firm. He was a member of the Council of the Law Society for many years and was President in 1948-9 during which year he received the honour of knighthood.

Both on the mountains and at home he was a charming, humorous and kindly companion as well as a man of great ability. He had the gift of bringing to life any activity in which he was concerned, largely on account of his own abounding vitality and interest in things and people. He was a Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Surrey and actively interested in many charitable and other activities. He is survived by his widow and a large family.

Gillett was never a conspicuous member of the Club: indeed he was one of those who dislike and successfully avoid the limelight, but he will be missed by a considerable circle of friends which includes not only his own climbing contemporaries but many younger members in whom he was always interested and to whom he was always kind and encouraging.

E. S. HERBERT.

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## MICHAEL JOHN HARRIS

1925-1959

MIKE HARRIS, as he was always known, sent his application form for membership of the Club from the base camp below Ama Dablam three weeks before he was lost on the mountain with George Fraser. The application was considered and passed by the Committee after his death, but before it had become known to them.

After graduating in physics at Leicester University, most of his working career was in the employment of Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds at their research laboratories in Wolverhampton where he became head of the instrumentation and control section. There, I am told, his dislike of paper work and details of administration was more than counter-balanced by his first-class scientific ability and clear thinking.

In company with John Neill, also from Wolverhampton, he was a regular weekend visitor to North Wales at all seasons. For most of us our first acquaintance with him must have been at Ynys Ettws or in Pen-y-Gwryd where he would be describing with great enthusiasm and those taut nervous gestures of his the crux of some obscure outlying climb rediscovered by John Neill.

When I came to know him better I was astonished by the extent of his mountaineering experience. For almost the whole of his adult life he had been climbing regularly in Britain and the Alps and his record included classic alpine or other ascents in each of the last twelve seasons. In most years they were not particularly difficult climbs and one might have thought that he did not aspire to greater things. But his increasing experience and ability seemed to develop his self-confidence so that he was able to discard a certain shyness from which he had suffered earlier on. This fact, together with his natural enthusiasm and vitality, enabled him to gain a wider circle of friends and acquaintances including those doing hard climbs at the time.

Like many of them he then discovered that an average climber's margin of safety is not only physical but psychological. If the latter barrier can be resolved then anyone of reasonable strength and ability can, without being physically rash, make astonishing progress. What was unusual in his case was that he was over thirty before he achieved this step which suddenly took him to the forefront of British rock-climbers. In addition, over the years he had developed a very fine general mountaineering sense and route-finding ability, for which I was grateful on more than one occasion, so that I felt he was destined to become one of our really great mountaineers.

His early climbs were mostly in the Zermatt area, Chamonix or the Oberland. Some of his later more important routes were the Tronchey ârete of the Grandes Jorasses, the Aiguille de la Brenva by the Boccalatte route, the South ridge of the Salbitschyn, the South ridge of the Aiguille Noire de Peuterey and the Younggrat on the Zermatt Breithorn. I was privileged to climb with him during the last two years on the North ridge of the Piz Badile and in the Caucasus on Shkhara and Dych-Tau.

On the Badile we were caught in cloud and storm at the summit and I shall never forget the confident way he led off down by a route which none of us knew. The two Caucasus climbs were exceedingly fine routes and our success was largely due to him. Part of his training for the expedition had been a dash round the Cuillin ridge and an ascent of Cenotaph Corner. He was our star climber and was always happy to lead us out of a tight corner. Then, like many brilliant climbers, he would wonder why we were finding so much difficulty! He was very fast and I never saw him really tired out. If he ever was

then he had recovered by the time I caught up. I don't know where all the energy came from, because on first impressions he didn't strike one as a person with tremendous stamina, but he was strong and wiry and capable of great concentration—a compelling spirit.

He was by no means only a mountaineer. To be driven by him over an Alpine pass was an unforgettable and, frankly, hair-raising experience. I often wondered whether an oncoming driver would ever panic and drive over the cliff-edge at the sight of a pale-green Morris 1,000 sliding broadside but under masterly control towards him around what I considered to be a blind corner. I think he was applying the same psychology towards rally-driving as he did to rock-climbing with identical success. I admired him as much for his mechanical genius. He was the best person I have ever met, outside a garage, for bringing life to a broken-down car.

On a more restful pursuit we once went searching for classical recordings in a Moscow store. I could never imagine him sitting still long enough to listen to music but he had a deep appreciation of it.

Altogether he was a many-sided complex character but, like a cut jewel, the facets that came to light sparkled with vitality.

G. C. BAND.

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### DAVID ANTONY HODGKINSON

1909–1958

DAVID HODGKINSON, who died last December, was born in 1909. He was educated at Sherborne and Brasenose College, Oxford, where he read Mods. and Greats. He went down in 1933 and spent a year as a Master at Haileybury before moving to Uppingham, and in 1947 he became House Master of Farleigh. He was a most efficient and successful housemaster; he never spared himself, and was much loved and respected. He was a good rugger player and an Authentic. For a number of years he commanded the C.C.F., and despite his many school duties he even found time to be a lay reader. In the years before the war he used to take parties of Uppinghamians climbing during the Christmas and Easter holidays. He was elected a member of the Alpine Club in 1936, resigned during the war and was re-elected in 1947. He was married in 1939 and leaves a widow and two sons.

He started his climbing on British hills and could not afford to visit the Alps until he went down from Oxford. Before the war he climbed in Britain at least once and generally twice a year. Most of these climbs were in North Wales, but there were occasional excursions to the Lakes or Skye. He did most of the standard 'severes' in Wales, including the

Devil's Kitchen, and in Skye he did the complete traverse of the Cuillin ridge (Gars Benn to Sgurr nan Gillean) in 1938. He also did the Cioch Direct and attempted the Water Pipe Gully, only to be driven out by the torrent after forcing the great second pitch.

His first visit to the Alps was in 1934 and thereafter he never missed a summer season until the war. After the war his visits to the Alps were less frequent, but altogether he had eleven Alpine seasons with over sixty expeditions to his credit, including twenty-two 4,000-metre peaks. His Alpine climbs included the traverses of the Meije, Ecrins and Râteau (all accomplished in his first season). The Meije was a particularly tough expedition as the mountain had been sheeted in ice by a thunderstorm on the previous evening and he was out 20½ hours. In the Oberland his most important expeditions were the traverses of the Bietschhorn by the North ridge and East spur, the Aletschhorn over the Sattelhorn and down to the Concordia, the Jungfrau by the Guggi route, and the Wetterhorn in very bad conditions. In the Pennines he accomplished the Weisshorn, the traverse of the Ober Gabelhorn, the Dent D'Hérens, the Matterhorn twice, including an ascent of the Zmutt ridge with descent by the Italian ridge, the Lyskamm by the North-west ridge, Castor by the North ridge, Monte Rosa by the Cresta Rey, the Alphubel by the Rotgrat, the Nadelhorn and many others. In the Chamonix area his climbs included the Peigne, the Blaitière, traverse of the Grépon, the Rochefort arête, Mont Blanc by the Brenva route, the traverse of the Drus, the traverse of Les Courtes by the Col des Cristaux attained from the Argentière glacier, and the North face of the Aiguille d'Argentière.

In Britain he nearly always climbed in nailed boots and disdained the use of rubber. He never wore vibrams. He was a good rock-climbing leader with powerful arms and shoulders, and an almost perfect second. He hardly ever led in the Alps except on difficult rock, though he could well have done so, but he always insisted in descending as last man, which was typical of his unselfishness. He was a wonderful companion in the mountains and would always back up and encourage the leader in a difficult situation. He never complained and would stoically endure a bombardment of ice chips dislodged by the leader's axe rather than make any complaint which might disturb him. His courage and determination were remarkable. When descending the Petit Dru in 1936 he had a narrow escape. We were very late, due to a loss of four hours in the ice-fall in the early morning. In climbing down an open chimney he was hurrying and, missing a hold, he fell some ten feet, landing head downwards in a patch of boulders. By good fortune his head happened to land in a hole and he fell on his shoulder, tearing a muscle. Despite this injury he insisted in continuing to descend as last man.

His love for mountains was profound. He could recite the whole of Godley's 'Switzerland' and every line had a deep meaning for him. He had a good collection of Alpine books. His death at the age of 49 has left a gap in the lives of his many friends which can never be filled, but his memory and example will remain. He could not get to meetings of the Alpine Club owing to distance and pressure of work, but he was one of its most loyal and devoted members and the Club can ill afford his loss.

T. A. H. PEACOCKE.

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## GUY JOHN FENTON KNOWLES

1879-1959

THE late Guy Knowles joined the Alpine Club very late in life, being elected in June 1954, his proposer being Dr. Longstaff. He was the last remaining member of the first climbing expedition to K2, in 1902, when he accompanied Eckenstein, Jacot-Guillarmod, Wesseley, Pfannl and the notorious Aleister Crowley, where they attained a height of about 21,400 ft. a remarkable effort when it is remembered that their equipment would be considered very rudimentary today. The presence of Crowley did not make for a smoothly-running party, and Knowles retained to the end of his life the revolver with which Crowley threatened him on one occasion.

Knowles's first visit to the Alps was in 1893, when he climbed Piz Roseg and several smaller mountains at the head of the Roseg Glacier. In 1895 he climbed the Wetterhorn and Jungfrau; in 1896 Matterhorn, Gabelhorn and Wellenkuppe; in 1898, accompanied by Oscar Eckenstein, he accounted for the Weisshorn, Lyskamm, Dent Blanche and Matterhorn by the Zmutt arête, the last-named being an early ascent by this route. Then came the Karakorum visit in 1902, and in 1904 Knowles made several climbs in the Mischabel group, as well as Monte Rosa and the Weisshorn.

This completes his mountaineering career and we are indebted to Mr. Carl Winter, Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum, for the following information about Knowles:

Guy Knowles will be remembered as one of the principal benefactors of the Fitzwilliam Museum, to which he had been a generous friend during his lifetime and to which he left in his will a remarkable collection of paintings, drawings, bronzes and miscellaneous works of art. His parents were both deep lovers of the arts, particularly sculpture and drawing, and had many friends in France, to which country Guy Knowles had a great affection and which he knew intimately.

Born July 1, 1879, he was educated at Rugby and Trinity College, Cambridge, and took a Second Class in Pt. I of the Mechanical Sciences Tripos in 1901. He settled down to a very successful career as an Engineer, in 1905 being one of the principals in the Iris Car Company and later in aeronautical engineering. From 1914 to 1919 he served in the Royal Garrison Artillery (Captain), was twice mentioned in despatches and awarded the French Croix de Guerre and the Greek Military Cross.

From 1921 to 1949 he was Supervisor of the Copyright Agency for the Copyright Libraries; and he also managed his family estates at Linkenholt on the borders of Hants and Wilts.

By land, sea, air or on foot, he was a keen traveller, especially in France, where he seemed to be acquainted with every city, château, museum or vineyard throughout its length and breadth. A connoisseur of wine and food and a first-rate conversationalist, he was never happier than when entertaining his friends, of which he had the widest of circles. The extent of his interests and the fullness of his information on all he talked about, made him an ideal host. He spent a long and happy life and was glad to know that the works of art he had collected and which had given him so much pleasure, would go to his university for the enjoyment of future generations.

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### ARTHUR CECIL PIGOU

1877-1959

ARTHUR CECIL PIGOU was born in 1877 at Pembury in the County of Kent. He was a scholar at Harrow, where he was contemporary with Sir Winston Churchill, George Trevelyan, and Leo Amery. He entered King's College, Cambridge, as a Major Scholar, where he remained as Fellow, Professor of Political Economy, and Elder Statesman until his death on March 9, 1959.

Endowed with an intellect of the highest order, rare insight, and utter integrity, he brought to the study of Economics not only a masterly and comprehensive analysis upon which further discovery could be firmly built, but also an unfailing sympathy and awareness of the human situation and human needs which transformed an academic study into a living challenge. It is small wonder that Alfred Marshall chose Pigou, at an early age, to be his successor and second holder of the Chair of Political Economy, and that his most important work was entitled, *The Economics of Welfare*. The Economists' hope, he once wrote, was 'that by carrying out well and truly this task of positive analysis, this

economic anatomy and physiology, they might help other men, better trained than themselves for the practical work of government and administration, to fashion remedies or palliatives for the many evils they descry'. In all his teaching, his books, his evidence before Royal Commissions, his letters to *The Times*, that was his abiding inspiration: that was the secret of his influence, and the measure of his greatness.

Pigou's first introduction to climbing came during Cambridge Reading Parties in the Lake District. His first season in the Alps was in 1907, and by 1911 he had ascended the Laquinhorn, Argentière, Rimpfischhorn, Titlis, Portjengrat, Allalinhorn, Trifthorn, Ober Gabelhorn, Dent Blanche, Finsteraarhorn, Zinal Rothorn, Matterhorn, and Weisshorn. All these were climbed with guides, but were only a preliminary to his seasons of guideless climbing, in which he most rejoiced. In 1912 he went to Norway with Philip Noel-Baker, and among other climbs traversed the complete ridge of the Store Skagastolstind on a 'thirty-nine-hour day'; and he repeated the visit in 1913, the year in which he was elected to the Alpine Club. In 1914 he was caught for a few days at Zermatt at the outbreak of war, and had a night out with a slow party below the Solvay Hut. On this occasion he sang, to keep up the spirits of the party—though he always maintained that the only way he recognised God Save the Queen was that people stood up! After the First World War, with J. H. Clapham and others he led the Dôme de Miage, Périades, Tour Noir, Mont Velan, and in 1919 after climbing the Grande Casse, Moine, and the Grands Charmoz, he shared in an ascent of the Rochers route over Mont Blanc with George Mallory. Between 1920 and 1922 Pigou led the Ruitor, Tour Noir, Périades, Grande Ruine, Aiguilles Dorées, Grands Charmoz, and Géant, and a number of other lesser peaks. In 1923 I joined his party for my first season in the Alps, and was introduced to his own peculiar methods and ethos. Route-finding was not one of his major qualifications, and it was as well if another member of the party had consulted a guide-book and a map beforehand. On one occasion we entirely failed even to locate the Cresta arête of Monte Rosa, and on another Pigou set out from the Jungfrauoch steadily downward towards Concordia when our objective was the Jungfrau. In his notes he speaks of 'roping down a waterfall' and 'an unpleasant traverse across a rotten face', and he had some amusing stories about 'nights out'. But the joy of climbing with Pigou came in the adventure, the partnership, and the achievement. In 1923 we climbed the Riffelhorn by the Matterhorn Couloir, the Rothorn, the Requin, Mont Blanc, and the Matterhorn. This last climb was made in thick mist and a snowstorm, with a descent of the Italian side which he had never made before. In theory this sounds like an unjustifiable risk, but I recollect a sense of great confidence throughout, and I have no reason to change my mind.

For Pigou himself never committed himself to a pitch or to a mountain unless he felt quite sure it was within his powers to overcome it, or that there was a reasonable way of retreat. Although he had at one time and another held on the rope a considerable number of the inexperienced who had fallen off, he never had a serious accident. He was meticulous about belaying and other proper precautions, and we all knew that to take an unjustified risk to him was sheer bad mountaineering. Consequently we trusted him, and in this trust lay a great measure of our enjoyment. Moreover, he was always glad when others (if he thought them competent) wanted to lead. An expedition was, for him, an occasion where everyone played an essential part: he did not care for 'passengers'. In 1924 we climbed the Gspaltenhorn, Finsteraarhorn, and traversed the Grands Charmoz; and with another party Pigou traversed the Bec de l'Invergnan by a difficult and rotten route.

1925 was a critical year. After traversing the Mont Tondu, we next day crossed the Béranger and reached the second summit of the Dômes de Miage. It was at this point that the first signs appeared of that fibrillation of the heart which checked, and finally ended, his climbing career. At the time he thought that the indisposition was due to mountain sickness, and after a few days' rest we joined Philip Noel-Baker at Haudères. Choosing the Petite Dent de Veisivi as a 'walk', Pigou decided to cut up the hillside before the usual vallon, and twelve hours later we relaxed at last on the summit, after he had led throughout an entirely new route over snow-covered rocks. It was only when the rope was finally removed at the foot of the *route ordinaire* that he admitted to exhaustion and allowed himself to be conveyed on a mule from the valley to Arolla. Yet after a day's rest we climbed the Pigne, and two days later the Mont Blanc de Seilon. On this last expedition he was clearly tired, and Noel-Baker and I left him on the Col de Serpentine and finished the climb alone. Mist enveloped us as we rejoined him, and we followed the wrong tracks. After a series of disastrous failures to find the right route, we finally struck it at 8 p.m., climbed the Pas de Chèvres in the dark, lost our way lanternless in the stony glen and steep woods above Arolla, and at 11.30 p.m. sat down to wait for daylight. It was Pigou who arose a few minutes later to continue the infernal descent, and who led us soon after through the hostel door of the Hotel du Mont Collon. It was an astonishing *tour de force* for a sick man. Three days later he led what Noel-Baker has described as the finest climb of his career, an ascent of the face of the Aiguille de la Za in icy conditions. Here was a climb in which he excelled. Using great ingenuity to enable his two companions to safeguard him and themselves, he led slowly, unfalteringly, and above all safely up the difficult slabs and chimneys, and triumphantly up the sensational staircase to the summit, twelve hours after setting out. A few days

later we climbed Monte Rosa and he led the Wellenkuppe–Ober Gabelhorn traverse. This was his last big climb. In 1926 he led a party of novices up small peaks around Engelberg, and in 1927 likewise from Pralognan, though this time he reached the summit of the Grande Casse and made attempts on the Blaitière and the Tour Noir, both foiled by bad weather. But his notebooks speak of fainting attacks and sudden exhaustion, and in 1928 he was so seriously ill that no one thought he would return to the Alps. Yet his spirit was undaunted, and in 1929 he twice reached the Petersgrat, and accompanied me to Zermatt, where he took the greatest delight in securing Hans Brantschen to lead me on four fine expeditions. He himself toiled up to Täschalp and the Schönbühl Hut to greet us on our descents. In 1930 we went out again together, and content now to leave leading and snow-plugging to me, he managed the ascent of the Sustenhorn, the traverse of the Löchberg from Goeschenenalp to Realp, a crossing after new snow of the Löt-schenlücke from Eggishorn to Fafleralp, and that of the Petersgrat to Lauterbrunnen. His delight in achievement was as great as ever, as was his care for the party's safety. Thereafter he went out year by year to share and enjoy in retrospect (and to finance!) the expeditions of his younger friends, notably those brilliant climbs done by Wilfrid Noyce in 1937 and 1938. After the Second World War he was persuaded to sample travel by air, and to his great joy was able to climb vicariously for another ten years. In 1958, at the age of 80, he still walked slowly, but with great distinction, up and down the street of Zermatt; but he fell ill there, and it was only with difficulty that he managed the journey home. A lesser spirit would have given up the struggle long ago.

If Pigou was known to a small circle of friends on the mountains, he is remembered as a host at his house, Lower Gatesgarth, which he built in 1912, at the Honister end of Lake Buttermere, by a long line of guests, young and old. Four large Visitors' Books record, over a period of nearly fifty years, the doings of all those who in reading parties, families, climbing parties, honeymoon couples (a rare privilege), or as passing visitors, were welcomed, regaled, and refreshed in that solid house of Cumberland stone, poised in its enchanting surroundings. Life there was informal, but never idle; easy, but never empty. The young were encouraged (but never compelled) to perform heroic deeds on the hills, and were rewarded with Medals of the First, Second, or Third class at the evening meal, if their host judged that they had been worthy of it; or were compelled to wear the Brass medal 'for distinguished incompetence' if they had failed to tie up his boat properly or had left a rope behind on the hills. Here it was, as well as in his rooms in King's, that many of us learned the quality of his mind and the generosity of his spirit. It was clearly a delight to him to be able to explore a problem with a younger friend, and his care and concern for

them was unbounded. On one occasion one of them brought a dog up to Lower Gatesgarth, which escaped from its moorings one morning and slaughtered a sheep in the garden just at breakfast time. The owner, utterly distraught, staggered into the room and announced the catastrophe, almost in tears. 'Sit down and have breakfast, you are late', said the Prof., and disappeared. Twenty minutes later he reappeared, having walked to the farm, interviewed the irate farmer, and paid him the full value of the sheep.

Pigou contributed a number of articles to the *ALPINE JOURNAL*, and in 1952, clad in borrowed raiment, he was persuaded to attend the Club Dinner with members of his old climbing parties. It was a happy occasion. But perhaps the happiest moment of his life came in 1953, when the telephone at Lower Gatesgarth rang at midnight to announce to his guest, Mrs. Wilfrid Noyce, that on the eve of the Coronation Everest had been climbed. For him it was the reward of a long and intimate friendship; and he always rejoiced far more in the successes of those whom he loved than in any of his own.

H. C. A. GAUNT.

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### SEYMOUR JAMES PRICE

1886-1959

S. J. PRICE, who died on May 28 last, had been a member of the Alpine Club since 1928, his proposer being Brig.-General C. G. Bruce and his seconder Reginald Graham.

He was born at Cirencester on August 31, 1886, and moved to Acton at an early age, spending most of his life there until, soon after the close of the last war, he went to Eastbourne, where he died. He was largely self-educated, for he left school at the age of thirteen and, after some business experience elsewhere, entered his father's business, Price & Son, Incorporated Insurance Brokers in Acton, eventually becoming head of the firm. In 1941 he became General Manager of the Baptist Insurance Company—a position that he held until 1957—and in due course disposed of the family business. In 1942 he became a Director of the Temperance Building Society and had attended a Directors' Meeting the day before his death.

He dedicated his life largely to the work of the Baptist Denomination, holding office in the Acton Baptist Church for many years and serving on a large number of Committees of the denomination. In particular, he was Chairman of the Baptist Missionary Society in 1947 and President of the Baptist Union in 1944. He had considerable literary gifts; was President of the Baptist Historical Society, and wrote a number of

works on Baptist history, as well as the official history of the Temperance Building Society (1954) and a general history of the Building Society movement, published last year.

He visited the Alps in 1912 and 1913, but only commenced genuine climbing in 1920. From then on until 1927 he was out every year, except in 1924, when a severe operation prevented him. He never fully recovered his form after this illness; in 1925 his doctor forbade serious climbs and in 1926 he was limited by the fact that he was introducing a young family to the joys of Switzerland. Christian Almer III (1882-1931) was his favourite guide and Grindelwald his favourite centre. Records of his activities are incomplete; he was certainly still climbing in 1932 and 1934, but was finding the strain too much for him and it is improbable that he made any ascents of note after 1934.

He remained, however, a great walker almost to the close of his life and was always happy to snatch a day off work to go walking in the Cotswolds or on the Sussex Downs.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

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## GEORGE LAURENCE TRAVIS

1903-1958

LAURENCE TRAVIS died suddenly and prematurely in November 1958. He was the only son of a Sheffield Silversmith, and was educated at King Edward's School in that City, and later at Clifton. As a knowledge of French was to be valuable in the family business, Laurence spent two years in a Paris Bank before joining his father. In due time he became a Director and was carrying the responsibilities of office until his death.

He had a long and wide climbing experience, in thirty-three years of devotion to the hills. He learned to climb on Gritstone, often visited the Lakes and Wales, and carried to the Alps that grounding in cragsmanship which enabled him soon to become a steady leader of guideless parties.

At home, his early ascents were with such men as Haskett-Smith, George Bower, H. M. Kelly . . . all pioneers of the then pre-eminent climbing areas in the Lakes. On his home practice ground, Stanage Edge, he often climbed with that energetic pioneer, Rice K. Evans, an American Consular official.

His first Alpine season was in 1927, when he led the Aiguille de la Tsa, and climbed the Zinal Rothorn and Monte Rosa with a guide. In 1928 he was in the Italian Alps with Beetham, Pryor and Meldrum. In 1929 he visited Saas Fee with Harold Jenkins and his son John. A strained heart needed a four-year rest, before Alpine tours could be

resumed, but he went out again in 1935 and annually until the War.

In 1938 we were at Chamonix, and Laurence elected to lead a traverse of the Grépon in nails. He had the Mummery Crack sufficiently under control to raise his hat, to the assembled company in the *brèche*, when half-way up. Later in the holiday he led us over Mont Blanc from the Gôûter Hut, by the three summits, and down to the Requin Hut. Laurence never cared merely to follow a guided party's tracks, and I well remember how pleased he was on that day when Armand Charlet, then at the top of his form, with perfect courtesy, gave Laurence and his two companions fifteen minutes' 'law' to break trail in new snow, before sweeping past them to the Dôme, with the young Wilfrid Noyce in tow.

During the War, after a short time in the ranks, he was commissioned in the Royal Air Force, eventually becoming Adjutant of a Spitfire Fighter Squadron in the Desert Air Force, being mentioned in Dispatches. He was in Sicily and Italy, and there met the Contessa Gabriella Borgogelli Ottaviani, whom he married in 1945. He entered the Church of Rome and the rank of *commendatore* was conferred upon him. He came back home with his wife in 1946, and his only son, Michael, was born in the following year.

In 1947 he went to Chamonix again, with John Jenkins, Norman How and Frank Colley. The death of Jenkins, with Kretschmer, on the descent of the old Brenva route was a great shock to him, and it was the unfortunate cause of his not visiting the Alps again.

From that time on, he continued to climb, with all his old skill and enthusiasm, on British rock that he knew and loved so well. He was a member of the Derbyshire Pennine Club, the Fell and Rock Club and the Rucksack Club, and perhaps it was with his many friends in the last-named that he spent his most active days, often going down to the Club huts in Wales with a cheerful party in which he naturally seemed to become the acknowledged leader.

He was a witty and mordant conversationalist and after-dinner speaker. One example must suffice. It is the privilege of a Club President to select the 'next friend' to propose his health, and at the Rucksack Club I chose Laurence, knowing what might be in store for me. He won a roar of approval when he said in his speech that no precedent to my election could be found other than the case of Caligula's horse. I do not doubt that, had he lived, he would himself have become President next year.

Within our own Club, to which he was elected in 1948, Laurence was one of the all-too-small band of North Country members, and though he could not often come up to London, he was proud to be of our number. His last attendance was, I think, at the Centenary Reception, when he came with his wife.

He was a good man on a rope; a leader whom we would cheerfully obey; and a companion who held our affection. We offer our sympathy to his wife and his son.

C. DOUGLAS MILNER.

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OWEN LAMBERT VAUGHAN  
SIMPKINSON DE WESSELOW

1883-1959

PROFESSOR DE WESSELOW, Emeritus Professor of Medicine in the University of London and Consulting Physician to St. Thomas's Hospital, died on July 7, having been a member of the Alpine Club for forty-five years.

He was educated at Haileybury and Corpus Christi, Oxford, graduating with First Class Honours in Natural Science in 1905. He entered St. Thomas's Hospital and qualified as M.B. in 1908, obtaining his M.R.C.P., London in 1912. After post-graduate study in Paris, he commenced research work at the Lister Institute, but his career was interrupted in 1914 by the War. He joined the R.A.M.C. and served in France with the Worcester Regt., being wounded and mentioned in despatches.

Later, at Etaples, he made special investigations into trench fever and nephritis and by the end of the War he had established his reputation as a biochemist. He returned to St. Thomas's, with which the remainder of his career was largely associated. He was Croonian lecturer at the Royal College of Physicians in 1934 and for many years Editor of the *Quarterly Journal of Medicine*.

He was a pioneer, and a brilliant one, in clinical biochemistry, belonging to the era of personal research before the days of big departments with many assistants and technicians. In the wards he was a very good teacher, simple, kindly, with a pleasantly dry vein of humour. His interests outside his work were many; he was a keen entomologist; no less keen on military history; interested in archaeology and especially in the preservation of ancient buildings; he collected first editions and old silver; and was an expert gardener.

He visited the Alps for the first time in 1903, but it was not until 1907 that he began to go to Switzerland regularly. His climbs included the usual run of standard routes round Zermatt and Arolla and in the Oberland and Dauphiné; he was, outside his scientific field, very conservative in his outlook and this was reflected in his climbing. His interest in mountaineering, however, never flagged; mentally, and physically, he was robust to the very end.

T. S. BLAKENEY.