ALPINE NOTES

(Compiled by D. F. O. Dangar)

CONGRATULATIONS.—We congratulate our Honorary Member, Lord Adrian, who has added to the many distinctions that have come to him, the Presidency of the Royal Society of Medicine.

We also congratulate the following members whose anniversaries, as stated, fall in 1960:

60 years of membership:—Dr. Tom G. Longstaff.
50 years of membership:—Lord Wright;
Mr. L. G. Shadbolt;
Mr. C. H. Wybergh;
Mr. T. G. W. Fowler.

And we must apologise for our remissness in not having noted in the last issue of this journal the fiftieth anniversary of the election of Mr. W. Warwick James (December 1909).

DEATHS.—Several deaths have been noted in recent months of mountaineers who, though not necessarily members of the Club at the time of death, deserve to be remembered.

James Francis Medley (1871–1960). The Rev. J. F. Medley, who died at Ringwood on April 18, was born on December 21, 1871. An Exhibitioner at Selwyn College, Cambridge, he took his B.A. in 1893 and was ordained in 1895. Among the principal offices he held were, Chaplain to Dr. Barnardo's Village Homes, Barkingside, 1905–14; C.M.S. Missionary at Omdurman, 1914–15; Vicar of Hemingford Grey, Hunts, 1916–31; St. Mark, Cambridge, 1931–36; and Rector of Sherfield English from 1936–49.

He was elected to the A.C. in 1921, his proposer being W. E. Durham, supported by W. J. Petherick. The latter, a relative of A. F. Mummery, brought Medley into touch with Mummery's family and I found him very helpful some years ago when I was compiling some notes on Mummery for the *A.J.* (60. 118). He visited the Alps first in 1898, and from 1902–13 was out almost every year, mostly in the Valais. He was out in the Alps again each year from 1920–23, but I have no later records of his activities. His wife accompanied him on some of his climbs.

He contributed the obituary notice of Petherick to the *A.J.* (49. 259), but does not seem to have taken any active part in Club affairs. He resigned some years ago, but agreed to withdraw his notice until the Centenary was over, and he retired definitely at the close of 1957.

Howard Vicenté Knox (1868–1960). The late H. V. Knox, who died on April 15 last, in his 92nd year, was a member of the Alpine Club from 1907–39. A soldier by profession, he passed out from Sandhurst to the Norfolk Regiment in October 1890, but ill-health, which hampered his career on a number of occasions, caused him to resign his commission in April 1891, though he got back on to the Reserve in 1900. The following year he was appointed Lieutenant in the Royal Garrison Regt. and was stationed in Gibraltar and Malta, only to be invalided out again, as Captain, in 1903. In September 1914 he was gazetted Captain in the Oxford and Bucks L.I., but he spent most of the first two years of the war in training depots, until in October 1916 he was appointed a Balloon Officer in the R.F.C., serving in France until once more his health broke down, although he managed to see the war through to the end, in England.

After the War, he was domestic bursar at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, but had retired by 1930, in which year he married. He wrote on philosophy, and the *Writer's Who's Who* gives details of his works.

When elected to the A.C. in February 1907, his list of climbs was a short one, although his first season in the Alps was as far back as 1885. He was out again in 1888, in the Engadine (Piz Bernina and Piz Scerscen amongst others), but there were no visits thereafter until 1905, when he accomplished several standard routes in the Oberland, in part guideless with F. W. Bourdillon. In 1906 he was with F.C.S. Schiller for a while, in the Engadine and Dolomites, but proceeded to the Oberland and Valais for what appears to be the best season he ever had. Some of his entries are very baldly stated: 'Mittellegi traverse' is suggestive, and, led by Joseph Lochmatter, he made the second descent of the Schalligrat of the Weisshorn (*A.J.* 59, 217).

He does not seem to have done any more big climbs, though he was out in Switzerland again in 1910. During the last War he was in the Civil Defence, but since then had led a very quiet life.

T.S.B.

Robert Alexander Frazer (1891–1959). In addition to the brief note in *A.J.* 65. 93, Dr. N. E. Odell writes: 'Owing to absence abroad I had not seen the announcement of the death of R. A. Frazer at his home at Ockham in Surrey on December 9 last. He had been a member of the Club for some years (1921–41), and was my excellent companion in the post-First-War period. He was a strong and skilled rock-climber on many difficult courses in Great Britain, and he had a good many Alpine seasons, both of climbing and winter skiing. He, R. F. Stobart and myself, in 1920 and again in 1922, made a number of climbs in the Chamonix district, including the traverse of the Charmoz, Grépon, Dru as well as an abortive attempt on the East face of the Aiguille Verte,

when Frazer's all-round powers as a mountaineer were well brought out, and were a signal comfort to his weary leader, quite out of condition, after a long day and an enforced night spent on a ledge. He was with me in Spitsbergen on the first two Oxford expeditions of 1921 and 1923, and was mainly responsible for the topographical survey, during our crossing of the 'highland ice' and mountains of the interior. In 1924 he was leader of a sledging party in North-east Land on the third Oxford expedition, one of his companions being the late W. B. Carslake. He was a keen skier, but being shy and sensitive he did not regard himself as a 'clubbable' man. He had, however, a very kindly disposition, and was beloved by all his companions and colleagues.

'At the City of London School (where F. W. Hill, of the Dent Blanche tragedy of 1899, was one of his masters), and later as Senior Scholar of Pembroke College, Cambridge, he proved himself to be an outstanding mathematician, and became a Wrangler and Rayleigh Prizeman. Later he proceeded to the degree of D.Sc. of London University, and was in 1946 elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. Frazer made his name in the field of aeronautical research, and almost the whole of his professional career was spent in the Aerodynamics Department of the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington. Having been a leader in research on the difficult problems of "flutter" in aircraft, he was later in charge of wind-resistance problems, and flutter-research, on the Severn suspension bridge. He also tackled, and solved intricate questions of wind-resistance in bridges on both sides of the Atlantic. He became a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society, and of the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences in America, winning the R.38 Memorial Prize of the former Society. It was only by participation in a Spitsbergen expedition that he had been spared the disaster of the airship R.38 in 1921. Other facets of his outstanding work have been cited in an obituary in *Nature* (16.i.60). It should be added that Alec Frazer was a keen student of music and an accomplished pianist: he was indeed that interesting compound of mathematician-musician. I remember how years ago he had hoped to compose a mountaineering symphony, or at least a sonata! He leaves a widow, a son and two daughters, to whom our sympathies are extended.'

Mr. R. F. Stobart adds: 'I first met Alec Frazer forty-one years ago, when he joined a party on Scafell Pike for the Peace Celebration bonfire, the beginning of a friendship that ended with his death last December.

'He was a splendid companion on a mountain, reliable and good-tempered under trying conditions, which never failed to produce some wisecrack. He not only enjoyed climbing, but, unlike some, appeared to enjoy the stress of it at the time, rubbing his hands with a boyish gesture of delight, when some difficulty had been surmounted: a gesture

that gave rise to the irreverent name of "Pontius". Never a peak-bagger, he was happy on either end of the rope, and alike reliable.

'His friendship was as rewarding at home as on the hills; and although circumstances often made contact impossible, and correspondence scanty, there was no break, until now.'

Ernest Edward Roberts (1873–1960). E. E. Roberts, one of the best-known members of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club and a member of the A.C. from 1908 to 1934, died on June 21, 1960. Mr. F. H. Slingsby writes of him:

'Born in Salford, Roberts was educated at Manchester Grammar School and at Corpus Christi College, Oxford. At Oxford he won both the Junior and Senior University Prizes for Mathematics, as did his younger brother, the late W. M. Roberts, also for many years a member of the A.C. After some teaching at Lampeter, Roberts joined the Board of Education, serving chiefly in the North and West Ridings of Yorkshire, as one of H.M. Inspectors of Schools; during the First World War he was lent to the War Office; he retired from the Board's service in 1933.

'Roberts was attracted to the hills early in life through walking in the Lake District. He went first to the Alps in 1903 with his brother and began climbing with guides, but soon became a skilled guideless climber. In 1910 in the Dauphiné Roberts and J. M. Davidson made the first ascent of the season of the Meije, with a novice, Colin Crawford, then making his first visit to the Alps. Up to the First War, and from 1920 onwards, Roberts went regularly to the Alps, almost to the outbreak of the Second War; there must have been few regions of the Alps that he did not know.

'He also climbed many times in Scotland and J. H. B. Bell pays high tribute to him as a safe mountaineer (*A Progress in Mountaineering*, pp. 151–4). Frank Smythe has likewise expressed his gratitude to Roberts "whose wise counsel and help served to place the feet of a reckless youngster into the path of true mountain virtue and righteousness" (*Climbs and Ski Runs*, p. 10); it was Roberts who introduced Smythe to Almscliff, a gritstone crag near Leeds, and not long after the two climbed together in the Dolomites. Besides making the ascent of most of the major peaks in the Alps, Roberts also visited Norway (where bad weather frustrated him) and Corsica.

'Roberts wrote little for the ALPINE JOURNAL, but many articles, chiefly on caves and pot-holes, for the Yorkshire Ramblers' Journal of which he was Editor from 1920 to 1948. He joined the Y.R.C. in 1908, was Vice-President from 1919 to 1922, and President from 1923 to 1925; he became a Life Member in 1938 and was made an Honorary Member in 1949. He was always an outstanding figure in that Club

and an absolute authority on the mountains and pot-holes of the British Isles.

'He was a man of many interests and wide reading; he will be sadly missed by his numerous friends. In the A.C. we have particular reason for remembering him with gratitude, for he presented to the Club the manuscript of Leslie Stephen's *Sunset from Mont Blanc*.'

Douglas Fawcett (1866–1960). Edward Douglas Fawcett, a mountaineer-philosopher who may be known to some members by his two most notable works, *The Zermatt Dialogues* (1934) and *The Oberland Dialogues* (1939), was the son of an Equerry to King Edward VII, and brother of the Colonel Fawcett, whose disappearance in Brazil still captures the imagination of romantics. Douglas Fawcett was as adventurous as his brother, but in a different way. A precocious boy at Westminster, he early turned his mind to science fiction, and in imaginative prescience was well ahead of H. G. Wells, particularly in his forecasting the air bombing of London and the use of armoured fighting vehicles in desert warfare.

His first marriage took him to Switzerland, where he lived for many years, and he became a pioneer skier and an experienced mountaineer, as well as an early motorist. In 1904 he managed to drive his car up the mule-path from Chamonix to the Mer de Glace. Annually, he climbed the Matterhorn until at the age of 66 he had a heart attack and had to desist. However, at 68 he learned to fly and, until he was 84 (excluding the war years), he was indefatigable in flying his light aeroplane among the Alps. When his flying licence was not renewed, he took to playing chess, and reached championship standards. Although never a member of the Alpine Club, this dashing and versatile man is one whose memory most certainly deserves a mention in our pages.

Mario Piacenza (1884–1957). This famous Italian mountaineer was born on April 21, 1884 and died April 16, 1957; we regret the failure to notice his death three years ago, but fortunately his name is worthily commemorated in the *Rivista Mensile* of this year (vol. lxxix, no. 3–4). Notable for his distinguished climbs, both in summer and winter, in the Alps, he travelled far afield, in the Caucasus, Armenia and Persia, in Kashmir and Turkestan. In 1913 he made the first ascent of Kun (23,250 ft.), but perhaps to many he will be best remembered as the man who, in 1911, made the first ascent of the Furggen arête of the Matterhorn (*A.J.* 26. 150). All testimony pays tribute to the modesty and attractiveness of his character: though not a member of the Alpine Club, we are glad to take this opportunity, if belatedly, of commemorating him and regretting the loss of so eminent a member of the C.A.I.

W. E. Corlett. William E. Corlett, who died in June 1960 at the age of 94,was an active climber in the Alps and Wales in the 'nineties and the early years of this century. He was a leading solicitor, business-man and philanthropist in Liverpool. An original member of the Climbers' Club, he presented to them the garage at Helyg. He climbed a great deal with Marshall K. Smith, who endeavoured unsuccessfully to secure Corlett's election to the A.C. Around the turn of the century Corlett was largely responsible for keeping Pen-y-Gwryd and its climbing traditions alive during a period of difficulty before the Lockwoods took charge.

One Hundred Years Ago.—With the coming of the 'sixties the attack on the unclimbed peaks of the Alps began to gather momentum. In the summer of 1860 Leslie Stephen and Melchior Anderegg, with various companions, made the first ascents of the Alphubel, Oberaarhorn, and Blümlisalphorn. 'We mounted', wrote Stephen of this last expedition, 'with the loss of only one of the party. This was a thermometer which a benevolent but weak disposition had induced me to carry with me "for scientific purposes". To my inexpressible delight, it escaped from my hands, which were rather numbed by the cold, just as I took it out at the summit, and rattling merrily down the glacier slopes, disappeared from our sight."[1]

In the Graians the Grand Paradis was climbed for the first time by J. J. Cowell and W. Dundas with Jean Tairraz and Michel Payot. The cold was intense and both guides suffered from it, particularly Payot, who cut nearly 1,300 steps before the top was reached and by then 'his hands were really in a dreadful state, the backs of a livid purple, the palms quite white, and the whole curved round, and stiffened as they had been grasping the pole'.[2]

The Parker brothers carried out some successful guideless climbs, crossing the Strahlegg, Weisstor, Col d'Hérens, and Col du Géant. They also made the first attempt on the Matterhorn from Zermatt, reaching a height of over 11,000 ft. Tyndall and Vaughan Hawkins, trying the ascent from the other side, reached the foot of the Great Tower on the South-west ridge. Edward Whymper saw the mountain for the first time, and was not impressed.

Led by Christian Lauener, Tyndall and Hawkins forced a route across the great barrier at the head of the Lauterbrunnen valley, making the first passage of the Lauitor. F. W. Jacomb claimed the Château des Dames and first passage of the Col de Valpelline while, in the Tarentaise, William Mathews with Michel Croz made the first ascent of the Grande Casse.

[1] *A.J.* 1. 360.

[2] *P.P. & G.* 3. 419.

In August an accident occurred on the Italian side of the Col du Géant in which three British tourists and the guide F. Tairraz lost their lives. The curious arrangement of roping adopted by the party is of interest today, showing the casual methods adopted by some of the guides of that time. The three tourists were roped together in the normal way, one end of the rope was held by the leading guide and the other end by the guide bringing up the rear, whilst Tairraz grasped it in the middle. When the slip occurred and the party began to slide down, the front and rear guides let go of the rope and so escaped with their lives.

ARCHDUKE JOHN OF AUSTRIA.—Archduke John of Austria, the centenary of whose death was noted in *A.J.* 64, 241, was one of the most interesting pioneers of the Eastern Alps, a man greatly beloved by his country, and it has been for me a fascinating experience to follow in some of his footsteps. He was born in the Pitti Palace, Florence, the son of Leopold II, then Grand Duke of Tuscany, and brother of Francis II, the last of the Holy Roman Emperors. But much of his life was spent in Styria, particularly in Graz, where the Joanneum, a museum which he founded in 1811, an impressive fountain-statue by Pönninger, and the excellent Erzherzog Johann Hotel preserve his name. At Aussee there is a small statue representing him as a huntsman, and the house where he courted Anna Plochl, the postmaster's daughter who became his wife in 1827, and on whom the Emperor conferred the title of Countess of Meran. Later on they lived at Schloss Schenna, on the vineyard slops outside Merano, a castle filled with his memorabilia, including many watercolours of contemporary costumes and scenes by such artists as Karl Russ and Matthaus Loder, which were so beautifully reproduced in V. von Geramb's *Steirisches Trachtenbuch* (Graz, 1932–9).

In 1802 the Archduke made the first ascent of the Wiener Schneeberg, and an early visit to the Pinzgau, with the Krimml waterfalls, aroused his interest in the Venediger, its snowfields seen through the openings of the Sulzbach valleys.

The conquest of Mont Blanc in 1786 created the idea of a similar accomplishment in the Eastern Alps, and this was the motive behind Cardinal Salm's expeditions to the Gross Glockner in the closing years of the century. The Ortler, by that time known to be the highest Austrian peak, was as yet untouched, and it remained for Archduke John, in 1804, to commission the attempts by his physician, Dr. Gebhard. But Gebhard was unsuccessful, and it fell to a guide of the Passeier valley, Josef Pichler, starting from Trafoi, to reach the highest point. The archduke himself took no part in the effort. Gebhard, however, accompanied Pichler on the second ascent, made in the following year, a notable feat for the time since it was done from Sulden by the Hinterergrat.

The Archduke was on the Hochgolling in 1819, and a painting of the summit group, by J. Gauermann, is reproduced in Steinitzer's *Alpinismus in Bildern*, p. 94. Facing this is Loder's watercolour showing the Archduke in a sitting glissade below the summit of the Ankogel. In my copy I have inserted a letter dated Vienna, Dec. 1, 1801, written in English to Sir Joseph Banks and signed 'Your very affectionate John, Archduke of Austria'.

In 1826 Archduke John, spending one of many summers at Gastein, ascended the Ankogel and also the easy Gamskarkogel, and thought enough of the latter as a viewpoint to bring his wife there in 1830. Long ago, in Vienna, I was fortunate in finding an old colour-print from a watercolour by Thomas Ender (1793–1875), professor of landscape painting at the Vienna Academy, which shows the cavalcade and a gay picnic beside the summit hut, with the Gross Glockner in the background.

It was only mischance that prevented Archduke John from achieving the first ascent of the Gross Venediger. He attempted it with a large party on August 7–8, 1828, by way of the difficult North-west face, but desisted when a snowslide carried down Paul Rohregger, his leading guide, barely escaping a fatal accident. The technique is curious. Three men went ahead unroped, the first cutting steps with a small hatchet, which the other two enlarged. This was to save time, the rest of the party being roped in small groups. One should read Oskar Kühlken's interesting book, *Die Weltalte Majestät* (Salzburg, 1950) for details and illustrations of the Archduke's mountaineering days. It contains a reproduction of an amusing lithograph, from a sketch by Rattenberger, showing the climbers like flies on a wall, and Rohregger in the avalanche. A copy of this was in Rohregger's house in the Pinzgau and was seen by Dr. Spitaler shortly before the successful ascent of 1841. One may also consult the biography, *Erzherzog Johann, Der Steirische Prinz*, by Viktor Theis (Graz, 1950). Archduke John ascended the Hohen Priel in 1829, being then 47 years of age.

He had a military career in his early years, during the French Revolutionary Wars being the ill-advised commander of Austrian forces at the disastrous battle of Hohenlinden (Dec. 1800). In 1848 he was Regent for a short time. He died at Graz in 1859, and he and his wife rest in the mausoleum adjacent to Schloss Schenna, above Merano and the vine-clad Passeier valley.

Another centenary occurs in this year, 1960, marking the reunion of Savoy with France. Paul Payot, now mayor of Chamonix, sent me his Christmas card reproducing the Doré engraving of the guides ascending Mont Blanc to plant the flag on its summit. There will be celebrations

in August and various folklore groups will spend a week with song and dance through the area Annecy-Megève-Chamonix.

J. Monroe Thorington.

Arolla.—The older generation will learn with mixed feelings that a motor road has been opened between Les Haudères and Arolla so that it is now possible to drive a car to the very doors of the Hotel du Mont Collon.

An Interview With Henriette d'Angeville.—We quote below an extract from the 1853 diary of Mrs. G. F. Young:

'Geneva. Wednesday 11th (May). At three o'clock yesterday afternoon we started, Emma, Lucy, Mr. Hudson[3] and myself, for Ferney on a visit to Mademoiselle d'Angeville, the French lady who distinguished herself by ascending Mont Blanc and reaching the summit in the year 1838 in the month of September. She is an acquaintance of Mr. Hudson, and through him we obtained this introduction.

'Being a little too early when we arrived at Ferney for the appointment, which was for half past four o'clock, we walked on through the beautiful avenue which leads to the Château Voltaire[4] hoping this second visit to be able to see the house. The weather was fine and a greater contrast to our last visit, the ninth of last November, could not well have been. Then, the yellow leaves strewed the earth so thickly that we could hardly walk through them and the trees were almost leafless; it was a damp and grey looking day and all seemed gloomy and trist; the mountains were hid from us by a thick mist. Now, nature had revived in all her glory. The trees were clothed with the richest verdure, the meadows were the brightest and loveliest green and tho' the mountains were not clear there was a depth of colouring about them which added much to the beauty of the scene; the woods near the house looked lovely. We were again disappointed in not being allowed to see the Château and came away with the full persuasion that the present occupant must be a Curmudgeon.

'A pleasanter reception awaited us on our return to the village. Madsell (*sic*) d'Angeville received us most kindly. She is extremely intelligent, with all the vivacity of manner and ease which characterises a Frenchwoman accustomed to mix in good society. The chief object of our visit was to see her album, which contains sketches, finished by superior artists, of the different places in the ascent of Mont Blanc, beginning from the time she left Geneva as far as Chamouni, with the different views of Mont Blanc and his satellites, all the way up Mont

[3] Rev. Charles Hudson, killed on the first ascent of the Matterhorn.

[4] Voltaire purchased the Château at Ferney in 1758 and spent the last twenty years of his life there.

Blanc and down, with the costumes and portraits of herself and her six guides, all highly interesting. She herself fills up the whole with most animated *viva voce* descriptions of the ascent etc while she displays each sketch. She slept twice on the Grands Mulets. There are likewise sketches of the flowers she gathered, all beautifully arranged in groups botanically, and the whole highly finished.

'She does not seem to have suffered so much as might have been expected. She ascended in a close fitting dress, very short, a kind of hat something like a parasol as she did not want to carry anything in her hand but the Alpenstock—and this answered the purpose; no veil, no spectacles, as she wished to be perfectly free[5]. She seems to have suffered most from difficulty in breathing, and from her eyes for a short time. The skin of her face likewise came off but otherwise she accomplished the ascent without much difficulty.

'It was a most interesting interview and I cannot help regarding her as a marvellously wonderful being—she must be, I think, from 60 to 65 years of age now, and therefore she must have been at least 45 years of age at the time, not young for such an extraordinary undertaking![6] She gave us afterwards cakes and liqueur and chatted most agreeably. I shall always remember my visit and introduction to Mad. d'Angeville as one of the most pleasing associations connected with Geneva.

'12th (May). Mr. Hudson left Geneva today for England having wholely abandoned for this year at least his design of ascending Mont Blanc.[7]

STOCKALPER CHÂTEAU.—The Swiss Foundation for Alpine Research has undertaken the restoration of this historic building, so familiar to visitors to Brigue and at one time the largest private residence in Switzerland. It was built by Kaspar Stockalper in the seventeenth century from the profits of his trade with Italy.

[5] A portrait of her, in mountaineering attire, will be found at p. 158 of *The Annals of Mont Blanc*.

[6] She was born in 1794 and died on January 13, 1871. At the age of 69 she ascended the Oldenhorn—in a crinoline.

[7] Hudson had spent the winter of 1852–3 at Geneva, putting himself through a rigorous course of training. He ascended the Dôle in January and the following month spent a night in a sleeping bag at a height of 7,000 ft. between the Col d'Anterne and the Brévent and in a temperature of −13°F. He had left Sixt at 3 p.m. with the deliberate intention of being benighted.

In March he made repeated attempts to climb the Aiguille du Goûter, on one occasion nearly reaching the summit, for the purpose of reconnoitring the St. Gervais route up Mont. Blanc. He and his party made the first ascent from St. Gervais in 1855 by way of the Aiguille du Goûter, the Grand Plateau, and Mur de la Côte.

The extract from Mrs. Young's diaries was communicated to the Editor, Mrs. Young's great-great-great-nephew, by Mr. D. H. W. Young. The manuscripts are now in the London Museum.

BRIENZER ROTHORN.—The rack and pinion railway up this well-known view point is the only remaining line of its kind in Switzerland to be operated by steam driven locomotives. Plans are now in hand to replace the railway by an aerial cableway.

GLACIERS IN RETREAT.—The general retreat of Alpine glaciers and the building of new hydro-electric plants in the Zermatt region have led to some interesting discoveries. For instance, 21 ft. under the moraine of the Zmutt glacier, at an altitude of about 7,400 ft., the trunk of a larch tree, which had been for centuries under the glacier which covered the spot until thirty years ago, has been found.

The trunk is 45 ft. long and about 32 in. in diameter and, experts say, was part of a forest which covered the higher Zmutt valley during the early seventeenth century. It was a time when all the glaciers were in retreat and when—according to documents—it was easier for the people of Zermatt to go to Sion over the Col Durand or Col d'Hérens than by descending the Visp valley.

Near the front of the Gorner glacier, under the Riffelbord on a place marked by the height 2,093 on the Swiss map, among rock slabs covered by the glacier a few years ago, the remains of the beams and planks of a mid-sixteenth-century cow-shed were discovered. It had been built when the Gorner glacier had retreated from the spot, but was covered again by the glacier's advance a hundred years later.

The most interesting find, and a very important one for Swiss pre-history, was a Stone Age axe near the path to the Gandegg hut, at a place called 'in dem Garten', nearly 200 yards from the way leading to the Théodule Pass and under the front moraine of the Théodule glacier, at a height of about 7,870 ft. It was found in May, 1959, at a depth of 2 ft. and is now in the Zermatt Alpine Museum.

The axe, fashioned out of serpentine, weighs just over 35 oz., is 12 in. long, and has a maximum width of about 3 in. It has been polished along half of its length, the remainder being rough. That type of axe is rare in Switzerland and—according to Professor Marc R. Sauter, the Geneva archaeologist who examined the axe—it dates from the late Neolithic period.

Its lack of strength makes it doubtful whether it was ever used as a tool or weapon, and Professor Sauter suggests that it might have been a symbol of power or a ritual axe. He thinks it may have come from western France, where weapons of similar shape and size have often been found.

The great value of the find is that till then no prehistoric implement had been found at such a height in the Swiss Alps. It further shows that at that time the pre-historic dwellers of the Valais canton crossed the Théodule Pass (10,800 ft.). (From *The Times*.)

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION TO THE RESCUE OF ALPINE FARMING.—This is the title of an article in the European Information Letter of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. The contents of the articles are less inspiring than the title. The International Civil Servant seems to live in an even denser cocoon of verbiage than his British counterpart.

In 1949, we are told, the Governments of several European Countries thought that the living conditions of the alpine peasantry might be less attractive than the tourist supposed. 'Ten years later, after considerable investigation, their suspicions about the conditions in which these mountain peoples live proved to be not unwarranted.' The visiting mountaineer evidently knew more about Alpine peasant life than did their Governments, 'none of whom', says F.A.O. 'seemed to have much idea of how to go about a survey of these conditions'. F.A.O. was, accordingly 'requested to assist them in carrying out a study that would enable them to determine the economic and social disadvantages of life in the Alpine Region and ultimately to take appropriate action to counteract these disadvantages in a systematic and effective manner'.

There was a preliminary discussion, then a training centre, then pilot surveys the results of which 'were examined', a wider survey which led to the preparation of five monographs, which were synthetised into one international study which has now been the subject of detailed examination at a meeting in Austria, in which the Director General of F.A.O. kindly invited the five interested countries to participate.

So much for the parturition of the mountains; now for the mouse.

It was found that young people leave the high villages for easier surroundings, which leads to a manpower shortage. The reasons for this have been ascertained; the first two discoveries are:

1. Woman's lot in an Alpine village is hard. (F.A.O., of course, does not say 'hard', it says 'relatively unfavourable as regards working conditions, living conditions and the use of leisure').
2. When a farmer's land is expropriated, he tends to go elsewhere.

The recommendations are generally sensible, though most are platitudinous or obvious. Stress is laid on excessive fragmentation of holdings and the desirability of consolidation. Pigs and potatoes are recommended.

Like national Ministries of Agriculture, the F.A.O. regards agriculture as an end in itself, not as an economic activity which has to be economic to be justified. It proposes the improvement of dwellings; the development of communications, electricity, water and drainage; the extension of credit; the improvement of education; the promotion of small industries, handicrafts and 'the servicing of the tourist'. All very desirable

but the science of economics is concerned with the distribution of *scarce* resources so that they are used to *maximum* advantage.

This, concludes F.A.O., 'is a good example of the integrated approach to economic and social problems of rural populations'.

The work of all these eminent men cannot have been as futile as the F.A.O. publicist makes out[8] but if all alpine 'rescues' were carried out with this deliberation, they would recover only bodies.

Mme. Claude Kogan.—Mme. Kogan, who disappeared on Cho Oyu last year, has been posthumously appointed chevalier of the *Légion d'Honneur*.

Rafael Lochmatter.—We report with regret the death of Rafael Lochmatter, 'the uncut gem of the great guiding brotherhood, and a mountaineer well worth knowing: original and unspoiled, with a shrewd wit, a bedrock philosophy and integrity, and a most loyal and tender heart'.[9] He died earlier this year in his native village of St. Niklaus, at the age of eighty-four.

Rafael was the last survivor of the six sons of Joseph-Marie Lochmatter, killed with his son Alexander and W. E. Gabbett on the Dent Blanche in 1882. All the sons became distinguished guides though Rafael was perhaps not so well-known as Franz and Joseph, who made many great expeditions with V. J. Ryan. Like his brothers, Rafael had climbed extensively in the Alps and was one of the party that made the first winter ascent of the Weisshorn in 1902. With O. K. Williamson he made the first ascent of the North-west face of the Tschingelhorn. In 1909 he accompanied Madame Hélène Kuntze on an expedition to the Caucasus when Nakhashbita, Tsikhgartikhon, and the South peak of Sugan were climbed for the first time.

He is said to have carried his crampons prominently exposed on his rucksack for the encouragement of his less experienced patrons, but seldom, if ever, did he find it necessary to use them.

An Antarctic Myth.—Mt. Vinson (*c.* 20,000 ft.) in Marie Byrd Land, thought to be the highest mountain in Antarctica, is now said to be non-existent. Mr. John Pirrit, of the American Byrd Land traverse party, flew over the area during the course of the expedition and confirmed a suspicion that Mt. Vinson does not exist. 'I cannot understand how it was charted', he is reported to have said. 'There is no mountain anywhere near that size in the area.'

[8] We are, indeed, advised by experts that F.A.O. does very good work on very little money.

[9] G. Winthrop Young: *Mountains with a Difference*. p. 159.

Mt. Nimitz, also in Marie Byrd Land, now appears to rank as the highest mountain in Antarctica, assuming that the height of 16,000 ft. assigned to it is correct.

KILIMANJARO.—According to the Permanent Secretary of the Tanganyika Ministry of Mines and Commerce more than seven hundred people climbed Kilimanjaro during 1959, but it seems only about half of these reached Gilman's Point on the rim of the crater. He added that the first day's stage of the climb, the ten miles from Marangu to the Bismarck hut, could now be done in a motor-car. Nevertheless, the first stage was a delightful walk through Chagga Coffee Gardens and then the Forest Reserve with its great variety of wild flowers and splendid views.

There is an Outward Bound Mountain School at Loitokitok in Kenya. The course of this school culminates in an ascent of Kilimanjaro. The numbers given above do not include parties from the school.

RUWENZORI.—We are indebted to Mr. R. M. Bere for the information that the authorities of the Parcs Nationaux du Congo Belge have accepted the name of Arête de Grunne for the North-east ridge of Pte. Albert.[10]

GIBRALTAR.—A Guide to the Rock Climbs of Gibraltar has recently been compiled by Lt.-Cdr. F. R. Brooke, R.N. A copy of this guide has been pasted inside a climbing log book deposited at Fortress H.Q. in the office that issues climbing permits. Members intending to climb in Gibraltar are advised to obtain permission to examine the book.

OKER GORGE, HARZ MOUNTAINS.—A short guide to rock climbs on these outcrops has been circulated by the Army Mountaineering Association, from whom copies can no doubt be obtained.

ROCKY MOUNTAINS.—A party of six members of the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) and one Canadian visited the Northern Rockies this summer. The area selected was the group containing Mts. Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin, all about 9–10,000 ft. in height, and many other unclimbed peaks.

This range, lying to the north of the Lloyd George Mountains is almost completely unexplored, though a reconnaissance flight was made over the area by Smythe, Odell, and Henry Hall, when they visited the Lloyd George range in 1947; amid a multitude of peaks Mt. Churchill could not be identified with certainty.

VODKA AND MOUNTAINEERING.—A rock-climbing resort near Krasnoyarsk, Central Siberia, is said to have been turned into a place of

[10] *A.J.* 64. 257.

'drunkenness, depravity, and hooliganism' by vodka-drinking youths who fortify themselves with something more than a 'nip' before tackling cliff climbs.

The Soviet Youth Newspaper *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, in its issue of February 14, reported that 90 per cent of all accidents among these rocks were caused by heavy drinking. 'Young people, students, workers and school children carry vodka to the cliffs. After that, the cliffs do not appear dangerous. They throw bottles over the cliffs because they like the sound of breaking glass. The cliffs are covered with broken bottles.'

One band of youths, calling themselves 'Golden Eagles', is said to demand money from would-be climbers to buy vodka, and others preach 'free life'.

The writer of the article wrote indignantly that the resort had been turned into a place of drinking and depravity and demanded that the Krasnoyarsk public made it its task to see that there was 'no bottles of vodka and no hooliganism' in the region.

1960 GREENLAND EXPEDITION.—Sir John Hunt led a party to North Greenland and the Staunings Alps; leaving on July 21 they expected to return on September 1.

The party included Sir John and Lady Hunt, Alan Blackshaw, John Jackson, George Lowe, I. G. McNaught-Davis, H. R. A. Streather, a number of other experienced mountaineers and over twenty boys from the National Association of Mixed Clubs and Girls' Clubs. The boys, aged from 17 to 20, are all at work in some capacity and have all achieved the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award.

LIAISON OFFICERS, PAKISTAN.—E. J. E. Mills writes from Staff College, Quetta, to commend two Pakistani officers, Lieut. Durrani, Frontier Force, and Lieut. Khurshid Ahmed, 12th Cavalry. He suggests that organisers of expeditions to mountains in Pakistan would be well advised to ask for one of these officers by name.

CHINA AND THE TIBETAN FRONTIER CLAIMS.—The recent Press reports from Katmandu that the Chinese have completely sealed Tibet's southern border in the Everest sector, from Sikkim westwards for some 200 miles to Kyerong, is one further step in the establishment of China's Tibetan military stronghold. It is a big, if not ominous, question extending, in territory, from Ladakh to Bhutan and beyond, and, in time, from prior to the negotiations in 1913 for the establishment of the McMahon Line. India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan are all involved. Much has been written on various aspects of the whole problem, and of late a good deal has appeared in articles and in letters to the Press. The aspect that has, perhaps, received a certain amount

of sensational attention, and not in mountaineering circles alone, is the Chinese claim to Mount Everest and the Nepalese counter-claim. But it has not been entirely clear what precisely the Chinese are claiming: whether the whole Everest massif, with local passes and cols, and even the southern slopes facing Nepal; or whether, as in later reports, only the northern flanks and ridges, extending up to the main summits and intersecting ridges. In the former case the Chinese claim extended, it was said, as much as five and a half miles down the southern slopes of Everest, even to the Sherpa settlement in Namche Bazar: a quite unreasonable, if not outrageous, claim, as Nepal has rightly maintained. Nepal must, therefore, be considered entirely justified in resisting these, apart from other, Chinese claims and demands. What compromise can be arrived at in this Sino-Nepalese border-problem is not as yet clear, and the suggested line of the highest summits and crests is deemed too indeterminable to suffice. The irregular watershed, with the headwaters of streams and rivers lying well northward on the Tibetan plateau in many cases, adds many complications to the problem. Another factor, much used by the Chinese for propaganda purposes, is the settlement of Tibetans and allied ethnic groups in communities well south of the main ranges, in Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan, apart from Ladakh and Assam. It is more than unfortunate that during the British régime in India so many boundary questions were left unsettled, and large portions of the frontier with Tibet undefined and undemarcated. It is, moreover, wholly deplorable that two peers (one a member of the Club!), who took part in the debate on Tibet in the House of Lords on May 5 last, should have adopted a notably complacent, misleading and doctrinaire attitude in regard to China's encroachments, aggression and cruelties in Tibet, for which there has been a mass of irrefutable and damning evidence. Of less serious import, but as concerns mountaineering very regrettable, is that, consequent upon the menacing attitude of China along the borders of Tibet, India should now withhold permission for access to *bona fide* climbers to the higher and grander districts of northern Sikkim, Kumaon and elsewhere.

A word may be added on the old question of a Tibetan, or other local name for Everest, which has again arisen out of the Sino-Nepalese dispute. Long ago it was shown by that eminent Tibetan scholar, Sir Charles Bell, that the word 'Chomolungma' had been erroneously interpreted in the original permit from Lhasa to climb the mountain. Instead, the word used was 'Chamolung', signifying a former royal aviary in the sixth to eighth century A.D., within which the great mountain is situated. This was fully discussed in 1931 by Col. Sir Sidney Burrard, F.R.S., in his Professional Paper No. 26 of the Survey of India, entitled 'Mount Everest and its Tibetan Names'; as well as by the writer in *A.J.* 47. 127. and again in a recent letter to *The Times* (12.4.60). In the

latter it was emphasised that whatever grounds there may be (*quâ* Nepal) for the newly proposed Nepali name of 'Sagarmatha' for Mt. Everest, China is certainly in error in maintaining that 'Chomolungma' is the accepted Tibetan name.

It is pertinent, however, to refer to E.G.H. Kempson's remarks in *Everest: the Unfinished Adventure* (1937) at p. 285. He records that in Rongbuk Monastery was found a booklet for the use of pilgrims, as well as the diary of the Lama, referring to a local ice-mountain named 'Jo-mo-glan-ma', or 'Lady Cow'! From this Kempson suggests that the transliterated equivalent, Chomo-langma, should be the accepted name. But does this name imply what we know as Mount Everest, or rather the whole massif, as might well appear from the context? Whilst the present writer's knowledge of Tibetan, or its dialects, is quite unequal to the task of resolving the issue, he is prepared to accept fully the opinion of such an outstanding scholar as Sir Charles Bell, that there is no recognisable native name for the peak itself.

N. E. ODELL.