

Other organisations and clubs

1968 U.I.A.A. meeting in London We had the pleasure for the first time of being host country for the annual meeting, held in London on 5-6 October. The President Dr Wyss-Dunant (Switzerland) and the Vice-President Herr von Bomhard (Germany) took the chair and delegates from twenty countries attended. The main business was the adoption of the new uniform code for grading and describing climbs—see p 355 above.

The Executive Committee met at the Bonnington Hotel on Saturday, 5 October. In the afternoon, the guests were taken for a brief tour of London by coach, and in the evening attended a Government Reception at Lancaster House, where they were received by Mr Denis Howell M.P., Minister of Sport. Invitations were sent to member clubs and individuals who had contributed to the special fund which the B.M.C. had initiated to finance the Assembly.

On Sunday, 6 October, the Annual Assembly was held at the Alpine Club [166] and all delegates were entertained to a buffet lunch there by the B.M.C.

The Annual Dinner was held at the Café Royal, and attended by 111 guests. The guests of honour were the Lord Mayor of Westminster and the Lady Mayoress. The President of the B.M.C., Basil Goodfellow presided. The Lord Mayor welcomed the guests to London, and to the City of Westminster in particular; Lord Hunt proposed the toast of the U.I.A.A., and Dr Wyss-Dunant replied. This was the last official function of the U.I.A.A. under Dr Wyss-Dunant, and a graceful speech of appreciation was made by Herr von Bomhard.

On Monday, 7 October, some thirty-six delegates, accompanied by Lord Hunt and myself, went to North Wales, in brilliant weather, where they were welcomed at the Plas y Brenin Centre, Capel Curig, by Jack Longland, the Chairman of the C.C.P.R. Outdoor Recreation Centre Committee, and John Jackson, the Warden of the Centre. After lunch, the guests were shown the work in progress there, including rock-climbing and training in rescue work.

The night was spent in Capel Curig, and the next day the visitors were first taken to Ogwen Cottage, where Ron James explained the work of the Training Centre, run by the Birmingham Local Education Authority. Subsequently the guests were shown an excellent demonstration of rock-climbing instruction and various rescue techniques, on the Milestone Buttress of Tryfan. The demonstration was organised by instructors from Plas y Brenin and Ogwen, together with a group of girl students from Ogwen.

After a picnic lunch various parties climbed on Tryfan, Glyder Fawr and the



166 Dr Ed. Wyss-Dunant, President, opening the U.I.A.A. Assembly 1968 at the Alpine Club on 6 October 1968 Also on the platform: Dr Hans von Bomhard, Vice-President; Dr J. Juge; Guido Tonella. Photo: Frank Solari

Tremadoc cliffs, while others walked or toured by coach in the area. Later there was a talk by Mr Pyne, the Planning Officer for the Snowdonia National Park, and slides were shown by the Russian delegates of recent new ascents in the Caucasus; some slides were also shown by Dr Campell, the Chairman of the Swiss Rescue Committee, on various aspects of Alpine rescue work. These latter slides created considerable interest, particularly for the staff of the two centres. This is the first occasion on which Dr Campell had visited this country, and Fred Pigott, the Chairman of the Mountain Rescue Committee, joined the party to meet him. The party returned to London by sleeper from Holyhead, after a really successful visit. **H. D. Greenwood** *Hon. Sec. B.M.C.*

U.I.A.A. Presidency Albert Eggler is now President in succession to Dr Wyss-Dunant. He led the 1956 Swiss expedition, which made the first ascent of Lhotse and second ascent of Mount Everest.

Deutscher Alpenverein On the occasion of its one hundredth anniversary we offer our congratulations and best wishes for the future to the Deutscher Alpenverein, founded at Munich in 1869.

Fifteen years of the Österreichische Himalaya-Gesellschaft This year the O.H.G. can look back on fifteen years of existence. From 1954 to 1963 the association supported five Austrian expeditions to the Himalaya or Karakoram, together with numerous other associated activities involving Austrian climbers. Currently the association is involved in opening up the Dhaula Himal area to climbers, which region the late co-founder and first President of the O.H.G., Dr Rudolf Jonas, selected as being of special interest to Austrian climbers and scientists. In 1963 the Austrian Dhaula Himal Expedition visited the area, opening up routes to the unclimbed 7000 m peaks Dhaulagiri II and III and carrying out scientific observations which resulted in the two-volume work

by Dr Gerhard Fuchs, *The Formation of the Himalaya*, published this year by the Austrian Academy of Science. The expedition currently being mounted carries the title Dr Rudolf Jonas Memorial Expedition, having the patronage of the Federal President, and will carry out mountaineering and scientific projects. The O.H.G. hopes to overcome the difficulties surrounding entry to Nepal. (Source: *Alpinismus* January 1969.)

Société des Amis du Vieux Chamonix M Lucien Devies, President of the Club Alpin Français, writes to ask for the Club's help and support for this recently founded society. One of the objects of the Society is the conservation of those elements of the old village which remain, in the face of the increasing numbers of tourists, the development of ski-ing and the rapid changes that are taking place as a result. Another object is the preservation of documents, printed and manuscript, works of art, handicrafts, etc. relating to Chamonix. The Society is building up a basic collection and would welcome contributions, either of material or in the form of subscriptions—the minimum subscription is 10 francs, though it is hoped that some members will subscribe more. Enquiries to: Mme Mireille Simond, la Maissonnette, les Pècles, Chamonix—Mt Blanc, Haute Savoie, France.

British Mountaineering Council The new constitution came into effect on 1 January 1968, and the change was completed when a new committee of management, composed according to the new rules, took office in the middle of the year. The constitution had been little changed since the B.M.C. was formed, on the initiative of the Alpine Club, in 1944. As was recognised by his immediate appointment as patron, the new constitution owes much to the inspiration of Lord Hunt, whose term of office as President ended in 1968. He was succeeded by Basil Goodfellow, who has taken this office for the second time. The changes in rules are designed to have two main effects. First, they widen the membership of the Council by making eligible not only mountaineering *clubs*, but any organisations wholly devoted to mountaineering, and by creating a new category of associate membership open to individuals. Second, the administrative structure is altered. A network has been established of area committees intended to be representative of all clubs and others interested in each climbing area; the area committees are supposed to attend to all local matters and to become the main source of initiative in bringing matters to the central committee of management. The committee of management is itself reconstructed. Formerly dominated by nominated representatives of the older clubs, under the new rules it consists mainly of the officers, of representatives of the area committees, and of members elected by the Council as a whole at its annual general meeting. The Alpine Club is the only club which retains the right to a

nominated representative, in view of its special position in the wider mountaineering world.

Whether the idea of individual associate membership will catch on, whether more generally the B.M.C. will be rejuvenated by these reforms and made more responsible to the views of active mountaineers, it is too early to judge. In the past year it has been chiefly concerned to make its new structure function. Its traditional activities have continued: representing the interests of mountaineers on governmental and similar bodies; equipment studies; problems of access to climbing grounds; issue of guides' certificates; safety propaganda and provision of information, especially through the periodical *Mountaineering* (now under a new Editor, Kevin Fitzgerald); running the Memorial Hut which is such a useful addition to the limited accommodation in Glen Brittle, Skye. A new field of work is about to open, in an insurance scheme. Other initiatives are under discussion.

The new constitution should give a stimulus to further developments, but at present there is something less than unanimity among British mountaineers generally as to what further developments are desirable. Some by temperament allergic to organisation and with a primary loyalty to clubs or to a club-like group of friends, continue the tradition of suspicion of the central body, and would have it do no more than the limited representational tasks for which it was originally created. In the past this has been probably the majority view. More recently more has been heard of a vocal and probably growing body of opinion which, looking with envy at the large, well-financed, and powerful central mountaineering organisations of some other countries and at the services they provide to their members, would like to see something analogous in Britain. A third category of opinion takes an intermediate position, regarding movement towards more central organisation as a regretted but now inevitable consequence of the enormous growth in mountaineering activity.

This debate will no doubt continue. What is clear is that the B.M.C., still essentially a voluntary body dependent on spare-time officers, would need much administrative strengthening and more money before it could perform the more ambitious roles cast for it by some, even if more support should emerge than so far for the view that such roles are generally desired of it.

Meanwhile two international events in 1968 deserve record. In August, in response to a generous invitation from the German Alpine Club, the B.M.C. arranged for two British mountaineers, P. J. Nunn and C. J. Woodall, to climb in Bavaria as the guests of the German Alpine Club. Secondly, in October the

B.M.C., which represents Britain in the U.I.A.A., was for the first time host at the annual gathering of that body, as recorded above.

In December the B.M.C. ceased to share the rather limited office facilities at the Alpine Club. Its office is now in the building of the Central Council for Physical Recreation, 26 Park Crescent, London W1. **A. K. Rawlinson**

Mount Everest Foundation (c/o Royal Geographical Soc., Kensington Gore, London SW7). Submission dates for applications for grants for the 1970 season should be sent in to the M.E.F. by 8 September 1969 for those parties leaving early; otherwise, by 12 January 1970.

A.B.M.S.A.C. During 1968 the Club has continued to flourish and now has a membership of over 650. Club activities include regular monthly lectures during the winter and spring, held at the Alpine Club and followed by buffet supper. In addition the programme of climbing activities has been successfully expanded to include occasional week-end meets in the Lake District and North Wales which have been attended by members from all parts of the country. It is hoped that the Club will become a much more active climbing club in Great Britain in the next few years.

In addition the traditional meets were held at Easter and in the summer, the latter at Obergurgl; it was well attended but the climbing was restricted by the unfriendly weather. This seems to have been the general pattern in the Alps this year and is reflected in many of the reports of individual members' climbs detailed in the Club Journal.

At the A.G.M. Frank Solari was elected President and Dr David Riddell Vice-President.

During the 1968 Assembly of the U.I.A.A. in London the officers of the A.B.M.S.A.C. took the opportunity to entertain Herr Hektor Meier, President of the Central Committee of the S.A.C. and other members of the Swiss delegation. **Graham Daniels, Editor**

Alpine Ski Club The Club's sixtieth anniversary dinner was celebrated on 13 November 1968 at the United Service Club. The founder, Sir Arnold Lunn, and two other original members, J. R. Dixon and W. A. M. Moore, were present, and the Guest of Honour was Lord Hunt. The history of the Club's first sixty years, by Wing Commander Bentley Beauman, appeared in the *British Ski Year Book*, 1968. After a highly successful year, total membership now stands at 158, and the Committee still strongly welcomes applications for membership

(see *A.Ĵ.* 73. 107): they should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, R. O. Hennings, C.M.G., Wyngates, Pennymead Drive, East Horsley, Leatherhead, Surrey. Of the expeditions made by members in 1968, pride of place should be given to Terence Hartley's ascent of the Dom, in celebration not only of the Club's sixtieth birthday, but also of Sir Arnold Lunn's eightieth birthday in April and his first ascent of the mountain on skis in 1917 (*A.Ĵ.* 73. 205). Wilberforce Smith led the S.C.G.B. Bivio and Ortler meets; Jim Roche was active in the Dauphiné (*B.S.Y.B.* 1968. 150), and with Jeremy Cridlan did the Haute Route in May, including the Pigne d'Arolla and the Breithorn-Strahlhorn-Allalinhorn traverse; Owen and Wilkins did the Weissnollen and Finsteraarhorn in April; Royle-Bantoft climbed the Leckihorn; and Walter Kirstein did the Piz Surganda and the Piz Cambrena, as well as ski-ing in the San Bernadin mountains. See p 179 for Fedden's visit to the Sierra Nevada.

Ladies' Alpine Club The most interesting climbing by members in 1968 was in distant ranges, as bad weather in the Alps prevented much climbing worthy of note, although Janet Rogers was on the first ascent of a new route on the Piz Zocca in the Bregaglia (see p 177 above). In August, Joan Busby led a party including Margaret Darvall, Mary Fulford and Esmé Speakman exploring in the Staunings Alps in East Greenland. Sally Westmacott, with her husband, was climbing in the Chitral Hindu Kush, and made the first ascent of a 19,000 ft peak (see p. 205). Elizabeth Whewell and her husband made first ascents of The Wedge in Peru (see p 271) and of three peaks in Bolivia. A week-end meet was held in Dorset in June, and monthly meetings, with lectures, were held during the year. Three of these lectures were given by members, and these were on Climbing in the Alps, the Wind River Range of Wyoming, and Surtsey, the new volcanic island off the coast of Iceland.

The Club elected Mrs I. A. Richards as a Vice-President, to take the place of the late Miss Jean Parker, of Canada, who had been a Vice-President since 1922. At the first election of the British Mountaineering Council, under its new constitution, Sally Westmacott was elected to the Management Committee. In May the Rendez-vous Hautes Montagnes (an international women's climbing group) was splendidly launched at Engelberg by Baronin Felicitas von Reznicek, author of *Von der Krinoline bis zum sechsten Grad*, and four club members (Margaret Darvall, Eileen Healey, Nea Morin and Esmé Speakman) were guests at the week's celebrations, made possible by the generous hospitality of Engelberg hôteliers and notables, and including a champagne party on the summit of the Titlis (3239 m). It was a fitting year to choose for the occasion, as it was the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Club Suisse de Femmes Alpinistes, which was celebrated at Montreux—Nea Morin was the Club's representative.

Mary Starkey, President