

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

The Annual General Meeting of the Club was held at the Club rooms on the evening of Tuesday, December 16, F. C. GROVE, Esq. (President of the Club) in the chair.

Messrs. FREDERICK W. WHITRIDGE and W. H. PAINE were balloted for, and elected members of the Club.

Messrs. W. F. DONKIN and R. GASKELL were unanimously elected members of the Committee for the ensuing year, in the places of Messrs. M. HOLZMANN and F. POLLOCK, who retire from the Committee by rotation. The President, Vice-Presidents, Honorary Secretary, and the other members of the Committee, being eligible for re-election, were unanimously re-elected.

Mr. HOWARD BARRETT moved the following resolution, of which he had given notice:—

That Rule XII. be altered as follows: After the words ‘The name of every candidate, together with a list of mountain expeditions, or a statement of the contributions to Alpine literature, science, or art, upon which he founds his claim for membership, shall be first submitted to the Committee, who shall decide upon the sufficiency of his qualification,’ to insert the following words:—

*‘But no candidate shall be passed by the Committee on a mountaineering qualification alone who has not spent a portion of at least three seasons in the Alps, or what shall be considered by the Committee to be the equivalent of this in any of the lofty mountain regions of the world, and who has accomplished less than twenty of the higher mountain expeditions.’*

Mr. H. SEYMOUR KING seconded the resolution.

Mr. WALTER LEAF moved as an amendment, To leave out all words after ‘seasons in,’ and to insert the words ‘mountain climbing above the snow line.’ Mr. W. M. CONWAY seconded the amendment.

Messrs. F. POLLOCK, A. W. MOORE, and WILLIAM MATHEWS spoke against the motion and amendment, and Messrs. ARNOLD WHITE and HEYWOOD SMITH in favour of it.

Mr. MELVILL BEACHCROFT then moved a further amendment as follows:—

*‘That it be an instruction to the Committee to make such regulations with regard to the mountaineering qualifications of candidates as shall call for evidence, not only of the expeditions accomplished, but of the personal capacity of the candidate himself.’*

The CHAIRMAN, however, ruled that Mr. BEACHCROFT’s proposal was not an amendment upon the original motion, and that it would as a substantive motion require notice under Rule IX. of the Club, as being ‘a new rule or alteration of a rule.’ It was therefore out of order on the present occasion, and could not be put.

Mr. BARRETT then withdrew his original motion in favour of Mr. LEAF’s amendment, which was put from the Chair as a substantive motion to the effect—

That Rule XII. be altered as follows:—After the words ‘The name of every candidate, together with a list of mountain expeditions, or a statement of the contributions to Alpine literature, science, or art,

upon which he founds his claim for membership, shall be first submitted to the Committee, who shall decide on the sufficiency of his qualification,' to insert the following words:—

*'But no candidate shall be passed by the Committee on a mountain qualification alone who has not spent a portion of at least three seasons in mountain climbing above the snow line.'*

On a division thirteen members out of a large number present voted in favour of Mr. LEAF's motion. The number voting against the motion so clearly constituted an actual and substantial majority, that (a two-thirds majority being necessary to alter a Rule) the PRESIDENT did not think it necessary to go through the form of counting the votes, and declared the motion lost.

The PRESIDENT then read a paper upon 'Alpine Training Diet,' at the conclusion of which a discussion took place on the subject of the paper, in which Messrs. HEYWOOD SMITH, CRAVEN, HOWARD BARRETT, CONWAY, WILLINK, and others took part.

Mr. WALKER HARTLEY proposed, and PROFESSOR BONNEY seconded, a cordial vote of thanks to the PRESIDENT for his interesting paper, which was accorded *nem. con.* The PRESIDENT having briefly replied, the proceedings, which had been of an unusually protracted character, terminated.

THE WINTER EXHIBITION of Alpine pictures, which may now be said to have become an annual fixture, was held at Willis' Rooms on the afternoon of Wednesday, December 17, between 2 and 5 P.M. The rooms were as usual much crowded during the afternoon by members and their friends; and the pictures exhibited this year, although perhaps somewhat fewer in number than on some former occasions, were fully up to the high standard of previous exhibitions. The band of the Grenadier Guards, by the kind permission of the Colonel Commanding, attended during the afternoon, and performed an excellent selection of music, which was much appreciated by the visitors.

It had been hoped to have lighted the Exhibition by electric light, but, owing to a breakdown in the arrangements, which most unfortunately took place at the very last moment, the Committee found themselves obliged to fall back upon the ancient and much-abused system of moderator lamps. It is to be hoped that on a future occasion this much-needed improvement may be carried out.

THE ANNUAL WINTER DINNER was held the same evening at Willis' Rooms, and though there was this year a considerable falling off in numbers as compared with last year, when the Club celebrated its Silver Wedding, the arrangements for the dinner and also the dinner itself showed a marked improvement on those of last year, and reflected credit on the new management.

About 140 members and their friends sat down to dinner, which was served at 7.30 P.M. Among the guests on the occasion were the Hon. Mr. Justice Grove, F.R.S., Sir Frederick Pollock, Bart. (Queen's Remembrancer), Sir Ralph Thomson, K.C.B. (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for War), General Sir Henry Lefroy, K.C.M.G., Mr. F. O. Adams, C.B. (H.B.M.'s Minister to the Swiss Confederation), the Astronomer Royal, F.R.S., Dr. Walter Gaskell, F.R.S., Mr. Archibald Forbes, &c.