To sum up, the feeble quality and trifling quantity of the Alpine pictures of the year may be regarded from two points of view. They mark the close of an epoch of Alpine art, and may mark the opening of a new epoch. The noticeable fact is the increase in quantity and excellence of English mountain views as compared with Swiss. Painters must live among the scenes they habitually depict. We have produced a certain number of artists who year after year lived for several months together in the Alps. They were the companions of climbers—were often climbers themselves. They looked at mountains as things to be climbed. Their ideal was accuracy of form and truth of detail in foreground and distance. Now, however, a new ideal begins to reign, and a new art results from it. Artists are paying much more attention to atmospheric effects than ever before. They are painting the atmosphere, with figures, houses, trees, mountains, or what not for background. Details thus shrink into insignificance. Apparent inaccuracy of detail seems to obtain. Much of what we used to like is thus lost, but certain new qualities of size are now attainable, and by some artists are attained. Not impossibly artists of the new school may devote themselves to mountain landscape. Some known Alpine artists show signs of looking at the old scenes with new eyes. The old art is at any rate passing out of fashion and ceasing from the walls of our exhibitions. Alpine landscape will either no longer be painted or it will be painted on new principles. We await the development of the next few years with interest, and not without hope. W. M. C.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A General Meeting of the Club was held on February 4, 1890. Mr. Horace Walker, *President*, in the Chair.

Messrs. G. G. Groeger, T. A. Nash, and G. A. Solly were balloted for and elected members of the Club.

The Honorary Secretary and Treasurer presented the accounts for the year 1889, which were, after some remarks from Mr. Freshfield, unanimously adopted.

Mr. C. T. Dent read a paper on the 'History of the Search Expedition to the Caucasus.'*

At the conclusion of the paper, the President commented on the great sagacity with which the search had been conducted, and without which it would have been quite impossible to bring it to such a successful issue. He then introduced to the meeting Mr. Phillipps Wolley, for whose endeavours to ascertain the fate of the lost party in the autumn of 1888 the Club would always be grateful. Mr. Phillipps Wolley made some remarks with regard to the search instituted by him, which had been unsuccessful owing to the lateness of the season and the absence of guides; he had gone to the Caucasus for purposes of sport only, and not with a view to mountaineering; he also referred to the character of the natives, which had, no doubt,

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xv. p. 26.

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greatly changed for the better since he first visited Suanetia; it was, however, well to remember that the Suanetians must still be considered a dangerous people.

Mr. HERMANN WOOLLEY said that in a private letter, an extract of which was published in a daily paper entirely without his knowledge or consent, he had expressed the opinion that the accident had taken place on the north side of the eastern ridge of Dychtau. This impression arose from noticing from the Ulluauz Pass, on the day the bivouac was found, a series of long overhanging snow cornices on the northern side of the arête, and, at the time, it seemed not unlikely that the party might have chanced to pass on to a similarly corniced portion of the ridge. A few days later, on becoming better acquainted with the mountain, he changed his opinion, as it became evident to him that there was no necessity for a party ascending Dychtau by the eastern ridge to travel along that section of it which had appeared to be the most dangerous.

Mr. DOUGLAS FRESHFIELD said he would shortly have to give elsewhere a full account of the search (see Royal Geographical Society's 'Proceedings' for May, 1890), but he desired to speak briefly on one or two points. It had been suggested that the search might have been pushed farther. There were only two ways conceivable to him in which this might have been done: first, by conveying a regiment of diggers to the upper névé of the Tutuin Glacier; this was impossible. The other was by attempting to follow in the track of Mr. Donkin's party across the face of the cliffs under the eastern ridge of Dychtau; this, *in the condition the rocks were in at the time*, would have been very dangerous. He did not desire to impute intentional rashness to the lost climbers; a month later in the season, at the end of August, there may well have been less ice on the rocks. It is possible these rocks may be crossed at some exceptionally favourable moment; it is very improbable that any discovery will result. Whatever falls on that face falls far, and is either at once received in the Bergschrund at its base, or speedily shrouded in the snows that are perpetually sliding down the gullies to the Tutuin névé. He had gone to make certain how his friends had met with their death, and that their remains had received natural burial—not to disinter them. He did not wish to moralise on the catastrophe, but he felt it a duty to state concisely three axioms for Caucasian mountaineering based on his own experiences. These were: select travelled guides; reconnoitre carefully beforehand the peaks or passes you mean to attempt from a distance whence a general view is obtainable; start very early for great expeditions. By travelled guides he meant guides who had been employed outside their own districts and called on to undertake expeditions which were new to all members of their party. Without such experience no guide was competent to be a leader in the Caucasus; and, in his opinion, some amateurs were better leaders, so far as selecting a line of ascent goes, than all but a few of the very best guides.

The PRESIDENT announced that Mr. Willink had presented the Club with his beautiful drawing of the bivouac, made from a sketch taken on the spot by Captain Powell, and the best thanks of the meeting were expressed to Mr. Willink for his valuable gift.

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The proceedings terminated with a most cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Dent for his admirable account of the Expedition.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held on March 4, 1890. Mr. F. A. WALLROTH, *Vice-President*, in the Chair.

Messrs. Theodore Cornish and G. F. Woodroffe were balloted for and elected members of the Club.

Mr. M. CARTEIGHE read a paper on the 'Ascent of the Dom from Saas.'

Mr. W. M. CONWAY read a paper on the 'Ascent of the Dom by the Domjoch.'

At the conclusion of the papers Mr. PUCKLE made some remarks with regard to his ascent of the Dom—the first by the eastern face, by a route slightly different from that followed by Mr. Carteighe.

Mr. SCHUSTER said that the papers had made it sufficiently clear that it was by no means necessary to follow the ordinary, somewhat monotonous, route up this beautiful mountain. He thought that the ascent by the east face might often be very dangerous, owing to the huge cornice which frequently overhangs it, and he called attention to another way by the Kien glacier and the western arête.

Mr. BROOME said he had made the ascent by this route last season, and thought it a most interesting expedition.

Mr. P. W. THOMAS said he was one of the party who had made the first ascent by this route in 1878,* and he could also recommend it strongly, but he could not go so far as to call it the best route up the mountain, because he thought that under certain conditions the rocks above the Kien glacier would be found impracticable.

Mr. RICKMAN said he was one of the party referred to by Mr. Carteighe as enjoying themselves on the summit while the latter was still engaged in his climb; but he could not plead guilty to the charge of having thrown stones down on to the ascending party.

Mr. CARTEIGHE briefly replied, and said that the ascent by the eastern side should certainly only be undertaken when there was no cornice.

After some remarks from the Chairman, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Messrs. Carteighe and Conway for their interesting papers, which had been illustrated by a large drawing kindly lent by Mr. Alfred Williams. The proceedings then terminated.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held on April 1, 1890. Mr. HORACE WALKER, *President*, in the Chair.

Messrs. R. F. Bevan and C. A. Macdonald were balloted for and elected members of the Club.

The PRESIDENT announced that the Committee had decided, if possible, to re-edit 'Ball's Alpine Guide,' as the most fitting tribute to the memory of the first President, and in order to rescue a most valuable work. It was known, however, that the book had not been a financial success, and it would be necessary to raise the sum of £750 before the work could be proceeded with. A circular, giving further particulars, would be sent to the members of the Club in due course.

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. ix. p. 110.

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He further called attention to Professor Tyndall's letter, which had appeared a few days before in the 'Times,' on the subject of the destruction by fire of the village of Gampel, and expressing his readiness to transmit any contributions that might be sent to him to the proper authorities.

Mr. H. S. KING announced that, while recently at Darjeeling, Mr. A. W. Paul, the Deputy Commissioner, requested him to inform the members of the Alpine Club that he would render every assistance in his power to any expedition which might be organised for attempting the ascent of the Himalayas from that side. Mr. Paul said he would undertake to make arrangements by which regular supplies of provisions should be brought to a point lying at the edge of the snow-field leading up to Kinchinjunga, 14 days' march from Darjeeling, and promised most cordial co-operation on behalf of himself and other officials in the district. At the same time he pointed out that the cost would be considerable for the hire of the coolies necessary for the maintenance of such extended communications. In Mr. Paul's judgment the best time for the expedition to arrive in Darjeeling would be about the middle of September, and this would enable the party to reach the snow by the end of that month, when good weather might usually be expected.

Mr. HERMANN WOOLLEY read a paper on the 'Ascent of Dychtau.'

Mr. DOUGLAS FRESHFIELD pointed out that Mr. Woolley had made the ascent by the slope between the S. and E. ridges, which had been noticed as a possible line of attack by Mr. A. W. Moore and himself in 1868, and which he had indicated to Mr. Fox. It avoided altogether the cliffs on the eastern ridge. He was of opinion the peak could also certainly be climbed from the Mishirgi Glacier, but the ascent would be quite as arduous, and possibly more so, than that from the Tutuin Glacier. Mr. Woolley, by his thorough exploration of the southern and eastern flanks of Dychtau, as well as by his ascents of Mishirgi Tau and Koruldash, had completed our knowledge of the central group, and enabled the map he hoped shortly to publish, based on the labours of Messrs. Jukoff and Bogdanoff, to receive its final corrections. The first ascent of Dychtau was a feat of perseverance and endurance which would always hold its place in the story of the exploration of the Caucasus.

The question which had been asked as to the expenses of travel in the Caucasus was not quite easy to answer, and naturally depended on the number of guides and impedimenta taken. Roughly speaking £50 to £60 would be the cost of the journey there and back for each member of the party; once in the country the expense would be comparatively trifling. Mr. Freshfield further stated that the two peaks of Ushba had now been measured, and according to the surveyors the unclimbed peak was 4 feet higher than Mr. Cockin's peak, and the summit of Janga was 6 feet higher than the point reached by Mr. Cockin in 1888; and he concluded his remarks by saying that the idea that the Caucasus was exhausted was very erroneous and that a number of great peaks were still unclimbed and important groups entirely unexplored.

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Mr. DENT desired to congratulate Mr. Woolley most heartily on his magnificent expedition, and on the admirable account of it he had given to the Club. The narrative had been told so modestly that many might carry away the idea that there was no special difficulty in the ascent. This was far from being the case; indeed, if the whole circumstances were known, it would be found that Mr. Woolley had to overcome many serious obstacles before he was even able to start for the climb. The truth, too, was that these great Caucasian peaks were only accessible at all under exceptionally favourable conditions. Probably in most seasons there were not more than a dozen days on which such an ascent as that of Dychtau was feasible at all. If, for instance, the upper slopes were of pure ice, or if, as was so often seen in the Caucasus, the gullies giving access to the ridge were ice-bound, no one could possibly succeed. Time would fail. It had been said that these mountains were not difficult; such was far from being the case. If they were in bad condition the traveller would not succeed in reaching the top at all; it was only when the rocks and snow-slopes were in fair order that success could be hoped for. Even then the soundest judgment was requisite and great perseverance was needed. The expenses of a tour in the Caucasus had been over-estimated. There was plenty of information in the pages of the 'Alpine Journal' on the subject, though, perhaps, that was not the most likely place for members to search for it. Messrs. Cook could inform anyone as to the cost of getting to the country; once there, and in the mountains, the expenses depended on the intelligence of the traveller. Sour milk had been criticised as an article of diet; he desired to say a word in its favour. It was much more agreeable as a drink than seemed commonly to be supposed. The guides spoke ill of it, as they did of most of the food that was not of their native country. The milk was very interesting, too, from the physiological point of view; it was decidedly nourishing, though it had a tendency to beget a thoughtful frame of mind in the consumer. The evidence resulting from Mr. Woolley's ascent furnished conclusive proof of the correctness of the previous views held by the search party with regard to Donkin and Fox's expedition.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT a vote of thanks to Mr. Woolley for his excellent paper was carried by acclamation, and the proceedings terminated.

The paper on this occasion, and Mr. Dent's paper on Feb. 4, were illustrated by a large map and several beautifully-executed panoramic sketches by Mr. Alfred Williams, kindly lent by the Royal Geographical Society, and by a series of photographic views by Messrs. Donkin, Woolley, and Sella, shown on a screen by means of a lantern.

Errata in last Number.

Page 22, last line, *for* feet *read* metres.
Page 57, line 30, *for* Derboren *read* Derborence.

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