PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Club Rooms on Tuesday evening, February 6, at 8.30, the Bishop of Bristol, *President*, in the chair.

Messrs. H. W. Belcher, P. C. Fletcher, N. L. Hood, H. S. Jones, H. M. Macdonald, H. Walker, and J. O. Walker were balloted for and elected members of the Club.

The PRESIDENT announced that Signor Sella had presented to the Club the whole series of his magnificent photographs, and the hearty thanks of the Club were accorded to Signor Sella for his generous gift.

The PRESIDENT then, on behalf of the Committee, invited an expression of opinion in regard to the place of the next Winter Dinner. The Committee, he said, wished to know how far members who were present at the last dinner at the Hotel Cecil had considered the room to be satisfactory. Members of the Committee held very different opinions, and they would be glad to have some idea of the feeling of the Club on the subject. Should the dinner be held in the Whitehall Rooms it would be possible to have only some 70 guests, about half the number that were entertained at the Hotel Cecil. Three hundred and forty-three persons sat down to dinner last December at the Hotel Cecil, and the most that the Whitehall Rooms could hold was about 280. On the other hand the comfort of dining and the hearing of speeches were very important factors, which the Club might well think to be more important than the number of guests.

Sir HENRY BERGNE thought that there was great difficulty in hearing the speeches at the last dinner. Although he sat near the centre of the high table some speakers he did not hear at all and others badly. He thought the Club could perhaps do better elsewhere if they could get the same facilities as to numbers.

The PRESIDENT remarked that enquiries were being made and there did not appear to be much chance of having the same facilities elsewhere.

Dr. C. WILSON thought that investigations should be continued, as he believed that there were other rooms which were suitable which had not been considered. He spoke only from hearsay.

Mr. STUTFIELD spoke as one of the speakers who could not be heard. He thought the room was a bad one for sound, but the speeches were not the whole of the dinner, and it was most important to invite a large number of guests. He would suggest that seats might be provided near the speakers, to which those who were seated on the outside tables might come to hear the speeches.

Mr. WESTON heard every word quite distinctly at his seat near the centre and not far from the high table.

Mr. C. E. LAYTON was near the high table, but found it a great strain to hear. He suggested that there should be a ballot for

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guests, and that guest tickets should not be allotted to the same members two years running.

Mr. WALLROTH was at the left of the high table and had difficulty in hearing. He thought that the dinner should be held in a room that would accommodate the guests that all wished to bring.

Mr. MUMM, in reply to a question as to the number of members applying for guest tickets under the ballot system, stated that, speaking from memory, the application for guest tickets rose from 110 to 140, while only 80 were assigned. Probably there were some members who would bring guests were there no ballot, who would not ask for tickets while there was a ballot.

The PRESIDENT thought that the question resolved itself into whether the Club should have a large number of guests and hear very poorly, or cut down the number of guests and hear very well.

Mr. A. J. BUTLER suggested that it might be possible to arrange the high table at one end of the room under the gallery, which evidently assisted the sound. He preferred a large number at dinner. Perhaps it might be possible to combine numbers and good hearing.

Mr. HORACE WALKER was in favour of continuing at the large room, so that every member who desired to do so might bring a guest.

Mr. READE suggested that the question of excluding guests altogether might be considered. He thought that the Alpine Club Dinner should be a dinner of the members of the Alpine Club. The President and the Committee might be allowed to introduce a certain number of guests.

The PRESIDENT said that he considered the expression of opinion listened to would help the Committee in coming to a decision. He would ask those who thought it important that each member wishing to do so should be able to bring a guest to hold up their hands, and afterwards those who did not think that this was so important as the question of hearing.

A show of hands evidenced that opinion was about evenly divided.

Mr. G. WINTHROP YOUNG read a paper entitled 'Two Notes on the Weisshorn, with a Postscript,' which was illustrated by lantern slides.

Mr. HORACE WALKER stated that he had, in 1869, with G. E. Foster, ascended by the usual route at that time. They had a fine day. On coming down they found, when they got to the point where the ridge was usually left to descend across the face on the right, the stones were falling so fast that they did not like to face them, and they went straight down the ridge to the Schalliberg Glacier. When Jacob Anderegg was about to go down the lower part of this glacier, by which the relief party went up for Mr. Brant, the other guide unfastened himself, saying that he would not go that way, and the rest had to follow him by the very dangerous ground at the snout of the Schalliberg Glacier, where probably Mr. Cockin lost his life. It was a new expedition in those days,

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the only one he claimed on the Weisshorn. He knew members would be glad to learn that Melchior Anderegg, who had been very seriously ill, was now much better.

Mr. READE asked if it would be possible for the various Alpine Clubs to take concerted action with a view to preventing the roping of mountains. The fixing of ropes was, in many places, spoiling all the enjoyment of climbing.

Mr. SHEA mentioned that at Cortina he had been asked by Signor Sinigaglia to subscribe to a fund for the roping of the Kleine Zinne, but had refused.

The PRESIDENT heartily congratulated Mr. Young on his very interesting paper. As regards roping of mountains he thought that a section of an Alpine Club, to be called the Rope-cutter Section, might be formed.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Young.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall on Tuesday evening, March 6, 1906, at 8.30, the Bishop of Bristol, *President*, in the chair.

Messrs. J. C. Morland and T. S. Treanor were balloted for and elected members of the Club.

The PRESIDENT intimated that the Committee had carefully considered the suitability of various rooms for the next Winter Dinner of the Club, and had come to the conclusion that the large room at the Criterion Restaurant was the most suitable.

Mr. DOUGLAS FRESHFIELD read a paper on 'The Mountains of the Moon,' which was illustrated by lantern slides.

Mr. FRESHFIELD, before reading his paper, made the following statement: 'Before I approach my subject to-night I have a duty to discharge. When I landed last August at Cape Town I was welcomed by a deputation from two Mountain Clubs, the City Club, whose journal we receive, and the Suburban Club. I was subsequently led over Table Mountain by an interesting route up the Saddle Face and down Skeleton Gorge by some of their members, who entertained me at lunch on the summit. They begged me to convey their filial greetings to the members of the parent Club, and I am glad to be able to take this opportunity to deliver the message.

'I had no time to visit the Drakensberg, but while at Durban, where the residents hope soon to form a Climbing Club, I was presented with some very striking photographs (which I will exhibit on the screen) of the rock scenery near Mont aux Sources. These towers and pinnacles can be easily distinguished from the top of Spion Kop. Explorers find a substitute for Club-huts in the Bushmen's caves that are found on many of the ledges of the range.'

After the paper Mr. Mumm showed a large number of slides from his own photographs.

Sir HARRY JOHNSTON said that he thought it desirable to make a stand for the retention of native names in geographical nomenclature as far as was possible. It was very irritating to find the

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names of people who had never seen the country given to places or natural features of great importance. If a new town were founded and there was no native name of harmonious sound suitable one might properly associate with it the name of some pioneer in the district. He regretted to say that there was no place on Victoria Nyanza to recall the name of Joseph Thomson, who laid the foundations of the East African Empire. In regard to the height of the highest point of Ruwenzori, he asked for patience before deciding that it was not the highest point in Africa. He remembered what had happened with Kilimanjaro. That was measured by Van der Decken at over 18,000 ft., but afterwards with more careful measurements was found to be nearly 20,000 ft. He would ask Mr. Freshfield not to be in a hurry in assuming that he had guessed the correct altitude. He thought it very likely that, as Mr. Freshfield had indicated, the so-called Saddle Peak did not exist. Stanley's reputation had been deservedly so great that any subsequent traveller was very unwilling to suggest that he had made any error in regard to the existence or position of this peak. It had been difficult to get any publisher to issue a map that contained any correction of Stanley's suppositions. Mr. Scott-Eliot had made a creditable map of part of Ruwenzori, but he was not allowed to publish it because it differed so much from Stanley's guesses. Stanley had thought that Ruwenzori was an undivided mountain culminating in one Saddle Peak. Mr. Freshfield had tried to show that it was a mountain cluster rather than a range. He had himself tried to show the same, but stay-at-home geographers had not allowed him to do so. He had never himself seen 'Saddle Peak,' but had inserted it in his drawing on the report of a Mr. Chambers, who had given him a very good drawing of the Peak. Probably it represented the highest peak seen from another point of view. He thought that the knowledge of the mountain had been carried a step further and that some mistakes had been pointed out by Mr. Freshfield. In the early days of African geography the prestige of a man like Stanley had overridden everything, and his followers in their fear of coming back without having seen all that Stanley saw had tried to see things that were not there. Those who now followed should be a little lenient, as Mr. Freshfield had been, in their judgment of their predecessors. He trusted that Mr. Freshfield's remarks as to the meridian boundary would be listened to in the right quarters. When the geographical definition of frontiers was drawn up in a great hurry, it was intended that Ruwenzori should be in British territory. He did not know why the Semliki had not been chosen for the boundary line. From the Belgian point of view as well as from the British it ought to be regarded as fair that this should be the boundary. In regard to the treatment of the native, we ought to be lenient. The word 'colony' should be erased in East Africa. There were only patches of land that it was legitimate to turn into settlements for white men. The lands of the country must remain the lands of the black man. Ruwenzori was one of the patches

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opened by the energy of the white man and fairly belonged to him. In any future expedition he thought that a capable official on the spot should insist that the guides should be provided, as Mr. Freshfield's had been, with elaborate warm clothing, as otherwise pneumonia was apt to cause many deaths when the men got to cold regions.

Mr. BRYCE said he had to confess that he had never been anywhere nearer Ruwenzori than the mountains of Basutoland. He was interested to hear that Mr. Freshfield had been able to discover traces of old moraines; he had noted none in Basutoland. He thought that Mr. Freshfield had made Ruwenzori real in a way that it was not before to the members of the Club who had listened to him. The narrative of his experiences had enabled them to understand its difficulties. He would like to ask him what he considered was the best season of the year for an expedition, for surely it could not rain every day of the year. There must be some time when there was a fair chance of reaching the upper plateau without rain. He had been much struck by the combination of grand rock scenery with the most luxuriant vegetation. It was curious that the world should have recently had two other questions of boundary in mountain regions, both arising from assumptions by diplomatists that facts existed which did not exist. These were the Alaskan boundary dispute and the Argentine-Chilian dispute. In regard to the question of the boundary near Ruwenzori, the natural way would be to rely on the old maps, and if they were not accepted we might have to consider that if everything said of the Congo State were true the Congo Government had not observed the rules and conditions under which it was constituted, and that therefore we had a right to complain, and were entitled to reopen any question regarding our boundaries. It would be a very great advantage to the British settlers in Uganda to have a hill station, and he gathered that along the N. and E. of the range there were places where hill stations could be established.

Captain HUBBERT said that he had listened to the paper with very great interest, as seven years before he had been in Uganda and had often seen Ruwenzori in the distance. He had not had any time to attempt to scale any of the great peaks. Travelling was easier now than in his day. He was the last European to do the whole journey from the coast to the Victoria Nyanza by march, and it took about three months in place of 48 hours. The part he had chiefly seen was Buddu and Ankoli, through which Mr. Freshfield had returned. Ruwenzori was generally surrounded by great banks of clouds, and it was only when the wind blew those away that it could be seen from any distance.

Mr. MOORE wished to ask if the high camp was the camp on the ridge to the S. of the Mubuku glacier. At that camping ground there was plenty of water, and it was quite easy to climb up to it and to within 20 yards of permanent ice. He thought that it would be a distinctly good one to use, for immediately in front there was a ready and easy way to the ice. There were, in fact, two easy

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means of access to the ice. On the other hand he thought that the Mubuku glacier would be very difficult. If one got to the top of the ridge there would probably be no difficulty in getting round to the highest peak.

Mr. MUMM said that when he stopped they were near the smooth upper slopes, but not quite clear of the icefall. He thought that their way up the icefall was the most direct, and might possibly be the quickest if one started from a camp at the foot of the glacier. The natives viewed the white man as somewhat of a madman, whatever he did. Professor Minchin had told him that when he was catching butterflies on the Sesse Islands he asked whether the natives would think him mad. He was told of course they would; they had a special word for madness, which was reserved for the white man.

Mr. FRESHFIELD said that, as regarded the season, the missionaries and the more intelligent natives agreed that there were two good seasons, mid summer and mid-winter, January and the end of June and July, when it was cold on the mountains. It was not, however, always fine at those seasons, for Herr Grauer tried the ascent last January and failed, owing to the weather, and Mr. Fisher had also found the weather broken in that month. With regard to what Mr. Moore said he was glad to find himself in agreement with him, for he thought that for those not experienced in climbing it might be better to make a camp close to the glacier and take the southern and more circuitous route over the upper snowfield.

The PRESIDENT said that he could add nothing to what had frequently been said as to Mr. Freshfield's merits and the gratitude the Club owed to him for his services.

Errata.

P. 51, l. 25, *for* Alliston Crowley *read* Aleister Crowley.
P. 51, l. 28, *for* 1892 *read* 1902.

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