CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

DEAR SIR,—Having been congratulated by several mountaineering friends on an article which appeared in 'The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News' for March 17 last, concerning the trip which I made last year in the Himalayas, I write to say that I have never published, or authorised any one else to publish, any article or any of my photographs in any newspaper or any magazine. Nor did I know that any were being published. Nor should I have given any one permission had I known.

I have now obtained copies of 'L' Illustrazione Italiana,' 'Le Monde Illustré,' 'The Illustrated London News,' and 'The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News,' containing reproductions of some of my photographs and very curious accounts of the trip in three languages. As these accounts all have a common origin, the versatile pen of J. Brocherel, a cousin of my good friends Alexis and Henri Brocherel, of Courmayeur, it will save space if I deal briefly with a few of the more absurd statements in the last-mentioned paper only.

Naini Tal is *not* in Central India. It is *not* 'probable that during the ascension of Nanda Devi, on June 10, 1905, the tourists had beaten the record of altitude,' because, as the barometer was *not* broken, I ascertained that the highest point we reached was about 19,700 feet. Nor was it 'indisposition of a member of the caravan,' nor 'the lack of provisions' that 'forced them to go back on the way.' I did *not* ascend Nanda Kot, which is *not* a peak of Nanda Devi. A Yak is *not* a human being, as the writer seems to imply, but a quadruped known to science as *Bos grunniens*.

I could go on indefinitely should you be in need of copy, but think I have said sufficient to justify me in asking you to publish my disclaimer in the 'Journal.'—Yours sincerely,

TOM G. LONGSTAFF.

Ridgelands, Wimbledon, May 30, 1906.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall on Tuesday evening, April 3, at 8.30, the Bishop of Bristol, *President*, in the chair.

The Accounts for 1905 were presented by the HONORARY SECRETARY and were adopted. On the motion of Mr. TOPHAM it was agreed that the Accounts should not in future be bound up with the List of Members.

The PRESIDENT announced that Mr. Withers had presented to the Club three large cases for holding mounted photographs, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Withers.

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Dr. O. K. WILLIAMSON read a paper entitled 'The Dent Blanche from the West and the Breithornjoch,' which was illustrated by lantern slides.

Mr. READE said that he had been along the ridge crossed by Dr. Williamson, and that there appeared to be several points where one might get down to the south. He had gone over the Lauithor, which was reputed to be dangerous, but which he found quite safe in 1893, and he had been told that the pass had only been crossed once since Tyndall's time.

Mr. SYMONS said that he found the climb of the northern slope of the Breithornjoch one of the most enjoyable he had ever done in the Alps; but it was not a climb which should be undertaken late in the season. The couloir on the Dent Blanche referred to by Dr. Williamson was very steep, and the slip of any one member of the party would have been fatal to all. As to the time taken, the Breithornjoch could be crossed in less time by a party knowing the route. Probably the chimney mentioned by Mr. Hill, which his party did not attempt, owing to its being glazed, might under more favourable conditions afford the best route.

Mr. HILL said that he did not remember having been in the couloir on the Dent Blanche, as his party in 1899 had kept on the ridge while ascending. As to the fatal Gendarme, he had thought it obvious that the route was up the chimney, which had seemed to him easy enough but for the glaze upon it, which made it dangerous. The leaders of his party, trying to avoid this, made a détour to the left to attack a buttress, when they ought to have gone to the right, where the ground was not particularly difficult. The buttress, however, seemed a perfectly safe thing to attack, and a perfectly fair climb. The fact that it turned out otherwise was no fault of theirs. The other way, up the chimney, was not attractive-looking, as it was a mixture of rock and snow and ice.

The PRESIDENT had found the paper remarkably graphic in detail, and illustrated by photographs of singular clearness and beauty. He did not understand how a camera was carried in such inconvenient places.

A very hearty vote of thanks was passed to Dr. Williamson.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall on Tuesday evening, May 1, at 8.30, the Bishop of Bristol, *President*, in the chair.

General Lord Methuen and Messrs. F. R. Finch and C. G. Brown were balloted for and elected members of the Club.

The PRESIDENT referred to the loss the Club had sustained by the death of Mr. G. E. Foster.

The Rev. WALTER WESTON read a letter he had received from Japan with reference to the recently formed Japanese Alpine Club, and also referred to some of their rules.

Mr. BOURDILLON read a paper entitled 'Another Way of (Mountain) Love.'

Mr. FRESHFIELD said that they had listened to a very charming

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paper. He had himself tried chalet life at St. Gervais and on the Prarion. There was much attraction in such life, far from the crowded hotels, with one's own family and perhaps a few friends. He also fully agreed with the reader of the paper when he spoke of the pleasure of going thoroughly into a district, and he could strongly recommend that from his own experience of the Savoy and Grisons Alps. All would agree with Mr. Bourdillon as to the secret charm of mountains, which represented nature perfectly pure from the invasion of humanity, a charm especially welcome to those who lived in crowded towns.

Mr. KENNEDY said that there was yet another way of enjoyment, and that was to take your own chalet about with you in the form of a tent. He could not conceive of any more delightful way of living, as long as the weather kept fine.

The PRESIDENT said that a hearty vote of thanks was due to Mr. Bourdillon for his delightful paper. He had had some experience of chalet life, and certainly found it very pleasant. He thought that members had not before listened to a more eloquent exponent of mountain beauty; and he had been glad to observe that the reader had been unable to define the cause of our love for the mountains, for it was in the mystery that the great enjoyment lay.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall on the evening of Tuesday, June 12, at 8.30, the Bishop of Bristol, *President*, in the chair.

Dr. T. G. LONGSTAFF read a paper entitled 'Six Months' Wandering in the Himalaya,' which was illustrated by lantern-slides.

Captain O'CONNOR said that few of the officers in the Indian service had had any experience in the Alps, and it was dangerous for untrained men to venture on ice and snow, and the natives did not care to venture. Although they could climb on rocks, they did not know how to use the ice-axe and the rope, and this made serious climbing practically impossible for them. The only fully-equipped man that he knew was Major Bruce. The only chance there was of their making important ascents in the future would be by their coming to Europe for training in ice and snow work on the Alps. With that training it might then be possible to teach some of the hillmen.

The PRESIDENT asked what effect altitude had had with Mr. Longstaff's party, and whether it had affected their rate of progress.

Mr. C. PILKINGTON asked whether the party became acclimatised to heights after being some time high up.

Mr. LONGSTAFF said that he could only give his personal opinion on the matter. He did not believe that anyone became acclimatised by a lengthy stay at very high altitudes, but, on the contrary, that the longer anyone stayed very high up the worse was the effect of altitude. He hoped that it was clear from the paper that he merely referred to the general physical condition of the climbers: that

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was what he thought would deteriorate during a prolonged stay at over 18,000 ft. Of acute attacks of mountain-sickness, incapacitating the climber from further exertion, he had no experience whatever, although it was true that he suffered frequently and sometimes severely from headache, at some times certainly due to the altitude and at others equally certainly due to the power of the sun. He had slept at 23,000 ft., and did not see why one should not be able to sleep some thousands of feet higher. He had lived for nearly two months at 15,000 ft., but got very weak after an attack of illness, and did not regain his strength until he came lower down to about 12,000 ft. He personally thought that if an easy way up existed, it would be possible for some exceptionally strong climber to reach 29,000 ft., but if the route were hard he doubted that height being reached. Some of Major Bruce's men were first-rate, but he thought that if high peaks were to be ascended it would be much better to take eight or ten Italian porters to carry up provisions.

Dr. COLLIE congratulated Mr. Longstaff on his success and on his most interesting paper, which dealt with an entirely new country. He was pleased that he brought forward again the ascent made by Mr. Graham, which had recently been so much disputed.

The PRESIDENT said it was now evident that the time was not yet ripe for a joint effort to be made to ascend the two highest peaks known. Much and long preparation, and providing and training of guides and porters, was still necessary before a successful effort could be made for an ascent of those peaks. His own impression was that it would be many years before anyone could attempt the great heights. He proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Longstaff for his paper. This was carried unanimously, and the meeting ended.

Addenda to Mr. Longstaff's Paper.

Page 218, line 6 from the bottom, *after* 'in spite of the cold,' *add* 'Yet the thermometer stood at 29° F. when we started.'

Page 223, line 13. 'In 1864 W. H. Johnson when surveying in Ladak was compelled to pass a night at 22,600 ft.'

Page 225. Add to note *: 'Their map, published in the "Geo. Journal" for 1900, gives a more accurate representation of the Gurla group than is to be found on any of the more recent G.T.S. publications.'

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