Bel Alp must remember with pleasure his genial presence and the conversation (always interesting) with which he was wont to beguile the after-dinner hour; those of us who were privileged to know him better will ever recall that gentle, kindly, courageous spirit which endeared Dr. Ellicott so much to his friends.

ARTHUR FAIRBANKS.

C. J. JOLY, F.R.S.

BY the death, on January 4, of Charles Jasper Joly, D.Sc., F.R.S., Royal Astronomer of Ireland, the Club has lost one of its most distinguished scientific members, and those who knew him a true and well-loved friend.

A Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin, since 1894, he devoted himself chiefly to the study of quaternions, and in 1899 and 1901 were published the two volumes of Sir William Hamilton's original work on this subject, which Joly edited at the request of the Board of Trinity College.

In 1897 he was appointed Royal Astronomer of Ireland, and worked hard in this congenial sphere of duty till his death at the early age of 41. His scientific labours were recognised by the Royal Society, which conferred on him its Fellowship in 1904.

But while the world of science deplores the loss of a brilliant and earnest worker his friends in the Alpine Club will remember Joly as a singularly gentle, simple-minded, and lovable man. He was a true mountain-lover and an active climber, with a real knowledge of mountain craft. Gifted with a keen sense of humour and an imperturbable temper, as well as great physical endurance, Joly was an ideal companion on a mountain; and those of us who formed a small guideless party at Arolla in 1896 will never forget the skill and judgment with which he led us in some difficult and anxious situations. He was especially fond of rock-climbing, and among the Dolomites of San Martino and Cortina he spent some of his happiest mountain holidays.

Of an extremely modest and retiring nature, Charles Joly was not perhaps known to a wide circle in the Alpine Club, but by his friends, both within and outside the climbing fraternity, his loss will be deeply felt and sincerely mourned. G. SCRIVEN.

WINTER EXHIBITION, 1905.

THE Winter Exhibition of 1905 was one of great interest to members of the Alpine Club and mountaineers generally. It marked the close of a very strenuous art career devoted to mountains with a sincerity and singleness of purpose beyond all praise.

It would be futile and inadequate to notice such an exhibition in the ordinary way, picture by picture, a word of praise here, a word of blame there; it should be rather looked at sympathetically

Digitized by Google

as a whole, with a view to really form an estimate of the deceased artist's life work.

Alfred Williams was at once a delineator and interpreter of the subjects he loved—a delineator in so far as he faithfully used the forms and local conditions of his model, an interpreter in that he strove to convey his own strong convictions, even at the cost of some marked characteristic of his subject. He was so impressed by the majestic size of the Alps and other great mountains, and their atmospheric quality, that he sacrificed the extreme brilliance of the sunlit snow against the deep blue of the sky; indeed it is doubtful whether it is possible to convey in art, at one and the same time, the size and the light of an Alpine peak under the effect of brilliant sunshine. Therefore the conclusion is that Williams was in the right from his own standpoint, and that he practised what a great French critic put into words: 'La première vertu de l'Art, c'est le sacrifice.'

One happy result of his methods is, that the larger and grander the mountain subjects were the more successful was his work. As a whole the Himalayan pictures were the most impressive. Such examples as 'Nanda Devi and Nanda Kot,' 'Trissul,' and the 'Break in the Monsoon' readily occur to the mind. We have in all their immense size and space. The eye travels over the nearer ridges far into the distance, finally resting on the beautiful forms of the distant snows, full of soft but penetrating light. It is difficult to describe the exact effect on the mind of the spectator, but the cant expression 'convincing' is near it. Even if he had never beheld the Himalaya the onlooker felt that after he had seen Williams's pictures he knew them and had been introduced to a new world.

His Alpine work is also very impressive, in some cases quite as much so, notably in the 'Saasgrat from the Augstbord Pass' and in 'Moonrise and Afterglow at the Schwarzsee.' It would be easy to name many others, but these will serve.

Of his purely ice pictures the 'Icefall of the Gorner Glacier' and 'A Glacier Pool, Foot of Séracs, Col du Géant' are amongst his most successful works, the soft effulgence of the first drawing being particularly beautiful.

Of his British work it is more difficult to judge, it being more unequal. He was at times not quite so much at home with the atmospheric conditions or the forms, and the modifications introduced by the former in the latter. The rich moisture-laden clouds that roll over the British hills from the Atlantic produce a totally different set of artistic effects from the dry, clear air of the High Alps, and it speaks volumes for his powers that Williams succeeded so well with such totally different mountain aspects—as, for example, the Coolin and the snows of the Jungfrau. That he did succeed will be readily admitted by any one who studied his 'Sgurr nan Gillean' or 'In Harta Corrie.' It is true the first work has snow on the tops, of which he was master; but the Harta Corrie has not, and it is nearly, if not quite, as fine a drawing.

Digitized by Google

To conclude, Alfred Williams was extremely individual as a painter; his work stands on its own merits. Indebted to no school and no master, he saw Nature for himself, and won his success by virtue of his own great love of the mountains, and by a life, when circumstances permitted, devoted to his art. When it is remembered how little of his time—for the greater part of his life—he could give to it, it is only possible to wonder and admire.

THE ALPINE CLUB LIBRARY.

THE following additions have been made since October :—

New Books and New Editions. Presented by the Authors or Publishers.

Candler, Edmund. The unveiling of Lhasa.
8vo, pp. xvi, 304; map, plates. London, Arnold, 1905. 15/- nett
The story of the Tibetan Mission.

Caspari, Dr W.; *see* Zuntz, N.

Claray, Jean Baptiste. Les Poésies alpines de Jean Baptiste Claray, Instituteur à Chamonix en 1815. Malzéville, Thomas, 1905
This is one of 35 copies of a large paper print of articles published in the Bulletin de la Section Vosgienne du C.A.F., 1903–1905, by M. E. Woelflin.
We have referred to these articles as they appeared during the past two years. It is of value to have them collected together, as the original pamphlets containing Claray's work are very rare. Their titles are;—
Opuscule poétique. . . . 8vo, pp. 16. Genève, Bonnant, 1815
Chansons et hymnes nouveaux . . . par le troubadour des Alpes de Faucigny. 8vo, pp. 8. Paris, Le Normant, 1818
The titles of Claray's poems published in this brochure are;—La conquête du Mont Joly; Itinéraire en chanson, à l'usage du Voyageur qui visite les glaciers de la Vallée de Chamonix; Chanson descriptive des montagnes . . . de la sommité du glacier de Buet; La bergère du Mont-Envers: La cascade du Pisse-vache: Tremblement de Terre dans toute la Vallée de Chamonix. These are accompanied by notes on, and quotations from, contemporary writers and by historical commentary. Claray's original brochures contain a few other non-alpine poems.

Compton, E. T.; *see* Habel, P., Die Hohe Tatra [1905].

von Déchy, Moriz. Kaukasus. Reisen und Forschungen im kaukasischen Hochgebirge. In drei Bänden. Berlin, Dietrich Reimer, 1905
4to, pp. 348, 396; maps, plates. Vols. 1 and 2 together, M. 40
Vols. 1 and 2 are now published.

v. Della Torre, Dr K. W. Die Alpenpflanzen im Wissenschatze der deutschen Alpenbewohner. Festschrift hgg. anlässlich d. V. ordentl. Generalversamml. d. Ver. z. Schutze d. Alpenpflanzen. Bamberg, Handels-Druckerei, 1905
8vo, pp. 91.

Deutsche Alpen. Erster Teil: bayerisches Hochland, Algäu, Vorarlberg; Tirol: Brennerbahn, Ötztaler-, Stubaier und Ortlergruppe, Bozen, Schlern und Rosengarten, Meran, Brenta- und Adamellogruppe; Bergamasker Alpen, Gardasee. 9. Aufl. Meyers Reisebücher.
Leipzig u. Wien, Bibliogr. Instit., 1905. M. 5
8vo, pp. 362; maps, plans.
This edition has been thoroughly revised by Herr Fr. Kucharz, with the help of members of the various Alpine Clubs.

Egli, Paul. Beitrag zur Kenntniss der Höhlen in der Schweiz. Inaugural-Dissertation z. Erlangung d. Doktorwürde . . . Zürich.
8vo, pp. 86; plate. Zürich, Zürcher & Furrer, 19

Digitized by Google