HIMALAYAN EXPEDITIONS.

DR. W. HUNTER WORKMAN has been good enough to furnish the following abstract of the 1911 journey of Mrs. F. Bullock Workman and himself:

June 1 to Oct. 14: During the summer of 1911 I explored with Mrs. F. Bullock Workman the region lying between the Baltoro glacier on the N., the Shyok and Saltoro valleys on the S., the Kondus-Siachen watershed on the E., and the western barriers of the Hushe tributaries on the W. Found it a region of high, precipitous, mostly unscaleable mountains with serrated ridges and summits, and deep, narrow valleys occupied by sharply descending, greatly broken, in many places unscaleable, glaciers, with no discoverable passes northward to the Baltoro.

Explored the Dong Dong, Sher-pi-gang, Kondus, Chogo Lisa, Kondokoro, Masherbrum, and Alin glaciers. Ascended mountain-spur separating the Dong Dong from the Sher-pi-gang to a point 16,604 feet directly overhanging the latter and giving a wide view over both glaciers. Also ascended snow-capped peak, 16,839 feet in altitude, W. across the Masherbrum glacier from Mt. Masherbrum, the slopes of which were everywhere deeply covered with shattered fragments of quartzite.

Having explored this region, ascended, the middle of August, the Bilapho glacier to the E., crossed the ice-pass at its head 18,450 feet, and descended a large affluent leading to the great Siachen glacier. Passed a month on this glacier, exploring it and some of its large tributaries, as weather permitted. Among others ascended a large E. tributary, which, some 25 miles long, leads up to a wide snow-basin or plateau 19,000 feet and above in altitude, that connects with a snow-pass and a glacier descending toward the E. and, apparently, towards the Karakoram Pass.

At the head of another large affluent joining the Siachen from S.W. a point 20,000 feet in altitude was reached at the base of an almost perpendicular precipice rising thence to the summit of K3, 25,415 feet. Also a snow-peak of 21,000 feet, overhanging the junction of the E. affluent above mentioned and the Siachen, was ascended. From this a very extended view over the Siachen and its tributaries was obtained.

CAPTAIN J. B. CORRY, D.S.O., made the following expeditions in 1911. It will be seen that they included several first ascents:

June 13: Ledwas—Mahadeo to Handil traversed—Camp S. of Surphrar in Sind Valley.

June 16: Camp in Surphrar Nullah—Deo Masjid and lower peak traversed first ascent—Sekwas in Lidar Valley.

June 19: Aro—Climb on spur up to 13,200 ft.—Aro.

June 20: Aro—Har Nag Pass—Harbagwan Valley.

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June 21 : Harbagwan Valley—Ascent to plateau—Camp on Kolohoi plateau.
June 22 : Kolohoi Camp—Kolohoi N. Peak to within 30 ft. of top—Kolohoi Camp.
June 23 : Kolohoi Camp—Descent of N. Glacier—Aro.
June 29 : Shesha Nag Camp—Explored lower part of Kohinoor C Peak up to about 15,600 ft.—Kohinoor Camp.
June 30 : Kohinoor Camp—Kohinoor C. Peak, first ascent—Kohinoor Camp.
July 1 : Kohinoor Camp—Climb on Peaks E. of Shesha Nag up to 15,100 ft.—Chandar Wari.
July 5 : Tolien Valley Camp—Climb on ridge overlooking Mampal Valley up to 15,150 ft.—T. upper Camp.
July 6 : Tolien upper Camp—Snowy Peak 'A' first Ascent—T. Valley Camp.
July 12 : Camp S. of Sonasar Nag—Peak W. of Sonasar Pass traverse first Ascent—Suknes in Wardwhan.
July 14–17 : Suknes—Bhat Kol Pass—Suru.
July 18 : Suru—Climb on ridge above Purkubse La up to 14,500 ft.—Suru.
July 21 : Tongul E. Valley—Climb on Sentik Glacier—Sentik La.
July 22 : Sentik La—(Blizzard all night)—Tongul.
July 27 : Khushokh Than Nullah W. of Umba—Climb on ridges N.E. of Machai—Camp on Machai Umba ridge.
July 28 : Camp—Peak Gah Ling first Ascent—Umba.
July 29 : Umba—Umba La—Lamagus La—Dras.
Aug. 1 : Camp near Shingo La—Peak at head of W. Branch of Shunderi Nullah, first Ascent—Dras.
Aug. 3–4 : Dras—Zogi La—Balbal.

Captain O. E. Todd reports the following exploratory work in 1911:
In Kaghan Valley.
June 22: From Camp near Safus Malook—Attempt to climb Mali ka Purbat—reached col 15,500 ft. on E. face.
June 24: From Camp near Safus Malook—Manoor 15,129 ft. by steep snow gully on E. face.
June 30: From Camp above Duddur, 11,750 feet—Attempt to climb Mali ka Purbat by N.E. arête, reached col. 15,000 ft. (Dubooka).
July 6: From Battakundi—Dubooka 16,196 ft. by N. arête. Traverse of the whole mountain (4 summits).
July 11: From Battikundi; crossed over Dubooka N. arête and over large glacier and snowfield, attacked Rewuree by N. arête, reached summit after a difficult rock climb in a snow-storm; went back by the same route and made a new pass down the Rewuree Valley to Burawai.

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July 14: From Basil—Peak about 1⅓ miles south of Basur Mountain (un-named) 15,300 ft. A steep and difficult rock climb, from the S.W. arête.

July 30: From Badulgraun—crossed the Rasee Bojee ridge, traversed the whole of the Sukhi Sangal snowfield.

Traversed back by a entirely new route, eventually landing in the Shikara nullah. 18 hours. In terrible weather, snow-storm and thick mist. A very awkward expedition.

All these climbs are new ground and first ascents.

Mr. C. F. Meade's Expedition to the Garhwal Himalaya.—Mr. Meade left for India at the end of March by the ss. Mantua. His baggage including camp kit went down in the unfortunate s.s. Oceana, but he was able to replace it all at the last moment. He is accompanied by his old guides Pierre and Justin Blanc and in addition by Franz Lochmatter and the latter's brother-in-law Perren. The party is bound for Kamet, 25,447 ft. (cf. Mumm 'Five Months in the Himalaya' with a map by Dr. Longstaff showing the district). We wish this party every success, and look forward to the results of their expedition with the greatest interest.

The Himalaya.—The 'Morning Leader' of April 10 contains an interesting article by Mr. Douglas W. Freshfield on 'The Conquest of the Mountains.' He concludes that Kangchenjunga, rather than Mount Everest or Mount Godwin-Austen, offers the best chance and will be attacked first. The article concludes with the following advice printed here verbatim:—

'Now, what are the requisites for a party in order that it may have the best possible chance of success? Its nucleus should be three practised mountaineers, by preference between 30 and 40, accustomed to climb together and ready, if needful, to carry up themselves what is wanted to a final bivouac. Natives of Eastern Nepal—Sherpas—have been trained by Dr. Kellas, who recently described his experiences to the Royal Geographical Society, to climb and carry up to 23,000 ft. It is doubtful if they could be got higher, unless where a fairly easy way can be discovered—"Mountain lassitude" in a more or less degree is inevitable at great heights, varying with the individual and the weather; close attention to diet, frequent and light meals, are the best preventives of its developing into sickness that incapacitates from climbing. An Arctic equipment, as light as it can be made, both for camping and clothing, should be provided. Footgear should be specially studied. The form that will most effectually preserve from frostbite and yet not be dangerous in icesteps has, so far as I know, not yet been evolved. The two special dangers are in avalanches and rapid changes of weather. A prolonged fair spell such as is needed for the ascent of a great peak is rare in most parts of the Himalaya. Early summer is perhaps a better season than autumn—at any rate, in Sikhim.

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'It is to be hoped that any attempts that may be made will be under the control of competent mountaineers—otherwise fresh disasters similar to that in which five lives were lost seven years ago on Kangchenjunga may confidently be anticipated.'

No reader of this Journal needs reminding of Mr. Freshfield's book, 'Round Kangchenjunga,' and if that mountain is the first to be ascended among the giants it will be in a great measure due to the arduous pioneer work done by the author and recorded with such detail for the service of his successors.

VARIOUS EXPEDITIONS IN 1911.

MONT BLANC (4810 m. = 15,782 ft.) BY THE BRENVA.—For years Josef Pollinger and I have wished to climb Mont Blanc by this most fascinating route, and two years ago we made the ascent by the Tête Rousse in order to inspect it, but the weather and conditions generally were too unfavourable for the attempt.

This year after the traverse of the Herbetet, the Grand Paradis and the Grivola by the N. arête, we both concluded that snow with an East aspect ought to be in excellent condition. Accordingly we left Cogne early on July 8 for Courmayeur, where we arrived during the afternoon.

Our intention was to go to the Gîte next morning, but having had a week's continuous climbing, we decided to risk the weather and wait a day, meantime engaging Adolphe Rey as second guide.

On July 10 we left the Royal at 7.55 A.M., and arrived at the Gîte at 2.45 P.M. We had several long halts on account of the porters, who felt the heat very much. The actual going time was 5 hrs. 25 mins.

Joseph, Rey and I went on a little higher to get an idea of our route in the morning as we were contemplating a very early start. As is well known, the Gîte is a little rock promontory in the face of the glacier which falls very steeply all round. The view of the Aiguilles Noire and Blanche de Peuteret and the ridge to the summit of Mont Blanc in the setting sun is something to be remembered all one's life; in fact, I think it would be difficult to imagine a more perfect view on a brilliant summer evening; the harshness and ruggedness of the ridges to right and left toned down by the evening sun and the lovely softness of the Italian landscape in the distance.

At 6.30 I turned into my sleeping bag, and in a few minutes we were all settled for the night. As the evening drew on the scene was more and more beautiful. The gathering twilight, the brilliant heavens, the noise of the avalanches, the feeling of remoteness and the immensity of space were impressive in the extreme.

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