and Clogwen yr Ddysgl.' These mountains of sonorous sound supply climbs the very names of which 'enshrine the poetry' which they have awakened in the hearts of their conquerors—'The Cloister Climb,' 'The Mermaid Climb,' 'The Torpedo Route.' This paper has four attractive illustrations. There is a 'Note' on the Gletscherjoch by O. K. Williamson, with two illustrations.

Amongst other contributions are 'Ostertage in North Wales' by Dr. Karl Blodig, an ascent of Ætna by the Editor, on 'Claws and Ice-craft' by O. Eckenstein, and an interesting and instructive paper on the 'Pyrenees' by C. A. Elliott, who strongly recommends them as a practice ground for guideless climbers, and to our mind thoroughly justifies his recommendation. Art is not neglected, for M. T. H. Sadler discusses fully the merits of C. J. Holmes as 'An Artist of Mountains.' Two illustrations accompany this paper.

We regret that want of space prevents us from writing at greater length on this excellent number: the standard which it sets is high, and we wish the Editor every success in maintaining it.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall on Tuesday evening, February 6, at 8.30, Sir Edward Davidson, *President*, in the chair.

The following gentlemen were balloted for and elected members of the Club:—Messrs. Ralph Todhunter, Walter Nelson, Joseph Murison Davidson, James Robert Dennistoun, and Henry Arthur Hinton.

The PRESIDENT said: I regret to have to announce the deaths of two of the oldest members of the Club, each of over fifty years' standing. Graf Hans v. Hallwyl, who became a member in 1859, and Mr. Hubert Smith-Stanier, who was elected in 1860, and who attained the age of eighty-nine years and a few days. Mr. Smith-Stanier wrote a very interesting book, published in 1874, entitled 'Tent Life with English Gipsies in Norway,' which was reviewed at the time in the 'Alpine Journal,' Vol. VII.

I also have to announce that Mr. Percy H. Thorp has presented to the Club an oil-painting of the Val d'Anniviers, and I am sure the Club would wish me to convey to Mr. Thorp our hearty thanks for his handsome present.

This is the first time we have met since the close of our Picture Exhibition in December, and I feel confident that we shall be unanimous in according a most hearty vote of thanks to Mr. G. P. Baker for the great trouble, care and skill displayed by him in his

Digitized by Google

capacity of Hon. Secretary of the Exhibition, which was one of the most successful we have ever had.

Mr. E. H. F. BRADBY said: Mr. President, having regard to the disappointment of some members who were unable, on account of the limited number of tickets available, to invite guests to the Winter Dinner, might I ask whether the Committee propose to lessen the number of guests in order to make room for a larger number of members, or whether they propose to leave the Whitehall Rooms and engage a hall with a larger seating capacity? Of course, if you are not in a position to make any statement on the subject at present, I do not wish to press the question.

The PRESIDENT said: I am very glad Mr. Bradby has asked this question, as I am now in a position to make a statement which may be of interest to members of the Club. For a long time past this question has engaged the attention of the Committee, as, although we all feel that at the Whitehall Rooms we have been treated very well indeed, we have found it impossible to accommodate there anything approaching the number of members and their guests who desired to be present, without the addition of several small corner tables, and (in 1911) of an overflow room, which was a very unsatisfactory arrangement, and, as far as the small tables were concerned, an uncomfortable one. It was, however, only the consideration of want of space at the Whitehall Rooms, where we were able with the addition of the small tables to seat, and that not very comfortably, a company of about 270 in the large room itself, that determined the Committee to make inquiries with a view, if possible, without increasing the price of the dinner, to find a more spacious place in which to hold it. The Sub-Committee appointed for this purpose, of which I was a member, together with Mr. Withers (the late Hon. Secretary) and Dr. Waugh, made careful inquiries as to what rooms were available, and came to the conclusion that the best room, if the terms were suitable, was the new ball-room at the Savoy Hotel. This room was undoubtedly the best room seen, and 400 people can there be seated comfortably. Last December we had 310 at the Whitehall Rooms, of whom forty dined in the overflow room, and came in to hear the speeches afterwards. We found we could get a dinner for the same price if about 300 (or more) members and guests dined, and I think I was justified in saying that we might count upon that number. It seems safe to estimate that we shall, in all probability, have more than 310 people next year, as the number of guest tickets can be increased beyond the present limit of fifty, and having engaged the room, the Committee hope that in the new quarters we shall be as successful as we have been in the past in the old. We all feel how extremely well we have been treated by the Whitehall Rooms, and it is only the imperative consideration of want of space, which we think ought to come before everything else, that has compelled us to seek other quarters. We shall take

Digitized by Google

care to convey this in suitable terms to the management of the Whitehall Rooms. It may be convenient that I should take this opportunity of announcing that the Annual Winter Dinner will be held on Tuesday, December 10.

Mr. A. M. KELLAS then read a paper on his experiences in 'The Sikkim and Garhwal Himalaya in 1911,' which was illustrated by lantern slides.

The PRESIDENT said: Before inviting discussion on the very interesting paper we have just heard, I should like to read to the Club a letter which has been received from Dr. Longstaff, who extremely regrets his inability to be present here to-night. He is at present travelling in Africa, and writes from Hammam R'Irha as follows:

'If you have a suitable opportunity please read this at Kellas's paper, or part of it, or words to that effect.

'I am very sorry indeed to miss hearing Dr. Kellas. Much of his remarkable success in Himalayan exploration during the last few years has probably been due to the unusual degree to which he covers his tracks and avoids observation. Now that he has been induced to speak, it is a great disappointment to me to lose the chance of hearing him, especially as I feel perfectly certain that he will not tell the Club of many of the little unofficial expeditions he has made into localities which are certainly believed to be inaccessible—even to members of the Alpine Club. May I express my profound admiration for the manner in which Dr. Kellas has gained and kept the confidence of his exclusively (and exclusive) native companions in his several expeditions? It is really no exaggeration to liken his achievements to those of the three brothers Schlagintweit.'

I thought I would like to read that, as it contains the expressions of one of Mr. Kellas's friends, and one of the men best qualified to judge of Mr. Kellas's achievements.

Mr. FRESHFIELD said: I feel that some apology is due to the members of the Club, for the too frequent intrusions of veterans like myself in our discussions. On the present occasion, however, I have this excuse, that there is probably no one in the room except Professor Garwood and myself who has ever been over any of the ground in Sikkim described by Mr. Kellas.

I have listened to Mr. Kellas's remarkable account of his climbs with admiration and, I must add, not without envy. Envy, because the way in which he ran backwards and forwards over our 20,000 ft. pass, the Jonsong La, as if it were a Himalayan St. Theodul, suggested too vividly the contrast between the condition of the country last summer and that in which we found it after the great snowstorm of September 1899, when it took our coolies five days to get across the range.

The only fault I can find with Mr. Kellas's narrative is that it,

Digitized by Google

to some extent, fails to do justice to the extent and nature of his exploits. He has visited Sikkim three times, he has described only his last journey; he has climbed two great mountains of over 22,000 ft. and one of over 23,000 ft.; he has explored to their head all the sources of the Zemu Glacier and the gaps at the head of Lhonakh, and in so doing has been able to correct Garwood's map in more than one locality. And, most remarkable of all, he has done this with native followers whom he has trained to be efficient mountaineers—in the technical sense of that word. In so doing he has furnished the most practical contradiction to the reports of some previous explorers, and the most valuable help to future travellers. Further, by climbing at a pace of 700 to 1,000 ft. in the hour at heights of over 20,000 ft., he has added another proof that the limit of human powers on the mountains is still far from having been reached.

I may take this occasion to express an opinion as to the ascent of Kangchenjunga. Mr. Kellas confirms me in thinking that the climb from the head of the Kangchenjunga Glacier among the cliffs and crevasses of the N.W. face of the mountain is likely to prove a perilous one on account of ice avalanches, and should only be undertaken after very careful reconnaissances. The only possible alternative seems to be a route from the head of the Yalung Glacier on the S.W. of the mountain, up crevassed slopes, and then by a transverse shelf, visible from many points of view, on the rock-face of the mountain to the base of the W. ridge of the highest peak. It was in this direction that a futile attempt which ended in disaster was made by an unfortunately organised party some years ago. Success would depend on the possibility of establishing at least one and probably two camps on the rock-face.

Professor Garwood said: I should like to associate myself with every word which Mr. Freshfield has just spoken. With the possible exception of Mr. Freshfield, I expect I was more interested than anyone else in the room while listening to the paper we have just heard, and I should like to add my congratulations to Mr. Kellas on his really splendid expedition in the district round Kangchenjunga which I visited with Mr. Freshfield in 1899. As allusions have been made to my map of the Kangchenjunga district which was shown on the screen I should like to say, that it does not claim to be more than a preliminary sketch map of the line of route actually traversed during our expedition, and that as regards outlying portions—as, for instance, the N.E. tributary of the Zemu Glacier which was explored by Mr. Kellas—the map is to a great extent hypothetical, as stated in the notes accompanying the map in the 'Geographical Journal.' I was interested to hear of the alterations in the height of certain peaks given in the recent edition of the Government map, and would like to ask whether these changes are the result of a new official survey or of a recalculation of the earlier field observations. I should like also to ask the author of the paper whether he happened

Digitized by Google

to bring back with him any rock specimens from the limestone ridges in the Lhonakh Valley, as this district was the only one in which sedimentary rocks were met with during our expedition in 1899. The age of these limestones is of special interest in connection with the date of the upheaval of this portion of the Himalayan Chain, and the age of the Kangchenjunga gneiss.

Mr. MUMM said: I was overwhelmed with admiration at Mr. Kellas's work, which is far and away beyond anything that has ever been done in this region. It seems to me that the moral of his success is, that he was extremely wise in leaving Kangchenjunga severely alone and confining his attention to peaks of lesser elevation, and in consequence he succeeded in getting to the top of a surprisingly large number of very big mountains. Yet even he was tempted at the last, and went a long way round in order to have a go at a 25,000-footer in the shape of Kamet, and I rather regret that he did not stick to his earlier principles, and attack one of the many fine peaks of 21,000 and 20,000 ft. between the Mana and Niti Pass routes. In regard to Kamet I do not think anybody has realised before what a difficult mountain it is all round. Dr. Longstaff never got a very good look at it from the side Mr. Kellas showed us, and certainly had no idea of the difficulties of the western face, but he did ascertain that the eastern face was horribly steep and, I should imagine, absolutely impossible. Whether farther round to the N. it is more practicable I do not know. I quite accept Mr. Kellas's modification of my remark as to camping high and starting late.

Colonel MICHELL said: My field of exploration in the Himalayas has been just to the E. of Mr. Kellas's ground, away up the valley of the R. Lachoong to the Donkia Pass; but that was in the old days, and I was not a member of the Alpine Club at that time.

I recognised several views, having ascended the Kanchinjhow Ridge opposite Pauhunri, whence I saw the N.E. slope of Kangchenjunga, and thought an ascent was possible on that side. I attended Mr. Freshfield's lecture and remember the route he pointed out as perhaps feasible, but I cannot say whether it is the same as the N.E. slope that I saw from Kanchinjhow.

Dr. COLLIE said: I am sure we all owe a very great debt to Mr. Kellas for his paper, and especially for the way in which he has trained natives for Alpine work in Sikkim. A case in point occurred this summer. Lieutenant Slingsby with natives made an attempt on Kamet. He wrote to me saying that he had managed to get to about 21,000 ft., and as far as he could see there was nothing more of difficulty between him and the top, but he had to give up the attempt for the natives refused to go on; this would probably not have occurred if he had had with him men trained to the work in the same way that Mr. Kellas's men were.

Digitized by Google

The PRESIDENT said: There remains to me the very pleasant duty of proposing a most hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Kellas for his interesting lecture and beautiful photographs. The only fault I have to find with the lecture is that it was such a Gargantuan banquet, almost bewildering in its profusion, containing as it did sufficient material to furnish forth at least five feasts fit for an Alpine Lucullus, that we have not yet had time to digest it. One thing on which I particularly wish to congratulate Mr. Kellas is, that he managed all his expeditions without the help of Swiss guides. Speaking now from a selfish standpoint, I have for some time past in my modest Alpine jaunts been embarrassed by the fact, that the two eminent experts who are kind enough to sustain my faltering footsteps every summer are constantly being bombarded, either directly or indirectly, with requests of the most tempting character from younger members of the Club to go with them to the Himalayas, and other distant mountain ranges, and I think that after what Mr. Kellas has said in regard to his natives, there will possibly be less desire to take Swiss guides out to India. Without trenching on political matters, I am all for the protection of home industries, and for the employment of natives in their own land.

I am sure we are all very much obliged to Mr. Kellas for his delightful paper. Perhaps he would like to say a few words in answer to some of the questions that have been put.

Mr. KELLAS said: With regard to Mr. Freshfield's remarks on Kangchenjunga, I think the S.W. face looks the most practicable. I investigated the N.W. face but found this extremely difficult, because the rocks usually have ice-falls along the top. There may be a possible route from the N. and, perhaps, another from the W. In reply to Professor Garwood's question, I may say that I did not bring any rock samples from the place he mentioned. I intended to go back to the Jongsong Peak, and might have taken some samples then, but I found there was not time to do that.

As regards the natives I might mention, in connexion with what Dr. Collie said, that the coolies who were with me in Sikkim were thoroughly satisfied with the pay and food, and that they were splendid fellows for work. I took two Swiss guides with me in 1907, and the result was not satisfactory. The natives do a great many things that the guides would not do, and Swiss guides judge everything according to Swiss standard.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall on Tuesday evening, March 5, at 8.30 P.M., Sir Edward Davidson, *President*, in the chair.

The following gentlemen were balloted for and elected members of the Club: M. le Chevalier Victor de Cessole and Mr. Richard Harold Francis.

Digitized by Google

The PRESIDENT said: I regret to have to announce the death of two members of the Club. One of them, Sir George Clerk, Bart., the head of the old Scottish House of Penicuik, was elected to the Club in 1871 and remained a member until his death, although for many years past he had ceased to engage in active mountaineering and was rarely seen at our meetings. The other member whom we have lost was well known as one of the most active and enterprising of modern mountaineers. I refer to Mr. G. B. Tunstall Moore. He was a first-rate mountaineer and was specially remarkable for possessing exceptional endurance, pace, and stamina, which enabled him to accomplish several of the longest and most severe climbs recorded in Alpine annals. One of his exploits which comes back to my mind was his ascent, within the compass of a single day, of the Aiguille de Rochefort and of Mont Mallet, finishing up with the traverse of the Aiguille du Géant. He was a great sportsman all round: a splendid shot, a very good man to hounds and a fine fisherman. He has died at the early age of 42, and his loss is indeed a great one to the Club.

Mr. G. WINTHROP YOUNG then read a paper on 'Two Ridges of the Grandes Jorasses,' which was illustrated with lantern-slides.

The PRESIDENT said: I have no doubt that several members of the Club would like to address us on this very interesting paper, but I think we should first of all wish to hear what Mr. H. O. Jones, who took so great a part in these expeditions, has got to say about them. Perhaps he would in the course of his observations explain what to me, at any rate, is a mystery, and tell us something about this new chemical body to which Mr. Young assigns the formula of 'HO_2.' H_2O we have heard of, but HO_2 seems to be an allotropic modification of Mr. Jones's initials and has, I gather, something to do with the most honourable letters of F.R.S. which have lately been added, to our great satisfaction, to the other extremity of Mr. Jones's name.

Mr. JONES said: I find it very difficult to add anything to the thrilling account which Mr. Young has given of these two expeditions. I had not realised before what an exciting time we must have had, but those two days will certainly remain among the most pleasant memories of my life. I should not have tried the ascent of the West Ridge had I not been with Young and Knubel. The latter having once started on the rocks above the Col des Grandes Jorasses was determined to go on at least as far as the point which had been reached by previous parties. The ascent of the West Ridge has the advantage over the descent of the East Ridge only in that there is much more satisfaction in going up than in coming down. Perhaps I might explain that the dropping of my ice-axe, an incident which Young has mentioned, was due to the interest I was taking

Digitized by Google

in working the knee-brake on the rope when coming down the cut off to the 'V' notch on the East Ridge.

Capt. FARRAR said: The expeditions that have been described to us are really a point above me, but the feeling I had while listening to Mr. Young was that they were incomparable climbs and that it was an incomparable paper. No three men deserve better the success they had.

Mr. BROOME said: I am not sure that I am the right person to voice the general chorus of thanks to Mr. Young for the interesting, exciting, and poetical paper he has read to us this evening. We have all enjoyed it very much, and I really think that just now, when we are going through such gloomy and troublous times, it is something to have our thoughts turned away, if only for one night, to pleasanter and more congenial scenes and adventures. If Shakespeare were with us this evening, he would say:—

> The time is out of joint; oh cursed spite
> That Geoffrey Young can't read a paper every night!

Now I should like to say something of a different character, and it has reference to the late member whose name, by a very sad coincidence, has been mentioned in Mr. Young's paper, and whose death has been announced to the Club by the President. Mr. G. B. Tunstall Moore was a fine fellow, a true friend, and his loss is a very great one to this Club, to which I had the honour of seconding him for election. He was a keen mountaineer, a hard rider to hounds, a great fisherman, and a good all-round sportsman. It was in 1902, as I think Mr. Young has said, when he attempted his climb down the East Ridge of the Grandes Jorasses with a large party, but he was very much handicapped by the icy conditions of the mountains that year. He told me a good deal about it. The paper to-night was especially interesting to me as I know that range well and have been on most of its peaks and passes, also inspected both of these big ridges from the summit downwards. I also looked carefully up at the E. one from the Col des Hirondelles, and at the W. one from the Col des Grandes Jorasses. I ventured to prophesy that the East Ridge might possibly be descended, but would never be climbed up. With regard to the long W. arête, it never occurred to me that anyone would ever want to traverse it, and I still doubt if anyone except these two gentlemen would have done so. I congratulate Mr. Jones most heartily on the honour he has attained in his election as F.R.S. After his and Young's sensational climbs of last season, I don't know what they can have in reserve for another year, but rather expect there is still something up their sleeves.

Mr. A. E. FIELD said: I happened to be at Montanvert in 1902

Digitized by Google

at the time Tunstall Moore made his attempt to climb down the E. Ridge, and we watched his attempt for several hours through a telescope, and, I think, if my recollection is correct, he certainly got more than half-way down to the notch. Later on when I took another look at him I saw that he had just turned back. I saw Tunstall Moore afterwards and he told me something about it.

The PRESIDENT said: If nobody else has anything to say I will perform my usual and pleasant duty of proposing a most hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Young for his extremely interesting and charming paper. It is really a literary gem, and as an account of two of the finest climbs which could by any possible stretch of the legs or the imaginations, even of such exceptional mountaineers, be called justifiable, it is almost unique. I am sure we are also all of us very much obliged to Mr. Young for the splendid photographs he has shown us. As he was good enough to refer to me in connexion with the early exploration of the E. Ridge of the Grandes Jorasses, I would like to say at once that my efforts at exploration consisted in sitting on the top of a lump of snow rather to the E. of the Col des Hirondelles proper, which we had just reached from the northern side, and looking through an extremely good stalking-glass at this awful notch. We certainly satisfied ourselves that the ridge was, at this point, quite impossible of ascent, and I am very glad to find that any opinion I formed thirty years ago was correct enough to have stood the test of time. Even Mr. Young's and Mr. Jones's party had for once to stoop to conquer. I should like to ask Mr. Young whether he does not think that it would be easier, and also safer, for anybody who ever attempts to repeat the ascent of the W. Ridge to approach the Col des Grandes Jorasses from the N. side. There is a very nice cave which we discovered on the right bank proper of the Glacier de Leschaux. It makes a most comfortable gîte and is about 2½ hours distant from the Montanvert. The glacier on that (the N.) side is not very difficult and one might be able to reach the Col des Grandes Jorasses without any risk, while there is always on the S. (or Courmayeur) side some appreciable danger of falling stones. Mr. Young knows all these glaciers so well that I am sure he will be able to give us some information which will be useful to anybody who may want to try this climb.

I have much pleasure in proposing a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Young, and I am confident that the prediction of the Vice-President will be fulfilled and that he will be found to have something up his sleeve, or up both sleeves, for us on a future occasion.

Mr. YOUNG stated that it was impossible for the President to escape the responsibility of having been the first to make any serious explorations of the E. Ridge: explorations which extended over more than one season. He agreed with the President that it

Digitized by Google

would be undoubtedly better to ascend the Col des Grandes Jorasses from the N. This had been his original intention, and was only interfered with by the fact that they found themselves more conveniently placed to make the attempt from the S., and were anxious not to lose time and the good weather.

With regard to the point reached by Mr. Tunstall Moore, they had been in correspondence with him about it, and there could be little doubt that the point he had indicated was approximately the correct one. The ridge was very deceptive seen in profile.

He wished to express, on behalf of Mr. Jones and himself, their sincere thanks for the cordial words of appreciation.

Errata in No. 195.

Page 92, line 8, for 'earlier' read 'earliest.'

Page 105, line 4, for 'In 1869 after four years' read 'In 1871 after several years.'

Page 110, line 25, for '1910' read '1911.'

Digitized by Google