PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall, 23 Savile Row, W., on Tuesday evening, February 3, 1914, at 8.30 P.M., the Hon. Mr. Justice Pickford, *President*, in the Chair.

The following candidates were balloted for and elected Members of the Club, viz. Captain H. M. Battye, Mr. Colin Grant Crawford, Lieutenant Kenneth Mason, Mr. John Alfred Spranger, and Mr. Henry Hewitt Worsfold.

The PRESIDENT said: Before I call upon Mr. Malcolm Ross to read his paper I should like to draw your attention to one or two matters which I think ought to be mentioned to the Club.

The first is an announcement that the late Mr. Adams-Reilly's original Mont Blanc sketches belonging to the late Mr. C. T. Dent are now on view at the rooms of the Royal Geographical Society. I have no doubt that many members of the Club will be glad to have the opportunity of seeing these.

The next announcement I have to make, and I fear it is not an uncommon one, concerns the members who have died since we last met here.

First on the list is a very old member of the Club, elected as long ago as 1861. I refer to Mr. Frederick Morshead. He was a great climber in his day, and he made several first ascents. In 1863 he made the first passage of the Furgenjoch, in 1867 he made the first ascent of the Jägerhorn and crossed the Jägerjoch; in the same year he made the first ascent of the Lyskamm by the S. arête; and in 1877 he made the first ascent of the Nord End by the N.W. arête.

I cannot, I grieve to say, speak of him personally, but I believe I had the pleasure of meeting him once. He was known chiefly to the older members of the Club, and will be missed by many here.

I have had one or two communications from members of the Club in regard to his mountaineering exploits, and they all seem to lay stress on his unfailing good temper and cheerfulness, no matter what or with whom he was climbing. He was very fast on the mountains. I do not exactly know the number of hours in which he went alone from Chamonix to the top of Mont Blanc and back, but the time was surprisingly short.

His interests were not confined to those of a mountaineer, as many of you know. He spent a great part of his life as a master at Winchester, and he was twice Mayor of that city. He took the greatest possible interest in his scholastic and municipal duties, and he was presented with the freedom of Winchester in recognition of his services to the city.

I am not sure, but I believe it is a fact that the Club had desired him at least on one occasion to be their President, and the Club was the poorer when he declined the honour for reasons which were no doubt satisfactory. He also declined the Vice-Presidency, but served on the Committee in 1872–74.

The next member whose name I have to mention was not quite so old in his membership, having been elected in 1877. Sir F. F. Cullinan, K.C.B., was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and was in the Chief Secretary's Office, afterwards resident clerk in London of the Irish Office, and subsequently, until his retirement in 1911, Principal Clerk in the Chief Secretary's Office in Dublin. He was a very active mountaineer for several years, and made many first ascents. He made the first ascent of the Aiguille de Talèfre in 1879 with the Hon. Gerald FitzGerald and the late Mr. J. Baumann. In the same year, with Mr. Baumann and the guides Emile Rey and Josef Moser, he made the second ascent of the Higher Aiguille du Dru on the same day (August 29, 1879) that three Chamonix guides, led by Jean Charlet, afterwards Charlet-Stratton, made the well-known ascent of the Lower Aiguille.

In 1878, with the Hon. Gerald FitzGerald and the guides Peter Knubel and Josef Moser, he made the first ascent of the Täschhorn over the N. arête from the Domjoch.

He had also ascended most of the great peaks at Zermatt and in the Oberland, and was a very active member of the Club.

The third name on my list is that of Mr. R. N. Arkle, of whom I can speak with a great deal more personal knowledge than I can of either of the others, as I climbed with him and his brother, the late Dr. C. Arkle, for several years. He was a very good climber, but I do not know that he made any record first ascents. Probably one of his biggest expeditions was the third crossing of the Domjoch. Of the first four parties who made this crossing, two were benighted, and although Arkle's party was more fortunate it was a very near thing. He was a most interesting companion, being a man of very considerable ability, as his career at Oxford shows, and of very wide reading. He was a very active member of the Club and constant in his attendance at its Meetings. He was also one of the regular supporters of the Informal Dinners and Meetings when they were first instituted. Of late his health had not permitted him to take an active part in the affairs of the Club, but so long as he was able to do so he took the greatest interest in all our doings. He was a very regular visitor to the Alps, and had climbed most of the principal peaks in the Swiss, French, and Italian Alps.

I have one other announcement to make which refers to one of our late Presidents. Perhaps I ought to say that I am very glad to see him here to-night, but in another sense it makes my task a little difficult to perform gracefully. I have no doubt that you have all seen that our past President, Mr. James Bryce at that time, has been honoured by His Majesty with promotion to the rank of Viscount. I thought that the Club would not like an honour of that kind to pass without some mention of it at the first opportunity after it had been conferred upon him. I think we are all proud of his honour, because it is an honour he has well deserved, for services which the country has recognised, services of distinction

in literature and politics, and last, but not least, services in diplomacy. I had thought of asking the Club to request me to direct the Honorary Secretary to convey our heartiest congratulations to Viscount Bryce on the high honour conferred upon him, but as we are happy to have him with us this evening it will, I think, be better if I ask you to express our congratulations to him by acclamation here and now.

Mr. MALCOLM ROSS then read a paper on the New Zealand Alps entitled 'A Climber in a Far Country,' which was illustrated by lantern slides.

The PRESIDENT said: I believe there are several members here who have visited the region described by Mr. Ross in his paper. I am sure we should all like to hear what Mr. Claude Macdonald has to say.

Mr. CLAUDE A. MACDONALD said: Mr. President and gentlemen, I am sure, after the splendid pictures we have seen of the New Zealand Alps, there will be a general rush of some of our younger members to New Zealand to capture some of the virgin peaks which are waiting for the explorers. In addition to these numerous peaks, a great number of the valleys there are absolutely untrodden. New Zealand is one of the finest countries in the world and has tremendous possibilities, and in addition to the mountaineering it offers it has some of the best fishing to be had anywhere and most excellent shooting. The people there are most hospitable, and I hope, after seeing the excellent photographs Mr. Ross has shown us, some of our younger members will make up their minds to give the New Zealand Alps a trial. I have had the good fortune to spend several seasons out there, and I used to go up into the mountains to get out of the hot weather in the summer. I have used all the roads which Mr. Ross has shown us, and his description of them is certainly not exaggerated. They are, however, building a new hotel there for the accommodation of mountaineers, and with a motor conveyance one can travel up to 100 miles a day very comfortably.

I am sure we are all very much indebted to Mr. Ross for reading such an interesting paper and for showing us such excellent slides.

Mr. R. S. LOW said: I don't know that I can add anything to what Mr. Ross has said about the region described in his paper. My first season in New Zealand was spent on the Eastern side of the Alps, and I had a most delightful time. For my second season I went to the Western side, of which Dr. Teichelmann showed the Club some very fine views when he lectured here last year. The approach to the climbing on the Western side is very much harder than on the Eastern side on account of the dense semi-tropical bush. The views shown by Mr. Ross and by Dr. Teichelmann must have given you a much better idea of what the New Zealand Alps are like than any description of mine could.

The Rt. Hon. VISCOUNT BRYCE said: When I had the pleasure of visiting New Zealand I was unfortunately prevented from reaching

the mountain region that has been the subject of Mr. Malcolm Ross's paper, which we have so much enjoyed. It was mid-winter, and neither on the West nor on the East side could the glaciers be approached. Still I was able to see enough both of the volcanic mountains of the North Island and of the hills and valleys of the South Island to get an impression of and be able to appreciate the peculiar charm of the scenery in New Zealand. I do not know exactly what it is that gives it this charm, whether it is the extraordinary clearness of the atmosphere or the scantiness of any signs of man's presence, but I am rather inclined to think that it consists largely in the character of the vegetation, which is unlike that of any other country. The lower mountains of New Zealand up to 8000 feet have some of the features of Switzerland and some of the features of Scotland, but they are really diverse from both. The great lake of Wakatihu, which is certainly one of the grandest I have ever seen, is surrounded by lofty and extremely steep mountains, and reminds one a little of the upper part of Loch Lomond, but it is on a far larger scale.

I should certainly advise all our members who have time for so long a trip to go to New Zealand, whether they desire superb rock and snow climbing, or content themselves with the enjoyment of noble landscapes. The forests have a character that is all their own, and the deep gorges full of luxuriant tree-ferns are magnificent. Besides the delights of mountaineering there is excellent trout fishing to be had, and I was told of anglers who come all the way from India or even from England regularly every year for six weeks' fishing. Some large tracks have been stocked with red deer, which seem to thrive and multiply, and I rejoice to say that no attempt is made to shut up the hills over which they rove against the pedestrian, be he artist or botanist or angler; so whoever wants to shoot may have the satisfaction in New Zealand of feeling he is not selfishly interfering with the pleasure of others who enjoy Nature without any wish to take life away from her creatures.

Perhaps you will allow me to express my sincere thanks to you, Sir, for the very kind terms in which you have referred to the honour conferred upon me, as I desire to thank my fellow-members most warmly for the congratulations they have expressed to me. From no quarter could any such expressions be more welcome than from my friends of this Club, to whose goodwill I owed an honour I prize as high as anything that has ever come to me—the honour of having presided for three years over them.

Will you allow me, Mr. President, to refer briefly to one whose name you mentioned earlier in the evening, our late member Mr. Frederick Morshead? I knew him at Oxford before he had joined the Club, and we kept up our friendship for many years afterwards. He was, as you observed, for many years at the head of one of the largest houses at Winchester, and it was probably his high sense of his duties to the pupils in his house which prevented him from accepting either the Presidency or the Vice-Presidency of the Club,

both of which were at one time and another offered to him. He doubtless felt, being a very conscientious man, that he could not hope to give due attention both to them and to the work of an office in the Club. I never had the good fortune to climb with him, but what you have said about his exploits as a mountaineer is entirely borne out by the records of the climbs he made. He was remarkably active, alert and vigorous, wonderfully quick and nimble both on rocks and on snow, and I believe that he and his friend Dr. Hornby, late Provost of Eton, made a record in the time within which they reached the top of Mont Blanc from Chamonix. He was a singularly attractive and deservedly popular character. No one could know him without becoming fond of him. He has left a memory at Oxford and Winchester to be cherished with affectionate respect.

The PRESIDENT said: I think we should all like to pass a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Malcolm Ross for his most interesting paper. I think his crossing of Mount Cook is an undertaking that most of us can hardly realize. It is a remarkable piece of work.

We had hoped and expected to have the High Commissioner for New Zealand with us this evening, as I had been told he has devoted a great deal of time to exploration in that country and thought that he would like to be present to hear what Mr. Ross had to say. I regret to say, however, that he was unable to come. He has sent me a letter and finishes up with some words that I should like to repeat to you, and I think you will all agree that the words are well-founded. He ends up by saying 'Mr. Ross has done splendid work in New Zealand, and he is one of the best sportsmen I have met.' I think those words are fully justified, and I ask you to pass a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Ross for his paper.

The vote of thanks was carried with acclamation, and Mr. Ross briefly returned thanks.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall, 23 Savile Row, W., on Tuesday evening, March 3, 1914, at 8.30 P.M., the Hon. Mr. Justice Pickford, *President*, in the chair.

Mr. A. A. Pearson, C.M.G., was balloted for and re-elected a member of the Club.

The PRESIDENT said: I am sorry to say that I have again to call the attention of the Club to the loss of two of our members by death, since we last met.

I have no doubt that you have all seen the recent reports in the newspapers of the death of the Earl of Minto. It is not my intention to say anything about his public career, as you may all read this for yourselves, but I should like to say a word or two about his career as a mountaineer, with which we are more particularly concerned here. He was a member of the Club from 1866 to 1869, but he then retired, and was not re-elected until 1905. He was quite recently Viceroy of India, and while there he was always anxious to do anything that could be done for members of this Club

and other persons interested in mountaineering in that country. As I have already said, he was only an active climbing member during the years 1866 to 1869, but he did some good climbs in that time, and amongst others he made the third ascent of the Schreckhorn in company with the late Mr. Horace Walker. This was the first ascent by the Great Couloir. On that expedition he was also accompanied by the well-known guide Johann (Hans) Jaun, and his name is the first which appears in Jaun's book.

That, I think, is practically all I have to say about him as a member of the Club.

I have no doubt that many members will recollect that he was a sportsman in many other directions apart from mountaineering. Fishing and shooting were among the sports to which he devoted his spare time, but he was probably better known as a keen hunting man and steeplechase rider in his younger days. During his steeplechasing career he won the Grand Prix d'Auteuil. During his residence in India he did all he could to encourage the game of polo, of which he was a great admirer. In every sense of the word he was an all-round sportsman.

The other member, a very much younger member, whose death on Mount Cook we were all of us grieved to see recorded the other day, was Mr. S. L. King. I have not any very exact information in regard to the accident at present, but the last information we received was contained in a telegram to the High Commissioner for New Zealand in this country. It reads as follows :—

'Wellington, February 26.

'Have found body one guide fearfully mutilated in snow: enormous avalanche apparently overwhelmed Mr. King and two guides. Have given up all hope finding bodies of King and other guide. Actual location catastrophe hitherto regarded as quite safe, although dangerous spot further on. This is first fatal accident Mount Cook. Search party had had time (and have) made every effort find other bodies. Please express sincere sympathy with relatives behalf Government.'

It appears to have been a real accident, not resulting from any want of precaution, and one of those accidents which are inseparable from any form of sport. I had not the advantage of knowing Mr. King personally, but a friend of his has communicated to me some matters regarding his career, and in one sentence he very aptly describes the type of man Mr. King was. He says :—

'He was one of the best of good fellows, the sort of man that I never heard say an unkind word about anyone.'

Although he was a man of somewhere about forty, he continued to play football for the Casuals, and, as his friend says, he was quite as useful as any of the younger members of that team. He was, as Lord Minto was also, a good, keen all-round sportsman.

These are the only matters to which I myself have to call your

attention, and I will now call upon the Hon. Secretary to present the accounts of the Club for 1913. I am glad to say that they are very satisfactory and show quite a pleasing balance.

The Hon. Secretary and Treasurer (Mr. C. H. R. Wollaston) then presented the accounts for 1913, and proposed their adoption. This was seconded by the President, and after one or two remarks by members present the accounts were unanimously adopted.

Dr. A. F. R. WOLLASTON then read a paper on 'Mountaineering in Dutch New Guinea,' which was illustrated by lantern slides.

The PRESIDENT said: I am afraid not all of us have been to New Guinea, but I have no doubt that there are many points in this very interesting paper to which some members would like to allude. I am very glad to say that we have with us this evening Major Rawling, who was one of the English party that made a previous expedition to New Guinea. I am sure we should all like to hear what Major Rawling has to say about Dr. Wollaston's expedition.

Major RAWLING said: I am sure no one in this room to-night has derived as much pleasure as I have in listening to Dr. Wollaston's exceedingly interesting paper. He and I were comrades on the previous Mimika Expedition, despatched from England for many purposes, not the least of which was to reach the snows of Mount Carstensz. In this particular endeavour we completely failed, mainly through taking the wrong river as our line of advance. Where we failed Dr. Wollaston has brilliantly succeeded. I cannot endorse too strongly the splendid success of his work; splendid it certainly is, as only those who have struggled through the swamps and ravines of that uncomfortable country know too well. Nature has here placed every obstacle in the traveller's way: an abominable climate, great physical difficulties, swarms of noxious insects, an impenetrable forest, and a savage race of men. Courage of the highest order is required to beat down these opposing natural forces, and perfect tact is necessary to master the savage tribes and thus to command their respect and assistance. His organization was as nearly perfect as possible, a point which is only too often lacking in expeditions which leave the shores of Great Britain. Dr. Wollaston went out perfectly prepared to succeed, and he has succeeded. Although he did not reach the actual summit of Carstensz, none will be more pleased than you, Gentlemen, and particularly myself, when, as I understand it is contemplated, he returns to the scene of his recent labours and completes the work he has already begun.

The PRESIDENT said: I had hoped that some members present would be able to offer a suggestion to Dr. Wollaston as to how best he could avoid the flooding of his tent which he mentioned, and I am sorry to think that no one can give him any assistance in regard to that matter. I suppose the fact is that we all feel he knows much more about these things than we can possibly tell

him. I will, therefore, ask the Club to pass a very hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Wollaston for his extremely interesting paper. It is pleasant to hear of a new country, but I doubt if any of us have realized the great labour entailed in organizing and carrying out such an expedition. Although he did not get to the top of the mountain, he obtained great and unqualified success in the way of exploration, the difficulties and dangers of which, one cannot help feeling, must have been a great deal more than he has told us. He has minimized these difficulties, but we were better able to realize how great they were when he told us the time it took to get from one place to another even with all the preparations he had made and the excellent help given by the Dyaks and friendly natives he had secured, and I think every member of the Club who is here has been very much interested in the paper, and must have admired the way in which the difficulties encountered by the expedition were surmounted.

The vote of thanks was carried by acclamation, and Dr. Wollaston briefly returned thanks.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall, 23 Savile Row, London, W., on Tuesday, April 7, 1914, at 8.30 P.M., the Hon. Mr. Justice Pickford, *President*, in the chair.

Mr. George Trench Western was ballotted for and elected a Member of the Club.

The PRESIDENT said: I regret to say that I have again to interpose between the Club and the reader of the paper to call the attention of the Club to the deaths of three of our Members.

One Member, Mr. JOHN SMYTH-OSBOURNE, was elected as long ago as 1872. He climbed a great deal some years ago, but of late years he has not climbed very much. He was very well known in North Devon as one of the best class of resident landowners, studious to promote the welfare of his tenantry, also a good sportsman, and a supporter of country sports and country pursuits of all kinds.

Mr. G. T. AMPHLETT, whose death has recently been reported to us, was a younger Member of the Club though an old climber. Most of his climbing was done in South Africa, where he was an official of the Standard Bank of South Africa. He had done a great deal of climbing in that country, and at the time he was elected a Member of this Club he was serving his second term as President of the Mountain Club of South Africa. He had only just retired from his business career, and was on his way to Europe, where he proposed to revisit the Alps, when he succumbed to an attack of malignant malaria.

Another Member whose death it is my painful duty to report, but of which I have only heard since entering this room, is Mr. P. A. L. PRYOR. He was elected in 1893, and he died only yesterday. He had done a great deal of climbing, I believe, partly with our senior Vice-President, Mr. Broome, and Mr. F. W. Newmarch,

in the Dolomites, Dauphiné, and other parts of the Alps, and he continued his climbing up till about two years ago. Having heard of his death so recently I am afraid I cannot give you many particulars as to his career, neither, I regret to say, can I speak of him personally; but as both Mr. Broome and Mr. Newmarch are here, I have no doubt they will be able to tell the Club more about him than I can.

I should like also to mention to the Club that Mrs. Morshead has given to the Club a wood carving of her husband, the late Mr. Frederick Morshead, by Melchior Anderegg.

Mr. E. A. BROOME said: Mr. President and Gentlemen, I have only heard of the death of poor Pryor within the last five minutes, and I am really so taken aback that I am afraid I can only say a word or two about him. He and I had done a great deal of climbing together in all parts of the Alps, and perhaps in the Dolomites (to which he first introduced me) more than any other part of the Alps. He was a splendid mountaineer, a good rock-climber, and a cheerful companion. He had had bad health for many years past, and I did not know that he was climbing so recently as two years ago. I feel his death very keenly, and I may mention that his initials, although they were P. L. to others, were L. P. to my party, signifying 'Life Preserver,' as he really saved my life on one occasion—I think in 1896. Had it not been for his resourcefulness at that time, I should not have been here to tell the tale. I feel his loss greatly, and I am sure his loss will be felt by the whole Club. Besides myself and Mr. Newmarch, I believe he also climbed a great deal with Mr. Harold Beeching.

Mr. F. W. NEWMARCH said: I first made the acquaintance of Pryor as a climber at Easter, I think 1891, when he was a member of a party led by Kesteven. We did not climb together in the Alps until some ten years later. Before that he had made many good ascents in the Dauphiné and the Dolomites. He and I made a number of guideless expeditions together, chiefly in the years 1905–10. We did nothing very arduous, but had pleasant days on such peaks as the Adamello, Ortler, Weisskugel, etc.

We made a sporting ascent of the Tödi, sleeping in a shepherd's hut in the absence of the accommodation which the landlord at Disentis had led us to hope for at Chalets in the Rusein valley. We also made a sporting ascent of the Piz Buin by an unusual route. Pryor was a fast goer. It was his last day in the Alps that season, and he ran down off the mountain to the Wiesbadener Hütte and to Patenen, catching a vehicle there and arriving at Bâle the same evening. Pryor shewed at his best on a mountain. He was a first-rate companion on an expedition. He loved the mountains and keenly appreciated their beauties, whether seen from the top of a great peak or from a minor pass. He possessed in a high degree the qualities of a true mountaineer, and the Club has sustained a real loss by his death.

Mr. J. H. CLAPHAM then read a paper entitled 'Cross-country Gleanings in 1913,' which was illustrated by lantern slides.

The PRESIDENT said: I am sure some Members of the Club will have some observations to make upon what certainly was a very interesting, and I think, considering the weather last year, remarkable performance. I don't think I know of an adjective strong enough to express last year's weather; it was such that I won't characterise it, but I am sure we are all glad to know there were some persons who derived some enjoyment in 1913. I rather think that we have several members of the party with us this evening, Mr. Muir and Mr. Werner, and I am sure we should all be glad to hear any observations they have to make.

Mr. J. C. MUIR said: I do not know why I should be called upon to add anything to the paper we have just heard from Mr. Clapham, as I was the most insignificant member of the party, and, as a matter of fact, I was so unfamiliar with the district that a fortnight before we started I really did not know whether Modane was in Italy or France. Therefore I think you can dispense with any further remarks from me.

Mr. C. A. WERNER said: I do not think I have anything to add to the paper from the point of view of technical mountaineering, but I should like to endorse the view that a great deal more pleasure can be got out of a tour similar to the one we took then a tour worked out in every detail with the aid of irreproachable guide-books, as in a great many ways one loses more by knowing too much about the route than one gains, and I think myself that a deal of enchantment is added by not knowing the route.

Mr. J. J. WITHERS said: Anyone who cares for the pleasure of finding one's own route cannot do better than visit the district which has been the subject of the paper this evening, as certainly the maps of the district north of Modane are most terribly deficient. The country is most beautiful and quite unspoilt. The accommodation, especially in the Chalets, leaves much to be desired.

The PRESIDENT said: As no other Member seems to have any novel views to add upon the mountains of this district or the accommodation which is to be found with someone who, I believe, is called Charles the Rotter, or anything further to tell us with regard to what particular delights are to be found in those Chalets, I think there is nothing more to be done but for me to propose a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Clapham for his admirable and interesting paper and the excellent photographs he has shown us. I have derived great pleasure from this paper because it concerns a district with which I am acquainted. I am sure you will all join with me in giving a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Clapham for his paper.

The vote of thanks was carried with acclamation, and Mr. J. H. Clapham briefly returned thanks.