

Aug. 18.—Double marched to Karaun.

Aug. 19.—Three marches, with aid of pony, to Dhelu, over Babboo Pass, 10,000 ft.; men and coolies and bedding did not come till late, or early next day.

Aug. 20.—Three marches, on three ponies, to Dharmsala. (From Jispa to Dharmsala about 180 miles.)

H. D. MINCHINTON,
Lt. 1st (K.G.O.) Goorkha Rifles.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

Freedom. Poems by Geoffrey Winthrop Young, Author of 'Wind and Hill.'
London: Smith, Elder & Co. 1914. 5s. net.

WHEN Mr. Young's previous volume of poems* was reviewed in this Journal, we were told that they who love the mountains truly would find in the author a certain friend. Mr. Young's new volume will assuredly increase the friendship. The very name of 'Freedom' awakens an answering chord in every climber's heart.

For his inspiration Mr. Young goes to nature—to the sea, and the field, and the mountain. He is no mere follower in the footsteps of other singers: convention he regards not. His metres are largely his own, and it is not always on the first perusal that a reader grasps the whole of his meaning. In fact, he sometimes seems to perplex us purposely. But this we forgive him for his freshness, his frankness, his obvious sincerity.

But we are here most concerned with mountains, and for us

There is great easing of the heart,
and cumulance of comfort on high hills.

Here is the first stanza of the poem entitled 'The Lonely Peak':

L'Isolée is a very lovely peak,
looked at from every side,
veiled in sheer darkness for a summer week,
white-veined at winter-tide;
aloof on sombre walls, in wind and sleep,
she makes her lonely stand;
the menace of hoarse glaciers from the deep
dies past on either hand.

Here are two stanzas from 'Mountain Speed':

O the winter joy of the flying of feet over snow-clad hill,
the rush and the snow-leap vying with the flight of our will;
the hiss of our ski, and the sighing of speed that frost cannot still!

Like the pouring of glacier on ocean, in fiords of the sea,
like the flood of a people's devotion, in arms to be free,
is our soaring of passionate motion o'er mountains, the swirl of our ski!

* *Wind and Hill.* Poems by Geoffrey Winthrop Young. See 'A.J.' vol. xxiv. pp. 700-1.

There are many other poems from which we should like to quote did not want of space forbid, but we feel that we cannot omit part of the poem called 'The Avalanche' :

with a sob
soft as of rending silk, and rather felt
than heard, the coronet of flaming snow
died from the sky; drifting and frothed with light,
spinning in silver ripples like thin mist,
rising in billows on the resisting wind,
alive with malice and an evil mirth,
swift as its hate it swept upon our dark;
furtive in the first distance, with a hiss
shrill and insistent, filling all the hills
with whispered warnings; soon with gathering speed
purring in vibrant passion, till the rocks
pulsed with the murmur, and a hollow roar
rolling in hoarse repulse from crag to crag
burst in short thunder, as the avalanche
shattered upon the glacier's riven face,
and moaned to silence in the soft crushed snow.

We observe in Mr. Young's pages a not infrequent note of pessimism which we hope in his next volume will have mellowed into the same genial sympathy with man's life as Mr. Young shows for the child's life in his delightful poems on childhood. The whole tone of the book is so fresh and frank, so rich in the music of words, and so penetrated with the love of all that is most beautiful in nature, that we commend it most heartily to all who know and love the mountains.

The volume is beautifully printed, and the cover becomingly 'sober-suited,' as Freedom should be.

A Climber in New Zealand. By Malcolm Ross. London; Edwin Arnold. 1914. 15s. nett.

MR. MALCOLM ROSS was one of those fortunate individuals who formed that band of pioneers of New Zealand Alpine climbing. Fired by the Rev. W. S. Green's attempt on Mt. Cook in 1882, a party of young men without any previous experience set to work to climb Mt. Cook, and in 1894 they were successful. Mr. Ross joined them towards the end of this time, when all was virgin country. Those who are fortunate enough to possess a copy of the two volumes of the 'New Zealand Alpine Journal' which were published 1892-95 will have accounts of the earlier work, while all who have read Mannering's fascinating 'With Axe and Rope in the New Zealand Alps' will be glad of an account of the final success.

The account of the crossing of the pass at the head of the Tasman Glacier, which had been published only in the Christmas number of one of the New Zealand illustrated papers, will be welcomed as a reprint of a really first-class expedition. But let anyone, even if he is first-class on rock and ice, be warned by this and similar stories, and

not attempt a West Coast river without a West Coaster who knows how to 'tackle bush.' Zurbriggen's difficulties down the Copland are a classic example as well as a warning. Several other climbs are reprinted which are worthy of being preserved.

The book is not confined to the Mt. Cook district; one chapter deals with some scrambling in the North Island, while 'In Kiwi Land' gives a description of that beautiful semi-tropical forest where the charm never palls even if the rain seldom ceases, a district but little visited on account of its bad reputation for rain, but one which appeals to those who know it as few other parts of the world can. The last chapter gives an account of the first crossing of Mt. Cook, a climb of which strangely varying accounts have been written. This account may be relied on.

It is a little difficult, from the narrative, to be sure of the years in which some of the climbs were made, and, as this is the only place where an account in print is obtainable, dates would have been interesting. There is a misprint on p. 166; Mr. Low's accident was in 1906, not 1908, and Fyfe made the first ascent of Malte-Brun on March 7, 1894, not 1895 (p. 17).

Mountaineering and Exploration in the Selkirks: a Record of Pioneer Work among the Canadian Alps, 1908-1912. By Howard Palmer, Corresponding Member of the Geographical Society of Philadelphia, F.R.G.S. With two new Maps and 219 Illustrations. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London, 1914.

MR. PALMER'S book is a notable addition to Alpine literature. One is inevitably tempted to compare it with Mr. Wheeler's well-known work, but such a course would be fair to neither. Mr. Wheeler was concerned with many other matters besides mountaineering, and gives the narrative of his own not inconsiderable performances in that line only a secondary place. With Mr. Palmer the mountaineering interest is paramount. It is true that he too has some general 'Geographical and Historical' chapters, but they are of minor importance, their only noteworthy feature being his critical account of Walter Moberley's journeys in the Northern Selkirks, as to which he is able to speak with an authority which was not possible ten years ago. On the other hand, when he claims that he has made mention of 'all the new climbs accomplished in the Southern Selkirks since 1902 with Glacier House as a starting point' he is doing himself less than justice; and we believe that somewhere, either in the text, the notes, or the appendices, he has said all that could or need be said about every known mountain of importance in both the Northern and Southern Selkirks, with the solitary exception of Mount Bonney. And in the great majority of cases the information given is that of first-hand experience. During each of the first three of his five seasons' climbing he spent some part of his time in incursions into the ranges to the S. of the Canadian Pacific Railway. After a chapter disposing of the more interesting

expeditions which can be made from Glacier House itself, he describes these incursions chronologically in Part II. of the book. Every year from 1908 to 1912 he devoted periods of varying length to the exploration of the almost untrodden regions to the N., and, in particular, to a protracted series of attacks—which finally resulted in victory—on Mount Sir Sandford. The story of Mount Sir Sandford forms Part III., and the rest of the book is occupied by some useful and instructive appendices.

Considering the remarkable advantages offered by Glacier House as a 'centre,' climbing has hardly been carried on from it with as much ardour as might have been expected. There have been numerous ascents of Mount Sir Donald, and no doubt many more unrecorded expeditions among the other peaks close at hand, but one learns with some surprise that only five parties (mostly American) have ventured far enough to accomplish the ascent of Mount Dawson, and that till Mr. Palmer appeared on the scene not one, except that of the Topographical Survey under Mr. Wheeler, has penetrated into the regions S. of Donkin Pass, since the brilliant campaign of Messrs. Topham, Huber, and Sulzer in 1890. Possibly the very fact that Glacier House does resemble a Swiss centre has militated against its popularity, and the more arduous problems of travel in the main chain of the Rockies have made a more powerful appeal to exploratory enthusiasm. But Glacier House has a special little travel-problem of its own: the only convenient access to the majority of the peaks situated too far southwards to be climbed from the hotel is from the heads of the valleys running up into the range from the W.; there are, however, at present no trails up any of these valleys, and the one available way of reaching them is by crossing a series of passes, beginning with the Asulkan, which, though of no great difficulty, involve ice-work and some climbing, and are of course quite impracticable for horses. Consequently, as the 'Climbers' Guide to the Selkirks' has frequent occasion to remark, all camp outfit must be carried on human shoulders. And a sufficiency of human shoulders was hard to find. Canadian porters were disinclined to go above the snow-line, while the Swiss guides at Glacier House would not carry heavy loads. Mr. Wheeler, with special aims and with ample resources at his disposal, had solved this difficulty by an elaborate system of supply-camps and the employment of numerous porters. But it seems to have been sufficient to deter all other visitors to Glacier House till Mr. Palmer and two like-minded companions, Mr. E. W. D. Holway and Mr. F. K. Butters, determined to surmount it by dispensing with guides and doing practically the whole of the portage themselves. In pursuance of this heroic resolution they crossed the Asulkan Pass with a camp-outfit and a week's provisions, and when the latter were exhausted went back to Glacier, after several successful climbs, for more. Knowingly or unknowingly, they were following the example of Mr. Topham, who in 1890 had been driven, more

than once, to precisely the same expedient.* On their return they proceeded to cross Donkin Pass, and at once found themselves in a veritable guideless climbers' paradise. A long series of new expeditions was begun by the first ascent of Mt. Cyprian, and the second ascent, by a new route, of Mt. Wheeler. On the descent from Cyprian they discovered and devoured the contents of a tin of corned beef abandoned in 1890 by Topham. Six years previously Mr. Wheeler and his companions had done the very same thing.

So well satisfied were the party with the reward of their energy that in 1909 the programme was repeated. On this occasion they went straight through to 'Bishop's Camp' beyond Donkin Pass and secured two new peaks, Mt. Kilpatrick and Mt. Augustine, besides finding a new way up Mt. Dawson, before their food supplies gave out. The return to Bishop's Camp was made, in spite of fairly heavy loads, in a single day, and then entirely new ground was broken by the passage of Purity Pass to the Battle Glaciers. Unfortunately, bad weather precluded any chance of trying conclusions with the fine peaks of the untouched Battle range.

In 1910 a new objective was chosen, Glacier Circle, unvisited since 1890; Mt. Topham was added to the list of new ascents, and Mt. Macoun climbed on the way back. Then Messrs. Palmer and Holway paid Bishop's Camp a last visit, which was distinguished by the fact that a packhorse carried their loads to the summit of the Asulkan Pass. Two days later their powers were taxed to the utmost to accomplish the most difficult and exciting of all their climbs in this region, the ascent of Grand Mountain. Mr. Palmer's graphic narrative of this, his last expedition in the Southern Selkirks, closes Part II., and we pass on to the story of Mt. Sir Sandford.

This magnificent peak, then unnamed, had made a great impression on Dr. Collie's party when they were struggling up the Bush valley in 1900, and had been unhesitatingly pronounced by them to be the highest peak in the Selkirk range; 'but,' they added prophetically, 'we do not altogether envy him [its first explorer] the journey to its base.' Twenty years before Mr. Palmer, Dr. Coleman had started hopefully down the Columbia on a similar quest, the search for Mt. Brown and Mt. Hooker, intending to make his way to them partly by water and partly on foot. This was not the right way to reach Mt. Brown and Mt. Hooker, but it turned out to be the right way, if not the only way, of reaching Mt. Sir Sandford, and the packhorse, which cuts so prominent a figure in all the stories of travel in the Rockies, does not make an appearance in Mr. Palmer's narrative.

* It may be remarked in passing that Mr. Topham's achievements were considerably greater than the cursory description in the *Alpine Journal* (xv. 418-21) would lead one to suppose. A much more adequate idea of the latter part of his trip may be obtained from Mr. Huber's narrative in the 'Jahrbuch' of the S.A.C. xxvi. 280-88.

The earliest expedition in search of Mt. Sir Sandford did not start till 1906, and failed to get anywhere near its goal. Some members of the party tried again in the following year, but the venture had a painful and tragical ending. Mr. Palmer devotes a chapter to these attempts, and to an expedition by the brothers Shaw, who travelled overland from the railway, and after overcoming immense difficulties actually succeeded in reaching the southern base of the mountain not long after Mr. Palmer's first journey, but were unable to make any attempt to climb it. This was in August 1908. Mr. Palmer, who had selected the river route, started down the Columbia on July 17. The whole topography of the region was, however, still wrapped in profound obscurity; he chose the wrong branch of the Gold river, and had to content himself with a Pissgah-view of the great peak. But the right route had been discovered; in the following June, after twelve days' arduous labour, a way was forced to the northern base of Sir Sandford, and the first attempt to climb it took place on July 1. The condition of the snow, however, compelled an early retreat, and lack of provisions prevented a longer stay. In 1910, thanks to the hard work of the previous year, Sandford camp was reached in five days from Beavermouth, and the day after their arrival the party set out on their second attempt in confident expectation of a fairly easy victory. They met with a very decided repulse, and fared no better when the attack was renewed ten days later. Mt. Sir Sandford was turning out to be a tougher proposition than had been anticipated. One of the splendid peaks of the Adamant range, immediately to the north of Sir Sandford, was then ascended, evidently affording a very fine climb, and, with this success to console them, the party were again obliged to retreat by the exhaustion of their food-supply.

The campaign of 1911 was prepared for with far greater care than any of the previous ones, and lasted from early June till late July; but weather conditions were extremely unfavourable, and in the interval between the fourth (June 18) and fifth (July 12) attempts on Sir Sandford a violent storm raged uninterruptedly for three weeks. The main quest was then abandoned, and the party made a trip of the highest interest, crossing a long way westward of the main axis of the range, and opening up a very large tract of unknown country. From Mt. Goldstream, their westernmost point, a view was obtained which indicates that there are still many glaciers and snow-clad peaks to be investigated in the Northern Selkirks, though none are likely to be found rivalling those of the Sir Sandford massif in scale or character. After the return to Sandford camp another fine peak in the Adamant range was scaled, and the party then betook themselves to Glacier House, but instead of going southward finished the season with a trip up the north branch of the Illecillewaet river. Ascents of two more new peaks, Mt. Sorcerer and Mt. Holway—the latter a climb of

some difficulty—enabled them to supplement and appreciably extend the topographical information already obtained on Mt. Goldstream.

In 1912 Mr. Palmer and Mr. Holway decided to employ Swiss guides, and on June 17, accompanied by Rudolf Aemmer and Edouard Feuz, started from Beavermouth for the fifth and last time. The end came quickly. Sandford Camp was reached on June 23, and the first ascent of Mt. Sir Sandford was accomplished the very next day. But the victory was no easy one. The mountain which had foiled so many assaults offered a stubborn resistance, and almost till the last moment success was doubtful. The climb was not only difficult but dangerous, but Mr. Palmer considers that its character depends largely on the amount and condition of the snow, and that in more favourable conditions a line of ascent both easier and free from risk could be taken. On the 26th, Mt. Adamant, the highest peak of the Adamant range, falling only a little short of 11,000 ft., was climbed. Feuz compared the ascent to that of the Schreckhorn, and the story of the expedition, though following so closely on the thrilling narrative of the conquest of Sir Sandford, has in it no element of anticlimax, and forms a worthy close to Mr. Palmer's mountaineering in the Selkirks. The indefatigable Mr. Holway in 1913 ascended Mt. Beaver and Mt. Duncan, the most southerly points yet attained in the range, and found that in this direction too it is far from being exhausted.

But whatever further discoveries may be made by later explorers, these two climbers must always occupy a unique position in relation to the Selkirk range. Their work was done with a most satisfying completeness, and the book in which Mr. Palmer has told the story of it possesses the same quality. So full of matter is it, indeed, that the bald summary here given has done scant justice to its literary merits. But not only will all future visitors to the Selkirks find in Mr. Palmer an indispensable and invaluable guide: they and many other readers will be charmed with his power of crisp and energetic narrative, his knack of giving an individual character to each expedition, and his whole-hearted enjoyment of a good climb.

The illustrations are excellent, and of quite exceptional topographical interest. The idea of giving an index of them instead of the usual list was a very happy one, and greatly facilitates their use as an accompaniment to the narrative.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall, 23 Savile Row, W., on Monday, December 14, 1914, at 8.30 P.M., The Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Pickford, *President*, in the Chair.

The following candidates were balloted for and elected members of the Club—namely, Capt. Lawrence Wilfred Bird and Mr. Harry MacRobert.