

Mont Blanc, whence we descended into the snowy basin forming the upper plateau of the Glacier du Mont Blanc (7.15).

After several unsuccessful attempts we eventually crossed the bergschrund a good deal to the left of the ordinary route, whence we traversed back over snow-slopes to reach the well-marked arête of rocks and snow which descends from La Tournette (P. 4671), near the summit of Mont Blanc (8.45). We followed, more or less, this arête to the summit ridge at La Tournette (12.20) and the top of Mont Blanc (12.45).

Time from hut, 7 hours 45 minutes, including about 1-hour halts. We lost about an hour over the bergschrund.

This route is easy but rather tiring. The scenery is very fine.

As it was very cold we left immediately, reached the Vallot hut at 13.20 and the Col de Bionnassay at 14.45, a halt of half an hour *en route*.

The narrow E. arête of the Aiguille de Bionnassay carried some large cornices overhanging the N. side. Steps in ice had to be cut practically all the way to the top. The strong N. wind compelled us to proceed *à cheval* for a considerable distance. Top, 17.15.

After a short halt we descended the S. arête, composed at first of ice and then rocks, and going hard reached the Col de Miage at 20.00.

We were fortunate in having a full moon, but even so it was difficult to find the way through the séracs above the level part of the Glacier de Miage, and this part of the climb was about the most difficult of the day. We unroped at 22.30, and reached Courmayeur at 2 A.M. Time, 21 hours, including halts (not more than 2 hours).

The expedition is arduous, and the conditions were against us. The day was too cold for Mont Blanc. The E. arête of the Aiguille de Bionnassay was all ice and really difficult, and while Adolf is the fastest step-cutter I have ever seen, it took 2½ hours' hard work. We all had good crampons.

ALPINE NOTES.

'BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE.' THE WESTERN ALPS.—Copies of the new edition (1898) of this work can be obtained from all booksellers, or from Edward Stanford, Limited, 12 Long Acre, W.C. 2. Price 13s. net, post free 13s. 4d. net.

'BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE,' THE CENTRAL ALPS. PART I.—A new edition (1907) of this portion of 'The Alpine Guide,' by the late John Ball, F.R.S., President of the Alpine Club, reconstructed and revised on behalf of the Alpine Club under the general editorship of A. V. Valentine-Richards, Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge, can be

obtained from all booksellers, or from Edward Stanford, Limited, 12 Long Acre, W.C. 2. It includes those portions of Switzerland to the N. of the Rhône and Rhine Valleys. Price 7s. 6d. net, post free 7s. 10d. net.

'BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE,' THE CENTRAL ALPS. PART II.—A new edition (1911) of this portion of 'The Alpine Guide,' by the late John Ball, F.R.S., President of the Alpine Club, reconstructed and revised on behalf of the Alpine Club under the general editorship of the Rev. George Broke, can be obtained from all booksellers, or from Edward Stanford, Limited, 12 Long Acre, W.C. 2. It includes those Alpine portions of Switzerland, Italy, and Austria which lie S. and E. of the Rhône and Rhine, S. of the Arlberg, and W. of the Adige. Price 8s. 6d. net, post free 8s. 10d. net.

MAP OF THE VALSERIA.—Some copies of the Map issued with the ALPINE JOURNAL, No. 209, and of the plates opposite pages 108 and 128 in No. 208, are available and can be obtained from the Assistant Secretary, Alpine Club, 23 Savile Row, W. Price for the set (the Map mounted on cloth), 3s.

GUIDE DES ALPES VALAISANNES.—Vol. III., du Col du Théodule au Simplon, has just been published. The price of the volume (to members of the S.A.C.) is 5fr. 15c. Post free from the Quæstor of the respective section. The book is so well furnished with route-marked illustrations that a very scanty knowledge of French suffices for its use.

The volume from the Col Ferret to the Théodule is in the press.

Volume IV., du Simplon à la Furka, par Marcel Kurz, has just appeared.

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY.—

	Date of Election.
Hawkshaw, J. C.	1860
Ramsay, G. G.	1876
Greene, W. A.	1880
Abney, W. de Wiveleslie	1887
Bourdillon, F. W.	1900
Turner, G. F.	1901
Whelan, F.	1902
Farrer, R. J.	1917

A LEAGUE OF MOUNTAINEERING CLUBS. In the *Climbers' Club Journal*, Mr. Geoffrey Young writes:—

'I would make a very earnest appeal to all members of British Clubs to recognise that the renaissance of our Associations gives to our generation a possibly unique opportunity. Some of our Clubs have local and climbing advantages, others have civic and

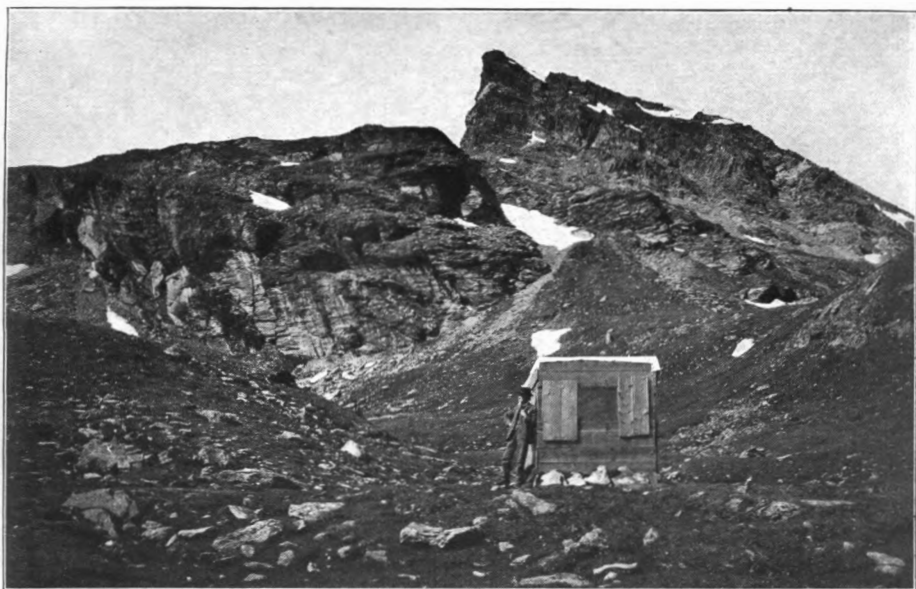


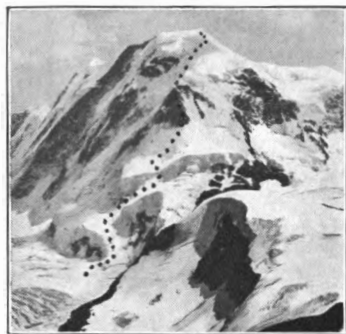
Photo H. Speyer]

THE LATE ALFRED WILLIAMS
AT HIS HUT NEAR THE HÖRNLI



Photo H. Fox]

THE KASTENSTEIN GËTE



ROUTES: MEADE—BLANC



LYSKAMM

THOMSON—KLUCKER
NERUDA—KLUCKER (to left)



LLOYD—POLLINGER

social advantages. All have a legitimate pride in their own flourishing independence. But it is our responsibility to think now not only of our exclusive amenities or of our local interests, but of the future of mountain climbing in this country as the finest, sanest tradition which we possess, and which it is our privilege to hand on to the next, very different, generation. Our organisations might, and should, combine all the advantages of fellowship, of facilities, of vigorous combined action, and of authoritative expression, which at present we either lack or enjoy apart in uneven distribution. We may well aim at making our Clubs separate meshes in a single wide net to catch all coming climbers and sweep them comfortably about, among and up our hills; and, far more, meshes in a net to draw a larger and still unconverted number within the circle of attraction of the health and delight that mountains may bring into their lives.

‘We need no reminder that, below our Club designations and above our wholesome rivalries, we are all fellow-mountaineers united by a bond that gives us an almost affectionate responsibility not only for the members of any small community to which we may belong, but for all other climbers or potential climbers, however distant from us in space or time.’

The question will doubtless receive the careful consideration of the various Clubs.

CHIPS OF THE OLD BLOCK.—On September 14 Mr. Claude Macdonald made his fifth ascent of the Wetterhorn accompanied by his daughter Sheila, aged 18, and his son Hamish, aged 16.

THE KASTENSTEIN GITE.—The present picture was taken by Mr. Harry Fox, a young cousin of our Harry Fox who was lost with W. F. Donkin in the Caucasus. It was taken from the Strahl-egg side. It is situated a couple of hundred feet above the Schwarzegg hut, and was the previous regular sleeping-place.

THE OLD FAULBERG CAVE.—It would be interesting to have a photograph of this. I was never able to find it, although I found the remains of the wooden hut which succeeded it.—F.

LYSKAMM, W. SUMMIT.—Ascents of this summit were made by :

1. Mrs. Roberts-Thomson with Klucker and Zippert, July 19, 1902. ‘A.J.’ xxi. 266.
2. Mr. C. F. Meade with Pierre and Justin Blanc, August 21, 1908. ‘A.J.’ xxv. 85–86.
3. Mr. R. W. Lloyd with Joseph Pollinger and Franz Imboden, July 31, 1914. ‘A.J.’ xxviii. 405.

Some doubt has arisen as to the line of the three expeditions. The three pictures marked respectively by Klucker, Mr. Meade, and Pollinger show that, in the essential portions, the routes are practically identical.

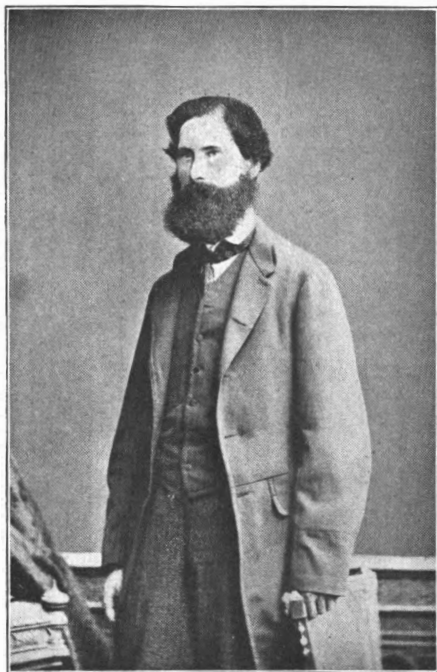
HENRI PASSET (1845-1919).—This well-known guide of Gavnrie died on December 26. He will be remembered as the guide and companion of Charles Packe, Count Henry Russell, and others, and was for many years the leading guide in the Pyrenees. He had also ascended the Meije, the Cervin, and the Dru.

EARDLEY J. BLACKWELL.—In Mr. Coolidge's 'The Alps in Nature and History,' one finds the following :—

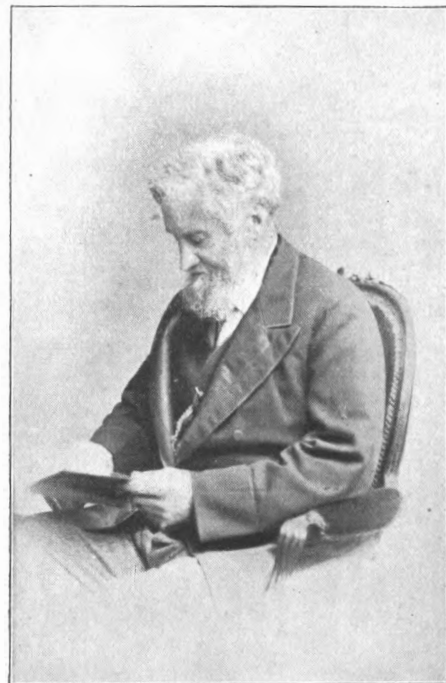
'Here let us commemorate briefly a bold young English climber, Eardley J. Blackwell, whose memory now survives only in a few scattered notices, but whose exploits were very remarkable for the date. In 1850 he made the first traveller's passage of the New Weisssthor near Zermatt, and traversed the Col du Géant. In 1852 he crossed, in an unusually short time, the Tschingel Pass and the Strahlegg. In June 1854 he climbed the Hasli-Jungfrau (Wetterhörner) from the Rosenlauri side (being the first Englishman to reach the summit). A few days later he tried it from the Grindelwald side, though failing, owing to a violent storm, while the iron flag he planted just below the final corniche was found three months later by Mr. (later Sir Alfred) Wills. On all these climbs he was accompanied by Christian Bleuer, one of the early Grindelwald guides, who does not, however, seem to have been with him when he ascended Mont Blanc early in August 1854. Mr. Heathman, who met him in that year at Chamonix, tells us that he made the last-named ascent in two hours less than any preceding party. He thus describes him : "The fact is, there was no guide the match for him. He was six feet three, rather bony, but carrying no weight ; he had the eye of a hawk and the legs of a chamois, combined with the utmost enterprise, perseverance, and courage. He made light of the ascent of Mont Blanc. As to its difficulties, he said they by no means equalled his previous feats, though the time required was longer. He was perfectly acquainted with every nook and corner of the Alps, having walked over them, in them, and among them, forward and backward, up and down, in every direction, for three years. On parting with him for his ascent (of Mont Blanc), I wished him success, and all the pleasure which he anticipated, 'although,' said I, 'I confess I do not know what that is.' He replied he did not know either, except, being an idle man, he loved the excitement, and always felt a desire to do what others had done before him.'"

We came across him again in 'A.J.' xxxii. 53, through Mr. Montagnier's industry in unearthing the record of his passage of the Weisssthor. One's keenness to know more of the doings of this determined climber was whetted further by Mr. A. F. R. Wollaston's discovery of a further reference to him, and this was supplemented by information from Mr. Slingsby ('A.J.' xxxiii. 281).

Mr. Slingsby has continued his investigations and has put me into communication with Miss Fabritius, Mr. Blackwell's grand-



EARDLEY J. BLACKWELL



A. T. MALKIN
ALPINE PIONEER (*cf.* A.J. x and xv)

daughter. To her I am indebted for the present portrait. Mr. Blackwell was born on May 27, 1832, at Cheltenham, and was the son of George Blackwell of Ampney Park, Gloucestershire, to which property he succeeded without, however, living there, as he had married a Norwegian girl and settled down at Vaagaa¹ in the Gudbrandsdal district, where he bought a property Klognes by the Vaagaa lake, only paying occasional visits to England. Mr. Valentine Richards informs me that Blackwell matriculated at Trinity College, Cambridge,² in 1850, having come from Rugby, of which Dr. Tait was headmaster, but he never graduated. Blackwell appears to have left no records of his mountain expeditions, but Miss Fabritius is good enough to refer me to Elise Aubert's '*Fra de Gamle Prestegaarde*,' which gives an interesting account of the romance of his marriage, and of his neighbours.

Miss Fabritius writes: 'What might be of interest to you is perhaps his relations with the famous reindeer hunter, Go Gjende, the hero of Theodor Caspari's book "*Vildren*." This man came from the next valley Hedalen. He built himself a small hut by the Gjende lake (now in my possession) where he lived by himself summer and winter quite isolated from the world. He lived by his rod and his gun and kept a very strict guard against any poaching on the Vaagaa and the Hedalen hunting-grounds. My grandfather met him on his expedition to Jotunheimen, and his thorough knowledge of the Jotun Fjeld was no doubt of great help and assistance to my grandfather.'

Mr. Slingsby has found a reference in the '*Aarbok*' for 1878 to the wild Leirungsdal above Lake Gjende in which is a glacier from which a steep and narrow jökel, or ice-stairs, leads up to summit of Knuthulstind, a fine peak, once considered the highest in Norway: 'it was up that jökel that Blackwell of Vaage tried vainly to climb up to the summit.'

This route was subsequently forced by Claude Wilson and R. L. Harrison with Vigdal in 1885.

Mr. Blackwell died at Vaagaa on December 13, 1866. Scanty as they are, one is very glad to have these few details of the career of a worthy forerunner of ours.—F.

ATTEMPT ON KENIA (East Africa).—Sir T. Fowell Buxton, grandson and grand-nephew of the late Sir T. F. and Mr. Edward N. Buxton respectively, and Dr. Arthur of the Scottish Mission at Tumutumu (reached from Thika Station 30 miles north of Nairobi via Fort Hall 30 miles, Tumutumu 25 miles). Left that place on August 19, 1920, with forty porters. First camp about 7000

¹ The correct spelling, so Miss Fabritius tells me.

² Another of Blackwell's friends (*A.J.* xxxiii. 281), Thomas Joseph Torr, born 1828, son of Thomas Torr, of Gainsborough, matriculated at Trinity in 1849.

feet, at edge of forest (16 miles). Second camp about 8500 feet—rough path, mainly elephant track. Third camp about 10,000 feet near top edge of forest on south side of mountain, much cutting through bamboo forest. Peak in view. Fourth camp about 12,000 feet—mainly open country—deep tussocks of thick grass and giant heath. Fifth camp about 13,500 feet, 20 F., near a lake, after having ascended to 14,000 feet, allowing of near view of main peak and glacier. Sixth camp about 15,500 feet near edge of Lewis Glacier, the summit of Kenia towering straight above them on the other side of the glacier. From this camp thirty porters were sent down into the Teleki valley while the travellers with two boys, roped, went up the glacier to Pt. Lenana, 16,300 feet, returning to camp. Bad weather and indisposition only allowed of a start on August 27, when the travellers with ten boys, all roped, carrying tents, blankets, &c., crossed the glacier in about three-quarters of an hour and reached the base of the peak and tried Mackinder's route of 1899 which begins by a steep snow couloir about 200 feet high followed by a steep rock pitch covered with ice. From this point the party descended to the near edge of the glacier, whence a route by the ridge which leads from the bottom of the glacier towards the summit was reconnoitred.

Bad weather and indisposition prevented further progress. Tumutumu was regained on September 1, where the travellers were met by Lady and Miss Buxton and Mr. Rupert Buxton who had *motored* all round the mountain, coming that day from Meru, 110 miles. Their route was via Thika (Blue Post Hotel) 11 A.M., Fort Hall 2.30 P.M., Embu Boma 5 P.M. Embu Mission House, 7 miles further, was missed in the dark and the party had to sleep out about 16 miles on. Second day Chuka (Govt. Boma) 20 miles, Meru 60 miles. Third day Nyeri 96 miles (some newly settled ranches), Tumutumu 16 miles. The country motored through is described as magnificent, gorges filled with magnificent trees and tropical vegetation of all kinds. It was evidently a very adventurous journey by no means devoid of danger.

A Paper on several attempts on the mountain was read before the R.G.S. by Dr. Arthur in February.

THE LATE ERNST PÜHN, whose death was announced in the last number, had ascended 76 separate 4000 m. summits or, counting repetitions, 104. His complete list reached nearly 900 ascents, and included 209 between 3000 and 4000 m., and 104 over 4000 m.

DR. BRUNO V. WAGNER, formerly well known among the Austrian climbers, went for a solitary stroll on August 24, 1919, on the Untersberg (Salzburg). No trace of him was found until September 22 last, when practically the whole of the remains were discovered in the *Kühbachklamm*, into the head of which he appears to have

fallen and there remained until an exceptionally heavy rainfall washed the remains out.

THE NEW ZEALAND ALPINE CLUB, of which Mr. Arthur P. Harper is President, is taking up its old activities temporarily suspended by the war, and intends to continue its Journal, of which Mr. T. A. Fletcher of Wellington has been appointed editor. The subscription for members is one guinea, and for subscribers 10s. 6d. Subscriptions can be paid to, and further information obtained from, Mr. R. S. Low, 67 Banbury Road, Oxford.

THE death is announced of M. Juge, of the Hôtel de la Meije at La Grave, aged fifty-four.

M. LE CHEVALIER VICTOR DE CESSOLE of Nice, our Honorary Member, has received the distinction of Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur in consideration of his services during the war and of the prominent part he plays in all good works in his native town. He is Vice-President of the Bureau de Bienfaisance, to which he devotes much time. He is the moving spirit of the section des Alpes Maritimes C.A.F. in which he spares no pains to attract recruits to mountaineering from boyhood upward.

TOUR NOIR.—By using the N. ridge from the Col Supérieur du Tour Noir ($3\frac{1}{2}$ hours from Jardin hut), this peak can be conveniently traversed. Under decent conditions the N. ridge only requires 45 minutes up, the time in the 'Austrian Guide' being much too long.

CHAMPÉRY.—'We are having a most extraordinary winter up here. Men of seventy-five and eighty tell me they have never seen so long a period of drought. We have not had any rain worth mentioning since last October, and very little snow. The result is the spring on which Champéry counts for its power has dwindled from about 18 cubic mètres a minute to $2\frac{1}{2}$. Our light is now so poor that I am unable to accomplish anything in the evening, which is a serious handicap.'

H. F. M.

Feb. 23, 1921.

23 SAVILE ROW.—Major Morrison-Bell learns that the bricks used in building our Club-house, as well as the Burlington Arcade, came from Lord Leicester's estate at Holkham. Lord Burlington helped with advice in building Holkham, and liking the bricks used had some brought up to London by water.

THE BRENV AVALANCHE.—Mr. Evan Mackenzie has been good enough to send us a letter from Joseph Brocherel, ex-guide-chef of Courmayeur and landlord of the Hôtel du Purtud, giving

the following details: On November 14 an avalanche of rock, snow, and ice fell from the arête leading from the Col de Peuteret to M. Blanc de Courmayeur, about 400 mètres above the Col. It fell on the Brenva Glacier, of which a part overflowed towards the Chalets de la Brenva and a part towards Purtud, where it destroyed some grass-land. But on the 19th a further avalanche of rock fell on the glacier, and set in motion all the séracs of the glacier. The formidable mass carried away completely the Purtud forest from the moraine as far as the path near the little lake. It stopped short of the hotel, nor was Mr. Mackenzie's chalet injured, but the Doire River was filled in for about 300 mètres and formed a lake, grave danger from which was prevented by the energetic action of the inhabitants in cutting an outlet.

Mr. E. G. Oliver has been kind enough to send in letters from Henri and Adolphe Rey giving similar information. Henri adds that one-third of the arête mentioned is completely destroyed, and that the granite blocks charged right down on Purtud.

L'Illustrazione of December 12 contains some fine pictures showing clearly the terrible effects of the avalanche.

HIMALAYAN NOTES.

THE members of the Everest Expedition are as follows :

Colonel C. H. Howard-Bury, late 60th—in command.

Mr. Harold Raeburn—director of mountain operations.

Dr. Kellas.

Mr. G. L. Mallory.

Captain G. I. Finch, C.B.E.

Major H. T. Morshead, D.S.O., R.E. } *Indian Army Survey*

Captain E. O. Wheeler, M.C., R.E. } *party.*

Mr. A. F. R. Wollaston, D.S.C., R.N., M.B., *Medical Officer and Naturalist.*

Dr. Kellas has spent the winter in India.

Mr. Raeburn leaves for India on March 14 to make the final preparations, in consultation with Dr. Kellas. The others follow in April. It is expected that the party will leave Darjeeling about the middle of May, proceeding *via* the Chumbe Valley to Kampa Dzong in Tibet, and thence to Dingri on the N. side of Everest.

Major Morshead was with Colonel Bailey on his adventurous journey up the Brahmaputra some years ago, and spent last summer with Dr. Kellas in the Kamet district. Captain Wheeler is the son of our Hon. Member, Mr. A. O. Wheeler, the energetic director of the Canadian A.C.