and the summit of the Nadelhorn reached 5.40. Return over the Windjoch to the hut 7.40 P.M. Conditions generally very good and summerlike.

22. *Weissmies* (4031 m.).

Alf. V. Martin and Hermann Rumpelt. March 25, 1910. Left Hotel Weissmies 5.00 ; on ski to the Mellig glacier (8.00) ; summit 14.00 ; Hotel 16.45. Effective time : ascent 8 hr., descent 2¼ hr.

23. *Laquinhorn* (4005 m.).

H. Rey and Gelpke with Heinrich Supersaxo. March 22, 1918. Left Hotel Weissmies 8.15 ; ascended by W. arête ; summit 13.25. Descended in 3 hrs.

24. *Fletschhorn* (4001 m.).

Angelo and Romano Calegare and G. Scotti. January 1, 1914. On December 31, 1913, bivouacked at Hohmatten (1904 m. in Laquinthal). Left Hohmatten 4.00. Up to Fletschhorn glacier three porters preceded the party to break trail. At 13.00 porters descended. At 14.45 reached Fletschjoch (3673 m.). Thence to summit and back to col. Left col about 18.00. Descent by moonlight to Hohmatten 23.30. On foot throughout, splendid weather.

IN MEMORIAM.

EDWARD THEODORE COMPTON.

1849–1921.

By the death of Edward Theodore Compton the Alpine Club has lost both an experienced mountaineer and a distinguished Alpine artist.

Compton was born at Stoke Newington on July 29, 1849. Already at an early age his talent for painting was manifest, for, when fifteen years old, he was awarded a prize for a painting entitled ' Moonlight on Derwentwater.'

He first visited the Alps in 1868, and in the following year spent six months in Switzerland with his brother, W. C. Compton, and climbed the Titlis, his first ascent above the snow-line. This trip seems definitely to have determined his career as an Alpine painter ; he went on to Munich to study art during 1869–70. In 1870 he

visited the Bavarian Highlands, where he eventually made his home, as well as the Austrian Tirol and the Dolomites. In 1872 he married a Bavarian lady from Munich, spending his honeymoon in the Alps where, from the top of the Pizzo Bianco, at Macugnaga, he watched the Pendlebury ascent of Monte Rosa. In 1874 Compton settled down for his life's work at Feldafing, on the Starnberger See; he built his studio in 1877 and a year later his house, in which he lived till his death on March 22, 1921, in his seventy-second year.

He joined the German and Austrian Alpine Club in 1879, and in 1880 was elected a Member of the Alpine Club.

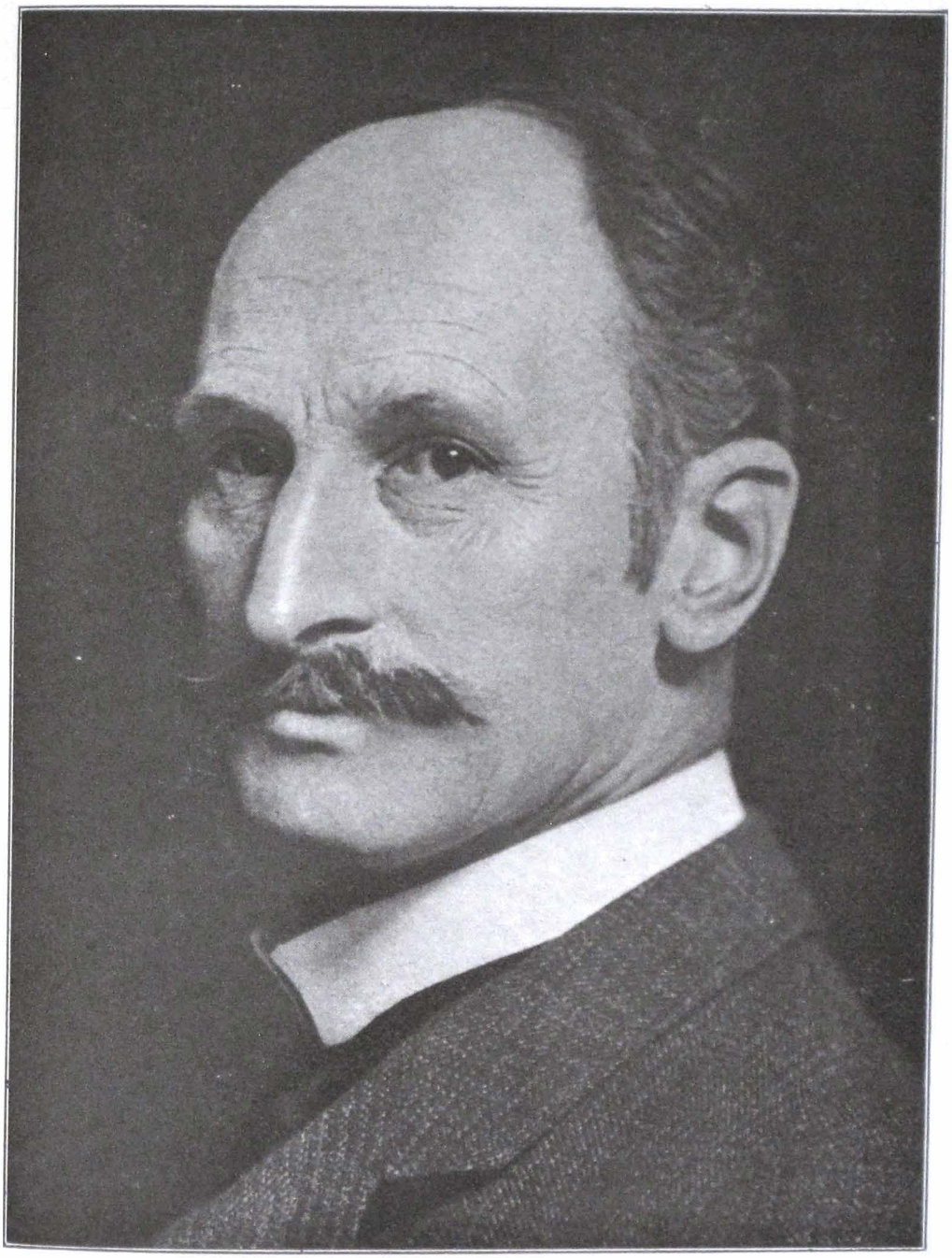
Although the Swiss and Austrian Alps, which he knew by heart, were in a special degree his happy hunting-ground, he made many climbing and sketching tours in various parts of Europe, including Scotland, Spain, Norway, Corsica, Italy, the Carpathians, the Julian Alps, etc. He climbed for many years with such well-known mountaineers as Karl Blodig, Ludwig Purtscheller, Theodor Christomannos, Emil Zsigmondy, and others, and of our own members, specially George Yeld.

It was with Blodig that Compton did most of his big ascents; between 1898 and 1914 scarcely a summer passed without the two joining forces for a climbing tour in the High Alps. In an obituary notice in the 'Mitteilungen des Deutschen und Oesterreichischen Alpenvereins' of March–April 1921, Blodig speaks of Compton's climbing powers and knowledge of mountain craft, as well as his indefatigable industry in his work while on tour. Few who admire his pictures realise the circumstances in which they were accomplished; the original sketch was often made after eight or ten hours' hard going over moraine, glacier, and rock; returning to the hut or bivouac in the late afternoon, while his companions lay down to rest, Compton would paint on till the last moment, while the effect he desired to produce was fresh in his memory.

Amongst his many ascents might be mentioned:

1878. First direct ascent of Zugspitze from the Höllenthal.
1882. First ascents of Torre di Brenta and Cima Brenta Bassa, and new routes on Cima Tosa and Cima di Brenta.
1883. Expeditions in Corsica with F. F. Tuckett. Various ascents in Brenta Group. 'A.J.' xi. 307.
1886–7. Expeditions in Adamello Group and Dolomites, including first ascent of Fermedathurm.
1892. First ascent of Tour de St. Ours (with G. Yeld). 'A.J.' xvii. 180.
1905. An ascent and first descent of E. face of Aig. Blanche de Peuteret. 'A.J.' xxiii. 115.
1908. First ascent of highest point of Rocher du Mont Blanc. 'A.J.' xxv. 358.
1909. Several new ascents (with Blodig) round the Tübingen Hut.

I first met Compton at Saas Fee in 1907, where I was climbing with his brother. He came and stayed with us in N. Wales in 1908



EDWARD T. COMPTON.

and 1909, for sketching and climbing in the Snowdon district. He told me then that he found it interesting to study the atmospheric effects of the Welsh hills after the clear and dry atmosphere of the Alps. For this purpose he spent a fortnight at the little inn on Llyn Ogwen, at the head of Nant Ffrancon Pass, and I have in my possession a beautiful water-colour sketch of his, typical of the Welsh hills, of the Glyders and Twll Du from Llyn Idwal.

In July 1911, while staying with me at Champéry, I had a good opportunity of seeing him at work in the mountains, during a five days' climbing tour we took together up the Valsorey Glen from Bourg St. Pierre, traversing the Grand Combin and Mont Vélan with a night at the St. Bernard Hospice; from there crossing the Cols de Fenêtre and Ban d'Arrey to Courmayeur, and finishing up at Chamonix over the Col du Géant. It was a revelation to watch the rapid and expert way Compton handled the brush and pencil, often under considerable difficulties. I well remember feeding him with a spoon on the top of the Vélan while, against time and in a bitter wind, he sketched the Grand Combin. His sketching paraphernalia, when on tour, were worked out to the last degree of lightness and simplicity; easel, sketching block, paint-box, etc., all folded up in a flat case strapped on to his rucksack.

Compton was a first-class mountaineer, safe, sure, and steady, and equally at home on rocks as on ice and snow. He excelled in his knowledge of snow-craft and his judgment of weather conditions. He had in himself in a unique degree the combination of mountaineer and artist; a great deal of his work was done alone, going off by himself with easel and ice-axe and putting up for days at a time at some climbing hut or little mountain inn. He knew the mountains from his heart, and his work not only represents faithfully their form and character, but discloses in colour their deepest secrets and most varying moods. I have never seen any Alpine work like his that is so true to nature or that makes one see the mountains as they are; his foregrounds are always happy and well chosen; his snow is snow, not cotton-wool, and his ice and glaciers look like ice and not like glass. Although equally at home with the pencil and the brush, in oils and in water-colour, it is perhaps in the latter form of representing Alpine scenery in which he specially excels.

The number of his pictures is legion. He exhibited many times in the London Academy as well as at Munich and other Continental art centres. Amongst his most celebrated pictures may be mentioned the following:

'The Höllental' (Munich, 1879).
'View of the Jungfrau from the Rottal' (London, 1880).
'Midsummer Night in Löföden' (Zurich, 1883).
'Monte Rosa from Pizzo Bianco' (Munich, 1887).
'The Ortler from St. Valentin' (London, 1889).
'The Aiguille d'Argentière' (Munich, 1906).
etc. etc.

From 1883 onwards Compton regularly illustrated the publications of the 'D. and Oe. Alpenverein' as well as many well-known Alpine works, such as Zsigmondy's 'Im Hochgebirge,' Purtscheller's 'Ueber Fels und Firn,' Lendenfeld's 'Aus den Alpen.' In order to familiarise the multitude with the mountains he loved so dearly, he did not disdain to respond to the many calls of publishers to furnish them with his sketches for illustration as picture-postcards. One of his patrons was the late Archduke Franz Ferdinand, with whom he frequently stayed at his Bohemian shooting-lodge and who was a great admirer of his paintings.

Compton's work was better known in Germany and Austria than in this country. His second son, Harrison Compton, follows in his father's footsteps, and in 1909 they held a joint exhibition at the Fine Arts Gallery in New Bond Street, which attracted much attention.

In 1919 Compton celebrated his seventieth birthday at Feldafing, a notice of which appeared in the ALPINE JOURNAL, March 1920. In August of that year he ascended again the Gross Glockner; it was his ambition, if alive and well, to ascend a snow-peak at the age of seventy, and those who were with him then said he went more like a man of fifty than seventy. It was, alas, his last climb.

Compton was a simple-natured man and a very lovable character. He had the rare quality of ready sympathy with others' interests, and seemed always out to find the best in anyone he came across or was associated with. I never heard him say an ill-natured thing or speak disparagingly of anyone. An intense lover of nature in all its forms, he was a most delightful companion, with a keen sense of humour and full of stories and experiences. He was a man, indeed, in whom there was no guile, and those who knew him feel that a friend has gone from them who cannot be replaced.

J. W. WYATT.

IN August 1892 it was my good fortune to find E. T. Compton at Cogne, and to spend some days on the mountains in his company. I have seldom met with a more genial companion or a better mountaineer. He quite won my heart with the unobtrusive courtesy with which he accommodated himself to my somewhat laboured gait, for I was fresh from England, while he was in perfect training.

We went up to the Monei chalets for the night. It was a beautiful evening, and I had the pleasure of watching Compton sketch the peak of the Herbetet as well as the Roccia Viva and the Becca della Patienza. His drawings of them are amongst my most cherished possessions. On the morrow we made the first ascent of the Tour St. Ours, an excellent view-point, defended by an ice-slope which tested François Pession's powers as a step-cutter. We afterwards crossed the Col de Monei, and betrayed by thick

HOWARD BARRETT.

mist descended much too far, and had to climb back to the Piantonetto Refuge; it was provoking, but Compton accepted the annoyance with genial good temper. The next day the guides and I climbed the Becca della Patienza, while Compton remained on the Roccia Viva glacier to sketch. When we returned and he showed us the beautiful drawing which he had made, and which has for many years faced me at breakfast without outlasting its welcome, it was very pleasant to see the enthusiasm of the guides, and I think Compton was touched by their appreciation.

The next day we were without provisions, as our porter, who had been sent down to the Val d'Orco, lost himself. However, we improvised a breakfast of milk and polenta at the Muanda di Teleccio. The Piantonetto Valley pleased Compton much, and one particular spot he described as just the position for a painter's camp. I still remember the skill with which he extracted quite a choice meal from the unpromising kitchen of a little inn at Locana. We then rode down the Val d'Orco to Pont, and the next day crossed the Col de Bardoney to Cogne. I hoped to have shown him that end of the Cogne group, but storms of rain burst upon us and we were well drenched before we reached Cogne.

The next day Compton left me, to my great regret; but I still cherish the memory of those days, for they are, thanks to him, amongst the pleasantest of many pleasant recollections of the mountains of Cogne. He was a man whom to accompany was to love.

G. YELD.

HOWARD BARRETT.

1842–1921.

HOWARD BARRETT was one of those fortunate men whom age passes by. His fresh face, with masses of grey hair, his slight, alert figure, his keen, unspectacled eyes, a charming breeziness of manner, were so striking that one is quite surprised to see that he was nearly eighty. May time continue to treat as lightly some others of us!

He was elected to the Club in 1879, and to the Committee in 1907, and, to the very last, retained the keenest interest in its doings. Three carefully written-up little books lie before me. They give in outline journeys from 1872 onwards, and are an extraordinary record for a busy man who could not spare more than three or four weeks in the year, a part of which, indeed, was often devoted to his family. His serious climbing commenced in 1876 with the Jungfrau and some ascents in the Zermatt district. His record includes (among other expeditions): In 1878, Aletschhorn, Monte Rosa, and Dom; in 1879, Wetterhorn, Mönch, Weissmies, Strahlhorn, Col du Géant; in 1880, Finsteraarhorn, Fletschhorn, Rimpfischhorn, Monte Rosa; 1881, ascents at Arolla, Mt. Blanc (Grises

route); 1882, in Oberland; 1883, in Oberland (Trift and Belap districts), Gabelhorn, Weisshorn; 1884, Eiger, Blümlisalp, Matterhorn (with P. Dangl alone), Allalin- and Nadelhorn; 1885, Moine, Tacul, Blaitière, Colon, Pigne, M. Blanc de Seilon; 1886, in Mt. Blanc group; 1887, Stubai, Wildspitze, Ortler, Königsspitze, etc.; 1888, Zinal Rothhorn, Nordend, Castor, Täschhorn; 1889, Gross Wannehorn, M. Leone, Basodino, Alphubel, Ulrichs-, Laquinhorn, etc.; 1890, Pala di S. Martino, Camp. di Pravitale (second ascent), Balfrin, etc.; 1891, Palü, Bernina (Scharte), Adamello, Cima Tosa, Presanella, Cimone, Camp. di Val di Roda, Sass Maor (both); 1892, Charmoz, Dru, Dolent; 1893, Gr. Glockner, Ortler (Hintergrat), Torre di Brenta, Cimone (by N.W. arête); 1894, Balmhorn, Za (by couloir), Aig. Rouges (N. peak), Monte Rosa (from Grenz), Dent Blanche (not quite to top); 1895, Bernina district; 1898, Piz Kesch, Roseg (not quite to top); 1899, Croda da Lago, Cristallo, Kl. Zinne, Ortler (some of these ascents with the late Mr. Broome, Miss Sylvia Broome (Mrs. Corning), and Mr. R. A. Robertson); 1900, Camp. and Cima di Val di Roda.

His summer visits to the Alps continued until 1909. In the winter of 1910 he spent a month at Wengen. The following winter shows a journey through Italy and Sicily, while in February 1912 he wandered farther afield, visiting Italy, Greece, Constantinople, Palestine, and Egypt.

Yet the Alps were always his main delight, and we find him back in 1911 at Saas Fee; in 1913, and again in 1920, at Argentière.

Almost the last entry records a walk up to the Félegre. The entry is unfinished, but the little books are eloquent of the veteran's delight in the memories of many a great day.

Of the many guides who served him, probably the good-tempered and very capable Peter Dangl was the best-liked and the one with whom he did his more serious ascents, but Johann Tännler and B. Nägeli, and in later days Alois Tembl (killed on the Gabelhorn), also served him well.

He was a very finished photographer, indeed Dangl used to complain jokingly that the Herr never made a rest-day but went for a walk to photograph when not climbing. He always was a perfectly untiring walker.

Our mothers were devoted sisters, and there existed between my cousin and myself a feeling of warm affection, by no means lessened by our common interest in the Alps. It is indeed to him, and to Mr. Walker Hartley, that I owe my proposal as member of the A.C.

He was happy in his death. He leaves no enemies and many friends. To us his memory is ever green.

J. P. Farrar.

ALEXANDER MITCHELL KELLAS.

DR. KELLAS was born in Aberdeen, and educated there. He chose chemistry as his profession. After leaving the University of Aberdeen he studied in Edinburgh, Heidelberg, and London. For some time he acted as assistant to Sir W. Ramsay at University College, and afterwards became teacher of chemistry to medical students at Middlesex Hospital. Although he was keenly interested in chemistry, he was also even more interested in mountains; and during the latter part of his life, his scientific researches all were connected with problems elucidating the effect of high altitudes on the human system; in fact, he was probably the best authority on the subject, for there was no one who had such a practical knowledge, or who had worked scientifically and with more persistence at the subject than he.

Early in his life, when he was a student at the University of Aberdeen, he wandered over all the mountains at the head of Deeside. He would camp out for days under the Shelter-stone at the head of Loch Avon, and there were few places in the Cairngorm with which he was not familiar. Later he visited many other mountain districts in Scotland.

When he was able he went farther afield, first to Switzerland and then to the Himalaya, where with a quiet persistence that was characteristic of him, he built up a wonderful record of things accomplished. But the records of his climbs are very scanty, and there are practically no records at all of some of his journeys. His third expedition, to the Sikkim Himalaya in 1910, was probably his most successful, when he made ten new ascents to above 20,000 ft., the highest being Pawhunri 23,180 ft., the next Chumiomo 22,430 ft., besides over a dozen passes and saddles over 18,000 ft. Later he visited Garhwal and Nanga Parbat. It was last autumn on Kamet, in Garhwal, that he climbed to 23,600 ft.

In the *Journal of the Royal Geographical Society* he has published several papers discussing the effect of diminished atmospheric pressure on the human system.

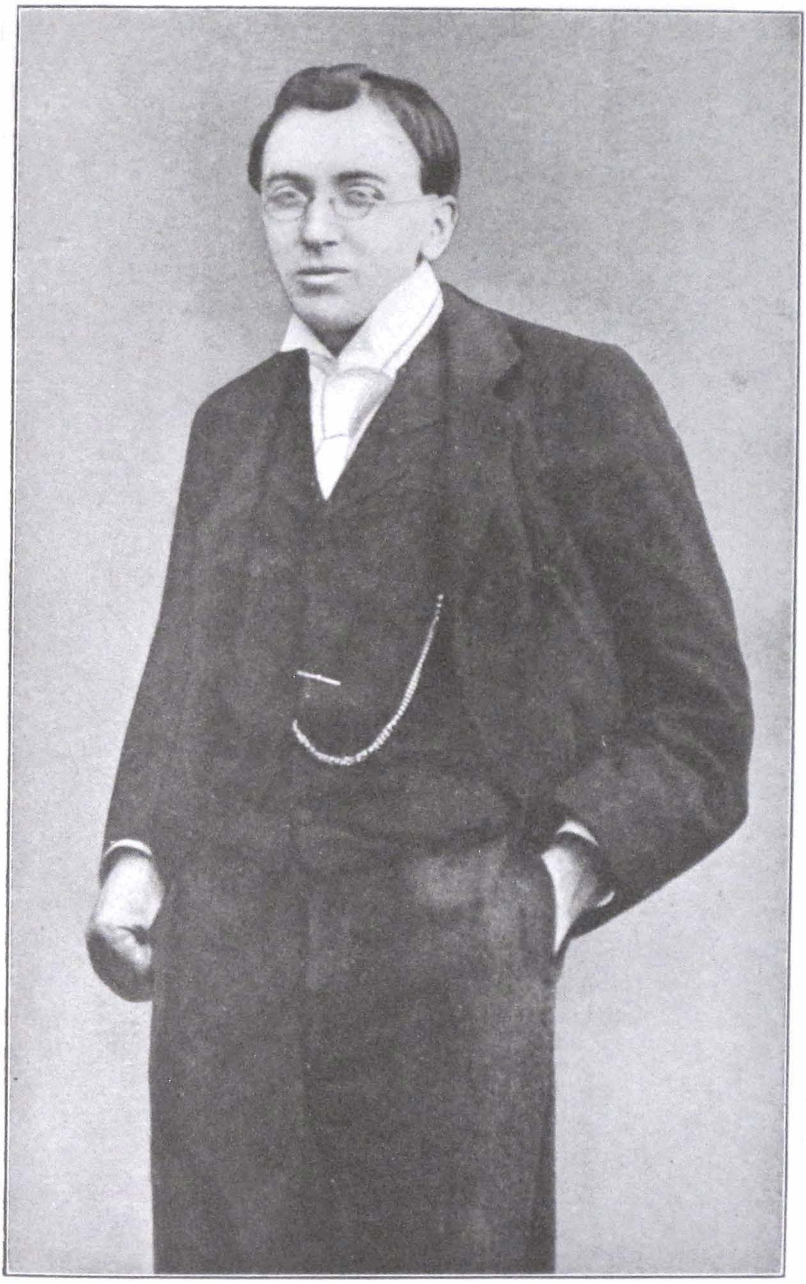
One of the most important of these, published in 1917, is an exhaustive paper entitled 'A Consideration of the Possibility of Ascending the Loftier Himalaya,' in which he gives a detailed account of all the factors conditioning acclimatisation to high altitudes, and discusses the question whether it is possible to ascend Mount Everest without adventitious aids (*i.e.* oxygen). He concludes: 'A man in first-rate training acclimatised to maximum possible altitude could make the ascent of Mount Everest without adventitious aids, provided that the physical difficulties above 25,000 ft. are not prohibitive.' Since then he has done much more work on the subject, and published several reports in connexion with the use of oxygen at high altitudes.

In all his work he was most thorough, whether it was as a teacher of medical students, as a scientific investigator, or as a mountaineer. He never spared either trouble or hard work, if by further observation more light could be thrown on the subject he had in hand. In his itinerary of 1910 one marvels at the amount of country covered, and how he was able to get his coolies comfortably over difficult snow and ice passes, and up peaks such as Pawhunri and Chumiomo; yet the same men went with him year after year. Although Dr. Kellas often would get double work out of his men, he was careful about their comfort and food when in camp, they trusted him and liked him. One of them he sent to explore the glaciers on the E. of Mount Everest, in June 1910; this man brought back two photographs that were published in the *Geographical Journal*, May 1919; they purported to be of glaciers coming down from Makalu and Everest. That he had really photographed the Mount Everest glaciers is certainly so, for the Mount Everest expedition has been to exactly the same place and sent home photographs almost the same as those obtained for Dr. Kellas.

Last year he was again in the Himalaya, amongst the mountains in Garhwal, studying the effect of oxygen at high altitudes on himself and his coolies. His highest ascent was to 23,600 ft. on Kamet. Not content with several months' hard work in the Garhwal Himalaya, he started for Darjeeling and the Sikkim Himalaya, where at the end of November he ascended a peak 18,000 ft. high, N. of the Kang La. From its summit he obtained several most interesting and valuable photographs of the high mountains N. of Mount Everest that were till then unknown. As soon as possible after the winter, about the beginning of April, he again started for the mountains near Kanchenjunga, ascending another peak N. of the Kang La 19,000 ft. high, from which he was able to see even farther round the N. side of Mount Everest. He next ascended Narsing, about 20,000 ft.; then returning N. he worked out a new route through the ice-fall on Kabru to 21,000 ft., and intended later to make use of it for the ascent of Kabru, 24,000 ft. He only returned to Darjeeling about a week before the expedition to Mount Everest started.

This continued strain was probably the cause of his sudden death from heart failure in Tibet. Dr. Kellas was of a most retiring disposition. He seldom talked of what he had done in the mountains, and there are hardly any accounts of his climbs. He, however, contributed many valuable reports and papers on the physiological and physical difficulties connected with the ascents of high mountains.

He had an unique knowledge of the Sikkim Himalaya, and his death deprived the Mount Everest expedition of one of its most valuable members, for he had studied the country round Mount Everest more deeply than anyone. It is indeed sad that having looked so many times at Mount Everest from afar, he should never see the great mountain face to face, and never set foot on the



A. M. KELLAS.

glittering snow-fields that guard the summit of the monarch of all the mountains on earth. But he has left behind him a mountaineering record of a very high order, and a scientific one that is founded on the results of painstaking, conscientious, and accurate hard work.

J. N. COLLIE.

CHARLES BULLER HEBERDEN.

1849–1921.

CHARLES BULLER HEBERDEN, who died at Oxford on May 30 last at the age of seventy-one, was the youngest son of the Rev. W. Heberden, Fellow of Exeter College and Rector of Broadhembury, Devon, his mother being one of the Devonshire Bullers. His great-grandfather was the famous Dr. Heberden, whom Dr. Johnson called '*Ultimus Romanorum*, the last of our learned physicians.' Charles Heberden had a distinguished career at Harrow, where he was known for his musical gifts not less than for his scholarship, and for an eminently beautiful character. He was elected to an open exhibition at Balliol in 1868, took a First Class in Classical Moderations in 1869 and in the Final Schools in 1871, and was early in the following year elected Fellow of Brasenose. This election determined the course of his life, which became, with a rare devotion and consistency of purpose, identified with Oxford. Not however quite from the first, for he did not decide at once on an Oxford career. His strongest natural gift was for music, and there was a period during which he contemplated taking up music as his profession. He spent the greater part of two years studying in Germany, and it was the opinion of musicians that while, as he felt himself, he had not the genius of the composer, he had it in him to attain to great distinction as a pianist and an interpreter of the works of the great masters. But in a short experience of tutorial work at Oxford he had been powerfully drawn to it. The human side of things always strongly appealed to him, and it was this, I think—the desire to work with young men—together with what he regarded as a call of duty, and not any doubts as to his musical gift, which turned the scale and brought him back to devote his life to the College. But music always remained a prime interest to him, and he did much for it at Oxford. And though it was not to be his career, it is as a musician first that many of us think of him. He was not merely an accomplished pianist; his playing had a charm and an individuality which set it apart, and he seemed to find in it his natural and most personal expression.

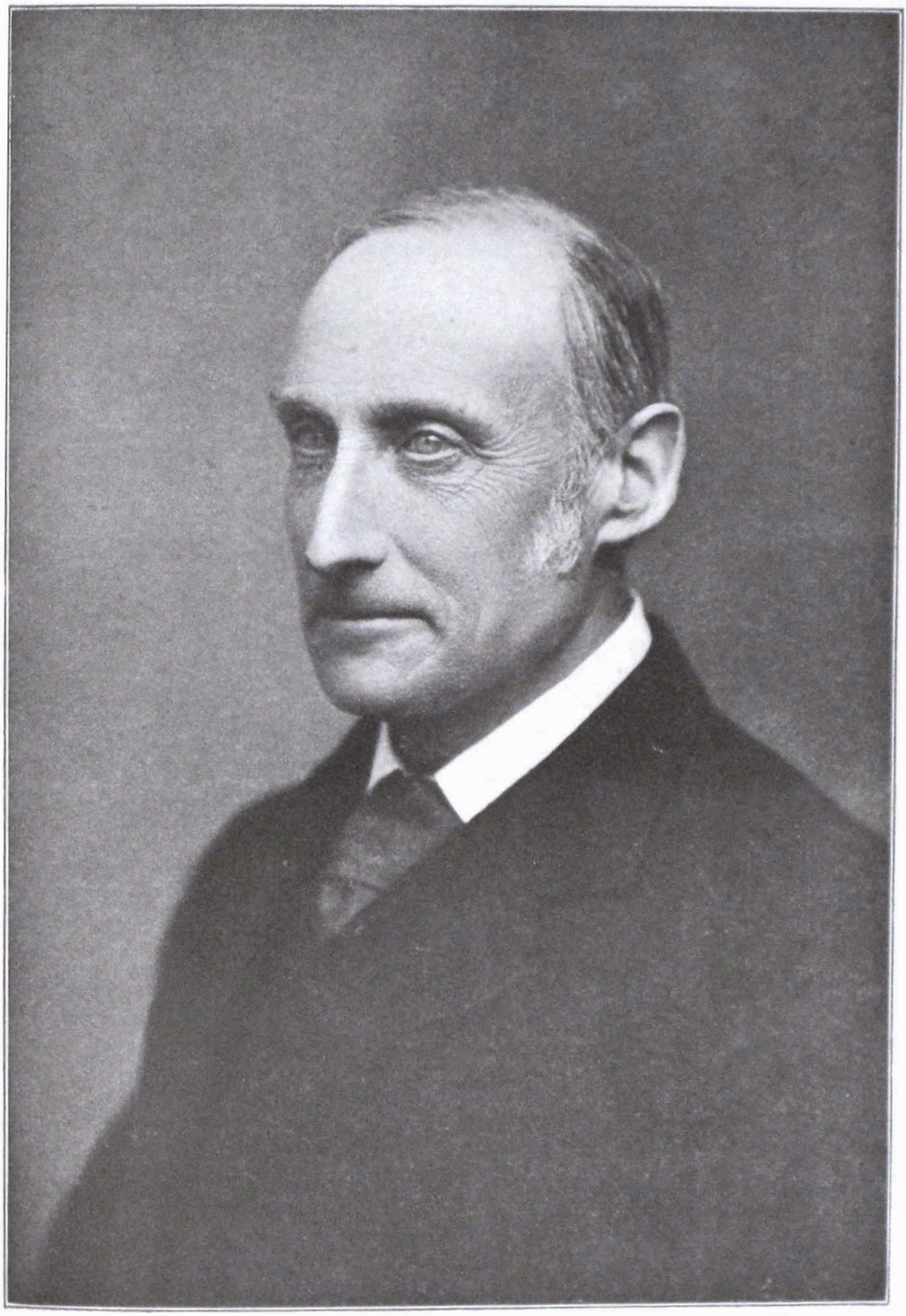
However, to Oxford he gave himself, and above all to Brasenose. He was one of the best of tutors, and he had an affection for his pupils which was not less than paternal. They did not always understand him and often gave him a great deal of trouble,

but they always knew that there was nothing he would not do for them. He rapidly rose to eminence in the College, and had already become its leading figure some years before his appointment, at the age of thirty-nine, to the Principalship. As Principal he remained always in close touch with the undergraduates, and extended a large hospitality to them. But indeed there was no more hospitable house in Oxford than that in which the Principal and Miss Heberden, here as always his second self, took delight in entertaining their friends. He filled the Principalship with conspicuous success for thirty-one years. He had wished to resign six years earlier, but in the difficult times of the War and the period of reconstruction which followed he could not be spared. In a striking appreciation of him by a Brasenose hand, which appeared in the Oxford *Isis* less than a month before his unexpected death, we are told what he was to his College at this time and to its members who were serving in the War. I cannot quote at length, but 'when the war closed it had forged a deeper and closer tie . . . between himself and the old B.N.C., and in the eighteen months that followed he welded together the new.'

His personality, together with his remarkable capacity for business —for this born artist and scholar was a first-rate man of affairs, clear-headed, efficient, and sound in judgment—gave him great weight in the University, notably during his tenure of the Vice-Chancellorship, to which he succeeded in 1910. 'As Vice-Chancellor' (we quote from the Oxford Magazine) 'Heberden achieved unqualified success, handling every matter with equal tact and efficiency, making himself familiar with every detail, carrying through the most intricate business with entire absence of friction, conciliating, and indeed compelling, the affection of all with whom he came in contact.'

His services and his qualities did not miss recognition. He was made Hon. D.C.L. on the occasion of the Quatercentenary of Brasenose in 1909, and Hon. LL.D. of St. Andrews in 1911. He was a Governor of Harrow and afterwards a Fellow of Winchester, and he was also President of Somerville College, whose interests as a life-long friend of women's education he served devotedly and wisely. Yet it was not respect and confidence only that he inspired, but something which he valued even more—affection, and he was spoken of at his death, though he would never have believed it, as 'the best loved man in Oxford.'

The secret lay, I think, first in his sheer goodness, a purity and unselfishness so complete as to be quite unconscious, and then in what I may best call a wonderful loving-kindness which inspired his life and which was apparent in his face and presence. But there were other qualities also which must not be left out—strength and independence, perfect fearlessness, and withal a certain capacity for severity which sometimes surprised people. He was deeply religious; but, gracious, tolerant, and broadminded as he was, he had a good deal in him of the Puritan and the standards of the world



CHARLES BULLER HEBERDEN.

were not his. As regards his opinions he was a strong Liberal and a Broad Churchman, and in his temper and outlook we may say a man of faith and an idealist.

But I must not forget that this is the ALPINE JOURNAL and that he was a Member of the Club, an honour which he greatly valued. He came to the Alps rather late, and nearly all his mountaineering (like my own) was done in middle life. But the love of the Alps, when once it had taken hold of him, never left him, and for sixteen years out of the thirty-two from 1883 to 1914, he spent some part of his summer vacations in Switzerland, Savoy, or Tirol. His climbing —but his modesty would have rather resented the word—was chiefly done in the years from 1886 to 1894, though it did not come to an end till 1907, when he was fifty-seven. I will briefly summarise.

He began in 1883 with the Aletschhorn; then came two active years in 1886–87, and again in 1891, and he was elected to the Alpine Club in March 1892, his qualifying record including the Jungfrau, Nesthorn, Monte Rosa, Rothhorn, Rimpfischhorn, and Finsteraarhorn, with the Strahlegg, Colle delle Loccie, New Weissthor, and other passes. In 1892, with A. C. Bradley and Ernest Aves, we had the beautiful round by the Buet to Montanvert and over the Col du Géant to Courmayeur and then to Zermatt, where he ascended Monte Rosa for the second time (by the Lysjoch), and the Matterhorn. In 1893 he and I were in the Vaudois Valleys and (with Aves) in Dauphiné, his ascents including Monte Viso, Mont Pelvoux, Pic Coolidge, Aiguille du Plat, and the Brèche de la Meije.

The following year we were (with Bradley) in the Engadine, the chief ascents being Piz Bernina and Piz Palu. He was in Switzerland again in 1896, 1898–99, and 1901; but in those years, though there were many long walks, the only ascents were the Pigne d'Arolla, the Aiguilles Rouges, the Aig. de la Za, and the Wetterhorn (summit not reached owing to bad snow). For the next five years he was not in the Alps, but in 1907 we were at Cortina, where he and I went up the Pelmo, and afterwards at Heiligenblut when we did the Glockner. In 1909 he was at Bérisal and Torrent Alp with Bradley, who records 'delightful walks but no climbing,' and in 1910 at Santa Maria, Trafoi, etc. Finally, in 1914, we were all three at Engstlen Alp in bad weather when the War came, and we made our way home by an old emigrant ship from Genoa.

The list of ascents is not an ambitious one, and indeed mountaineering was never, except perhaps for two or three years, the first object —hardly a chief object—of his visits to Switzerland, rather an incident, a very delightful incident. He was not a born climber or a lover of games and sports, and the *sport* of climbing in itself did not, I think, appeal to him, nor perhaps the love of adventure, and he never had the leisure to go very far afield. But he was a great walker from his youth up, and I have never known anyone to whom walking just for itself, and still more in a fine country and fine air, was so keen a pleasure. At home his favourite country was the Lake District, which he knew intimately, and where

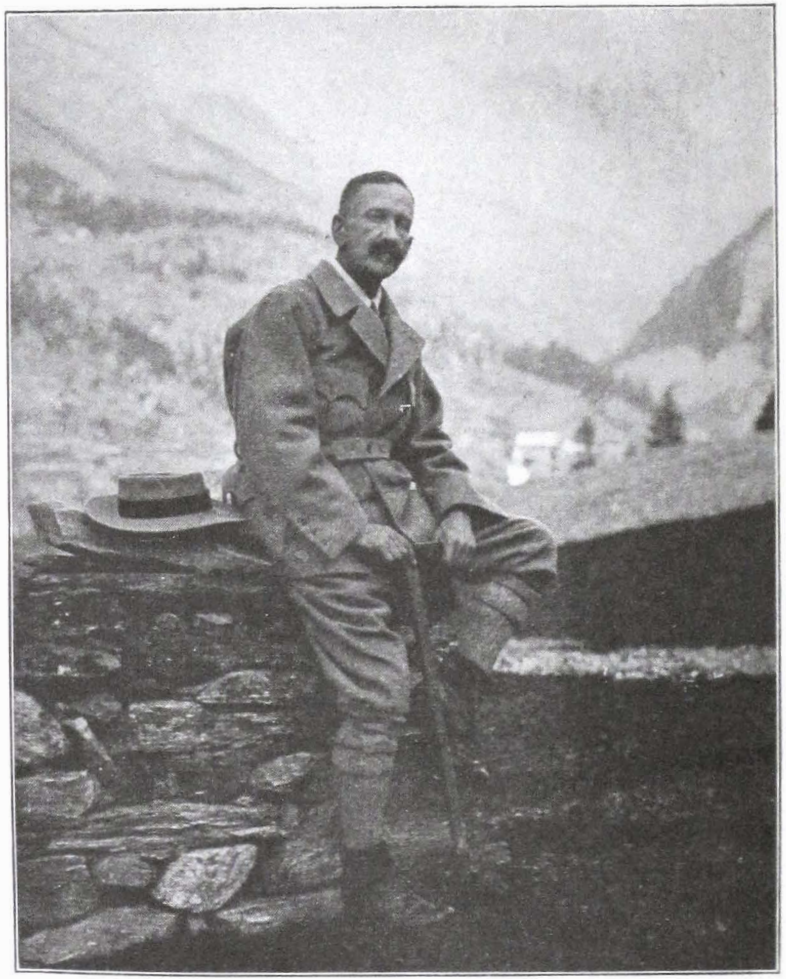
he had ascended nearly all the mountains, and then perhaps his native Devon. But wherever he was he walked, and O how he scorned to drive! And as to his 'climbing,' though he had no great agility he had qualities perhaps more essential—perfect nerve, a steady head, and great sure-footedness; his scholarly instinct kept him from avoidable mistakes. If we add an unruffled temper, and the *mens aequa in arduis*, we have much that goes to make the equipment of a mountaineer and, though he would hardly have allowed it, we will claim for him the title. For above all he was a true lover of the mountains, and the austere beauty of the great Alpine peaks and glaciers made a special appeal to him—and like a good mountaineer he loved to be high up in the mountains. He always recalled a certain two or three days with his favourite guide Joseph Chanton, on the high passes of Monte Rosa, as among the happiest of his life.

In nearly all his ascents I was his companion, and each year, from 1886 onwards, A. C. Bradley was with us (or with him), and specially in the later years shared nearly all the expeditions. One I may recall which I have not mentioned, when the three of us crossed the Little Schreckhorn and, delayed by unexpected difficulties, were benighted on the glacier, our only experience of the kind.

Heberden had a good knowledge of botany, and he and Bradley did much botanising together. There were two volumes which were his inseparable companions, one a pocket Botany book, the other a little black volume of Dante. He was an excellent Italian scholar, and I think Dante was his favourite poet. He had read the 'Divine Comedy' over and over again and knew much of it by heart, and what is still more uncommon, he had read through, I believe several times, the whole of the works, prose as well as poetry. He contributed some interesting papers to the Oxford Dante Society. Among English poets I think Shakespeare and Wordsworth were the most valued—he was a true Wordsworthian—and among Greek writers Homer, Pindar (of whose metres and also of Dante's he had made a special study), Sophocles, and Euripides. He was a fine classical scholar, with an exquisite sense of language and great knowledge of the literature, and it is to be regretted that he published very little. He left behind in MS. completed translations of Aristotle's 'Poetics' and the 'Odes of Pindar,' the latter of which may, we hope, one day be given to the world. But I have been too long, and here, with a painful sense how inadequate it is, I close this fragmentary record.

R. G. T.

CASIMIR THÉRISOD
in 1890.



SIGNOR GIOVANNI BOBBA, C.A.I.
Hon. Member of the A.C.

CASIMIR THÉRISOD.

1858–1921.

SIGNOR BOBBA, Hon. Member of the Alpine Club, writes to Captain Farrar :

Je viens d'essuyer la même adversité que vous, mon cher ami, quand nous perdîmes votre dévoué Daniel. Mon ancien compagnon Casimir Thérisod est mort le 4 avril passé.

Je vois que l'A.J. depuis quelque temps s'est imposé la tâche de régistrer et conserver tout ce qui intéresse l'histoire de l'alpinisme ; il rend comme ça un service bien précieux, surtout pour l'avenir car autrement bien des notices iraient perdues.

Eh bien ! mon modeste Casimir n'est pas indigne de quelques mots que vous pourrez lui consacrer ; je vous en serai profondément reconnaissant pour sa mémoire.

Il est né en 1858 à Rhèmes N. Dame. Tandis que les montagnards la plus part n'aiment guère s'aventurer sur les hauteurs, tout jeune il en avait au contraire le goût très prononcé. A Rhèmes dans ces temps-là pas de guides pour l'enseigner, pas d'alpinistes pour l'encourager ; il apprit tout seul la technique du grand alpinisme. Je le connus presque par hasard en 1888 et tout de suite il ne tarda à se révéler pour le meilleur compagnon que j'eusse pu désirer.

Il avait une force et une souplesse incroyables ; jamais il ne parut embarrassé dans les mauvais passages ; j'aurais dit qu'il aurait toujours pu faire quelque chose encore de plus difficile.

A la plaine il paraissait un homme sombre, de peu de mots ; sur la haute montagne on voyait le vrai dominateur du rocher et de la glace.

Telle était sa décision et sa sûreté que la confiance dans ses moyens n'avait pour moi presque pas de bornes ; sa force morale surtout était vraiment remarquable.

Vous savez bien mieux que moi que sur la montagne comme sur la mer on peut juger à fond des hommes seulement lorsque le temps est mauvais ; or c'était justement dans ces circonstances critiques que son courage inébranlable, sa constance et résistance paraissaient.

Je vous citerai un seul fait : au mois du juillet 1892 sa caravane traversant les Ecrins du N. au S. fut surprise par une tempête acharnée, qui sévît pendant trois jours. Il était avec M. Giuseppe Corra (mort depuis à la Petite Sassière avec d'autres compagnons) et un guide excellent mais pas de son caractère ; celui-ci le deuxième jour devint fou ; lui seul ne quitta jamais ni de travailler ni d'aider à chaque pas ses compagnons ; le quatrième jour ils furent hors danger, mais il en eut les mains et les pieds gelés.

Il a accompli presque une centaine d'ascensions nouvelles ; seulement dans le massif du Grand Paradis 38 premières ascensions ou nouvelles routes. Les Alpes Graies Valdotaines c'étaient son

champ préféré ; mais il fit beaucoup de courses aussi ailleurs, dans la Tarantaise, dans le Dauphiné (1ère ascension de l'Aig. Méridionale d'Arves depuis le Commandraut), dans les Pennines (1ère traversée du Col Gnifetti depuis Macugnaga), etc.

Nous avons marché ensemble plus de trente années ; il marcha aussi avec plusieurs des meilleurs alpinistes, tels que Vaccarone, Rey, de Cessole, Montandon, Wundt, etc. ; on le jugea toujours hors ligne ; certes, jamais personne avec lui n'essuya le moindre accident ; c'est la plus grande louange qu'on puisse faire de lui comme de Daniel Maquignaz ; c'est aussi la meilleure louange de l'alpinisme bien entendu !

N'est ce pas vrai ?

Sa rencontre décida de toute ma vie alpinistique ; je commençais déjà à me frayer le chemin avec mes forces seules, lorsqu'il s'attacha à moi.

Le moyen de le quitter, mon pauvre et vaillant compagnon, pour m'en aller jouir de la montagne avec d'autres ! l'hiver il me donnait constamment des nouvelles de *nos* montagnes, attendant avec impatience la bonne saison.

Je suis sûr, mon cher ami, que la même chose se passait entre vous et Daniel.

Ceux qui n'ont pas eu notre bonheur, croient de confondre cette forme de collaboration avec l'alpinisme vulgaire avec guides sur des routes bien connues !

Casimir, comme Daniel, n'eut jamais besoin du secours d'autres guides ; le secours était donné par vous, par moi ; la montagne était étudiée ensemble sur l'endroit ; rien de plus intéressant que la discussion de la route et la décision à choisir. C'étaient des vrais compagnons, des amis, et la confiance était réciproque ; ils comptaient sur nous autant que nous sur eux. Ils avaient l'avantage d'être *les fils de la maison*, mais aussi quel plaisir de pouvoir réussir tout ce que l'on pouvait raisonnablement réussir !

Casimir n'eut jamais rien du côté antipatique du métier, rien de vénal ; on aurait dit un grand seigneur qui allait à la montagne pour *son* goût, non pour gagner de tarifs.

Jusqu'à cette année, à ces derniers jours il ne cessa de songer à ses montagnes, aux nouvelles routes ; il resta toujours jeune d'esprit, comme M. Broome.

Une personne de St. Pierre qui me vit suivre le convoi funèbre, ne savait pas s'expliquer ma profonde émotion pour ' un humble montagnard ' ! Hélas, c'était le souvenir de tant de belles campagnes, de tant de sublimes jouissances sur la haute montagne qui m'éteignait le cœur. N'est-ce pas que nous sentons la disparition d'une partie aussi de nous mêmes ?

I have taken on myself to reproduce alongside of his guide-companion a characteristic portrait of my good friend M. Bobba himself.

J. P. F.

HENRI PASSET OF GAVARNIE.

1845–1919.

THIS excellent guide died last December, only a few months after Mrs. Ch. Packe, the first lady to ascend the Pelmo, and the widow of his old employer.

In the middle of last century there was not much scope for Pyrenean guides; but three of the best men were Laurent and Hippolyte Passet, brothers, and sturdy, capable, trustworthy guides, but outclassed by Henri Paget (*dit* 'Chapelle') of Héas, a mighty hunter, and in the opinion of the best judges the finest individual mountaineer ever known in the Pyrenees.

Each of the three left a son, but Victor Chapelle never had the opportunities which luck threw in the way of the cousins, Henri and Célestin Passet, each of whom was taken up in early life and trained by a member of this Club, the former by Packe and the latter by Count Russell. Never were chances better utilised, and the cousins very soon became the two best guides in the whole range. They not only knew their own mountains admirably, but were often taken farther afield, as to Dauphiny and the Alps, and never failed to acquit themselves well. Indeed, had they chosen, they might have gone to the Andes with Whymper, who, on Packe's warm recommendation, did his best to secure their services.

Each had his special merits, but if Célestin, lean and lithe, was the more dashing and the faster goer of the two, Henri behind his round, good-natured, rather stolid, Basque face concealed remarkable mental gifts, which placed his position in his profession quite beyond dispute.

The great experts in games are apt to surprise us less by the marvellous strokes they make than by the great number of very simple shots that they have to play. So it was with Henri, who never seemed to be in difficulties. Those of route, if outside his vast experience, yielded to his skill and foresight; those of personal origin, such as a surly stranger, a truculent official, and sometimes even a tired and querulous employer, all gave way before his tact, his judgment of character, and his unfailing cheeriness. He was always excellent company. On such varied topics as the habits of animals, the incidence of taxation, the course of husbandry, the effect of laws, the origin of place-names, and the philosophy of human life, he had a store of shrewd observations to make. His memory was prodigious, and his education never ceased. From every companion he learned something, and there were very few who could not learn something from him.

W. P. H. S.

BENJAMIN PESSION.

1870–1921.

LAST March there passed away at Val Tournanche, after a long illness, Benjamin Pession. He belonged to the well-known Pession family who, like the more famous Carrels and Maquignaz, made the little village of Val Tournanche so famous to climbers as the home of skilful and devoted guides. Born in 1870, and brought up under the shadow of the Mont Cervin, Benjamin acquired his climbing skill on that great mountain. Not so well known as some of the great guides of his native village, he was yet a thoroughly able mountaineer, and a trustworthy and lovable companion. He knew his own mountains perfectly, had traversed the Cervin many times, and was well acquainted with the Zermatt peaks and the districts to the W. of them. With his brother Augustin he accompanied Miss Constance A. Barnicoat to the Caucasus in 1907. Unfortunately, Miss Barnicoat fell ill and so was prevented from carrying out her programme of high ascents. It is very pleasant, however, to record that she sent her guides to Elbruz, which they duly ascended. Miss Barnicoat expresses her thorough appreciation of the willingness, devotion, and loyalty of her guides under depressing circumstances, and in his guide's book writes of Benjamin in the very highest terms.

Benjamin had travelled with me for many years in the Western Bernese Oberland and in the Eastern Graians, of which he had acquired an intimate knowledge. Amongst our first ascents were the Tour de Grauson, the N. peak of the Patri, and the Punta del Tuf, and we accomplished many new expeditions. My last long day with him was in 1913, when we went from Cogne to Locana, in the Val d'Orco, by the Valeille and the Val Soera, crossing three cols on our way. My friends, W. C. Compton and G. P. Baker, who at different times were with me, expressed a high estimate of him both as a guide and a companion.

Benjamin died after a long and painful illness contracted during his war service, and borne with patient courage. He leaves a young family of five children. He was a man who won the warm regard and respect of all who employed him, and the mountains of Cogne will never be the same to me now he is gone. *Requiescat in pace.*

G. YELD.