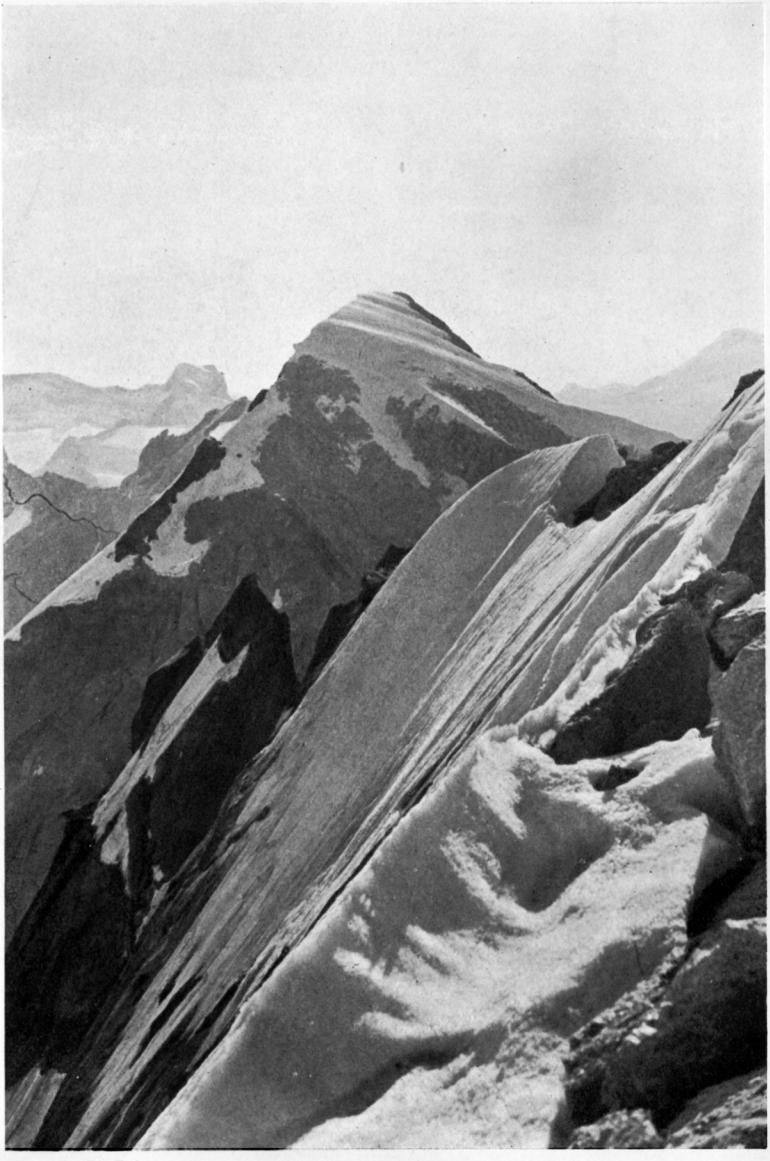
The Alpine Club Photographic Exhibition, 1926.

THE Photographic Exhibition held at the Club Rooms in December last showed a regrettable falling-off in the number of exhibits. This was difficult to account for, as, although the earlier part of the season was distinctly bad, yet the almost continuous fine weather which prevailed from the middle of August until the end of the summer should have tended to produce an increase in the number of photographs rather than a diminution. We also missed the names of several of our usual exhibitors. Possibly our photographers who took their holidays late in the season were too much occupied in availing themselves of the excellent climbing conditions to pay attention to the calls of the camera ; but we trust that next December will see a substantial increase in the number of exhibits. After all, a small hand camera adds little to the weight of the rucksack. It is easily manipulated, and under favourable conditions yields thoroughly satisfactory results.

Compared with many of the previous Exhibitions there was an absence of photographs from outside the Alps. Apart from a few interesting views taken in Japan, Peru and one or two other regions, all the exhibits were of places within the Alps or the British Isles. The Valais, the Bernese Oberland and the Mont Blanc districts, in particular, are evidently still the happy hunting-grounds of our photographers ; but while it is always delightful to see views of old favourites—and no doubt from the point of grandeur they are difficult to beat—still there are many other districts in the Alps easily accessible, where not only desirable pictures are to be found but also mountain forms well worthy of reproduction.

Though the Exhibition did not provide as many outstanding photographs as in some former years, yet the average of the exhibits was distinctly high, and a great variety of views was shown. For those interested in topography there were some good panoramic views, and there were also some fine mountain faces ; while from an artistic point of view a high standard of excellence was attained by many exhibitors. The photographs were on the whole suitably mounted and tastefully framed.

We thought that one of the best pictures in the Exhibition was Mr. Frank Smythe's ' A Crevasse below the Bergli.' The photograph itself gave a great idea of depth and the walls of



Phot. J. C. Gait.

PIZ CENGALO
from Piz Badile.

the crevasse were well shown, while the background of rock and cloud made it particularly impressive. Mr. Smythe's 'Sunset before Storm from the Strahlegg Hut' and his 'Gathering Storm, Bernese Alps' were also arresting studies, and his 'Agassizhorn,' though a small photograph, was a beautiful one.

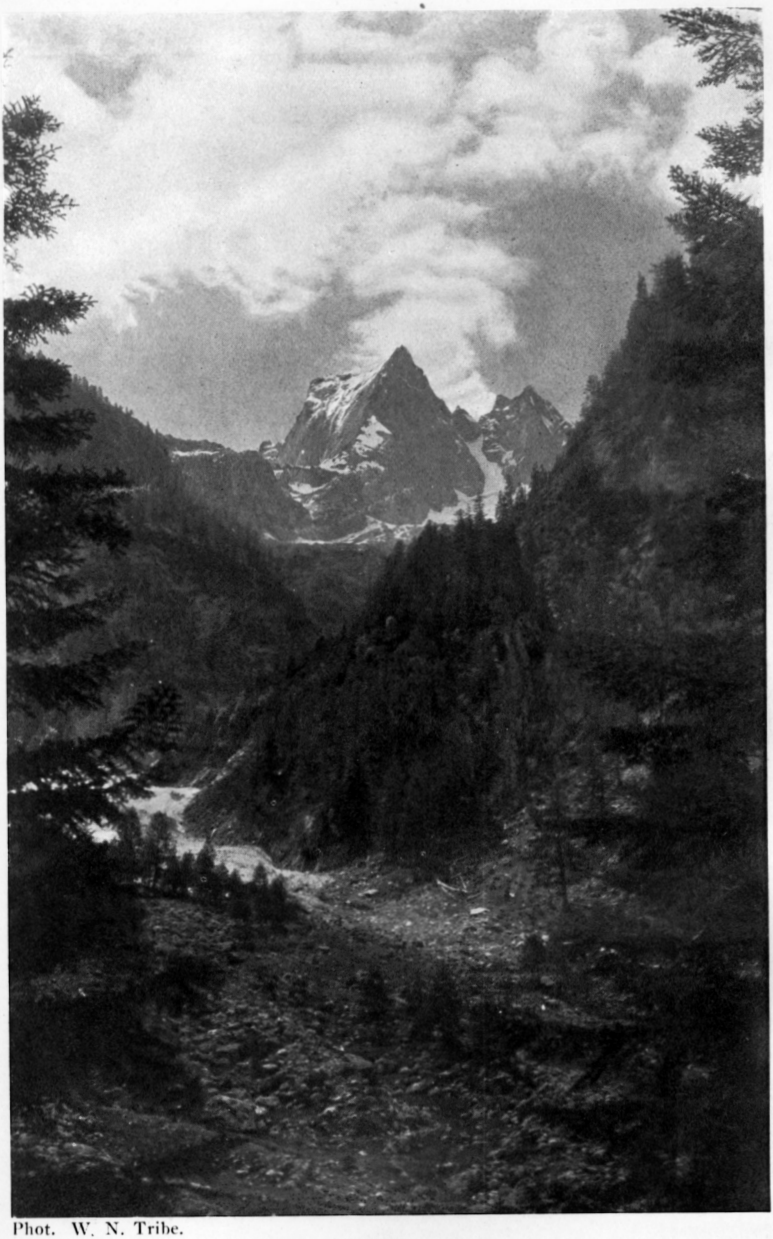
Mr. Arthur Gardner contributed several interesting views. His 'Dent d'Hérens from Valtournanche' was an admirable picture, being evidently taken after fresh snow, while the mist gave an impression of height to the mountain, which, on this side, might otherwise be lacking. His 'Gabelhorn from Durand Glacier' was a fine photograph. The ridges stood out exceptionally clearly, and the contrast between the side of the peak in shadow and the sunlit slopes of snow was especially effective. His 'Mont Blanc from Brévent' was a striking view.

Mr. R. S. Morrish, as usual, sent us several exhibits. We preferred on the whole 'In the Bregaglia' with its attractive foreground and the bold outline of the mountains behind, but his 'Matterhorn from the Stock Gletscher' was an excellent picture, and his 'Alpine Thistles' a pleasing composition.

Mr. Eustace Thomas's 'Kranzberg at Evening' was an artistic production, the general effect of approaching darkness being uncommonly good. His 'Grandes Jorasses from S.' gave an admirable representation of the Southern face, while his 'Grandes Jorasses from N.' showed to great advantage the precipices on that side of the mountain. Mr. Thomas also exhibited an excellent view of the Aiguille Noire de Pétéret.

Mr. C. J. Macdonald's 'View from Terminus of Gornergrat Railway' should receive special mention. The Lyskamm, Castor and Pollux stood out in a most marked manner, and the gradations of light on the snow and the glacier were well defined. He also gave us in his 'View from above Mürren' a familiar scene which, however, was none the worse on that account, the foreground of the picture being especially well chosen. His 'Range from back of Schynige Platte' was another effective view with, again, a good foreground.

Sir Alexander Kennedy sent us, in addition to some photographs of his own, which included pictures of 'A Perthshire Snow Arête' (easily mistakable for an Alpine scene) and 'A Highland Loch,' two enlargements from obliques taken by the 14th Squadron R.A.F., Palestine, at about 5500 ft. One of these, 'Unexplored and Unvisited,' well deserved its title, as it conveyed an undefinable impression of desolation and waste. The other was of the historic summit of Mount Hor, one of the earliest mountains mentioned in the story of Israel.



Phot. W. N. Tribe.

PIZ BADILE
from Val Bondasca.

Mr. W. N. Tribe's ' Piz Badile from Val Bondasca ' was a telling picture. He also contributed an artistic photograph of the Piz Palü, with the mountain in the distance delightfully framed between a pine tree and a rock. We suggest, however, that it would have made a better balanced picture if the height had been slightly reduced.

Mr. J. C. Gait's work was, as usual, of a very high order, including an imposing view of the Cima del Largo and a most happily composed picture, ' Piz Cengalo from Piz Badile.' The latter (with Mr. Smythe's ' Bergschrund from below the Bergli ' and Mr. Tribe's ' Piz Badile from Val Bondasca ') was chosen for reproduction in the ALPINE JOURNAL.

An agreeable feature of the Exhibition was provided by some views in the Japanese Alps by Mr. H. Yamada, and several photographs of the Swiss Alps by Mr. Yuko Maki, Mr. S. Matsukata and other Japanese climbers. Amongst these we would particularly mention Mr. Maki's ' On the Krinnegletscher ' and Mr. Matsukata's ' Matterhorn ' and ' Tiefenmattenjoch.'

Mr. Sidney Young showed some interesting views from Peru, including El Misti, Arequipa, and a distant view of the Chachani Mountains.

Mr. Henry Speyer sent some striking photographs from Wales. His ' Llyn Idwal ' was a very successful composition, the light on the water being particularly pleasing, while ' The Llugwy River near Capel Curig ' and ' The River Ogwen near Ty'n y Maes ' were both delightful river scenes. In all three photographs the cloud effects were well rendered. His ' Crib Goch in Winter ' and ' Looking N.E. from the Summit of Crib Goch ' might both at a first glance have been views of Alpine peaks, the mountains being covered with snow and giving an impression of great height. His ' Mist on Clogwyn Du (Glyder Fawr) ' was also a fine production.

As usual, we are indebted to several ladies for welcome contributions. Miss L. M. Davidson's ' Cimone della Pala, the Rolle Pass,' was an outstanding photograph ; although detail was somewhat lacking in the foreground, the peak itself was well rendered and justified the claim of the mountain from this point of view to be considered the Matterhorn of the district. Her ' Cime di Lavaredo, Sexten Dolomites from Lago Misurina,' was also a lovely little view with a well-chosen foreground.

Miss Ulrica R. Dolling had several noteworthy pictures. Her ' Monte Rosa and the Lyskamm from the Breithorn ' was

a taking photograph, while the 'Finsteraarhorn from the Schreckhorn' and the 'Breithorn from the Gandegg Hut' presented studies in mountain faces worth attention. Another pleasant view was 'The Matterhorn from the Zinal Rothhorn,' the success of which was much enhanced by the cloud effects.

Miss Sophie L. Tiarks sent us a happy study, 'On the Path to Saas Fee.' This was an excellent composition; there was no suggestion of pose about the figures, and the photograph of the little boy was notably charming. She further showed a pleasing picture of a Crucifix at Saas Fee.

Miss Nea E. Barnard's 'L'Aiguille Verte and Les Droites' and 'Aiguille Mummery' and Miss Joyce Chapman's 'Fletschhorn from Slopes of Monte Leone' and 'Pont Serrand' were also interesting photographs.

The 'Glacier de Talèfre from the Jardin' by Miss H. F. Margaret King was an excellent representation of the glacier and the surrounding peaks. She also, together with Miss V. A. Bode and Mr. F. A. Watney, sent some attractive coloured photographs. Of these Miss Bode's 'The Matterhorn' and Mr. Watney's 'Karersee' were particularly effective.

There were several other exhibits to which we should have liked to refer in detail had space permitted. We must not fail, however, to mention the Rev. A. E. Murray's 'The Wetterhorn in Winter' and his 'Thyrill Mountain, Hvalfjord, Iceland,' in which the rocks were particularly well rendered; Mr. Reginald Graham's 'View from the Weisshorn'; Mr. H. R. Williams' 'Triolet,' with its adjacent Aiguilles; Mr. H. J. Gait's 'Monte della Disgrazia, from Piz Cengalo,' which was not only a pleasing composition but most interesting from the topographical point of view; Mr. Hugh Gardner's 'Portjengrat' and 'Roccia Viva'; Mr. G. T. Western's 'Dent Blanche from Zinal Rothhorn'; Mr. G. A. Lister's 'Mont Blanc at Dawn,' with its fine effect of the early morning light; Mr. Howard Priestman's 'Horungtinder from Vestefjeld'; Mr. William Bellows' 'Early Morning on the Obergabelhorn' and 'The Matterhorn, Evening Light'; and Mr. L. Ashcroft Ellwood's view 'North Ridge of Mitka, Highest Peak of Mount Olympus,' from which it would appear that the former abode of the gods should afford some interesting climbing.

As usual, we are much indebted to Mr. Sydney Spencer for the time and trouble which he has taken in connection with the Exhibition. There is no doubt that the photographs benefited very much in appearance from the excellent way in which they were arranged.