

## ALPINE NOTES.

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :	Date of Election
Shortt, His Honour Judge . . . . .	1877
Phillip, Colin B. . . . .	1884
Broke, Rev. George . . . . .	1886
Ellis, Godfrey W. H. . . . .	1899
Taylor, E. R. . . . .	1908
Hood, Leslie . . . . .	1908
Stoehr, Lt.-Col. C. F. . . . .	1922
Carpe, Allen . . . . .	1923
Watkins, H. G. . . . .	1929

**'Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers.'** Third Series. Volume III.  
 Edited by A. E. Field and Sydney Spencer.

This new series, published by Messrs. Methuen & Co., 36 Essex Street, Strand, London, W.C. 2, is **now on sale**, price 15s.

The narratives are extracted from the first 5 volumes of the ALPINE JOURNAL (1863-1872), annotated where necessary. The letterpress has been selected from among those narratives never hitherto republished.

THE CLOSING OF THE ITALIAN ALPS.—The situation seems to be easier generally, but this is far from expressing the opinion that it appears satisfactory.

It is only right that members of the Alpine Club should know of and appreciate the long-continued, valiant efforts and representations made on our behalf by our old friends the C.A.I., especially Their Excellencies Signor Commendatore Giovanni Bobba and General Manaresi, to the Italian Government. These efforts, begun on publication of our protest of November 1927, have continued without intermission up to the present moment.

MRS. C. G. BRUCE.—We deeply regret to report the death of the Hon. Mrs. Charles Bruce, which occurred on June 16, 1932. Many noble tributes have been paid to the memory of a great Englishwoman, while the sympathy of all mountaineers will go out to General Bruce.

We also hear with sorrow of the death of MRS. PASTEUR, wife of Mr. C. H. Pasteur, which occurred at Brigue on September 5, and express the condolences of the Club with our distinguished member.

NOTABLE ASCENTS IN 1932.—Huascarán, *ca.* 22,182 ft., the highest mountain in the Peruvian Cordillera, was climbed on July 20,

1932, by Herren P. Borchers, Hoerlin, Schneider, Hein and Bernard of the D. & Oe. A.-V. expedition.<sup>1</sup>

MONT BLANC (Brenva face).—Herren K. and E. Rupilius,<sup>2</sup> Schreiner and Bratschko are reported as having accomplished the expedition. Two bivouacs in bad weather proved obligatory at 'La Sentinelle.' No date.—From *Allgemeine Bergsteiger Zeitung*.

LYSKAMM (N.E. face) — SIGNALKUPPE — ZUMSTEIN — DUFOURSPITZEN.—M. E. R. Blanchet with Kaspar Mooser climbed these peaks from the Bétemps hut to Zermatt, on August 10.

*Times* :—

Bétemps hut dep.	. . . . .	03.30
Bergschrund	. . . . .	07.00
Lyskamm ('Neruda' route)	. . . . .	10.45–11.00
Lysjoch	. . . . .	11.30–12.30
Signalkuppe	. . . . .	14.40–15.00
Zumstein	. . . . .	15.30
Dufourspitze	. . . . .	16.50–17.15
Zermatt arr.	. . . . .	24.00

A tooth on the REQUIN-PLAN ridge—Grand Gendarme d'envers du Plan, 3520 m., *Vallot*, was climbed by M. Camille Fontaine with K. Balmat on September 13. Visitors to this wild ridge have hitherto, wisely, turned this large boulder, now doubtless in process of receiving a personal and thoroughly inappropriate name. *Vallot*, i, p. 171. (The splinter, Point 2851 m., *Vallot*, in the Dent du Requin ridge has been christened *Pointe Paule Brunaud*! Why not *Épine de la Remorque*?)

PIZZI MORTERATSCH—PRIEVLUSA—BERNINA, traverse.—This was accomplished, September 2, 1932, by Mr. A. E. Gunther with Hans Melchior, of Pontresina.

*Times* :—Boval hut dep. 01.00, Piz Morteratsch 05.15, Piz Prielvusa 10.00, Fuorcla Prielvusa 14.00, Pizzo Bianco 16.15, Piz Bernina 17.15, Sella Crast' Agüzza 18.30, Boval hut arr. 22.40.

Total climbing time, 18 hrs. 55 mins.

On August 28 Mr. Gunther, with the guide Hauser, starting from the Marco and Rosa hut, ascended S.E. arête of Piz Bernina (1 hr. 20 mins.), whence they attained summit of PIZ SCERSCEN in 2½ hrs. They returned to Piz Bernina in 1½ hrs.—a very 'sporting' ridge combination, not previously accomplished so far as our knowledge goes.

MONTE SISSONE—EASTERN, CENTRAL AND WESTERN PIZZI TORRONE—PUNTA RASICA.—The traverse of this, the ridge constituting

<sup>1</sup> Attempts were made on this peak by an American lady in 1904, 1906 and 1908. But a claim to its ascent has *not* been accepted.—See D. & Oe. A.-V. *Mitt.*, 1932, pp. 229–30; *Der Bergsteiger*, October 1932, p. 57.

<sup>2</sup> See pp. 348–9. The brothers and Herr Schreiner appear to have been witnesses of the Petit Dru accident as well, p. 336.

the imposing head of the Forno Glacier,<sup>3</sup> is reported as having been accomplished in 19 hours. But it is a pity that the traverse was not completed to the Colle del Castello!

AIGUILLE VERTE, N.E. face.—This ascent is now the fashion. On June 29, 1932, Dr. M. Couturier, with Armand Charlet and Jules Simond, accomplished a variation to a variant, by ascending the great N. couloir (see illustration, 'A.J.' 36, 398) throughout. On the same day a *solitary* climber mounted the left bank of the couloir—the original variant ('A.J.' 42, 127–8).<sup>4</sup> The greater part of the N.E. face was *descended*, involuntarily, at a later date (p. 337).

AIGUILLE VERTE: note on early attempts.—In 1864 Adams-Reilly went to Zermatt with Whymper after their campaign in the chain of Mont Blanc. On their arrival, on July 19, Whymper received bad business news and had to go home next morning. Their intention had been an attempt on the Matterhorn, and the following entry occurs in Adams-Reilly's journal:—

*'Wednesday, July 20. Matterhorn covered with ice. Determined to have nothing to say to it.'*

Adams-Reilly then returned to Chamonix—arriving on Friday, July 29, when the following entry occurs in his journal:—

*'Friday, July 29. . . . Chamonix  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 9 Found . . . Birkbeck, who had been trying A. V. [Verte].'*

Adams-Reilly went to the Jardin next day, and on the following day this entry occurs in his journal:—

*'Sunday July 31. Awful sermon. Birkbeck returned from A. V. tried couloir of Argentière [no accent] side. left Ognons [Lognan] 11 p.m. got up till 10 a.m. stones fell. very bad. thought they would have to sleep, but made an effort and . . . came down.'*

These two entries refer to attempts on the Aiguille Verte in the year before it fell to Whymper. The first of Birkbeck's attempts was obviously made shortly before July 29, 1864; and it was probably an attempt by Whymper's couloir (a route which had been tried at least as early as 1861). Birkbeck's second attempt was probably made on July 31 (but it *might* have been made on July 30). It may be inferred from the length of the climb that considerable progress was made before Birkbeck had to turn back.

There is no mention of the guides who took part in these two attempts.

T. G. B.

<sup>3</sup> See illustration, *A.J.* 43, facing 113.

<sup>4</sup> *Alpinisme*, No. 27, pp. 101–108, illustrated.

PIZ BERNINA, 'N.E.' face.—Monsieur M. Lusy writes: 'With reference to the notice in "A.J." 44, 132, of Herr Flaig about the N.E. face of Piz Bernina, I beg to inform you that I accomplished on August 7, 1916, with Caspar Grass and Johann Hauser of Pontresina, the descent of the Piz Bernina by the great ice wall marked on the illustration on p. 133: W—4. We left the ridge approximately where is marked figure "1" (of No. 1 route), rejoined route 4 on the corner of the punctured line (4) and descended the ice wall. We did not encounter very great difficulties because of the splendid conditions of hard snow and almost no ice. A short notice was published in the S.A.C. *Jahrbuch*, in some newspapers, and among remarks written by me in the book of the Boval hut.

'I believe, according to what Grass told me, that the crossing of the ice wall—in ascent or descent—had been done before. This route depends entirely on the conditions of the snow and ice.'

PIZ BERNINA from the west.<sup>5</sup>—With reference to the two ascents of August 15, 1880, by the British-Swiss and Hungarian-Tyrolese<sup>6</sup> parties, I have received the following letter from Pontresina, dated July 19, 1932, with the declaration of Christian Grass, jun.:

'... We [*i.e.* the British party] stayed the night in the Roseg Restaurant, while the others slept in the old Tschierva [? Misaun chalet] hut. They knew nothing about us and saw us first when we were halfway up the W. face. We started at midnight. We climbed straight up to the Berninascharte and Pinggera followed our tracks so far. We halted for 1½–2 hours on the summit where they had joined us later. Frau Tauscher Geduly's first words were, "Hans, I shall never forgive you;" to which Hans retorted, "We do not want any Tyrolese to make first ascents in our mountains." ... (signed) Frau LOUISE FREIMANN.'

I had asked Graven, who knows Christian Grass, to write and ask the specific question: 'How did the Pinggera–Dangl–Minnigerode–Tauscher Geduly party ascend? Did they follow your party, or did they strike out another line more to the right, ascending?'

T. G. B.

[There is, however, the categorical statement made by the still living Alois Pinggera to me on the spot in 1903.<sup>7</sup>—E. L. S.]

FOREIGN MEMBERS OF A.C.—There were present at Chamonix during the Congress, among others, MM. H. Dübi, P. Montandon,

<sup>5</sup> The *direct* (A.J. 42, 331–3) ascent of the W. face was repeated this year.

<sup>6</sup> A.J. 43, 19–20. The British party was composed of Mr. Benjamin Wainwright with (old) Hans Grass and his son Christian, still alive, whose statement follows.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.* 20–1.

H. F. Montagnier, H. Brulle, Victor de Cessole, R. Godefroy, Jean Escarra, Aldo Bonacossa and Giovanni Bobba.

Monsieur Brulle (elected 1885) spent his spare time in an ascent of Mont Blanc *via* the Aiguille du Goûter—his age being 79. M. de Cessole had arrived from a series of high ascents in the Gross Glockner group.

Mademoiselle Engel, the distinguished writer, was also present.

LE COUVERCLE.—A new chalet-hotel has been opened—with much ceremony during the *Congrès d'Alpinisme*—close to the old shelter. It is said to contain ample and comfortable accommodation. Wine and spirits will *not* be sold.

CHAMONIX PATHS.—Through the action of the railways and *téléférives*, all paths, notably those leading to the Montenvers and Brévent, have fallen into utter neglect. They resemble nothing else but the overgrown beds of torrents—*cf.* 'A.J.' 43, 393–4. We rejoice to have been (unofficially) informed that the 'Aiguille du Midi' *téléférique* cannot be prolonged beyond its present offensive railhead, as the minimum *paying* price of a single ticket to the summit of the Aiguille would amount to 350 fcs. !

LAZISTAN.—During August, Dr. Rickmers joined a party of young 'hikers' (Professor Brecht-Bergen's excursion) to Lazistan in Asia Minor. From the Black Sea port of Rize they pushed through virgin forests to the top of the Pontic Range, here culminating in Mt. Vershambek (3500 m., 11,400 ft.), which was ascended. The jagged granite ridges—a hundred miles of them—are miniatures of the Chamonix Aiguilles. The glacial features are grand and truly Alpine (valley troughs, moraines, scorings). Numberless lakes and tarns remind one of the High Tatra, which is 3000 ft. lower. Owing to scant means only two weeks could be spent in the mountains. The whole trip, Vienna—Sofia—Istanbul—Rize—Lazistan—Batum—Odessa—Berlin, came to 350 marks a head (£23) for a party of eleven.

S.A.C. HUTS IN 1931.—The number of visitors amounted to 65,909 (as against a total of 64,857 in 1930) to 111 Club huts: a satisfactory increase under the depressing circumstances of 1931. The percentage of S.A.C. members works out at 34.48 as against 33.3 in 1930. The Boval hut as usual leads the way with 3368, the Sciora and Bergli with 72 and 56 are last.

A new hut belonging to the Yverdon Section was opened last September. It is called the 'Susanfe' and is situated on a rocky spur, *ca.* 2110 m., halfway between Champéry and Salanfe, opposite the Ruan Glacier.

A.A.C.Z.—Through the courtesy of the Academical Alpine Club, Zürich, members of the A.C. are now admitted to the Mischabel and

Windgällen Club huts on exactly the same terms as members of the A.A.C.Z. The Alpine Club much appreciates the privilege.

A.C. DISTINCTIONS.—Sir Aurel Stein has been awarded the Triennial Gold Medal of the Asiatic Society; Mr. F. S. Smythe has been elected an Honorary member of the C.A.F.

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONS.—Messrs. Strumia and Hainsworth with Hans Fuhrer made the first ascent of OUBLIETTE in the Tonquin Valley last July. They had a great deal of bad stormy weather and were unable to do anything else.

Word comes from Bradford Washburn that they have established a high camp on MT. CRILLON<sup>8</sup> in the Fairweather Range. Possibly by this time they have completed the ascent. Washburn ought to have some very fine photographs and an interesting story. The mountain is only about 12,800 ft., but it is a very good peak. They have been in there working on it for six weeks.

The Lamb expedition to TIBET has broken up, but Terris Moore, Emmons, Bursdall and Young have gone on in an effort to reach their objective, namely, further exploration of the Amni Manchin Range between Tibet and Szechwan, approaching the range from the north.

W. S. LADD.

'A STORMY SUMMER IN THE WESTERN ALPS.'—Under this title will be found in the *Deutsche Alpen Zeitung*<sup>9</sup> a remarkable and brilliantly written account of the exploits of two young Bavarians<sup>10</sup> in the Mont Blanc Group, July 1–August 16, 1931. Under the conditions and prevailing weather, while we do not hesitate to pronounce every one of the expeditions, accomplished or attempted, as surpassing the limits of even modern insanity, yet we cannot in justice refrain from expressing a certain wonder, perhaps admiration, for the remarkable skill, energy and resistance displayed. These young climbers of the Pan-Teutonic 'school' have conquered fear, indeed. But it is precisely against this type of adventure that our late President made his timely and forcible appeal (pp. 3–5).

The Traunstein couple<sup>11</sup> under discussion, 'provided with 300–400 marks between them for a three months' tour,' proceed on ancient push-bicycles from their homes to Chamonix. They commence operations with a desperate attack on the N. face of the Grandes Jorasses. Beyond stating that fact, the details of this and following attempts

<sup>8</sup> *A.J.* 43, 226–7.

<sup>9</sup> *Loc. cit.*, May 1932, pp. 129–40, illustrated by photographs and futurist woodcuts, in the latter of which all the most reckless details of modern, faulty technique are represented.

<sup>10</sup> These same young Bavarians are reported as having accomplished some startling novelties in the High Atlas during the summer of 1932.

<sup>11</sup> Cf. *A.J.* 43, 406–7, footnote 8.

must be passed over in silence, adding, however, that on the first assault the rope was destroyed between them by stonefall, while the head of one ice axe, secured in the climber's belt, was more or less obliterated from the same cause. With reference to the marked illustration of the face, we might further remark that the three points reached in different attempts are in two cases well below the base of the great slabby wall, while the third is purely visionary and its altitude obviously exaggerated. Mr. Geoffrey Young, when guilty of the first now almost prehistorical attempts, was never indiscreet enough to mark *his* limits!

The July 1, 1931, expedition was calculated to last a week. Three days were to be devoted to the assault, one and a half for the descent to Courmayeur, the remainder for the return to the Leschaux bivouac and Chamonix.

In terrible weather the party next climb the Calotte de Rochefort, but they are mistaken in supposing their route to have been new. During this period, bivouacking mostly outside the Leschaux hut, an attempt was made on the E. face of the Grépon. This attempt and the Rochefort climb were forced during the five days of bad weather spent by the Munich party on the N. face of the Grands Charmoz.<sup>12</sup> Our party next frolics over the traverse of the Drus, returning the same day in awful weather to the Leschaux bivouac. The Dent du Requin is then climbed under conditions that even to the party appear indescribable. Finally, the weather, their soaked and ragged condition, compel a temporary retreat from the mountains. So they bicycle to Marseilles, the Riviera and back, sleeping by the roadside. In one day 229 kilometres are covered!

Returning to Chamonix on July 31, they storm in a single day, starting in the afternoon, the dreaded N. face of the Grands Charmoz.<sup>13</sup> A bivouac close to the summit, and so back, *via* the Leschaux, to a camp on the Col du Géant. In first threatening, then terrible weather, they cross the Col de la Fourche and attack the Brenva face of Mont Blanc by the 'Sentinelle' route. On *Col Moore* they meet a retreating party: 'Others can retire, but we go on.' Compelled nevertheless to halt *between* Col Moore and La Sentinelle, they face it out till hunger and exhaustion drive them down. With the little money in their possession they are unable to purchase food<sup>14</sup> in the Torino hut, and are forced down to

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<sup>12</sup> *A.J.* 43, 370-1 and footnote 3.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>14</sup> On a bitterly cold day, August 30, 1932, Professor Graham Brown and I were eating some food in the Vallot hut. Two young and very well-equipped Bavarians, barely returned from the summit of Mont Blanc, were there. Noticing how close one of them stood to us, we offered him some food. He accepted it eagerly, saying how hungry he was. He explained that he and his even younger companion, being among the numerous unemployed, had bicycled from Munich to the Tauern, on to the Dolomites and Milan, back over the

Courmayeur with that object. They camp in a meadow near the village. In doubtful weather they recommence operations, this time against the Péteret ridge; but the Gamba hut, enlarged and provisioned, is 'too expensive for us.' In gathering storm they bivouac near by, being then obliged to retreat to another *gîte* near Entrèves. In fine weather they go once more to the Géant shelter-hut, sacrificing their nearly all to eat properly in the Torino, before attempting Mont Blanc de Courmayeur, in one day, without cooking apparatus or spirit. Fortunate it is for them that 6 inches of fresh snow fall in the night, driving them northwards back to the Leschaux bivouac.

Tragedy now overtakes the party. On August 9 they find the rival German <sup>15</sup> party's diary, left in the bivouac. *August 6*: 'We are standing at the base of the N. face [Grandes Jorasses]. It appears quite harmless [the Traunsteiners had thought the same at first]. If it wasn't snowing we should try the climb at once.'

*August 7* (last entry): 'We are expecting hourly H—— and K—— [the Traunsteiners], our strongest competitors [*sic*].'

From August 9 till August 12 the Traunsteiners wait in the hut. Other Germans, as reckless as they, come up. The Rittler-Brehm party, they all think, have climbed the wall possibly and are 'safe in their tent-sack in a niche or in bivouac on the summit-ridge, where they can hold out for days.' Powdery snow streams ceaselessly down the wall; the storm rages incessantly. On August 13 the other party starts for the Rochefort arête, while our own, full of hope, sets out for the Jorasses. Will the fresh snow have consolidated on the fearsome slabs? No, conditions are impossible—powdery snow on ice. And suddenly, in a snowy recess below the wall, the mangled bodies of Rittler and Brehm. . . .

PETIT DRU, N. face.—In August 1932 two young Germans, Herren Krinner and Kofler, attempting the ascent of this face, were killed. A few days later, 'two persons provided with 350 m. [*sic*] of rope and countless pitons left the summit at 09.00 and attained the base of the N. face at 11.00 on the following day.'

This degradation of the peak—for which the Vallot Guide (*loc.*

St. Bernard—climbing mountains all the way—to Chamonix for Mont Blanc, and intended to proceed to Zermatt for the ascent of the Matterhorn, but *not* by the N. face. 'We have always been given bread *en route*,' they stated. We were able to remedy their immediate wants, and both showed a gratitude almost pathetic.

But there should be no misgivings for the future of such a race.—*E. L. S.*

<sup>15</sup> These Germans, Rittler and Brehm, finding the N. face of the Matterhorn already conquered, had left Zermatt at once for an attempt on the Grandes Jorasses, N. face. They were followed a day or two later by the brothers Schmid.

*cit.* ii, pp. 136-7) cannot be held blameless—is undoubtedly the most revolting and unsportsmanlike travesty of mountaineering yet reported in this JOURNAL. We need only add that some days *previously* one (or both) members of the party, attempting the Aiguille Verte from the Argentière Glacier under atrocious conditions, ‘were caught in an avalanche 10 metres [*sic*] below the summit and carried down 700 m. over the bergschrund, where both remained unconscious for 3 hours. They returned on foot to Les Tines, suffering from bruises necessitating a two days’ bed *régime*.’

DENT BLANCHE, N.E. face.—This precipitous rock and ice face, some 3500 ft. in height, recessed in the angle formed by the N. and E. arêtes, was climbed on August 28, 1932, by Herren F. Singer and K. Schneider, of Munich.<sup>16</sup> Leaving the Mountet Club hut at 01.30 on August 27, they attained a spot some two-thirds of the way up the wall by 20.30. Here a bivouac was made on a rock some 3 ft. square. Starting again at 06.30 on the following day, they attained the summit at 12.00. They descended by the S. arête and the Wandfluh. Bivouac proved very cold and the weather was threatening. The route is a thoroughly unjustifiable development of that variation of the N. ridge reported in ‘A.J.’ 40, 377-8, which latter is itself described in *Alpes Valaisannes* as ‘. . . route dangereuse à souhait, constamment balayée par les pierres’ (*loc. cit.* ii, p. 340). Details will *not* be published.

The Whitwell ‘1874’ route by the S.E. face, ‘cette voie très dangereuse à éviter en toutes circonstances’ (*ibid.*), was also repeated during the summer.

M. JACQUES DE LÉPINEY.—We much regret to learn that this well-known mountaineer was severely injured in a perhaps not unavoidable accident on the Géant Glacier last August. His companion was even more seriously hurt, but we are glad to hear that both are progressing as favourably as possible.

THE SWISS 4000-M. PEAKS.—Our member, Herr Cornelis Tromp of St. Gallen (S.A.C. Berne), and Mrs. Cateau Tromp-Tromp, member of the Ladies’ Alpine Club and S.-F.A.C. St. Gallen, traversed, on August 10, the Aletschhorn, and have now in the course of years climbed *together* all the peaks over 4000 m. in Switzerland, about 50 in number. No fewer than 35 of these were with Christian Kaufmann, ‘am Endweg,’ Grindelwald, as guide.

With the traverse of the extremely difficult Aiguilles du Diable, including a ‘new’ route up the E. face of the *Pointe Médiane*, Mr. Eustace Thomas has completed the ascent of all the four-thousanders of the Alps.<sup>17</sup> [Times: Torino hut dep. 01.15,

<sup>16</sup> See pp. 132-5.

<sup>17</sup> *A.J.* 41, 62.

Requin hut arr. 19.45.] There is a suspicion that the *Pointe Croux* of the Aiguille sans Nom, 4023 m., and the newly misnamed *Pointe Eveline*, 4026 m., on the Verte-Jardin ridge, are still awaiting our member's visit.

The late JOSEPH RAVANEL.—Mr. C. F. Meade writes :—

' May I say a few words in memory of Joseph Ravanel (*le Rouge*) ? I first met him in 1902, when he led my party for the traverse of the Drus. I knew Ravanel's reputation, but even so the pace struck me as tremendous. My other guide, Pierre Blanc, was young and new to the mountain. It was characteristic of Ravanel's light-hearted *insouciance* that he led down the Petit Dru at the same high speed and avoided the use of *rappels*, being apparently quite content to let the younger guide follow or not or fall off as best he could. However, this rather reckless confidence was justified, and I remember vividly Pierre's face with a broad smile on it, while the buttons flew off his stout homespun with the noise of pop-guns as he slithered hurriedly after us down the grim cliffs. "Dashing" is the best term that I can apply to the quality of Ravanel's guiding. It was his temperament that won him his great victories. He was a bold and omnivorous rock-climber, and was engaged almost ceaselessly by some of the best amateurs of his day for all the severest climbs of a district where severe climbs are supremely abundant. He was not a graceful performer, however, for he fought his way up his mountains by force, and his courage was even greater than his skill.

' He had an exuberant wit ; I love to remember him when he was at the Couvercle recently, some weeks before the rush of the season had begun. The day had been wet since dawn, but never for a moment dull, for Ravanel in his usual buoyant spirits had waged a ceaseless battle of sallies and repartees on all sides with Pierre Blanc and other French mountaineers. And then the note changed, and as the hut grew dark he told the story of the tragic death by lightning of the guide Simond on the Aiguille du Géant—of the moment on that fearful precipice when they drew in the empty loop of the rope blackened and charred by the fatal flash, and knew that their friend had died. He spoke with the utmost simplicity and eloquence, repeating those moving words that sprang immediately to Fontaine's lips : "Would to God it had been I." Indeed the way Ravanel always spoke of his old friend and employer Monsieur Emile Fontaine did honour to both of them. He told us that night at the Couvercle of how on the first ascent of that superb rock-pinnacle, the Aiguille Ravanel, he found on the top a pool of snow-water, and remarked to M. Fontaine that with such a "fontaine" on the very summit the name for the new peak would not be far to seek. But M. Fontaine thought otherwise and named it after his guide. Again a little later, when they achieved the first ascent of the even more formidable neighbouring peak : "Now,"

said Ravanel, "there can be no other possible name but yours." Again, however, Fontaine refused: Mummery, who had done so much in these mountains, had never, so Fontaine insisted, had his name adequately perpetuated; the *Cheminée Mummery* was insufficient honour for such a man, and, impervious to all argument, he named their second conquest "Aiguille Mummery," and so it remains.

'It is remarkable that the many discoverers and conquerors who have so enthusiastically decorated with their own surnames innumerable minor excrescences in the Mont Blanc group, have never shown a similar generosity to M. Emile Fontaine. The map of Fontaine's mountains by now bristles more thickly with the surnames of ambitious climbers than any other district in Europe. By the connivance of fate or jealousy, but doubtless to the owner's satisfaction, the name of this distinguished pioneer has been omitted from the strange roll of honour of self-elected members.<sup>18</sup> Such neglect does not alter the fact that Fontaine's name, together with that of his great guide, Joseph Ravanel *le Rouge*, will always occupy a very special eminence in the annals of the Alps.'

The SEILER FAMILY.—Everything relating to Zermatt, and in a smaller degree to the Seiler family, is of interest to climbers.

Far back, in the year 1870, Alexander Seiler, after having resided in Zermatt for five years, applied for citizenship in the Commune of Zermatt.<sup>19</sup> Upon the unanimous refusal of the Commune, Alexander Seiler appealed to the Cantonal authorities, who instructed the Commune to withdraw their refusal. The Commune would not give way, and (it sounds like *opéra bouffe*) the authorities despatched six gendarmes to Zermatt and, later on, a company of soldiers ('bataillon 11'), and it looked as if there might be serious consequences. The citizens of Evolena offered their assistance to Zermatt, but Zermatt gave way and Alexander Seiler became citizen of the Commune, which, largely due to his genius and enterprise, developed into one of the best-known Alpine centres.

There is now an epilogue: the Cantonal Court has just given judgment in favour of the Seiler family in an action which they had instituted against the author of a book, entitled *Family statistics and historical data relative to the Commune of Zermatt*.<sup>20</sup> This book was published in 1927, and was alleged to libel the Seilers—they have now received an indemnity of Frs. 1500 and the withdrawal of the passages objected to is now ordered.

J. J. EBERLI.

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<sup>18</sup> The *Cheminée Fontaine* of the Dent du Requin, however inadequately, does commemorate his deeds.—*Editor*.

<sup>19</sup> But Whympers puts the family much further back: Alexander Seiler acquired the Hôtel Monte Rosa in 1855.

<sup>20</sup> See *A.J.* 40, 434-5.

III<sup>e</sup> CONGRÈS INTERNATIONAL D'ALPINISME.—This meeting was held at Chamonix from August 23 to August 29, 1932. Nineteen nations and countless Clubs were represented, the number of delegates, official and otherwise, amounting to several hundreds. M. Jean Escarra, President of the C.A.F., presided. Sir John J. Withers, President, represented the A.C., together with Messrs. Bowen, Graham Brown and Strutt, the latter also acting as delegate for the New Zealand A.C. It is impossible to give here a detailed notice of the innumerable activities of the Congress; moreover, these will be related fully in the forthcoming Report.

Interesting discussions took place on the conditions prevailing on the southern Alpine frontiers. Technique, literature, medical aspects, 'modern' follies, etc., were described at great length. A banquet took place at the Majestic Hôtel, at which much *bon-homie* was displayed. Sir John Withers, as representing the doyen of all Clubs, returned thanks on behalf of the delegates to the C.A.F. and its President. At the end of his speech, Sir John announced that M. Escarra had been elected an Honorary Member of the A.C., and presented him with the Club button. Wreaths were laid by the delegates on the Chamonix War Memorial, on the commemoration stone erected to victims of Alpine accidents, and on the grave of Edward Whymper. The President of the C.A.F. rendered admirable tributes, and Colonel Strutt returned thanks on behalf of the different Clubs assembled.

Finally, on Sunday, August 28, the memorial bust to Dr. MICHEL GABRIEL PACCARD, the true conqueror of Mont Blanc, was unveiled officially, before the Mayor of Chamonix; General Dosse, Governor of Lyon, and commanding the 14th Army Corps; M. Raymond de Saussure (great-great-grandson of Horace Bénédict de Saussure); the 7th Bn. of *Chasseurs Alpains*; all the representatives of the Alpine Societies and a vast crowd. H.E. Signor Comendatore Giovanni Bobba, representing the C.A.I. and the University of Turin (where Paccard studied), and Honorary Member A.C., opened the proceedings with an eloquent speech. He was followed by Dr. H. Dübi, the veteran representative of the S.A.C., and one of the first promoters of the Paccard 'Movement.' In clear tones, speaking in French, Dr. Dübi referred to the great part played by Messrs. Mathews, Freshfield, Whymper, Montagnier, Stevens and others, resulting in the dissipation of the first and greatest of all Alpine scandals, by the placing of the bust of Paccard in his true temple of fame. Dr. Dübi referred also in moving tones to the American Alpine Club, to whose initiative in the first instance the erection of the memorial was largely due. His speech was followed by short and admirably expressed tributes by M. Escarra and the Mayor of Chamonix, the latter announcing that the street of Chamonix leading towards Les Bossons had been named *Rue du Docteur Paccard*. The band of the 7th *Chasseurs Alpains* then played various National Anthems, including the British, the



A LA MEMOIRE DU  
DR. MICHEL GABRIEL PACCARD  
CHAMONIX 1757-1827  
QUI FIT EN COMPAGNIE DE JACQUES BALMAT  
LE 8 AOUT 1786, LA CONQUETE DU MONT BLANC  
HOMMAGE RECONNAISSANT DES CLUBS ALPINS  
1932

*Sifvestre 1932*

battalion—a very smart one—marched past General Dosse, and the proceedings terminated with a *Vin d'Honneur* to the guides of Chamonix.

So, happily, was laid at rest the most enduring and untruthful of Alpine legends.

Officially, the meeting of the Congress terminated in a General Reunion on August 27. The very lengthy proceedings ended in the formation of a Permanent Committee of International Alpine Representatives under the Presidency of a delegate appointed by the S.A.C. The other Clubs, A.C., C.A.F., C.A.I., D. & Oe. A.-V., Swedish A.C., Hungarian A.C., Tatra (Polish) Club, will each be represented by a member. Sir John Withers was unanimously elected as the A.C. delegate. It was proposed and carried that an *annual* Congress do take place, and that it be held in Turin—or Cortina d'Ampezzo—in 1933.<sup>21</sup>

Colonel Strutt, on behalf of the nations and Clubs, then returned thanks to the President and the C.A.F. He expressed the Congress's gratitude for the extraordinary kindness and tact displayed by M. Escarra throughout his long-continued and arduous labours. This was received with general acclamation and the *Congrès* was dissolved.

To turn to a few details worthy of mention. There was one regrettable incident marring the proceedings, but for which the C.A.F. was in no conceivable way to blame. A rumour, the origin of which proved impossible to trace, to the effect that only the French, Italian and English languages would be accepted officially, prevented German and Austrian representatives of the D. & Oe. A.-V. and C.A.K. from being present. M. Escarra's admirable and most impressive speech, refuting the rumour and quoting his own original official statement and letter that German, French, Italian and English were the *official* languages, went far to scotch a most mischievous lie. We can only add that the absence of the D. & Oe. A.-V. and C.A.K. delegates was sincerely and universally regretted.

To turn to the lighter side of the Congress. Humorous incidents abounded. A representative of the A.C. was asked at the banquet by the delegate of a newly-formed republic and Society whether Great Britain possessed an Alpine Club. Sir John Withers's subsequent 'doyen' speech may have impressed duly our not very knowledgeable friend.

It is well to know ourselves as others see us. On the other hand, it is fair to add that never has the name of the A.C. appeared to stand higher in the eyes of all foreign Alpine circles.

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<sup>21</sup> Our personal feeling about Congresses, whether held at Geneva, Lausanne, Chamonix or Turin, is that they lead only to future trouble. A meeting every ten years is amply sufficient.

The chief delegate of yet another new republic—represented at the gathering by no fewer than fourteen official members—asserted that a certain ‘mountain’ poet of his nationality was greater by far than any other, including Shakespeare or Goethe. This statement was received sympathetically, since no one was present able to understand the language of the said poet.<sup>22</sup> The further statement by the selfsame delegate, that the Tatra belonged *geologically* to his country, was, however, denied indignantly by the representative of the other new republic owning the southern slopes. Both delegates produced intestinal-looking maps to prove their claims. One is reminded of the famous declaration that a certain Free City belonged *ethnologically* to the country now mis-controlling it, because 1 per cent. of its inhabitants were of Slav origin, whereas only 99 per cent. were Teutonic!

In conclusion, it remains to express to the C.A.F. and its distinguished President; the Mayor of Chamonix; and not least, to our old friends the MM. Couttet, the Club’s warmest thanks for the reception and kindly hospitality accorded.

LA MONTAGNE.—M. Maurice Paillon, for many years the distinguished and self-effacing editor of the official organ of the C.A.F., is retiring at the end of 1932. M. Pierre Dalloz will succeed.

SPORTING METHODS IN 1932.—*Alpinisme*, No. 27, reports the following tools as employed by an Austrian party in an attempt on the N. face of the Grandes Jorasses: 250 m. of rope, 78 rock pitons, 20 ice pitons, 25 *Karabiner*, 10 ‘stirrups,’ 6 hammers.

For the attacks in 1933 we suggest the following *addenda*: one crossbow per man, two ‘Stokes’ 3-in. mortars and necessary ammunition, one light mountain 3·7-in. howitzer in position on Les Périades, and, as a development of the methods of Hannibal, one or more largest size *Flammenwerfer* for the removal of overhanging ice walls. These articles should be obtainable at Geneva or The Hague. But the construction of a *téléférique* would provide the most practical solution.

MATTERHORN, E. face.—This great rock and ice glacis—completely dry in 1911 and 1928—is set at an angle of barely 40° save for the final precipitous step or rampart below the summit. As all know who have made the ascent of the mountain by the N.E. arête, this stone-swept<sup>23</sup> slope can be ascended almost anywhere and from virtually any spot at its base in the Furgg Glacier. There are no real difficulties, since, as Whymper writes, ‘an obstruction

<sup>22</sup> Name unpronounceable—spelling indecipherable.

<sup>23</sup> *Scrambles*, 2nd edition, p. 387.

met in front can always be turned to the right or to the left.' Nevertheless, an average mountaineer consulted as to an attempt by this slope—the dryer it is the greater the danger<sup>24</sup>—would describe any such effort as death without glory.

The face was climbed by an Italian party on September 18–19, 1932: Signori E. Benedetti<sup>25</sup> and G. Mazzotti with Louis and Lucien Carrel, Maurice Bich and Antoine Gaspard. The final step took no less than 11 hours for the accomplishment of perhaps 1000 ft.—*Communicated.*

GIFTS TO A.C.—An original drawing of 'Mont Blanc from the Brévent,' by E. T. Compton, has been presented by Mrs. George Rathbone, daughter of Charles Edward Mathews. A water-colour drawing of 'Aosta and Rutor,' by George Barnard, has been presented by Mr. Henry N. Mathews, son of William Mathews. An old 'Mountain Indicator' with heights (by Bétemps) and drawings from the Hôtel Monte Rosa, Zermatt, 1859, has been presented by the executors of the late Arthur Bird. Dr. Claude Wilson has presented a photograph of 'Kangchenjunga from Darjeeling,' by J. Burlington Smith.

For all these valuable gifts the Club presents its warm thanks.

S. S.

HEREDITARY MOUNTAINEERS.—Mrs. Rendall (aged 21), granddaughter of Dr. Claude Wilson,<sup>26</sup> made the ascent of Piz La Margna besides other expeditions in the Bernina, accompanied by her husband.

Miss Sylvia Longstaff, daughter of our member, accomplished in 1932—her nineteenth year—the traverse of the Aiguilles Dorées. On September 5, 6, and 7 she traversed the Aiguilles d'Argentière, de Grépon and du Peigne.

LADIES' MOUNTAINEERING.—Miss Miriam O'Brien and Madame Damesme accomplished 'manless' ascents of the Tour Carrée of Roche Méane and Matterhorn (August 13), in the course of a journey through the Western and Eastern Alps. Miss O'Brien made also the ascent, guideless, of the E. arête of the Dent Blanche.

NEW ZEALAND ALPINE CLUB.—Mr. G. E. Mannering (A.C.) has been elected President *vice* Mr. A. P. Harper (A.C.), who retires.

<sup>24</sup> So great is the danger from falling rocks that it has proved impossible on several occasions to recover the bodies of victims fallen to the base of the slope.

<sup>25</sup> *A.J.* 42, 341–2; 43, 58–63.

<sup>26</sup> Cf. *A.J.* 43, 383.

OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL.—This has been awarded most deservedly to Herr Paul Bauer for his magnificent Kangchenjunga attempts, and as the author of *Im Kampf um den Himalaja*.<sup>27</sup>

MOUNT EVEREST, 1933.—His Holiness the Dalai Lama having granted permission, a British expedition will leave early next year for Tibet *en route* for the attack on the mountain.

The composition of the party is as follows: H. Ruttledge, Leader; N. E. Odell; C. G. Crawford; Captain E. St. J. Birnie; Captain J. E. Boustead, M.C.; P. Wyn Harris; C. R. Greene, Medical Officer; W. W. McLean, Medical Officer; J. L. Longland; E. E. Shipton; E. O. Shebbeare; F. S. Smythe and G. W. Wood Johnson.

In the unavoidable absence through military duties of Brigadier E. F. Norton and Major J. G. Bruce, Ruttledge should prove a great leader; a happier choice could not have been made. Odell and Crawford<sup>28</sup> are veterans of the 1924 and 1922 expeditions respectively, whose splendid achievements in the Himalaya and Canadian Rockies are well known. Birnie and Boustead are soldiers with much experience of the Himalaya. Harris has had great seasons in the Alps, and has distinguished himself on Mt. Kenya. Greene and McLean are the medical officers of the party; the former took part in the ascent of Kamet in 1931, the latter has accomplished much in the Alps. Longland possesses a guideless Alpine history second to no young, living mountaineer. Shipton, with the traverse of Mt. Kenya, the first ascents of Kamet and other mountains, Kilimanjaro and the traverse of many peaks of Ruwenzori, all within a *year*, to his credit, is the ideal man for the summit of Everest. Smythe's *dossier* needs no introduction, while Shebbeare, with the Kangchenjunga and 1924 Everest expeditions behind him, may be regarded as the finished transport officer. The same may be said of Wood Johnson. Altogether, as strong a party as any country could supply. If some doubt should exist as to the limitations through age of Odell and Crawford (slightly over 40), we would remind sceptics that Norton reached the highest point so far attained by man on foot at the same sturdy epoch of his life! As for the others, we imagine that somewhere about 30 years of age would be the general average.

We wish Mr. Ruttledge and his team all possible good luck, and are confident that one and all will 'play for the side.'

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<sup>27</sup> Knorr und Hirth, Munich. *A.J.* 43, 192-4.

<sup>28</sup> Crawford's great powers were neglected sadly almost up to the end of the expedition—a crime for which I was chiefly responsible.—*E. L. S.*