

ALPINE NOTES

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :	Year of Election.
Yeld, George	1877
Wilson, Dr. Claude	1880
Woodroffe, G. F.	1890
Brigg, W. A.	1894
Whitting, A. G.	1901
Aldridge, Major E. A.	1903
Clayton, Lt.-Col. J. M.	1903
Candler, Henry	1905
Corbett, Sir Geoffrey L.	1916
Sharp, H. F. B.	1923

BEQUESTS AND GIFTS TO THE A.C.

Books.

Miss Schuster has presented a number of books from the late Sir Felix Schuster's Library, of which details are given in the A.C. Bibliography.

Mrs. Wilson has presented several books to the A.C. Library in addition to the bequest of the late Dr. Claude Wilson, of which details are given in the Bibliography.

Mrs. W. A. Woods, daughter of the late Walter Brunskill (Member 1895-1936), has presented a set of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

Pictures.

The late Dr. Claude Wilson bequeathed to the Alpine Club a water-colour drawing of the Jungfrau by Elijah Walton.

Mr. G. R. Speaker has presented two pictures by Samivel, namely, a water-colour drawing entitled 'L'Aube,' and a black-and-white drawing entitled 'Les Jeux de la Corde.'

Mrs. M. Moore, sister-in-law of the late A. W. Moore, has presented a water-colour drawing of the Wetterhorn, Schreckhorn and Finsteraarhorn, by Arthur Croft, dated 1874. This picture originally belonged to A. W. Moore, and the Club offers its cordial thanks for this and the above-mentioned valuable gifts.

MRS. O. K. WILLIAMSON.—We deeply regret to report the death of Mrs. O. K. Williamson on December 10, 1937, and we express the sincere sympathy of the Club with our fellow-member.

THE LATE DR. W. H. WORKMAN.—We hope to publish an In Memoriam notice of Dr. Workman in the November 1938 number of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

A RELIEF FUND FOR GUIDES OF SWISS NATIONALITY.—In grateful recognition of the kindness and help received from guides during forty years of mountaineering, Sir William Ellis has founded a fund of £4,000 capital sum, from which grants can be made annually, whether in the form of capital or of revenue, to meet such needs as may arise among guides of Swiss nationality and their families. The fund is administered by four Trustees, officials of the Association of British Members of the S.A.C. Sir William Ellis would be grateful if any member of the Alpine Club who might hear of any such necessitous cases would forward particulars, for the consideration of the Trustees, to the President of the Association aforementioned, C. T. Lehmann, Esq., The Ridge, Coleman's Hatch, nr. Tunbridge Wells.

We wish to record our warm appreciation both of the generosity and of the spirit which has prompted this act of our fellow-member.

HERR HANS WÖDL.—We regret to report the death of this distinguished Austrian mountaineer on August 20, 1937, at the age of 74. While he had wide knowledge of the Western and Central Alps, his favourite district was the Schladminger Tauern, where he made many first ascents, also writing a *Climbers' Guide* to the district, and studying it from a scientific as well as from a mountaineering point of view. As an Alpine writer he was widely known in German-speaking regions, and his writings well express his devotion to mountains. In 1894 he became Editor of the *Österreichische Alpenzeitung*, an office which he held for 25 years. There are not many personalities who have won such universal respect and affection from old and young alike as did Hans Wödl, who both in his own writings and in his conduct of the *Ö.A.Z.* upheld the best traditions of his country's mountaineering.

THE ACCIDENT ON THE MATTERHORN, August 6, 1936. In the November 1936 issue of the ALPINE JOURNAL (*A.J.* 48. 366) we published a paragraph reporting an accident on the Matterhorn in which Miss Freda Currant met her death.

In this report we made a reference to Mr. J. E. B. Wright as being with the rope on which Miss Currant was climbing, and further reported that according to a well-known guide this rope, which was struck by a falling stone and broke, was completely rotten.

We have now had an opportunity of reading statements made by the members of the two parties involved in this accident and of inspecting the rope. Miss Currant and Miss Daugherty were not climbing on a rope with Mr. Wright, who was with a second party considerably below at the moment of the accident. The rope used by Miss Currant's party had been examined many times and quite recently prior to the accident, no defect having been noticed. Although it had had considerable use, it was in serviceable condition. When that portion of the rope which was tied to Miss Currant was examined shortly after the accident, it was found that two of the three strands and part of the third had been cut clean through, and that the remainder had parted

under tension. No rope, however new, could have withstood the impact to which this rope was subjected.

We are glad, therefore, to have this opportunity of publishing a correct account of the accident.

Mr. H. W. TILMAN writes: 'In his review of *The Ascent of Nanda Devi*, your reviewer, commenting on the fact that the party eschewed publicity, expresses the hope that "the publicity attained by Mr. Tilman will form the nucleus for many of his future Himalayan expeditions." While thanking your reviewer for his kind wishes, I fear that the words quoted above may lead to some misapprehension. May I point out therefore that the publicity value of our climb was £300, that the cost was roughly £1,600, leaving the substantial "nucleus" of minus £1,300 for future expeditions; and further, that had there been a surplus it would have been divisible amongst all the party.'

MODEL OF MONT BLANC.—This model, the work of Sig. Alessio Nebbia, is to be seen in the photographer's shop at Courmayeur. In size it is 1.45×1.06 m. at the base, and is 0.41 m. in height. The boundaries are the valley of Chamonix to N., Val Veni and Val Ferret to S., Col du Géant—Chamonix Aiguilles to E., Glacier and Col du Miage to W. It is the result of two years' work, in which over 200 photographs have been used.

CHANGES OF NAME.—As from February 5, 1938, the Club Alpino Italiano is now entitled Centro Alpinistico Italiano. The D.u.Ö.A.-V. is now entitled Deutscher Alpenverein, as from March 14, 1938.

MEMORIAL TO SIR HUMPHRY DAVY.—The S.P.D. has put up a plaque in memory of this distinguished scientist on the wall of the old hotel at Wurzen, close to the source of the Save. Readers of Gilbert and Churchill's charming book, *The Dolomite Mountains*, will recall Sir Humphry Davy's devotion to this district of the Julian Alps. See especially pp. 243 and 280.

SOME EARLY BRITISH CLIMBERS.—The following notes on early British climbers have been taken from the *Livres des guides* of the Favret family, now in possession of Paul Payot (son of Venance Payot), of Chamonix, and are submitted through M. Payot's courtesy:

Edouard Favret has acted as my guide on several occasions in the neighbourhood of this place (Chamonix). I have much reason to be satisfied with him, not only on account of his civil and obliging disposition, but also on account of his great strength, of which I have personal experience on an excursion to the Jardin.

[1854]

Jos. Messer, Jr., of London.

Additional testimonials by Messer, the ascents not specified, occur in the book of François Favret under the dates Sept. 5, 1852, and Sept. 10, 1853, thus making it evident that his mountaineering career



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ALPINE CLUB, 74 SOUTH AUDLEY STREET. LECTURE HALL.

[To face p. 144.]



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ALPINE CLUB, 74 SOUTH AUDLEY STREET. READING ROOM.

began at an earlier date than that given by Mumm in *A.C. Register*, i. 218.

François Favret accompanied us in an ascent of Mont Blanc which was attended by circumstances of difficulties and some danger, as much as when above the Petits Mulets, and at the foot of the last peak, a snowstorm rendered further progress impossible and we regained 'The Corridor' with difficulty.

François Favret on this occasion showed much bodily strength, coolness and dexterity, and with our best thanks for his services we are glad to bear testimony to his merit, as an accomplished guide and very obliging man.

Chamouny, 29 August, 1851.

J. Salmond,

Waterfoot, Cumberland.

C. F. Salmond,

Pembroke College, Oxford.

François Favret accompanied me to the summit of Mont Blanc on the 22 July 1853, and on the previous day assisted my wife and daughter to and from the Grands Mulets. He is a most obliging and civil fellow, very attentive to ladies, and his ability as a guide, strength, courage and activity make him in my opinion one of the best guides at Chamouny.

J. Salmond.

Chamouny, 22 July 1853. *P.S.*, François Favret accompanied me on a previous attempt to ascend Mont Blanc when we were driven back from the summit of the Côte by a tremendous storm, and during our somewhat dangerous retreat he displayed courage and activity.

J. S.

J. Salmond is the 'S.' Salmond of Montagnier's list (*A. J.* 30. 136) and was the father of C. F. Salmond, who died at Cawnpore, and of Henry Salmond (1838-95), afterward a member of A.C. (*A.C. Register*, iii. 808). Mrs. Salmond and her daughter were the first English ladies to ascend as far as the Grands Mulets, so considerable interest attaches to this mountaineering family of early date.

François Favret was, of course, Albert Smith's favourite guide, and his portrait which Montagnier had taken at Chamonix in 1905 will be found in *Mont Blanc Sideshow*.

J. M. T.

FIFTY YEARS AGO (from the *Egyptian Gazette*, January 20, 1888).—The ascent of the Great Pyramid without the aid of guides is becoming quite a fashionable amusement with some of our lady visitors. Yesterday two French ladies, one being an artiste at the Khedivial Theatre, ascended the stupendous monument gracefully, quickly and without guides, but during the descent they were forced to call on the aid of the trusty Arabs, as when half-way down they became slightly giddy. Adventures of this sort are interesting, but 'doing' the Pyramids without proper assistance is to be deprecated, for if a slip is made the consequences are almost certain to be fatal.

JUNGFRAU, N.E. ARETE.—Shortly after nightfall, on October 6, 1937, the eastern base of the first big tower above the Jungfrauoch collapsed. The bursting masses slid down on to the Jungfraufrn and threw boulders of the size of a small chalet as far as the plateau in front of the Jungfrauoch hotel.

As a spell of rough weather had veiled the mountain ever since the event, the photograph could only be taken on October 10, when a layer of fresh snow had covered the track of the slide.

At least three minor towers have been swept away and the crest has become rather knife-edged. Being too late in the year there was no possibility of gaining a direct impression how far the altered conditions might have increased the difficulties of ascent. In any case the *descent* from the tower should go worse now, as one used to swing the *rappel* fairly well down through the S. face to reach a series of small ledges, which lead back to the ridge at a point seen as a gap just beyond the tiny peak of the first snow-covered third of the ridge—shown on the photograph.

O. G.

MONT BLANC DISTRICT.—The second ascent of Mont Blanc by the *Via della Pera* (*A. J.* 45. 368–71, with marked illustration) was accomplished by a Swiss party in 1937. Leaving the Fourche de la Brenva hut at 01.00, the Grands Mulets was attained at 19.00. About 150 ft. below the top of the Pera the party had the narrowest possible escape from an ice avalanche.

LES DROITES.—A variation was made of the formidable Lagarde-Arsandaux 1930 route of the N.E. face (*A. J.* 42. 317–19, illustrated). The 1937 party consisted of an amateur led by the Chamonix guide Fernand Tournier.¹ The route lies to the right, S.W., of the 1930 line; it appears to be quite unjustifiable. The rocks were glazed with ice from a thunderstorm which had raged all night, while the composition of the party—the guide only capable of leading—seems also to have been gravely at fault. Leaving the Argentière hut at 03.00 the summit was not attained, progress having continued throughout the night, until 07.00 on the following day. The Couvercle was reached at 16.00. The general angle of the face is given by *Alpinisme* as 58°. The ascent was repeated a few days later by a French guideless party.

According to the same authority, a party of nineteen Italian soldiers made the ascent of Mont Blanc from the Brenva Glacier.

FUORCLA SCERSCEN-BERNINA.²—The first ascent of the N. slope of this—not very convenient—pass was discussed at great length in *A. J.* 43. 319 *sqq.* and 44. 103 *sqq.*, where it was proved beyond any doubt that the first ascent of this slope was accomplished in 1885 by the Williams-Schocher party. In *Alpinismo*, October 1937, p. 239, it is stated that the first ascent was achieved by the Calonder-Honegger party (*A. J.* 48. 360) in 1936. The route taken by this Grisons party led undoubtedly to the lowest depression in the long Scerscen-Bernina arête, whereas Williams (see his marked illustrations, *A. J.* 43., facing 323) attained the next depression to the E. There was nothing

¹ A full account, well illustrated, appears in *Alpinisme*, No. 48, pp. 119–28.

² The *Scerscenscharte* of the S.A.C. *Climbers' Guide* (Kurz).

to prevent Williams doing the same with ease in 1885, had he been desirous of attaining the lowest depression and the Scerscen Glacier, instead of the summit of Piz Bernina.

HIMALAYAN EXPEDITIONS.—A party consisting of Messrs. H. W. Tilman (leader), Peter Lloyd, N. E. Odell, Capt. P. R. Oliver, E. E. Shipton, F. S. Smythe, and Dr. Charles Warren is visiting Tibet with Mount Everest as their objective.

An Austrian party led by Prof. Rudolf Schwarzgruber is visiting Garhwal, with a view to exploring the region of the western sources of the Ganges.

Dr. Paul Bauer is conducting an expedition to Nanga Parbat.

Messrs. R. A. Hodgkin and J. Waller are visiting the Karakoram for an attempt upon Masherbrum.

We express our best wishes for the success of these parties.

PUNTIAGUDO, 2390 m. This peak in S. Chile (see *A. J.* 47. 150) was first ascended on September 8, 1937, by Messrs. Hermann Hess and Rodolfo Roth. The summit was reached at 4 P.M. On the way down a slip occurred, and Roth was killed, Hess remaining out all night unconscious. Numerous search parties went out, but Roth's body was not found.

DISTRESS SIGNAL.—The American A.C. has adopted the following :

All Outdoor Uniform Distress Signal.]

Three quickly repeated calls (audible or visual) repeated at regular intervals.

Conserve your energy ; use a whistle ; flash a light ; disclose a fire or smudge ; wave something, *three* times quickly and repeat it regularly. . . .

Whoever receives such a distress signal should acknowledge it in any practical manner, preferably by *two* calls of similar character, repeated at intervals. (Cf. *A. J.* 17. 152 ; 38. 100-102).

NEW HUTS.—The A.A.C.B. has decided to build a Club hut, containing accommodation for 14 persons, at Schmadribrunnen, 2250 m., to the N. of the Lauterbrunnen Breithorn.—From *Die Alpen*.

A *bivacco fisso* has been erected 700 ft. above the site of the former Piantonetto hut, on the S. slopes of the Tour du Grand St. Pierre, Eastern Graians. The former hut was destroyed by an avalanche. It is named after Gino Carpano Maglioli, who fell on the Cresta Rey, Bessanese, on August 9, 1936.—From *Alpinismo*.

The Temple-Ecrins hut, which was damaged by an avalanche in 1935, was destroyed by an avalanche in January, 1938 (cf. *A. J.* 47. 370).

TEN DAYS ON A MOUNTAIN.—On September 21, 1937, two young fellows, Buzem and Baumgartner, attempted the ascent of the 1300 m. high N. face of the Hochwanner, 2746 m. = 9010 ft. (Wetterstein), from the Reintal. Caught in bad weather, they bivouacked in the face, making but slow progress owing to fresh snow on the following day. They bivouacked again at *ca.* 2350 m. in a cave, but while so doing Buzem slipped in the darkness, falling a full rope's-length. As he had discarded his boots he was obliged to remain standing in snow

all night, getting badly frost-bitten in the process. On September 23 Baumgartner, carrying all the bivouac kit, descended the now snowy face to seek assistance. Buzem, however, struggled up to a little rock recess, where he spent four nights and three days. Finally, on September 27, he attempted to escape upwards by a hazardous climb. After a 3 hrs.' fight, with frozen and unprotected feet, he was beaten and forced to turn back. The weather had improved, but provisions being long ago exhausted, Buzem was obliged to eke out existence on drops of water. He was ignorant that Baumgartner had been killed in the descent, and still hoped for rescue.

On September 27 the *Bergwacht* learnt for the first time that neither of the climbers had returned home. No one knew whither the youths had proceeded on their bicycles, nor what climb they were contemplating. After a prolonged search the tent of the missing ones was discovered in the Reintal, under the N. face of Hochwanner. Much time had thus been lost before, on September 30, the rescue party was able to set foot on the fog-enshrouded face. The first discovery was the finding of Baumgartner's body on a rocky boss. All hands were convinced that help had come too late for his companion, when faint shouts were heard, and Buzem was found at last. After careful feeding and secured with ropes, the latter was able to climb the remaining 400 m. to the summit despite a tenth night in the open.—From *Der Bergsteiger*.

AUGUSTE TAIRRAZ.—We regret to learn of the death in July 1937 of M. Tairraz, well known to many mountaineers of the old school as former manager of the Chalet-Hôtel, La Bérarde, and later of the Planet at Argentière. Commencing life as a guide, he accompanied M. Dunod in the second ascent of the Aiguille de Grépon, 1885. He was aged eighty.

KÖNIGSSPITZE, N.E. face.—This extremely dangerous face was climbed for the third time by the so-called *via direttissima* on September 6, 1937. Under professional lead the face was conquered in 6 hrs. from the Schaubach hut. The two previous ascents in 1930³ and 1935 had required 11 and 12 hrs.' labour respectively by the amateur parties.—From *Der Bergsteiger*.

EIGERWAND.—In the December number of *Der Bergsteiger*, appears an excellently written and illustrated article by Herr Ludwig Vörg on his adventures on the Eigerwand during July and August 1937. It contains an account of the attempts by other parties during the same period, including that by a solitary Munich individual. In the course of Herr Vörg's and his companion's struggles (*A. J.* 49. 284), the corpse of Andreas Hinterstoisser, who perished on the face in 1936 (*A. J.* 48. 369 *sqq.*), was discovered. The Vörg-Rebitsch forlorn-hope constitutes such a remarkable series of escapes that the

³ *A. J.* 43. 177-8.

article is worth perusal, notwithstanding the statement (*loc. cit.*, p. 133): ' . . . in all we spent 112 hours on the wall without receiving an injury of any kind; nevertheless, I do not underestimate in the slightest degree the extraordinary objective dangers of the face and admit that we had luck. We young climbers are conscious that we can only contribute to the exploration of the Alps by solving so-called last problems. If we have the urge to conquer this last and greatest face of the Alps, I will describe it as an inheritance from our Alpine fathers.' The voice of criticism, he suggests, will be silenced in the joy of success, if one day this ascent be accomplished.

The voices of our Alpine fathers are also silenced, from whom this inheritance is claimed. They watch from their graves.

In the same periodical (pp. 170-4) appear some pungent words from the inimitable pen of Dr. Guido Lammer. The first subject is the solitary ascent by an Italian guide of the N. face of Grosse Zinne in $3\frac{3}{4}$ hrs. The second is the account of a tragic event on the *Schleierkante* of the Cima della Madonna (Pala Group), once described as the 'most difficult climb in the world,' now an easy day for a beginner. One of a party of four or five Italians strangles himself with the spare rope, his companions remaining in complete ignorance (cf. *A. J.* 41. 71-5). The third note is an episode on the S. face of the Marmolata, occurring to a totally irresponsible party. But all the tales are worthy of close study.

D.A.V. (STUTTGART SECTION) EXPEDITION TO KILIMANJARO AND RUWENZORI.—It is reported from Kampala that this expedition, led by Herr Eisenmann, has twice ascended Kibo (6010 m.) by the ordinary route, and has made a new route up the S. face. The height of the wall is estimated at 1300 m., the lower 800 m. being ice slopes at an angle of 50° - 55° . Kibo is the W. summit of Kilimanjaro; Mawenzi, the E. summit (5355 m.), was reached five times by the ordinary route, and the traverse of all six peaks was twice accomplished. The party was due to leave Kampala for Ruwenzori. (Information from Committee, D.A.V.)

FROM SAXON SWITZERLAND.—Climbers are requested neither to cut holds in the rock, nor to drive in pegs for safeguarding or descent, except when making a new route. The latter practice is considered justified only for a new route, and even then only in so far as the pegs are not used as artificial aids to success. Each subsequent climber should content himself with such means of security as are available, and any artificial aids driven into the rock by later parties will be removed.—From *Mitteilungen*.

THE OWNERSHIP OF THE RHONE GLACIER.—A recent article in the *Figaro* informs us that the Swiss tribunals have at last settled a curious and difficult question which has been before them for several years.

The rich pastures adjoining the lower part of the Rhône Glacier

had from time immemorial belonged to a community of some fifty mountain peasants. In the course of the nineteenth century the glacier ceased to be a mere source of terror, and became a source of profit. A small inn was built, ice grottos were dug, and money began to flow from the pockets of tourists into those of the peasants.

In 1857 Alexander Seiler made the inn into a comfortable hotel, and in order to ensure its supplies and to avoid competition he gradually bought up the rights of the other members of the community. Josef Seiler continued his father's policy to such good purpose that by the end of the century all the various rights to the number of 215 were his, and he was prudent enough to get irrefutable documentary evidence of this. After the war the tax collector, greedy for any possible source of revenue, claimed the glacier and its grottos. Dr. Hermann Seiler, who had succeeded to the hotel, defended his claims to the glacier, especially as its possession now involved valuable way-leaves and pastures uncovered by the retreat of the ice.

The High Court has finally confirmed his claims and established Dr. Seiler in the unique position of a landowner in a country where the private possession of land is supposed not to exist. (From *Le Figaro*.)

JUNGFRAUJOCH GLACIER RESEARCH PARTY.—Mr. G. Seligman is taking a party of scientists to spend the summer at the Scientific Research Station at the Jungfrauoch in order to undertake research work on glaciers. The party, among whom are two physicists and a crystallographer from Cambridge, will be in residence from May until September. Mr. Seligman's expedition will devote itself to a study of conditions in the heart of the glacier, both above and below the firn line, by means of pits and shafts excavated from the surface or from the bottom of crevasses.

The chief problem to be investigated will be the development of glacier ice from the firn snow. The work forms a continuation of Mr. Seligman's previous researches, in which he traced the development of new snow into firn snow. It is hoped that other problems, particularly those which may have some bearing on the main question, will be investigated, notably the movement of glaciers, the formation of ice bands and the connection, if any, between those in the névé regions and those near the tongue of the glacier. In addition, Mr. T. P. Hughes of the Physical-Chemical Laboratory, Cambridge, will carry out certain experiments on the friction of solid bodies on ice in connection with his own research work on friction at Cambridge. The result of these experiments ought to help in the understanding of the sliding of ski and sledges on snow.

Mr. Seligman has been granted a Leverhulme Research Fellowship for the purpose of this research, and the expedition is also supported by the Royal Geographical Society, the Ski Club of Great Britain, and the Alpine Ski Club, the latter two bodies being particularly interested in the proposed friction research of Mr. Hughes.

THE LATE MR. R. V. M. BARRY.—On January 29, 1938, Richard Barry was killed while attempting an unclimbed peak, the Monk's Cowl, in the Drakensberg Mountains, which lies in the heart of Cathkin Park, Natal. The day before had been spent by Barry and his companion Gebhardt in carrying their equipment to a base camp at its foot. They began the climb at dawn, and by midday were some 500 ft. from the summit. It was misty and raining, and the climbing at this point became severe, so discarding rucksack and boots Barry led upwards for 80 ft. to a stance. Gebhardt followed, and had almost reached Barry when a handhold broke away and he fell. It is not known what happened precisely at that moment, but he pulled Barry off and the two of them fell for 80 ft., striking a ledge, and then rolling for a further 100 ft. down steep slopes until they finally came to rest. Both were cut about and badly bruised, but by a miracle neither of them had sustained a major injury. Barry was unconscious for two hours. The weather had grown worse and darkness was approaching by the time they had recovered sufficiently to descend the final 50 ft. of rocks to safety. Eventually Gebhardt, with great difficulty, climbed down this last section, having understood from Barry's shouting that he had discovered an easier route. After a while Barry's voice was no longer heard, and next morning Gebhardt found his body. He had fallen 400 ft. into a gully.

Barry was born in Johannesburg in 1915, and in 1933 he came to England to study mining at Birmingham University. It was through the University Mountaineering Club that he received his first introduction to British rock climbing in Easter 1934. He seemed to find in mountaineering a real purpose in life and his enthusiasm knew no bounds. By April 1935 he had become not only the leading light in his Club, but one of our foremost cragsmen. By 1936 there was scarcely a rock climb in Britain about which he did not know everything, and there were few important climbs in North Wales and the Lake District which he had not led, including those reputed to be 'exceptionally severe.' He had a unique natural ability and an uncanny balance, and these, coupled with his long reach, light build, unusual staying powers and complete fearlessness, stamped him as a mountaineer of the greatest promise.

He reached the height of his career in 1936, when he joined Michael Taylor and me at Chamonix. For the first fortnight of his holiday we made a number of difficult routes (*A.J.* 48. 343 *sqq.* with illustrations), among which his lead of the Argentièrre face of the Brèche de l'Amône, the Knubel crack on the Grépon and the N.W. face of the Aiguille des Pélerins were notable achievements. When our holiday was finished, he engaged the guide Armand Charlet, and the two of them succeeded in making for the first time the double traverse of Mont Blanc from north to south in three days. They descended by the Innominata buttress to the Gamba hut in $7\frac{1}{4}$ hrs., returning by the Péteret ridge to the summit in 10 hrs. In the following November he took up mining work in South Africa. 'I am working,' he wrote,

'at a depth of over 6000 ft. below surface, with my thoughts more than twice that height above.'

He had accomplished characteristic feats in South Africa, and had already made for himself a great reputation in mountaineering circles there. Barry's death is not only a great personal loss to the many who knew him and climbed with him, but it is a very real loss to the whole mountaineering world for a climber of such great promise to die at the early age of 22.

J. R. J.

We are indebted to the Royal Geographical Society for their courteous permission to reproduce the map given at the end of this number.

EXPEDITIONS IN 1937.—In the March 1938 issue of *Alpinisme* full details are given of expeditions undertaken by the G.H.M. in Dauphiné and the Mont Blanc group.

MICHELE BETTEGA.—We much regret to report the death of this famous San Martino di Castrozza guide at the age of eighty-five. He was perhaps the best-known of all the Trentino veterans; a Tyrolese by birth, his temperament was that of an Italian. His greatest exploit was probably the first ascent of the Marmolata by the S. face with Miss Beatrice Tomasson (Mrs. Mackenzie) on July 1, 1901. He accompanied many British amateurs during the 'eighties and 'nineties, in the days when piton-technique was virtually unknown in the Dolomites. Among those amateurs led by him were Scriven and West, Phillimore and Raynor, Sinigaglia, Wundt, Broome and Strutt. At his best—and that lasted almost to the outbreak of the European war—Bettega was a magnificent climber and a splendidly picturesque figure, gifted with much personal charm.—*R.I.P.*