

IN MEMORIAM

ARTHUR PHILEMON COLEMAN

1852-1939

(This notice is reprinted from the *Canadian Alpine Journal*, by the courtesy of the Editor.)

PROFESSOR COLEMAN died at his home in Toronto on February 26, 1939, in his eighty-seventh year. His mental and to a remarkable extent his physical vitality were preserved to the end. Indeed he had made preparations to leave on February 10 for an expedition to British Guiana.

His birthplace was at La Chute in Lower Canada, where his father was stationed as Wesleyan minister. His youth was spent in a home of refinement. But the heritage of the pioneers was his, and few Canadians have so readily incurred hardships in the pursuit of knowledge. After a period of teaching he entered Victoria University at Cobourg and graduated in 1876. His studies, free from the excessive specialisation of later times, tended to develop broad interests. But his mind definitely turned to the sciences under the influence of a great teacher, Dr. Eugene Haanel. It was largely as a result of his association with Haanel at Victoria that Coleman repaired to Breslau, where he received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1881. He returned to his *Alma Mater* as Professor of Natural History, and continued in this position until Victoria entered into federation with the University of Toronto, when the teaching of the sciences was surrendered to the University. His active teaching at Toronto extended from 1891 to 1922, first in the School of Practical Science, and then as Professor of Geology in the Faculty of Arts, where he was honoured with the deanship in 1919. After 1922, as Professor Emeritus he was free to devote his full time to study and travel and writing. In 1926 he published his great work, *Ice Ages, Recent and Ancient*. He was hard at work on completing another volume on the Pleistocene epoch when his hand was stayed at his desk. In this volume he was gleaning the ripe fruits of investigations in nearly every corner of the globe, including no fewer than five expeditions into the wilds of Mexico, Central and Southern America, undertaken in his eighties. His work, *The Canadian Rockies, New and Old Trails*,¹ although published twenty-eight years ago, still stands as one of the greatest and possibly the most interesting of all the narratives of exploration and climbing in the Canadian mountains. At that time he had been asking their secrets for more than a quarter of a century.

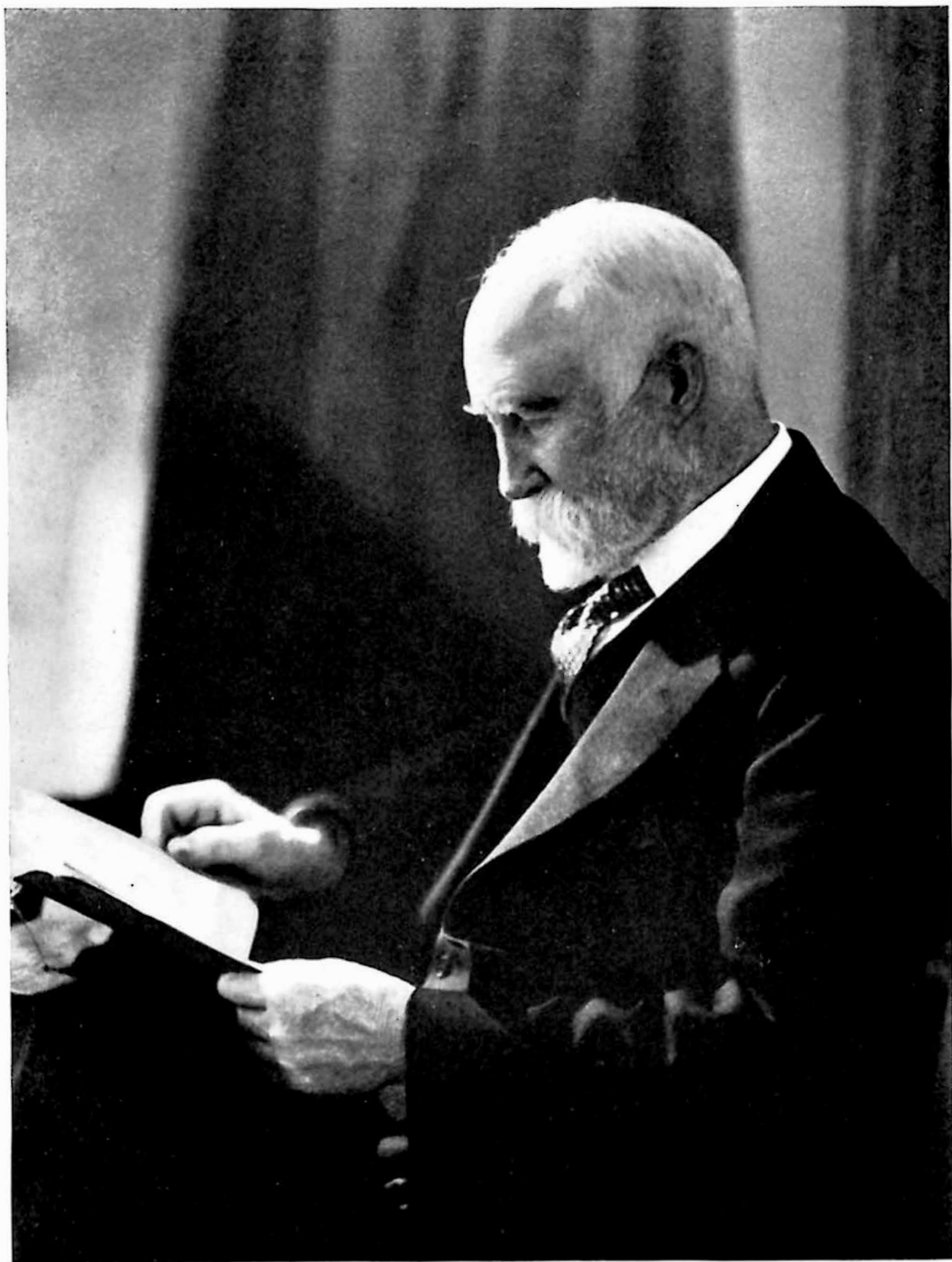
¹ *A.J.* 26. 353.

Indeed it was in 1884 that he quitted the 'Sumit' Hotel at the end of Steel near what is now Lake Louise to ascend his first Canadian peak :

'After years of humdrum city life in the east, the assembly of mountains, lifting their heads serenely among the drifting clouds, gave one a poignant feeling of the difference between man's world and God's. Here was purity and dignity and measureless peace. Here one might think high thoughts. Below in the grim valley, engines puffed, mule-teams strained at their loads, sweaty men delved in the muck, and man's work, looked at from above, did not seem admirable under its mantle of smoke.'

Exploration in these early years before trails were well defined or such topographers as Wheeler and Bridgeland had filled in the finely contoured maps we now enjoy, was a matter involving much uncertainty and privation and at times considerable danger. It was not without reason that the ancients depicted their rivers as bulls, and Dr. Coleman, with his Ontario failing for travel by water, not infrequently found himself playing the part of toreador. Two adventures stand out particularly, in spite of what one feels is a tendency to understatement—the running of the Surprise rapids on the Columbia in an improvised raft, and the swimming of the Athabaska beside his horse. The former incident took place in 1888 when he was in search of those fraudulent 'giants' of the Rockies, Brown and Hooker, which, one seems to remember, actually found their way into the school geographies. He had decided to descend the river by canoe from Beavermouth with a companion who 'had excellent reasons for going. He had never paddled a canoe, nor climbed a mountain, nor shot a grizzly, and earnestly desired to do these things.' Disappointed in the ability of their canoe to ride mountain torrents, and exasperated by the difficulties of portaging without a trail, they resolved at the rapids to wrest progress by a raft constructed of stranded logs, a few spikes and their climbing rope. They were soon in the maelstrom.

'It was nonsense to paddle any more, for our raft was revolving end for end, and then a great billow fell upon us sideways and the raft overturned. There was a moment under water, snatched and tugged at by unseen fingers while I clung to the binding rope, and then I dragged myself upon the upturned bottom of the raft and saw Frank just scrambling up at the opposite end. I remembered that he could not swim and shouted to him to hold on for his life—as if he would not do that in any case! . . . One pitch followed another, the waves half smothering us from time to time. And now, right ahead, was the worst point of all; what the Ottawa raftsmen call a 'cellar,' where the water sinks down in front of a ledge of rock and flings itself back as a towering wave. A strange sensation of sinking into the depths was followed by a deluge of water leaping and trampling upon us, and then the raft struck heavily and was nearly dragged from under us. Was it going to pieces? Next moment we were above water again, half strangled but alive, and we supposed that the packs underneath the raft had struck and been torn from their fastenings. . . . Transport by raft had certainly saved some time, for we had come down at least four miles in fifteen or twenty minutes; but, on the other hand, we had not been able to admire the fine scenery of the canyon on the way, and we had lost everything we possessed except our dripping clothes. Still, there was a certain thrill of pleasure and pride in having done it, though we did not want to repeat the exploit. Presently as we stood there, I on the raft and Frank perched on the stump, a disagreeable feeling came over us that, without blankets,



A. P. COLEMAN.

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rifle, frying-pan or axe, life would be shorn of its comforts ; however, our rashness deserved a fine, for we had foreseen the danger to some extent before starting. The romance of the situation had vanished and we began to think of scrambling up the steep bank when Frank caught sight of something black swaying in the water under the raft. There were the packs still enclosed in the waterproof, barely held at one end by the strap. We blessed the honest leather of that ancient shawl-strap and no longer felt like shipwrecked mariners on a desert island.'

His final attempt to conquer Robson ² in 1908 falls within the era of the Canadian Alpine Club, which encouraged his undertaking another expedition. His companions were his brother, the Rev. George Kinney, Yates the packer, Yates' dog Hoodoo (who lives for ever in the charming description of p. 298) and the lordly Adolphus Moberly and his retinue. The expedition started too late, and the cavalcade, especially with the Moberlys added, became too elaborate to make for success. But it was a glorious venture. Much was added to the knowledge of Robson and its satellites. The climbers finally secured a fine day and reached an altitude of about 11,000 ft., following the treacherous glacier and the ice slopes above Berg Lake. Again in 1913, with the Club, Dr. Coleman visited the scene. Many will remember the charm of his presence about the camp fire and of his profound address in the simplest of language to one of the evening gatherings. A few years later his influence was largely responsible for blocking an attempt—arising from a mistaken idea of patriotism—to rob the mountain of the name it had so long held, received possibly from Ebenezer Robson, the pioneer Methodist missionary on the Fraser during the gold rush of the 'fifties.

A charter member of the Alpine Club of Canada, Dr. Coleman held in turn the offices of Chairman of the Toronto section, Eastern Vice-President, President and Honorary President. Whenever possible he attended the annual camps. When he was not painting or exploring he took his place in climbing parties. One of these the writer remembers with particular pleasure—the second ascent of Mt. Ball from the Storm mountain camp. A bivouac was necessary on the way in. Here Dr. Coleman's camping lore and charming conversation added greatly to the pleasure of our camp-fire near timber line, and particularly contributed to the comfort of the two young women who had been included in our party of eight and who were a little concerned at the novel experience. The following day, although in his sixtieth year, he performed the exacting climb and long journey back to camp with ease and evident relish.

As a mountaineer in the acrobatic sense he never aspired to fame. Nor could he permit his interest in the mountains to narrow to the mere matter of conquering new peaks. The failure on Robson was a disappointment, but not a grief ; as we now know, it is not a mountain to be attempted by the amateur, unless under the rarest of conditions and from a high base. But for half a century it was Dr. Coleman's delight, whenever he could leave his work behind, to recover again

² *A.J.* 25. 294.

and again the inspiration of that first climb above the Bow river. Amid the scenes he loved so well, the massif which bears his name—above the lovely lake which bears the name of the most perverse of his pack-train—will stand for ever as a monument to one who knew the mountains, their origin and history, and loved them too for the beauty he found in glade and alpland and pinnacle.

C. B. SISSONS.

FILIPPO DE FILIPPI

1869-1938

To do adequate justice to the memory of one so great in his life's work as Filippo De Filippi would call for collaboration between those best qualified to judge of his achievements in different fields and for a synthesis of their appreciations by a pen more gifted than mine. Yet when the Editor of the *ALPINE JOURNAL* invited me to write a tribute to my friend I felt bound to accept this, for, however imperfect the tribute might be, it would serve as a token of my deep gratitude for the close friendship into which common interests, geographical and other, had drawn us.

My own share in these common interests was mainly due to the fact that in the course of my Indian career I had gained some personal acquaintance with parts of that high mountain region between India and Central Asia which has formed the scene of De Filippi's greatest achievements as a scientific explorer. It was love of the high mountains, an inheritance from Savoy, no doubt, and fostered by an Alpine environment in his youth, which led him in the end to seek on the mighty Karakoram range the chief field for his geographical labours. It was there that his manifold attainments in scientific research, the experience he had gained in connection with the Duke of the Abruzzi's successful mountaineering expeditions and his exceptional powers of organization combined to secure the amplest results.

My admiration for them was increased by personal knowledge of the difficulties of nature over which his enterprise in that great mountain region had triumphed. The rare width of his outlook had caused him to turn his close attention also to the small secluded communities sheltering in its valleys. Their culture and religion have their links with Kashmir, with which antiquarian and historical labours have familiarised me for many years. Such were the foundations of a friendship the boon of which I was granted to enjoy for twenty-eight years.

Delightful memories I retain of the visits necessarily brief I was able to pay to De Filippi's charming and ever hospitable home at Settignano above Florence. Vivid, incisive and always stimulating as his talk was, it was not easy to make it turn away from interesting subjects of present work or future plans to his personal past. Fortunately, from the time when De Filippi in 1897 joined the Duke of the Abruzzi on the expedition which first conquered Mount St. Elias in

Alaska, the narratives he prepared with a singularly happy eye and hand of this and the succeeding great mountaineering enterprises of that illustrious explorer, allow us to gather clear indications of his own activities and manifold gifts.

On all those remarkable expeditions the Duke of the Abruzzi had shown singular skill in the choice of companions. No choice of his could have been more fortunate than when he invited the young assistant professor of surgery, already a mountaineer of repute, to accompany him for an ascent of Mount St. Elias. Studiously repressed as all references to his own personal feelings are in De Filippi's narratives of the Duke's expeditions, they reflect throughout a devoted attachment to his leader: feelings which found their due response in the latter's lasting friendship. In view of De Filippi's later persevering preference for Himalayan exploration it is of interest to note that the Duke's original plan had been directed towards Nanga Parbat.

The Mount St. Elias expedition was avowedly planned exclusively for mountaineering. Yet the excellently written and illustrated account of it³ shows on many a page how generously its author understood that in remote and imperfectly explored regions mountain work ought to be supplemented by wide and varied knowledge. Special attention is called to the interest presented by the coast ranges of Alaska as reproducing the conditions that prevailed in the Alps during the ice age. Here as in all other expedition records from De Filippi's hand a detailed account is given of preceding explorations, doing credit to his keen sense of historical justice. By the side of many shrewd scientific observations we find delicate pictures of light and colour effects painted as it were by the hand of an artist. The accurate details recorded of equipment, provisions, etc., together with the careful medical notes attest that this record was prepared with a view to guidance of future enterprises. It goes without saying that the author then still in his twenties paid generous tribute to all who helped their young leader to achieve this triumph.

By the time the English translation of the narrative of the Mount St. Elias expedition appeared De Filippi had left his chair of operative surgery at the University of Bologna for research work in chemical biology at the Pathological Institute of the University in Rome. Soon after followed his marriage with that highly gifted lady, Miss Caroline Fitzgerald, a friend of Browning and herself a writer of English poetry of rare merit. For ten years he enjoyed the happiness of a perfect union until her untimely end after prolonged illness. It was during the early years of this period that in the company of his wife De Filippi gained his first acquaintance with Central Asia on a long journey which took them through the Caucasus to Russian Turkestan. Many fine specimens of Bukhara embroidery brought back from this journey adorned later his villa at Settignano together with other products of traditional Eastern craftsmanship, cherished souvenirs of happy travel.

In 1908 there was published De Filippi's account of the expedition

³ *A.J.* 19, 116 *sqq.*

conducted by the Duke of the Abruzzi in 1906 to Ruwenzori. The Duke's enterprise had resulted in the ascent of all the high peaks and an exhaustive survey of the whole remarkable range. De Filippi had not shared this great exploit but was wisely entrusted with preparing its record from the diaries and notes of the members of the expedition, several of whom, including Cavaliere Sella, had been his companions on Mount St. Elias.⁴ Nothing could have proved better De Filippi's rare powers as a writer and scientific observer than the delightfully lucid and readable narrative he produced from these materials. Assisted by Signor Sella's beautiful photographs he visualised all details of that strange tropical mountain scenery, including the fantastic vegetation of the valleys. His notes on the different tribal types of the natives who served the expedition as porters attest both his humane interest in backward races and his familiarity with anthropological research. Incidentally full justice is paid to what British colonial administration has achieved for the welfare and progress of the native tribes in the wide territory of Uganda.

Next year he joined the Duke of the Abruzzi's great enterprise in the Karakoram range. In the full and splendidly documented record⁵ De Filippi has left us of this expedition, the greatest of those initiated and led by his royal friend, the references to his own activities are very restrained. But there is enough to show that in all the exacting arrangements needed for approach to the scene of operations as well as in the work there he was the Duke's right-hand man. His exceptional powers of rapid and yet true observation and the thorough care taken by him in checking and recording them reveal themselves most clearly by the full description which in chapters II-IX he devotes to the journey through Kashmir, the Indus valley and Baltistan. It is ground with much of which prolonged labours, antiquarian and topographical, in Kashmir have familiarised me. I could not read now those chapters without being impressed by the accuracy of De Filippi's descriptions of the great valleys traversed, by the lucid analysis of their geographical features and the careful attention paid to the anthropology, the character and the historical past of their populations.

It was while preparing for publication this account of the Duke of the Abruzzi's expedition that De Filippi conceived the idea of the great scientific expedition which in 1913-14 he led from Kashmir through Baltistan and Ladak to the high and inhospitable mountain region where the Karakoram and the K'un-lun meet. No single trans-continental expedition, I believe, has ever been carried out with so wide a range of scientific research into varied aspects of the physical and human geography of a region presenting equally great difficulties of nature. The complete success of this expedition is proof of the thoroughness with which its plans were laid. They were completed by the end of the summer of 1912, the very year when De Filippi lost his wife, his most cherished comrade, after a lingering illness. He never got over this blow. Yet with undaunted courage he achieved

⁴ *A. J.* 23. 242, 310. *G. J.* February, 1907.

⁵ *A. J.* 25. 107.



Photo, V. Sella.]

FILIPPO DE FILIPPI.
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all the elaborate preparations and arrangements needed and within a year was able to start.

The experience gained on the expedition of 1909 had impressed De Filippi with the variety of much-discussed geo-physical problems for the solution of which systematic observations in the high mountain barrier separating the upper valley of the Indus from Central Asia were bound to yield very important aid. Previous travel records indicated that at the eastern end of the Karakoram with its unknown glaciers there was left for exploration a field of exceptional interest. For the collection of exact data the help of a considerable staff of highly trained experts was indispensable. The enlightened support of the Italian Government enabled De Filippi to secure the assistance for these varied tasks of eight distinguished scientists, drawn almost wholly from Universities and other public institutions. The Indian Government lent him the services of four experts for topographical exploration.

It is impossible to read the remarkably clear and abundantly documented and illustrated record De Filippi has given us of this great expedition⁶ without being filled with admiration for the consummate forethought, energy and skill with which it was prepared and carried through to complete success. Considering the comparatively large number of Europeans to be cared for, the very varied climatic conditions to be encountered in the several seasons of a campaign planned to last a year and a half, and the total absence of local resources on high mountain wastes where exacting scientific work called for prolonged effort under abnormal living conditions, the provision and transport of food supplies and equipment alone presented a serious problem. Not without reason De Filippi used with joking modesty to talk of his having played the part of chief 'karawan-bashi' (caravan leader) on his own expedition.

The autumn and winter of 1913-14 was devoted in Baltistan and Ladak to scientific tasks. It implied the constant detachment of separate parties to different areas specially selected. To De Filippi fell the task of choosing the best suited localities with due regard to the rigorous climatic conditions prevailing in the high valleys during those seasons. His task was not lightened by the need of providing adequate opportunities also for careful study of the anthropology, social conditions, etc., of the various interesting communities, Balti, Dard and Tibetan, scattered in those valleys.

I have never ceased to wonder how, with so many absorbing responsibilities, he found time to devote such close study to those communities greatly differing in racial type, to their economic conditions of life and to their history as the chapters dealing with the first portion of the expedition's work indicate. The special attraction presented to him by these subjects is brought out by the mass of carefully gathered observations bearing on the racial characteristics, customs, traditions and culture of the populations in Baltistan and Ladak. The critical analysis

⁶ *A.J.* 27. 453.

made of the relations, past and present, linking these mountain territories with Kashmir, Tibet and the Tarim basin, together with the valuable materials which Professor Dainelli, his chief geographical collaborator, supplied, makes this portion of the general record of the expedition's results an important source of information also for the Orientalist student.

In Ladak De Filippi was specially fascinated by the manifold aspects of Tibetan religion, cult and art, as reflected by the Buddhist monasteries, shrines, religious monuments, etc., abundant out of all proportion to the small population and its very scanty economic resources. From this originated the most scholarly labours which he bestowed in later years upon the important and long-neglected account of his countryman, P. Ippolito Desideri, S.J., as detailed further on.

By the middle of May 1914 the whole expedition, now reinforced by the party from the Survey of India, set out from Leh for the most prominent and most arduous part of its exploratory programme. It needed all the proved organizing capacity of De Filippi to assemble at the right time on high ground whatever was needed in the way of personnel, supplies and transport for the extensive explorations of fully three months. The base for them was established on the Depsang plateau at an elevation of 13,600 ft. to the south of the Karakoram Pass. From there the plateau and the great cluster of high mountains, rising to peaks of more than 24,000 ft., were to be surveyed and studied in all their physical features. They are as bare of resources for man and beast as any arctic region. The accomplishment of this great task will for ever remain an outstanding example of what careful planning and supreme ability on the part of the leader combined with devoted co-operation on the part of all helpers can achieve in a scientific enterprise.

The results secured were as abundant and important as the great explorer could have foreseen. The explorations definitely determined the sources of the Yarkand and Shayok rivers, draining into the Indus and Tarim respectively. Though these rivers belong to widely separated drainage areas, yet their principal sources proved to be fed by branches of the same huge Rimu Glacier. The expedition located for the first time the head of the Yarkand river's chief tributary in the Shaksgam valley and led to other notable discoveries. De Filippi in his record is studiously careful to give fullest credit to the efforts of all his coadjutors, Italian, British and Indian as well as to the perseverance of his Balti and Ladaki coolies. Yet it is clear that the pioneering work on the vast glaciers of the Rimu fell to his personal share, effectively aided as he was in it by Petigax, his veteran Alpine guide from Courmayeur.

It was fortunate that when the first news of the outbreak of the 1914 war reached the expedition just reunited on the Depsang after many weeks of separate work, the explorations on that high ground were completed. Five of the Italian members of the expedition felt then

obliged to return, but De Filippi with his two remaining compatriots and the Indian Survey party was able to carry through his programme of exploration along the valley of the Yarkand river and right down to the plains of Chinese Turkestan. From Kashgar where the last gravimetrical and geodetic observations were made, De Filippi with his Italian and English colleagues made his way homewards through Russian territories. He was able to bring all records and other necessary materials safely back to Italy. That ultimately all the numerous and delicate scientific instruments he had to leave behind at Tashkend were returned to him in 1925 in perfect condition by the Soviet authorities was subsequently a source of special gratification to him.

The scientific results brought back from this memorable expedition were as great in their extent and importance as it was in its scope and successful execution. But the war into which Italy entered some months after De Filippi's return and even more its economic consequences were bound to raise serious difficulties about their complete elaboration and record. To organize this on a scale equal to their value and to secure the financial means for the publication of all the large and expensive volumes needed caused him for years serious pre-occupation. He keenly felt it as a personal responsibility that his coadjutors should have the satisfaction of seeing the results of their labours duly recognised.

His efforts in the end achieved this aim but not until he had been able to secure the requisite help of the Italian Government through a personal appeal to Signor Mussolini. The sixteen large quarto volumes comprising the *Relazioni Scientifiche*, a large portion of them dealing with the rich geographical and geological harvest reaped by that eminent fellow traveller, Professor Dainelli, present a monumental record of the results of the enterprise. Its completion helped to brighten the last years of the expedition's great leader. Long before this his achievements had received richly merited official recognition on the British side by his being created in 1916 a Knight Commander of the Indian Empire. In 1931 he was awarded the Premio d'Italia for Science, this being the first year of its award. Another exceptional distinction was that he belonged as a full member both to the Vatican Academy and the Royal Italian Academy. When he was made an Honorary Member of the Alpine Club to which he had belonged for many years, he felt duly gratified.

The first years of Italian participation in the war saw him as Lieutenant-Colonel in the Italian Army, charged with supervising medical organization. Then, towards the close of 1917, he was sent to England to direct there the Italian Information and Propaganda Service. It was a duty for which manifold personal links with England singularly fitted him.

The armistice had scarcely brought some easement in his heavy task when he suffered a grievous blow by the death of a much-beloved younger brother, an officer in the Italian navy. It occurred under tragic circumstances. He had just passed unscathed through the risks run

during the war when the cruiser he commanded was sunk by a mine off the Dalmatian coast, and he himself drowned after he had, in the sea, self-sacrificingly passed his lifebelt to a sailor unable to swim. To his widowed sister-in-law and her two young daughters De Filippi offered a very delightful home when he moved soon after from the turmoil and noise of Rome with his fine library and his collections of Eastern arts and crafts to La Capponcina, a beautifully situated old villa at Settignano above Florence. The charming hospitality he used to offer there to friends from England and elsewhere, will always remain a cherished memory of those who were privileged to enjoy it.

The strenuous labours entailed after the war by the record of his last and greatest achievement and the publication of its scientific results could not prevent De Filippi's indefatigable energy from projecting fresh enterprises, in fields as diverse as Tibet and Central Arabia. But when the practical obstacles to those plans proved insurmountable, his keen historical sense turned to a critical study of the first comprehensive and in many respects remarkably accurate description of Tibet. It is contained in the record left by the Jesuit Father Ippolito Desideri of Pistoia of his missionary travels in Tibet (1712-29). In all his publications De Filippi had bestowed a diligent, one might almost say loving care, upon previous travellers' notices of the regions he explored. Desideri's record, strangely forgotten for a century and a half and very imperfectly studied after its discovery, was bound to claim exceptional interest on De Filippi's part after the fascinating impressions he had gained in Ladak of Tibetan culture and life. By 1924 he had prepared a complete English edition of Desideri's text, previously known only from extracts, together with copious notes, when an important publication of Father Wessels on *Early Jesuit Missions in Central Asia* revealed the existence of two other manuscripts of Desideri's text. It is characteristic of De Filippi's thoroughness as a critical scholar that he at once postponed his edition until he had carried out a painstaking collation of the text with these additional sources. The edition as finally published⁷ in 1931 with its full and very valuable commentary constitutes a contribution of the first rank towards the serious study of the traditional culture, religion and social structure of Tibet. The exhaustive bibliography appended to it would alone suffice to make the work indispensable to all students of Tibet and its Buddhist civilization.

But it was not in connection with Desideri and Tibet alone that the great explorer's wide interest in historical geography manifested itself. He afforded much helpful encouragement to his friend Professor Luigi Foscolo Benedetto in his monumental publication of the manuscript records of Marco Polo's immortal work. It led De Filippi in 1932 to draw up a carefully reasoned proposal for a critical edition of Ramusio's great *Raccolta di Navigazioni e Viaggi* first published by the Venetian statesman in 1550-59. It was planned to make the records

⁷ *An Account of Tibet. The Travels of Ippolito Desideri of Pistoia, S.J. 1712-29.* G. Routledge & Sons, London. 2nd revised edition, 1937.

of those many early Italian travellers to whom our knowledge of the world in the Middle Ages owes so much, fully accessible for research and the cultured reader. The object to be aimed at was the same as had been achieved for the story of English exploration by a succession of new editions of Hakluyt's famous *Navigations* and of Purchas' *Hakluyt Posthumus*. It is certain that De Filippi would have been the ideal director of an Italian counterpart of England's Hakluyt Society.

But even if the plan had been taken up as it deserved to be, it would not have been given to him to work for its realisation beyond the initial stages. Already by 1934 symptoms of a dire ailment had imposed upon him sad restriction of his cherished activities. His medical knowledge deprived him of such support as hope for recovery might have given. But he bore up against it with the stoic heroism of his character. Unable to fall in with a life without work he was yet prepared to take such care as might prolong it for the sake of others. Fortunately, while nature had endowed him with much bodily strength notwithstanding his very small stature, he seemed at no time of his life to feel the need of physical exercise. So the splendid view towards Monte Rosa from his cherished summer retreat at Gressoney St. Jean could still be enjoyed by him even when closer approach to the mountains or even mere walks along their foot had become barred to him.

De Filippi's strong sense of personality would always claim full freedom for his realistic outlook on life. Yet with his realism there was ever combined deep sympathy for humanity and much tolerance wherever he knew others to be free from sham, cant or self-seeking. Judging the affairs of our distracted world with the critical mind of the true historical student, he was not swayed by the mental currents of the day. He thus retained close ties with all those who had been fortunate enough to attain to his friendship even when fatality of political events or other developments had caused separation. Amidst all his labours he proved always a faithful and stimulating correspondent.

His interest in the doings and aims of his large circle of friends was not affected by the smarting sense of his own enforced inactivity during the closing years of his life. All the more they must feel the gap which his death has left in their own lives. A kindly fate allowed him to depart without acute suffering and almost suddenly. After a summer spent at his chalet in the Val d'Aosta and thus brightened by a full view of Alpine glory a leisurely journey home allowed him to feast his eyes for days on all the colours of hill, lake and sky from a height above Lago Maggiore. On September 23, 1938, he passed away in the peace of his home then bathed in the sunshine of a Florentine autumn. His life has ended far too soon for all who knew and loved him. But his life's great work was done, and its achievements will endure as long as men will study the problems of our earth and be drawn to the heights of its mountains.

AUREL STEIN.

ARTHUR OCTAVIUS PRICKARD

1843-1939

HAPPILY the Alpine Club has had many classical scholars among its members, but few have attained the age of 96, at which Arthur Octavius Prickard died on May 4, 1939. He had climbed with Melchior Anderegg, whose phrase 'muss probieren' he would quote, and was familiar, I think, with many climbs in Switzerland, which gave him an interest in all mountain adventures in Europe and Asia. Of his Swiss achievements I cannot speak, but I know that he never failed in his love of North Wales, where the Snowdon region and old Festiniog with its view of Moelwyn were very near his heart. His Latin verses addressed 'Ad vallem amabilem Ysendrymam' began:

'Hic bene erit! mentiris nomine, Vallis,
Non *festinanti* te reor esse locum,'

and a reference to Pen y Gwryd and other familiar names would always awake an echo.

Born on April 17, 1843, the fourth son of Thomas Prickard of Dderw in Radnorshire, he lived among the hills in early days and never lost the feeling of them in his blood, though his last years were spent in the flat country of Hampshire, his limbs crippled with arthritis. He was a Wykehamist of the transition period, in New Commoners before houses were started at Winchester, in a society which he himself has described in the Winchester Memorial volume of 1893. He went as a scholar to New College, Oxford, in 1862, and among his contemporaries in the College in those early days were W. A. Spooner, afterwards Warden, and W. J. Courthope, Professor of Poetry, 1895-1900. With his friend John Wordsworth, nephew of the poet and afterwards Bishop of Salisbury, he got a First Class in Honour Moderations and a Second in Greats, to which he added honours in Mathematics and the University prizes for English Essay and Latin Essay. In 1866 he became a Lecturer and then a Tutor of New College, and served as Lecturer till 1904, when he retired to Fleet. His Fellowship was renewed from 1911 to 1925, and he was elected to an Honorary Fellowship in 1933. He is remembered by those of his pupils who survive him for his 'delicate scholarship and gentle ways,' to use the words of a loyal pupil of the 'eighties. When he married Miss Frances Money in 1876, they lived for a while in the red house in New College Lane, close to Halley's Observatory, but soon, for his wife's health, moved to Horspath, four miles or more to the east of Oxford. In those days few dons lived so far out of Oxford, and it seemed an adventure to walk out on Sunday over Shotover or through the fields past Brasenose Wood to his pleasant home near the church and return for Evening Chapel or Hall. Once a year, in May, the walk was taken in old age by a senior company from the Alpine Club, who came up for a joint dinner with the Oxford Alpine Club in New



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1843-1939.

College Hall, arranged by Hereford George, when Charles Mathews of Birmingham, Prof. George Ramsay, Prof. Bonney and others from time to time were of the party, and the Sunday walk was part of the *festa*.

Prickard's share in the teaching of his College was something distinctive. A fine scholar and a loyal Wykehamist, he lived always in an ampler air, the most human of dons, who spent his powers on all pupils with equal zest, without condescension or pedantry, conveying somehow by his voice and manner the spirit of the writers that meant so much to him. A fine figure of a man, with lively dark eyes and an open-air aspect of joy of life, he thought nothing of walking over Shotover for a 'Tutors' meeting at 8.15 A.M., and was always the best of companions to his colleagues, who loved him for his devotion to the quest of knowledge and for the charm of his character. In early days he had enjoyed the tuition of Edward Wickham, afterwards Head Master of Wellington and Dean of Lincoln, and shared his love of Horace, and chose chiefly to lecture on Horace or Greek Tragedy and Aristotle's *Poetics*. In College his personal teaching achieved more than his lectures, which suffered from a shy delivery. His published work began with editions of the *Persae* and *Prometheus Vincit*, but more characteristic were his volume on the *Poetics* and his editions of the text of Longinus *On the Sublime* and his translation of this work and of some essays of Plutarch, both published by the Oxford Press. These were the work of his later years, through which he kept up his lively interest in the Classics and in the two Colleges in Winchester and Oxford. Even when failing sight, added to acute arthritis, made life very difficult, the kindness of an Oxford neighbour, who read Greek and Latin to him, kept up his contact with his favourite authors. The last event that roused his interest was the news that New College had six Firsts in the latest Mods. list. He had himself served as Moderator in the 'seventies and had taken part in University and College Scholarship awards; here and in the award of distinctions in the Higher Certificate examinations of old days his colleagues noticed how he combined a sure judgment with a genial pleasure in the work before him. Latin and Greek for him were always living languages.

In spite of sorrows and trials that might have embittered a less heroic spirit he always faced life bravely and never let his troubles distract his joy in the best things. He did loyal service on the Court of the Governors of University College, Aberystwyth, and as Fellow of Winchester College until his age and arthritis made travelling a burden. He was then content to dwell among his books and possess his soul in peace, but as long as he could hold a pen he maintained with undefeated spirit, through his letters, his affection for old friends and his devotion to the studies that had been the joy of his life.

P. E. MATHESON.



*Photo, Ateliers der Vereinigten Schweizer
Karten-Centralen.]*

E. G. OLIVER.

1880-1938.

[To face p. 306.]

EDMUND GIFFORD OLIVER

1881-1939

EDMUND GIFFORD OLIVER was educated at Marlborough and at King's College, Cambridge, after which he practised as a solicitor in London.

The writer's acquaintance with him began at Zermatt in 1908 or 1909, to speak from memory, and in the year 1911 we had a most successful season together. We also joined forces in 1912, but the weather in that year was unfavourable, so that we did not accomplish very much.

The greater part of Oliver's mountaineering was done with S. L. Courtauld, and they had some very fine expeditions to their credit. Oliver was a pleasant companion on a mountain, and one whose keenness and enthusiasm were beyond praise.

Almost all his expeditions were made with guides, among whom were Kaspar Maurer, Adolf Aufdenblatten, Adolphe and Henri Rey. He visited the majority of Alpine groups from the Dauphiné to Oetzal and Adamello, though his main activities were in the Mt. Blanc, Oberland and Zermatt districts. His most notable expeditions include the first ascent of the S. face of Mt. Blanc in 1919 (*A. J.* 33. 129), the passage of the Col du Lion (described by him in *A. J.* 36. 372-5), Nordend from Macugnaga (*A. J.* 25. 751), Mt. Blanc via Aiguille de Bionnassay, and Col du Mont Dolent.

J. E. C. EATON.

CHARLES HERBERT BROOK

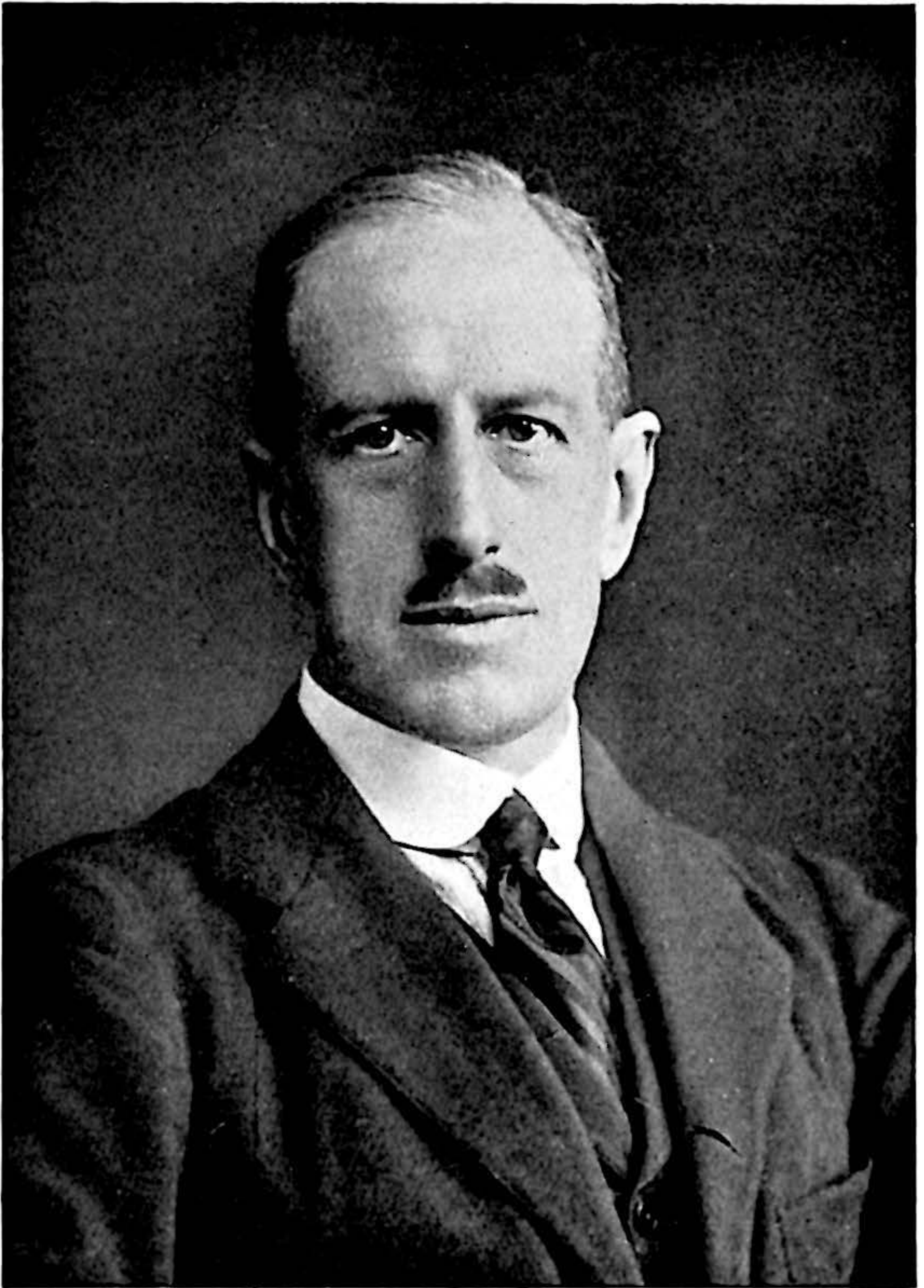
1871-1939

CHARLES HERBERT BROOK was elected a member of the Club in 1910. Born in 1871 at Stockton Heath, Cheshire, he came of an old Yorkshire family, and was educated at Woodcote House, Reading, and at Rugby. His father was a solicitor, and Brook took up the same career, being articled to a firm in Liverpool.

He came up to London in 1896, and was employed by a firm in Berners Street as Managing Clerk till 1919, when he entered the Trustee Department of the National Provincial Bank as Assistant Manager of the Department. He retired at the beginning of 1939, being then very ill, as his health had been failing for some time past. He died on June 2, 1939.

For the last year or two of the 1914 war he joined the Inns of Court O.T.C., and trained at Cambridge.

Brook began climbing in 1905, and spent two summers at Arolla, where he made the principal ascents, including the Aiguille de la Tsa, Dent Perroc, Dents de Veisivi and L'Évêque, also climbing the Grand Combin. He climbed at various centres in the Alps up to 1911, his principal ascents being the Fletschhorn, Laquinhorn, Südlenspitze and Nadelhorn at Saas; the traverse of the Zinal Rothorn, Zermatt to



C. H. BROOK.
1871-1939.

Zinal ; the central peak of the Dents des Bouquetins, Dent Blanche and Mont Blanc de Seillon ; Aiguille d'Argentière, Aiguille Verte, Täschhorn traverse, Weisshorn, Grande Fourche, Grandes Jorasses, Bietschhorn, Dent d'Hérens, and the Grivola from Cogne. In 1910 he traversed the Bernese Oberland from the Rhône valley to the Susten Pass at Stein, crossing the Diablerets, Wildhorn, Wildstrubel, Tschingelhorn, Ebnefluh, Finsteraarhorn, and then over the Obertriftlimmi and Zwischen Thierbergen Passes to Stein, where he climbed some of the minor peaks.⁸ In most of his climbs in Switzerland he was accompanied by Joseph and Antoine Georges of Evolena.

He then turned his attention to the Dauphiné, which became his favourite centre, as described in his paper in *A.J.* 36. 79-83, and which he visited in 1912 and 1913, and again from 1920 to 1924, except for a short visit to Chamonix, where he did the Grands Charmoz and Mont Blanc. His principal ascents in the Dauphiné were : Grande Ruine, Le Plaret, Pelvoux, Pic Coolidge, and S. Aiguille d'Arves, besides Les Bans and the traverse of the Ecrins and Meije from S. to N. ; Pic d'Olan, Sirac, Ailefroide, Râteau from the Brèche de la Meije, Les Agneaux, and Pic Sans Nom. His guide in the Dauphiné was generally Christophe Turc the younger, to whom he was much attached, and with whom he frequently lodged. He gave up climbing after 1924, on the plea of age, and spent his vacations travelling abroad each year in Austria, Italy and Switzerland.

Brook had a strong, independent character, formed his own opinions and stuck to them. He was conscientious, and his standards were high ; a first-rate lawyer and sound in judgment. He always showed himself thoughtful for poor and needy mountaineers, and took an interest in the life of the villages wherever he was climbing ; he leaves a strong remembrance behind him in the Dauphiné valleys. He was a lover of flowers, and also much interested in Egyptology and in art generally, and made a habit of visiting the various picture exhibitions in London.

Our friendship with him covered the last thirty years of his life, and in several seasons we joined forces with him on some expeditions, when he showed himself a steady climber on both rock and snow. He was a firm friend and a good companion.

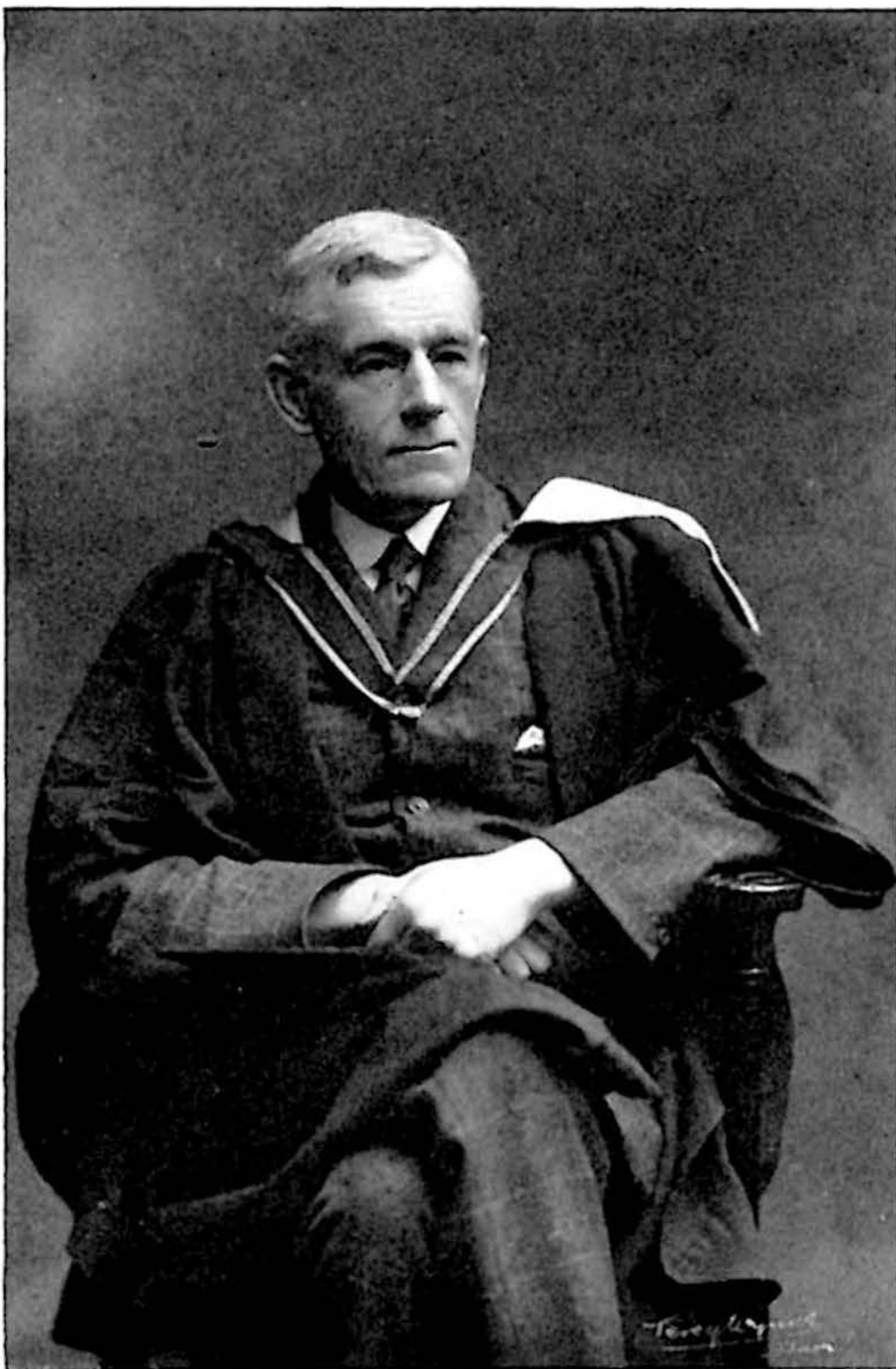
W. H. GOVER.
J. W. WYATT.

ARTHUR ERNEST BARKER

1871-1939

ARTHUR ERNEST BARKER, who became a member of the Club in 1918, was educated at Owens College, Manchester, and subsequently at University College, London, where he took his B.A. in 1899 and B.Sc. in 1905. After holding some assistant masterships he became senior

⁸ *A.J.* 25. 382 *sqq.*



Photo, Percy Wynne, Birmingham.]

A. E. BARKER.

1871-1939.

Science and Mathematical Master at the Royal Grammar School, Colchester, in 1907. In 1916 he was appointed Head Master of King Edward's Grammar School, Five Ways, Birmingham, an appointment which he held until his retirement in 1933.

He was a man of tireless energy both mental and physical. Among his many interests and activities he was a keen churchman and church worker; a Fellow of the Chemical Society, and much interested in the study of astronomy; a first-rate soccer full back in his younger days, a good cricketer right on until his retirement, a fine shot (he once represented Herefordshire at Bisley) and an enthusiastic botanist and photographer. It is not difficult to imagine how helpful so many-sided a man could be to his pupils. But the greatest of all his enthusiasms was for mountains and mountaineering.

I first met Barker at Wasdale Head in 1916, when I was staying there alone trying to recover from a breakdown, and of course with no thought or hope of climbing. He immensely aided my endeavours by tacking me on to his party; and I remember, in the first few days of our acquaintance, an ascent of Moss Ghyll which seemed at the time to be for me a kill or cure enterprise with a preponderating emphasis on the former alternative. But it was a case of *le premier pas qui coûte*, and it was the latter alternative that was achieved more quickly than it could have been in any other way. I mention this because it is typical of A. E. Barker.

He was more prone to look for companions among people whom he could help to new and finer experiences than to seek more expert associates for participation in whose expeditions his mountaineering capabilities would fully have fitted him.

He had his first few seasons of serious climbing in the Lake District, to which again and again he returned; and for Wasdale Head and its surroundings in particular, as for mountains in general, he had a love which was of the very essence of his being. He also climbed a good deal in North Wales, and had at least one good season in Skye.

When, accustomed to lead most of the 'difficults' in Cumberland, and to British hills in both summer and winter, he began to go to the Alps, it was not unnatural that he should not look much for the help of guides; and though he then usually had with him friends who had had Alpine experience, he was, after his first two or three seasons in France or Switzerland, more often than not the leader of his party. It was remarkable how his character, which on ordinary occasions might strike a person meeting him for the first time as rather serious, or even a little lugubrious, assumed a light-heartedness as soon as he got above ten thousand feet or so which no other circumstances seemed, in the same degree, to inspire in him. He was thoroughly in his element on an Alpine expedition, and especially if he were leading it. He was a bold and enterprising but safe mountaineer, and an agreeable, modest, thoughtful and unselfish companion. His loss is a grave one for those who hoped to be at least on British hills with him again.

Barker never seemed particularly anxious to attempt first ascents or

new routes. What he cared for supremely was to be in the surroundings that meant so much to him. His many Alpine ascents included Pointe de la Galise, Tsanteleina, Combin de Corbassière, Combin de Zessetta, Monte Forno, Aig. de la Tsa, Ruinette, Mt. Collon, Portjengrat, Weismiess, Allalinhorn, Nadelhorn, Gross Fusshorn, Blümlisalphorn, Aletschhorn, Nesthorn, Wetterhorn, Jungfrau, Rimpfischhorn, Breithorn, Matterhorn, Monte Rosa, Pointe de Zinal, Aig. d'Argentièr, Aigs. Dorées (traverse), Aig. du Midi, Mt. Blanc (traverse), Grivola, Zinal Rothorn (traverse), Dent Blanche (twice), and Obergabelhorn.

Barker took a prominent part in the formation of the Midland Association of Mountaineers, and was its first president.

L. W. CLARKE.

HUGH FRANCIS WRIGHT

1866-1938

ON October 25, 1938, there passed away a man who could ill be spared from the ranks of New Zealand mountaineers.

H. F. Wright was born in Naseby, Central Otago, New Zealand, in 1866 and spent his early years in Dunedin, where he was prominent at a very early age in many types of athletic sports, notably in the sphere of Rugby football. Early in his life he entered upon a commercial career and built up for himself an enviable reputation in his activities as a general merchant.

For a time he was a member of the Dunedin City Council and during the war he played a distinguished part in connection with recruiting companies. He was rejected for military service in 1914 on the ground that he was over age, but as a result of his persistence he was accepted in 1916 and left for France with the 20th Reinforcement. He remained on active service until the end of the war.

Wright was a most enthusiastic mountaineer and the records of Alpine history in New Zealand are full of references to his early exploits and exploring work. Quite a number of first ascents are to his credit. He was one of the outstanding members of the New Zealand Alpine Club and held office as President from 1934 till 1938.

Those of us who had the privilege of his friendship remember with real pleasure his quiet, generous and kindly nature. To younger members of our Club he was a source of inspiration. Time and time again it was remarked that he was never absent from a meeting at which his presence would be likely to be of real assistance. On winter evenings we were accustomed to looking for him no matter how inclement the weather might be. We knew that there were times when ill-health might have proved sufficient excuse to deter him from attending our various functions. We were aware, too, that the demands of his business were making heavy calls upon his energies, but in spite of these facts he maintained to the very end his close personal touch with our climbing Clubs. His advice was always sound and readily given, and whenever any movement was on foot to



Photo, Rubens Studio, Auckland.]

H. F. WRIGHT.

1866-1938.

further the aims of mountaineering in this country it was to H. F. Wright that we gave instant appeal with a certainty that a right and helpful response would be forthcoming. It was amazing how thoroughly and how easily he could adapt himself to the society of younger men and it was equally amazing how eager they were to have him with them on every possible occasion. His last few weeks were filled with great personal suffering, but the indomitable spirit remained and he persisted in going to his meetings when other men might quite easily have gone down before the onslaught of so painful an illness.

His memory will remain. His name stands indelibly linked up with certain of our highest peaks and greatest climbs and his example stands clear and bright for all to cherish and to follow.

Few members of our Club have been so real a source of inspiration.

R. M. ALGIE.

To the younger generation of New Zealand mountaineers it is distressing to realise that the older band of pioneers is gradually dwindling. One of the greatest of these was H. F. Wright, great in the sterling quality of his exploits in the Southern Alps of New Zealand, but greater still in the wonderful work he did during the latter years of his life as President of the New Zealand Alpine Club.

When his active days of strenuous pioneering work were at an end, he devoted himself wholeheartedly to the encouragement of the sport, and many mountaineers owe their skill and their enthusiasm entirely to him. His deep interest in the welfare of the younger mountaineers was demonstrated well by his frequent visits to every section of the club and his generous support of all their ambitious schemes.

Only during recent years did I have the great pleasure of knowing well this fine mountaineer. He bade me farewell as I left New Zealand in 1935 to join the Mount Everest Reconnaissance expedition and he welcomed me back to my native land when I returned several months later.

He was a charming man, quiet, modest and unassuming; one whose character had been moulded by the hills he loved so well; one who was always held in the highest esteem by members of his widely scattered club, and one whose passing has been sincerely regretted by all New Zealand climbers.

L. V. BRYANT.

GEORGE EDNIE

1875-1939

By the death of George Ednie, a few hours after being involved in a motor accident near Chichester on August 9, the Club has lost a loyal member.

Ednie was a native of Belfast. He was educated in Edinburgh, and held the degrees of M.A. and B.Sc. (both with Honours) from Edinburgh University.



Photo, W. C. Milroy.]

G. EDNIE.

1875-1939.

After graduating, he spent nearly a year as Observer in the old Observatory—now abandoned—on the summit of Ben Nevis. He had some interesting and amusing reminiscences of aiding benighted visitors who got into difficulties on that peak during snowstorms and in foggy weather.

As an undergraduate he made the acquaintance of the Alps on cycling tours up the Rhine to Basle and Switzerland, and on a later occasion over the Brenner into Tyrol. These trips, and his many ascents of Ben Nevis, gave him an early love of mountains which he never lost.

He was an old member of the Scottish Mountaineering Club, and for years was a regular attendant at its meets, and he knew well the Scottish hills and their particular climbs.

By profession Ednie was a teacher of Mathematics. He lived many years in Dumfries, and was familiar with the nearby English Lake District. Borrowdale, was, I think, his favourite dale, and he had climbed most of the ordinary courses in the Scafell and Pillar Rock districts.

As a young man Ednie had two seasons in the Alps with the Almers, father and son, and did some first-class peaks. Among others his list included the Wetterhorn, Gr. Schreckhorn, Eiger, Finsteraarhorn, Jungfrau (from Rottal hut), Zinal Rothorn, and Matterhorn (Breuil to Zermatt). After 1920 he spent many summer holidays in the Alps, and climbed often at Zermatt, Arolla, and Argentière. In various years he was at Grindelwald, Belalp, Binn, Fafleralp, Kandersteg and Champex in Switzerland; and at Cortina, Canazei and Ortisei in Italy. He had a good season at Cogne in 1925, and at Val d'Isère and Pralognan in 1931.

Ednie was a keen and tireless walker, and a cheerful companion on a long expedition. His good working knowledge of French, German and Italian was often useful in mountain villages, especially on guideless excursions. Besides climbing most of the great Alpine peaks at one time or another, Ednie had an extraordinary list of minor peaks to his credit, most of which he had climbed alone. He was fond of long solitary walks.

Ednie retired from active work some years ago. His chief interests in retirement were Church work, Higher Mathematics and mountains—the last being easily first favourite. He annually looked forward to meeting kindred spirits at the Alpine Club reunions each December.

W. C. MILROY.

MORIZ VON KUFFNER

1854-1939

HERR MORIZ VON KUFFNER of Vienna, who had a notable mountaineering record in the Alps between 1880 and 1900, died last March at Zürich.



MORIZ VON KUFFNER.

1854-1939.

The son of a brewery owner in Ottakring, near Vienna, he was born in 1854, and after being educated at the Technical High School in Vienna, he entered his father's business during the 'seventies. In 1882 he took over the management of the business and held this position for 56 years, combined with similar interests in sugar factories and estates in Moravia and Hungary. He was on occasion President of the Association of Viennese Brewers and for several decades a member of the managing committee.

In addition to his profound knowledge of brewing, he had many other absorbing interests, and these combined with his modesty and his many acts of charity, earned him the deep affection of wide circles. He created a large children's welfare centre, which he presented to the municipality of Vienna.

Together with the deep concern which he devoted to his profession, he had wide interests in the most varied branches of science and art. He built the Kuffner Observatory at Ottakring, equipping it with instruments from the famous Repsold optical works. This observatory played an active part during many decades in astronomic studies, and served as the training-ground for several distinguished astronomers. Besides this, with mathematics and physics, he took great interest in philosophy, early English and French literature, which he read in the originals, national economics and many other branches of learning. It was his principle to give profound study to every subject which claimed his attention. He was a close student of drawing and gathered together a magnificent collection of engravings and woodcuts by Albrecht Dürer.

He took to mountaineering early in the 'eighties, and climbed almost all the *Viertausender* in the Alps. His most notable expeditions include :

- 1883. Piz Glüschaint, 1st ascent by N. ridge.
- 1884. Gross Glockner, 2nd ascent by N.W. ridge and 1st ascent of Teufelshorn on that ridge.
One of the first crossings of the Untere Ödenwinkelscharte. Both these climbs were done with Christian Ranggetiner as guide.
- 1885. Laquinhorn, 1st ascent from Laquintal.
Col du Lion, 3rd ascent.
Eiger, 1st descent by Mittellegi ridge.
- 1887. Aiguille des Glaciers, 1st ascent by S.E. ridge.
Mont Blanc, 1st ascent by ridge of Tour Ronde and Mont Maudit.
- 1888. Pelvoux, new route from Glacier de la Violette.
- 1890. Portjengrat, by E. ridge.
- 1892. Bietschhorn, new route from Baltschieder Glacier.
- 1899. Piz Palü, 1st ascent of E. peak by N. ridge.

All of the above-mentioned ascents, except in 1884, were made with Alexander Burgener.

The friendship between Kuffner and Alexander Burgener was of long standing and Burgener was often his guest during winter in Vienna. Kuffner was one of the oldest members of the Ö.A.K. Apart from the active side of climbing, he was particularly interested in the history of mountaineering and in Alpine literature. He wrote a large number of articles for the Ö.A.Z., including regular reviews of the ALPINE JOURNAL. He possessed a fine collection of Alpine paintings by E. T. Compton, G. Loppé and A. Croft. He was an old friend of Otto Zsigmondy, and knew Purtscheller, Melchior Anderegg, Christian Almer, Klucker, and many other famous climbers and guides of classic days; and he corresponded with Freshfield,⁹ Whymper, Coolidge, Farrar and others.

The evening of Moriz von Kuffner's life was clouded by tragedy. In the beginning of 1938 he lost his wife, after 47 years of perfect happiness in married life, with whom he had shared certain climbs. Shortly afterwards he lost his eldest son, and he himself fell gravely ill. A few weeks later came the collapse of Austria. He had never mixed in politics and had always been a staunch patriot; nevertheless, on the ground that he had supported the Schuschnigg régime, as in fact he had, he was deprived of almost all his property; his family home, his large library and the observatory were in part plundered.

It was possible with great difficulty to convey him, despite his illness, first into Czechoslovakia and later by aeroplane to Zürich. He bore all these blows of fate and disappointments with philosophic calm and self-control. At Zürich he spent seven months in the Hirslanden clinic, with a view over the lake to his beloved mountains. Thanks to the devoted care of Swiss doctors and nurses he spent his last days in rest, passing many hours deep in the essays of an old favourite, Michel de Montaigne, until the end came peacefully.

The gift of Alexander Burgener's *Führerbuch* to the Alpine Club, and the Matterhorn relief, presented by his family to the Uto section of the S.A.C., will safeguard the memory of Moriz von Kuffner in Alpine circles.

⁹ The following letter from Freshfield was found among Herr von Kuffner's papers, dated March 14, 1893:

DEAR SIR,—I have to thank you for your kind congratulations and good wishes on my election as President of the Alpine Club. I trust that at some time during my Presidency I may have the pleasure to see you at one of our meetings. Vienna at present, to judge by the production of Alpine periodicals, seems entirely abandoned to Alpinism! Here we are more limited in our numbers and less energetic in our discussions; but we continue to exist, and may be worthy the attention of strangers as antediluvian but not extinct creatures.

Believe me,

Yours faithfully,

DOUGLAS W. FRESHFIELD.

HENRI CORREVON

1854-1939

HENRI CORREVON, the Geneva botanist who, on May 11 of this year, passed away at the age of 85, was a member of the Swiss Alpine Club, and the doyen of all cultivators of mountain plants; a prolific writer on horticultural subjects and one of the most remarkable men of our time. I first met him at Cogne when climbing with George Yeld in 1881. His thick-set figure in a rough homespun knickerbocker suit, his shaggy russet-coloured hair and beard gave him the appearance of a Scottish highlander and not till we got into conversation was this impression dispelled.

The *Tribune* of Geneva for May 13 published a very appreciative memoir of him and the following notes are taken directly from that memoir.

From early youth the love of flowers was in his blood, for his maternal grandfather founded a nursery garden at Yverdon in 1827 where the lad practically began his career. At an early age he was apprenticed at Zürich to the celebrated establishment of Froebel, who was then commencing the cultivation of living plants and alpine under the advice of Boissier. There he was given the management of the alpine department, much to his joy; after two and a half years he worked in Germany, later moving to Paris to study in the Jardin des Plantes as a student and employee. By this time Correvon had acquired solid instruction in all branches of horticulture. At this stage he was recalled to the family by his uncle to take on the management of the nursery founded by his grandfather, which had fallen into a bad state of repair. It needed much labour, but with patience and the experience he had gained in the six or more years of apprenticeship and service in other nurseries, and the addition of flowering shrubs and roses to his nursery, he brought back the garden to its former prosperity, and his name became well known. But misfortune suddenly befell the young botanist, for in July 1877 a terrific cyclone struck Yverdon and destroyed the nursery; the only plants to resist the hail and hurricane were the alpine. Correvon made every attempt to continue amidst the ruins, but at the close of the year he made up his mind to quit the garden of his grandfather and seek refuge with his plants in Geneva.

At this sad moment, sudden help came to his assistance. His reputation as a cultivator of alpine being already established, it was Alphonse de Candolle who proposed that he should launch the sale of alpine in England. An article by Candolle accordingly appeared in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*. He further advised Correvon to study English; this the young botanist did with his usual ardour and eventually became the Swiss correspondent of the *Garden*. Already a member of the Swiss Alpine Club, he took the initiative with Dr. Goudet and others in forming a committee of the club for the protection of alpine in the mountains. Gradually this developed into an International



Photo, F. H. Jullien, Geneva.]

HENRI CORREVON.

1854-1939.

Association for the suppression of the traffic in wild mountain plants and over 30 years ago the Association gave place to the organization known as *Naturschutz*. Correvon realised that the spoliation of the Swiss Alpine flora might also be checked by the wholesale propagation of the plants for distribution among nurserymen, and he made this a prominent part of the business that he carried on when he finally moved to Chêne-Bourg, where in 1902 he established the garden that has since become famous as Floraire.

Another of his activities was the growing of plants among their natural surroundings and in close proximity to hotels—one with the help of his sons was near the Weisshorn Hotel in Val d'Anniviers at an altitude of 7700 ft. With the help of Sir John Lubbock, afterwards the first Lord Avebury, Professor G. J. Romanes and other English friends and the active co-operation of the Association at Geneva for the protection of wild flowers, Correvon and his friend Dr. Goudet acquired a hill above the hamlet of Bourg Saint Pierre, where, in spite of opposition from botanists and the local peasantry, he established a garden for the cultivation of plants from different mountains of the world. This garden, which he named Linnaea in compliment to the Linnaean Society, was carried on successfully till the outbreak of the 1914 war compelled its transference to the University of Geneva, the authorities of which use it as a summer laboratory for botanical students. The success of this garden led to the establishment of others like La Rambertia, which commemorates Eugène Rambert the poet and botanist, on the top of the Rochers de Naye, on the Lauteret beyond La Grave in the Dauphiné, and several more in Switzerland, Austria, Germany and France, in the Italian Alps and at Disko in Greenland.

Correvon knew the Alps of Europe and the Pyrenees and their plants as few other people knew them. On the ground floor of his Swiss chalet was his sanctum where he entertained distinguished personages from all parts who came to confer and consult this master, who by his actions, and perhaps equally by his studies and writings on Alpine flora, was the pioneer of a new cult and a new profession in industry. It was well that this self-taught man should have gained the recognition of the University of Geneva who conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor.

G. P. BAKER.

DR. MAUD CAIRNEY

1893-1939

IN 1923 two young ladies, Dr. Maud Cairney and her sister, came to the Alps with high hopes and high spirits. For their first expedition they collected a bad guide, a worse porter, and a tumble of 200 ft. or so down a snow slope on the Jungfrau. Nothing daunted, they removed to Saas Fee and went on climbing. The sisters did five expeditions together in their first season, but in 1924, a bad year, only



Photo supplied by G. W. Murray.]

DR. MAUD CAIRNEY WITH THÉOPHILE THEYTAZ.

[To face p. 314.]

three. By 1925 they had found their feet and got in touch with good professionals. That year they did the face of the Tsa, traversed the Aiguilles Rouges, Zinal Rothorn, Grand Cornier, and ended up with the Viereselgrat of the Dent Blanche, an expedition only twice before accomplished by a lady.

In 1926 her sister married and the partnership was broken up. Dr. Cairney went in that year to Chamonix with that restless spirit the late Théophile Theytaz, and did the Requin, Charmoz, Grépon, and the Moine ridge of the Aiguille Verte. Traverses of the Obergabelhorn, Weisshorn, and Matterhorn followed, while at the end of the season, with Théophile and his brother Cyprien, she made a rather foolhardy first descent of the N. face of Lo Besso during which even Theytaz's appetite for descents *en rappel* was more than satisfied.

In 1927 Dr. Cairney made with Theytaz a winter ascent (the first from Mountet) of the Obergabelhorn.

1928 was a very dry year, and Théophile, who had long cherished the ambition of ascending the N. face of the Dent Blanche, thought the moment had come. But before Dr. Cairney could join him, he learnt to his horror of the successful attempt on the N. ridge of that mountain by Joseph Georges *le skieur* and his brother Antoine with Mr. and Mrs. Richards. This was a bitter blow, but on August 11 he and Dr. Cairney ascended the mountain by a route almost entirely on the N. face. (See *A. J.* 40. 377.) Neither of these routes has yet been repeated. Later in 1928, Dr. Cairney made ascents of the Bietschhorn, the Aiguille d'Argentière and Chardonnet.

She was an enthusiastic member of the Ladies' A.C., and served for some time on its council.

So ended a brief and brilliant career in the Alps, for, that autumn, Dr. Cairney joined the Colonial Service and went to the Federated Malay States. While out east, she did some climbing in Sumatra and Java, and ascended the 12,000-ft. volcano of Smeroe, her last considerable expedition. In 1933 she was invalided home and, on consulting a London specialist, underwent a major operation. Forbidden to live in England, she retired to Bordighera and for five years conducted a practice there while making a gallant fight against a painful and ever increasing malady. This spring she left Italy for France, and the end came rather suddenly on May 22 in the English Hospital at Nice.

No braver heart ever faced a road that certainly wound uphill all the way to the very end.

G. W. MURRAY.

FRANÇOIS SIMOND

1847-1939

THE death of François Simond at the age of 91, which took place on April 3, brings to an end the small band of first-class Chamonix guides who did such good work in the latter half of last century. They were not many: the Payot, Cupelin, Dévouassoud, Ravanel, Simond

families, and a few others provided most of them, but they were particularly noteworthy at a time when the standard of Chamonix guiding was at a very low ebb.

François Simond was born on October 26, 1847, and served in the French Army in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. His career as a guide was not a long one, as he retired before he was forty to take charge of the *cantine* at the Mauvais Pas at the same time as his brother Alfred took over the management of the Montenvers hotel. He climbed for several years with Monsieur H. Dunod, the well-known French climber, with whom he made the following ascents : ¹⁰

1885. Grands Charmoz, by Charmoz-Grépon couloir. First ascent of Grépon from 'C.P.'

1887. Traverse from Grand Dru to Petit Dru, and traverse of the Grands Charmoz (with M. P. Burnet).

Apart from these he did not accomplish many new routes, but he had an intimate knowledge of the whole of the Mt. Blanc massif and of many other districts, acquired in the days when the mountains were not as well 'signed' as they are now and when huts were few and far between.

As a climber and as a guide François was first-rate, and he was equally good on rock, snow or ice. Possibly he enjoyed difficult rocks more than anything, but I had an opportunity of realising his powers on ice and snow when crossing Mt. Mallet under very bad conditions, and they were magnificent. He was a man of great courage but he never took unnecessary risks.

When climbing, François was a delightful companion ; he enjoyed every moment of the climb, and his remarks were most refreshing to a tired party. When met by any surpassing difficulty the flow of picturesque language with which he apostrophised the mountain was amazing, but it always ended in a loud laugh and the difficult step was then surmounted.

On retiring from guiding he took over the management of 'Le Chapeau,' and it became a habit on off days for climbers to congregate there and talk over past climbs or discuss future ones with him, and those who were lucky sometimes persuaded him to take a day off and accompany them on a climb. In that way I was fortunate in getting several climbs with him which were most enjoyable.

François was a great character. His delightful simplicity mixed with much common sense and a touch of humour and his imperturbable good nature endeared him to all who knew him. He spent the last years of his life at Lavancher, where I saw him in 1935. His memory was incredible for a man of 87 ; he recalled many episodes of the past which I had forgotten, and he remembered the names and peculiarities of all the habitués of Montenvers in the old days.

He had outlived most of his 'voyageurs' and fellow-guides, but his name will long be remembered in the Chamonix valley.

C. H. PASTEUR.

¹⁰ See in general *A. J.* 39. 249 *sqq.*

ABRAHAM PETER MÜLLER

1857-1939

ABRAHAM PETER MÜLLER died peacefully at Kandersteg after a short illness. He spent his 82nd birthday on May 18 still in good health, and up to his death his active and vigorous mind was unimpaired. Tall and endowed with great physical strength, he was a first-rate guide, always courteous, unassuming and attentive, with a keen sense of humour, and it is not surprising that he made many friends amongst those who had the good fortune to climb with him. Not only upright in his bearing but in all his dealings, he was a gentleman in the best sense of the word. He overcame difficulties in early life successfully through ability and hard work, characteristics he also showed in his capacity as guide. He was good on rocks, and on ice and snow ranked among the best. About forty first ascents and new routes stand to his credit. Apart from those undertaken with Swiss clients several were achieved with British climbers.

He combined caution with enterprise. His record is free from accidents, and his *Führerbuch* testifies how greatly he was appreciated. Year after year the same names of his *Herren* appear, and for long engagements.

His expeditions cover not merely all parts of Switzerland, but include many visits to the French and Italian Alps. The list of first ascents and new routes is too long to quote, but many were undertaken with M. Julien Gallet, with Mr. Stallard and Mr. Ormerod from 1888 to 1894, as for instance the long and difficult traverse of the Doldenhorn¹¹ from the Gasterntal, some with E. F. M. Benecke, H. A. Cohen and H. V. Reade, and a few with the writer.

As an example of his enterprise and ability one might mention the following incident. In 1898 the writer with Abraham ascended the Obergabelhorn from the Trift. The *Gabel* was crowned with a mighty but rotten cornice; it was already holed, evidently unsafe to pass over. Abraham cut through it and made steps for the knees in the ice under the overhang, then cut again through the cornice and repeated the manœuvre on the other side, so that the rope was always belayed until we emerged beyond the cornice at a safe point. We were caught in so violent a thunderstorm that to descend to Mountet by the usual route was dangerous, as the lightning was playing over the ridge, so Abraham took us down the steep W. snow face, until then untrodden ground, which we descended face to the snow wall until we reached the bergschrund. It was snowing so hard that without Abraham it is doubtful whether we should have found the Mountet hut. Abraham Müller gave up climbing at a comparatively early age. He built the Hotel Pension Müller in 1900 and then had little time for long engagements. I think that after 1912-13 he gave up guiding for good. He retained his appointment as Forester for many

¹¹ A. J. 15. 310.



Photo, Photopress Zürich.]

ABRAHAM MÜLLER.

1857-1939.

years, work to which he was devoted, and which apart from forestry and the care of game entailed superintending the erection of safeguards against avalanches.

Those who knew Abraham well will cherish his memory not only as a first-rate guide but also as a friend.

HARRY RUNGE.

PETER BERNET

1864-1938

PETER BERNET, who married Christian Jossi's eldest daughter, received his second-class certificate and his guide's book in 1891, his first-class certificate in 1903. He was one of the most good-natured, imperturbable men on a mountain that one could ever find. Nothing ever worried him, but, for all his placidity, he was active and very strong. No expedition was too long for him, and if allowed, he was proud of being able to carry great weights—more than he should have done as it turned out in later life.

He acted first as porter and then as second to his great father-in-law. Sydney Spencer travelled with them in 1892. He also accompanied Claude Macdonald and Jossi on the first ascent of Ebnefluh by the N. face¹² from Rottal to Concordia. They also traversed Lauitor, Mönch from Jungfrauoch (S.W. ridge), and Mönch with descent over *Nollen*. In 1896 he was with C. M. Chadwick and Jossi, and in that same year started the long and arduous connection with Henry Speyer and his extensive photographic apparatus, all of which Bernet always carried himself, the camera alone weighing seven pounds. While nothing of outstanding difficulty may have been done, and nothing new, the work was hard, done at any time of the day or night to catch the lighting best suited to the photographer. Speyer's favourite hunting ground was round the Italo-Swiss frontier, particularly on every side of the Monte Rosa group and from there to the foot of the Furggen ridge of the Matterhorn. They also travelled together in the Oberland.

In 1897 he was with C. M. Chadwick. They finished a long list of climbs with Col Tournanche, Zermatt to Breuil, Matterhorn traverse, Breuil to Zermatt. He then joined Speyer. Miss G. E. Benham also employed him.

In 1898 he travelled first with Miss Benham and then with Speyer.

In 1899, in January, he traversed Wetterhorn, Grindelwald to Rosenlauri, and crossed the Mittellegi Pass from Alpighen to the Kallifirn with Gerald Arbuthnot and L. C. F. Oppenheim. In the summer he was again with Speyer, and in September he traversed Lauterbrunnen Breithorn with G. A. Hasler.

In 1900, after G. A. Hasler and Jossi had been working in the Zermatt district for some time, he joined them and climbed the Matterhorn, crossed Altes Weissthor, traversed Täschhorn from Saas to Randa,

¹² *A.J.* 18. 45.



Photo supplied by G. A. Hasler.]

PETER BERNET, 1864-1938.

Jägerjoch, Monte Rosa from Marinelli hut to Riffel, and Dent d'Hérens. This was followed by climbs in the Oberland with various people, and the year was finished with Hasler and Jossi. Starting on December 23 from Grindelwald for the Grimsel by the Strahlegg, they found snow conditions so abnormal that they only reached the Stieregg in the late afternoon, the Schwarzegg in the course of the following morning, and after a short rest and a hot meal, walking through the night, they got to the Grimsel on Christmas morning. In the afternoon Jossi and Bernet laid a track to the Nägelisgrätli, and the party climbed the Galenstock on the 26th.

In 1901, Hasler, Jossi and Bernet made the first ascent of the Grindelwald Dru on May 13.¹³ Next, Bernet went to Zermatt with the Misses Crossley, and then went photographing again with Speyer.

In 1902, with Helene Kuntze, he led on the Eiger from the S. Eigerjoch, and made the first ascent of the Lauteraarhorn (N. ridge) from the Schrecksattel,¹⁴ Miss Bell making the first descent of that ridge the same day. After that he went on a last expedition with Speyer.

The year 1903 started with ascents of Jungfrau and Mönch in January and again in February with Jossi and various people. In July he was again with the Misses Crossley, and in August he took his first engagement with C. W. Nettleton.

In 1904 he was first with Nettleton, then with the Crossleys, and finished in December, doing the Eiger with Dr. Täuber, Hürner, and his brother-in-law Fritz Amatter. 1905 was divided between Dr. Täuber and Nettleton.

In 1906 he did a long season with Nettleton. This is the last season that the Nettletons—for Mrs. Nettleton often joined them—had with 'dear faithful honest Peter.' He continued working till 1912, but it then became clear that all was not well with him. He had overstrained his heart and lung muscles, and as these became increasingly inelastic, the time came when he could do very little even in his own home. During the last few years, when his daughter and son-in-law took the little inn on the Männlichen, he found his greatest joy in staying there with them for a little time in summer. It was pathetic to see this once powerful, tireless man keeping an eye on the postcards and telescope, pointing out to inquirers the peaks that he knew so intimately. He endured with great patience a long illness which must have been most distressing to a man of his active habits; luckily he had a wonderful wife in Käthi Bernet-Jossi. Let us hope that he has reached those

'Regions mild, of calm and serene air,
Above the smoke and stir of this dim spot
Which men call Earth.'

M. HASLER.

¹³ *A. J.* 20. 466.

¹⁴ *A. J.* 21. 270.