

THE ALPINE JOURNAL

VOL. LII

NOVEMBER 1940

NO. 261

EDITORIAL

MORE than thirty years ago Douglas Freshfield wrote concerning the ALPINE JOURNAL: 'It has served and still serves its purpose in bringing back to many and revealing to some the pleasures of the heights, in forming a link between successive generations of mountain lovers and keeping alive the memory of our founders and forerunners.' These words are quoted by J. P. Farrar as introduction to his superb estimate of Charles Hudson, prototype of modern mountaineering, in the first of a succession of articles recalling days of long ago. A glance at the Journals of the years 1914-1918 is enough to reveal the greatness of Farrar's services to Alpine research during that period of our exile from the Alps. In these days when Oberland and Valais, Matterhorn and Mont Blanc seem remote and unsubstantial as Kroph and Mophi, fabled summits of Herodotean legend, and fresh deeds can no longer be added to Alpine history, it may be well to gather in records of the past which can indeed keep alive the memory of our founders and forerunners. There must be many expeditions, whether new in their day or conducted under unusual conditions, of which no written record has been published: expeditions notable in themselves or for the leadership or composition of the party. The Editor believes that if such records could now be written, perhaps to take the form of a series entitled 'Days with Great Leaders,' they would add markedly to the interest of the ALPINE JOURNAL, both for their subject matter and as a link with the past. He would welcome with gratitude the help and the guidance of all members to whom this suggestion may appeal.