

ALPINE NOTES

Year of
Election.

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :

Hartley, G. W.	.	.	.	.	.	1881
Pole, Mark	.	.	.	.	.	1893
Morland, J. C.	.	.	.	.	.	1906
Worthington, W. B.	.	.	.	.	.	1907
Patterson, J. D.	.	.	.	.	.	1911
Rudolf, M. E. S.	.	.	.	.	.	1923
Overton, M. R. C.	.	.	.	.	.	1932

A DEBT OF GRATITUDE.—We believe that all our members will desire to express their gratitude to our Assistant Secretary, and also to our caretakers Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, who have faithfully and gallantly carried out their duties at the Club premises during these very trying days and thus maintained this essential part in the life of the Alpine Club.

PAINTING BY E. T. COMPTON.—We acknowledge with gratitude the gift of a water-colour drawing by E. T. Compton, presented to the Club by Herr Stephan von Kuffner in memory of his father Herr Moriz von Kuffner, depicting the Presanella from the Vedretta di Lares.

HONOURS.—We congratulate Mr. L. S. Amery on his appointment as His Majesty's Secretary of State for India ; Lt.-General Sir R. C. Wilson, K.C.M.G., on his appointment as A.D.C. General to His Majesty the King ; and Mr. G. Seligman on the award of the Back Grant by the Royal Geographical Society, in honour of his glacier research work in the region of the Jungfrauoch.

EDWARD WHYMPER CENTENARY.—The centenary of Edward Whymper's birth has been celebrated at Chamonix, where prayers were said at his tomb, on which wreaths were deposited by the Alpine Club and the Ski Club of Great Britain, the French Alpine Club, the municipality of Chamonix, and Alpine guides. M. Breton, the Chamonix guide, who often accompanied Whymper during his last years, was among those present.

From *The Times*.

KARAKORAM MAP.—We acknowledge with gratitude to the Royal Geographical Society the gift of a new map of the Karakoram with range and peak names approved by the Karakoram Conference of 1937, drawn by Mr. F. J. Batchelor under the direction of Professor Kenneth Mason. Printed in eight colours on engraved surface 22·7 by 20 inches, scale 1/175,000 or 11·8 miles to one inch, it was completed in 1939

and published by the Royal Geographical Society, London, 1940. Price 7s. 6d. India, 5 Rupees.

A THOUSANDTH ASCENT.—It is reported that Fritz Steuri, the well-known guide who has lately visited Garhwal with M. André Roch's party, has accomplished this year his thousandth ascent of the Jungfrau.

DR. ERNST JENNY.—We regret to learn of the death on April 11 at Zofingen, Switzerland, of Dr. Ernst Jenny, for many years co-Editor of *Die Alpen*. Born in 1876, he was educated at Bâle and Berne, and then took the post of Director of Historical Studies in the district of Zofingen, besides being Librarian for that town and Editor of the *Zofinger Neujahrsblatt* for thirty-five years. He was a member of the S.A.C. for forty years, and in 1937 he was elected to Honorary Membership of his Club. A writer of wide culture, he will be remembered further for his editions of the writings of Andreas Fischer, Edmund von Fellenberg, Christian Klucker, and Gottlieb Studer.

MR. A. J. MACKINTOSH.—The passing of A. J. Mackintosh, formerly Assistant Secretary and Librarian of the A.C., will be regretted by those of the older members of the Club who came into contact with him. He entered the service of the Club in the year 1895 at the time when the move was made from the St. Martin's Lane rooms to the Savile Row premises, being appointed Assistant Secretary and Librarian. He carried on these dual offices until 1911; in fact, the work connected with the Library interested him more than anything else. In that year the Committee decided that a change should be made, and at his own earnest request Mackintosh was allowed to continue with his work on the Library. Between the years 1925 and 1934, when he resigned, he had very long periods of ill health. He died on May 31, 1940.

MICHEL CLARET-TOURNIER.—We regret to learn of the death of Michel Claret-Tournier while on active service in the mountains, at the age of 29. He had already established a firm reputation as a guide, as befitted a descendant of one of the party which made the first ascent of the Aiguille de la République in 1904. At the early age of 16 he traversed the Grand and Petit Dru.

From the *Nouvelliste Valaisan*, April 17, 1940.

MR. S. H. MITCHELL.—We offer our sympathy to the Canadian Alpine Club in the recent death of Mr. S. H. Mitchell, for many years Honorary Secretary of that Club.

MR. T. T. JEFFERY.—We have heard with regret of the death of Mr. T. T. Jeffery, who was a member of the Club from 1905 to 1938.

EXCELSIOR.—We learn from a prominent evening paper that a champion skier last spring enjoyed two days' skiing on the slopes of the Matterhorn above Turin, going up in a funicular to a height of 14,000 ft.

THE AMERICAN EXPEDITION TO K₂, 1939.—*The Himalayan Journal* for 1940 contains a six-page summary concerning this expedition, which involved the loss of one American climber and two Sherpa porters. On p. 128 there is an illuminating statement showing the distribution of the party on the mountain during the period July 11–August 7, which is worthy of the closest study. The editorial note on pp. 138–140 is a masterly analysis of the causes leading to the disaster, further strengthened by an apt quotation from the account of the 1938 expedition concerning the danger of bad weather in the latter half of July. In this analysis there is not one superfluous word, and future expeditions to the high Himalaya will do well to mark and inwardly digest the prudence and the gravity of the criticisms here given.

An account of this expedition, by Chappel Cranmer and Fritz Wiessner, is published in *The American Alpine Journal*, 1940, pp. 9–19.

MATTHÄUS ZDARSKY.—The death is reported of Matthäus Zdarsky of Lilienfeld, the well-known pioneer of skiing and expert in Alpine equipment. His portrait is to be found in *A. J.* 51. facing p. 37.

S.A.C. HUTS.—The total number of visitors to S.A.C. huts in 1939 amounted to 66,491, this being a drop of 16,617 on the figures for 1938. The Britannia hut heads the list with 3550 visitors; of others, only the Wildstrubel and Boval huts received more than 2000.

ROTBRETTGRAT.—With reference to the visit of Messrs. J. R. Jenkins and M. S. Taylor to the Silberhorn hut (*A. J.* 52. 126), Mr. I. S. Aitchison writes that he visited this hut on August 8, 1935, in company with Mr. P. Aitchison and Christian Rubi. An attempt on the Silberhorn by the N.W. ridge failed owing to bad weather. The party revisited the hut, with Hermann Steuri, on August 15, 1939. Leaving the hut at 04.55 they reached the top of the Silberhorn by the Rotbrettgrat at 10.10 and the top of the Jungfrau at 12.50. They encountered moderately difficult rocks on the Rotbrettgrat and one not too easy chimney; there are two or three fixed ropes, and at the only places of any difficulty on the traverse from the Kleine Scheidegg pitons are placed, but there is danger from ice avalanches from the Kühlaenen and Giessen Glaciers.

GLACIER RECESSION IN ALASKA.—It is reported in the issue of *The Times* of April 26, 1940, that during the past few years the recession of the Grand Pacific Glacier at the head of Tarr Inlet, Alaska, has opened an access from the North Pacific to Canadian territory, giving to the Dominion a potential harbour some 500 miles north and west of Prince Rupert, in British Columbia. The glacier, which formerly extended down the valley into United States waters, has now receded to a point some three-quarters of a mile on the Canadian side of the frontier.

CORRIGENDA TO No. 260.—On p. 99, second paragraph, line 3, for 'Gegenloch' read 'Gaggiloch' [= Chough hole], *Alpes Valaisannes*

iii, 2, p. 237. On illustration facing 127, for 'FRESCHERHÖRNER' read 'FIESCHERHÖRNER'; in the printed title the name 'Finsteraarhorn' is incorrect, and should be replaced by 'Gross and Klein Grünhorn.'

NEW BOOKS.—Reviews of Mr. F. S. Chapman's *Helvellyn to Himalaya*, Mr. R. L. G. Irving's *Ten Great Mountains*, and Mr. Arnold Lunn's *Come what may* will appear in the May 1941 number of The ALPINE JOURNAL.

NEWS FROM ZERMATT.—In a letter from Zermatt dated August 28, 1940, Mr. I. de Bruyn writes :

'June was a very wet month and the snow was slow in disappearing. July also was unfavourable till the 25th, but since then the weather has been splendid with the exception of a two days' heavy snowfall last week.

'Expectations for the season were at a minimum. The Mont Cervin hotel made preparations for only 40 guests, but towards the end of July the Swiss people suddenly started for the mountain resorts in large numbers. Here, the Monte Rosa, the Victoria, the Confiserie, Riffelalp and Schwarzsee were closed, but the Mont Cervin and the smaller hotels became fully occupied. Ascents were not numerous and the guides did not earn much. Most of the younger Swiss are still in the army, and those who were demobilised had to attend to their business affairs after months of absence.

'Our fellow member Alfred Zürcher was very active, and a few days ago, after climbing Dufourspitze by the Crestone Rey and Nordend, he completed his 200th ascent of *Viertausender* in the course of 16 seasons with Josef Knubel, probably a unique record. Needless to relate, a celebration took place that night at the Mont Cervin, Dr. Seiler congratulating our friend in well-chosen words.

'The next day a fire occurred at the Mont Cervin; about one-third of the roof has gone; it started on the upper floor and the damage by water is considerable.

'An English gentleman employed by the League of Nations, who was leaving Geneva for London, made his adieu to Switzerland by climbing the Matterhorn with Otto Furrer. Conditions being perfect, they reached the summit at 7 A.M. and, seeing nobody at the Italian hut, invaded Italy, slept for an hour at the hut, and came back again to the summit at 4 P.M. to descend to the Belvedere. I have not heard of other interesting climbs. The Bétemps hut, now called Monte Rosa hut, has become a palace with berths for 100-120 people, splendid mattresses, etc. Riffelberg is being enlarged but not yet ready.

'At Saas Fee the little inn on the Lange Fluh is a great improvement and is well kept. Opposite the Glacier hotel a very attractive tearoom has been opened, and there are now two modern Pensions, Saaser Hof and Alphubel.

'The presence of military forces was a big event this season. One day I saw forty mules, heavily laden, crossing the Gorner Glacier and climbing the moraine to the Bétemps hut, and some of these beasts of burden are reported to have known the glacier route by heart. On another day about 100 officers and men bivouacked in snow caves on all the high peaks between Saas Fee and Zermatt. Even when huts are occupied by the army tourists are welcome and cared for. Fortunately Zermatt is still without alarm sirens !

'As a result of the wet weather during June the flowers were more numerous than ever, and the meadows and forest clearings here and at Saas Fee remained green till a week ago.

'Of course everybody missed our foreign friends, but the sympathies of all are and will remain on your side.'

We are greatly indebted to Mr. de Bruyn for this most interesting letter, a welcome voice from another world.