

Josef's mountaineering days were over some years before his death, but he loved the mountains. I can remember the many happy hours we spent recalling the fine climbs we had made together and the risks and dangers we had so often shared.

And so passes a great guide, a superb mountaineer and a very dear friend.

R. W. LLOYD.

I FIRST met Josef Pollinger on the Matterhorn in 1894. Together with Zurbriggen he was taking Miss Bristow for the first descent of the Zmutt ridge (the ridge was done up and down on the same day by Percy Farrar's party, but I think after Miss Bristow). Josef had already begun to make a name for himself, but was only twenty and therefore nominally at any rate still a porter. I remember him as a delightful, blue-eyed youth. For many years I saw nothing of him though I heard of his reputation as an outstanding, if not *the* outstanding, all round guide of his generation. It was not till 1922 that I began climbing with him and did so every year for the next seven years, after which he handed me over to his son, Adolf. In more recent years we occasionally met for walks and I had always hoped that, if we could not do a jubilee ascent of the Matterhorn together, we might at any rate after the war enjoy some quiet mountain walks and talk over old times.

I always felt that his quality on a mountain was supreme, quiet steadiness, and all round mastery of his craft. There was no emergency for which he was not prepared or which put him out of his stride. As a companion he was an unfailing source of interest with his shrewd and humorous comment on men and affairs, revealing an outlook and a philosophy much broader and more tolerant, if also perhaps more worldly wise, than that of most of his compères. An aristocrat among guides, he was at the same time one of the old generation who did not think it beneath him to go out of his way to minister personally to a weary Herr. He was a charming host at St. Niklaus where I have stayed with him and where I last spent a very pleasant day with him in 1938.

Above all, he was a great gentleman, one of the finest I have ever known.

L. S. AMERY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ALPINE CLUB, 1943

MEMBERSHIP.—The addition of six members elected in January, 1944, brings the numbers of the Club to 578, which total is one less than the figure for January, 1943. Details will be found on the new List of Members issued this year.* It is the Committee's earnest desire to increase the flow of young and active mountaineers into the Club and thus to enlarge our numbers.

ACCOUNTS.—The deficit of £127 4s. od. in the Income and Expenditure Account must be accepted in the present circumstances and is the result of wartime reduction both of subscription rates and of the number of new members. It is hoped that additional revenue may be obtained from letting the hall for exhibitions; several enquiries have resulted from advertisements inserted in Art periodicals, on the advice of Dr. John Rothenstein, Director of the Tate Gallery. There are several subscriptions remaining unpaid at the end of the year and each of these requires one or more personal letters for its collection. Much time and expense would be saved if all members would make use of standing orders to their Bankers for payment of subscriptions.

The running expenses of the Club are about the same. The net cost of the ALPINE JOURNAL is £106 less than last year, due to increased sales and a saving of £79 on the cost of printing, illustrations, etc.

The Bank Overdraft of £476 12s. 8d. is greater by £172 than the 1942 figure, but against this the assets of the Club are sound and no serious fear need yet be felt about the annual deficits.

RULES AND LIST OF MEMBERS, 1944.—A new list has been issued and every care has been taken to make it accurate and up to date, but we depend on members giving us timely news of changes of address and changes of rank of those serving in H.M. Forces. A full list of appointments and Sub-Committees is given on pages 2 and 3 of the list.

ALPINE CLUB MEET, 1943.—The first two Alpine Club wartime Meets having taken place in the Lake District and having proved successful, the Committee decided that in the interests of making contact with the local mountaineering clubs it was desirable to change the location of the 1943 Meet, and after debating the relative merits of Scotland and North Wales they deemed the exigencies of minimising travel to be in favour of North Wales, and the Honorary Secretary was eventually able to make arrangements with the Gorphwysfa Hotel, Pen y Pass. A short account of the Meet has already been published (*A. J.* 54. 203-4.)

GIFTS.—Mrs. Benstead of Cambridge has presented to the Club the late Professor Collie's collection of lantern slides, negatives and enlargements. Unfortunately there is no catalogue of the slides, and many of them are unnamed.

The presentation by Mrs. Lowry A. C. Cole of a carved statue of Jakob Anderegg has already been mentioned (*A. J.* 54. 204.)

The latest addition to the Club's rich collection of wood carvings is the portrait statue of our distinguished Honorary Member, Mr. Sydney Spencer, the work of his old friend Melchior Anderegg. This will be prized for its associations as well as its intrinsic merit.

GENERAL.—The practice of inviting members to submit names of candidates for vacant offices or seats on Committee, instituted by a resolution of Committee, March 31, 1936, with the intention of enabling members to draw attention to suitable candidates for Committee who might otherwise have been passed over, has been amended. The resolution now reads:— 'That the Committee should invite

members to submit names of candidates for vacant seats on the Committee for consideration by the Committee at the appropriate time each year.'

Concerning the Hydro-Electric (Scotland) Bill which was before Parliament in the early months of the year, the Standing Committee on National Parks drafted a series of amendments which they had requested Mr. Alfred Bosson, M.P., to put forward during the Committee stage of the Bill. A copy of these amendments was received with the request that the Club should take action in support of them. It was decided that as the proposed amendments would be acceptable to the Club and the Bill had already had its second reading, the Hon. Quintin Hogg, M.P., should be asked to lend his assistance and support. The third reading of the Bill took place in May.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER AUTHORITIES AND WITH KINDRED CLUBS.—In March, 1943, the Committee were informed by the President of various approaches made to officers of the Club for advice on Training and Equipment for Mountain Warfare and on pre-service training in mountaineering, in which subjects the Club, by reason of the wide and varied experience of its members, is especially qualified. The President, however, felt that these matters were but a part of a wider problem and that the co-operation of all British mountaineers was a pre-requisite not only for the discussion of wartime issues, but also for the healthy development of mountaineering in the post-war years. Further, he felt that the Alpine Club should give a lead in securing closer social and structural contact with other clubs and organisations in our islands and that by such means it should be possible to express a collective and authoritative opinion, firstly on matters of policy, such as the National Parks Scheme, the protection of scenery and amenities, the water power schemes, and the use of our hills and our mountaineers in the future in the better training of the young; secondly to give advice, as the outcome of consultation, on matters affecting the safety, housing, rescue, etc., of those using the hill districts; and thirdly to act as a centre of information and advice in the establishment of contacts between individuals or clubs or in the provision of skilled personnel for the requirements of the Service Departments.

The foregoing and other matters appertaining to the Club were brought to the notice of the Committee in the form of Memoranda at an extraordinary meeting on June 8, and after considerable discussion the Committee appointed three Sub-Committees as follows, to consider and report their recommendations for dealing with the problems involved:

External Affairs Sub-Committee

Internal Affairs Sub-Committee

Qualifications Sub-Committee.

THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SUB-COMMITTEE reported that they considered the proper means of giving effect to the President's proposals was by means of a Standing Advisory Committee on Mountaineering,

and they recommend that the assistance and advice of the larger British clubs should be sought with a view to making the proposed Advisory Committee representative of British mountaineers, and not merely of a few of the clubs. The Committee accepted this recommendation and invitations to send representatives to a preliminary conference were issued to a number of the principal clubs in November and December, 1943. The conference, which was encouragingly well supported, was held at the Club on February 5, 1944, and a full report of the proceedings is published in this number.

THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS SUB-COMMITTEE reported that it was seriously concerned with the decline in membership and the increase in the cost of conducting the Club; it considered that raising the subscription would not bring in the necessary income, but that steps must be taken to increase the membership by increasing the attractions of the Club and the amenities of the Club premises. The Committee decided that no improvement of the amenities of the Club premises was practicable in wartime, but that in view of the expected increase in the activities of the Club resulting from the recommendations of the External Affairs Sub-Committee, very careful consideration should be given to the reorganisation of the Secretariat. The Committee also agreed that ladies may be introduced to the lecture room except at times of General Meetings.

THE QUALIFICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE recommended the continuance of the standard of qualifications outlined in 1884 and elaborated in 1908, when it was stated it would be of advantage if candidates had 20 or, if possible, 25 high mountain expeditions extending over four seasons in various districts above the snowline. It was considered unwise to formulate any temporary or alternative qualifications for wartime, during which period candidates' qualifications would be judged in the light of what was desirable and possible in the circumstances of each individual case. This report was accepted by the Committee and it was decided that the extracts from the Rules as published on candidates' application forms should include a statement that the Committee would take into consideration the extent and continuity of climbing elsewhere than in the Alps.

THE PRE-SERVICE ADVISORY SUB-COMMITTEE was appointed by the Committee at their meeting on January 18, 1944, as the result of a request by the War Office that the Club should agree to the Army Cadet Force being affiliated to it with a view, firstly, to advising the Army Cadet Force on all matters regarding hill climbing and mountaineering and, secondly, to provide instructors for an experimental training camp to be held in North Wales in April, 1944, when a selected party of boys would be given a ten days' course in hill walking, mountaineering and elementary rock climbing.

ALPINE NOTES

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :		Year of Election
Powell, Major-General Sir C. Herbert, K.C.B.	...	1890
Stallard, G.		1893
Stein, Sir Aurel, K.C.I.E., Ph. D., D.Litt., D.Sc., Honorary Member	...	1909

MESSAGE TO THE SWISS ALPINE CLUB.—The following messages of greeting have been exchanged between the Alpine Club and the Swiss Alpine Club :

‘On behalf of the Alpine Club we wish to send to our friends of the Swiss Alpine Club our best wishes for the New Year. May it not be long before we can meet once again to renew the old brotherhood of the mountains. Uf baldigs Widerluoge.’

(Signed) GEOFFREY YOUNG, President 1943.
LEO AMERY, President 1944.

The Swiss Alpine Club replied as follows :

‘Au nom du Club Alpin Suisse, je vous prie d’adresser à nos amis de l’Alpine Club nos vœux les meilleurs pour la nouvelle année. Puisse-t-elle leur permettre de revenir bientôt dans nos montagnes où nous serons si heureux de les accueillir. Un sincère merci pour vos souhaits.’

(Signed) S. R. FURER, President S.A.C.

EIGHTY YEARS IN NEW ZEALAND.—A book under this title has recently been published by Simpson and Williams Ltd., Christchurch, New Zealand, from the pen of our Honorary Member Mr. G. E. Mannering. We hope to review it in our next number.

FROM CANADA.—Mr. F. S. Smythe writes, under date December 9, 1943 : ‘I was up an 11,300 ft. peak the other day, in a temperature of -20°F . and a 50 m.p.h. gale. Result : a frostbitten neck. One of the party was seriously frostbitten. Needless to say, these high peaks are mostly unascended in winter, and conditions are like high altitude work on Everest without a hot sun. Altogether, a pretty tough life. Winter is setting in and we have just had a five days’ blizzard. There is ski-ing country as fine and extensive as the Arlberg and Davos rolled into one, and the powder snow is superb. The only thing I’ve got against the Rockies is the rock, which is abominable, the worst stuff I’ve ever climbed on. There are any number of great ice climbs to be done and in such a country it is best to look for snow and ice routes. The animal life is fascinating, and I’ve had an encounter with a grizzly ; but from all accounts the plant life is poor.’