

ascents would have seemed to him the thing least worthy of record ; much better remembered were the good moments and the bad : the fearful headache and deep, soggy snow on the descent from the Rothorn, sunset from the Tracuit hut, the Frenchman who tried to exorcise his stomach trouble outside the Mountet, the astonishing recovery of fitness from the moment crampons were put on on the snow arête of the Zmutt, the hungry night at the Italian refuge and the enormous, miscellaneous meal next morning in the Albergo Orlande.

In his last season he did the traverse of Les Courtes, the S.W. ridge of the Moine, the Blaitière and the Charmoz-Grépon traverse. These were days of hot sun and increasing fitness and enjoyment, which were to have been the prelude to the longer climbs, on which this year he had set his heart, around the Géant Glacier and above all on the Italian side of Mont Blanc.

A. D. M. Cox.

ALPINE NOTES

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :

Year of
Election.

Peech, S. B.	1895
Mayor, R. J. G.	1902
Jackson, W. S.	1910
Pearce, Sir Leonard	1922
Stevenson-Moore, Sir Charles J.	1930
Jenkins, J. R.	1935
Barford, J. E. Q.	1942
Kretschmer, H. E.	1946

TWO MOUNTAINEERING LADIES.—Two ladies notable formerly in the mountaineering world have recently passed away. Mrs. Buck, of Noverings, widow of Dr. Edward Buck, was, with her husband, among the first to explore little known passes and glaciers in Savoy and the Dauphiné, even preceding Dr. Coolidge himself, who entered into correspondence with her about them as long ago as the 1870's. Of immense vitality, wide interests and friendships, a traveller in many countries, a great local benefactor and a generous hostess, notably to visitors from Canada, she has died in her ninety-seventh year still maintaining her humane interests and correspondence, and to the last days refreshing her mind and conversation with the constant and vivid recall of her mountain journeys and of the beauty of hill and lake and valley seen in the far past. Among her records she valued a personal invitation from the Alpine Club to the Summer Luncheon held in 1940.

Mrs. Reade, of Ipsden, widow of Herbert V. Reade, C.B., of the Alpine Club and squire of Ipsden, has died in her eighty-third year. She maintained the traditions of hospitality and good ownership of a very ancient family, which included Charles Reade the novelist and

Winwood Reade the philosopher. Herself devoted to mountains, she will be remembered as for many years the 'hostess' of the annual climbing parties at Pen y Pass, where her wit, caustic comments and dignified sensitive kindness helped to create a memorable social atmosphere.

G. WINTHROP YOUNG.

THE BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL.—Mr. G. A. Dummett has agreed temporarily to take over the duties of Secretary, in succession to Mr. John Barford. All correspondence for the Secretary should therefore be addressed to

7 Mount Ararat Road,

Richmond, Surrey.

The second issue of *Mountaineering*, the quarterly bulletin of The British Mountaineering Council, is now out, and individual copies may be obtained from or orders placed with

The Secretary,

Mountaineering,

Flat E,

37 Maida Vale, W. 9.

Price 1s. 3d. per copy or 5s. for one year.

A NONAGENARIAN ASCENT.—In the company of several climbers, the guide Benjamin Fosson, of Fiery, Val d'Ayas, at the age of ninety, has made this year the ascent of Castor. Mass was celebrated on the summit. We congratulate the veteran on his fine performance.

CONGRATULATIONS.—We congratulate our member Mr. G. A. Hasler on making his 200th ascent of the Faulhorn above Grindelwald on September 16, 1947; also our former Vice-President, Mr. C. H. Pasteur on revisiting Arolla this year, being seventy years after his first visit in 1877.

THE EAGLE'S NEST.—This house, in the valley of Sixt, Haute Savoie, is being put up for sale. It was built in 1859 by Sir Alfred Wills and has been in the Wills and Norton families for just on ninety years.

FROM VALTOURNANCHE.—We regret to record the death at the age of 80 of J. B. Carrel, father of Jean and Louis Carrel.

Recently, in accordance with an established custom, mass was celebrated on the summit of the Matterhorn by M. l'Abbé Jules Rosset, curé of Valtournanche, in the company of Marcel Carrel, mayor of Valtournanche.

It is recorded that on one day this summer no fewer than ninety-two persons ascended the Matterhorn.

EIGER NORDWAND.—This face has been climbed twice this summer, by the French guides Lachenal and Terray, who had previously climbed the N. wall of the Grandes Jorasses, and by Herr Yrmann

with the Wengen guides Carl and Hans Schlunegger. The latter party left Eigergletscher at 1.30 A.M., and at 3 P.M. they had already reached a point well above the ice slope which is traversed about half way up the face. They bivouacked near the *Spinne*, about two thirds of the way up (*ca.* 3500 m.), where they were overtaken by a thunderstorm. They spent fourteen miserable hours on a ledge. They were drenched by the rain which later turned to snow. It did not clear till 4 A.M. They left at 5 A.M. At 6 A.M. snow began to fall and continued to fall with occasional thunderstorms throughout the day. One of the difficulties was the amount of running water that streamed down the rocks. They reached the summit at 4.25 P.M. and at 7.30 P.M. they were back at Eigergletscher.

The original party had three bivouacs, the French two bivouacs. Hans Schlunegger states that his party were nearly killed by a stone avalanche while they were cutting steps up the ice half way up the face. He considers that this climb is too dangerous ever to become an accepted classic for the best experts. If the weather is cold the rocks are always glazed at certain points with ice; if warm there is an immense risk of stonefall and moreover it is necessary from time to time to climb through a shower bath of small waterfalls.

The same party made the first complete ascent of the north wall of the Schneehorn and on the same day continued up to the E. ridge of the Jungfrau which they followed to the summit.

(Information received through Mr. Arnold Lunn.)

INSTRUCTIONAL COURSES.—Mr. A. P. Harper writes :

I am watching very closely the policy of Instruction Meets and co-operation with other clubs. It is a good policy, and if it has the success of a similar policy introduced here when I was President in 1930, you will be well rewarded. I have always held that careless climbing brings accidents *which discredit the sport*. I had many arguments with the Club leaders about my ideas when in London in 1926. Most of them in those days didn't altogether agree—but Farrar, Bruce and Mumm saw my point as far as New Zealand was concerned and thought I was on sound lines. Instructional activities must come into action now that so many fools try to do more than they should, and I reckon that the Alpine Club must take the lead as they have.

AN UNKNOWN ASCENT OF MONT BLANC.—Our Honorary Member M. Charles Vallot, writing in reference to the article under this title in *A. J.* 56. 47 *sqq.*, points out that in 1896 Mlle Mary Paillon published in the *Revue Alpine* of the Lyon Section of the C.A.F. a collection of MS. documents under the title 'Au Mont-Blanc en 1808.' Among these documents is the narrative of the ascent of Mont Blanc on July 12, 1808, which in the reference given above from *A. J.* was referred to as hitherto unknown. M. Vallot himself, in *Chamonix-Mont-Blanc* (1927) p. 87 and in *Autour du Mont-Blanc* (1947) p. 77 has alluded to the narrative. We regret our error, and are grateful to M. Vallot for indicating the mistake.

LE COLLÈGE NATIONALE D'ALPINISME ET DE SKI.—Four members of the Club, Messrs. A. D. M. Cox, R. A. Hodgkin, H. E. Kretschmer and E. Viney, spent a fortnight at the end of July 1947 attending an International Meet at the Collège Nationale d'Alpinisme et de Ski at Les Praz de Chamonix. As a base for mountaineering, it was ideal. Rates were extremely cheap and everything was done to give us a good time. Everybody climbed where and with whom they wanted.

There was an interesting and distinguished collection of climbers from seven countries. Though once or twice we heard the phrase, 'il est alpiniste de la classe internationale,' on the whole the atmosphere was pleasantly un-Olympic. There were two Czechs, MM. Vaverka and Prochazka who did Mt. Blanc by the classic route, virtuously refusing to use any modern form of transport. At the other extreme, the Italians, led by Signor Cicogna, did the north face of the Dru. There were four Belgian and four Swiss representatives. Amongst the latter was Franz Lochmatter, the son of the guide, who is now studying for both a medical degree and a guide's diploma. There were three Austrians, of whom Herr Schneider, of Kangchenjanga and Nanga Parbat, was one. The others, Mariner and Spannraft had brought a remarkable sample of their newly developed rescue gear. This combines in portable form the advantages of a crane, a small *téléférique*, a stretcher, a chair and a wheelbarrow. For mountain rescue work this apparatus is far ahead of anything in Britain and deserves close study by the B.M.C.

Our French hosts, apart from the college staff, included Mme Nea Morin and Mme Micheline Blanchard of the Ladies' Alpine Club and M. Lucien Devies, president of the G.H.M., who was largely responsible for the meet. He and his wife worked tirelessly and unobtrusively for the welfare of all members of the meet.

Side by side with the meet, the normal work of the *Collège* was going on. Its aim is to produce guides, not for the normal use of tourists, but as leaders who will take charge of youth camps or introduce to the mountains parties organised by the C.A.F., trades unions, schools, boys' clubs, etc. This is part of the policy of opening up the French mountains to the widest possible public, a policy initiated by Vichy and still supported by the Ministry of Education.

The *Collège* itself is controlled by M. Jean Franco, assisted by a staff of about 10 *moniteurs*. Some of these are outstandingly brilliant mountaineers and include men such as Lachenal who made the second ascent of the Eiger Nordwand. Two diplomas are awarded, that of *chef de cordée* and a harder one of *chef de course*. At first we were rather alarmed at staying in an institution where parties set off to do the north face of the Grandes Jorasses and where the Director's wife went gaily up the north face of the Dru. But we found the atmosphere pleasantly unfanatical, though at the same time businesslike. The party who did the *Eperon Walker* route on the Grandes Jorasses, the harder of the two north face routes, set out with no fuss or melodrama after carefully choosing their day. One man came back because he

was not entirely fit. The others completed the whole of this terrific climb without bivouacking on the face at all. This climb was done by *moniteurs* and was, of course, well above the standard of the climbs done by students. Though all the English members happened to be of the 'anti-organisational' school of mountaineers, we were very impressed by the pleasantly informal, serious, but not overearnest atmosphere of the *Collège*. There is no doubt that a number of very good mountaineers are being trained there.

R. A. HODGKIN.

FROM THE HIMALAYA.—An attempt was made this year on Rakaposhi, by a party consisting of our members Messrs. Campbell H. Secord and H. W. Tilman, and Herren Gyr and Kappeler from Switzerland. Two ridges of the mountain were tried and others examined; the S.W. ridge was ascended to a height of about 20,000 ft., and the N.W. ridge was reached at a point much nearer to the summit than that which was attained in 1938.

Later, Mr. Tilman joined Mr. E. E. Shipton, and they gained the summit dome of Mustagh Ata, at over 24,000 ft.

In Garhwal, a group of Swiss mountaineers, Mme Lohner, MM. André Roch, René Dittert, Alexander Graven and Alfred Sutter, have ascended Kedarnath, Satopanth, Nanda Ghunti and a peak of 6416 m. named Balbala on the Tibetan frontier.

We hope to be enabled to publish fuller details later.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP.—We welcome with congratulations the election of Mr. J. A. Sim, the distinguished New Zealand mountaineer, to Honorary Membership of the Alpine Club.

ACCIDENTS, 1947

THE season of 1947 has been exceptional in weather conditions. A light winter snowfall, combined with an early summer and long continued drought during July and August, created conditions which, while rendering certain climbs such as the Viereselgrat markedly easier than in a normal year, at the same time denuded many slopes of their snow or ice covering and thus exposed to the action of exterior forces rock faces which are usually covered by a compact layer of ice or snow. Consequently, not only was ice or even bare rock encountered when one might expect to find snow, but where snow lay on ice its coherence was often doubtful; moreover, the newly exposed rock faces were covered by many loose stones, and whether by day or by night there was the sound of stonefall, often in the most unlikely places. It was under such conditions that many of our countrymen, long