

ACCIDENTS, 1949

THE climbing season of 1949 was notable for fine weather and dry conditions similar to those of 1947. Snow disappeared from rock faces which, like the final cone of the Hasli Jungfrau peak of the Wetterhorn, are very rarely exposed ; the glaciers showed bare ice even up to the level of 10,000 ft. in some cases ; they were greatly crevassed, and so shrunk that it was often difficult to gain the flanks above their edges ; mountain faces and arêtes were unusually free of snow, and the exposure of rotten rock caused innumerable stonefalls. The fine weather, the many new or enlarged huts, and the facilitation of the approaches by marked paths or even by cable lifts, attracted crowds of inexperienced tourists to the higher mountains, but it was noticeable that the proportion of serious climbers was small. In these circumstances, the heavy death-roll which we have to lament was to be expected. The greatest ultimate cause of the fatal accidents was undoubtedly inexperience ; the most common immediate cause seems to have been stonefall ; but there were many instances of pure ' accident,' such as the disaster at Cham-onix when the collapse of the lower part of the Tour glacier cost the lives of a number of innocent visitors. Another remarkable disaster was that caused by an unexpected storm on Mont Blanc on August 11 ; and at the other extreme of chance, there were many curious causes of fatality, as in the case of a climber who unroped on the Dôme de Rochefort and lost his balance whilst changing his shirt. Of British deaths in the Alps, we have to record with deep regret the lives lost in accidents on Pollux, on the Lauteraarhorn, and on the Brouillard ridge of Mont Blanc—the last of which cost the life of a member of the Alpine Club through no fault of his own ; and we sympathise with our American friends, who lost two promising climbers in a strange accident on the Aiguille du Géant.

The accident on Pollux

ELEVEN members of the Alpine Club's ' senior ' meet at Täsch left the Monte Rosa (formerly, the Bétemps) hut at 3.30 A.M. on August 25. They climbed on four ropes, two parties under Mr. H. D. Greenwood and two under Mr. T. H. Sinclair, and their objective was the traverse of Castor—an excellent first expedition which was well within the competence of the two experienced leaders and the good material of their parties. The peak was traversed from the Felikjoch to the Zwillingjoch, reached at 11.30 in good climbing time for a training expedition under the current conditions, and the parties then contoured the base of Pollux to the Schwarztor. The descent from the Schwarztor was on the line now taken for a return to the hut, and Sinclair's ropes halted above point 3669 m. for Greenwood, who had halted further back, to

catch them up. In the meanwhile, one of Sinclair's ropes moved off in crampons, its members being Messrs. H. D. Bullock, D. A. Hanson (leader), and F. E. Whitmore. Below point 3669 m. there is a choice of descent by rocks or by a steep snowslope to their left. The named party seems to have selected the latter, as also a little later did Sinclair's own rope, the members of which had paused on point 3669 m. to put on their crampons. The slope in question was found to consist of ice, covered with a few inches of wet snow (the time by now was about 1 P.M.), and Sinclair saw an ice axe stuck by its pick near the top of the slope, but no other sign of the first party, nor evidence that steps had been cut; and it looked as if the thin surface snow had been swept off the ice in a line more or less parallel to that of the rocks—this line ended below at the top of a rock gully. Greenwood had elected to descend by the rocks, and his parties had taken off their crampons. On hearing of the discovery of the ice-axe, he decided to go down to examine the gully. There was no evidence in it to show that anything had fallen, but Mr. G. M. A. Harrison was sent round to examine it from the other (true left) side and saw a second ice-axe lying in the rocks of the opposite (right) wall. This clearly pointed to an accident, and Greenwood at once decided to search the gully. For this purpose Mr. N. P. Campbell went down first on the rope and heard a voice which seemed to come from a mass of newly-fallen but compacted snow at a point about 300 ft. below the top of the gully. This place was reached, and as the party began to dig in the snow, Sinclair, who had wisely decided to forsake the snow for the rocks and had halted on the snowslope to remove crampons, reached the top of the gully and then made every effort to join Greenwood quickly. By this time Greenwood and his party had found that Hanson and Whitmore were dead, and that Bullock was still alive but was buried below the others. Bullock's head had already been freed of snow to prevent suffocation, and with great difficulty he was now completely released, when it was found that he was suffering from a compound fracture of the leg and other serious injuries. His two companions had been killed instantaneously on striking the rocks.

Bullock was now taken to a safe ledge, his legs were bound together, his hands were rubbed to bring back the circulation, he was wrapped in the warm clothes of his companions, and hot water bottles were improvised by heating melted snow with meta fuel and filling the drinking flasks. Mr. J. H. Veasey (who was later killed on the Lauteraarhorn after leaving the meet) was sent with Messrs. G. M. A. Harrison and K. C. Edwards to the Monte Rosa hut to summon a rescue party. There they arrived at about 5.30 P.M., and a party of guides, accompanied by Greenwood's naval son, left the hut an hour later. Greenwood himself and Mr. W. A. W. Russell left the gully at 5.30 P.M. to meet the rescue party, but missed it, and on reaching the hut they ordered a special train up to Rotenboden. In the meanwhile, everything possible had been done for Bullock, who, except perhaps for a few minutes after he was uncovered, remained unconscious, and was obviously sinking. His body became steadily colder in spite of the

efforts of his companions, who lay down beside him, and it was probably at or before 7 P.M. that he died so peacefully that the exact time cannot be stated. When the rescue party arrived, Bullock was certainly dead, and the three bodies were left in the gully. Greenwood and others, who had started out from the hut to help to bring Bullock down, met the returning parties and went back with them to the hut, which they reached at 1.30 A.M. on August 26. Veasey and Edwards then went to Rotenboden to cancel the special train, but it had already left and they regained the hut at about 6 A.M., by which time they had been 27 hours out ; whilst Russell and Campbell went down to Täsch, reached at 3 A.M., to break the news to Mrs. Hanson before it became public, and Campbell went up to the Dom hut that same day to give the news to Peaker and other members of the meet. Three of the meet's parties, however, remained out of contact until August 28. Enough has been said above to make it almost unnecessary to add that the conduct of the surviving parties who were on the spot was wholly admirable, and that what they did under the excellent leadership of Greenwood and Sinclair was as efficient as could be.

The news of this accident was the occasion of a wave of Swiss sympathy and active help in Zermatt which none will forget who was there at the time. Foremost in both was our own member the Count de Suzannet, who devoted himself to easing the various difficulties which arise on such occasions, and has received the thanks of the Alpine Club. The funeral, conducted by the English Chaplain, assisted by the Rev. Mr. F. L. Jenkins, a member of the meet itself, was a simple and very moving ceremony.

It is not possible to be certain about the immediate cause of the accident, but it was probably due to a slip on the part of a member of the party, and to the failure of the others to hold him whilst they were standing in crampons. As to contributing causes, including inexperience, it would be easy to point to them—the first rope to descend should have been that led by the more experienced leader ; and the less experienced party should have been kept under stricter control, although that is difficult. But we may confine ourselves to a word about crampons, the use of which almost certainly contributed to the accident if it was not indeed the actual cause. For 'great' climbing, where speed and the duration of daylight are real factors, the use of crampons is often essential to success ; and for this reason the proper use of crampons should be part of the technical equipment of every serious mountaineer. In all cases where the saving of time by using crampons is not essential to success, crampons are merely labour-saving devices ; and as such they naturally tempt the beginner (and others) to neglect step-cutting in ice and hard snow—which, for proficiency, requires considerable practice, whilst the efficient use of crampons can be learnt in a much shorter time. The real danger of crampons lies less in the occasional occurrence of 'balling' snow unsuspected by the climber, than in the deliberate taking of risks on doubtful snow by climbers who have so abused the wearing of crampons that they do not feel confident

without them, and thus prefer to take the risk. It would be wise for every beginner who intends to be a serious mountaineer to resolve not to use crampons until he has acquired confidence in ordinary nailed boots on steep and exposed ice, perhaps in his third season. After that, he will have won the right to wear crampons with an easy conscience. It may be suggested that, however valuable they may be when used by experienced mountaineers, crampons and vibram soles should not be allowed at beginners' meets.

The Lauteraarhorn accident

MESSRS. N. P. CAMPBELL and J. H. VEASEY, who had been members of the Alpine Club meet at Täsch and had played fine parts after the accident described above, left the Strahlegg hut at 3.30 A.M. on August 1 for an ascent of the Lauteraarhorn by the ridge up from the Strahlegg pass. They kept to the direct arête above the point where it is usually quitted to the right and until they were forced to the left on to the W. face at a point about 250 ft. below the summit. An upward traverse of this face led over a very steep rock wall and into a shallow gully. They had so far led alternate pitches, and here it was Campbell's turn to anchor himself in the gully whilst Veasey climbed a buttress on the left (or north) of the gully. When he had run out about 100 ft. of rope he fell and went down the rocks and over the very steep or vertical wall, and lay unconscious on the rope. Campbell was unable to reach Veasey, who must have died almost immediately, and he completed the ascent in order to descend by the ordinary way and to get help from another party on the mountain. This party did not respond to his shouts, and Campbell returned to the Strahlegg hut which he reached at about 1 P.M. The hut guardian and his cousin, Christian and Alexander Baumann, who had had no sleep for two nights owing to the crowding of the hut, went up with first aid equipment, but Veasey was dead.

This was probably a pure rock-climbing accident similar to those on British mountains, and it calls only for two observations. There has been some criticism that the 'cause' of the accident was the choice of a 'wrong' route; but if a route is not prohibited by stonefall or other actual dangers of the mountains, and if it can be descended in safety should an impasse be met, the route cannot be called 'wrong'—and in this case Campbell's solitary ascent of the remaining section shows that the party selected a feasible, and therefore a 'right' route. A second point to be made is this: given rocks of equal quality, the climbing is actually more difficult at the 4,000 metre level than at 4000 ft. or less, and although rocks look (and are) the same at the two altitudes, greater than usual care (if that is possible) must be taken at the higher levels.

The Storm on Mont Blanc

THE early morning of August 11 was fine in the Range of Mont Blanc, and a cold wind came intermittently from between the N. and N.W. As the bright and clear morning wore on, the wind increased in strength and, now definitely from the N.W., it brought up a great bank of clouds. At about 1 P.M. hail began to fall lightly on the Chamonix Aiguilles between short clearings of the weather, but by 2.30 P.M., when the wind became violent and very cold, the hail began to fall heavily, and this serious storm lasted with few interruptions for about twelve hours.

That morning, an Italian guideless party from Ivrea left the hut on the Col de la Fourche for an ascent of the Sentinelle route on the Brenva face of Mont Blanc. The names of its four members were : Emile Riva, Emile Parato, Giovanni Oreggia, and Francesco Lama ; and they climbed on two ropes. This was a strong party, and Riva and Parato had previously climbed Mont Blanc by the Innominata face and the Péteret ridge. The party, however, had only reached the level of the Sentinelle rock when it was seen from a distance at about 10 A.M., and it is doubtful if it would have reached the summit much before sunset under the current conditions even in good weather. The lower part of the climb would be sheltered from the wind, but the exposed upper part must have been climbed in the hailstorm, whilst the party must have faced a gale during the ascent of the final cone of the mountain. It may therefore have been well after sunset when the party reached the summit at the height of the storm and began to fight its way down to the Vallot hut.

The storm subsided early on August 12, a clear and fine day, and a French party which climbed Mont Blanc from Chamonix came upon three bodies lying in the snow above La Tournette on the Bosses arête and less than 500 yards from the summit. Three ice-axes had been driven close together into the snow ; two bodies, still roped together, lay on the French slope about a yard below the axes, their rope being wound round two of the latter ; to the third axe, a loose rope was attached ; and a third body, unroped, lay further down the arête near the rock of La Tournette. Three rucksacks lay beside the ice axes.

As there was evidence that the victims were Italians, the Chamonix authorities telephoned the news to Courmayeur at 8 P.M., and preparations were made for the recovery of the bodies. A party of guides, led by Élisée Croux, left Courmayeur at noon next day and went on from the Torino hut by way of the Col du Midi, climbing by night. When they reached the Rochers Rouges on their way to the summit (on the far side of which the three bodies lay), they came unexpectedly on two more bodies lying in the snow about a yard apart, and roped together. These proved to be the remains of a man and a woman, Francesco Ronco and Margherita Datta, who had died from exposure. The woman lay in a windproof sack drawn up as far as her chest, but both of the victims, who were not strong climbers, were ill-prepared for bad

weather, and they had evidently made no effort to turn their backs to the storm and descend to the Col de la Brenva, from which they might have reached the Col du Midi hut or the Grands Mulets in safety before the conditions became severe. The Courmayeur guides decided to bring these two bodies down at once, and they reached the valley with them late in the afternoon of August 14, but Élisée Croux and some of the other guides had first gone up to examine the other bodies. By this time it was known that there had been four members of the party, and now a fourth ice axe and rucksack were found lying at the upper edge of a narrow crevasse about 100 ft. below the other bodies on the French side of the arête, but no trace of a fourth body was found.

A second party of twenty-four Courmayeur guides and porters, now under Édouard Bareux, was sent out to bring in the three bodies from La Tournette. This party left Courmayeur in the afternoon of August 16 and reached the hut on the Col du Midi, where it slept. The subsequent movements of the guides were so rapid that they deserve notice: Quitting the hut at 3 A.M. on August 17, they reached the summit of Mont Blanc at 6.30 A.M. The bodies, having been wrapped in sheets of zinc brought from the Col du Midi, were taken down to the Grands Mulets (10.30 A.M.), where a halt was made until mid-day. Then the Station des Glaciers was reached in an hour, at 1 P.M., and at 5 P.M. the members of the party and its burden were drawn up to the Col du Midi on the service téléphérique used for the new works. This process took three hours, and the guides slept at the hut. On August 18 they left the hut at 5.30 A.M. and reached the Torino hut on the Col du Géant at 7 A.M.—in the remarkably short time of ninety minutes in spite of their load. Entrèves was reached by téléphérique at 8 A.M. The notable performance of this party says much for the excellent leadership of Édouard Bareux and shows what guides can do when pressed for time. Later protracted searches have so far failed to find any trace of Riva, the fourth member of the ill-fated party.

This double disaster, in which six lives were lost from exposure and exhaustion during a storm, has some features in common with the even greater disaster of 1870 in which no less than eleven lives were lost in the 'Bean' accident on Mont Beane.¹ It was at first thought that the victims at La Tournette might have been killed by lightning, but a British guideless party which was caught by the storm on the N. face of the Aiguille du Géant, and had to make a forced and sleepless bivouac in the open during the descent, saw and heard nothing of any such thunderstorm; and subsequent medical examination proved that the victims had died of exposure. A likely explanation of the curious disposition of the bodies is this: the party, fighting its way at night in the teeth of the storm, reached its limit of endurance near La Tournette, where two members collapsed; Riva then unroped and descended on the French side to seek a crevasse in which the party might shelter out of the wind, but failed to return, perhaps because he lost his bearings

¹ A.J. 5. 193.

and wandered, or perhaps because he fell into a crevasse ; when Riva failed to return, the strongest of the remaining three then unroped and tried to reach the Vallot hut for possible help, but collapsed and died himself before he had gone more than a few yards.

The deaths near La Tournette were probably due to causes outside the control of the climbers, except that too late a start or too leisurely climbing on the lower part of the Sentinelle route may possibly have been a contributory cause. For the rest : the climb was justified by the conditions when it was begun ; a decision to complete it rather than to descend when the storm became serious on the upper part of the route was probably wise, and so too was the attempt to reach the Vallot hut. As has been said above, the party itself was strong and experienced ; and the direct causes of the disaster were the exceptional violence of the wind and the very great cold. The combination of the two is one of the most serious of Alpine dangers on long ascents which occupy most of the climbing day and take the party to great heights. The lives of many strong climbers (as well as of many weak ones) have been lost in storm above the 14,000 ft. level.

The second party, which was found at the Rochers Rouges, was an instance of the weak ones, and the deaths of its two members must be ascribed to human failure—or it may be more fair to blame the commercial interests which have found a profitable field in the growing popularity of the sport abroad. A téléphérique will now take you up from Entrèves to the Col du Géant in less than fifteen minutes, and if any old-fashioned mountaineer decides to walk up, he will be lucky to secure even a mattress at the Torino hut, and he will find that the old hut on the col is occupied by squatters. This easy approach by lift has so popularised the ascent of Mont Blanc from the Col du Midi that the Dôme route is now rarely used (except for the descent) and there is no longer a guardian at the Dôme hut. For the Col du Midi route, the lift is taken to the Torino hut (now run jointly by the Italian Alpine Club and the Téléférique Company), and the climbers then thread their way to the new Col du Midi hut through shoals of skiers and several ski-ing schools—an obstacle which will greatly increase (as is confidently expected) when the corresponding téléphérique on the French side is completed to the Col du Midi. Apart from ski-ing, it is hoped that crowds of tourists will go up one lift, walk across to the other, and go down it ; eventually, the tourists will be returned to their starting-points through the road tunnel under Mont Blanc between Chamonix and Courmayeur, which has already been begun. As an Italian climber said to the writer, the last refinement will probably be a supply of mules to spare fatigue on the passage from the top of one lift to the top of the other.

After spending the night at the Col du Midi hut, the climbers take the ordinary route to Mont Blanc, the summit of which should be reached in about six hours—as has been noted above, the Courmayeur guides made the ascent in $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours. The descent, which slow parties interrupt by a night at the Vallot hut, is made by the Dôme route.

This shortening and easing of what was an arduous undertaking when there was no téléférique and no hut on the Col du Midi, now attracts many ill-equipped, inexperienced, and weak parties, which are nevertheless capable of making the ascent slowly if all goes well under favourable conditions. Of these, the party found at the Rochers Rouges was one. The couple should have reached the summit before the storm broke, and long before it became serious. Instead, they had climbed so slowly that they were caught far below the summit, and lay down under the partial shelter of a rock where an experienced party would have turned in its tracks and regained the hut at the Col du Midi. Slow movement, bad judgment due to inexperience, and lack of sufficient warm clothing were in this case the causes of the deaths of two people, although they had not been exhausted by a fight against the storm. It is worthy of note that a strong party—M. André Roch and Messrs. Charleston and Tilly—climbed Mont Blanc from the Col du Midi hut that same day and reached the Grandes Mulets by mid-day, long before the storm began. On the way to the hut they had remarked the inexperience of a man and a woman (probably the fatal pair) whom they passed.

This accident gives much food for thought, and it is worth while to recall what Signor G. F. Gugliermi said to the writer and some friends a few days before the disaster: 'If you have to lighten your sack, sacrifice food rather than warm clothes—cold can kill on a mountain, but you will not die of hunger.' After the disaster, Henri Rey, now *guide chef* at Courmayeur, blamed the téléférique bitterly, and said another wise thing: 'The climber should have to earn his summit.' In other words, the sport is meaningless unless it involves a considerable physical effort—the price to be paid for achievement.¹

The accident on the Aiguille du Géant.²

FOUR young Americans who were good rock climbers began to climb the Aiguille du Géant by the ordinary route late in the afternoon of August 18. They climbed on two ropes led respectively by Mr. James Graham MacNear and Mr. John Frederick Speck. The first leader reached the point, about 25 ft. above the foot of the actual climb, at which a traverse is made to the left, and here he attempted to continue straight up, for which purpose he drove in a piton. The leader of the second rope surmounted the initial 10-ft. flake and gained the rock above it, where he was in line a few feet below the first leader, whilst the second members of the two parties stood on the ledge at the start of the climb. This

¹ The information about this double disaster was obtained from Monsieur C. Bich of Courmayeur and from the excellent Courmayeur guides, Édouard Bareux and Élisée Croux, to all of whom we tender our thanks.

² We are indebted to our member, Mr. W. H. Murray, for the details about this accident. He was on the spot at the time, having just reached the base of the Aiguille du Géant after a traverse of the Rochefort arête.

was the position when the first leader fell off. His piton was heard to come out with a loud 'ping,' and he apparently fell down on the second leader, who was knocked off his stance. The first leader's nylon rope broke close to his waist, perhaps immediately after he slipped but in any case before the strain of the rope could come on his second man, and he was killed at once during his fall of many hundreds of feet. The sudden fall of the two leaders apparently occurred out of sight of their second men, who must have been caught unaware, and although the second leader fell from a point certainly less than 20 ft. above the initial ledge, his fall was not arrested before the whole length of the 120-ft. nylon rope had run out. There he lay on the rock some little height above the ice slope at which the rock terminates; but his actual fall had been greater—the elasticity of the rope had allowed him to crash on the ice below, where he was killed instantaneously before the recoil of the rope drew the body back up the rock. The immediate cause of this sad accident must have been a rock-climbing slip; its fatal consequence was due to an insecure piton; and the double fatality was due to bad tactics—the climbing of two independent leaders one behind the other whilst their second men were apparently not in positions from which they could watch the action and could therefore take immediate steps in an emergency. Had this not been the case, the fall of the second leader should have been stopped in a few yards. A curious feature of this accident was the fact that the great elasticity of the nylon rope, one of its most valuable qualities in other circumstances, was a contributory factor in the death of the second leader, if not perhaps, in a sense, its actual cause.

The accident on the Brouillard ridge

BUT for two remarkable performances, there would have been little cause for description, as there is none for comment, in the case of the death of Mr. Richard Albert Hull on the Brouillard ridge of Mont Blanc, by which science lost a physicist of much promise and the Alpine Club an experienced mountaineer who would have reached even greater heights in the future.

Dr. Robert Charles Evans and Mr. Richard Hull left the Quintino Sella hut at 2 A.M. on August 22 for an ascent of the Brouillard ridge. They made for the foot of the W. couloir of Col Emile Rey by a horizontal traverse, in the course of which they encountered much difficulty in gaining and crossing the Glacier du Mont Blanc because of its shrunken and greatly crevassed state. Several fragile snow bridges were encountered during the intricate passage, and then the ascent of the couloir and its adjacent rocks landed them on Col Emile Rey at 8.30 A.M. After a halt of about fifteen minutes they set off again and soon reached the foot of the shallow rock couloir which leads up to easier ground above. At this time Hull was in the lead; there was no ice or snow in the couloir; and they moved together up the lowest and

easy section, after which Hull climbed singly to a ledge about 40 ft. above the foot of the rocks. Here Evans joined him and secured himself on a good stance, and Hull then climbed more difficult rock until he paused at a place about 30 ft. above Evans to search for the further way. There had been no sound or other evidence of stonefall from above when Evans saw Hull suddenly fall head-first accompanied by pieces of rock, and there can be no doubt that a handhold had broken away. Hull's head struck the rock before he had fallen past Evans, and it again struck the rock before Evans, whose shoulder was bruised by the rope, and whose fingers were nearly cut to the bone, stopped the fall when Hull's unconscious body was about 30 ft. below him. Evans at once lowered the body to a ledge about 10 ft. further down, tied the rope to a rock, and climbed down to Hull, who had probably been killed instantaneously, because no pulse could be felt. Here Evans noticed that the time was not yet 9.15, and he then, with great difficulty, succeeded in carrying and dragging the body clear of the foot of the couloir and to a sheltered ledge some little way up towards Col Emile Rey. A more careful examination was then possible, but it only confirmed the fact that Hull was dead, and it was subsequently found that the base of the skull had been badly fractured. After Evans had done all that could be done he reascended the couloir to free the rope, which he needed for his own descent, and then returned to the body, where he waited for some time in the vain hope that he had been mistaken about the fact of death. It was therefore not until about 11 A.M. that Charles Evans began his solitary descent from Col Emile Rey. He went down in the morning's tracks with great caution, using the doubled rope occasionally to lessen the risks; and because stones began to fall in the W. couloir of Col Emile Rey, he paused lower down where rocks (in 1949) were exposed in its bed, and calculated the chances of stonefall on the alternate lines of descent before selecting one of them. In view of the softening of the snow bridges on the crevassed glacier and other risks for a solitary man, Evans sought and found a safer way across and off the ice at a lower level than that taken in the morning. All these precautions cost time, but he regained the Sella hut at 4 P.M., paused there for ten minutes, and, now travelling more quickly, reached the Cantine de la Visaille at 8 P.M. After a halt of fifteen minutes only, he set out on a borrowed bicycle for Courmayeur, where he hoped to find the only friend he knew to be in the district. There he arrived at 9 P.M., nearly exhausted by a magnificent personal achievement which, except in its lesser duration, is worthy of comparison with that of Mr. F. W. Hill after the accident to O. G. Jones on the Dent Blanche in 1899.¹

Monsieur C. Bich of the Courmayeur Municipality was at once told of the accident, and secrecy was secured until the news could be broken to the relatives. Great praise and deep thanks are due to Monsieur Bich for all that he now did, and for the way in which he gave his energy and his own time unsparingly. Henri Rey, the present *guide-chef* at

¹ A.J. 19. 590.

Courmayeur, and the friend of many British climbers, sent up a party of six guides on the following day (August 23) to recover the body. Their names deserve to be recorded : Arturo Ottoz (leader), Eugenio Jordaney, Camillo Salluard, Henrico Rey (nephew of Henri), Mario Derriard, and Emilio Mochet. It was decided to bring the body down the very rarely climbed E. couloir of Col Emile Rey to the Gamba hut, and the guides slept there that night ; but they were forced by a snow-storm on the 24th to remain in the hut. As continued bad weather might prevent an attempt to recover the body until next season, and as it might by then have been swept away, the guides determined to bring it down at all costs on the 25th, which was a day of threatening weather ; and they did this in spite of the eighteen inches of new snow which had fallen in the preceding twenty-four hours. In view of the grave avalanche danger in the E. couloir and from the parts above it, from which stones might also fall, the guides climbed unroped, thus to preserve their individual liberty of action. In the event, they reached the body without serious incident and brought it down safely to Courmayeur, which they reached that same evening. This was a second brave and splendid achievement, the full merit of which will be appreciated by all who know the Brouillard glacier and the ascent on that side to Col Emile Rey. Richard Hull was buried in the Courmayeur cemetery on the following morning. The simple and touching funeral service was conducted by Signor Vittorio Subilia, the Waldensian pastor ; Professor d'Entrèves translated parts of his address for Dr. Charles Evans and three Britons who supported him ; and the coffin was carried to the grave by guides who had recovered the body.

ALPINE NOTES

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :

Year of Election.

Garwood, E. J.	1894
Joseland, H. L.	1896
Field, A. E.	1899
Williams, W. J.	1903
Gurdon, B. E. M.	1917
Workman, R.	1917
Milroy, W. C.	1920
Hopkinson, Albert	1922
Gait, H. J.	1923
Smythe, F. S.	1926
Ladd, W. S.	1927
Gos, Charles (Hon. Member 1939)	1935
Hull, R. A.	1948

PERSONAL.—The club congratulates Sir Robert Robinson on the award of the Order of Merit in the Birthday Honours.