

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.

We also congratulate Mr. P. Wyn Harris on his appointment as Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Gambia.

Lt.-Col. Kenneth Mason has been elected Master of the Drapers' Company for the ensuing year.

VISITORS.—We were glad to see at the Club this summer Mr. William C. West, on a visit from South Africa.

GIFTS TO THE CLUB.—We have to acknowledge a valuable portfolio of paintings of Alpine flowers by Elijah Walton, sent to us by Miss D. Salmon, of Weybridge.

Sir A. M. Carr-Saunders has presented to the Library a very interesting list of the expeditions made by Madame Charlet-Straton. The list is considerably fuller than that given in the obituary notice of her in the *A.J.* 32. 262–5, especially in the early years of 1861–1872. It is of interest to note that in 1865 she was in Zermatt (which she had visited in 1863 and 1864) in August, less than a month after Hudson and Whymper's conquest of the Matterhorn.

W. C. SLINGSBY.—On May 24, the Club received the following telegram from the Norsk Tindeklub :

' On the centennial of William Cecil Slingsby's birth, Norsk Tindeklub sends the best greetings to the Alpine Club in gratitude and devotion for what this great mountaineer has meant to all of us—The Committee.'

A reply, expressing the Alpine Club's appreciation of this telegram, was sent by the President and Committee.

EVEREST.—Several newspapers this year made a feature of the 25th anniversary of the loss of Mallory and Irvine on Everest (June 5, 1924).

TIRICH MIR (25,426 FT.)—We have had a letter from Mr. Eilert Sundt, informing us that two of the younger members of the Norsk Tindeklub have returned from a reconnaissance of Tirich Mir in N. Chitral, on which they estimated they had attained a height of about 21,500 ft. We hope to hear more of this expedition.

Mr. Sundt adds that he himself this year climbed Store Skagastolstind, just 50 years after his first ascent of the mountain. We congratulate him.

ACCIDENT TO MRS. H. R. C. CARR.—We regret to learn that the wife of a well-known member of the Club had an accident in the Alps, but fortunately the affair was much less than at first reported. The newspapers declared that Mr. Carr had fallen and fractured his skull and that Mrs. Carr had run to Zermatt to organise a rescue party. In point of fact, it was Mrs. Carr who was hurt ; stone-falls on rock peaks have been frequent this year as the result of the drought, and she was hit by a piece and sustained a fractured heel. Mr. Carr was not

injured at all and the Press appear in this instance to have excelled themselves in the art of manufacturing corroborative details to sustain a story that reversed the injured and uninjured parties.

HIGH ALPINE MICE.¹—We are indebted to M. L. Seylaz, editor of *Les Alpes*, for the following note :

Mice will haunt the most difficult rocks. Last year, while resting on one of the sharpest pinnacles of the Salbitschyn West Ridge (See *Les Alpes*, 1949, p. 43), a friend of mine saw a plump mouse come out of a crack in the rock and run about quite unconcerned. He confesses that the comparison between the mouse's climbing powers and his own were not to his advantage. But how the little creature solved the food problem, he was at a loss to know.

ACCIDENTS.—Mr. M. H. Slater writes of an accident on the Weiss-horn that narrowly missed having serious results. Four British climbers were descending a steep ice slope from the Bieshorn-Weisshorn ridge (near the Bieshorn end, facing N.W.) at about 11.30 A.M. on July 13, when they fell some 200 metres, luckily shooting the bergschrund.

They had been watched from the Tracuit hut, and the guardian, accompanied by Mr. Slater and his climbing companion and a Swiss climber at the hut, went to the rescue. Two had damaged legs and one had body injuries that prevented him moving ; the other was practically unhurt. They were all brought safely to the hut before dark.

The party was not apparently strong enough to justify it undertaking that particular descent, although the weather was good. But the snow was thin on the ice. Steps did not appear to have been cut, and crampons were being relied upon except by the man who was coming down last (!), who had no crampons. It was he who fell and dragged down the whole rope.

Three friends of this party had tried the same descent a little further to the E., but gave it up and came down by the ordinary route. They saved themselves from a fall just above the bergschrund when the middle one on the rope, a girl (without crampons), slipped but was held.

THE LATE MR. ALLSTON BURR.—Dr. Monroe Thorington kindly informs us that Mr. Alston Burr was not actually an original member of the American Alpine Club, as stated in the obituary in the last number of the ALPINE JOURNAL. The American Alpine Club was founded in 1902, and it was not until 1906 that Mr. Allston Burr joined it.

'ALPINE UPLIFT.'—A lady sends us an amusing letter on this topic. Having been greatly depressed by Mr. Howard's gloomy forecast in the May number of the ALPINE JOURNAL, of the likely proceedings at meetings of the Club fifty years hence, she carefully observed the habits and behaviour of young Italian climbers at huts in the Dolomites.

¹ See *A. J.* 57. 100.

Points she noted were striking : superabundant nourishment (details may mercifully be suppressed here), high spirits, and an atmosphere of unrelieved happiness—but no dreamy faces, no far-away looks, not even (presumably) a not *too* French french bean in a buttonhole, and no other trace or suspicion of spiritual ‘ uplift.’ This unawaited discovery suggested that it is all a matter of Food, and that a generous diet forces people to run about over mountains to work off their superfluous energy, whilst we may suppose that starvation (a saintly technique) leads to passive contemplation of yet higher things. Our correspondent therefore thinks that the Alpine Club may yet be saved if it is made obligatory for its members ‘ to eat juicy steaks twice daily, preceded by solid soups, accompanied by large helpings of vegetables, salads and potatoes, and washed down by gallons of wine or beer. Let this be followed by luscious chocolate cake and rounded off by coffee full of whipped cream.’ We are inclined to agree, and in any case the unusual experiment might perhaps be worth a trial.

MASS MOUNTAINEERING.—The new Soviet technique of assaults in mass seems to be spreading. Thus we learn from the evening newspapers of October 10, that an attempt to climb Popocatepetl was recently made by a party of no less than 5,000 climbers. This was evidently no rash undertaking, because the death rate was kept as low as 0·04 per cent., whilst the total casualty rate was only 0·84 per cent. Such figures compare favourably with those in many common epidemics.

THE 1949 CLIMBING SEASON.—The almost continuous dry weather during the climbing season of 1949 produced conditions like those in 1947. The glaciers, being greatly crevassed and much shrunken at their edges, often presented almost insuperable difficulties, and (for instance) a very strong Italian party spent as long as seven hours in making the direct traverse of the Fresnay glacier from the Col de l’Innominata. In compensation, rock faces were unusually warm and free of ice or snow, and although there was a corresponding increase of stonefalls in places where they might be expected, many steep and difficult routes on sound rock were for long periods in exceptionally good condition, of which full advantage was taken. Such usual snow slopes as that on the final ascent to the Hasli-Jungfrau became rock faces, and ‘ mixed ’ ridges like the Viereselgrat and the Frontier arête of Mont Maudit were almost wholly denuded of snow.

Both these ridges were climbed without guides by Dr. R. C. Evans and Mr. R. A. Hull, who were joined by Commander C. J. W. Simpson and Mr. A. G. Trower on the second of them, and the party thereafter climbed the old Brenva route. Two young Bradford climbers, Messrs. D. H. Greenald and G. Hillwood, with the Courmayeur guide Gobbi, climbed the Grandes Jorasses by the Hironnelles arête. M. André Roch succeeded on the N. face of the Matterhorn, the fifth ascent of which had previously been made on June 27 by the guides Gaston Rebuffat and R. Simond ; and we learn from a letter to Mr. Bryan Donkin

that our new member, M. Bernard Pierre, made the first ascent of the N. arête of the Aiguille des Deux Aigles with Gaston Rebuffat, and then the second ascent of the W. face of the Aiguille Noire de Péteret by the Ratti-Vitali route—a severe climb which involved two bivouacs, and on which one passage of about 80 ft. called for twenty-two pitons and eight hours of effort.

There were many notable achievements, by Italian climbers on their own flanks of the Alps, for information about some of which we are indebted to Signor P. Gazzana Priaroggia.

In the Dolomites, the second ascent of the Croz dell' Altissimo by the Oppio route was made on July 27–29 by Signori A. Oggiani, W. Bonnatti, and J. Aiazzi ; and Signori B. Alini and J. Ainzzi made the second ascent of the S.E. face of the Marmolata by the Vinatzer-Castiglioni route on August 18–20. In the Central Alps, the second ascent of the Cassin-Panzeri route on the N. face of Piz Cengalo was made on July 24 by Signori G. B. Cesana, C. Negri, E. Monticelli, and G. Gallotti ; whilst two Italian parties climbed Piz Badite by the Cassin-Ratti route on the N.E. face, the third ascent of which was made on July 10–11 by Signori A. Castagna and G. Mauri, and the fourth ascent on August 1–4 by Signori A. Oggioni, B. Alini, and J. Aiazzi. In the Range of Mont Blanc, there were three Italian ascents of the S. arête of the Aiguille Noire de Péteret, one of which was made by Signori Gazzana himself, and the third ascent of the W. face of the same peak by its Ratti-Vitali route (mentioned above) was made with one bivouac on August 13–14 by Signori A. Oggioni, E. Villa, and W. Bonatti. On August 17–19, two Italian parties climbed the N. face of the Grandes Jorasses (sixth and seventh ascents by the Cassin route to Pointe Walker)—Signori Oggioni and Bonatti, and Signori Villa and M. Bianchi.

On Mont Blanc itself, there were many ascents of the ' great routes ' on the Italian flanks. Mlle Boulaz and M. P. Bonnant made the third ascent of the Via della Pera on the Brenva face on July 31, and there were three ascents of Route Major. Signor P. Ghiglione sends us details of his ascent of the latter route on July 28 with the Courmayeur guide Arturo Ottaz, in very good time, which was due in part to their use of the edge of the great couloir for about 240 metres. In spite of the ' dry ' season, the snow ridges were in such excellent condition that they could be tackled in almost continuous movement. The snowslope on the flank of the final buttress was so shrunken that the ' unclimbable ' corner had to be turned by cutting steps in the very steep slope round and under the rock tongue—the first repetition of this exposed ice passage since the initial ascent of 1928, when similiar conditions compelled it to be taken. The most difficult part of the climb was the exit through the ice wall, which was effected up a cleft between the main wall and a detached flake of ice. Signor Ghiglione adds : ' I found this climb one of the most enjoyable on the whole Mont Blanc.' He had left the fixed bivouac on the Col de la Fourche at 1.30 A.M. ; Col Moore at 2.30 ; passed the Sentinelle rock at 4.30 ; crossed the

Great Couloir twenty minutes later ; gained the ridge (at the second snow arête ?) at 6.15 and the pedestal of the final buttress at 8.30 ; reached the ice wall at 9.30, surmounted it at 9.55, and at 11.25 reached the summit of Mont Blanc.

THE INNOMINATA FACE.—Signor P. Ghiglione also sends us brief details of his ascent of this face, which is of particular interest in view of Mr. Courtauld's paper on previous pages. On August 17, 1949, Signor Ghiglione and Dr. A. Huber left the fixed bivouac on Pic Eccles with the Courmayeur guide Evaristo Croux at 6 A.M. They overcame the difficulties of the first step on the rib at 9 A.M., and then cut in ice across the wide couloir towards the branch rib on the left ; but they then apparently went up in the couloir to its head, from which they made a direct ascent to a point on the branch rib not far from its junction with the main rib above the third step on the latter. This point seems to have been reached at about 11 A.M., an hour's climbing then landed the party on the Brouillard ridge by the usual route, and the summit of Mont Blanc was reached at 1.50 P.M. This remarkable climb was made in mist from 10 o'clock onwards, and the party came into a violent storm when it reached the Brouillard ridge. The descent was made by the Dôme route, the Gonella (Dôme) hut being reached at 6.15 P.M.

MR. C. B. MACHIN WRITES.—With regard to Mr. W. H. Murray's review of the *S.M.C. Guide to the Island of Skye* in the May issue of the *Alpine Journal*, and his remarks about the reclassification of the Rock Climbs, particularly the White Slab route of Coire a Ghrunnda : This climb has been written down from severe to difficult ; if the route just to the right (climber's right) of the White Slab be taken, I consider this top portion to be at least a hard V.D., about the same standard as the Cioch West. However, there are easier routes to the left of the Slab, and further to the right. The whole climb is then a good 'difficult.' It is interesting to note that in the Glen Brittle House log book, under the date September 1935, the following : 'variation by way of right hand side of the White Slab itself (Wedderburn's route) was climbed by a rope from above, J.A.R.'

Both in the old edition (p. 63) and in the new one (p. 64) of the *Skye Guide*, it is stated that King's Cave Route, Bhasteir Tooth, was found in 1924 to be entirely blocked by a fall of rock. However, this is not so now, the route being easily negotiable. The route lies down a narrow cleft (torch useful) ; on emerging from the cleft, the climber is in a wide cave ; descent then requires back and foot work for about 40 ft. ; alternatively, there is a large block on right of the cave (looking out) for sling and abseil rope. This route is probably the quickest way off the Tooth with a tired party, and late in the evening, such as would be the case if the Pinnacle Ridge and Western Ridges of Sgurr nan Gillean had previously been traversed. The route has no exposure like Naismith's, the only other alternative being the Chimney and Slab route

towards Lota Corrie ; this involves 400 ft. of descent, the climbing being of moderately difficult standard, but the party has to re-ascend a similar length of tiring scree to the Col again, i.e. the Bealach nan Lice, if making for Glen Brittle.

ALPINE CLUB PENSIONS FUND APPEAL

Since the publication of the third list of subscribers in the ALPINE JOURNAL, No. 278, Vol. 57 (May 1949), the following subscriptions have been received :—

FOURTH LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

A = Donations.

B = Annual Subscriptions.

C = Promises to execute a Seven Years' Covenant.

	A.			B.			C.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Allsup, W., Esq. . . .	1	1	0						
Balston, F. W., Esq. (2nd don.)	3	0	0						
Bell, Rev. J. A. H. . . .	1	1	0						
Bird, Major L. W. . . .	2	2	0						
Brady, Dr. J. W. S. . . .	4	0	0						
Brown, Alan W., Esq. . . .	10	0	0						
Bullock, G. H., Esq. . . .	5	0	0						
Cobham, Rev. J. O. . . .	2	2	0						
Cocker, Dr. R.	2	2	0						
Cortlandt-Simpson, Lt.-Comdr. J. W. . . .							2	2	0
Coverley-Price, A. V., Esq. . .	1	0	0						
Croft, Lt.-Col. N. A. C. . . .	1	1	0						
Culverwell, Lt.-Col. E. R. . .	21	0	0						
Finch, Prof. G. I.	5	5	0						
Galloway, A. A., Esq. . . .	2	2	0						
Gask, Prof. G. E.. . . .	5	0	0						
Graham, R. B., Esq. . . .	1	0	0						
Grosvenor, Rev. J. E. . . .	5	0	0						
Hardy, Major H. H. . . .	1	1	0						
Harmer, Dr. Michael	1	0	0						
Hattersley-Smith, G. F., Esq.	2	2	0						
Haworth, H. A., Esq. . . .	1	0	0						
Hirst, John, Esq.	5	5	0						
Hobday, S. R., Esq. . . .	2	0	0						

	A.			B.			C.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Irvine, Dr. K. N.	0	10	6						
Jones, J. H. Emlyn, Esq.	1	1	0						
Layton, J. D., Esq.	1	1	0						
Lindsay, C. Scott, Esq.	2	2	0						
Lister, G. A., Esq.	1	0	0						
Lunn, Arnold, Esq.							2	2	0
Marsh, D., Esq.	5	5	0						
Meade-King, M. G., Esq.	2	2	0						
Mitchell, G. A., Esq.	3	0	0						
Munsey, D. T. F., Esq.	2	2	0						
Norton, Lt.-Gen. E. F.	5	0	0						
Peaker, G. F.	2	0	0						
Sarpy, A. U., Esq.	2	2	0						
Somervell, Dr. T. H.							3	3	0
Strickland-Constable, R. F., Esq.	2	2	0						
Theobald, E. L., Esq.				1	1	0			
Thorington, Dr. J. Monroe	2	0	0						
Thornycroft, O., Esq.	2	2	0						
Tilly, C. S., Esq.	5	5	0						
Tilly, T. H., Esq.	2	2	0						
Tobin, Lt.-Col. H. W.				1	1	0			
Viney, E., Esq.	1	1	0						
Webb, W. S., Esq.				1	1	0			
Yeames, J. L., Esq.	2	2	0						
Totals on March 8, 1949 :	£128	3	6	£3	3	0	£7	7	0
	2,274	2	0	53	16	0	200	2	0
Totals on Sept. 8, 1939 :	£2,402	5	6	£56	19	0	£207	9	0

Correction : Alpine Club Pensions Fund : *A.J.*, No. 278 (May 1949),
p. 102, line 3 : for ' 227 ' read ' 277.'

I would beg any member who has not yet subscribed, to send me a donation.

R. W. LLOYD,
Hon. Treasurer, Pensions Fund.