

ALPINE NOTES

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :	Year of Election.
Hasler, G. A. (1901-5 ; 1918).	1901
Wells, E. G.	1908
Chambers, Hugh	1918
Brooke, W. G. S.	1948

PERSONAL.—Amongst numerous other visitors to the Club this summer, we were particularly glad to welcome Signor G. A. Rivetti and his son. Signor Rivetti, amongst his numerous great climbs, made the first ascents of the Grandes Jorasses by the Hironnelles ridge and of the Aig. Noire de Péteret by the North face (see *A. J.* xli, 200-207). Both these mountains have figured in the climbing news of the past season.

The Club congratulates the following members on their several distinctions :—

Mr. Geoffrey Summers on a Baronetcy and Mr. Arnold Lunn on a Knighthood, both in the Birthday Honours. Mr. Lunn's award is, we believe, the first to be given expressly for services of an Alpine nature, Conway's peerage having been bestowed for a variety of public services.

Mr. J. M. Wordie on the award of the Charles P. Daly Gold Medal of the American Geographical Society, which is given every three or four years for geographical research and exploration. Previous recipients of the Medal include Sir Francis Younghusband, Sir Halford MacKinder, Filippo de Filippi, Roald Amundsen, Knud Rasmussen, Vilhjalmur Stefanson and Robert E. Peary.

Mr. H. W. Tilman on receiving the Founder's Medal of the R.G.S. for his explorations in the mountains of East Africa and Central Asia.

Mr. G. Winthrop Young on receiving one of the two Heinemann awards for the best literary works of 1951, in respect of his book, *Mountains with a Difference*, and on his election as a Fellow of the Royal Literary Society.

GIFTS TO THE CLUB.—We have to thank Mr. F. P. Farquhar for a number of interesting pamphlets, notable for their fine paper and typography, dealing largely with American climbing, and including an account of his flight to the North Pole on August 24, 1949. To the best of our knowledge, Colonel Walter A. Wood, Jr., is the only other member of the Alpine Club to have visited the North Pole (also by air), unless any other of our American members can correct us.

We have also received from Dr. Monroe Thorington, through Mr. D. F. O. Dangar, a microfilm of the 'Livre des Voyageurs' of the Grands Mulets, from August 1861 to July 1875. This is a most valuable addition to our records, and the Club on this, as on previous occasions, is most grateful to Dr. Thorington, and to Mr. Dangar, for the gift.

KONINKLIJKE NEDERLANDSCHE ALPER-VEREENIGING.—On the June 7, 1952, the Nederlandsche Alper-Vereeniging celebrated its Jubilee Anniversary with a Reception and Dinner at the Chateau 'De Hooge Vuursche' in Baarn.

The occasion was distinguished by the granting to the Association by Queen Juliana of the right to add to its title the prefix 'Koninklijke' (Royal). Prince Bernhard, who is a Member, was unfortunately prevented from attending the dinner by a riding mishap.

Jonkherr C. J. A. de Ranitz, the President of the K.N.A.V., who is also the Burgomaster of Utrecht, took the Chair at the Dinner and in a linguistic 'tour de force' included in his speech individual greetings in the appropriate mother tongue to each of the several guests from kindred clubs abroad.

The guest of honour was M. Maurice Herzog, who, in addition to representing the C.A.F., was present to receive honorary membership of the K.N.A.V. in recognition of his achievements on Annapurna. Congratulations from the Alpine Club were conveyed by Mr. W. D. Brown. Other Clubs represented included the Ladies' Alpine Club, the C.A.S. in general and in particular the Sektion Berne (with whom the K.N.A.V. has special connection through the Hollandia hut).

We offer our congratulations to the Koninklijke Nederlandsche Alper-Vereeniging on its jubilee, and also to the American Alpine Club and the Rucksack Club on their 50th Anniversary, and to the Yorkshire Ramblers on their 60th Anniversary.

HIMALAYAS 1952.—In addition to Swiss expeditions to Mount Everest in the spring and autumn of 1952, of which we hope to publish fuller accounts in our next number, there have been several British expeditions. Mr. E. E. Shipton led an expedition to Cho Oyu which, although unsuccessful in its attempt on this mountain, succeeded in climbing eleven peaks between 20,000 and 22,600 feet, and explored considerable areas of new country including a crossing of the Nup La to the West Rongbuk Glacier. We also hope to publish a full account of this expedition in our next number.

A party consisting of T. H. Tilly, D. C. Bryson, J. A. Jackson, J. Kempe and R. K. Misra, visited the Garhwal Himalaya this spring. Base Camp was set up in the Satopanth Valley in early May. The party explored Bagiro Karak Glacier where wintry conditions prevented any immediate attack on Chaukamba, and ascended a peak of 18,000 ft.; explored the Bangneu Glacier (where they were avalanched off a peak 20,260 ft., which they christened Avalanche Mountain); and made an attempt on Nilkanta (21,640 ft.) by the West ridge. Later Jackson and Bryson climbed Avalanche Mountain and together with V. Russenberger and L. George made another attempt on Nilkanta, reaching the second gendarme above the col before the arrival of the monsoon. Jackson and Bryson also visited Kashmir and climbed Kolohoi (17,800 ft.) by the Neve-Mason Route.

A party consisting of Dr. J. de V. Graaff, Dr. E. A. Schelpe, and

K. E. Snelson explored the Dibibokri Basin whose effluent runs into the Parbati River itself a tributary of the Beas, the main river of the Kulu Valley. Mr. Snelson writes : ' On the highest peaks, given spot heights of 20,830, 21,760, 21,350, 20,414 and 20,482, we could make no impression, but we succeeded in reaching the top of a satellite of the first, a peak of 20,300 which we named "Rubal Kang" or "Turtle Peak" because of its likeness to that animal when rearing up on its forelegs, and a peak of 19,200 which we named the "Ratiruni Pyramid." ' Both were first ascents.

Perhaps more interesting than the ascent of these peaks was the discovery of five new (?) passes, three of them over the main Himalayan divide. By crossing one of these we were able to penetrate to the upper catchment of the Parahio River, a tributary of the Spiti. This was an area probably never seen before and almost certainly not visited. A fourth pass connected two of the glaciers of the Dibibokri Basin at their heads and by a fifth, a way was found from the Dibibokri Basin to that of the Tichu. Some of the party crossed this pass and descended to the Parbati Valley by way of the Tichu and Tos Nalas.

In addition to mountaineering, the party collected botanical and zoological specimens for the British Museum and carried out an ecological survey of certain plant types.

There is also a report of a Japanese reconnaissance in the Manaslu-Annapurna region, as a preliminary for a major attempt on one of the peaks in this area in 1953.

SALCANTAY.—Our member Bernard Pierre reports the first ascent of this 20,600 ft. peak in the Peruvian Andes by a Franco-American party of which he was a member on August 5, 1952. The other members were Mme. Claude Kogan, and Dr. Jean Guillemin, and the Americans—F. Ayres, G. I. Bell, G. Matthews, D. Michael, J. C. Oberlin, and A. F. Riggs. Three of the Americans had previously reconnoitred the mountain in 1950 and had formed the impression that the only route to the summit lay via the North-east face. This view was confirmed by aerial reconnaissance organised by this year's expedition. Three attempts on the summit were turned back by bad weather and heavy falls of snow. On August 5, the party, after leaving Camp II at 8.45 A.M., reached the summit late in the afternoon. The night was spent in a crevasse below the summit, and the descent was successfully accomplished on the following two days. The summit of Salcantay consists of a huge ice dome and much of the climbing was done on slopes of 55 degrees. Twelve hundred steps were cut, and seventeen hundred feet of fixed ropes were used to facilitate the descent. It appears that an earlier attempt was made in June by a Swiss party who turned back, however, before reaching the highest point. We congratulate M. Pierre on this fine achievement.

MOUNT ASSINIBOINE.—On July 28, from the Alpine Club of Canada summer camp a party of three—Edmund Petrig (Zermatt guide), A. C. Lembeck (A.C.C. & A.A.C.) and G. Hattersley-Smith—traversed

Mount Assiniboine. The ascent via the North face and North ridge involved step-cutting below the steep band of rock (see Longstaff: *This My Voyage*, plate facing p. 228). In descent by a new route the party followed the South-west ridge in its upper part, but were forced on to steep snow couloirs lower down. The Assiniboine-Sturdee col was gained by traversing round the lower section of the mountain. Times were: camp near shore of Lake Magog 0345, top of North ridge and cairn 0930, summit 1000, Assiniboine-Sturdee col 1800, camp 2000.

'SCRAMBLES AMONGST THE ALPS.'—A misprint occurs in the first edition of Whymper's *Scrambles* which has been perpetuated in many, if not in all, subsequent editions. Chapter XII ('The Moming Pass-Zermatt') opens with the words 'On July 10, Croz and I went to Sierre, in the Valais . . .' Reference to the previous chapter shows that on the afternoon of July 10, Whymper left Courmayeur to camp on Mont Suc for the ascent of the Aiguille de Trélatête. On July 15, with Reilly, he made the first ascent of the Aiguille d'Argentière, spent the night at Argentière, and went to Sierre on the following day, July 16. It is curious that so obvious a slip was not corrected in the second edition.¹

After Whymper, with Moore and Horace Walker, had examined the Brèche de la Meije from the summit of the South peak of the Aiguilles de la Saussaz on June 22, 1864, his party 'hurried down to La Grave to hear what Melchior Anderegg (who had just passed through the village with the family of our friend Walker) had to say on the matter.' (*Scrambles*, 1st edition, p. 192.) Further information about the movements of the Walker family and Anderegg would be interesting. Mumm, in his *A.C. Register*, states that Frank Walker and his daughter attempted the Grivola on July 1, but does not mention any expeditions in Dauphiné; neither can I find any other record of Melchior Anderegg having been in Dauphiné in 1864.

D. F. O. DANGAR.

YOUTH ON MONT BLANC.—In *A.ŷ.* 54, 79, Dr. Monroe Thorington gives the names of several boys aged 14 and upwards who had ascended Mont Blanc in the 1860's and '70's. No doubt the list of what I suppose we would now call 'teen-ager' ascents could be greatly lengthened, and the minimum age shortened, if carried down to modern times.

In 1951 the Alpine Club received the original letter to her parents written by Flossie Morse, aged 12, who had climbed Mont Blanc on August 16, 1888 (see *A.ŷ.* 14, 164). This charming letter describes in much detail and with just pride the child's experiences, her suppressed excitement finding outlet in occasional eruptions of exclamation-marks. In a letter to me dated July 24, 1951, Miss F. L. Morse supplements her account of this striking feat, which was made without a night spent at the Grand Mulets. Apart from two guides (the leader was Alfred Couttet) she was accompanied by Mr. Agard Evans, who was making

¹ The misprinted date should be 'July 16.' In Whymper's private *MS. Journal* the entry for that day reads: 'By the Col de Balme to Martigny and on to Sierre.'—*Editor*.

his seventh ascent of Mont Blanc, and had also climbed the Jungfrau, Matterhorn and Monte Rosa. The following year Mr. Evans offered to take Miss Morse up the Matterhorn, but her mother refused consent.

I can find no information about Mr. Evans, and would be glad if any reader can supply it. Miss Morse herself says that she was no relation to Sir George Morse, so far as she knows.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

SPEER'S REPUTED ATTEMPT ON THE WETTERHORN IN 1843.—The interesting extracts from the second *Visitors' Book* of the inn at the Grimsel made by Canon Horsley¹ contains an entry signed by Stanhope Templeman Speer to the effect that he had started on July 8 to 'plant a flag on the virgin peak of the Wetterhorn' with three guides, Jaun, Bannholzer, and Michel. The year of this entry was given as 1843.

That Speer had apparently thought of attempting the Wetterhorn a year before the conquest of any one of its three peaks struck me as interesting. The entry itself clearly suggested that this did not refer to Speer's actual ascent of the Mittelhorn two years later, because the dates were different if only by a day (Speer, according to his *narrative*, started out on July 7 in 1845), and one at least of the three guides named above was *not* with him on his expedition of 1845 according to his account written at the time. Speer's own silence about a previous attempt in the narrative of his actual ascent might be easily enough explained if his 1843 venture had merely resulted in a quick return to the Grimsel, as might well have been the case in view of the deep snow and bad conditions of that very late season, and Jaun's silence might also be explained in the same way.

Nevertheless the mere fact that Speer had projected such an attempt as early as 1843 seemed to be important and, early in 1949, I tried to verify the accuracy of the extract. At the instance of my friend Dr. Oscar Hug, Herr Othmar Gurtner, wrote to Herr Fritz Ringgenberg, the present owner of the Grimsel *Visitors' Book*, who very kindly searched it, with unexpected results. In a first letter he wrote that the book contained *two* identical entries that Alfred Miles Speer had been at the Grimsel on September 15, 1846, one of these being written amongst 1845 entries on page 57 and the other in its proper order on page 94. This letter however, was followed next day by one more to the present point: the entry by Stanhope Templeman Speer described in the first paragraph above was in fact written in 1845, and it therefore referred to Speer's actual ascent—the entry had been wrongly dated in the extracts mentioned above in the first paragraph of this section.

T. GRAHAM BROWN.

PROFESSOR TYNDALL AND PENICILLIN.—To the general public, the discovery of Penicillin dates from 1928, the discoverer being Sir Alexander Fleming (see, for example, *Chambers's Encyclopædia*, new ed. (1950), art. 'Penicillin'). With precise claims to priority of

¹ *A.J.* 30. 211, 1916 (see p. 212). See also above, p. 496, n. 3.

discovery *The Alpine Journal* is not concerned,² but from the following note, supplied by Mr. H. W. Dole, it appears that Tyndall had not only anticipated Pasteur in calling attention to the struggle for existence between the various microscopic forms of life,³ but had also noted the antibiotic properties of *Penicillium* moulds in particular.⁴ Mr. Dole writes :

‘Extracts from Essay No. 2 in “Essays on the Floating-Matter of the Air . . .”, by John Tyndall, F.R.S. (Longmans, Green & Co., London, 1881, 2nd ed. 1883). It appears from the Introductory Note to the book (p. xiv) that this Essay was prepared for the Royal Society’s meeting of January 13, 1876, and was published in their *Philosophical Transactions* for that year.⁵

‘The following extracts refer to Tyndall’s observations on a large number of infusions of various vegetable and animal substances, made in November and December 1875 :—

“Some days after their exposure four of the five pheasant-tubes were thickly covered with *Penicillium*, while the five hare-tubes, with one exception, which could hardly be considered such, had repelled that enemy, maintaining their *Bacteria* undisturbed” (p. 102).

‘(Tyndall then refers to Brown-Séquard’s observations on the subject of the rapid development of cadaveric rigidity and of putrefaction in animals humanely and quickly killed on the one hand, or over-driven or hunted to death on the other. The subject seems to him to be worthy of further study, and to have some bearing upon the apparently capricious differences between the behaviour of the moulds or bacteria in his infusions.

“The mutton in the study gathered over it a thick blanket of *Penicillium*. On the 13th [Dec. 1875] it had assumed a light brown colour, ‘as if by a faint admixture of clay’; but the infusion became transparent. The ‘clay’ here was the slime of dormant or dead *Bacteria*, the cause of their quiescence being the blanket of *Penicillium*. I found no active life in this tube, while all the others swarmed with *Bacteria*” (p. 109).

“In every case where the mould was thick and coherent the *Bacteria* died, or became dormant, and fell to the bottom as a sediment. The growth of mould and its effect on the *Bacteria* are very capricious. . . . The *Bacteria* which

² Cf. Sir H. W. Florey, *et. al.*, *Antibiotics* (O.U.P.: Oxford Med. Publns., 1949), vol. ii, chap. 15, especially pp. 634–5, in this connection.

³ Pasteur’s work is usually dated 1877, and Tyndall had been in frequent touch with him for some years before that.

⁴ William Roberts of Manchester had made observations even before Tyndall. [*The Lancet*, 1950, vol. 258, p. 836. We are indebted to Sir Howard Florey for this reference.]

⁵ *Phil. Trans. Roy. Soc.*, 1876, vol. clxvi, pt. i, pp. 27–74. See also vol. clxvii, pt. i (1877), pp. 149–206.

manufacture a green pigment appear to be uniformly victorious in their fight with the *Penicillium* " (pp. 115-116).

' "... the struggle for existence between the *Bacteria* and the *Penicillium* " (p. 117).

' The above extracts suffice to show that Tyndall clearly recognized the effect of the mould upon bacteria. He also recognized three different strains of *Penicillium*,⁶ distinguishing them by their cultural characteristics.'

Too much significance should not be attributed to Tyndall's experiments⁷ and it seems clear that he had not realized that a chemical substance was produced by the mould and that it was this that inhibited the bacteria.⁸ R. F. Maddren, who first called attention to Tyndall's work,⁹ referred to it as 'An Early Observation of Penicillin', which was claiming too much. Though he may have anticipated later research to some extent, by noting the anti-biotic action of his *Penicillium* mould, Tyndall failed to recognize the cause of the phenomenon, and attributed the antagonism between bacterial growth and a species of *Penicillium* to interference by the latter with the oxygen uptake of the bacteria.¹⁰ Tyndall was a physicist, moreover, and may have regarded further work on these moulds as the task of bacteriologists or pathologists; it is an interesting speculation whether Penicillin might have been discovered sooner had his experiments attracted earlier attention.

FOUL PLAY IN THE TYROL?—Two men and a woman set out from the Taschachaus of the Deutsche Alpen Verein (7,299 ft.) in 1923. On arrival in the Pitztal, south of Imst in the Austrian Tyrol, the two men stated that the woman had fallen down a crevasse and been lost. Apparently suspicions were aroused at the time as to whether it was an accident or whether she had been murdered, because some of her hair was found on the edge of the crevasse. The extraordinary thing is that her body was not brought up from the crevasse at the time.

This year only quite recently, owing to the recession of the glacier, the body of the said woman has been recovered and was mutilated in such a way that the suspicions of 1923 have been confirmed; the police are now investigating the whole matter afresh.

C. F. FOTHERGILL.

⁶ The name *Penicillium Notatum* does not seem to have been coined in Tyndall's lifetime, though it was established before the discovery of Penicillin. There are now many varieties of *Penicillium* known.

⁷ 'None of the older work had any influence on the birth of penicillin' (Sir A. Fleming, *et. al.*, *Penicillin*, 2nd ed., 1950, p. 2).

⁸ As a matter of interest, we may note that a later member of the Alpine Club, Sir Robert Robinson, was concerned, with others, in the earliest chemical studies of Penicillin and in its synthesis (see Sir Robert Robinson's Ramsden Memorial Lecture, 1950, 'The Early Stages of the Chemical Study of Penicillin,' in vol. 92 of *Memoirs and Proceedings of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society*, Session 1950-51).

⁹ *Journal American Medical Assocn.* (1946), vol. 130, p. 172.

¹⁰ Sir H. W. Florey, *et. al.*, *op. cit.*, vol. i, pp. 3-4.