IN MEMORIAM

ALFRED BASSET

1873–1951

ALFRED BASSET, who was born in 1873, died in March 1951. His death was noted in *A.J.* 58. 269 but owing no doubt to the interruption of the war years it was not then found possible to provide a fuller notice.

Alfred Basset's parents came from Geneva, but he himself was born in Havre and spent his life there. All his working life was in the old-established firm of J. M. Currie & Company, shipping agents, and he was the senior partner and General Manager from 1926 till his death.

Elected to the Club in December 1904 on the nomination of G. H. Neame and A. B. Walford, he climbed generally with Louis Theytaz. He was the author of a note for *A.J.* 51. 334, about Herman Roos. During the eight seasons on which his qualification to the Club was based, he had climbed :—

1897 Pointe d'Orny, Buet, etc.
1898 Tour Sallières ; Grand Perron (trav. of 4 pks.) ; Col du Tour ; Col du Chardonnet.
1899 Mont Ruan ; Col du Géant.
1900 Les Diablons (trav.) ; Besso; Pointe de Zinal; Col Durand.
1901 Aig. de la Za by face, etc.
1902 Gross Lohner; Tschingellochtighorn; Blümlisalphorn; Mittaghorn-Egginer (trav.); Portiengrat; Fletschhorn; Alphubeljoch.
1903 Besso (trav.) ; Zinal Rothorn (trav.) ; Matterhorn (trav.).
1904 Rimpfischhorn ; Petit Charmoz ; Aig. de l'M.

So far as can be ascertained, he had four subsequent seasons as follows :—

1905 Jungfrau ; Eiger ; Mönch ; Géant ; Grands Charmoz ; Requin ; Grépon ; Moine.
1907 Zinal Rothorn traverse.
1908 Weisshorn.
1910 La Meije (trav.) ; Ecrins ; Pigne d'Arolla ; Aig. de la Za.

After 1910 Alfred Basset continued to climb fairly regularly but contented himself with smaller peaks, though he did the Grands Charmoz in 1933, and his last climb was the Aiguille du Tour in 1937. In later years his eyesight deteriorated sharply but right up to his death he enjoyed visiting the high valleys of the Alps and walking amongst the scenery he loved so well.

He was a prominent figure locally in the Protestant Church and in the life of Havre generally, not only in commercial but in social and charitable activities. He was Honorary Swiss Consul for about 25 years. A Veteran Member of the French Alpine Club, he received their Golden Badge. In the Swiss Alpine Club he became Veteran Member in the Geneva Section.

ARTHUR LESLIE BILL

1864–1953

THE death of A. L. Bill, a member of the Club for thirty-three years, was, unfortunately, missed at the time of its occurrence, on May 12, 1953.

He was born at Coventry on March 7, 1864, and spent all his life there. Educated at Rugby, he travelled extensively abroad for a while, in Germany, France, and Italy, and in 1884 entered the family business of John Bill, Dresser & Co., Coventry, silk merchants. He later added interests in the steel and electrical trades, and was a member of the Drapers, Mercers, and similar companies.

There were few aspects of life in Coventry with which he had not at some time or another been associated. He had a lifetime connection with Holy Trinity Church, and was a member of the Choir for many years. He played for Coventry Football Club in 1884–5, and later, after an injury had forced his retirement from active play, he served in various administrative capacities. It is said that it was due to his initiative, whilst Secretary of the Coventry Football XV, that the Rugby Union altered the value of a try to its present rating of three points.

In addition to these interests, he was a keen amateur actor ; and a persistent cyclist, having owned a bicycle since 1876. He was a strong supporter of numerous charitable organisations in Coventry ; an active Freemason ; a Governor of King Henry VIII Grammar School ; and, since 1918, a Justice of the Peace. During the First World War he acted as a Special Constable.

He was elected to the Alpine Club in 1920, but had commenced climbing in 1889, in which year he visited Norway and made a new route on Gjuratind (*A.J.* 15. 152). His first Alpine season was in 1893, but he remained remarkably faithful to Norway up to 1908. During the years 1915–19, he climbed regularly in the Lake District, usually with A. E. Barker, L. W. Clarke and, occasionally, Raymond Bicknell. After 1920, there are no further records of his climbing, but his interest in mountains and mountaineering was always strong, and he frequently visited the Club's annual picture exhibitions.

He married late in life (1925) and to his widow, who survives him, we extend our sympathy in her loss.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

MARINO DE LUSY

1880–1954

MARINO DE LUSY was born December 28, 1880, at Trieste, the son of Greek parents.

Residing in Trieste as well as in Paris and Montreux (he became a Swiss citizen in 1921), he almost dedicated his life to art and mountains. Well known also were his talents for piano playing and specially for etchings, which he often exhibited in Paris.

His mountaineering took place from 1898 till 1936. In those years he did about 340 courses and touched all the main climbing regions : Dolomites, Engadine, Dauphiné, Tarentaise, Mont Blanc, Valais and Oberland. His favourite places were Chamonix and Zermatt, where he spent more than thirty summers. M. L. used to climb with guides, and amongst them were some of the most famous of those days : Sepp Innerkofler, Antonio Dimai, Bartolo Barbaria, Gabriel Zumtaugwald, Joseph and Felix Biner, Adolf and Alfred Aufdenblatten and Armand Couttet. Though not making any extraordinary climbs, he reached nearly all the standard peaks by the usual routes. But he made the first ascent of the Torre Lusy (August 1, 1913) and the first ascent by the South face of the Cima d'Ambrizzola (September 11, 1913). On June 16, 1926, he made the first ascent of the West face of the Weissmies and five days later a new variant of the North ridge of Pollux was done.

M. L. was elected to the Alpine Club in 1935, his proposer and seconder being Sydney Spencer and E. R. Blanchet.

In 1936, whilst climbing around Zermatt with Felix Biner, he had to abandon climbs several times because of heart trouble, and from then onwards he only did walks.

Being an able and artistic photographer he had an important collection of pictures, which he presented to the Alpine Club.

M. L. died February 1, 1954, at Montreux from cardiac trouble. A bachelor, Marino Lusy left his important property to the poor of his native town of Trieste.

HANS-FRITZ VON TSCHARNER.

SIR FRANK FLETCHER

1870–1954

FRANK FLETCHER was a mountaineer of the old school, essentially an amateur ; climbing was a joy and a recreation to him in his youth and a happy recollection in his later years. He never made a record time or discovered a new route ; he never climbed seriously without guides. But he set himself to master the technique of rock, snow and ice and made himself proficient. He looked to his guides for knowledge of the weather and the route, not for practical assistance : his climbs were to be his own.

His attitude to climbing was in many respects like his attitude to life. He has written his own story in *After Many Days* (1937), a racy and humorous narrative interspersed with profound reflections on the schoolmaster's life, which is self-revealing. A friend of over sixty years and often a companion on the rope may be forgiven for seeing climbs and life together.

Fletcher's family had been for generations colliery-owners in Lancashire, pioneers in providing for the welfare of their men; sturdy, intelligent and enterprising; strong adherents of the Church of England and men of Christian life. Frank, the eldest son of Ralph Fletcher of Atherton and nephew of Philip, a member of the Club, (whose memoir Frank wrote in *A.J.* 39. 300), was born in 1870 and brought up in a goodly company of brothers, sisters and cousins. At twelve he entered Rossall School and in 1888 was elected to a classical scholarship at Balliol. Jowett was still Master and Fletcher's tutors were the brilliant Classic, W. R. Hardie, afterwards Professor at Edinburgh, and Lewis Nettleship, the philosopher, who lost his life on Mont Blanc in 1892. Fletcher won almost all the possible classical honours in the University, firsts in Mods. and Greats, and the Ireland, Craven and Derby Scholarships. But he was not only a scholar, and played hockey for the University in his last year. Brought up to an individualist game on the sands of Rossall—combination on sand is not easy—at a critical point he rushed the ball down the left wing and scored a goal; he had seen what was wanted and did it quickly. I could parallel this with several small incidents on the mountains, for instance with an occasion when, as he liked to remind me, he 'saved my life on Tryfan,' by grasping my coat-collar from above and hauling me out of a gully, where I was stuck on a steep wall.

Walking and scrambling with undergraduate friends, Fletcher was already on the hills, but it was not till 1891 that he came to know the Alps. From a start with his brothers at Pontresina he came on to meet me at Saas Fee. We were taken in hand by Cary Gilson, then a Master at Harrow, who initiated Leo Amery, a far greater climber than either of us. Gilson put us through our paces on local rocks, and with Christopher Cookson and Pierre Maître of Arolla, took us up the Weissmies. In the next two summers Frank was with his uncle Philip, first in the Zermatt district and at Arolla, and then in the Oberland, traversing the Jungfrau and ascending the Bietschhorn, whose disintegrating rocks he would abuse as he would a boy's bad exercise. In 1893 he came to join me in the Val de Bagnes and we had good days on the Grand Combin and lesser peaks. In 1896 he revisited Arolla, repeated some of his former climbs and added the Dent des Bouquetins. He was elected to the Club that December and was always proud of his membership. In the summer of 1897 he was with his uncle and cousin and myself at Arolla and in the Zermatt valley, but weather prevented us from getting up anything more adventurous than the Pigne and the Mischabel Dom. This was the extent of his Alpine career, the record of a young man who loved the mountains and rejoiced in the effort of

climbing, but was wholly non-competitive. But he owed one more great debt to the hills, for it was in the Jura that he became engaged to Dorothy, the daughter of William Pope of Crediton. They were married in 1902 (I was privileged to be his best man). She became not only the perfect hostess and the ideal schoolmaster's wife with a real understanding of the boys, but in countless ways his assistant and adviser. This was never clearer than when, in the years of his illness, which he met with characteristic courage and resolution, she sustained and supported him. It was she who planned the move from the lovely, but isolated, house in Devonshire to the neighbourhood of Godalming, where many friends could visit him.

Fletcher's public record as an assistant master at Rugby, as Master of Marlborough (the youngest and at that time the only lay Head of a great School) has been done full justice to in the Press, and his Knighthood in 1937 was universally applauded as a fitting recognition of his work. But in the success of his career the brilliance of his classical scholarship has to some extent been obscured. He was without doubt the most outstanding classical undergraduate of his time ; he had a great memory, a sensitiveness to style and a fine critical sense. His love of the Classics never faded and pupils of every generation—he always insisted on teaching his sixth form himself—testify to the inspiration of his lessons on St. Paul and Browning, no less than on Greek and Latin books. He was never a pedant or a mere technical scholar, the Classics were always literature to him. His methods can be seen in the two small volumes published after his retirement, notes on Æschylus' *Agamemnon* and on the sixth *Æneid*. His own enthusiasm was just catching.

Fletcher was of medium height, well-poised and agile. His face was a little rugged—Epstein exaggerated this in the bust—and at first even forbidding, but his smile and almost eruptive laugh soon dispelled alarm and showed his humour and understanding ; the flash of his eye was often accompanied by a peculiar jerk of the hand. In his manner there was a certain bluntness—no beating about the bush—a marked appearance of self-confidence and an occasional want of tact ; neither at Marlborough nor at Charterhouse was he popular at once. But all who got to know him—and they were the majority—came to recognise the deep, if reserved affection, which had its roots in a truly Christian love. Frank did not carry his religion on his sleeve, but its sincerity and vitality were seen in his chapel sermons and in the hymn, ' Strong Son of God,' which was written for the Charterhouse Book and has found its place in other collections. There was no relaxation in his hold on himself or in the energy which he put into his work and his recreation ; he knew, as a mountaineer should, that care is needed almost more on the descent than on the climb. He was indeed in his life—as on the hills—a great man, if only because of his ability to gauge the situation, to see his way and to pursue it.

CYRIL BAILEY.

WILLIAM WASBROUGH FOSTER

1875–1954

By the death of Major-General William Wasbrough Foster, C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D., of the Canadian Service, with fifteen decorations and many citations in War dispatches during the four years he was at the front in Europe during the First World War and in command of the defences of the western half of Canada during the Second World War, Canada and Great Britain have lost one of their most distinguished officers and accomplished citizens. Fortunately, his military services and activities in civil, social and business life have been recorded in the official history of both wars and of the intervening and following years ; therefore, although his passing brings to an end his leadership, the influence of his high standards and accomplishments will endure for emulation.

I first met Colonel Foster in the Canadian Alpine Club Camp in 1911, and we began climbing together, a close association that endured for over forty years that brought us together in subsequent Club camps, on inspection trips over the Alcan Highway both by plane and by car when, as a Major-General, the Canadian Section of the highway came under his command, and in later years on extended inspection tours of hydro and diesel power plants in Western British Columbia when he was a member of the B.C. Power Commission.

Our first important climb together was with the famous Austrian guide, Conrad Kain, when, in 1913, we made the first ascent and traverse of Mt. Robson, called the ' King of the Canadian Rockies,' which the English mountaineer, Mr. A. L. Mumm, with his guide, Inderbinen, twice tried to climb but turned back because of the dangers of avalanches, about which Inderbinen declared, ' I never before saw death so near,' while Conrad declared our climb was the most difficult and dangerous expedition he had made in Canada.

Our other major climb together was that of Mt. Logan in the south-west corner of Yukon Territory, of 19,850 altitude and stated to be the largest single mountain massif known, with an 18,000-ft. plateau about twelve miles long and from five to seven miles wide, out of which rises a number of final peaks, the highest one being at the eastern end of the plateau. Colonel Foster was the logical man to lead that Canadian-American Expedition, but because of official duties, he felt forced to decline the assignment and it descended upon me ; however, after a ten-weeks reconnaissance in 1924 was made to a 10,000-ft. level, from which further ascent in good weather seemed possible to the 18,000-ft. level, provisions and equipment were freighted in by dog teams early in 1925 and, fortunately, Colonel Foster was able to join the climbing party of eight, six of whom made the successful final ascent from the base camp in 23 days to the final summit on June 23, 1925, for a fifteen-minute view and deposit of a record in a brass tube, and then descent and arrival at the base camp five days later. Two members turned

back from the 16,700-ft. camp on account of frost-bitten toes and reached railhead without difficulty.

During all those backbreaking and exhausting days, I made no vital decisions without first consulting with Foster and to him should be given a large part of the credit for reaching our goal and especially for returning all members of our party to civilisation without serious casualty ; for when the rest of us at the end of a day dropped for rest, Foster, the self-appointed ' Doctor ' of the party, always got out the first-aid kit and efficiently administered treatment to frost-bitten fingers and toes and gave other medication when needed, all of which was extra work beyond the call of his duty.

Billy Foster was a very interesting and safe companion, who always wore well no matter what the circumstances or the dangers might be. He was what is called a good mixer and always had an interesting and appropriate tale of experience, or a story, for that pause during a discussion or controversy which, if not pleasantly broken, might result in serious contention.

When there are more men like him to protect and guide its Nations, the whole world will be a safer and better place for all mankind.

ALBERT H. MACCARTHY.

HARRY MACROBERT

1880–1954

HARRY MACROBERT was a skilled mountaineer, skilled in all the branches of our sport. He brought to all its problems a dry humour which was irresistible and he was as kindly as he was efficient.

His leading of a party in snow and mist was unbelievable ; he himself attributed it to a very strict attention to detail of map and contour and physical feature, and it was uncanny how he brought his party through.

The writer was with him only one season climbing in the Alps, but for years we climbed the Scottish hills, skied there too, and for as many years skied together in the Bernese Oberland. We were both too antiquated to take kindly to the Piste form of ski-ing when it came, but all the hills and ridges of Adelboden and Lenk and Saanenmöser knew us well.

Two great days with him come to memory. One, when he and Harry Walker and I descended the north-east Buttress of the Ben in icy winter conditions, MacRobert coming last on the rope and letting us down at long last to the darkness of the Allt a Mhuilinn and the trudge home in the moonlight and the snow. And the next, the Dent Perroc, near Arolla, again in foul conditions, and that fizzy ' Asti Spumanti ' stuff when we reached the hotel.

Everything Harry took up he did well, and applied his abundant common sense to every problem. He was also keen on sailing.

He and I found that when we got a bit old for climbing, then ski-ing where one could temper the wind to the shorn lamb, fitted into the picture when real mountaineering did not seem possible.

He was elected to the Alpine Club in 1914 and became a Vice-President in 1943–4. He read two papers to the Club, 'Climbing in Scotland,' March 7, 1933, and 'Ski Mountaineering in Scotland,' March 6, 1943, and he contributed in other ways to the *A.J.* by obituaries and reviewing of books. He edited the second edition of the S.M.C. Guide, *The Central Highlands*.

Harry MacRobert was a man with a wide circle of friends, all of whom will sorely miss him.

C. W. WALKER.

MARTIN KARL MAUTHNER

1899–1954

MARTIN KARL MAUTHNER was born in Vienna on February 8, 1899. His love for the mountains was awakened at an early age when, at 6 years, his father took him on rambles over the hills.

He commenced climbing in 1907, and from 1907–27, in frequent short expeditions from Vienna, climbed all the better-known peaks within reach, gradually extending his excursions to the Oetztal, Stubaital, Zillertal, the Gross Glockner—and other regions. Between 1927 and 1939 he was a regular visitor to the Julian Alps and to the Bernese Oberland, where it was chiefly the Finsteraarhorn and the Jungfrau massifs which attracted his attention. A motor-car accident in Rotterdam, resulting in fracture of the knee-joint, nearly brought his climbing career to an end, but a dogged perseverance and prolonged treatment put him on his feet again.

After the war he resumed climbing, never missing a season in the Alps, especially the Valais and the Engadine. Amongst his expeditions were Velan, Mont Dolent, Grand and Petit Combin, Piz Palü, Crast' Agüzza, Piz Bernina by the Biancograt, Piz Roseg, Glüschaint, Dom, Lenzspitze, Nadelgrat, Allalinhorn, Rimpfischhorn, Matterhorn, Monte Rosa and others. Last summer he traversed the Zinal Rothorn by the Rothorngrat, then turned to the Bregaglia for the Piz Badile, but unfavourable weather cut his mountaineering holiday short.

As a young man Mauthner studied the history of art at Vienna university. Owing to changed circumstances however, caused by the First World War, he took up banking. Following a few years at the Dresdener Bank in Berlin, he occupied an important position in Vienna. 1926–7 saw him in Yugoslavia where he gained the appreciation of English firms whose interest he successfully represented. Whilst staying at Zagreb he made the acquaintance of a Yugoslav lady who later became his wife. Business relations brought him in 1927 to London where he at once felt at home. After a year's absence in New

York he gladly returned to the City as manager of Messrs. Singer & Friedlander, Merchant Bankers, with whom he remained until his death.

Mauthner felt happy in England. He was proud to be granted British nationality in 1934. With an open eye for everything beautiful he adored the countryside of Surrey and Sussex. Hardly a week-end passed when he did not take the train to Dorking or Guildford and walk through fields and woods and over the downs studying plants with expert knowledge and rejoicing in the loveliness of flowers. A fine collection of old masters, mostly of the Dutch and Italian schools, adorned the walls of his home with, moreover, a remarkable series of rare drinking glasses and silver. He was fond of music and a frequent visitor to good concerts and opera. It is not surprising that with so many and varied interests one could not be bored in Mauthner's company.

Elected to the Alpine Club only last April, he immediately became an enthusiastic member. Although not feeling well he insisted on attending the annual winter dinner. The following day he was down with a severe virus infection from which he never recovered.

H. RAST.

EDWARD FELIX NORTON

1884–1954

E. F. NORTON was born in 1884 and was educated at Charterhouse and the R.M. Academy, from which he joined the Army in 1902.

After joining the Gunners he was for a time in Tipperary, and combined sport—especially on horseback—with his military duties.

In the First World War (during which he won the D.S.O. and M.C.) he was a Brigade-Major in the Gunners, and later attached to the Canadian Army Corps. Before and after the war he served in India, where he gained a reputation as a fearless horseman, and was runner-up in 1922 in the Kadir Cup. That same year he joined the Everest Expedition. He was Instructor at the Staff College at Quetta from 1929 to 1932, and B.G.G.S., Aldershot, 1934–38. Then he returned to India, to command the Madras District and later the Western District of the Indian Army. While acting Military-Governor of Hong Kong in 1940, he had a serious accident which led to his retirement in 1942; but at home he threw himself into Home Guard and other duties. In 1939 he was awarded the C.B., and he received the Founder's Medal of the R.G.S. in 1926.

Early in 1954 he was struck down by a 'stroke' from which he was slowly recovering when in November a second stroke occurred which was rapidly fatal.

The Norton family had a chalet, The Eagle's Nest, near Sixt, in Haute Savoie, where Teddy learned to climb and to know the ways of

rock and snow. His instinct for these was remarkable, and besides bigger climbs, he had done a tremendous amount of scrambling and some very difficult climbing on minor peaks in Savoie and elsewhere, largely with his brother, J. H. Norton, and with relations and visitors to the Eagle's Nest. One of his annual leaves was spent with his brother, J. H. Norton, in search of climbing on Nanda Devi ; but on the eve of mountaineering a telegram recalled him to be A.D.C. to the Viceroy.

In 1922 he was chosen for the Everest Expedition not merely as a climber, but in view of the fact that he knew India, the Himalayas, and some of the local variants of Hindustani ; and was accustomed to dealing with North Indian people with whom he got on (as with everyone else) very well. He very soon established himself as a most valuable member of the party, adding to these other qualities his great knowledge of birds and wild life and his charming personality. As he was the oldest of the younger end of the expedition, we looked to him for guidance, and this was given in the nicest way possible, with free discussion and the asking of advice from his juniors. It is generally supposed that people of average height and physique stand up to serious expeditions best ; Norton was very tall, wiry in build and on the old side ; yet he went higher than anyone else without oxygen, both in 1922 and 1924.

In the latter year, when General Bruce was laid aside at an early stage by malaria, Norton became our leader, and as a leader was at his very best. He combined strength of mind with humility of the best sort ; keen to get the mountain climbed, always good-tempered, absolutely reliable and sound, yet always ready to discuss plans and methods and to ask advice. When Mallory and Irvine were lost, Norton took exactly the right line, as he had done before when four Sherpas were marooned at the North Col in fresh snow.

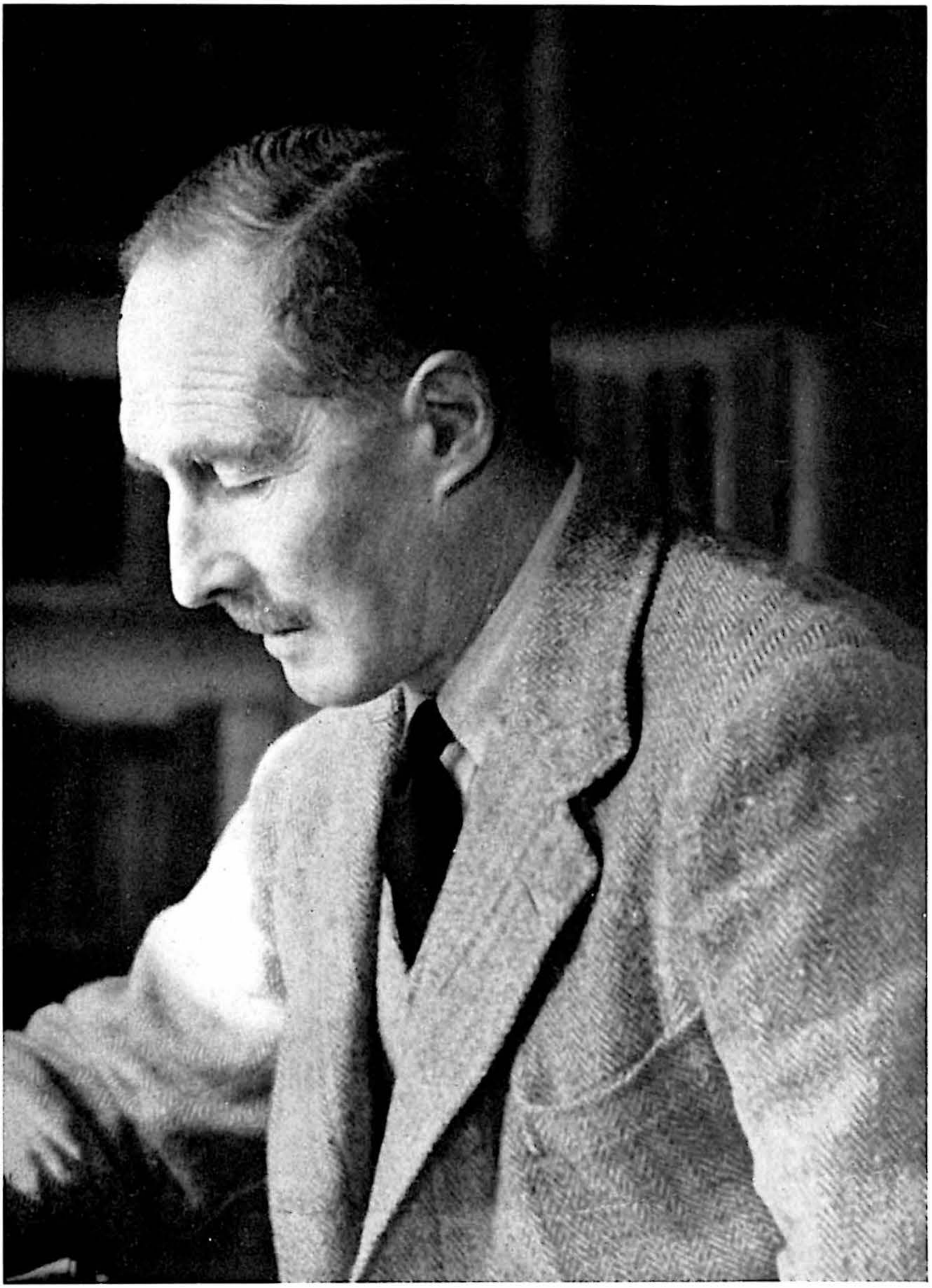
As a companion on a mountain he was ideal ; when alone with him on Everest in 1924 I wondered at the way in which his tall, slender body was kept going to a height never before attained by man, not merely by its muscles, for he was not exceptionally strong, but by his indomitable spirit.

After I had shot my bolt and stopped defeated on a ledge at 28,000 ft., Norton went on for another hundred feet until snow-blindness and the lateness of the hour drove him back.

His wife came from the old climbing family of Pasteur, and they did many climbs together in the Alps, as well as around Quetta in later days.

Wherever he was stationed he took every opportunity of visiting mountains, such as the Patagonian Andes, Nilgiris, Table Mountain, and many Himalayan districts. It was one of his greatest disappointments that when his sons became old enough to climb mountains he was himself prevented by ill-health from climbing with them.

As a friend for over thirty years, he continued to show his three chief characteristics—stability, humility and generosity. He never let anybody down, and always tried to see the best in others and to bring it out when opportunity occurred.



E. F. NORTON.

[*To face p.* 158.

He was a great lover of birds and very knowledgeable about them, and he was in addition a most accomplished draughtsman and a real lover of all that is beautiful in scenery and in natural life. As a climber, as a friend, and perhaps above all as a leader, Teddy Norton was outstanding, and while all members of this Club extend their sympathy to his wife and his three sons, those who knew him best will best realise what an ideal husband and father he must have been.

T. H. SOMERVELL.

DR. TOM G. LONGSTAFF writes :

In parting with Norton the Club has lost a man of the most outstanding character and of the greatest personal charm. He was second to none. Always prepared to undertake any responsibility in the field or on the mountain, his innate modesty also prevented his accepting the most pressing invitations to become President, so that he was not personally so well known to many of our members as he should have been. Although a grandson of Wills and inheritor of the historic ' Eagle's Nest ' at Sixt, he insisted that the exigencies of his profession had prevented his acquiring that personal knowledge of the Club and its affairs which he considered essential for a President. Yet at ' The Chalet ' he had met, as a boy, several of the Fathers of the Club and later entertained there many of the most eminent members of the next generation.

As a Horse Gunner he was pre-eminent ; as a horsemaster, as a horseman and as a considerate friend to the men of his Battery : in the old days of long service a battery was a family in a way which is hardly possible today. The writer well remembers staying with him near Norwich when he commanded the Experimental Mountain Battery and his sad reply, on being congratulated on his forthcoming promotion, that this was the last time he would command individual men and that in future his contact with them must be indirect.

He served several years in India in Wardrop's (General Sir Alexander) celebrated Horse Battery and took naturally to polo and pig-sticking, at both of which great sports he proved adept. He also took to tiger shooting, of which Wardrop and his friend Harold Branford were renowned experts. At the Eagle's Nest he and his brother, Major J. H. Norton, were the only successful chamois hunters on that ground ; it was not preserved but the natives could not face the difficulties of the terrain. Climbing there with him on one occasion I complained that every single hold was loose : I was coolly recommended to push them in and trust to balance, as he did when carrying down a chamois with its legs tied together round his neck.

He got great pleasure from his love of natural history ; especially of birds and flowers. At the Eagle's Nest he would show the great Black Woodpecker or the Wall Creeper, introducing them almost as personal friends. Before the Everest Expedition of 1922 he spent hours at the Natural History Museum examining specimens in the Bird Room and

getting from Kinnear a list of those species which were specially wanted for the national collection, for he was most averse to unnecessary collecting. We had to get a specimen of the rare Ibis-billed Curlew for dissection and I well remember his skill in circumventing this wary bird and then wading the deep cold river of the Chumbi Valley to recover the specimen from an island in midstream. He also made a valuable collection of the scanty flora for Kew.

He greatly distinguished himself in the first German war and in the late war held several very important commands, including that of Hong Kong, but to his deep regret was never in the firing line.

He was a Galahad. Yet it is as the perfect companion that he is lamented, but remembered always with joy.

FRANCIS BERNARD STEAD

1873–1954

FRANCIS BERNARD STEAD was the son of the Ven. Samuel Stead, sometime Archdeacon of Bombay, and was educated at Clifton and King's College, Cambridge (Scholar), obtaining a 1st Class in Part I (1894) and Part II (1895) of the Natural Science Tripos. After working as a naturalist in the Plymouth and Naples Zoological stations, he became (1899) an assistant master at Aldenham School, Herts, but returned to Clifton in 1901, where he remained till 1908, when he became a staff inspector of Secondary Schools under the Board of Education, rising to Chief Inspector of Secondary Schools (1926–33). During the first War he was secretary of the Prime Minister's Committee on the Teaching of Science. He was made a C.B.E. in 1931. From 1944 to 1948 he was Chairman of the Girls' Public School Trust. He became a Fellow of the Chemical Society in 1902.

Stead was elected to the Alpine Club in December, 1900, having been climbing since 1894, though he had been on walking tours in the Alps and Dolomites before that. One of his principal climbing companions was J. H. Doncaster, whose obituary he wrote for the ALPINE JOURNAL (vol. 56, p. 272). They visited Norway in 1894 and climbed on and off together until 1910: records are incomplete, but to list Stead's climbs would hardly be appropriate, for he had a certain contempt for peak-bagging and preferred, rather, to explore new ground and was as ready to cross a grass pass as to climb a stiff mountain. A traverse of the Meije he regarded as his most arduous climb, but the Saas-Zermatt region was, perhaps, his favourite haunt.

The first War, and family responsibilities, interfered with his climbing, but in 1930 he began to revisit the Alps and showed himself a very vigorous goer still. After the second War he took several more holidays in Switzerland; in 1947, at the age of 74, he was still able to walk up to the Lötschenlücke and back, from Fafler Alp, and he paid his last visit to Saas Fee in 1953, within a few months of what proved to be his final illness.

Conservative in his tastes, he looked the veteran he was, with his old-fashioned, rather long ice-axe, knickerbocker suit and broad-brimmed hat. He set great store by his mountaineering friendships and acquaintanceships and was an occasional visitor to the Club to within the last year or two.

He married in 1912 Rachel Elizabeth, daughter of Canon Bell, Master of Marlborough, and it was a great satisfaction to him that his wife, though not an active climber herself, shared his love of the Alps and came with him on many of his lesser expeditions. To her, and to his sons and daughters (some of whom, at least, had accompanied him on climbs) we express the sorrow we feel at the loss of one who, during his fifty-four years of membership, so well fulfilled the second rule of the Club, of promoting good fellowship among mountaineers.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

ALEC EDWIN STORR

1899–1954

ALEC EDWIN STORR's home was in Bedford and as a boy he went to the Bedford Modern School. He came up to Cambridge in 1919. It was then that I first met him as one of my pupils at Queen's College. He read for the Natural Sciences Tripos, which he took in 1922 with a main interest in biological subjects. He stroked the College boat for three years in a remarkable series of successes on the river. At the close of his school-days he was taken by one of the masters at his school on a long camping and wandering holiday in central and northern Wales, an event which was to mark the beginning of his lifelong love of hills and mountains. On this holiday a little climbing was done on Craig-yr-Ysfa and Lliwedd. During his undergraduate days in 1921 he organised and went on a camping-mountaineering holiday with a party of Cambridge friends to the Pyrenees. He was a keen member of the Cambridge University Mountaineering Club, of which he became Secretary. This was in the days when mountaineering was rapidly developing among young climbers of undergraduate age, and Storr did much to help the Club, then reviving after the 1914–18 war.

In the summer of 1922, after he had taken his B.A. degree, I went on a tour abroad with him. We went to the Central Graians and the mountains of Cogne, climbing a number of well-known peaks. Later in this year we also traversed the Matterhorn from the Col du Lion to the Hörnli, returning to Breuil by the Furggjoch in the afternoon. We finished the season in the Oberland mountains.

After coming down from Cambridge, Storr became a schoolmaster and for a number of years he taught at Bedford Modern School. Almost invariably in his spring and winter holidays he climbed in the Lake District or in North Wales, in the summer going abroad. I was

with him on many of these holidays, other of his climbing friends in these days being W. T. Elmslie, M. H. Slater, L. A. Ellwood and A. M. Binnie. On tours abroad we usually arranged to cover a good deal of country. Communication by road was rapidly improving, while bus services made it easy to go from one mountain group to another. Storr's activities spread from Switzerland to pretty well all the mountain groups of Austria and Northern Italy and often considerably further afield. I think he enjoyed climbing and walking in the Austrian mountains more than in any other part.

The summer of 1926 was one of the most memorable of his seasons. In that year with Slater and myself he started with some weeks of climbing in Tyrol, the Ortler group and the Brenta Dolomites. Here Slater left us, and, accompanied by Elmslie and Ellwood, we went on to climb in the Balkan countries. There the appeal was rather the pleasure of travelling in unfrequented and fascinating country than of making climbs of any difficulty. Musallah in the Rhodope mountains of Bulgaria, the highest of the Balkan mountains, was ascended with a bivouac just below the summit and a descent the following day to the astonishingly picturesque monastery of Rila. We went on to Greece and climbed the different summits of the Thessalian Olympus. This was a delightful expedition, involving a certain amount of rock climbing on the two highest peaks. After some more wandering and climbing in the Greek mountains we came home through Yugoslavia, with a diversion to make the ascent of the rather out-of-the-way mountain of Ljubetin, near the Albanian frontier. In the spring of 1928 Storr was in Corsica, camping near the upper limit of the forests in the Viro valley and the Forêt de Valdo-Niello. Several peaks, including Paglia Orba and Tafonato, were climbed.

Storr joined the Alpine Club in 1926. In 1929 he married Sylvia Guy. For the first part of his married life he was a biology master at Bedford Modern School. In 1932 he became housemaster at the School House at the Perse School, Cambridge. Here, with the invaluable help of his wife, he spent many vigorous years ; but after the war he resigned from the post of housemaster, though he continued at the school. At the Perse he was Commanding Officer of the Combined Cadet Force. He was also a County chess player. After his marriage he rather confined his activities to the British hills, but his keenness in no way diminished.

One hesitates to assess the climbing abilities of one's companions on the hills, but on looking back on my climbing days with Storr I can recall, as I think all his friends could do, what exceptional capability he had for organisation ; also the judgment, deliberation and silent efficiency with which he approached all mountain problems. He died suddenly at Cambridge on December 19 last. His wife, daughter, and son survive him, for whom all his friends feel the deepest sympathy.

C. M. SLEEMAN.

LOUIS WIBRATTE

1877–1954

LOUIS WIBRATTE, who died last year a few days before his seventy-seventh birthday, was elected to the Club in 1933, proposed by H. de Ségogne and seconded by E. L. Strutt.

Wibratte took to mountaineering somewhat late in life and was still carrying out difficult expeditions at an age when many men would have given up climbing ; when he was seventy he climbed the Aiguille de la République. He was not a ' centrist ' and his qualification list shows how widely he had climbed. Between 1920 and 1927 he made several visits to the Pyrenees, ascending the Pic de Néthou, Mont Perdu, and many others. Among his expeditions may be mentioned :

1928 Grépon (traverse), Mont Blanc.
1930 Traverse of Meije and Ecrins, Matterhorn by Zmutt ridge.
1931 Mönch by east ridge, Gross Fiescherhorn by north-west ridge, Marmolada by south face, Vajolet Towers, Cima Grande di Lavaredo (8th ascent by ' voie Stösser '), and other climbs in the Dolomites.
1932 Grands Charmoz (traverse), Aig. de Blaitière, Ciseaux, Aig. du Fou, Grépon by Mer de Glace face, Aig. de Roc (4th ascent), Petit-Grand Dru traverse.
1933 Ascents in Norway, the Pyrenees, and the Dolomites.

For some years he served in the Department of Roads and Bridges and received the Legion of Honour for the part he played, under the command of Marshal Lyautey, in the construction of the Sud Oranais railway, a work carried out in difficult conditions, sometimes under fire from unruly natives.

At the outbreak of the 1914 war he was in Chile ; anxious to get home, he led a party across the Andes in the depths of the southern winter.

A man of many parts, engineer, banker, economist, Wibratte's favourite recreations were mountaineering and riding. Always a busy man, he never had time for long holidays and purchased a property at Samois where he was able to make the most of his week-ends, riding in the Forest of Fontainebleau on Saturdays and rock climbing on Sundays ; thus, when the time came round for his brief holiday he was always in good condition. At Samois, too, he delighted to entertain his young friends of the G.H.M. He himself was over fifty years of age when elected to the G.H.M.

About two years ago he became dangerously ill, and had to undergo a serious operation. He appeared to have got over the effects of this and last summer went to Norway with his friend, J. Allier. He climbed rather slowly, but there seemed to be nothing amiss and in August he went to Misurina. He climbed the Tour Wundt but this time the

effort was too much and he was struck down once more. His indomitable will-power triumphed yet again; he returned to Samois and as if to show there was nothing the matter, resumed his riding, and made light of his condition to his doctor.

He died suddenly, on August 31, while getting ready to set out, as usual, for his office.

D. F. O. DANGAR.

(With acknowledgments to *Alpinisme*.)