IN MEMORIAM

ARTHUR HERBERT FIRMIN

1912–1955

ARTHUR FIRMIN, who died near Pokhara in Nepal on May 28, 1955, was the most distinguished mountaineer and professional photographer in East Africa ; indeed, he was outstanding in any company in these fields and his loss at the early age of 43 is a grievous blow to a very wide circle of friends and admirers.

Firmin was born in 1912 in Kenya. After education in England he returned to the Colony in 1937 and joined the Kenya police force, in which he served throughout the war, acting as official photographer. The police declined to recognise his special talent by creating a special post and he resigned in 1946 to set up his own business in Nairobi. Through exceptionally hard work, the highest professional standards, and able assistance from his wife, he was soon established as the leading photographer in Nairobi and East Africa, with a wide and growing reputation in other countries such as England and America. He specialised in portraiture, wild game and mountain photography, but recently had taken up a good deal of commercial photography. His superb pictures, some of which appear elsewhere in this *Journal*, have given pleasure to thousands. In 1953, at the first Exhibition in London of Commonwealth photographers, he won high praise : the *Manchester Guardian* critic wrote : ' Firmin's work dominates the Exhibition . . . [his principal exhibit, a magnificent landscape taken in the Ruwenzori] deserves to be enlarged to the size of a shop window and set up outside a shop window for everyone to enjoy.'

He had an exceptional flair for composition and lighting effects. He sometimes told me how much he would like to take up painting—possibly an unusual ambition for a photographer, but which showed the true artist in him.

Nearly all Firmin's mountaineering was done in East Africa, though he knew most of the British hill ranges and had spent ten days in Switzerland in 1951 when he did the Wellenkuppe–Ober Gabelhorn traverse and the Zermatt ridge of the Matterhorn. He was, however, essentially East African trained. From about 1941 onwards he became passionately devoted to the hills and was able to spend numerous holidays in them, combining business with pleasure.

He was of ideal build—short, compact, spare, and very strong ; a magnificent, determined and rhythmic rock climber ; and a more delightful companion never existed. He was absolutely unselfish. His optimism and resounding laugh were infectious, and characteristically he much preferred the ascent to the descent ; if so inclined, or when on a rescue party, he could walk steadily uphill almost as fast as most people walk downhill.



A. H. Firmin.

[*To face p.* 398.

He knew the principal East African mountains better than any other and had made no less than ten expeditions to Mt. Kenya, ten to Kilimanjaro, and three in the Ruwenzori. On Mt. Kenya he had climbed all the known routes except for the French 1952 piton route on the North face, and the January 1955 ice route on the West face. His principal ascents on this mountain were :

Batian and Nelion by the ordinary route on several occasions, including one with Mrs. Firmin.

1944 1st ascent of the North face of Batian (2nd traverse of twin peaks).

1946 1st ascent of the South face and S.W. ridge of Batian.
2nd ascent of Pt. John.

1948 2nd ascent of the West ridge of Batian and 1st descent of the North face (1st traverse of Batian without touching Nelion).
2nd ascent of Pt. Piggott.

1949 1st ascent of the West face of Nelion, continuing by Mackinder's 1899 route (2nd ascent) across the Diamond glacier to Batian.

I was privileged to accompany him on many of these climbs. He led nearly all the critical pitches (usually rock) and although accounts have been written in this *Journal* I should like to make special mention of the long vertical chimney on the North face and the exposed bulging buttress on the South-west ridge of Batian—both keys to the climbs and both brilliant achievements of the highest order requiring great skill, boldness and endurance. He had a unique record on Mt. Kenya which will probably never be equalled. His last trip was in January this year when he led the rescue party for the late Gerald Rose.

On Kilimanjaro he had climbed both Kibo and Mawenzi several times ; once he camped for a week in the crater at 19,000 ft. His great ambition was to climb the terrific East face of Mawenzi—a facet of the peak which is almost Himalayan in the scale of its gorges and cliffs, and which he had reconnoitred on several occasions both from the air and the ground.

I never went with him to the Ruwenzori, but he explored new routes there with D. L. Busk and P. Nolan-Neylan in 1953 and he had previously climbed all the principal peaks except Margherita.

Although I have recorded Firmin's most notable achievements he himself had no use for records. He climbed for pleasure and for photography ; his last expedition was a private one—for the most part privately financed—and the objects were, first, to climb the chosen peak and, second, photography ; but, come what might, to revel in ' the fun and jollity of the struggle.' He deplored nationalism in the mountains, pitons, do-or-die attempts, and anything savouring of bombast or competition. He never took unjustifiable risks ; the risks he did take were reduced to the minimum by good technique and it is all the

more tragic that his death should have resulted from a stumble when walking over a patch of boulder scree along the shores of a mountain lake. His left thigh was broken by a rock which he had caught hold of and which fell on top of him—one unlucky chance in a thousand. After courageously enduring the long and difficult carry down the south-west slopes of Himal Chuli and over a lower range of the Himalayas to Sisaghat Bazar he suddenly weakened in the great heat at the foot of the 1,000-foot ascent to the village of Deorali—one day's march from Pokhara—and his heart gave out. Two tireless and devoted British nurses from Pokhara Mission Hospital had tended him for the last five days and doctors were on the way.

A sterling character and a fine mountaineer—Mummery's 'true mountaineer'—has passed on at the height of his powers. He is the first Christian to be buried at Pokhara. His grave, which I know will be devotedly cared for by the small Nepali Christian community, is in full view of the great Machha Puchhare (Fish Tail) peak and the tremendous south wall of the Annapurna range. Although far from home no mountaineer could wish for a better resting-place, and his films (both movie and still) which have been brought back from Nepal will, I hope, serve in some measure as a memorial to his artistry.

Although Arthur Firmin only joined the Club in 1954 he lived up to its ideals and traditions throughout his life and is worthy to be remembered amongst the greatest.

J. W. HOWARD.

MR. D. L. BUSK writes :

I count it a great privilege to have made two expeditions to the Ruwenzori with Arthur Firmin. He was a beautiful mover on difficult or delicate rock and, though his experience of ice was limited, he was supremely steady. He was, I think, the fastest amateur I have ever known—on the approach march or the actual climb—despite the fact that he always carried a monstrous sackful of cameras, tripods, films, lenses, etc. I do not think I have ever seen him with less than 40 lb. on his back.

Above all he was the most unselfish and cheerful companion, at his best when things were blackest.

Mrs. Firmin was his able partner in all his photographic work and a large share of the burden of a thriving business fell on her shoulders. She is also a very fine mountaineer and accompanied him on many of his expeditions. She was the first lady to reach the higher summit of Mt. Kenya and Alexandra Peak in the Ruwenzori, both climbs alone with her husband. The Club will wish to extend profound sympathy to her.

The great snows of East Africa, which none knew or loved so well, are darkened by his passing and the mountain fraternity will sorely miss his stocky vigorous figure, his deft movements and irrepressible cheerfulness.

CLAUD FRANCIS FOTHERGILL

1878–1955

THERE are plenty of members with long climbing records, but possibly few of our members over here have had Dr. Fothergill's knowledge of the Swiss life in the valleys. He hailed from a family of thirteen which knew Switzerland well. Many returning from a climb must have passed the stone in the Roseg valley, behind Pontresina, erected in memory of his father, with John III. 16 written in the four Swiss languages. He and his brother at one period used to live in Switzerland and return each year to St. Lawrence College, Ramsgate, where he was educated before going to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and Guy's Hospital.

His love for the mountains was infectious, and he had the art of imparting his joy of climbing to others. Both his twin sons became members of the Club. At the age of eleven, with the guide Samuel Ogi of Kandersteg, he took them to the top of the Balmhorn. It would be true to say that many who had never intended to climb were encouraged by him to have a try. He was a great adept at spotting the possible would-be-climbers, and knew the secret of teaching them to climb within their own limits. His leadership inspired the novice with confidence, and he took a delight in pointing out the wrong and the right way of doing things on the mountain. His lectures on climbing at many of our leading public schools were informative and full of amusing anecdotes, and he must have brought the mountains to thousands of people. Although in many ways a shy man, except when in command, he was a gifted speaker, and had little difficulty in gripping his audience, for he had a strong personality and a most arresting way with him—quiet but convincing. He never used notes. He knew how to make his subject live and his diction was remarkable. Often he was invited to show his coloured slides on Palestine, from the devotional standpoint, to crowded congregations in Parish Churches up and down the country.

As an author, numbers have said that they find his book, *A Doctor in Many Countries*, most readable. On several occasions he has helped the Club by reviewing books for the ALPINE JOURNAL. From 1950–1952 he was a Vice-President of the Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club.

He had a great flair for organisation and took large parties of adults and public schoolboys out to Switzerland for winter sports. After much perseverance, he at last succeeded in persuading Herr Seiler to open Zermatt for winter sports. The same applies to the neighbouring valley of Saas Fee. In those days sleigh and mule were the only methods of transport. He insisted on the building of ice rinks large enough for ice-hockey, and for the first time the villagers were taught the game.

Dr. Fothergill travelled widely, and loved to seek places off the beaten

track. His travels took him to Petra, Morocco, Yugoslavia, Corsica, Spain, and Scandinavia.

Perhaps, in a marked degree, the Doctor knew how to put to the best use what to so many of the climbing fraternity can be such a damper. He utilised the rainy day for the pursuit of his hobby—the study of Alpine peasant life. He had a most winsome way about him. As he walked through an Alpine village he would say ' Two dear old sisters live there ; let's go and look them up,' or ' that family has a son at Rome as a member of the Papal Guard.' He would teach the inhabitants to open their windows (to keep down the cost of heating they are often closed on a really fine day). To many a family he was adviser and friend, and learnt as few do how the peasants welcome a stranger, but alas, are most reluctant in certain cases to permit members of the next chalet to cross their threshold. He was most observant, and took a real delight in noting how the people lived. He was also keen on antiques and specialised in the collecting of pewter. When crossing the Great St. Bernard in June, 1922, the then head monk told him that travellers were stealing the pewter plates from which the guests until quite recently had eaten. Fothergill lost no time in suggesting that the monks should sell some of the pewter not required for the museum of the famous monastery, and thus he acquired a magnificent duplicate Holy Communion set.

He was an able and artistic photographer, and found unbounded pleasure in wild flowers and their photography. His collection of ' close-ups ' and then of the same flowers ' en masse ' in their natural habitat is quite unique. On several occasions he has shown his photos at the Club's photographic display.

Above all, ' C.F.F.,' as he was known by his friends of long-standing, was an outspoken Christian. His matter-of-fact way of chatting with others on the deep things of life, made him most approachable. Through his witness with the Camps and Tours Union, which he founded and carried on as a labour of love, numbers of men and women of his circle of life have learnt to distinguish between being merely religious or Christian. He was a staunch Evangelical Churchman, and unflinchingly believed and taught the Bible. Never would he permit the Church to take the place of Christ in his life. He was a man of set purpose and nothing would thwart him. When he saw a thing was right he did it, even if for him it meant financial loss. It should not be forgotten that he was a keen member of his profession. He seldom travelled anywhere without his surgical instruments, and under what curious conditions was he called upon to operate ! It was only his overpowering desire to do the work of an evangelist which caused him always to subordinate his profession to second place. Perhaps few realise how successful he was as a medical man. When in general practice, in the Army, or in Harley Street, he was respected by all. The words unexpectedly appearing in bold letters on the front page of the local Press best express his sterling character : ' Death of local Doctor, Climber, Christian.'

L. G. F.

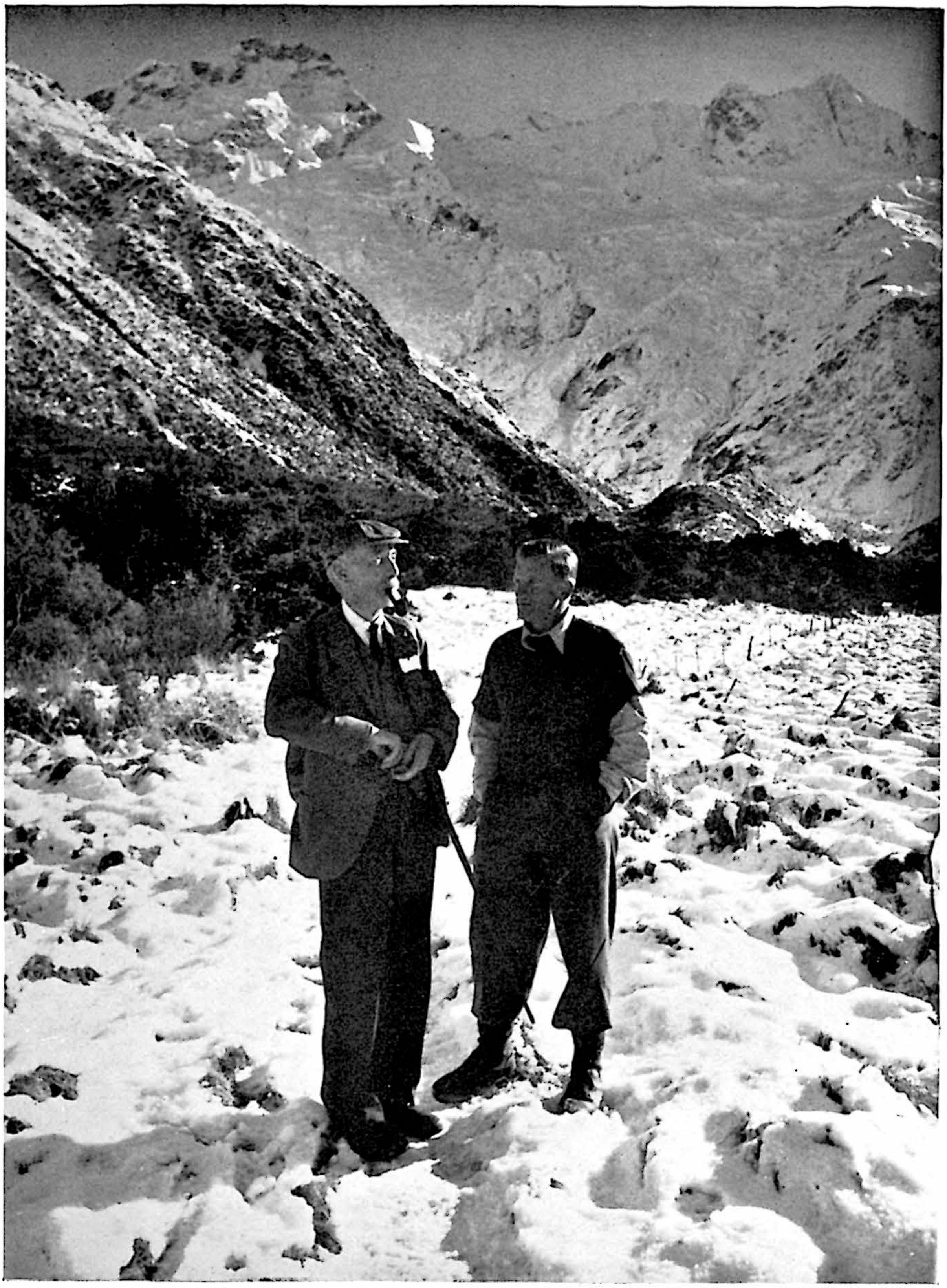
ARTHUR PAUL HARPER

1865–1955

On May 30, 1955, there died at Wellington, New Zealand, in his ninetieth year, one of the oldest members of the Alpine Club and the last surviving founder of the New Zealand Alpine Club. The inaugural meeting of the latter Club on March 11, 1891, was called by a notice signed by G. E. Mannering and A. P. Harper, and it elected Harper as the first secretary and treasurer. His father, Leonard Harper, was appointed the first president.

Young Arthur, on an early visit to England, was sent for six months to Dr. Parry's school at Stoke Poges, where he records (in *Memories of Mountains and Men*, a most readable book, published in 1946) that he was a fellow-pupil of Benjamin Disraeli, a nephew of Lord Beaconsfield, whom he encountered when on a visit to the school. He also had the remarkable experience of suffering punishment from his headmaster for untruthfulness in maintaining that he did *not* come from Australia, but from New Zealand, when to his ' betters ' New Zealand was definitely part of Australia ! On his return to New Zealand he was sent to Christ's College, Christchurch, and later very appropriately went ' Home ' to enter Christ Church, Oxford, where he took his degree in 1887. He was called to the Bar in 1888, having entered the Inner Temple. It was at this time that Harper had his first introduction to the Swiss Alps, and, moreover, had the opportunity in England of meeting many members of the Alpine Club, to which he was elected in 1892. These were the important formative years of his life, and Harper was always eloquent of the influence the leaders of the 'A.C.' had had upon him at that time.

His return to his own country in 1893 was marked by a grievous family tragedy, which drove him from the practice of the law to commence perhaps the most outstanding period of his career, in exploratory survey of the difficult mountain and forested country of Westland, as assistant to the great pioneer and surveyor Charles E. Douglas. Here, for three years of the most arduous work in steep and virgin country of an exceptionally intransigent character, he made his great contribution to mountaineering in New Zealand. As is stated in the preface of his classical and inimitable book, published in 1896, *Pioneer Work in the Alps of New Zealand*, Harper could have justifiable pride in saying: ' I do not pretend to have made many high ascents, but base my claim to be considered an authority on the Alps of New Zealand on the fact that I have shared in the first exploration of nearly every glacier in the central position of these mountains.' It is gratifying to know that to this classic work of Harper's will shortly be added a volume of the diaries of the late Charles Douglas, to be edited by Mr. John Pascoe, and for which Harper himself, shortly before his death, wrote a foreword of some six thousand words : indeed, as Mr. Pascoe has cited in



A. P. Harper and L. V. Bryant at The Hermitage, New Zealand, June 2, 1951.

[*To face p.* 402.

a letter to me, a veritable ' memorial to Harper as well as to Douglas and their " golden age ".'

Harper's earlier survey-work along the western flank of the Southern Alps aroused a keen interest in the glaciers and their variations. Somewhere about 1895, he has cited in *Memories of Mountains and Men*, he was invited to become a member of the International Commission on Glaciers, which was later superseded by the International Commission on Snow and Ice. He remained a member of these important bodies until the end, and his interest in New Zealand glaciers was unabated : especially the spectacular Franz Josef Glacier, whose rate of movement he had measured, and shown in one section above Cape Defiance, to be as high as 14 or more feet a day, and whose periodic pulsations or ' waves,' which induce abrupt alternate advances and retreats in its terminal front, have made it an ice-stream of particular interest. Incidentally, the above figure was not claimed to refer to the speed of the whole body of the glacier, whose central portion (opposite Cape Defiance) has in recent years shown a rate of movement from 5 to $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet per day.

The long story of Harper's relationships with the New Zealand Alpine Club, which he had helped to found, and which incidentally went into recess during the years 1896–1914, cannot be recounted here : details of this story can be gleaned from the earlier numbers of the *New Zealand Alpine Journal*, and especially from the current issue. In England Harper had been imbued by the customs and the constitution of the 'A.C.', and for many years he would admit no other model could be more suitable for New Zealand. Moreover, for long he had little regard for the many mountain and ' tramping ' clubs that continued to spring up all over New Zealand. However, Harper was wise enough subsequently to take a more moderate view, and in 1930 he assumed the leading part in the formation of the Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand. He was president of the N.Z.A.C. at this time (his whole period of office was from 1914 to 1932, and again in 1941 for the Jubilee year of the Club), and the chief advantage of the Federation he deemed to be the greater ability provided by weight of numbers in approaches to the Government on the unsatisfactory position of its policy in the licensing of alpine guides. That again is rather a lengthy story ; but to the end Harper rightly disputed, as have the vast majority of mountaineers, the wisdom of the Government's policy in the control of guides, especially the anomaly that even the chief guide in N.Z. is under the direction of the local Government hotel manager, who himself is ignorant of mountain-craft. To the end Harper was fighting this issue, his first objective being to get the guides' administration transferred from the Government Tourist Department to the National Park Authority or Board. That a Board to administer the Mt. Cook National Park has lately been appointed, with good representation of alpine interests, is most gratifying to those of us who have endeavoured to support him in this issue. It is in a sense sad that he did not live to witness and finally participate in this

achievement, for which, as a first step, he had striven. Harper had taken a particular pleasure in formulating the idea of a Federation of mountain clubs in New Zealand, and he expressed almost as much pleasure in having pointed the way for the same organisation in Great Britain.

Harper was a man of many interests, and his vitality and industry to the end were remarkable; indeed, an example to many far his juniors. He undertook his last big mountain-excursion when he was sixty-five years old. On that occasion he led a party from the Hermitage over a pass at the head of the Mueller Glacier and down the Karangarua River, which he had explored thirty-seven years earlier from the Westland side. In his middle seventies he climbed Hector's Col (or Matukituki Saddle) in the Mt. Aspiring district, and when eighty-six attended the opening of the highest hut (N.Z.A.C.) on Mt. Ruapehu. In 1948, at the age of eighty-two, he became President of the Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand, and he held that office until his death. Apart from membership of the National Park Authority (which preceded the Board), for twenty-one years he has served on the New Zealand Geographic Board, latterly as representative of the Federated Mountain Clubs. In 1952 he was awarded the C.B.E. for long services to exploration, mountaineering, the preservation of native fauna and flora, and other public benefits. He appreciated enormously the Honorary Membership of our Club, which he was accorded in 1932, the year indeed that the N.Z.A.C. elected 'A.P.H.' (as he was always known) to Life Membership. Harper was proud, too, to be Honorary Member of the American Alpine Club. He came of a distinguished English and New Zealand Church family: his grandfather, the Most Rev. H. J. C. Harper, D.D., being in his time Bishop of Christchurch and Primate of N.Z., whilst his uncle, the Very Rev. Walter Harper, was later Dean of Christchurch and a Fellow of Christ's College (N.Z.). In 1899 'A.P.H.' married Marion Florence Campbell of Christchurch: there were two sons and two daughters of the marriage, of whom one son, Leonard Hugh Acland, was killed in the Second World War, when serving with the R.A.F.

It was in 1923 that I first met Harper in London. He was then on a business visit, and he hoped that my Company (the Anglo-Persian Oil Co., on whose geological staff I was serving) might become interested in N.Z. petroleum possibilities, and even the exploitation of 'fossil' kauri gum in North Auckland (now Northland) where the industry was waning. He hoped, as I fervently wished, that I might be sent out to investigate these possibilities; but that plan never eventuated, and I did not see Harper again for twenty-seven years, when I came to New Zealand early in 1950. Often since then have we met and discussed mountains and mountaineers, when he would reveal in his vivid and kindly way his long memories of them, and all that they each in their way, whether in New Zealand or Europe, had meant to him. More than once he confided in me that it was his ardent hope again to visit England in 1957, when he craved to be present at the

centennial celebrations of the Alpine Club. What characteristic enthusiasm ; what a continuing and youthful spirit ! Many there are who will share the regret that 'A.P.H.' has not remained for that great occasion, but has passed on ahead to the Olympian Valhalla.

For much information embodied in the above notice I am indebted to Mr. S. A. Wiren (A.C.) and the *N.Z.A.J.*

N. E. ODELL.

MR. GEOFFREY WINTHROP YOUNG writes :

A.P.H. met us on the quays at Wellington, erect, alert, handsome ; with a pointed beard, a tweed cap, an A.C. tie and a large pipe, he looked sixty and must have been eighty-seven. His study, in his home on the hills behind Wellington, on the edge of some of the wild Bush he did so much to preserve, suggested the university don as much as the veteran pioneer : books, dusty mementoes, maps, pictures, and a treasured mountain correspondence with the Alpine Fathers, particularly the letters of Cecil Slingsby, of whose characteristic encouragement and advice during the struggling years of N.Z. exploration and club organisation, he cherished a lasting appreciation.

The mountaineering conversation begun there was continued during a week of enthralling talk at the Hermitage, among the greater mountains and glaciers, when we lay on the huge moraines above the Tasman ice-field, and A.P.H. traced out all the phenomenal changes within view that had taken place since his first explorations. Of his expeditions, those with Douglas, with Leo Amery, then Colonial Secretary, and his own mountaineering daughter, Rosamond, and with the famous Graham brothers, were especially vivid memories, recalled with humour and sometimes caustic comment, in his deep, cultivated and weather-roughened tones.

A distinguished personality, A.P.H. combined the critical and aristocratic traditions of several great West-country families, his kin, with the democratic sympathies of the pioneer and explorer of a new world. He had a generous understanding of the younger generation and a love of its vigorous fun and crudities ; but at the same time a statesmanlike and detached view of the problems, the politics, and the hurried social development, in his country's short history. His justifiable pride was in the many tens of thousand acres of forest and bush, with all the wild life therein, floral and animal, which he had succeeded in saving for the future by his tireless campaigning, public propaganda and insistent private counsels, before others grew awake to their wonderful natural heritage. Never man deserved better of his future countrymen.

We met for the last time publicly at the coming-of-age celebrations of the mountaineering hostel on Arthur Pass. During that decorative and lively evening, A.P.H. spoke tersely and eloquently, and like a young man ; and the romantic spirit, the profound passion for the great peaks, glaciers, lakes and forests, which had inspired his years

of adventurous exploration and the long later life of contest, persuasion and fine organisation in their defence, penetrated his speech with an arresting power. With him, New Zealand and all our mountaineering world, lost a unique, a formidable, and a most lovable personality.

RICHARD KAY

1879–1955

RICHARD KAY was born on January 31, 1879, and died in Manchester on March 12 last. He was educated at Rolle, near Lausanne, and as a schoolboy had embarked on climbing and made numerous small expeditions in the Oberland, Valais, and near Chamonix.

He was a shipper of cotton and woollen goods and had travelled widely in the early years of this century, and took what opportunities he could of mountaineering during his journeys. He climbed El Misti and Chachani (both over 19,000 ft.) and various lesser summits in Peru in 1903–4, and made a number of small climbs on the Chilean-Argentine frontier in 1904–5. During the years 1906 to 1908 he was in China and Japan, but could only carry out minor climbing when up country.

The majority of his more serious Alpine climbing was done after the first War, but he had well before that been bitten with ski-touring and between 1909 and 1913 he visited the Oberland regularly in January–February and made numerous cross-country journeys on ski, as well as some actual climbs (the Jungfrau he climbed three times in winter). Ski-ing, in fact, was probably a greater interest with him than actual climbing ; he went many times to the Engadine in winter and played an important part in opening up Zermatt as a winter resort. He presented Zermatt with a ski-jump, which was named the ' Kay Jump ' after him.

Unluckily, in 1929 his party climbing on the Dent Blanche was involved in an accident, his guide Franziskus Taugwalder being killed by a rock dislodged by a party above (*A.J.* 41. 435), and he himself having a narrow escape. He had been climbing with Taugwalder for ten years and after this incident he never climbed again. As a result, he dropped out of mountaineering circles, though remaining very faithful to the Alpine Club.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

CHARLES HENRY PASTEUR

1869–1955

WITH the death of Charles Henry Pasteur on July 31 the Alpine Club has lost its senior member, a former Vice-President, and a mountaineer whose visits to the Alps extended over a period of 76 years (*A.J.* 59. 458). He made the first guideless ascent of the Grépon, with Sir George Morse, J. H. Gibson and Claud Wilson, on August 8, 1892,



MARK PASTEUR. H. W. PASTEUR. C. H. PASTEUR.
SAAS FEE: 1932.

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an event which caused no small stir at the time, and later that same month, with Mummery, Collie and Hastings, made the first traverse of the mountain, also guideless. He was, almost certainly, the last of Mummery's climbing companions.

Charles Pasteur came of a climbing family and has left a climbing family. His father, Marc Henri Pasteur, was elected a member of the Club in 1873, only sixteen years after its formation. His mother also climbed. Two of his sons are members ; the third, though unable to climb for physical reasons, has walked the Alps widely, and his daughter has also made various ascents. Finally, a grandson has inherited the same taste and in due time should qualify for membership. Four generations of Alpine climbers may well be unique.

But the mountaineering connections in the family do not end there. His elder brother, Dr. William Pasteur, was a member of the Club, whose daughter married General E. F. Norton. Of his three sisters, all of whom climbed, one became the wife of Sir George Morse. The latter's daughter in turn married yet another member, Brigadier J. R. T. Aldous, while one of his sons was also until recently a member. In fact, membership of the Club seems almost to have been regarded by the female side of the family as an essential qualification for aspiring husbands. Finally, a nephew, T. C. Paynter, is also a member.

Born in 1869, Pasteur was educated at Winchester and Trinity College, Cambridge. After visiting South Africa with his father on business, he decided to become a stockbroker and joined the London firm of Francis Birch & Christian, of which he remained an active member till his death. In 1895 he married Constance Barkworth and, from 1902 onwards, lived at Much Hadham, Herts. It would be hard to conceive of a happier home than the one which grew up there. Though hardly a climber, his wife shared his love of the mountains, joining in walks and picnics and mothering her climbing brood until her sudden death in 1932 at Brigue.

Save for the years 1893 and 1894, when he was in South Africa, and for war years, Pasteur answered the call of the Alps almost every year until his death. In his early years the Montanvert was his favourite district, with the Dauphiny a good second, but later these yielded pride of place to the Valais.

Pasteur began serious climbing in 1883 when, at the age of fourteen, he made ascents of the Petits Charmoz and Aiguille du Midi. Thereafter he went out every year till 1890, in December of which year he was elected a member of the Club ; only the necessity of attaining his twenty-first birthday prevented him from being elected earlier. His major expeditions in 1890 included the Grand Dru and the first ascent of the Aiguille de la Nonne, both with Claud Wilson and two guides ; the Géant and the Grands Charmoz. A day on the Petits Charmoz is of interest for the names of the other members of the party : Morse, Wicks, Wilson, Mrs. Wilson, and his sisters Mary Pasteur and Isabel May Pasteur, later Lady Twigg.

His two best seasons were those of 1891 and 1892, in the Dauphiny

and at Montanvert on each occasion. The 1891 Dauphiny expeditions consisted of the Brèche de la Meije, a traverse of the Ecrins in bad weather, the Meije via Glacier Carré, the party being benighted on the way down, Aiguille du Planet, Col de la Temple and Grande Aiguille, all guideless with Morse and Wicks ; the Montanvert expeditions included the Petit Dru, Mont Blanc in bad weather, Col de Triolet, Mont Mallet and Les Périades, all guided. In 1892, the Dauphiny expeditions included the Aiguille d'Arve Méridionale, Pic Coolidge and traverse of Meije, all with Wilson and Ulrich Almer ; the Montanvert expeditions consisted of a first ascent of L'Evêque and a traverse of Grands Charmoz, both guideless, the Grand Dru with Ellis Carr, Norman Collie and Alfred Simond, Col des Hirondelles with E. A. Broome and guides, Aiguille du Tacul and the following Grépon climbs, namely, an attempt via C.P. with Wilson and a guide, which failed, followed by the successful first guideless ascent by the same route and first traverse, already referred to.

A detailed list of Pasteur's climbs in subsequent years would be lengthy and to some extent repetitive ; for with him mountains became old friends, and several ascents of the same peak are not infrequently recorded in his diary. Up to the age of sixty-two he was still climbing actively, though latterly cols, of which he was always fond, tended to predominate. Perhaps his activities in those years can best be indicated by reference to districts.

Between 1895 and 1932 four seasons were spent wholly or partly at Montanvert, his climbs from there including Mont Blanc, Tour Noire, Aiguille du Tacul, Aiguille d'Argentière and Aiguille du Plan. Arolla was visited five times, his principal expeditions there being the Aiguille de la Za by the face, Pigne d'Arolla, Aiguilles Rouges, and Mont Blanc de Seilon. Visits to Zermatt numbered six, with traverse of Matterhorn, Ober Gabelhorn, Monte Rosa, Allalinhorn, Dent Blanche and Rimpfischhorn (the two latter at the age of fifty-eight) as some of his major climbs. Saas Fee received five visits, his last real climb being a traverse of the Portiengrat with Aldous at the age of sixty-two. Other places or districts visited towards the end of this period were Zinal, Belalp, the Tyrol and Sulden, with the Rothorn and Ortler as chief ascents. He also stayed on various occasions at the Eagle's Nest, that mountain retreat of the Norton family above Sixt.

The foregoing visits to the mountains were all primarily family holidays, in which friends of Pasteur, and of his children, were invited, and delighted, to join. His diary shows Sir George Morse, T. L. Kesteven and S. B. Peach of the older generation as his principal climbing companions in earlier days, together occasionally with his mother and wife. Then, from 1909 onwards, his two elder sons, Mauris and Hugh, and later his daughter Claire, were increasingly with him on the rope. The names of nephews and nieces, and their wives and husbands, also sometimes appear, making up the family party. And gay and happy those parties were, as the writer, who was privileged to share in several of them, gratefully recalls.

Between his wife's death and the second world war Pasteur's holidays in the Alps were less frequent, but the Chamonix district, Arolla, Grindelwald and Kandersteg were visited, though no expeditions of note were undertaken. During the war four short holidays were spent in North Wales on strenuous walks. But after the war his regular alpine holidays were resumed. Each year from 1947 to 1954 he went out, too old now to climb, but still an amazingly tough walker. Throughout this last phase his youngest son, Mark, was his invariable and devoted companion. Zinal, Arolla, Champex, the Engadine and Val Ferret were their principal haunts. A walk from Morteratsch station to Diavolezza and back in under twelve hours at the age of eighty-three is indicative of his powers. He had planned to go out again in 1955, but had suddenly to undergo a serious operation, from which he failed to recover. As he could never have been himself again, the end was fitting and such as he would have wished.

Pasteur was indeed a mountain lover in the widest sense of that term. He rejoiced in the valleys and their flowers equally with the peaks. A keen gardener, he specially cherished his alpine plants. He kept young in spirit to the end and had the art of friendship with the young as well as with the old. He delighted in music, which abounded in the home, trios and quartets being frequently played, with Pasteur on the viola. He was kindly and generous, had a twinkle in his eye, liked to chaff and be chaffed. He was also fond of good wine. And, above all, he was a man of firm religious belief. No wonder that, with these endearing qualities, he was widely loved and is deeply missed.

W. B. CARSLAKE.

FERDINAND SCHJELDERUP

1886–1955

ON July 29, Ferdinand Schjelderup passed away peacefully at Tyinholmen, surrounded by his beloved mountains. He had only reached the age of 69, but he had accomplished much. His intense work during the war and during the difficult years that followed, had affected his heart, but this did not prevent him from undertaking long excursions in the mountains whenever opportunities offered, summer or winter.

In the Norwegian Resistance Movement, Schjelderup took a leading part. His mental and physical courage combined with sound judgment, his thorough knowledge of international history and law and his unequalled familiarity with every part of his country and its people, made him singularly well suited for this task. At the solemn state funeral, Mr. O. C. Gundersen, a member of the Supreme Court and formerly Minister of Justice, gave a true picture of the man and his work. These were his words :

'One day, 46 years ago, Ferdinand Schjelderup was sitting on a



FERDINAND SCHJELDERUP.

[*To face p.* 410.

mountain summit in the north of Norway, of which he—with two other youngsters—had made the first ascent. We can see him before our eyes as he described their adventure : " We remained for a long time at the cairn, for after the intense nervous and muscular exertion we had just gone through, our minds were as if swept clean and receptive of the wealth of beauty that was ours. The sun was just plunging into the Arctic Ocean. Red-golden did it disappear behind the horizon, leaving the ocean on fire where parts of it were visible between magic black mountains and shining white glaciers. Beneath the peaks lay bright, black and emerald-green small lakes encircled by birchwood, and up to us—through the calmness—came sounds of the clamour of solitary gulls and cormorants. It was summer night in Arctic Norway."

' The young man of 23, who felt his mind swept clean after staking all he possessed of strength to attain his end, characterised his own nature through the words he then wrote. It became his habit to live in that way : a mountain peak, a glacier, a lawsuit, a contest, whatever it might be, he demanded of himself the maximum effort of body and soul, of intellect, sensibility and will-power, never giving in till he could enjoy the releasing pleasure of having gained his aim and of again getting his mind clean and open, receptive of fresh impressions. Many years later—it was during the war and the subject, the Kirkenes Teachers—he wrote about the " deed, which more than anything helps to mould the mind." To be sure, Ferdinand Schjelderup was made for deeds. Chiselled more through action than through contemplation, he had an entirely undisturbed instinctive faculty. He could do things, assert things, realise himself with such absolute confidence, because it was his true nature to do so.

' But there was much more than activity and desire for action in this nature of his. In the midst of all the activity he displayed, a shy reserve was at the bottom, always afraid of hurting and offending, with a profound piety towards death, the great unknown, combined with a simple and strong capacity to love all human beings. He was an amiable man, loved by many, and not only those who were his intimates.

' He had crossed Norway in all directions afoot, and few were better acquainted with how people live and work in this country. He had friends everywhere, peasants and mountain-dwellers, people he would immediately get in contact with, thanks to his spontaneous conception of their minds and conditions of life. I have met some of them and their eyes beamed with joy when his name was mentioned, " Yes, that Schjelderup, he is a likeable fellow," they would say.

' Ferdinand Schjelderup was full of everything essential in this world. History he studied continuously. History was a matter alive to him, ever renewing itself the more his field of view widened, allowing him a deeper penetration into it.

' As a young lawyer, Ferdinand Schjelderup came early to the front. Not that he had any particular talent for work at the Bar, for words did not come to him easily, and thoroughness was more characteristic of him than swiftness of thought. But what an amount of work he must have

thrown into his lawsuits, for he won the majority of them. He simply could not be brushed aside.

'At a comparatively young age he was called to become a member of the Supreme Court of Justice, in which position he found his right place. Non-doctrinaire, rich in knowledge, as intensely taken up with his work as any man could be, he threw all his ability and power into every single case. He frequently worked to the limit of over-exertion and sometimes beyond that. Was it necessary to work so hard? Might he not have taken it easier, so that he could have remained with us still for a while? No, he had to. He was impelled by his nature and by his interpretation of what must be exacted from the administration of justice: that administration of justice is based on the current flow of isolated cases, big and small, all of which require the same thorough handling, so that everyone may feel that every single case has been tried and weighed, as far as human judgment goes.

'Then came the war—debasement, injustice, confusion. Someone had to take up the strife, when the Resistance was still seeking a clear line and a firm intention to follow. That Ferdinand Schjelderup was the one to march out on the first summons and to remain in the first rank, was a matter of predestination, a consequence of all he had been, of all he had done and of all he stood for. He became absolutely indispensable to the country. Unfailingly sure of what the contest signified, he was just as confident in the strength and will inherent in our nation. Now he could make full use of all his qualities: red-hot in his will, but cold in his appraisements, firm in his resolutions, but nimble in the selection of his ways of action. He has himself written the History of the Occupation, and that is well. But in books others will be writing, Ferdinand Schjelderup's name will shine in the foreground amongst those who *made* history. Our nation owes him a lot, of which this state funeral is a token.'

Schjelderup was one of our best mountaineers of his generation. Like most Norwegian climbers, he started scrambling in early boyhood, gradually acquiring experience and skill in company with other youngsters and with only little assistance from professional guides. Apart from one season in the Alps and one or two visits to the Lake District, Schjelderup's climbing activities were limited to the mountains of Norway. But these he knew better than anyone. He had an exceptional faculty for finding the most remote and practically unknown groups.

Innumerable are the peaks he climbed, many of them first ascents. Amongst the best known of these are Kjærringa from Maradalsskaret, Stedtind, Svolværgjeita and Strandåtind. The latter was climbed twice, from opposite sides. In the second ascent, a rather trying one, he was accompanied by Wm. Cecil Slingsby, then a man of about sixty years of age.

In spite of their difference in age, Slingsby and Schjelderup were great friends. They had, in fact, much in common. Not only their true love of nature and of the free, simple life amongst the mountains, but

they had also the same open friendly and cheerful disposition, a personal charm which nobody could resist.

The writer had a letter from Schjelderup, written only a few days before he died. He was entirely happy. He had just experienced the wonderful transition from winter to summer in the hills, from the time the first flowers would break through the snow. But he felt tired. Shortly afterwards he passed into the eternal peace, into the quietness of the mountain world he so dearly loved.

C. W. RUBENSON.

PHILIPS CHRISTIAAN VISSER

1882–1955

IN the fifty-odd years of its existence, the Netherlands Alpine Club has produced no more distinguished mountaineer than our late member, Dr. P. C. Visser.

He was born at Schiedam in Holland on May 8, 1882, and died at Wassenaar on May 3 of this year. He had been a member of the Alpine Club for nearly forty-two years.

Educated at Schiedam and Rotterdam, he entered the family manufacturing business in Schiedam. He went on a climbing expedition to the Caucasus in 1914, but on account of the outbreak of war had to return by a circuitous route through Russia and Sweden. In 1916, as Secretary to the Netherlands Ambulance organisation in Russia, he took up his headquarters in St. Petersburg, remaining there until the 1917 Revolution. His other official appointments were :

1919 Honorary Secretary of the Netherlands Legation, Stockholm.
1931 Netherlands Consul-General in Calcutta.
1938 Netherlands Minister to Turkey : and from 1941 also to Iraq.
1945 Netherlands Minister to South Africa.
1948 Netherlands Minister to the U.S.S.R.
1950 Netherlands Delegate to the United Nations' Balkan Commission.
1952 A member of the Netherlands Defence Centre.

He commenced climbing in 1902 and from then onwards, for every year up to 1913 (the year of his election to the A.C.), he was in the Alps. In 1912 he married Miss Jenny van't Hooft, who became a constant companion on his mountain expeditions, both in the Alps and in the Karakorum (*A.J.* 51. 329). To list all his climbs would be pointless, involving as they did most of the standard routes round Zermatt and in the Oberland, the latter a region that he frequently visited. He himself recorded, for those who can read Dutch, some of his experiences in *Boven en Beneden de Sneeuwgrens* (1910). Professor Finch gives

below some account of his 1910 campaign with Visser, but the latter had already done quite a lot of guideless climbing, in the Dauphiné and Valais, including what was thought to be a fresh variation on the South face of the Cornes de Pié Bérarde.

Between the two wars his four Karakorum expeditions (1922, 1925, 1929–30 and 1935) occupied most of his time spent on mountaineering, though he went to the Alps in 1924 and paid a visit to Nepal in 1932. Whilst Minister in South Africa he took the opportunity to climb on Table Mountain and to visit the Drakensberg; he was an honorary member of the Mountain Club of South Africa.

But it is by his expeditions to the Karakorum that his name will be principally remembered in the history of mountaineering. In 1922 he and Mme. Visser-Hooft, with Franz Lochmatter and Johann Brantschen, visited the Sasir-Kangri, and he read a paper to the Club on the results of the expedition on April 10, 1923 (*A.J.* 35. 75). The 1925 venture was to the north of the main Karakorum range, in Kanjut, a district of Hunza, and was the subject of a pleasant volume by Mme. Visser-Hooft, *Among the Kara-Koram Glaciers in 1925* (*A.J.* 39. 186): Franz Lochmatter and Johann Perren were the guides on this expedition. The later expeditions took the Vissers northwards as far as Yarkand and Kashgar, and eastwards of the Karakorum Pass. Dr. Visser's own writings were strictly scientific and abound in details of the zoology, ethnography, meteorology and glaciology of the areas he visited (*A.J.* 51. 152).

His distinguished services to mountain exploration were recognised by an honorary membership of the Netherlands A.C. (1923), by the Gold Medal of the Société de Géographie (1927), and by the Back Grant of the R.G.S. (1929). Among other distinctions accorded him was honorary membership of the Guides' Society, St. Niklaus.

Mme. Visser-Hooft died in 1939 and Dr. Visser married again, this time Miss C. A. de Graeff, to whom the Club extends profound sympathy on her loss.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

PROFESSOR G. I. FINCH writes from Poona:

My records and photographs of the pre-1914 era are not with me, so I can only quote from memory. I met P. C. Visser first in 1909 in Zermatt. It was late in the season and we went for walks together and patronised the Shoehorn boulder. Eventually we climbed the Lyskamm, after having attended the Schönbühl hut opening with Whymper. In 1910 we climbed in Chamonix and did the Moine and some interesting needles on the Moine-Aig. Verte ridge; the Requin; traversed the Tour Ronde and a number of other peaks.

I visited Visser and his father in, I believe, 1910 or 1911, in Schiedam and met Miss Jenny van't Hooft, whom Visser later married; she herself was a keen climber. Visser and I did no further climbing together, but we kept in touch throughout the years. The last time

we met was in Zermatt in 1949, when Visser made his last ascent of the Matterhorn, an event which we celebrated as it should be celebrated.

Visser was a warm-hearted, kindly gentleman with a strong sense of humour. He had a great love for the mountains and did much to stimulate a like interest in Holland ; the Dutch A.C. owes much to him. Visser could climb fast if the occasion demanded, but he preferred to take his time and taught me to do what he himself loved to do, to savour every moment spent on the mountains.

Visser rose high in the Diplomatic Service of his country. As Consul in Calcutta, he found time to explore and climb in the Karakorum with Jenny, and in Istanbul he climbed in the Anatolian mountains. Jenny's death was a terrible blow to him, but later he married again and regained his happiness.

I always remember him for his innate kindliness, his infectious good humour, and his great love of the mountains and sound appreciation of the meaning and aims of mountaineering and mountaineering endeavour.

Mr. D. L. Busk writes from Addis Ababa :

I first met Visser in London before the war, when he had just returned from one of his Himalayan expeditions with his first wife, who was a most accomplished traveller and wrote charming accounts of their voyages in perfect English. She died not long afterwards.

Later, in 1942, Visser and I found ourselves together in Ankara where he was the Netherlands Minister. He and his second wife were as charming as ever and the British community had much hospitality from them. He was an excellent representative of his country in those dark days and helped us officially in many respects. His Legation was a hundred yards below the British Embassy and it was his practice to walk up almost every morning to see the Ambassador or myself with the latest news. His pace, even uphill, was a rapid trot and we had some difficulty with the security guards who were supposed to stop unauthorised persons from entering the Chancery. It was no use trying this on Visser. He brushed aside all opposition, including a wooden barrier, and shot up the stairs three at a time. New security guards who did not know him sometimes pursued him, to be greeted with a cheerful : ' I am the Dutch Minister ; I am in a hurry ; I am quite mad ; do not bother about me.' Thus treated they retired baffled. They called him, of course the ' Flying Dutchman.'

Though he was now getting on in years Visser did not forget his mountaineering and, in 1941, before my arrival, he led a party to the 13,000-foot peak of Mount Erciyas in central Anatolia. This was quite an expedition in wartime when few facilities were available.

Later, Visser was transferred to the post of Netherlands Minister in the Union of South Africa and he ended his career with great distinction as his country's Ambassador at Moscow. Before leaving the Soviet Union he obtained special permission to make a trip to the Caucasus to

see again the mountains he had visited in his youth. He was now too old to make any ascents, but at least he could revisit the scene of his former triumphs.

Visser retired to Wassenaar and had been in poor health for some months. His loss will be greatly felt by all who knew him and the sympathy of members of the Club will go out to his wife and children.

We much regret to report the death, while this Journal was in print, of the Rt. Hon. L. S. Amery, C.H., President of the Alpine Club, 1944–1946.