

IN MEMORIAM

TOM BOURDILLON

FURTHER to the 'In Memoriam' note,¹ Dr. Charles Evans writes :

Tom Bourdillon went three times to the Himalaya, always on expeditions that were directed mainly to the ascent of Everest. In 1951 he was with Shipton, Hillary, Murray, Riddiford and Ward, when for the first time a way was found up the Khumbu Icefall ; and on that occasion it was he who, after days of exploration in the icefall, cut up the last obstructing wall of ice and first stood on the threshold of the cwm. On the same expedition he visited the Guamara glacier with Murray, Riddiford and Ward, and, with Murray, crossed the Nangpa La to look at Cho Oyu, spotting then the route by which the mountain was later climbed. Next year he was again in Nepal, this time with Shipton's Cho Oyu expedition, the purpose of which was also preparation for Everest. On this expedition he made trials with different types of oxygen sets and gained a good deal of practical experience in the use of oxygen above 20,000 ft., and returned to England with clear ideas of what would be needed on Everest in 1953.

He was already convinced of the importance of oxygen to success on Everest, and convinced of its value as a safeguard against the possible permanent ill-effects on the brain of a long stay at great heights. During the autumn and winter of 1952 he supervised the production of open-circuit sets for next year, and developed the closed-circuit set, upon which his interest was centred, and of which he made several models with his own hands.

During the expedition he had sole responsibility for the oxygen apparatus, a responsibility which he shouldered in addition to the ordinary work of any member of an expedition : he watched over the cylinders, and was able to replace in time losses due to leakage. He did the mechanical work of maintaining and repairing the open- and closed-circuit sets and he trained the rest of the party, Europeans and Sherpas, in the use of oxygen. In addition to the routine work of the man in charge of oxygen apparatus, he tested out his special closed-circuit set on the Lhotse face ; and when it was there found to be working well, he guided the planning of its use, and supervised it in service.

Climbers know the story of his part in the final attempts on Everest that year, but no written description can convey the intensity of his

¹ *A.J.* 61. 357.

devotion to the task, and only those who were with him know the amount of work he put in to keep his closed-circuit set and mine in working order. On the South Col on the day before the first attempt to reach the summit, he found our two re-breathing bags solid with ice, and spent most of the day patiently thawing them out with successive washings of hot water, each painful slowly produced by melting snow on the primus. On the morning of the attempt itself he spent over an hour in a freezing wind making repairs to my set, which when we first started gave no oxygen, and he was able, methodically, to think out what was wrong, to devise the best makeshift cure for the trouble, and to make the adjustments with his hands bare.

His faith in the closed-circuit set was great, and he believed and hoped that it would on the day of our attempt take us to the top of the mountain. It is a measure of the excellence of his work on the set, of his knowledge and of his enthusiasm that a climb in one day from the South Col to the top and back was considered, with reason, to be practicable.

But it is not the competent expedition member, the fine rock-climber, the oxygen enthusiast, or the practical man of science that Tom's friends remember when they think of him, but the man himself, as we saw him perhaps at Pen y Gwryd, after some artificial route which was 'pleasing', or in a Himalayan camp, turning over in huge hands a broken piece of metal, and saying with a puzzled frown that it seemed to have broken very easily. The impression he made on all was of a union of great size with gentleness, of strength with goodness, and of an honesty in thought of which the standard was so high that when he looked at you quizzically with his half-smile, and said 'Oh—do you think so?' it brought you up short, and made you wonder whether you were arguing in order to arrive at the truth, or were prejudiced and wanted just to win your case.

He was witty, too; the first remark I ever heard him make was to become his best-known quip, on the radio one night before ever I met him, when he said, of expedition food, that 'the main thing is there should be some'; and to his strength, gentleness and honesty was added a great tenacity. I have a vivid memory of an action of his as we approached on our way down to the tents on the South Col. We were very tired, and stumbled, but a little off our route he saw an abandoned Swiss oxygen cylinder, and he made a detour, and lifted it onto his shoulder, and carried it into camp 'because it might just make the difference to the second party'.

HUBERT CECIL BOWEN

1864-1956

WITH the death on November 23 last of H. C. Bowen, the Alpine Club loses its senior member and the only one at that date who had over sixty years of membership.

He was born at Birkenhead on September 26, 1864, the second son of Dr. Essex Bowen of that town. He was educated at Birkenhead School and Balliol College, Oxford, and returned to his old school as Assistant Master in 1889 until 1897, when he became a master at St. Edmund's, Canterbury, where he remained until his retirement in 1924. From the latter year until he died he lived at Tenby in South Wales, in a delightful house close to the sea. He was unmarried, but undoubtedly had a most happy life, his mind remaining very active to the end, and his interest in mountaineering never flagging. The walls of his rooms were liberally covered with mountain photographs, and any new book about climbing was promptly bought.

He was elected to the Alpine Club in December 1893, having paid his first visit to the Alps in 1891. The Swiss peak with which his name is particularly associated is the Gletscherhorn, about which he contributed a short paper in *A. J.* 24. 487, based upon his expeditions in 1892, 1893 and 1908. He was especially devoted to Norway and with C. W. Patchell made visits there on more than one occasion (their 1896 tour is described by him in *A. J.* 18. 451). Haskett-Smith joined them there in 1903, when a number of new expeditions were made (*A. J.* 21. 574-7).

In his earliest days the late C. E. Freeman was his companion on alpine climbs, and later he was associated with Sir John Withers, A. E. Field and others ; but probably no member of the Club knew him better than Dr. L. W. Rolleston, who kindly contributes a note below.

No mention of Bowen's climbing would be complete without noting his pioneer work in the Lake District. In 1893, with Solly, Brant and Schintz, he made the first ascent of Arrowhead ridge on Great Gable ; in 1897, with Owen Glynne Jones, the first ascent of Wastwater Screes Central Gully ; and in 1898 the second ascent of the Eagle's Nest arête, also with Jones. In *A. J.* 27. 384-5, Bowen drew upon his knowledge of British hills to make comparisons with Dolomite climbing, and it became his lot to write the obituary notice in the *ALPINE JOURNAL* of Glynne Jones (vol. 19, p. 583), as, later, he wrote about Withers and Patchell. It falls to comparatively few to make pioneer ascents in Great Britain, Norway and the Alps, and the Club has reason to regret the passing of this eminent and long-lived member.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

DR. ROLLESTON writes :

It was my good fortune to climb with H. C. Bowen for four seasons in the Alps (1910-13) and for two short holidays in Cumberland and Wales. Bowen had climbed for many years in the Alps and Norway and his list of ascents was a very long one. Of expeditions that we made together in the Alps of which I have very happy memories, were :

Matterhorn, Italian side on ascent, with descent by Zmutt arête ;

Aiguille Verte by the Moine ridge ;

Grépon and Charmoz, South-North traverse, with a variation on the ascent of the Grépon (*A. J.* 28. 83).

On a climb he was the most unselfish of companions, never appearing to feel any fatigue himself and always helpful to others in the party ; always cheerful and appearing to enjoy every minute of the climb. He excelled as a rock climber and I have never seen him have any difficulty on places known as difficult in Chamonix or in the Dolomites.

He loved the climbing at Wastdale Head, where he went frequently and had made nearly all the famous ascents, some of them for the first time.

Bowen was a keen and expert fisherman and, as often goes with this pursuit, a student of bird-life, which made him a most interesting companion, from whom one was able to learn much. I am grateful for the many happy days spent with such a friend.

KARL BLODIG

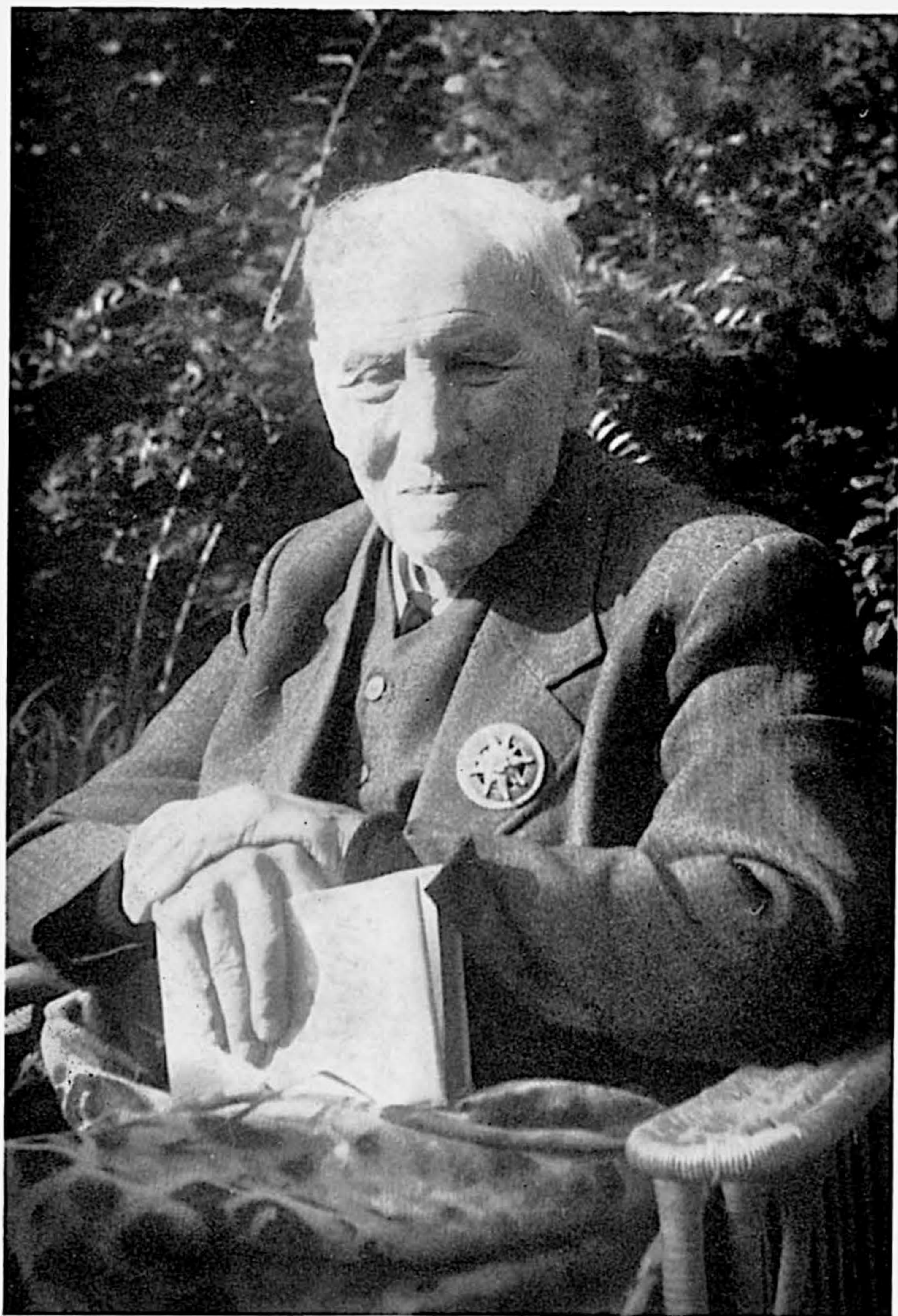
1859-1956

WITH Karl Blodig, one of the last great pioneers of classical alpinism has passed away and one of the leading guideless climbers.

Born in 1859 in Vienna, he studied medicine and, since 1885, had practised as an oculist in Bregenz, up to the age of ninety. As a boy of eight Blodig had started his alpine career, and at eighteen years old he ascended his first unclimbed mountain. Two years later he was one of the first to ascend the Königsspitze, in the Ortler group, in winter. In the following summer he made, together with the famous guide Ranggetiner, the first crossing of the Silbersattel on Monte Rosa.

His alpine activities were mainly divided between his homeland Vorarlberg and the great Western Alps. But he visited also all the other groups of the entire Alps and made numerous first climbs. The finest of all, perhaps, was the first ascent in 1906 of the North arête of Mt. Brouillard with Oscar Eckenstein.

Blodig already had in early days the ambition to climb all the mountains over 4,000 m., and in 1911 he had completed this task with



KARL BLODIG.

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his eightieth summit of this height. Meanwhile other peaks had been declared as independent mountains, and so Blodig added in 1932 the Grande Rocheuse and the Aiguille du Jardin to his list. He climbed them quite alone, from the col between the two summits, which he had to reach by a very steep couloir from the Argentière glacier ; an almost incredible performance for a man of seventy-three. (*A. J.* 45. 161).

Blodig made his tours with many of the prominent mountaineers of his time. Amongst others, with H. O. Jones and G. Winthrop Young, with whom he made, in 1911, the second ascent of the Brouillard ridge of Mont Blanc. His favourite companion was the famous Ludwig Purtscheller and, after his death as the result of an accident on the Dru, the alpine painter E. T. Compton. Blodig was honorary member of the Austrian Alpenverein and the Austrian Alpenklub since 1911 ; honorary member of the Climbers' Club, who invited him to North Wales (he found the climbs there very exposed and most interesting, as he wrote to me later). In 1953 he was appointed honorary member of the Alpine Club.

Numerous were Blodig's contributions to alpine literature and his lectures to various alpine associations. It was on such an occasion that I made his acquaintance. Since 1926 he published every year his beautiful alpine calendar. His outstanding work is his book, *Die Viertausender der Alpen*, where he records all his climbs of mountains over 4,000 m. It is excellently written and most fascinating. A pity it has never been translated into English. He closes with the words : ' The day is approaching when one will say about me : " He was a prominent mountaineer, and an enthusiastic herald of the beauties of the mountain world " . ' He adds his alpine creed reading : ' And he climbed the mountains in order to pray. '

R. L. GROSSMAN.

MR. GEOFFREY WINTHROP YOUNG writes :

Karl Blodig was an alpine pioneer of great initiative and of independent views and character. He was possibly the first to form an ambition to climb all the known 4,000-m. summits in the Alps, and he was the first by a few days to achieve it. This quest brought him in later middle age again to Courmayeur, where he became associated with Humphrey Owen Jones, Eckenstein, and the few others who were then becoming interested in a new ice technique and in the Italian South faces.

As a guest of my Pen y Pass party, he was the first distinguished continental climber to visit British rock-climbing in its beginnings and, in acknowledgment, he became the first honorary member of the youthful Climbers' Club. In the following year, the great season of 1911, he joined H. O. J. and myself in Courmayeur, where Pic Luigi Amedeo and Punta Margherita had recently been climbed and added to the

4,000-m. list, and where engineer Pfann and Dr. Pühn were on the point of surpassing his record. Abating a prejudice against taking guides, Blodig found Josef Knubel the perfect companion in climbing Punta Margherita; and he then joined our party for the direct ascent of Pic Luigi Amedeo from col Emil Rey, and the traverse of the Brouillard ridge over Mont Blanc, and back to Courmayeur. Blodig, for all his grey beard and advancing years, accomplished the long and strenuous day with amazing agility and endurance; and on the summit of Pic Luigi Amedeo, by a new route, he completed at the same time his victorious record of alpine summits and—as he then intended—a great mountaineering career. Soon after this, the wars separated him from us.

A fine gymnast and athlete, a consistent mountain enthusiast, and a man of culture and of sociable sympathies, he deserved the almost legendary fame which his long life brought him.

LIONEL WILLIAM CLARKE

1874-1956

THE late L. W. Clarke was the younger brother of Edward Russell Clarke, who died in 1918 (*A. J.* 32. 362). Educated at St. Paul's School and Pembroke College, Cambridge, he became a solicitor and practised for many years in London.

He was elected to the Alpine Club in April 1900, being proposed by A. J. Butler and seconded by S. B. Donkin. He had, however, been climbing in the Alps since 1891, Donkin being a frequent companion on the rope (see *A. J.* 59. 74-5); another early companion was W. G. Adams (junior), nephew of the famous J. Couch Adams, the discoverer of Neptune. Later in life he climbed occasionally with A. E. Barker, whose obituary he wrote in the *ALPINE JOURNAL* (vol. 51, p. 307). He was an original member of the Climbers' Club.

In 1942 Clarke read a paper, 'The Vagaries of Memory', to the Club (*A. J.* 54. 11), pleasantly recalling some of his early impressions of the Alps; and he was always ready to put his recollections at one's disposal, as, for example, at the time that Maurice Cretiez's career was being written (*A. J.* 58. 304). The passage of years did not appear to affect his memory in the least, any more than it affected his neat, scholarly handwriting. His death came unexpectedly to those who knew him, and in accordance with his disposition, no notification was made to the Press. The Alpine Club regrets the loss of a member of over fifty-six years' standing, who retained his interest in our affairs almost to the very last.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

ALAN GREAVES

1885-1956

ALAN GREAVES, who died on December 18 last, was educated at Oundle and Christ's College, Cambridge, and trained for a solicitor but never took his Law Finals, owing to the outbreak of war in 1914. He was elected to the Alpine Club in December 1912. Readers of W. E. Durham's *Summer Holidays in the Alps* will recall that Greaves's name occurs there frequently, for he was a regular patron of Christian Jossi the younger,² and they remained warm friends to the day of Jossi's death.

Greaves's first season in the Alps was in 1905, and from 1908 to 1914 he was out each year, keeping mainly to the regions he knew and liked best, the Oberland and Valais. He belonged to that not inconsiderable body of mountaineers who care little for records or new routes, but who go to the Alps to enjoy themselves. Greaves, indeed, had the reputation of being something of an epicure on a mountain-side and in his company a climber might expect to be provided with luxuries not usually to be found in rucksacks. After the First World War Greaves did not do any serious climbing, but to the end he kept up a very keen interest in it and in the affairs of the Club, and was quite a regular correspondent.

During the first war he served in a French Motor Ambulance unit in the Vosges and elsewhere; in the last war he was head observer in the R.O.C., Baslow, Derbyshire, and was very popular with his crew. In quite recent times he had the unusual experience of finding himself announced in the Club as having died during his lifetime. He was a keen mountain photographer and had exhibited at various A.C. exhibitions.

He married in 1920 Marjorie Sybil, daughter of R. H. Godfrey, of Preston, Rutland, and to his widow and daughter we express our sympathy in their loss.

MR. E. CODDINGTON writes :

I first met Alan Greaves in 1909, when we were both stopping at the Gorner Gorges Villa, then under British management. I was a novice. He accompanied me up the Breithorn. Whymper was stopping at the Monte Rosa Hotel, but had a room for writing at the Villa, to escape intrusive visitors. We decided to wait till we were spoken to, which we soon were and met with kind encouragement.

Greaves and I next met by arrangement at Fionnay in 1913, when he brought Christian Jossi along. After a few weeks on lesser climbs, Greaves had an unexpected call to return to England and generously

² See *A.J.* 61. 209.

handed Christian over to me. In 1914 we arranged to meet again in Fionnay, but the war made us both refugees, he in Grindelwald, myself in Fionnay, and we failed to achieve a meeting.

After the war I joined Greaves and his wife in Grindelwald, but he preferred picnics to peaks, although he had Jossi with him.

Greaves talked with deliberation and a slight, attractive stammer. At the meeting of the Club after Durham's death he felt he ought to make some remarks, but evidently was nervous.

CHARLES THEODORE LEHMANN

1874-1956

CHARLES LEHMANN was born in Switzerland in July 1874, of an old Lausanne family, but left to live in England when he was only nine years old. Though he returned to do his military service in Switzerland, he was later naturalised British. Throughout his life he kept, together with his loyalty to the country of his adoption, a deep devotion to the land of his birth. In this duality lies the key to his position as a link between the two countries, and in particular between British and Swiss climbers.

He was elected to the Alpine Club in 1932 but his great life interest, apart from business, lay with the A.B.M.S.A.C. His connection with the S.A.C. started in 1902 when he became a member of the Diablerets Section (of which in 1948 he was made a Membre d'Honneur). When the Association of British Members was founded in 1909 he was one of the Founder Members, becoming Librarian (1919-28), Treasurer (1926-54) and President (1937-45). His great work for the Association, and for British climbers in general, can, however, never be fully expressed by such labels. As an illustration of a small part of it one can visualise him, in his office in Monument Street, engrossed in maps and guide-books in an attempt to satisfy the insatiable demand for information from prospective climbers. And this at times when he might be expected to be engaged in the higher finance of the Milk Product industry.

His business activity centred in the firm of R. Lehmann & Co. Ltd., of which he had been Chairman and Managing Director since 1900. He held several other directorships and became a Fellow of the Institute of Directors in 1946. His business interests extended to East Africa, which he visited in his youth. Though lack of time prevented his return he was always interested in climbing in that area and was a generous contributor to expeditions there and elsewhere.

Lehmann's climbing career started in 1889 with a walking tour in the Alps and lasted for nearly a half-century. The absence from his

qualification of the big mountains and the difficult routes made him diffident when, at the age of fifty-eight, it was suggested that he should join the Club. He had, nevertheless, many seasons of experience and a long list of pleasant peaks such as the Portjengrat and the Rimpfischhorn to his credit.

When, in 1938, Sir William Ellis founded his Trust for needy Swiss guides and their dependants, Lehmann was one of the original Trustees, and till his death he carried out the executive work. On his later visits to Switzerland, which were still frequent though he climbed no longer, he was able to keep in touch with some of the recipients and study deserving cases with the sympathy which was so characteristic of him.

A side of his life, little known to his climbing friends, which waxed as his ability to climb waned, was his interest in fishing and stamp collecting and his membership of local societies devoted to these hobbies.

His active life in the A.B.M.S.A.C. as Treasurer and Honorary Vice-President lasted till he was eighty. At the age of eighty-two he was still going to his office every day and still showing the same vigour of mind in spite of some failing in health. In the early autumn of 1956 he suffered a heart attack, having been at the office only the day before. From this he never properly recovered and he died on October 19 at his home in Tunbridge Wells. His one great wish—that he might never retire from business life—had been granted to him abundantly.

F. R. CREPIN.

DONALD GEORGE LOWNDES

1899–1956

DONALD LOWNDES was elected to the Alpine Club in December 1949, on his qualifications as a Himalayan plant hunter and as a leading authority on Alpines. He served with the Royal Garhwali Rifles with distinction, both on the North-West Frontier in 1919–20 and in the Second World War. He raised the 7th Battalion of his Regiment and was the last British Commandant of the Royal Garhwali Centre at Lansdowne.

In 1950 he was with Tilman in the Annapurna area, as a botanist (for he was not really a climber) and it is probable that on this occasion he overstrained his heart at the high altitudes involved. In 1952 he was co-opted to the Himalayan Joint Committee and was of great assistance in helping to cope with the planning of the 1953 Everest expedition. He continued his work of collecting plants and of distributing seed as long as he could. He was a keen member of the Alpine

Garden Society and of the Scottish Rock Garden Club. In addition, he edited the *Royal Garhwali Quarterly* until his death. In his home, near Ringwood, he was a first-class host and was always ready to help his many visitors with advice, and often with plants.

H. W. TOBIN.

DR. LONGSTAFF writes :

Lowndes served all his time with the Royal Garhwali Rifles. He took practically all his leaves in the Himalayas, dividing his time between fishing and botany. His father had established a beautiful wild garden at Gadden Close, near Ringwood, on the borders of the New Forest. I remember especially some very beautiful Chinese rhododendrons and several varieties of blue poppies. To this garden and to the Edinburgh Botanical Gardens Don brought back seeds of many Himalayan plants and shrubs, which have been cultivated with great success. His last expedition, after he had retired as full colonel, was with Tilman to Nepal, over ground which was botanically unexplored.

In the old days I often shot with Don at Gaddens, and later he fished with me at Badentarbet. He was a most charming and considerate companion and a good sportsman. His election to the Club was on his scientific-botanical qualifications. His passing will be regretted by many friends, both British and Oriental.

ALBERT H. MACCARTHY

1876-1956

ALBERT H. MACCARTHY, a member of the Alpine Club since 1916, who died October last, was one of the most rugged American climbers of his day. He was an Honorary Member of both the American Alpine Club and the Alpine Club of Canada.

After graduation from the United States Naval Academy in 1897 he served for ten years, but resigned his commission in 1907 shortly after his marriage. He then tried his hand at various occupations including textiles, the law, banking, real estate, and hotel operation, but was not entirely content at any of these. In 1910 he and his wife went to British Columbia where they bought land in the upper Columbia River valley near Lake Windermere and established a ranch, only two or three years before the collapse of the boom in western Canada.

Ranching for them resulted in no profit but great happiness. They soon took up climbing. Mrs. MacCarthy came of an athletic family (her brother, W. A. Larned, had been six times U.S. national singles tennis champion) and she and Mack very soon became proficient and

strong climbers. W. W. Foster, a division engineer with the Canadian Pacific Railway, with headquarters at Revelstoke, became a very good friend. Conrad Kain, an Austrian guide, settled near them. The MacCarthys and Kain had the nearby Purcells almost to themselves for a while and made first ascents of many of the highest peaks there. In 1913 MacCarthy, Foster and Kain made the first ascent of Mt. Robson by a route from the north which was not repeated for forty years. Mack made the first ascent and descent in one day of the N.W. ridge of Mt. Sir Donald in the Selkirks, as well as guideless ascents of several other good peaks nearby. In 1916 he and Kain made the first ascent of Mt. Louis near Banff. The MacCarthys, both with and without Kain, climbed many peaks in the Canadian Rockies. In the First World War, Mack returned to active duty with the U.S. Navy.

In 1920 he, A. W. Wakefield and I made the first *traverse* of Mt. Assiniboine, in sixteen hours from the A.C.C. camp near Lake Magog. In 1923 interest began to focus on Mt. Logan (19,850 ft.) in Yukon Territory : the highest in Canada and second only to Mt. McKinley in North America. MacCarthy was asked to undertake leadership of an expedition to it, organised by the Alpine Club of Canada with strong support from the American Alpine Club. From May 1924 to July 1925 MacCarthy spent twenty-six tough weeks on the reconnaissance, winter freighting, and actual attempt with a party of eight climbers, resulting in success on June 23, 1925.

The next year, 1926, in his fifty-first year, Mack went over to see the Alps. He soon decided that he cared less for the way of life and climbing there than in our West, but characteristically he made the most of his one season. In sixty-three elapsed days, forty-five climbing days, he did a hundred and one peaks and temporarily exhausted six different guides. One of his guides said to me a year later : 'Your Mr. MacCarthy is a very strong man and he never wants to stop. We guides must have some rest.' Mack often climbed four, five and six days consecutively, through fair weather and foul. He had made up his mind to do certain peaks and he did them. On Logan the nightly temperature for three weeks averaged about -20° F. and the wind averaged to howl twenty hours out of every twenty-four, so Mack was not too impressed by summer storms in the Alps. But this was his last season of real climbing, and for the next few years he and his wife continued to enjoy life on their ranch.

In 1930 the MacCarthys sold the ranch, moved first to Colorado, and then in 1932 to Annapolis, Maryland. There they owned and operated Carvel Hall, the large hotel near the Naval Academy, and devoted considerable time to the welfare of animals, which they both loved, through the S.P.C.A. Mrs. MacCarthy died in 1944. In his later years Mack interested himself actively in civic affairs, Historic Annapolis,

the Anne Arundel General Hospital, and the local radio station (WNAV), and always in good work for his animal friends.

MacCarthy was a very capable, strong climber. Whether carrying an eighty-pound pack in the bush, or climbing an airy Alpine ridge, he was deliberate, careful and safe, and always considerate of the less experienced people on his rope as at the camps of the Alpine Club of Canada. At these annual summer camps in the mountains, he took many beginners or less experienced on their first climbs. Those who went out with him knew they would have a good day, learn sound climbing, and return to camp safely. He and General Foster continued to go to the A.C.C. camps almost to the end. It was always an event when either of them came into camp.

HENRY S. HALL, JR.

SERGEI DE VESSELITSKY MERRIMAN

1882-1957

Up to a few years ago there was no more familiar figure to be seen in the Alpine Club than Merriman,³ though since his wife's death in 1952 he withdrew from all participation in Club affairs. But in his time he was one of the most ardent members that the Club has ever had ; he seldom missed a meeting, whether formal or informal ; he was usually to be found at the Monte Rosa hotel in Zermatt during August ; he proposed or seconded a large number of members to the Club.

He would probably never have made any pretensions to being an expert mountaineer and a chronicle of his ascents would not be very impressive. In 1895, as a boy of thirteen, he climbed his first mountain, the Ortler, but it was not till 1901 that he commenced regular annual visits to the Alps. Saas Fee and Zermatt were his most usual homing grounds.

What interested him most in the Club were the members and he was a fount of gossip and small talk about Club affairs. This freedom of speech was wholly without malice and merely the outcome of his unquenchable concern for anything that affected the Club. He was always ready to proffer help in Club matters where guerilla assistance was needed, though in late years his disabilities (he became very lame) made it necessary to dispense with his active assistance.

He was of Russian origin, his father having an appointment in the British Foreign Office for many years, whilst his mother was American. It was under his old name of de Vesselitsky that he was elected to the Club in 1921, on the proposal of Dr. O. K. Williamson. Merriman

³ His original name was de Vesselitsky and he took the name of Merriman in 1931 on inheriting some property.

(to continue with his later surname) was, until the Russian Revolution, the London correspondent of the *Novoe Vremya*, and he had a marked gift for foreign languages. He took a very live interest in the activities of the Association of British Members of the S.A.C. and was a most punctilious attender at meetings of the Royal Geographical Society. 'Old Vladivostok', as he was smilingly nicknamed, became a decided personality in the life of the Alpine Club and there must be many members, with memories going back to the 1920's, who will feel that the Club has not been quite the same place since he ceased to frequent our rooms.

He married Freda Westall, herself a mountaineer and a member of the L.A.C., and a cousin of the well-known lady climber, Miss B. M. McAndrew. His wife's death completely broke him up, but Alpine Club activities were never lost to his interest and only a few days before his death he had made enquiries about the Club's centenary celebrations.

T. S. B.

JULIUS CHARLES HENRY RUNGE

1863-1956

HARRY RUNGE was born in London in August 1863 and died there, a bachelor, at the age of 93. He was the elder brother of A. J. R. Runge.⁴ A merchant in the City of London, he was closely tied by business activities and it is all the more remarkable that he was always fit enough to start a season's climbing with but few preliminaries. He was elected to the Club in December 1893, his proposer being Sir Felix Schuster and his seconder G. H. Savage. He was an original member of the Climbers' Club.

I know little of his early climbing days, generally, I think, with Peter Dangl, a fine old-time guide and chamois hunter, whom H. R. affectionately called 'a good old ruffian'. Afterwards, his guides were Abraham Müller senior and the latter's sons, Abraham and Gottfried, whom H. R. spoke of as his two boys. In 1895 he was one of Rickmers' party in the Caucasus, but I understood bad weather and transport difficulties precluded any big peaks. H. R. had to leave the expedition to fetch a doctor for one of the party who ultimately died.⁵

My first climbs with him were in 1903 in the Dauphiné, where we were caught on the Meije in bad weather—fortunately not snow, but hail, which bounced off the rocks—and we completed the traverse. After that we had a number of seasons together. He was an indefatigable ex-centrist with alternative plans for adverse conditions. Bad

⁴ A.J. 58. 398.

⁵ A.J. 18. 52.



J. C. H. RUNGE.

[To face p. 533.]

weather was used to travel to more promising districts. As an example, we left the Guggi hut at 8 a.m. in shocking weather, slept at Turin, and a few days later secured the Aiguille d'Arves and the whole cirque of the Rochers des Agneaux. He was first rate on both rock and snow and resourceful in difficulties. I recall two instances. At Macugnaga the hotel was said to be full. Not a room for us. H. R. ordered much Asti Spumanti and presently enquired the size of the garage, as he proposed to come round next year in a large car. Strange to say, an empty bedroom was found! On another occasion, when at an Italian hut, our ropes were 'lost'. H. R. stormed about the hut: 'I will have the names of everyone in the hut. I will telegraph to my friends in the Italian Alpine Club.' Very soon the ropes were forthcoming.

In 1911, at the age of 48, he began ski-mountaineering, but his abiding love was for the great peaks and passes. Of these, I would single out Mont Blanc by the Brenva ridge, Weisshorn by the Schalligrat, Grosse und Kleine Zinne (traverse), and Jungfrau from the Guggi hut. In 1897 he had made the first descent of the Rinderhorn to the Zagengrat,⁶ and as late as 1939, at the age of 76, he made the first traverse of the Fründenjoch from the Gasterntal *via* die Löcher.

Throughout his long life he took the greatest interest in all things appertaining to mountaineering. He was an assiduous attender of meetings at the Club, and was present in 1953 at the time of the Everest lectures. As late as last summer he considered the possibility of flying to Switzerland for a last look at his beloved Alps.

WILLIAM R. CAESAR.

PHILIP HENRY SHARPE

1884-1957

PHILIP SHARPE came of a family in which climbing and mountain travel were a tradition. Educated at Highgate School, he chose the army as his profession and went in 1901 to the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, and in due course was commissioned in the Royal Engineers. He won the M.C. and Belgian Croix de Guerre in the First World War. In 1929 he retired as a major and went to live in Devon. There he took a prominent part in the Boy Scout movement and served throughout the Second World War in Civil Defence and was Assistant Head Warden for Devon.

He was elected to the Alpine Club in 1917. His qualification list showed that he had paid his first visit to the Alps in 1901 but did not

⁶ *A.J.* 19. 63.

really start climbing until 1907, after which he was out most years up to 1913.

Of his subsequent climbs no records appear to have been kept, but I know he had many alpine holidays with his brother, the late W. S. Sharpe, whose obituary notice appeared in the latest issue of this JOURNAL. He was a regular attendant at the Annual Dinners of the Club and always took a keen interest in all mountaineering activities.

J. OSBORNE WALKER.

OLIVER THORNYCROFT

1885-1956

OLIVER THORNYCROFT joined the Alpine Club rather late in life, in 1939, but had started climbing in 1909 and was out most years until the war in 1914 cut short his holiday. During the First World War he served in the R.N.A.S. (O.B.E. 1920) and in the Second World War he was at the Admiralty, engaged on mine and anti-submarine weapon design (C.B. 1948).

He had been educated at Bedales and Clare College, Cambridge, and was an engineer by profession. From 1919 to 1939 he was Chief Engineer and Works Manager to Ricardo & Co. Ltd., and from 1946 to 1950 he was Director of Aeronautical and Engineering Research at the Admiralty.

His visits to the Alps between the wars were few in number, E. N. Bowman, T. H. Somervell, Sir David Pye and his wife being his usual companions. But in Great Britain he had made many climbs (he had been a member of the Climbers' Club since 1910), particularly in Cumberland and North Wales. He had also visited Norway, and had made a number of smallish climbs in winter in the Silvretta Alps.

In recent times he experienced considerable anxiety when his daughter and son-in-law had been detained in Russia. He was a fairly regular attendant at Club gatherings and though he had been looking rather frail of late, his death was unexpected and a matter of much regret to his friends.

In a tribute paid to him at the time of his funeral, Sir David Pye said: 'His greatest interest, apart from his work, was, undoubtedly, his passion for the mountains, especially the Alps. . . . There was a sureness about his judgments that inspired complete confidence. I never knew him make a false step in his climbing, nor be in doubt as to his next move. He would wait if in doubt, but there was always a sureness about the move when it came that filled you with confidence that it was the right one, and the only wise one in the circumstances.'

As the leader of a mountaineering party one always had the consciousness that he was aware of the skill of those who were following him, and was ready to vary the pace to suit the weakest member of the party.'

T. S. B.

HARRY WALTER TOBIN

1879-1957

'TOBY' was a most popular member of the Alpine Club, as indeed he was with everyone who knew him. He was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1898 and later joined the 1st/4th Bombay Grenadiers. He saw service in Baluchistan, Somaliland, Egypt (in action against the Senussi), Anatolia and Waziristan.

On retirement he went to live in Darjeeling and while there he, together with Allsup, Gurlay and Shebbeare, founded the Mountain Club of India in 1927 in Calcutta, later to be amalgamated with the Himalayan Club, of which Tobin was a founder member.

His mountaineering was almost wholly related to the Himalayas. Between the years 1901 and 1914 he made such use as he could of short leaves to do rock scrambling in Frontier regions. In July 1920 he accompanied the late Harold Raeburn on the latter's first expedition to the Kangchenjunga massif and he was to be employed as transport officer on two further expeditions to this mountain—Bauer's in 1929 and Dyhrenfurth's in 1930. On the latter occasion, however, Tobin was invalided during the trip and had to return to Darjeeling. In 1931 he was of much assistance to Bauer again in the early preparations for the second Bavarian assault on Kangchenjunga. Later that same year he and R. Y. Jarvis made what was thought to be the first crossing by Europeans of the Sebu La between Kangchenjau and Chombu.

But more important than his actual mountaineering was his work as Honorary Secretary of the Royal Central Asian Society for the last seven years. Probably his most permanent memorial will be those volumes of the *Himalayan Journal* which he so ably edited from 1947 until his death; it will be difficult to find another so willing and capable of taking up so exacting a task. In 1938 he was elected to the Alpine Club and he was put upon the Joint Himalayan Committee whose final activity was to organise the 1953 Everest Expedition. When the Mount Everest Foundation was established, Tobin was elected to the Committee of Management. It was from this vantage point, as an 'elder statesman' of Himalayan travel (he made no pretensions to being an active climber, though in 1928 he had had a course of training climbs at the experienced hands of Franz Lochmatter) that his influence was

felt ; he knew so many of the earlier generation of Himalayan travellers and climbers ; and his home in Lymington became a centre of information and encouragement where many a mountaineer (some, like Tilman, Streather, Braham, of much more experience than Tobin's) was to be found and innumerable other visitors from India.

He was twice married ; his second wife, Helen Farquharson, daughter of the Medical Officer to the Darjeeling Tea Planters, must have been known to many members of the Alpine Club and her death a few years ago came as a great shock. She was an outstanding figure in yachting circles in Lymington and a visitor to their cheerful house might find himself entranced by the sight of a new dinghy being built in the dining-room, or the garage rendered unusable for normal purposes owing to the prior needs of cutting out a new set of sails. 'Toby' himself prudently refused to be engulfed by yacht racing and kept a small room strictly reserved for the study of the affairs of Himalayan climbing or Central Asian exploration.

To their daughter Barbara (now Mrs. Webb), to whom this JOURNAL has before now been indebted for translations of French mountaineering articles) the Alpine Club extends its sincere sympathy in a loss which occurred very suddenly and which has been felt widely amongst mountaineers of every generation and nationality.

TOM G. LONGSTAFF.

E. O. SHEBBEARE.