

ALPINE NOTES

(Compiled by D. F. O. Dangar)

MEMBERS of the Club and all readers of the ALPINE JOURNAL are reminded that their full co-operation is necessary in the compilation both of *Alpine Notes* and *Expeditions*. The combined intelligence service of our regional correspondents, the Assistant Editors and the Editor still falls short of omniscience. We accordingly appeal to our readers to let us have notes on all matters of mountaineering interest that may come to their attention, and of all expeditions in which they may take part. Items for *Alpine Notes* should be sent to Mr. D. F. O. Dangar and for *Expeditions* to the Editor. It may be well to add that our interest is not confined to first ascents and to the spectacular ; all contributions to our knowledge of mountains and mountaineers are valuable.

HONOURS.—We congratulate Mr. William Strath on receiving the K.C.B. and Mr. Douglas Busk on receiving the K.C.M.G.

We also congratulate Mr. Gerald Seligman on receiving the Victoria Medal of the Royal Geographical Society for his contributions to glaciological research.

ANNIVERSARIES.—We congratulate the under-mentioned members on the attainment of the Diamond Jubilee of their election to the Alpine Club :

Dr. L. W. Rolleston	.	.	Elected in December, 1898.
Mr. A. W. Andrews	.	.	Elected in February, 1899.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.—The summer of 1859 was long remembered in the Alps by reason of the exceptionally fine weather ; from the beginning of July until near the end of September there was a succession of brilliant days and cloudless skies.

In the spring the first volume of *Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers* was published and proved so popular that four editions were called for within six months. Part of the Preface to the fourth edition summarises the chief events of the Alpine season :

‘ The season of 1859 has been marked by a number of successful ascents, and the discovery of some new and interesting passes.

The Rev. C. Hudson, with Messrs. Joad and Hodgkinson, have at length effected the ascent to the summit of Mont Blanc, direct from the Dôme du Gouté, by the ridge of the Bosse du Dromadaire.

In the neighbourhood of Monte Rosa, two new passes, suggested by the Editor of this volume, have been accomplished by Messrs. W. and G. S. Mathews. Starting from the Riffel at 2.50 a.m., they reached the plateau between Monte Rosa and the Lyskamm at 9.30 a.m., and arrived at St. Jean de Gressonay at 4.15 p.m. The same party crossed from Zinal to Zermatt, by the head of the Zinal glacier and the glacier of Zmutt, descending between the Pointe de Zinal and the Galbelhorn, by the Hochwäng glacier and the Ebihorn. The last-named gentleman, together with the Rev. Leslie Stephen, effected a difficult and dangerous passage from the Wengern Alp to the Aeggischhorn; ascending by the Eiger glacier, they attained the ridge between the Eiger and the Mönch, and from thence, by the Trugberg glacier, gained the Great Aletsch glacier and the Aeggischhorn.

The Editor has been informed of the successful ascent, during the past season, of four peaks not known to have been before attained. Mr. Tuckett reached the summit of the Aletschhorn on the 18th of June last; and the neighbouring peak of the Bietschhorn was successfully attempted by the Rev. Leslie Stephen. An enterprise of greater apparent difficulty was the ascent of the Rympfischhorn, effected by the last-named gentleman, in company with Mr. Liveing; and not less arduous, perhaps, was the escalade of the remarkable peak of the Grivola, accomplished by Messrs. Bruce and Ormsby.

Two attempts to reach the summit of the Weisshorn were unsuccessful. The first, undertaken by the Messrs. Mathews, from the side of Zinal, seems to have encountered insuperable obstacles; the second, with a more numerous party, who ascended by the Schallenberg glacier, seems to have failed merely from the lateness of the season not allowing sufficient time for the ascent.'

Among other achievements of the season may be mentioned that of Professor Tyndall who passed an uncomfortable night upon the summit of Mont Blanc.

REQUIESCAT. In July, while at Grindelwald, my wife and I walked through the churchyard where W. A. B. Coolidge rests, happily unaware that the word *mountains* on his stone is cut without the 'u'. I was one of the last foreigners to see him alive, July 1925. At the entrance gate, hidden by a small tree, is the grave of Christian Almer, 'der besten Führer einer', and, near by, that of Christian Kaufmann, one of the first guides employed by the Canadian Pacific, who made new ascents in the Rockies with Outram, Collie and Whymper. I recall his tall figure at Grindelwald in 1925 when he was still active. At the south-east corner of the church is the stone marking the common grave of young William Penhall (a member of the A.C. who made the first ascent of the Matterhorn by the West face in 1879) and the admirable

guide, Andreas Maurer. They were overwhelmed by an avalanche on the Wetterhorn in 1882. From Maurer's prophetic words I once derived a book title '*Where the clouds can go men can go ; but they must be hardy men.*'

1960 is the centenary of the death of Albert Smith, the Victorian showman, member of the Alpine Club, who popularised Mont Blanc and whose grave in London is now in the Club's care. He was greatly influenced by the book of John Auldjo, who ascended Mont Blanc in 1827. Auldjo, later British consul at Geneva, died in 1886 and was buried in the Chatelaine cemetery. But, following local custom, where payment is not maintained, these graves are vacated after 60 years. In his case, this was done in 1946, and nothing remains, the stone having been destroyed or recarved for a new tenant. His only memorial is the marble tablet with his arms above his pew in the English church on the Rue du Mont Blanc. The Alpine Club in recent years acquired a miniature showing his appearance in youth (see *A.J.* 60. 146).

In this church there is also the tablet of Riegel, a Philadelphian, who, while a student at Geneva, lost his life in a solo ascent of Mont Blanc by the Dôme glacier and was buried at Courmayeur. There is a small ice-axe of marble attached to it and the inscription reads :

In tender memory
of
Howard Neil Riegel
who perished on Mont Blanc July 12 1898
Offered by his loving friends
Beatrice and Fanny Suckling
and
G. C. E. P. H.

R.I.P. Lord all pitying Jesu grant him Thine eternal rest

One wonders about these friends and the mysterious initials, but the answer is forever lost.

On the evening of August 1, the date of the Swiss Bundesfeier, we were at Nyon and Mont Blanc loomed in alpenglow across the lake. Although near, we were unable to find the burial place of Bourrit, the only one of four principal figures in the eighteenth-century controversy centering around the first ascent of the mountain, whose grave is marked. I had intended to plant a few nettles.

J. M. T.

FORMATION OF THE ALPINE CLUB.—It is well known that the first concrete proposal for the establishment of the Alpine Club was contained in a letter, dated February 1, 1857, from William Mathews to F. J. A. Hort.

There is evidence to show that the possibility of an Alpine Club was in existence some time before the date of Mathews' letter. On the afternoon of June 27, 1856, F. F. Tuckett and his future brother-in-law J. H. Fox arrived at Gressoney St. Jean after crossing the Col de Ranzola. The same evening they fell into conversation with the Rev. William Smyth and his son and daughter who were also staying at the inn, 'the son being one of the five Englishmen who went up Mont Blanc last year without guides, besides making the [first] ascent of Monte Rosa'.¹

J. H. Fox, in his *Holiday Memories* (p. 28),² also refers to meeting young Mr. Smyth at Gressoney and records that this conversation 'first put into our minds the idea of joining the Alpine Club as it was the first time we had heard of its possible formation'.

We believe this to be the earliest reference to any proposal for the foundation of the Club. Although the conversation is mentioned by Eliot Howard in his obituary of J. H. Fox³ it has been overlooked by later historians.

Hudson did not visit the Alps in 1856 but the possibility that the 1855 ascents gave rise to conversations between him and the Smyth brothers as to the possibility of starting an Alpine Club cannot altogether be disregarded.

A ZINAL CENTENARY.—In 1859 M. Epiney opened the first inn at Zinal, later to become the Hotel Durand, and two years later the 'very tolerable inn' had secured a mention in 'Murray' ('rough accommodation, good wine, civil people'). In the early days the accommodation must indeed have been rough for when Leslie Stephen and his party slept there before the first ascent of the Rothorn in 1864 'Macdonald and Grove had to sleep in two cupboards opening out of the coffee room' while Stephen himself 'occupied a bed which was the most conspicuous object of furniture in the coffee room itself'.⁴

GLACIOLOGY.—A survey of the Gorner glacier is being carried out by a party led by Mr. G. R. Elliston. The object of the survey is to maintain continuous observations on the behaviour of an Alpine glacier over a period of fourteen months. The work commenced in June last and will continue until July 1960.

With few exceptions all modern work on ice movement has taken place in the summer months and it now seems desirable to extend these

¹ F. F. Tuckett. *A Pioneer in the High Alps*, pp. 31-2. Tuckett does not state whether the son was Christopher or James Grenville Smyth, both of whom took part with Charles Hudson in the ascents mentioned.

² Printed for private circulation in 1908.

³ *A.J.* 29, 338.

⁴ *A.J.* 2, 67-8.

observations through the winter. Isolated reports indicate that considerable changes take place in a glacier during the winter months, the upper parts moving faster and the lower much slower.

The present party is based on a hut at Rotenboden at the side of the glacier and is fully equipped with clothing for both summer and winter work and with survey and ice-boring equipment.

Owing to the length of time during which the party will be in the field the members are working on a shift basis, each spending from four to twelve weeks on the glacier.

TWO PIONEERS.—Celebrations were held in West Berlin last May to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the death of Alexander von Humboldt, the German geographer and naturalist.

Humboldt's memory deserves to be held in honour by mountaineers if only because he made an early attempt on Chimborazo (20,702 ft.) the highest summit of the Ecuadorian Andes and at the time thought to be the highest mountain in the world.⁵ The attempt took place in June 1802, when he was thirty-two years of age and he and his companions claimed to have reached a height of 19,286 ft., though it is considered now that in reality they did not go much over 18,000 ft. At this point their further progress was barred by a gap 'some 400 ft. deep and 60 ft. wide which presented an unsurmountable barrier'.

Humboldt had previously reached a height of over 17,000 ft. on Antisana and for a time entertained the idea of ascending Cotopaxi but came to the conclusion it would not be possible to reach the crater.

This year is also the Centenary of the death of the Archduke John of Austria, a pioneer of the Eastern Alps. In 1804 he ordered one of his officers, Gebhard, to ascend the Ortler but Gebhard in spite of six attempts was unsuccessful and Josef Pichler made the first ascent a few days later. The Archduke, however, did not do all his mountaineering by proxy; he travelled widely in the Eastern Alps, visiting the Töten Gebirge in 1810 but his most important ascent was the Ankogel which he climbed in 1826, having made an unsuccessful attempt, defeated by the weather, four years earlier. In 1828 he made an attempt on the Gross Venediger and continued his wanderings until the year before his death when he visited the Rigi.

The Archduke played no small part in the early stages of the development of mountaineering in Austria and his energetic example sent many of his countrymen to the mountains.

⁵ First climbed by Edward Whymper on January 4, 1880, with Jean-Antoine and Louis Carrel. Whymper made a second ascent six months later by a different route. No other ascents are recorded in the *A.J.* and it would be interesting to know whether any subsequent British parties have reached the summit.

AVIATION.—Forty years ago, in July, 1919, the first successful landing on a glacier was made when the Swiss pilot Robert Ackermann landed near the Jungfrauoch in a Haefels DH-3. In commemoration of this pioneer flight a memorial tablet was recently unveiled at the Jungfrauoch.

O.A.K. AND O.A.V.—A reference was made in our last number to the eightieth birthday of the Österreichischen Alpenklub (O.A.K.). As a regrettable confusion appears to exist in some quarters concerning the difference between the O.A.K. and the Österreichischen Alpenverein (O.A.V.) an explanatory note seems desirable to clear up any misunderstanding.

The O.A.K. may well be said to be the Austrian equivalent of the Alpine Club; a strong qualification list is required from intending members, though in exceptional cases outstanding services to Alpine literature or art may be taken into consideration. The Club has no sections and a membership of only about 600.

The O.A.V., on the other hand, with many sections and some 150,000 members, is similar to the French and Swiss Alpine Clubs. For the great majority of the sections no mountaineering qualification whatever is required, and facilities are available for British members to join a London section. Owing to difficulties of translation the O.A.V. is frequently, and quite incorrectly, referred to as the 'Austrian Alpine Club', a description that should be reserved solely for the O.A.K. The O.A.V., for lack of an agreed English translation is best referred to as the 'Austrian Alpine Verein'.

RAPIU LA.—Colonel Kenneth Mason mentions, in his note on the new German map of Mount Everest,⁶ that 'a few names are not in accordance with accepted practice'. One such is the Rapiu La, as it was originally called, the saddle at the foot of the North-east ridge of Everest. On the new map it is printed 'Raphü La'.

I had a talk about this recently with Herr Peter Aufschnaiter, mentioned in the map's margin as having checked the names. He was unaware of the origin of 'Rapiu', a liberal translation by Karma Paul of 'Brass Monkey' into Tibetan, following a characteristic description by General Bruce of the climate at that desolate spot.

Somehow, an assumption has been made by the German cartographers that the place is or was connected with Raphü, a small village some twenty miles away between Tashidzom and Kharta. There can, however, be no conceivable connection. To get from one spot to the other would involve crossing three or four high ridges which never are crossed. The 'La' can never have been a true pass; to this day no mountaineer

⁶ A.J. 63. 255.

has reached it from the south side. Many miles of glacier separate it from the nearest grazing, which in any case has nothing to do with Raphü either.

One hopes that future mappers will restore General Bruce's name 'Rapiu La'.

T. A. BROCKLEBANK.

EXPOSURE METERS AND COMPASS ERRORS. Many climbers are not aware that a photographic exposure meter can seriously upset compass readings. Nowadays the meters are generally photo-electric. This type contains a small magnet which is so powerful that it can deflect a compass needle a yard away and can completely reverse a reading a foot away.

This means that a lightmeter in a pocket or even in a rucksack can lead to bad mistakes in route finding. The remedy is obvious; walkers, climbers (and others such as yachtsmen) should try the effect of their own meters on their own compasses and then remember before taking compass readings to place their lightmeter far enough away.

B. R. GOODFELLOW.

CARDINAL EMINENTISSIMO.—On August 17 Cardinal Doepfner, Bishop of Berlin, ascended Mont Blanc from Courmayeur with two guides, Aldo Ollier and his son. This is believed to be the first ascent of the mountain by a member of the College of Cardinals, for Pope Pius IX was only an Abbé at the time of his ascent on August 1, 1890. He was thirteen years younger than Cardinal Doepfner, who is forty-six. It is not said by which route the Cardinal made the climb, but it would be fitting if he had followed the variation made by Pius IX's party (the 'route du Pape') on the classic route by the Glacier du Dôme.

CERRO TORRE.—The conquest of this remarkable aiguille, 10,252 ft., a few miles South-west of Cerro FitzRoy in Patagonia, was achieved on January 31 when Cesare Maestri of Trent and Toni Egger of Linz succeeded in reaching the summit for the first time.

The first attempt was made by Egger, Maestri, and Carlos Favero but owing to the weather was abandoned at a height of 7,710 ft. The party was confined to an emergency camp for several days in sub-zero temperatures and when the storm abated on January 23 descended to Base Camp.

The second attempt began five days later by way of the North-west face. This is of appalling steepness, between 75° and 80° and to a large extent ice-covered. On the first day Egger and Maestri gained 1,150 ft. and on the second only 820 ft. reaching a height of 9,680 ft. They spent the night in a hole cut out of the ice on the almost perpendicular

face. On the final day of the assault a five-hour struggle was required to overcome the remaining distance, less than 600 ft., the summit being reached at 3.30 p.m.

The night was spent in the ice-hole used on the last night of the ascent. Meanwhile the wind changed and the soft snow made the descent even more difficult than it would have been under normal conditions. After two more nights on the mountain the two men had managed to get down to 6,890 ft. On February 3, while prospecting the next section of the route, Egger was descending *en rappel* when a large slab of ice broke away from the upper part of the face and swept him to his death. Maestri was so placed that he did not actually see the accident. No traces of Egger could be found.

Toni Egger was thirty-two years of age and one of the leading Austrian climbers. In 1957 he took part in two other formidable first ascents in the Andes, Jirishanca and Yerupaja Chico (El Toro).

An attempt on the Cerro Torre was made in 1958 when W. Bonatti and C. Mauri reached a point within about 1,300 ft. of the summit.

CHAMONIX.—The third complete traverse of the Chamonix aiguilles from the Charmoz to the Plan was made on July 30–August 1 last year by P. Diener and W. Philipp. This very long expedition was first carried out by Hermann Buhl, of Nanga Parbat fame, and Kuno Rainer.

COLOMBIA.—Dr. A. B. Cunningham is leading another expedition to the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta in December 1959 and January 1960. The party proposes to enter the massif by way of the Guatapuri,⁷ explore its upper basin, climb and map in the Nevaditos and then cross the watershed to the northern side of the range with the intention of conducting a photographic survey from east to west along the entire northern flank of the Nevaditos from Nevadito IV to Pico Simons.

Further research on the problem of mountain sickness will be conducted from a special camp on the Nevaditos watershed and it is hoped to make an attempt on Pico Simons, the third highest peak of the range, first climbed in 1943.

HIMALAYAS, 1959.—The British attempt on Ama Dablam will be fully reported in our next number.

The Austrian attempt on Dhaulagiri was marred by the tragic death of Heinrich Roiss who was killed as a result of a fall into a crevasse. The Austrians, however, have been successful in finding a new route to the summit from the north-east and reached a point from which it appeared that the final pitch separating them from the summit offered no serious obstacle. The weather was very bad at the time and as there

⁷ Map, A.J. 63. 214.

seemed no hope of an improvement they were unable to make a final bid for the summit.

It now seems that a hopeful route has been discovered on this very formidable mountain, which augurs well for the proposed Swiss attempt next year under the leadership of Max Eiselin.

The French expedition to Jannu was also unsuccessful and was perhaps fortunate to have escaped disaster. On April 15, when they were about to commence work on the 'Pear' buttress, up which the first part of the route lay, an enormous avalanche came down from the séracs on the plateau above, sweeping right across the proposed route, which had perforce to be abandoned. Some days later another route was discovered more to the south.

The first assault was made on May 10 from Camp V (22,638 ft.) by two ropes, Lionel Terray and Jean Bouvier, and René Desmaison with Pierre Leroux, both equipped with oxygen. Climbing on the West slope of the South arête and overcoming considerable difficulties, they reached the crest of the ridge about noon at a height of 23,951 ft. Realising that it was too late to reach the summit and being insufficiently equipped to pass another day at such an altitude, they made a dump of oxygen cylinders, provisions, and a bivouac tent for the use of the second assault party and returned to Camp V.

For the second attempt another camp was pitched at the highest point reached by the first assault party and here Jean Franco, Guido Magnone and Robert Paragot passed the night of May 11. Franco had a severe attack of snow blindness during the evening and could not take part in the attempt next day.

Magnone and Paragot left Camp VI at 9 a.m., following the rocky South arête. There was much powder snow on the slabs and it became evident that another bivouac would be required before the summit could be reached. At a height of about 24,280 ft. the attempt was abandoned and the party arrived back at Camp VI at 5 p.m.

In view of all the circumstances further attempts to reach the summit were considered inadvisable.

The Japanese are reported to have reached a height of over 25,000 ft. on Himal Chuli when the attempt had to be broken off because of bad weather, and, for the same reason, an attempt on Disteghil Sar by Raymond Lambert's expedition was also unsuccessful.

A member of an Italian party reached the summit of Kanjut Sar, 25,460 ft., and the second ascent of Nanda Kot was made by members of an Indian expedition.

Five members of a British-German expedition to the Batura group were killed in an attempt on an unclimbed 25,540 ft. peak forming part of the South wall of the head of the Batura glacier. This, presumably, is the peak known in the Survey of India records as Hunza-Kunji I.

An expedition, composed of twelve British and three Pakistani Army officers, is reported to have climbed six Karakorum peaks between 19,000 and 23,000 feet. H. R. A. Streather and F. L. Jenkins were leader and deputy-leader of the party which intended to explore little-known areas of Pakistan for mountaineering routes.

RUSSIAN MOUNTAINEERING.—We are indebted to Mr. A. Polyakov for some notes on recent achievements of Soviet mountaineers.

Contests for the season's best climbs are held every summer in the Caucasus, Pamirs, and Tien Shan. There are three divisions: technically difficult climbs (steep faces), traverses, and high-altitude ascents.

First place in the steep-face ascents was won by two young climbers of the Burevestnik Sports Society who made the first ascent of the North-west face of the South peak of Ushba (15,453 ft.). The height of this face is about 6,600 ft. The most difficult section was met at 13,780 ft., about 800 ft. with an average angle of 70° . The ascent lasted seven days; on some days the party gained less than 300 ft. in height. 140 pitons were left on the face. A party of four climbed the South face of the West peak of Shkhara (17,010 ft.). Five days and 182 pitons were required to force a way up the 6,230 ft. face. The North-west face of Ailama (14,846 ft.) was climbed by another party.

In the traverse section the most meritorious feat was adjudged to be the first traverse of Victory Peak (Pik Pobeda), described in *A.J.* 64. 77. Among the high-altitude ascents were those of Pik Stalin, the highest point in Russia, Pik Dzerzhinsky and Pik Orjonikidze, the last-named first climbed in 1936. A total of sixty-two climbers ascended Pik Lenin during the season, one party making the complete traverse from east to west. On the following day the same party made the first ascent of a nameless summit 22,480 ft. in height, the second highest in the Trans-Alai range and the highest unclimbed peak in Russia; this was subsequently named Moscow-Peking Peak.

Mr. Polyakov revives the old Russian claim that the first ascent of Pik Lenin was made by three Soviet mountaineers in 1934. It is almost incredible that this myth can still survive in Russian mountaineering circles. Pik Lenin was climbed for the first time on September 25, 1928, by Herren Allwein, Schneider, and Wien.⁸

SKYE.—The Coruisk hut was opened on June 1. Situated some 200 yards north of the outfall of Loch Coruisk into Loch Scavaig the hut contains nine bunks and is fitted with Calor gas for cooking. Heating is by coal stove. Applications for the key should be made to A. A. Thrippleton, 14 Portland Park, Hamilton, Lanarkshire.

⁸ See *A.J.* 40. 406 and 41. 272. Also *Berge der Welt* 1952, 292.

WINTER ASCENTS.—A winter ascent of the East face of the Matterhorn was made by two Polish engineers on April 25–26. Leaving Zermatt at 3 a.m. on the 25th the night was spent on the face and the two men reached the summit next morning after $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours' further climbing.⁹

The first winter ascent of the Rote Zähne arête of the Gspaltenhorn was made on February 15–17 and during the same month that of the North-east face of Piz Roseg.

THE FEARON FAMILY AND THE WETTERHORN.—British newspapers of September 22, 1959, gave an account of the ascent of the Wetterhorn by our member, Mr. John Fearon, with his two young sons, aged 12 and 8. It is a pity that the Press contrived to report some matters wrongly, though that does not diminish in any way the sporting character of the boys' achievement.

It is not, of course, true (as reported) that Mr. Fearon's grandfather, Francis Fearon, made the first ascent of the mountain on September 25, 1859; his ascent (*vide* Mumm's *A.C. Register*, vol. i) was apparently the second by a member of the Alpine Club, Sir Alfred Wills's climb in 1854 having been the first. The actual first ascent of the Wetterhorn was made in 1844.

The Wetterhorn has another and gloomier connection with the Fearon family, for two of Francis Fearon's sons were killed by lightning on the summit in 1902 (*A. J.* 21. 256–60).

T. S. BLAKENEY.

ACCIDENT ON THE ECRINS.—We regret to record the death, on July 24, 1959, of Dr. N. J. Cochran, whilst climbing on the Ecrins. An obituary notice will appear in the next *A. J.*

Dr. Cochran was climbing with his son Malcolm (aged 19) and a young friend of theirs, Christine Gilchrist (aged 18). It was Malcolm Cochran's second alpine season; they had already made two climbs and the Ecrins had been on their list since a defeat two years earlier.

The report by the French authorities on the accident has not as yet been received, but it appears that the party were attempting the traverse of the Ecrins, by the South face (the normal route), with the intention of descending on the northern side. The weather deteriorated, after they had started up at 2 a.m. on July 23 and they missed the correct route and, after 16 hours' climbing, had to bivouac about 700 ft. below the summit. A series of mishaps followed; their only matches were lost, so they could not light their spirit stove for a hot

⁹ The first complete ascent of the East face was made in September 1932. *A. J.* 45. 156.

drink; during the night the rucksack containing most of the provisions was upset and disappeared down the mountain; next morning, the other rucksack, containing money, passports, etc., and their crampons, was also upset. To retrieve this sack, Dr. Cochran descended about 500 ft. alone as the other two were rather weak after their cold night. The bad weather continued, but by periodical shouting, contact with the doctor was maintained and he would seem to have returned almost to the bivouac, with the sack, within two to three hours. He called to the others to come down a little towards him (visibility was almost nil), but when, a minute later, they called out, to verify his exact position, they had no reply and when they reached the sack he had completely disappeared and was not seen or heard again.

In the increasingly bad conditions prevailing, the two young members of the party decided they had best remain where they were, and had to endure another night out, at times almost buried in falling snow. They had a whistle, on which they sounded distress signals. The next morning (July 25) the weather was better, but the two were feeling weak, chilled and hungry and had not commenced on an attempt to descend the way they had come when another climbing party heard them and two guides got them down to the Caron refuge after a spell of 60 hours on the mountain. Both sustained frost-bites, but not seriously; it is clear that they kept their heads and maintained their morale well in harassing and harrowing circumstances.

We express our deep sympathy to Mrs. Cochran in the tragedy that has occurred.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE ZMUTT.—A C.U.M.C. party of four set out to climb the Matterhorn by the Zmutt ridge in poor conditions. They were roped in two pairs; the leading pair, John Cooper and Rupert Campion, fell from high on the Tiefenmatten face. The second rope abandoned the climb and were able to descend safely.

ACCIDENT ON THE AIGUILLE NOIRE DE PEUTEREY.—We regret to learn of the death of Jeremy Smith. We understand that, in abseiling on the Pic Gamba on the South ridge of the Aiguille Noire, the rock to which the abseil rope was attached broke away. He was a most competent climber; perhaps his most noteworthy mountaineering achievement was his very successful series of climbs, with T. E. Fletcher, in the Ruwenzori in 1955-6. His notes on these climbs will be found in *A.J.* 61. 383-5.

PETIT DRU, July 11.—F. Zbinden and M. Portanery were killed by a stone avalanche in the couloir at the foot of the West face. It is evident

that the rock is still very unstable as a result of the big rock-fall three years ago.

P. W. F. MAYO. Of those whose loss has so tragically clouded Cambridge mountaineering this summer, a special mention must be made of Peter Mayo. He was the President-elect of the C.U.M.C. and the only son of Dr. F. C. Mayo, a former official of the C.U.M.C. and a member of this Club.

Peter was in every way an outstanding young man; scholar, athlete, and a mountaineer of the highest promise. He was head of the school at Rugby, and gained his colours for both football and cricket. He was awarded a Classical Scholarship to Pembroke.

His Alpine climbing started in 1954 with a party of fathers and boys at Arolla. He returned to the Alps after his National Service; naturally he had joined the Marine Commandos. He took part in the Suez Canal operation and was commissioned.

As an undergraduate his climbing rapidly gained in stature. In 1958 and 1959 he traversed the Gabelhorn, Monte Rosa-Lyskamm, Weisshorn (Schalligrat) and many others, and had proved his skill on rock on the Rothorn (Kanzelgrat) and the Dibona route on the Lavaredo. He had done some of the great winter climbs on Ben Nevis.

He had ranged far and wide over Europe by motorcycle and had planned for 1959 a visit to the mountains of Eastern Turkey. When this proved politically impracticable he planned an overland Cape to Cairo journey with John Spottiswood, who was his companion in the Alps after the African plan had to be abandoned.

The two were climbing alone together from a camp near Zermatt, and set out on 10th August from the Dom Hut for the Dom-Täschhorn traverse. Mayo had already traversed both peaks separately. They were seen from time to time by the guardian, going strongly, and reached the Täschhorn in very fast time soon after noon. They were never seen again. His parents, growing increasingly anxious when Peter's regular letters ceased, reached Zermatt over a fortnight later, but were able to do little more than piece the story together. A guided party following the route saw nothing and found nothing.

We can ill afford to lose a young man of such great promise and of such charm, humour and modesty. We offer our deepest sympathy to his parents.

B. R. GOODFELLOW.

PAKISTAN.—R. J. Wathen is taking up an appointment with the British Council in Pakistan at the end of this year. He is willing to render any assistance he can to any members passing through Pakistan on expeditions. He will be living in Karachi, and probably will move later to Lahore. Address: c/o British Council, P.O. Box. 146, Karachi.

POEMS ON WEST PENWITH.—A. W. Andrews wishes to note two corrections to Vol. I of his *Selected Poems on West Penwith and Reflections*. On p. 36 the penultimate line of 'Vix Priamus' should end 'wake to doubt', not 'wake no doubt'. On p. 39, the first line of 'Ein Tor' should read 'Ein Tor ist immer willig'. The book is obtainable from John W. Saundry, Chapel St., Penzance, price 5s.

EAST AFRICA.—In view of his pending departure from East Africa, R. M. Bere has resigned as East African Correspondent of *A.J.* and David Pasteur has kindly taken on as his successor.