

IN MEMORIAM

ARTHUR EDWIN CUTFORTH, C.B.E.

1881-1958

IF Arthur Cutforth had not devoted so many years with such concentration to public life and becoming one of the greatest accountants this country has ever known, he might well have been a most distinguished mountaineer.

As it is he spent several seasons in the Alps, beginning in 1904. He seems particularly to have favoured the Saas area, but he also climbed in the Ortler group, the Engadine and the Mont Blanc district. He knew the English lake hills better than most people. He had the physique, the energy, the will and the understanding of hills and mountains which might have carried him far.

But, alas, at the height of his career ill-health came to him and dogged him for the last twenty years of his life. Although he often returned to his much-loved Buttermere 'where it had all begun', he was unable to do more than walk up some of the hills he knew so well.

Arthur Cutforth joined the firm Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths & Co. as a very young man. His exceptional ability and his most human gifts of understanding people, old and young, who worked with him, soon marked him out as a future partner. He became a member of the firm in 1912 and was President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants from 1934 to 1936. He wrote and lectured widely on many professional topics. He also diverted his friends and himself by writing humorously about his experiences in the City, as a hill-lover and climber and a story-teller for children.

In the field of public service he was used by successive Governments. He was Accountant Assessor to the Royal Commission on the Coal Industry in 1925; a member of the Food Council from 1932 to 1938; Chairman of a Commission appointed to report on the reorganisation of the Milk Marketing Schemes in Great Britain; a member of a Sub-Committee of Imperial Defence and of the Tithe Redemption Committee. He was also a member of the Cambridge University's Appointment Board and a Governor of, and generous benefactor to, his old School, Trent College in Derbyshire. He was High Sheriff of Hertfordshire in 1937-8, created C.B.E in 1926, and knighted in 1938.

A former chairman of the Urban Council at Sawbridgeworth, where Arthur Cutforth settled soon after the first war, said of him: 'He

did more for Sawbridgeworth than any other one man.' The Sports Association there was almost entirely his creation and he gave much time and money to it. At his two country homes in Hertfordshire and later at Sawrey in the Lake District, he had a host of affectionate and admiring friends, principally of the younger generation. Together with his remarkable and charming wife, formerly Miss Alizon Farrer Ecroyd (incidentally a favourite niece of Cecil Slingsby), they fired these friends with their own love of the hills and helped to give them a fuller life in every way.

Arthur was a great lover of Gilbert and Sullivan's operas, which he truly knew by heart. He was no mean cricketer and was widely read in a variety of subjects.

Much reference has been made to his 'puckish sense of humour'. Rather, I would say that he was a born jester who carried his audience with him, delighted at their pleasure in his fun, which was always kindly. Like all great jesters, the sadness and melancholy lay near the surface. The essential wisdom and sincerity of his talk was remembered long after the fun had died down.

He was elected to the Alpine Club in 1916, proposed by Edward Broome and seconded by Sir Alexander Kennedy, and remained a member for over forty years.

ELEANOR WINTHROP YOUNG.

JOHN EDWARD CALDWELL EATON

1873-1958

J. E. C. EATON, who died on September 2, 1958, was one of the best-known of the older members of the A.C., for not only did he, until quite recently, attend meetings regularly, but as one-time Secretary of the Alpine Dining Club, and as a frequenter of the Travellers' Club, he was constantly meeting members of the A.C. in one capacity or the other.

He was educated at Clifton College and King's College, Cambridge. Prior to the First World War he was the owner of a large estate at Rizzilo, in Sicily, and, since he had two sisters married abroad (in Italy and France), he was naturally cosmopolitan in outlook and was a fluent linguist, particularly in Italian. He was awarded a medal for work in the Messina earthquake of 1908.

He volunteered in 1914 in the Artists' Rifles and later was a Captain in the Intelligence Corps. After the war, having sold his estate in

Sicily, he lived at Messing Park, Kelvedon, Essex, and took a keen interest in county affairs, particularly in forming branches of the League of Nations' Union. He was Deputy-Lieutenant of Essex for ten years (1930-40) and served on the County Council from 1929-34. During the Second World War he served in the Censorship Dept.

In 1913 he married Phyllis, daughter of Sir John Withers, thereby consolidating his interest in the Alpine Club and in mountaineering generally. He had been elected to the A.C. in 1904 on the proposal of H. W. C. Bowdoin, seconded by A. G. Whitting. He became Honorary Secretary in 1920 and served for three years; during his period of office he had to deal with the launching of the Everest Reconnaissance Expedition of 1921, as well as the first attempt on the mountain in the year following. He acted as A.C. representative at a conference on mountaineering held in Monaco in 1920 and for his work he was awarded the Order of St. Charles of Monaco. He also conducted the delicate enquiry whether Pope Pius XI would become an Hon. Member of the Club or not. Though the proposal came to nothing, Eaton later translated into English the Pope's book of Alpine reminiscences, *Climbs on Alpine Peaks*, and he also translated *The Matterhorn* by Guido Rey, an old and valued friend of his.

Eaton's climbing career was extensive and lasted for many years. His first recorded visit to the Alps was in 1895; his climbing companions included G. E. Howard (with whom he visited the mountains of Sinai), A. G. Whitting and E. G. Oliver, to name but a few. He had climbed in all the principal regions of the Alps, but probably he knew the Valais better than any other. In 1910 he visited the Canadian Rockies.

Eaton was a regular contributor to the *A.J.*, both as a book reviewer, especially of works in Italian, and as a writer of notices on deceased members. He was always ready to help in Club matters, in which he took the keenest interest. He was very conservative in his ideas and extremely tenacious of his opinions. He had been a good deal influenced by Sydney Spencer in his views on Club affairs, and liked nothing better than to drop in at the A.C. to talk mountaineering 'shop'. Up to very recent times he would regularly walk from his home (even when living in Hampstead) to the 'Travellers', after looking in at South Audley Street on the way, generally walking all the way back also. Of late years he worked regularly at producing Braille.

Few members of his generation were more popular in the Club, and he will be very widely missed. To his widow we extend our sincere sympathy in her loss.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

HENRY HARRISON HARDY

1882-1958

THE late H. H. Hardy, whose death on December 24 last evoked a number of tributes to his memory in *The Times*, was a distinguished representative of the schoolmastering profession that has given so many notable members to the Alpine Club.

He was born on January 2, 1882, and educated at Rugby and New College, Oxford, and rapidly established a reputation as a classical scholar. He was assistant master at Rugby from 1905-14 and spent the next five years in the Army. He had served in the 2nd Volunteer Bn. of the Warwickshire Regt. before 1914 and on the outbreak of war was appointed a Captain in the Rifle Brigade. From 1917 to 1919 he was on the General Staff of Fifth Army.

He was appointed Headmaster of Cheltenham in 1919, leaving in 1932 to take over Shrewsbury. But it may fairly be said that his heart was given to Rugby. He became President of the Old Rugbeians in 1946, having been their Secretary many years earlier, and having written (in 1911) a *History of Rugby School*. He proved to be a most successful and forceful headmaster at both Cheltenham and Shrewsbury, and took an active part in the work of the Headmasters' Conference, being President from 1936-8.

He retired from Shrewsbury in 1944, but had already been working on various Government Committees, and in 1946, on the amalgamation of Woolwich and Sandhurst, was appointed the first Director of Studies at the R.M.A., retiring in 1948.

He was a man of many interests, to all of which he brought great energy and enthusiasm, and through these stimulated others. Music in particular was a lifelong inspiration to him.

A great lover of the countryside, it was but natural that mountaineering should engage him; his list of Alpine ascents opened in 1909 and closed in 1948. He was one of a party of four who, from Oxford days, hill-walked or climbed together for something like forty years. He was elected to the Alpine Club in 1928, and in *A.J.* 56, pp. 99 *seqq.*, he recorded some of his expeditions in an article entitled 'Humble Pie'. He had no outstanding climbs to his name; he tended to move about from one district to another while on holiday and it is not possible to say that he had any one special favourite centre. He had ascended a good many of the standard big mountains in the Valais and Oberland; in 1912 he visited Greece, in 1931 the Pyrenees, and in 1938 Norway. He had a particular fondness for the Oetzal and the Lötschental region, and fittingly, in 1948, spent his farewell visit to the Alps in those localities.

When he went to Shrewsbury, he set out to encourage in the boys a love of the countryside, of hill-walking, and of more serious climbing, by instituting a whole holiday each spring (later another was added in the autumn), when not only expeditions to Snowdonia and other attractive neighbouring country areas were made possible, but boys were actually forbidden to stay on the school site. A group, still active, known rather inexactly as 'The Rovers', was formed, who learned to camp out in the snow as well as in less hardy conditions, and to climb as well as to walk hills. It was on such occasions that Charles Evans, as a boy, had his first experience of climbing.

J. B. OLDHAM.

HAMISH McARTHUR

1913-1958

By the death of Hamish McArthur, the Club has lost an outstanding member. He was born on August 4, 1913, the first of two sons of Mr. and Mrs. James McArthur of Johnstone, Renfrewshire, and educated at Glasgow High School and Glasgow University, where he obtained a degree in electrical engineering. In 1938 he joined the Factory Inspectorate and saw duty in many parts of Britain, but in 1947 he transferred to the Administrative Class of the Civil Service and was appointed to the Ministry of Supply, where he served as a Principal in the Iron and Steel Division. On its foundation, he was seconded to the Iron and Steel Board, where he held the post of Chief Development Officer at the time of his death.

His love for mountains and remote places developed early in life, and his first climbing was naturally in his native mountains of Scotland. While still a student he visited Northern Newfoundland under the auspices of the Grenfell Mission, and in another year he undertook a vacation job in a copper mine at Broken Hill, Northern Rhodesia. He had taken only one oversea mountaineering season before the war—the traverse of the Hardanger Ice-cap—but in 1946 he began what became an annual pilgrimage to the Alps. In eleven seasons he climbed in most of the regions of the Alps, in Austria, France, Italy and Switzerland. His usual climbing companions were his wife, Dr. R. L. Mitchell, and Miss Margaret Munro, all like himself members of the Cairngorm Club. Some of their climbs were with guides, more were guideless with Hamish most frequently leading. In 1954 he traversed the Julian Alps, including an ascent of Triglav. In 1955 he organised and led the small Central Lahul Expedition which explored an area of the

Punjab Himalaya and made the first ascent of three peaks, the highest being 20,430 ft., which he named Tara Pahar.

In 1958, following the success of 1955, he again organised and led a small expedition to the Punjab, having as its objective the mountains around the head of the Thirot Nala, where western Lahul marches with Chamba. Base Camp was set up near the head of the nala and in three camps the climbing party reached a col on the watershed at about 17,500 ft. In the course of reconnaissance from this col, a large rock and snow mountain, to the east of that marked 20,042 ft. on S. of I. map 52D, was observed and plans were laid to climb it. The approach lay across the unmapped glacier to the east of the watershed and Camp 4 was established at about 18,000 ft. by a party of nine—four Europeans, one Sherpa and four Ladakhi porters. Next day, August 14, Hamish led a party to put a light camp at about 19,000 ft. for a final assault on the 15th, but he was taken ill and had to be assisted back to Camp 4. Here he appeared to recover and retired to spend a comfortable night. He died early next morning without regaining consciousness—it is now believed, of cerebral haemorrhage. He was brought back to the Thirot Nala, where he was buried at about 15,000 ft. at the foot of the moraine.

It is difficult to do justice to the many facets of Hamish's character and abilities. First, as a mountaineer he was determined, capable and sound. He did not aspire to the highest contemporary standards but he was a good judge of a route, his technique was always adequate for what he undertook, and when occasion demanded he had considerable reserves of physical strength. He was a strong goer, alike on the peat and winter snows of the Cairngorms as on the glaciers of the Alps or Punjab. His initiative and determination made him a natural leader both in preparation beforehand and on the climb, and his expeditions, large and small, benefited from his comprehensive and thorough organisation. His leadership came naturally and unassumingly, and as naturally his companions followed his example, strenuous though this might sometimes be.

Socially, he was the most congenial of companions, sensitive and with a natural dignity, yet with a gaiety and impish humour which often lightened the most unlikely circumstances. He was a most considerate host with an excellent taste in food and wine. And, above all, he had a zest for life which showed itself in his manifold activities. He was an excellent and discerning photographer, both in colour and monochrome, the quality of his work being due both to his sense of design and to his thorough approach to the technique. This thoroughness was characteristic and was well displayed in his elegant report on the Central Lahul Expedition (*A.J.* 61. 279) and in the map of the Himalaya he drew for the Club's Centenary Exhibition.

He was admitted to the Club in 1951 and elected to the Committee in 1957, and as Librarian in 1958. He had already contributed much to the life of the Club, and his career held the highest promise professionally, socially, and as a mountaineer.

F. SOLARI.

PETER STALKER NELSON

1930-1958

PETER NELSON was killed in a fall in the Northern Cwm of Saraghrar, Chitral Himalaya, in August 1958. In his short life, he held to a remarkable degree, more perhaps than any other British mountaineer of his generation, the respect and affection of his fellow-climbers and friends. Although a fine climber, he was not one of those mountaineers who live only for mountains ; he was a complete person with a mature and objective mind and his judgment of people and situations, while balanced and logical, was always illuminated by humanity and humility. He was never overawed by mountains or men or gatherings of men ; if he belonged to a society, then he examined the structure of that society critically and constructively, and he had the courage to voice his opinions. Had he lived I believe he would have had a considerable influence on this club, and our loss is thereby the greater.

At the time of his death he was an Assistant Principal at the Ministry of Power, where he was acting as Private Secretary to the Parliamentary Secretary. He had entered the Civil Service after taking a second in Modern Greats at St. John's College, Oxford, and in 1956 went to West Africa for six months to work on the Volta River scheme.

He started climbing at Oxford, where he was a member of the O.U.M.C., but it was not until after he went down that he began to climb with an intensity of purpose which raised him in a few years to the standard of Peter Harding's hardest routes in Llanberis. He was elected to the Climbers' Club in 1954, the Alpine Club in 1956, and the Alpine Climbing Group in 1957 ; for the last of these he edited the *Bulletin* in 1958.

Wales and the Lakes he knew best, climbing most often with Oxford parties, quickly reaching climbing maturity in September gales on Scafell and Pillar, snow and sunshine at Ogwen in April, and shirt-sleeves in the Pass in June, and in the following Aprils and Junes and Septembers he went back to the meets, equally happy to coax the novice up Milestone Ordinary or the tyro on Slape, until an Oxford meet without Peter was not a proper meet at all. He had a curiously disjointed appearance in the hills : the upper half of his body rather untidy,

a pale, longish face with a straight lock of hair hanging down his forehead and wearing an old hockey shirt, all red and white and hanging out at the waist, but the lower half clad in neat breeches and close-fitting *kletterschuhe* with a determined look about them which was not belied by his climbing. On a hard climb he was emotionally tense, climbing quickly, with authority and determination and always intelligently, for he didn't like to waste energy or time. A difficult route took a lot of emotional energy and he was not afraid to admit it ; thus, on the crux of the East face of the Rothorn : ' Only twice before in the Alps have I been so frightened—once when I lost my way on the Aiguille Croux and once in an electric storm on Mt. Brulé. . . . Determined to protract the agony no longer, I made straight for the top of the crack. . . . The absence of belays was only partly the cause ; it was more my state of mind. Danger, like other spices, makes a horrid diet. Give me more than so much and thought dries up. I don't even think about falling off. My mind is lost in the emergency. I simply climb. And when it is over it is like the end of an exam. The result may be published on the summit but the glorious moment is now.'

His Alpine beginning was at Arolla and although in the succeeding seasons he climbed throughout the Western Alps, he always retained a particular affection for the Valais. His record was considerable, his best year being 1956 when, in a poor season, he climbed amongst other routes the Younggrat on the Breithorn, the North ridge of the Peigne and, his finest route, the first British ascent of Roch's route on the East face of the Zinal Rothorn. After describing this climb in a lecture to the Alpine Club the following year, he suggested that the best British Alpinists might be less single-minded in their choice of Alpine centres and that they would do well to look to Zermatt as well as to Chamonix, for the hardest and finest routes. In 1957 he climbed the North ridge of the Piz Badile, but his greater ambitions were thwarted by bad weather, and so he looked to the following year for the chance to attempt the greatest Alpine routes. Early in 1958, however, he accepted an invitation to lead the Oxford Chitral Expedition to Saraghrar (24,110 ft.). His death in August cut short a career which promised the highest achievements in the Alps and the Himalaya.

It is difficult to write of Peter with the detachment and lack of sentiment which he would have liked. It was not easy to know him well and I doubt if anyone knew him completely, because he had a very clear concept of the boundaries of personal relationship and of the demands which any relationship makes on the integrity of an individual. He had a clear and enquiring mind and was concerned above all with the real world, and, through the real world, the truth. An accurate and impartial observer of the curiosities of men's behaviour and the tensions and conflict in and between them, he had no illusions where

men or mountains were concerned. He loved climbing but he did not attach any mystical or symbolical significance to mountains ; shortly before he left for the Himalaya, during a discussion on whether mountaineering was worth the risk, he said, ' Of course it isn't worth it, but one goes on just the same '. Mountaineers were no better than other men, and the motives and emotions behind their actions were no different from those of people in other circumstances.

Once I was climbing on Great Eastern with him. It had rained all the previous day and night, and there was wet cloud thick about us ; the rock was streaming with water and covered in thick brown slime. I was leading, and at the crux I stuck. I spent half an hour trying to get up the vital few feet but the slime was too thick to be cleared from the holds and eventually I descended to the stance and invited Peter to try it. He had led it easily in clean conditions the previous summer but he paused a moment, looked quizzically at me and said, ' If I lead it, how much will you mind my leading it ? ' He knew exactly what I was thinking, just as he did a few minutes later when, having tried the crux himself, and failed, he came down to the stance, looked at me, and we both laughed.

Laughter was very much a part of him, in his conversation and his writing, for he wrote the way he thought : clearly and with humour. His enemies were the complacent, the pompous and the bogus, but they didn't make him angry ; he laughed and let his wit demolish them. And yet he probably won't be remembered for his wit because, so like Peter, it was never carefully polished or delivered, never consciously underlined, but simply erupted, often preceded by a sort of explosive hiccough of laughter which softened the blow. I shall not remember him in any one way. Sometimes there will be a sudden bite to a conversation, or a fatness and fullness of words overheard, or an elaborately contrived absurdity, or just a mad wind whipping across a wet wall of rock ; and I shall think, ' How Peter would have laughed '.

J. A. G. EMERY.

JOSEPH WOOD, JR.

1890-1958

JOSEPH WOOD, JR., was born in Pittsburgh, Pa., March 7, 1890, and died at his home, Jebelwadi Farms, Horsham, Pa., on October 7, 1958. He was the son of Joseph Wood, an official of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and Jennie (Boas) Wood. He married Nancy Correy Smith, June 17, 1915.

He was educated at St. Paul's School, Concord, N.H., and graduated from Yale (Sheffield Scientific School) in 1911. In Army Air Service, Sept. 1917 to Jan. 1919, first at Aerial Observation, Post Field, and School of Fire, Fort Sill, Okla., then transferring to Washington, D.C., to co-ordinate instruction in Observation Schools at Tours and Châtillon-sur-Seine. Assigned to active duty with 1st Observation Squadron, 1st Army ; contact patrol with 35th, 1st and 42nd Divisions during Argonne battle ; recommended for Majority ; Croix de Guerre (1919).

A life-long friend and climbing companion of W. Symmes Richardson (*A.J.* 25. 524), with whom he climbed in the Alps in 1914. Wood had travelled in North Africa and western Kashmir, and also visited the volcanoes of Java. In 1925 he enjoyed a season of remarkable climbs in the Dolomites.

He operated his model farms, but also lived for long periods in Europe, often at Gstaad. He was a competent skier and between 1922-30 made winter ascents on ski of about one hundred minor peaks in the Oberland and other districts of Switzerland. He was a skilled artist and had experimented with lithography. Elected to the American Alpine Club in 1915 on the basis of two long seasons in the Chamonix and Zermatt areas, he joined the Alpine Club in 1924.

J. MONROE THORINGTON.

GEOFFREY WINTHROP YOUNG

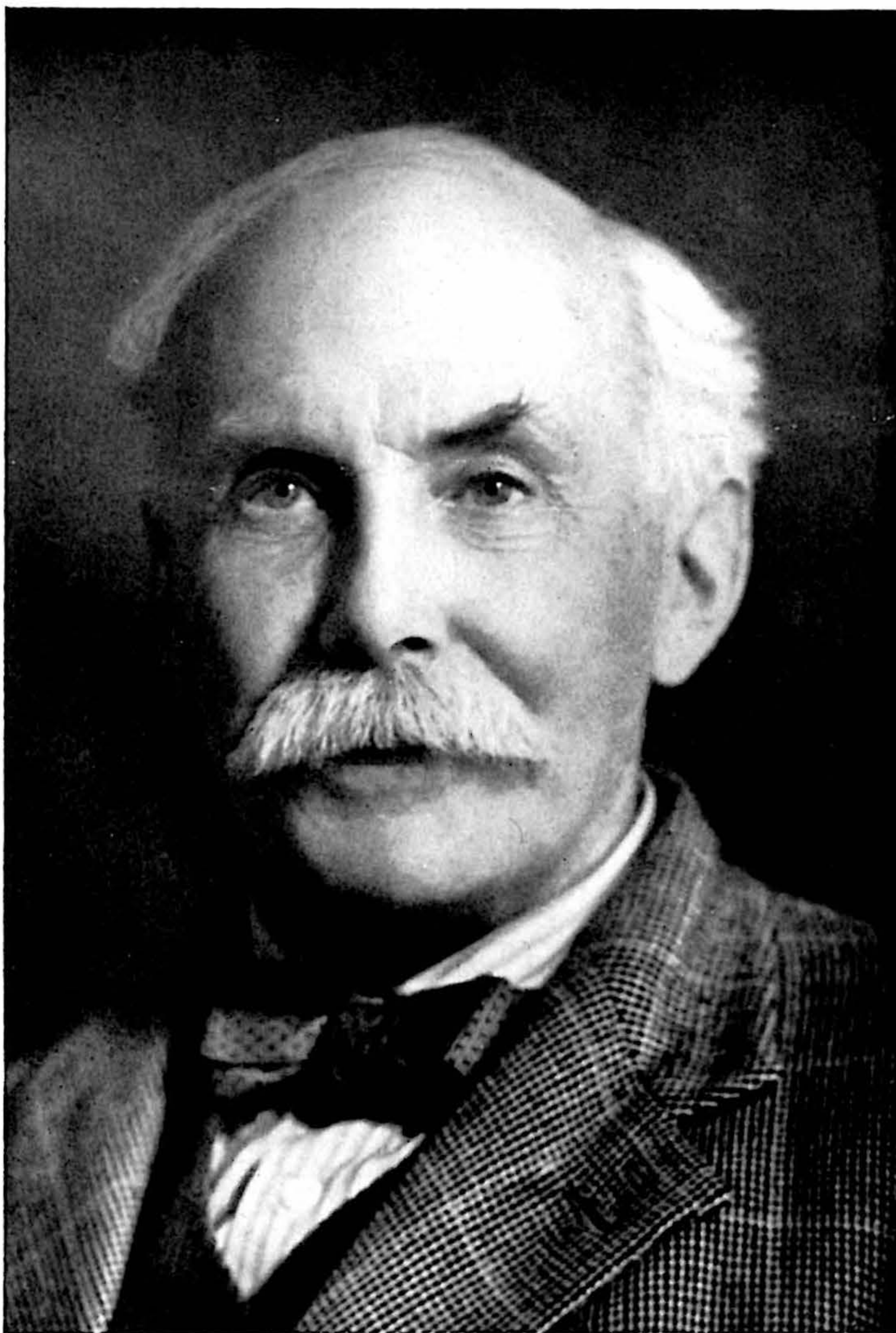
1876-1958

GEOFFREY WINTHROP YOUNG was born on October 25, 1876, and died on September 8, 1958. He was the second son of Sir George Young, Bt., of Formosa, Cookham, a distinguished administrator and an erudite scholar. He was educated at Marlborough and at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he was awarded the Chancellor's Medal for English Verse, and after further study at Jena and Geneva, he became an Assistant Master at Eton in 1900. After five years at Eton he accepted a post as an Inspector of Secondary Schools. He resigned from the Board of Education in 1913 and in the First World War he served first with the Friends' Ambulance Unit in Flanders and later in command of the First British Ambulance for Italy. Though a civilian, he was mentioned in British Despatches, and he was awarded the Belgian Order of Leopold for 'exceptional courage and resource' and the Italian silver medal 'For Valour'. He was badly wounded in 1917 and lost a leg above the knee. After the war he worked as a European

Consultant to the Rockefeller Foundation and from 1932 to 1941 he was Reader in Comparative Education at London University. In 1918 he married Eleanor Slingsby, daughter of William Cecil Slingsby ; she survives him with their son, who is a member of the Alpine Club, and a daughter.

His father had taken part in the first ascent of the Jungfrau from the Wengern Alp in 1865, but the next year, when with two brothers he was descending Mont Blanc, one of his brothers was killed and, in consequence, mountaineering could not be mentioned in Young's home. But from very early days his father took him on walking tours among the Welsh hills, and he recalls how in his Marlborough Hymn Book he scribbled, ' Shall I ever go to the Alps ? ' and, ' If I could only be a mountaineer ! ' Already his passion for the mountains was well kindled. Next came undergraduate reading parties in the Lake District with his first rock climbs (and also his *Guide to the Roofs of Trinity*). In 1897 he first visited the Alps, where, alone with Felix Levi, he made a number of ascents in the Tarentaise. In the next two years he climbed in the Oberland and Pennines, first with old Clemenz Ruppen, with whom he explored the Belgrat and made some new climbs on the Fusshörner, and later with Louis Theytaz, with whom, and other Zinal guides, he made the third ascent of the Viereselsgrat of the Dent Blanche. Now and then he made solitary ascents, for instance of the Grand Cornier, to which he does not confess in his list for the Alpine Club.

In February 1900 he was elected to the Club, his proposer being Sir Alfred Wills. He was now arriving at the fullness of his powers and it was in his eleven seasons of serious Alpine climbing before the First World War that he rose to his outstanding position among British mountaineers. It is indeed largely due to him that these years can be regarded as the period of the fine flowering of the Victorian mountaineering tradition. Occasionally he climbed guideless, for example on the first ascent of the Nesthorn from the Unterbächhorn, but usually with guides. He made a number of further climbs with Louis Theytaz, and of these the most distinguished was the first ascent of the Weisshorn from Zinal by what came to be known as the Younggrat (which illustrates his eye for a rib running up an avalanche-swept face), followed by the first descent of the North ridge. In 1905 he first climbed with the young Joseph Knubel, and thus was formed perhaps the most remarkable partnership between amateur and professional in Alpine history. It would not be correct to say that Young was the strategist and Knubel the tactician, for while Young had a remarkable capacity for recognizing a new route and the effect of snow conditions on particular ridges and faces, and Knubel was a supreme rock-climber and iceman, yet Young played his part in the tactical solution of the problems of an ascent,



GEOFFREY WINTHROP YOUNG.

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while Knubel became one of the greatest all-round mountaineers. Their mutual confidence enabled them to work together as a perfect team and this, with their physical fitness, enabled them to move, even on climbs of great difficulty, with an amazing speed. Moreover, as Young writes, ' We liked mountains in the same way : we liked the same way of showing our affection for them, in sunshine or in shadow '.

From 1905 to 1914 Young usually had Knubel with him and often his party included friends such as Donald Robertson, Heywood, Mayor and Mallory. Sometimes they were accompanied by one of the Lochmatters or by other guides. In the first two seasons with Knubel, they joined Ryan and the Lochmatters on the first direct ascent of the Weisshorn by the South-east face, the Matterhorn by the Furggengrat and the North-east shoulder, and on the great ascent of the Täschhorn by the South face, led by the Lochmatters, which even in these days of pitons has only seldom been repeated in its entirety. In these and the following years they also made the first ascent of the Breithorn by the Klein Triftji (another ' Younggrat '), which was brilliantly conceived and executed, of the South-west face of the Dom, and of the South-east face of his beloved Weisshorn, with a further new route on this face, and new routes on the East face of the Rimpfischhorn and East and West faces of the Zinal Rothorn, together with an attempt on the Col des Nantillons, only defeated by the weather. Of course his climbs of these years also included a great number of more usual routes, together with lesser new ascents and variations mainly in the Zermatt and Mont Blanc districts, and he delighted in following a long ridge over several peaks in a single day, for example the Charmoz, Grépon and Blaitière, or the Monte Rosa summits Lyskamm and Castor and back to the top of the Lyskamm. His great speed served him well, and, combined with his judgment, saved him from ever being involuntarily benighted.

There followed the great year of 1911, the year of magnificent weather. He, with Knubel, joined H. O. Jones's party, and, after making a new route up the South face and West arête of the Dôme de Neige des Écrins, they moved to the Mont Blanc area and there Young and Jones, with Knubel and other companions, amateur and professional, achieved a remarkable series of new routes—the descent of the East ridge of the Grandes Jorasses ; the Brouillard ridge of Mont Blanc direct from the Col Emile Rey, long projected by Jones ; the West ridge of the Grandes Jorasses, and the direct ascent from the Mer de Glace to the summit of the Grépon. The two seasons remaining to Young before the First World War brought him the first ascents of L'Isolée of the Dames Anglaises and of the Rote Zähne ridge of the Gspaltenhorn.

Then came the loss of his left leg above the knee, but he refused to

accept this shattering blow as the end to his mountaineering. Farrar records that in one of his first letters after the amputation he wrote, 'Now I am ready to get quite as much from seeing for the remaining years how near I can screw myself up to my old standards again. I'm still out for the hills!' But first he had to understand the new problems of balance and movement which he must master if he were to climb again and he soon realised how useless for such active purposes were the artificial legs provided by the Government. However, he succeeded in designing a leg, or rather a peg, which was made for him by a friend in a garage workshop, and which, he held, nearly halved the difficulty of fatigue of movement. On visits to North Wales and the Lakes he slowly learned his new technique of balance for rough walking and for climbing rocks and how to overcome what he calls 'the fake registration and fatigue that follows amputation'. From his wide correspondence with limbless men the help that he gave them is very clear. After apprenticeship on British climbs he was ready for the Alps and in 1927 he went to the Riffelalp, whence after training climbs on the Riffelhorn and Furgggrat he achieved Monte Rosa in an 18-hour day, guided by his old friends Franz Lochmatter and Hans Brantschen. To at least one of his companions this appeared to be the greatest physical feat he had ever witnessed. It must have needed courage and endurance of a very high order to sustain the effort of the sheer lift of the whole weight on one leg up so many thousands of feet, the frustrations of the right-handed traverses on snow or on the rock ridge when the peg impeded almost every movement, and the shock and pain of the plunge into soft snow or of the slither on scree. Nevertheless next year he was back in the Alps, first in the Dolomites, where he found that the rock structure did not suit him, and then in the Pennines. There he climbed the Wellenkuppe, the Weisshorn, on which his party was stopped by snow conditions some five hundred feet from the top, and the Matterhorn. In 1929 he was at the Montanvert and climbed the Petits Charmoz, the Requin and the Grépon. In 1935 he returned to the Riffelalp with Marcus Heywood and with Joseph Knubel who had not been with him since the war. With them he climbed the Zinal Rothorn from the Trift and he tells how on the top he came to the realisation that these last years of struggle to recapture the magic of mountaineering had not served to recreate more than its simulacrum. With the loss of sure technique and with the intense physical effort required of him the joy was gone, and he resolved that this should be his last Alpine climb. This resolve was fortified by an incident on the descent when, as a result of a momentary loss of balance while adjusting his snow glasses, he fell some eighty feet over the jagged lip of an overhang and by a supreme effort was held by Knubel.

During all these years Young had been continually visiting British

hills, sometimes in the Lake District, occasionally in Scotland, but usually in North Wales. He was largely responsible for the second wind which re-invigorated the Climbers' Club and its Journal immediately before the First World War and he, with the friends he collected for his parties at Pen-y-Pass, played a notable part in the development of climbing in the Snowdon area. These parties included climbers and walkers of all ages and in the lists of those who, some occasionally and some constantly, attended them we find the names of many already distinguished mountaineers and many on the road to distinction, such as, to name only a few of those at the pre-1914 parties, Slingsby, Farrar, Morse, Archer Thomson, Bicknell, Shadbolt, Herford, Pope, Finch, Porter, Mallory. They continued for some years after the First World War, and not only provided the best of company but formed a centre for the discussion of every conceivable aspect of mountaineering and for the inculcation of sound doctrine in succeeding generations of younger members. From 1924-30 he was living in Cambridge; there he was much concerned with the activities of the C.U.M.C. and with the growth of the Trust which he had taken the lead in founding in memory of Donald Robertson for the purpose of enabling undergraduates to embark on adventurous holidays, particularly among mountains. It was to his encouragement and help that many young men owed their escape to the hills.

His books, too, further widened his influence. His first, other than his Roof Climbing juvenilia, was a volume of poetry, *Wind and Hill* (1909), which was followed by *Freedom* (1914) and *April and Rain* (1923), each containing a number of mountain poems. Plenty of poetry had before been written about mountains but with few exceptions none had been written by one who had himself 'walked with death and morning on the silver horns'. Here at last was a poet who could convey and interpret not merely the beauty of mountains, but the sometimes complex emotions aroused by the relationship between mountain and mountaineer. In prose he wrote three outstanding mountain books. The first was *Mountain Craft*, published in 1920, but mainly written before the war. (Parts had been read at his Pen-y-Pass parties and there debated and criticised.) This was the most all-embracing exposition and analysis hitherto published of every branch of mountaineering, and, in its revised edition of 1947 it still remains a standard work. Its most original feature is the chapter dealing with the psychology of mountaineers and the reactions between them, which may well have saved many a party from failure or disruption. The other two books were autobiographical. In *On High Hills* (1927) he writes of his pre-war Alpine ascents. In *Mountains with a Difference* (1951) he is mainly concerned with his return to mountaineering after the loss of his leg. In these accounts of his climbs he deals, as he indicates in the

Preface to *On High Hills*, not only with 'the things we are doing' and 'the things we are seeing' but also with 'the things we are feeling' and these bulk large. The style and diction are occasionally obscure and are not to the liking of all, but we have in these books some of the most vivid and sensitive descriptions in our literature of the emotional as well as the physical adventure of great mountaineering, of which perhaps the best examples are his accounts of the South face of the Täschhorn and of his last climb on the Rothorn. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Letters by Durham University.

From early days Young took an active part in the affairs of the Alpine Club, and, on occasion, if he felt the Club was going to sleep he seemed deliberately to stir up controversy. For example, in 1910 he proposed and carried the introduction of a Club badge, a question which aroused feelings of a violence out of all proportion to its importance. (Later he declared that in order to enliven the atmosphere of the Club he was quite ready to propose the badge's abolition!) In 1938 he became Vice-President and in 1941, President. As President he was confronted by two major problems. First he had to keep the Club not merely in being during the war years but actively in being, and this with the help of Donkin, the Honorary Secretary, he most successfully achieved by increasing the number of meetings, by organising Alpine Club meets in Wales and the Lakes, and by welcoming foreign mountaineers who were in England. Secondly, he had to meet the situation arising from the already rapid growth in the number of British climbers and their probable need for expert guidance, and also from the pressing demands for help and advice from Government Departments and others who were concerned with the uses of mountaineering for warfare or education. It was to deal with these developments that he took the leading part in forming and fostering, under the aegis of the Alpine Club, the British Mountaineering Council, representative of virtually all British clubs, which was to facilitate consultation and co-operation between the clubs and, whenever need should arise, to give expert advice or to speak in the name of British climbers. This association of the Alpine Club with home climbing clubs was a revolutionary move and was a first step towards its transformation from a small self-sufficient body which, as has been said, was rapidly becoming a Victorian period-piece into a force in British mountaineering.

We have so far been concerned with a factual account of Young's career so far as it was related to mountaineering. It remains to attempt some assessment of his influence and personality. In his paper 'Mountain Prophets', in the *ALPINE JOURNAL* of 1943, Young wrote: 'Percy Farrar was probably the strongest single influence that modern mountaineering has known. . . . With Farrar we may say with some certainty that even the revised version of the later prophets was closed.'

To that list of prophets Young's name should be added. Though he had many contacts with foreign and, especially French, climbers (he was an Honorary Member of the G.H.M.), Young had not the same universal influence abroad that Farrar had, but his impact on the British climbing community was remarkable and, moreover, as that community ceased to be drawn only from the more prosperous classes and came to include members of all classes in astonishing numbers, so his influence spread. This came about not only through his books and his articles in climbing journals, for he was constantly in demand as a lecturer or after-dinner speaker at Clubs, large and small, and he met and corresponded with numberless climbers who sought his advice and to whom he was lavish in his encouragement. His homes, in Cambridge and London, were frequent, sometimes almost continuous, meeting places for mountain talk.

The doctrine that he preached can be no more than touched on here—and it must be confessed that in his more mystical passages he is often difficult to follow. Its fundamental principle was that the true and lasting joy of mountaineering can only be achieved if the mountaineer is fonder of the mountains than of his own skill, and that it flows from the spirit in which the skill of the climber is adjusted to the mountain to be climbed. It follows that difficult mountaineering can only be approached through an apprenticeship, that the true spiritual satisfaction attainable by the mountaineer has no concern with competition or records, or even with the attainment of the summit, and can be reached by anyone, whatever his skill, provided that he loves and respects the mountains and does not regard them merely as glorified gymnasias for the exercise and display of his prowess, and that no climb is worth a man's life, even though mountaineering may have enriched that life beyond all comprehension. Nothing but good could follow from such a doctrine.

Geoffrey Winthrop Young was a man whose personality could never be ignored, in whatever company he might be. It was not merely that he possessed an original and sympathetic mind which moved with great intellectual power and aesthetic perceptiveness, but that there was in him a dynamic (on a mountain sometimes daemonic) force which made him a natural leader. On the mountains in his prime, whatever his place on the rope he was the leader of the party, and this held good in other spheres. Yet his mind was essentially the mind of a poet and a wit and this, with his love of action, lent an Elizabethan flavour to his personality. As in the case of all men of strong character there were some whom he antagonised. But he was redeemed from the ruthlessness of many such by his humour and his kindness, which was all the more effective by reason of his almost alarming capacity for knowing what his companion was feeling. I well remember the first

time I met him : it was a chance meeting all but fifty years ago at Ogwen Cottage, where three school contemporaries and I were staying, and it took us some little time to decide whether here was a man whom we disliked, or towards whom we could ever feel real friendship, but once we had made up our minds there was no looking back. There can indeed be few who have had so many friends.

C. A. ELLIOTT.