In Memoriam
Claud Schuster (1869–1956)

EDWARD SMYTH

Mountaineering is not life in the round, but it is a very fair emblem of life as it should be considered and as it should be lived . . . to find the reward rather in the performance than in the accomplishment; not to court danger for her own bright eyes, but not to shrink from her unduly when she bars the path; and above all and in all to preserve a high serenity of mind.

Presidential Address to the Club, 10 December 1940.

The sport of mountaineering is the use of skill and experience in the avoidance of danger.

Letter to *The Times*, April 1939.

Stumbling is the start and the talk surly
Monosyllables
Fumbling in the dark, awake too early
Stale crusts across the tables . . .

Somehow we go
The boot's first bite
At the snow
And on first light
The peak – bleached white
And then aglow . . .

Exertion on the slope
Elation on the steep
Cohesion on the rope
Calculation in the leap –
Incalculable hope . . .

To find – who knows – in this our questing
A recompense, success apart
And – come what may – the moment testing
The moment of content of heart?