

IN MEMORIAM—LAURENT LANIER.

ON May 1, as Alpine peaks were beginning to awake from their winter slumbers, a great guide entered into his long rest.

In Laurent Lanier mountaineers have lost not only a first-rate guide but also a firm friend and one not easily to be replaced. Thoroughly unselfish, his first thought was ever for his employer in resisting imposition or in lightening a weary day's work with his merry conversation; while his hearty assistance was at the command of every climber, whether in planning an expedition or in carrying part of a heavy load. He was in every sense a mountaineer. His rock climbing was sure rather than brilliant, but he was without exception the finest iceman I have ever seen. Though for the last two or three years a badly frost-bitten foot had prevented his taking part in very arduous expeditions, yet there must be many who owe the success of some fine ascent to his brave heart and strong arm, and by whom his loss will be felt.

But it was as a chamois hunter that he most excelled; he seemed a different being when matching his cunning with that of the game. His energy was untiring, and often after eight or ten hours' useless work has he started in the afternoon for a long stalk to try and redeem our bad luck. To the hardships attending on his winter hunting his early death is in great measure due. Having often to spend the night without food or fire in a ch[^]let half filled with snow must have done much to bring on the attack of pleurisy to which he succumbed.

And now at the foot of the Aiguille du G[^]ant, almost the last peak which he ascended, he sleeps amidst the flowery meadows of Courmayeur; but for one at least future Alpine holidays will lose much of their pleasure without a greeting from the cheery smile and honest hand of Laurent Lanier.

J. W. H.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

Tuesday, May 6, General Meeting.—F. C. GROVE, Esq., *President*, in the chair. Mr. Reginald Cust was elected a member of the Club.

Mr. G. YELD read a paper upon 'Some New Expeditions in the Graian Alps,' at the conclusion of which Messrs. Carson, Wm. Mathews, and Freshfield made some remarks upon the district. An unanimous vote of thanks was, on the motion of the President, accorded to Mr. Yeld.

Tuesday, June 10, General Meeting.—F. C. GROVE, *President*, in the chair. Professor A. J. Butler was elected a member of the Club.

The PRESIDENT made the following announcement to the Club:

'One of the two gold medals conferred every year by the Royal Geographical Society as rewards for contributions to geographical science and discovery has been this year presented to Dr. Julius von Haast, C.M.G., F.R.S., an honorary member of the Alpine Club. Dr. von Haast took, twenty years ago, the leading part in the exploration of the Alps of New Zealand, making many journeys, in which four of his companions perished, three by drowning in lakes or torrents and one at the hands of natives. It is to these journeys, in the course of which

the altitudes of some 130 stations were ascertained, that we owe the map of the Southern Alps, which has been Von Haast's great work. He is also the author of many scientific papers on the geology and orography of the South Island.

'The "Back grant" for 1884 (the produce of a legacy left by Admiral Back) was at the same time awarded to Emil Boss, of Grindelwald, for having accompanied the Rev. W. S. Green in his journey to New Zealand and acted as leader in the ascent of Mount Cook; and also for having, when no guide was prepared to start alone, volunteered to leave his business and go out with Ulrich Kaufmann to join Mr. W. W. Graham in the Himalaya, where he took part in extensive journeys of exploration in the Nanda Devi (Kumaon) and Kangchinjanga (Sikkim) groups, and reached on Kabru the height of 24,000 feet—1,700 feet higher than any previously recorded to have been attained on the earth's surface; and further as an encouragement to alpine mountaineers to join parties of exploration in distant regions, where their experience and hardihood have been found to be of great value.'

Mr. DOUGLAS FRESHFIELD read a paper upon 'Bye-corners in Savoy' (a portion of which is printed in the present number). Messrs. J. T. Wills and C. T. Dent afterwards spoke upon the subject of the paper, and Mr. A. W. Moore strongly urged members to visit the Alps in the late autumn, a season the beauty of which he held was not sufficiently appreciated.

The PRESIDENT called the attention of the Club to three magnificent photographs: (1.) Of the panorama from the summit of the Pic du Tacul; (2.) Of the Aiguille du Géant from the summit of Mont Mallet; and (3.) Of the Aiguille du Géant from the foot of the Glacier du Géant, which had been presented to the Club by Mr. W. F. Donkin, to whom the unanimous thanks of the meeting were voted for his most valuable and appropriate gift.

Herr EMIL BOSS, the eminent Swiss mountaineer and explorer, and the companion of Messrs. Graham and Green on their respective expeditions to the Himalaya and to New Zealand, was present at the meeting, and, at the request of the President, gave during the evening a short account of the ascent of Kabru, 24,015 feet (see p. 53).

The conquest of this mountain, which was effected by Mr. W. W. Graham and his companions Herr Boss and Ulrich Kaufmann at the conclusion of their Himalayan tour, initiates a new era in the history of mountaineering, the elevation then reached exceeding by very many hundred feet anything previously attained by man upon the surface of the earth; while the views obtained from the summit of the peak have a yet more important geographical bearing, placing, as they do, beyond reasonable doubt the existence of more than one mountain considerably higher than Mount Everest.

Friday, June 13.—The Annual Summer Dinner was held at the Ship Hotel, Greenwich, on Friday, June 13, about forty members and their friends being present. The weather was again magnificently fine, and almost the entire party availed themselves of the Special Steamer, an institution which seems much appreciated, both in going to and returning from Greenwich. Herr Boss was the guest of the Club on the occasion.