

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall on the evening of Tuesday, May 6, at 8.30, Sir W. Martin Conway, *President*, in the chair.

The PRESIDENT announced the death of a distinguished member of the Club, Mr. R. Pendlebury, who had been a Senior Wrangler, a Fellow of St. John's, Cambridge, and a very distinguished mathematician. He was one of the party who made the first ascent of Monte Rosa from Macugnaga, and of the Schreckhorn from the Lauteraar side. He was known as a bold and a very good climber, and his loss to the Club was a very great one.

Mr. GEORGE YELD read a paper entitled 'The Ascent of La Noire (Aiguille),' which was illustrated by lantern slides; and afterwards Dr. TEMPEST ANDERSON showed some further slides illustrating the paper.

Mr. DENT complimented the reader and the illustrator of the paper. The paper had been a delightful compound of the ancient and of the modern. In its brevity and humour it recalled the old days; it was essentially modern in recognising as separate peaks the various points of a ridge. As time passes the definition of a peak must be widened; and by a judicious analysis of ridges there were still, even in the best known regions, possibilities of providing papers for many years to come. With regard to the illustrations, he noted that the best photographs were got when photographing towards the sun; otherwise a flat effect often resulted. In mountain photography it was almost a canon to get as near the sun as possible.

Mr. D. W. Freshfield first crossed the Col du Géant late in 1868. La Noire was then a familiar name to the Chamonix guides, and as the séracs near were supposed to be temporarily impassable, the traveller was taken along the rocks of La Noire. He had also made an expedition over the Tour Ronde, which was rarely done, though it was one of the best walks in the Alps, ascending from Courmayeur over the Brenva Glacier, an easy though long climb. The afternoon view of Mont Blanc from the Tour Ronde was magnificent.

Mr. Foa described a night spent in a very awkward corner while crossing to the Aiguille du Midi, owing to the ignorance and obstinacy of his guides, who later lost the way among the séracs of the Col du Géant.

The Rev. H. B. GEORGE thought that Dr. Anderson was right in saying that the photographer should always try everything that seemed to offer any chance of a good photograph. He had got some of his best views in this way. He had had a remarkable experience on the Col du Géant with three first-class Swiss guides, not one of whom had before been across it.

The PRESIDENT thanked Mr. Yeld for a humorous and charming paper. The photographs had been very beautiful. The district was famous for its ice scenery, and yet it was not common to see photographs of ice effect taken there.

The meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Yeld and to Dr. Anderson.

An exhibition of Alpine photographs was held in the Hall of the Club from April 29 to May 24, and was attended by about 800 persons. Refreshments were provided for members and their friends on the afternoon of Tuesday, May 6.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall on the evening of Tuesday, June 3, at 8.30, Mr. H. Woolley, *Vice-President*, in the chair.

The VICE-PRESIDENT informed the Club that Dr. Moreno, Director of the La Plata Museum, had been made an honorary member; also that Monsieur Cuënot, the Secretary of the Société des Peintres de Montagne, had been present in the afternoon, and had expressed on behalf of his Society their appreciation of the Club's hospitality in giving them the Hall for the Society's exhibition.

Dr. VAUGHAN CORNISH read a paper on 'Surface Forms of Snow in Canada,' which was illustrated by lantern views.

Mr. WILLINK expressed thanks for a most illuminating paper which would direct the observation of members to a new and very interesting subject. It was new to him to look on a snow cornice only as an interrupted snow drift. It seemed ungracious to ask for more, but he should like to have heard something on the beautiful forms taken by snow when piled against an obstacle. He remembered many years ago in North Wales noticing for the first time the beauty of the snow formations made on the windward side of obstacles. At first he had thought that they must have been formed to the leeward. He supposed that in Canada the conditions necessary for such formations were absent.

Mr. DENT found the snow mushrooms to be the point of chief interest. Such were very frequently seen in the Alps on suitable stones in winter in the streams, though they were never very well marked. He congratulated the lecturer on the admirable way in which the lecture had been illustrated.

Mr. BUTLER wished to ask whether the curious up-drifting effect seen in some of the views would throw light on the shapes of some snow peaks like the Venediger, which sometimes had one and sometimes two horns on the top, of about 25 feet high, which prevented any one from really reaching the top of the mountain. He could not make out how that occurred at the top, where there was no obstacle to cause eddying. In 1881 he had seen the snow on the windward of a high fence swept clear from the ground within 6 feet of the fence and piled up in a gradual curve to the height of 6 feet.

Mr. ARKLE thought that the fish shape of a snow-drift would not be a suitable shape in which to build a boat.

The VICE-PRESIDENT thought that the average climber was usually so occupied with overcoming the difficulties of his climb that he missed many opportunities of observing such phenomena as had been described. He had never seen snow mushrooms in the Alps

except in the beds of streams. The paper they had heard would invest all snow shapes in future with greater interest, and climbers would, he hoped, be induced to study them, and to photograph the more remarkable forms. Snow sand was met with in the Alps not infrequently, as every climber knew to his cost. He knew that all would join in a very hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer.

Dr. CORNISH said that adhesive snow was found only in the Selkirks, where there was no wind and the whole accumulation was therefore on the top of obstacles and not at all against them. There would, no doubt, be some interesting points in the forms of accumulation on the up-wind side of obstacles. With regard to the fish-shape for a boat, it had to be remembered that surface phenomena came into play—the waves and skin resistance and the eddying resistance—so that it did not follow that the boat should be shaped like a fish; but it would be found that the portion of ships below the water line were more or less so shaped, being blunt at the bow and tapering to a point at the stern, the reverse of what held true for the deck.

A hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer brought the meeting to a close.

An Exhibition of ninety oil paintings and water colour sketches by members of the Société des Peintres de Montagne was held in the Hall of the Club from Tuesday, June 3, to Saturday, June 28. Refreshments were provided on the afternoon of the 3rd. The Exhibition was attended by about 650 visitors.

THE SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION TO ST. VINCENT AND MARTINIQUE.

Dr. Tempest Anderson and Dr. S. Flett, who went out under the auspices of the Royal Society to examine and report upon the recent volcanic disturbances in the West Indies, returned to England on August 2 after a most successful expedition. They twice ascended the Soufrière, and witnessed at close quarters a terrific eruption of Mont Pelée.