

almost comical sense of the obvious inadequacy of the presiding official. There have, it is true, been two brilliant exceptions to the display of inadequacy. On May 16, 1905, and on March 5, 1907, the President was physically unable to be in his place.

FIFTY YEARS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

BY CHARLES PILKINGTON.

(Read before the Alpine Club on February 4, 1908.)

THE thought that there have always been mountaineers since the uplands were capable of sustaining mountain game or cattle takes us a long way back into the mists of the past. But good cragsmen and walkers as these men may have been, their horizon was limited, as that of their successors will be to the end of time, and although they have supplied, and will supply, the raw material, they require a touch of influences outside their ken, before they can possibly become the finished article—'the mountaineer proper,' of whose pursuit we are now thinking.

It is not the object of this paper to review the evolution of the prehistoric climber and the work of the first explorers, but only to sketch somewhat hastily the growth of mountaineering during the fifty years that the Alpine Club has existed. I need not dwell on the early work done by the men of the country, men of Switzerland, Italy, France, Austria, and Germany, to whom all honour is due, for it would be untrue and inartistic to talk of modern mountaineering as starting in 1858 with the formation of the Alpine Club. But we must at any rate see what manner of men our immediate predecessors were, and what was their idea of the mountains and how to climb them.

1854 has for a long time been considered the starting-point of modern English mountaineering, when Alfred Wills and his guides made the first ascent of the Wetterhorn* from Grindelwald; but it was as much the delightful way in which the story of the climb was told as the climb itself that warmed the hearts of Englishmen and drew them towards the snows; for the Wetterhorn* had been climbed in 1845 by Agassiz, Forbes had been on the Jungfrau in 1841,

* The peak here, as generally, called the Wetterhorn is, strictly speaking, the point of the Wetterhörner known as the Hasle Jungfrau (12,149 ft.); the highest point, called the Mittelhorn (12,166 ft.), was first climbed by Mr. Speer in 1845.

and in 1845 John Ball had guided Matthias zum Taugwald over the Schwartzthor, threading his way through a complicated world of unknown ice to still less known slopes of snow beyond—an expedition that in my mind stands out boldly in its bid for one of the first places in snow-climbing records.

In 1854 William Mathews ascended the Vêlan, and in 1856, with his brother Charles Edward, explored the Combin group, and climbed the Combin de Corbassiere. He returned in 1857 with his cousin B. St. J. Mathews, and climbed the Graffeneire (14,108 ft.), just failing to reach the Grand Combin (14,164 ft.). The story of his adventures is excellently told in the first series of 'Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers.' William Mathews was a great explorer of the Western Alps—one of the greatest mountaineers of our Club—one of those names which, through some reason or other, seem to dwell unobtrusively in the shade, but one which we as climbers will do well to honour.

In 1855 C. Hudson, G. and C. Smyth, E. S. Kennedy, and C. Ainslie climbed Mont Blanc without guides from St. Gervais by way of the Dôme du Gouter. In 1856 Vaughan Hawkins, dissatisfied with the implements used by his companions and guides on the slopes of the Col de Miage, describes what he wants in the history of their adventures. It is a very good description of the ice axe of the present day. Wills relates his adventures on the Fenêtre de Saleinaz. Tyndall gives a thrilling account of his wanderings amongst the séracs of the Glacier du Géant, and Hardy tells how he and W. Mathews, at the head of a small army, climbed the Finsteraarhorn, and how on the ascent of the steepest snow slope Auguste Simond refused to use the rope, saying that as a slip could not be stopped it must be 'each one for himself.'

It will therefore be seen that before 1858 the grub of the chamois-hunter and goatherd had burst its chrysalis case and emerged as a guide, knowing the use of the rope and ice axe, the dangers of hidden crevasses and falling stones, and enjoying the friendship of those who employed him. Guides were then few in number, it is true, but some of them were soon to become good and safe models for all mountaineering time; they were already an example for the amateurs who had called them into existence, and who, if the truth were told, had in many cases taught them the rudiments of the craft they were to work out and perfect. The best ice men at first came from Chamonix, but in the years that were to follow they seem (with a few brilliant exceptions) to have

deteriorated, under the levelling system of the Guides' Union, which placed them all on one dreary level of merit, and so starved the originality of the individual. Zermatt and the Oberland also produced good men, and in a short time the Oberlander, by his dogged strength and natural ability, came to the front as the type of guide which has since become the pattern for all to copy.

The next few years may be called the glorious summer of mountaineering for those who were then able to go to the Alps. The English contingent was mostly composed of professional men trained in public schools and at college to athletic pursuits, and who by the conditions of their work were provided with a long summer holiday.

As the country was new, the amateurs were to a great extent explorers, seekers after new things, exponents of a new pursuit to which they gave the impetus of their mental training. Mountaineering went hand in hand with exploration, and, contrary to modern practice, passes were as much sought after as peaks; we can all appreciate the joys of making a new and legitimate pass into a little known valley, where there were few tracks and no description to suggest a route. To the guides the work was new and exhilarating, and developed their climbing as well as their guiding powers. Many of the amateurs also acquired an eye for country, a topographical insight into the ways of ridges and valleys, which enabled them to suggest the routes to be worked out; a pleasure lost to those of us who follow a leader who knows the way. Nor was there a Conway or Coolidge in their pocket to remind them that they had to reach 'the big rock on the left bank of the stream beyond the first bridge in three hours from the top' to 'save their face.' They had leisure, if they cared to take it, to examine and make notes, for were they not on untrodden ground, and might not these things be written in a book for the benefit of less lucky people at home? So Alpine climbing prospered, and a literature sprang up worthy of the sport it described, which greatly helped to shape and guide the thought and actions of the earlier mountaineers, the best known books then being, perhaps, Forbes's 'Alps of Savoy' (1843), 'Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers' (1859 and 1862), Hinchliff's 'Summer Months in the Alps' (1857), and Wills's 'Eagle's Nest' (1860).

The first few years after the starting of the Alpine Club witnessed a great change in English mountaineering. Ball writes a paper on Mountaineering Equipment, in which he deals with ropes, axes, and such modern things as ice screws

in the boots, though I am afraid that his list of provisions would hardly satisfy the modern climber. In fact, a pound of rice per day, and tea as the only luxury (unless the small stone in the mouth to keep away thirst be included if swallowed), seem hardly decent now. Fortunately the star of Tuckett was rising, and one of his more material rays revealed the possibilities of soup at a bivouac; and he held such high revel on the rocks above the Mittel Aletsch Glacier that some of his guides were none too fit for the ascent of the Aletschhorn next day.

In 1860 and 1861 Chamonix was joined to Zermatt by the high level route. Bonney and W. Mathews explored Dauphiné, and Whymper made his first scramble on the southern side of the Matterhorn, which induced him to turn his attention to tents and camp equipment. By this time many of the great snow peaks and passes had been climbed, and it was found that the dreaded glaciers and snowfields were only roads which facilitated their ascent, so attention was directed towards steeper mountains, and especially to that splendid wall of ice and rock that overlooks the Wengern Alp. It was therefore a distinct advance in the craft when those classical climbs the passage of the Eiger Joch (1859) and the Jungfrau Joch (1862), and the ascent of the Jungfrau from the Wengern Alp (1865), were made, and men recognised the possibilities opened up by the skilful use of the ice axe. Stephen also ascended the Schreckhorn (1861) with three guides, or, as he says, 'with one or even two too many,' and thus opened a controversy that would have shaken any institution less firmly established than the Alpine Club.

The 'Journal' was started in 1863, and at once proclaimed itself a practical aid to mountaineering, as well as a record of mountain adventure, by issuing an official report on ropes, knots, and ice axes; and Adams-Reilly published his map (1865) of the chain of Mont Blanc, the result of years of careful work—a splendid single-handed performance. The culminating point of the Alps of the Dauphiné was conquered in 1864 by E. Whymper, A. W. Moore, and H. Walker, while in 1865 the Brenva route up Mont Blanc was forced by F. and H. Walker, A. W. Moore, and G. S. Mathews with Melchior and Jacob Anderegg, and in 1865 also Whymper conquered the Matterhorn. All these expeditions added much to the knowledge of mountaineering, and men like G. E. Foster, L. Stephen, C. E. Mathews, and A. W. Moore had been produced—to mention those who have passed away—and guides like Christian Almer, Peter Bohren, Michel Croz, and Jean Antoine

Carrel. Strong, dogged, careful men, who had carried much wood and many cheeses and chamois, very sound of limb and wind, slightly lacking in adventure, objecting to bad weather, but the very men able to deal with it, by their level-headed, quiet, patient strength—these guides knew the mountains in all weathers, kept their heads in time of stress, and left nothing to chance. This great respect for their peaks they imparted to their employers—or did the amateurs impart it to their guides? Who can say? However this may be, we find that the amateurs of that day had also learned to respect the mountains, and were men fit for, and trained to, long periods of exertion, not liable to accidents caused by fatigue or cold, explorers as well as climbers. One result of this good example is that this Club has so few accidents to record amongst its members.

To some extent also the mountains and the glaciers may have had their own influence on the men who climbed them. A mystery still hung over the great and seldom-traversed snowfields; some of the big peaks were untrodden by the foot of man, and most were practically unknown. There were no huts. All this meant that an expedition in those days was a much larger affair than now. Porters were required to carry blankets and provisions. It was a serious business requiring much preparation, and not lightly to be entered upon, and was a good school in which to learn the climbing best suited for exploration in distant lands and on larger mountains, of which the harvest was soon to come.

At this time, however, there seems to have been a period of Alpine depression. To be sure Freshfield and Tuckett (1864-7) were in the Eastern Alps, but they were probably hiding from the storm of abuse in the newspapers which followed the Matterhorn accident. Whether the accident itself had anything to do with this depression it is difficult to say, but certainly there was a chill in English mountaineering; candidates for this Club were not forthcoming, and a dam seemed to be placed against the current of mountain adventure. It may also have been that, as the Matterhorn was in the minds of many men the *Ultima Thule* of Alpine aspirations, its conquest to a certain extent caused a slackening of endeavour; but the pent-up waters were soon to sweep away all obstacles and flood other lands beyond the Alps.

The dam served to throw the torrent into many currents and eddies; when it burst it carried Freshfield, Moore, and Tucker on to the east peak of Elbruz (1868); Grove, Walker, and Gardiner on to the western peak (1874); stirred men to

explore the mountains of India and America, and, as the flood receded, left Bryce alone on the summit of Ararat (1876). Not only in climbing but in Alpine literature did the flood show its power. Tyndall's 'Hours of Exercise in the Alps' (1874), Whymper's 'Scrambles' (1871) (perhaps the most widely interesting book of Alpine travel ever written), Leslie Stephen's 'Playground of Europe' (1866) all appeared; H. B. George impressed upon his countrymen the use of photography, which was afterwards to play so great a part in mountaineering art and practice. Girdlestone (1870) told how he climbed without guides, and Grove replied with a paper on 'The Comparative Skill of Amateurs and Guides' (1870), in which the amateurs were rather severely handled.

In 1871 Miss Walker was the first lady to reach the summit of the Matterhorn, Miss Brevoort the first to cross it; and the Misses Pigeon descended the Sesia Joch (1869) in remarkable circumstances; W. M. and R. Pendlebury and Taylor forced the eastern side of Monte Rosa (1872), and Colgrove, Cust, and Cawood, without guides, ascended the Matterhorn (1876). There also arose amongst the Alps of Dauphiné a band of French climbers. M. Boileau de Castelnau, with Gaspard, at length succeeded in gaining the western peak of the Meije (1877), almost the last isolated virgin summit of the Alps falling before the man who had never accepted the idea of its inaccessibility; and M. Duhamel climbed the Ecrins from the south (1881). Nor must we forget the 'Northern Light' of the Alpine Club, Slingsby, who had been at work since 1871 among the glaciers of the north, and had at last conquered Skagastolstind, the Matterhorn of Norway. He alone of his party completed the ascent. He must perforce have been unroped; but what man amongst us would have resisted the temptation on such a virgin peak as this?

December 23, 1866, marked a new departure in mountaineering, when Moore and Walker, the pioneers of winter mountaineering, started from Grindelwald, crossed the Finsteraar Joch, and returned by the Strahlegg in twenty-two hours. In January 1874 Miss Brevoort and Coolidge ascended the Wetterhorn and the Jungfrau, and in January 1888 Mrs. Jackson with Emile Boss descended from the Jungfrau to the Wengern Alp, and now almost every Alpine centre has its winter season, rinks and sleigh runs are prepared, and ski-running has become a popular amusement.

New climbs became increasingly difficult to find; attention was being localised on certain difficult minor peaks and special

expeditions; younger and more ambitious guides were coming to the front. Austrians, Germans, Frenchmen, Italians were appearing on the scene, and men began to congregate in increasing numbers at such places as Zermatt and Chamonix. This social aspect of the question was at first most evident at Zermatt for many reasons. It was the starting-point for an unrivalled number of splendid peaks and passes. Climbers were thrown together, for they for the most part frequented the Monte Rosa, which (as well as other hotels) was held by Seiler, the Seilers being the personal friends of many mountaineers; Zermatt was then less open to tourists than Grindelwald and Chamonix, and Alpine men were less liable to be lost in the crowd. An Alpine Society far larger than the Alpine Club was gradually evolved, embracing lovers of travel and scenery, artists, scientific men, and scholars, many of whom were well content with all the pleasures to be found below the snow line, but who, no doubt, found some pleasure and excitement in being thrown into contact with climbers and guides.

These gatherings at the various centres in Switzerland were, no doubt, useful as well as pleasant. Alpine 'shop' was talked, perhaps unduly; but what did it matter if men of similar tastes were brought together and friendships formed? On off days, when scrambling on the glaciers and rocks, men began to realise that they could cut a step themselves, and to know who were the handiest men amongst their companions. All this led firstly to climbing without guides, and secondly to the working out of some of those difficult and complicated ascents that are to be found on the wrong sides of mountains.

For many years isolated expeditions had been made without professional assistance, but there had been no attempt before 1878 to spend a holiday, systematically climbing the difficult peaks of the Alps without guides, in a regular climbing tour, and without special inspection or preparation, except such reconnoitring as is always made by parties with guides who are unfamiliar with the district or on unknown climbs. The first party that tried the experiment made several tours, during which they climbed, without previous knowledge, many of the difficult peaks and passes of the Alps, and with the exception of the Dent Blanche, when a high wind arose, never failed to reach their summit or cross their pass. Nor were they benighted, except on one peak, where, knowing what had happened to all their predecessors, arrangements were made beforehand to bivouac on the rocks. They were not condemned by the members of this Club, who thought that

amateurs should climb without censure so long as they played the game, so long as they brought no discredit to mountaineering by attempting climbs beyond their powers without sufficient experience.

I must leave for an abler pen than mine, to describe the literary and scientific work of climbers and explorers, not least of which is that of the Editors of the 'Alpine Journal,' which our late President will be glad to hear has been edited for nine years by Cambridge men, against thirty-six years by Oxford men, our present Editor having now served two years longer than any of his predecessors. Nor can I do more than thankfully acknowledge the great influence our artists have had, in moulding our ideas of mountain art, directly by their pictures and indirectly by their influence on our photographers, who now not only illuminate many a chapter, and brighten many a lecture, but bring home to us (as Donkin was the first to do) real pictures as well as detailed illustrations of lands we have never seen.

In thinking of mountaineering it is borne in upon us that at different times different schools (both of thought and action) have come to the front, and I think we may legitimately speak of the Montanvert school. The foundations seem to have been inadvertently laid by Dent at the time of his repeated attacks on the Dru, by Eccles during his many climbs on Mont Blanc, by Mummery, who with Burgener worked out the routes on the Charmoz and Grépon, and by Davidson, who occasionally forsook his Zermatt centre to climb the Aiguilles.

Wicks, Morse, Wilson, and others firmly established it as a school of rock-climbing, the entry to which was through a well known window, a severer test than any mountaineering club had as yet put into force. They worked up their subject so well that last year Winthrop Young, with Joseph Knubel and Franz Lochmatter, in exceptional circumstances traversed the Charmoz, Grépon, and the two peaks of the Blaitière in sixteen hours from the Montanvert and back. Even this has now been eclipsed, for V. J. E. Ryan, with Franz Lochmatter, has climbed these Aiguilles direct from the Mer de Glace, though whether all the ascents should be repeated or not is a matter of doubt. In contrast to this somewhat centrist school Coolidge had long been working out a plan of mountaineering that few of us have time to attempt, *i.e.* to climb every peak in a district, whatever its size or difficulty. This has been done by Germans in certain districts, but Coolidge and Gardiner are the great exponents of this particular form

of mountaineering, and to it we owe Coolidge's unrivalled knowledge of the Alps, which has been placed at our disposal in vol. i. of Ball's 'Alpine Guide' and the series of 'Climbers' Guides' which he brought out conjointly with Conway, to mention only two of his works which deal with the practical side of the question. As Bonney is our greatest geologist so Coolidge is our greatest Alpine historian; and we, like Oliver Twist, are waiting for more in his forthcoming 'History of the Alps.'

In 1880 Whymper made his important exploration of the Andes and climbed Chimborazo, an exploration which embraced many other fields than that of mountaineering and resulted in a valuable book of travel.

The Austrians now come to the front, and we all remember the bold deeds of the brothers Zsigmondy and Purtscheller, and how in 1885 they effected the first passage of the ridge leading from the central to the western Meije. The fact that many of the Austrians live close to their mountains gives them great facilities for practice, which many of them have used to the best advantage, but not all. It may be well for capable men to become familiar with the peaks, and even with them it sometimes leads to rashness; but with many this undue familiarity has led to treating them with a contempt which has brought about its own retribution. It is not an unmixed evil that the snow peaks are so far away from us. As it is most of us who go there to climb for the first time have had some practice at home under capable leaders, on mountains where short pieces of rockwork can be found as difficult as anything in the Alps, but which never exact those hours of constant toil and danger which sometimes fall to the lot of the Alpine climber; hours when fatigue and cold have dulled the senses and sapped the strength. I wonder what the annual death roll would be if the Rax Alp was within twenty miles of London or Manchester?

Since 1874 the Caucasian mountains had slept in dignified repose, but in 1884 Déchy reinvaded the country, and the next year Dent and Donkin sounded the English assault and climbed Gestola. Then, stirred by Freshfield's oratory, many of our Club men 'heard the East a-calling,' and responded to the call. Many a noble peak succumbed to their onslaught. Dych Tau fell before our President, and the redoubtable Ushba was climbed by Cockin and Ulrich Almer. 1888 to 1890 was the heyday of Caucasian exploration, and no better mountaineering has ever been done by any of our members; and never had photography been so effectually used, not only for

pictorial effect but for topographical purposes, and as a help to mountaineering in the future, though the work of Collie, Stutfield, and Woolley in the Canadian Rockies runs it hard. Scotland also and its islands of the west were explored and reported to be available country, and their winter snowfields and gullies declared to be good practice ground for Alpine work. In 1891, under the Presidency of Professor Ramsay, the Scottish Mountaineering Club was started, and Scotland became, like the English Lake District and North Wales, the training ground of many a mountaineer of the present day. There are now several mountaineering clubs in Britain besides the Alpine Club, and the influence of British rock-climbing on mountaineering can be traced in many ways. It tends, perhaps, unduly to dispensing with professional assistance in the Alps, but it also tends towards greater safety in rock-climbing, because the practice of hitching or belaying the rope on every available projection of rock during a difficult passage is one of its characteristics; it insures a knowledge of the danger of grass and moss on ledges and slopes, the want of which has led to many an accident in the Alps when men have slipped on easy ground; but I hope that the custom of the New Year and Easter meets of the various clubs, good in so many ways, may not unduly develop the acrobatic pastime of following good men up exceptionally difficult and well known climbs, to the neglect of learning self-reliance and the guiding faculty on less known rocks and misty hills.

1901 to 1904 seems to be pretty nearly the climax of mountaineering in Europe. To begin at home: the Pillar Rock in Cumberland was climbed from the N. after twenty years of exploration by Haskett-Smith, Robinson, and others. It is by no means the most difficult ascent in the Lakes; not to be compared with Botterill, Oppenheimer, and Taylor's N.W. pillar route, nor Solly's climb on the Eagle Nest ridge of Great Gable, which Ashley Abraham (no mean judge or exponent of the art) believes to be the limit of human adhesiveness, but it is typical of the district and the men. Mummery, Slingsby, and Carr made on the Aiguille du Plan (1892) probably the longest and steepest ice stairway that has ever been cut. Mummery, Hastings, and Collie traversed Mont Blanc by the Brenva route (1894)—the last important expedition that Mummery, our most brilliant rock-climber, was to make in the Alps. Both these ascents were made without guides.

With all this notable climbing as an object lesson it was deemed well to have an up-to-date book on the subject, and

the 'Mountaineering Badminton' was produced under Dent's sound editorship; in it there are some remarks on the comparative skill of travellers and guides. Personally I think that the best guides are better than amateurs in the power of forcing a difficult passage, their hands, being constantly employed in their daily work, making them less liable to tire on a long hold and less easily affected by the cold, while their ability to carry heavy loads without fatigue makes them invaluable for such climbs as will have to be faced in India. But I believe the experienced amateur who has travelled amongst many mountains and climbed many a peak is a better path-finder than an ordinary guide. I cannot agree with Leslie Stephen or Grove that guides can pick out the way up a rocky face or through a crevassed glacier infinitely better than the best trained amateur, or that their opinion as to the state of the snow or weather is always reliable.

There are men, both amateurs and guides, who, try as they may, can never acquire an eye for country; but the amateur who has the faculty, and who has trained himself by years of intelligent practice, has an advantage over the guide in being better able to use maps, compasses, photographs, and books. There are some guides who are perhaps above comparison, such men as Christian Almer, François Dévouassoud, Matthias Zurbriggen, and others, who have had more than ordinary practice in finding new routes; but the modern guide climbs well known peaks, most of which he has ascended before, and so has small practice in guiding on unknown ground even when professionally employed, and, though a born mountaineer, he may have none when working at his trade at home. The faculty of finding the backward path is easy enough to learn for those who have this eye for country, and the picking up of articles left under rocks in the morning in unknown districts is a trick of the trade, simply a matter of memory, but the memory must seriously take the work in hand and be strenuously held to its point.

Most would-be historians, when in the course of their work they approach modern events, find themselves entangled in detail, or, as they put it, 'face to face with events the ultimate result of which it is impossible to foresee.' And so now, I find myself entangled in a multitude of explorations which it is impossible to chronicle and whose diversity makes it difficult to see where we shall be led.

Following the lead given them years ago by Green and Emil Boss, the New Zealanders make their first ascent of Mont Cook. Freshfield gives us his splendid book 'The

Exploration of the Caucasus' (1896), C. E. Mathews, ever faithful to the king of the Alps, his 'Annals of Mont Blanc' (1898), and Conway that well illustrated Himalayan book (1894) which describes his ascent of Pioneer Peak and the crossing of the longest glacier pass in the world. In 1897 FitzGerald and Vines took an expedition to South America with Zurbriggen as guide. Aconcagua was climbed under most adverse circumstances and great hardship: Zurbriggen reached the summit on January 14, 1897, and Mr. Vines with Nicola Lanti on February 13. Mr. Vines also conquered the formidable Tupungato with Zurbriggen on April 12. The Duke of the Abruzzi gave us an object lesson on the advantages of complete preparation and strict discipline in his ascent of Mount St. Elias. The Duke is a splendid mountaineer himself, and his Alpine guides are his personal retainers, and whatever the Scriptures may say about putting our confidence in princes it is a very useful virtue for guides to have under such circumstances. He has resources at his call that the ordinary climber has not, but he is a remarkable man and some years later he showed the world the advantage of introducing the Alpine element into Arctic exploration. Doubtless some day the poles will be reached by balloons, but, acting along the present lines, I believe that the best chance of getting there is by large and continuous expeditions, the fighting head of which should be composed of northern seamen and Alpine guides, and the naval officer in command of the expedition might with advantage be accompanied by a competent Alpine amateur.

In 1898 Conway, having survived his experiences with Garwood in Spitsbergen, again leads his forces to distant lands and climbs Illimani and Aconcagua, and explores Tierra del Fuego; and that great explorer Sven Hedin made several ascents in connection with his great journey across Asia. In the first year of this century, or the last year of the last—but I will not, at this time of the evening, raise a mathematical question that has never yet been solved—the Himalaya suffered from a regular invasion. Freshfield, with the Sellas, Mr. and Mrs. Workman, Bruce, and Neve were all working on the roof of the world, Mrs. Workman reaching a greater height than has ever yet been gained by woman.

In 1903 Longstaff and Rolleston went to the Caucasus and alone made several splendid climbs, but the year was noticeable for the remarkable Austrian expedition organised by Rickmers, and for the ascent of the southern peak of Ushba

under the plucky leadership of Herr Schultz, who on the first attempt fell from the terrible southern cliffs, but some days later led his party up them with his head still in bandages; and also for the traverse of its two peaks by the Munich party, which took five days of continuously difficult climbing. I should say this is not a legitimate expedition if so much time is really necessary for its accomplishment; a bad day whilst they were in a critical position would have probably wiped the party out, or only left them the chance of descending the great couloir between the peaks (dangerous enough under the best circumstances) in a more than ordinarily dangerous condition. It shows, however, what can be done by a heavily laden, warmly clad, and determined party. As an example of the opposite of this we learn from Kirkpatrick and Hope what they think necessary to carry on long expeditions in the Alps. Their list is useful and interesting; everything is scientifically worked out for lightness, an ounce here, half an ounce there being saved. It will not suit every one, and the clothing and rucksack seem to me rather light. Ling and Ræburn made some notable traverses in 1906, including the Matterhorn by the Zmutt Arête with descent to Breuil. Here again is a party climbing two on a rope, but I notice that on the ascent of the Schreckhorn they had another companion. It is not always easy to secure a third man for a party, and I know that many have climbed two on a rope. I have done so myself on more than one occasion, so it must not be thought that I especially refer to those whose names I have mentioned, but as they are in the fighting head of climbing at the present time they must expect to get some knocks. I suppose we have all climbed this way when we have been driven to it by force of circumstances; but why, when three is so much safer a number, should we not try as much as possible to follow the old rule? After all, climbing the Alps is a sport, not a forlorn hope to save a life or for the good of one's country. If it is absolutely necessary for our enjoyment that we should climb two on a rope, it would surely be better for the party to consist of four, using one rope on the glaciers and going in two parties on rocks when they are free from loose stones. Of course I take it that every sane man is agreed that it is necessary to have at least three on a long snow-covered glacier, the extra safety of a double rope for a party of two notwithstanding. On more serious expeditions, when a way is being worked out on very difficult rocks, or fatigue is foreshadowed in forcing a long ice passage, a party is hardly ever less than three, and more

often four, and in such cases three men go quite as quickly and far more safely than two. It is hardly necessary to use the old argument that stands the test of time, viz. that should injury unfortunately occur to one, such as even a sprained ankle, the life of the injured man is in great danger if he is on a high and exposed mountain, for his companion must leave him to get assistance. Again, there is the tendency nowadays on rock peaks to climb unroped on places where a slip would be fatal. Now it cannot be said that a man, however skilful, can never slip; he may, as the 'Alpine Journal' will tell you, and stones will come down in unauthorised directions, and may cause a fall that could easily be stopped with the rope. Of course a hard and fast line can never be drawn. Men must judge for themselves, for in ascending rocks in good condition the rule may be somewhat relaxed. All of us can sympathise with the wish to be unroped, and may remember how we have often untied one of the party to explore some detail on an unknown mountain. But if you will be guided by the experience of those who have climbed for more than 30 years, with and without guides, you will think seriously of the question. Remember, you who are now in the front rank of climbers, that you will be looked up to as models in the years that are to come, as we looked up to the Almers and Andereggs of the past; and, believe me, it is best for you and for the sport you lead that your followers may be as well content with the example you set as we have been with the one set to us. I saw last year numbers of young Swiss who had come up from Luzern or Zürich to spend the week-end in the mountains, some of them strong young climbers, others unfit and untrained, two on a single rope, plunging along snow-covered glaciers, the comparative safety in such cases being the number of parties on the same expedition, and the fact that the more difficult mountains are as yet hardly accessible for week-end ascents.

There is little else to tell. Africa has yielded her highest peaks to Meyer, Purtscheller, Mackinder, and the Duke of the Abruzzi; Weston has revealed the mysteries of Japan, and is now doubtless enthroned as a mountain saint; Cook has climbed the highest point of the Rocky Mountains. There is left to us the Himalayan range: to it our eyes must turn; thither will our adventurous travellers go. There are many amongst you who have penetrated its fastnesses: Graham, Workman, and Longstaff have run each other hard for the record climb. You have just heard a most interesting account by Longstaff of his travels with Bruce and Mumm,

and we look to him to carry our flag still higher, even higher than Trisul. But while our thoughts wander from the frosty Caucasus to the distant Aorangi, the Western Rockies, or the Himalayan snows, there is always our old love to turn to—a holiday task to keep us fit for future work.

I think the knowledge that there are other worlds to conquer, and other heights to win, will give a zest to Alpine climbing, a glory to the oft-climbed peaks, an afterglow on their glittering spires that will endure after every crack and hollow, every ledge and pinnacle of the Alps has been duly entered and classified in the local 'Climbers' Guide.'

The Alps, we may claim, are conquered by the common brotherhood of mountaineers, but victory entails responsibility as well as fame. That the mountains should be a sanctuary set apart for mountaineers is an idea impossible of attainment and it would be selfish to desire it, but now that their slopes are being disfigured with unnecessary railways, their cliffs degraded by iron lifts, and their noblest glacier threatened by a wire sledge run, it is time that Englishmen should heartily co-operate with those who have the right to protect their native mountains, and take their share in the noble work of preserving for future generations the beauty and mystery that has charmed and elevated their lives.*

THE JUBILEE OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall on Monday evening, December 16, 1907: the Bishop of Bristol, *President*, in the chair.

Messrs. H. S. Brooke, F. G. S. Clerihew, W. M. Davies, W. Garden, J. C. Hodgson, G. E. Howard, A. McAndrew, A. E. Porter, E. B. Robertson, and E. Slack were balloted for and elected members of the Club.

Mr. Hermann Woolley was elected *President* in place of the Right Reverend the Bishop of Bristol, whose term of office expired.

Mr. WOOLLEY said: During the last nineteen years I have derived a great amount of pleasure from my membership of the Alpine Club; some of my pleasantest recollections are

* It seems to me much to be desired that our members should join the English branch of the League for the Preservation of Swiss Scenery.