

Members of the English branch to correct misconceptions and to gain fresh adherents. The Hon. Secretary will be glad to supply copies on receipt of a post card addressed Burton Bank, Mill Hill, N.W.

CORRESPONDENCE.

'FIVE YEARS WITH RECRUITS.'

A DISCLAIMER.

WE, the undersigned members of the Alpine Club, desire to place on record that we disclaim responsibility for any encouragement which the publication of Mr. Irving's paper may give to expeditions undertaken after the manner therein described:—

G. W. PROTHERO.

C. H. R. WOLLASTON.

CLAUD SCHUSTER.

G. WINTHROP YOUNG.

C. W. NETTLETON.

TOM G. LONGSTAFF.

W. P. HASKETT SMITH.

E. H. F. BRADBY.

EDW. A. BROOME.

W. E. DAVIDSON.

A. W. LLOYD.

GEORGE L. STEWART.

SYDNEY SPENCER.

DOUGLAS W. FRESHFIELD.

The College, Winchester : February 4.

To the Hon. Secretary of the Alpine Club.

DEAR SIR,—I should like to express my gratitude for the courtesy which permitted me to see Mr. Prothero's communication before my paper went to press.

When Mr. Yeld offered to have it printed in the 'Alpine Journal' I accepted willingly, and I can see no reason whatever for altering my decision. At the same time I should like to add my name to the list of gentlemen who 'disclaim responsibility for any encouragement which the publication of my paper may give to expeditions undertaken after the manner therein described.' I regret very much the lengths to which the discussion has been carried. The reasons for my choosing such a subject were, firstly, that it was a controversial one; secondly, that the method of my climbing was the only aspect of it that appeared to be either novel or adventurous. My paper is a record of my climbs, and the impressions I have received from them during the last five years, and therefore seems to me very legitimate material for the 'Journal.' In no sense whatever do I wish to pose as a general advocate of my methods. But, while admitting the greatest respect for the opinion of the climbers whose names accompany Mr. Prothero's protest, I maintain that the risks attached to climbing, whether with novices or with experienced men, can only be correctly estimated by an accurate knowledge of the ground covered, of the conditions prevailing at the time, and, above all, of the capabilities of the

individuals. We have been fortunate, and we have been at times indiscreet, but the pages of the 'Alpine Journal' itself tell me that the signatories themselves have been in Fortune's debt. And I must state my conviction that there is hardly a single member of the Club who has spent several years in making first-class expeditions who has not found himself in positions of greater peril than myself and my recruits the first two years. I know men of many years' experience whom I should refuse to accompany without guides on the same expeditions which we undertook in those years. Experience counts for much, but it is not—and never will be—a sufficient criterion of a climber's value on the rope.

Lastly, let me add, in answer to a very reasonable objection to my 'methods,' my firm belief that on every one of our early expeditions my 'recruits' would have been able to retrace their steps, had it been necessary, without my assistance.

I remain, Sir, very truly yours,

R. L. G. IRVING.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall on Monday, December 14, 1908, at 8.30 P.M., Mr. Hermann Woolley, *President*, in the chair.

The following candidates were balloted for and elected members of the Club: Messrs. J. B. Corry, S. L. Courtauld, J. S. Driver-Holloway, C. A. Hunt, H. L. Hutton, T. Meares, C. W. Rubenson, C. W. Walker, and H. G. Watson.

The following candidates proposed by the Committee for the posts of Vice-President, Honorary Secretary, and elective members of Committee were duly elected, viz.:—

Vice-President: Captain J. P. Farrar, in place of Mr. W. Cecil Slingsby, whose term of office expires.

Honorary Secretary: Mr. J. J. Withers, in place of Mr. E. H. F. Bradby, who did not offer himself for re-election.

New Members of Committee: Mr. L. C. M. S. Amery, Mr. A. D. Godley, Mr. Eric Greenwood, and Mr. J. H. W. Rolland, in place of Mr. H. V. Reade, Mr. R. A. Robertson, and Mr. C. H. R. Wollaston, whose term of office, under Rule 25 as recently altered, expires, and to fill the additional place on the Committee caused by the alteration of the same rule.

The President, the Vice-President (Mr. G. W. Prothero), and the other Members of Committee being eligible, were re-elected.

It was agreed that Rule 40 should in future read thus:—

'Every candidate, whose qualifications have been approved by the Committee, and who is not ineligible under Rule 11, shall be balloted for at a general meeting of the Club. To constitute an effective ballot for any candidate, not less than twenty members shall record their votes in his case. On an effective ballot one black ball in ten shall exclude. Where any ballot shall have been