

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

ineffective, the candidate (unless ineligible under Rule 11) shall, subject to his own consent, be balloted for a second time at the next General Meeting. A candidate who either (1) fails to be elected at such second ballot or (2) is excluded shall not again come up for election within twelve months.'

The PRESIDENT mentioned the losses that had occurred among the members of the Club since the last annual meeting. The deaths were those of Mr. Horace Walker, Mr. F. Bergne, Mr. C. E. Layton (which had already been referred to), Messrs. C. M. Smith and W. Allison (both of which occurred in 1907 but were not reported to the Club till 1903), Hr. C. Hall, a well-known pioneer of mountaineering in Norway, where he made some fifty first ascents; the Rev. J. R. King, Mr. H. Stirling, the Rev. Charles Taylor, who took part in the first ascent in 1872 of Monte Rosa from the Macugnaga Glacier; Messrs. Wm. Trotter, R. R. Dees, Hamilton-Hoare, F. Hardcastle, and Sir Henry Bergne.

The PRESIDENT said: Less than twelve months ago the sympathy of the whole Club was expressed on the death of Sir Henry Bergne's son, and his own death occurring in the same year is particularly touching. He enjoyed the respect and confidence of every one who knew him; no one could come in contact with him without feeling the charm of his kindness and courtesy. Outside the Club he had to mention the deaths of Canon Girdlestone and Dr. Paul Grohmann, of Vienna, at the age of seventy, a pioneer of Dolomite-climbing and the last surviving founder of the Austrian Alpenverein.

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the note in the last number of the 'Alpine Journal' announcing Mr. Coolidge's recovery from his serious illness, and he mentioned that since then the University of Berne had conferred on Mr. Coolidge the honorary degree of Doctor of Philosophy in consideration of his many works on Swiss history and the Swiss Alps.

In connexion with the retirement of Mr. Bradby from the post of Honorary Secretary the BISHOP OF BRISTOL said: 'I think it a peculiar privilege to have the opportunity of proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Bradby for his services as Honorary Secretary. Mr. Bradby took office at a time of difficulty, for the Jubilee celebrations were coming on. He knew that he was facing an anxious and laborious task, and he performed it with singular felicity. He was cautious but never timid, and also, as you know, he was always courteous, kindly, and firm. He was loyal, yet he had abundance of common sense. No one so much as I myself was aware of the amount of work that the Jubilee entailed. It was not only the actual work but the sense of responsibility that nothing must go wrong that one could make safe. Nothing did go wrong. He was very kindly and forbearing with an old President. I felt a grandmotherly interest in him. You have been very well served by your secretaries, but no one has given higher and better services than he to whom I ask you to pass a very hearty vote of thanks this evening.'

Mr. SLINGSBY said: 'As a member of Committee who has just received a notice to quit, and as a private member of the Alpine Club, I have great pleasure in testifying to the admirable, loyal, and arduous work done by Mr. Bradby. The post of Honorary Secretary is never a sinecure. It means a devotion to duty and self-sacrifice that few of us would have the hardihood to undertake. I am sure that you all echo what the Bishop said about Mr. Bradby's courtesy. In addition to the ability and admirable tact necessary for the post he has possessed the special gift of adding to any business letter he had to write the few words which made the correspondent feel he was getting a letter from a friend, not merely a business letter. Even candidates that have not come up to the qualification required have received such friendly letters, telling them that they have failed. Mr. Bradby has in every way been an admirable pilot for us. He has taken us through easy waters in some ways, but still with a very large amount of work. We all recognise that he is a sportsman of the highest rank who loves the Alps as well as any one does. I have great pleasure in seconding the Bishop's motion.'

The PRESIDENT said: 'I endorse every word spoken by the Bishop of Bristol and by Mr. Slingsby as to Mr. Bradby's untiring devotion to the interests of the Club. No one could have worked harder and more willingly. Even the additional correspondence and care involved in looking after a country President have never drawn a murmur of complaint from him.'

A unanimous and most hearty vote of thanks was then accorded to Mr. Bradby for his services as Honorary Secretary.

Mr. BRADBY in acknowledgment said: 'It is always exceedingly pleasant to listen to oneself being praised, and more so when one feels that one does not deserve it. It has become a tradition of this Club that we support and help the Secretary, and that tradition has been loyally kept. I have to thank all for their kindness and forbearance, which I ask them to extend to my successor.'

Mr. WILLINK moved that Messrs. R. L. Harrison and R. W. Lloyd be elected auditors for 1909.

Captain FARRAR seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. G. WINTHROP YOUNG informed the Club that he had recently seen Mr. Roosevelt, and, acting on the President's instructions, had conveyed to him the good wishes of the Club. In return the President had asked him to express his hearty appreciation of the message. In coming to England he particularly wished to meet the members of the Alpine Club and of the Royal Geographical Society.

Mr. R. L. G. IRVING read a paper entitled 'Five Years with Recruits,' which was illustrated by lantern slides.

Mr. C. PILKINGTON congratulated Mr. Irving, and thought that the paper spoke well for Winchester. He thought it doubtful whether a boy of fourteen to sixteen years should take long expeditions; in fact, he would consider it dangerous. The youths

Mr. Irving had taken were from seventeen to eighteen years of age, but he thought that one ought to wait till well over eighteen before attempting long and difficult climbs.

Mr. WILLINK thought that perhaps it would be wiser to take such expeditions as had been described with other people's sons rather than with one's own; he should not have liked to go with his sons on the expeditions Mr. Irving had taken boys. It was true that in climbing with young people you were entirely master of what was to be done, and could therefore enjoy a day and make it enjoyable to others. It was delightful to climb with young people, who approached climbing in the right spirit. Young people must be taught not only gymnastics, but also to see the beauty of things.

Mr. YELD did not know what it was to go with other people's sons, but he had several times gone with his own and found the experience very pleasant.

Mr. CORRY mentioned the expeditions of a young German who climbed without guides.

Mr. PROTHERO did not wish to protest against such climbing, but thought that there was a considerable element of danger in it. He should be sorry to take young people up difficult places, especially on ice slopes, without practice or without a second man at least. If one took boys one incurred a responsibility that he should be sorry to incur. Though Mr. Irving's expeditions had been very enjoyable, and no harm had been done, he had hinted that they were dangerous and that there had been narrow escapes, which might have developed into serious accidents to the party or to other people. He would hope, if he might venture to say so much, that this example would not be followed, or at any rate not without the utmost caution and having a second man to help.

The Rev. G. BROKE wished to endorse what the last speaker had said, as for fifteen years he had been doing much the same on a small scale. He had introduced eleven recruits to climbing. The ominous thing that struck him in the paper was the speed at which the boys moved for recruits. To study safety entirely the normal time taken by a party with guides must at any difficulty be doubled. He had more than once found that with every precaution climbing with recruits meant coming home late. It meant choosing peaks with great care and having a second man. Mr. Irving's nerves must have been exceptional if he had no anxious moments and slept after an expedition was over. He had known himself twice quite collapse on getting back to grass after greater difficulties than he had expected.

Dr. LONGSTAFF thanked Mr. Irving for his paper, chiefly because it was controversial. He had raised some interesting questions. He did not think members would agree with him about the advisability of such expeditions.

Mr. C. SCHUSTER was personally interested in the matter as a commoner of Winchester. He hoped that in future recruits would not be provided in this way. It would be sad for the Club if it

were taken to be their view that expeditions such as that on the Grand Combin, which had been described in the paper, were expeditions fit for boys.* He did not think it less than his duty to say a few words of protest against such a form of mountaineering as had been presented to them in the paper.

The PRESIDENT proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Irving for his paper, which was heartily passed.

Mr. IRVING, in reply, remarked that the Grand Combin had offered good snow, not an ice-slope, and that on the Dent Perroc there had been no sensational climbing, though it was not dull.

THE Winter Dinner was held in the Whitehall Rooms, Hôtel Métropole, London, on Tuesday, December 15, 1908, at 7 P.M., Mr. Hermann Woolley, President, in the chair. 274 members and their friends sat down, among the latter being his Excellency the Norwegian Minister, Sir William Ramsay, the Hon. Mr. Justice Warrington, the Hon. Mr. Justice Neville, Professor Silvanus Thompson, and Mr. H. Belloc, M.P.

AN Exhibition of Alpine Paintings was held in the Hall of the Alpine Club in December last, and was open to members and their friends from the 1st to the 26th. Refreshments were provided for members and their friends on the afternoon of Tuesday, the 15th. About 1,100 people attended the Exhibition.

* It was obvious that any slip on the ice-slope would have resulted in disaster to the party, and that a slip was more than likely.

Erratum.

Page 367. The footnote should read—

See 'Correspondence,' pp. 453-4, and 'Proceedings of the Alpine Club,' pp. 454 foll.