

'To return, our best route would probably be to raft down the Kantishna River to the Tanana.

'The information obtained on our previous expeditions has convinced us that dogs and sledges are the most practical means for getting supplies and equipment to the northern side of the mountain. This, of course, necessitates a winter trip and involves the difficulty of returning without boat or horses after the snow has left the valleys.

'The very great difficulties which must be encountered in an expedition to Mt. McKinley can scarcely be appreciated by anyone not familiar with the topography of this portion of Alaska.'

The extracts given from Professor Parker's article by no means exhaust its interest. It deserves the closest study, and is, to Alpine travellers, most instructive as to the preparations necessary for, and the hardships to be encountered in, a great expedition of this kind.

J. P. F.

IN MEMORIAM.

ROBERT SPENCE WATSON.

By the death of the Rt. Hon. Robert Spence Watson the Alpine Club loses one of its oldest members. He was born in 1837. He made his first journey in the Alps with our member Mr. H. T. Mennell (elected in 1866) in 1861. They had written to the famous guide, Ulrich Lauener, and with him went to Mürren, the Kienthal, the Dündengrat, and the Gemmi; to Lauener's horror they bathed in the Oeschenen See. They afterwards visited the Turtmannthal and Zermatt, where they climbed their first peak, the Cima di Jazzi, with Matthias zum Taugwald. They then crossed the Theodule and visited Aosta and Courmayeur, whence they made the tour round Mont Blanc to Chamonix. At Chamonix they obtained the services of Joseph Marie Claret, with whom the travellers formed a friendship which lasted thirty years.

In 1865 the same party ascended Mont Blanc on a beautiful day, and met with some exciting adventures on their way back to Chamonix. In 1867 they ascending the Königspitz with Alexander Flüry of Pontresina and later climbed the Ortler Spitz. On this latter expedition Mrs. Spence Watson was of the party. The travellers suffered much from a very violent wind.

Perhaps the most notable of Mr. Spence Watson's climbs was the first ascent of the Balferinhorn* (12,474 ft.) on July 6, 1863. The party consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Spence Watson, Herr Imseng, (the Curé of Saas) and the guides Joseph Marie Claret of Chamonix and Franz Andermatten. A full account of this climb will be found in 'A.J.' i. pp. 188-96.

Mr. Spence Watson took a great interest in all local matters at

* Now called Balfrin.

Gateshead (where he resided) and Newcastle, and was in many ways of great service to his fellow citizens, by whom he was highly esteemed. He was made a Privy Councillor in 1906.

In Mr. Spence Watson the Alpine Club deeply regrets the loss of one more of that 'Old Guard' of energetic and able mountaineers who did so much to win for mountaineering the high place which it has since held in the estimation of the world.

THE ALPINE CLUB ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION.

THE Annual Photographic Exhibition was held as usual in May, and once more the best thanks of the Club are due to Mr. Spencer for the time and trouble that he bestowed on its organisation and arrangement; of the skill and experience which he brings to the task it is needless to speak.

Of the general result it may be said that the usual high standard of excellence was on the whole maintained; to attempt any definite comparison with the work of previous years would be difficult and not very profitable. Among exhibits of a special or unusual character perhaps the most remarkable was the youthful portrait of Mr. Wympster, a very successful enlargement from an old photograph by Mr. C. Atkin Swan. (We are glad to note that this portrait has been presented to the Club by the President, as well as an interesting group of the President himself and two well-known guides.) Very striking too was the snow study entitled 'Snow, Steam and Smoke,' by Mr. Will Cadby, who shows an individuality in his subjects and treatment which is a rare distinction in photography. Among the most successful of the winter scenes were his 'Egertental Ski-jump' and Mr. Spencer's 'Grindelwald.' Of the ice-studies quite the finest example was Mr. J. Osborne Walker's 'Märjelensee.' Interest in snow forms for their own sake seems to have declined recently, and this year was hardly displayed at all. On the other hand, there was an unusually large number of happily chosen sub-alpine subjects which formed a welcome diversion from the mountain views. Noticeable among these were Mr. Bainbridge Bell's 'Fairfield,' a pretty peaceful English landscape; the charming little lake study by Mr. Fuller England, 'Sunset at Villeneuve'; and Miss Field's picturesque 'Inn at Landeck.' Two large valley scenes by Mr. Done may also be mentioned in this connexion, and Mr. Weston's 'Valtournanche' and 'The Diablerets from Comballaz.' We think that the exhibition would have lost nothing by the absence of a certain type of picture in which figures are prominently introduced; they are too apt to be artificial, and the effect forced and unconvincing. These remarks are, however, not intended to be applied to all pictures of this description; such scenes as Miss Longstaff's 'The Trail to Assiniboine' and Mr. Byron Harman's 'Pack Train in the Upper Bow Valley' have a legitimate interest, while Mr. A. E.