

details of life in the mountains—the chalet, the flora, the peasants and their occupations. He gives us for example in his story of the Schilthorn (pp. 230 foll.) a sympathetic account of his night at the Ebnet Alp which is most entertaining. Want of space forbids us to quote many *morceaux* that have attracted us, but we must reproduce one short passage from his account of an ascent of the Grivola from Val Savaranche (p. 80).

‘A peine avons-nous atteint les premiers gazons, que nous voyons s’ébattre toute une troupe de jolis chamois, puis, un peu plus loin, nous découvrons plusieurs bouquetins. Tous ces animaux paissent dans une quiétude complète. Certes, ils sentent que nous n’avons pas de sang royal dans les veines, car ils se laissent approcher de très près. Joseph [Kalbermatten]—qui ne connaît que les chamois suisses, toujours anxieux et toujours traqués—déborde d’exaltation : “Monsieur, mais voyez donc ces bouqueins ! regardez cet énorme animal là-bas . . . oh ! si près ! Voilà quatre gros mâles ! et ces cornes, Monsieur ! ces cornes !”’

Only 300 copies of the book have been printed. Happy are those who are fortunate enough to possess it.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall, 23 Savile Row, on Tuesday evening, November 7, at 8.30 p.m.

Sir Edward Davidson, *President*, in the chair. Messrs. C. G. Monro, V. A. Fynn, L. C. F. Oppenheim, B. Lawford, C. G. G. Stewart, E. B. Ormond, R. G. Rows, C. L. Chute, H. J. Macartney and H. O. S. Gibson were balloted for and elected members of the Club.

The PRESIDENT said : I have to announce the gift of an oil-painting of the Dent Blanche by Mr. Henry Howard, who deserves the hearty thanks of our Club for presenting us with this fine specimen of his work. I should like to point out that this is a good example that other artistic members of the Club might follow with advantage. The Club will, no doubt, wish me to convey their best thanks to Mr. Howard for his handsome present.

I think that the Club will like to know that, acting on a hint given by my predecessor in this chair, it has been determined to issue the ALPINE JOURNAL after the end of this year in an annual volume, consisting of four quarterly numbers, as the biennial volume of eight numbers has now become inconveniently large and bulky to handle. The Committee hope that the change will be acceptable to the Club.

I have to announce the deaths of the following members. Mr. T. G. Ouston, a well-known and very distinguished surgeon in the North, who was a member of the Club for ten years, has passed away prematurely at the age of forty. He was specially known in connexion with his climbs amongst the Scottish Hills, and also with

explorations in Norway and Corsica. Mr. H. C. Robinson who was elected a member of the Club in 1894 has also passed from us. He was formerly well known as a keen rock climber to those of us who went to the Zermatt district, and he was also one of the first Englishmen to make some of the more difficult Dolomite ascents in the Cortina district. He had been in bad health of late, and was probably not so well known to the younger as to many of the older members of the Club.

You all know that on September 16 passed away, suddenly and painlessly, Edward Whymper, in the seventy-second year of his age. By his death the whole Alpine world, of which he was in many ways the most renowned and remarkable figure, is deeply affected, while this Club, of which he was a most loyal and faithful son, sustains a grievous loss.

For himself, as an old friend of his of many years' standing, I will venture to say that he was 'felix opportunitate mortis.'

Death came to him swiftly and unexpectedly, as I think he would himself have chosen, under the shadow of the great range with which so many of his early mountaineering triumphs were connected.

He had already exceeded the span of life allotted by the Psalmist. His health, hitherto of the most robust, showed signs of giving way, and he was threatened at no distant date with the loss of what was to him the most precious gift of all, his eyesight.

He had lived to see the art of wood-engraving, of which he was in his day, perhaps, the finest living exponent, practically destroyed by the mechanical processes of a material age.

Most of the companions of his Alpine triumphs had preceded him across the Great Divide, and his life was rather in the past than in the future.

His was a masterful nature overflowing with an exceptional energy; a dogged determination which declined to own defeat, and a phlegmatic persistence before which most obstacles eventually vanished.

He had a fine physique and a perfectly magnificent constitution, impervious alike to equatorial heat and to arctic cold.

He was not only a skilful and experienced mountaineer but a born explorer and investigator of nature in all her various forms.

In the art alike in his early days of preparing for the ascent of some virgin peak and subsequently for a prolonged tour in unknown and unexplored regions he was unsurpassed.

Nothing escaped his all-pervading attention. Everything was mapped out and planned beforehand in the most careful manner.

As a writer he was no less distinguished and successful. Pains-taking and elaborate to a degree that has rarely been equalled, it may be said that he wrote hardly a line

' quod non
Multa dies et multa litura coercuit, atque
Præsectum decies non castigavit ad unguem.'

Yet withal he managed to preserve an apparent spontaneity of style and raciness of narrative which instantly fascinated the attention of the reader and held him fast within its magic grasp.

In 1869, after four years of careful preparation, he published his 'Scrambles in the Alps,' that classic work which at once obtained and has ever since retained, not only in mountaineering circles but also with the general reader, a popularity unequalled by any other book of the kind. Since that date it has passed through many editions in various forms and has been translated into, at least, three foreign languages. It may be predicted with great confidence that this most fascinating and dramatic book will remain a lasting memorial of its writer for all mountaineering time.

Subsequently he produced other works of great merit and permanent reputation, though the 'Scrambles' will always retain unquestioned supremacy as his masterpiece in public estimation.

If genius consists, as has been said, in the infinite capacity for taking pains, then Edward Whymper possessed it in no ordinary degree.

After the terrible catastrophe of 1865 his chief energies were diverted, as was to be expected, from the Swiss Alps. He made successive exploring expeditions of the highest value to Greenland in 1867 and 1872, and to the Cordilleras of the Equator in 1880. In the first years of the present century, he several times visited the Canadian Rocky Mountains, where many new ascents, more especially in the summer of 1906 when the well-known guides, Christian Klucker, Joseph Pollinger and Christian Kaufmann accompanied him, were made under his auspices.

Of these ascents, so far as I am aware, no account has yet been published, though many of them were very important.

Whymper did not 'suffer fools gladly.' He had in his time endured much at the hands of the inquisitive stranger and had laid to heart the advice of Juvenal concerning him. To such percontatory persons he doubtless may have appeared abrupt, reserved and taciturn in his demeanour, but beneath the somewhat grim exterior there beat a kindly heart, and in the circle of his old friends he was a genial and agreeable companion, full of interesting reminiscence and of a dry humour all his own.

'He was a man, take him for all in all,
We shall not look upon his like again.'

Requiescat in pace.

I have also, with great regret, to inform members (a further notice will appear in the forthcoming number of the ALPINE JOURNAL) of the death through a sad accident on Mont Dolent, of Auguste Blanc of Bonneval. He was a young guide of great distinction and of charming disposition, who was dear to all who knew him, and, had he been spared, there was a great career before him.

It is right that, although he was not a member of this Club, the death of Colonel Edmund Smythe should be recorded with an expression of most sincere regret on our part. He died at

Bordighera on November 2 at an advanced age. He took part in the first ascent of the Höchste Spitze of Monte Rosa in July 1855. He also accomplished some remarkable ascents in India and on several occasions penetrated into Tibet.

Mr. SOLLY mentioned the death of Mr. Max Schintz in September last.

The PRESIDENT said that he had not previously heard of Mr. Schintz's death, which would be much regretted by the Club, but that he well remembered him in his early years as a brilliant cragsman and as one of the fastest walkers he had ever known, who had for many years been in the foremost rank of climbers.

Mr. H. O. JONES read a paper on 'Mont Blanc and the Grépon in 1911' which was illustrated by lantern slides.

Mr. YOUNG said: It is difficult to add anything to what Mr. Jones has said. My own principal feeling about the Mont Blanc expedition was one of gratitude to Blodig and H. O. Jones for asking us to go up with them. As regards the general mountaineering our route gave a sense of space and of height greater than I have felt elsewhere in the Alps. We had good fortune. We timed the ascent luckily, so that for 1500 feet in the couloir we had the shadow of the moon following just behind us, and we had barely an hour to wait on the Col for the sun. It was almost romantic. We found our climbing irons indispensable.

As regards the Grépon climb, Jones' restrained way of telling the story gives a better idea of the varied sensations and difficulties than could be given by more profuse detail or description. Nothing but perfectly dry rock, with a warm and sunny day and clear weather, would have made the climb possible. Some of it was the most difficult rock-climbing that I have seen. Our ascent of the final summit could be avoided by going up the 'Dunod' chimney. The climb provided an instance of the superiority of the first-rate guide over any type of amateur. With the exception of the two chimneys there would have been no part that good amateurs could not have done, but after the cumulative effect of the long previous strain, the chimney must have beaten all of us. Knubel, however, after all his hard work, remained as fresh as ever.

Mr. MORSE said: I can only say that I think the Club should congratulate the party very much on the very fine ascent they have made. I know nothing about that side of the peak except that once I saw a rock about the size of a grand piano go down that couloir. I can say that the top point which was climbed in so fine a way by Knubel was extremely difficult. Naturally a guide can do better than an amateur. I have often looked at the route but never tried to ascend. I know the other side of the peak and I consider that a very fine climb has been accomplished.

Dr CLAUDE WILSON said: I remember being let down from the top of the Grépon on a rope, no doubt at the place where Knubel climbed up the final crag. We had gone up by the 'Dunod' chimney

and having got to the top found that we had left an ice-axe and I was let down on the Mer de Glace side. I am quite sure that I could not have climbed up it. I remember on another occasion inspecting that side of the Grépon with the idea of finding a route from the Trélaporte side, and while looking I saw coming down from the Col between the Charmoz and the Grépon an avalanche of stones that lasted for some minutes. This year there was so little ice that probably there was much less falling matter than usual. The other expedition strikes me as one of the finest ever made in the Alps, and I do not suppose that so magnificent an expedition has ever before been made anywhere in the course of a single day. I should like to ask one thing that interests me. I have often had a wish to get up the Peuteret ridge, and I wish to know whether, if you get up, you might find yourself cut off by a cornice to prevent you getting to the ridge of Mont Blanc de Courmayeur. At the end of an expedition like that to be cut off by a large cornice would place one in a very bad position.

The PRESIDENT said : I am certain that everyone in the room is delighted that it has fallen to Mr. Jones to put a coping stone to the series of explorations he has made in past years on the southern side of the range of Mont Blanc and to accomplish this magnificent ascent. I entirely agree with Dr. Wilson's view that such a fine expedition has rarely if ever been accomplished in one day either in the Alps or in any other mountain range in the world. The weather was so magnificent this year that the party was able to do what it will probably be many years before even persons of such skill and pace as they will have a chance of accomplishing again. I beg to move a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Jones for his most interesting and admirable paper.

In reply Mr. Jones said : One feels glad to have succeeded in doing something so often tried. The advantages necessary to success, the weather, the condition of the mountain, one's companions were perfect. In answer to Dr. Wilson I should like to say that there is no cornice at the point, at least not so big as to prevent one getting up. Beyond that point there is a formidable cornice.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall of the Club on Monday evening, December 11, at 8.30 P.M., Sir Edward Davidson, *President*, in the chair.

The following candidates were balloted for and elected members of the Club : Messrs. Bernard Meredith Allen, George Thomas Amphlett, John Mackintosh Bell, Allston Burr, Alexander Morris Carr-Saunders, Charles Inglis Clark, Philip Scott Minor, Edward Fielden Pilkington, William Seaford Sharpe, Edward Oliver Wheeler.

The PRESIDENT said : The Club will be very sorry to hear—I only heard the sad news myself just before entering this room—that Sir Joseph Hooker died this afternoon. He was one of the pioneers of exploration in the Himalayas, and afterwards explored the Great Atlas Range with his great friend, the first President of this

Club, Mr. John Ball. He was almost the last survivor of the great scientific generation of fifty years ago which included Darwin, Huxley and Tyndall, with all of whom he was intimately acquainted. There is one, and only one, of that great generation who still lives in the person of Alfred Russel Wallace. Sir Joseph Hooker has died at the age of ninety-four, full of years and honours, but we shall all regret no longer to see his most distinguished name in the list of our Honorary Members.

I have to announce to the Club that the Committee by virtue of the powers conferred upon them have elected as Honorary Members, Professor Dr. Karl Diener of the University of Vienna, who has been several times President of the Austrian Alpine Club, and Professor Coleman, F.R.S. Both of these gentlemen have accepted this honour, the greatest which we can offer them, with expressions of pleasure and satisfaction.

I declare the following gentlemen to be duly elected for 1912 as officers of the Club :

As Vice-President : Mr. E. A. Broome in place of Capt. J. P. Farrar, D.S.O., whose term of office expires.

As Honorary Secretary : Mr. C. H. R. Wollaston in place of Mr. J. J. Withers, who retires.

As New Members of the Committee : The Rev. G. Broke, Messrs. C. Cannan, and W. N. Ling, and Major E. L. Strutt, in the places of Messrs. L. C. M. S. Amery, A. D. Godley, Eric Greenwood and J. H. W. Rolland, whose respective terms of office expire.

The President, the Vice-President, Mr. J. Norman Collie, and the other elective members of the Committee, being eligible, are re-elected.

Mr. H. WOOLLEY said : I have great pleasure in moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Withers on his retirement, and in doing so I need hardly emphasise our indebtedness to him. We all know how onerous the duties of the Honorary Secretary are, and how thoroughly and cheerfully they have been performed during the past three years. The correspondence alone demands a very great sacrifice of time, and a characteristic feature of our Honorary Secretary's methods is that no communication, however unimportant, ever fails to receive a reply by return of post. During the last few years exceptional matters have demanded attention. Among many others there have been the protracted negotiations for the renewal of the lease, which Mr. Withers concluded on very satisfactory terms ; but the circumstance which impressed me most was that in addition to his ordinary official duties he was able to undertake and complete the revision of several sections of the new volume of the 'Alpine Guide.' All his colleagues will retain very pleasant memories of his willing helpfulness and of the happy relations that have marked the whole period of his tenure of office, and in retiring he carries with him the assurance of our high appreciation of all that he has done for us. I move that our warmest thanks be tendered to Mr. Withers for his valuable services as Honorary Secretary of the Club.

CAPTAIN FARRAR seconded the motion, and said : No one admires more than I do the energy and tact displayed by Mr. Withers during his term of office.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The PRESIDENT returned thanks for Mr. Withers and said : As many of you know, Mr. Withers has been, through overwork, visited with a complete loss of voice, and though he is very much better now, he has been forbidden by his medical man to speak above a whisper, and has been warned that it would be unwise for him to attempt to address an audience of this size. He has, therefore, written a letter to me which he has asked me to read to the meeting :—

The President then read the following letter :—

‘ MY DEAR PRESIDENT,

‘ I am rather perturbed at your statement that according to precedent a vote of thanks to me will be moved to-night at the General Meeting.

‘ If it must be, and if the Club is good enough to carry it, will you very kindly tell them that owing to the state of my throat my doctor will not give me permission to try and speak even a few words.

‘ Will you say for me that I am deeply moved by this act of appreciation of my poor services, that I thank my fellow-members one and all for their forgiveness of my numerous sins of act and omission. Please add that one of my most cherished memories will be the recollection of the courtesy and consideration which I have received, and the numerous friendships I have formed, as Honorary Secretary of the Alpine Club. Will you beg them to extend their goodness and generosity to my successor, who is a much better fellow than I can ever hope to be.

‘ I am, My dear President,

‘ Yours truly,

(sd) JOHN J. WITHERS.’

The PRESIDENT added : I am perfectly certain that the Club will not agree with the latter portion of the last sentence of this letter, although they will with equal certainty extend their generosity to Mr. Withers’s successor whose services we all feel we have been most fortunate to secure. I should have liked to add a few more words to show my own appreciation of Mr. Withers’s assistance and kindness to me personally, but I shall have a more public opportunity of doing this at a not very distant date.

Mr. Freshfield, as you knew Sir Joseph Hooker well, I am sure the Club would like to have a few words from you in regard to his loss.

MR. D. W. FRESHFIELD : I very willingly avail myself of the invitation of the President to add something to what he has said with regard to the very distinguished Honorary Member of whose death we have just heard. Sir Joseph Hooker’s name has been familiar to

me from my boyhood. Ever since I first read, fifty years ago, his 'Himalayan Journals' I have revered him as one of the first of mountain explorers, as well as the first of living botanists. When I became in 1881 an Honorary Secretary of the Royal Geographical Society, I lost no time in urging his too long overlooked claim to one of our Gold Medals. Mountain travel, up to that date, had been comparatively scantily recognised at the lower end of Savile Row. Of late years a Gold Medal has fallen to the lot not only of Edward Whymper, but of several less distinguished members of this Club.

When in 1900 I came home after treading in Sir Joseph Hooker's footsteps in Sikkim and Nepal he welcomed the results of my journey with almost boyish enthusiasm. At the age of eighty-four he ran upstairs at the Athenæum—despising the lift—to see Signor Sella's photographs. After reading the volume I had the honour of dedicating to him, he wrote me the most delightful letters, dwelling on the pleasure he had in having the great mountains brought again before his eyes. He described it as a 'rejuvenescence.'

Hooker was a type of the really great man of science—simple, enthusiastic, appreciative, large-minded, as eager to receive as to give out; the last survivor—but one—of the famous group of the nineteenth century in this country. To have been able to add anything to the pleasure of his splendid old age is the result of my Himalayan journey on which I most congratulate myself.

The present seems a fit occasion to mention to the Club that in the summer of 1910 one of our own members, Dr. A. M. Kellas, carried out a most successful four months' climbing tour in the Himalaya, mainly in the north of Sikkim, the scene of Sir Joseph Hooker's explorations and of my own travels. Using my Jonsong La as a means of passage backwards and forwards he explored thoroughly the source of the Zemu Glacier and climbed three peaks of over 22,000 feet, the highest, Pawhunri 23,180 feet. These ascents were made with no assistance except from native followers. Mr. Kellas had paid two previous visits to Sikkim, in which he had done much exploring work, and taken a number of valuable photographs.

Mr. J. NORMAN COLLIE then read a paper 'On a new group of mountains north of the Yellow Head Pass' which was illustrated by lantern slides.

Mr. MUMM said: Dr. Collie has left practically nothing for me to say, and the only addition I should like to make has to deal more with the upper part of the Stoney Valley, to sing its praises. There is a very attractive range on the south side practically untrodden. I went up to a gully in a side valley and looked down to the Moose Pass. There is a great deal more to be done there beyond the river which would be an interesting field for exploration. A minor thing I wish to refer to is the remarkable appearance of the mountains of a comparatively low range opposite the last one Dr. Collie spoke of. The mountains on the opposite side of Robson looked as if

they would give extraordinarily good climbing. I should like to mention that last year I had a Whymper tent made by Silvers of a material half the weight of Willesden canvas, and it proved thoroughly satisfactory. It was watertight and warm.

Mr. WOOLLEY said: Professor Collie and Mr. Mumm are to be congratulated on the excellent work they have done. They have certainly added a very important chapter to the history of the exploration of the Canadian Rockies. I remember that in 1898 when on Mount Diadem—our farthest point north—I was rather disappointed to notice that the mountains to the north of the Columbia snowfield appeared to decrease in altitude, but since then it has been proved that Mount Robson is higher than any of the southern peaks, and now another very attractive group still farther north has been found. The paper reminds me of a remark made a year ago by Mr. Mumm, that as fast as new peaks are climbed in the Canadian Rockies other new peaks are discovered in their place, so that the demand shows no sign of overtaking the supply. The members of the Alpine Club have in the past played an important part in the exploration of the Canadian Rockies and it is very gratifying to us that Professor Collie and Mr. Mumm are still carrying on the work so successfully.

Mr. AMERY said: I have listened with great pleasure to the paper and I have nothing to add, but I should like to ask whether the new range explored by Collie and Mumm had any suggestion of bigger peaks beyond. When we tried Robson we saw what looked a tremendous peak to the north-west in the morning, but it afterwards disappeared. I should like to know if there is any evidence of big peaks to the north-west of Robson. I was greatly impressed by the Caribou mountains. No one has been near them except one man who came over by the Canoe River and he thought some of them as large as Robson.

Mr. STUTFIELD said: We may congratulate Collie and Mumm on the paper and on the beautiful photographs shown. I followed the paper with a keen, I might say almost a personal, interest. I know Collie's keen interest in geography and his love for working out problems. I fear, however, that when I was with him I never took his conclusions on trust and we consequently had long discussions over every one of them. Dr. Collie has shown what an enormous amount of work there is to be done. There must be hundreds of mountains in the north-west still to be explored.

CAPTAIN FARRAR said: I think Dr. Collie is not aware of the vast amount of unrecorded exploration that is done by the prospector for gold and other minerals. It would probably be found that some of these men have penetrated even into the wilds of the Caribou Mountains. Dr. Collie places us under a great obligation in mapping these districts. I am not an explorer and always wait for the map maker to precede my visit to a new country.

I was in the neighbourhood of Mt. Robson this Autumn—in fact

by a peculiar coincidence the two Vice-Presidents of this Club must at one period of their respective journeys have been within a very few miles of each other.

Dr. Collie is held in high honour in Canada, although when one of his admirers told me that Dr. Collie had been a climber but was now an explorer, I was for the moment taken back. Yet however highly our explorers are esteemed elsewhere, it is, I tell them, on the floor of this Club that their deeds are most truly appreciated.

The PRESIDENT said: I beg to propose a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Collie. I trust that other members of the Club will be induced by his example to visit and explore these practically unknown regions. I cannot imagine anything more beautiful, from the artistic point of view as photographs, than those we have seen to-night, and their value topographically is also immense. Dr. Collie has re-mapped and practically re-constituted the greater portion of the area of his explorations and I hope his success in opening up this extraordinary new field to us will encourage others to follow in his footsteps.

The vote of thanks was unanimously carried.

THE WINTER DINNER of the Club was held at the Whitehall Rooms, Hotel Metropole, on Tuesday, December 12, 1911, at 7 p.m., Sir Edward Davidson, K.C.M.G., *President*, in the Chair. Two hundred and thirty-three members and sixty-seven guests sat down, among the latter being the Very Rev. the Dean of Norwich, the Rt. Hon. Viscount Churchill, the Hon. Mr. Justice Darling, Sir Alfred Cripps, K.C.V.O., K.C., M.P., Sir Alfred Ewing, K.C.B., Sir Henry Morris, Bart., Sir Thomas Barlow, Bart., Sir W. Ramsay, K.C.B., Sir Kingston Fowler, K.C.V.O., Sir F. C. Gould, etc.

AN EXHIBITION of Alpine Paintings and Drawings was held in the Hall from Tuesday, December 12, to Saturday, December 30, both days inclusive. Tea was provided on the afternoon of December 12, on which occasion between 600 and 700 visitors were present. The exhibition was attended by about 1200 visitors altogether.