

two routes that are in any degree possible : to the left up a little snow gully, and then by cracks round on to the N. face ; or to the right of the base a snow-filled crack runs obliquely upwards, beyond which it might be less difficult to advance than it looks.

The climb is worth repeating under more favourable weather conditions, and with, therefore, more time at our disposal.

IN MEMORIAM.

SIR ALFRED EAST, R.A.,

PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS.

THOSE who climb may do so for scientific purposes, for the sake of adventure, or simply because it is the finest and most health-giving exercise in the world, but whatever other motives they may have, the love of grand and inspiring scenery is common to all mountaineers, and it is natural that the Alpine Club should appreciate the art of landscape painting, and should welcome landscape painters as members of the Club. Sir Alfred East was one of the most distinguished of those who have been elected more on an artistic than on a climbing qualification : his love of travel and his interest in the scenery of many lands were quite in harmony with the spirit and traditions of the Club, and his death removes from its ranks an artist of world-wide fame. In his rendering of nature Sir Alfred was more interested in pictorial possibilities than in topographical facts, but wherever he was painting he never failed to give a true impression of local atmosphere and colour. For many years his pictures have been admired in all galleries of modern art, and perhaps those on whom the task of arranging exhibitions has fallen know best how their decorative qualities enhanced the value of any wall on which they were hung. It was never difficult to find a place where East's pictures would look well ; their masterly design and fine colour, combined with a simplicity which was attained by the careful elimination of facts which were not essential to his scheme, gave them great distinction, and they were a welcome relief to the eye among works attempting to give the infinite detail of nature. His impressions of the peaceful beauty of the Cotswold country, the soft brilliancy of Japan, and the rich colour of Spain will live in our memories among the best work of our time. In addition to his great artistic qualities Sir Alfred was possessed of untiring energy, and spared himself no

trouble in the furtherance of any cause in which he was interested, and though in his later years he suffered much he allowed no physical pain to interfere with his painting or with his devotion to the interests of the Society of which he was President.

ALFRED PARSONS.

CHARLES GILBERT HEATHCOTE.

IN Charles Heathcote the Alpine Club has lost a former Honorary Secretary, and one of those older members who are associated especially with the home-like rooms in St. Martin's Place. Though occasionally at meetings in the present Club-house, he was not, I believe, very often there, nor at many recent Alpine dinners, though he was present both at the Jubilee dinner and at the general meeting which preceded it.

Born in 1841, he was the son of John Moyer Heathcote, of Conington Castle, Huntingdon, and a younger brother of another John Moyer Heathcote, who, among other distinctions, was at one time champion amateur tennis-player. At Eton, Charles Heathcote was select in the Newcastle Scholarship, and played in the cricket eleven of 1859. From Eton he went as scholar to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he fully maintained his reputation for classical scholarship, obtaining a first class in the Classical Tripos of 1863. For a time he held a Fellowship at Emmanuel College; but was soon called to the Bar, and practised, living principally in London, until he accepted the post of Stipendiary Magistrate for the borough of Brighton. On his retirement he settled at Kilmeston Manor, near Alresford, Hants, where he died last December.

He was a man of many friends and many interests. To wide reading and culture he added various active pursuits besides that of mountaineering—a good cricketer in his boyhood, a good shot, an excellent skater (as became one born near the Fens), and not without repute as a tennis player, though, of course, no match for his elder brother. He was elected to the Alpine Club in 1863 and was Honorary Secretary in 1869. As a climber he was very sure and safe, and capable of enduring very long days without flagging; and he was an excellent type of a mountaineer at the time when we had not begun to climb without guides. He loved to be among the mountains; to climb among them; to learn their various beauties, and to paint them to the best of his powers; for, like most of his family, he was an accomplished sketcher in water-colours. My own acquaintance with him began at Eton, where I was a year his junior, and continued at Cambridge, and thenceforward. Among the many personal ties of affection, not the least was that to him I owed my first introduction to the Alps in 1866. With Michel Ducroz and Michel Balmat as guides we crossed several ordinary passes, the Weiss Thor, Valpelline, Col du

Géant, and others ; but climbed only one peak, the Grand Paradis. The only novelty we attempted together that year was the Col de Pierre Joseph from the Italian side, from which we were driven back eventually by bad weather. I recall his staunchness in a critical place on a very steep snow-slope of extremely bad snow—where, as it happens, we ought not to have been at all. Heathcote made the first passage of the Pierre Joseph a little afterwards, but to my lasting regret I had been called away to another part of Switzerland. The descent of the rocks on the Italian side was evidently far from easy. This was his last new expedition. In 1864 he had, in company with Robertson, made the first passage of the Laquin Joch ; and the account which he wrote of this and of the Pierre Joseph is in the third volume of the *JOURNAL*. In the same year he made the first passage of the Col de Diablons, and the first ascent of the Aiguille de Tour. For parts of the summers of 1867 and 1868 we were again together in the Alps, both in the Oberland and in the Engadine. In the following year he married a daughter of the Hon. Walter Wrottesley ; and did not revisit the Alps for several years. He was, however, in Switzerland two or three times in later years, and I remember him telling me that he climbed the Orteler with his son sometime in the 'nineties. No one ever had a cheerier or pleasanter companion for a bivouac or in a herdsman's chalet ; for our travels together were in those days—perhaps more romantic, if less luxurious days—when the cabanes on the Grands Mulets and the Aiguille du Gouté and at the Faulberg were the only three mountain huts in the Alps. He was always attracted by the frank hospitality of the high chalets and interested in the herdsmen's account of their lives, and many I believe of the older generation have the same feeling.

G. E. MARINDIN.

PAUL PREUSS.

BY DR. GÜNTHER FREIHERR VON SAAR.

It was on September 16 of last year, on a very fine evening in autumn ; three of us were sitting on the bench in front of the small game-keeper's hut above the Scharwandalm, and we gazed with much satisfaction at the bold towers and walls of the Gosaukamm, to which we intended to devote the next few days. Friend Reinl showed us the remaining problems of the jagged fantastic rock-mass : the Däumling, the Schartenmandl, and sundry others. But straight in front of us the smooth N. face of the Mandlkogel pierced threatening and ghostly into the clear evening sky. 'This face is the finest problem in the Gosaukamm !' exclaimed Preuss, and at once became absorbed in studying, with the help of his glass, the details of this formidable wall. 'Over the 150 m. high Schrofensockel up to the Plattenschuss ; then ascending traverse



Alfred Asel, photo.

Lwan Electric Engraving Co. Ltd.

Dr Paul Preuss.

to the right up to the ridge where the N. face and the W. face join ; up this ridge which is about 200 m. in height and pitched at an angle of 80° ; at the top of it, traverse to the left to the short cleft which terminates between the two summit teeth. Shall we try it to-morrow ? ' We others doubted the possibility of this climb ; Preuss hoped that the very slabby rock was firm everywhere. We declined the expedition, on the grounds that the route was exceedingly exposed and that we could not secure each other effectively with the rope ; good, then he would attempt it alone a fortnight later, for he certainly intended to try the finest problem of the whole Gosaukamm that season.

A few magnificent climbing days followed. With the greatest facility we made several difficult expeditions under Preuss' brilliant leadership. The way in which he solved the most difficult problems as if they were easy and self-evident is still in our vivid recollection. Then came the parting : '*Auf Wiedersehen !*'—It was not to be. Eleven days later Preuss returned alone to the district. On October 2 he was seen for the last time. As no news from him reached his home for ten days, we were asked if we knew anything about his movements. Our sad surmise that he had met with an accident on the N. ridge of the Mandlwand unfortunately proved to be true. On October 14 his body, covered with new snow half a metre deep, was found vertically below this ridge ; systematic sounding of the snow at the probable place of fall led to the discovery of his body. The distance he had fallen was probably about 300 metres. His serious injuries showed that he must have been killed instantaneously.—They laid his body on a bed of pine branches, and carried it down to the valley, and on a dull grey foggy autumn day he was buried in Altaussee in sight of his native mountains.

In Preuss, the German Alpine world has lost one of its most brilliant sons. In spite of his youth—he had barely reached the age of twenty-seven years—he had achieved so much in mountaineering, both physically and mentally, that we must go back a long way, to the unforgettable Emil Zsigmondy, in order to find a similar exuberantly youthful and victorious nature. He was born on August 19, 1886, in Altaussee, went to the Gymnasium in Vienna, then to the University there, and afterwards to Munich University, where he took his degree (Dr.Phil.) in 1912, his subject being the physiology of plants. This line of work did not, however, wholly satisfy him, and he took up empirical philosophy, intending to become a university lecturer in the near future.

His rare mental gifts showed themselves in whatever he did. His thesis for the doctorate is highly thought of by authorities on the subject. He was well read, had a remarkably good memory and great rhetorical powers ; all this would have ensured him a brilliant future had he gone in for a university career. Whatever he did, he went into it life and soul ; whatever it might be, it was well considered and carefully thought out. So he went on, from

deed to deed, from success to success. Self-conceit and self-complacency were strangers to him. His solid knowledge, his ready wit, and his overflowing humour made him a charming companion. All who had the good fortune to make an expedition with him admired his natural kindness and his great thoughtfulness for his companions. He was also an excellent chess- and tennis-player and fencer.

He was born and grew up in the beautiful mountain district of Altaussee, and his interest in the mountains was aroused at an early age. Curiously enough he was very weakly as a small child and only developed late. Later on he liked to go off and wander in the neighbouring Todtengebirge, the wide wastes of which gave scope to the exercise of his sense of direction. When he was eleven years old, he wandered with a friend to the Hofpürghütte, passed the night in the open from a lack of pence, and then, without any special equipment, ascended the Grosse Bischofsmütze. With gay delight he recalled this early experience when we passed through that district a few days before his tragic end. As a boy, he was fond of climbing about on steep grass slopes and so acquired an exceptionally good balance.

Reinl's climb up the Trisselwand near Aussee had a great influence in stimulating his Alpine ambitions. For weeks he studied the description of this ascent, till he ventured to undertake it, by his lone self. This was his first great Alpine adventure. Later on, with some of his school friends who were much inferior to him, he did several climbs on the Grimming, on the Dachstein, and in the Gesäuse. Only later, in 1908, did he turn his attention to more difficult problems, and found congenial companions in his sister, and subsequently in Paul Relly. With the latter, in particular, he systematically attacked increasingly difficult climbs in 1909, 1910, and 1911. Thus he was no heaven-born miracle, but acquired his marvellous skill by long and arduous work.

The first of his expeditions to attract attention was at the same time a turning-point in his climbing career. This solitary ascent of the W. face of the Todtenkirchl, early in the summer of 1911, was made in the incredibly short time of $2\frac{3}{4}$ h., and, what is more, included a new route in its upper section. The great walls of the Ennsthal and of the Wilde Kaiser were thus his climbing school. It was a pleasure to watch how he conquered a difficult piece of rock; how systematically he advanced metre by metre, trying everything, always retreating as soon as he began to tire or did not feel quite safe; all the time with a perfect balance of his slender, well-developed body.

In the course of a few years, Preuss made more than 1200 mountain ascents, including a large number of new ascents and of new routes, in nearly all parts of the Eastern Alps. Among his more important climbs the following may be mentioned: Crozzon di Brenta, ascent of the N.E. face; Guglia di Brenta, ascent of the

E. summit face and first complete traverse of this mountain ; first ascent and traverse of the Kleinste Zinne ; cross traverse of the Kleine Zinne, doing all four routes in one day ; N. ridge of the Grosse Oedstein (second ascent) ; traverse of the Langkofel, Fünffingerspitze and Grohmannspitze in one day (alone) ; ascent of the W. face of the Totenkirchel (alone) ; ascent of the S. wall of the Innerkoflerturm by the Riesenkamin.

Besides these, he did a great number of difficult climbs in the Gesäuse, in the Dachstein, in the Wilde Kaiser, in the Wetterstein, in the Dolomites, in the Silvretta group and finally in the Gosaukamm ; here, in his last few days, he succeeded in solving sundry problems which had hitherto been tried without success (Däumling, Schartenmandl, etc.), till he lost his life on the last of them, the N. ridge of the Mandlkogel.

But Preuss was by no means a rock gymnast pure and simple. The same expertness which he showed on rock, he also acquired on snow and ice. That is evidenced by his tours in the Ortler district (traverse of the Ortler *via* Marltgrat-Hochjoch, Trafoier Eiswand and Thurwieserspitze, Bäckmanngrat, etc.). In the last two summers he went to the Western Alps, where under Eckenstein's tuition he learnt modern ice-craft, and then devoted his attention, with enthusiasm, to the great problems of the 4000-m. peaks in the Mont Blanc range. Unfortunately the weather was not favourable to serious expeditions in these two seasons, so that he had to be satisfied with smaller climbs (Dent du Géant, Aiguille de la Brenva, Aiguille Jos. Croux and l'Innominata, Aiguille Savoie, Aiguille de Tronchey and Aiguille de l'Évêque, Aiguille Gamba and Mont Rouge de Pétéret, S. ridge of the Punta Isabella). Towards the end of last summer, together with his two friends, he succeeded in solving a magnificent problem : the ascent of the Aiguille Blanche de Pétéret by the S.E. ridge and traverse to the N.E., so that he discovered a way, difficult it is true, but quite safe from falling stones, up this beautiful but formidable mountain.

His projects in the Mont Blanc group were characteristic of his boldness and of his spirit of enterprise : traverse of the Grandes Jorasses, ascending by the Hirondelles ridge ; a direct ascent of Mont Blanc by the Brenva flank ; the traverse of the whole Pétéret ridge, from the Val Veni to the top of Mont Blanc. His intention was to ascend the S.E. ridge of the Mont Rouge de Pétéret, then descend by its N.W. ridge to the Fauteuil des Allemands, then ascend the Aiguille Noire de Pétéret by the usual route, descending to the Dames Anglaises, which were to be either circumvented or traversed. Then up the S.E. ridge of the Aiguille Blanche de Pétéret, and up the Pétéret ridge proper to the summit of Mont Blanc. Audacious and stupendous though this plan may appear at first sight, Preuss carefully and thoroughly proceeded to work out the details. Evidently the first thing which had to be done was to become acquainted with the component sections of

the whole route. He already knew part of the Mont Rouge de Pétéret; it was on that mountain that H. O. Jones and his wife and guide had perished, while Preuss, as he went ahead alone, unroped, escaped this fate. The Aiguille Noire de Pétéret he had ascended, by the ordinary route, that summer; the S.E. ridge of the Aiguille Blanche de Pétéret he was also already acquainted with. Hence the only thing needed to prove the actual possibility of executing this gigantic plan, was the portion from the summit of the Aiguille Noire to the Dames Anglaises. Preuss would indeed have been the man to solve this great problem; this will hardly be doubted by anyone who knew his endurance and his capacity for work. ¶

But it was not only in summer that he wandered into his beloved mountains; in winter also they drew him. On snowshoes he went forth into their wintry splendours, and here again his achievements were magnificent.

Thus, for instance, he crossed the Hohen Tauern in winter (ascending the Gross Glockner, the Gross Venediger, the Wiesbachhorn, the Grosse Geiger and the Dreierherrenspitze on the way), made expeditions in the Zillerthal district (Grosse Löffler, Moesele, Thurnerkamp with ascent of the redoubtable S. ridge, Olperer, Gefrorene Wand), then several ascents of the Hochkönig, as well as expeditions in the Kitzbühler Berge; finally ski expeditions in the Stubai (Zuckerhütl, Wilde Freiger), and in the Oetzthal (Wildspitze, etc.), as well as in the Silvretta group and in the Arlberg. Last winter he visited the higher Swiss mountains and ascended, on snowshoes, a number of 4000-m. mountains (Monte Rosa and its satellites, Gran Paradiso, etc.).

It is not surprising that public attention was drawn to his feats, and that his name soon became generally known. But what made him even more famous than his feats, were his many lectures and papers, which cover nearly the whole subject of mountaineering. In estimating the number of his lectures at a hundred, I am probably under rather than over the mark. The following is a short list of some of the lectures given by him during the last few years:—

‘Aus der Ortlergruppe,’ ‘Eine Dolomitenreise,’ ‘Turen im Wilden Kaiser,’ ‘Einiges über Wintersport,’ ‘Überschreitung der Guglia und des Crozzon di Brenta,’ ‘Ortler über den Marltrat, Trafoier Eiswand und Thurwieserspitze,’ etc.

‘Erfahrungen eines Kletterers,’ ‘Die Kleine Zinne,’ ‘Mit Schi auf den Grossvenediger,’ ‘Aus Fels und Eis,’ ‘Aus der Langkofelgruppe,’ ‘Auf den Dachstein von allen Seiten,’ ‘Eine misslungene Glocknertur,’ ‘Die Ennstaleralpen,’ ‘Das tote Gebirge,’ ‘Das Totenkirchel,’ etc.

On general subjects: ‘Geschichte und Entwicklung des modernen Alpinismus,’ ‘Alpinismus, Sport und Kultur,’ ‘Ost- und Westalpen,’ ‘Der Alpinismus bei uns und in anderen Ländern,’ ‘Klettertechnik,’ ‘Eistechnik,’ ‘Schitechnik,’ ‘Alpine Technik,’ ‘Geschichte des

Schilaufs und der Schitouristik,' 'Wintersport und Hochtouristik,' 'Winterturen alten Stils,' 'Schihochtouristik,' 'Von schweren und schwersten Kletterturen,' 'Ernstes und heiteres vom Schwierigkeitsbegriff,' 'Schwierigkeit und Gefahr beim Bergsteigen,' 'Meine schönsten Bergfahrten,' 'Auf neuen Touren,' 'Meine erste Hochtur,' 'Die Handhabung des Seiles,' 'Einführung in den Schilauf,' 'Einführung in die Hochtouristik,' 'Die Zukunft des Alpinismus,' 'Touristik und Jagd,' 'Die Hochalpengefahren des kommenden Winters,' etc.

Relating to the Western Alps: 'Winter auf dem Monte Rosa,' 'Schituren in den grajischen Alpen,' 'Auf Schi im Reiche der Viertausender,' 'Überschreitung des Zinalrothorns,' 'Altes und neues aus der Montblanc-Gruppe,' 'Die Aiguille noire und die Aiguille blanche de Pétéret,' etc.

Preuss' abilities as a speaker have already been mentioned. He spoke clearly and fluently, without notes, with an ease which many might have envied. One saw that he spoke out of a full memory. when he talked about mountain expeditions, and when he discussed theoretical questions, he had obviously ample thought and consideration at his disposal. He knew how to suit his words to the momentary disposition of his audience, how to condense and how to elaborate, as he thought advisable. But also in discussion, as controversialist, as upholder of bold theories, he wielded a keen blade. His arguments always struck home, without his ever becoming discourteous or showing any lack of personal consideration. He would cleverly pick out the joints in his opponent's armour, and then attack them with irresistible logic, pointed with keen wit.

Preuss was, however, not only a skilled rhetorician but also a brilliant writer. Among his mountaineering papers, the following may be mentioned:—

'Die Trisslwand,' 'Eine Tur in der Ortlergruppe,' 'Der Crozzon di Brenta,' 'Die Nordkante des Grossen Oedsteins,' 'Neue Touren in der Silvretta-Gruppe,' 'Die drei südlichen Vajolettürme,' 'Zwei Schitouren im Gebiet des Spannagelhauses,' 'Erfahrungen auf Sommerschiern,' etc., etc.

A power of vivid description, combined with much humour, distinguishes these papers, and yet they never tire one with the minutiae of technical or other conditions. Excellent photographs, taken either by himself or by his friends, illustrate most of his articles. But his wit really became irresistible when he intentionally and designedly treated subjects humorously ('Damenkletterei,' 'Putzi als Schiläuferin,' 'Kaiserdenkmal'). These articles surely are among the best that have been written in the field of Alpine humour.

Preuss' real and most important field was, however, that part of his writings in which he treats specific Alpine subjects. Here he is quite a different man. He dissects with unmerciful hand

and with forcible logic erroneous assumptions or faulty conclusions, wrong customs or unpractical suggestions. In particular, I should like to mention three papers which he hurled like bombs into the self-satisfied and smug hypocrisy of sundry Alpine circles and which led to animated debates for and against his assertions.

1. 'Die Alpenvereinsshütten im Winter' (published, under the pseudonym P. Schulze, in the 'Mitteilungen des Alpenvereins,' 1912).—With sarcastic humour he describes a number of nuisances in connexion with our Alpine huts in winter, and makes proposals for remedying them. That in doing this he had really touched a sore spot, was shown by the subsequent discussion of this question in 'Winter' and at the last general meeting of the *Alpenverein*.

2. 'Die Amateurfrage' (published in 'Winter' in 1912).—In this Preuss opposes the view that the many ski teachers should be excluded from club competitions and championship competitions, on principle, simply because they utilize ski-ing in order to earn their living. He points out that a strict definition of the term 'amateur' would exclude many individuals, in particular all those who gain any material profit, however small, from this sport. The fear of competition is the real but unacknowledged reason of this narrow-minded action.

3. 'Künstliche Hilfsmittel auf Hochtouren' ('Mitteilungen des D. und Oe. Alpenvereins'; 'Deutsche Alpenzeitung').—Taking into consideration the importance, from the ethical point of view, of the ideas brought forward by Preuss, they are worth closer consideration. Preuss starts with the axiom that the mountaineer, especially the climber pure and simple, should always limit his ambitions to his capacity; that he should try nothing to which he is not more than equal. From this axiom he deduces the following six theorems:

(1) One should not only be equal to any expedition which one undertakes, but more than equal to it.

(2) The standard of difficulty which a climber can conquer with safety when descending, and for which he can consider himself competent, with an easy conscience, should represent the limit of what he should attempt on his ascent.

(3) Hence the use of artificial aids only becomes justifiable in case of sudden threatening danger.

(4) The *Mauerhaken* (spike for driving in) is an emergency aid and not the basis of a system of mountaineering.

(5) The rope may be used for facilitating matters, but never as the sole means for making an expedition possible.

(6) The principle of safety is one of the highest principles. Not the spasmodic correction of one's own want of safety, obtained by the use of artificial aids, but that true primary safety which should result, with every climber, from a just estimate of what he is able, and what he desires, to do.

The enumeration of these six theorems led to much lively discussion. Whatever one's opinion may be, one thing is certain: Preuss asks for a purity of style, for an agreement between what a climber is able, and what he desires, to do, which makes it necessary for him to be a severe critic of himself. With this he has penetrated to the very spirit of mountaineering morality, the most secret recess of Alpine thought and feeling. The development of these thoughts alone should serve to keep his memory green.

It is intended to publish his papers in a collected form. Let us hope that we shall not have to wait too long before this intention is realized.

Truly Preuss did much in a few years, but it was only a part of what his indefatigable spirit had planned. He intended to issue a whole series of papers on expeditions he had made, a book about ski-mountaineering, a handbook of mountaineering generally, a study of mountains in winter, etc. We can only grieve that the hand which wished to write all this can no longer wield the pen.

If we have hitherto only considered Preuss as mountaineer, we must not forget Preuss as a man. It is by no means always the case that capable men are also amiable and companionable in character. But with Preuss these qualities were combined. His personal amiability, his flowing good-humour, and his constant readiness to help conquered all hearts. He was a truly kind-hearted man, a really noble chivalrous character, a faithful comrade on whom one could rely through thick and thin. Just as he could charm and delight grown-ups, so he at once conquered the hearts of children, with whom he could play and romp as if he were one of them, always ready for any kind of fun. As a companion he would always do the greatest amount of work and carry the heaviest load, and could hardly be induced to give up any of it. His rucksacks were proverbial; he could carry 20-25 kg., going at a good pace, even if the way were steep and difficult. Always ready to work and to help, always good-tempered and cheerful, he was an ideal companion on an expedition. How he found his way in most difficult country, seeing the best route at a glance, can only be fully appreciated by those who have seen him at work.

Now he rests from his bold expeditions and his bold conceptions, in the quiet cemetery of Aussee. As man and companion he won the regard and friendship of all with whom he came into contact; as mountaineer, he deserves a place beside the classical names of former decades.