

arguments clearly show that, taking all the facts at our disposal, the answer to the question, Is it possible to ascend the loftier Himalaya? undoubtedly is in the affirmative. Mountaineers, however, if they wish to conquer the highest mountains of the world, must make haste, for in the aeroplane we have a new and powerful engine for exploration; whether an aeroplane could, for one glorious hour, sit on the summit of Mount Everest, and then swoop down safely like an eagle from a crag to more hospitable climes, is a question that remains to be answered. But, as far as our present knowledge goes, physiologically it would be quite possible. The satisfaction of such an ascent would be immense, but it would be of a totally different kind from the joy of the mountaineer who, after weeks of struggling in sunshine and storm with the great mountain, had ultimately conquered.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ULRICH LAUENER.

DEAR CAPT. FARRAR,—I read with very great interest the account of Ulrich Lauener and of his Führerbuch in the last *ALPINE JOURNAL*. It appealed specially to me because on my first visit to Switzerland, with my life-long friend and comrade, Dr. Robert Spence-Watson, in 1861, we found Ulrich Lauener in his home at Lauterbrunnen disengaged, and had the privilege of his services for two or three days, from Lauterbrunnen, by Mürren, the Seftenthal, the Kienthal, the Dündengrat, and the Oeschinen-See, to Kandersteg, and then on to the Gemmi, on which he was obliged to leave us.

We never had his services afterwards, because when we got to Chamonix it was our good fortune to have allotted to us, from the Roll of Guides, Joseph Marie Claret, who was our guide, companion, and friend for nearly thirty years, taking us up Mont Blanc by the 'ancien passage' in 1865 and Monte Rosa in 1866.

I can remember as if it were but yesterday how our good Joseph, on the 'ancien passage,' pushed us on 'Allez, messieurs, allez, vite, vite!' I should imagine that the descent by the 'ancien passage' is usually made at a killing pace, since as the day advances, there is, I imagine, always a risk of falling ice.

In the old days we regarded it as something almost immoral to spend two nights in the same bed (Sundays, of course, excepted). But as you get older you settle more into centres and headquarters. I should say, moreover, that the increase in rock climbing and the searching out of difficult routes, apart from their ultimate or practical object, has the tendency to make one cover less ground and to work more in detail from a centre. John Ball's dicta as to the objects of climbing mountains and crossing passes are now, I fear, out of date.

Though now in my 82nd year and debarred from further climbing, I was able to keep it up vigorously to my 75th year and to record up to the very last ascents of 12,000 ft., my headquarters for the last 15 years being Fionnay, in the Val de Bagnes, and my excellent guide Maurice Bruchez, of Chable.

It has been a great pleasure to revive old memories.

I am, yours faithfully,

HENRY T. MENNELL.

PS.—I had entertained a faint hope that some record of our engagement might be found in the Lauener 'Führerbuch,' and through the kindness of Dr. Claude Wilson, in whose hands it was, I have been furnished with the following copy of the entry in the 'Buch,' 55 years old:

'Ulrich Lauener has come with us by Mürren over the Dünden-grat &c. Being unwell, we had to part with him on the Gemmi, to our great sorrow.

'We believe him to be a first-rate guide, and *know* him to be a most excellent and kind companion.

'ROBERT SPENCE-WATSON,
Newcastle-on-Tyne.

'Sept. 10, 1861.'

HENRY TUKE MENNELL,
Newcastle-on-Tyne.

THE GALERIE ROUTE ON THE MATTERHORN.

IN the last JOURNAL it is stated that Mr. Leighton Jordan's *ascent* in 1867 was by the Galerie (Grove's route) and the *descent* by Maquignaz's face route. It would, however, appear from further conversations with Mr. Leighton Jordan that his ascent was also by the Italian face. In our earlier conversations I do not seem to have been sufficiently explicit to make it quite clear to Mr. Leighton Jordan that the Galerie route which, as he quite correctly states, diverges at the Col Félicité from Maquignaz's route (which keeps throughout to the Italian face), *traverses the entire Tiefenmatten face* so as to strike the Zmutt arête. Mr. Jordan was originally under the impression that the Galerie route, which he knew only by the name of Grove's route, after a short traverse on the Tiefenmatten face *returned* to the Italian face and so gained the summit—hence the discrepancy. He is however now quite clear that he was never off the Italian face until he reached the summit, and he is therefore the first traveller to make the ascent of the Matterhorn by a purely Italian route. The Tiefenmatten face is of course on Swiss ground.

It will be readily understood that in 1867 the guides who had opened the Galerie route were not very likely to tell very much to competitors, as Mr. Jordan's guides, the Maquignaz, were, and Mr. Jordan's impression is thus readily accounted for.

Above the Col Félicité, so far as the cliff where the Echelle Jordan

now hangs, Mr. Jordan's lines of ascent and descent appear to have coincided. He tells me when in the *ascent* they got to the ledge below the Echelle a rope from Maquignaz's previous expedition was hanging above them but more to the left (W.). On the *descent* this rope was moved to the left (E.) to probably the place where the Echelle now hangs and where the cliff is lower, although no doubt steeper. Probably other minor variations were made between the Echelle and the summit.

Mr. Leighton Jordan's explorations were evidently very considerable and virtually make him the first traveller to traverse the mountain as well as to make the first ascent by a purely Italian route, and I may state with confidence that he now knows more of the Galerie route than any traveller who has not known the supreme satisfaction which one feels in treading it.

J. P. FARRAR.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall, 23 Savile Row, W., on Monday, December 11, 1916, at 8.30 P.M., the Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Pickford, *President*, in the Chair.

The following candidates were balloted for and elected members of the Club—namely Messrs. A. B. Bryn, G. L. Corbett, N. E. Odell, and the Rev. T. H. Philpott.

The *PRESIDENT*, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 29, declared the following gentlemen to be duly elected for 1917:—

As *President*, Captain J. P. Farrar, D.S.O., in place of the Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Pickford whose term of office expires.

As *Vice-Presidents*, Mr. George Yeld and Lieut.-Colonel E. L. Strutt.

As *Honorary Secretary*, Major G. E. Gask, R.A.M.C., F.R.C.S., in place of Mr. C. H. R. Wollaston, who retires.

As *Members of Committee*, Messrs. J. H. Clapham, W. T. Kirkpatrick, Claude A. Macdonald, H. W. Belcher, Major J. P. Somers, Lieut.-Colonel A. H. Tubby, C.M.G., M.B., F.R.C.S., M.S., and the Rev. W. C. Compton and Messrs. W. H. Ellis and E. B. Harris in the places of Mr. J. E. C. Eaton, Major G. E. Gask, and Lieutenant C. F. Meade, who retire by effluxion of time.

It was proposed and seconded, and carried unanimously, that Messrs. G. E. Howard and R. S. Morrish be elected Auditors, to audit the Club accounts for the current year.

In declaring the election of Captain Farrar as President of the Club for the coming year, the *PRESIDENT* said:—I wish to congratulate the Club upon the election of Captain Farrar as President.

His qualifications for the post cannot be better expressed than in the words used by Sir Edward Davidson three years ago: 'Captain Farrar's practical experience and knowledge of mountaineering are unsurpassed by those of anyone now living, and his acquaintance