

them. The Reviews are not so plentiful as usual, owing to the rather verbose *Chronik* of the sections. M. Paul Montandon's review of the 'Climbers' Guide to the Engelhörner' is very amusing. Altogether a fine volume.

F.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall, 23 Savile Row, W., on Tuesday, February 6, 1917, at 8.30 p.m., Captain J. P. Farrar, D.S.O., *President*, in the Chair.

Captain Farrar, on taking his seat as President for the first time, was warmly greeted by the members present.

The following candidates were balloted for and elected members of the Club—namely, Messrs. C. A. Elliott and R. J. Farrer, Lieut.-Col. B. E. M. Gurdon, C.I.E., D.S.O., Mr. R. Lamb, and Captain P. H. Sharpe, R.E.

The PRESIDENT announced the deaths since the last General Meeting of the following members of the Club—namely, Mr. Montagu Woodmass (1863), Mr. A. H. Burton (1874), and Mr. F. W. Whitridge (1884).

He also referred to the telegrams which had passed between the American Alpine Club and this Club, copies of which appeared in the February number of the JOURNAL, and mentioned that one of our members, Mr. N. H. Read, an American elected in 1916, is serving in the British Army as a 2nd Lieutenant in the R.F.C. His father writes: 'No matter what John Bull thinks of U.S., every *American* is for old England.'

Sir MARTIN CONWAY then read a Paper entitled 'A Paper without a Title.'

A discussion followed and Mr. DOUGLAS W. FRESHFIELD said: It is difficult in this arctic temperature to collect one's thoughts sufficiently to make even a few remarks. But I am glad to testify to the pleasure we have all had in listening to Sir M. Conway's suggestive discourse. What he said about mountain nomenclature specially interested me, for I have had in my time something to do with it in different countries. In a popular district names tend to multiply, for whenever a fresh knob is climbed, its conqueror strives to give it an individual existence by putting a name to it. Sir M. Conway has perhaps accomplished a unique feat in not only imposing names of his own invention on Swiss peaks, but in inducing the Federal Staff to adopt them and insert them in the official maps. In the Himalaya I have been less lucky; the Indian Survey stick to 'Mount Everest' as against any Tibetan or Nepalese title. In the Caucasus, however, I have played godfather to several important summits, among them Shkara, the third (or possibly second) highest in the range. I am very much in favour, in

inhabited regions, of leaving the peaks their native names or giving them characteristic names. There are inconveniences in using peaks as personal monuments, even when, as in the Far West, there are no native names to fall back on. Thus when a number of peaks in the Rockies were named after past presidents of this Club, the first ascent of one of them was tersely recorded in the *JOURNAL* in the following phrase: 'Freshfield proved an impostor.'

Before I sit down I may perhaps be allowed to refer to an incident in the search through old hotel-books, instituted in the last year or two, which has so far not been brought to the notice of our industrious Editors. It is in the form of a sonnet, addressed to Sir Martin Conway. It dates evidently from the time when he was President of the Club. It runs—if I can quote it correctly—as follows. The medallion referred to is probably that executed by the late Mr. Onslow Ford.

ON A MEDALLION OF THE AUTHOR OF 'THE ALPS
FROM END TO END.'

When I behold this rampant crest of hair,
This youthful mien, so blandly resolute,
I feel the captious critic must be mute
Before a Knight and President so rare.
Great End-to-Ender, climber past compare,
A rolling-stone, on which not moss takes root
But trees of knowledge, bearing golden fruit
That puffing publishers make haste to share.

One year we watch with wonder, while you stroll
Planetabling on some peak of Himalay;
The next, we find you rambling at the Pole,
Andes, Spitsbergen: where are you to-day?
At home, or off on some new Expedition,
Professor, critic, climber, politician.

Dr. CLAUDE WILSON said that there was much in Sir Martin Conway's interesting paper which suggested comment to those who were more or less his contemporaries. He would confine his remarks to three points.

He believed that Sir Martin was wrong in supposing that his genius for finding suitable names for mountains was not generally recognised. Speaking for himself, he regarded Sir Martin as the one person who could always be relied upon to find a suitable and often a beautiful name, and he imagined that this view was widely held. He wished that Sir Martin's principles could have been applied in the naming of Canadian mountains. Sir Martin had mentioned the Wellenkuppe, a mountain of which he (the speaker) made one of the early ascents, in company with Sir George Savage. In spite of the horrid German tongue, the name was both descriptive

and poetical. In the Chamonix district Sir Martin had supplied some excellent names. He would allude to a few in which he had a special interest—the peaks on the ridge running from the Verte to the Moine, and to the Dent de Requin. He had been a good deal mixed up with early attempts on the Requin, before it had a name, and when it used to be referred to as ‘the peak round the corner,’ and was also known by other unsuitable explicatives. Its resemblance to a shark’s tooth was instantly recognised by Conway, and accepted by all as the best of all possible names. The Nonne, the Evêque, and the Cardinal were all of them suitable names, which at once caught on.

Sir Martin had referred to the difficulty of describing routes accurately. We were all of us indebted to him for the immense trouble he had taken, and grateful for the help thus secured. But some of us had been led astray by the badly described routes, and still more by wrong routes clearly described, and personally he had cursed his ‘Conway’ now and then. He had, however, more sympathy than was once the case with the writers of these accounts. On the first ascent of the Nonne, when his party traversed it, it had fallen to his lot to write a short description of the route, from memory, and some time after the event. He had felt no doubt that the chimney by which the descent was made could be identified, because he recollected that it was just opposite to the Jardin. But when, some years later, he attempted to lead a party up, they had found, as might have been anticipated, some half-dozen chimneys to which that description would apply, and they quite failed to reach the foot of any one of them. It was easy to describe an arête route, or one by an obvious couloir, but he feared it was impossible adequately to describe, without diagrams, an intricate route up a face.

Referring to the Alps in winter, he (the speaker) had made a few winter ascents; but it was not for climbing that most of us visited the Alps at that time of year. It was rather to skate and ski and curl, and the proximity of the great mountains was merely an incidental joy. But it was only those who knew them in the summer that could fully appreciate them in winter. There was a view-point on the Mürren side of the Lauterbrunnen valley from which, in winter, when the whole landscape was snowclad, the Männlichen actually looked higher than the Jungfrau; and those who only knew the former were quite unable to appreciate the difference between its small snow hollows and the vast ice-fields that lay between the Jungfrau and the Silberhorn. In the summer the majesty of the great mountains was much more obvious, but in both seasons it was only to those who were personally familiar with the upper world of ice that the glory of the mountains was fully revealed.

Mr. H. V. READE said that he wished to express the deep gratitude which he felt to Sir Martin Conway for the ‘Climber’s Guides.’ He had never seen the ‘Zermatt Pocket Book,’ but the two ‘Penine’ guides came out first when he was beginning to climb, and

those and their successors had been his inseparable companions ever since. To those who tried to do without 'guides' in the ordinary sense, these little books were simply invaluable. He quite understood Sir Martin's difficulty in interpreting the accounts which people wrote of their climbs, and no doubt this was why he had sometimes found that the descriptions in the guides, though quite clear, were entirely wrong. Of course this would only be where Sir Martin had not himself done the climb. But he sympathised also with the writers, since he found it very hard to write accurate accounts of his own expeditions. Not long ago, when he and two friends had made a new route on Lliwedd, the three of them spent several hours in trying to write a joint account of it which would reconcile their different impressions, though the whole thing was only some 500 feet of rock. Fortunately he had not felt, like Sir Martin, that mountains lost their mystery and beauty if one knew them too well. He had done some fifty climbs on that face of Lliwedd, but could still find it mysterious and beautiful as he left it in the gathering darkness. If one could feel this of a little Welsh peak, one felt it much more of the great snow mountains.

Professor J. N. Collie, Sir Claud Schuster, and Sir Alexander Kennedy also spoke, and the proceedings terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to Sir Martin Conway for his very interesting Paper.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall, 23 Savile Row, W. 1, on Tuesday, March 6, at 8.30 P.M., Capt. J. P. Farrar, D.S.O., *President*, in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT announced the death, in his eightieth year, of Mr. Alexander Rivington, a member since 1861.

He also expressed the great regret felt by the Alpine Club at the news of the death of Monsieur le Capitaine H. Duhamel of the Chasseurs Alpins.

A veteran of the 1870 campaign, Captain Duhamel rejoined his old regiment on the outbreak of war and rendered valuable services as chief of the section of Skieurs.

Captain Duhamel is well known as a distinguished mountaineer, as one of the early explorers of the Dauphiné, and the joint-author with Mr. Coolidge and M. Perrin of the 'Guide du Haut Dauphiné,' as well as the author of the well-known map of that district. No one who ever came into contact with Captain Duhamel could fail to carry away the happiest memories of his transparent candour and charm of manner.

Mr. DOUGLAS W. FRESHFIELD read a Paper entitled 'Some Passes,' which was illustrated by lantern slides.

A discussion followed and, responding to a call from the President, Lord BRYCE said that he was sure they were all very grateful to Mr. Freshfield for an extremely valuable paper which had touched on many interesting topics and had thrown a fresh light upon all of them. So many topics had indeed been touched on that it was

hard to know which of them to select for comment. To the older members of the Club the connexion of each great Alpine pass with history became, as they were less and less able themselves to scale the peaks or to divert themselves by threading labyrinths of séracs upon the glaciers, a more and more fascinating theme for study and reflection. As regards the track followed by Hannibal, he had been inclined towards the Mont Genève until he had read Mr. Freshfield's arguments for the Col de l'Argentière. He agreed absolutely with what Mr. Freshfield had said regarding the Little St. Bernard. Having traversed it some seventeen years ago, he had then come to the same conclusion that whatever way Hannibal went he certainly did not go over that pass. Not only were the physical features of the route entirely different from those described or assumed in the narratives of Hannibal's travels, but it was in the last degree improbable that Hannibal coming from Spain, and it must be remembered that he was coming from Spain and not from Paris, would lead his large army so far up to the N. and away down from the N.W. through the long valley of Aosta into the furthest corner of N. Western Cisalpine Gaul when he had a shorter route and lower passes so much nearer the Southern Rhône valley. What Mr. Freshfield said about the military importance of the gorges below the high passes as compared with the tops of the passes was absolutely true. Those who had read General Dufour's fascinating book on Mountain Warfare would remember the stress there laid upon the historical instances which showed that the most defensible positions were well down in the valleys below the watersheds. This truth was admirably illustrated in the ever famous campaign of Suvorov in 1799, when he fought his way with no very great difficulty up the Gothard from Val Leventina, drove the French down the valley of the Reuss to Altdorf, was stopped at Flüelen by the want of boats to reach Lucerne, the French having prudently carried off all the boats, then turned E. and N., crossed the pass of the Kinzig Kulm into Canton Schwytz, was there stopped by the French who held strong positions in the Muota Thal, then turned E. again and crossed the Prigel Pass into Glarus, was once again held up there in the narrow exit from Glarus towards the N. by a detachment of Masséna's army, and finally escaped from an *impasse*, where his army would have starved, by crossing the Panixer Pass into the valley of the Vorder Rhein, where he arrived pretty late in the autumn with forces terribly reduced. Few Alpine journeys offer more interest to the historian than this one. The present war had been giving a good many examples of mountain warfare all along the line of the frontier between Italy and the territories of Austria in Tyrol, Carinthia and Carniola: and when peace returned many would find it interesting to examine that frontier, probably the most thoroughly fortified as well as naturally strong against which a gallant army had ever dashed itself. So, too, there had been hard fighting on the passes which crossed the frontier between Transylvania and Moldavia on the W. of the latter country,

and on those between Transylvania and Walachia. One of the latter was the Rothenthurm Pass, which reminded him of a time when he was travelling in those regions more than fifty years ago with one whose name they all cherished with affectionate reverence, Leslie Stephen. They were staying for a day or two at Hermannstadt, some eight miles N. of the Rothenthurm, and had projected an excursion to it. When, however, they discovered that the pass was along the course of a river, the Aluta, which here descends from Transylvania into the Danubian plain, Leslie Stephen denied that it ought to be called a pass at all, declaring that name ought to be reserved for a col or joch across a mountain ridge; and his interest in the expedition, which in fact they were never able to take, was palpably reduced. In old days 'pass' used to mean merely a passage through hills, not necessarily over a height. The Pass of Killiecrankie, famous in Scottish history, was, as they all knew, along the banks of the Garry. He would not take up their time by referring to other passes mentioned by Mr. Freshfield except to observe that the Septimer, much used by the Romans, furnished a very interesting short excursion from the Maloja to those climbers who were waiting there for a fine day to attack the Monte della Disgrazia.

Referring to the slide pictures, Mr. Freshfield had delighted them with his ingenious idea of taking them from Brockedon's book, published a century ago. He had been struck by the character of the rock forms as those appeared in the views. He would venture to suggest that they belonged to that type of the representation of rocks which came down from Salvator Rosa. The earlier Italian painters—certainly Titian and Cima—and he thought also the Milanese painters who represented the mountains along the great Italian lakes, gave strong sharp outlines to their rock forms, whereas Salvator's were soft and vague—one might almost say woolly: and that tradition seemed to have survived till Turner, whose eye for rocks and mountain forms was incomparable, began to see and paint rocks as they are, distinguishing the forms of each kind with an eye that might have been that of a geologist.

The mention of tunnels by Mr. Freshfield opened a painful subject. They, with the introduction of chains and iron footholds, and, in the deplorable cases of the Pelmo and Terglou, the actual carving away of those rock difficulties which had made part of the charm of a mountain, were subjects really too painful to be discussed in public. Our feelings might be too much for us. He would conclude by again expressing the gratitude they must all feel to one of the honoured veterans of exploration as well as of climbing for a singularly fresh and most instructive paper.

The PRESIDENT, in proposing a hearty vote of thanks, stated that Mr. Freshfield was a standing satisfaction to the Club, and was a model of sustained keenness and knowledge. The vote was carried with acclamation.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall, 23 Savile Row, W. 1., on Tuesday, April 3, 1917, at 8.30 P.M.; Captain J. P. Farrar, D.S.O., *President*, in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT announced the deaths of Mr. C. R. Lyne and Mr. W. W. Simpson, members since 1902 and 1874 respectively. He also announced with very great regret the death in action of one of the best of the younger members of the Club, Mr. Neville S. Done, and in doing so said: 'Most of us remember the charming speech made by Mr. Done at the end of Sir Edward Davidson's term of office, and it seems but yesterday that his keen alert figure occupied this desk to give us a most interesting narrative of one of his Alpine journeys.

'Gentlemen, a Club like ours must be prepared to hear with resignation of the death of its older members, many of whom have done good service for the Club, but the death in action of a man like Done, to his family and his friends, must leave an irreparable blank.

'To my mind he was just one of those men on whom we could safely count to carry on the best traditions of the Club, and his death in early manhood is, I consider, a grievous loss to all who have the interests of the Club at heart.

'I have already ventured to offer to Mrs. Done, on behalf of the whole Club, our very respectful sympathy.'

The President also mentioned that the Trafoi Hotel, so well known to travellers crossing the Stelvio, has been destroyed by fire.

The ACTING HONORARY SECRETARY presented the Accounts of the Club and the Balance-sheet for 1916, which were unanimously adopted.

Mr. J. H. CLAPHAM, Litt.D., then read a Paper entitled 'The Peaks about Slogen,' which was illustrated by lantern slides.

A discussion ensued, in which Mr. G. P. Baker, Mr. Haskett Smith and others took part, and the proceedings terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Clapham for his very interesting Paper.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall, 23 Savile Row, W. 1., on Tuesday, May 1, 1917, at 8.30 P.M., Capt. J. P. Farrar, D.S.O., *President*, in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT announced with regret the deaths of the following members, viz. Messrs. E. P. Arnold (1874), G. H. Hodgson (1876), and Ernest Aves (1898).

Mr. EDGAR FOA then read a Paper entitled 'The Campaign in the Trentino,' which was illustrated by lantern slides.

A discussion took place in which Mr. E. A. Broome and Sig. Commendatore Palliccia, who was present as a guest of the President, took part, and a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Foa for a most interesting Paper was carried by acclamation.

Mr. Foa, in acknowledging the vote, mentioned that a number of the beautiful slides shown were the work of Mr. R. S. Morrish, a member of the Club.