comparatively inexperienced traveller[a] over any one of the Alt-Weissthors? Not one, I fancy; and we may well measure the guide of 1851 by the same standard. It must not be overlooked that chamois-hunting is an ancient pursuit, involving the frequent crossing of passes, if not the ascent of the summits. Ardent chamois-hunters like Jacchini and Lochmatter of the earlier days, Ferdinand Imseng and Alexander Burgener later, did not learn all they knew of the Weissthor ridge when leading travellers over it.

I am inclined to think there is a considerable element of truth in the tales of an old and familiar passage S. of the Cima di Jazzi. Lochmatter's accounts to Ball, to Conway, to Schulz, are a bit too circumstantial to be founded on fiction. Schlagintweit's map even marks another passage, different from any of the others. Shortly afterwards Hooker also crosses an Alt-Weissthor. Most unfortunately no details appear to have been preserved of this journey, nor do we know the names of his guides, but it is incontestable that a passage well known to men in Zermatt did exist between the Jägerhorn and the Cima di Jazzi.

I am not prepared to say whether the piety of the pilgrim or the courage of the chamois-hunter first set folk searching for a passage! It may well be that there were two old passes, used alternately according to existing conditions and the powers of the travellers.

Mr. Coolidge lays us under a great obligation by splendid monographs like the present one and the History of the Col de Tenda, to mention the two most recent, which deserve the closest study. The mountaineer who takes no interest in the historical side of his pursuit misses indeed much, and it is in a considerable measure due to Mr. Coolidge's studies that the development in this direction in recent years is due.

It is earnestly to be hoped that these valuable papers will be collected very speedily in a new volume of 'Alpine Studies,' so that they may be readily available in a convenient form and—may I venture to hope?—in our mother-tongue.

J. P. Farrar.

CORRESPONDENCE.

OLD MEMORIES.

To the Editor of the Alpine Journal.

Sir,—It is very unusual for an obscure member of the Club to find his name mentioned twice in a single number of the Alpine Journal, and the fact that my name occurs in this way in the number for October 1916 induces me to write this letter.

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[a] He had previously visited the Alps in 1846, 1847, and 1848.

The first reference is in Mr. T. H. Philpott's very interesting account of his long partnership with Mr. J. J. Hornby. Speaking of the supposed loss of skill resulting from long absence from the mountains, Mr. Philpott relates that in 1890 on the Gross Viescherhorn he overheard Christian Almer comparing my going favourably with his. I certainly heard no such remark, and should have been very much astonished if I had, for I rightly looked on Mr. Philpott as a far more experienced climber than myself, and I felt greatly honoured by his proposal, made at the top of the Gross Viescherhorn, that I should join him in the traverse of the Klein Viescherhorn to the Lower Grindelwald Glacier. On the whole of the climb from the top of the Gross Viescherhorn, over the Klein Viescherhorn, and down the long and steep descent to the lower glacier I was next on the rope to Mr. Philpott and saw no trace of want of practice or loss of sureness of foot; and as to strength and speed I can only say that when the rope was cast off he left me standing. I had myself been absent from the Alps for ten years and had only been seven days in Switzerland when I started for the climb; but I do not think that the ten years' absence had made me seriously more clumsy than usual. I may add that Christian Almer led the whole day, and did all the step-cutting—no small work with the snow in the condition in which it was, especially during the extremely steep upper part of the descent from the Klein Viescherhorn. The bad weather of July 1890 and the condition of the snow added greatly to the difficulty and fatigue of all expeditions. The times of the several smaller and bigger expeditions given in the following list of my scrambles during my twelve days in the mountains that year will illustrate this. A great quantity of new snow was lying even on small peaks like the Schwarzhorn, Similihorn, and Röthihorn :—

July 8, Schwarzhorn, 9 hrs.; 9th, Röthihorn and Similihorn, 9½ hrs.; 10th, Schwarzegg Hut, 5½ hrs.; 11th, Strahlegghorn and Strahlegg Pass to Grimsel, 13½ hrs.; 12th, Grimsel to Grindelwald by Meiringen and Great Scheidegg in heavy rain, 11¾ hrs.; 14th, Nässihorn, 12 hrs.; 15th, Bergli Hut, 11 hrs.; 16th, Gross Viescherhorn, Klein Viescherhorn, and descent to Bäregg, 14 hrs.; 17th, Schwarzegg Hut, 5¼ hrs.; 18th, attempt on Finsteraarhorn and traverse of the Strahlegghörner and down to Grindelwald, 15½ hrs.

The second mention of my name occurs in connection with the Führerbuch of Ulrich Lauener and the ascents of the Eiger, Wetterhorn and Mittelhorn in 1880. The weather in August of that year was very bad. We spent the nights of the 16th and 17th at the Gleckstein Hut and made two fruitless attempts to ascend the Wetterhorn. On the 19th we went to the Wengern Alp, and between this date and the 25th made various unsuccessful attempts on the Eiger. On the 25th we started at 3.15 A.M. and reached the top at 9.55, the mountain being in difficult condition. On the 27th we once more slept at the Gleckstein Hut, and at 3 A.M. on the 28th we

started for the third time for the Wetterhorn and reached the top at 7.15. We left at 7.35 and reached the top of the Mittelhorn at 8.43, regaining the hut at 11.30 and descending to Grindelwald. Ulrich Lauener led all the way up on each occasion, and the times taken under difficult conditions show clearly that at the age of 59 there was little, if any, abatement of energy and strength. I have the most vivid recollection of his constant care, courtesy and cheerfulness. As an instance of his skill and strength I will close with an incident in our descent from the Gleckstein Hut. When we were about half-way across the Platten my second guide, who was then leading, became suddenly ill and declared that he could not move. I told Ulrich, who was behind me, and he asked me to go down to some lower notches in the rocks so as to allow him to pass. He then joined the other man and, holding him up, took him safely to the end of the Platten.

Yours faithfully,

HENRY W. T. BOWYEAR.

48 Duke Street, St. James's,
Sept. 11, 1917.

THE LATE MR. T. H. PHILPOTT.

DEAR CAPTAIN FARRAR,—I thank you for your note. I had not heard of Mr. Philpott's death. I am very sorry to hear it. I am not sure that I should have written my letter at all if I had known, as the first idea of it arose in my mind from the thought that he might be interested and pleased to know the impression that his 'form' left on my mind. I had not known Mr. Philpott before I met him on the mountains in 1890, and have had no communication with him since I sent a draft of my note to the 'A.J.' upon our expedition for his approval. But I have a very pleasant recollection of his kindness and courtesy to a much younger man and a comparative novice on the mountains.

Yours sincerely,

HENRY BOWYEAR.

48 Duke Street, St. James's, S.W.,
Sept. 21, 1917.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall, 23 Savile Row, W. 1, on Tuesday, June 5, 1917, at 8.30 P.M., Captain J. P. Farrar, D.S.O., *President*, in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT said: I am sorry to say the Acting Honorary Secretary is laid up with an attack of sciatica. I am to express his great regret at being absent. I think it is the only time during his tenure of office.