



Photo T. A. Fletcher.

PANORAMA OF THE CLASSEN VALLEY.
From lateral moraine of Classen Glacier.

nor do they appear to have copies of the most up-to-date maps for reference.

I therefore urge members who are coming out to communicate with me or the Secretary of the N.Z.A.C. We shall be only too glad to advise, and we might be able to help to make up a party if so desired.

This is not an offer made for mere courtesy, but is intended to be acted upon.

IN THE GODLEY VALLEY, NEW ZEALAND.¹

BY T. A. FLETCHER, HON. SEC., N.Z.A.C.

WHAT is commonly known as the Godley District lies at the head of the river that feeds Lake Tekapo. It embraces two large main glaciers, the Classen and the Godley. The former, six miles in length, is separated from the Murchison in the Mount Cook District by the Liebig Range, and flows in a horse-shoe bend, its terminal face just meeting that of the Godley. The Godley Glacier is about nine miles in length, and flows roughly S.W. and then S. Its main tributaries are the Grey, the Maud, the Neish Plateau, and the Dennistoun Glaciers.

At the head of the Classen is Mount Mannering, named after an old and enthusiastic pioneer in the Southern Alps, and this peak has been climbed by H. O. Frind and Conrad Kain. Then, taking the peaks on the Divide in their order, we come to the dome-shaped Huss, and then to the two highest peaks on the Divide in the district, the snow-capped Moffatt and the twin peaks of Livingstone. The Classen here turns, for a spur comes off between the last two peaks, separating it from the Godley.

The Valley of the Classen is a very beautiful one. In its upper reaches it is not more than half a mile wide, and great precipices rise almost sheer on either side. Over these cliffs magnificent avalanches are continually falling, filling the valley with their rumblings. There are few tributary glaciers of any great size, most of them being steep and broken. The peaks

¹ Reference must be made to Mr. G. E. Mannering's paper, *A.J.* xxiv. 67 *seq.*, with many illustrations and a map. The relative position of the Godley glacier is indicated on the map in *A.J.* xxix.

stand up majestically, sharp and clear against the skyline. So far nobody has set foot on the Divide between Mannering and Moffatt, but we hope to make an attempt on it next year. There are not likely to be passes of any practical value across to the West Coast from the Classen. From the top of Mannering there is a splendid icefall which is the source of the Classen, and another glacier, much less broken, comes down from the Classen Saddle, which leads into the Murchison District. These two streams of ice unite to form the Classen.

It has been my good fortune to spend a couple of days on the Classen, but conditions were very different on each occasion. On the first, three years ago, we plodded along in the teeth of a bitterly cold nor'-west gale, in order to meet our guide, who was coming over from the Malte Brun hut on the Tasman Glacier. We met in a snowstorm at the foot of the Classen Saddle and turned for camp at once. Not a peak could be seen, as all were shrouded in mist and rain. This year we spent a beautiful day in the Classen searching closely for routes up the peaks, but as we were at the end of our leave we could do no actual climbing. But it was a glorious sight, and our regrets were very keen when we had to leave it behind for another year.

Between Mounts Moffatt and Livingstone a short spur comes off the Divide. On one side is the Classen, on the other is the Grey, a tributary of the Godley, while at its end the Godley flows slowly by. At the end of this spur is a little dome which Messrs. Williams, Kennedy, and myself climbed four years ago, on our first visit to the district. We named it Panorama Peak, for it is the finest viewpoint in the district, commanding a view of all the main glaciers. On the northern side of this spur, facing the Grey, are some magnificent cliffs, about 3000 ft. in height, down which some huge avalanches may be seen falling, and they form one of the most prominent features of this portion of the Southern Alps.

The largest tributary of the Godley is the Grey Glacier, which flows into the main ice-stream about two miles from the terminal face. It has a very beautiful icefall about half way along its course, just where it makes a right-angled bend. From its upper reaches Mount Loughnan, with its four-pointed crest, and Mount Frances may be attempted, but so far we have not tackled these two peaks.

Just to the N. of Mount Frances another spur leaves the Divide, separating the Grey Glacier from the Maud. On this spur are two peaks, Mounts Fletcher and Gordon. The lower



Photo T. A. Fletcher.

FROM NEAR SUMMIT OF MT. PETERMANN.



Photo T. A. Fletcher.

Godley Glacier.

FROM SUMMIT OF MT. PETERMANN.

peak of the former was climbed and named in my honour by Messrs. Kennedy and Lipp three years ago, while I was making a trip down the valley to replace some stores we had lost through our camp being burnt out. Mount Gordon was climbed by Messrs. Williams, Kennedy, and myself four years ago. We had established a bivouac at its foot, and climbed the peak in order to make a reconnaissance.

On the other side of the Maud Glacier is a spur on which is Mount Wolseley. In the maps this peak will be found to be placed on the Divide, but we have now definitely proved this to be wrong. Wolseley is a very fine peak indeed, and provides what I should think will prove to be the finest rock-climb in our Alps. It was climbed by Messrs. Kennedy and Lipp last year.

The Maud Glacier is a very beautiful one. It is not wide, and some of the larger schrunds give some trouble in crossing. We traversed its entire length four years ago in an attempt on Wolseley, but were misled by the map. As the peak we had taken to be Wolseley (and which proved to be so) was left behind us when we had reached the saddle, we made for the next peak on our right, got into a very difficult and dangerous place, and so arrived at the base of our peak too late to make an attempt. As a matter of fact, we were enveloped in fog for about three hours and had to make our way home very cautiously.

The Godley is a very typical Canterbury glacier. It is very heavily encumbered with moraine for more than two miles above the terminal face, thus providing a long, wearisome 'grind' for those who would explore the beauties of the peaks higher up. The slope is fairly gentle, and crevasses, though numerous enough, are not really troublesome. It drains the whole of the eastern side of the Main Divide from Mount Livingstone to McClure.

About three miles from the head is a low pass (5800 ft.) leading over to the West Coast. At the beginning of the year we crossed this pass, endeavouring to push through to the West Coast. We descended about 2000 ft. by the Joyce Glacier, which flows down a narrow winding valley. It ends abruptly in an ice-wall at least 200 ft. high, down which an accident occurred about thirty years ago, when Mr. Lean slipped and fell to the bottom, breaking some ribs and bruising himself very severely. We crossed this ice a little above the face and descended on the avalanche snow, which fills the valley for about another half-mile. This snow evidently falls down

in enormous quantities in the spring, and a journey down this valley early in the season would be a rather dangerous one.

From this glacier runs the Scone Stream, one of the roughest of rough creeks. It was not till we had had actual experience of these streams in their virgin state that we were able to appreciate fully the work of Messrs. C. E. Douglas and A. P. Harper in the early 'nineties. Although the description of these valleys in 'Pioneer Work in the New Zealand Alps' is very fine, we were all convinced that it fell far short of actual reality, which was beyond the power of words to describe. The valley is very steep, but wonderfully grand. Its floor is strewn with giant boulders in great profusion and confusion, and at times a pathway down the river-bed becomes an impossibility. We had then to take to the mountain sides, and force our way through the dense sub-alpine scrub, which was ten times harder work than the river-bed. Finally, after taking nearly all day to do about three and a half miles, we were stopped by a great bluff about 4000 ft. in height, at the foot of which the torrent raced both deep and strong. To cross the river was impossible, though perhaps later in the season it might prove fordable, and so we were reluctantly compelled to retrace our steps.

Just N. of this pass is Mount Petermann, one of the prettiest peaks of the district. Standing between two low saddles, up which the fog travels, it is often bathed in cloud or mist, and provides many glorious opportunities for the camera man. We climbed it for the first time this year. It is not particularly high, but it gave us a very strenuous climb on a scorching hot day. Going up we kept to the rocks as much as possible, as the heat of the snow was unbearable, but we came down on the snow, which was lying so steep that we had to face it and go down hand over hand.

Further N. are the peaks of Malthus, Dennistoun, and McClure. The first two we climbed in January of last year, both of them being then unnamed peaks. Dennistoun, which, by the way, is a very 'rotten' peak, was named after the late J. R. Dennistoun, A.C., killed in the war, who had passed through the Godley on three occasions. Malthus, a lower peak, was named after our friend Rex Malthus, of Lilybank Station, to whom we have always been under a deep debt of gratitude for the assistance he has rendered us on all our expeditions. McClure, still unclimbed, is right at the head of the valley, at the spot where the Two Thumb Range branches off the main range.

On the Two Thumb Range, close to the Divide, is the Terra Nova Saddle, crossed and named by Dennistoun several years ago. Close by is the rock peak of Pyramus, also named by him, and then the range forks. D'Archiac, the highest peak in the district, is on the spur that flanks the southern side of the Godley Glacier, and was climbed by Dennistoun, Earl, and Clarke. Farther S. on this spur is Mount Forbes, and then comes Mount Sibbald, the second highest peak, 9161 ft. in height. Messrs. Williams and Kennedy climbed this peak in January 1918.

Except last year, our parties have always been very unfortunate with weather conditions, and thus our record has been very disappointing, to us at any rate. However, we have now thoroughly explored the whole district and examined and photographed the different peaks, so that we are ready to renew the battle. We know where to bivouac in order to be within easy access of them, and look forward with keen pleasure and anticipation to the coming season.

Without doubt it is a beautiful district, and we have been fortunate in finding a valley in which there are so many unclimbed peaks. It is unfortunate that my old companion, Mr. W. A. Kennedy, who organised the first three expeditions, is not able, owing to a strain, to continue, but I hope that next February will again find a party of us camped in the Godley Valley. Further details of the expeditions are given in the 'New Zealand Alpine Journal.' We have had some strenuous times and some great experiences, but we are rich in memories of many pleasant days spent under our canvas roof, or, better still, when roped together on the pure and spotless snows.

NOTE.—Mr. Fletcher's paper is accompanied by the Government 1-in. map, in which he has marked many new names, as well as by further photographs now in the Club Library.

SOME ASPECTS OF THE EVEREST PROBLEM.

By T. G. LONGSTAFF, M.D.

(*Medical Officer to the Expedition of 1922.*)

IN the following notes it is assumed that the reader is already familiar with the narratives of Mallory and Finch, which have been published in the Alpine and Geographical Journals. Nothing will be found here which does