

only be the close friend of the mountains, knowing them in all their moods ; he must also have a quick and sure perception, so that, when it is impossible to paint all, he may select and insist on the most essential and characteristic features, and a power of composition equal to dealing with great and often difficult subjects.'

Miss Hechle possesses several of the qualifications here suggested. She sees the mountains with fresh and understanding eyes ; she is capable of entering into their more intimate and sympathetic moods. Let her cultivate this intimacy rather than linger over the harsher aspects they assume to the eyes of 'the harriers of scenery,' and of the school whose highest endeavour is to make a pattern out of mean ugliness.

D. W. F.

THE AMERICAN MEMBERS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

Précis of Minutes of Meeting held December 6, 1924.

THE Autumn Dinner of the Association was held at the University Club, New York City, on Saturday evening, December 6.

The members present were : Messrs. Allston Burr, Allen Carpe, J. Ellis Fisher, Henry S. Hall, jun., Howard Palmer, Norman H. Read, H. B. de Villiers-Schwab, William Williams, and Joseph Wood, jun. ; the guests being Messrs. L. G. Day, John Hall, W. S. Ladd, and J. M. Thorington.

In the absence of the Chairman, Professor Fay, the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Burr, occupied the seat of honour, and at the beginning of dinner mentioned the great loss to the Club through the death of Mallory and Irvine on Mt. Everest, everyone then standing for a moment in silent tribute.

Directly after dinner, there being no business to come before the Meeting, the speaker of the evening was introduced. Mr. Wood proceeded to give an account of a traverse of the Aiguilles Rouges d'Arolla and of an adventurous descent of the Dent Blanche by the Ferpècle Arête, showing, in addition, a number of slides taken in the Bernese Oberland. Following a pause, Mr. Wood described a visit made by Mr. L. G. Day and himself in 1911 to Petra, the ancient rock city of the Nabotaens (in Arabia), illustrating his extraordinarily fascinating story with

coloured slides, taken by himself and said to be the only ones ever shown in the United States.

The assemblage broke up about 11.15 P.M., having informally agreed that the next Meeting should be held in Montreal in May 1925.

H. B. DE VILLIERS-SCHWAB,
Hon. Sec.

IN MEMORIAM.

SIR JAMES RAMSAY, BT., OF BAMFF.¹

WITHIN a few months of each other our two 'equal fathers' of the Club—both elected in 1859—whose portraits form the frontispiece of vol. xxxiv. have left us. Born in 1832 of an old Scottish family whose lands of Bamff in Perthshire have continued in their possession by direct descent in the male line since 1232, Sir James, at his death, had nearly completed ninety-three years. His younger brother, George Gilbert Ramsay, Professor of Humanity at Glasgow, predeceased him in 1921 and had been a member of the Club since 1876. His eldest surviving daughter, Agnata Frances Ramsay, famous as the only candidate to be placed in the first division of the first class of the Classical Tripos of 1887, married in the following year Dr. Butler, Master of Trinity and equally well-known as Headmaster of Harrow. His eldest son, a lieutenant in the Black Watch, was killed at Magersfontein in 1899. His successor, Major James Douglas Ramsay, served in the Great War in the Scottish Horse. Another of his daughters is the Duchess of Atholl, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education.

Sir James will be known to History as the author of books² which exhibit such learning and such infinite research that they earned the name of 'the Scholar's History of England.' Together they cover with the minutest detail, that the existing records of such 'Dark Ages' permit, the history of our country from the earliest times to the accession of Henry VII.

But it is as a mountaineer that, in addition, he occupies a great place in our annals, and mainly for one memorable expedition. Fortunately the account of it, written at the time when all the impressions were at their freshest, survived and was published

¹ A portrait taken at forty appeared in *A.J.* xxxiv. opp. 69, and one taken at eighty-nine opp. 1. The names were unfortunately transposed in the former (see correction xxxiv. 345).

² *Lancaster and York* (1892); *The Foundations of England* (1898); *The Angevin Empire* (1903); *The Genesis of Lancaster* (1913).