

Rey had wished to camp lower down to the right of Richardet's fatal spot, but I protested, as on those rocks and to the right across to the rock arête I noted signs of stones. So, unroped and at a distance apart, we hurried across to the rock arête. About 6 P.M. I continued alone up the arête and cut steps across the couloir to the main mountain so that we should not be held up next morning. Next morning our start was delayed a long time by a lively controversy as to which porter was to come with us, till at last César Ollier made up his mind to come.

'By the time we had crossed the couloir to the main mountain the sun had risen and the stones began to be lively. After ascending easy rocks for a short time we determined to cross two steep névé shoots on our left, in the direction of Richardet's bivouac. We had, however, hardly taken a hundred steps when heavy stonefall compelled our retreat. Thereupon we turned to our right and reached an, at first, slightly defined rock rib which led in a straight line to the summit. The last 50 m. were, by reason of the loose rocks, extremely unpleasant. . . . The tragic end of the splendid young fellow Richardet filled me with sorrow. Ought we to reproach these three young mountaineers? No! The catastrophe was due to the unexpectedly sudden change in the weather. . . .'

There is no reason why this great expedition should not be repeated by a party of strong, well-trained, and practised mountaineers with a prospect of three days good weather and fair conditions; and this note is written, not to discourage its repetition, but to draw attention to a factor of safety.

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## IN MEMORIAM.

SIR R. MELVILL BEACHCROFT.

(1846-1926.)

IN Sir Melvill Beachcroft, who died in January a few days before his eightieth birthday, the Club loses another of its veterans, and the writer his oldest friend and first climbing companion.

Beachcroft was, owing to the neighbourhood of our homes at Hampstead, one of my earliest playfellows. In school-life we were parted, and he did not go to any university. But when, in 1864,

I wanted companions for my first independent journey—that recorded in the privately printed Journal 'Thonon to Trent'—he was the nearest at hand, and he, with Douglas Walker, shared in that prolonged steeplechase, remarkable, as Mr. Mumm sententiously observes, for 'the number of expeditions, many of them new, and the extreme youth of the parties.' Beachcroft and I walked through the hills from Thonon to Champéry where F. Dévouassoud joined us, and then over three passes, round the Dent du Midi to Chamonix, when we found Walker and went on to attack the then newly discovered High Level Route.

Beachcroft was in spirits always young: 'ce brave M. Beachcroft, qui nous fait toujours rire,' was François Dévouassoud's tribute to him, after he had enlivened a fireside evening at the Col de Balme by his stories and songs. Not that he did not at first give his guide some anxious moments. New to the Alps, his impulse was to treat the crevasses of the Mer de Glace, regardless of their width, as ditches, and to take them at a run; or, after having waited behind to take off his gaiters, to descend a loose scree so impetuously as to send a volley of missiles whistling past his companions' ears. But he quickly accommodated himself to the Alpine environment and developed into a very competent and enthusiastic climber, and a most constant lover of the Alps, while his unflinching cheerfulness and humorous temperament made him an always welcome companion both to his colleagues at home and to his friends in the mountains.

In the seventies Beachcroft joined with C. Comyns Tucker and made various expeditions, including the Monte della Disgrazia and the Cimone della Pala and an attempt on the Sasso di Mur near Primiero.

He also climbed the Matterhorn in 1877, the year of his marriage to a daughter of Mr. R. M. Bonnor Maurice, who shared his subsequent visits to Switzerland.

Later, in the eighties, Beachcroft paid frequent visits to Arolla and Zermatt and climbed in company with his friend, the Rev. A. Fairbanks. In 1883 with him and Mrs. Beachcroft he made a 'highlevel route' from Saas to the Tosa Falls over the Rossbodenjoch, Monte Leone and the Lebendun Pass, which he described in a paper in vol. xi., p. 395, of the JOURNAL. For some years, and up to 1914, he and his wife made the Belalp their summer headquarters.

Beachcroft served on the Committee of the Club from 1889 to 1891, and was a fairly frequent attendant at our Meetings, despite the calls made on him by his public offices. One of his ancestors had been Lord Mayor of London in 1711; and, perhaps, instigated by family tradition, Beachcroft stood for, and was elected on, the first County Council and served on it continuously until 1909, when he was chosen as its Chairman.

In 1903 he became the first Chairman of the London Water Board, and held that important office till 1908. He was knighted in 1904.

He was also the Master of the Clothworkers' Company in 1913-14. He succeeded his father in 1873 as the head of a firm of solicitors which had for many years represented Christ's Hospital.

D. W. FRESHFIELD.

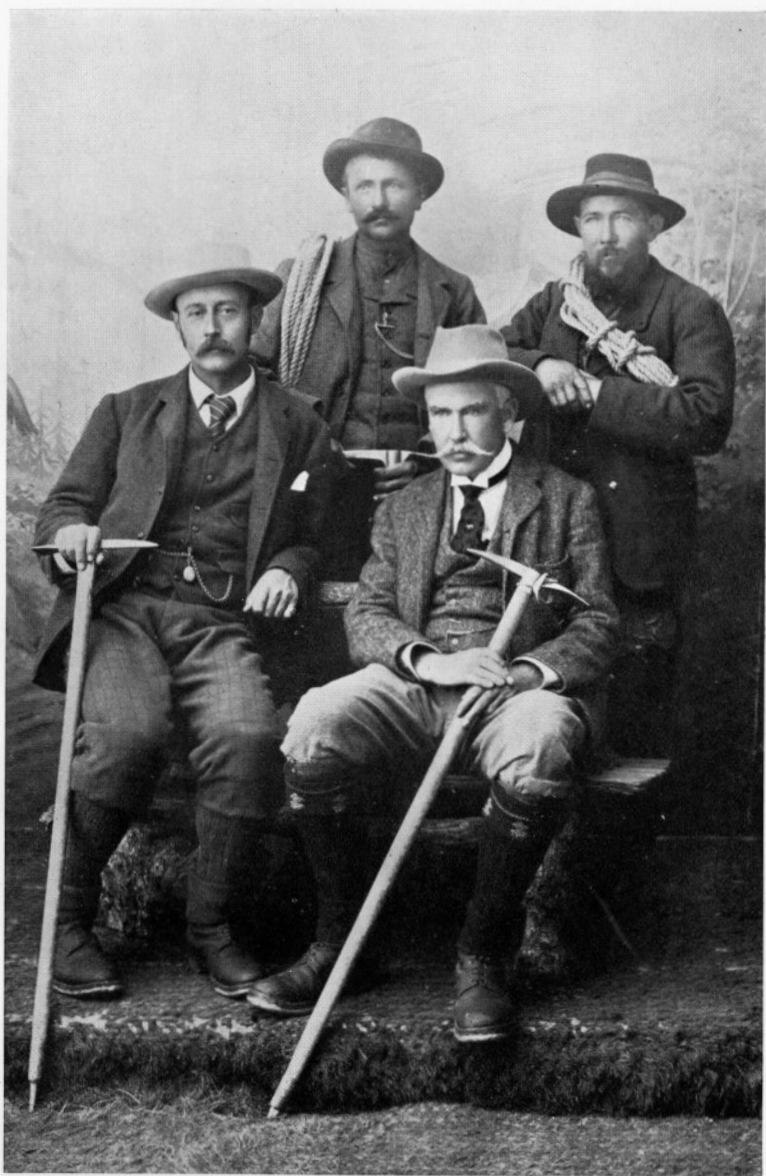
Colonel A. H. Tubby writes :

' In other places noteworthy tributes have been paid to the memory of Sir Melvill Beachcroft. In him our Club loses one of its oldest and, in his time, one of its most active members. Fortunately for Beachcroft, he had a unique opportunity of tasting the joys of Alpine travel whilst still almost a youth. And I have often heard him tell the story of how this came about. He was asked to be the companion of one who afterwards became one of our most honoured Presidents and a great explorer. The two young men covered a great deal of ground in their walking tour, and it left Beachcroft with happy memories. From that time he became an ardent lover of the Alps and spent many of his holidays there.

' The many notices which appeared in the press all unite in emphasizing his public spirit, his zeal in finding means to relieve the sufferings of the poor and the outcast ; his efforts to improve their surroundings and their health by removing slum areas and providing them with decent dwellings ; and his strenuous years of public service on the London County Council and on the Water Board. So highly appreciated were they all that one of the journals published a lengthy account of him under the title of the "Great Aedile." Beachcroft was a great philanthropist, too, and devoted much of his time and energies to the well-being of ragged-school children, and to the purchase of playing-fields in crowded neighbourhoods ; and his patriotism was evinced by his enlistment during the 'sixties of the last century in the "Volunteers."

' It is difficult to write adequately of him, for there was so much to love, admire, and reverence in him. Perhaps the chief impressions left upon any who came into contact with him were his singleness and purity of mind, his transparent and happy nature, and his charmingly courteous attentiveness. He lived on a high level, and he sought his inspirations from the purest sources. To know Beachcroft was to love him, and his friendship is one of my happiest memories.

' As with so many men of his kind, his Alpine holidays were his great means of recreation. He spent a large number amongst congenial friends, particularly at the Belalp. It was not my privilege to know Beachcroft during his active years of climbing, but I had the pleasure of spending several winter Alpine holidays with him. It happened to me, however, to be with him on his last summer holiday at Oberhofen in August 1924. The sunsets then were peculiarly vivid and often glorious, and they were to those who were with Beachcroft symbolic of the setting of the sun of life of one who had ever lived serenely, with singleness of purpose and purity of spirit, amid the



SIR E. DAVIDSON.

HON. GERALD FITZGERALD.

C. KLUCKER.

U. ALMER.

hurry and rush of public life. The afterglow, too, of his life was bright with the friendships which remained to him, and of others whose memory comforted and sustained him.'

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HON. GERALD FITZGERALD.

1849-1925.

MR. FITZGERALD was elected to the Club in 1876, and few members have so long and consistently devoted themselves to difficult and arduous expeditions as he did. His residence in Ireland was the reason that he did not attain, long ago, high office in the Club. He was of very distinguished presence, and filled several public offices with marked ability, while his charm of manner endeared him to all his friends.

His climbing companions, Baumann, Cullinan, Holzmann, and particularly Edward Davidson have predeceased him, and the details of his climbing career have to be sought in Mr. Mumm's 'Alpine Club Register,' vol. ii., and in the many entries in the Führerbuch of the determined and right valiant little man Ulrich Almer, one of the very best of guides, who, partially blind, still survives. He seems to have commenced in 1877 with the Matterhorn! and in 1878 made a variation on the N. face of Jungfrau, probably never repeated. In 1881 he ascended the Dent d'Hérens, second ascent by N.W. arête. From 1885 onwards his expeditions are understood to be much the same as given in Sir Edward Davidson's obituary notice, 'A.J.' xxxv. His own entries in Ulrich Almer's Führerbuch start in 1891, and it is with this very able guide that many of his greater expeditions were done. Among them were, in 1891, Jungfrau from Rottal, Ochs via Viescherjoch with traverse to Agassizjoch; 1892 Matterhorn (Breuil to Schwarzsee), Mischabeljoch; 1893 Charmoz (tr.), Grand Dru (tr.), Mt. Mallet; 1894 Trifhorn, Alphubel by W.S.W. arête, Matterhorn (tr.), Signalkuppe; 1895 Grande Aiguille, Les Bans, Ecrins (tr.), Pic d'Olan (traversing the 3 summits from La Chapelle to La Bélarde), Les Rouies et Col des Rouies, Meije (tr.), Aig. du Plat, Aig. Verte, Dufourspitze by the rocks and then along arête to Signaljoch, Täschhorn-Dom; 1896 Piz Popena, Croda da Lago, Kl. Zinne (N. face), Cimone della Pala (tr.), Cima della Madonna and Sass Maor, Col des Hirondelles, Aig. and Col du Géant, asc. Zwillingssjoch, desc. Schwarzthor; 1897 Blaitière, Grépon (tr.), Col des Courtes, de Triolet, du Géant, Aig. du Chardonnet, Col de la Tour Ronde, du Miage; 1898 Adler, Weissmies, Südlenzsp-Nadelhorn, Matterhorn (Z'Mutt), Col Durand, Schallijoch; 1899 Crast 'Agüzza (tr.), Palü, Bellavista-Zupo, Scerscen-Bernina (desc. by Scharte), Ortler from Hochjoch, Königsspitze by N.E. arête, Zebbru-Ortlerjoch-Eiskögele-Thurwiesersp; 1900 Rothorn (tr.), Arbenjoch, Signalkuppe, Parrotsp. Ludwigshöhe-Balmenhorn, Schallhorn (tr.), Wellenkuppe-Gabelhorn-

Arbenjoch, Rimpfischhorn from Adler to Allalpass ; 1901 Traverse of Breithorngrat from Théodule and down to Schwarztor, Col d'Hérens, Dent des Bouquetins ; 1902 Signalkuppe, asc. and desc. of N. face of Breithorn, from Schwarzsee via Furgjoch, Col du Lion, Tête du Lion, and along arête to Col Tournanche and back to Riffelalp by Staffelalp, Weisshorn (Schalligrat) ; 1903-1910 no entries ; 1911 Tête Blanche and Mannle, Wellenkuppe, Trifhorn (tr.), Col Durand, Mönch ; 1913 Riffelhorn, Col Tournanche-Furgjoch.

The war naturally put an end to his visits to the Alps, but he was to be found each year after the Peace at his old quarters, the Riffelalp, until the last two years, when his health compelled him to remain nearer home.

The list of expeditions here given cannot be complete ; he could count upwards of forty years' close companionship in the Alps with Sir Edward Davidson, and in many of the expeditions noted in my notice in 'A.J.' xxxv. he doubtless took part, although it was their general practice to go each with his own guides.

J. P. FARRAR.

[The portrait shows the two great companions with their guides, Ulrich Almer (on right) and Chr. Klucker (behind).]

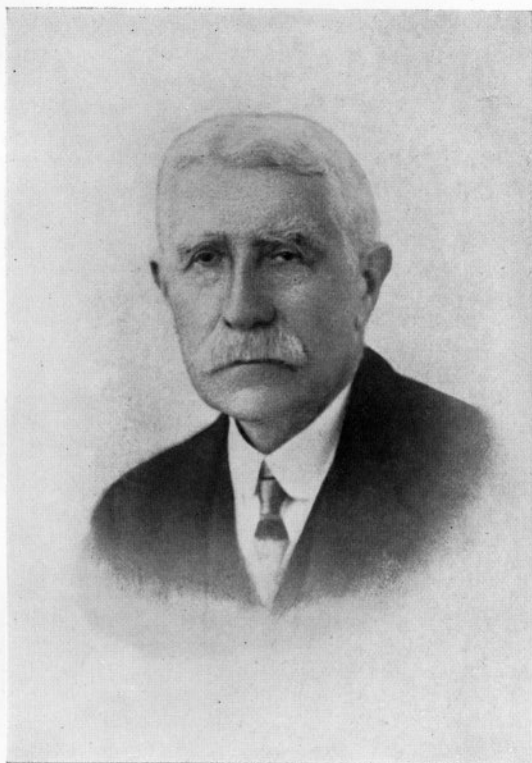
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### HENRY D. WAUGH.

1854-1925.

WAUGH became a member of the Club in 1894 and had done a good deal of climbing before I met him first at Saas Fee in 1896. That meeting was for me the beginning of a close and valued friendship, for I at once fell under the spell of his charm, which was so patent to all who knew him well. With but two exceptions we climbed together every season from 1896 to 1912. Our last climb was the traverse of the arête from the Rimpfischhorn to the Allalin Pass. This proved to be Waugh's final climb, for professional duties prevented him from going to the Alps in 1913, and after the War failing health prevented him from making long expeditions. Latterly, he spent his holidays at the Riffelalp, which always had a strong attraction for him. Whilst at the Riffelalp in 1925 he was seized with an illness which caused great anxiety to his friends, and which proved to be the beginning of the end. He made a remarkable recovery, but it was only temporary, and on his return to England, although he struggled against increasing weakness with his usual determination, his health gradually failed, and he suddenly collapsed whilst visiting a patient a few days after the Winter Dinner, at which he was present, and passed away on the evening of Christmas Day 1925.

Waugh had an intense love for the mountains and everything



H. D. WAUGH.  
1853-1925.

connected with them. He was a keen observer, and took a delight in the beauty of the Alpine flowers as well as in the grandeur of the peaks and glaciers. He was an ardent and sound mountaineer, sure-footed on ice and safe and strong on rocks. He had great perseverance and staying power, and was never happier than when overcoming some technical difficulty. He was a faithful friend and the best of companions on the mountain-side and in the hotels and huts. He was always cheerful, optimistic, and unselfish, making light of difficulties, disappointments, and discomforts; with a cheery word for everyone, visitors, guides, and peasants. Although inclined to be hard on himself, he was wonderfully sympathetic with the ills of others. He was always ready to put his medical skill at the service of those who needed it, even though, on several occasions, to do so meant the upsetting of his plans for climbing. I have known him do many quiet acts of kindness for the servants in the Swiss hotels who suffered from some passing ailments.

Waugh took a great interest in the Club, and never missed a meeting or a dinner unless prevented by his work, and I remember his pleasure when, in 1911, he heard that he had been elected to the Committee.

F. C. B.-B.

## NEW EXPEDITIONS.

### *Le Dauphiné.*

PIC SANS NOM (or Salvador-Guillemain) (3915 m. = 12,845 ft.) from the N. or Glacier Noir side. July 10 and 11, 1925. MM. P. Dalloz, J. Lagarde, and H. de Ségogne; MM. J. and G. Vernet.

The first party left the Ailefroide hotel at 10.20 P.M., and at 5 A.M. reached the foot of the couloir which reaches up to the arête on the W. side of the spur descending from the Pic S.-G. Turning an ice-fall on the W. they crossed the first rimaye by the rocks of the left bank of the couloir and bore towards the second rimaye up an extremely steep snow-slope close to the left bank. After crossing this rimaye they climbed the long rocky island-spur which splits the couloir in its centre part into two parts. They made a difficult horizontal traverse across a steep ice-slope and then ascended near the right bank, making occasional use of iced rocks. Top of couloir 1.30 (slow time) whence the peak was gained easily (3 P.M.).

The second party crossed the first rimaye by the rocks of the right bank and then bore obliquely towards the E. end of the second rimaye, which they crossed and took to the rocks forming the right bank of the couloir. They kept to these until level with the top of the rocky dividing spur used by the first party. Here they resumed the snow and followed the same route as the first party.