

up to the level of the variation effected first by the party on July 11 the ascent was as easy, owing to the fact that the mountain was apparently quite unusually free from snow and ice, as it had been difficult on the occasion of the attempt by Travers-Jackson and myself on the previous year.⁶ From that point to the summit, however, the ascent was rendered exceedingly trying owing to the fact that there was an excessively cold and violent intermittent wind. Ascent by the same route as that followed on the third ascent. Left camp in Hlwazeni valley 06.40, summit 13.00.

Fifth Ascent, July 17, 1928. Misses E. Grundy and J. Simkin, Messrs. H. A. Eastman, H. A. Liddle, J. L. Simkin, and E. J. H. Dale. Ascent by same route as that followed on third and fourth ascents. Left camp in same valley at 07.15, summit 14.00.

O. K. WILLIAMSON.

ALPINE NOTES.

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :	Date of Election.
Monier-Williams, M. F. 1873
Carfrae, J. A. 1874
Wherry, G. E. 1893
Kennedy, Sir Alexander B. W. 1895
Montague, C. E. 1906
Puiseux, Pierre. (Hon. Member) 1918
Regaud, F. (Hon. Member) 1924

'THE CLOSING OF THE ITALIAN ALPS.'—We regret to be unable to report any modification in the lamentable—and vexatious—regulations enforced by the Italian Government last year. We have received no further communication from the Club Alpino Italiano. The Foreign Office¹ has, however, courteously supplied the Club with a list of the frontier passes still unclosed. It has not been considered necessary to print this list in the JOURNAL, since all these passes are, without exception, of the railway and carriage variety. Members can see the list at the Alpine Club. For the present the Italian Alps must be considered—like Tibet—a forbidden land for mountaineers.

MONUMENT TO JOSEPH PETIGAX. In August last, H.R.H. the Duke of the Abruzzi unveiled a monument which has been erected at Courmayeur to the memory of Joseph Petigax, who accompanied the Duke in his Polar attempt and also acted as his leading guide in the successful expedition to Mount St. Elias in Alaska, to the

⁶ *A.J.* 39, 327-8.

¹ Downing Street.

Karakoram and to Ruwenzori. Among the subscribers was the Council of the ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY which gladly took advantage of the opportunity to put on record its appreciation of the services rendered to mountain exploration in remote regions by Alpine Guides in the person of the most travelled of their number. A telegram has been received by Mr. Freshfield from the Duke of the Abruzzi conveying his thanks for the Society's 'kind participation on the occasion of the celebration to the honour of the guide Petigax.' Mr. Freshfield has also received a letter from the widow and family of Joseph Petigax expressing warmly their appreciation of the honour done to their late relative.

THE ITALIAN EXPEDITION TO THE KARAKORAM.—The *Rivista Mensile* publishes the names of the following mountaineers who will take part in the attempt on K² next year.

H.R.H. the Duke of Spoleto (leader), Commander Mario Cuga (2nd in command), Signori Umberto Balestreri (in charge of the climbing party), Lt.-Colonel Gino Allegri (Medical Officer), G. Chiardola, G. Polvara, V. Ponti, A. Desio, L. Fenaroli, R. Margaria, and O. Olivo. Four Courmayeur guides, including the two sons of Henri Rey and Evaristo Croux, will accompany the party.

Special permission has been granted to the party by His Majesty's Government; while the Himalayan Club, which has elected the Duke of Spoleto and Commander Cuga members, is assisting in every way.

The late Mr. ARNOLD MUMM.—Mr. Willink writes: 'The excellent "A.J." *In Memoriam* is not quite fully correct about his legal dates. Mumm was first admitted, in October 1883, at the Inner Temple, then transferred in February 1886 to Lincoln's Inn and there called to the Bar in Trinity Term, 1886. He read in the chambers of Mr. C. Ashworth James.

'I have not been able to ascertain the dates of his joining and leaving the Inns of Court Rifle Volunteers (I.C.R.V.), but I know that he was in E Company for several years. The last few years of his service with the Corps was in their Mounted Infantry.'

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY awards. His Majesty the King has approved of the bestowal of the *Founder's Medal* on Dr. T. G. Longstaff for his discovery of the Siachen Glacier and long-continued geographical work in the Himalaya.

The *Murchison Grant* has been awarded to Captain C. J. Morris for his recent journey in Hunza.

Dr. Longstaff has recently returned from a biological journey to GREENLAND. We understand that the results were very satisfactory, and that the party, under Dr. Longstaff's tuition, ate and enjoyed sea-gulls!

HEREDITARY MOUNTAINEERS.—Master Julian Amery, aged 9, son of the Rt. Hon. L. C. M. S. Amery, M.P., and Mrs. Amery, accompanied by his father, made in the month of August last the ascents of Pizzi Gravasalvas and Corvatsch, Monte Forno and the traverse of Piz Materdell. 'He is a very keen and ambitious climber.'

The Misses Antonia and Clodagh Meade, aged 13 and 11 respectively, daughters of Mr. Charles and Lady Aileen Meade, accomplished the following expeditions: Wellenkuppe, Breithorn,² Stockhorn, Hohthäligrat (including Miss Flavia Meade, aged 7) and several ascents of the Riffelhorn.

The old graveyard at Chamonix has been converted into a public Garden, but we are glad to learn that the fine Iona cross erected to the memory of FRANÇOIS DÉVOUASSOUD—the first Alpine guide to serve as an explorer—by some of his English friends, will be left in its present position beside the church door and that the Local Council is prepared to undertake its upkeep.

À propos of a recent publication dealing with SNOW CRAFT in winter, a correspondent writes: 'I was talking to Pierre Blanc the other day and he remarked that (old) Christian Almer was a great user of raquettes, which require great knowledge of snow conditions and that in his own (Pierre's) case he feels pretty confident that the older generation of men, like his own father (Blanc "le Greffier") for instance, had a much better knowledge of winter snow than the present race. Pierre Blanc feels pretty sure that his father knew more than *he* does, since he used up to the age of 60 to hunt incessantly the whole winter through. . . .'

An interesting bit of information, especially from the still young and active Pierre Blanc, famous for his *mountain* ski-ing powers, and who hunts 'the whole winter through.'

Dedication and Opening of the Reisskofel Hut erected in memory of the late E. T. COMPTON.—The erection of this hut was referred to in 'A.J.' 39, 153, but it was only on August 12 of this year that it was formally opened.

The Austrian (Greifenburg) Alpine Club organized a 'Fest' for the occasion, and some 260 members and friends were present at the ceremony, a special train having brought a number of members by night from Vienna. 'Berggrat' Dr. Beck, who was to occupy the hut as caretaker, received the visitors, and after a religious service—Mass conducted by the priest of Grafendorf—the hut was dedicated by numerous speeches, in which the painter's life-work,

² The party were demanded their passports before entering the new (Italian) *Théodule* Hut! Accordingly, they wisely descended and slept at the Gandegg.

devoted to the glory of the Alps, was enthusiastically lauded. His artist son, Harrison Compton, who represented the family, thanked the Club for the honour done to his father, presenting a portrait to be hung on the walls of the hut.

Later in the day the more vigorous visitors made the ascent of the Reisskofel (2370 m.), a rock possessed of a romantic history and at one time regarded as inaccessible.

W. C. C.

EIGER BY MITTELLEGIGRAT.—Miss Dorothy Jordan Lloyd, with the guides Fritz Amatter and Fritz Suter of Grindelwald, made the ascent by this ridge on August 18, 1928. The descent was made by the *same* route. (Times from Mittellegi Hut to summit: 04.40 to 10.30. Summit to Mittellegi Hut: 12.00 to 18.30, including long halts.) On August 19 a direct descent to Alpigen was made from the Mittellegi Hut. (Times: 07.30 to 14.00.)

M. Montandon writes: 'Several of my friends have been up the Mittellegi arête without guides, including Dr. Hans Lauper with his wife. They all say that it is a most magnificent ascent.'

TRAVERSE OF FINSTERAARHORN BY S.E. ARÊTE.—August 23, 1928. Same party as above. From the Studerfirn by ice-slopes and the rock-rib to the S. of the hanging glacier to the S.E. ridge and along it to the summit. Descent to Hugisattel and Finsteraar Hut. (Times from Oberaar Hut to Finsteraar Hut 04.00 to 16.00, including long halts for photography.) This appears to be the first time that a lady has reached the S.E. ridge of the Finsteraarhorn from the Studerfirn, although in August 1906 Miss Hampson Simpson (now Mrs. G. Hasler), Herr G. Hasler, with the guide Heinrich Fuhrer, went from the Schwarzegg hut, Agassizjoch, N.W. ridge, descended the S.E. ridge to a little below the so-called 'Minor Summit,' and then struck down to the Walliserfiescherfirn.

Doctor Hugo Müller and his son, when climbing the Pétéret arête of MONT BLANC this summer, found during the ascent an old chocolate box containing a visiting card with the names of Herren Amstutz, von Schumacher, and Willy Richardet. The card was found on the S. arête of the Aiguille Blanche de Pétéret; it was dated August (?) 11, 1925, and stated that the three climbers were returning owing to bad weather.

M. Richardet, one of the greatest of the young Swiss mountaineers, perished through stonefall, below the party's *gîte* (at 3700 m.), on the Aiguille Blanche de Pétéret, August 9, 1925 ('A.J.' 37, 353-6).

PIZ (Monte di) SCERSCEN.—A new route has been forced up the S. face, August 11, 1928, by Signori Alfredo Corti, A. Bonola, and C. Folati. 'A splendid but difficult climb.' It is hoped to publish details later.

The REFUGE LOMBARD of the C.A.F. (Aiguilles d'Arves), erected only in 1927, was destroyed during the winter.³

S.A.C. HUTS.—The Basodino Hut in Val Maggia was opened last July, while the Cavardiras Hut on the Bruni Glacier was inaugurated in September. The Grialetsch Hut was opened in October.

The Biferten Hut belonging to the A.A.C. BASLE was opened last September.

Monsieur E. A. MARTEL, Hon. Member A.C., has been elected Président de la Société de Géographie.

SOUTHERN AIGUILLE D'ARVES.—With reference to 'A.J.' 40, 9-23, Monsieur Montandon writes: ' . . . Looking at the fine photograph of the Aiguille Méridionale reproduced by M. E. Piaget in *La Montagne*, 1910, taken on the Aiguille Orientale de la Saussaz, I wonder that no one has ever tried or inspected a route which would lead over the big horizontal ledge across the S. face, on to the S.W. or W. face, where the rocks leading to the summit seem to be broken and the inclination not over steep. In any case it would be worth while for some good climber to follow once that apparently very easy ledge and have a peep at the rocks round its corner. It is sad that my age and health debar me, but *you* may have a try!

'The descriptions of the *Mauvais Pas* differ very much. At its base there *is* a belay, situated a little to the right. It was put to the test at the time of the accident of 1907 ("A.J." 23, 643), when the falling man [Dr. Robert von Wyss] *was* retained instantly by a rope from each side. The *Mauvais Pas* will always remain a rather dangerous place. The best photograph of the upper part of it is the one by Miss Bell published in *La Montagne* of 1910, but she says she took two photographs there of the German party (Paulcke and Lohmüller) in *Kletterschuhen*, while the man in the photograph, climbing in nailed boots, is very likely Miss Bell's guide, Mathon.'

MOUNT OLYMPUS.—To the note on Mount Olympus, 'A.J.' 40, 101, the following may be added:

From a letter received from Madame Kuhn giving a full account of her husband's ascent of Mount Olympus it appears that the party which ascended Mitka and Stefan on August 15, 1921, consisted only of F. K. Kuhn and Kristo Kakalos. F. K. Kuhn, who was a Swiss engineer, was killed in Venezuela in an attack by Indians in 1926.

³ An evil fate appears to await all Dauphiné huts, their flimsy construction no doubt contributing towards their quick disintegration.

Mitka was ascended on July 15, 1927, by Dr. H. Handel-Mazzetti of Vienna and Mr. Otto Dibovski of Salonika.

W. T. E.
C. M. S.

Climbers' Guide to the BERNESE OBERLAND.—A much revised edition of this valuable book, originally compiled by the late Mr. Coolidge and subsequently translated into German under the direction of Dr. Dübi, is now in active preparation by members of the Berne section of the S.A.C. and members of the A.A.C. Berne. It will be furnished with many illustrations, and the personal knowledge of its compilers, among whom one of the chief is Dr. Hans Lauper, a great authority on the district, will ensure the accuracy of the indications.

It is hoped that weight will be studied and the volumes made to cut up into quite small sections, a much appreciated plan followed by Bädeker.

J. P. F.

The E., or Mer de Glace, face of the AIGUILLE DE GRÉPON was ascended and *descended* on the same day by a party led by Armand Charlet, while an ascent by the 'Mummery' route is stated to have been *led* by a lady!

The AIGUILLE NOIRE DE PÉTÉRET was climbed from the Brèche sud des Dames Anglaises August 7, 1928, by Signor G. Rivetti, with Adolphe Rey and Alphonse Chenoz of Courmayeur. The route appears to have been by the N.E. face, without touching the shoulder on the N. arête, and took 12 hrs. 40 mins. from the Gamba Hut to the summit. The CALOTTE DE ROCHFORT has been climbed by its S. face and also by the E. arête by the same party. No details yet available.

A. B.

Two young Italians, Signori A. Cretier and L. Binet,⁴ are also reported as having climbed the E. tooth, *La Vierge*, of the DAMES ANGLAISES. The difficulties were finally overcome by the use of a kind of ladder or 'joy-stick.' No dates or details.

The savage S.E., or Tronchey (*Pra Sec*), arête of the GRANDES JORASSES has been accomplished at last, July 28 (or 29), 1928. The party consisted of Signor Alberto Heron, with Evaristo Croux and another guide (? Croux). From a first bivouac on the Aiguille de Tronchey more than 12 hrs. were required to the summit. No other details.

A. B.

⁴ The same party made a variation of the N. arête route of the Grivola, August 2, 1926 (*R.M.* xlvii, pp. 252-3, illustrated).

We understand that one or more parties made attempts on the N. face of the GRANDES JORASSES, but met with rebuffs.

'R.M.' xlvii, pp. 147-59, admirably illustrated, gives an account of the *engineered* ascent of the GRANDES JORASSES by the N.E. arête from the Col des Hirondelles, in August, 1927. The party consisted of Signori Francesco Ravelli, Guido Rivetti, Gustavo Gaja, and L. Matteoda,⁵ with Adolphe Rey and Alphonse Chenoz. Rey was the leader.

A foreword by Signor Lampugnani refers very sympathetically to the descent by the Young-Jones-Knubel (Croux) party in 1911 ('A.J.' 25, 737-8; 26, 231-42).

In 'R.M.' xlvii, pp. 237-48, will be found a highly interesting article, *Nelle Grandes Murailles*, written by Count Aldo Bonacossa, describing several of our member's new routes in the VALPELLINE RIDGE, together with a superb photograph by Cav. Vittorio Sella, facing p. 266.

The *Æ.A.Z.* announces the ascent of ILLAMPU (Sorata), in the Bolivian Cordillera, by Herren H. Pfann, E. Hein, H. Hörtnagel, and A. Horeschowsky of the D. & Oe. A.-V. Expedition. Other peaks climbed include Calzata, Cocho-Comani and Illimani.

A reconnaissance of the N. FACE OF THE MATTERHORN.—Last September the guides Kaspar Mooser and Viktor Imboden of Taesch explored this face. Their object was *not* an ascent but to ascertain whether a certain route, known to be very difficult but sheltered from stone-fall, was cut off at a certain spot (as they feared) by an overhang. The certain spot was duly attained and further progress *was* completely barred. This very sporting expedition should NOT be regarded as an attempt, being solely in the nature of a *reconnaissance*.

We regret to hear lately of the decease of M. PAUL GUILLEMIN (1847-1928), who was well known in Dauphiné for his expeditions in the late 'seventies and early 'eighties. His usual companion was the late M. Salvador de Quatrefages. The Pic sans Nom, 3915 m., was renamed in 1879, most erroneously, in honour of the party.

⁵ We cannot trace the exact date in the narrative owing to the constant references to the days of the *week*—it was between August 6-10. Signor Matteoda is understood to have disappeared during the disastrous 'Nobile' expedition in 1928.

A stained-glass window was unveiled and dedicated on May 11, by the Archbishop of York, in East Rounton Church, near Northallerton, to the memory of Miss GERTRUDE BELL. One of the lights in the window represents the Matterhorn.

The first complete traverse of the *Pallavicinirinne* of the GROSS GLOCKNER took place on July 16, 1927—'A.J.' 40, 185. Since then no less than seven other ascents have been made, two by solitary individuals. From *Alpenfreund*, October 1928.

AIGUILLE SANS NOM—AIGUILLE VERTE traverse.—This expedition was accomplished last July by the guides Armand Charlet and Camille Dévouassoud from the *Nant Blanc* Glacier. The party, after great trouble on the glacier and lower glazed rocks of the A. sans Nom, were forced to bivouac. On the following day they eventually forced their way direct to the summit of the *Pointe Croux*, whence the watershed was followed to the Calotte of the A. Verte. The ascent was very difficult and dangerous below the bivouac, while the final climb to the *Pointe Croux* is considered by Charlet as the most desperate he has made. MM. de Ségogne and Lagarde, climbing independently, decided wisely to return from the bivouac.

We learn with the greatest pleasure that CHRISTIAN KLUCKER has quite recovered from the severe attack of sciatica which crippled him during the earlier part of the season. He was able to lead 'as usual' in the ascent of many of the Bregaglia peaks, including the Ago di Sciora, later in the summer.

The new carriage road from Ville Vallouise to AILEFROIDE is nearly completed. It was possible last summer to motor to within a few hundred yards of the hamlet and Chalet Hôtel. (From *La Montagne*.)

The weather in SWEDEN in the climbing season of 1928 was as conspicuous for its badness as that elsewhere was for its excellence, the summer being said to be the worst known for nearly a hundred years. Serious mountaineering was, therefore, not possible during August, but a fair number of people visited the Kebnekaise Tourist Station, and KEBNEKAISE⁶ itself was frequently ascended by the ordinary tourist route over Vierramvare. It may be interesting to note that the Kebnekaise group is now easily accessible, thanks to the exertions of the Swedish Tourist Club, and may be reached in two days from the railway station at Kalixfors on the railway running north from Stockholm to Narvik, the passage of the chain of lakes being facilitated and accelerated by a motor-boat running twice a week in each direction. The intervening night is spent at

⁶ 6964 ft. The highest mountain in Sweden.

a comfortable little building at Nikkulahti belonging to a Lapp, Peter Haugli, who also acts as guide between Kalixfors and Nikkulahti and drives the motor-boat. The Tourist Station at Kebnekaise is comfortable and well managed, and makes a good starting-point for expeditions in the neighbourhood, in which Swedish mountaineers have done a good deal of work in recent years.

It may be noted here that the 1929 number of the 'Årskrift' of the Swedish Touring Club (Svenska Turist Föreningen) is to be devoted specially to Lapland and should contain a good deal of interest to mountaineers, at any rate to those who can read a little Swedish, and even by those who cannot the illustrations will probably be found to give a good idea of a fascinating country and its interesting Lapp and Finn inhabitants.

H. L. JOSELAND.

Mr. Justice OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES has established a precedent in the annals of the U.S. Supreme Court. He has just broken the record for the longest period of sitting on the bench—a record that has stood since 1864. Mr. Holmes was born on March 3, 1841; he is actively engaged in the discharge of his judicial duties, enjoying better health than in recent years, and able to attend not only every session of the court, but also its frequent conferences.—From the *Philadelphia Public Ledger*, June 6, 1928.

Mr. Holmes was elected to the Alpine Club in 1866 and is consequently—we speak under correction—our second Senior Member, bracketed. We wish him many more years of activity and happiness.

A MATTERHORN novel.—Herr J. F. Jegerlehner has incorporated a degenerate idea into a remarkably foolish work: Michel Croz in the rôle of passionate lover and rival to the younger Taugwalder. When will this kind of vulgarity and bad taste cease to be published?

The expedition to the ALAI range, equipped by the Russian Academy of Science and the D. & Oe. A.-V., has succeeded in ascending Mt. KAUFMANN⁷ in the Trans-Alai. Mt. Kaufmann is more than 7100 m.⁸ and is the highest peak in the Trans-Alai range forming the Northern Boundary of the Pamirs. Although very ancient caravan routes between E. and W. Turkestan pass by the foot of the range, the Trans-Alai remained completely unknown. Its exploration, including the higher regions, was one of the principal tasks of the expedition, which by the ascent of the highest

⁷ The new Soviet name is unprintable.

⁸ The *Times Atlas* gives 23,386 ft., corresponding approximately with 7200 m.—the height is probably much overestimated.—*Editor*.

peak has accomplished a notable mountaineering and scientific achievement.

The N. face of the peak, rising 4000 m. in steep rocky cliffs above the Alai valley, is absolutely impossible; consequently the mountaineering section of the party vainly tried to climb the great peak from the E. Only after shifting their base to the S.E. side was the ascent carried out successfully, although with extraordinary labour, on September 25, 1928. In addition two other mountains of over 6000 m., both described as 'very difficult and dangerous,' were climbed.

During August the expedition did successful work in the SELTAU, the range bordering on the Pamirs on the W., where a number of huge glaciers, including the Fedschenko glacier, stated to be 45 miles (!) long and the largest in Russian territory, were explored and measured.—From the *Berliner Tagblatt* and *Allgemeine Bergsteiger Zeitung*.

Mr. N. A. Tombazi is organizing an expedition, for next year, to KANGCHENJUNGA with the object of exploring the approaches and especially the ridge between Siniolchum and Kangchenjunga.

Dr. H. DÜBI celebrated his eightieth birthday on November 25. In conjunction with the whole Alpine world, we wish him many happy returns of the day.

An album of beautifully executed water-colours and drawings has been purchased for the Club Library. The album was the property of Mr. W. E. HALL (1835–1894), Secretary to the A.C., 1867–8, and elected to the Club in 1861. Among other paintings, it contains an illustration of great merit of the Matterhorn, executed from the top of the Lyskamm on the day of the latter's first ascent, August 19, 1861. Mr. Hall's other paintings and drawings include the Schreckhorn, Dent d'Hérens, Géant, and several scenes of great interest in the Prussian-Danish war of 1864.

The new hut—almost an hotel—replacing the old CECILIA Club hut at the foot of the Predarossa glacier, is nearly completed. The Cecilia is to be left standing derelict, but it appears strange that its pretty and long-established name (after the wife of the late Count Francesco Lurani) has not been transferred to the new hut ('Ponti'). An interesting monograph on the CORNI BRUCIATI, the southern outliers of Monte Disgrazia, unattractive peaks in fascinating country, is published in the C.A.I. *Sezione di Milano* monthly, October, 1928. It is believed that one British ascent only of these peaks has been accomplished.

We much regret to hear of the death of Monsieur PIERRE PUISEUX (1855–1928), the famous astronomer. M. Puisseux was an honorary member of the Alpine Club.

The Central Committee of the S.A.C. has generously presented a number of volumes from the LIBRARY of the late MR. COOLIDGE, and of which the A.C. Library was previously deficient. We much appreciate the gift.

AIGUILLE DU PLAN, by the E. face. 'Our time from the Monteners to the summit was 12 hours 40 minutes, or 17 hours, I think, from door to door. Franz [Lochmatter] led over the final difficulties. . . . It was the hardest climb I ever did, although we had it in perfect condition. . . . All the climbs I did in 1905-6 from the Mer de Glace were very similar, *i.e.* Grépon, Blaitière, Charmoz, Plan, but on the latter difficulties were longer. In 1914 I repeated Young's route up the Grépon, which was a great improvement on mine of 1905, but again not so long as the Plan. I think you would like my route up the [Grands] Charmoz by the Monteners face . . . it is just like the Plan, only much shorter (we kept fairly close to the Petits Charmoz ridge), we took between 8 and 9 hours over it.' (Letter from Captain V. J. E. Ryan to Mr. Smythe.)

AIGUILLE DES GLACIERS.—Mr. Eaton writes: 'Last August I left the Pavillon de Trélatête with Monsieur Robert Ditmas, and two guides, at 03.15 to attempt the ascent of the A. des Glaciers by a route previously but once accomplished by Monsieur Henri Bregeault and an amateur companion in 1926. We ascended the Trélatête Glacier for 3 hours, leaving the arm of that glacier (up which the ordinary route goes) on our right. S. M. Bregeault's route, at which we were aiming, is the central one of three ridges leading up from the Glacier de Trélatête to the shoulder where the ordinary route from the Col des Glaciers falls in. We gained access to the ridge from the glacier by polished slabs constituting the only real difficulty in the climb. We reached the shoulder in 8 hours from the Pavillon, which compares with M. Bregeault's time of 6 hours to the *summit*! I agree with Bregeault's remark that the route—although loose rocks are met with—is a good and safe one, preferable to the ordinary way.'

Mr. Richard Kay has kindly presented to the Club the *Führerbuch* of PETER TAUGWALDER (1843-1923). Portraits of Taugwalder (about 1865) will be found in 'A.J.' 31, facing p. 88 and 39 facing p. 15.

DIE ENGELHÖRNER.—The entire chain from the Gstellhorn to the Burgalp has been climbed in 11 hours, in the same day this summer, by four Meiringen mountaineers.

The BREITLAIHORN has been ascended direct from the Fafleralp *via* the Innerer Lauibach and the rib commencing at point 2669 m. (*S. map*), on July 26, 1928, by MM. Chervet and Etienne. Time 9 hrs. 40 mins. (including 1 hr. 20 mins. halts). A very fine ascent of quite first-rate importance in its upper part.

P. M.

AIGUILLE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE.—The ascent was repeated on July 14,⁹ 1928, by Monsieur V. Hugonnet, with Alfred Couttet, M. Bozon and E. Ravanel; the former elaborate rope-throwing operations proved necessary. This appears to be the second ascent of the tooth. From *La Montagne*.

THE DOM IN WINTER.—With reference to my ascent of the Dom in January 1894, Monsieur Marcel Kurz, in an article published in the 'Annuaire' for 1928 of the *Association Suisse des Clubs de Ski*, appears to have established the fact that the first winter ascent of this peak was accomplished on March 3, 1891, by a party of nine guides accompanied by a certain Johann Kronig, who had returned from a long sojourn in the United States to his native valley, and was at the time teaching English in Randa.

A mysterious feature of this ascent is that Adolf Schaller, who was one of my guides in January 1894, is stated to have been a member of the party in 1891. When he proposed that we should make our ascent, Adolf never mentioned or even hinted that he had been one of a party on a previous winter ascent, and, as a matter of fact, gave me to understand that the Dom had never been ascended, nor even attempted, in winter. Furthermore, when we descended from our successful ascent, I spent over an hour in Randa, when I chatted to several of the guides resident there, and, in spite of the fact that our ascent had created a considerable stir in the valley, not a single word was mentioned of any previous winter ascent. It is somewhat curious to note that although the 1891 ascent appears to have been made in very bad weather and the party, consisting of ten persons, was a large one usually involving slower progress, the ascent was made in 3 hours less than our time. They must have found better conditions in other respects, as although we had superb weather, we had an unexpected amount of step-cutting to do on the *Festigrat*. Otherwise we had no inducement to linger as the cold was intense.

Monsieur Kurz refers to a *communiqué* which was sent to the Swiss Press. I should like to add that this was done entirely without my knowledge, and at the time caused me considerable annoyance, as I dislike anything that savours of *advertisement*, which I regret to notice *is becoming far too frequent* in the present day.

Monsieur Kurz is kind enough to say that he knows that I do not attach any importance to priority, but, had I known of the previous ascent, I should certainly have attempted one of the other great peaks instead of the Dom.

SYDNEY SPENCER.

In the interest of historical accuracy, and since M. Kurz has seen fit—very properly—to draw attention to the true date of the first winter ascent of the Dom, we would point out that Mr. Spencer's

⁹ Note the singular appropriateness of the date—*Editor*.

first ascent of the AIGUILLE DE BLAITIÈRE by the great snow or ice wall facing the Nantillons Glacier (August 7, 1898, with Christian Jossi, sen., and Hans Almer, 'A.J.' 32, 368; 37, 195) is recorded neither in *Guide de la Chaîne du Mont Blanc*, 1927, nor in 'Vallot,' *Les Aiguilles de Chamonix*.—E. L. S.

A.A.C. BERNE. Herr A. Gassmann is the President Elect and Herr A. Stumpf *Hüttenchef* for 1929.

We deeply regret to report, in August, October and November, respectively, the deaths of Messrs. G. E. WHERRY, J. A. CARFRAE, SIR ALEXANDER KENNEDY and Mr. M. F. MONIER-WILLIAMS, four very senior and distinguished members of the Alpine Club. Obituaries will appear in the May 'A.J.'

HIMALAYAN NOTES.

THE HIMALAYAN CLUB.

INFORMATION AND INTELLIGENCE.

A. *Route Books and Guides.*

One of the principal objects of the Club, as stated in the Memorandum of Association, is 'to collect, classify and publish descriptions of Himalayan routes and other information relating to the Himalaya.'

The basis on which it is proposed to work is 'Routes in the Western Himalaya, Kashmir, etc.,' by Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. Montgomerie, R.E., F.R.S., generally known as the Survey of India Route Book. A revised and enlarged edition, covering Gilgit, Kashmir, Punch, Ladakh and the routes to Central Asia from these districts, was prepared by Major Kenneth Mason and published by the Survey of India in 1922 as 'Routes in the Western Himalaya, Kashmir, etc., Vol. I.'

It is now proposed :

(1) To prepare a revised and enlarged edition of the remainder of Montgomerie's Route Book, covering Chamba, Lahul, Spiti, Kangra, Kulu, Bashahr, Tehri-Garhwal and Kumaon, which will be published as 'Routes in the Western Himalaya, Kashmir, etc., Vol. II.';

(2) To prepare a similar Route Book for the Eastern Himalaya and the northern ranges of Assam and Burma ;

(3) To prepare District Guides, elaborating these Route Books and including more detailed information on peaks and passes, on