

## ALPINE NOTES

	Year of Election.
THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :	
Marindin, G. E. . . . .	1868
Gilson, R. Cary . . . . .	1891
Oliver, E. G. . . . .	{ 1908-1920 1926
Coleman, A. P., Ph.D., F.R.S., Honorary Member	1911
Wright, H. F. . . . .	1920

REMOVAL OF LIBRARY.—During the crisis of last autumn the safety of the Club's Library and pictures was a matter of anxiety to the officers of the Club. It is not possible to insure against war risks, and in any case insurance is no solution because much of the Club's most valuable property is irreplaceable. It was therefore determined to remove the Library and pictures from the danger zone. Provisional arrangements for such a removal had been made in advance. On Monday, September 26, these were put into effect and the property was stored in a West of England town. It was all safely returned without damage and one can only hope that the occasion for such a move will not recur.

The gratitude of all members is due to those who carried through this arduous task with such skill and promptitude.

MUMM'S ALPINE CLUB REGISTERS, 1891-1895 AND 1896-1901.—While still engaged in the collection of data for his Registers, the late A. L. Mumm mentioned that he intended to carry these only as far as the year 1895, as he considered that, after that date, the qualification forms of the members of the Club as preserved in the bound volumes at the Alpine Club were in fact sufficient as records. This is no doubt true up to a point, but these volumes of qualification forms lack the more intimate biographical details of members as given in Mumm's Registers, to the collection of which he devoted much time and expense. Just prior to his departure for Japan, Mumm informed the writer with evident joy that he had finished the 1877-1890 volume. Alas! he did not live to see this published, but his will provided for the publication, and the volume appeared in 1928. Amongst other things he left his Diaries and Notebooks to the Alpine Club, and it is from these latter that the two volumes above mentioned were compiled. The biographical notes in the first volume (1891-1895) are in most cases fairly complete, but it is evident that Mumm intended to amplify some of the material in hand. In the second volume (1896-1901) biographical notes are scanty and in some cases entirely lacking. Be that as it may,

it was felt that something should be done with these Notebooks, and the volumes for 1891-1895 and 1896-1901 are the result. There is no doubt that for future generations of members of this Club Mumm's monumental work will be of ever increasing interest. It may be mentioned that Mumm himself was an enthusiastic collector of School Registers, and it is probable that herein lay the germ of the idea for the Alpine Club Registers.

F. OUGHTON.

Only those who have seen the two typewritten volumes here mentioned, can appreciate the labour and the accuracy with which they have been composed. We congratulate Mr. Oughton on the scholarly manner in which he has carried forward this research work.—*Editor*.

We regret to announce the death from pneumonia on December 9, 1938, of Miss MARGARET HELEN JAMES, who for many years has compiled the index for the Alpine Journal.

Miss James was well known to many of the leading publishers, who entrusted to her the compiling of indexes for their more important publications on travel, history, memoirs, biography, medicine, congress reports, etc. This work, on which Miss James was engaged for a period of at least forty years, invariably won praise for its accuracy and completeness. She possessed two assets of great value to her in her work: a wide knowledge, and a really brilliant memory. Among the more recent indexes for which she was responsible have been, her cousin the late Dr. Montague Rhodes James's *Suffolk and Norfolk*, her friend Dame Millicent Fawcett's *What I Remember, Marlborough* by Winston Churchill, and *The Jews in the Modern World* by Dr. Ruppin.

Miss James also published a collection of stories called *Bogie Tales of East Anglia*. To a remarkably retentive memory and an almost encyclopædic knowledge of East Anglia, was added a zest for reading, and she was possessed of a charming personality.

M. PAUL HELBRONNER.—We regret to announce the death in Paris on October 18 last year of M. Paul Helbronner, Membre de l'Institut. Born at Compiègne in 1871, he was educated for a scientific career and devoted his life and fortune to the study of Alpine geodesy. The monumental work, *La description géométrique détaillée des Alpes Françaises*, the publication of which he had almost finished, comprises not less than 12 volumes, embodying the results of 24 Alpine seasons with a total of 66 months above the snowline<sup>1</sup> and the taking of some 1500 photographs and panoramas. This work will soon be published, thanks to the generosity of the deceased.

One of M. Helbronner's services to science was to unite Corsica with the geodetic system of France.

<sup>1</sup> A charming description of M. Helbronner at work is given by Dr. Julius Kugy in *Aus dem Leben eines Bergsteigers*, p. 305, English translation, pp. 342-3.

PROPOSED GANDEGG CABLE RAILWAY.—The following letter,<sup>2</sup> addressed to the Editor, has been published in *The Times* :

March 7, 1939.

The Editor,  
*The Times* Publishing Co., Ltd.,  
 Printing House Square, E.C. 4.

SIR,—Members of the Alpine Club, in common with all lovers of the Alps, have heard with regret of the intention of the Commune of Zermatt to sanction a cable railway between the Riffelberg and Gandegg. We earnestly hope that the Commune, with which we have had such happy relations for so many years, and which has benefited so much from those who have sought and found peace and health in the unspoilt mountains of Zermatt, will think again before finally committing themselves to a scheme which will undoubtedly rob their district of one of its principal attractions.

In our opinion it would spoil one of the noblest places in all the Alps without opening any new vista to the tourist, for there is nothing to be seen from the proposed cable railway which cannot be seen as well or better from elsewhere.

We are confident that the project can do little good to Zermatt but may do much harm. We believe that we are expressing the feelings not only of mountaineers, but also of walkers and tourists when we beg the Commune of Zermatt to reconsider their decision.

We are, Sir,  
 Your obedient Servants,  
 CLAUD SCHUSTER,  
*President.*  
 E. S. HERBERT,  
*Hon. Secretary.*

A copy of the above letter was forwarded to the Swiss Alpine Club. The Secretary's reply is here given :

Olten,  
 March 14, 1939.

The Secretary, Alpine Club,  
 74 South Audley Street, London, W. 1.

DEAR SIR,—We are obliged for your letter of 8th March and very much appreciate the interest which you take in the matter. We also thank you for the action which you have undertaken with the English Press.

Needless to say, your point of view is absolutely identical with our own and we have filed a very strong protest against the scheme some time ago. We are leaving no stone unturned to convince the people of the absurdity of the projected cable railway and we are in this connection also co-operating with other associations and official bodies who cherish the same ideals as we.

It is difficult to say as yet how matters will end, as Zermatt seems to make believe that there are some vital local interests at stake.

Would it be asking too much if we invite your association to write also to the community of Zermatt? This would certainly have some bearing, as British tourists have always been greatly esteemed in this Alpine centre.

Thanking you in advance,  
 yours very truly,  
 Central-Committee of the S.A.C.  
 The Secretary :  
 E. SCHWAB.

<sup>2</sup> See *Proceedings*, p. 174 of this number.

In answer to the above letter the President of the Alpine Club wrote as follows :

March 23, 1939.

To the President of the Commune,  
Zermatt, Valais,  
Switzerland.

DEAR SIR,—As President of the Alpine Club I am writing to you on behalf of the Club with regard to the cable railway from the Riffelberg to the Gandegg. I feel that our long and happy association with Zermatt justifies us in bringing before you the views of our members. We would beg you to believe that in doing so we have the interests of Zermatt at heart. The considerations which the Alpine Club wish to bring before the Commune are these :—

Zermatt is the centre of one of the most magnificent parts of the whole Alps. Hitherto no railway of any kind has been constructed in Switzerland across glaciers and it seems to us most unfortunate that such a region should be chosen for a project which would form a precedent for other parts of Switzerland.

There is a very general feeling in this country that the existence of this proposed railway will substantially diminish the attractions of Zermatt.

We appreciate the desire of your Commune to develop Zermatt as a winter sports place. Ski-ing is now so much a part of mountaineering that members of the Alpine Club are keenly interested in its development. We would ask the Commune to consider whether it is desirable to encourage all kinds of skiers to make the excursion to the Gandegg. Is it not an excursion which should be limited to skiers with some mountaineering experience, and in particular experience of the snow conditions likely to be met with on parts of the descent? Can the existence of the railway be justified financially if its use is limited to those who are qualified to make the runs which it is proposed to open up?

I have, of course, read with interest your letter in *The Times* newspaper. If I may say so, however, we wonder whether the railway would not be much more conspicuous than seems to be thought and whether it will really be of the value to skiers which is suggested.

We trust that the Commune is not yet finally committed to the project and that it may be reconsidered.

Yours faithfully,  
CLAUD SCHUSTER.

HIMALAYAN AND KARAKORAM EXPEDITIONS, 1939.—A Swiss party consisting of M. André Roch, Herr Ernst Feuz and Dr. Hoffmann (expedition doctor), with the guides Fritz Steuri of Grindelwald and David Zogg of Arosa, will visit Garhwal, for the purpose of exploring the region of the Bagini and Kosa Glaciers.

A German party led by Herr Peter Aufschnaiter will visit the Diama flank of Nanga Parbat.

An American expedition led by Mr. Fritz Wiessner intends to attempt the ascent of K<sub>2</sub> by the W. ridge.

A British party led by Mr. E. E. Shipton is to continue the exploration of the district visited by Mr. Shipton's party in 1937. Other members of the party are Dr. E. Fountaine, Messrs. R. Scott Russell and M. A. Spender.

CAVALIERE FILIPPO DE FILIPPI.—Reference was made in *A. J.* 50. 317, to the death of this great explorer. An *In Memoriam* notice will be published in the November number.

NEW ZEALAND NOTES.—The climbing season in the Southern Alps has been the worst, if not within living memory, at any rate since the revival of interest in the mountains some ten years ago. It was the middle of February before any major climb could be attempted. Since then a traverse of Mt. Cook has been effected by Mr. L. Mahan and Mr. A. Jackson, by Sillem's route over the Central and High Peaks. The conditions were bad, and a nor'wester began as they reached the summit, rendering the descent of the summit rocks peculiarly unpleasant. In these circumstances a time of  $19\frac{1}{2}$  hours for the traverse indicates a stout heart and technical skill. A few days later Miss C. Irving, guided by Mick Bowie and S. Brookes, climbed Mt. Tasman by Syme's route up the E. ice rib (third ascent) and proceeded to make the first descent of it. Owing to the long continuance of summer snowfalls, the ice was unusually unbroken.

The two great unsolved problems of the Southern Alps, the S. ridge of Mt. Cook and the W. ridge of Mt. Tasman, with which many ambitious parties are eager to try conclusions, remain inviolate for the present.

H. E. L. PORTER.

NEW ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP.—Mountaineers accustomed to the high level of accuracy of the Swiss Siegfried map, will be interested to learn that the Ordnance Survey is to publish a new medium scale map of Great Britain which will show much more detail than even the pre-eminent Siegfried.

The new map is on the natural scale of  $1/25,000$ , or 1 cm. to 250 m., being twice the scale of the Siegfried on  $1/50,000$ , and more than twice that of the old 'inch to the mile,' or  $1/63,360$ , used for mountaineering in these islands up to the present. It has long been recognised that the latter scale is too small for climbing purposes, and the new map will fill a long felt want in this respect.

It is particularly gratifying to note that this new  $1/25,000$  British map, each sheet of which is to cover 100 square kilometres, is printed in much the same way as the Siegfried, detail being shown in black on a white ground with contours in brown and rivers in blue, but without distinctive colouring for woods or roads. The metric scale<sup>3</sup> will enable easy comparisons to be made between home and Alpine expeditions, and an additional noteworthy feature is a kilometre grid with reference numbers which is also to be superimposed on the whole of the present range of Ordnance Survey maps. By this means any point on a hillside may be numerically defined to within about 25 m. (1 mm. on the map) and thus recorded with accuracy in climbing guides and the like—*e.g.* the reference might be 128,325 E. 479,575 N., which figures would have the same meaning on any Ordnance Survey map whatever its scale.

Altitudes are given in metres in the official specimen, in accordance with modern practice. This is a new departure in British maps and

<sup>3</sup> *A. J.* 47. 187-90.

will bring our mountain heights into line with the figures used in most other parts of the world.

As the issue of specific sheets of the 1/25,000 map is dependent upon public demand, intending purchasers might do well to transmit their future requirements to the Ordnance Survey Department, Southampton, in order to ensure the early production of the sheets in which they are interested.

A. M. ROBINSON.

THE NEW MAP OF SWITZERLAND.<sup>4</sup>—The first few sheets are now available of the new National Map of Switzerland, which will eventually replace the Siegfried Atlas for the whole country. The survey of which this is the publication has been described in 'The new photographic survey of Switzerland' (*G. J.* lxxix, 1932, 383). The Siegfried maps are so well known as some of the most successful ever published that it is not out of place to recall their origin in the mountaineer's need of a map on a larger scale than 1/100,000. In 1868, after the publication of the Dufour map, Siegfried, who was Dufour's successor, decided to issue the entire series of field sheets of the earlier map on the original scale of 1/50,000, the Swiss Alpine Club having already led the way by publishing certain areas. At the same time a revision of the sheets was begun; later, in 1890, a new instrumental triangulation was carried out. In consequence the Siegfried sheets have for some time represented the working of new material into an old fabric, with the effect that the sheets vary greatly from one to another, some containing surveys of widely differing degrees of accuracy based on independent and mutually contradictory trigonometrical frameworks. Soon after the war, therefore, it was decided to survey the whole country afresh.

The method of survey from photographs, called photogrammetry, had always interested the Swiss, who from 1896 onwards had used its simpler applications. Terrestrial stereo-photogrammetry has been used throughout the Alps for the topography of the new map, except in certain small areas which were filled in from oblique air-photographs. This is the same method as that used by the former D.u.Ö.A.-V. to produce their excellent maps of such districts as the Gross Glockner.

Much of the new survey has been ready for publication for several years. During the interval experiments were being made to fix the most satisfactory style of publication. One of the new sheets, Normalblatt 529, Jungfrau E., may be taken as typical of the result of all these labours: it may with advantage be compared with the Siegfried sheets 489 and 493 of the old series. The new sheets are 35 cm. by 48 cm. and contain exactly two Siegfried sheets, the original sheet-lines defined by the kilometre grid being retained. The underlying triangulation has been reduced to the new height of the Pierre du Niton, for which modern precise levelling from the sea through France has given a value 3·2 metres lower than the previously accepted

<sup>4</sup> Reprinted by the courtesy of the Editor, *Geographical Journal*.

value. Primary points are therefore reduced in height by this amount, and other heights show a tendency to be lowered even further. Thus the Jungfrau changes from 4166 m. to 4158·2 m.; the Finsteraarhorn only from 4275 m. to 4273·8 m.; but the Finsteraar Rothorn from 3549 m. to 3530 m. The Aletschhorn is an exception and is given a height of 4195 m. on the new map as compared with 4182 m. on the old.

The Siegfried sheet of this area was plane-tabled by Imfeld in 1883. His many fine maps of the high Alps show him to have been a reviser of particular excellence, whose beautiful and accurate rock-drawing has in many instances hardly been bettered in spite of the advances in mountaineering and the development of photogrammetry. But in the glaciers and in the flatter, less well-defined Alps, such as the Belalp, more marked differences appear. Only photogrammetry can provide accurate contours on ice, firn, and snow; it is often next to impossible for the most experienced traveller to appreciate the form of a snowfield. For glaciologists in particular and scientists in general a true description of icefields is very important. If the two drawings of the Ewig-schneefeld are compared, the type of difference which occurs between the two methods of survey will be seen well demonstrated.

Rock-drawing with oblique lighting was the most characteristic feature of the Swiss maps, and this has been retained. But two modifications have been added which greatly enhance the beauty and intelligibility of the maps: there is a carefully applied shading to the ice and snow features (all in blue), and forests are picked up in a pale green. The lettering is in a satisfactory copper-plate style; the map appears to be printed indirectly from a copper original, and the resulting registration is as perfect as we have ever seen.

If these maps are examined with a high-power lens, no flaws are revealed. Rather it might be said in criticism of the maps that without the use of magnification their full content remains concealed. The standard set by the Swiss Landestopographie, first in the Dufour map, then in the Siegfried Atlas, has been very high, and these maps display an excellence transcending their qualities merely as units of a useful publication.

M. A. SPENDER.

**THE COMPASS: A WARNING TO PHOTOGRAPHERS.**—It is not generally known that modern photo-electric exposure meters, such as are commonly carried by photographers nowadays, contain a small but powerful permanent magnet, which has a much more disturbing effect on a compass than a mere mass of iron. The actual deviation depends partly on the distance and partly on the relative orientation of compass and magnet. The following table, based on experiments with a prismatic compass and an 'ombrux' meter, shows the *maximum* deviation which the writer was able to obtain at the stated distances. For comparison the results of similar experiments with two ice-axes are recorded as well. It should be remembered that a compass in use

would probably be held at a distance of between 1 and 2 ft. from any article in the pocket or rucksack. Further comment is unnecessary.

Distance.	2 ft.	1 ft.	6 in.
' Ombrux meter ' . . .	1°	10°	65°
Ice-axe ' A ' . . .	0°	0°	1°
Ice-axe ' B ' . . .	0°	0°	2°

J. Y. MACDONALD.

(From S.M.C. *Journal*, 21. 435.)

ACCIDENTS.—A party of eight skiers, including a young lady and two ski instructors,<sup>5</sup> proceeding towards the Grand Galibier in the Dauphiné, were overwhelmed by an avalanche at about 11.00 on January 7. The party had started from Valloire, and the accident occurred near the Galibier tunnel at a locality named Col de la Ponsonnière. During the previous days a very heavy snowfall had covered the old snow throughout the district and the slide took place above the victims. The sole survivor, Lieutenant Rousselier of the Engineers, was carried down some 400 ft. and had great difficulty in freeing himself. He was unable, from exhaustion, to regain Valloire before January 8; the search party reached the scene of the accident on January 9 and recovered the bodies from under the great masses forming the fatal avalanche.

The reasons for the disaster are obvious.

An accident occurred on February 18 on the Mer de Glace below the Requin hut. Of the party of three men, one duly attained the hut. Finding himself alone he returned in his tracks and noted that a bridge over a crevasse had given way. Hearing sounds in the ice he returned to Chamonix and engaged a search party. This latter found one of the victims dead at a great depth and the other seriously injured.—From *L'Éclaireur de Nice*.

SAUSSURE'S LADDER.—In my article on ' Markham Sherwill's Collection of Autographs ' (*A. J.* 50. 266), I quoted a letter from Martin Barry to Captain Sherwill. The Doctor wrote on August 12, 1836: ' The discovery of de Saussure's ladder was very interesting and important in connection with calculations as to the march of the glaciers.' In a footnote, I assumed that this ladder had been found on Mt. Blanc. I have now come to the conclusion that my statement was wrong. The fact that Martin Barry does not actually say that Sherwill found it during his ascent suggests that he saw it in another part of the mountains. In fact, this ladder had an interesting history.

In the summer of 1832, J. D. Forbes, who was exploring the Mer de Glace, came across ' some fragments of wood, evidently much

<sup>5</sup> Both instructors knew the district well. See *La Montagne*, March and April numbers, 1939.

wasted and rubbed.' They were pointed out to him by his guide, Joseph-Marie Couttet, who said they were 'part of the identical ladder which de Saussure had used in his memorable journey to the Col du Géant forty-four years before' (*Travels through the Alps of Savoy*, Coolidge's edition, 1900, pp. 82-3). The place where those venerable relics were discovered was halfway between the foot of the Aiguille de Trélaporte and the Talèfre moraine; Forbes was on his way to the Jardin. He picked up a splinter of wood 'without attaching very great faith to its history.' Ten years later, he thought again of the Mer de Glace ladder and put a few questions to his guides: 'Couttet and his brother repeated to me exactly the same story as before and mentioned the year 1832 as that in which the ladder reappeared and pointed out the very spot where I had heard of the thing before. They further mentioned that there was no question that it was a ladder, for *Captain Sherwill had seen and taken some of the steps*<sup>6</sup> still adhering to the lateral props.' No other ladder had ever been mentioned in connection with an ascent of the Col du Géant, except one by Bourrit, in 1787. Now it is well known that Saussure carried one with him in 1788. Though he does not actually say so, the ladder is a very obvious feature of the sketches made by Henri Lévesque, who was a member of the party. All the painters who copied them included a ladder in the climbers' paraphernalia. Saussure did not need it on his way down to Courmayeur, while the guides who were going back to Chamonix required it for crossing the séracs, and probably they dropped it at the foot of La Noire. Marie Couttet, Joseph-Marie's father, was among them; he knew what had become of the ladder and he probably informed his son.

Thus it is almost certain that the ladder mentioned by Martin Barry is the Mer de Glace one. Its record runs thus: it came out of the ice first in or a little before 1825, and Joseph-Marie Couttet pointed it out to Sherwill somewhere near the Tacul lake. Joseph-Marie Couttet was his guide on Mt. Blanc and in his training climbs also. Then the ladder disappeared once more and reappeared lower down seven years later, much the worse for wear; the Couttets showed it to Forbes. In 1836, Martin Barry heard of it through Markham Sherwill's letter. Then Forbes heard again of it in 1842 and calculated that it had travelled at the speed of 300 ft. per annum.

C. E. ENGEL.

A POEM BY ROBERT SOUTHEY.—By the courtesy of Sir Edmund Phipps, C.B., we are allowed to publish the following poem by Robert Southey, who became Poet Laureate in 1813. Southey was in Switzerland in the summer of 1817, and the verses here given are recorded by Miss Charlotte Milford Foskett, daughter of William Foskett of Goodrich House, near Ross, Monmouth, in a manuscript written in French describing a Swiss tour in 1818. The spelling is given as in the original.

<sup>6</sup> The italics are mine.

' J'ai trouvé les vers suivans dans le livre d'un guide à Lauterbrunnen :

' By my troth this Hans Roth  
 Is an excellent Guide,  
 A Joker, a Smoker,  
 And a servant beside ;  
 A Geologition,  
 A Metaphasician  
 To search out how causes proceed.  
 A System Inventor,  
 An Experimentor  
 Who raises potatoes from seed.  
 He Knoweth full well  
 The forest and fell,  
 The Chalets and dwellers therein,  
 The Mountains, and fountains,  
 The Ices, the prices,  
 Every town, every village and Inn.  
 Take him for your Guide,  
 He has often been try'd,  
 And will always be useful when needed.  
 You'll be merry together  
 In fair or foul weather  
 And shake hands at parting as we did.

ROBERT SOUTHEY.'

ZURIC,  
 16 July, 1817.

A VARIATION ON THE AIGUILLE DU GRAND DRU.—On August 17, 1938, a party composed of Signor and Signora Mirella, A. Frova, with Laurent Grivel of Courmayeur ' . . . scaled the hitherto unconquered S. face of the peak. Leaving the Charpoua hut at earliest dawn, the summit was attained at 17.00, where the party bivouacked. The ascent is all the more remarkable in that snow and glaze were abundant at the time.'—From *Lo Scarpone*.

The ordinary route lies up the E. margin of the S. face, while that leading to the Petit Dru is towards the S.W. edge of the same face.

THE MARMOT.—With reference to *A. J.* 50. 347, I may quote the following from Gesner's *Historia Animalium* :

*De Mure Alpino.* Mus alpinus cognomen traxit ex alpibus in quibus nascitur. Etsi enim alia quoq. murium genera alpes gignant, hoc unum tamen genus, non nisi in altissimis alpium & circa ipsos vertices nascitur, ut ipse multis excelsissimis montibus peragratis animadverti. Itali vulgo *murmot* vocant, vel marmotam . . . Germani, praesertim Helvetii, corrupto a mure montano nomine *Murmelthier*. There is also a quaint picture of what is undoubtedly a marmot.

I append certain other references :

Gesner : *Historiae Animalium* (Zürich, 1551) Lib. I de Quadrupedibus viviparis, i, 840-3. The passage also contains the following proverb and its translation : 'Necesse habet certum dormiendo tempus consumere instar muris Alpine ; Er müß syn zyt geschlaffen haben wie ein murmelthier.'

Stumpf : *Chronik* (1616 edit., dcx) : 'Es beisset übel mit seinen vordere zänen, so es erzürnt od' noch wild und d menschẽ ungewohnt ist : so es aber des menschẽ gewonet, schimpfet es ganz freündlich, und mit den zänen lauset es dem menschen gleich wie ein Aff.'

In Münster's *Cosmography* (German edit., Basle, 1556, ccccviii) there is a similar passage on the marmot, but the German is archaic.

Stumpf says, further : 'Darnach ist diss Thierlin genent wordẽ Mus montanus zu Latein, das ist zu Teutsch ein Bergmaus, daruñ neñen es die Welschen Murmõt. Auff disen Welschen namen sähen auch die Teutschen, uñ nennen es Murmentli uñ Murmelthierlin.'

Two recent books containing many amusing things about the marmot are Rambert's *Murmelthier mit dem Halsband* (this is the German title of the edition by Gesellschaft Alpiner Bücherfreunde), and Feuerstein's *Peterli*.

J. M. THORINGTON.

EARLY DRAWINGS.—Ibex and chamois are depicted in *Gaston Phoebus* (14th century), by Stumpf, Münster and Gesner (references given above), and in Martel's *Account of the Glacieres* (London, 1744). Chamois are further depicted by Maximilian I (*Theuerdank*, *Weiss Kunig* and *Jagdbuch*) in Lebwald's *Damographia* (Salzburg, 18th century ; modern facsimile by Gesellschaft A.B.) and Boner's *Chamois Hunting* (1852).

Avalanche, although described frequently, is not often a subject of old engravings. Burgkmaier's engraving in *Theuerdank* influences the small-scale woodcut in Stumpf's *Chronik*, while a more realistic picture will be found in Herrliberger's *Topographie* (1754-73).

Merian's *Topographia* (1642) presents the earliest view of an identifiable glacier (Lower Grindelwald) and Coolidge lists additional views in *Swiss Travel*, 166.

Conrad Witz's painting, 'Petrus Fischzug' (Geneva Museum, 15th century altarpiece, reproduced in *A. J.*) shows the chain of Mont Blanc in the background.

Within the past few years an article on 'The Avalanche in Art' appeared in *Die Alpen*.

J. M. THORINGTON.

ROAD POLICY IN THE LAKE DISTRICT.—An excellent pamphlet under this title is issued by that lively association the Friends of the Lake District (Bank Chambers, Ambleside). Its main theme is the danger to the amenities of Lakeland arising from ill considered road development. The scale of the scenery there is such as not to allow for

major roads of standard width without irretrievable damage to the surroundings. Fortunately the Ministry of Transport has not, so far, insisted on the observance of the usual rules.

The widening and straightening out of the minor roads which is now going on apace is even more destructive of beauty unless very carefully controlled. The present pamphlet is principally concerned with this aspect of the matter, and appears to be the first attempt made to provide a careful study of the problem and to put forward a reasoned policy. It is a lively and vigorous production, amply illustrated with a number of well chosen photographs.

R. S. T. CHORLEY.

CONCERNING A MISPRINT.—Readers of Mr. Irving's anthology, *The Mountain Way*, may have been mystified at learning, on p. 493, that Mr. Young's party 'ran blusterously down the snow slopes for another twenty minutes to the Vloot hut.' The mystery has been solved, and the hut in question is none other than our old friend the Vallot hut, now of sacred memory. We are permitted to reproduce the postcard salvoes exchanged on the subject :

Delete it, Time ! O Type, uproot  
That monstrous para-blot of ' Vloot ' !  
Restore the liquid falls that hallow  
The velvet memories of ' Vallot ' !  
    ' Vallots ' ring flute-like down the age ;  
    ' Vloots ' but in-vallo-date the page.

G. W. Y.

'Tis gone ! the haunt of man hirsute,  
That never thawed a frozen boot.  
The hut is razed, we raise the *Hut* :  
It's played its last, the Magic Vloot !

R. L. G. I.

A FRENCH TRANSLATION of *On High Hills* has now been completed by M. Bernard Lemoine. The work is published in the Collection Montagna, Victor Attinger, Paris, in two volumes, entitled *Mes Aventures Alpines* and *Nouvelles Escalades dans les Alpes*. The translation is for the most part a masterly rendering of the classic original. The production of both volumes has been supervised by M. Charles Gos.

ÖSTERREICHISCHER ALPENKLUB.—We congratulate this Club on the completion of its sixtieth year.

DR. H. DÜBI.—We congratulate our Honorary Member, Dr. Dübi, on attaining to his ninetieth birthday, and wish many years of happiness to this distinguished mountaineer. *Der Bergsteiger* (section *Mitteilungen*), January 1939, p. 114, contains a note of his career.

HERR HANNES BARTH retired last autumn from the editorship of D.A.V. publications, a post which he has held since 1919. We congratulate and thank him for the many services which he has given to Alpine literature and its records. See *Der Bergsteiger*, December 1938, p. 181.

DR. HERMANN BÜHLER, whose article is printed in this number, has been appointed Director of the D.A.V. Museum at Munich, in addition to his office as Librarian to the D.A.V.

ALETSCHHORN.—The hitherto unclimbed section of the long ridge leading up from the S.E. to the Aletschhorn, namely that between the Vorder Geishorn and the Mittel Aletschjoch, was traversed on August 11, 1938, by a party of three guided by Josef Imseng.

THE ENGLISHMAN AT CHAMONIX.—In the January 1939 number of *La Montagne* there is an excellent article, well illustrated, by M. Paul Payot, concerning early British visitors to Chamonix, under the title of 'Ruskin et les Anglais à Chamonix.' This article is the substance of an address delivered at the Pierre à Ruskin on July 19, 1938, on the occasion of the British Royal Visit to France.

M. JEAN ARLAUD.—We regret to announce the death of this distinguished French mountaineer in the Pyrenees on July 24, 1938. A full notice of his career is given in *La Montagne*, January 1939.

DENT DU REQUIN.—*Alpinisme*, September 1938, pp. 235-40, contains a full account by M. René Dittert of the Mayer-Dibona route, to which reference was made in *A. J.* 50. 303.

SKI EXPEDITIONS.—Miss Hermione Blandy and Lady Jeans accomplished during March, among other expeditions, the ascents of Pizzi Corvatsch, Chapütschin, Palü and Kesch. The snowfall throughout the Alps was very great.

DISTRESS SIGNAL.—The Alpine Club of Canada has adopted the Distress Signal Code in use in the European Alps, namely :

By the party in distress—six signals per minute, with approximately ten seconds interval between each signal, to be repeated after an interval of not less than one minute.

The answer—three signals as above, with similar interval, to signify 'Sending rescue party.'

The party in distress will acknowledge by two signals with approximately ten seconds between each signal. (*Cf. A. J.* 50. 147, with references there given.)

HERR MORIZ VON KUFFNER.—We regret to announce the death at Zürich on March 5 of this well-known Viennese mountaineer at the age of 85. He will be remembered as the companion of Alexander

Burgener on many great climbs. He was one of the earliest members of the Ö.A.K. We hope to publish a full *In Memoriam* notice in the November number.

ALEXANDER BURGNER'S FÜHRERBUCH.—The original of this book, which was reproduced in photographic form some years ago by M. Émile Gos, has now been generously presented to the Alpine Club by the family of the late Herr Moriz von Kuffner. This book is the second of Alexander Burgener's *Führerbücher*, the first having been lost or destroyed. We acknowledge this gift with sincere gratitude, both for its own historical value and in honour of the donor.

SOUTH AMERICA.—Mr. Walter A. Wood's party has made the first ascent of the highest peak in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, in Columbia. Mr. A. E. Gunther's party has visited the mountains of Venezuela. We hope to publish accounts of these expeditions in the November number.

FRANÇOIS SIMOND.—We regret to report the death on April 5 of this famous Chamonix guide at the age of 93. We hope to publish a full notice in the November number.

G.H.M.—*Alpinisme*, March 1939, contains full technical details of certain expeditions by members of this Association in Dauphiné and the Mont Blanc range.

HUTS.—The A.A.C. Bern has erected a hut at the Schmadribrunnen, at the N. foot of Grosshorn and Lauterbrunnen Breithorn. The hut in the Fauteuil des Allemands, presented to the C.A.A.I. by the Borelli family, has now been renewed thanks to the generosity of Dr. M. Borelli.—(From *Alpinisme*.)