

## ALPINE NOTES

(Compiled by D. F. O. Dangar)

	Year of Election
THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :	
Young, G. Winthrop . . . . .	1900
Lloyd, R. W. . . . .	1901
Eaton, J. E. C. . . . .	1904
McArthur, H. . . . .	1951
Jayal, N. D. . . . .	1955
Nelson, P. S. . . . .	1956

THE GEORGE CROSS FOR A CLIMBER.—The *London Gazette* for June 17 last contained the notification of the award of the G.C. posthumously to 2nd Lieut. Michael Benner, R.E. (1935–57) for courage in a mountaineering accident.

In the summer of 1957 Benner had taken a party of N.C.O.s and men on a mountain holiday in Austria and, after some preliminary climbs, including the Gross Venediger, they ascended the Gross Glockner on July 1 from the south, by the Stüdlgrat. A storm delayed them and they only reached the summit at 6 p.m. At this point, by what was to prove a calamitous decision, they discarded the rope before descending by the ordinary route over the Scharte and Klein Glockner. No one would regard the normal route on the Gross Glockner as difficult, but in the conditions obtaining, and with a party that was not highly experienced, to proceed unroped was injudicious, at the least.

The party wore Vibrams, but had no crampons, and at this late hour of the day the snow-ridge on the way down proved icy. Benner went ahead to reconnoitre the route and to kick steps and it would seem that by some misunderstanding the others followed close behind instead of waiting. Sapper Phillips, who had not even an ice-axe, slipped and fell down the steep snow slope on the southern side of the ridge. With great presence of mind, Benner jumped on to the slope and caught him by one arm, whilst trying to drive his ice-axe into the snow. For a moment or two they held, but the strain was too much and they were dragged from their position. Benner could have saved himself had he let go his companion, but he held on to the last, though carried over a precipice, to fall nearly 2,000 ft. on to the glacier.

Michael Benner was known to several members of the Club and his father has attended at more than one A.C. Dinner. So notable an award



as the G.C. will, one hopes, be some consolation to his parents and friends for the loss of a young and promising climber who had, in other ways also, already given proof of his adventurous disposition.

DR. F. A. COOK AND MT. MCKINLEY.—The well-known controversy over Cook's claim to have made the first ascent of Mt. McKinley in 1906 is probably, to most British readers, a long-since settled matter. But in America it is by no means dead. As mentioned elsewhere (p. 268), the *American Alpine Journal* for 1958 devotes a special article to a study of the problem. Mr. Francis P. Farquhar considered the subject briefly in the *Sierra Club Bulletin* for 1949 (vol. 34, pp. 97-8) in the course of a survey of the exploration of McKinley, and now, in his capacity as Editor of the *A.A. J.* he has issued a very striking essay by Bradford Washburn, which in its turn is due to the continuing support given to Cook's claims by his daughter, Mrs. Elliott J. Vetter, and others.

Based not only upon Bradford Washburn's intimate personal knowledge of the region, but on the observations of Belmore Browne (1910) and Adams Carter (1957), and including criticism of the efforts of Walter Gonnason and others, who have tried to uphold Cook's claims, the article is an impressive and convincing disproof of Cook's ascent. The folding frontispiece, enabling one to compare Cook's 'summit' photograph with others taken on 'Fake Peak', is very revealing, and the remorseless thoroughness with which the investigators have tracked down Cook and Barrille to this peaklet of approx. 6,000 ft. is a notable piece of detective work. One example will suffice to show how painstaking they have been. Early attempts at duplicating Cook's summit photograph had not been entirely satisfactory, owing to rock falls on Fake Peak and to a shrinkage of snow and ice which made the position from which Cook had taken the picture conjectural. In 1956 Bradford Washburn calculated that Cook must have had a stance equal to 42-45 ft. up in the air in 1906. In 1957 therefore, Adams Carter carried a 50-ft. mast up the peak, which, sunk one foot in the ice, should have given him the necessary height to get the exact angle of Cook's picture. But, alas, since 1906 the ice had melted a further 10 feet, so the top of their pole was still not quite correct to Cook's position!

To relate more would be to spoil the story, which must be read in full (Bradford Washburn's complete report, deposited with the American Alpine Club, is about three times as long as the *A.A. J.* summary). But the effect is, apparently, devastating.

Mount McKinley played an important role in the downfall of Cook, for his faking of results in this instance, if not the first, was the most notable of early examples of his bolstering-up his achievements by false claims, and so bringing his name into obloquy. Prior to 1906 Cook's reputation stood high enough. He was born in 1865, qualified as a



doctor in 1890, and went as medical officer on Peary's 1891-2 Arctic expedition. There is nothing known against him on this trip. He joined the 'Belgica' Antarctic expedition, 1897-9, as doctor, and Amundsen, who was first mate, has testified that during the winter in the pack-ice (the first winter ever spent, in this case involuntarily, within the Antarctic Circle) Cook was virtually the life and soul of the expedition.<sup>1</sup> His two attempts on Mt. McKinley in 1903 are not in dispute and he covered a large amount of virgin ground. He was a Founder Member of the A.A.C. and President of the Explorers' Club, and a man of repute in geographical circles both at home and abroad. It is tragic that he should fall into the disfavour that enveloped him for the last thirty years of his life.

It has been suggested<sup>2</sup> that Cook faked his results in 1906 in order to establish a reputation that would give him backing for a North Polar expedition, on which his ambitions were fixed. Neither of his two principal companions on McKinley, H. C. Parker and Belmore Browne, were with him on his final climb and neither of them credited his claim. His book (*To the Top of the Continent*) however, did not appear until 1908, so judgment had to be suspended and in the meantime, in 1907, he had sailed on his Arctic venture. On September 1, 1909, five days before Peary's claim was known, Cook announced that he had reached the North Pole; he said he had got there on April 21, 1908, and in fairness to him it may be said that he submitted documentary evidence to an independent body, the University of Copenhagen, who however, after inspection, said it was insufficient to prove his attainment of the Pole.<sup>3</sup> More shrewdly, Peary only let his records be seen by a committee of his own friends and backers, but from what is known of his observations, it may be regarded as likely that Copenhagen University,

<sup>1</sup> W. S. Barclay, *The Land of Magellan*, pp. 208 *seqq.*, has a curious story about Cook during the 'Belgica' expedition, and says that Cook stayed comfortably at Harburton (in the Beagle Channel, Tierra del Fuego) while the ship went south, picking him up on their return. During his stay, Cook is said to have purloined a MS. Yaghan dictionary compiled by the missionary, Thomas Bridges, which Cook ultimately deposited with other 'Belgica' records at Liège University as his own work. Barclay met him in New York in 1904 and asked him about the dictionary on behalf of the Bridges family, and Cook made profuse promises to return it, but never did.

Barclay seems certainly partly incorrect here, for whilst the 'Belgica' undoubtedly visited the Tierra del Fuego in the winter of 1897 and spent several weeks there, the presence of Cook on the vessel after she proceeded south is confirmed again and again by Amundsen (*The South Pole*, i, pp. 19 *seqq.*; *My Life as an Explorer*, pp. 20-30).

<sup>2</sup> *A.A.J.* 1946, p. 87.

<sup>3</sup> Cook's principal narrative was *My Attainment of the Pole*, 1911; his later (1930-5) tale of his return to civilisation, *Return from the Pole*, was published after his death, with notes by Frederick J. Pohl (1953).



had they been the judges, would have rejected them, just as they did Cook's.

That Cook travelled a considerable distance towards the North Pole seems certain, for two of his depots were found some years later. Probably few people today believe that he reached the Pole, however, and he would seem to have adopted 'McKinley tactics' by enlarging upon what he *had* done. In the disputes with the Peary party, the facts of the McKinley episode were brought out to discredit Cook; they succeeded and it would now appear that his claims to have reached 'The Top of the Continent' must be laid to rest. Cook's later life was unhappy; after lecturing and writing and going on an anthropological expedition to Borneo, he became involved in some doubtful oil promotion activities in Texas, and in 1923 was sentenced to nearly fifteen years' imprisonment. He was visited in prison by Amundsen, who never allowed his admiration for Cook's services in the 'Belgica' to be weakened by all the later discredit into which he had fallen. Cook was released on parole in 1930 and died on August 5, 1940, a few weeks after President Roosevelt had given him a full pardon.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.—The most important first ascents in the Alps in 1858 were those of the Eiger and the Dom. The Eiger was climbed for the first time on August 11 by Charles Barrington, on his first and only visit to Switzerland, with Christian Almer and Peter Bohren. At one point a difference of opinion with his guides led to Barrington going on by himself, leaving them to follow five minutes later and then 'they said it was impossible; I said, "I will try." So, with the rope coiled over my shoulders, I scrambled up, sticking like a cat to the rocks which cut my fingers and at last got up say fifty to sixty feet. I then lowered the rope, and the guides followed with its assistance.'

The families of the guides were in a state of distraction at their departure from Grindelwald and two elderly ladies abused Barrington for taking the men to risk their lives. Nearly twenty-five years passed before any account of this ascent was published.<sup>4</sup>

A month later, on September 11, the Dom fell to the Rev. J. Llewellyn Davies and a student from Randa, with Johann Zumtaugwald and Johann Kronig. The ascent was without incident; 'I am sorry to confess', wrote Davies, 'that I have no scientific observations to contribute to geology or botany as the result of my day's climbing. It would, however, be rather hard if an unscientific lawyer or parson out on his holiday were to be forbidden to ascend lofty mountains.'<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> *A.J.* 11. 173.

<sup>5</sup> *P.P. & G.* 1. 203-4.



Nearly four years later Llewellyn Davies made the first ascent of the Täschhorn.

Early in August, Charles Hudson, John Birkbeck and George Joad made the first crossing of the Mönchjoch with Melchior Anderegg and Victor Tairraz. Melchior, making his second new expedition, was rapidly winning a high reputation and Birkbeck wrote that he 'is decidedly the best guide in Switzerland for this pass, and we have never met with his equal for *enterprise, endurance, and general willingness combined*'.<sup>6</sup>

In the chain of Mont Blanc the Dôme de Miage and Aiguille de la Bérangère were climbed for the first time.

Professor Tyndall, leaving his coat and neckcloth behind, and with only a bottle of tea and a ham sandwich, made a solitary ascent of Monte Rosa, a most audacious feat at that epoch. He also went up Mont Blanc with Alfred Wills and Auguste Balmat. In spite of the cold, scientific observations had to be made on the summit. 'The temperature of the air was 20° Fahr. below the freezing point. I was too intent upon my work to heed the cold much, but I was numbed, one of my fingers had lost sensation, and my right heel was in pain.'<sup>7</sup> Poor Balmat, less intent than Tyndall, perhaps, upon his work, suffered from frost-bite and lost six of his finger nails, but he received a testimonial in the shape of a 'photographic apparatus' from the Royal Society as a reward for his devotion to the cause of science on this and other occasions.

T. S. Kennedy made a tour of the Matterhorn and opined that from Breuil all access to the summit appeared to him to be out of the question<sup>8</sup>; the men of Valtournanche did not share this opinion and the Carrels, in their second attempt on the mountain, reached a height of well over 12,000 ft.

Further afield, R. C. Nichols visited the Dauphiné, crossing the Col de la Temple and the Col de l'Eychauda.

CHARLES HUDSON.—Some further biographical details were given in *A. J.* 63. 123. In the March number of *Les Alpes* there are some extracts from the first Visitors' Book of the Jungfrau hotel on the Eggishorn, including one recording that Hudson, John Birkbeck and George Joad had arrived at the hotel from Grindelwald on August 4,

<sup>6</sup> *A. J.* 32. 82.

<sup>7</sup> *Glaciers of the Alps* (Everyman's Library), p. 168.

<sup>8</sup> Charles Gos in a list of attempts on the Matterhorn (*Le Cervin*, 1. 33.) records that as a result of this tour Kennedy declared that the mountain 'est praticable par le versant Italien'. 'Praticable' would seem to be a misprint for 'impraticable' for it was the apparent hopelessness of any attempt from Breuil that induced Kennedy to make his winter attempt from Zermatt in 1862. See *A. J.* 1. 77.



1856, and stayed for two nights. There is no mention in Mumm's *Register* of either Hudson or his companions being in the Alps in 1856.

According to H. F. Montagnier, Hudson's only recorded visit to the hotel was on August 4-5, 1858. On the following day he left for Grindelwald with Birkbeck and Joad, making the first passage of the Mönchjoch, the accepted date for which has always been 1858.<sup>9</sup>

The possibility that the entry in the Eggishorn Visitors' Book has been incorrectly transcribed cannot be overlooked and it would be interesting to have confirmation that Hudson, Birkbeck and Joad were at the Eggishorn both in 1856 and 1858.

MATTERHORN.—Professor Graham Brown has been good enough to send an extract from Whymper's diary giving particulars of the payments made to the Taugwalders after the first ascent in 1865. The details are :

' Paid Peter Taugwalder per self and sons for Matterhorn and Théodule

Peter	100			
Son	80	Bonnemain	20	
Son	20	Théodule	15	235.'

The figures, of course, are Swiss francs. It is clear from this that the first-named 'son' who received 80 francs was the one who went to the summit of the Matterhorn, 'Young' Peter. The second, who only got 20 francs, was the younger one who was sent back from the bivouac. As he also received an extra payment for 'Théodule' there can be no doubt that this younger son, whose name was Joseph, crossed to Breuil with Douglas. Professor Graham Brown was the first to draw attention to this.<sup>10</sup> As has been pointed out elsewhere in this Journal<sup>11</sup> Farrar and Smythe were definitely wrong in asserting that Douglas took 'Young' Peter with him to Breuil.

A NEW MAP OF EVEREST.—The map of Mount Everest (scale 1 : 25,000) published jointly by the Deutscher Alpenverein, Österreichischer Alpenverein and Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft is a beautiful production, which for the first time combines (in six colours) all recent ground and photogrammetric survey in the region south of Everest. Based fundamentally on the geodetic positions of the great peaks, fixed by the Survey of India, and on subsidiary triangulation and photogrammetry by Erwin Schneider in 1955, plotted and interpreted at the Technische Hochschule at Munich and aided by mountain cartographers of great ability, one searches in vain for holes to pick.

<sup>9</sup> *A. J.* 32. 80-2.

<sup>10</sup> *A. J.* 57. 374.

<sup>11</sup> *A. J.* 61. 494.



For the northern and eastern flanks of Everest the older surveys of Michael Spender in 1935 and of Sir Oliver Wheeler during the first Everest reconnaissance in 1921, supplemented by air photographs taken during the Houston flight in 1933, have been used ; the first-class photographs of the Indian Air Force have also been studied for much of the rock detail.

Perhaps a note of warning is necessary. All contours are drawn confidently as continuous lines at 20-metre intervals ; it appears that the whole has been completely covered in great detail and that there is no unseen 'dead ground'. This will surprise anyone who has wrestled with stereo-photogrammetric plotting of remote mountain areas in the past, since it is impossible in the field to be certain there are no blanks, nor in an office in Europe to dispatch a plane to cover such blanks. Some small unspecified areas, possibly as much as 10 per cent of the whole, may not be so accurate as the beautiful draughtsmanship seems to indicate. Full details of the compilation are given in the margin of the map, so these remarks are only a warning, and not a criticism.

A few names are not in accordance with accepted practice, but all are recognisable ; some are new, and evidently great pains have been taken with them. It is a little puzzling to find in the bottom right-hand margin a list of the fourteen highest mountains in the world, especially as some of them do not exactly conform to the heights officially accepted in India. It seems that some have been converted from feet to the nearest metre, and back again to the nearest foot. Unless one is very careful the answer may be out by a foot or two.<sup>12</sup>

KENNETH MASON.

ALPINE SKI CLUB.—On the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary we offer our congratulations to the Alpine Ski Club.

FROM AUSTRIA.—We record with regret the deaths of two distinguished Austrian mountaineers. Dr. Walter Frauenberger, whose visit to the Alpine Club will be recalled by many members, died in February as the result of an accident. He and the late Hermann Buhl came to London in 1954 and lectured to the Club on the first ascent of Nanga Parbat.

Frauenberger had a wide Alpine experience and had also visited the Caucasus and Spitsbergen. In 1938 he was in the Himalayas with Professor Schwarzgruber's expedition and took part in the first ascents of three 20,000-ft. peaks, including Sri Kailash (22,742 ft.) and in 1953 was deputy leader of the successful Nanga Parbat expedition.

<sup>12</sup> We are greatly indebted to Dr. G. O. Dyhrenfurth and Herr Erwin Schneider for the gift of several copies of this excellent map.



Professor Heinrich von Ficker died in April last year at the age of seventy-five. Apart from his other achievements, both in mountaineering and science, he will ever be remembered in connection with the attempt on the South peak of Ushba in 1903, when Herr Schulze, endeavouring to force a way up a very difficult pitch, slipped and fell the full length of the rope. Not only did von Ficker succeed in holding him but with the aid of the third member of the party, Herr Rickmers, managed to get him off the mountain without mishap. Schulze recovered sufficiently to take part in the first ascent a few days later.<sup>13</sup>

HANS PFANN.—One of the most celebrated of German mountaineers, Hans Pfann, died in January last at the age of eighty-five.

Pfann was born in Nuremberg. He first visited the Kaisergebirge in 1894 and during the next few seasons carried out many expeditions with Josef Enzensperger, soon making his mark as one of the best climbers in the Eastern Alps. In 1899 he went to the Western Alps and became one of the greatest of guideless climbers in an age when mountaineering without guides was by no means so universal as it is today. His many expeditions included the first ascent of the South face of the Pointe Walker, first traverse of Les Droites, and first complete traverse from the Matterhorn to the Dent d'Hérens. He retained his powers to an advanced age and, when eighty-two years old, ascended Piz Palü.

Pfann's greatest feat was the first traverse of the twin peaks of Ushba with G. Leuchs and L. Distel in August 1903, shortly after the first ascent.<sup>14</sup> He had been also to the Tien Shan with Merzbacher's 1902 expedition and was one of the party that made the first ascent of Illampu in the Bolivian Andes. Pfann's mountaineering experiences were described in his two books *Führerlose Gipfelfahrten* and *Aus meinem Bergleben*.

MENLOVE EDWARDS, who died this year at the age of forty-eight, stands boldly aside from the general tradition of British mountaineering. He climbed almost exclusively in North Wales, with the rare excursion to the Lakes, Scotland and once to Norway. His one Alpine season was a notable failure, and he never joined the Alpine Club. Yet his name and achievements are sufficiently important to warrant recognition in these pages.

He first came to Wales with the Liverpool University Mountaineering Club. Taking up the work of a consultant psychologist in Liverpool,

<sup>13</sup> See *A. J.* 22. 344-7.

<sup>14</sup> A short account of the expedition, 'one of the most remarkable displays of skill, determination, and endurance in mountaineering annals' will be found in *A. J.* 22. 480. The party had four nights out.



he started to visit Snowdonia regularly and soon, in the early thirties, was busy making up that impressive list of first ascents which in the end totalled over ninety. Unlike his great contemporary, Colin Kirkus, Menlove went by preference to the out-of-the-way cliffs, even if these involved vegetation (Three Cliffs of Llanberis) or loose rock (Devil's Kitchen). His experience served the Climbers' Club well. When the time came for the new series of guide-books to Wales, he contributed the first volume *Cwm Idwal* (1936), then two more, *Tryfan* and *Lliwedd*, with myself as a very junior partner; also, during the war, an interim guide to Clogwyn du'r Arddu, with John Barford.

It is impossible to summarise briefly Menlove's approach to the hills. They were necessary to him less for themselves than for the struggle which they involved; and this effort and sense of struggle come out conspicuously in the poems and stories that he has left. It is only sad that there are not more of them. The technique of rock climbing was also necessary to him, and in the handling of loose rock, as in rope work, he was an outstanding innovator and example. In these fields (and also because he continued to climb at a very high standard far longer than most) his influence on the post-war generation has been very great indeed. It is invidious to select, but of all his climbs the Central Gully on Lliwedd will probably hold its lesson the longest.

A man who put much into climbing and who gained inexplicably much from it; a poet who for a while held the balance between light and darkness; a man whom many did not understand and who became in one sense a war victim to his own conscience and honesty. A man whom we admired and mourn.

WILFRID NOYCE.

PIK POBEDA (Pic de la Victoire).—The summit of this peak, 24,407 ft. in height and the culminating point of the Tien Shan, was reached for the first time on August 30, 1956, by eleven members of a Russian expedition under the lead of M. V. Abalakov. Several unsuccessful attempts had been made on Pik Pobeda, but none, so far as we are aware, had reached a greater height than about 23,000 ft.

CRETE.—The active Canea branch of the Hellenic Mountain Club is building a club hut—the first of its kind in Crete—in the White Mountains at a height of 4,850 ft. It is reached in 2½–3 hours from the village of Kamboi, is accessible by car and fifteen miles from Canea. The hut was due to be completed by August 1958. Water is being brought down to it by a pipeline. Transport of provisions is by mule from Kamboi up to the hut.<sup>15</sup>

L. H. HURST.

<sup>15</sup> See *A. J.* 40. 243, for an article on mountaineering in Crete. A map will be found at the end of the same volume.



PATAGONIA.—A Chilean-Japanese expedition, under the lead of Mr. Takagi, visited Patagonia early this year and did some exploratory work in the Colonia glacier area. Two parties climbed Cerro Arenales, 11,286 ft., and an unsuccessful attempt was made on Cerro Arco, c. 10,335 ft.

An Italian expedition visited the Cerro Paine and on December 2 five members of the party made the first ascent of the Paine Central, 10,285 ft., the highest point of the massif. The ascent was made by the East face, the difficulties being comparable with those on the Route Major of Mont Blanc. On January 17 the Torre Nord du Paine, 8,530 ft., was climbed for the first time.

The Cerro Torre, 10,269 ft. was unsuccessfully attempted by the West face by W. Bonatti and C. Mauri, who got within about 1,300 ft. of the summit.<sup>16</sup> They later made the first ascent of Cerro Adele, 9,580 ft.

THE ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN.—Recent news about the Abominable Snowman reveals that a member of the species has been discovered in the act of eating frogs. The yeti was discovered by a party of Sherpas in the upper valley of the Dudh Kosi. Dawa Temba, one of the Sherpas, shone his torch upon it and the yeti advanced towards the party. Its appearance was evidently alarming and so frightened Dawa Temba that he ran for nearly a mile.

The alarm of the Sherpas was, no doubt, due to the fact that they recognised the creature as one of the smaller variety of yeti, which feeds on men.<sup>17</sup>

ELECTRICAL OBSERVATIONS FROM MOUNTAINS.—Mountain peaks afford a particularly favourable location from which to make observations of electrification that will help to shed new knowledge on how clouds make electricity. Even without any measuring equipment, much information can be obtained on the cloud height and temperature when they produce lightning or St. Elmo's fire and the presence or absence of snow, rain, graupel, or hail.

It is not yet known with certainty whether precipitation is necessary for electrification and whether or not clouds whose tops are below the freezing level can become electrified. Observers on mountains frequently have excellent opportunities to observe cloud formation and behaviour and to help answer these questions.

When the mountain projects into the cloud, important information can be obtained on the relationship between electric fields, snow crystal

<sup>16</sup> A photograph of this remarkable aiguille, in the FitzRoy massif, was published in *Alpinisme*, September 1950, p. 102.

<sup>17</sup> See *Blank on the Map* (Shipton), p. 202.



formation, and rain growth. It will be a service to meteorological science if those who witness what happens inside of clouds will write accounts of their observations, for surprisingly little is known.

If when you are in the mountains you see lightning below you, please note the following points: (1) At what height are the clouds? (2) Is the temperature where you are above freezing point or below?—and similar data.

The writer would greatly appreciate it if anyone making observations would send them to him at: Arthur D. Little, Inc., 20 Acorn Park, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

BERNARD VONNEGUT.

UNDERGROUND.—A subterranean glacier, composed of alternating layers of ice and sand, is reported to have been discovered in the Wägital area of Switzerland.

In the Antarctic a curious discovery has been made by Russian scientists who claim to have found a mountain range beneath the ice with peaks extending up to over 3,800 ft. above sea level. The leader of the Second Soviet Antarctic Expedition is quoted as saying that near the Russian IGY stations of Vostok and Sovietskaia the ice may be nearly 10,000 ft. thick.

LOW TEMPERATURES.—The lowest temperature recorded on earth is claimed to have been observed by Russian scientists at the Sovietskaia Antarctic Station. The thermometer fell to  $-82.8^{\circ}$  C., or  $-117^{\circ}$  F.

A minimum-registering thermometer left by Archdeacon Stuck at 15,000 ft. on Mt. McKinley in 1913 was found nineteen years later, on the occasion of the second ascent, with its recording needle right down into the bulb, below the limit of its range, which was  $-95^{\circ}$  F.

Another thermometer left at Denali Pass (Mt. McKinley), 18,200 ft., from 1947–51, registered only  $-59^{\circ}$  F. as the lowest temperature during that period.

On January 3, 1885, a temperature of  $-94^{\circ}$  F. was registered at Vershoiansk, Siberia, which we believe to have been the 'record low' for many years.

ALPAMAYO.—The first ascent of this peak in the Cordillera Blanca was made by a Franco-Belgian expedition in 1951.<sup>19</sup> Following the North ridge the party reached the North summit at 7 p.m. and in the gathering darkness thought that they were on the highest point.

In June 1957 four members of the Schwaben Section of the D.A.V., after bivouacking 650 ft. below the top, reached the South summit by way of the South arête and found it to be at least 650 ft. distant from,

<sup>19</sup> *A. J.* 58. 544.



and more than 200 ft. higher than, the point reached by the 1951 expedition. A heavily corniced arête connects the two summits.

ANTARCTICA.—A map recently published by the National Geographic Society of America reveals that Mt. Vinson, 20,000 ft., in Marie Byrd Land, is the highest mountain in Antarctica. Maps of Antarctica are still very incomplete and not always accurate and the height assigned to Mt. Vinson should for the present perhaps be regarded with some reserve.

HIMALAYAS.—Captain M. E. B. Banks and Surg.-Lt. T. Patey, of the British-Pakistani Forces Himalayan Expedition, reached the summit of Rakaposhi (25,550 ft.) on June 25 (*vide* article on p. 159).

Haramosh (24,270 ft.) was ascended for the first time on August 4 by three members of an Austrian expedition. An attempt on the unclimbed Minapin (23,861 ft.) ended in the death of the leader of the party Mr. E. G. C. Warr and one of his companions Dr. F. C. Hoyte, who perished in a snowstorm on July 7 when within a few hundred feet of the summit.

Gasherbrum IV was climbed on Aug. 6 by Walter Bonatti and Carlo Mauri, members of an Italian party led by Ricardo Cassin.

Gasherbrum I (Hidden Peak), 26,470 ft., was climbed by an American party of whom Pete Schoening of the 1953 K2 expedition was one. This is the first 8,000-m. peak to be reached by the Americans and after their gallant attempts on K2 their success will be universally welcomed.<sup>20</sup>

Dhaulagiri, on which five attempts have now been made in the last six years, remains the highest unclimbed mountain, this year's Swiss expedition having fared no better than its predecessors. On May 7 Camp V was pitched at *c.* 23,000 ft., but a hurricane set in and prevented further progress next day. Subsequently a height of nearly 25,000 ft. was reached before the arrival of the monsoon led to the abandonment of the attempt. Several of the party had narrow escapes from death in avalanches, on one occasion five of them were swept down 2,000 ft. According to Press reports an Austrian party will make an attempt next spring to be followed in the autumn by a third expedition from the Argentine.

In Garhwal Mr. Gurdial Singh, with two Indian companions and two Garhwali porters, made the first ascent of Mrigthuni (22,490 ft.) on the Southern wall of the Nanda Devi 'Sanctuary'. Camps were established at 17,500 ft. and 20,000 ft., whence the route lay up the heavily crevassed North-east face.

<sup>20</sup> Gasherbrum I was attempted by a French party in 1936. See *La Montagne*, 1936, pp. 301-5; 350-1. See also G. O. Dyhrenfurth's *To the Third Pole*, pp. 187 *seqq.*, and Plate 38.



DEATHS.—We deeply regret having again to announce a lamentably long list of deaths, including a Past President, Geoffrey Winthrop Young, two Past Vice-Presidents, J. E. C. Eaton and R. W. Lloyd, and our Honorary Librarian, Hamish McArthur. In those cases where it has not been possible to publish 'In Memoriam' notices in this number they will appear next May.

In addition, we have to deplore the sudden passing of Herr Othmar Gurtner, of Zürich. Though not a member of the Alpine Club, he was well known to many mountaineers in many countries, both for his important work with the Swiss 'Stiftung' and for his great knowledge of Alpine history, particularly in the Bernese Oberland.

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF THE NORSK TINDEKLUB.—A further notable mountaineering anniversary was held in Oslo on April 10, 1958, when to mark the occasion some sixty members and guests of the N.T.K. sat down to dine at the Bristol Hotel. The President, Hr. Hans Chr. Bugge (A.C.), who had attended our own Centenary dinner, presided in becoming and effective style. There were distinguished guests representative of Dansk Bjergklub, Svenska Fjällklubben, Norske Turistforening, journalism, etc.; and Capt. H. R. A. Streather and the writer, as invited members of the N.T.K., were also honoured delegates of the A.C. The two outstanding speeches were that of the President, who proposed the 'Norsk Tindeklub' and gave an admirable summary of the history of the club's achievements during the last fifty years; and that of my old friend, Hr. Boye Schlytter (ex-President), whose toast of 'Our Guests' was proposed in the most felicitous manner, and included generous tributes to British climbing and climbers. Both these gentlemen had very thoughtfully provided English translations of their speeches for the ignorant! In the unexpected absence of Professor George Finch, the senior invited member of N.T.K., the responsibility of replying for the guests fell on the writer, who found himself quite inadequately prepared, albeit his heart full, both in respect of the genial company of so many charming Norse friends and his endeavour to be appropriately reminiscent of many happy days on Norwegian mountains. Nor, unfortunately, on this occasion did he remember to remind the company (as, indeed, he was able to afterwards) of the recent charming compliment paid by the Norwegian Foreign Minister, when he remarked that Norwegians do not regard Englishmen as foreigners but look upon them as rather mad Norwegians! This remark, indeed, had called forth the plaudit of *The Times*, and a leading article! But, altogether, this Jubilee dinner was a most delightful occasion; and nothing could have been more admirable than the dining arrangements, whether the excellent 'middag' itself or the elegant and significant decorations. Then, at the week-end our



member, Eilert Sundt (ex-President, N.T.K.), invited some of us to his comfortable hut (so-called) in the forest of Nordmark, north of Oslo, where, although a thaw prevented good skiing, we could reminisce further on mountain experiences.

Mention must not be omitted of the fine Jubilee volume produced by the N.T.K., *Norsk Fjellsport, 1958*, whose articles range over many aspects of Norse climbing, two of them in English : one by our member, A. W. Andrews (to whom a congratulatory cable was despatched at the dinner, on his close achievement of ninety years); and another by H. P. Spilsbury ; as well as an admirable message of greeting from our own President on behalf of the A.C.

N. E. ODELL.

REPORTS ON ALPINE WEATHER AND SNOW CONDITIONS.—As a result of discussions between the President of the British Mountaineering Council and the Union Internationale des Associations d'Alpinisme an arrangement was reached earlier this year for reports on the conditions of Alpine peaks to be published during the summer climbing season.

Monsieur Egmond d'Arcis, the President of the U.I.A.A., has undertaken to obtain reports once a week from each of the principal Alpine districts, from the Dauphiné to the Dolomites. The Editor of the *Manchester Guardian* has agreed to publish these reports and, as many members will have seen, they have been printed on the back page in the middle of each week.

The scheme has been introduced in the hope that any climbers about to go to the Alps who are not committed to a particular programme will be guided by these reports to a district where the mountains are in good condition.

Our thanks are due to Monsieur d'Arcis for all the work which he has done.

We invite comments on the scheme ; if it is generally approved there is every hope that it will be continued in future years.

B. R. GOODFELLOW.

#### CORRECTIONS :

ALPINE JOURNAL, May 1958 Issue (no. 296)

Page 90, 8th line from bottom of page : *for* 'Arbengrat' *read* 'Rotgrat'.

Page 91, 1st line : *for* August 27 *read* August 28.

Page 118—illustration : In the 2nd line of the caption, the missing name, between Lambley and Mills, is : L. Baume.

In the 4th line, the missing name (after Westmacott) is : T. A. Thorpe.

Page 121, 10th line : *for* 'Pralongnan' *read* 'Pralognan'.

Page 131, note 10, 4th line : *for* 'A.J. 60' *read* 'A.J. 61'.