

IN MEMORIAM

HARRY EDMUND GUISE TYNDALE

1888-1948

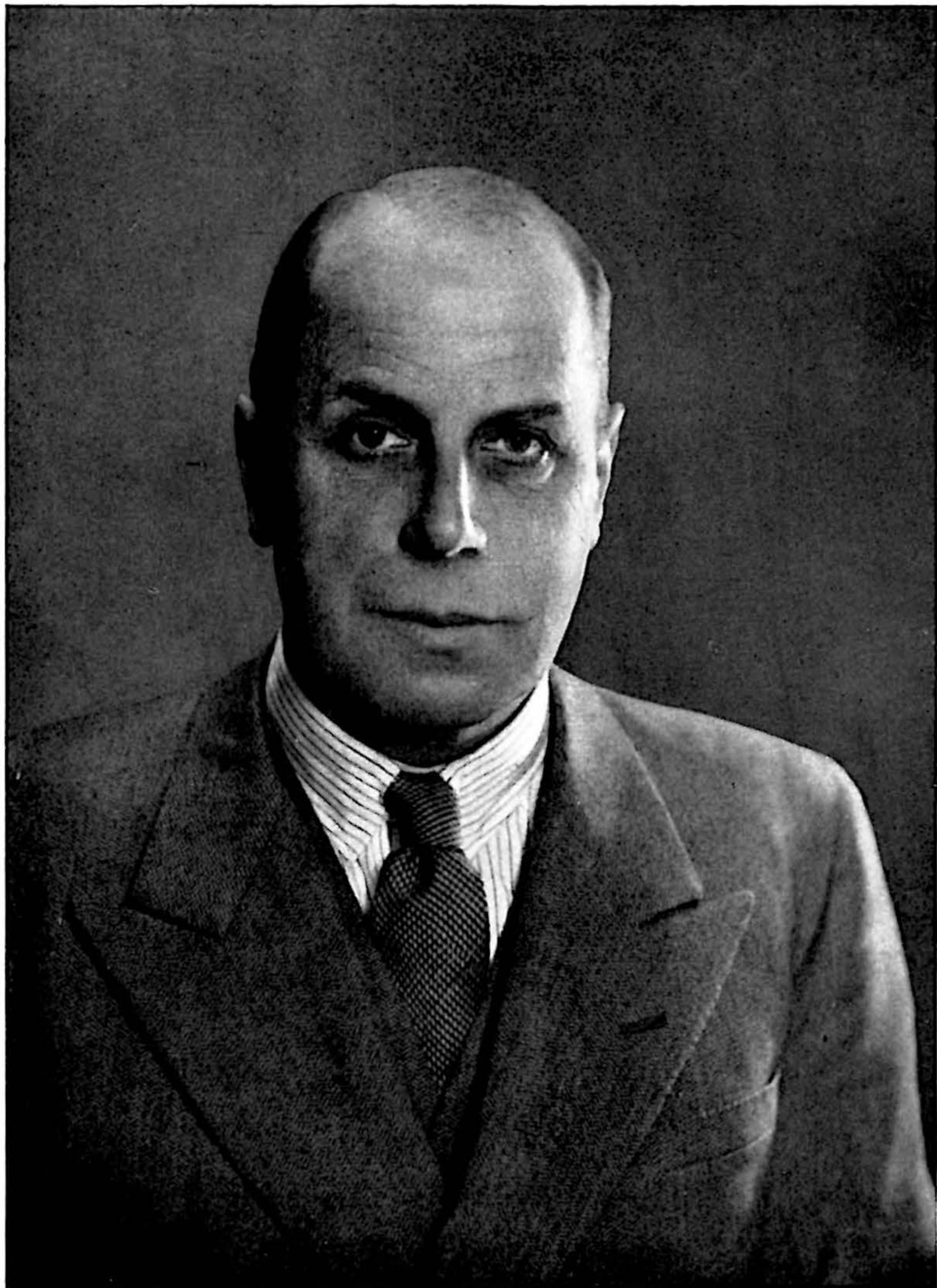
To write of Harry Tyndale in the ALPINE JOURNAL is for me a particularly hard but inevitable task ; hard, because of the long and intimate ties between us and the strength of our mutual affection ; inevitable, because almost all his mountaineering was done with me, from its beginning at Pen-y-pass at New Year 1905 to his last visit there in 1944.

He was born at Headington near Oxford in 1888. He lost his father, the Rev. Edmund Tyndale, very soon after and was brought up with his four sisters by his mother, a daughter of the theologian Dr. Ederheim. At the age of twelve he won a scholarship at Winchester, and he himself has told us in a paper on 'First Affections'¹ how the good seed of mountaineering in him took root there, was not withered on too unyielding rocks in North Wales and brought forth abundantly in his first alpine season.

The records of our early climbs fill four stout note-books on my shelves and are more cherished even than the classics. Tyndale's first contribution to alpine literature is there in the shape of a *voces populi* recalling three brief and amusing passages between the leader and members of the party, including his own struggle with a grass cornice on Tryfan. His account, written before he was eighteen, of the short tour and ascents of Mont Blanc and the Aiguille du Géant which ended the 1905 campaign already shows the clarity and scholarly quality of his later work. An unrecorded ascent was that of Inkpen Beacon which lightened a November gloom over the prospects of a New College scholarship, a gloom finally dissipated by his gaining a high place on the roll of the successful.

Another paper read to the Club on 'Second Thoughts'² tells the tale of a strenuous week in August 1906. Other happenings of that visit to the Alps were a moonlight ascent of the Matterhorn with a descent (through mistaking the way) of the upper part of the Breuil face instead of by the usual ropes-and-ladder route, a strengthening of the ties between Tyndale and myself by my engagement to his sister, and ascents of the Lyskamm and of the Nord End and Dufourspitz from the Silbersattel with a party which included that sister and mine. Tyndale's many-sided appreciation of mountains comes out in his comment on the last expedition of that year, an ascent of the Zermatt Breithorn by the easiest route : 'This simple stroll remains as a bright memory of more than a gentle farewell to the mountains ; it was an ease to body and soul alike, a restful cadence to the animated tempo of the past weeks.'

¹ A. J. 53. 302-9.² A. J. 55. 1-10.



H. E. G. TYNDALE
1888-1948.

A few words about some of his climbs in 1907 and 1908 will help to convey his general capacity as a mountaineer, his ability to move quickly when necessity arose, his steadiness on new and difficult ground. On a traverse of the Bietschhorn the threat of approaching storms hurried us into the unusual situation of being back in time to lunch and watch the devastating effect of the tempest on neighbouring roofs from the safety and warmth of the hotel. He made the first traverse of the Breitlauhorn-Breithorn ridge, the drops and traverses to the point previously reached from the South being difficult and exposed, and a long but interesting route from Ried to Grindelwald which included a supper off marmot at the unfinished inn at Fafleralp, a halt in the darkest hours of morning in the hut under construction on the Lötschenlücke, an ascent of the Kranzbergfirn and (a first ascent) of the South-East ridge of the Rottalhorn and arrival at Grindelwald 28 hours from the start. Two of the hardest climbs he did were an ascent of the Mittaghorn from Obersteinberg referred to in the *The Mountain and the Pilgrim* in Oxford Mountaineering Essays and a traverse of the Grosshorn, up the North and down the East ridge. Generally Tyndale was in the middle of our rope, where his care and sureness and imperturbable good humour never failed. The drops in the descent from the Grosshorn had to be made on the North side, where it was difficult to make satisfactory footholds or to find holding for the axe in the snow and ice that covered the rocks. Tyndale had to unrope and tie on and come down last at the end of a 180-foot rope; and almost equally trying was the traverse into the long couloir, some of it very steep ice, which led down from beneath a big cornice to the Anen Glacier. The record of the climb made a day or two after reads: 'Hal's inside played him false on two occasions about this time, but it did not affect his steadiness and he had quite recovered before we got to the bottom': A few days later he led us all day on the Aletschhorn on one of the best days we ever had.

After the 1909 season, spent at Breuil and Courmayeur, he was elected to the Alpine Club and few men at twenty-one have been better qualified to uphold its standards and traditions. Mallory was our third man instead of Bullock, in the splendid season of 1911. One or two of our climbs are described in Tyndale's paper on 'Mont Herbetet from the West and Other Expeditions near Cogne'³ and a paper of Mallory's on a Mont Maudit route up Mont Blanc.⁴

Visits to North Wales, Ben Nevis, Glencoe and the Coolins helped to bridge the intervals between alpine campaigns. I have still vivid recollections of difficult pitches of the Central and West gullies of Glydr Fawr climbed with him; also of a nasty, slimy groove in the upper precipice to the South of the Tower Ridge on Ben Nevis, which we had condemned out of hand from below and from which we emerged in a mist a few days later with some shame and much relief.

A visit to Greece must have helped to ensure Tyndale's First in 'Greats' in 1910; for ancient history was more congenial to him than

³ A. J. 27. 11-17.

⁴ A. J. 32. 148-162.

Oxford philosophy. Mountaineering may have increased a distaste for philosophies that lead to no conclusive end. A long stay with educational intent at Magdeburg laid the foundations of his German scholarship, and was followed by his appointment to a mastership at Winchester, where he became a housemaster in 1923. This is not the place to speak of the good work of a more academical nature he did there.

He joined up with the K.R.R.C. at the outbreak of war in 1914 and was severely wounded in the disastrous attack at Hooze in 1915. His leg was saved, though the bone was shattered, but it was many months before he came out of hospital and was able to take up work in the Intelligence Department of the War Office, for which he was awarded the M.B.E. He married in 1917 a sister of G. S. Leach, a staunch but diffident member of our alpine parties. She came with him to Ogwen Cottage on his first renewal of visits to the hills. One leg was more than 2 inches shorter than the other and a hollow above the ankle compelled him to wear a shoe. The glorious summer day we spent on the Central Buttress of Tryfan with its fulfilment of hopes of being able to climb again was one of the best in his life.

He saw the Alps again in 1919, traversing Monte Rosa to the Gnifetti Hut, where a demand for passports caused him much amusement. Bad weather turned us back at the Miage Glacier from a projected traverse of Mont Blanc, and the long walk from there to Orsières may have brought on the first of recurrent troubles in the injured leg. A good climb up the West Ridge of the Aiguille de Zallion in 1922 was the subject of a short paper in the JOURNAL (35. 80-86).

Several recruits recently or still at Winchester, with more than one sexagenarian, appeared in our parties after 1920. For these learners on the rope Tyndale proved himself an admirable guide, philosopher and friend, watching their steps, helping them with kindly advice and interpreting and sweetening with unfailing understanding and humour the occasional violence and acerbity of the leader's exhortations. The readiness with which these novices took to the mountains was in no small degree due to Tyndale; it was easy to share the preferences he had expressed in an essay long before: 'Three things are necessary for the ideal expedition; a great variety in the ascent, a fine view (I would instance the Aletschhorn and the Tour St. Pierre) and an easy descent, preferably over snow.'

His first wife died after the birth of their third child. After his second marriage in 1923, increasing family interests allied to a wholly unselfish and affectionate nature curbed his activities on rocks and snow. The longing for them remained and found occasional satisfaction. Easter Day of 1933, spent on a peak of over 9000 ft. near Bignasco, stands out as one of the superlatively good things. The ascent of Mont Blanc with a party which included George Mallory's two daughters was one of the last of his high climbs. The only occasion, as far as I know, when he climbed with a guide was at Cresta Avero in 1928, when owing to an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, we were obliged to

take a man to see that we did not stray off the path on to the pastures on the way to our peak.

He found compensation for diminished share in climbing in increasing interest in the alpine doings of others and in alpine literature. A translation of Christian Klucker's book with some additions appeared as *Adventures of an Alpine Guide* in 1932. Visits to the Julian Alps had led to great friendship and mutual esteem between him and Dr. Julius Kugy, a delightful little picture of whom hung in a prominent place in Tyndale's study. *Alpine Pilgrimage*, a translation of Kugy's *Aus dem Leben eines Bergsteigers*, was published in 1934. *Nanga Parbat Adventure* followed in 1935. He edited for Blackwell of Oxford new editions of various alpine classics.

Among foreign climbers whom I met at Tyndale's house were Willy Merkl, Albert Bois de Chesne and Dr. Paul Kaltenegger. I take the liberty of quoting from the latter's letter to me in reply to mine telling him of Tyndale's death: 'Thinking of him now I feel that I hardly ever had a climbing friend equalling Tyndale in full understanding of everything connected with our mountaineering creed. It is "in signo Julio" that we have made friends, and such friendships, initiated by a man like Kugy would last for ever. So I am the last of the four who survives. Kugy is dead, Folck has been killed in a most brutal manner and Tyndale is now gone too . . . I am happy indeed to have before me the charming account given by Tyndale of our expedition "above the Save valley". It was the last bit of stiff climbing I have done myself. Quite apart from my private and individual feeling Tyndale's death is a great loss to continental mountaineering. His sincere sympathy and deep understanding with mountaineering in Central Europe, his profound knowledge both of the German language and German Alpine Literature will ensure him everlasting memory as a worthy successor to the unforgettable Farrar.'

His ten years of editorship of the JOURNAL, covering six years of war and three of its aftermath, have been difficult in all sorts of ways. For his success in maintaining the standard and interest of its articles and in keeping in touch with mountaineering activities abroad we do, indeed, owe him a debt such as we owed to Farrar and his coadjutors during and after the war of 1914-18.

Tyndale was a man of peace, shunning acrimonious controversy, kindly in criticism, never letting his dislike of others' methods or actions stir him to violent reprisals. Of a former editor it was said that he regarded a hatchet as a thing for use, not for burial. Tyndale looked upon it as an out of date instrument for mountaineers, to be put aside with a smile. He stood for all that is permanently good in mountaineering, for the things that will lead men to climb mountains long after their physical achievements upon them have ceased to have publicity value. He loved the struggle to attain, he felt the attraction of a new route, but he knew the supreme value of what he wrote of as 'those calm moments when we can regain the sense of proportion and perhaps envisage something beyond mere physical feats, when we can feel the

presence of the things not seen which are the substance of our mountain faith.' He has gone, but he has left much behind. The strands that memory weaves into the rope of mountain friendship are strong and enduring. To be with Tyndale was to know and feel their finest quality. Now he has had to put off the rope and has gone on ahead ; I must coil it up and bear it home.

R. L. G. I.

PAUL MONTANDON

1858-1948

AFTER a long illness, our Honorary Member (elected 1918) passed away at Glockenthal, near Thun, on July 31, in his 90th year. With him is severed one of the great links with the later exploration of the Alps, and the development of the historical method in Alpine literature.

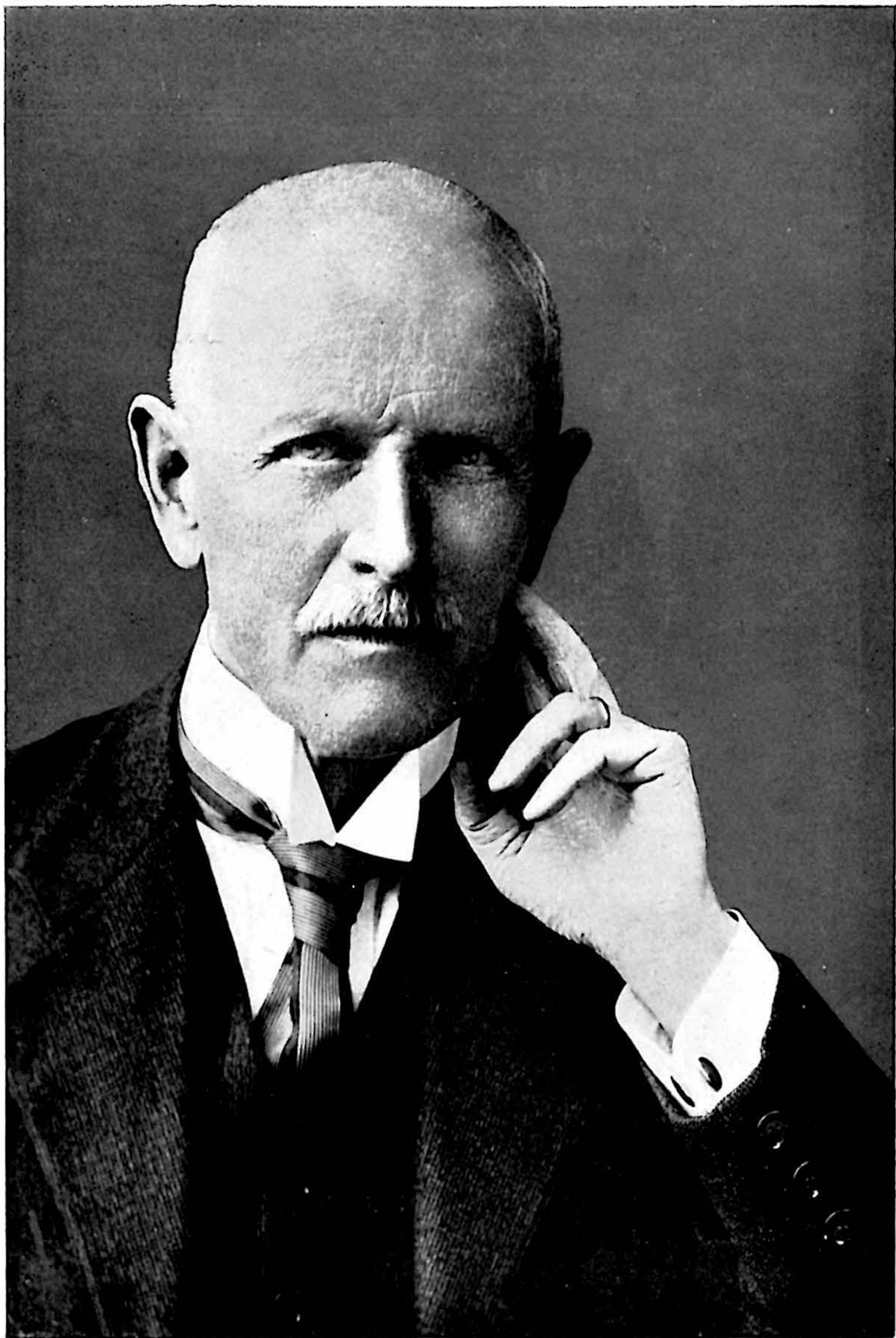
Paul Montandon, born December 7, 1858, was descended from a family of Albigensian origin. After the persecution of the Albigenses one branch of the family is supposed to have founded the village of Montandon in France, and thence they are believed to have crossed the Swiss frontier and to have settled in the village of La Brévine, where Montandon families can be traced since the end of the fourteenth century.

Montandon, like his younger brother Charles (see *A. J.* 35, 296), was born at Wabern, near Berne, and entered upon a banking career, working mainly at Berne, but also in Geneva, Paris and London. He married Mlle Sarah Koenig in 1892 (he was wont to say he met her under a good omen, at the Concordia Hut) and settled down at Glockenthal, assuming the management of the firm of Koenig & Co.

With his brother Charles he took early to climbing, making their Alpine apprenticeship in the Oberland, both in summer and winter, at first with guides, but more often guideless. In his later years he was regarded as the 'Father' of Swiss guideless climbers. Guideless climbing was in the air, for this was the era of the parties of Pilkington-Gardiner ; Purtscheller-Zsigmondy, the brothers Puiseux, the brothers Thury of Geneva and the Mullers of Thun ; and others. Amongst these Montandon held an eminent place.

His list of ascents comprises over 600 summits between 2000 and 2600 m. (he had a great liking for the 'Vorberg') and as many from 2600 m. upwards. He was never attacked by the disease of the 'four-thousanders', though he could show 40 of these. As a rule he was accompanied first by his brother and later on by his wife (who was an excellent mountaineer) and by his brothers-in-law ; but also by many other guideless Swiss, such as the Mullers of Thun, Emile Thury, Robert and Max v. Wyss.

From his immense record of ascents, only a brief selection is possible : He made the first *guideless* ascents, in the seventies and later, of the



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Studerhorn, Oberaarhorn, Fleckistock, Weisse Frau and Silberhorn ; of the Wilde Frau (1877) ; Eiger and Blumlisalphorn ('78) ; Bietschhorn N. summit and Tschingelhorn ('82) ; Schreckhorn ('83) ; Rinderhorn ('84) ; Gspaltenhorn ('85) ; Tödi ('86) ; Doldenhorn ('87) ; Bietschhorn, tr. W-N ('88) ; and of many others in the Oberland, Valais, Graians and French Alps.

As for *first ascents*, Montandon's list mentions about 50 over 3000 m. and 20 under that figure, though some of these are only *probably* new. Most were made in the regions of the Grimsel, the Urbach and Oberaar, and in those wild and isolated valleys adjoining the Bietschhorn, the Ijolli, Bietschi and Baltschiederthals. There and then it was still possible to indulge in minor but very attractive exploration of the mountains. Among Montandon's first ascents, mostly guideless, are the Viescher Gabelhorn, Hügihorn, Klein Lauteraarhorn (tr.), Lauteraar Rothörner, the four Baltschiederhörner ; Gross Gelmerhorn ; N. arête of the Galenstock ; descent of S.E. arête of the Southern Baltschieder Jägihorn ; and many more.

Though usually preferring to travel guideless, he made exceptions, a particular instance being in 1895 when, with his wife he made a 3 weeks' tour of the Dolomites, with Sepp Innerkofler, ascending eleven of the more difficult peaks, including the Grohmannspitze (N.E.) and the Winklerturm. He was old fashioned only in the sense of preferring to find the *best* route to his summit and not the worst or most arduous ; nor did he ever seek for the merely new or the exceptionally risky. But difficulties and emergencies showed him to the best advantage, for he knew his powers and enjoyed responsibility. A few mishaps came his way (see *A. J.* 49. 58-64) and he was severely injured on one occasion through the fault of a companion. As a result, his right arm suffered for the rest of his life from stiffness and shortening, though it seemed to incommode him but little, for he was once able, alone, to haul a companion out of a crevasse into which he had fallen about 33 feet, and another time he held up three companions who had slipped on steep rocks.

When quite a young man, he climbed the Eiger with three friends, walking all the way from Interlaken and back,⁵ and the Mönch also was climbed direct from Grindelwald. His ascent of the Gspaltenhorn over the Rothe Zähne is referred to in *A. J.* 33. 163-166. In 1898, during some 5-6 days, he traversed the Matterhorn and ascended the Dent Blanche, Ober Gabelhorn and Zinal Rothorn. When over 60 he climbed some of the Chamonix Aiguilles and Zermatt peaks with Joseph Knubel ; the Ago di Sciora at 66½, and Cevedale at 75, the last being done in spite of arthritic infirmities which forced him to walk with two sticks. In the face of such energy, exemplified over a climbing career of about 60 years, lesser mortals may follow Burke's advice when studying the British Constitution, and venerate where they cannot presently comprehend.

⁵ Cp. however the even more lengthy excursion of Harold Topham, who climbed the Weisshorn from Interlaken ! [*A. J.* 25. 243].

Montandon was one of the first in Switzerland to practise ski-ing (see *British Ski Year Book*, 1923) and among the high summits approached or climbed by him are the Gross Viescherhorn, Ebnefluh, Mittaghorn (all this before the advent of the Jungfrau railway), and the Aigs. du Chardonnet and du Tour. He was a great photographer and his huge collection of negatives now rests in the Alpine Museum at Berne.

He was, too, a most diligent contributor of articles on Alpine subjects, all his work being of a very high class. Most of his writing appeared in German (*Swiss Jahrbuch*, *Die Alpen*, *Oest. Alpenzeitung*, *Dübi's Hochalpenführer*, etc.), but some were in French and a few in English.⁶ In all, he contributed over 90 articles, whilst of larger publications may be mentioned his *Liederbuch S.A.C.*, a collection of the best old Alpine songs, and his *Denkschrift Die ersten 50 Jahre der Sektion Blumlisalp SAC* (of which Section he was Honorary President).

He was unable to visit the more distant ranges, but he followed Himalayan expeditions ardently and had all the stuff of an explorer in him. With his wife he had travelled in Italy, Spain, France, Corsica, Algeria and Egypt. His multitudinous interests included music and the arts in general, and he formerly possessed a fine collection of Daumier lithographs.

He had many friends in many countries, and in England knew especially Farrar, Montagnier (whose industrious researches were after his own heart), Strutt and, in particular, his oldest friend, Sydney Spencer. He had much communication with Dr. Dübi and with the redoubtable Coolidge, from whom, when somebody in the Alpine world had roused the Sage's ire, he many times was the recipient of characteristic and corrosive messages.

He was an Hon. Member, not only of the A.C., but also of the S.A.C., the Akad. A.C. of Berne and of three Sections of the S.A.C. He was offered but declined the Presidency of the S.A.C., for he was never one to put himself forward. He suffered all his life from a certain mental depression, for which he sought and found at least a temporary remedy and oblivion in his beloved mountains. To his last days he remained faithful and thankful to them, and with his passing goes a great figure from the Alpine world.

Mr. Sydney Spencer writes :

The preceding interesting record of Paul Montandon's career was written for the *Alpine Journal* from notes sent by his nephew and my close friend, Otto Koenig of Thun. As Montandon's most intimate friend in the Alpine Club I would like to add a few words on my own account as a tribute to the memory of one of the most outstanding figures in the Alpine world.

I met Paul Montandon for the first time in 1896 at La Bérarde, when he was making a number of guideless climbs in company with his wife and Henri Rieckel (of Neuchatel). We became great friends, a friendship which was kept up and continued until his death. During that

⁶ *A. J.* 33. 163, 209. *A. J.* 43. 323. *A. J.* 49. 58.

period I paid many visits to him at his home at Glockenthal, where he and his wife entertained me with the most delightful hospitality. These visits are among my most cherished memories and I feel that it has been a great privilege to have been numbered amongst the friends of a man with so many varied interests.

He was a mountain lover in the best sense of the world, as he evidently enjoyed all kinds of climbing, from the easiest to the most difficult. Though he often expressed intense dislike of the methods of some of the new generation of climbers, with their reckless disregard of dangers, at the same time he did not withhold a certain admiration for their courage.

SIR ALFRED BOOTH

1872-1948

SIR ALFRED ALLEN BOOTH, BT., who died on March 13, 1948, was born September 17, 1872, being the youngest son of Alfred Booth, one of the founders of the well-known shipping line of that name. He was educated at Harrow and King's College, Cambridge, where he graduated as 30th Wrangler in 1894.

He became an expert in all branches of shipping management, was a partner in Alfred Booth & Co., and at various times was a Director of the Booth Steamship Co., the Anchor Line; the Commonwealth & Dominion Line; T. & J. Brocklebank; and the Cunard SS. Co. (Chairman 1909-1922). During the War of 1914-18 he gave his services liberally in the country's interests, and received a baronetcy in 1916.

He served on the Royal Commission on the Civil Service, 1911-14, and on numerous other committees and public bodies.

He was elected to the Alpine Club in October 1899, his proposer being Horace Walker, and seconder G. H. Rendall. His climbing qualifications included:—

- 1899 Oldenhorn.
- 1890 Bildstockeljoch and Schaufelspitze, and the Madritschjoch.
- 1891 Dent du Midi, Pigne d'Arolla and Col d'Hérens.
- 1892 Col de Chardonnet, Fenêtre de Saleinaz and Col du Tour, also the Jungfrau.
- 1894 Piz Corvatsch and P. Palü (both traversed).
- 1898 Breithorn, Dent du Midi again, Tour Sallières.
- 1899 Aigs. Rouges d'Arolla (tr.), Aig. de la Za (tr.), Mont Collon (tr.), Gr. Dent de Veisivi, Col de Collon, Monte Rosa.

In 1901, with A. G. Whitting (see *A. J.* 50. 128) he made new routes up Mont Emilius (W. ridge) and on the S. Aiguille d'Arves, by the S.E. arête. He was out again in 1902 and 1903.

For a number of years he was too busy to go to the Alps, and he was not seen very much at the Alpine Club. But he remained an enthusiastic

climber, and revisited the Alps again after the war, being out in 1922 with his family, the Whittings and myself in N. Tyrol, climbing the Zugspitze and others. He was generally a lover of the lesser known districts. His physique was never very robust, and he overtaxed it with his many business responsibilities. His small stature led his father to remark, when he was made Chairman of the Cunard Line, that it was a triumph of mind over matter.

He revised Section 32 (Locarno District) in the new edition (1911) of Ball's Alpine Guide, Central Alps, pt. II.

J. E. C. E.

LORD DESBOROUGH

1855-1945

WILLIAM HENRY GRENFELL, Lord Desborough, the notice of whose death has (apart from *A. J.* 55. 100, 119), unfortunately been held over, was famous as a great sportsman and a great public servant. So many-sided, indeed, were his public interests, that it is impossible here to do more than mention a few of the positions of trust and responsibility to which his union of personal charm and high administrative ability had brought him.

He served on the Thames Conservancy Board for 41 years (32 as Chairman); was President of the London Chamber of Commerce; of the British Imperial Council of Commerce; of the Pilgrims of Great Britain; of the Central Association of Volunteer Regiments; and Chairman of the Fresh Water Fish Committee. He had been Private Secretary to Sir William Harcourt when Chancellor of the Exchequer, and M.P. for Salisbury, Hereford and the Wycombe division of Bucks. He was High Sheriff of Bucks in 1890; and was Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard, 1925-1929. At one time of his life, so great was the demand for his services, that he was serving on 115 committees.

He was a Major in the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion of the Oxfordshire Light Infantry, and was a special correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* on the second Suakin Expedition. During the late war he was a private in the Home Guard.

He held numerous orders and degrees, and was created G.C.V.O. in 1925 and K.G. in 1928.

On the athletic side, to say that Lord Desborough (he was created a peer in 1925) excelled is to understate matters; his versatility surpassed any of his contemporaries. His successes at Harrow were amply repeated at Oxford, rowing in the University Eight in 1877 and 1878, and representing Oxford in the three-mile race in the inter-University Sports in '76. He was President both of the O.U.A.C. and the O.U.B.C.—believed to be a unique achievement. He was thrice Amateur Punting Champion, retiring unbeaten; stroked an eight across the Channel; swam Niagara twice; was a great exponent of Fencing; had been President of the Fly-fishers Club; and had shot

game in India, the Rockies and elsewhere. Among his other Presidencies in the sporting world may be mentioned the Coaching Club ; the Four-in-hand Club ; the M.C.C. ; Thames Punting Club ; Lawn Tennis Association ; and the Bath Club.

His mountaineering covered many notable peaks, particularly in the '70's ; amongst them may be mentioned the Triftjoch ; Aig. de la Za ; the Matterhorn, three times, both from Zermatt and Brueil ; Monte Rosa ; Zinal Rothorn ; Weisshorn ; Schreckhorn ; and many more. Despite his eminent successes in many fields of sport, he was known to say that of all his varied experiences mountaineering was the most worth while.

To the Alpine Club he was a very real friend in need during the late war, receiving at Panshanger a large number of our more valuable possessions, for safe storage. At the time of his death he was the senior member of the A.C., to which he was elected in December 1876. He died in January 1945, in his 90th year.

Mr. G. Winthrop Young writes :

One of the memorable sights on the upper reaches of the Thames some sixty years ago, on many summer evenings, was ' Willie Grenfell ' taking exercise before dinner in his racing punt. He would come drifting out of the Taplow backwater, over the river reflections under the green drooping Cliveden woods, a tower of a figure in white with a reddish wave of hair, balancing with dripping pole upon the long narrow spar that looked a spillikin under him. Suddenly, he would crash into motion and swirl upstream, with a water-rip of the driving pole and a fleeting silver wake behind ; at the pace of a four-oar or a steam launch, and faster than ever any professional puntsman. It was an unforgettable impression, of superb movement and power, of perfect balance and rhythm. And I have never since seen it surpassed as an exhibition of human strength coordinated.

It might be the same year, as we played in the Park, that we ran across to watch a meet of the Coaching Club, that last stately demonstration of the paraphernalia of a vanishing society. The figure of grey elegance in grey high hat, leading the four-in-hand parade and swinging his team in masterly style out of the gates to Richmond, with curvetting leaders, lovely ladies in coloured frocks on the box seat, grooms in livery from the horses' heads rocketing adroitly up behind, and coach-horn twanging—would again be recognised as Willie Grenfell.

In after years I heard him once speaking of his mountain climbing ; when his boy Julian, the warrior poet of the last war, drew him at Eton into talk of the Matterhorn. And I got the impression, probably wrongly, that he thought to have exhausted the possibilities of mountaineering in his one or two Zermatt seasons ; but that he was genuinely interested to hear there might be more in it. He was indeed a supreme exponent of all then existing sports and athletic skills, as each attracted him in its turn. They were many, and it would have been impossible to explore them all completely. But, himself the

most notable, he was exceptional among all-round sportsmen in including climbing among the worth while activities, and in supporting it during the half century when it was still unfashionable. For sixty-eight years—surely another record? ⁷—he stood by the Alpine Club; and when we had hurriedly to disperse the library again, in 1940, he generously offered to house as much as we wished at Panshanger; and, among many important calls, remained considerate of our interests to the end.

EDWARD LISLE STRUTT

1874-1948

THE death last July of Colonel E. L.—to his friends ‘Bill’—Strutt creates yet one more gap in the dwindling list of outstanding mountaineers of the older generation and deprives the Club of one of its most familiar and most popular figures. It closed a long and full career of activity as fighting soldier, soldier-diplomat and lover of the high hills as well as of all that pertained to the life and lore of mountaineering. The eldest son of the Hon. Arthur Strutt and grandson of the first Baron Belper he was born in February 1874 and educated at Beaumont College, the well-known Roman Catholic School in Old Windsor. School was followed by study at Innsbruck University and at Christ Church, Oxford. But before he had completed his studies he had already made his mark as a mountaineer. Beginning with the Pyrenees at the age of 11 he was climbing hard in the Bavarian Alps, the Tirol, Dolomites and Engadine from the age of 16 onwards, and had more than qualified for admission to the Alpine Club well before his actual election when he reached the age of 21. His proposer and seconder on that occasion were G. H. Strutt and Horace Walker. From the mid-nineties on over some fifteen years, interrupted by the South African War, he largely devoted himself to the Engadine and Bregaglia. His unique knowledge of these districts was embodied in the two volumes of Conway’s *Climbers’ Guides* which he edited and which were published in 1910.

He also did much pioneer work in the field of winter climbing. This gave him an exceptional knowledge of snowcraft. More than once I have heard his old friend Josef Pollinger, discussing amateur climbers, award the palm for all round proficiency to Farrar, but always with the addition: *Aber auf Schnee war der Schtrutt ausgezeichnet*. Strutt, indeed, belonged to the older school of those who climbed with guides. In the nineties with Martin Schocher (and I think also on occasion with Klucker); in the early years of the century mainly with Alois Pollinger senior and with his son Josef; after the First World War more with

⁷ Not quite a record; D. W. Freshfield was a member for two years longer—1864-1934.—ED.



E. L. STRUTT.
1874-1948.

Pierre Blanc. But with him it was much more of a partnership of friendship and mutual appreciation than of dependence, for there have been few steadier and more self-assured amateur climbers or, for that matter, swifter of foot. I am afraid I have no information as to the amateurs he climbed with in earlier years, but I know he climbed in 1926 and 1928 with C. F. Meade and a good deal in his last mountaineering years with Claud Wilson. I myself never climbed with him except for occasional practice hours on the rock ridges behind Salonika. Our long planned ascent of Olympus never came off, and the only time we forgathered to climb in the Oberland weather ruined everything.

In the South African War Strutt served with the Royal Scots and was mentioned in despatches. In the First World War he was severely wounded in the first two years and then attached to Field Marshal Milne's Headquarters at Salonika as principal liaison officer with French Headquarters. This was no easy task, especially in the earlier period when he had to deal with so arbitrary a personality as General Sarrail; with Sarrail's successor, Franchet d'Espéret, he formed a life-long friendship. He was mentioned four times in despatches and received the C.B.E. and D.S.O. as well as the French Croix de Guerre with four palms, the Legion of Honour and other high foreign decorations. After the war he was appointed an officer of the Allied Council in Vienna. In March 1919, acting with great initiative and resolution, he rescued the Austrian Imperial Family from the revolutionary mob, commandeered a train and himself took them safely across the Swiss frontier—an action upon which he always looked back with special satisfaction. Shortly afterwards he served for a time as High Commissioner in Danzig.

By 1921, however, he was climbing again, in the Graians and the Mt. Blanc range, and in 1922 he went as second in command to Bruce on the Everest expedition, following up the previous year's reconnaissance. Already 48 years of age and still weakened by his war wounds he did not himself join in the actual attempts on the summit, but took charge of Camp III under the North Col at the height of 21,000 ft. For another ten or twelve years he still climbed actively in the Alps. By 1927, however, he had found in the editorship of the *Alpine Journal* an occupation for which his own varied experience, his wide range of reading in Alpine literature, his enthusiasm and critical judgement had peculiarly fitted him. For ten years the journal flourished under his direction. Always generous in his tributes to fine achievements he was ruthless in his criticism of inaccuracy or pretentiousness and wholehearted in his denunciation of the exaggerated nationalism in sport cultivated by the Nazis. From 1935 to 1938 he presided with dignity and firmness over our proceedings.

In temperament Strutt was a conservative in regard alike to climbing and to Club matters. He shook his head over crampons and had no use for skis. As for piton ironmongery words failed—or rather did not fail—him in saying what he thought of it. He had grave misgivings as to the mischief some of us radicals might do to the Club in our attempts

to widen its sphere of influence, but loyally accepted the reforms when adopted. His standard of personal conduct was of the highest and there was a lovable ferocity in his language about any falling short of it. But he cultivated friendship both intimately and widely. Few, indeed, have had a wider circle of friendships among mountaineers in foreign countries and few will be more missed by their friends at home and, above all, in the Alpine Club.

He married in 1905 Miss Florence Hollond, who survives him. He had no children. The list of his expeditions appended to this note is, I fear, by no means complete.

L. S. A.

Mr. Sydney Spencer adds :

' The news of the sudden death of " Bill " Strutt, as he was affectionately known to his intimates, came as a great shock to me. My friendship with him began when he succeeded Percy Farrar as Editor, during the years of my service as Hon. Secretary of the Club. He was not a man to form friendships very readily, but his coming to the Club most mornings provided the opportunity for much conversation, and our friendship soon ripened.

I was always amazed at the extent and accuracy of his knowledge of what was done in the Alps and, for that matter, in all other mountain regions of the world. He had a very keen sense of humour, often somewhat caustic, which added to the enjoyment of his conversation. His untimely death has produced a sense of real personal loss.

Strutt's climbing career was long and varied, and it is impossible here to list all his ascents. The following is but a brief selection, and little attempt has been made to chronicle his later years.

(As a boy, made ascents in the Pyrenes—1885—1886 ; made his first visit to the Alps (Bavarian) in 1890. See *A. J.* 51. 338 sqq).

- 1891 Bavarian Highlands—Zugspitze ; Kl. Solstein ; &c.
- 1892 Tirol—Wilde Pfaffen, Wildespitze, Shrankogel, &c. &c.
- 1893 Ortler Group ; Dolomites ; Engadine—Ortler, via Hochjoch ; Gross Glockner ; Grosse Weissbachhorn, &c. ; Cristallo ; Croda da Lago ; Grosse, Westliche and Kl. Zinne (the three in one day) ; Bernina (N. arête and Scharte) ; Roseg ; Morteratsch ; Crast Aguzza.
- 1894 Ortler Group ; Dolomites—Ortler ; Konigspitze, &c. &c. Grohmannspitze (tr.) ; Fünffingerspitze (tr. ; 4th ascent by Schmitt-Kamin) ; Winkler Thurm ; Marmolada ; &c. &c.
- 1896-7 Winter ascent (3rd) of Piz Bernina.
- 1898-9 Winter ascents of Piz Morteratsch ; Bellavista peaks & Piz Zupo ; Piz Roseg (2nd winter ascent) ; Piz Palü and 8 other peaks over 10,000 ft.
- 1899 Norway ; made 1st ascent of Hansentind and 1st passage of Laxeluskar.

- 1902 A bad year—see *A. J.* 55. p. 389.
- 1902-3 Winter ascents of Piz Bernina ; Piz Sella ; Piz Gluschaint.
- 1903 Torrone Orientale ; attempt on Monte di Scerscen by N.E. face, stopped by storm 20 mins from summit.
- 1904 Winter ascent of Piz Palü.
- 1905 Winter ascents of Piz Argient and Piz Zupo.
- 1906 A very successful early summer campaign with Josef Pollinger round Zermatt—18 peaks or passes in 25 days.
- 1908 Two very successful seasons, described in a paper, *A. J.* 25, & pp. 1-22, 'Between the Inn and the Adda.' Climbs include
1909 Piz Cengalo ; Disgrazia ; Pizzo Torrone Occidentale (2nd ascent by W. arête) ; and a visit to the Painale group, not previously visited by English climbers—Cima Painale traversed ; 1st ascent and tr. of Pizzo Canino ; &c. &c.
- 1910 Silvretta Pass ; Signal Horn ; Klein and Gross Buin ; Piz Lischanna (N.-W. face) ; Piz Pisoc (by N. arête reached from N.-W.) ; Piz Nair from N. ; Piz Palü ; Cima di Rosso ; Monte Sissone ; Piz Rosatsch and Piz Surlej (descent by N.-W. buttress—'Teufelsgrat.')
- 1911 Dufourspitze ; Matterhorn (Zmutt arête) ; Wellenkuppe (tr.) ; Dent Blanche ; Rimfischhorn (N. arete) ; Taschhorn ; Castor and Pollux, via Schwarzthor ; Cima di Jazzi, &c.
- 1913 Winter : ski tour in Engadine. Summer : Pizzo del Ferro Centrale (new route by E. arête reached from N.) ; Bochetto di Zocca (1st ascent from N.) ; Monte Zocca (2nd ascent by S.-W. arête) ; Piz Cengalo, E. Peak (attempt) ; &c. &c.
- 1921 Graians : Col de Chalanson (1st crossing) ; Ciamarella (twice) ; &c. Mt. Blanc (by Aig du Gouter) ; Grand Chamois (tr).
- 1922 Second-in-command, Mt. Everest expedition.
- 1923 Grand Casse (N. face) ; Pt. de la Glière (S.E. arête).
- 1924 Piz Badilet ; Disgrazia ; Cima di Piazzzi ; Monte Pasquale and Cevedale ridge ; Monte Zebbru (by Hoch Joch).
- 1925 Piz Grialetsch ; Piz Güz ; Piz Led ; &c. &c. Cima di Groste (tr.) ; Cima Tosa ; Bocchetta d' Arni-Torre di Brenta—Cima di Brenta (tr. S. to N-W) ; &c.
- 1926 December 29, Piz Grialetsch—a narrow escape (see *A. J.* 39. 113-117).
- 1928 Sirac ; Galenstock ; Muttenthorn ; Dammastock ; Monte Leone.
- 1929 Piz Corvatsch and Piz Mortel ; Cima Vazzeda and Cima di Rosso ; Piz Tremoggia ; Piz Linard.
- 1930 Habicht ; Hohe Villerspitze (a large party, including Princess Aspasia of Greece) ; Feuerstein ; Schickersee Manndln ; Marchreisenspitze.
- 1931 Tschengelser Hochwand (tr.) and others.

A. F. DE FONBLANQUE

1861-1948

ARTHUR FRANK DE FONBLANQUE, an ex-Vice President of the Club, died on July 12, at the age of 87. He was, at the time of his death, one of the few remaining members elected before 1900; there are less than two dozen of them now. He was elected on the same day, in February 1892, as (then) Lt. the Hon. C. G. Bruce, and two other well-known climbers, E. A. Fitzgerald, and A. P. Harper the New Zealand explorer. His most active climbing days were in a period when many of the pioneers of the golden age of mountaineers, who made the first ascents of the great peaks of the Alps, were still alive. He belonged to a generation, which could still find new climbs (even first ascents of some of the smaller peaks) and interesting variations, which often became the standard routes for those who came later, without having to seek out ridges and faces of stupendous difficulty to make their new routes.

As nearly all his old comrades have gone before him, it is not possible to give a list of all the new expeditions he may have made. But he certainly made a new route on the West face of the Portjengrat; a new descent to Saas by the East face of the Täschhorn, a twenty-hour affair; and a new route up the N.E. face of the Alphubel; all these before he joined the Club. Later on he made a variation on the Dôme route up Mt. Blanc on which his wife was with him, and of which he wrote an amusing account in *A. J.* I remember him telling me how Topham pulled him, more or less, out of bed in the dark to make the first ascent of the Monte Moro Rothhorn.

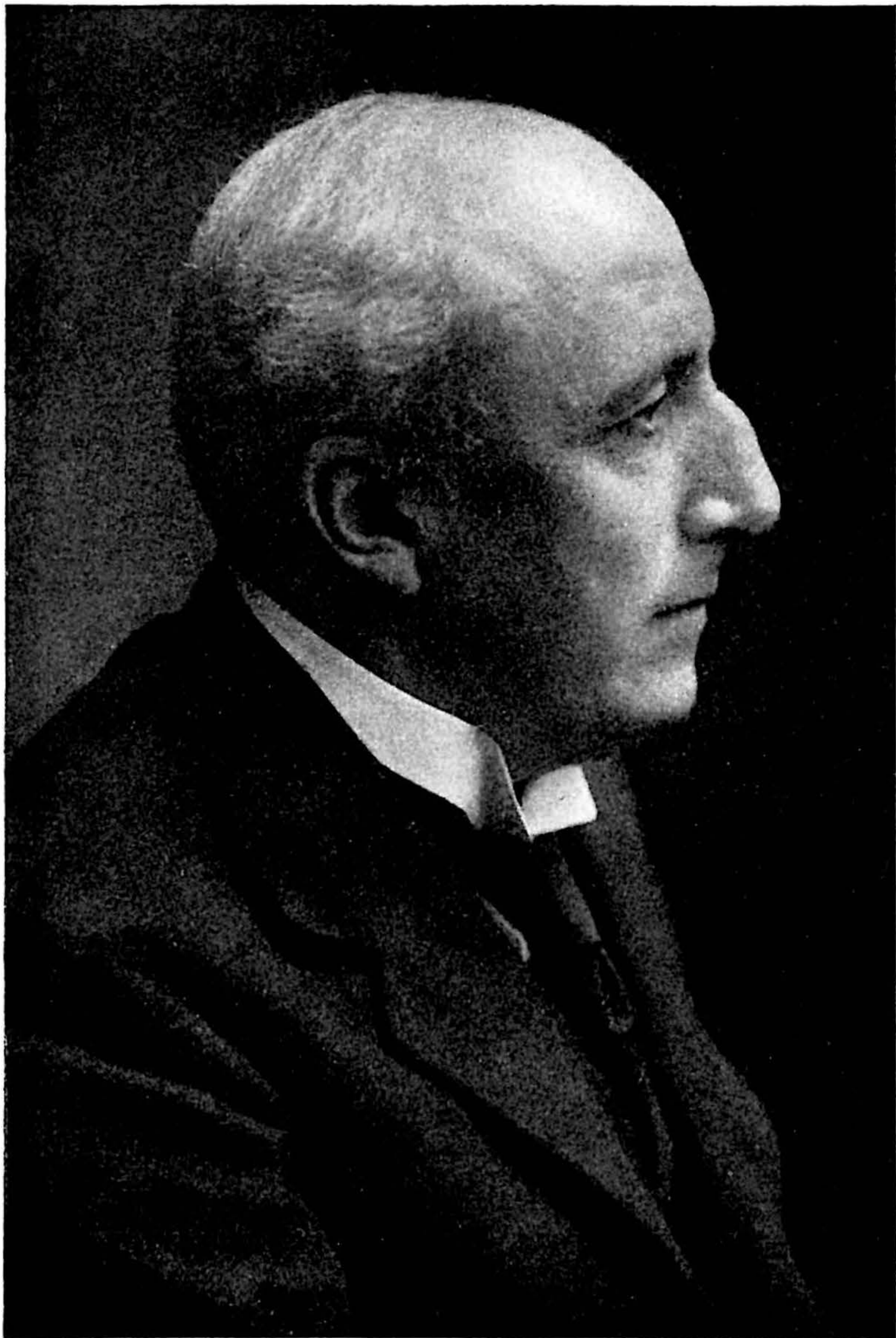
As the above suggests, his greatest interests were in the Saas district, and he was a regular visitor to Saas after he had give up regular climbing. But he climbed in many other places than Saas, and did some rockwork in the Lakes with Haskett-Smith who for many years was a great friend of his.

His early guide was Xavier Imseng of Saas, and, later, for several years he was accompanied by Mathias Zurbriggen or Josef Pollinger.

He was, by profession, a solicitor in the firm of Allen and Sons (which was founded by his great-grandfather in 1788) in Carlisle St., Soho Square, and Solicitors to the Westminster City Council. When he was on the Committee about 1928, his connection with that body was very useful in negotiations about the renewal of the lease of our old premises in Savile Row.

He was a keen and very regular attendant at the Club meetings for very many years, and this interest lasted into the late War, during which, in 1940 he became Vice-President.

His death breaks a happy partnership of over fifty years of married life, in which a joint love of the mountains was not one of the least ties, as Mrs. de Fonblanque frequently climbed with him. He leaves two daughters, one of whom is the wife of L. W. Somervell, President of the Fell and Rock Club.



A. F. DE FONBLANQUE.
1861-1948.

Mr. Sydney Spencer writes :

I first met Arthur de Fonblanque in 1895, at the breakfast place on the Rognon on the Nantillons Glacier. We came upon him enjoying a meal of Irish Stew hotted up in one of Silver & Co.'s tins, which were used by climbers in those days. It almost caused on my part an attack of mountain sickness ! He was *en route* for the traverse of the Grépon, with Matthias Zurbriggen. Our friendship thus begun lasted until his death, and in later years I saw a good deal of him and his charming wife several years running at the Montè Rosa in Zermatt. They showed me much hospitality in putting me up on various occasions for an Alpine Club meeting, and I have the pleasantest memories of our conversations and of his genial humour.

NOEL LOCKWOOD HOOD

ANOTHER of the older members of the Club passed away with the death of Dr. N. L. Hood on August 16, 1948, at the age of 77.

He was a well-known and popular figure in medical circles in York, and had been Honorary Surgeon to York County Hospital for 35 years (till 1933) and after that was consulting surgeon there. He was a good all-round sportsman, had captained the Yorkshire County Hockey team : played for the York Rugby Union ; was a keen tennis player ; and had received more than one medal of the National Skating Association for figure and speed skating.

He was elected to the Alpine Club in 1906 on a qualification remarkable for the large number of passes he had crossed, as compared with peaks climbed. He did not climb much after 1908, but devoted his Swiss holidays to ski-ing and skating, going regularly to St. Moritz for the winter sports. Right to the end of his life he retained his interest in mountaineering.

His younger brother, Leslie Hood, was also a member of the Club (elected 1908) and died in 1932 (*A. J.* 44. 329).

ALFORD ROGERS

1873-1948

' WRITE me as one that loves his fellow-men ' might well serve as an epitaph for Alford Rogers, who died on February 25, 1948.

He had a great capacity for friendship and rapidly gained the affection of those he met whether professionally as a doctor—he had a large general practice—or in sporting or social circles. As a young man he was no mean player of cricket and tennis, but it was not until reaching

the fifties that he developed a love for the Alps, which then superseded all other interests. With the same enthusiasm that he displayed in every activity, he took to the mountains with avidity. He became a member of the Club in 1929.

Many of Rogers's patients will remember how, with pleasant amusement, they listened to exuberant accounts of his holidays in Switzerland and were led to forget their own sufferings while he, seemingly oblivious for the moment of signs and symptoms, described his exploits or expatiated on the latest work of Alpine literature he had discovered. His sense of duty both as a medical man and as a member of the climbing fraternity was markedly displayed when, on the occasion of the accident on Ben Nevis at Easter 1934, he joined in the rescue work. Although, because feeling unfit, he had refused to climb that day, he was out with the party on icy rocks and snow until 3.30 the next morning. As his stable-companion at the hotel, I well remember how exhausted he was on his return.

In the first World War Dr. Rogers served with the R.A.M.C. in Mesopotamia, and in the second war was untiring in his work for the A.R.P. service. As a Mason he was a loyal member of his Lodges; he was a Past-Master and Past Provincial Senior Grand Deacon of Essex.

The respect shown for him in his own locality was demonstrated at the funeral service, where some 400 people assembled outside the crowded Congregational church where he had been a deacon.

Rogers was for a long while a regular attendant at the ordinary meetings and other functions of the Club.

W. J. F.

CORRESPONDENCE

To THE EDITOR of THE ALPINE JOURNAL

SIR,

In his 'Mount Everest 1938,' Major H. W. Tilman states on p. 129 that 'no European has seen or even thinks he has seen an "Abominable Snowman"'. Since the author of the belated volume would now seem to be well on his way to becoming an anthropological or zoological expert on this particular genus or species, it would appear to be the more deplorable, if not abominable, that he should be ignorant of the fact that a member of the Club, and a European, claims actually to have seen on one occasion in Sikkim a living specimen. I refer to Mr. N. A. Tombazi's description in his book, 'Account of a Photographic Expedition to the Southern Glaciers of Kanchenjunga in the Sikkim Himalaya,' 1925, pp. 55-57, a copy of which is to be found in the Club Library.

Yours truly,

N. E. ODELL.