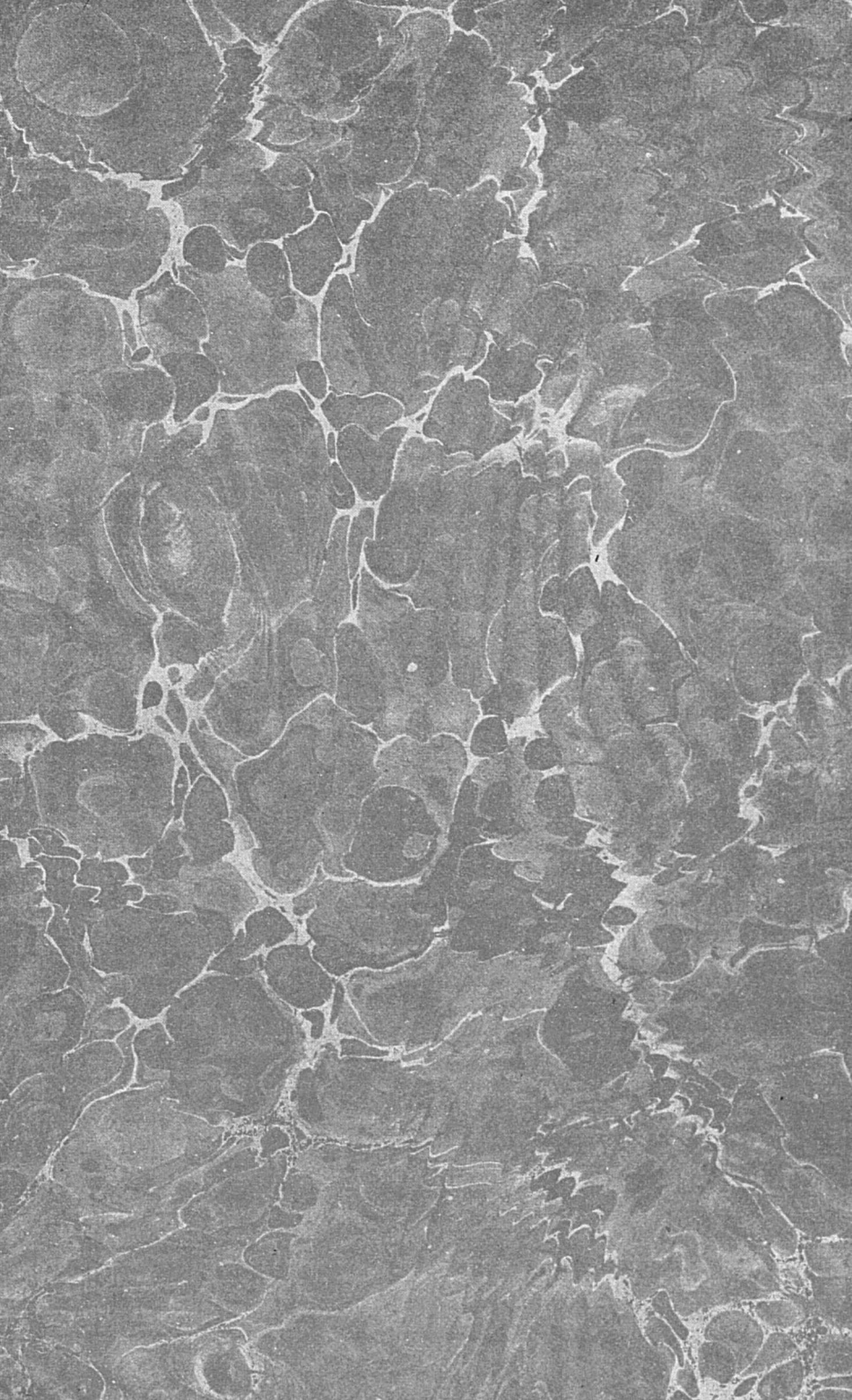
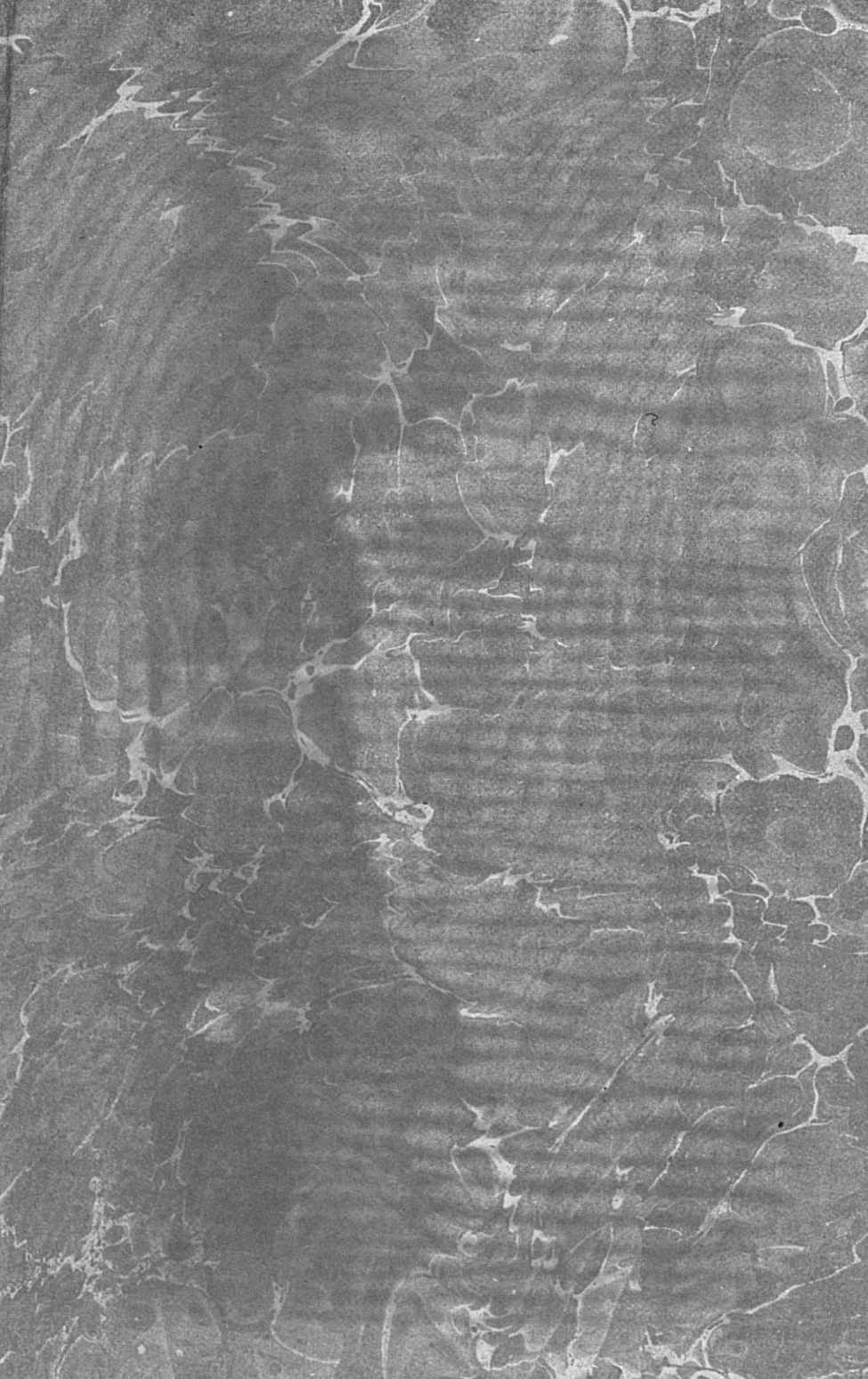


INAUGURATION
OF THE
CABANE BRITANNIA
1912.

IN MEMORIAM - CLINTON DENT





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C. A. S.

ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH MEMBERS

OF THE

SWISS ALPINE CLUB.



INAUGURATION

OF THE

CABANE BRITANNIA

On the Klein Allalinhorne Saas Fee,

August 17th, 1912.

AND

Obituary Notices and Portrait of Clinton Dent.

1913.

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Association of British Members of
THE SWISS ALPINE CLUB.

OBJECTS.

- (a) To encourage British Alpinists to support the Swiss Alpine Club in all its work, by becoming members of a section of that body.
- (b) To form a body able to present a collective opinion to the S.A.C. on any question of Alpine interest.
- (c) To promote among British members the sociability which is so conspicuous a feature of the Swiss sections, but from which we are necessarily debarred by living at a distance from the headquarters of our sections. This is done by informal Dinners, Lectures, Smoking at Homes, and Showing Alpine Slides on the Lantern.

TO PROVIDE A CLUB ROOM.

A Club Room has been opened at Gatti's, 436, Strand, W.C., which will afford a meeting place for members, and an opportunity of establishing a small reference library on Alpine subjects.

HOW TO BELONG TO SWISS ALPINE CLUB.

Anyone wishing to become a member of the above should apply to the Treasurer of the Association of British Members of the S.A.C. He should state whether he wishes to join a French or German speaking section. The subscription varies slightly in different sections. It is usually 14/- a year, and 8/- entrance fee. Members obtain reductions on certain Swiss railways (e.g., half-price on Zermatt Railway), a right of entry at the Club Huts, instead of being there on sufferance, a monthly magazine in French, or the Jahrbuch in German, etc. If, in addition, he wishes to belong to our Association in England, the extra subscription is only 5s. a year, or £2 2s. for life. Bankers' orders can be obtained for paying both subscriptions.

The Central Committee of the Swiss Alpine Club have *cordially approved* the formation of our Society, and the large majority of British members have joined our Association. Application for nomination forms should be made to

J. A. B. BRUCE, *Treasurer*, Selborne Lodge, Guildford.

Annual Report of Association for 1912 sent on application.

ASSOCIATION CLUB ROOM, GATTI'S, 436, STRAND, W.C.

Hon. Secs., E. B. Harris, A.C., 14, Rutland House, Marloes Road, Kensington, W.

A. N. Andrews, 116, Grosvenor Road, Highbury New Park, London, N.



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Association of British Members OF THE SWISS ALPINE CLUB.

INAUGURATION OF THE CABANE BRITANNIA

On the Klein Allalinhorn Saas Fee,
August 17th, 1912.

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Hon. Secretaries:

E. B. HARRIS, 14, Rutland House, Marloes Road, Kensington, W.
A. N. ANDREWS, 116, Grosvenor Road, Highbury New Park, N.

Hon. Treasurer:

J. A. B. BRUCE, Selborne Lodge, Guildford.

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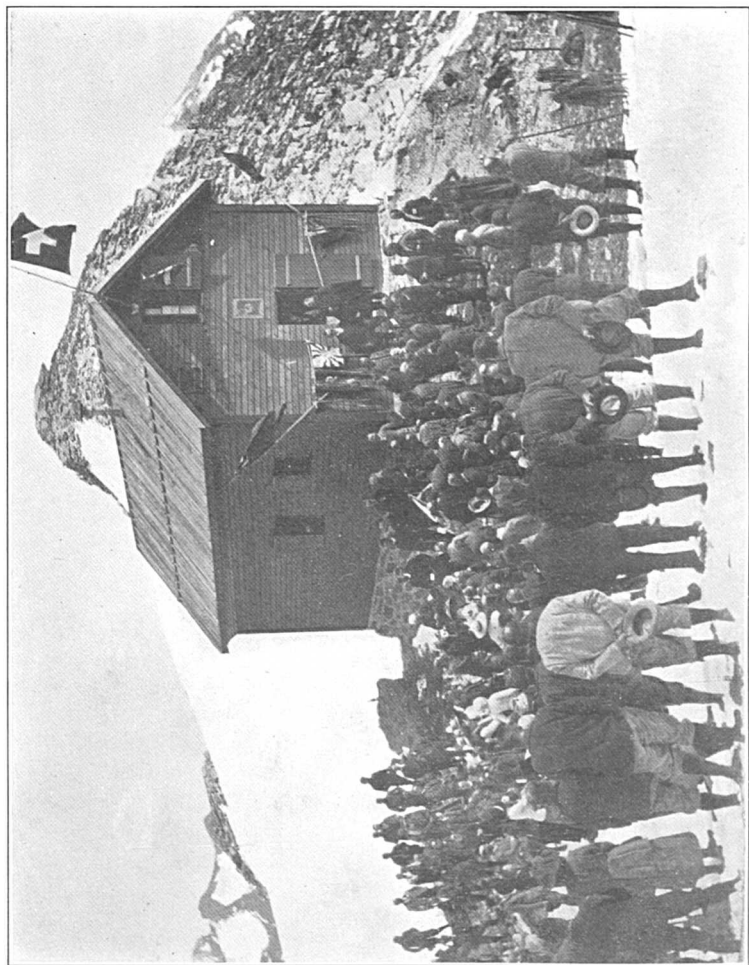
1913.

Stent and Sons, Printers, Guildford.

ILLUSTRATIONS.

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We are indebted to Miss K. Radford, Miss C. Radford and Miss U. Radford for translations from German, French and Italian accounts of the opening of the Club Hut, and to Mr. J. Bailey, Mr. F. N. Ellis, Mr. W. S. Dixon, Mr. Catesby Paget, Mrs. Salway, Mrs. Sebag-Montifiore, M. Dunand and others for the photographs.



THE OPENING OF THE CABANE BRITANNIA, August 17th, 1912.

THE
OPENING of THE BRITANNIA HUT
ON THE KLEIN ALLALINHORN.

On Saturday, August 17th, 1912, the Club Hut Britannia was opened and formally handed over to the Swiss Alpine Club. For three years the Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club have been collecting the sum required, over 20,000 francs. The day was perfect, bright sunshine, a pleasant breeze and cloudless sky. From 6 a.m. "the slow processions" passed up the mountain side from Saas Fee, and when the Kesten Glacier was reached roped up, for on that route there are many crevasses to be passed before the hut is gained. At 12 o'clock the Geneva Section hospitably provided a cold "collation" and a bottle of wine or lemonade for each person. Between 200 and 300 were present at 12-30 p.m., when loud explosions of cartridges called the scattered groups to the opening ceremony. Miss Ursula Radford carried the beautifully embroidered banner woven in silk, its shaft an ice axe. It had been presented by Geneva to the British Association, and the Flags of Switzerland and Great Britain were worked on either side. M. Archinard opened the proceedings and the Swiss and British National Anthems were sung, the tune being the same for both.

Dr. O. K. Williamson, Vice-President, and Mr. Bruce, Hon. Sec., represented the British

Association. A letter from Mr. Clinton Dent of which we introduce a facsimile, was read. Dr. Williamson formally handed over the keys of the hut to Dr. Dubi and Mons. Meisser, representing the C.C. of S.A.C. His speech was afterwards translated into French by Mr. C. D. Lehmann.

The Hon. Secretary spoke in English, and afterwards Miss Ursula Radford translated it into French. "The accent is perfect, but perhaps you are from Paris" said one of the Genevoise to her.

Thinking those who were present would like some account of the proceedings as a souvenir, and that the subscribers who were unable to be present would wish to know what took place, we have collected various accounts of the opening and of the speeches made at the dinner at the Dom Hotel, at 8 p.m. the same evening.

Monsieur Viollier, the Chairman of the Club Hut Committee of the Geneva Section, which had undertaken the erection of the Cabane Britannia, gave an account of their labours, and handed the keys to

DR. WILLIAMSON, who said: Mesdames et Messieurs Chers Colleguês du Club Alpin Suisse si vous me le permettez je dirai quelques mots en Anglais, et après M. Lehmann fera la traduction en Français.

In the unavoidable absence of our President, Mr. Dent, I am taking his place, and I am sure you will be glad to hear a letter which he has written on this auspicious occasion.

You will agree with me that a long speech would seem out of place here in the presence of these grand mountains of the Saas Grat, whose scenery is second to none in our Alps.

Ayot House

Welwyn

Herts

13 Aug. 1912.

My dear Bruce

Please convey to the
organisers of the inauguration
ceremony my profound regret
that I am unable to take
part in the festivities at Saas
Fee - and elsewhere. And,
to all others who take a
share in the proceedings,
give my salutations and

best wishes, Alpine, architectural
and brotherly — discreetly
suppressing! The latter adjective is
many ladies are present: I am
glad to have the photograph of the
Cabane. The Hut appears to be
well and truly built and to
stand on a solid foundation:
and so, I hope, does the good
feeling between the English-speaking
and all other members of the
S.A.C.

Yrs truly
A. Dent

I would remind you that our Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club is indebted for its very origin to an idea of yours, and that we owe to the Central Committee the suggestion of this excellent site.

British Climbers owe a deep debt of gratitude to their Swiss friends for allowing them the use of these mountain huts, and have I fear too often failed to avail themselves of the obvious means of showing appreciation of this kindness by joining one of the sections of the Swiss Alpine Club.

Under these circumstances we delight in the completion of the new Hut, because in the first place we hope that this will be recognised as a proof of our real appreciation of what our Swiss brothers have done for us, and also because we hope that it may be of real use to Swiss as well as other mountaineers.

We British mountaineers are united to our Swiss brothers by the strongest of all bonds—the love of the everlasting peaks.

It has been said—I forget by whom—“*la montagne fait l'homme*”; it is equally true that some of the most lasting friendships are made and cemented by our beloved mountains.

The object of a hut is both to provide a convenient starting point from which to explore the neighbouring mountains and to cross the passes, and also to afford a refuge to those who lose their way or become benighted, and I cannot doubt that this one is admirably placed for these objects.

Ladies and Gentlemen : we particularly wish to tender our most cordial thanks to the Central Committee, and also to the section Genèveois, both for the really admirable way in which they have made and carried out the plans of

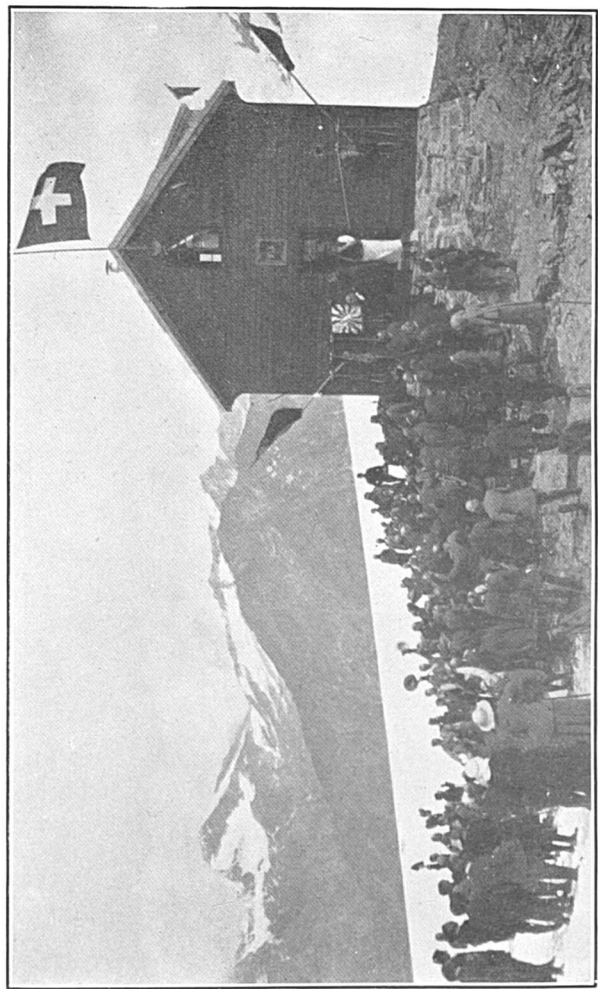
construction, and for the sumptuous entertainment which they have provided us with to-day. I should like also to add our heart-felt thanks to the guides and porters who have with so much toil carried out the work.

The success of collecting subscriptions has been, I think, due to two chief factors—firstly, the distinction of our President, Mr. Clinton Dent: and secondly, to the extraordinary devotion and untiring energy of our Secretary, Mr. J. A. B. Bruce.

In the name then of my colleagues of the Association B.M.S.A.C. I hand you over the key, heartily hoping that the bonds of good fellowship between you Swiss mountaineers and us British will thereby be tightened, and that the Cabane Britannia may remain as a token of our ever growing friendship.

MR. J. A. B. BRUCE: Mesdames, Messieurs et cher Collegues du C.A.S.: je parlerai en Anglais et après Mlle. Ursula Radford le repeterai en Francais. I would particularly address myself to Dr. Dubi, who first suggested this admirable site for the Hut; to Monsieur Meissier, representing the all powerful Central Committee of the Swiss Alpine Club; and to Monsieur Archinard, the Ex-President of the Geneva section.

On the site itself of the Klein Allalinhorn we present to the C.C. of S.A.C. this Hut, which you have with so much propriety and good taste named the Cabane Britannia, thereby to show its origin. We give it as a token of our love for Switzerland and the Swiss, and to show in some small measure our thanks to the S.A.C. for their hospitality in the past. The Association of British Members of the S.A.C.



THE NATIONAL ANTHEMS—SWISS AND ENGLISH.

have commissioned Dr. O. K. Williamson, our Vice-President, and myself, one of the Honorary Secretaries, to represent them on this auspicious occasion. Our Association was inaugurated by permission of the C.C. of S.A.C. over three years ago. Our qualifications for membership are love of Switzerland and membership of the S.A.C. Our objects—(1) to induce all British Alpinists, whether climbers or not, to belong to the S.A.C.; (2) to collect funds and present this Club Hut to Switzerland; (3) and to promote among British Members the sociability which is so conspicuous a feature of your Club, but from which we would otherwise be debarred owing to our living so far from the head quarters of our section. This we have endeavoured to bring about by dinners and “At Homes” in London and showing at them, lantern slides of your beautiful mountains.

In collecting the money for this Club Hut, from over 500 subscribers, we have been greatly assisted by “The Alpine Club” in England, that earliest of Alpine Associations, the President of which, Sir Edward Davidson, sends through me his cordial greetings and good wishes for a successful career. The Ski Club of Great Britain, the Alpine Ski Club, and the Ladies Alpine Club, have also done their share. The gift has been accepted in a cordial spirit by your Central Committee. They have deputed the building and guardianship to the Geneva section, and you yourselves will see with what care and skill that body has executed the task entrusted to them. Owing to the practical knowledge possessed by the Commission des Cabanes of Geneva this Hut is I think the best, the most comfortable in your Alps.

Vivat crescat floreat—long may it stand, monument of the undying affection which has existed and shall ever exist between our two nations. Vivat Helvetia! Vivat Grand Bretagne!

REV. J. SALWEY : your President, Dr. Roch, has done me the great honour of asking me to speak on this auspicious occasion as British Chaplain at Saas Fée. It is a great pleasure to me not only in an official capacity but also as a humble member of the Swiss Alpine Club and its British Association.

It is, too, a great pleasure to be asked to take part with the Curé of Saas Fée, who is unfortunately unable to be present, and with Pastor Muller, of Geneva. I rejoice in this happy combination of the Christian Churches, for it enables us to express our thanks as Britishers for all the hospitality we receive in your beautiful mountains, not only in your huts as climbers, but above all in the privilege of worshipping in our own mother tongue in whatever valley we may be residing, whatever its Faith may be.

We appreciate this immensely, and trust that the Cabane Britannia will testify our gratitude not only for the privilege of climbing, but also of worship too. The Cabane Britannia is a splendid example of what can be done to bring about the amity of nations; in old days the mountains used to separate men, now they are bringing together people of all languages and races. The brotherhood of the Alps. The Cabane Britannia is a concrete example of this fraternity; there it will stand, a British gift indeed, but for the use of every race; and here men who do not know each other's language



"CARRYING THE BANNER"

(Presented by the Geneva Section to the Association).

will meet as brother mountaineers. May this friendship stand as firmly founded as this hut and weather every storm.

One other thought strikes me, that this Cabane is not only a mark of brotherly feeling, but it has a very definite use. The sport of mountaineering has its risks, as have other sports.

This Hut is more than a resting place for many a happy day of health and enjoyment, it is also a shelter for the day of storm; and I would associate with the opening of this Hut not only the thought of the amity of nations, but above all something of the noble spirit of St. Bernard when he founded his shelter on the pass which bears his name, and would ask the blessing of God on the Cabane Britannia.

PASTOR MULLER, of Geneva, then closed the proceedings with the Lord's Prayer and Grace.

MOUNTAINEERING ON SKI FROM ZERMATT TO SAAS FEE.

"Times," March 21st, 1913.

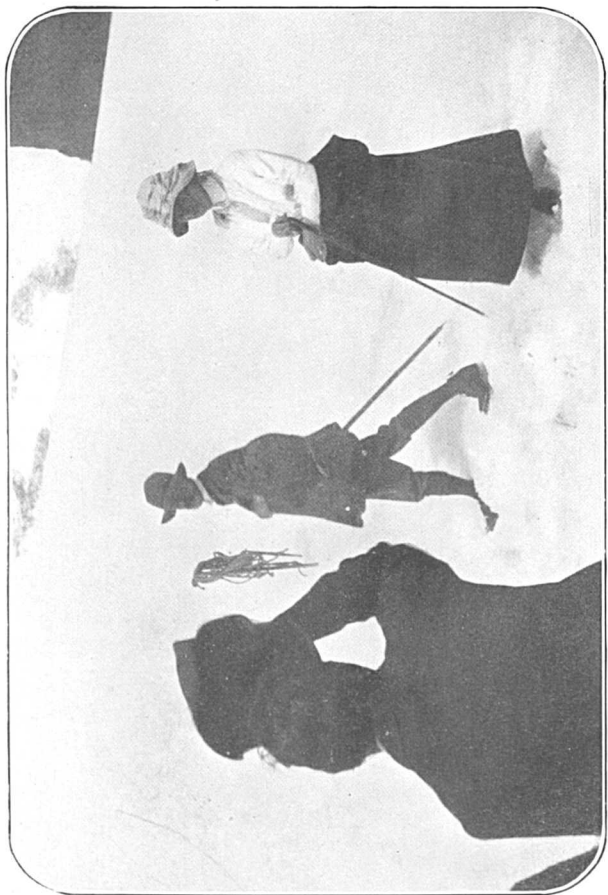
After a night in Betemps Hut, the wind rose and Monte Rosa was abandoned, at 7-30 a.m. we started for the Adler Pass. . . . in seven hours reached foot of the Pass and lunched just below the Pass, 12,400 ft. above the sea. . . . In two hours we reached the Britannia Hut, which English climbers have recently presented to the Swiss Alpine Club. As I am the first British runner to visit it I must testify to its convenience in Winter. It is wind and snow proof, and the gale which throughout the night fought through the gap where it lies only emphasizes the comfort of its cosy interior. The wind did not abate, and we were glad of a sheltered run down to Saas Fee. . . . of the many beauties of those days few stand out so vividly as the last golden vision of the Bietschorn glowing in the sunset, a vision which cheered the long descent through one of the loveliest of Swiss valleys.

The Opening of the Britannia Hut on the Klein Allalinhorn.

By *Dr. H. Dübli (Berne Section).*

Translated from "Alpina."

THE latest addition to the list of the S.A.C.'s club huts is, in the judgment of competent people who have seen many such buildings ancient and modern, one of the most valuable our association has ever seen. This in respect both of its convenient situation and its external and internal arrangements. The situation was chosen after a thorough and lengthy search by the "Association of British Members of S.A.C.," who collected the money for the building from subscriptions from its members and similar associations, the Geneva section of the S.A.C., which kindly undertook the actual building, and the Central Committee of the S.A.C., to whom the plans were submitted for approval. The spot finally chosen lies in the little known ridge that divides the Kessjen and Hohlaub glaciers, and connects the north-eastern spur (called by Siegfried the Hinter Allalin) with the neighbouring "Klein Allalinhorn" (summit given as 3,077 m. by the topographical atlas). The Hut lies at an altitude of something over 3,000 m. and commands a wonderful view, which is still finer from the summit ten minutes distant. The Egginer, Mittaghorn, Allalinhorn, Hinter Allalin, Rimpfischhorn and Strahlhorn can all be ascended or traversed by different routes from the Hut. It also offers a centre or starting point for the following

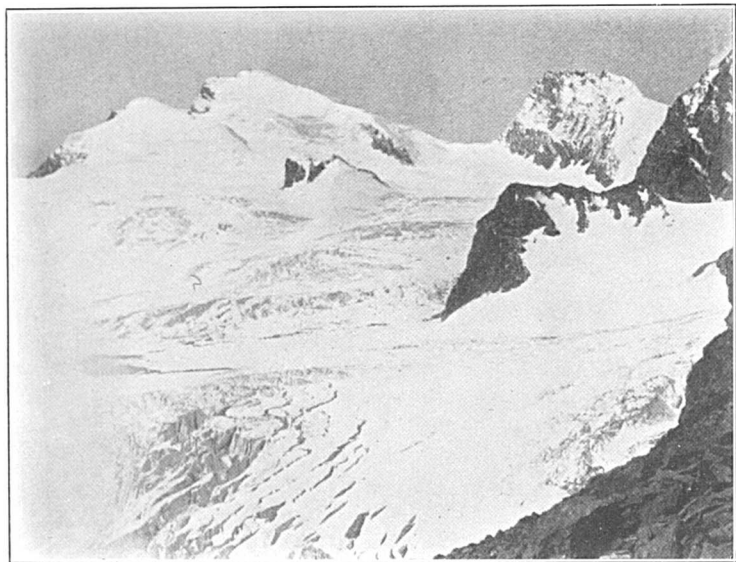


THE ARRIVAL OF THE SECRETARY.

passes: the Alphubel and Féejoch to Täsch, the Allalin pass (also to Täsch), and the Adler pass to Findelen and Zermatt. These are well-known and frequented routes, but it is also possible and well worth a trial to cross diagonally from the Hut, over the Hohlaub, Allalin and Schwartzenburg glaciers to the east foot of the Weisstor, and so arrive direct at the Riffel and Zermatt, or over one of the gaps in the Roffelhörner to the Belvedere and so to Macugnaga. And whoever wishes to take a short-cut to the latter place, can come from the Upper Schwartzburg glacier over the Seewinen glacier without wasting time and labour on the ascent to Mattmark. The Hut has thus a great future. It should not be forgotten that in winter, too, in fine weather it forms a safe and practicable excursion as well from Zermatt over the Adler pass as from Saas Fée over the Fée glacier and the Kessjen or Egginerjoch. The Hut is not exposed to avalanches, and is well protected by double windows and strong shutters against the gusts of wind always to be expected in open places.

We come thus to the structure of the Hut, of which we will say little, as a detailed description is expected from the Geneva section. The Cabane Britannia, so named in honour of its founders, is a wooden building, consisting of ground-floor, upper storey and an added loft on the south side, and rests on a masonry foundation. The roof is of galvanised iron, which has been tried already for several new huts, and also for the Saas Fée church. The ground floor is entered on the western side by stone steps not yet provided with a balustrade; then come no less than three doors with locks—a front door, a second door, behind

which is a passage to a store room and the equally lockable separate room of the caretaker, and at last the living-room door. It was therefore no mean thing that I undertook when on August 9th I, as representative of the Central Committee, made a previous inspection of the Hut with a few members of "the Association with the long name" as the A.B.M.S.A.C. is jokingly called. The honorary secretary, Mr. Bruce, handed me a bunch of keys, with which, in exercise of my rights, I unlocked the Hut in their name and commission. That no one may think, however, that so much ceremony will be necessary in future, I will hasten to add that from the day of the opening onwards the Hut was given over Unlocked to all comers, and must always remain so, even after the departure of the caretaker, who is engaged for the summer months. A room in the upper storey with a special stove is reserved for winter visitors. The staircase to the upper storey starts from the ante-room. The ground floor contains, behind the third door, a room serving as living and dining room with stove and washing-up apparatus. From this well-lighted and ventilated room, the guides' sleeping room is reached through a sliding door to the east, where there is room for from 8 to 10 people on two wooden shelves, furnished with straw mattresses and pillows, and divided by a narrow gangway. Here, as in the kitchen and upstairs, pegs for clothes and so forth are in such abundance as I have never before beheld. In the upper storey are several sleeping rooms, one specially luxuriously appointed for ladies (there is a looking-glass!), a toilet room with water laid on, and an agreeable little sitting room with



ADLER PASS, FROM CABANE BRITANNIA.

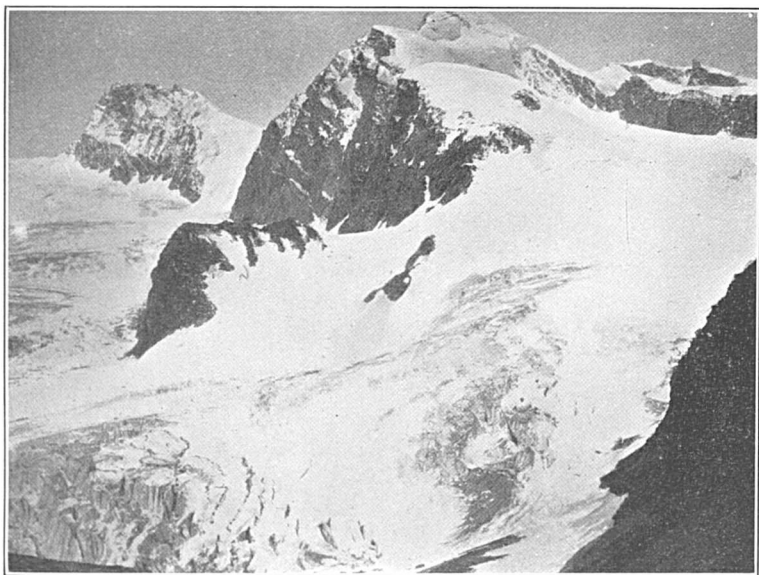


CABANE BRITANNIA. A LAST LOOK.

books to read, writing materials and games. There are also four hammocks in the upper sleeping rooms, which raise the normal number of 36 sleeping places to 40. (Already since the opening, 54 people have passed the night in the Hut together, and appear to have had a lively time). Water can be obtained in considerable quantities (when the weather is not too cold) from the rocks of the Hinter Allalin; failing that the snow supply is near and inexhaustible. The W.C. is about 60 paces distant and might be improved. The Hut will be provided with wood by the caretaker, and the furniture and appointments are good and of course new. I will not relate the history of the building, only mention the cost, which with the appointments runs up to 20,000 fr., recruited exclusively from the subscriptions of the 400 (or thereabouts) members of the Association, the Alpine Club, the Ski Club of Great Britain, the Alpine Ski Club, and the Ladies' Alpine Club), and will go on to the opening.

Desperate efforts were made at first to postpone the opening from the 17th to the 26th August, as the three Hotels of the Lager family, the two belonging to other proprietors, and even dépendances and furnished rooms in Saas Fée are generally full in the middle of August, so it was feared the invited guests would not have where to lay their heads. Finally, however, the original day was adhered to. And well that it was so, for the 16th and 17th August were not the just bearable days that were greeted with acclamation this summer, but fine and sunny without any qualification, the festal day in particular. Towards evening of the 16th August all the guests, about 130 in number (200 had been

expected) met in Saas Fée, and a "reception" was offered them by the Lagger family in the verandah and on the terrace of the Grand Hotel. This appears to have been very friendly and kept up very late. Whether any other speeches were made besides the welcome that I pronounced to the members of the Geneva section, I know not. I had, in fact—out of burning zeal of course—considered it necessary to ascend to the Hut already, behind the commissariat, which was taking up the last necessaries for the lunch of the 17th. This time I approached the Hut by the Plattje, where Clemens Imseng (who helped so much in building the Hut) has a mountain hotel, overlooking one of the finest views in the valley. Thence by a rocky path, carefully made at the expense of the above and strengthened by a fixed rope in places, behind the Mittag-horn and the Egginer on to the top of the moraine of the Kessjen glacier, from which the Hut is reached up an easy and gradual snow slope. After this pleasant four hours walk, and an agreeable night's rest in the guides' room, I acquired the necessary tranquility of mind to look on, while the members of hut-building commission of the Geneva section of the S.A.C., who had been working like blacks for the last two days, prepared for the reception of guests with hammering and knocking, hanging up of placards (rules and good advice), hoisting various flags, and planting out harmless bombs. Others, like two further representatives of the hotel-keeper Lagger and *Chef de Cuisine*, who arrived in the early morning of August 17th, joined with those who had already ascended with me on the day before in preparing the



RIMPFISCHORN AND ALLALINHORN FROM CABANE.



THE PORTJENGRET FROM TOP OF SONNIGHORN,
FIRST ASCENDED BY CLINTON DENT.

lunch packets, which with a bottle of Valais, were to fortify the tired and hungry. As I found, after some time, that things went on all right without my looking on, I ascended the "KleinAllalinhorn," for the tenth time in my life the second that morning, to await the arrival of the guests and other loafers, for the ceremony attracted outsiders and travellers too. From up there, where it was so pleasant on the warm plateau, in the sunshine and out of the wind, caravans could be seen approaching from ten o'clock. As soon as one came in sight from the Kessjenjoch or the Egginer, it was greeted (if it looked at all festive) by a bomb explosion. Thus came the Genevese, about 25 in number, the English, some 70 strong, with the Vice-president, the two secretaries and the treasurer of the Association at their head, a deputation from the Monte Rosa section, such other Latin sections and individual members of German speaking sections as personal idiosyncrasy or holiday chance had brought into the neighbourhood, the representative of the Central Committee, Herr S. Meisser, who had not shirked the long journey from Chur in order to take the latest addition to the club hut family into their protection, friends and visitors to boot, men, women and children of all nationalities, and many natives of the Saas valley, in all over 200 persons. The happy possessor of an invitation was (on giving up his ticket of course) given in the hall a lunch packet in one hand, containing as per programme, bread, roast beef, ham, cheese, Italian salad, a cardboard plate as well; in the other hand, a paper bag containing offerings of biscuits, chocolate, and so forth from various firms and variously packed; thus laden a bottle was stuck under

his arm and a Valais cigar in his mouth, he was then wheeled round and requested to leave as quickly as possible (as others were waiting) and to enjoy his booty in peace in the open air. As the weather remained fine, the platform around the Hut was very merry. One met old friends, made new acquaintances, chattered and bragged, praised the fine weather, and railed at the bad of the day before yesterday, and (likely enough) to-morrow, let one's self be photographed without a pang, and prepared thus for the ceremony of the Opening. This began at one p.m. with the National Anthem, which, it is well known, can be sung in English, French and German to the same tune. Then a representative of the Hut commission of the Geneva section S.A.C. gave the French report of the building of the Hut to the master builder, the Association, and handed the key to their Vice-President (the President, Mr. Clinton Dent, was unfortunately prevented from appearing). He, in a short English speech which was afterwards summarised in French, gave over the Key and Hut to the representative of the Central Committee, as a gift from the British members to the whole S.A.C., and as a token of their sympathy for Switzerland and their common love for the Alps. Herr Meisser (in a German speech, with warmest thanks to the givers), received the Hut into the Hands of the S.A.C., and gave it over to the care and trusty protection of the Geneva section, who had undertaken the building of it, and carried it out exactly as planned after nearly two years work. The official opening was followed by a further English speech from the Secretary of the Association, who thanked everyone who had



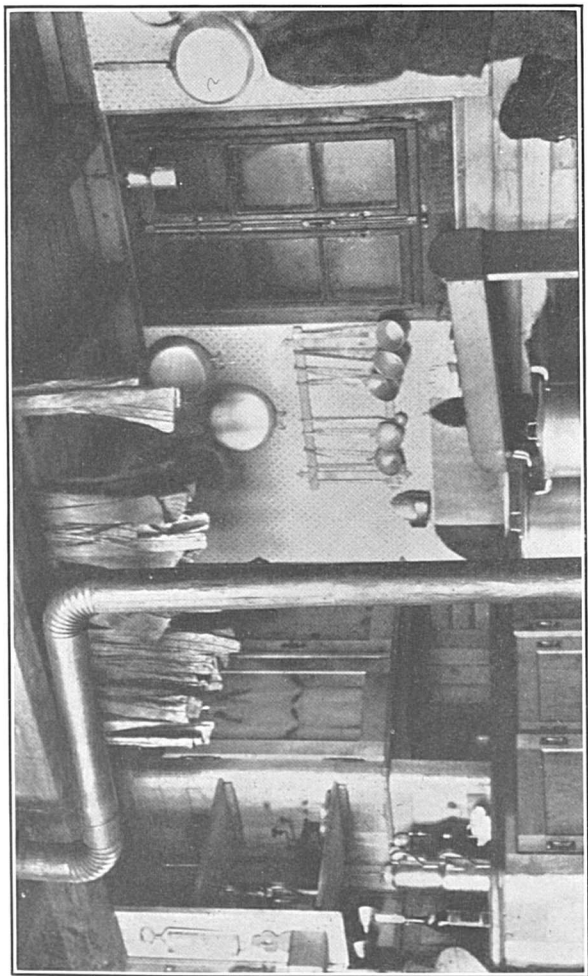
RETURNING FROM THE OPENING OF THE CABANE BRITANNIA.

helped with advice or actively to the success of the building (forgetting himself, however). The French translation of this speech was given by a dear little English girl, and followed by a benediction from the chaplain of the English church at Saas Fée, himself a member of the Geneva section of the S.A.C., then followed an eloquent discourse from Pastor Müller, who, as Vice-President of the Geneva section, had stayed at the Hut for several days previously and prepared the place for himself and us. After the Swiss Psalm, with which the proceedings closed, had rung out, and a grouped inspection of the Hut had taken place, farewells were said and the descent to Saas Fée started on about three, where the last arrived about 7. At 8 p.m. about 120 guests met at a banquet in the Hotel du Dom, that was celebrating at the same time its thirtieth anniversary; among others the Prefect of the Visp district, and the Presidents of the four quarters of Saas—Balén, Grund, Fée and Almagell, which had given their common right to the ground on which the Britannia Hut was built without payment.

Here speeches were made and toasts proposed in English, French and German: Pastor Müller proposed Switzerland, the Prefect of Visp the Swiss Alpine Club, to which he guaranteed the sympathy of the Valaisian authorities and people, Mr. Bruce and others spoke in the name of the Association of the friendly relations and common interests of Alpine Clubs. The present writer, who spoke in the name of the Central Committee, but also as an old friend of the house and the Valley, united in his toast the Association, the S.A.C., and the A.C.; also thanks to the good people of Saas, who had

helped forward the work so far as in them lay, and for whom we may wish this blessing, that they keep their own solid individuality as they have done in the midst of all increasing traffic and innovations. In the middle of the banquet fireworks were let off on the open space between the hotel and the Church, and afterwards, stimulated by a local choir, songs, chiefly French and German national and folk songs, were sung, and it was midnight before the singers grew weary.

Next day, most of the comrades in festivity left Saas Fée—everyone with the feeling of having passed a day as happy as full of promise for the future, and with feelings of the liveliest gratitude towards those who had called the Britannia Hut into being.



INTERIOR OF CABANE BRITANNIA.

The Opening of the Britannia Hut.

From the "Tribunè de Genève," August 21st, 1912.

THE opening of a new hut in the Swiss Alps is always an important event in the climbing world. There are already 93 in Switzerland, nearly all belonging to the Swiss Alpine Club, and about 60 more are planned but not yet built.

But as yet not one has the importance of that about which we are to speak. English climbers, and they are as mighty as they are numerous, have until now used our Swiss huts, without being able to return the hospitality; this state of things was painful to them, and to solve the difficulty several members of the Alpine Club, with characteristic British generosity, decided to found a British Association of the Swiss Alpine Club, of which the members must first belong to one of our sections. This was done and about 500 joined the S.A.C., of these 150 were proposed for the Geneva Section.

They then opened a subscription among themselves, to meet the expenses of a hut to be presented to the S.A.C. Time and long study on the part of the Hut Committee of the Geneva Section were necessary, before, with the consent of the English members, the site of the hut could be chosen; that of the heights above Saas Fée, at the foot of the Allalinhorn overlooking a magnificent waste of glacier at a height of 3,077 metres. When the hut was finished and all its details carefully studied it was confided to M. M. Badel and Toso of Geneva on the 8th of February, 1912, on the 20th it was set up

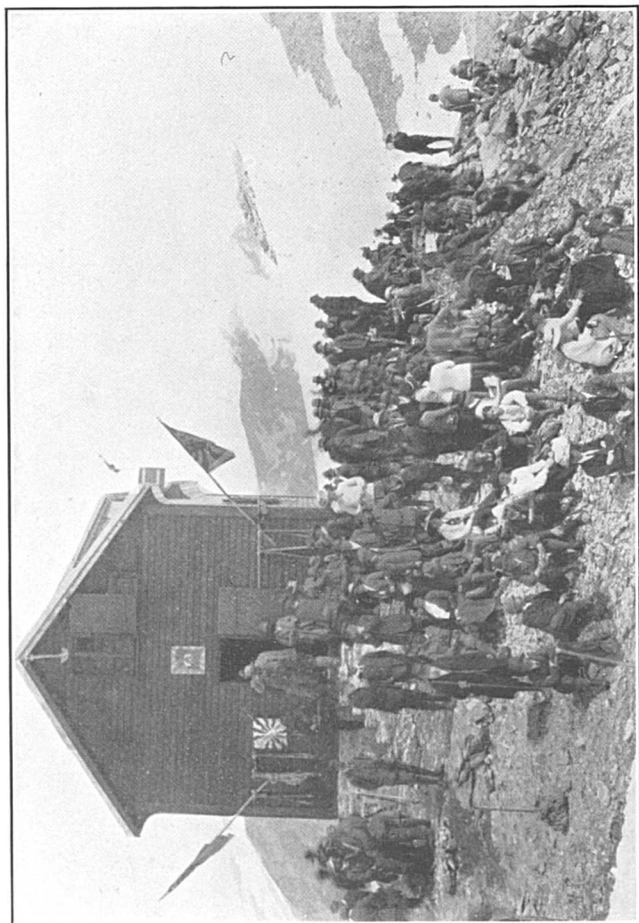
and verified, taken to pieces again on the 21st, and sent off to Viége on the 23rd addressed to M. Imseng.

There the difficulties of transport began, which were augmented by the lack of snow in winter and the prevalence of it in spring. But the Valaisian mountaineers have grit and endurance, and by 19th of June 449 loads, representing more than 18,000 *kilos*, were deposited on the spotless snow.

M. M. Imseng, father and son, then began to work on the foundations, which were finished on the 1st of July. M.M. Badel and Toso were then able to begin on the actual building, and this was finished by July 30th, and from the 26th to the 30th the "Hut Committee" of the Geneva Section was there, inspecting, controlling and finally approving the building.

All of which is quickly summed up in writing but when the numberless difficulties of this sort of enterprise are taken into account it becomes a mighty record of untiring work and of difficulties overcome.

With the consent of our English friends, the date of the opening was fixed for August 17th, whatever the weather. The English were in great numbers in and around Saas Fee, and the Latin Sections and those of Geneva, Neuchâtel, Monte Rosa, Diablerets, Jaman, Montreux, etc., were also represented. The Central Committee of the S.A.C. had sent several representatives on the evening of the 16th, and there was not a vacant bed, not a truss of hay to be had in Saas Fee. A guest on whom we had not dared to count, the fine weather, had also taken up his quarters in the snowy regions above; and the weather was set



LUNCH (AL FRESCO) BEFORE THE OPENING.

fair when on the 17th, as early as four in the morning parties began to start on the moraines above Saas Fee.

The official start was at 6 o'clock, but from 4 to 7 o'clock there were constant departures.

After climbing for 2 hours the rope was put on and two or three hours more followed according to the capacity of the mountaineers.

The sight was a most amusing one; numbers of caravans, and some of the most ardent climbers were ladies, crawling like ants on the steep snow slopes and glaciers.

The Installation Committee had done things well, the hut was decorated with Swiss and English colours and each party on its arrival was greeted with a salute.

About 11 o'clock more than 200 persons were assembled round the Hut, but only those who possessed the "ticket de fête" were entitled to the collation given by the Geneva Section. On a big cardboard plate slices of beef and ham were spread out, with a pile of "salade italienne" and a piece of cheese, and with the plate was given a great paper bag filled with chocolates, cigars, condensed milk, an aluminium cup, a tiny cow bell, etc., etc. All these last bore the names of Pernot, Peter, Cailler, Kohler, Suchard, Nestle, Tobler, etc., and it seems that these manufacturers were anxious that their best products should be sampled at such an altitude.

Also when you thought that you were laden with gifts, behold a friend who pressed a bottle of Fendant or of Muscat de Valais upon you, or if he took you for a teetotaler, one of lemonade, very welcome at such an altitude.

Then we arranged ourselves as well as might be, by the side of those who were either

not invited or not yet members, but who ate their own food with none the less enjoyment.

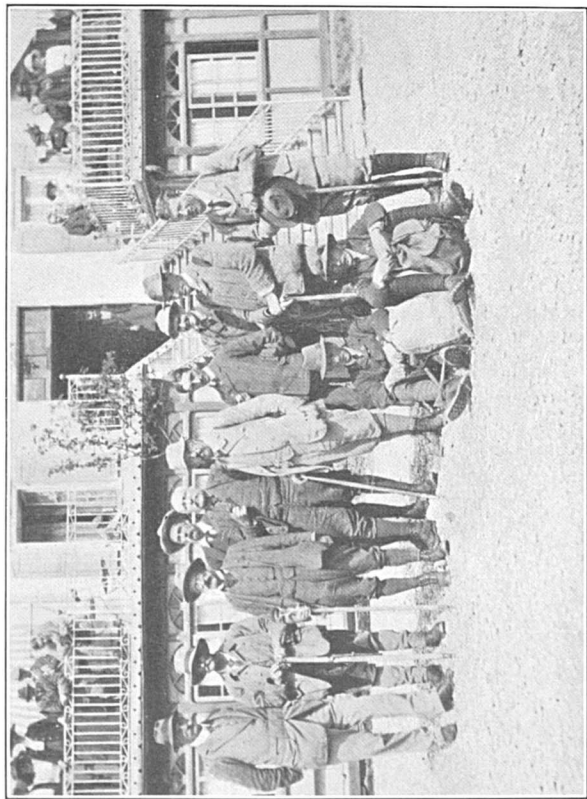
When the appetites were satisfied, and they had been sharpened by scrambling, toboggan parties were organised and nothing could be more gay than this noisy joyous crowd in the midst of the vast silence of the snows.

At 2 o'clock, Cheers! round M. Archinard, once president of the Geneva Section and master of the ceremonies of the Fête, a crowd formed, and after a speech of welcome from him "Aux monts indépendants" was sung in French, German and English.

Mr. E. Viollier, President of the Hut Committee gave a short but very complete history of the Hut, with all the details of interest, and ended with a speech in English which met with great success.

The members of the British Association then spoke in English, one of them had the good luck to have his aimable words translated by a charming young lady who was unruffled by the kodaks levelled at her. Then came the solemn handing over of the keys, which passed in turn from the Hut Committee to the British Association, who passed them to the Central Committee of the S.A.C., and finally to the Geneva Section. Fresh applause, and the Rev. J. Salwey then spoke a few solemn words on the importance of the opening of a refuge in the mountains.

M. le pasteur Muller followed and in a powerful speech placed the Hut under the Divine protection; hardly had he finished when an avalanche broke away from the Séracs near by and rolled with thundering echoes far below, producing an unlooked-for and impressive effect. M. Muller profited by this to speak of



GROUP OUTSIDE THE GRAND HOTEL, SAAS FEE.

Left to right—Ormond, W. Larden, J. Bruce, E. Harris, E. Fox, G. Radford,
C. King-Church, G. Wilson, W. Adams, W. S. Dixon.
Seated—F. N. Ellis and C. Wybergh.

the greatness of God's works and to exhort his hearers to be vigilant in all things and to continue neighbourly love, and ended by the Lord's Prayer, and the Cantique Suisse. The ceremony was very simple but had nevertheless a certain grandeur which was felt by all those who assisted.

M. le curé de Saas had been unavoidably detained and his absence was much regretted.

M. Archinard then declared the Hut open and then, and only then, it was allowed to be visited, in parties. Then the spacious kitchen with its sink and rack and aluminium utensils, the roomy dormitories for ladies, guides and climbers, could be fully admired.

Lady climbers of all nationalities are very grateful for the room which has been reserved for them, fitted with a noble mirror.

A small reading-room has been fitted up for wet days, and the "gardien" has also a room to himself.

When all had been fully seen and admired, the visitors were invited to write their names in the Hut register and to partake of free tea.

The visit was lengthy, especially as the mirror proved most attractive, though luckily none of the reflections were lasting, for some of the faces were freely smeared with grease to prevent sun-burn, while others despised such things as their variegated hues showed only too plainly.

The parties began to start about 4, some returning by the same way they had come and others going round by the Plattje and thereby enjoying a good rock scramble and a fine snow glissade.

At 8 o'clock all the climbers of the morning were assembled at the Dôme Hôtel to partake

of the banquet served there. The dining-room had been tastefully decorated by the members' orders and the menu carefully chosen. The wine list had been confided to Bouvier frères and Mauler et cie, and corks popped gaily for hours amidst the clouds of smoke proceeding from the cigars which were generously distributed by M. M. Ormond and F. Grundel.

Eloquence under such circumstances was inevitable and after the speech of welcome made by M. W. Muller, English, German and French were soon in full swing. There was a moment's interval to see the fireworks, after which the enjoyment re-doubled. M. Imboden, prefect of the district and representative of the Valaisian government proposed a hearty toast to the Swiss and English, which he followed up by the distribution of a special wine presented by the Conseil d'état of Valais. Nothing adds more to eloquence in any language.

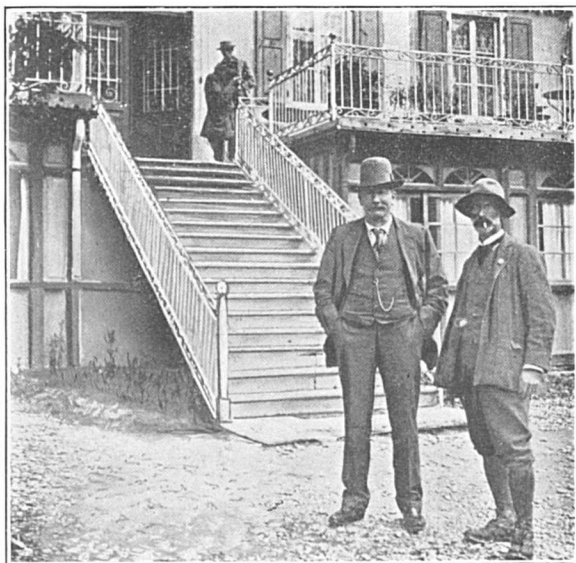
Doctor Dübi, the English M.Ps. Messrs. G. H. Radford and Noel Buxton, Bruce and Harris, secretaries, Kingchurch, treasurer, Williamson, and others made speeches which most understood and which all applauded.

The English sang "For he's a jolly good fellow" and the Swiss "Qu'ils vivent."

All the visitors at the hotel were at their open doors or in the passages, laughter and singing were heard from all the storeys.

M. le pasteur T. Muller then read a charming poem entitled "The Hut" and M. Bernoud amused his audience by a toast to the ladies in which he again made allusion to the mirror.

At midnight the approach of Sunday was the signal for the breaking up of the party. Everyone turned in, though whether everyone slept is another matter. As early as 6 o'clock



DR. DUBI, OUTSIDE GRAND HOTEL, SAAS FEE.

the next morning some started on climbs with rope and axe, while others went valleywards.

The Britannia Hut is now open to all. Let us hope that those who visit it will have fair weather and welcome repose and that their love of our fair country of Switzerland may ever be increased.

From Italian paper ("La Videtta").

The Hut was opened on a wonderful day of sunshine and blue sky, in the presence of 225 climbers (of whom 30 were ladies) and guides, as well as 50 English climbers.

The inaugural ceremony was presided over by Mr. Frank Archinard, representing the president of the Geneva section.

Messrs. Edmond Viollier, chairman of the Building Committee; Williamson, vice-president of the British Association; and J. A. Bruce, secretary and moving spirit of the same Association, delivered the opening speeches; and a charming young English lady, representing the English Ladies' Alpine Club! also spoke of the ideal beauties of the Alps.

Then, amid the profound emotion of all present, followed the benediction of the Hut by the Rev. J. Salwey, the English chaplain, and Pastor Carl Muller, of Geneva.

The ceremony began with the slow and solemn strains of the National Anthem, and closed with the Swiss hymn and anthem to the Fatherland.

In the evening the official banquet took place at the Hôtel du Dom. Speeches were made by Messrs. C. Muller, vice-president of the Geneva section; Imboden, prefect of the Viège district;

Radford, member of the English Parliament ; Dr. Dubi, editor of the C.A.S. Jahrbuch, and a great benefactor of the Saas Fée valley ; Messrs. Fees, president of the Diablerets section ; Couchepin, president of the Monte Rosa section ; and Pariani, president of the Verbano (*i.e.*, Lago Maggiore) section, who brought the greeting of the C.A.I. to this meeting of brotherhood and common love of the mountains, and expressed the hope of one day seeing as large a company of climbers on the Italian side of our Alps. He returned thanks for the particularly cordial welcome extended to him by the representatives of the Geneva section, to which our Verbano section is united in so deep and unalterable a friendship.



CABANE BRITANNIA.



PASTOR MULLER'S SPEECH.

Speeches at the Dinner.

At the dinner held the same day at 8 p.m. at the Dom Hotel, Saas Fee, the toast was given of the Association of British Members of Swiss Alpine Club, and the Chairman called on Messrs. Radford, Larden, Foa, and King-Church, to reply.

MR. RADFORD, M.P. : Messieurs et chers collègues, Mesdames, et je regrette que les dames ne sont pas nos collègues, je regrette beaucoup que je me trouve un peu monoglotte. (Cries of speak in English!) Je m'en souviens des mots que notre roi Henri V. a dit à la princesse Catherine: "I shall never move thee in French except to laugh at me," so I will lapse into my native tongue.

I am sorry that the honour of responding to this toast was not entrusted to my friend and colleague, Mr. Noel Buxton, who has taken international affairs for his province. I appreciate the honour conferred upon me of responding for the British members, but I have little to say except to offer their grateful acknowledgments. Indeed, you must not expect oratory from English sportsmen. We strenuous athletes (some of us not in our first youth), who have risen betimes and climbed 5,000 odd feet before midday are content in the evening with the exploits of the day, and have little capacity for speech. In England we have athletes and we have orators, but it is seldom that the two rôles are combined in one person. It seems from our happy experience to-night that the Swiss excel us in

this respect, for after daring exploits they speak with brilliant eloquence. But the English if somewhat reticent are sincere, and they erect lasting friendship on the basis of sincerity. We rejoice in the friendship which we have formed with our Swiss colleagues and we hope always to preserve it. I will conclude by repeating the original and spiritual words of my distinguished friend, Mr. Bruce: Vive la Suisse! Vive la Grande Bretagne! and I will add: et surtout vive la Liberté, which is the sentiment which distinguishes the two nations and binds them together.

MR. WALTER LARDEN: Ladies and Gentlemen, and especially my dear colleagues of the S.A.C. Most unexpectedly the chairman has just asked me to say a few words, and that in German. Had I been free to use my own tongue there is much that I could have said; but, speaking in German, I am sadly hampered. I came to Switzerland first in 1880; but it was many years before I set to work to learn something of German. My motive in attacking it was that I might in the future come to Switzerland more as a friend and less as a tourist, since I was so deeply interested in the country and the people. It was hard work alone; and to this day I have never attained mastery over the mysteries of the Genders! Therefore, I must beg you to listen to me with patience and forbearance, and to put up with lack of facility and eloquence in consideration of the fact that what I say comes from my heart.

I will limit myself to one point; *viz.*, the debt that I and many like me owe to the mountains and to the Swiss people—especially to the S.A.C.

As boy and undergraduate the quiet pleasures of trout fishing in England were enough to refresh me in my holidays. But when I came to real work, that of teaching, with all its strain and worry, I found that only the mountains had power to re-make me.

Year after year I came here exhausted, out of heart, doubtful whether I was doing any good; and year after year the kind welcome of the Swiss and the healing power of the mountains sent me back refreshed and able to try again.

And therefore I feel strongly that I and many like me owe a great debt to you Swiss and to your land, and especially perhaps to the Club that offered us English its hospitality in the huts.

With this I feel I had better close; "let no one venture out too far who cannot swim well." Faulty, I fear, has been this my first attempt at a speech in a foreign tongue; but as your own House-inscription say:

Gefält es Schon nicht Zederman
So hab' ich doch mein Best gethan!

(The above is a free translation, and given from memory).

MR. EDGAR FOA replied to the toast (in French) as follows:

Ladies and Gentlemen: I have been asked to say a few words in French in appreciation of the very kind and courteous reception which you have given to us the English delegates on this auspicious occasion, in view of the circumstance that that language happens to be a little more familiar to me than to most of my colleagues here assembled. This has been a day which none of us will easily forget, even though our

days should be prolonged beyond the ordinary span allotted to us. The unique occasion, the glorious sunshine, the beautiful mountains and glaciers by which we were surrounded, made up altogether a picture, the recollection of which we shall all carry away and treasure up among the most beautiful of our memories. And we had the further privilege of listening to an address from M. le Pasteur, which went straight to our hearts, and which, not less from the impassioned force of its language than from the surroundings in which it was delivered, moved us all to a degree which it is difficult to describe.

Ladies and Gentlemen: I speak now as the representative of a nation who, no doubt, were the pioneers in opening up the ways to your mountains. But the love for them which they felt and which they instilled into others is now shared by all; and you, the members of the Swiss Alpine Club, who share it also, have ever been most willing and ready to allow us to come here and taste of those great joys, and have given us all the facilities we could reasonably desire for doing so. I agree with what has been so forcibly said by preceding speakers, that the love for the mountains which I have just referred to is, and will continue to be, a most powerful factor in uniting the Swiss and English peoples, who have besides so much in common.

Ladies and Gentlemen: I will not detain you by prolonging this speech, for I feel that I should only be weakening what I have already said. It is the first time that I have found myself called on—and at a moment's notice—to make a public speech in a foreign language, but I have not found it as difficult as I had

dreaded, because when one wishes to express gratitude for much real kindness received the words almost come of themselves. Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of all my colleagues I tender you our most sincere thanks.

MR. C. E. KING-CHURCH also replied to toast of the B.M.S.A.C. They had heard that the Hut was only finished that morning. He was glad to be able to announce that the £800 they had set out to collect was completed that afternoon up at the Hut, but that further subscriptions would not be declined, because the final cost was not yet ascertained. The collection of subscriptions in England for S.A.C. sections had gone fairly well—only two out of 200 Geneva members had failed to pay—but it would work better next year. They were prepared to do the same for all other sections.

A telegram of congratulation from the English at Mont Collon Hotel, Arolla, signed Colonel Capper and Mr. S. Spencer, was read and received with enthusiasm and a suitable reply was despatched.

A letter in French was read from Mr. Archer Thomson on behalf of Ski Club of Great Britain asking that certain specified suggestions for the advantage of Ski runners should be considered. In reply to the postscript, apologising for the imperfection of his French, the Swiss raised cries "But it is very good French."

DR. DUBI: Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen: I find myself to-night in the curious and somewhat alarming position of a man who is supposed to have, besides a rather copious

dinner, three souls in his body and who is expected to express the feelings of these three souls in three different languages. This seems a heavy task for a man whose theological studies are far behind his now daily occupations, and have always been very superficial. In my present state of mind the respective feelings of my three souls are alternatively those of modesty, of proudness and of truth. Let me begin with modesty. It is always useful to begin with modesty, even if you are not quite sincerely modest. I restrain therefore from addressing you in three languages and shall content myself with English and German, as French has already been used profusely both at the inauguration ceremony and in the speeches delivered this evening. I will thus speak German on behalf of the Central Committee of S.A.C., because German is the one official language in the Canton des Grisons, and because I knew not a word of Romansch or Italian. Then I may answer in English the compliments given me to-day by my dear friend, Mr. Bruce, a kindness I value the more as his words were translated immediately afterwards in excellent French by a charming English girl, Miss Ursula Radford. I shall end with a German speech upon and perhaps for the good people of Saas, of whom I may assure you with truth I am an old and convinced friend and worshipper.

(The following was spoken in German).

The Central Committee of S.A.C. has honoured me with the task of seconding its delegate, Herr Meisser, in presenting the best thanks of S.A.C. to the Association of British Members of S.A.C. for their splendid gift, the

Cabane Britannia ; to the Geneva section for the excellent manner in which they executed the work of building the Hut, and arranging things for the inauguration, and their readiness to take care of the new Hut. I accepted the task quite willingly, not so much as an acknowledgment of the humble merits I may have for S.A.C. as an old mountaineer—it is a sad thing to feel old, even if you have gained some reputation by climbing for years and years—or as an author of works on Alpine history and literature, but because I was aware that it was my right as well as my duty to be present at the inauguration of a cabane, the site of which I had first selected by going up there some two years ago with my old friend, Herr Clemens Inseng, who, although a Saas man, had never been on the spot before! The Swiss Alpine Club is now, by the kindness of its British Members and their friends and Allies, in possession of a Club Hut that is really its own and they ought no longer to be ashamed because the “Akademischer Alpenclub Zürich” went ahead of them by building the “Mischabel hütte” on a spot where it was the duty of S.A.C. to give, at their cost and expense, shelter to the climbers of all nations who come to visit the splendid mountains of Saas. Now a second time we have to thank for the gift of a Hut that costs us nothing and gives us so much profit. I feel sure that all who have been up there to-day agree with me that the Hut stands on the right place, that it is convenient and well done, and that it will be useful for a series of ascents and traverse of cols in the neighbouring region.

I come now to the agreeable duty to thank the Committee of the British Association of

Members of S.A.C. for the very kind way in which they acknowledged to-day the few services I may have given them on this occasion and assure them that I shall always be ready to help them as best I can in this and similar matter of Alpine interest. I wish also to express here publicly my heartiest thanks for the honour they bestowed on me in electing me an honorary member. I am also thankful that the Association accepted in preference to other plans the site I proposed for the Britannia Hut, and also for the many marks of friendship and sympathy I receive whenever I meet with members of your Association or of the Alpine Club, with which most of you are connected as well and better than I. I am proud to possess so many friends in England, and I am sure it was the common love of the Alps that procured me this favour.

(The following was again spoken in German).

Monsieur le préfet du district de Viège has already pointed to the fact that it is nearly to the day, 30 years since the Hotel du Dom, where we are now banqueting, was built by the initiative of the then president of the commune of Saas Fée, our guest of to-night, Herr Clemens Imseng, my good friend of many years standing, and that our hosts, the Lager family, are the worthy successors of the sympathetic first Hotel-keeper at Saas Fée, Herr Stampfer, their parent. Allow me to add a few remarks, as I had the good fortune to see the work of Herren Imseng, Stampfer and Lager, that has grown up so splendidly in a comparatively speaking short time, in the very beginning. Since the Autumn of 1881 and the Summer of

1882 I have been at Saas Fée a great many times. Since then most things have changed here; many may be altered in future days, I hope to their best and for the real prosperity of this wonderful spot of Alpine scenery. But what I can testify as the simple truth is this: the good people of Saas, the simple peasants, men and women, who earn their livings honestly by hard labour and without complaint in hot summer, and cold winter have remained, in spite of the wiles that are inevitably connected with what we used to call "Fremdenindustrie," an unspoiled, honest and loyal folk of brave Swiss and true Valaisans. So are also the guides and porters who worked so hard in bringing up the materials to the Hut, and who now rejoice with us that the work is done, and will help them in some way to keep the high standard of "guiding" in the Saas Valley. May this blessing last for so long as the Saas men are worthy of it, and I trust for ever.

(In English).

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen: I am at the end of my task, and endeavour to unite in the form of a "triple entente cordiale." Thus I propose to drink the health of the "Swiss Alpine Club," of the Association of British Members of S.A.C. to be coupled with the name of the English Alpine Club—I beg your pardon, *the* Alpine Club—and of the "good people of Saas."

[Dr. Dubi kindly translated his own speeches.]

The Company separated about midnight.

A NIGHT AT THE CABANE BRITANNIA.

[From *Westminster Gazette*.]

Five thousand feet we climbed by zigzag ways,
 Rock and moraine, and tracts of ice and snow,
 And reached at dusk the cabane which we owe
 To British climbers of these latter days.
 Supper despatched, we issued forth to gaze
 On cloudless sky enriched with gleam and glow
 Of everlasting silent stars, and so
 Turned in, in quest of sleep which toil repays.
 Vain quest! Wood-sawing, doors that slam and slide,
 Nailed boots in movement, voices in despair,
 Shouts of defiance, threats of homicide
 Conspired to murder sleep, and fright the air,
 While the few sleepers (who all sleep denied)
 Snored inharmonious through the whole affair.

G. H. RADFORD.

 Names of those present at the Opening of the
 Cabane Britannia.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| *Adams, W. A. | Boyd, H. A. |
| *Ainstee, E. L. | Boyd, S. P. (Dublin) |
| *Anderson, Rev. A. R. | Boyd, Miss A. J. |
| Anderson, Miss | |
| *Bailey, J. A. | Cadman, E. |
| *Baer, J. | Cane, Dr. Leonard B. |
| *Barne, H. H. | Cane, Mrs. |
| Bartlett, H. E. G. | *Carr-Saunders, A. M. |
| Bell, Rev. Morris | Connell, — (Melbourne) |
| Bellow, W. | |
| *Bradley, M. G. | *Dimier, G. |
| *Brooke, W. M. | Dimier, — |
| *Brown, Eric | *Dixon, W. S. |
| *Bruce, J. A. B. (Hon. Sec.) | *Dubi, Dr. (Representing C.C.
of S.A.C.) |
| *Buxton, L. | |
| *Buxton, Noel, M.P. | *Eberli, J. |
| *Buxton, Mrs. | *Ellis, F. N. |
| *Buxton, Miss | *Ellison, T. W. |
| Buxton, Rev. H. | *Ellison, G. |

- *Ellwood, T. A., M.D.
 *Ellwood, Victor
 *Enthoven, Mr. and Mrs.
 Finzel, C.
 *Foa, Edgar
 *Foot, H.
 *Gooch, M.
 Gray, —
 *Harris, E. B. (*Hon. Sec.*)
 *Harrison, J. Fraser
 *Hartree, C.
 *Hope, P.
 Hutchinson, Rev.
 *Kilbey, W.
 Kilbey, —
 *King-Church, C. E. (*Treasurer*)
 *Grande, J.
 *Larden, Walter
 *Lawford, B.
 *Lehmann, C. T.
 Livermore, D.
 *Lindsell, Major (*Bernina*)
 Monte Rosa Section,
 Representatives of
 Mackintosh, G. E.
 Meissier, — (*Representative of*
 C.C. of S.A.C.)
 Muller, Pastor C.
 Muller, —
 *Nightingale, Rev. E. C.
 Noel, Rev. C. E.
 *Ormond, E. B.
 *Paget, Catesby
 *Pariani, Signor (*Italian A.C.*)
 Radford, —
 *Radford, G., M.P.
 Radford, Mrs.
 Radford, Miss C.
 Radford, Miss Ursula
 Richardson, W. S.
 *Robinson, R.
 Rogers, Rev. Enys
 *Roget, Professor F.
 *Salway, H.
 *Salway, Rev. J.
 Salway, Mrs.
 Sedgwick, H. J.
 *Sharpe, P. H.
 *Sharpe, W. S.
 *Smith, Rev. Canon Reader
 *Sternfield, H. W.
 Stuart-Smith, R.
 Turner, D. M.
 Turner, R. R.
 Turry, —
 *Viollier, —
 *Warren, H. W.
 *Williamson, Dr. O. K.
 *Williamson, Mrs.
 *Willis, Dr. H. D.
 *Wilson, G.
 Wilson, —

The above is as complete a list as we were able to get of those present at the Opening of the Club Hut Britannia. Those whose names are preceded by an asterisk attended the dinner in the evening at the Dom Hotel, Saas Fée.

The Association of British Members of the SWISS ALPINE CLUB.

CLUB HUT FUND—*Seventh List of Subscriptions.*

The following is the 7th list of subscriptions to the Club Hut Britannia at Saas Fée. The amount required was collected before August 17th, 1912, the day of the inauguration, from about 500 subscribers. Twenty thousand one hundred and twenty-three francs, including interest, has been already received by the Central Committee of S.A.C.* The exact cost has not yet been ascertained. The balance in the hands of the Treasurer of the Association is £5 rs. 6d. It is proposed to use this sum towards defraying the cost of this Report.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Clinton Dent (the late) ..	5	0	0	W Bellows	0	10	6
W. P. Ker	5	0	0	J. W. F. Forbes	0	10	6
J. M. Currie	5	0	0	Dr. Goldsmith	0	10	6
J. T. Kirkwood	2	10	0	C. R. Wingfield (Ski			
Major Lindsell	2	2	0	Club, Gt. B.)	0	10	0
C. H. Lamb	2	0	0	Rev. A. Anderson	0	5	0
Noel Buxton, M.P. ..	1	12	0	Miss Marjorie Bruce ..	0	5	0
Mrs. Roy Batty (Ladies'				Miss Nancy Gover	0	5	0
A.C.)	1	1	0	Eric Gover	0	5	0
H. G. Bartleet	1	1	0	D. F. Grant	0	5	0
F. N. Ellis	1	1	0	Miss Lowson (Ladies			
O. Eckenstein	1	1	0	A.C.)	0	5	0
A. T. Kenyon	1	1	0	Canon Reader Smith	0	5	0
Dr. S. McLeary	1	1	0	R. Stewart Smith	0	4	0
G. W. Ormond (3rd don.)	1	1	0	Humphrey Salwey	0	2	6
Rev. Canon Martin ..	1	0	0				
W. Adams	1	0	0				
Col. Rodick	1	0	0				
Miss Mayer (Ladies' A.C.)							
2nd don.	0	15	0				
					£38	9	0

TOTAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Through our Association	559	1	6
The Alpine Club	190	2	6
The Ski Club of Great Britain	68	1	0
The Ladies' Alpine Club	12	16	6

£830 1 6

Audited and found correct,

A. B. CHALLIS, *Hon. Auditor of Association.*

* The C.C. of S.A.C. writing on March 15th, 1913, state that they anticipate having a balance of about £8 after all the expenses are paid, and that the amount will be handed over to the Geneva Section for the improvement of the Hut.

COMPLETE LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS
TO
CLUB HUT BRITANNIA.

Adams, W.
Adler, H. S.
Aldridge, Rev. A. E.
Allen, Mrs. Bernard
Allen, B. M.
Anderson, Rev. A. R.
Andrews, A. Newton
Arosa Ski Club
Ashby, R. Claude
Ascherson, C. S.
Avebury, The Lord

Backhouse, E.
Bailey, C.
Bainbridge-Bell, Rev. C.
Baker, H. Kendra
Barnard, W.
Barnett, C. F.
Barran, A.
Barrow, A.
Bartleet, A.
Bartleet, A. M.
Bartlett, H. G.
Basset, A.
Baumann, E. B.
Beeching, H. A.
Belcher, H. N.
Bellows, W.
Bensinger, L.
Berry, G. B.
Beveridge, H. N.
Beveridge, W. H.
Biddle, J. H.
Biddle, W. W.
Blackden, Colonel
Blackwell, R. F.
Blampied, C. G.
Blandy, Miss E.
Blond, Mrs. Aubrey le
Bostock, J. H. J.

Boulderson, S.
Bourdillon, F. W.
Bourdillon, R.
Bowdoin, H. W. C.
Boulderson, S.
Bradley, M. G.
Brady, C. W.
Brant, R. W.
Brewitt-Taylor, E.
Brigg, J. J.
Brigg, W. A.
Bristol, The Bishop of
Bristow, A. W.
Brotherton, J. R.
Brown, A. F.
Browne, G. E.
Bruce, J. A. B.
Bruce, Miss Marjorie
Brunner, J. F. L., M.P.
Brunskill, Walter
Brushfield, Dr.
Bryce, Rt. Hon. J.
Buchanan, M. I.
Bull, J. C.
Bull, Rev. T. W.
Burnell, W. A.
Burnett, T. R.
Burr, Allston (U.S.A.)
Burton, A., M.B.
Burrell, J. Bowen
Buxton, Noel, M.P.

Cæsar, W. R.
Cafferata, R. B.
Cannan, C.
Capper, Colonel
Carr, Ellis
Carthew, Miss A.
Cassel, Sir Ernest
Castello, S. M.

- Challis, A. B.
 Chance, C. F.
 Chevasse, Sir T. (the late)
 Clarke, A. E.
 Clarke, E. R.
 Clarke, L. W.
 Clayton, Colonel
 Clayton, Morton
 Cleave, E. R.
 Cockburn, Henry
 Coddington, E.
 Colgate, Dr.
 Comber, H. C.
 Compton, E. T.
 Compton, Rev. W. C.
 Corry, Capt. J. B., D.S.O.
 Corry, R.
 Courtauld, R. C.
 Courtney, H. G.
 Cowie, Major H. N. R.
 Cripps, Dr. C. C.
 Creak, R. H.
 Crewdson, W.
 Crisp, Sir Frank
 Crowe, Capt. W.
 Curling, Lieut. R. R.
 Currie, J. H. M.

 Dalton, Rev. A. E.
 Davies, W. Lloyd
 Davidson, A. J.
 Davidson, Sir E., K.C.M.G., C.B.
 Dawson, Rev. J.
 Daykyn, J. R.
 Dent, Clinton (the late)
 Dent, Dr. H. L. R.
 Dent, L. M. E.
 de Trey, A.
 Dickins, C.
 Dimier, G.
 Dixon, J. R.
 Dixon, W. S.
 Dodd, J. M. F.
 Donkin, S. B.
 Downer, Rev. Dr.
 Drummond, J. W.
 Dübi, Dr. H.

 Earle, J. G.
 Eaton, J. E. C.
 Eberli, J. J.

 Eckenstein, O.
 Edwards, H.
 Edwards, Rev. W. G.
 Ellis, F. N.
 Ellis, W. H.
 Ellison, G.
 Ellwood, T. Ashcroft
 Ewen, G. T.

 Farrar, Capt. P., D.S.O.
 Fawcett, F.
 Fedden, F. G.
 Field, A. E.
 Finke, R. F.
 Fitzherbert, Arnold V.
 Fitzpatrick, —
 Fletcher, P.
 Fletcher, P. C.
 Foa, Edgar
 Foot, H.
 Forbes, J. W. F.
 Fordham, Sir H. G.
 Fortlaye, Miss M.
 Fowler, W.
 Fowler, Dr. G. H.
 Fox, Miss
 Francis, R. F.
 Francis, R. H.
 Frankland, Miss F. Helga
 Fraser, F. N.
 Freeborn, E. W.
 Fulton, J. H. W.
 Furmeaux, L. R.
 Fynn, Val. A. (U.S.A.)

 Gait, J. C.
 Gandy, H.
 Gardner, Miss
 Gask, G. E.
 Gask, S.
 Gatty, Victor H.
 Gibbons, Sir A. D., Bart.
 Gibson, J. J.
 Gilson, J. P.
 Goldsmith, Dr.
 Gordon, R.
 Gover, Eric
 Gover, J. M.
 Gover, Miss Nancy
 Graham, Reginald
 Grant, D. F.
 Greaves, Alan

Grenfell, Lieut. F. H., R.N.
 Gruchy, Capt. F. le M.
 Gruchy, G. le M.
 Gussfeldt, Dr. Paul

Harmer, W. Douglas
 Harris, E. B.
 Harrison, H. E. B.
 Harrison, Frederic
 Hartree, C.
 Hatfield, Mrs.
 Hawkins, E. F.
 Hill, F. W.
 Hind, N. S.
 Hinton, H. A.
 Hobson, G. D.
 Holland, C. T.
 Hope, R. P.
 Hopkinson, Prof. B. H.
 Hordern, Capt.
 Hossly, B.
 Hoy, W. E.
 Hughes, R., D.C.L.
 Hutchinson, Rev. C.
 Hutchinson, G. A. (the late)
 Hutchinson, Rev. T.

In Memoriam, "L. R. S."
 Irving, R. L. G.

Jackson, W. S. (Canada)
 James, J. H.
 James, J. E.
 James, W. W.
 Johns, W. C.
 Johnstone, Andrew
 Joseph, H. W. B.

Kay, W. R.
 Kennedy, Sir A. B. W., F.R.S.
 Kenyon, A. T.
 Ker, W. P.
 Kesteven, T. L.
 King, H. D.
 King, Sir H. Seymour
 King, N. P.
 King, A. J.
 King-Church, C. E.
 Kirkpatrick, Wm. T.
 Kirkwood, J. T.

Lamb, C.

Larden, Walter
 Lawford, B.
 Lea, E. I.
 Leaf, Walter
 Lehmann, C. T.
 Lehmann, H. D.
 Lindsay, C. Scott
 Lindsell, Major
 Ling, W. N.
 Lister, W. T.
 Lloyd, Miss
 Lloyd, G. W.
 Longstaff, Tom G.
 Loppe, Gabriel
 Lowson, Miss
 Lunn, Arnold
 Lunn, Sir H.
 Lyne, C. R.

Macartney, H. J.
 Mallory, G. L.
 Marriott, H. C.
 Martin, Rev. Canon
 Mason, A. E. W.
 Masterman, J. S.
 Mawby, E. G.
 Maxwell, Major
 Maxwell, Mrs. Heron
 Mayer, Miss
 McAndrew, A.
 McAndrew, Miss B.
 McIntyre, J. H.
 McLaren, Mrs. Eva
 McLeary, Dr.
 McLeod, W. R.
 Mennell, H. T.
 Meyer, Miss M.
 Milburn, —
 Miley, M.
 Millington, H. A.
 Mills, F. R.
 Minchinton, Lieut.
 Minor, P.
 Moore, W. A. M.
 Morland, J. C.
 Morrish, C. A.
 Morrish, H. G.
 Morrish, R. S.
 Morrison-Bell, Major A. C.
 Morse, G. H.
 Morton, Capt. G. A.

Moss, C. J.
 Mothersill, H. J.
 Muir, J. C.
 Muir, Wm.
 Mumm, A. L.

Naismith, W. A.
 Neame, G. H.
 Nettleton, Mrs.
 Newmarch, F.
 Newsom, G. A.
 Newton, Rev. H.
 Nicholson, W. F.
 Nightingale, Rev. E. C.
 Nussey, C. A.

Ogilvy, Mrs. F.
 Oliver, Edmund G.
 Oliver, E. G.
 O'Malley, B. K.
 Ormond, E. B.
 Osborne, Miss M.
 Osborne, R. E.
 Osler, J. A.

Paddison, R. O.
 Paget, Catesby
 Peckover, Hon. Miss A.
 Peech, S. B.
 Pickard, Ransom
 Pickford, Hon. Mr. Justice
 Pilkington, C.
 Pilkington, L.
 Pixley, J. A.
 Portch, W.
 Porter, Dr. A. E.
 Potter-Kirby, G.
 Powell, Legh S.
 Powell, Leonard
 Prothero, G. W.
 Pulling, H. G.

Quicke, Mrs. Nutcombe
 Quincey, E. de Quincey

Radford, G. H., M.P.
 Rawlence, C. V.
 Reade, H. V.
 Reid, C. J.
 Reid, K. G.
 Rendall, Rev. Dr.
 Richards, A. V. Valentine

Richardson, C. W.
 Richardson, E. C.
 Richardson, Miss K.
 Rio Pablo del
 Roberts, E. E.
 Roberts, W. M.
 Robertson, C. D.
 Robinson, F.
 Robinson, H. C.
 Rodgers, Stanley
 Rodick, Colonel
 Roger-Smith, H. R.
 Rolleston, L. W.
 Roos, H.
 Rows, Dr. R. P.
 Roxburgh, A. C.
 Roy-Batty, Mrs.
 Runge, H.
 Runge, R.
 Russell, A. E.

S., M. (the late)
 St. Croix, C. de
 Salter, F. G.
 Salway, Humphrey
 Salway, Rev. J.
 Sanders, A. H.
 Schliess, Dr. (Essen)
 Schuster, Sir Felix, Bart.
 Searle, S.
 Sebag-Montefiore, R. M.
 Sedgwick, W.
 Sharp, W. S.
 Shea, C. E.
 Shipstone, O.
 Singer, David
 Ski Club of G. B.
 Slagg, J. P.
 Slater, Charles, M.B.
 Smith, W. Haskett
 Smith, G. O. Howard
 Smith, His Honour Judge Lindsey
 Smith, M. K.
 Smith, Rev. Canon Reader
 Smith, R. Stuart
 Smith R. F. Ruthven
 Snelgrove, A. G.
 Somers, J. P.
 Spencer, Sydney
 Staffurth, S. F.
 Stallard, G.

Steel, C.
 Steel, C. G. (Sen.)
 Steele, L. J.
 Steeple, E. W.
 Steinmann, M.
 Stevens, E. H.
 Stewart, C. J.
 Stewart, G. L.
 Strutt, Capt. E. L.
 Studemund, A.
 Swan, E. Atkin
 Swan, K. R.

Tattersall, E. S.
 Taylor, Miss Beatrice
 Taylor, Miss S. May
 Taylor, E. R.
 Thelwall, F.
 Thompson, C. M.
 Thompson, R. E.
 Thomson, H. Archer
 Thomson, J. M. Archer (the late)
 Thorp, Mr. and Mrs. H. Carter
 Thorpe, C. H.
 Tobler, A.
 Tod, G. H.
 Todhunter, R. A.
 Townley, C. T.
 Trier, F. N.
 Tubby, Dr.
 Tucker, H. Scott
 Tuckett, F. F.

Unna, P. J.

Venables, Miss E.
 Venables, H. A. W.
 Vernon, R. V.
 Vlasto, I.

Wace, G. G.
 Wagner, H.

Walker, G. O.
 Wall, T. W.
 Ward-Simpson, Capt., R.A.
 Warren, H. W.
 Warren, R. H.
 Watson, H.M.O.
 Westall, Miss
 Western, Dr.
 Western, A. E.
 Western, Miss E. G.
 Western, Miss L.
 Western, Rev. W.
 Wherry, George
 Whitting, A. E.
 Wicks, J. H.
 Wigram, Rev. H. F.
 Wigram, L. E.
 Wilkins, R.
 Williams, Roderick
 Williamson, Dr. O. K.
 Willink, H. G.
 Willis, H. D.
 Wilson, Claude, M.D.
 Wingfield, C. R.
 Wingfield (Ski club)
 Winterbotham, C.
 Withers, J. J.
 Wollaston, C. H. R.
 Woodsend, W. G.
 Woolley, Hermann
 Worthington, W. B.
 Worthington, W. D.
 Worthington, A. M.
 Workman, R.
 Wright, W. A.
 Wrey, G. D.
 Wroughton, E.
 Wroughton, Capt. J. B.
 Wyatt-Smith, Dr.
 Yeames, R. L.
 Young, Sydney

The reason the number of names do not correspond with the total of the lists previously issued with amounts of subscriptions is that several people gave more than one donation. We regret if by inadvertence the name of any Subscriber has been omitted.

Mr. W. Larden's "Inscriptions from Swiss Chalets" with notes and translations and 52 illustrations, is now being printed at the Oxford University Press at a considerable loss to the writer.

For a short time the book will still be obtainable from him at the subscription price of 10/6; but when it has been handed over to the Publisher the price, he understands, will be raised to 15/.

Anyone who wishes for a copy at the lower price should apply at once to W. Larden, 22, Wellington Square, Oxford.

NEW MEMBERS OF ASSOCIATION
ELECTED SINCE JANUARY, 1913.

- *Bainbridge Bell, Rev. F., "A.C." (*Geneva*), St. Leonards Vicarage, Catford, S.E.
- Burnett, T. R. (*Uto*), Goldings Park, Loughton.
- Durham, Rev. W. E., "A.C." (*Monte Rosa*), The Rectory, Newton Abbot.
- Franklin, W. (*Diablerets*), Holly Lodge, St. Albans.
- *Galbraith, Wm. (*Geneva*), 16, Castle Street, Edinburgh.
- Garnett, K. G. (*Montreux*), Trinity College, Cambridge.
- Gower, H. J. (*Altels*), Mansfield Woodhouse, Mansfield.
- *Iles, C. E. (*Altels*), Wadi Halfa, Sudan.
- Kay, W. R. (*Oberhasli*), Highfield, Itchen, Southampton.
- Lee-Warner, E. H. (*Grindelwald*), Denton House, Harleston, Norfolk.
- *McAndrew, A., "A.C." (*Monte Rosa*), Holly Hill, Colemans Hatch, Sussex.
- Millar, R. C. (*Geneva*), Rossie Castle, Montrose.
- Reid, S. G. (*Altels*), 17, Avenue Elmers, Surbiton.
- Roberts, E. E., "A.C." (*Oberhasli*), 5, Harewood Darlington.
- Sharp, H. G. (), Beacon Well, Camden Road, N.
- Sharpe, R. E. (*Diablerets*), R.E. Mess, Gibraltar.
- *Tattershall, William (*Montreux*), The Old House, Sevenoaks.
- Vincent, William, M.B., F.R.C.S. (*Oberhasli*), Wadsley Asylum, Sheffield.
- Western, Oswald (*Monte Rosa*), 24, Pembridge Square, W.
- *Willan, W. (*Geneva*), 15, Trent Road, Brixton Hill, S.W.
- Wilcox, Rev. A. G. (*Monte Rosa*), St. George's Vicarage, Battersea Park Road, S.W.
- Wilcox, Kenneth (*Monte Rosa*) ditto.

• Life Members.

Extract from the *Morning Post*.

ALPINE CLIMBING.

DEDICATION OF THE NEW BRITANNIA HUT.

(From our Swiss Correspondent.)

BERNE, *August 14, 1912.*

There are now 74 Alpine club huts in Switzerland, where climbers can find refuge in time of storm, or shelter during the short night's rest preceding an ascent. On Saturday next one more hut will be added to this list, the Britannia Hut, which has been built by the subscriptions of British members of the Swiss Alpine Club. The Britannia Club Hut is one of the eight highest in the Swiss Alps, being at an altitude of 10,420 ft. The highest Swiss hut is the Bertolhütte, 11,155 ft., on the Col. Sud de Bertol. Hitherto British climbers have always availed themselves of the huts built by the Swiss Alpine Club, and have not subscribed anything either towards the cost of their construction or their upkeep. To club together, therefore, and present the Swiss Alpine Club with a sum of £800, sufficient to build and equip a new Alpine hut, was merely a graceful return for much hospitality received. The money was subscribed by more than £500 climbers, including a number of ladies.

The Britannia Club Hut, which can accommodate about forty persons, is situated on the Hinterallalin, above Saas Fee, in the Valais, and it will facilitate several ascents, notably that of the Allalinhorn, the Rimpfischhorn, the Stahlhorn, and the Eggmer. It will also be the point of departure for crossing the Alderpass, and the Allalinpäss to Zermatt, while climbers descending from the Weisssthor, and going to Macugnago will find the new Britannia Hut convenient. Unless this summer's uncertain weather should render any ceremony absolutely impossible, the dedication of the new hut will take place on Saturday next. The hut will then be formally presented to the Geneva Section of the Swiss Alpine Club, under whose care it will be placed. Already many English climbers have gone to Saas Fee for the occasion, and by Friday next there will probably be scarcely a vacant room in the place.

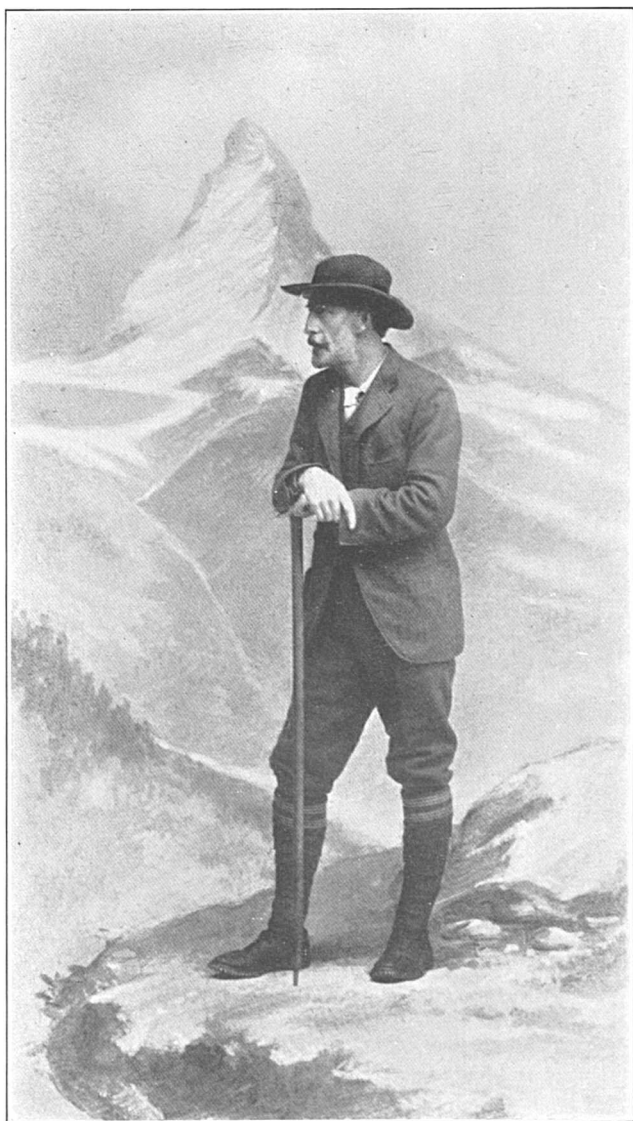
SHAM CLIMBERS.

It is to be hoped that this new hut will be—what many Alpine huts now are not—sacred to the use of genuine climbers and not overrun by those noisy persons who have been designated climbers who do not climb. Parties of young Swiss or

Germans, to save hotel bills, often find their way to Alpine huts, especially to such as are easy of access. Arriving there probably late, they spend much of the evening cooking and eating their supper, after which for another hour they are chattering and going to bed. It is ten o'clock at least before the hut is quiet, so that any real climbers present, who have to get up at midnight or at latest at 1 a.m., cannot have more than two or three hours' sleep. This too frequent abuse of huts is doubtless one reason why English climbers did not long ago subscribe the money to present the Swiss Alpine Club with a hut. In fine weather, indeed, many an English climber avoids sleeping in the overcrowded, often stuffy huts, preferring to seek shelter outside beneath some rock or in some cave. Nevertheless, all this abuse of huts by people for whom they were never intended does not detract from their value as shelters in case of storm or mist. Count can easily be kept of the number of lives lost in mountains each year, but count cannot so easily be kept of the number of lives saved annually by huts; and this year perhaps more lives than usual have been saved by the existence of these Alpine refuges.

To show how much use is made of huts, I may say that in 1911 42,446 persons wrote down their names in hut registers in Switzerland alone, as compared with only 26,452 in the miserable summer of 1910. This works out at an average of 573 persons per hut for last year. It must be remembered, however, that no compulsion can be exercised on persons to inscribe their names in these hut books, especially when there is no custodian present to request them to do so. Consequently the figures just quoted do not represent, perhaps do not nearly represent, the total number of persons who used the Swiss Alpine Club huts last summer and the summer before. Moreover, ski-runners now often make use of huts in months when formerly no living creature, save an occasional fox or a rare chamois, ever went near them.

Turning to the huts of the German and Austrian Alpine Club, which number 251, it is noteworthy that they are far more used even than the Swiss Alpine Club huts, for in 1910, when the weather was so uncertain, the number of their visitors worked out at an average of 904 per hut. A large proportion of these so-called huts, however, are really more like little mountain inns than genuine mountain refuges. *Bier* is constantly flowing *vom Fass*, and there are other similar attractions. It is good to be able to record that, although on a specially solemn occasion such as a hut dedication, a cask of beer is often, with incredible exertions, rolled and pulled up to a hut, and although, of course, every new hut must receive its baptism of champagne, nevertheless no attempt has ever been made to turn even the most accessible Swiss hut into a *Wirtschaft* or *Bierhalle*.



Elliot & Fry.

C. T. Dent

"First President of the Association of British Members
of Swiss Alpine Club."

CLINTON THOMAS DENT,

M.A., M.C.CANTAB., F.R.C.S.

[From *British Medical Journal*, September 11th, 1912.]

To a wide circle of friends the news of the death of Clinton Dent, on August 26th, must have come as a painful shock, for he was apparently in his usual health when he began his summer holiday, and his fatal illness—a virulent pure septicaemia, possibly due to oral sepsis—lasted little more than a fortnight. He was the eighth child and fifth son of Thomas Dent, and was born on December 7th, 1850, at Sandgate. He was educated at Eton and at Trinity College, Cambridge.

As an Alpine climber Mr. Dent had so long been famous that the world at large thought of him in this, rather than in his professional, capacity. He made the first ascent of the Aiguille du Dru after eighteen unsuccessful attempts, the first ascent of the Rothhorn from Zermatt, and of other Alpine peaks, but his greatest achievements were in the Caucasus, where he not only climbed the peaks, but explored the range. He undertook in 1889 the sad duty of searching for the bodies of W. Donkin and H. Fox, who were killed on Koshtantau, in 1888; he had gone out with them and would have shared their fate had it not been that he was prostrated by illness. He wrote a charming book, *Above the Snow Line*, published by Longmans in 1885, edited and wrote a large part of the volume on *Mountaineering* in the Badminton Series (1892, third edition 1900), contributed largely to *The Alpine Journal*, and gave a Friday evening lecture at

the Royal Institution "On the Influence of Science on Mountaineering" (1895). He also gave two juvenile lectures on "How Mountains are made and Destroyed" before the Society of Arts in 1897. He joined the Alpine Club in 1872, was elected to the Committee in 1874, was Secretary (1878-1880), Vice-President (1884), and President (1887). It is curious that Sir Alfred Wills, who was the third President of the Club (1863-1865), also entered into the valley of shadows early in August. Dent was the first President of the recently formed Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club. He was an expert photographer, and often exhibited the fine effects which he had obtained in the Alps and Caucasus, especially at the Graphic Society of St. George's Hospital, of which he was at one time President.

AN OLD COLLEAGUE, writes :

In the death of Clinton Dent the profession deeply mourns the loss of a great personality—a personality which made itself felt in all that he said and in all that he did. Throughout the whole of his very active life Dent was always "up and doing." He was a man of great force of character, of wide and comprehensive views, absolutely unbiassed by petty jealousy or party spirit, both in his professional work and that—and it was great—which lay outside it. A voracious reader, he had acquired an extensive and accurate knowledge of many subjects connected and unconnected with his profession as a surgeon. All that he read he inwardly digested; in all that he did he was earnest, thorough, and scrupulously conscientious. To employ the expression

“a right judgement in all things” may be strong language in the case of any human being, but it may be truthfully averred that in a delicate or difficult question the greatest respect was invariably paid to Dent’s judgement. His opinion never failed to carry weight, because it was universally accepted that he never spoke at random or expressed an opinion without careful consideration of the point in debate.

It was not all mere brain work with Dent. He was a man of many accomplishments. As a photographer he was unsurpassed; as a mountaineer he had few equals. His pictures of the High Alps and the Caucasus show him to have been a true artist; they formed an interesting and pleasing group in many an exhibition.

As an after-dinner Speaker Dent was peculiarly attractive by reason of his manner and his matter. The speeches he made sparkled with wit and humour; otherwise they gratified the more serious members of his audience.

Dent was in all respects a well-read man, and the results of his reading in conjunction with his originality illumined his conversation. But it was during the later years of his life that what may be termed his chief work was done—from the time, that is to say, when he was appointed Chief Surgeon to the Metropolitan Police. From the date of that appointment in 1904 his heart and soul were in his work in Scotland Yard, and most excellent work he did there. This office is no sinecure, but to Dent, so far as one could judge, it was almost child’s play, so inexhaustible was his energy, so great his ability to solve a difficulty.

With his evenly balanced mind, he avoided mistakes arising from hasty conclusions. He was shrewd in matters of business, but scrupulously honourable in his dealings with men. As a consequence, he secured to himself the utmost confidence in his integrity of all with whom he came into contact. He was a clever, able, upright man, and he was a staunch friend. Echo answers *Qualis erat!*

The memorial service was held on Friday, August 30th, at St. Peter's, Vere Street, and was largely attended, and the burial at Kensal Green Cemetery was followed by hundreds of policemen who voluntarily came to show their respect.

Photographs of our late President can be obtained from Elliott & Fry, Baker Street, London, W.

CLINTON DENT.

From Echo des Alpes, October, 1912.

Nous avons le regret d'annoncer la mort, à l'âge de 61 ans, de Mr. Clinton Dent membre honoraire du Club Alpin suisse, survenue le 26 août 1912. Le défunt, outre qu'il était un médecin de talent, comblé d'honneurs, était peut-être le plus connu des grimpeurs anglais. Il fit, après 18 tentatives infructueuses, la première ascension de l'Aiguille du Dru, la première ascension du Rothorn depuis Zermatt et du Portjengrat, de Sass-Fee. Quand MM. Fox et Donkin disparurent au Caucase, il s'en fut à leur recherche.

Il fut élu président de l'Alpine Club en 1887, après en avoir été secrétaire pendant cinq ans. Il édita "Mountaineering" (Alpinisme), à la Badminton Library, et il était l'auteur de ce livre délicieux, maintenant épuisé et très rare "Above the Snow Line" (Au-dessus de la limite des neiges). Il fournit aussi à l'Alpine Journal différents articles sur les Alpes. En juin 1909, il aida à la formation de l'Association des membres anglais du Club Alpin suisse, dont il fut le premier président, fonction qu'il remplit jusqu'au moment de sa mort.

Le but de cette association était d'engager les Anglais à faire partie du C. A. S., et de donner une cabane aux Suisses comme gage de gratitude pour leur hospitalité. Il vécut assez pour entendre parler de l'inauguration de la cabane, la cabane Britannia, à Sass-Fee, le 17 août 1912, et il envoya une lettre originale qui fut lue à l'inauguration. Il était un orateur familier parfait; son brio et son ironie aimable ne

manquèrent jamais de plaire à son auditoire et de le captiver.

Le charme de ses manières et la bonté de son caractère l'ont rendu cher à tous ceux qui l'ont connu. Enfin il était un ami sincère de la Suisse.

J.-A.-B. BRUCE,

Section genevoise.

THE ALPINE JOURNAL, February 1913 (Longman, price 3/6), contains a finely written and appreciative "In Memoriam," by one of Mr. Clinton Dent's oldest friends, Mr. H. G. Willink.

We much regret that its publication in March, just as we had sent this account to be printed, prevents us quoting from it, but we recommend all the members of our Association to procure a copy.

Mr. Douglas Freshfield's touching tribute at the Annual Dinner of our Association on December 3rd was unfortunately not reported.

Memorial to Clinton Dent.

Our Committee recommend that a memorial be raised to our late President, and after consulting several of his friends have accepted the report of a sub-committee, who suggest :

- (1) A Memorial tablet at Zermatt, and portrait in Smoking Room, Monte Rosa Hotel, and in Cabane Britannia.
- (2) A memorial stone or obelisk outside the Cabane Britannia.

It has also been suggested that a new edition of "Above the Snow Line" might be published.

Subscriptions will be received by the Treasurer, J. A. BRUCE, Selborne Lodge, Guildford, and a maximum of 10/6 is suggested.

Association of British Members of Swiss Alpine Club.

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1913.

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