



THE

CLIMBERS' CLUB JOURNAL.

Edited by E. RAYMOND TURNER.

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THE

CLIMBERS' CLUB JOURNAL.

Vol. I.]

AUGUST, 1898.

[No. 1.

THE FORMATION OF THE CLIMBERS' CLUB.

BY GEORGE B. BRYANT.

The issue of the first number of the Journal offers the earliest opportunity of giving the whole of the members an account of how the Club came to be formed, and of what has taken place up to the present time, and I have been asked by the Editor to put such an

account into shape.

The idea had, no doubt, its natural birth at Pen-y-Gwryd, amid surroundings familiar to many of us. In August or September of most years, men who rarely met anywhere else, spent days together on the hills, and found themselves at seven o'clock (more or less) round the well-provided dinner table, dried, clothed, and in their right minds. There, as the inner man got what was overdue to him, and later, when warmth and tobacco had completed his contentment, the work of the day passed into pleasant talk; the older men dropped an encouraging word to the beginners, difficult points were discussed and located, and suggestions made for the next day's climbing. In that congenial atmosphere, where conventionalities were not obtrusive, and the bishop or the man of law shared the sofa with the old shepherd and deferred to his opinions, men of various sorts, but united in their deep love of the mountains, grew to know each other; and there the sense of association, the germ of the Club, struck its first root.

Being of British origin, what else could be its first expression but a dinner? The suggestion thrown out that those who had enjoyed these haphazard meetings at Pen-y-Gwryd might bridge the long intervals by a dinner in London met with a warm response, and on the 19th May, 1897, about forty frequenters of the Welsh farm-house foregathered at the "Monico" to recall old times, with the familiar form of Mr. T. S. Halliday in the chair. At this time, doubts were felt whether anything in the nature of a Club would

be a success, but a strong desire was shown that the Pen-y-Gwryd dinner should not be dropped, and arrangements were made to

repeat it in the following December.

As the time for the second dinner approached, it became abundantly clear that from many quarters an opinion in favour of the formation of a Club was setting in, and it was decided that a proposal in that direction should be brought forward. The dinner was fixed for the 6th December—a date which was not a fortunate one, about twenty-five gentlemen who desired to attend being compelled to absent themselves. Amongst them were several whose presence was much to be desired, such as Mr. C. T. Dent, Mr. Frederick Morshead, and Mr. F. T. Bowring, whose associations with Pen-y-Gwryd were of very long standing. The meeting was, nevertheless, a good one, and as it fell to its lot to lay the foundations of the Club, it may be of future interest to give the names of those who were present:—

Rev. J. N. Burrows (in the chair), Mr. Roderick Williams, Lord Coleridge, C. E. Mathews, 22 Mr. Arthur J. Gale, T. S. Halliday, H. G. Gotch, Thomas Rhodes, " A. O. Prickard, C. C. B. Moss, A. F. Leach, L. K. Pagden, H. A. P. Genge, J. Fildes Pearson, E. W. Chaplin, G. H. Chaplin, " " Astley J. Morris, W. W. R. May, " ,, Charles Candler, Marshall K. Smith. " Dr. E. C. Daniel, Henry Candler, ,, T. K. Rose. C. Hampton Hale, Mr. Frank S. Pearson, George B. Bryant, " E. R. Turner, William Ernest Corlett.

The resolution, "That a Climbing Club should be formed," was proposed by Mr. Roderick Williams, and seconded by Mr. H. G. Gotch—both, as it happened, Alpine Club men, as well as keen British climbers. Before the chairman put the resolution, the meeting was placed in possession of replies from twenty of the absentees, who had availed themselves of the opportunity given them to state their opinions on the proposal. Of these, fifteen were distinctly in favour of the formation of the Club; four were neutral, or gave a qualified approval; and one expressed inability to join it, if formed. The resolution was then passed, without a dissentient voice.

The first business was to secure a President; and a proposal from Mr. Burrows that the post should be offered to Mr. C. E. Mathews (ex-president of the Alpine Club) was cordially acclaimed by the meeting, and accepted by Mr. Mathews. The Club thus had the good fortune to start on its way under the leadership of an eminent mountaineer, whose unsurpassed knowledge of the Alps had not blunted his keen appreciation of Cader Idris and of Snowdon.

To deal with the practical questions of detail which at once arose, a Provisional Committee was nominated, consisting of:—

The President,
Rev. J. N. Burrows,
Mr. W. Cecil Slingsby,
T. S. Halliday,
Roderick Williams,
Mr. W. G. Corlett,
Dr. T. K. Rose,
Mr. E. R. Turner,
George B. Bryant;

and when the meeting broke up, the much-debated project was an accomplished fact, with about forty members practically assured. That this number might be increased in the first year to about one hundred seemed the prevailing impression.

The assembling of the Provisional Committee was delayed by various causes until early in February, when it took place in London, seven members being present. The result of its deliberations was the issue in March of the following circular:—

"THE CLIMBERS' CLUB.

"DEAR SIR,

"It has been determined to establish a Club under

the above title.

"The object of the Club will be to encourage mountaineering, particularly in England, Ireland, and Wales, and to serve as a bond of union amongst all lovers of mountain climbing.

"The qualification of members will be determined by

the Committee, who will have sole power of election.

"The officers will be a President, two Vice-Presidents,

an Honorary Secretary, and an Honorary Treasurer.

"The Committee will consist of the officers and nine additional members, all to be elected annually at the Annual Meeting.

"The first officers will be :-

President C. E. Mathews.
Vice-Presidents ... { Frederick Morshead. F. H. Bowring. George B. Bryant. T. K. Rose.

"The Annual Subscription will be half-a-guinea, and there will be an entrance fee of the same amount after the first hundred members are elected.

"The Annual Meeting will take place in London at the end of April in each year, and will be followed by a

Dinner.

"The First Annual Meeting and Dinner will take place about the end of April next, on a day and at a place

which will be duly notified.

"The Club will be in no sense antagonistic to any existing institution; but will, it is hoped, gather together all those who are interested in Mountaineering in England, Ireland, and Wales.

"Should you be willing to join, will you be good enough to return the enclosed form immediately to Mr. C. E. Mathews, The Hurst, Four Oaks, near Birmingham?

C. E. Mathews, The Hurst, Four Oaks, near Birmingham?

"At the First Annual Meeting the Formal Laws of the Club will be presented for adoption, and the First Annual Dinner will follow.

" Yours faithfully.

"C. E. Mathews.

" F. Morshead.
" F. H. Bowring.

"G. B. BRYANT.

" 25th March, 1898." "T. K. Rose."

This circular was sent out to all those known as climbers whose names could be obtained from various sources, with much assistance from those who had already joined. It is, nevertheless, possible that many climbing men have not yet been reached.

The response exceeded expectation. Exactly two hundred applications for membership had been received by the day of the first general meeting, and although this was double the number intended to be admitted without entrance fee, there was no other course, either desirable or possible, but to welcome the whole two

hundred as original members of the Club.

Such a result, achieved in so short a time, and without the aid of any publicity, established beyond question the existence—hitherto only half suspected—of a large body of British climbers ready for an association from which the organisation and development of their sport might be looked for. No greater justification could be desired by those who had pressed forward the movement; certainly nothing approaching it had been anticipated.

The first general meeting—for which purpose the Alpine Club had readily placed their rooms in Savile Row at the disposal of the Climbers' Club—was held on the 28th April, and the President took the chair in the presence of sixty-two members.

The proceedings of the Provisional Committee were approved. The rules of the Club, as laid before the meeting by the chairman, were passed and confirmed, and the officers and Committee were formally elected, as follows:—

PRESIDENT: C. E. Mathews. •
VICE-PRESIDENTS: { Frederick Morshead. F. H. Bowring.

COMMITTEE:

Rev. J. N. Burrows, M.A.

W. C. Slingsby.

Roderick Williams.

Owen Glynne Jones.

H. G. Gotch.
E. R. Kidson.
E. R. Turner.
George B. Bryan

Owen Glynne Jones. George B. Bryant (Hon. Sec.)
R. A. Robertson (President S.M.C.)
W. P. Haskett Smith.

The objects of the Club were discussed, and a suggestion was made that it should be kept in view to expand them in the direction of botany, geology, art, and natural history, as is done by the Scottish Mountaineering Club.

A proposal that the entrance fee should be 21s., instead of

10s. 6d., was not carried.

The business points having been satisfactorily settled, the scene was shifted to the Egyptian Room of the "Monico" Restaurant, where the President received in all about eighty members before dinner was announced. This was a fair muster, considering how the membership is scattered over the country; but there were again some regrettable absences, including Mr. R. A. Robertson, the president of the Scottish Mountaineering Club, whose presence at the inaugural dinner of the younger club would have been especially welcome.

It was necessary only to glance along the lines of the tables to recognise the great stride that had been taken since the December meeting, and the wide foundations upon which the Club could build up its future. But at this point I find it better to give place to the President, who proposed the toast of "Our Club" in words whose force and eloquence deeply stirred the meeting, and which it would be an injustice to the other members of the Club

not to reproduce. He said:—

"I trust that this dinner may be memorable in mountaineering annals. Forty years ago—a period equal to that during which the children of Israel are said to have wandered in the wilderness—a Club was founded in a modest and unassuming manner, having for its objects the friendship and the worship of the great Alps. It numbered about thirty original members. Its first dinner was attended by twelve men. It published a series of ascents and adventures, and the Club, its members, and its publications received from an undiscerning public ridicule, disapprobation and contempt.

"The critics did not know much about it. There is a story told of a certain undergraduate, not very well up in his Greek, who told his tutor 'that he had a contempt for Plato.' 'I should presume, sir,' said the tutor, 'that yours is a contempt which does not

proceed from familiarity.'

"Criticism is good for all of us, but it is really valuable in proportion to the honesty and ability and insight of the critic. That Club, with a steadily rising standard of qualification, now numbers over six hundred men; the great hall at the 'Métropole' is not large enough to accommodate the numbers that flock to its winter dinners; and it comprises within its ranks some of the best of the intellectual aristocracy of this country.

"It was found, too, that it supplied a great want, and it was shortly imitated all over the world. The time for ridicule soon

passed away;

"The seed, The little seed they laughed at in the dark, Had risen and cleft the soil,"

and the children of the Alpine Club became as the sand which is upon the sea shore in multitude. The Austrians were the first to follow our example, then the Swiss, then the Italians, then the Germans, and finally the French, whose Club has over four thousand members, with a separate organisation in every department of France. Then came independent groups, such as the Société des Touristes de Dauphine, and the Society of Excursionists of Catalonia. Then we annexed far-distant countries, and started a New Zealand Club, a Caucasian Club, a Norwegian Club, and Heaven knows how many more.

"Well, it is said that a man 'who sees only what is just before his eyes loses always the best part of every view;' but we have neglected too long the binding together of the lovers of the beautiful scenery at our own doors. The Scottish Mountaineering Club first realised the situation; then the Yorkshire Ramblers; and last year a Pen-y-Gwryd Club was suggested as specially representing Wales; but it seemed to some of us that union was strength, and so the Climbers' Club has been founded, which embraces England, Ireland, and Wales, and yet is open to all lovers of mountaineering in every quarter of the globe.

"And here am I, one of the few last surviving founders of the Alpine Club, but still, thank God, a practical mountaineer; here am I, rapidly falling into the sere and yellow leaf, officiating like a professional midwife at the birth of this new bantling, which is destined, I believe, to be as healthy and prosperous as any previous

member of the great family.

"Why should it not be? There is magnificent hill-climbing in the British Isles. I retain as vivid impressions of Great End, of Lliwedd, and of Tryfan as I do of the Dent Blanche or the south side of the Matterhorn. The memories of Wast Dale and of Pen-y-Gwryd are quite as enduring as those of Chamonix or of Zermatt. At last our mountaineering ladder is complete, and the youth of England can be reassured. They can matriculate at the Climbers' Club, they can graduate in the Alps, and can carry off the highest honours in the far-off regions of the Caucasus and the Himalaya. We have begun well. The Climbers' Club has already We begin two hundred strong. Eighty are 'caught' on. present at our first dinner. I will not say that every original member has an ample mountaineering qualification. There must be original members, as there must be original sin. But we have no reason to be ashamed; one-third of our members are also Alpine Club men—a good and healthy sign. The University of Oxford contributes a Morshead, a Prickard, and a George, a Cookson, a Blunt, a Godley, and a Thompson; scientific Cambridge sends us Clifford, Allbut, Wherry and Wilkinson, Browning, Wilberforce, and Ewing. The Bar has joined us in great force, and among them is Mr. W. E. Davidson, the legal adviser to the Foreign Office. Thirty gentlemen have joined us who belong to what is erroneously called 'the lower branch of the profession. The Scottish Mountaineering Club and the Yorkshire Ramblers each contributes its president. Climbing literature is represented by a Haskett Smith and a Glynne Jones; we have authors and journalists, clergymen, and members of the Civil Service, merchants, manufacturers, and inspectors of schools. I see undergraduates from Oxford and Cambridge here to-night, who, I trust have obtained the usual exeat from their tutors; and the best bowler in the Oxford Eleven has placed his services at our disposal. Of such excellent materials is the Climbers' Club composed.

"Well, gentlemen, some of us know what hard work is in the various occupations of our lives. We must have some alterative, and we are all agreed that there is no alterative comparable to mountaineering. It is a sport which combines admirable physical exercise with pleasures of a purely intellectual kind. It is a sport which makes us young again; and, believe me, that writer had real insight who said, 'That country is the happiest whose people longest retain their youth.' It is a sport which brings us face to face with Nature, and puts us in quest of the unknown. Who is there amongst us who does not share in the craving of the old Ulysses to discover something of the unknown—

'To sail beyond the sunset, and the baths Of all the western stars'?

It is a sport which enables us to throw off the cares and troubles of life, as Christian threw off the burden of sin in Bunyan's famous allegory. It is a sport that from some mysterious cause appeals mainly to the cultivated intellect. 'Arry or 'Arriet would never climb a hill. A few days ago I happened to be staying with a fine old English baronet in a beautiful part of Wales. This baronet had a fine old English butler, and I asked him how he liked the situation. 'Well, sir,' was his reply, 'there is nothing to be seen but sheep and scenery.' But we have learnt lessons never to be forgotten from the music of the waterfall and the splendour of the hills, and that man should be the Club's own poet who wrote:

'If thou art worn and hard beset
With sorrows that thou wouldst forget:
If thou wouldst read a lesson that will keep
Thy heart from fainting and thy soul from sleep,
Go to the woods and hills: no tears
Dim the sweet look that Nature wears,'

"Above all, it is a sport that makes a man. It teaches boldness, prudence, co-operation, self-control.

'Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey, Where wealth accumulates but men decay.'

"And so, I give you 'The Climbers' Club!' Remember that a Club is an institution towards which every man must contribute his share. May it flourish and prosper!! May each one of us in his own sphere reflect credit upon the corporate body. May we continue to form and to cement those hill-born friendships which are the salt of life, and to enrich our lives with those sunny memories which sometimes swarm like bees, which no mere money could ever have bought, and which no possible after-misfortune can ever take away."

Mr. Roderick Williams responded to the toast.

"Our Hills and Mountains," was proposed by the Rev. J. N. Burrows, and brought from Mr. Frederick Morshead a drily humorous account of an early ascent, "without guides," to one of the upper ledges of a jam cupboard, resulting in a catastrophe, to be attributed, like many others, to violation of the essential principles of mountaineering.

This "plain tale" ends for the present with the results of a Committee meeting in June, at which it was decided to publish a Journal at the expense of the Club once in every three months, Mr.

E. R. Turner undertaking the editorship.

The Committee also agreed upon the steps necessary to promote, as far as lies in their power, the bringing together of members of the Club, in the autumn season in the climbing districts of Snowdon and Wastdale.

The membership has now reached 209, and there are several applications to be dealt with at the next Committee meeting.

Recent Publications.

- The Alpine Guide.—By the late John Ball, F.R.S., &c., President of the Alpine Club. A new edition, reconstructed and revised on behalf of the Alpine Club by W. A. B. Coolidge, Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, and formerly editor of the Alpine Journal. Vol. I. The Western Alps: the Alpine region, south of the Rhone Valley, from the Col de Tenda to the Simplon Pass. With nine new and revised maps. Crown 8vo, 12s. net. (Longmans.)
- CLIMBING IN THE BRITISH ISLES.—By W. P. Haskett Smith. With illustrations by Ellis Carr, and numerous plans. Part I. England: 16mo, 3s. 6d. Part II. Wales and Ireland: 16mo, 3s. 6d. Part III. Scotland (in preparation.) (Longmans.)
- THE PLAY-GROUND OF EUROPE (THE ALPS).—By Leslie Stephen. New edition, with additions. With four illustrations. Crown 8vo, 6s. net. (Longmans.)
- THE GLACIERS OF THE ALPS.—Being a narrative of excursions and ascents. An account of the origin and phenomena of glaciers, and an exposition of the physical principles to which they are related. By John Tyndall, F.R.S. New edition. With 61 illustrations. Crown 8vo, 6s. 6d. net. (Longmans.)
- MOUNTAINEERING.—Second edition. Crown 8vo, 10s. 6d. By C. T. Dent. With contributions by Sir W. M. Conway, D. W. Freshfield, C. E. Mathews, C. Pilkington, Sir F. Pollock, H. G. Willink, and an introduction by Mr. Justice Wills. With 13 plates and 95 illustrations in the text by H. G. Willink and others. (Longmans.)
- A GUIDE TO ZERMATT AND THE MATTERHORN.—By Edward Whymper. 3s. (John Murray.)
- A Guide to Chamounix and the Range of Mont Blanc.—By Edward Whymper. 3s. (John Murray.)

AIMS AND OBJECTS OF THE CLUB.

BY GEORGE B. BRYANT.

The aims or objects of the Club are stated elsewhere; briefly put they are association or union amongst Mountaineers and the

encouragement of Mountaineering.

Similar aims have been pursued by the Alpine Club in its own sphere with great success. Climbers in Scotland have been knit together, and their numbers increased by the existence and activity of the Scottish Mountaineering Club, under whose ægis that splendid climbing country is being systematically explored. But, with the exception of the ground covered by the "Yorkshire Ramblers" (whose president is one of our committee), England, Wales, and Ireland are entirely open to the work of a club such as this; its hundreds of climbers have been without any bond of union, and almost unknown to one another. One or two books have been recently published, either dealing closely with special sections of the country, or touching lightly the main points of a larger area, but even amongst those who climb continually, the knowledge of the districts at their command is by no means complete, and there seems to be ample work for the Club in that direction, and especially in Ireland, which has so far received very little attention from climbers.

The Club possesses, then, an extensive district, and having enrolled its 200 members, has now set itself to the practical work of developing its aims. Time is, of course, necessary, and in the commencement all it does must be of a tentative character, but there are some obvious ways of bringing about the contact of members with each other, which have been already adopted, and from which results will be obtainable in this first year of the Club's existence.

The first was the meeting in London on the 28th April, and the dinner which followed. About two-fifths of the membership of the Club was present, and there was much life in the proceedings. No doubt when the date of this annual meeting is made well known beforehand, the attendance will be much larger, and it will play a considerable part in keeping the Club together. At any rate, it affords the only opportunity of the whole of the members meeting under one roof—so far as they may be permitted by force majeure.

The next way, and a very important one, is by meets in the climbing districts. As an experiment this year, the time between the middle of August and the middle of September has been designated by the Committee, and the districts, those around Snowdon, with headquarters at Pen-y-Gwryd; and the Scawfell district, with headquarters at Wastdale; and a notice to this effect was sent to every member in July. No attempt to concentrate the whole of the climbing members at one place was thought advisable, as the available accommodation might easily have been outrun, whilst the arrangement to make use of both districts does not interfere with the individual preference of members for either

place.

For equally good reasons it was thought well not to limit the period more closely than has been done, as it would in practice be almost impossible to get together any considerable number of members to begin and end their holidays on identical dates. stands, there seems to be every probability that between the dates given a sufficient number of members will be at Pen-y-Gwryd and at Wastdalehead (and in the neighbourhood of those places) to combine and arrange between themselves the carrying out of such climbs as they may choose, in suitable parties. It should be a condition that a journal or log should be carefully kept, recording each day's work as fully as possible, and that at the end of the meet this book should be forwarded to the Honorary Secretary as the property of the Club. This book might also contain, in a separate part, any suggestions and opinions of members upon these meets and their future arrangements. The whole of the matter to be at the disposal of the Editor of the Club Journal, to be used at his discretion.

These records will, no doubt, prove of considerable value, and the meets, even if only moderately attended, can hardly fail to tend to a more systematic and exhaustive dealing with the climbing area than has been hitherto the case, and to give greater opportunities to climbers of all grades.

Besides these summer (or autumn) meets, it will occur to many that a winter meet, or rather a meet under winter conditions, should be arranged later on. There is this special difficulty about it, that whether Christmas or Easter be taken, or any intermediate time, winter conditions cannot be guaranteed. Both on Christmas Day, 1897, and on the first day of 1898, the writer was on Snowdon, sunning himself in the clear air, with hardly a trace of snow to be seen. Easter probably would give the best chance of snow in the gullies; but this question of a winter meet might be left for a

Committee meeting in the late autumn, when suggestions, through the medium of the books before referred to, and through communications sent to the November number of this journal will be available.

Next after these matters comes the question of places and times, when members can be given opportunities of coming together in London. There is no present possibility of the funds of the Club being equal to the provision of rooms of a permanent kind for the sole use of members; nor does there seem to be at the present moment any need of such rooms. But several members have expressed an opinion that an occasional opportunity might be given to meet in an informal way, and that such meetings would be useful and popular. This might be carried out as an experiment, as the winter approaches, at monthly intervals, on dates definitely settled beforehand by the Committee, and notified to members well in advance.

But the Committee would probably prefer to have evidence of a general desire amongst the members for some such arrangement

before taking any steps to carry it out.

Very little information has been so far received as to the intentions of the members to go to Pen-y-Gwryd or Wastdale in August—September, but apparently there will be about an equal division between the two places, the larger number of men not going before early September. The new building at Pen-y-Pass will not be ready until next Easter at the earliest.

ASCENT OF THE SLANTING GULLY OF LLIWEDD.

By A. AND G. D. ABRAHAM.

Several different routes are known up the north face of Lliwedd, the magnificent precipice that flanks the south side of Llyn Llidaw, but, so far as we are aware, the steep slanting gully that forms the western boundary of the main or western buttress had never been successfully attempted prior to our ascent at Easter last year.

This gully is easily identified. It is well marked the whole way up, and is the next one to the west of the central gully. It can most readily be approached by coming diagonally up the screes from below the central gully, and then keeping along the base of the rocks of the western buttress. The lower part needs no further description than to say that the climbing is very interesting, and if the right-hand wall (looking upwards) be kept, no difficulty is experienced. At about four hundred feet above the screes we came to the pitch which is such a conspicuous object from below. It consists of a cave, surmounted by a chimney, which gradually narrows towards the top, where it is blocked by some overhanging rocks. Here the most difficult part of the climb commenced. After leaving the bed of the cave, a short climb of about ten feet gave access to a white ledge partly covered with loose grass and moss. Directly above here is a steep slab, where a shoulder gave considerable assistance to the leader, who climbed up about twelve feet higher, until he reached some splintered rocks wedged into the chimney. These rocks afforded a capital hitch for the rope. The second man joined the leader here, and paid the rope out over the hitch, whilst the leader stepped round an awkward corner on to a large foothold out on the face of the slab to the left.

After this the climbing became somewhat easier, and we continued straight up the chimney for about fifteen feet, when it narrowed considerably, and finally became blocked by some overhanging rocks. The leader jammed his right leg into the crack formed by the overhanging rocks and the side of the chasm as long as possible, and succeeded in reaching a sloping hand-hold. He then threw his body out on to the slab, on which the rest of the ascent of this pitch was completed. This is by far the most

difficult part of the whole climb, and it was from this point that Mr. Mitchell (who lost his life while attempting the ascent of the gully in 1894) fell. The exact cause of his fall is scarcely likely ever to be known, but eye-witnesses say that he stopped at this point for above half an hour, all of which time he must have been more or less on the tension, and it seems probable that when he

came to swing himself on to the slab he was exhausted.

Above the top of this pitch the gully widens out, and a way might perhaps be found up the steep slabs on the left, but we decided to keep all the way in the main gully, which is well defined. Almost immediately above the pitch just described is an interesting crack about thirty feet high, with stones firmly wedged into it. Then we had to scramble over some scree and rocks till the last pitch came into view. This is formed by a steep chimney with a wedged stone at the top, followed immediately by another wedged stone some ten or twelve feet higher. Both were climbed straight up.

The time taken from the foot of the gully to the cave was thirty-five minutes; from the cave to the top of the cave pitch, sixty minutes; from the top of the cave pitch to the top of the gully, fifty-five minutes; making two hours and a half altogether.

The conditions were perfect, and we found an ice-axe extremely

useful.

ASCENT OF TWLL DU.

BY W. R. READE AND W. P. McCulloch.

On Saturday, the 7th May, 1898, we arrived at Bangor from Liverpool at 3.40 p.m., and, hiring a conveyance, drove through the village of Bethesda to Ogwen Cottage, a distance of ten miles, where we arrived at half-past five, and, without any delay, started for Twll Du, reaching the foot of this cleft in forty-five minutes.

Some weeks before, we had made a close survey of the gully, which is a huge cleft in the rocks on the south-west flank of Llyn Idwal. A stream flows through it to the lake below. Roughly speaking, the chasm is about 450 feet long, 300 feet deep, and 18

or 20 feet wide, the sides being either vertical or overhanging. The floor rises, not in a gradual slope, but in a series of pitches. The first pitch consists of a large mass of jammed rock, which blocks up the entire width of the gully, and forms the roof to a kind of natural shower-bath. There are three methods of passing this obstacle, except during wet weather, when the large quantities of water coming down, over, and under the lodged rock limit the climber to an ascent against the left wall. But neither this nor the next pitch presents any difficulty to a practised climber, who can easily reach the foot of the final obstacle, where a waterfall cascades over the jammed stone which forms the summit of the cleft. No one has previously succeeded in tackling this last pitch, the actual height of which does not much exceed fifty feet.

About sixty feet back from the waterfall there is a huge vertical slab which has become detached from the parent rock. The top of this slab is an excellent point from which to examine the only possible means of completing the ascent of the gully. This is by a climb up a crack in the slightly overhanging left wall of the chasm for a height of about fifty feet, and then a horizontal traverse on the face of the cliff to the jammed stone at the head of the cascade.

At 6.25 p.m. we attacked this crack. The leader, gripping one edge of it with his hands and knees, and obtaining extra assistance by jamming his right elbow and boot against the opposite side of the crack, squirmed up thirty feet of perpendicular rock to a small grass patch, where it is just possible for one man to stand. then advanced by a similar method to another grass patch some twenty feet above, thus reaching the highest point hitherto attained by other climbers. Here it is hardly possible to stand without holding on, but he anchored himself in as firm a position as possible; and the second man followed, with the moral support of the rope, but had to stop in a rather insecure position some few feet lower down than the leader. To complete the climb, it was now necessary to traverse to the top of the waterfall, about sixty feet distant. leader, finding some good hand-holds, started the traverse, but to do this he had to pass his legs outside the second man, whose head was on a level with the leader's knees. As soon as the leader was clear, the second man advanced to the grass plot, and, getting into a moderately firm position, waited until the leader reached a small projection of rock, eight to ten feet distant, which other climbers had thought loose. The passage took great care, as the foot-holds were poor, and the hand-holds had to be relied on almost entirely. On the leader reaching the projection, he hitched the rope over it, and the second man then joined him. The traverse after this

became easier, the holds being good and well spaced, though most of them had to be cleared of grass and earth. Slowly advancing, one at a time, we eventually reached the cap stone, at the top of the waterfall, and accomplished what is probably the first ascent of this remarkable chasm, except when two Bangor gentlemen cut their way up the frozen waterfall in the winter of 1895.

The climb from the slab to the cap-stone had taken us sixtyfour minutes, and was rendered more difficult by rain, which had

been falling for several hours.

NOTES.

THE necessity for publishing the rules of the Club and other technical details in our first number has rendered it impossible to devote more than a very small amount of space to purely This, however, if it be a defect, is a defect literary matter.

that will only apply to our initial venture.

The Committee, for a time, was somewhat divided as to the advisability of issuing the Journal so often as four times a year, there being a feeling in certain quarters that, sooner or later, difficulty will be experienced in obtaining a sufficiency of suitable material; but the Editor has already received such liberal promises of support, that there is every reason to believe that the course adopted will be justified by success. However, in order to make our publication thoroughly interesting, it will be necessary to provide a constant flow of entirely fresh climbing information, and this can only be done by the assistance of all the active members of the Club.

We number amongst us most of the finest rock-climbers of the day—rock-climbers who indulge in their pastime in every quarter of the earth, from the ridges and gullies of our British hills to the stupendous ranges of the Himalayas; and consequently there will be no difficulty in obtaining plenty of good material, if only these active and enthusiastic mountaineers will bear the existence of the Club in mind during their expeditions, and whenever they succeed in accomplishing anything they consider worthy of note, remember that at home in England awaits an Editor, eager and anxious for the fullest details.

By special desire we are now publishing the accounts of two gully climbs, both of which have been accomplished in the comparatively short space of time that has elapsed since the resolution to form what we may describe as a union of climbers first began to bear fruit. The gullies in question are—the Western, or Slanting Gully, on the north face of Lliwedd (Messrs. A. & G. D. Abraham); and the "Devil's Kitchen," or Twll Du, a deep perpendicular rift in the north-east side of Y Garn (Messrs. Read and McCulloch). Both are situated in the Snowdon District of North Wales, and have for years been the recipients of much attention.

Notes.

The Lliwedd Gully is probably the better known, owing to the unfortunate accident that occurred there in the summer of 1894; but since the determined attempt upon the "Kitchen" in 1895 by Mr. Owen Glynne Jones (which attempt, although made under the most unfavourable circumstances, was almost attended by success), this gully has been constantly assaulted, and at last has been forced to succumb.

In speaking of Messrs. Read and McCulloch's climb as a first ascent, we are not losing sight of the fact that during the severe winter of 1895 Messrs. J. M. A. Thomson and Harold Hughes ascended the "Kitchen;" but their feat of step-cutting up the frozen waterfall—a remarkable exhibition of care, patience, and skill—can scarcely be looked upon as a rock climb.

It is interesting to note that the first ascent of a first-class peak in the Alps this year was accomplished by a member of the Climbers' Club. We refer to the ascent of the Matterhorn, on the 15th July, by Mr. G. D. Abraham. Owing to the unusually late season, with phenomenal snowfall, the high peaks had been unassailable until that date.

Mr. Abraham's ascent was made under difficult conditions, and was a very fine performance. The time from the Alpine Club hut (10,000 feet) to the summit, which was reached during a severe storm, occupied 7 hours 15 minutes.

We are arranging for a series of articles upon rock-climbing in the British Isles. The first of the series—on rock-climbing in England—has kindly been undertaken by Mr. Owen Glynne Jones, and will appear in our November number, which will also contain an article on "First Aid in Climbing Accidents," and an account of some practice scrambles in the Derbyshire Peak District, &c., &c.

It is the wish of the Committee to make the Journal of interest to every member; but it is scarcely possible to do this unless comments and criticisms are freely made; and therefore, whether you wish to offer suggestions or to utter complaints, the Editor will

be delighted to hear from you.

RULES.

` I.

Name

The Club shall be called "The Climbers' Club."

II.

Officers and Committee.

The management of the Club shall be vested in the following Officers, viz.: a President, two Vice-Presidents, an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer, and a Committee of nine members. Five shall form a quorum.

TTT.

Election of Officers and ·Committee.

All the Officers of the Club and the Committee shall be elected annually at the Annual Meeting, but shall in all cases be eligible for re-election, subject to the following limitations, namely: that the President and Vice-Presidents shall not hold office for more than three years consecutively, and that the two senior members of the Committee shall go out annually by rotation. The Committee shall have power to add two additional members to their number, as representing special districts or for special services.

TV.

After the year 1898 the names of members intended to be proposed as Officers and Committee, together with the names of those who retire by rotation, shall be submitted to the members at least a week before the day of election.

and Committee.

In case of a vacancy occurring in the Office of Presiamongst Officers dent, one of the Vice-Presidents shall fill that office until the next Annual Meeting for the election of In the case of a vacancy occurring in the office of Vice-President, the Committee shall have power to appoint a member of the Club to act as a Vice-President for the same period. In the case of a vacancy occurring in the Committee, it shall be competent to Rules. 21

the latter or to any member of the Club to propose a candidate for election at the next or any subsequent General Meeting during the then current year.

VI.

Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting of the Club for the election of the President, Vice-Presidents, Members of the Committee, Honorary Secretary, and Honorary Treasurer, for the ensuing year shall be held in April or May. At such Meeting the accounts shall be submitted, and the general business of the Club transacted, and a copy of the accounts to be submitted to such Meeting shall be sent to members at least one week before the Meeting.

VII.

General Meeting. The Committee shall have power to call General Meetings of the Club whenever they shall think fit, and to make from time to time such regulations, consistent with these rules, as they shall think necessary for the well-being of the Club. Minutes of their proceedings shall be entered in a book, and confirmed at their next Meeting.

VIII.

Extraordinary General Meeting. An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Club shall be called on a requisition in writing, signed by any ten members, being sent to the Honorary Secretary, and ten days' notice shall be given of such Meeting.

IX.

New Rules.

No new rule or alteration of a rule shall be made except at a General Meeting, nor without the sanction of two-thirds of the members then present; notice of such Meeting, setting forth such proposed new rule or alteration of a rule shall be given at least ten days previously to every member of the Club. No original motion affecting the rules or the finances of the Club shall be entertained at any Meeting unless notice thereof shall have been given in the circular last issued before such Meeting.

X

Annual Dinner. The members of the Club shall dine together once in every year, on a day to be fixed by the Committee. Except under special circumstances, the dinner shall take place in April, or early in May. Every member shall be at liberty to introduce, at his own expense, friends at the dinners of the Club. Notice of the date appointed for the dinner shall be sent by the Honorary Secretary to each member at least fourteen days before such day; and every member proposing to attend the dinner shall send notice to the Honorary Secretary of such his intention, and also of his intention to introduce a friend or friends, four days at least before the day appointed.

XI.

Election of Members. The election of members shall be absolutely under the control of the Committee. Every candidate shall be proposed and seconded by members of the Club, and balloted for at a Committee Meeting.

XII.

Qualification of Members.

The Christian and surname of each candidate for membership, his address and profession, or other description, together with the name of his proposer and seconder, and the grounds upon which he founds his claim for membership, shall be sent to the Honorary Secretary not less than a fortnight before the day of election. The Committee shall decide upon his climbing and general qualification. The names of all new members shall be added by the Honorary Secretary to the list, which shall be open to the inspection of members.

XIII.

Support of Candidates.

Members who may wish to support a candidate may do so by sending to the Honorary Secretary an intimation of their desire to support such candidate.

XIV.

Entrance Fees and Subscriptions. All persons who have signified in writing their desire to join the Club before the 28th April, 1898, shall be considered original members, and shall pay no entrance

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fee but an annual subscription of 10s. 6d. Members subsequently elected shall pay an entrance fee of 10s. 6d., and an annual subscription of 10s. 6d., the subscription to be due on the 1st of January in each year. No member shall vote on any occasion whatever until he shall have paid his annual subscription, and with regard to any member whose subscription shall be in arrear for three months, notice shall be sent to him by the Honorary Treasurer; and anyone whose subscription shall be in arrear for twelve months shall cease to be a member of the Club; provided always that the Committee shall have power, upon payment of all accruing arrears, to re-admit any member who shall • have been excluded upon this ground. No member whose subscription has been in arrear for more than three months shall attend any of the Club dinners.

XV.

Payment of Subscriptions.

New members are to pay the subscription and entrance fee immediately on their election, and shall not enjoy any of the privileges of the Club until they have done so. The election of any member who does not pay his entrance fee and first year's subscription within three months of the date of his election shall be null and void

XVI.

Honorary Members.

The Officers of the Club, together with the Committee, shall have the power of electing suitable persons as honorary members.

XVII.

Expulsion of Members.

A Special General Meeting, convened for the purpose of considering the conduct of any member of the Club (such member to have due notice of the Meeting), shall have power to expel him by a majority consisting of not less than ten members, the vote being taken by ballot. Such member shall have his subscription for the current year returned to him.

LIST OF OFFICE-BEARERS.

President:

C. E. MATHEWS, Esq., F.R.G.S.

Dice=Presidents:

F. MORSHEAD, Esq. F. H. BOWRING, Esq.

Hon. Treasurer:

Dr. T. K. ROSE, 9, Royal Mint, London, E.

Hon. Secretary:

GEORGE B. BRYANT, Esq., 2, King William Street, E.C.

Members of Committees:

Rev. J. N. BURROWS, M.A. H. GALE GOTCH, Esq. OWEN GLYNNE JONES, Esq.

W. P. HASKETT SMITH, Esq.

E. R. KIDSON, Esq.

R. A. ROBERTSON, Esq.

W. C. SLINGSBY, Esq.

E. RAYMOND TURNER, Esq.

RODERICK WILLIAMS, Esq.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

The letters A.C. indicate that the member is also a member of the Alpine Club.

Abraham, Ashley Perry, Lake Road, Keswick. Abraham, George Dixon, 30, Lake Road, Keswick. Aitken, Samuel, "Wingfield," Northwood, near Rickmansworth Allbutt, T. Clifford, F.R.S. (A.C.), St. Radegund's, Cambridge. Arbuthnot, Gerald, (A.C.), 52, Eaton Place, London, S.W. Armstrong, Herbert Rowse, 52, Durning Road, Liverpool. Baddeley, M. J. B., Bowness-on-Windermere. Baker, E. A., 188, St. Thomas's Road, Derby. Barrington, Richard Manliffe, M.A., LL.B. (A.C.), Fassaroe, Brav Co. Wicklow, Ireland. Barrow, Harrison, 13, Ampton Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham. Barrow, Walter (A.C.), 43, Frederick Rd., Edgbaston, Birmingham. Bartlett, Arthur M. (A.C.), 3, Little Stanhope Street, London, W. Barton, Guy Douglas, Castelnau, Wimbledon Hill, S.W. Barton, Claude Wm., Castelnau, Wimbledon Hill, S.W. Bates, Reginald Henry, 60, Rodney Street, Liverpool. Baumgartner, C. A. O., 15, Rivercourt Road, Hammersmith, London, W. Bell, John Hart, 22, Upper Richmond Road, Putney, W. Berrill, Frank, Bank House, Kettering. Bishop, Rev. Herbert Eustace, Clifton Vicarage, York. Blunt, Herbert William, Christ Church, Oxford. Bowlker, C. A. C. (A.C.), The College, Newton Abbott. Bowring, Frederick Hermann, 15, Christ Church Road, Hampstead, London, N.W. Boyce, H. R., 3, Norfolk Crescent, Hyde Park, W. Brant, R. W. (A.C.), Foreign Office, London, S.W. Bryant, George B., 2, King William Street, London, E.C. Bryden, W. Rith, Clare House, Wimbledon, Surrey. Bremmer, George Frederic, 1, Crosshall Street, Liverpool. Bremner, Rupert Stanley, 1, Crosshall Street, Liverpool. Brett, J. V., Arundel Lodge, Duppas Road, Croydon. Brown, William Piffe, Barton Street, Gloucester.

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