

Our Association can review with much satisfaction the first ten years of its existence. Formed by a few enthusiasts in 1922, it has progressed steadily, both in numbers and in the scope of its activities. It now offers many facilities to its members, which are well appreciated. It is generally recognised in British mountaineering circles as a young but vigorous mountaineering club. It has come to stay.

Originally it was not the policy of the Association to compete in any way with the older clubs. We visualised ourselves as a Midland Association of members of all the clubs, and as a recruiting ground for them. We organised meetings and provided lectures for the benefit of those who were not able to take full advantage of their membership of clubs having headquarters in London and the North. For the same reason we decided to build up a library of mountaineering literature.

But the fact that we undertook also to promote interest in mountaineering in the Midlands, and in doing so admitted novices to membership, made it inevitable that we should extend our original ideas of the scope and objects of the Association. For instance, we undertook the organisation of outdoor meets, first in districts most easily accessible, and later, further afield. This phase of widening our interests is still proceeding gradually. It is apparent in the recent alterations to our Rules, in the Bi-annual Dinner, and in the issue of this Bulletin.

It is also inevitable that we develop still further. That in the not far distant future we shall be called upon to organise climbing holidays in Scotland, in the Alps, and possibly in other mountain regions of the Continent. That we shall dine collectively each year, and that this Bulletin will grow gradually into a full-fledged Club Journal.

And why should not this be so? Love of the mountains, and of the great sport of climbing, is not confined to dwellers in London, or to those who are fortunate enough to live in or near our mountain districts. Why should not we, in the Midlands, provide for our mountaineering enthusiasts all those advantages which are to be gained by collective

action, and which are offered in greater or less degree by the other clubs?

If we continue to develop during the next decade on the lines which have proved so satisfactory in the past, we not only shall possess a Midland Mountaineering Club, sufficient in itself for the purpose of the majority of its members, but by recruiting enthusiasts, either those of proved experience, or young climbers keen to benefit by the experience of others, we shall find ourselves contributing our full share to new mountaineering enterprise, and to mountaineering literature.

This Bulletin is but a modest beginning of what we hope will grow into a much larger and more ambitious publication. While we can imagine that the future may bring us a high-class monthly or quarterly Review, compiled and published as the result of an affiliation for that purpose of all the British clubs, and thus available to all affiliated members, there will always be room for the purely club publication, written by, and for, its own members.

This issue is mainly historical. It brings up to date the record of the activities and progress of the Association. May future issues record still further development and the achievement of our aim to create a virile, one hundred per cent mountaineering club for residents in the Midlands.

G. A. LISTER.
President.

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