

LECTURES, 1946-7.

Oct. 15. A SHORT VISIT TO GARHWAL. *B. R. Goodfellow.*

As the lights went up after this lecture we all returned, with a kind of shock, from a mountaineer's paradise to the drabness of the rainy Midlands: so vivid were Mr. Goodfellow's pictures in narrative and lantern-slide. With humour and detail our lecturer described how he followed many of Tilman's routes, and with porters and high-altitude camps made several ascents and traverses. In so far as an audience may share a lecturer's adventures and experiences, we did so this evening.

Oct. 29. CLIMBING IN NORTH WALES. *A. D. M. Cox.*

Clogwyn du'r Arddu is, for most of us, a place where we stand in awe and gaze at its immense rock walls; but we were able after this lecture to feel a little more at home and to talk more intelligently of Pigott's and Longland's and the other great routes on its face. In his lecture Mr. Cox took us up these climbs, telling us of the trials and errors by which the routes have been made and making it all seem so simple that we had to remind ourselves more than once that we were hearing of Very Severes (or is it Grade VI's?).

Nov. 14. FEATS ON THE FJORDS. *A. C. Waine.*
CLIMBING IN ODD SPOTS. *F. S. Styles.*

Climbing partnership, it seems, makes for good lecturing partnership, though our lecturers chose different subjects and even different continents. We learned from Dr. Waine's delightful narrative and slides the joys of Norwegian mountaineering: perfect food, pointed peaks, the largest glacier in Europe—and involuntary bivouacs in *saeter* huts. Mr. Styles' "Odd Spots" showed that even five years in the Royal Navy cannot deprive a determined mountaineer of his sport, and amusingly recorded new rock-climbs on Mount Carmel and the Malta cliffs and ascents in the Lebanon and North Africa.

Nov. 26. THE BAVARIAN ALPS. *L. S. Forrest.*

The Swiss Alps, either from experience or from our reading, are familiar to all of us, but we do not hear so much about the Alps of Bavaria. Mr. Forrest showed during his most interesting lecture, with which were many beautiful pictures, that these Alps too are among the places we should visit. His party were able to use the huts of the district and to make, with guides, several ascents. The details of such a holiday and its comparative cheapness are well worth investigating, and we are most indebted to Mr. Forrest for showing us what can be done in this region.

Dec. 12. SOCIAL EVENING AND PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY.

All round our Lecture Room this evening were the records of the days we have spent on the hills. There were both the pictorially beautiful and the intimate "snaps" of one's friends in varying positions of ease or discomfort on Napes Needle and elsewhere. There were also photographs of more distant hills, including the Himalaya, some of them the result of wartime visits. The photograph albums, as well as the wall exhibits, provided delightful entertainment which with the refreshments and the opportunity of talking to so many members made a very successful Social Event.

Jan. 9.

ALPINE RAMBLING.

G. A. Dummett.

Many of us who had been privileged to hear Mr. Dummett lecture before were eagerly awaiting this evening, and we were well rewarded. We saw a magnificent collection of mountain views, ranging from a most unusual one of Tryfan to the Weisshorn and her sister peaks. Mr. Dummett linked these pictorial memories of his "ramblings" with an intensely interesting and stimulating discourse on the reasons why we climb. No other lecture this season, perhaps, has given us so much to think about and discuss.

Jan. 23.

FILMS OF THE HOMELAND MOUNTAINS.

F. H. Restall.

Our own climbs and climbers—our own Hut in the making—our own electricity-making windmill in course of erection—Mr. Restall's splendid films "held" us as not even J. Arthur Rank's latest production could have done. The colour films were magnificent. In particular a complete ascent of the Ampitheatre Buttress showed that our climbers can adapt themselves with ease and grace to the arduous life of film-stars and technicians. The remarkable films of the "gullery" completed an unforgettable evening's entertainment.

Feb. 4.

THE INNOMINATA FACE OF
MONT BLANC.

T. Graham Brown.

Most of us had already read of Professor Graham Brown's famous climbs on the Brenva face, and this eagerly-awaited lecture was most interesting and inspiring. The slides showed us in great detail the chief problems which had to be overcome in this ascent, made in 1933, and gave us a very real idea of the striking difficulties of the route. To conclude, our lecturer showed us views of Mont Blanc, taken during his descent, from the Grand Plateau, where are the routes of the early climbers—Balmat and De Saussure—in whose steps Professor Graham Brown is surely an inspired follower.

Feb. 27.

ARGENTIERE.

F. G. Brettell.

This lecture was very kindly given by Mr. Brettell at short notice, and followed immediately after a discussion on the Club's projected Alpine Meet this Summer. Argentiere was one of the places suggested, and after seeing Mr. Brettell's excellent slides and hearing of the many and varied expeditions, Argentiere seemed the ideal choice. Mr. Brettell's description of the district was so clear and helpful that with his sketch-map and the really beautiful slides shown we felt we were already on that track up through the pine woods or taking our first steps on the Mer de Glace.

March 13.

CLIMBING IN SKYE.

C. B. Machin.

In this lecture we went on an "express journey" over most of the Coolin ridges, and the islands lying off the coasts of Skye. Mr. Machin had a vast collection of most interesting slides, many of them in colour, and we were shown such climbs as the Window Buttress, the Cioch, and the Waterpipe Gully, often with a familiar climber tackling some problem. There were exciting moments during an "off-day" spent on and in the waters of Loch Brittle in search of gull's eggs; we would have liked to see more of this incident. Altogether a delightful evening. M.M.D.

REVIEWS.

CLIMBER'S CLUB JOURNAL, 1945-6.

This Journal holds to the high standard we have come to expect of it. Most enjoyable was the account by C. Reid of a twenty-one days leave spent among the Ramparts of the Canadian Rockies. Though in the beginning Mr. Reid doubted the wisdom of making the 2,400-mile journey from Montreal to Jasper for such a short holiday, an impressive number of peaks was climbed, culminating in the ascent of Parapet, Bennington and Oubliette, the last two under somewhat difficult conditions. I was intrigued by an article by A. J. F. Cairns, who writes of a climbing holiday in Skye during which, somehow, very little climbing seemed to be done. Verse is contributed by R. L. Plackett and E. F. Bozman, while R. A. Mallett, eschewing mournful numbers, advances a moving plea for the traditional grading of climbs by "plain descriptions."

J. E. Q. Barford describes tigerish climbs on Clogwyn du'r Arddu and Noyce discourses on leeches and landslides. E. C. Pyatt's summary of rock-climbing in England—excluding the Lakes—provides an invaluable tabular reference as to location, type of rock, grade of climb, etc. R. P. Mears' interim report to the B.M.C. on the specification and system of tests for climbing ropes advises the elimination of knots and loops of rope to support the body, recommending belts of webbing attached to the rope by means of cored eyes and snap-rings. The Editor appends a summary in which the preliminary opinion of nylon suggests that its use is likely to lead to a complete revision of rope technique and methods of belaying.

The list of new climbs is as long as it is high in standard. As a conclusion to the Journal, the President, J. A. Longland, writes an Annual Report giving a full picture of the Club's activities.

RUCKSACK CLUB JOURNAL, 1946.

Eustace Thomas provides an excellent article on his traverses in 1928 of the Brouillard, Innominata, Peteret and Brenva ridges of Mont Blanc, done in the space of thirteen days. Up to the date of this performance, the author and Joseph Knubel were the only two people in the world to have traversed all four ridges. This must surely rank as an outstanding Alpine achievement. L. Kiernan pays tribute to the toughness of the sturdy Darjeeling coolies, which makes possible the modern Himalayan expedition. F. Kiernan's article "Twenty Years Ago" will remind many readers of their own mountaineering novitiate.

A. H. Henson finds the Nahuel Huapi region of the Southern Andes comparable to the Fjords of Norway. I liked Arthur Birtwistle's "Serving A Term," and sympathised with the views of a man who, while training Commandos in Scotland, admired his men yet felt isolated from them by their resentful attitude towards mountains. Alex Ferguson gives an account of how he fulfilled a long-cherished ambition to lead C.B. Not having been at such close quarters with this climb myself, I was all the better able to appreciate the performance from a study of J. E. Byrom's photographs of the first pitch and Flake Crack.

From every point of view the Journal belies the age of austerity in which it has been produced. Everything about it is good, no less the paper on which it is printed.

A.E.W.