

EDITORIAL

On the front cover of this Journal there is ample indication of a circumstance probably realised by everyone now—that the M.A.M. is now forty. It is only a modest anniversary; it has not been heralded with a blaze of festivity or wild excess, but then very few people celebrate their fortieth birthday in this manner. A quiet drink with a few friends, a pleasant word in season, seems more appropriate. Our President, Mr. C. B. Machin, has kindly consented to supply the latter (and no doubt the former, too, if required), and here, appropriately enough superseding editorial discursiveness, is his message:

“Forty years ago the M.A.M. was formed. Though I cannot speak for the first fifteen years of the Club’s existence there is no doubt that of later years many things have happened, the acquisition of Glan Dena as a Club Hut undoubtedly being the most important. It has brought members together, and I am certain everyone will agree that the Hut has character and is looked upon by members with affection.

“Members are now more widespread, and this in turn brings in prospective candidates for membership from further afield. Distances are not now so important as in the earlier days of the Association; recently a member made a three hundred mile return journey to a lecture, and a return journey of two hundred miles to a committee meeting is now commonplace.

“Lately there has been an increased attendance at the lectures, the Hut is producing more revenue, and membership gradually increases; expeditions by members to far away mountains and places now frequently take place. All this is a healthy sign of the Association’s vitality, but without the enthusiasm of the Officers and the Committee in particular, and its members in general, none of these things could happen.”

There seems little more to add to this, unless to say that the fact of members being more widespread, as asserted above by Mr. Machin, is to be taken geographically rather than anatomically. The present Editor, not yet forty, hopes that he and his contemporaries will, on reaching that age, show as little sign of middle-age spread as the M.A.M. does now.

Before allowing you to read on, however, one or two people deserve our thanks. We are grateful to the three remaining Original Members, Mr. Wallace May and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wallbank, for forty years’ continuous interest in our activities, and the Editor is indebted to Frank Wallbank for providing useful notes on the early history of the Association. Finally, and because his work gives a finesse to the Journal that no amount of verbiage could possibly achieve, we express our thanks to Kim Beck for his inimitable sketches and his willingness to bow to editorial eccentricity.