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CURRENT EVENTS.

THE third annual dinner of the Rucksack Club was held at the Albion Hotel, Manchester, on 2nd December last, about 60 members and guests being present. Among the latter were Mr. C. E. Mathews, Professor J. Norman Collie, Professor Wilberforce (representing the Climbers' Club), Mr. F. W. Jackson (representing the Scottish Mountaineering Club), Mr. J. A. Green (representing the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club), and Mr. F. Wightman (representing the Kyndwr Club).

Mr. Joseph Collier, F.R.C.S., President of the Club, presided, and there were also present Mr. Charles Pilkington, Mr. Hermann Woolley and Professor H. B. Dixon, Vice-Presidents.

The President, on giving the toast of the Rucksack Club, said that its formation had been justified in every way; not only had it enlightened many as to what there is in Nature outside our big towns, but it had also given many a sense of physical well-being they otherwise would not have possessed. Personally, he felt he was getting "past the middle"—("Not at all")—but the energy of some of them was a sufficient guarantee that the Club would live and thrive for years to come. (A voice, "For ever.") Although they had not the incentive of some of the Kindred Clubs so far as scenery was concerned, they fully atoned for its absence by superabundant energy. After all they were not far from the Lakes and North Wales; Derbyshire was near; and there was no disputing the fact that Lancashire improved in beauty as it approached Yorkshire, just as Yorkshire improved in beauty as it approached Lancashire.

Mr. C. H. Pickstone, in responding for the Club, referred to the fact that it had a membership of about 70, which he thought was a record for one city.

Professor Dixon submitted "Kindred Clubs," and in the course of a witty speech, commented upon the various Clubs represented, remarking that if the Kyndwr Club climbed in

the bowels of the earth, the S.M.C. made up for such vagaries by climbing in the Skye.

Mr. C. E. Mathews responded for the A. C., describing himself as one of a band of four who had paid their subscriptions with alarming regularity for over 40 years. (Bravo!) These four were slumbering volcanoes, the future was with such clubs as the Rucksack, and he hoped the members would hand on untarnished the noblest of the Alpine Club's traditions. There was no sport like mountaineering. (Applause.) It had certainly one abiding charm; it tended more than any other pursuit towards the making and cementing of those friendships which, after all, were the salt of life. Had it not been for mountaineering, there were scores of people he was proud to call friends that he would never have shaken by the hand. Though he had spent 40 seasons on the Alps, he had climbed for 50 years amongst the Welsh hills, which had always an imperishable fascination for him. In fact, as a mountaineer, he might fairly claim to have warmed both hands at the fire of life. In conclusion, Mr. Mathews said that he had been glad to avail himself that night of the third invitation he had received from the Rucksack Club, and hoped he would be spared to meet the members again. (Cheers.) After Mr. Mathews had sat down, Professor Dixon proposed, and the President seconded, that Mr. Mathews should be admitted the first Hon. member of the Club; a resolution that was carried unanimously with great enthusiasm.

Mr. Jackson and Professor Collie responded for the S.M.C., the latter stating that most people were under the impression the climbing in Skye was easy. That was not so, since there was climbing so difficult as to be impossible. His opinion was, the climbing in Skye has only just begun.

Messrs. Pilkington, Woolley, Green & Wightman also spoke.

The Club have also had the privilege of welcoming Mr. Slingsby, who gave a lantern lecture, entitled "Rambles and Scrambles," on February 9th, and Mr. Haskett-Smith, at the May meeting of the Club, consented to give a talk on the subject of "The Rucksack at Home and Abroad."

