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## NORTHERN DINNER.

IN the month of March last the Committee received a memorial, signed by between twenty and thirty members of the Club who reside in the North of England, asking for permission to hold a Dinner of the Club in one of the Northern towns, and also suggesting the advantages which might accrue to the Club if opportunities were given to the Northern members to arrange indoor or outdoor "meets" with the approval of the Committee. The memorial pointed out the limited privileges enjoyed by members in the North, many of whom found it impossible to attend the Annual Dinner, and this lack of occasion for social intercourse did not conduce to cohesion or strength in the Club membership.

The Committee saw the force of the arguments advanced, and appreciated the objects of the memorialists. They therefore decided that, at any rate, a Northern Dinner might be held, and the Hon. Secretary was asked to confer with a number of the memorialists who were acting as a kind of temporary Committee. As a result of this conference, and further negotiations, a memorandum was submitted to the Committee of the Club for approval, and the following is a copy:—

NORTHERN SUB-COMMITTEE.—Under the provisions of Rule VI. of the Climbers' Club, the Committee will appoint a Northern Sub-Committee. Such Sub-Committee shall consist of seven members of the Club, to be nominated annually by the Members attending a meeting called for the purpose, of which 14 days' notice shall have been given. Three Members to

form a quorum. The President, Vice-Presidents, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer shall be *ex officio* members of such Sub-Committee. Its functions shall be to arrange for an annual Northern Dinner and such other indoor or outdoor meetings as may be approved of by the Committee of the Club. Its proceedings shall be submitted to the Committee for confirmation, and all notices sent out in respect of the matters to be dealt with by the Sub-Committee shall bear the signature of the Hon. Secretary of the Club.

The Sub-Committee shall have no further or other powers than those above indicated, except with the consent of the Committee. All expenses of proceedings and meetings approved by the Committee may be paid from the Club funds.

The Dinner was held on Saturday, the 6th May, at the Midland Hotel, Manchester. Half-an-hour before the Dinner, a meeting of the members present was held, at which a sub-Committee, consisting of Professor L. R. Wilberforce (Liverpool), Messrs. Roderick Williams, A.C. (Liverpool), E. A. Baker, M.A. (Liverpool), W. E. Corlett (Liverpool), L. J. Oppenheimer (Manchester), P. S. Minor, L.L.B. (Manchester), and J. W. Robson, A.C. (Manchester), was appointed to carry out any future arrangements for Club meets or dinners which might be approved by the Committee.

The President of the Club was present at this meeting, and subsequently received the members and guests attending the Dinner, who numbered exactly 50. Among the guests were the Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University (Principal Hopkinson, A.C.), Messrs. G. A. Solly, A.C., and Joseph Collier, A.C., Hermann Woolley, A.C., Charles Pilkington, A.C., Lawrence Pilkington, A.C., and Charles Hopkinson, A.C. Professor H. B. Dixon, A.C., Rev. D. Macdonald (Kyndwr Club), Mr. Lewis Moore (Yorkshire Ramblers' Club), and Mr. P. S. Minor (Rücksack Club). The officials of the Club present were:—The President, the Hon. Secretary, and Messrs. Baker, Nettleton and Wilberforce, members of Committee.

After the loyal toast had been drunk, the President pro-

posed the toast of "the Climbers' Club." He began by playfully reproaching Mr. Robson, who had charge of the arrangements for the Dinner, with putting him into a "tight place." He had been in many tight places on the mountains, but he would far rather face them all again than voluntarily have undertaken the task of presiding and speaking at the Dinner. He reminded members of the good qualities which mountain climbing brings out, and instanced a number of his own good friends present, whom he might never have had the privilege of knowing but for the pursuit of mountaineering. He spoke enthusiastically in favour of the holding of an Annual Dinner in the North, and expressed the hope that the present one was the first of a long series.

Mr. Minor (Manchester) and T. Fraser S. Campbell (Glasgow) responded. Mr. Minor mentioned two new gullies which had been climbed at Easter, one near the Haystacks, and the other on the south side of Fleetwith. Mr. Campbell confessed to having temporarily deserted the mountains, but said he had recently almost reached the standard height set by the S. M. C. by making the ascent of a mountain 2992 feet high.

The toast of "Kindred Clubs" was proposed by Mr. Roderick Williams. In a charming speech he spoke of the joys and attractions of mountaineering, and of the changes wrought by the seasons on the mountains. It was a glorious experience to be on a ridge when the rocks were warm and dry, and the days calm and still, but it was equally impressive to be on the same ridge in swirling mists and a hurricane of wind, when the rocks were glazed and nature put on her fiercest aspect.

Mr. Hermann Woolley, who replied on behalf of the Alpine Club, spoke of that Club as the mother or grandmother of all climbing Clubs in Britain. When we remembered the work its members had done in the Alps of Europe, and the peaks conquered for the first time by Britons, we had reason to be proud of its record. He was, however, rather pessimistic about the Alps to-day. Remember that there were 63,000

members of the D.O.A.V., and that everything in the Alps had been climbed, *cui bono*? It was not everyone who could go farther afield, but it seemed to him that the Caucasus, the Himalayas, and the Rocky Mountains must now be the fields for new discoveries by Britons.

Mr. Lewis Moore (Yorkshire Ramblers' Club) also replied for "Kindred Clubs." He spoke of the good feeling existing amongst climbing clubs, and said there was room for them all. Each was doing a good work. He expressed the hope that a Northern Dinner might soon be held in Leeds.

The toast of "the Visitors" was proposed by Mr. J. W. Robson, who congratulated the Club on the honour paid it by the presence of so many distinguished Visitors. Arts, Science, Law, Medicine, the Church, were all represented, and they had almost the embodiment of all these in Vice-Chancellor Hopkinson. But all these Visitors were climbers of great reputation, and were all the more welcome on that account.

Vice-Chancellor Hopkinson responded. He confessed to being able still to enjoy the sport of climbing, and spoke of a recent visit to Dow Crag and an ascent of the Central Gully in company with several friends present. At the point where it is necessary to climb feet uppermost, he found the position not so comfortable as he once might have done, but still he could overcome such a difficulty. He went on to describe what to all true climbers must be "the joy of living"; the early morning start for an Alpine climb; the orange tints and rosy blush of the coming dawn, followed by the mid-day glory of the view from the top of a conquered peak. The fast and true friendships formed amongst such experiences were treasures in the memory.

Dr. Collier, who also responded, did not share Mr. Woolley's feeling that the Alps were "played out." He believed there were still plenty of new ways up the old mountains. There was still plenty to do. He spoke of his pleasant climbing experiences in the company of the President, and expressed his pleasure at being present at the Dinner. He hoped it would become an annual institution, and that he might always be invited.

Mr. Charles Pilkington proposed "The Secretary of the Climbers' Club and the Northern Sub-Committee." In the course of his speech he expressed a desire to become a member of the Climbers' Club, an announcement which was received with cheers.

Mr. Bryant, the Hon. Secretary of the Club, and Prof. Wilberforce, responded.

The last toast, that of "the President," was proposed by Mr. G. A. Solly, who spoke under the domination of the clock finger. He was obliged to leave by the 10:40 p.m. train for Liverpool, but managed to express, well within his limit of time, an eloquent commendation of the toast.

The President—cheery, alert, enthusiastic to the last—responded. The burden of his response was a wish that the Dinner might be the first of many similar occasions, on which the members of the Club in the North might meet one another, and he believed that the Club would be much strengthened by these opportunities of exercising what, after all, is a great function of every Club, comradeship amongst members.

