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## CORRESPONDENCE.

*To the Editor of the CLIMBERS' CLUB JOURNAL.*

DEAR SIR,

On page 32 in number 13 (Vol. IV.) of the *Climbers' Club Journal*, is given a list of the mountain summits in Wales that exceed 3000 feet. I presume it is intended to be complete ; but as a matter of fact it lacks two—

Elidyr Fawr	-		3029 feet.
Foel Fras	-	-	3091 feet.

I should be glad if, for the sake of accuracy and completeness, you could insert a corrective note.

Crib Goch and Crib-y-Ddysgyl do not rank as separate summits (*vide ante*, bottom of p. 30).

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

RUDOLF CYRIAX.

*To the Editor of the CLIMBERS' CLUB JOURNAL.*

DEAR SIR,

THE HIGH TOR GULLY ; AND LIMESTONE SCRAMBLING  
IN GENERAL.

When a man writes anonymously, we assume he wishes to remain unknown, and I have always understood it is the correct thing to respect such a wish. That was my only

reason for not revealing the authorship of the Kyndwr Club notes. My disclaimer would have been more effective had I named the writer, but I was anxious not to make it a personal question in any way.

The first ascent of the High Tor Gully was not organised by the Kyndwr Club, and the premature paragraph about it was put in the notes without the knowledge or consent of anyone who did the climb. In pointing out that the suggestion contained in the notes as to "abominations" was quite unfounded, I thought there would be no harm in mentioning casually my status in the Club. Of course in the Kyndwr Club, and I believe in other similar societies, official communications are signed by the secretary, and I confess it did not seem to me necessary to remind anyone of this truism.

At the request of the leader, *i.e.*, Mr. Puttrel, and the third man—Mr. Bennett—I wrote an account of the first ascent. If I had mentioned therein that Mr. Baker had several times tried to climb the Gully and had always failed, such a reference, although perfectly true, would not have been sportsmanlike. On the other hand, would it not have been more chivalrous on Mr. Baker's part, since he had nothing good to say of the climb, to have left us to tell our own tale, instead of attributing to us some disagreeable experiences which he had himself undergone? Was it not somewhat unfortunate, also, that Mr. Baker had made no reference whatever to old tins, bottles, pots, pans, &c., in his three separate printed accounts of the High Tor Gully, and only thought it necessary to mention them as soon as someone else had done the climb? However, as you have dealt editorially with the alleged "abominations," I will not say anything further on that question, but I ought to point out it is quite untrue that I have been with Mr. Baker at the High Tor Gully, and his accusation that I garbled my account is a mere quibble, unworthy of serious notice.

In the interests of the sport of climbing, I crave permission also to make a brief rejoinder to Mr. Baker's indictment of limestone. I would fain confess that I was brought up myself

to believe it very naughty to scramble on the limestone, and probably I expressed myself in print to that effect. I duly performed the gritstone rites. Little by little, however, circumstances made me familiar with the much maligned rock, and lo! it afforded excellent sport. Therefore I broadened my creed until it included both gritstone and limestone—finding, indeed, that safety perhaps lies more in the skill and caution of the climber than in the nature of the rock. You, Sir, in your summary pointed out that Mr. Baker has changed his mind on this question. I have indulged myself likewise, but in an opposite direction. It seems this troubles Mr. Baker, who also finds a grievance in what he terms my “prolific pen.” According to him, if I put in everything when I write, I am “sensational,” but if, on the other hand, I venture to omit something, I am accused of tempting novices to destruction. Or is it the other way about? It is quite true that when writing of limestone scrambling I have not actually warned off other climbers; that would surely have been a proceeding both churlish and presumptuous; but I have always pointed out the dangers fully, and insisted on the necessity for due precautions.

As, however, Mr. Baker has raised the question of possible casualties, it may not be out of place to remind him that more than once in his own “broadcast lucubrations” he has directed the attention of “future scramblers” to difficult climbs which he admits he did not care to tackle himself. If someone is to get killed, as Mr. Baker pathetically suggests, and the members of the Climbers' Club, at his instigation, are to undertake the invidious and delicate task of placing the responsibility beforehand, could they acquit the pioneer who boldly searched out the most difficult problems, and then generously left them, with his blessing, for “future scramblers” to solve at the risk of their lives?

I am, Sir,

Yours very faithfully,

WILLIAM SMITHARD.

DUFFIELD, NEAR DERBY,

*April, 1905.*

[The Editor regrets that this letter was, through an inadvertence, not published in the last number. In justice to Mr. Smithard, he considers its publication necessary as a reply to Mr. Baker. He does not, however, consider the correspondence of sufficient importance to the Club to publish further letters.]



