



This extract from a Climbers' Club Journal contains only articles/photographs where the copyright now belongs to the Climbers' Club.

It is provided in electronic form for your personal use and cannot be used for commercial profit without seeking permission from the Climbers' Club.

© Copyright 2010

## CORRESPONDENCE.

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

MATTERHORN VILLA,  
14th December, 1909.

HONOURED SIR,

May I crave a small space in one of our Club *Journals* to bring before our fellow members a subject of great interest. I perceive, Sir, that we are in great danger of falling behind the times. No serious calling can now be undertaken by any aspirant without an entrance examination (more often alas, as many of us know only too well, without two, or even three, examinations). Why then, Sir, should not the youthful (or otherwise) aspirant to membership of our Club—to the privilege of association with us in *our* serious calling—not be subjected to trial by examination? How much better a test would this be than that by which candidates are now tried. Who is to know whether that arduous and difficult ascent, which looks so imposing on the candidate's application form, was not made in an improvised sedan chair, carried by a posse of guides? Who is to know how many times the candidate "Herr" was assisted by the rope? No, Sir, the only safe guide, for sorting and selecting those truly worthy of admittance to our life's calling, is the one that experience has led all the other—the lower—callings to adopt—entrance examination by test paper.

To show how eminently practical is my idea, may I state a few questions which could be included in such a paper? The number possible is of course infinite, but take the following as examples:—

1. Where are—Bel Alp; The Beispeilspitze; The Shoehorn; The Venusberg; Primrose Hill; The Climbers' Club Library?
2. Translate and explain—Allez seulment; Kommen sie nur; Mettez la corde; Heisse Platte; Snowdonia; Alpinist.
3. Distinguish between—cramp and crampons; piton and piolet; Alpina and Alpine; climbing and gymnastics (giving illustrations).

4. Who ascended Monte Rosa alone in his shirt sleeves, and what provisions did he carry? Do you consider yourself competent to do the same?
5. Who wrote the following, and why—Running Water; The Complete Mountaineer; On the Roof of the World; My Alpine Jubilee?
6. How many "climbers" can be accommodated in a hut built for twenty people?
7. Describe, with illustrations of each pitch, the ascent of the North Gully of Tryfan. For which pitches would you consider an umbrella preferable to an ice-axe?
8. Name six comfortable climbs for a wooden-legged climber. Under what conditions would he be a safer companion than one with ordinary limbs?
9. How many residents in Switzerland are not members of the S. A. C.?
10. X and Y, who are noted reckless climbers, climb with Z, who has never done anything but an easy course. They reach a smooth wall of rock 50 feet high, without hand or foothold. Advise Z.
11. A, who weighs 16 stone, and B, who weighs 9 stone, are climbing on one rope, when A slips on an ice-slope of 75 degrees. Calculate the strength B will have to exert to hold A up. (Consider  $g=42$  feet per second. Ignore friction.)

But, Sir, I need not "dilate" upon the subject longer, feeling that I have shown clearly the advantage of the system I advocate. I must leave it to the Club to adopt, or not, as the good, or bad, sense of the members may determine. With many apologies.

I remain, my Dear Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

A. WALKER.