



The British Columbia Mountaineering Club

Vancouver, B. C.

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OUR HONORARY PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE

It is not easy for one who has been driven by circumstances to the device of doing his climbing in books and maps alone, to send an appropriate message to those who are still in the way of seeing the dawn from the mountain-tops. But this I can say, that for no consideration would I be without that little harvest of memories which was gleaned amid the storied hills of West Cork, and afterwards upon our own mountains.

The literature of mountaineering is a splendid one, and contains some of the most eloquent passages in English prose,

even though it is all the creation of a bare hundred years. Those who can respond adequately to its appeal by reason of their own experience among the lonely heights can face the future, even in a prairie city, fortified with one priceless element of culture—the power of appreciating the sublime. I trust that the year upon which we have entered will be rich in such cultural gain for every member of the Club.

—J. PORTER

LICHENS

By Fred Perry

The mountaineer, on his wanderings through the mountains, is usually interested in the flowers that he meets, but very rarely does he notice splashes of black, yellow or green that appear to discolor the rocks at various elevations. He may notice masses of what looks like greyish hair hanging from the trees at an elevation of from 4000 to 5000 feet, and the very observant mountaineer has undoubtedly seen on the branches of trees, that have been blown down by the wind, peculiar cup-like growths. These are lichens.

All lichens are made up of two life-forms, known as Algae and Fungi. The simplest form of algae is a pale green growth often found on the north side of telegraph, fence, and other poles, and which is often rubbed off on one's clothing by contact. It is known as *Pleurococcus vulgaris*, and is the simplest form of plant life, primarily because it produces chlorophyll, the common green coloring matter that is such a noticeable feature of all vegetation.

The term "fungi" includes mushrooms and toadstools, all of which produce fruiting bodies or spores. Space is too limited in the "B. C. Mountaineer" to go into any greater detail as to the nature of the curious partnership involved. Suffice it to say that the dominant partner is the fungi, and the relationship is analogous to that of mankind who keeps cows, the fungi being in the place of man who in return for providing the algae (cows) with a home demands the complete subservience of the algae.

Lichens are the hardiest forms of all

plant life, occurring on the tops of our highest mountains. They are divided into four great groups, the names of which indicate the form and nature of the lichens in each. They are (1) Fruticose, (2) Crustaceous, (3) Filamentous, (4) Pulverulent.

We will consider first the Fruticose Lichen group. These thrive best where the air is still and moist. The most common of them is "*Cladonia rangiferina*" or reindeer moss, it can be found on the slopes of Grouse Mountain not far from the Club Cabin, and in the far north is the food of reindeer. Another common member of this group that grows on Grouse Mountain is "*Cladonia belladiflora*" which has brilliant red tops on greyish green stems about two to four inches high.

The next group, the Crustaceous Lichens occur as yellow or black splashes on rocks at the sea-shore or on the mountain-tops, usually round or oval shaped. Another form is characterized by a brittle shell-like nature and occurs on the tops of exposed ridges, and in the Yukon, where when dry its rasp-like quality plays havoc with the boots of prospectors and others. On Whistler Ridge the writer had occasion to walk on this lichen and he was closely reminded of walking along a shelly beach, so closely did the sound of the crackling lichens resemble the crushed shell on the beach.

The Filamentous Lichens are sure to be recognized by the mountaineer. They are common to Grouse Mountain and can always be recognized by their long hair-like growth, and when dry are usually sought for to provide him with a good starter for his camp fires. "*Usnea barbata*" or old man's beard is the commonest and is always to be

found on our mountains at an elevation of 3000 to 5000 feet. Another one of the same genus prefers a drier habitat, it is a brilliant apple green, and was much used by the Indians of the Interior for procuring their fine green tint. It is known as *Usnea vulpina* or wolf moss.

The last group, the Pulverulent Lichens are all powdery. Green, orange, or yellow. The best yellow variety is to be found on the rock below the Signalling Station at Prospect Point in Stanley Park and the traveller coming in through the First Narrows cannot fail to have his attention arrested by the yellow on the rock.

The writer is fully conscious of the scrappy nature of this short article on the most friendly of all mountain plants, but, if he has aroused even a little interest in these little known plants that "waste their sweetness on the desert air" he is amply rewarded, and will be pleased to answer all inquiries in reference to them.

CHILDREN'S DRESS SOCIAL

"Backward, turn backward, O Time in your flight,

Make me a child again, just for to-night."

The "Children's Party" arranged by the lady members of the Club held at the home of Charlie Dawson on the 14th of December, proved very enjoyable. Many of the members arrayed themselves in youthful attire for the occasion and everyone took part in the merry pranks of youngsters. Impromptu dancing intermingled with "Hide the Thimble," "Bright Idea," and "London Bridge," filled the evening with gaiety and amusement and everyone was ready for the

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refreshments the ladies had provided. The music throughout the evening was particularly fine.

The ladies forming the Social Committee are to be congratulated and deserve hearty support in any further effort they may make. We shall look forward to another "evening" soon with much pleasure.

The following "children" favored the party with their presence: Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Westall, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Montgomery, Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Golman, Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Dodds, Mrs. F. H. Dobson, Misses Cassie Matheson, Islay Richards, Franky Riddoch, Del Siddeley, Winnie Jones, Pansy Morris, Phoebe Chambers, Winnie Chambers, E. McCreery, Evelyn Baynes, Jean Genier, Minnie Trenouth, Messrs. Kjeld Grims-gaard, Harold O'Connor, A. G. Harvey, Jim Irving, Bill Dobson, Charlie Sharp, L. C. Ford, Thomas Urquhart, John Huggard, Charlie Dawson, Ger Henderson, P. L. Tait, and Harry Somerville.

A SILVER THAW

In this paper natural phenomena are sometimes referred to, and therefore we would ask how many of our members observed the appearance of the snow-coated trees on our boulevards on the morning of Monday the 2nd of January, after the little mild rain and refreezing had produced a rather unusual aspect which we understand is known on the Pacific Coast as a "silver thaw" the smaller branches and twigs being coated on their upper side with a layer of transparent ice varying up to a quarter of an inch thick, while the under side was practically bare, thus giving a weird and fantastic effect.

CURRENT PUBLICATIONS

In addition to our usual exchanges we have just received "Harvard Mountaineering, June, 1927," being the first issue of an annual. It is modest in size for an annual but excellent in print, paper, photo reproductions, and map, all these are of the Harvard high standard. It contains two articles which should be of more than ordinary interest to all B.C.M.C. members.

"In Search of 'Clearwater' (mountain)" and "The Lyall Peaks and Mount Forbes," both articles deal with localities in the Rockies of B. C. and Alberta, and are very readable (except a Babylonian word) and should be studied by all our members.

The Harvard Mountaineering Club is to be congratulated on the healthy vitality which has allowed it to issue an annual in this its third year of existence, and we hope the exchange and intercourse between that Club and the B.C.M.C. will continue and increase to our mutual advantage. Its list of members contains names already well-known in mountaineering circles and of whom any Club might be proud. We wish The Harvard Mountaineering Club may reach the summit of success.

* * *

We have received "The Mount Baker Goat" dated November 27th, and we hope to receive succeeding issues. The more exchanges and intercourse we have with other mountaineering clubs the better for ourselves—whatever may be the effect on the other clubs.

Intercourse with our nearest neighbors is particularly to be desired.

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THE OBJECTS OF OUR CLUB

We wish to remind members of Clause 2 in our Constitution which reads:

2. The objects of the Club shall be:

- (a) The exploration of the mountains, valleys and ice fields of British Columbia, and the study of their natural features.
- (b) The preservation of the beauties of its mountains through protective legislation.
- (c) The promotion of such scientific, artistic and recreative pursuits as will secure these objects.

The Objects of some of our Sister Clubs (as set forth in the Directory, June 1927, Associated Outdoor Clubs of America):

MAZAMAS—The purposes of the Club are to explore mountains, to disseminate authoritative and scientific information concerning them, and to arrange for the preservation of forests and other features of mountain scenery in their natural beauty.

THE MOUNTAINEERS—The objects of the Club are to explore and study the mountains, forests and water courses of the Northwest, to record its history, to assist in the protection of its natural beauty, and to encourage good fellowship in outdoor life.

* * *

Considering the new qualifications required for active membership, it is more important than ever that leaders on scheduled Club trips record the names of all members and visitors on the trip and deliver such record to the Club's Reporter, together with an account of the trip, as the leaders may, in future, be asked to sign applications for active membership, or inquiries may be made from them concerning the applicant's ability.

In the woods you must expect to pay a certain price in discomfort for a very real and very deep pleasure. Wet, heat, cold, hunger, thirst, difficult travel, insects, hard beds, aching muscles—all these at one time or another will be your portion. If you are of the class that cannot have a good time unless everything is right with it, stay out of the woods. One thing at least will always be wrong. When you have gained the faculty of ignoring the one disagreeable thing and concentrating your powers on the compensations, then you will have become a true woodsman, and to your desires the forest will always be calling.

"The Forest"

—By STEWART EDWARD WHITE

* * *

We have often wondered why we climb mountains, and we have often been at a loss to answer such a question when asked by a non-climber. How does the following suit for an answer:

Why had we come to the moon? The thing presented itself to me as a perplexing problem. What is the spirit in man that urges him for ever to depart from happiness and security, to toil, to place himself in danger, to risk even a reasonable certainty of death? It dawned upon me up there in the moon as a thing I ought always to have known, that a man is not made simply to go about being safe and comfortable and well fed and amused. Almost any man, if you put the thing to him, not in words, but in the shape of opportunities, will show that he knows as much. Against his interest, against his happiness, he is constantly being driven to do unreasonable things. Some force, not himself, impels him and go he must.

"The First Men in the Moon"

—By H. G. WELLS

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