

Then again, and partly to that end, we want to spread our banner far and wide to reach more private members and more affiliated clubs, for only thus is power obtained and good achieved.

One of our greatest anxieties and at the same time our dearest wish is the strictest adherence to our time-honoured principles concerning the amateur status and the rejection of all inducements, apparent or subtle, to become enmeshed in commercial entanglements.

Another of our more active aims is to inculcate a love of snow-craft and of high

mountaineering among our members, so that the joys of climbing with and even without skis can lie open to them. High mountains suitable for skis do not lie in daily or weekly reach of us over here and the achievement of this object is therefore one of real difficulty.

With this little list, which marks in particular relief a few of our especially cherished aims from out of the long count of our activities referred to above, I hope our ambitions have been made clear to the reader—and I will only add one more—“the promotion of good fellowship among ski-runners of all nations.”

LONDON LETTER

BRITISH ski-ing activities last winter were severely curtailed by the Crisis, and by the appeal of the Chancellor for English people to stop at home.

The most important event was the sending of the Oxford and Cambridge team to Canada; it would indeed be carrying coals to Newcastle to describe this event in your annual, but it is only right to say that every member of the team returned to this country with enthusiastic reports of Canadian hospitality. We all hope that some day it may be possible for a Canadian University Team to pay us a return match on the Swiss snows.

The Ski Club of Great Britain decided to send a British team to the F.I.S. Downhill Meeting, which is in effect the European Championship for Downhill ski-ing. The team did only moderately well. Our star turns ran below their proper form: on the combined result Bracken was thirteenth and Peter Lunn fourteenth. The very small community of British skiers put up a good show, however, in the big Oberland events. My son, Peter, won the New Year Slalom at Wengen and the No-Fall Championship and was second in the very important Laberhorn Cup for which the German and Swiss University students who were competing in the inter-universities match all entered. This was very cheering in an otherwise depressing season.

The Arlberg-Kandahar was a tremendous event. This event is the blue riband of European downhill ski-running, and continues to attract an ever-increasing entry of first class runners. It was won for the second time in succession by that magnificent ski-runner, Furrer of Zermatt. The ladies' event was won by Fraulein Lantschner. The British were poorly re-

presented—neither Bracken nor Mackintosh could compete—and we had a very weak ladies' entry. We hope next year to remedy this state of affairs.

The Pery Medal, which can only be awarded once a year, was awarded to Mr. R. L. Holdsworth, who established a ski-ing height record on Kamet.

An interesting innovation which was tried out for the first time in the Arlberg-Kandahar race was the group start. Ski-runners were divided into groups in order of merit, though all ski-runners were eligible for the prize. The racers started at minute intervals with all the first class runners in one group, the second class runners in the next group and so forth. The object of the group start is to prevent a first class runner losing a race because a poor runner has chosen a very narrow place in which to fall just in front of him. The working of this system is fully described in the British Ski Year Book.

Sir Claud Schuster, a well-known ski-runner and mountaineer, has succeeded Mr. Alex. Keiller as President of the Club.

By the time this letter is published, it is expected that the Club will have passed a new rule to the effect that the entrance fee will be suspended in the case of Canadians who wish to join the Ski Club of Great Britain. They will then only pay the annual subscription of ten shillings on joining the Club. For this sum they will get all the same advantages as hitherto, the Year Book, Ski Notes and Queries and the Members' Handbook.

We very much hope that those Canadians who are interested in the development of European ski-ing will join our Club. They will be more than welcome.

ARNOLD LUNN.