

## Editorial Comments

By H. P. Douglas

FOR the first time in the many years I have been editing our Year Book, it really looks as if the publication is well on its way. Our advance subscriptions and orders are far larger than ever before and we also enjoy a considerable increase in advertising. The ideal arrangement in the future would be for every Club to give a copy of the Year Book to their members. The Toronto Zone have ordered two thousand five hundred copies for distribution to their Clubs; the Ottawa Ski Club one thousand; and others clubs in proportion; and at the exceedingly attractive price made by the publishers the cost of the Year Book is but little.

December first was the original date set for distribution, but the long delays in receiving copy has per force set the date back. It would be such a great help, if all would co-operate by sending their reports, copy, photos, etc., in to the publishers not later than October 1, *that must be next year's zero hour*. I am encouraged and gratified at the fine showing this year and I sincerely thank you all.

I AM GLAD to see the Presidency of the C.A.S.A. move to Toronto. In that district, handicapped by poor snow conditions, they have done wonders in popularizing the sport, and particularly in developing it throughout the surrounding country. Fred Hall is well qualified to direct the affairs of the Association and is fortunate in having men like Sam Cliff, Major Sniveley and others to advise with. Bill Thompson is now living in St. Catharines so he will be easily available.

This year we list 76 member clubs as compared to 51 last year, and many more in prospect, and so our family grows.

All we need now for another record-breaking season is another old-fashioned winter.

THE ACCOUNT by Harry Pangman of our Olympic Ski Team gives a complete history of the trip. We were fortunate, indeed, in having a man of Pangman's type, ability and experience in charge of the Team. It was a difficult task and he handled it most exceptionally well in all respects. Only after much persuasion and at considerable personal sacrifice was he induced to accept the position of Honorary Manager. He paid all his own expenses and at the end turned in an accounting of all expenditures that when audited checked to a cent. All arrangements and details were splendidly organized—transportation over and back and accommodation at Garmisch—not a hitch anywhere, and when it was all over no

recriminations, everyone pleased and satisfied. Many generous friends and ski club members subscribed enough money to just cover all expenses and our thanks to them are again tendered.

From the Canadian Olympic Committee we received no help, financial or otherwise, and in contrast to the well thought out and executed plans for our ski team was the lack of organization of other Canadian winter teams. I sincerely hope that by the time the next Winter Olympics are held, if they ever are, there will be a complete change of personnel in our Canadian Olympic Committee. This was my third sad experience with them, each more unsatisfactory than the former.

It was unfortunate that snow and weather conditions last winter all over Northern Europe and at the Games were so unfavourable. The many accidents to both our teams, due directly to these poor conditions, were responsible to a large degree for their not making a better showing. However, we did not expect our team to win; we sent them over to gain experience and to show them abroad the fine type of young skiers we have in Canada, and this was fully accomplished. The enforced absence of Peter and Lukin Robinson was much regretted as they would have greatly strengthened our team.

Canada's Women's Olympic Ski Team, captained and organized by Mrs. Lois Butler, and paying all their own expenses, was a fine sporting gesture and they have all earned our sincere thanks and admiration. They made an excellent showing, handicapped as they were by accidents and illness, and Mrs. Butler's interesting but all too short narrative of the doings of her team tells the story.

To Sidney Dawes for his invaluable assistance in raising funds and for his kind help in Europe we are greatly indebted; it was, indeed, hard luck to break his leg on his second day on skis at Kitzbuhel.

THE BRIEF REPORT in this issue of The St. John Ambulance Association gives but little idea of the splendid efficient service voluntarily performed by this organization. Starting the last week-end in December five first-aid posts were established in the Laurentians. The St. John men in attractive special winter uniforms, on snowshoes, in good weather and bad, were on duty Saturday afternoons and Sundays at the more active skiing centres throughout the season. In the most severe weather, at dangerous points and at major racing meets,

these experts with their first-aid kit gave their service to all who needed it. The experiment more than justified itself; it is a real necessity and the question now is how it may be continued. Some practicable plan, I am sure, can be developed so that individual and club subscriptions can be secured to carry on this first-aid work.

The Canadian Pacific and Canadian National Railways arranged for the transportation of the St. John men while local hotels gave them board and lodging.

We are all most grateful for their fine co-operation that made this service possible.

I HAVE just finished reading the Report on Ski Safety of the Amateur Ski Club of New York. A Committee from the Board of Governors was appointed to make a thorough study on the general subject of skiing accidents their causes and prevention. A questionnaire was sent out to various clubs and ski centres resulting in over 150 reports being received, and, in addition, many verbal hearings. Briefly, the principal contributing cause of accidents was going too fast, getting out of control, carelessness, unfavourable conditions, ruts, bumps, siltmarks, crust, ice, insufficient snow; and, to a lesser degree, faulty trails and poor equipment.

The recommendations of the Committee to lessen accidents are—Proper Instruction and Practice—Improvement in Downhill Trails—Danger and Warning Signs on Trails—Ski Patrols—First Aid Service.

The Amateur Ski Club is to be congratulated on the thoroughness of their investigation and on their report. This is a subject we all are much concerned over.

Copies may be obtained from Amateur Ski Club, Chrysler Building, New York City.

MY CONGRATULATIONS to Viateur Cousineau, to Louis Cochand—son of my old ski friend, Emile Cochand—and the Laurentian Cross-Country Ski Club of St. Margarets. It was fine to see the Quebec Kandahar—Canada's blue-ribbon event for downhill and slalom combined—won by a native French-Canadian boy, with his clubmate taking second honors. Cousineau repeated the following week-end by winning the Red Birds Open Competition at St. Sauveur, while Cochand placed well up.

All of us have been watching the rapid progress of these lads from the Laurentian villages and were really not too surprised at what happened. These young men, many in number, have skied since boyhood, are right in the middle of our best ski country, and on skis at every opportunity. They have raced against our best men, have profited by their experience, and now that they are coming into manhood will be consistent winners at our open events.

MISS PEGGY HARLIN of The Vancouver Ski Club is to be congratulated on being the first Westerner to win the Holt-Wilson Trophy. Judging from her fine all-round record, the honor was well merited.

This year the Trophy comes East again and The Ski Club of Montreal will hold this competition down the improved Mount Baldy course at St. Margarets, probably the last week-end in February. We hope that the West will be represented.



GLACIER TROPHY  
Presented to Ski Club of Canadian Rockies  
by Sir Norman Watson

THERE is romance in ski-ing. Last spring N. C. D. Mactaggart of the Red Birds and Barbara Meagher of the Penguins—two of our best and most enthusiastic skiers—after a successful courtship on skis, were married.

In the West, Tom Mobraaten, member of the Canadian Olympic Ski Team, and Peggy Harlin, winner of the Holt-Wilson Trophy, were married in October.

We wish them all a long and happy ski life together and lots of little skiers to carry on the sport in future.

WE PUBLISH, as a matter of habit, the official C.A.S.A. Ski Test Rules and Regulations and the names of those qualifying up to date. The Test situation has, for some time, been in a most unsatisfactory position. The Toronto Ski Club and district, not liking jumping being included in the Tests, have drawn up their own set of rules. At the last Annual Meeting this whole subject was discussed and a motion passed to submit revised Tests to all the member Clubs for approval. It is to be hoped that this will be done promptly and the whole situation cleared up once and for all. Tests are, undoubtedly, necessary and most advisable but they must be uniform all over the country. As far as the jumping is concerned, my personal opinion has always been that it should never have been included, and I so argued from the start.

SIR NORMAN WATSON, of London, England, keen skier and all-round sportsman, made a long ski tour out through the Glacier country, west of Banff, with Clifford White, two years ago. He was so delighted and impressed with the ski-ing possibilities in the Canadian Rockies that he has presented the lovely Sterling Silver Trophy, pictured opposite, to the Ski Club of the Canadian Rockies for annual competition. The first competition will be held on March 10, 1937, following the C.A.S.A. Championships at Banff. The course will be from Sköki Lodge to Lake Louise Station, twelve miles, a thousand-foot vertical climb, level running, and three thousand feet downhill to the finish. F.I.S. rules will govern. We have in Western Canada the finest ski-ing country in the world and it is indeed complimentary to have it recognized in such a delightful way. Sir Norman's Trophy will now take its place with the Holt-Wilson Trophy, and we all thank the donor for his fine sporting gesture.

ONE of our serious problems in Canada is the lack of properly trained and qualified ski instructors, and we are far behind all other skiing countries in this respect. In the United States schools for ski instructors are organized in the East and West and doing splendid work, and down through Vermont and New Hampshire will be found at the various ski centres many well-known Continental ski experts and instructors. I noticed in the New Zealand and Australia Year Book, that Herr Skardarasy the great Austrian skier would be in Victoria for the winter, to personally teach and to instruct sub-teachers in the latest technique; Barry Caulfield, one of the leading British aces, will spend the winter teaching at Mount Cook; Colin Wyatt another British expert will be in New Zealand to standardize courses and to judge. I have just learned that the Ontario Ski Zone, under the leadership of Sam Cliff, have taken steps to organize a ski school where qualified instructors will be graduated.

I recommend the other zones to follow their excellent example. Full information will be furnished by H. T. Cliff, 201 Parkside Drive, Toronto. In other major sports it is today an accepted fact that young people must be started out properly under expert instruction, and my experience teaches me that it is of even more importance in ski-ing, and as a preventive of accidents instruction is the one sure cure.

WE ARE glad to publish the story of the Quebec Ski Club by Mr. Russell, a past President and one of the founders. They are the second oldest ski club in Canada, only the Montreal Ski Club pre-dating them. Always active in our major competitions their co-operation has ever been most helpful. We wish them many, many years of continued success.

ARNOLD LUNN has again produced in his British Ski Year Book a publication quite up to the high standard maintained for so many years. Interesting articles from all countries and beautifully illustrated. I was particularly interested in his article on the Olympics, past and present, and in his opinion the winter games of 1936 will be the last. His account of the F.I.S. championships reads more like the Battle of the Marne than a sporting competition on skis. A membership in the Ski Club of Great Britain includes this Year Book as well as their quarterly publication, Ski Notes and Queries, now edited by our old friend Allan d'Egville. I was pleased last year at the several new Canadian membership subscriptions, and will be glad to personally arrange your membership if you will write to me. The inclusive fee is 10 shillings.

Mr. Lunn expects to visit Eastern Canada this fall and we are looking forward with keen pleasure to seeing him. The inclusion this year in the Olympics of the downhill racing and slalom events was a great personal triumph as he has been working to bring this about for many years.

I HAVE just been reading with pleasure and admiration the 1936 New Zealand and Australian Ski Year Book, a mighty volume of 276 big pages, beautifully printed and illustrated. Mr. Stewart Jamieson, General Editor, and his associates should be proud and pleased at their really fine accomplishment. It is evident that ski-ing is growing rapidly in those far off countries, and that they have a competent well organized group of enthusiasts behind the sport is, undoubtedly, the reason. The governments and railways are also co-operating splendidly to help the sport along and to make it conveniently possible for the general public, young and old. I personally recommend to our readers that they purchase a copy of this lovely ski book. Stewart Jamieson, 182 Phillip Street, Sydney, Australia, is the address, 3s. 6d. is the price.

Members of Canadian ski clubs affiliated with the Canadian Amateur Ski Association are invited to become Overseas Members of the Kosciusko Alpine Club of Australia. Candidates must be proposed in writing by their club secretary and seconded by another member. Elected candidates are entitled to receive, post free, one copy of the *Australian & New Zealand Ski Year Book*, to wear the Kosciusko Alpine Club badge and colours, and to certain other privileges. The fee for Canadian Overseas Members is \$1.00, payable to the Honorary Canadian Representative, Kosciusko Alpine Club, 23 Otter Crescent, Toronto 12, Ontario, who will be glad to furnish any further information.

MR. BRIAN MEREDITH, our Associate Editor, has gone to England to reside permanently, where he will carry on his journalistic work in London. Connected with the Seignior Club for many years, he was editor of their magazine *The Seigneur*. A graceful writer, he is responsible for the present set-up of *The Year Book*. He will be greatly missed but as he will have so much larger scope for his talents in his new environment, we can hardly begrudge his leaving and wish him every good luck and happiness.

TO BRIAN MEREDITH, our contributors, our advertisers, and to our publishers, John Lovell & Son, Limited, I offer my sincere thanks for their fine co-operation.

## Lunacy at the F.I.S.

By Dwight Shepler, in "The Sportsman"

ALTHOUGH there were mitigating circumstances, the F.I.S. downhill race at Innsbruck on February 21, 1936 was a harrowing experience for both skiers and spectators. The downhill course, nursed through a warm spell of a thoroughly perverse winter, was a ribbon of ice crust flanked with stumps, rocks, and bare ground, and the promising-looking sun of February 21 failed to soften the pavement into corn snow. On rasping, rattling skis the best racers in competition threw form and control to the winds, and approximately half of the one hundred and twenty lads and girls reached the finish line at the foot of the final murderous schuss.

It is our hope, and that of many Americans who know and love skiing and who watched this race, that this world's championship, or any other race for that matter, will never be run under such impossible conditions again. The dauntless competitors, who would doubtless race a course down the south slope of the Empire State Building if requested, were confronted with a trail whose lower stretches were a corduroy road of concrete snow packed by the skis of the hard-working Innsbruckers who had miserable fortune with the weather. Most of the elaborate plans for their week of winter sports festival had to be abandoned, and if the day had only been warmer the course would have been acceptable. As it was, steel edges wouldn't hold on turns, or else caught in the ruts and threw the racers on to the merciless surface of this trail above Mutters. Conditions for the slalom and jumping were much better, and in these two events some real skiing was seen.

Rudolph Romminger of Switzerland, the gods of fate skiing protectively at his elbow, flew over the unfriendly ice and crossed the finish line of the long downhill course in 4 minutes 29.8 seconds, 14 seconds faster than the madcap Sertorelli of Italy, who placed second.

Richard Durrance of Dartmouth, who acquitted himself so well in the Olympics, came in fourteenth in the field of seventy, and gave the best American performance in the F.I.S. America is young in skiing, and Durrance was competing against professionals and amateurs from nations to whom a ski bears the same significance as a baseball bat to us.

At the very finish of the course there was a steep, winding schuss, punctuated with a few stumps, and it was here that some of the accidents happened which cause our plea for sanity. Willy Steuri of Switzerland, first man to run, appeared in sight with his forehead all bloody. As he catapulted down the steep slope he tried to check, caught an edge, and took a spill that ripped the skin clear off one cheek, and from his shins, thighs, and arms. His ankle was badly sprained. Sigmund Ruud, who has a habit of jumping obstacles rather than going around them, jumped twice, failed to hold the hard ice, and plunged off into an army of

stumps. He caromed from one to another, and everybody figured that he was dead, but miraculously he rose with only a broken nose. Herman Steuri, brother of Willy, dislocated his shoulder in the upper slopes of the trail, and finished the race. Other accidents included a broken leg and many minor injuries.

This worst lower part of the trail was eliminated from the women's race. Most of the lady competitors looked quite unhappy as they strove to cope with the intractable crust, and there was little of the dashing style that characterized their Olympic performances. Elizabeth Woolsey of the United States took an eighth place, a very fine performance. The race was won by Evie Pinching of England, with Elvira Osirnig of Switzerland second. Gerda Paumgarten of Austria, sister of Harold Paumgarten, so well known to American skiers, was third.

The famous Rudi Matt of Austria, jabbing his inside pole, hopping and twisting in rhythmical fashion, turned in the best time for two trips through the flags of the steep course. The way in which these European experts can worm through a flush, where the flags are in a straight line, is almost incredible.

The slalom flags that were used in Europe this year are about shoulder high and have a rubber section in the shaft which permits them to fall down flat when run into, but pop right back automatically.

The following day special jumping was held at Seefeld, and Birger Ruud repeated his Olympic triumph by leaping farther and better than anyone else, seeming to lie on his ski tips as he soared through the air. His brother, Sigmund, launched his broken nose out into the ozone for a second place. Birger's longest jump was 65 metres.

The spectacle of the downhill race of the Federation International de Ski leads us to hope that officials will descend from the rarefied atmosphere of lunacy and run future ski races on something approximating snow.

*Combined Ranking—Men:*—1st, Rudolph Romminger, Switzerland; 2nd, Heinz v. Almen, Switzerland; 3rd, Eberhart Kneissl, Austria; 4th, Rudi Matt, Austria; 5th, Ciacinto Sertorelli, Italy; 6th, Birger Ruud, Norway; 7th, Willy Walch, Austria; 8th, Emile Allais, France; 9th, Hans Schlunegger, Switzerland; 10th, Peter Lunn, England; 12th, Richard Durrance, America.

*Combined Ranking—Women:*—1st, Evie Pinching, England; 2nd, Elvira Osirnig, Switzerland; 3rd, Gerda Paumgarten, Austria; 4th, Nini Arx-Zogg, Switzerland; 5th, Erni Steuri, Switzerland; 6th, Frieda Clara, Italy; 7th, Jeanette Kessler, England; 8th, Marcelle Buhler, Switzerland; 9th, Herta Rosmini, Austria; 10th, Elizabeth Woolsey, America; 17th, Clarita Heath; 20th, Grace Ellen Carter, America; 21st, Helen Boughton-Leigh, America.