

As regards the L.M.T. observations and the much-discussed question of the theodolite *versus* the prismatic astrolabe for observing equal altitudes, all I will say is that after considerable experience I have come to the conclusion that better results can be obtained with the prismatic astrolabe. It is not an easy instrument to use and requires a lot of practice, and the trouble of preparing a list of suitable stars, with their times and azimuths, is a drawback ; but for really accurate work I have no doubt that it is the instrument to use in the field, provided weather conditions are suitable.

Some of my pupils have lately done very good work with it, or rather with the prismatic astrolabe attachment fitted to a theodolite which I designed some time ago.

THE MOUNT EVEREST EXPEDITION OF 1924

BY the time this *Journal* is published the Third Mount Everest Expedition will have left Darjeeling and be on its way up the Chumbi Valley to the plateau of Tibet. The article by Mr. Freshfield which we published last month sums up the general situation at the outset of what we hope and believe will be the final assault ending in the conquest of Mount Everest. We have now but to give some details of the party and their equipment.

The Mount Everest Committee were fortunate in finding General Bruce, the leader of the 1922 Expedition, fit and able to go again. He has with him six of the 1922 party, including the three who made the first high climb without oxygen, Lieut.-Colonel E. F. Norton, D.S.O., R.A. (who will be second-in-command), Mr. George Leigh Mallory, and Mr. T. Howard Somervell. Captain Geoffrey Bruce, 6th Gurkhas, and one may hope Corporal Tejbir, two of the three members of the second high-climbing party, are joining the Expedition at Darjeeling. Captain C. J. Morris, of the 3rd Gurkhas, will again be one of the transport officers, and Captain J. B. L. Noel, who made the celebrated kinematograph record of the last Expedition, will again be the official photographer. To the strong nucleus of four tried climbers with the experience of last season to guide them, the Committee have been able to add four other climbers of the first rank, though without previous experience in the Himalaya : Mr. N. E. Odell, of the Imperial College of Science ; Mr. Bentley Beetham, of Darlington ; Mr. A. C. Irvine, of Merton College, Oxford, who rowed in the Oxford boat in 1923 ; and Mr. J. de V. Hazard. Major R. W. G. Hingston, I.M.S., will be the medical officer and naturalist ; and Mr. E. O. Shebbeare, of the Indian Forest Service, will share with Captain Bruce and Captain Morris the duties of transport officers.

The Committee are greatly indebted to the authorities who have been generous in granting leave to the various members of the Expedition ; to the Territorial Association of Glamorgan, who have spared General Bruce for a second time ; to the War Office, who have given

Colonel Norton leave from his duties with the Artillery ; to the University of Cambridge, who have allowed Mr. Mallory leave only a few months after he had taken up an important appointment at Cambridge ; to the Commander-in-Chief in India and the Governor-General of Bengal, who have spared Captain Bruce, Captain Morris, and Mr. Shebbeare ; and to the Air Ministry, who kindly released Major Hingston from his charge of the R.A.F. Hospital at Baghdad, that he might accompany the Expedition.

The Committee are further indebted to the Government of India for their good offices in obtaining, through the Political Officer in Sikkim, the consent of the Dalai Lama to the passage of the Expedition through Tibet, and to the Government of India also for free entry into India of all the expedition stores.

The oxygen equipment has been redesigned. A new type of cylinder has been manufactured by Messrs. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., Ltd., and after tests by the National Physical Laboratory and the Research Department, Royal Arsenal, has been adopted upon the advice of Messrs. Riley, Harbord, and Law. Three cylinders will carry 50 per cent. more gas than four cylinders carried in 1922 without any increase in weight. The carrying frames have been made on the pattern of those supplied in 1922 by the Bergans Meis og Rygsæk, of Christiania, which proved so successful, and the greatest possible care has been given by the makers, Messrs. Siebe, Gorman & Co., to all the details of the valves and regulators. The Committee are specially indebted to one of their number, Mr. P. J. H. Unna, who has been responsible to them for the control of the design and manufacture of the apparatus. Mr. Unna has also given much attention to the supply of stoves, thermos flasks, and other high altitude equipment, and special cooking apparatus for use in rarefied air has been made by the Meta, S.A., of Basle. The supply of tents, sleeping-bags, windproof clothing, high altitude climbing boots, etc., has been superintended by Colonel Norton, and the committee are indebted to Messrs. Edgington (tents and bedding), Messrs. Burberrys (windproof clothing), and Messrs. Fagg (boots), for the care which they have given to the special requirements of the Expedition. They have also to acknowledge the assistance in many ways of the Army and Navy Stores, who have not only supplied and specially packed all the food, but have undertaken the shipment of the whole of the stores and their despatch from Calcutta to rail head at Kalimpong Road.

The Committee have also to acknowledge with gratitude valuable gifts of stores from the following firms: Messrs. Allen & Hanburys, Ltd., Medical Stores; Messrs. Brand & Co., Ltd., Medical Stores; Messrs. Bovril, Ltd., Bovril, etc.; Messrs. Carsons, Ltd., Chocolate, etc.; The Ever Ready Co., Ltd., Torches and batteries; Messrs.

Howards & Sons, Ltd., Medical Stores; Messrs. Meta, S.A., Stoves and Meta Fuel; Messrs. Virol, Ltd., Virol and Virolax; Thermos, Ltd., Thermos Flasks.

The instrumental equipment of the Expedition is very similar to that of two years ago. They are taking with them a 3-inch theodolite by E. R. Watts & Sons; aneroids by Cary-Porter and Short & Mason; thermometers by Casella & Co. and Negretti & Zambra; liquid prismatic compasses by Short & Mason; and Kata thermometers by Hicks. Various special apparatus for physiological research at high altitudes has been lent to Major Hingston by the Medical Branch of the Air Ministry. Captain Noel takes with him the same kinematograph camera by Sinclair, but with considerable special improvements.

In short, no trouble has been spared to equip this Third Expedition after fullest consideration of the experiences of previous years, and the Committee feel confident that if only the weather is kind we shall learn this year the extreme of human possibility, which it may be predicted will not fall short of the summit.

MOUNT OLYMPUS

Le Mont Olympe (Thessalie).— **Marcel Kurz.** Paris: Victor Attinger. 1923. 10 × 6½, pp. x. + 232. *Illustrations and Two Maps.*

IN his note on "The Summits of Olympus" (*G. J.*, 47, 293, April 1916), Mr. Freshfield complained that the information given by the narratives and diagrams of recent travellers is not only scanty but contradictory. He has now had the satisfaction of writing a very appreciative preface to the extremely good monograph by M. Marcel Kurz, which it is our pleasure to commend as a model of what such a monograph should be: well written in terse and lively French; fully documented, scrupulously fair, sufficiently illustrated, and adorned by two maps—the Larissa sheet of the Austrian 1/200,000 for the general geography, and a splendid new map of the massif from a stereographic survey by the author on the scale 1/20,000, contoured at 20-metre intervals.

In the interval between 1916 (Mr. Freshfield's article) and the end of 1923 (M. Kurz's book) we had published an article by M. Baud-Bovy (*G. J.*, 57, 204, March 1921) with a sketch-map of the mountain (drawn at the R.G.S. from material supplied by the author) which was a great advance upon any map of the summits then existing, but which, as we now can see, was far from right. M. Kurz commends the sketch, but is severe upon the efforts of M. Baud-Bovy to bring order into the nomenclature of the mountain by proposing a set of descriptive names in French, and a few personal names, including that of M. Venizelos for the highest point: upon which efforts "l'éditeur du *Geographical Journal* a du reste exprimé des réserves." Confusion of names is a principal difficulty in disentangling the topography of the various travellers who have given incomplete accounts of the mountain. At least three peaks have been called Kalogheros (the Monk). The name of St. Anthony given by Barth to one has been misplaced upon another. There has been more than one St. Elias. Moreover, there are at least four peaks so nearly the same