

ditionary force. It had been his intention to go to the Staff College had not the war intervened, but it was soon evident that the lack of the Staff College training was no drawback in his case. He was soon noted as one of the most brilliant officers on the staff, and his rise was rapid. At first only attached to the staff he became successively General Staff Officer 3rd Grade, 2nd Grade, 1st Grade, till finally he was selected for the position of head of the Intelligence branch of the General Staff in France, which position he held till the day of his death.

In the course of the present war the nation has had to mourn many young and brilliant men, but it may safely be said that it has suffered no more grievous loss than in the death of General Cox. He was a man of untiring energy both physically and mentally, and being a very quick worker he got through an immense amount of work, and his work was of the highest quality. He was equally efficient at survey work of all kinds, or staff work, or at the ordinary work of an engineer officer. He was one of those men, and there are very few, of whom nothing but praise was ever heard. His name was a byword for efficiency. He had great confidence in himself, but was most unassuming. He was full of enthusiasm for the job in hand, whether it was a heavy piece of work or a football match. He never wasted time. He had a most cheerful and lovable disposition.

It is a matter for infinite regret that he should have met with an accidental death when he had just reached, at a very early age, a position which gave full scope for his abilities. If his life had been spared he would surely have attained to the highest positions. He leaves a widow and two children.

W. C. HEDLEY.

To Colonel Hedley's tribute to General Cox's ability as a soldier we should like to add some expression of the loss to geography which his tragic death has occasioned. General Cox was one of the British representatives at the International Map Conference held at Paris in December 1913, and his colleagues will remember with admiration the extraordinary ability, energy, and tact with which he carried through the work especially allotted to him, the discussion of the conventional signs sheet. Unhappily, by reason of the war this work is still unpublished.

General Cox had been a Fellow of the Society for sixteen years, and for several years a member of our Diploma Committee. He was largely responsible for the second and much enlarged edition of Colonel Close's well-known 'Textbook of Topographical Surveying,' and in this, as on his boundary work, he displayed all the talents of a first-rate scientific geographer. Those who have been associated with him in this Society share with his colleagues on the General Staff the sense of sorrow at the loss of one of those rare men who may truly be called irreplaceable.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Nomenclature of Himalaya Peaks

IF a name be given to each Degree Chart as suggested by Sir S. Burrard, and the method of lettering and numbering indicated be followed, it would

certainly be difficult to devise a more convenient and scientific system. The remark that the new Degree Sheet shows nothing but numbers and the rays of triangulation, whereas the old chart showed in outline the principal rivers and glaciers, seems however to indicate a retrograde step. The average amateur geographer would probably not only wish to have the rivers and glaciers indicated, but would prefer the rays of triangulation in a different colour (say red), if it did not unduly add to the expense of production.

Colonel Burrard's suggestion that a catalogue of Himalayan peaks should be prepared seems worth carrying out, but a double catalogue, such as described in the *Journal*, seems hardly necessary at the outset. Probably all that would be required would be a revised and considerably enlarged edition of Burrard and Hayden's book, 'The High Peaks of Asia.' In that volume the peaks are tabulated according to height in magnitudes of 1000-foot range, the longitude and latitude and regional name being given. All known peaks above 24,000 feet are summarized, the mountains between 24,000 and 25,000 feet forming the sixth magnitude. The tables might be extended so as to include peaks down to the tenth magnitude (20,000 to 21,000 feet). Even if there were a few thousand mountains in this last group, there should be little difficulty in picking out any particular peak, as the name of the Degree Sheet would be a guide.

Below the tenth magnitude the number in any group would be very large, but it might be sufficient at present to give a supplementary table of peaks of any importance, *e.g.* Jubonu, Narsing, Haramukh, which later on might be amplified and subdivided.

Perhaps I may also be permitted a few notes on nomenclature, as my ideas differ somewhat from those of Colonel Burrard and yourself. In the first place I do not agree that the time has come for regarding the name "Everest" as a suitable designation for the loftiest mountain of the whole system. As already indicated (*Geog. Journ.*, 1917, p. 46), the name "Chomo Langmo" has been independently found by General Bruce and the writer to be applied to the mountain, and until this name has been tested it would be advisable to refrain from a decision. In any case one would prefer to see a Tibetan or Nepalese name applied to the mountain, and Dr. Freshfield's contention that personal names should not be used in the Himalaya is supported by Colonel Burrard except in this particular case. To make an admirable rule and then deliberately break it as regards the chief summit of the whole system seems hardly consistent, and the reasons cited seem inadequate.

Again, as regards K_2 , which will now be designated by the unsatisfactory appellation 52 A/13, it might be desirable to consider the application of a name derived from the natives of Baltistan. The merits of names already mooted, *e.g.* Chiring (Sir M. Conway) and Dapsang (Schlagintweit), might be debated once more by a few experts. The headmen of the nearest villages could then be informed of the name finally decided upon. The statement that "the symbol K_2 will serve to record the interesting fact that a mountain exceeding 28,000 feet in height had not been deemed worthy of a name by the people living under its shadow" is somewhat figurative, for Hill Burton's phrase regarding a much smaller mountain—"surrounded by his peers he stands apart from the world in mysterious grandeur"—is truly applicable to the premier peak of the Karakoram.

The application of special descriptive names like Pyramid, Hawk, etc. would of course be less objectionable if translated into the native language used near the base of the mountain, *e.g.* Tibetan and Nepalese. Prof. Gar-

wood gives a summary of such descriptive names used in Freshfield's 'Round Kangchenjunga,' along with Tibetan equivalents, in a supplement to that book. There would naturally in many cases be several peaks with the same designation, but this need cause little difficulty if the name of the Degree Sheet were employed for distinction. In Scotland there are often several mountains with the same name, *e.g.* Ben More. The name when unqualified indicates the highest peak (Perthshire). In the other cases a qualifying local name is applied, *e.g.* Ben More of Assynt, Ben More in Mull.

Lastly, might I be permitted in the interests of Himalayan nomenclature to venture a remark regarding the statement in connection with Kangchenjunga in Burrard and Hayden's volume, that the most recent term applied, namely Kinchinjunga, should be adopted, although probably incorrect etymologically, because "uniformity in spelling is of more importance to geographers than correctness." I must take the liberty of disagreeing in this respect, as I fail to see that there is any excuse for mutilating a good name—and Kangchenjunga is an admirable designation—so that its meaning becomes unintelligible. Presumably it would be possible to secure both uniformity and etymological exactitude. Kinchinjunga is obscure because the first two syllables are derived from the Tibetan words "Kang," snow, and "chen," great. Kangchenjunga therefore seems etymologically to be by far the better term. Dr. Freshfield, in his book on the circuit of the mountain, states that he selected the name from fourteen variants. The selection of one definite name is certainly important. In 1903 three of the names which had been used for the mountain, namely Kangchenjunga, Kangchanjunga, and Kanchinjunga, appeared simultaneously in different survey maps.

Might one suggest that all Asiatic place-names should be submitted before adoption to linguistic experts, who would determine the etymology when possible, and crystallize the spelling and pronunciation.

A. M. KELLAS.

[We are glad to publish Dr. Kellas' letter as the first contribution to that discussion of Sir Sidney Burrard's note which we invited on its publication.

We would add that the present Director-General found himself confronted with an accomplished fact in the case of the name for Mount Everest, and cannot well be held responsible for the single exception to the principle upon which he has acted.—ED. G. F.]

The Designation of Points on Maps.

I have read with much interest the article in the September number of the *Journal* on "The Identification of Peaks in the Himalaya," and feel sure that there will be a general agreement that it is desirable to give a name to each degree chart, as proposed by Sir Sidney Burrard, and think that, on the whole, the system proposed by him is simple and practical. But there seems to be some doubt as to the actual procedure followed in giving the peaks numbers, and I venture to suggest a possible system which would not only apply to this particular problem but might also have some utility in other cases.

The suggested system is the following: Imagine each side of a map to be divided into three equal portions, and join the opposite corresponding divisions by straight lines. Then the map is partitioned off into nine approximately