

IN MEMORIAM

ANDREW JAMES GILMOUR

1871-1941

As the years slip by and one's erstwhile climbing companions pass over the Great Divide, it becomes increasingly difficult to pen one's final tribute of respect and affection. A deepening sense of bereavement saddens the memories of great days on the heights shared with them and makes the written word seem empty indeed.

Particularly is this true of one who, though no longer young, always suggested youth and optimism; who was ever a cheery, buoyant companion, shattering gloom with a quip and remaining quite undaunted, no matter how grim the vicissitudes of trail, pack, or peak.

As such a mountaineer many will remember Andrew Gilmour, whose death occurred on March 9th, 1941, in New York after an illness of nine months. By vocation a dermatologist, his avocation was travel and alpinism and for thirty years his activity ranged through the Alps, the Pyrenees, the American and Canadian Rockies, Wales and the Lake District, Mexico, the Cascades and the lesser peaks of the eastern United States.

Born in Fulton, New York, of Scotch and Dutch parentage, he attended Falley Seminary of which his father was principal, until the school closed in 1883. Entering Yale from Phillips Andover, he graduated from Sheffield Scientific School in 1895, where despite a rather frail physique, he was a member of the gymnastic team, excelling on the horizontal bar and trapeze as well as in pole vaulting, for which he took a prize. His degree in medicine was received from the College of Physicians and Surgeons (Columbia) in 1899 and after interning at St. John's Hospital, Brooklyn, and at Sloan Maternity Hospital, New York, he studied at the University of Göttingen and in hospitals in Vienna. Shortly after commencing practice in New York in 1903, he enlisted in the hospital corps of the Thirteenth Regiment, National Guard, and became captain. He was a crack shot with the revolver and with the rifle qualified as a "distinguished expert" in a group of seventeen out of the thousand men of the regiment. He was associated for years

with Cornell Medical College and a consultant to the Englewood Hospital and the Manhattan State Hospital.

Although his climbing interest manifested itself as early as 1905 with an ascent of the Gross Glockner, it was not until 1914 that it ripened with full-fledged mountaineering. That summer he joined Prof. E. W. D. Holway and Frederic K. Butters in a month's arduous back-packing trip in the southern Selkirks, during which guideless ascents of Mts. Sugarloaf and Duncan were effected, as well as the first ascent of a nameless 10,500-ft. peak at the easterly margin of the unvisited Battle Range. Unfortunately, no full report of this very enterprising and successful exploration has ever been printed.

The close friendship thus formed between Professor Holway and Dr. Gilmour led to further important explorations and first ascents: in 1915, of Mt. Edith Cavell and the entirely unknown country at the headwaters of Small River and Horse Creek, with a nearly successful ascent of Mt. Longstaff, and, in 1916, to the capture of the latter together with Mt. Phillips, the approach being made from the Swiftcurrent River side. Twelve days were consumed on the Cavell trip and about three weeks on each of the Longstaff trips. In 1916 also, this intrepid pair devoted a fortnight to a reconnaissance of the forbidding Cariboo Range, then entirely unknown. Although bad weather precluded attempting any major climbs, two 10,000-ft. summits at the head of Sand Creek Glacier were attained and they gained the honor of being the first mountaineers to enter this magnificent group.

These expeditions by Holway and Gilmour were personal "back-packing" enterprises into virgin territory. They were performed without Swiss guides or pack-trains, although an occasional horse might assist in the preliminary stage. Their main reliance was upon local men who helped to pack the party in and then acted in support by relaying provisions and sometimes by hunting game. The hardships and difficulty of this type of mountaineering are not appreciated among the generality of climbers, so they need to be stressed, particularly in this day, when the baffling incubus of the "unknown"—the real *bête noire* of the pioneer—has largely disappeared.

Dr. Gilmour's list of ascents is far too extensive to recite in detail. It represents a varied assortment of the best peaks in Europe and southwestern Canada. Equally at home on ice or rock,

he was at all times a steady and accomplished climber. Many guideless and first ascents grace his record. Particularly notable was that of the remote Mt. Sir Alexander, monarch of the northern Canadian Rockies, made with Newman D. Waffl and Helen I. Buck in the summer of 1929. The story is admirably told in the Canadian Alpine Journal for 1929, one of the few mountaineering articles from his pen.

A member of this society for a quarter of a century and serving one term on the Council, he worked continuously in its behalf. The library and club rooms owe much to his attention. Wide social contacts afforded opportunities for a host of gracious acts such as welcoming distinguished mountaineers from abroad at the pier or entertaining them at our rooms. An enthusiastic photographer of mountain scenery, he possessed a fine collection of colored lantern slides which were used to illustrate a series of one hundred lectures that he delivered at the instance of the Board of Education of the City of New York.

Apart from membership in several medical societies and social clubs, he belonged to the Canadian, Swiss and French Alpine Clubs, the Appalachian Mountain, Fresh Air and Explorers Clubs and was a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society of London.

H. P.

RICHARD M. HURD

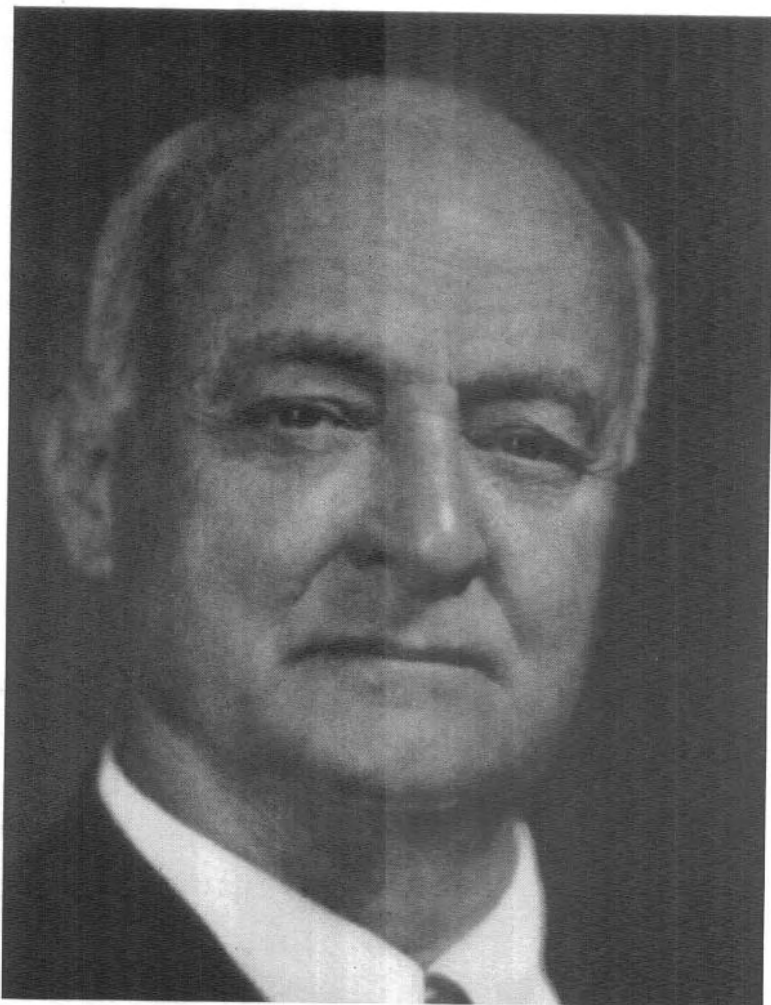
1865-1941

In the death of Richard M. Hurd, the American Alpine Club loses one of its original members (1902). In 1885, when he was barely 20, he ascended Matterhorn, Gross Glockner and Monte Cristallo, two of his guides on the Glockner being afterward killed in the Pallivicini accident on the Glocknerwand in 1886. Hurd, with his father and brother, spent five summers, between 1880 and 1885, in pedestrian tours and climbing, visiting Switzerland, Norway, the Pyrenees, England, Scotland, Wales and Swabia. They belonged to the old school of cross-country travellers, of whom John Ball and Francis Fox Tuckett were earlier exponents, in days before roads became infested by motors. Mr. Hurd described this in a letter published in *A. A. J.*, ii, 511.

Mr. Hurd was born in New York City on June 14th, 1865, son of Melancthon Montgomery and Clara Hatch Hurd, and died there in 1941 at the age of 75. He attended St. Paul's School, and



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RICHARD M. HURD
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was graduated from Yale in 1888. After several years in business in Seattle Mr. Hurd returned to New York to become associated with the United States Mortgage and Trust Company. He became president of the Lawyers Mortgage Company in 1901, becoming chairman of the board of the reorganized corporation in 1903. He was the author of "Principles of City Land Values."

J. M. T.

ASAHIEL CURTIS

1874-1941

Asahiel Curtis was one of the small but devoted group of outdoor idealists who founded the Seattle Mountaineers. He led their first three summer outings, creating a climbing technique through which a few skilled climbers could lead 60 or more beginners safely to the summits of high and crevassed snow peaks.

Throughout a long and active life he remained an active and powerful leader in the developments of outdoor recreation in the Pacific Northwest, and gave permanency to outdoor scenes and events through genius in photographic art. He joined the American Alpine Club in 1913, his qualification including a number of first ascents in the Cascades and Olympics.

BENJAMIN SAYRE COMSTOCK

1859-1941

Benjamin Sayre Comstock, the son of Lydia Sayre and George Wells Comstock, was born in New York City in 1859, in a house which stood at Broadway and 34th Street, the present site of Macy's. Educated by tutors as a boy, he attended schools in Vevey, Switzerland, and Wiesbaden, Germany, before entering Princeton, from which he was graduated in 1880. He was for many years head of the Comstock Manufacturing Company and was a director of the 3-in-1 Oil Company. He was a man of quiet charm, and a lover of good music, being regularly in attendance at the Philadelphia Orchestra. He retired after the World War and in 1925 went to Princeton to live. He died in a hospital at Trenton, after a brief illness, in his 83rd year.

His interest in the Alps began early and he records an ascent of Piz Corvatsch in 1874. He joined the American Alpine Club in 1908. His climbing in Canada began at a time when much was

new, yet he often failed to carry to their conclusion expeditions whose success was almost in his grasp. In 1890 he made guideless attempts on Rogers Peak and Mt. Sir Donald; in 1900 he visited Glacier Lake and did minor climbing. In 1901 he accompanied the second ascents of Mt. Dawson and Eiffel Peak, being alone on the latter. In 1907 his climbs included Mts. Victoria and Lefroy, and during 1908-09 he investigated the approaches to Mt. Sir Sandford. As late as 1928, when he was 69, he ascended the Pte. Dent de Veisivi, Aig. du Moine and Aig. du Tour. At the age of 70 he made a long packtrain trip in the Canadian Rockies, accompanying the party which made the first ascent of Mt. Sir Alexander.

J. M. T.