

tions as to become an enthusiastic advertising medium, and though before and at the time of the transfer to the new building the accommodation was sorely taxed, complaints of discomfort were almost unheard.

The rivers between Fairlie and the Hermitage are now all bridged, and a large number of people have taken advantage of this improvement to travel through in their own motor-cars. The service of the Mount Cook Motor Company has been maintained in a state of great efficiency throughout the season, and the trip from Fairlie to Hermitage and thence through to Dunedin via the Cold Lakes District and Queenstown has proved a very popular one. I append hereto several photographs of the new hostel, giving some indication of the structure and surroundings. Plans are now being prepared of a general scheme to properly lay out the grounds, and I hope to have this work put in hand at an early date. The hostel is undoubtedly an improvement which was urgently needed, and from reports I have received visitors are well pleased with the comfort it affords.

During the season Mr. H. Otto Frind, A.C.C., spent some months at the Hermitage making a number of new ascents and visiting parts of the district which had been little visited before. Mr. Frind took a large series of photographs, and, through his courtesy, I am enabled to reproduce herewith an exceedingly fine selection of views, many of which are taken from new viewpoints, and will prove of great interest. The thanks of the Department and lovers of alpine scenery and sports are due to Mr. Frind for placing his photographs at the disposal of the Department for reproduction.

A large number of climbers, both New Zealand and oversea, have visited the district during the season, and the following particulars of their achievements are supplied by the Chief Guide, Mr. P. Graham. There being at present no recognized alpine club in New Zealand, the particulars are included for the purpose of record should such an institution be revived:—

On the 4th December Dr. Ingles, of Dunedin, accompanied by D. Thomson and J. Richmond, made the ascent of Mount Elie de Beaumont (10,200 ft.) by the south face, and through the broken ice of the Von Lendenfeldt Glacier, from Malte Brun Hut.

On the 10th December Dr. Ingles, with Thomson, made the first traverse of Mount Mabel (6,858 ft.) and Mount Rosa (6,997 ft.), ascending the west face from the Hooker side until they reached the main *arête*, which was followed, traversing over both peaks, and going as far as the Ball Pass, then following that route down and back to the Hooker Hut.

On the 15th January Mrs. Lindon, of Hobart, also made the traverse of Mounts Mabel and Rosa from the Hooker Hut.

After accompanying Mr. and Miss Chambers and Miss B. Holdsworth as far as Graham's Saddle, on their way to the West Coast, on the 10th January, Mrs. P. Graham, with P. Graham, made the first ascent of Mount Rudolf (9,300 ft.) by the main north-east *arête* from Graham's Saddle, returning by the same route.

On the 21st January Mr. Sloman and Professor Robinson, of Sydney, with P. Graham, made the ascent of the Mount Malte Brun (10,421 ft.) by the western *arête* from Malte Brun Hut, and descended the same way.

On the 25th January Miss K. Gerard, of Christchurch, and Mrs. P. Graham, with D. Thomson and F. Milne, made the ascent of the Footstool (9,073 ft.) from the Sefton bivouac, ascending and descending the same way.

On the 28th January Mr. H. Chambers and Miss B. Holdsworth, with P. Graham, made the first ascent and traverse of the east summit of Delimma Peak (8,350 ft.) from the Hooker Glacier north of Raureka Peak, ascending by the eastern face to the divide, and then on to the eastern *arête*, traversing the north face to the col between both peaks, reaching the summit by western *arête*, descending by eastern *arête*.

From the 20th to 27th January a party consisting of Lieutenant G. Dennistoun, Messrs. J. R. Dennistoun, and S. L. King, A.C., with guide J. Richmond, made the first journey by a high-level route from the head of the Rangitata River to the Hermitage, via the Godley, Classen, Murchison, and Tasman Glaciers.

On the 8th February Messrs. Franz Malcher and Jules Malcher made the first ascent and traverse of an unnamed peak (7,542 ft.) on the Malte Brun Range from the Ball Hut. Crossing the Tasman Glacier they ascended by the main south-west *arête* to the summit, and descended by the western face.

On the 8th January Mr. S. L. King, with D. Thomson, made the ascent of Mount Darwin (9,715 ft.) by a new route, ascending by the north-west face to the main south-west *arête*, which was then followed to the summit. A few days later Mr. Franz Malcher, D.O.E.A.V., also made the ascent of Mount Darwin by practically the same route, his brother and Mr. P. Ranfit accompanying him part of the way.

On the 9th February Mr. S. L. King, A.C., with D. Thomson, climbed the Aiguille Rouge (9,731 ft.) by the north-west *arête* from the head of the Beetham Glacier, descending by the north-east face and rejoining their route on the Beetham Glacier, thence back to the Malte Brun Hut.

On the 11th February Mr. H. O. Frind, A.C.C., with Conrad Kain and P. Graham, made the first ascent of Maungama (8,335 ft.) by rocks of Ngaromata Waterfalls on to Ngakanohi Glacier, following the glacier for its full length, and thence by the south-east snow *arête* to the summit.

On the 14th February Mr. S. L. King, A.C., with D. Thomson and P. Graham, made an attempt on Mount Sefton by Zurbriggen's route, but owing to bad weather and the broken nature of the Huddleston Glacier the party had to return.

On the 21st February Messrs. Franz Malcher, D.O.E.A.V., Jules Malcher, and P. Ranfit made the ascent of the Footstool (9,073 ft.) by the main divide from the Copland Pass and north-east *arête*, descending by Fyfe's route to the Hermitage.

On the 22nd February Mr. S. L. King, A.C., with D. Thomson and J. Richmond, made the ascent of Mount Cook (12,349 ft.) by the Linda Glacier (Green's route) from the Haast bivouac.

On the 22nd February Mr. H. O. Frind, A.C.C., with Conrad Kain and W. Brass, made the traverse of the high peak of Mount Cook, ascending by Earle's route from the Hooker side, and descending by Green's route, on the Tasman side, to the Haast bivouac.