



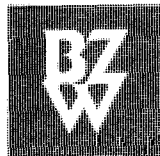
BRITAIN-NEPAL

SOCIETY

JOURNAL

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EDITORIAL - GROWING IN SIZE AND INFLUENCE

Your Journal contains, as usual, among other good things, several articles based on talks given to members and their guests at the Alpine Club. But two notable speakers are not represented - Dr. C. Grey Wilson of the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew because almost immediately after giving us his excellent talk "Dolpo Journey - A Quest for Flowers" he took off for China accompanied by our good friend Tony Schilling "to study plants with particular reference to conservation of flora" which perhaps holds out a promise of another talk and eventually an article for the Journal; and secondly Mike Cheyney whose talk "Twenty-one Years in Nepal" had a record attendance with people standing against the walls but whose researches (he reports) are continuing and should eventually result in an article, if indeed not a whole book!

Our thanks to all our speakers - both those whose contributions appear in this number and those who plan offerings which will brighten future issues.

Meanwhile the Society grows in size and influence. Many new members are announced at each meeting of the committee. The events organised in London attract numbers of influential and active people. Relations with the Anglo-Nepalese Parliamentary Group have never been better. Last year our packed New Zealand House gathering for the Annual Nepali Supper was addressed in memorable fashion by the Speaker of the House of Commons; this year by His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh and those who were not fortunate enough to be present will be able to read his witty and thought-provoking speech elsewhere in these pages.

For ours is a country-wide membership and those who cannot get to the meetings in London, also those many members who live abroad, have come to expect from the Journal a service which will make them feel they are not neglected and being a member is thoroughly worthwhile.

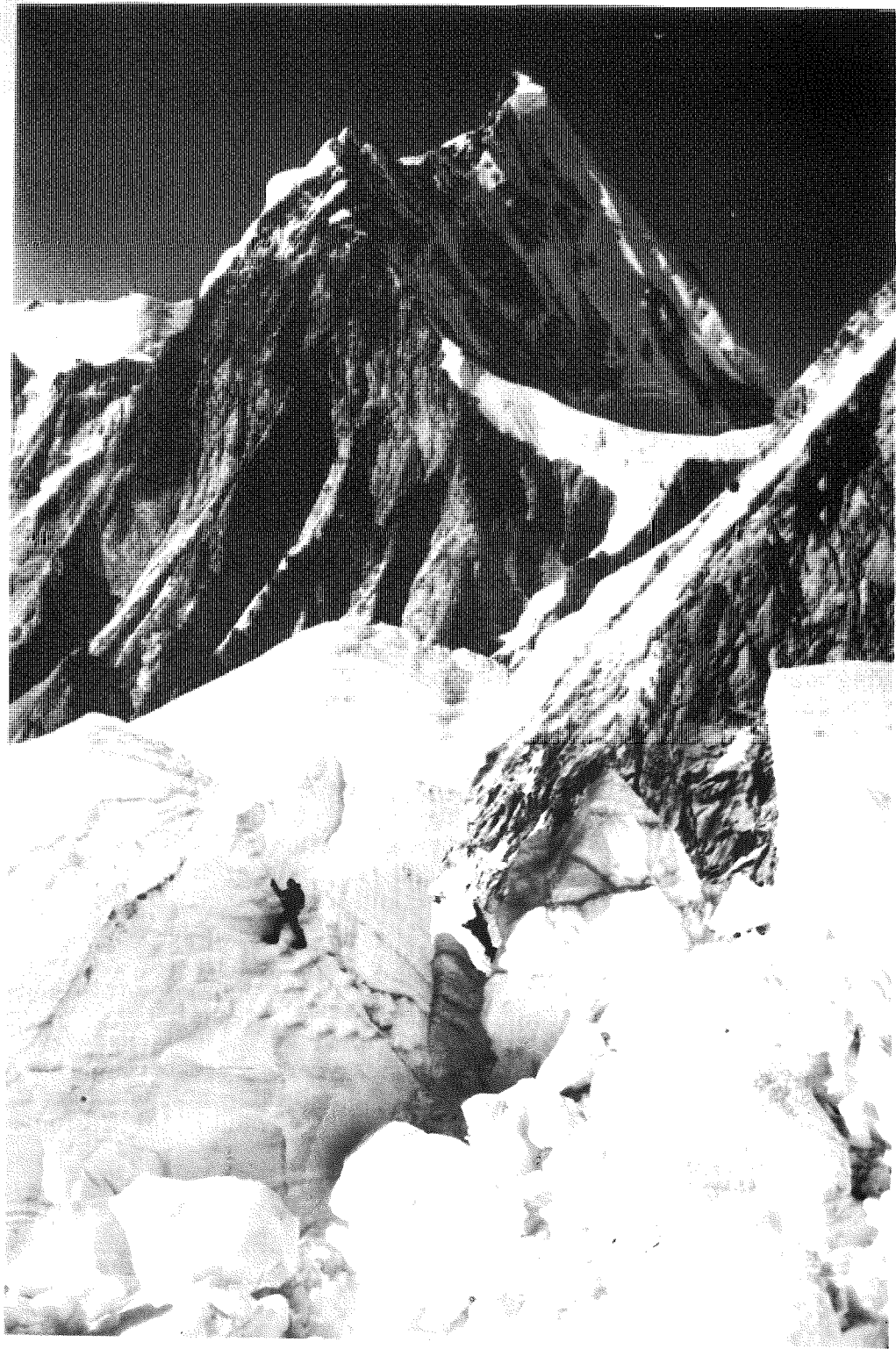
The stated aim of the Society is to promote and foster good relations between the peoples of the United Kingdom and Nepal but, as His Royal Highness emphasised in his speech, if that is all we are aiming at then we are striving to bring about something that already exists. Though we are not in any sense a political Society our growing membership enables us to exert a considerable influence in certain matters of importance, some of which are referred to in the Duke's speech.

We cannot conclude this preamble without recording a warm word of thanks to His Excellency the Nepalese Ambassador and members of the Royal Embassy staff for all the help and friendship the Society has enjoyed during the year. We were all sorry to see Mr and Mrs Prabal Rana depart and we are happy to welcome in the place they filled with such distinction the new First Secretary and his wife, Mr and Mrs. Khanal.

Finally, our very best wishes to the British Services Everest Expedition 1988 for every success in their ambitious undertaking of which some details appear on another page.

Editor





THE ICE FALL ON EVEREST

(See article "Mountaineering in the Himalayas")

The highlight of the Society's programme of activities this year is described by the Editor in his article "The Duke Comes to Supper". This year's Annual Nepali Supper, held in February at New Zealand House was indeed special as the Guest of Honour was HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. It was also attended by distinguished guests, members of the Society and their guests and members of the Yeti Association. The informality of the evening enabled HRH to mingle and chat with the assembled throng before Supper and the photographs which appear in this Journal bear witness to a memorable and happy occasion.

Reception at The House of Commons

The Society has close ties with the Anglo-Nepalese Parliamentary Group and with their help the Society was able to hold its opening of the season "get together" with a Reception on the Terrace of the House of Commons on Thursday, 25th September 1986. It was a pleasant evening and a well attended function. Our thanks go to Dr. Michael Clark, MP, Secretary of the Anglo-Nepalese Parliamentary Group for sponsoring this function. The President of the Parliamentary Group is Mr. Speaker Weatherill, and the Chairman, Mr. Neil Thorne, MP.

The King Mahendra UK Trust for Nature Conservation - Mela Nepal

A Nepali Festival of music and dance was held in aid of the Annapurna Project Appeal at the Kensington Town Hall on Friday, 17th October 1986. A large gathering was entertained by members of the Royal Nepal Academy, who were flown to London especially for this occasion, and by the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas. The Mela was a great success and the hard working Chairman, Mrs. Amita Pandey, assisted by Lady Chapple, Mr. Marcus Cotton, Mr. K. Dhital and Mrs. B. Gurung are to be congratulated in achieving the Trusts's task of raising £50,000 for the Educational and Training aspects of the Annapurna Project. The Project is dedicated to conserve the nature and natural resources of the Annapurna Himal region for the benefit of present and future generations of inhabitants and visitors, and to bring sustainable economic and social benefit to the 40,000 people who live in the region.

The River Boat Trip

Following the success of the River Boat Trip in July 1985, members requested your Committee to arrange a similar trip this year. So once again on Tuesday, 7th July 1987, members of the Society and their guests, including HE Mr. Ishwari Raj Pandey, Ambassador and his staff, boarded "MV Valulla" at Westminster Pier for their Summer Outing.

As we made our way down river on a warm and sunny evening, there was a toast to the Patron of our Society, HRH Prince Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah, whose birthday we celebrated while a delicious buffet curry supper was served by Mr. Manandhar and his family. At Greenwich we were fortunate to witness the celebrations to mark the 150th anniversary of the foundation of P & O. The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh had sailed from Festival Pier, Waterloo, on the Royal barge, and were met at Greenwich by an escort of three Royal Navy ships and a Thames vessel of the P & O fleet. The cruise liner "Pacific Princess" was moored in the Thames off Greenwich where the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were guests at a celebration dinner.

As activity on the river lessened considerably, "Valulla" continued to sail down to the Thames Barrier at Woolwich and pass through the piers.

A raffle was held to raise funds for the Society's special project in Nepal - the Bal Mandir Orphanage and a splendid total of £152.75 was collected by Committee members (Heather Bond, Josette Napier, John Ackroyd and Peter Jebb) and their helpers. Mrs Joan Robertson kindly presented the prizes.

We should like to thank the following for their generosity in providing prizes: HE Mr. Ishwari Raj Pandey, Mr. William E. Beresford, Mr. Dhruva K.C., General Secretary of the Yeti Association, Mr. I. P. Manandhar and Miss Myrtle Ross.

As we returned to Westminster the light was shining in the bell tower of Big Ben indicating that the House was still in session and the flood-lit buildings alongside the river provided an appropriate setting to the conclusion of another enjoyable trip on the water.

Talks at the Alpine Club

The attendances at the Meetings held at the Alpine Club have been consistently high this season which is a tribute to our Speakers who have given such excellent illustrated talks.

Wednesday, 29th October.

An illustrated talk was given on "Mountaineering in the Himalayas" by Lt Col. H. R. A. Streater OBE. Colonel Streater's article appears elsewhere in the Journal. We hope that in his capacity as President of the Army Mountaineering Association he will give a talk on the 1989 British Joint Services Expedition in due course.

Thursday, 29th January

An illustrated talk by Mike Cheney on "Twenty-one years in Nepal 1965-86" attracted a record attendance.

Thursday, 19th March

An illustrated talk by Dr. Christopher Grey Wilson on "Dolpo Journey - a quest for flowers". Dr Grey Wilson who is a scientific officer in the Herbarium at Kew has agreed to write an article for next year's Journal.

Wednesday, 29th April

An illustrated talk by Dr. Mary Eldridge on "A Chunk of Cheerfulness - Some Aspects of Health Care in Nepal". Introduced by Miss E. R. Burton. Dr. Eldridge's article appears elsewhere in the Journal.

Wednesday, 29th May

An illustrated talk by Mr. A. Gardner, a Director of Spink & Son on "Nepalese Art". An article appears elsewhere in the Journal.

We are very grateful to all the speakers and thank them for the time and effort involved.

The Society's Ladies' Scarf

HM The Queen of Nepal, on a visit to London, mentioned to Mr. Anthony Wieler that it would be a good idea for the Society to have a ladies' scarf and after a long interval we have one. We are indebted to Colonel J. M. Evans for producing a suitable design and for finding a firm who could produce the scarf at a reasonable cost. Our thanks to him and also to Mr. Hugh Clifford-Wing and others who have helped. For the benefit of overseas members the following details may be of help. It is woven in navy blue textured polyester satin, 6" x 54" with fringed ends and printed with a cross-flag motif at each end. Cost £6.50 + 50p postage. For UK members the cost is £6.50 including postage.

The Society Tie

The Secretary holds a large stock of these ties which have been specially made

for the Society. Cost: £5 including postage.

The scarves and ties may be obtained from the Secretary and they will also be on sale at the meetings at the Alpine Club.

The Yeti Association

The newly elected President is Mr. Khagendra Nepali who works for the BBC Nepali Service and the General Secretary is Mr. Dhruva K.C. Members of the Association are always welcome at our functions and we were pleased to see so many of them at the Annual Nepali Supper earlier this year.

Messages

A message of congratulations was sent to HM The King of Nepal on his birthday, 28 December. A message of congratulations was also sent to our Patron, HRH Prince Gyanendra of Nepal, on his birthday in July.

Departures

HE Mr. Ishwari Raj Pandey has been the Nepalese Ambassador in London for the past four years, and will be returning to Kathmandu in the New Year. His Excellency has been a great friend of the Society and we will miss his generous help and support. We are indebted to him for permitting us to hold our Annual General Meetings at the Embassy and his presence at our other functions has always been much appreciated by the members. His daughter Amita has deputised charmingly for her mother and we now wish her well in her pursuit of a diplomatic career. Bon voyage to His Excellency and to Madame Pandey and their children.

Arrivals

HRH Prince Dipendra Bir Bikram Shah, the Crown Prince of Nepal, joined Eton at the start of the new school year in September. The Society wishes HRH a happy and successful three years at Eton. The new First Secretary at the Royal Nepalese Embassy is Mr. Badri Prasad Khanal who arrived in London with his family in August. Mr. Khanal will be the member representing the Nepalese Embassy on your Committee. The new Military Attache, Lieutenant Colonel B. Gurung, and his family also arrived earlier this year. We wish both families a pleasant stay in London. Our best wishes also for a happy UK tour to the 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles.

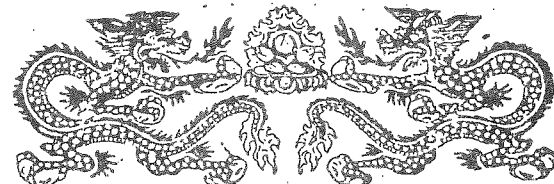
Guests are always welcome at the Meetings. Forms of membership application, banker's order forms, Society ties and ladies' scarves are available from the Secretary at the Meetings or by writing to her at the address given at the end of the Newsletters

Future Programme

Details of the monthly meetings and functions to be held during the 1987/88 season will be given by the Secretary at the Annual General Meeting which is to be held at the Royal Nepalese Embassy, by kind invitation of HE The Ambassador, on 30th November 1987. (Date subject to confirmation in the usual notice to members.)

We look forward to another interesting and enjoyable season and to seeing as many members as possible.

CELIA BROWN
Hon. Secretary,
1 Allen Mansions, Allen Street, London W8 6UY



BALMANDIR KATHMANDU

Our special project this year has been to help the Balmandir orphanage in Kathmandu and the response from members of the Society has been most generous and enthusiastic. By May 1987 we were able to send £300 to the orphanage and we expect by the end of the year to have sent three times that amount. We have been most fortunate in having the assistance of Mr. Peter Moss, British Council Representative in Nepal, who has been able to visit the orphanage and ascertain for us their pressing needs and he has been kind enough to dispense the money through the Nepal Social Services Co-ordinating Committee and assure us that it has been spent as we would wish.

The pressing needs identified were 'everything from building projects down to blankets and toys for the babies'. However, the Britain-Nepal Society's Committee decided that we should divide our help between the age extremes - blankets, toys and educational play apparatus for the pre-school children and a fund to help school leavers at 16 years old who have no-one to care for them when they leave the hostel.

The orphanage tries to find these 16 year olds jobs or places in technical schools but it is a terrible wrench for these children to leave the home and find rooms in Kathmandu. Some manage well but many return wanting help with clothing, medicines or books for study and have no other family or friends to turn to.

Mrs. Mohan Kumari Shrestha, Head of the Children's Homes, has for some time seen the need for such a fund to offer some very minor assistance and not just turn children away. Our Committee felt that a proportion of the money donated should be used to establish this Fund and there is the possibility that a school in England might take this up as an on-going project so that what we have helped to initiate would go on being of benefit to the less fortunate teenagers in Nepal.

There are three Children's Homes under the title of Balmandir. The main building is at Naxal and houses 200 girls from birth to 16 years old. Two other homes are for boys - one in Kathmandu for 100 boys and the other 45 Km away housing 200 older boys. All three are run by the Nepal Children's Organisation and receive their funds from sponsorship (e.g. Save the Children Fund), a government grant and some internal Nepalese resources including gifts and support from the Nepalese Royal Family. The patron of Balmandir is His Royal Highness Prince Gyanendra.

Many of our members know the Balmandir at Naxal and speak highly of the splendid work being done there albeit on a shoestring. It is in an old Palace very much in need of repair and redecoration and with quite inadequate kitchen quarters. It is run on a very tight budget with very basic food and care. However, no child is turned away - some are orphans, some abandoned by their family or a single parent unable to support them - sometimes tiny babies are just left on the doorstep.

Miss Kedar Shrestha, who is Housemother for the 200 girls, came to England recently to take the Women's Council course in Practical Child Care. She is back there trying against heavy odds to put her up-to-date knowledge to use in the Orphanage, trying to organise, amongst other things, training for the Ayahs who look after the youngest children, educational play groups for the pre-school children and evening talks for the bigger girls preparing them for leaving the protection of the Home at 16 years. Kedar sees as a most important need, sponsors for the children to give them something of the family touch. Kedar says, 'I hope to set a model for all Children's Homes in my country'.

It is most satisfying that the Britain-Nepal Society is contributing to that very worthy aim.

Myrtle Ross



THE DUKE COMES TO SUPPER

Diligent readers of The Times and of the Court and Social Columns in particular will not have missed this tersely worded item: "The Duke of Edinburgh will attend the annual Nepali Supper at New Zealand House on February 24". It sounded like an order! But for the Britain-Nepal Society who host this annual event this official confirmation of the Royal engagement was a cause of much joy and relief.

During the Royal Visit to Nepal His Royal Highness had been entertained by our sister Society, the Nepal-Britain Society, in Kathmandu. It was now to be our turn in London.

Thanks to the acting New Zealand High Commissioner, Mr. Munn, and his staff, plans were already quite far advanced when the official announcement was made. Members of the Society involved in the arrangements received every possible help. Anticipating a very full attendance of members and guests the maximum amount of space was made available consistent with strict security.

Mr. Manandhar and his team from the Natraj Restaurant promised catering of the highest standard, the Royal Nepalese Embassy offered a generous gift of wine and the committee readily accepted a sharing out of many extra duties.

Applications to attend soon exceeded the maximum number that could be allowed and some disappointment was inevitable; as also on the day itself when His Royal Highness spent a considerable time talking to members and guests before supper but not everyone in our very crowded space, despite much careful grouping, could be presented. Former ambassadors were duly presented and happily also the British Ambassador designate who was able to be present with Mrs. Burges Watson. The Duke then moved about talking to as many as possible - famous mountaineers, senior members of the Society, names well known in the Society and far and wide outside it, names deserving so to be known.

The progress to the dining room was carried out without the least confusion and soon over three hundred happy people were seated at tables decorated in red and white and adorned with flowers presented, as in previous years, by Mr. Anthony Wieler from his private nursery. The big table filled up without a hitch also and supper which had been brought to New Zealand House already prepared and kept warm in specially hired ovens began to be served in style. Security was not forgotten though completely unobtrusive as always on these occasions. Chief Inspector Robinson was observed to be enjoying himself as much as anybody while doubtless keeping a watchful eye on the proceedings. Mr. Brian McGrath, Private Secretary, had had a long and tiring day, as had His Royal Highness, but his spirits seemed rapidly to revive.

After an exotic and quite delightful sweet had been taken, a deep-toned bell was heard to ring in a curiously unhurried manner and a voice informed the now attentive gathering that the bell they had heard was an elephant bell politely requesting silence for the loyal toasts. A moment's laughter and our President Sir George Bishop rose to give the usual two loyal toasts - Her Majesty The Queen and His Majesty The King of Nepal.

A few moments later Mr. President was on his feet again to address the gathering.

After welcoming words to the large number of members and guests present, over three hundred, Sir George read out the message of loyal greetings that had been sent to Buckingham Palace and Her Majesty's gracious reply. Her Majesty had wished the Society a very enjoyable evening and Sir George commented that nothing

could ensure a most enjoyable evening better than the presence of His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh, patron since 1961 of the Nepal-Britain Society, "our sister society in Kathmandu". He then read out a message received that day from the sister society sending warm greetings and best wishes for a customary happy evening.

Sir George referred to the long standing personal friendship between the two Royal families and the vital contribution this made to fostering good relations between the peoples of Britain and Nepal. Many members of the Society had their own particular links with Nepal. He mentioned specially Miss Dorothy Ross who had been a World Health consultant on nursing to Nepal for ten years and had started the first government school of nursing. She organised the courses, set up the Nepali Nursing Council, recruited the trainee nurses and served the school until it became part of the University of Kathmandu. A splendid contribution! Then there were the mountaineers, trekkers, business men, bankers, all represented in the Society, a lively and not a declining one, with many young representatives, and all that experience and knowledge and goodwill could be mobilized to support the aims of Nepal in its developing role.

It was a great delight for all present to have with them His Excellency the Ambassador of Nepal and his daughter Amita. His Excellency had given the Society solid support. There were words of welcome and thanks for the Minister from the New Zealand High Commission, Mr. Munn, to whom the Society was indebted for all the arrangements which enabled them to have their supper again in such a very agreeable and convenient atmosphere. Besides four former British Ambassadors there were present Mr Burges Watson and his wife. Mr. Burges Watson was due to fly to Kathmandu very soon as British Ambassador designate to present his credentials. It was a very special pleasure to welcome Major General Garry Johnson who in August would take up his appointment as Commander British Forces Hong Kong and Major General Brigade of Gurkhas. Sir George referred to the imminent departure of Mr. Prabal Rana and his wife Shanti who had been such faithful friends of the Society. Mr. Rana was due to take up another appointment and the good wishes of the Society went with him and his family. Tourism was a subject in which Mr. Rana had taken a good deal of interest and in the twenty-five years since the Society was born the number of tourists had increased from 4,000 to 200,000.

He wanted most of all to give a very special welcome to the principal guest, His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, whose affection for Nepal was well known and who had a number of close links with that country apart from being Patron of the Nepal-Britain Society. In 1959 the 7th Gurkha Rifles had been honoured by The Queen when she gave them the title of Duke of Edinburgh's Own. He was also patron of The Mount Everest Foundation, a joint committee of the Royal Geographical Society and the Alpine Club. In addition His Royal Highness had recently agreed to be Patron of the British Joint Services Expedition which would attempt Everest by a completely new route, a combination of a route from the north and the traditional route from Nepal. Colonel Streather, President of the Army Mountaineering Association, was present as a member of the Society, and Sir George expressed the best wishes of the Society for a most successful expedition.

But it was His Royal Highness's concern for conservation as the International President for the World Wildlife Fund which gave such an added interest for him in Nepal. He quoted from a recent statement by His Royal Highness:

"On recent performance it is a bit discouraging to think that the future of our planet and the chances of survival of life lie in the hands of those of us alive today. If we do not understand what we are doing to the earth we will not be able to prevent it being



Miss Amita Pandey in conversation with Mr Neil Thorne MP, Chairman of the Anglo-Nepalese Parliamentary Group, and Mr. Brian McGrath, Private Secretary to His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh



The new British Ambassador to Nepal, Mr Burges Watson with Mrs Burges Watson meets members of the Society

destroyed. And in no country is conservation more important than Nepal."

When Prince Gyanendra, the Patron of the Society, had sought its support for the King Mahendra Trust, the response had been immediate. Sir Arthur Norman, present at the supper, had taken charge of the United Kingdom Committee of the Trust. He and his Committee had already raised a large sum for a most imaginative scheme to safeguard the Annapurna region. So Nepal continued to need much help. He was glad that among those present was the Chairman of the Anglo-Nepalese Parliamentary Group, Mr. Neil Thorne. He would appreciate how generous the Overseas Development Administration had been recently in providing for our excellent five year project, the Kosi Hills Agricultural Project and nearly a million of the money would go to forestry development in that region of East Nepal up the Arun valley.

He gave assurance that the Society would do everything in its power to support preservation of the unique and beautiful environment of Nepal. With that pledge he called upon the company to rise and drink the health of His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh.

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh: Speech Given at the Annual Nepali Supper, New Zealand House, Haymarket on 24th February 1987

Thank you very much for your welcome and for drinking my health, I feel better already. Not, I may say, that I felt all that badly before but it's always good to have a boost. In mentioning my connections with Nepal, you said that the Queen had approved the designation of the 7th Gurkhas as The Duke of Edinburgh's Own, but I am never quite sure whether it was this Duke of Edinburgh or the last one. They do wear my cypher but I have never had any formal relation with them, strangely as it may seem. I go and see them occasionally and I gave them a pipe banner, but I'm not their Colonel in Chief or anything of that sort; so we have a very pleasant but rather a modern relationship if you know what I mean.

You mentioned that I am President of the Mount Everest Foundation - I'm just wondering when they're going to change its name to the Sagarmatha Foundation. And you mentioned WWF, it's much easier to say WWF rather than "World Wildlife Fund". We've now changed it to the "World Wide Fund for Nature". Oddly enough the reason for this is that in every language except English it's the only way you can put it; so we decided we had better follow all the others. But that doesn't apply to the Anglophone WWF's who continue to call it "The World Wildlife Fund" just to make it absolutely clear to everybody!

Almost exactly a year ago the members and guests of the Britain-Nepal Society were enjoying the annual supper here in New Zealand House. As you all know, this took place while the Queen and I were enjoying the friendship and generous hospitality of the King and Queen of Nepal in Kathmandu.

With all respect to the Britain-Nepal Society, I strongly suspect that everyone who attended last year's party would rather have been with us, and not just because of the weather in Nepal at this time of the year.

Sadly, none of us can be in Nepal this time, but I am delighted to be reminded of the occasion as your guest, and to have the chance to tell you how much pleasure it gave us to re-visit Nepal after 25 years.

As far as I know, visits between Heads of State are arranged in the hope of establishing, or, in some cases, of improving, relations between two countries. I am also lead to believe that inter-nation societies, such as the Britain-Nepal Society, are intended to encourage friendly relations between the people of the

two countries.

If that is the case, all I can say is, that both our State Visit and the Britain-Nepal Society are a complete waste of time. I think it is evident to us all that it would be wholly impossible to improve either the formal or the personal relations between Britain and Nepal.

For some reason, which I have never been able to understand, there are many people in this country, including a number in the media, who seem to believe that the Queen and I only go abroad for a holiday. They ought to try the programme for one of our visits and see whether it matches up with their idea of a holiday.

However, I must admit that one of the very few official visits abroad that genuinely qualified as a holiday, was our visit to Nepal last year.

As for Britain and Nepal needing any such thing as a society to encourage friendship between them; the idea is laughable. It must be evident to everyone that there is nothing even the most enthusiastic society could do to improve relations between the two countries. What this society can, and does, do very well indeed, is to bring friends together to enjoy each other's company.

The mutual admiration and friendship is simply a matter of fact, I don't think it can be improved and I doubt it can be impaired - provided, of course, we don't play football against each other.

I believe that one of the factors which particularly attracts British admiration, is the very determined efforts that Nepal has made to conserve its unique and beautiful natural environment and wildlife.

That may not sound very dramatic, but the fact is that circumstances have made it far from easy to introduce effective conservation policies. For one thing, the human population has doubled since 1952, from about 8 to 16½ million, and it is still growing at about 2½% a year.

This has resulted in a reduction of the forest areas from 45% of the land area in 1961, to 37.5% in 1985. In roughly the same period, the area under cultivation has increased from 1.9 M hectares, to 2.6 M. This is in spite of the proportion of the urban population increasing from just under 3% to nearly 6½%.

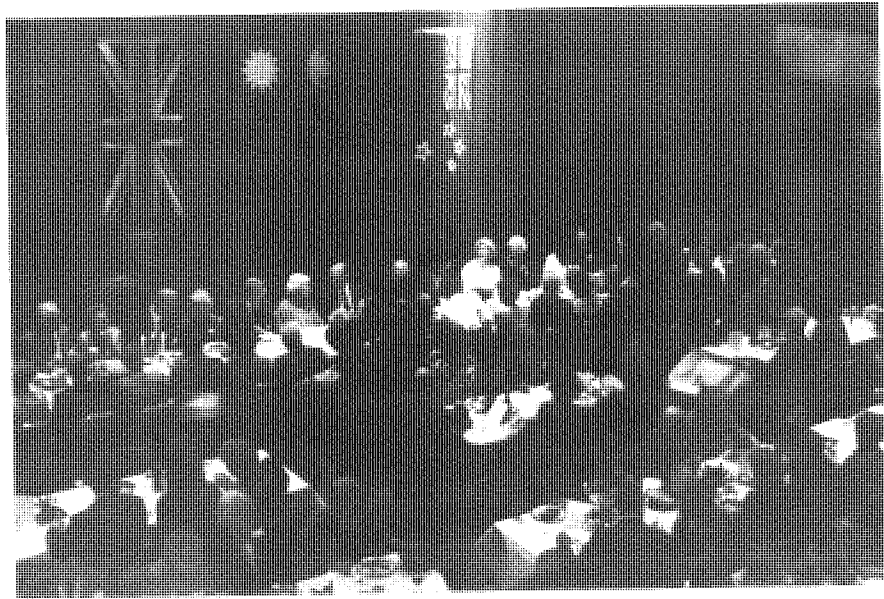
As anyone familiar with the topography of Nepal will appreciate, this has meant a very significant increase in the terracing of steep hillsides and the inevitable erosion of soil and silting of the rivers.

It is against that background that you have to judge the establishment of 12 National Parks and Reserves during the 1970s. Between them these protected areas cover some 7.4% of the total land area of the country, considerably more than most countries. Incidentally, those figures do not include the latest, and I believe the biggest, national Park of Annapurna.

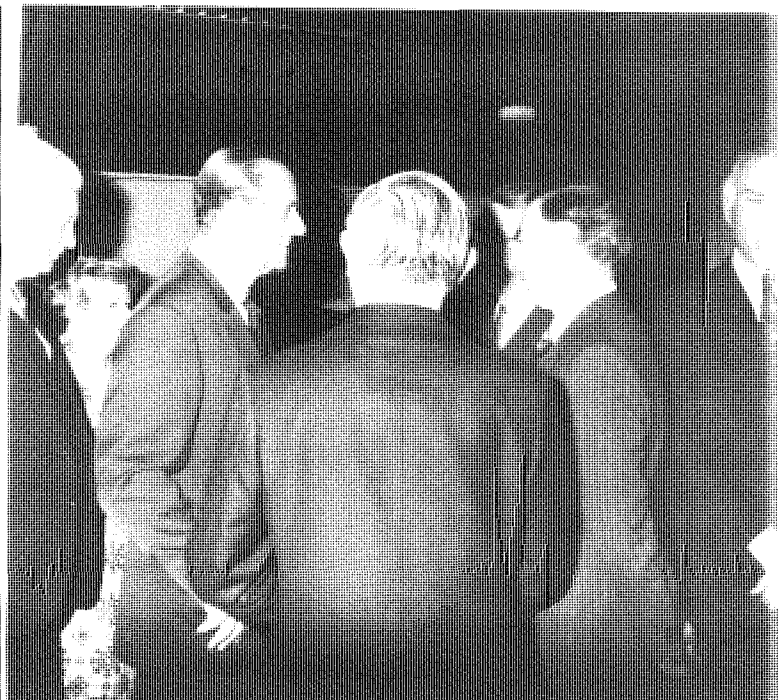
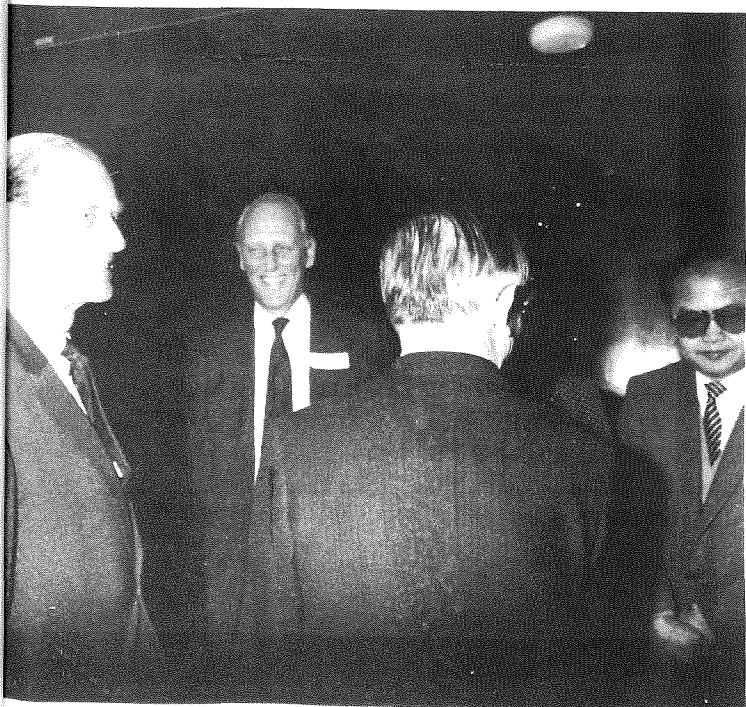
I am afraid I have to say that the declaration of a National Park in many countries means little more than a line on the map. This is not the case in Nepal, where a National Park is given the management and protection from human encroachment that such areas need in these days of population pressures and highly organised poaching. I visited the Royal Chitwan National Park where I found that a complete battalion of the Army was engaged in providing for its security.

It is very easy for the affluent nations to agitate for better nature conservation. The trouble is that it is often those countries which are blessed with the richest

NEW ZEALAND HOUSE NEPALI SUPPER:



SOME UNCAPTIONED GLIMPSES



natural heritage that are least able to afford to provide for its adequate conservation.

I am sure that it won't come as a surprise to any of you when I say that this is precisely the significance of the King Mahendra UK Trust. If friendship means anything, it means helping those who help themselves. Nepal is making a quite exceptional effort to conserve what is left of its natural heritage and resources, I believe that these efforts deserve our help and support.

And so ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to ask you all to join me in a toast to the Britain-Nepal Society and hope that it will continue for many years with its excellent work. Britain-Nepal Society! (Speech concluded.)

The third speaker for the evening was His Excellency the Nepalese Ambassador and as usual his speech recalls his keen interest in the affairs of the Society and his awareness of its importance.

H.E. Ishwari Raj Pandey

"Your Royal Highness, Mr. President, Excellencies, members of the Britain-Nepal Society, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is a matter of great joy for me to be here this evening amidst the friends of Nepal. We are all honoured to have Your Royal Highness here tonight. We are also happy to see so many past and present British Ambassadors and the British delegate to Nepal here this evening. It is gratifying to know that all ex-British ambassadors to Nepal join the Society. Your Royal Highness, the Nepal-Britain Society proudly prizes your august patronage, your keen desire to enhance Britain-Nepal friendship in many fields, and your evident understanding of the needs and aspirations of Nepal. You also rightly pointed out that we had the advantages of loyal and cordial friendly relations and that those relations within the two Royal Families add a further dimension. All of us in Nepal can recall the visits of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and Your Royal Highness in 1961 and the second one last year in 1986. The treks that hundreds of Nepalese people took for more than ten days from remote areas of Nepal to catch a glimpse of the Royal visitors in Kathmandu, speak for the relations between us. The visit sealed the ties that lasted for over 170 years between our two peoples. In a world so full of strife, our friendship shines like a beacon of hope. Long may it continue. The Royal visit to the Royal Chitwan National Park of Nepal to view some of the results of nature conservation was a matter of great encouragement to us all. We all in Nepal were highly impressed to see how positively you reacted to research activities in the Royal Chitwan National Park and your keen interest in the captive breeding of Garial crocodiles, in chemical immobilisation and radio contacting of a rhino. You also so graciously consented for the rhino to be named "Philip".

Last year Your Royal Highness, as the International President of the Royal Wildlife Fund said, and I quote:

"You cannot think of a better way to highlight Royal Wildlife's quarter century of commitment to conservation than Nepal's new conservation Project Annapurna. Nepal's latest conservation initiative reflects the goal of this year's campaign, training and education."

Your support and endorsement of the Annapurna conservation project has been highly appreciated by us all. Here in London, the King Mahendra UK Trust initiated a Nepali cultural evening to raise funds for the project. Many members of the Britain-Nepal Society lent their support to make the evening a success.

We started very late in the process of modernisation and in 1951 when we started

to set our pace we were suddenly confronted by the lack of infrastructure in the development process. The irony at that junction is that every sector demanded priority. Challenges such as hunger, disease and lack of basic human needs, on one hand, and bringing about a delicate balance between them and the prevailing environment on the other were appearing. Nepal not only is one of the least developed among developing countries. The environmental problems are staggering. Population growth, as His Royal Highness just now mentioned, is one of the highest in the world and two-thirds of the population live in climatically unfriendly terrain, where only one-third of the food necessary is produced. The loss of irreplaceable trees and other plant community and the wildlife they support started appearing in Nepal's natural heritage, a land of unique ecological contrasts, whose altitude varies from less than 100 metres above sea level to 8,848 metres within a north-south span of about 200 kilometres. Four rivers with over 6,000 tributaries are creating soil erosion caused by rapid de-forestation. These rivers carry away 240 million cubic metres of Nepal's precious soils into the Bay of Bengal. The realisation of the need for emergency action for the deteriorating situation came up and was addressed by the nature conservation conceived by King Mahendra, resulting in the creation of the King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation in 1982. His Majesty The King himself is the patron of the Trust and his brother, His Royal Highness Prince Gyanendra was appointed as Chairman. Since 1973, twelve national park reserves representing 7.43% of the total area of Nepal have been established, besides the Trusts have undertaken more than 20 projects during the last three years. Presently the Trust has three external chapters: UK committee, USA committee and Japan committee. UK committee is headed by Sir Arthur Norman who is with us tonight, and under whose guidance significant achievements have already come into sight.

Your Royal Highness, I feel no contradiction when I say the Britain-Nepal Society is one of the most spontaneous and active societies in Britain. Twenty-seven years ago this Society was born and nurtured by the dedication and energy of the founding members, some of whom are around us this evening. The Society heralded the advent of its maturity by celebrating its silver jubilee in October 1985. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and His Royal Highness Prince Gyanendra graced the occasion, the happy memory of which shall linger for all time to come.

Mr. President, we in Nepal are grateful to the Britain-Nepal Society not only for promoting and strengthening friendly relations between people of our two countries, but also for being a friend and being a friend in need. The Britain-Nepal Society has helped us with many projects. The Gurkha Welfare Appeal and last year The King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation are examples of how alive is the Society to the cause of Nepal and the Nepalese people. This evening is yet another significant landmark in the history of Britain-Nepal friendship which is naturally a matter of gratification to a Nepalese ambassador. In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation to you, Mr. President and the members of the committee for inviting me and my daughter and for your kind words about us and allowing me to speak a few words this evening."

.....

Our Royal guest had clearly enjoyed the evening but he had had a long and tiring day; so punctually at the time indicated in advance he took his leave and was accompanied to his car by Sir George and Lady Bishop. The evening continued as happily as ever on these occasions, and for as long as time allowed.

MOUNTAINEERING IN THE HIMALAYAS

Lieutenant Colonel H R A Streater

(Alpine Club, 29 October 1986)

[Colonel Streater's talk at the Alpine Club covering some of his climbing experiences in the Himalayas was an informal one illustrated by numerous colour slides taken on various expeditions. It is not possible to reproduce the content and atmosphere of a slide lecture in a written article that makes it intelligible to those not seeing the pictures but a brief summary of the talk follows.]

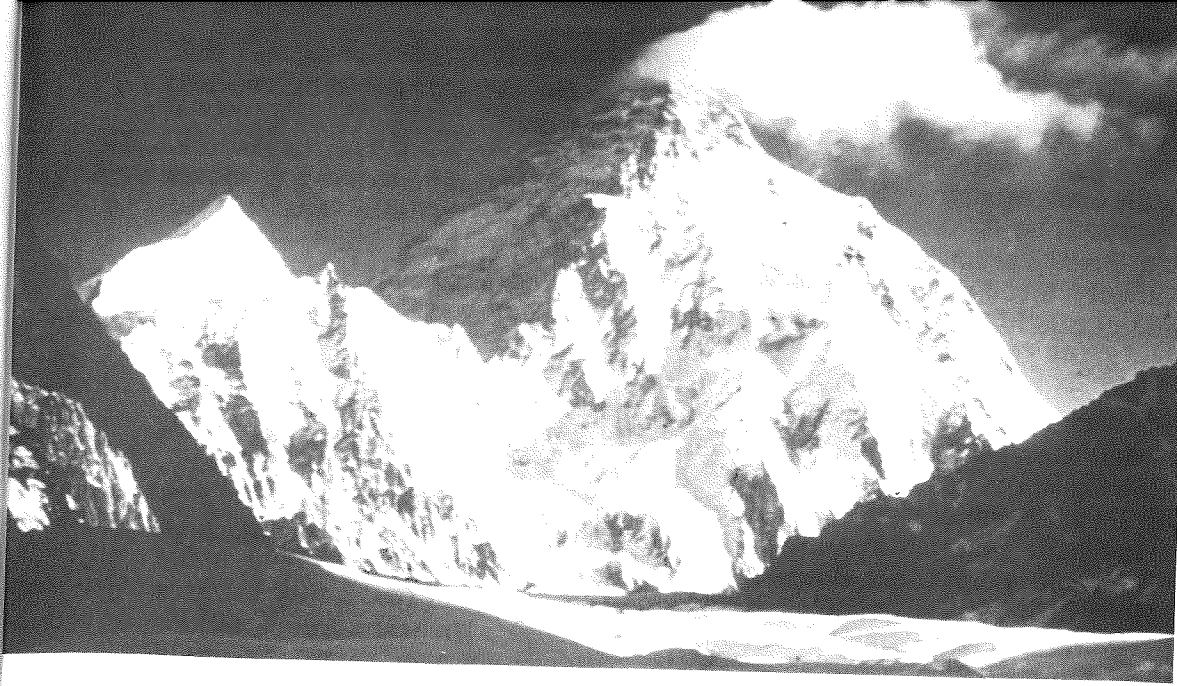
I was commissioned into the Indian Army towards the end of the war and spent several years on the North West Frontier of India, later Pakistan, serving with the Scouts. By 1950 I was the last British Officer serving 'north of the passes' in Chitral. That year a Norwegian party came to make an attempt on Tirich Mir, the impressive 25,000 ft mountain, the highest in the Hindu Kush, that looked down on us from further up the valley where we lived and worked.

I was invited to join them as their interpreter and, at the same time, look after their transport arrangements and their local Porters on the mountain. Problems that the Norwegians had in persuading these Porters to carry to high camps unless I was with them, and sickness to one of the Norwegian party led to me joining the summit team and so being the first Englishman since before the war to reach the summit of a 25,000 ft mountain. This unexpected experience was to lead me to other great mountains in the years to come.

In 1953 I was asked to join the American party that was to attempt K2, the second highest mountain in the world, just a few hundred feet lower than Mount Everest. Recently there have been suggestions that the early survey was inaccurate and that it is in fact considerably higher than Everest! I doubt this. Anyway, we became a very close party of eight fit and well acclimatised climbers as we eventually established our high camp on a snow shoulder at a little over 25,000 ft. We had spent many weeks working our way up the mountain and were now in a strong position for a bid for the summit.

At this stage the weather turned against us and we were trapped by storms for ten days in our highest camp. During this time one of the team became seriously ill and we had no choice but to try to carry him down through the storm. Soon tragedy struck when a fall led to five of us being held by a brilliant belay by one of our team. In the recovery period which followed the fall, the sick climber whom we were trying to carry down was swept away in an avalanche. This was a delivery from an impossible situation for we were all already near exhaustion. But the remaining seven of us, still working as a very close team, were eventually able to reach the safety of our Base Camp several days later. As so often happens in the Himalayas, it was the bad spell of weather at such a crucial time which cheated us of possible success.

After K2 came an invitation in 1955 to join the British party that was to attempt Kangchenjunga. This was the world's third highest mountain and still unclimbed. K2 had been climbed by a large Italian expedition in 1954, following our route. We were to try the mountain from the South side and, as there had not been any serious attempts from this side before, our party was by way of a reconnaissance but we had the strength and back up to make an attempt on the summit if we should find a possible route. We had a serious setback when we arrived in Darjeeling. We heard that the Maharajah of Sikkim objected to our attempt to climb the mountain as his people considered it to be the home of a god. Our



K 2



KANGCHENJUNGA



TIRICH MIR

leader, Dr. Charles Evans, had to visit Gantok to negotiate and he agreed that we would go no further than was necessary to ensure the summit could be reached and, whatever happened, we would leave the top untrdden.

It was with this understanding that we set off to the mountain to have a closer look at the South face. After a few false starts we found a route that took us to the "Great Shelf", a long hanging glacier nearly a mile long which led from 23,000 ft to about 25,500 ft across the face. It was from here that we were able later to establish our higher camps and make our plans for our final push towards the summit.

The first pair was to be Joe Brown, probably the greatest of all rock climbers of that time, and George Band who had been on the Everest expedition two years earlier. Following them, as support and to make a second attempt if necessary, were Norman Hardie, our New Zealand member, and myself. As Joe and George set off from the high camp, Norman and I moved up to replace them - the plan being that we would help them down if necessary; otherwise they could make their way straight to the lower camp. If they had been unable to find a way towards the summit, we would make a second attempt next day. We were aware of our promise to the people of Sikkim but it was still not clear whether or not we would be able to find a way along the rocky summit ridge which led towards the summit.

It was late in the evening that they returned to the single tent which formed the high camp and we heard the great news that they had been to a point not far from the summit. The summit itself they left untrdden.

However, there were now more pressing things to deal with. Norman and I had to remain at Camp 6 to help them down if they should be in trouble but it was now late evening and rapidly getting dark and there could be no question of going down further that night. Anyway, they had had enough for one day and must rest. Somehow all four of us had to squeeze into the single tent and spend the night as best we could.

We heard all about their climb and discussed plans for next day. They had had a fine climb and Joe had at last come into his own. Most of the route so far had been on snow and ice and a lot of time had been spent plodding through the snow between camps to work our stores, including quite a lot of oxygen, up the mountain. Joe had not altogether relished this but here on the summit ridge at over 28,000 ft was some good rock climbing. Joe was in his element at last! There had been a nasty rock chimney quite near the summit which had been a particular challenge.

We talked about going down with them next morning but they insisted that, after the rest, they could manage well on their own. We would make a second attempt.

Joe pulled our legs about the final crack and, as neither Norman nor I were great rock climbers, he doubted if we would be able to manage this if we should get that high! When we reached the foot of the crack we didn't like the look of it at all and so Norman led off to the right to look for an alternative. Soon he found a nice snow-ramp which we were able to climb without even taking off our crampons and we were at the point reached by the others the day before. The snow summit was some hundred feet above us but there was no temptation to go further. We had done what we set out to do. Sadly I fear others will have since ignored the feelings of the people of Sikkim but the mountain was not to be climbed again for many years.

Our return to Camp 6 was slow for we were short of oxygen. We were unable to reach Camp 5 that night as we had planned, but as we did approach that camp, in a very exhausted state, the following day, those two great mountaineers Charles

Evans, our leader, and Dawa Tenzing, our Sherpa Sirdar, came out to meet us and help us down the last few hundred feet. They had remained at Camp 5 throughout the two attempts and it was their support that had made success possible.

We heard sad news from them. One of our Sherpas, Pemi Dorje, had died at Base Camp during the time Norman and I were nearing the summit. He had literally worked himself to death on the carry to Camp 5 when he had gone beyond the limits of endurance to complete his task. He never recovered from this. The Sherpas who like the people of Sikkim are Buddhists were saying that the Gods of Kangchenjunga had after all made us pay the price for going so near the summit.

I have dwelt at more length on this expedition because it was such a successful and happy one. Just nine of us had set out on a reconnaissance of a new route. We had found a way and put two pairs within easy striking distance of the summit of the world's highest mountain. It was perhaps, in the broadest terms, one of the most successful Himalayan expeditions of all time. And of course Kangchenjunga and our route to it are in Nepal and that is the area of interest in this Society.

Later in the '50s were two further expeditions to the Karakoram mountains in Pakistan but it was not until 1976 that I was to return to Nepal; this time leading the Army expedition that was to attempt Everest. I had, for several years, been working on this expedition as Chairman of the planning committee but I had never intended to go myself. But sadly while I was away serving in the Far East the preparatory expedition for Everest had ended in tragedy with four of the Army's leading climbers being killed on Nuptse. It was because of this that I was brought in as leader - to add experience to the team and to release the younger members as potential summiters. I had no intention of trying to get there myself. I had been as high as I wished to go twenty-one years earlier.

We set out as a large party for we intended to do most of the carrying on the mountain ourselves. We employed only six Sherpas to work high on the mountain. This contrasted with about sixty who had been with the British party the previous autumn! We made a good start in establishing the route into the Western Cwm through the dreaded Ice Fall and soon had our Advanced Base Camp established at the foot of the Lhotse Face.

Just as we seemed to be making such good progress tragedy struck. Terry Thompson left his tent at Advanced Base and in the poor evening light, walked straight into a crevasse. He was already dead before we were able to lift him from the crevasse.

It took us a while to recover from this blow and to get up momentum again but by mid May we were poised to make our summit attempt. We had established a strong camp on the South Col and had high hopes of getting as many as ten climbers to the summit. The first pair were to be Bronco Lane and Brummie Stokes. They were in the high camp ready to try for the summit on 15th May but during the night of the 14th an unexpected storm blew up and there was no question of them moving as planned. To our relief the 16th dawned clear and they set off for the final climb.

The enforced day at the top camp had taken a lot out of them and they had to use some of their valuable oxygen during the extra night but they were still confident of being able to reach the summit. They hadn't been climbing for long before the weather started to deteriorate again but they were making good progress and so pressed on. They reached the summit in thick cloud and it was not until they started the descent that they realised they were in serious trouble. Fresh

snow on the rocks made progress very slow and they were unable to reach the high camp before dark.

By then the second summit pair, Big John and Pat, had moved up to the high camp and were waiting anxiously for the return of Bronco and Brummie. Those of us lower down the mountain were in touch with them by radio via the South Col. As darkness set in there was still no sign of them. They had either fallen or were spending the night in the open somewhere above 28,000 ft. We all turned in that night with heavy hearts and a prayer was said for the missing pair.

Fortunately next morning dawned fine and John and Pat were told to go on up and see if they could find what had become of Bronco and Brummie. Depending on what they found they were to make a bid for the summit themselves. Late in the morning news came down over the radio that they had found them. They were exhausted and frostbitten but were slowly helped back to the South Col. The efforts of all of us now went into getting them safely back to Base Camp and there could be no question of any further attempt on the summit.

So much for our hopes of putting ten climbers there. The weather had ensured that we didn't do this but at least our strength of numbers high on the mountain made it possible for the two who did reach the summit to survive. We had put the first two soldiers on the summit of Everest but they had paid a price.

On our way to Everest I had stayed briefly with Dawa Tenzing, our Kangchenjunga Sirdar, and I was sad at the condition in which I found him. His second wife had just died and he was living in very poor conditions. He was far too proud to accept any charity but we did persuade him that he had more than earned a pension for all he had done for expeditions over many years - going back to the Everest expedition of 1924 when Mallory and Irvine were lost. Many of his mountaineering friends clubbed together to pay him a small pension that would enable him to spend his later years free from financial worries.

When I returned to Nepal in 1978 with a large party of young people from Endeavour Training, a national youth organisation, I again stayed with Dawa. He had married yet again, was in great heart and much as he had been in the old days. This visit was part of the Jubilee celebrations of the first ascent of Everest in 1953. Groups of us trekked to Solo Khumbu from Kathmandu and Dharan on our way to visit Base Camp. We met up with Lord Hunt and some of his party in Namche Bazaar. This was a fun expedition for me as I was able to enjoy the country and its people without the worry and responsibility of the prospects of an attempt on a high mountain.

My last visit to Nepal was in 1985 with some of my family. We flew up to Lukla from Kathmandu and then on up to Namche Bazaar to stay with old Sherpa friends. I had much hoped to be able to introduce the family to Dawa but sadly he had died just a few months earlier. He must have been in his late seventies which is very old for a Sherpa.

He and his wife had been badly injured in 1983 while on a pilgrimage to India with a large party of Sherpas from Solo Khumbu. The bus in which they were returning to Kathmandu left the road and ploughed into a ravine. Thirty-two people were killed including one of his sons. He never fully recovered and spent his last years in Thyangboche sometimes in the Monastery or with his daughter Nisha Llamu who ran a tea house just opposite. We visited her on our way towards the Gokyo valley and had a happy day with her and her family but it was sad not to see Dawa again.

We went on up to about 18,000 ft above the lakes at Gokyo to gain a most wonderful

view of the great range of mountains with Everest standing highest in the centre. We got a clear view of the West Ridge which our Services Expedition plans to attempt next year. That view will be a lasting memory for me but my happiest one of Nepal will always be of the cheerful Sherpa people and particularly our dear old friend Dawa Tenzing.



SHERPA SIRDAR DAWA TENZING

A CHUNK OF CHEERFULNESS

A talk on Health Care in Nepal by Mary G. Eldridge MB BS FRCOG

(Alpine Club, 19 April 1987)

The Speaker is introduced by Miss Eunice R. Burton FRCS, FRCOG

Since I accepted Mrs. Brown's invitation to say a few words at this meeting several months ago, I have marvelled at my temerity, as many of you know more about Nepal than I - but, although diffident, I feel that I have an advantage, namely in having paid two visits to Nepal with a ten year interval between, late in 1975 and early in 1986; so the contrasts I noted stand out clearly.

You may wonder at our choice of title - "A Chunk of Cheerfulness" - which you will recognise as from the poem "To a Gurkha" to Wm. Ross Stuart, written in World War I, in which he pays tribute to the soldier's courage and loyalty, and especially his cheerfulness:

"When God first chose a Gurkha as a vessel of His own
He took a chunk of cheerfulness and laid on flesh and bone..."

And it was the cheerfulness of the people which particularly impressed me in 1975 where on my first visit I found the main hospital in Kathmandu was in Bir, and the Maternity Hospital at Thapathalli was only partly build and just opening, while the Mission Hospital at Shanta Bhawan was making a real contribution to the medical facilities. I had the privilege of operating at Shanta Bhawan one day when Mary was away and I was impressed by the high standard of the Nepalese nurses assisting me in Theatre - all trained by Mary and her colleagues. Now a large modern hospital at Patan (run jointly by Government and Mission staff) replaces Shanta Bhawan, and the Maternity Hospital is complete and delivering possibly ten thousand patients per year: such is progress that the beautiful flowerbeds I had photographed there in 1975 were by 1986 replaced by huts housing sterile equipment! Also, recently a new University Hospital has opened and a Medical School is training doctors, whereas previously Nepalese students had had to qualify in India or elsewhere.

And now I would like to pay tribute briefly to some of those responsible for this progress - in Maternal and Child Care, to Dr. Dibya Shree Malla, who many of you will have met when her husband was Military Attache here in London. I met Dibya first when she was a Post-graduate student at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School at Hammersmith Hospital and I a junior lecturer there, and I could not fail to be impressed by this outstanding girl attending my tutorial classes; so it is not surprising that when she became responsible for the Maternity Hospital in Kathmandu rapid progress was made. Now, representatives from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists have visited Kathmandu to assess the training posts for recognition for the Membership Examination: this means that young doctors can spend more of their training years in their own country, instead of in the UK, prior to taking specialist examinations here, thus devoting more of their time and talents to their own needy people. There is a real contribution that consultants here can make, in helping to train young doctors who will return home to take up positions of responsibility very soon - and since I left Hammersmith Hospital to become a consultant, two Nepalese girls have worked as my Senior House Officers, ultimately obtaining the MRCOG, and are now consultants themselves in Nepal.

The other person to whom I would like to pay tribute was Dr. Ruth Watson, who pioneered the Shining Hospital at Pokhara. In 1975 I visited Green Pastures at Pokhara and saw how she was able to restore some function to the grossly deformed limbs of leprosy patients and arrange their rehabilitation. Ruth specialised in Tendon Transplants, and shortly after my visit her work was recognised and honoured both in Nepal and here - she was granted an honorary FRCS of England, which is an honour rarely given and most of us only obtain this Fellowship by examination after years of study and hard work! Tragically, Ruth died soon after this, at the age of 50, of a cerebral tumour.

Mary herself will be too modest to tell you of the big contribution she too has made, but it was fitting that she was presented to the Queen and Prince Philip when they visited Nepal fifteen months ago, just prior to her retirement.

Now as one flies into Kathmandu, one sees the brick-kilns everywhere below, denoting the rapid expansion of the capital with its ring-road, University and Medical School, but the work of both Preventative Medicine and increasing technical skills in Medicine and Surgery is also expanding, and Mary will now tell us about the things for which we can feel cheerful and also present the challenge of the tasks still needing to be done....

Dr. Mary Eldridge FRCOG

When the World Health Organisation issued its challenge "Health for all by the year 2000", it was aiming for the highest. So the first picture to be shown is just that - Mount Everest. It is a long and arduous climb from the present state of health in any nation to reach that goal. Nevertheless the prospect is exciting and the journey exhilarating.

Health for all means health for the city dweller in Kathmandu where sophisticated young people on motor bikes ride through less than hygienic streets and refuse rots in the vegetable market. It means health during the dry season or the monsoon rain. It means health for people who live in remote villages in the hills and dwelling in simple homes unaware of the beauty of the poinsettia flowering in the back garden because their energies are concentrated on subsistence farming. It means health for the vulnerable group of under fives, the cheerful urchins growing up, the healthy little girl whose parents are chronically sick with leprosy and for young mothers - also the manual worker, for example a porter earning his livelihood by carrying heavy loads, the older woman and the smiling elderly man. All these people are seen as characteristically cheerful smiling folk.

Pictures of a wild primula and one of the many orchids found in Nepal illustrate the natural beauty of the land. But that too can easily be spoilt. And just as a caterpillar feeding on the leaves of an orchid can spoil its perfection so the natural cheerfulness of Nepali people is often spoilt by disease, much of it preventable. A young Rai boy suffers from night blindness because of vitamin deficiency. Goitre is endemic in the country because of a lack of iodine. Leprosy is still widespread causing clawed hands, amputated toes and the depressed bridge of the nose. Although a fair skin is desirable pallor can be due to severe anaemia caused by hookworm. Tuberculosis affects so many, not only pulmonary TB but TB of bone and joints, as well as abdominal TB and TB meningitis. There is treatment and two small boys of the same age present a striking contrast between the one who has received treatment and the one who has not. Many of the under fives suffer from malnutrition and an illness on top of that may well be fatal. Rabies is an invariably fatal disease and there are mad dogs still in Nepal.

Many eye problems are seen too. The simple problem of a foreign body in the eye, if neglected, can lead to blindness. Bilateral cataract in a young woman may be a congenital condition; there are many of the older generation who are blinded by cataract too.

One of the highest signposts in the world directs us to such places as Pheriche and Mount Everest. So in what direction is Nepal going in her efforts to reach the goal of health for all?

First of all there are the hospitals. Unfortunately not all are illustrated in this talk but it is noticeable that Kathmandu is well supplied with hospitals. The original Bir Hospital has been greatly extended and has a bright new facade. In Kathmandu too there is Prasuti Griha (alias Thapathali) a maternity hospital with some 9,000 deliveries a year. The Kanti children's hospital is always busy and Shanta Bhawan, one of the first two hospitals started by the United Mission to Nepal, has transferred to Patan, a hospital run jointly by HMG Nepal and UMN. A chart showing some of Shanta Bhawan hospital statistics would be equally true of any hospital in the capital as the number of out-patients, in patients, operations and deliveries increases annually. The Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital built by the Japanese is increasingly popular and provides an excellent service.

It is the aim of the government to provide district and zonal hospitals throughout the country but the basic health care and referral of patients will always be the responsibility of health workers in the periphery. The numbers of health posts increased by more than 200 in the period 1979 to 1983 and health workers continue to receive basic and further health training.

The difficulties of communication are well known and transport of patients may be by bus, or basket. Crossing a river can be hazardous and where there are no bridges a swing may be used. For the fortunate there is air travel and a Pilatus Porter or Twin Otter may bring the patient for medical care. A few years ago the British Combined Forces Expedition explored the possibility of using a river rover on the Kali Gandaki. The hope was for a mobile medical team to reach some of the remote villages in this way. Sadly there were too many boulders in the river and the skirt of the vessel was too often torn for it to be practical in Nepal. And so the hill ambulances continue, the stretcher, the dholi and the strong back of a healthy relative.

There will always be the accident cases. There are many young people who climb trees to get fodder for their goats and fall. The result is life-long paralysis. The emergency hospital at T.U.T.H. is excellent - if you can get there! And to help in rehabilitation Britain supplied a gift of wheelchairs.

A cartoon depicts a steep cliff. At the bottom is the ambulance waiting to pick up the one who falls from the top. Wouldn't it be better to construct some guard rails to prevent a fall? For "Prevention is better than cure" and there are so many preventable diseases in Nepal. Smallpox has now been eradicated from the country. Work on developing a vaccine against leprosy gives hope for the future.

And so the community health programme is a very important feature of Nepal's health care. From birth a road to health chart records the height and weight of a child. The measurement of arm circumference provides a guide to malnutrition. There are immunisation programmes and instruction in family planning. Education on the right foods to eat is promoted at all levels.

In Nepal education is prized. Kathmandu schools are relatively sophisticated

and occasions such as the Queen of Nepal's birthday may be marked by a polished display in the stadium. It may take an hour or more to get to school in the rural areas where there is often little equipment. No matter - the children seem eager to learn and a little girl concentrates hard on doing her homework in the village street. Education however is primarily for the boys.

In homes village health workers seek to teach a family and an Assistant Health Midwife has a great opportunity to follow up a home delivery. Flash cards are used to promote hygiene and some more teaching about food is a priority.

The harvests in Kathmandu and Pokhara valleys are still plentiful but in the hills where the hard work of terracing fields has to be done one of the great needs is a water supply. There are aid programmes engaged in providing a water supply through water pipes that may be carried many miles in the hills. Water for crops and safe drinking water through taps or stored in covered concrete tanks are as much a part of health care as an immunisation programme. And so too are the reforestation programmes to prevent further soil erosion. In the central hilly region of Nepal appalling evidence of erosion is seen.

Who is going to promote the health of Nepal? A WHO poster proclaims "Today's healthy child is tomorrow's wealth". A family planning one pictures a Nepali family, mother, father and two children, a boy and a girl. "The small family is the happy family" it announces. Certainly visual aids are used throughout the country. But it is through dedicated health professionals that the main thrust will come.

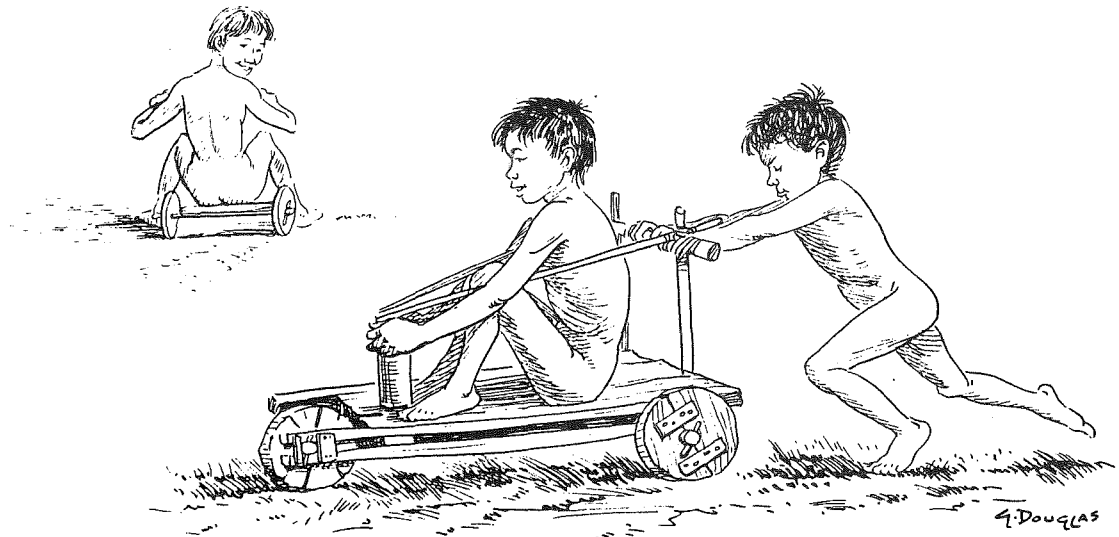
In the past there have been many from overseas who have given help. Just two are mentioned; the late Dr. Bethel Fleming started the United Mission to Nepal and the late Dr. Ruth Watson, known throughout Nepal as Kanchi Doctor, spent years in the country seeking to meet health needs. Over the years nurses have received training, at first to obtain a state registered certificate now qualifying with a Diploma from the Institute of Medicine. Post graduate courses in nursing are available and a new nurse campus at Maharajgang was opened in 1986. Radiographers, pharmacists and laboratory technicians continue to be trained in the country. But the backbone of health care in Nepal will always be the Health Assistant. These are the young men and women who are trained to work in rural areas and bear great responsibility in curative but more especially preventive medicine. Of recent years the more senior of these workers had opportunity to gain a diploma in medicine in Kathmandu. This is now an M.B.B.S. qualification geared to the needs of the country.

And so the situation at present demonstrates co-operation between foreign aid and government. There are well trained first class Nepali medicals such as Dr. D. S. Malla, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Institute of Medicine. She like many Nepali doctors has returned to her country after post graduate training overseas. Alongside them are expatriate doctors helping with training programmes.

The need for trained nurses is partially met by those trained in Kathmandu and Pokhara but a shortage of nurses is universal. AMNs continue to be trained and there will be more health assistants in the future - perhaps the healthy cheerful children of today.

I close with two examples of perfection in nature. An orchid demonstrates this beauty of perfection found in more sheltered remote parts of Nepal. But in towns and villages as well as countryside is the ubiquitous "crown of thorns" with its brilliant red flower and its vicious thorns.

It was because of another crown of thorns that I ever found myself in Nepal. For I like to think that it was because as a medical student I read the words "Freely you have received, freely give." Those words gave me the motive for working in the third world. May I just say that in Nepal I received far more than I could even hope to give. Thank you.



THE BRITAIN NEPAL MEDICAL TRUST

Since Dr. John Cunningham led the first team of Britain-Nepal Medical Trust doctors and nurses to Nepal 20 years ago, the Trust has become, in the words of Sir John Crofton, the world-renowned authority on tuberculosis, "the most highly effective and most continuously effective foreign aid programme" he has seen in any developing country.

The Trust, under a formal agreement with His Majesty's Government, provides tuberculosis and leprosy control and other services, in the Eastern Hills. Team members work at the grass roots, and live alongside the people they serve. Plans are put forward to the Nepalese authorities and programmes which accord with their priorities, are agreed. This close and happy co-operation with Nepali officials at all levels is the firm foundation on which the Trust's work rests.

The Trust maintains clinics and hostels at eight Hill District Centres. Patients found to have TB are admitted to the adjacent BNMT hostel for one month, during which they receive a course of injections. Thereafter, they return to their homes armed with their second line of treatment - pills. Many begin to feel better and stop taking their pills, so the Trust employs "Default-chasers" to reduce the defaulter rate.

About one patient in two is cured. Given the conditions and circumstances in the 50,000 square mile hill area covered by the Trust this is no mean achievement.

One major problem arising from the opening of the Dharan-Dhankuta road, is the influx of TB from the Terai and even from India. Word of the Trust's TB work has spread far and wide and brings in many patients from outside its area thus making TB eradication virtually unachievable.

Each clinic was originally the responsibility of one expatriate doctor but now the Nepali staff have enough training and experience to run clinics on their own. They do so extremely well and so today one expatriate supervises two clinics.

BNMT staff also visit local government health posts, collecting sputum slides for diagnosis of TB suspects and generally advising and helping. For instance, the Trust runs short training courses for health post personnel from time to time.

The treatment of leprosy - a disease allied to TB - follows much the same lines. Surprisingly the incidence of leprosy in the Eastern Hills is comparatively low.

The Trust operates two other major programmes - the supply of drugs and the training of Community Health Leaders.

Drugs are supplied to some 25 retail shops in the area and sold under close supervision of the Trust at affordable prices and, of course, at no profit to the Trust. Thus common non-prescriptive remedies, such as aspirins or cough mixture are available to ordinary people. Other drugs prescribed by Nepali doctors are supplied to Government hospitals and health posts to supplement their official annual provision, which normally runs out several months before the year's end. To finance this patients are asked to pay a flat rate - at present about Rs5 - for each prescription. The resulting income is used to buy further drugs. Started in Bhojpur as a pilot self-financing project, with the enthusiastic co-operation of the local panchayat, public and patients, the scheme proved to be such a success that, at the request of the panchayats concerned, it is being extended at present to Taplejung and later to Tehrathum and Phidim. The whole drugs programme is managed by a Nepali employee, Mr. Ramesh Acharya.

The Trust's third major programme is the training of village Community Health Leaders. Under government regulations each ward (a village panchayat is divided into nine wards) has a Ward Health Committee which appoints a volunteer as Community Health Leader. He is given a free basic kit with medicines supplied by the Trust. Thereafter restocking is the responsibility of the Ward Health Committee. Training is given by BNMT Nepali employees, known as CHL Trainers.

At present the programme covers 63 wards from seven panchayats in Sankhua Sabha District. Training can only cover basic essentials, such as hygiene and first aid, the causes of disease, how it is passed on and so on. The building of latrines is taught and some wards can now boast that almost every house has a latrine. Another practical health improvement is the smokeless chulo, or home cooking stove. Smoke in chimney-less houses causes many health problems. The Trust has designed an effective, easy-to-construct, stove.

Up to last year CHLs were all men, but the Trust recognising that hygiene and health in the home depended largely on women, are now training female CHL cadres. The first step is to overcome the literacy problem. Women's literacy classes have proved extremely popular and highly successful. Trainees often walk long distances in the dark after a long day in the fields to spend hours bent over a work book, poorly lit by a "hurricane batti". Pride in their achievements leads to long discussions on diarrhoea, TB, smokeless chulos, family planning and other health problems.

The above is a brief description of the main activities of the Trust in Nepal. It is managed by a Chairman and Trustees in the UK, the majority of whom have

served with the team in Nepal, usually as Director. Other Trustees include experts on TB and representatives from Holland and Norway, from which countries the Trust receives substantial funds. The Trustees meet three or four times a year, with the Director attending the September meeting at which policy and future plans are considered. In the spring one of the Trustees visits the team, reporting back at the April Trustees' meeting. In this way close liaison is maintained with the team.

The Trust maintains a small office above Dr. Cunningham's surgery in Tonbridge, manned from 9-12 on weekdays. Communications with Nepal are by mail for routine matters, by Telex in Kathmandu for urgent matters and in case of emergency, by telephone to the Trust Headquarters in Biratnagar.

The team in Nepal consists at present of nine expatriate members and about 80 Nepali staff. The Director, Dr. Penny Dawson, is a Canadian, and the Deputy Director, Steve Leclercq, an American with great experience after 12 years in Nepal with the Peace Corps and BNMT. His knowledge of the people and his fluency in Nepali are invaluable. Of the Field Doctors, one is Dutch, another Canadian and three are British. The two CHL Co-ordinators are both British girls, ex-VSOs. The team will be joined in September by a Norwegian girl, seconded from the Norwegian Heart and Lung charity. So the Trust has become international with six countries involved!

Our Patrons include HRH The Prince of Wales and HRH Princess Helen Shah of Nepal. We consider ourselves very fortunate to be honoured in this way. Princess Helen takes a particular interest in the Trust and has visited the team at various places.

Other Patrons include Lord Hunt, the Society's former President, whose daughter served with the team in the early days, Chris Bonington and Sir John Crofton, the World authority on TB.

Substantial financial support from Holland and Norway has already been mentioned; other donors include Oxfam, Save the Children Fund and Christian Aid. Apart from individual covenants, and donations, we have over the last two years also received wonderful help amounting to over £20,000 from a large number of Rotary Clubs in Britain. We are immensely grateful to all who have contributed so generously. The scope, however, is enormous. There is so much more to do and with a budget of close on £400,000 to meet, we are always open to further donations. The office address is BNMT, 16 East Street, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1HG. Telephone: Tonbridge (0732) 360284. The Secretary will be glad to send information or an Annual Report on request and also leaflets for distribution to others who may be interested.

C.G.W.



GILT BRONZE FIGURE OF MAITREYA

NEPAL, 14th CENTURY

Height 10 inches

NOTES FROM LECTURE ON THE ART OF NEPAL

by Anthony N. A. Gardner

(Alpine Club, 27 May 1987)

If you rise very early in the morning and drive out of Kathmandu in the sunlight and up to the shrine at Budanilakanth, you will be affected by the magical sight of the great, 21 ft. long stone Vishnu reclining in a pool and being washed by his devoted attendants. The smell of the incense, the sound of the chanting and the magnificence and the sheer scale of the image make this an unforgettable experience.

But the image of this lord of the universe, lying on the coils of the serpent, Ananta, at the beginning of time, shows us the most important aspects of Nepalese art. These are very simple. Firstly Nepalese art is entirely inspired by and to do with the great religions which came to Nepal from India; Hinduism and Buddhism. The idea of art for art's sake simply does not exist. These two religions, which came to Nepal in the first centuries of the Christian era, were remarkably tolerant of each other and achieved considerable synthesis. Art in Nepal was and is the visual expression of the overriding preoccupation of all artists to create images of the Buddha and the Hindu gods for their patrons.

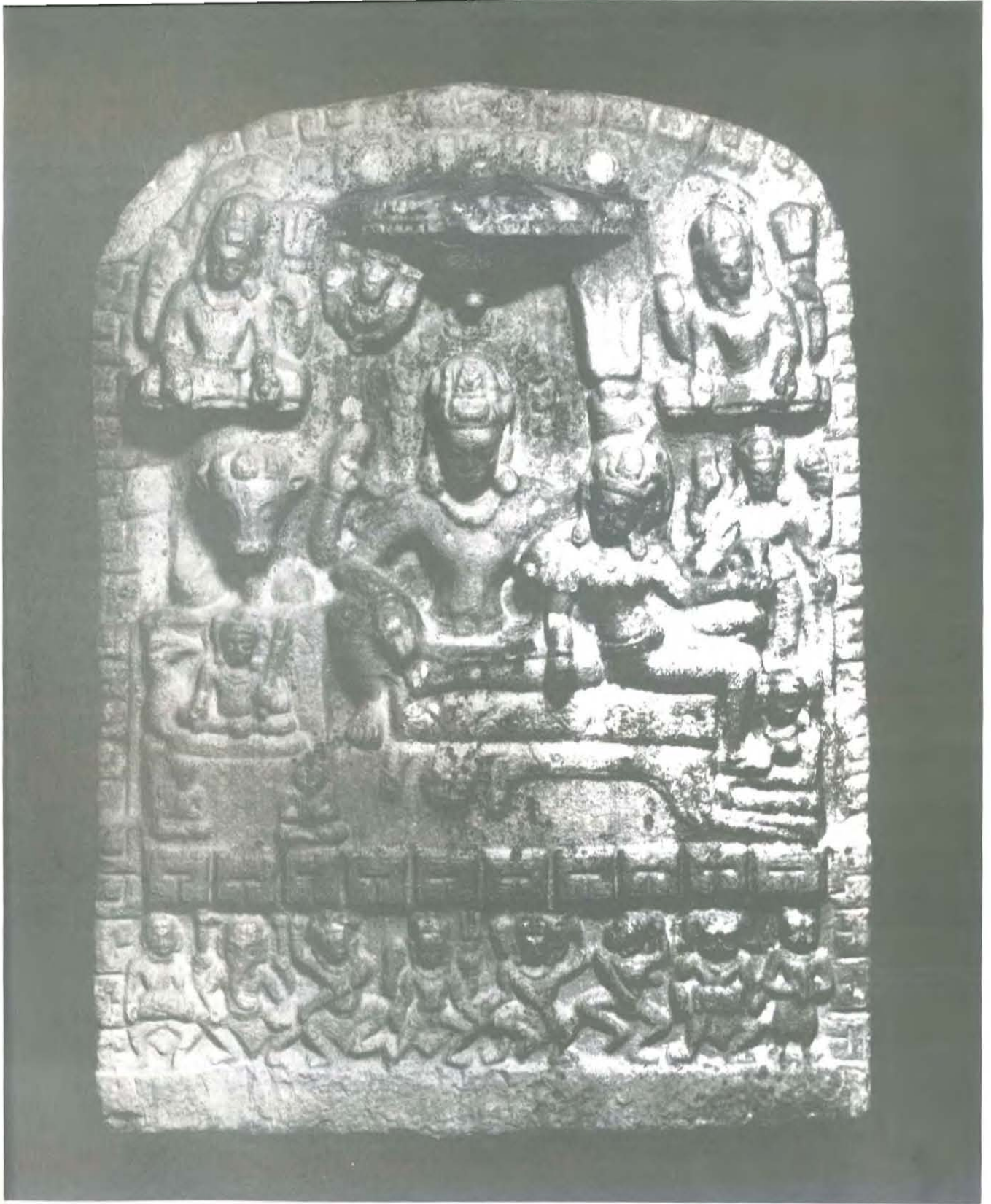
Secondly, classical Nepalese art is almost entirely confined to the Kathmandu Valley and, in particular, to the old capitals of Patan, Kathmandu and Bhaktipur, all of which are within twenty miles of each other. Thirdly, it was produced entirely by the original inhabitants of the valley, the Newaris.

Fourthly, the origin and pattern of almost all Nepalese art lies in Northern India and in the great empires of the Kushans and Guptas, who ruled India in the fifth and sixth centuries. Once Indian art styles were assimilated into Nepal and modified and in some cases glorified by Newari craftsmen and the canons of proportion for statues clearly defined, Nepalese art moves from simplicity to the Baroque and finally to stiff formalisation in the 18th and 19th centuries. However, the central idea of Nepalese art and its style has changed little since the 15th century and continues unchanged today. Nepal was an isolated land and there were no Muslim invasions.

It is a living art. The techniques and the style of Nepalese art have remained essentially unchanged in a thousand years and images today are the same as they always were. If an old image is damaged, religion demands that a new one takes its place and the old one is no longer worshipped. It is also a living art in that both Hinduism and Buddhism are actively pursued. Although Buddhism has been declining since the 15th century, it has been somewhat revived by the influx of Tibetans in recent years.

Hinduism centres around the triumverate of Vishnu, the preserver and lord of the universe, Siva, the destroyer, and Brahma, the creator. The most spectacular of all Vaisnite temple sites is Changu Narayan. It is not far from Kathmandu and the walk up to it, through paddy fields and up a steep hill is rewarded by exceptionally beautiful views. There, within the wooded temple complex, stand the finest examples of ninth century religious sculpture:

Vishnu with many arms and heads appearing on Ananta, Vishnu as lord of the world flying on his fantastic bird, Garuda, a magisterial figure of Garuda himself, and Vishnu as Narasimha, one of his many manifestations on earth, taking the form of a lion who tears out the entrails of a demon king. Vishnu is often shown with



**STONE STELE (UPRIGHT SLAB WITH SCULPTURE) OF UMA MAHESVARA,
NEPAL 9th CENTURY**

Height 27 inches, width 19 inches



STONE SEATED BUDDHA, NEPAL, 12th CENTURY

Height 18 inches

four arms holding the wheel of law, the conch trumpet which makes the primordial sound of the universe, the mace which banishes ignorance and the lotus seed of rebirth.

On either side of the river near Kathmandu lies Pasupatinath where Siva is worshipped and the Nepalese people come to cremate their dead. Siva takes many other forms, sometimes standing with a trident and a rosary, but always shown with a third eye in the centre of his forehead.

At Pasupatinath there is also a fine 9th century stele of Siva reclining on Mount Kailasa beside his beautiful wife, Uma, and supported by his sons Ganesha, the elephant headed god of wisdom and wealth, and Skanda Kartikkeya, the god of war, and their attendants.

In his awesome aspect as destroyer Siva can be seen in the Durbar Square in Kathmandu as the Kala (black) Bhairava with sword aloft and necklace of skulls.

Brahma, the third god of the trinity, is seldom seen in Nepal, but Indra, the old Lord of the Gods, is frequently found, particularly in the form of beautiful gilt bronze seated images. He is usually shown wearing a mitre-shaped crown and with a horizontal third eye in his forehead. Such metal images were made from the earliest times of copper solid cast and gilt, the gilding being applied by the process of fixing the gold on to the copper or bronze with mercury at high temperatures.

Other popular deities include Hanuman, the monkey god who assisted Rama (a manifestation of Vishnu) in his successful attempt to win back his wife, Sita, from the clutches of the evil demon, King Ravanna, who had abducted her to the island of Ceylon. The mother goddess cult in Nepal is strong in both Hinduism and Buddhism and there is a fine stele in the Los Angeles Museum of Maya, the mother of the Buddha, leaning against a mango tree in the Lumbine Gardens, and the young Buddha, who has just emerged from her side, standing beside her.

The idea of showing the Buddha, seated and wearing the robe of a monk, on a lotus throne with a circle of flames behind him, comes from the earliest representations of him at Mathura and Sarnath in India of the first to fifth centuries A.D. There are numerous marks which delineate the Buddha from other men, for instance the third eye on his forehead, his hair in snailshell curls and surmounted by the usnisa, which is a protuberance to his cranium to accommodate his vast brain.

His story is well known as the Prince who rejected privilege and wealth to become a preacher and the founder of Buddhism. Sometimes the Buddha is shown with the Bodhisattvas on either side. The Bodhisattvas were men who could have attained Buddhahood themselves but remained on earth to bring other mortals to Nirvana, or a state of bliss, and escape from the cycle of rebirth.

The Bodhisattvas; Avalokitesvara, Manjusri (who struck the rock and brought forth the waters of the River Bagmati), and Maitreya (who holds the bottle of the elixir of life) became of paramount importance to Nepalese Buddhism and are depicted in stone, wood, bronze and in the thankas or cloth paintings which were used to concentrate the worshippers attention. Later, from the thirteenth century onwards, both the Hindu gods and more often the Buddhist deities were shown in sexual union with their consorts, the male being the passive force in Hinduism and the female the active, and vice versa in Buddhism.

Female divinities were very important and Vasudhara, the Buddhist goddess of wealth and prosperity, is often found in gilt bronze, bejewelled and holding ears

of corn.

Buddhist places of worship are in the form of stupas or relic mounds surmounted by royal umbrellas (a reference to the Buddha's royal descent) and guarded by lions (his family's heraldic symbol). Much has been written about the origin or meaning of stupas, but they can be seen as an earth mountain or model of the world with the Buddha at the centre and the lower orders emanating outwards to the periphery. Seen from above they look like the mandala, or cosmic diagram used by initiates for meditation with the divinity in the middle and the guardians of each direction at the outer gates.

The Newars developed a unique temple architecture of tiered roof structures resembling square pagodas, each roof supported by highly carved struts. Sadly some of these temples have decayed and been pulled down. These struts are often in the form of gods and goddesses and the early ones at the Uku Bahal in Patan are amongst the finest of religious wood carvings.

The Kathmandu Valley is in itself a museum of great devotional art but although the Hanuman Dhoka Palace is now being restored, there is little money to spare for the maintenance and conservation of monuments and statues. There are, you will say, more important priorities for the Nepalese, but if you care about these things go and see these temples now and tell your grandchildren, because they may not survive much longer.

BOOK REVIEWS

ART OF NEPAL. A Catalogue of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art Collections by Pratapaditya Pal.

pp. 258. illus. in colour and black and white. 2 maps. University of California Press. 1985. £18.95

This handsome volume produced by the Los Angeles County Museum displays their numerous and varied acquisitions of Nepalese art. It is liberally illustrated, but the chief merit of this book is the text by the Curator, Dr. Pal, who gives extensive and detailed information into the sources and influences of Nepalese art and its form and function. The explanations accompanying each illustration are not only valuable but lucid, and will help even the uninitiated to appreciate the work of these ancient experts.

Most of the objects, both Hindu and Buddhist, were the creation of artists in the Kathmandu Valley embracing the old triple kingdoms of Kathmandu, Bhatgoan (Bhaktapur), and Patan (Lalitpur). Dr. Pal gives unstinted praise to the "skill and aesthetic sensibility" of the Newari craftsmen, and his admiration of their achievements should be gratifying to their descendants.

The Museum's most remarkable possessions are the artists' model books and the priests' manuals, which, writes Dr. Pal, form "the largest and most extensive group of such material in the world". It is the custom for these books and manuals to remain with the original families and to be handed down from generation to generation. It would be interesting to know how much remains in Nepal. Will it be necessary for a Nepali student to go to Los Angeles to study the iconography of his culture?

Mayura Brown

Chomolungma - Goddess, Mother of the Earth by G. Dingle and M. Perry
Hodder & Stoughton. £14.95 172 pages.

Here we have a book about climbing the highest mountain in the world which is entitled quite simply "Chomolungma", the ancient name for Mount Everest. This book is not the story of a successful climb to the very top of the mountain, but one of failure without loss of life. The route selected by the New Zealand expedition of 1985 was via the north face of Chomolungma - the traditional route of the early British expeditions. Unlike many other attempts which took place before the advent of the South West monsoon, this one was tried in September.

The story of the attempt is well told; the author is no novice in this field. He is a mountaineer with an international reputation. The book is filled with first-rate coloured photographs and numerous maps and sketches to help the reader. Unusually, in books of this sort, there are separate appendices which give details of previous expeditions from the Chinese side; a table of successful ascents by seasons and by routes; comparative costs of some expeditions; deaths by route (keep away from the North Ridge, or you may end up in a Deep Freezer which doesn't switch off). In Table 7, the successful climbers per expedition, shows Britains very low down. Perhaps it was the plus-fours and homburg hats which helped to lower the rate? The advice by Mike Perry concerning photography is well worth reading, even if you can't, or won't, climb to the top.

The Mystery of Mallory and Irvine by T. Holzel and A. Salkeld.
Capt. £12.50. 322 pages.

In the mountaineering world of the Himalayas the names Everest, Mallory and Irvine are linked inextricably. Not because those two mountaineers might have succeeded in climbing Everest. If, indeed, they did succeed, their achievement is shrouded in mystery. Successive expeditions in the 1930s failed to find any trace of Mallory and Irvine. It was Tom Holzel who had his own theories about the success, or failure, of Mallory and Irvine which prompted him to write this book, prior to getting permission from the Chinese Mountaineering Association to retrace, if possible, the steps and the circumstances of the last climb of Mallory and Irvine before they disappeared.

In his search for material for the book Holzel has had the advantage of close collaboration with Miss Salkeld, a distinguished researcher and historian in the field of mountain climbing, especially in the Himalayas.

Holzel and his co-author have examined the available evidence relating to the last attempt of the 1924 expedition when Mallory and Irvine went for the summit. As Holzel says, 'it would be years before we could feel ready to revise the story that the documents seemed to tell, but together we decided to become historical detectives.'

In the early part of the book the authors have looked closely at matters relating to previous British expeditions and all those who had taken part. The personalities of Mallory and Irvine come under close scrutiny, particularly their mutual relationship, because there had been speculation that Mallory might even have abandoned Irvine in a desperate solo attempt to reach the summit. It was well known that Mallory had an urge to get to the top at virtually any cost.

The book is packed with a great deal of information about almost everything connected with the final attempt and the happenings which led up to it. The

expedient of using oxygen is dealt with at length. Ultimately, the difference between success and failure is one in which the human factor plays a vital part. Did Mallory and Irvine reach the top? After more than sixty years this must be a matter of academic interest. Hillary and Tensing got to the summit and no mystery surrounds that achievement.

By the time this book was published the co-authors were in the Himalayas trying to retrace the route of the fatal ascent. That, however, should provide material for another book, or a film, or TV documentary.

"To the Navel of the World" by P. Somerville-Large
Hamish Hamilton. £12.95. 225 pages.

The subsidiary title of this book is "Yaks and unheroic travels in Nepal and Tibet" and this is a precise description of the contents. The book is divided into two parts - Nepal and Tibet. Much has been written about Nepal in recent years, but what the author has to say adds but little to our store of knowledge about that country. The chapters on Tibet occupy more space: they are, however, rather dreary. The landscape, the monotonous diet and the accommodation which the author and his companion had to endure, might account for this.

What the author has to say about the visit to Kailas and Lake Manasarowar will be compared with the more skilful presentation of Charles Allen in "A Mountain in Tibet" reviewed in Journal No. 7/1983.

Other Mountain Books of Interest

"**Living on the edge**" by C. Bremner-Kamp. £12.95. David & Charles.

"**K2, a Reckoning**" by J. Curran. £12.95. Hodder & Stoughton

"**Alan Rouse, a mountaineer's life**" by G. Birtles. £12.95. Unwin Hyman

"**Kingdoms of Experience**" by A. Greig. £12.95. Hutchinson

SOME OTHER BOOKS FORTHCOMING OR RECENTLY PUBLISHED

Nepal

Photographs by Pierre Toutain. Text by Michel Gotin. Published by Merehurst Press, 5 Great James Street, London WC1N 3DA by arrangement with Temps de Pose Editions. 128 pages, illustrations Full Colour throughout. Forms part of a new series centred on new work by acclaimed international photographers. A superb production.

Johnny Gurkha 'Friends in the Hills' by E. D. Smith

The story of the legendary fighting force. This is the 'paperback' edition of the book published in 1985 but it contains all the excellent illustrations. Arrow Books Limited, 62-65 Chandos Place, London WC2N 4NW. Arrow Books, Bookservice by Post, P.O. Box 29, Douglas, Isle of Man, British Isles. £2.95

Basic Gurkhali Dictionary (Roman Script) by M. Meerendonk MBE BA FIL

This unique book has an English-Gurkhali section followed by a Gurkhali-English and includes very useful appendices - Nepalese time, weights, measures, family relationships, words common to English and Gurkhali, grammar and numbers. Bailey

Bros. & Swinfen Ltd., Warner House, Wear Bay Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 6PH.
285 pages. Limp cloth binding. £4.95

My Dear Walter Off the Record Observations of a Gurkha Officer

Quiller Press Ltd., 50 Albermarle Street, London W1X 4BD, £5.50 plus pp £1.10.
Also available from the Gurkha Welfare Trusts (address at foot of this page).

Nepal Rediscovered. Edited by Padina Prakash Shrestha. 112 pages. 92
photographs. Serinda Publications. 1986. £15. Excellent photographs 1846-
1951.

Bugle & Kukri. The story of the 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles by Major
General R W L McAlister. Published by The Regimental Trust 10th Princess
Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles. 505 pp plus Digest of Service and Index. 73
illustrations. 21 maps. Superbly bound. £21. Copies from Lieutenant Colonel
G. W. Webber, TD, Sheat Manor, Gatcombe, Isle of Wight PO30 3EN. This is
the second volume of the history of the regiment and covers the period 1948
(transfer to the British Army) to 1975 (end of Borneo Confrontation and service
in the United Kingdom and Cyprus).

THE GURKHA MUSEUM TO MOVE TO WINCHESTER

The Curator of the Gurkha Museum, Major J. E. G. Lamond, has informed all well
wishers and supporters, that the Museum which has developed so dramatically
during the past twenty years (first proposed 1967) and especially since its formal
opening by Field Marshal Lord Harding at Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church
Crookham, in July 1974, is to move in the latter part of 1988 to prestigious new
premises on four floors in Peninsular Barracks, Winchester.

The unique collection of exhibits and fascinating archives, now worth some half
a million pounds, and already attracting so many visitors to Queen Elizabeth
Barracks, will be seen in a more impressive setting by the summer of 1989. But
help is needed. The Association of Friends of the Gurkha Museum and the Gurkha
Regiments and their Associations do much but many more friends and benefactors
are needed. An appeal is to be launched but in such a way as not to give any
wrong impression about the future of the Brigade or to compete with the Gurkha
Welfare Trusts.

If you would like to help in any way, big or small, please contact the Curator,
Major J. E. G. Lamond, at:

Queen Elizabeth Barracks,
Church Crookham
Aldershot
Hants GU13 0RJ

Telephone: (0252) 613541



The Gurkha Welfare Trusts
Archway North
Old Admiralty Buildings
Spring Gardens
London SW1A 2BE



Telephone: 01-218 4395

NOTES ON THE BRITAIN NEPAL SOCIETY

Patron: H.R.H. PRINCE GYANENDRA OF NEPAL

Our aim is to promote and foster good relations between the peoples of the United Kingdom and Nepal. The Society was founded in 1960, under the patronage of His late Majesty King Mahendra Bir Bikram Shah Deva of Nepal during his State Visit to London: Lord Hunt became the first President.

British and Nepalese subjects, and business firms or corporate bodies resident in Britain or Nepal are eligible for membership.

Members include serving and retired Gurkhas, mountaineers, members of the Diplomatic Service, schoolmasters, doctors, nurses, businessmen and scholars.

Ordinary members pay a subscription of £7 per annum but this may have to be increased in the near future. Life members - a single payment of £70 (but again this may have to be increased). The Journal is sent free to all members.

The "Yetis" - Nepalese studying or resident in Britain - are welcome at all functions. They are eligible to join as full members in the usual way. They have a flourishing organisation of their own and publish their own attractive journal.

The Society's programme includes:

Monthly lectures at the Alpine Club and elsewhere, meetings and films;

A Spring or Summer outing to a place of interest;

Receptions and hospitality for visiting Nepalese;

An AGM in November and an annual supper party in February or March.

We keep in touch with the Nepal-Britain Society in Kathmandu which the late H.H. Field Marshal Sir Kaiser, a Life Member of the Society, founded shortly before his death.

The Britain-Nepal Society has a growing membership and there is tremendous enthusiasm for Nepal. Our Meetings, which are usually attended by about one hundred people each, provide an excellent opportunity for members and their guests to get together. Our membership, not counting Honorary Members and Corporate Members, is now well over five hundred.

The President of our Society, Sir George Bishop, CB, OBE, is also President of the Royal Geographical Society.

The Committee welcome new members amongst people with a genuine interest in Nepal. The address of the Honorary Secretary is:

Mrs. W. Brown (Celia)
1 Allen Mansions
Allen Street
London W8 6UY

BRITAIN-NEPAL SOCIETY

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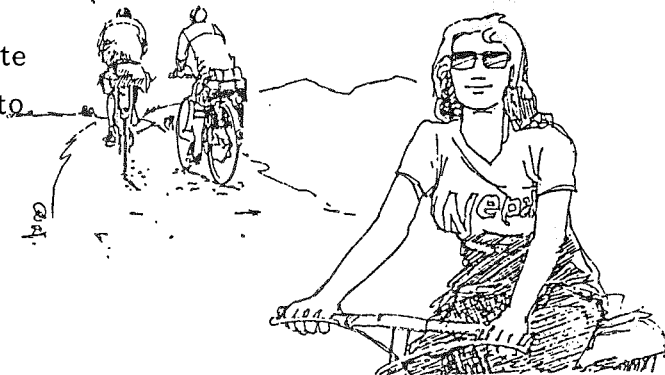
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