

that 1940 was the bicentenary of the birth of the Genevese scientist de Saussure, who ascended Mont Blanc in 1787. 1941 is the bicentenary of the arrival of the first Englishmen at Chamonix, Richard Pockocke and William Windham, whose names are commemorated on the "Englishmen's Stone" near the Montanvert hotel. Windham and his brother, when small boys, were given swimming lessons in the Thames by none other than Benjamin Franklin, as recorded in the latter's autobiography.

In the Eastern Alps, 1940 is the one hundredth anniversary of the first ascent of the Gross Venediger by von Ruthner.

American Members of the Alpine Club have revived the custom of dining together occasionally in New York, the toast "To British Victory" being proposed by Mr. William Williams at the Metropolitan Club on October 25th. They have also raised funds for an ambulance, which has been secured through British Ambulance Corps, Inc., of which Sir Claud Schuster is a patron. The machine will have marked on its doors "American Members of the Alpine Club in memory of Captain John Percy Farrar."

ANDES

Chile. Late in 1939 the Italian climber and journalist, Piero Ghiglione, with two German companions, Messrs. Nobl and Jorgl, made a successful winter ascent, despite poor snow conditions and bad weather, of El Tronador, climbing both the high peak and the Argentine summit.

In April, 1939, M. and Mme. F. Marmillod made the first ascent of the Alto de los Leones.

In February, 1940, Prof. D. DeAgostini left for another trip to the Southern Andes of Patagonia to stay about three months.

Early in 1940 Arnold Heim of Zurich with Hermann Hess, Jr, from Engelberg and W. Schmitt of Osorno, Chile, were active in the Southern Andes of the Argentine-Chilean frontier. They were later joined by Dr. Hans Moser of Zürich. Their explorations in the vicinity of Lake Buenos Aires and the Leon Valley were considerably hampered by bad weather and sickness of a member of the party.

Colombia. Two Swiss climbers, G. Cuenet and Auguste Ganser, made the ascent of the Nevado de Huila.

Venezuela. In February, 1940, A. E. Gunther and K. W. Barr made an expedition into the Sierra de Merida and together made the ascent of Pico Bolivar by a route which appears to be followed regularly by many native climbers. On February 3rd Gunther made the first ascent, alone, of Pico Bonpland and the next day followed the Blumenthal route up the Hermanas Glacier to the S. Peak of Columna.

K. A. H.