

the pleasure of seeing the Balkan Peninsula in peace, and without the horrors tourists have until now had to suffer in the "khans." I will say no more except to repeat my thanks and your thanks to Mr. Woods for his lecture.

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## THE SUMMITS OF OLYMPUS.

Douglas W. Freshfield.

**T**WENTY-FIVE years or more ago the writer was challenged by the late Lord Tennyson to produce any climber who had been to look for Zeus on the top of Olympus. A search at the time in the libraries of our Society and of the Alpine Club failed of any satisfactory result. Mr. Tozer, it is true, has described his ascent of an outlying northerly summit, one of the numberless St. Elias's of Greece. But he honestly states that he saw other and loftier tops which he was unable to reach owing to the difficulty of the ground and bad weather. More recent travellers have shown even less enterprise, and with good cause, since one of the last was caught and held to ransom by brigands. It was not till last November that any account of the Home of the Gods was published, and the writers who furnish the bibliography of the mountain I have borrowed below expressly state that they "have been unable to discover any record of an ascent since the time of Tozer." The article (*Scribner's Magazine*, November, 1915) in which they record their experiences is therefore of interest both to classical students and mountaineers, and its value is greatly increased by a series of excellent photographs illustrating the upper region of the mountain.

The ascent in question was made on 30 April 1914 by Messrs. A. E. Phoutrides and E. P. Farquhar. The travellers approached the mountain by way of Ellassona, finding night quarters in the monastery of Agia Trias, which lies among the lower spurs of the range at its southern base. A shepherd's track shown in the Austrian map of the Balkan Peninsula (1 : 200,000, sheet Larissa) leads thence towards the crests, but it was soon lost. The ascent presented, however, no difficulties, lying for the most part over flowery pastures succeeded by rocky slopes and snowfields. That the latter were found no impediment so early in the season is remarkable. A month later, in the year 1904, the writer found the 2000-foot lower summits of Parnassus and the Peloponnesian peaks deep in snow, which the inhabitants feared to face (see *Alpine Journal*, vol. 22, p. 413).

The crowning ridge of Olympus as shown on the Austrian map runs roughly north-east and south-west. Some writers have treated it as running north and south; others as running east and west, hence confusion naturally arises between their narratives. Mr. Tozer takes the view that Olympus is composed of two ranges that run from east to west and are connected at their western end, but apparently all the higher peaks are on this crossbar, which must therefore be held to be the true crest of the mountain, and has, I think, generally been so regarded.