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where the breakage occurred. It is the right rope, but not the broken end."

So Conway, it appears, believed that one of the Taugwalders had in fact tampered with the rope.

Now, in a book published in Switzerland and written by Charles Gos, the well-known Alpine historian, there has appeared yet another footnote to the Matterhorn disaster.

Gos says that, shortly before he died, Whymper went to the Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge, the Oxford don who became the greatest Alpine historian of all time, and told him the full story of the accident. When such a meeting took place — if it ever took place — we do not know.

But anyone who follows up the story of the Matterhorn disaster will find a curious letter sent by Whymper to Coolidge as early as 1883.

That letter is in Switzerland and, so far as I know, has never been published. It is interesting for it holds a number of implications which might solve some of the queer questions that the Matterhorn disaster still raises.

"Many thanks for your frank and manly letter," Whymper wrote. "It has grieved me much to think how gravely I must have been misunderstood by you whom I always respected and have grown to look upon with a warm feeling of regard.

"My trouble now is the thought of the pain it must have cost you to write to me on the subject. Let me remove the sting of it at once by saying that as I never had the least mistrust in you and was wholly ignorant of your mistrust in me I heartily rejoice that this mistake has been rectified and earnestly hope that ours may be a life of friendship."

Coolidge was then editor of "The Alpine Journal", and it seems that he may have learned the full story of the broken rope, possibly from his acquaintances at Zermatt, possibly from Bishop Browne.

It would probably have appeared to him that Whymper had been gravely negligent and he may have written, in his blunt way, to ask what Whymper's position was. Whymper evidently explained and "the fiery lamb," as Coolidge was sometimes called, was forced to reply in his "frank and manly letter."

What seems certain is that the full story of the Matterhorn disaster has not even yet been told.

(Yorkshire Evening News.)

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## SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

A meeting of the Swiss Benevolent Society was held at 31, Conway Street, W.1, on Monday, 21st August, 1950. The President opened it with the sad announcement of the death of the Society's Vice-President, Mr. F. M. Gamper. Colonel Bon referred to Mr. Gamper's long years of faithful work and invaluable service. The members stood in silence to honour his memory.

The business part of the meeting began with the minutes of the previous meeting. These were followed by the accounts. The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. M. Rothlisberger, pointed out that due to the devaluation of the £ the subsidy from the Swiss Confederation and the Cantons now represented more in sterling. On the other hand the expenditure had increased, and would probably continue to do so on account of the rising prices. Again the S.B.S., in conjunction with the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, had helped in sending children to Switzerland for a few weeks' holidays, and had borne the cost of the tickets where parents were unable to pay. A new item on the expenditure side was the Society's share in the cost of the Welfare Office for Swiss Girls in Great Britain. The President mentioned the outstanding success this office has been so far, and that the Welfare Officer, Miss Wolfer, was dealing with a very large number of problems. In answer to a question the Hon. Treasurer confirmed that the Society derived a considerable income each year from the covenants under which the S.B.S. could claim back from Inland Revenue the income tax paid on individual subscriptions. Most of the first covenants of seven years had matured, and he was pleased to announce that very nearly all these subscribers had signed a new covenant for another seven years.

After the accounts of the Swiss Home had been dealt with Mr. Oertli was elected Vice-President of the Society. He has been one of the most loyal members and has put in a great deal of hard work over many years. Next four new pensioners were chosen, bringing the number on the Society's books to 66.

Before the close of the meeting the Secretary warmly recommended the new book "The Young Traveller in Switzerland" written by Mrs. W. Meier, a member of the Society.

MARIANN.

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