

ALPINE NOTES.

SESIA JOCH.—It may interest your readers to hear that the Sesia Joch was crossed on August 12, 1869, from Zermatt to Alagua. This is the first time that the passage has been made from the Swiss side, as it had been considered by Mr. George to be impossible ('Western Alps,' p. 334). We were greatly favoured by weather; and it was doubtless owing to the intense cold that we were free from falling stones. We started from the Riffel at 3 A.M., and slept at the chalets of Vigne, in the Val Sesia. Two ladies were of the party. Guide, Jean Martin de Vissoie (guide à Sierre). A. P.

WINTER JOCH, June 27.—Messrs. A. W. Moore and H. Walker, with Jakob Anderegg and Hans Baumann, left Geschenen Alp at 3 A.M., and, ascending by the Winter Glacier, reached the foot of the wall at the head of the Damma Firn at 8. They then crossed a large bergschrund, and climbed the second couloir south of the Rhone Stock, which led them at 10.50 to very nearly the lowest point of the ridge between that peak and the Tiefen Stock, above the Rhone Glacier. The couloir, though only 700 ft. in height, proved far more difficult and dangerous than it had appeared to be from below, and, unless its condition should be more favourable in another season, the pass is one to be avoided by everyone who values his neck. The descent on to the Rhone Glacier by broken rocks was quite easy, and the party reached the Grimsel at 4.40. The name 'Winter Joch' has been selected in order to distinguish the pass from the 'Damma Pass,' made by Herr Hoffmann-Buckhardt in 1867, and which lies north of the Rhone Stock, between it and the Damma Stock. The couloir ascended by Herr Hoffman is the most conspicuous of the many by which the ridge is marked, but, as a route to the lower part of the Rhone Glacier, it is very much more circuitous than that followed by us, not to mention a snow or ice cornice which, this season at any rate, would have been troublesome to get through. Neither pass, therefore, is much to be recommended, but anyone trying either should prefer the Damma Pass if bound to the Trift Glacier and Gadmen Thal, and the Winter Joch if his destination is the Grimsel. A. W. M.

AIGUILLE DE TRÉLATÊTE, July 23.—Messrs. A. W. Moore and H. Walker, with Jakob Anderegg and Johann Jaun, left the Pavillon de Trélatête at 3 A.M., and at 7.30 reached the col 'dit infranchissable,' at the extreme head of the Glacier de Trélatête, looking down upon the Glacier de Miage. To reach the latter glacier from the actual col would certainly be impracticable, but, from a point to the right, it seemed possible to effect a very disagreeable descent over shaly rocks to a deserted miners' hut, which is some height above the Miage Glacier, and, no doubt, accessible from it. After 45 minutes' halt, the party retraced their steps for a short distance, and turned up a steep lateral glacier, much exposed to falling stones, by which they regained the ridge above the Miage Glacier at a much higher

point. The arête—at last very sharp—was then followed to the summit of the northern Aiguille de Trélatête, which was reached at 10.45. The height, according to the French map, is 12,810 ft., or 92 ft. lower than the central peak ascended by Mr. Reilly's party in 1864 from the side of the Allée Blanche. It would have been quite possible to have passed on to that peak, but the distance is considerable, and nothing was to be gained by doing so. The northern aiguille is a perfectly distinct peak, and well worthy of being climbed on its own account. The view of Mont Blanc is simply marvellous. The descent to the Pavillon occupied 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ hours. A. W. M.

FLÜH PASS.—This easy and attractive snow pass does not appear to be recorded, and as a useful alternative with the Gemmi, or as part of a direct route from Lauterbrunnen by the Tschingel to Leukerbad and the Rhone Valley, it deserves to be generally known. From Leukerbad a good and gently ascending path leads in 3 hours' easy walking to the pastures of the Flüh Alp and the base of the Flüh or Dala Glacier. Mounting a little to the right, the glacier is attained and traversed from extreme right to left between two diminutive icefalls, and steep snow-slopes lead thence in three-quarters of an hour to the fine sharp snow-ridge which forms the summit of the pass, and which curls over in a beautiful corniche towards the Löttsch Glacier. The descent is made at a point of the ridge very considerably to the right of that at which it is mounted, very near to the cliffs of the Löttsch Grat, which rises perpendicularly from the pass. The slope is for a few steps very steep, and requires a little cutting, but may soon be glissaded down to the ordinary route of the Löttsch Pass, which is followed down to the châteaux at the head of the Gasterenthal, whence Kandersteg is reached in 3 hours. Nine hours' easy walking suffice for the whole distance between Leukerbad and Kandersteg. The views from the top of the pass, which appears to be very nearly on a level with the Tschingel Pass, are very fine, embracing the Oberland group on one side; on the other the Simplon range, Mont Blanc, and the St. Bernard range. Below the summit, on the Löttsch Pass, the Monte Rosa range appears. H. T. MENNELL.