

the Monte Ventina to the Disgrazia, and which divides the Ventina and Sissone glaciers. This arête lies directly under the summit. It is shown in the Federal map at a considerable distance to the east of its true position. The arête rises sharply for a long distance up the mountain, until it finally disappears at the foot of the very steep cliffs of the north eastern face, under the highest peak. Starting again at 10, the highest cliffs were reached, partly by the arête (here a narrow edge of ice) and partly by the rocks lying to the left and somewhat below the crest of the ridge. The lower part of these cliffs was very steep, but fortunately the rocks were granite and gave good hand and foot hold. In the upper part they were more broken up and comparatively easy. The summit was reached at 11.25, the main ridge having been struck at a point east of the stone man, within three minutes of the top. The descent was made by the ordinary route, Morbegno being reached the same evening, *vid* the Val di Sasso Bisolo.

PIZ MORTERATSCH (12,316 feet). *August 23.*—Messrs. Kingscote and H. Warren, with Andreas Rauch as guide, ascended this mountain by a new route. From the Boval hut the ordinary way is followed, keeping the old moraine on the left, until the northernmost of two patches of rock descending from the main ridge which runs north and south is reached. The route lies over this patch to the foot of the main ridge, which they climbed at first nearly straight up, then bearing away to the left to a snow saddle, which is plainly seen from below, and which lies at the north side of the first conspicuous point on the south end of the ridge. After crossing the saddle, the usual route from the Roseg side is joined and followed to the top. From the foot of the ridge to the saddle occupied 1 hr. 50 min. The rock climb, which is not difficult, makes a pleasant break in the succession of snow slopes which form the ordinary route, and when the latter are in bad order, is probably quicker and safer.

ALPINE NOTES.

ROUND PINZOLO.—On June 24 last, after spending a delicious hour at sunrise on the Cima Tosa, I started again with Matteo Niccoluzzi, of Molveno, to attempt the virgin peak of the Torre di Brenta, the third considerable mass to the north of the Bocca di Brenta. Finding the southern face repellent, we made a flank movement by a couloir on the east and succeeded in scaling the northern face in $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours from the pass thus gained, at the same time establishing the existence and extent of the glacier between our peak and the Cima di Brenta, of which the Austrian map takes no cognisance. For this and subsequent excursions in the group the new hut erected by the Società degli Alpinisti Tridentini, close to the Bocca di Brenta, served as a most commodious head-quarters.

On the 27th, joined by the Rev. J. Armitage with old Colini of Pinzolo, we made an attack on the Busazza from the Mandrone hut in

Val di Genova, but had to content ourselves with reaching the western end of the final arête.

The following day we ascended the Adamello by the usual route, and cut our way down from a point a little more than half-way from that peak to the Corno Bianco down into Val di Avoli, and so to Ponte di Legno.

July 19 found me again at the Baita di Brenta Alta, in company with Signor de Falkner, our first goal the Crozzon di Brenta, which had been reached from the Cima Tosa by Herr Gustav Baumann, of Vienna, for the first time two days before. Taking to the rocks about one-third of the way up the Vedretta dei Camuzzi, we succeeded in scaling, chiefly by a series of very steep chimneys, that block of the huge wall on which Baumann's cairn stands, and found it divided from a slightly higher one by a notch which we had not time to cross, having taken 10 hours from the huts. We passed over the summit of the Tosa on our way to the *rifugio* at the Bocca.

Two following days were spent in minor excursions, including first ascent of the Brenta Bassa.

On the 22nd we made a new route to the Cima di Brenta and Cima della Valle Persé from Val Brenta up the south face, finding that they can be reached in something less than 5 hours from the *rifugio*.

This hut, with room for twelve persons to sleep, is a model construction and arrangement, and does great credit to the young society at Trent. The same must be said of that at the head of Val della Mare, just opened, and will, no doubt, apply equally to that now being built near the Vedretta di Lares.

Matteo Niccoluzzi can also be recommended as a capital guide and first-rate rockman.

E. T. COMPTON.

NOTES ON THE EASTERN ALPS.—The only pass known to the guide-books or the maps from Ischgl, in the Paznaun Thal, to Samnaun, is the Zebles Joch. There is another, a little higher, but a good deal shorter, known as the Viehder—I am not sure of the spelling, but that is the sound. The path leading to it is shown on the Generalstabskarte, turning out of the Fimber Thal at a point marked Pürschtig A.H. The ridge is crossed north of the Greit-Spitze, and the descent is through some fine rock scenery to the path shown on the map which passes north of 'Motta' to Lareth. Time from Ischgl to Compatsch about 7 hours. In the Oetzthal weather prevented much climbing; but we made a variation on the Laugtauferer Joch which may be useful. After going some way down the glacier on the east side of the pass, we turned due south, crossed the Hintereis Ferner, and reached the ridge on its south side, a few hundred yards south-west of the point marked Im hintern Eis. From this the descent to the Hoch Joch path is easy; and Unsere Frau can be reached in 12 hours' walking from Hinterkirch.

The Rothmoos Joch, from Gurgl to the Pfelders Thal, is less known than it deserves. An early start is advisable, as the road is raked for about a quarter of an hour, not far from the top of the pass, by a hanging glacier (Von Sonklar, No. 33). The pass is *not* the apparently lowest point, but the next gap to the right.

Gabriel and Josef Spechtenhauser decline any longer to go far from

their own district. The knowledge of this may save disappointment to intending employers of those admirable guides. Josef informs me that he made, last year, the first ascent of the Weisskugel by way of the Bärenbart Ferner: I believe with some German tourists.*

The English friends of the well-known Curat Senn, late of Nauders and formerly of Fend, may be interested to know that he is now at Neustift, in the Stubai Thal. The guides in that valley are being organised on a better system than formerly; Franz Pfurtscheller, an excellent mountaineer, being 'Obmann.'

The pass from the Oberberg-Thal to Lisens, called in the books and maps Hornthaler Joch (2,792 mètres), is known on the Stubai side as the Villergruber Joch.

I may perhaps mention that I went last year with Franz Pöll between the Paznaunthal and the Engadine over two passes very little known to English tourists, viz. from Galthür to Fetan by the Jamthaler Ferner and Vadret d'Urezas, and back to Ischgl through the Val Urschai, and over the Fimber Ferner. Neither pass presents any difficulty to a moderately experienced mountaineer, and both are highly 'lohnend.'

A. J. BUTLER.

ALPINE MEETING AT GRASMERE.—On April 14 some members of the Alpine Club met at Coniston, and on the following day walked over the Old Man to Great Langdale, where they were joined by others who had met at Windermere and had come over the Pike o' Blisco from Little Langdale. Langdale Pike was ascended by the south face, which affords a fair rock climb, and Grasmere reached by way of Easedale. Twenty-two members sat down to dinner, Mr. H. Walker, one of the vice-presidents of the Club, in the chair. The following day the entire party ascended Scawfell from Eskdale, finding some good climbing in the great chasms which score the eastern face of that mountain. Some difficulty was experienced in effecting the passage of Mickledore to Scawfell Pike, in consequence of the presence of ice and fresh snow.

FLOODS IN THE TYROL.—Our readers will hardly need to be informed that the extraordinary amount of rain and snow which fell in September caused very serious damage in many parts of the Alpine region. The grapes were totally destroyed in some districts, severely damaged in all; and other late crops have suffered in at least equal proportion. But the region which has suffered most is South-Western Tyrol. The entire valley of the Adige was flooded. Not merely were the growing crops lost and many buildings carried away, but the ground is covered for miles with a deposit of mud two or three feet deep, to remove which would probably cost more than the entire value of the land. Thus, the peasants of the neighbourhood are many of them totally ruined. Similar destruction has befallen the Pusterthal, especially the western branch of it, drained by the Eisack. As might have been expected, subscriptions were promptly opened among Austrian mountaineers to assist the victims of these calamities, who were for the time in serious danger of starvation. The Editor of the

[* Cf. *A. J.*, x. 361.]

'Alpine Journal' will be very glad to receive and forward to the proper quarter any contributions which may be sent to him by English friends of the Tyrol.

WINTER MEETING AND DINNER.—The Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held on Monday evening, December 18, and the Picture Exhibition and Winter Dinner at Willis's Rooms the following afternoon and evening. Further particulars will be announced by circular.

REVIEWS.

Il Club Alpino in Torino dal 1863 al 1881. Notizie storiche raccolte da Cesare Isaia. (Turin: Casanova. 60 cent.)

In this pamphlet Signor Isaia, a well-known explorer of his native Alps, and the President of the Turin section of the Italian Alpine Club, gives us a genuine contribution to Alpine Club history. We have set out before us the beginnings of the Italian Club, founded in the autumn of 1863 as a local society in Turin, its gradual growth, and the final sinking of Turin, its 'metropolis,' into merely one of its thirty-seven actually existing sections. On March 31, 1882, the Club numbered no less than 3,234 members, the chief section in point of numbers being that of Turin, with 425 members. The book is the record of modest but genuine work, and is far more than the bulletin of a purely local society. It is followed by a most interesting catalogue of the objects exhibited by the Turin section at the Milanese Congress in 1881, including not merely maps and printed papers, but articles of Alpine equipment, panoramas, photographs, scientific collections (including a small number of specimens of rocks gathered on various peaks), and numerous plans and sketches of the huts, &c., built by the section since 1876, the date of the definite separation of the central and sectional organisations. Both matter and arrangement reflect the highest credit on Signor Isaia.

Les Vallées Vaudoises. Etude de topographie et d'histoire militaire. Par A. de Rochas d'Aiglun, chef de bataillon du génie. (Paris, 1881. 10 francs.)

Monsieur de Rochas d'Aiglun has devoted much time and labour to the publication of documents throwing light on the topography and military history of the alpine portion of the old province of Dauphiné. In 1874 he published all the original documents, including letters of Catinat and Vauban, relating to the alpine campaign of 1692 against the Duke of Savoy, which included the sieges of Embrun and Guillestre. Again, in 1875, he carefully edited Montannel's Memoirs on the Military Topography of the Alpine Frontier of France (cf. A. J. x. 276), a perfect storehouse of information on the subject. In 1877 we have him, in conjunction with Dr. J. A. Chabrand, publishing a valuable treatise on the dialect of the inhabitants of the Cottian Alps, particularly of the