

picturesque forests, romantically situated bridges, which should serve to attract the attention of English climbers to that district, scarcely known as yet except to our Italian colleagues.

MEETINGS OF THE FOREIGN ALPINE CLUBS.—An "International Alpine Congress" will be opened at Salzburg on Friday evening, August 11. Next day will be devoted to the discussion of various Alpine topics, *e.g.* maps, glacier phenomena and the necessity of observing them, huts, &c. The 13th will be taken up with the consideration of the different means for securing future international meetings (it is proposed that the 1884 meeting should be held at Turin), and generally of fostering good feeling between, and promoting the common action of, the various Alpine societies. The 14th will be occupied by the General Meeting of the German Club, and the proceedings will be wound up by a grand banquet. The following days will be devoted to joint excursions. In connection with the Congress there will be an exhibition of objects connected with climbing and the Alps in general.

The Congress of the Italian Club will take place on August 29 to 31 at Biella, winding up with excursions to Oropa and Gressoney Saint-Jean. It is understood that the President of the Club, Signor Quintino Sella, is preparing several interesting and important communications for the Congress.

The French Club meet this year at Clermont Ferrand, in Auvergne, in the first days of August.

The Swiss Club holds its annual meeting under the auspices of the Diablerets section.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

GUIDE-BOOKS, OLD AND NEW.

The J. E. M. Guide for Switzerland. The Alps and how to see them. Edited by J. E. Muddock. (Simpkin, Marshall & Co. 2s. 6d.)

The manufacture of Alpine guide-books has almost ceased to be a British industry. London publishers have failed adequately to recognise that guide-books to be permanently successful must not only be thoroughly framed but assiduously corrected; that money and energy must be spent in keeping them up to date as much as in original publication. Consequently they have allowed valuable properties to be impaired by neglect, while a series of guides of foreign origin, in some respects inferior, has through the praiseworthy industry of those concerned in their publication command of the market. Is it yet too late to hope that Mr. Ball's 'Alpine Guide' may be abridged in some points and enlarged in others, and republished in sections? This might be done by a committee of the Alpine Club; while as to inns, the changes in which no foreigner can follow, an arrangement might probably be made for an exchange of information with some native writer.

It is the appearance of the twenty-fourth edition of our Honorary Member Herr Iwan von Tschudi's admirable 'Schweizerführer,' which

suggests these remarks. The volume grows every year in completeness, and is a model of what a work of this character ought to be. Herr Trautwein, in his 'Wegweiser durch Tirol,' follows the same scheme; but, covering a less wide field, he secures some advantages as to type. Earlier editions of either work have been reviewed in these pages, and we do not, therefore, propose to do more than confirm the praise that has been already bestowed.

It is with some sense of shame that we turn to the last English contribution to this class of literature placed on our table. 'The proprietors of this work' (whom it is difficult to distinguish from the editor), 'being intimately acquainted with Switzerland, believed that there was room for a volume that should be at once Practical, Intelligible, Interesting, and Cheap. To this belief the book owes its origin.'

The first question before the proprietors was to find a name. A singular fancy suggested the 'J. E. M. Guide to Switzerland.' Unluckily, as we think, they could not rest content with this happy thought, but were induced to add, and to print with most prominence on the cover, 'The Alps, and how to see them.' Now, as their book tells us next to nothing of French, Tyrolese, or Italian Alps, this second title is somewhat of a misnomer. On one of the early pages, it is true, is placed a passage from Ladoucette's 'Hautes Alpes.' But even tourists can hardly need to be told that the 'Department of the High Alps' and Switzerland are not convertible terms, and this nucleus of the French Alps is nowhere alluded to in the volume. A more appropriate motto, bearing some direct reference to the subject-matter, might have been found in English literature.

Mr. J. E. Muddock's own opinion of the merits of his work is decisive. Across one of the first pages he prints, in some of the boldest of his 'brand new' type—INDISPENSABLE. At once the simplest and fairest way of testing his pretensions will be to compare the promises of the preface with the performance of the text.

We have already quoted the opening sentences of this preface. The fourth paragraph begins thus:—'One of the features of the work is the numerous *special articles* which in a chatty and pleasant manner convey information not to be found elsewhere.' We certainly fancied we had read something of the kind before—take 'Mountaineering' for instance. If Mr. Muddock says, 'It is frequently asked, why should men peril their lives in getting up a mountain?' 'Murray' had previously quoted Mr. Leslie Stephen's 'People still sometimes ask, what is the use of going up a mountain?' But when we read Mr. Muddock's answer, we see how completely original he is and how entirely the earlier writer is put to shame by a manner which its author is modest enough to call only 'chatty and pleasant,' but which for us has (what the mountains themselves have not for Mr. Muddock) 'awful sublimity and a grandeur which strikes dumb.' Mountaineering, he tells his readers, 'arouses mental and physical qualities within you, you were not aware you possessed.' In Mr. Pater's phrase, it evidently gives the editor of the 'J. E. M. Guide' his most 'gemlike moments.' But to do Mr. Muddock justice, the spirit of his general remarks on mountain climbing is sound; and on other topics, if the specialist may find his

statements somewhat inexact, they are up to the average level of popular books. Mr. Freeman, for instance, might groan at finding the immemorial assembly of the 'Landesgemeinde' of Uri alluded to as 'First Sunday in May all the men of the Canton Uri assemble dressed in ancient costume—' and it clearly involves a considerable stretch of fancy to picture Canton Uri containing as many ancient costumes as men. But in a tourist's book it is a mark of intelligence to think the meeting 'a particularly interesting sight,' or indeed to have heard of it at all. In paragraphs entitled 'History in a Nutshell' it is hypercritical perhaps to object to the fathers who attended the Council of Basel being designated as 'ministers'; the city itself stated to have been 'strongly Anti-Protestant during the Reformation'; and the battles of Morgarten (1315), Sempach (1386), and Grandson and Morat (1476), all referred to as happening 'about the same time.' To an omniscient editor one hundred years, more or less, may well seem as one day!

The list of Swiss Baths given (though *Le Prese* and some others are left out) may prove useful. And we know of no other guide which devotes twenty-six pages to 'moths and butterflies,' or one to a 'special analysis of the so-called Swiss honey.'

We proceed to the 254 pages which constitute the main portion of the work—the Routes. In these the editor writes: 'We have reason to think we have neglected no place and left nothing unsaid that can possibly be of interest. In short, we claim for the book that it is the most exhaustive and absolutely the cheapest Swiss Guide ever offered to the public.' In 254 small pages! Can it be that the 'indispensable' is also infallible? *Nous verrons!*

One of the most famous old mule-passes, the Gries, is wholly omitted, while the Tosa Falls are incidentally alluded to as '1 mile from Domo.' The Turlo is said to lead from Macugnaga to Zermatt (*sic*) in ten hours! Saas is generally spelt Sass! The Zwischbergen Pass gets no notice. Val Anzasca is barely alluded to, and never mentioned by name, while Ponte Grande is stated to be '2 hours from Macugnaga.' The new car road in Val Tournanche is ignored, and 5 hours given as the time from that village to Zermatt. We are told that a 'route over the Little St. Bernard starts from Chapui,' and that that pass is 'for the most part' a carriage road. The fact that prices for 'horse and man' over it are given strengthens the idea that the writer believes the road to be unfinished. The Muretto Pass is said to need 'rope and axe;' and Val Masino with its Baths has been forgotten. The Monte della Disgrazia is anglicised as 'the Disgraceful Mountain'!

Turning to inns, we find none mentioned by name at Lausanne or Vevey, the 'Storch' given at the head of the list at Zurich, Dr. Pasta's house on Monte Generoso and Signor Guglielmina's on the Col d'Ollen forgotten. But it is just to add that in this matter the editor is clear of all suspicion of the wilful and possibly corrupt favouritism of bad, and 'boycotting' of good houses, which mark some of the lower class of foreign handbooks. On the whole the lists of inns are, perhaps, the best part of his book.

The next paragraph we have to comment on relates to the heights of mountains. These, we are told, 'are given in numerous instances from

our own measurements; where this is not the case, our figures have been taken from the best authority.' We are glad, for the sake of the Federal Staff, to report that their work generally stands the test of Mr. Muddock's verification! His figures (we pass over some obvious slips or misprints) are usually identical with those of a survey most previous writers have been content to accept without question. Mr. Muddock, however, has made some discoveries among the mountain-tops. For instance, he tells us that the Wetterhörner have not three (as stated in older works), but two summits, and that the Rosenhorn and outer peak were both ascended in 1845 by Mr. Spier. According to Mr. Spier's own account—but he was, doubtless, under a delusion—he climbed a central peak known as the Mittelhorn, and no other. As to the relative difficulties of peaks and passes, Mr. Muddock has also some exceptional experiences to record. Thus on the Bietschhorn there is 'no absolute danger with proper care,' while the Tschingeltritt is 'trying for the head, as a passage has to be made for some distance along the extreme edges of giddy precipices,' and the Petersgrat is 'exceedingly difficult.' Neither the Aiguilles Verte nor Dru are mentioned at all.

At the end of the book a single route in the Maritime Alps is unexpectedly thrust in, whether because the editor desired to punish a Nice innkeeper for the use of bad language, or because he really believed that the Col della Finestra is 'not described in any other guide-book,' must be uncertain. If for the latter reason, we may remind Mr. Muddock of the existence of works generally known as 'Ball,' 'Murray,' and 'Joanne,' in any of which he will find his route anticipated.

In other matters than scenery and inns the 'J. E. M. Guide' has little help to give. It passes Varallo without mention of Gaudenzio Ferrari, Lugano without mention of Luini. A gallery at Turin is described, in the style of an Oxford Street auctioneer's catalogue, as 'a collection of paintings by Raffaelle, Rubens, and others.' The cathedral at Aosta is called 'modern,' and St. Ours is not even mentioned.

Since no recommendations are given to the reader as to what maps he should supply himself with, he will naturally expect the 'J. E. M.' itself to be well supplied. Apparently its editor believes it is so: here are his words, and we desire to call special attention to them:—

'The maps, plans, and panoramas are the very best of their kind. In short, neither expense nor pains have been spared to give to the public, for the sum of two shillings and sixpence, a guide-book that should be equal to those at treble the price'

After this flourish it is a hardly credible and not very creditable fact that many of the maps are of ancient and Teutonic origin. The principal map of Switzerland, called 'New Map,' is in truth obsolete. No carriage roads are shown over the Fluela, the Oberalp, or the Furka, the railways to Thonon and up the Rhone valley beyond Sion are not given, while the map's date is indicated by the insertion of a projected railway through the Lukmanier, *and none by the St. Gothard*. The Lukmanier project was indefinitely postponed when the St. Gothard works were first agreed on.

The plans of towns are also antiquated. That of Basel omits the

two new bridges, while that of Geneva has been very imperfectly brought up to date and omits all the hotels. The value of the skeleton route map (which is original) may be judged by the fact that neither Zermatt, nor Grindelwald, nor any of the passes east of the Splügen appear on it.

We have gone into details sufficiently to show that the promises of the preface are not carried out; and that in making them the editor proves himself a person of large assurance, or still larger ignorance. Yet he has, we believe, done his best with the means at his disposal; and he will probably succeed in hitting the taste of the holiday-makers he addresses. We will say what we can for his book, even at the risk of its proprietors quoting our last few words without their context. To the lowest, but possibly not the least numerous, type of modern tourists, to those 'doers' of 'Round Tours' who (with J. E. M. himself) call Chamonix 'Chamouny,' who hold Mont Blanc to be 'The Monarch of *Swiss* Mountains,' who are interested in a mountain chiefly because 'Her Gracious Majesty our beloved Queen, together with Princess Louise and Prince Arthur, made the ascent,' and in a tragic death because the victim was 'a daughter of Lord Rivers and a niece of Lord Granville'; who call certain insects 'Norfolk Howards,' and can tolerate such witticisms in their pocket-companion as 'Byron said the Col de Jaman was as "beautiful as a dream" (that would depend whether the dream were the result of pork chops or not),' the 'J. E. M. Guide' may be recommended.

But Mr. Muddock appeals to the 'discrimination' of a wider public, and on their behalf we have felt it our duty to 'discriminate.'

Les Alpes au point de vue de la géographie physique et de la géologie: voyages photographiques dans le Dauphiné, la Savoie, le nord de l'Italie, la Suisse et le Tyrol. Avec 14 héliogravures d'après les photographies de l'auteur et 2 cartes au 1:100,000. Par A. Civiale. (Paris: J. Rothschild. 65 francs.)

This is a very exasperating book for the reviewer. We are never clearly told what was the exact aim or object of the author in his ten years' photographic campaign in the Alps, but it seems to have had special reference to geological research. Hence the photographs themselves are the main result of the author's persevering explorations; but, unfortunately, these have not yet been published, and even when they are, a few lucky persons only can expect to become the happy possessors of the 41 panoramas and 600 smaller views of which the collection consists. The present volume is meant as a sort of topographical hand-book to this magnificent series, but it has a strong dash both of a guide-book and of a traveller's diary. Anyone perusing it will certainly be rewarded for his labour by an extensive knowledge of the topography of the Alps from Dauphiné to the Dolomites; and he will be aided by one of the two maps, which includes the whole Alpine chain, compiled from the best authorities, but necessarily rather sketchy. On the other we are shown how the horizons of the forty-one panoramas, taken from as many summits of the second rank, intersect each other so as to present a nearly unbroken view of the chain of the Alps. Both in the body of the book and in the maps (all

furnished with excellent indices) great care has evidently been taken to secure accuracy in the spelling of the names and in the figures denoting the heights, and we are bound to say that, as far as the parts which we have tested minutely are concerned, a really amazing degree of accuracy has been attained when we think of the enormous difficulties of the task. But the book is a fragment without the photographs which ought to illustrate it, and the lists of which, occurring at regular intervals, serve to increase our longing for them, for they include many places and views rarely or never previously photographed. The illustrations in the book vary much in quality. The 'Glacier de Gétroz' and 'le Bernina pris du Corvatsch' seem to us the most successful; that of 'Mont Blanc from the Buet,' which occupies the post of honour as the frontispiece, singularly fails to represent a most impressive scene; and 'the Weisshorn from the Bella Tola,' is simply a disastrous failure. The book is got up with very great care, and has a very handsome appearance, but it is deprived of a great part of its utility by being severed from the accompanying photographs.

Società Alpina Friulana. Cronaca del 1881: anno primo. (Udine.)

About twenty months ago a new society (independent of the Italian Alpine Club) was started with a view to making known 'blue Friuli's mountains,' and we have before us its first publication, a well got-up little volume of about 270 pages. It contains a number of articles (some of which are devoted to scientific matters) and notes, which should be useful to anyone desiring to become acquainted with, or to revive his recollections of, this corner of the Alps. That which will probably be most interesting to English readers is the description by Signor Marinelli (the President) of his ascent of the Jôf del Montasio (concerning which an 'Alpine Note' from Mr. D. Freshfield may be found in our own pages), illustrated by three views, which give one a respectful regard for this remote summit. The Cortina Dolomites also receive special attention. The whole volume is a very creditable production for so young a society, and augurs well for its future. The society already numbers 140 members.

Antiquités Romaines et du Moyen-Age dans la Vallée d'Aoste, par le Chanoine E. Bérard. (Turin: Paravia et Cie.)

In this pamphlet Chanoine Bérard has printed a report presented to the Turin Archæological Society, on the various antiquities of his native valley. The subject is a most interesting one, as the Roman and Burgundian history of Aosta is illustrated by an unusually large quantity of still existing remains. M. Bérard has given a succinct account in order, with exact dates and many interesting details as to the noble families who have held, or still hold, lands in the valley. We note especially the description of a magnificently illuminated missal preserved in the library of the Count d'Entrèves at Chatillon. M. Bérard, who is inspector of antiquities in the valley, has himself largely contributed to the rescue of many monuments from destruction, giving them shelter in the cloisters of his own cathedral church. The collegiate church of S. Ursus is specially interesting to us as having been founded

in the sixth century by Ursus, an Irish priest. Interesting particulars are given as to the remains on the two S. Bernards. (It may be noted here that a learned Swiss historian has lately proved that the first authentic mention of the hospice on the Great S. Bernard occurs in a document of 1125, and that consequently it was not founded by S. Bernard of Menthon in the tenth century, as commonly stated.) M. Bérard's pamphlet will be welcomed by all visitors to Aosta, as embodying careful investigations in a very handy shape.

Handbuch des Alpenen Sport, mit 7 Abbildungen und einer Karte der Alpen.
Von Julius Meurer. (Vienna: Hartleben. 5s. 6d.)

Herr Meurer, indefatigable alike in climbing and in writing, has just published a Handbook to what he calls 'Alpine Sport,' which he carefully limits (or, at least, allows that the name is only strictly applicable) to the ascending of lofty mountains; 'sport' being taken to mean any occupation followed by a man from motives of pleasure, and not as his trade, profession, or calling. A brief notice of the several species of Alpine travellers, the pink and flower of which is the mountaineer, leads naturally to a discussion of the nature and manner of climbing (taken in large part, with due acknowledgment, from a recent article by Dr. Güssfeldt in the 'Zeitschrift' of the German Club), and an enumeration of the various impediments which are more or less necessary for an Alpine traveller, this last section being a reprint of an article by Herr Meurer, lately noticed in these pages. Then comes a general description of the various groups into which the Alps have been divided. Finally, we have a detailed list of all the chief summer haunts in the well-known districts, and also in the remoter regions of the S.W. and S.E. Alps, including the Carpathians. This really affords an excellent bird's-eye view of the inhabited parts of the Alps, and is exceedingly accurate so far as we have tested it. On page 229, however, the writer does not seem to be aware that the comfortable quarters at S. Dalmazzo di Tenda, and the dreary village of Tenda, are situated on the same high road only $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles apart. In the same neighbourhood, too, the Certosa di Pesio is omitted. The book ends with a short narrative of the chief Alpine societies, classified as the great Alpine Clubs (ten in number)—*i.e.*, those whose spheres are not limited to any particular country, or which have a special relation to one of the principal States in Europe—as Alpine associations (eleven in number)—*i.e.*, local societies, and societies for the promotion of travelling in hilly districts as distinguished from climbing, sixteen of which (all in Germany) are enumerated. In an appendix, the text of the rules of the Alpine Club, of the German, Swiss, French, Italian, and Hungarian Clubs, and of the Alpenklub Oesterreich is given.

The book is conveniently arranged and well got up, and contains much information for which an inquirer might have to search in many scattered papers and periodicals. The style is in parts rather gushing, but the sentiments expressed are for the most part very sound, if not strikingly original.

Lo Anuario de la Associacio d'Excursions, Catalana. Ano Primer, 1881.
Barcelona. (Verdaguer: 5 Rambla del Mitj. 10 Pesetas.)

Foreign Societies for mountain exploration sometimes suffer in repute in England owing to the different sense which certain words convey here and on the Continent. 'Tourists' with us implies folk whose tours are controlled by external forces, not by their own free will. 'Excursionists' suggests irresistibly sandwich papers and eight hours at the seaside.

These Catalonian Excursionists would be greatly wronged by such a comparison. Their object is a thorough investigation of the topography, natural history, and antiquities of their province. Their Society, the only one of the character in Spain, has for some time published Proceedings. It now comes forward with a handsome Journal of 584 pages, well illustrated, and divided into sections—excursions; poetry, science, arts and literature; and official section. In the first we notice an excursion to Montserrat, explorations in the Catalonian Pyrenees, first winter ascents in the Spanish Pyrenees, and an ascent of the Mont Perdu with return through High Aragon.

The volume is printed in Catalonian, which is perhaps to be regretted. But we can from personal experience assure those interested in the country that its narratives can be followed without serious difficulty by a reader acquainted only with French and Italian. We congratulate the Society on its literary activity. There is no field in Western Europe where there is more room for exploration than on the southern side of the Pyrenean range, a country to which the attention of some of the younger members of our Club ought to be directed.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

May 2.—Professor BONNEY, F.R.S. (President), in the chair.

Messrs. HUGO LEOPOLD and F. W. HEADLEY were elected members of the Club.

The PRESIDENT brought to the notice of the meeting the following regulations, which had been made by the Committee, with respect to the use of the Club Library by members:—

(1.) The books and publications belonging to the Club, with the exception of such works of common reference as the Committee may from time to time determine to leave exposed for the general use of members, shall be kept under lock and key.

(2.) Members desiring to use the books kept under lock and key may obtain the key from the Housekeeper on writing their names and the date of their application in a book to be provided for that purpose. Every member so using the Library shall return the key to the Housekeeper on leaving the rooms.

Mr. W. CECIL SLINGSBY read a paper upon 'Mountaineering in Norway,' which was illustrated by large chalk drawings and sketches, the work of the author. At the conclusion of the paper, the PRESIDENT and Messrs. A. B. PUCKLE and WILLINCK made some remarks, and a vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to Mr. Slingsby for his valuable paper.