

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.

June 6.—Professor BONNEY, F.R.S., in the chair.

Mr. F. J. TUCK was elected a member of the Club.

The PRESIDENT announced to the meeting the sudden death at Aix-les-Bains of Mr. Thomas Woodbine Hinchliff in the following terms: 'Before we proceed to the ordinary business of the evening, I have a very melancholy duty to perform. It is known to most, perhaps to all of you, that our old friend Thomas Woodbine Hinchliff is dead. Nevertheless, I should fail in my duty, as I am sure you all would feel, did I not attempt, however imperfectly, to express our sense of the loss which this Club has sustained. He was one of its founders; to him indeed we owe more perhaps than to any single man, for he was the first Honorary Secretary, and it was in his chambers that the Club used to meet until it had a local habitation of its own. It is needless to enlarge upon his repute as a traveller and a mountaineer. I may content myself with stating that he was one of those who not only delighted in the Alps as a climber, but who also loved their beauties great and small, who appreciated the perfect loveliness of nature, and described it in terms which few have equalled. But this was not all: to his friends he was something more than the graceful author and genial companion. He was as kind and gentle a man as ever breathed. I do not believe that he ever said or thought a harsh word of any one. He was a man who seemed superior to any meanness or pettiness, a true-hearted, generous gentleman. We had hoped that many years of life yet remained for him—but it was not so written. Very suddenly, by the beautiful shores of Bourget, in sight of the snow-clad peaks which he loved so well, the summons came that called him hence,—that bereft many of us of a friend, whose like we shall not soon see again.'

Mr. WALTERS, speaking as an original member of the Club and one of Mr. Hinchliff's earliest companions in the Alps, paid a touching tribute to his memory, and Mr. DENT added a few words on behalf of the younger members of the Club.

Major MICHELL then read a paper entitled 'Twenty Years' Mountaineering and Sport in the Himalayas.' On its conclusion a discussion took place, in which Messrs. C. C. TUCKER, MOORE, DENT, WILLINCK, RICHMOND POWELL, and the PRESIDENT took part. A cordial vote of thanks to Major Michell terminated the proceedings.

June 16.—The Annual Summer Dinner took place at the Ship Hotel, Greenwich; Professor BONNEY (President of the Club) in the chair. Upwards of thirty members and their friends were present.

Errata in last Number.

- P. 462, line 11 from bottom, for '3,870 mètres' read '3,860 mètres.'
 " 491, lines 8 and 14, transpose 'S.' and 'N.'
 " 497, " 7 " 6 from bottom, for 'groves' read 'graves';
 for 'wheel-barrow' read 'wine-barrel.'