

At San Martino Lantosca there are now two good hotels, guides, and, during the summer months, an English chaplain and congregation.

It may be as well to add, in chronicling a solitary walk, that I have no idea of setting up a new form of adventure—'mountaineering without companions.' I have made, it is true, several minor ascents alone of late years, but on such occasions I never 'mountaineer.' In fact, I am ready to go round a mile in order to avoid the smallest real difficulty.

## REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

*Zeitschrift des Deutschen und Oesterreichischen Alpenvereins* (Vienna).

Parts I. and II. of the series for 1882 contain various articles indirectly connected with Alpine matters. The most interesting, perhaps, is the one by Dr. Koch, in which he discusses the limit at which the internal heat of the earth will render the construction of tunnels impossible.

In matters more strictly Alpine, Dr. Ilwof contributes a short notice of the Archduke John of Austria, uncle of the present Emperor. He was born in 1782 and died in 1859. Throughout the whole of his life he was an ardent lover of his native mountains, and nearly every year traversed some portion of them. Though not much of a mountaineer, measured by the present standard, for his time he was remarkable. He advised, and in a measure brought about, the first ascent of the Ortler, by Pichler, in 1804. He himself ascended the Hoch Goll in 1819, the Hoch Schwab in 1820, and made an attempt, which nearly succeeded, on the Gross Venediger in 1828. When upwards of seventy years old he was still active on foot, and in the year 1858 shot upwards of twenty chamois. Dr. Minnigerode made an ascent of the Federer Kogel and Kessel Kogel in one day from Tiers. In opposition to Mr. Tucker and others he maintains that the latter is the higher.

Herr Euringer gives an account of ascents of the Elferkofel (10,089 ft.) and Zwölferkofel (10,122 ft.), near Sexten. This group seems to have been little visited by English mountaineers since Mr. Holzmann's time. He ascended the northern and lowest slope of the three peaks of the Elferkofel. The second and third can only be reached from the gap between them. From this the western peak is easy, but the eastern requires a difficult climb. It was first climbed by Michel Innerkofler, of Sexten, in 1879, and seems only to have been climbed twice since by tourists. The brothers Zsigmondy attempted it from the gap between the Elferkofel and Rothwand, but were turned back by bad weather. The Zwölferkofel was first ascended by the brothers Innerkofler in 1874. Only five ascents are said to have been made since. The difficulty varies much with the state of the 'Eisrinne' (couloir), which affords the only means of access. It is from 8 to 10 metres broad, with perpendicular walls, and rising at an angle not far from 60°. Here Mr. Utterson Kelso, in an attempt on the mountain some years ago, met with a severe fall.

The publication of Part III. of the 'Zeitschrift' was delayed until February 1883, owing to the workmen's strike in November 1882. It contains the lecture on the measurement of the Rhone glacier delivered by Dr. Forel at the Alpine Congress at Salzburg in August last, and an article by Herr Grünwald on the history of the glacier theory. Attached to this number is the second sheet of the new map of the Zillerthal group. This map, in clearness of detail and delicacy of execution, surpasses any yet published under the superintendence of the Club. An exhaustive article accompanies it on the topography of the group, written by Dr. Daimer and Prof. Seyerlen.

A series of new ascents (or rather ascents by new routes) have been made by members of the Munich section without guides in the Wetterstein (Zugspitz) district.

The number of sections has now reached 85, and the Club numbers no less than 10,900 members.

J. SOWERBY.

*Anleitung zu wissenschaftlichen Beobachtungen auf Alpenreisen.*

3te Abtheilung. Anleitung zu anthropologisch-vorgeschichtlichen Beobachtungen im Gebiet der Deutschen und Oesterreichischen Alpen, von Dr. Johannes Ranke.

4te Abtheilung. Anleitung zur Beobachtung der Alpenen Thierwelt, von Dr. K. W. v. Dalla Torre.

5te Abtheilung. Anleitung zur Beobachtung und zum Bestimmen der Alpenpflanzen, von Dr. K. W. v. Dalla Torre.

These three little books are published by the German Alpine Club as part of the series of supplements to their periodical publications, and close the series worthily opened by similar handbooks on Alpine geography, geology, and meteorology. The first contains a very careful condensed description of anthropological investigations in the Eastern Alps. But, though specially devoted to prehistoric remains, Dr. Ranke has some interesting pages on traces of the Romans in those regions, and on legends and local names which may be referred to the earliest days of man's existence on earth. Many small woodcuts are given, and also a map of the Eastern Alps in Roman times. To any of our members wishing to make researches in this department of science, or to systematise their actual knowledge, this book is indispensable.

The second booklet is devoted to Alpine zoology. Beginning with a general sketch of the history of the fauna, specially the Alpine fauna, of Europe, it contains a scientific classification of Alpine fauna of all kinds, and concludes with very useful hints for observers, pointing out the importance of noting the geographical distribution, the habits of animals in respect of season and habitat, and the mutual relations of fauna and flora, and of the various genera and species *inter se*, as well as the importance of animals, as weather prophets, in popular language and in legend.

The last work on our list should be equally useful to our botanically inclined members. A short history of the Alpine flora, in which occurs an account of Mr. Ball's remarkable theory of the origin of the European flora, is followed by two elaborate sets of tables, which give all details necessary to enable beginners to determine the families, genera, and species to which any Alpine flower belongs, with information as

to the habitat of each variety, more especially in the Eastern Alps. Information is given in succeeding chapters as to the characteristics, geographical distribution, fertilisation, means of defence and of propagation of the Alpine flora, as well as hints for collecting and pressing specimens. An excellent index greatly facilitates the use of the book.

The atlas by which the latter book is supplemented is being gradually published. Twenty parts, each containing several detached coloured plates (a plate for every flower), have as yet appeared. When completed the work will form a valuable addition to an Alpine library.

By the publication of these handbooks the German Club will do much to promote the scientific study of the Alps amongst persons not being professional scientific men, but wishing to get some clear ideas as to the wonders by which they are surrounded in the Alpine world.

*Die Eintheilung der Alpen.* Von Vinzenz v. Haardt. (Hölzel, Vienna. 2 francs.)

The idea on which this tractate of twenty-four quarto pages is based is excellent, but in working it out there are many inaccuracies in details. Dividing the chain of the Alps into three divisions—Western (up to Great St. Bernard), Central (up to the Nauders valley), Eastern—the compiler gives in parallel columns the limits of the various subdivisions, the main orographical features of each, the chief peaks with their heights, and the chief passes, distinguishing those traversed by carriage roads by printing the names in thicker type.

But when we find the Cima di Mercantour, Mont Olan, and Iseran figuring as among the giants of their districts, the Aiguille Verte, Grandes Jorasses, Dent Blanche, Mont Pourri, the Rocca dell' Argentera, and the Meije omitted altogether, the Col d'Iseran and the Col de la Vanoise metamorphosed into carriage roads, we begin to lose faith in our author. It is only fair, however, to say that the sections relating to the Central and specially the Eastern Alps are more carefully done than that devoted to the Western Alps, though we must protest against the Bocca di Brenta being turned into a peak of 3,179 mètres. The accompanying map is not very clear, and is adapted only for expert geographers, as not a single name appears on it except those of the groups into which the author divides the Alpine chain. Absolute accuracy, however, in such a condensed view is essential, and the author should submit his work for correction to some competent authority.

*Das Val d'Anniviers und das Bassin de Sierre: ein Beitrag zur physikalischen Geographie und Ethnographie der Walliser Alpen.* Von G. Berndt. Ergänzungsheft, No. 68 zu Petermann's *Mittheilungen*. (Gotha: Perthes. 5 francs.)

We have here a very complete monograph on a lateral valley which is well known to all Alpine travellers. The bibliography given by Herr Berndt suffices to prove that he has ransacked every available source of information, though in his preface he bitterly complains of the scantiness and untrustworthiness of his authorities, which he has supplemented and corrected by personal investigations on the spot. In successive chapters the author discusses the topography, geology,

hydrography (including the glaciers), the meteorology, and specially the flora of the valley. The final chapter, on the history and ethnography, should be the most interesting, but Herr Berndt devotes it mainly to discussing the alleged descent of the inhabitants from the Huns or Saracens. He rejects both these theories, coming to the conclusion that, like their neighbours in the Val d'Hérens, the Anniviards represent an original Celtic population strongly affected by Romance elements. He also gives some interesting descriptions of the dialect (a variety of the *langue d'oc*), manners, and customs of the inhabitants. It is to be regretted that Herr Berndt has made no attempt to trace out the local history of the valley, the name of which first appears as 'Vallis Anivesii in loco Grimienis' in the roll of the cathedral chapter of Sion about 1100, though it is not possible to accept the derivation of the name given by the authority from whom we take these details,\* viz. Italian *annevare*, i.e. a district near snow or covered with snow.

With this reservation we can heartily recommend Herr Berndt's book to our readers, who will not have forgotten that the same enterprising firm has already published in the same series the epoch-making tracts of Payer and Von Sonklar on the topography of various districts of the Eastern Alps.

*Annuario della Società degli Alpinisti Tridentini, 1881-82.* (Rovereto, 1882.)

The new volume, the eighth, of the Trentine Alpine Club bears satisfactory testimony to the progress of this useful and energetic body, which, in spite of many difficulties, has maintained itself in the first rank of the minor Alpine Societies. It has doubled its number in the last two years, and now counts over 400 members. To foreigners its influence is manifest in the well-planned and substantial huts it is erecting in convenient situations for mountaineers, as well as in the general improvement in the facilities of travel—the increase of inns and guides in the Giudicaria.

The present volume contains much interesting information on the topography and inhabitants of this district. Unfortunately the first paper is far from satisfactory. It is well known that in no group in the Alps has there been more difficulty in settling the nomenclature than among the Brenta Dolomites. Names have been tossed about between the two principal peaks till their best friends have hardly known how to speak of them. Under these circumstances the Society took the sensible course of appointing two gentlemen to make local investigations, and on the result to reneap the group and report on its nomenclature. Unfortunately the members appointed have not given themselves sufficient time for their task. Their new map is inaccurate with regard to the ranges north of the Bocca di Brenta, and the ignorance of its authors of the true orography is naturally

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\* *Orts-etymologische Forschungen als Beiträge zu einer Toponomastik der Schweiz*, von A. Gatschet, p. 191. (Bern, 1866.) Consult the documents in the *Documents relatifs à l'Histoire du Valais*, by the Abbé Gremaud, a most valuable collection, of which four volumes (A.D. 300-1350) have already been published (1875-80) by the Société d'Histoire de la Suisse Romande.

reflected in their proposed alterations in nomenclature. Into these alterations we will not enter. The sooner they are forgotten the better for all parties. The authors profess to have consulted one English mountaineer—Mr. Tuckett. It is only fair to ourselves therefore to add, that they were warned of their errors—it would seem, too late—by that gentleman as well as by other members of our Club. At the same time we gladly note that the authors are now prepared to reconsider the matter, and adopt a nomenclature more agreeable to former use and the natural features of the district, which will be embodied in a map to be published in the next number of the Alpine Journal.

Signor Gambillo's monograph on Val Rendena (published also in a separate form) is well done and full of interest, particularly to the antiquarian or the student of local poetry, in which this region seems to rival Tuscany. The topography also is on the whole accurate. We must note, however, in contradiction to the statement that no way has been found up the Adamello from the west, that Mr. Tuckett's party descended in 1865 from the peak into Val di Miller, and that a direct way has also been found down into Val d'Avio.\* Messrs. Ball and Forster made the second ascent of the Cima Tosa a few days after and in ignorance of the first by Signor Loss. Mr. D. Freshfield was the leader of the first party who ascended the Presanella. These omissions argue a certain want of editorial supervision, for the Trentine Club has, it must be supposed, a library.

Amongst other articles of interest is an excellent vocabulary of Alpine terms: e.g. *cenghia*, a corridor on a rock-face; *covelo*, recess in a cliff affording shelter; *grava*, slope of débris; *landro*, cave. *Pala* is thus explained: 'a steep meadow on the hill-sides above 2,000 mètres.' This name is probably transferred from *pala*, an altar-piece, because these meadows appear like great green draperies stretched across the mountain-flanks.' This derivation is surely more than doubtful! D. W. F.

*Le Montagne di Val Masino.* Del Nobile F. Lurani. (Milano: Bartolotti di Dal Bono, 1883.)

Signor Lurani, a member of the Milanese section of the C. A. I., has reprinted from the 'Annuario' of his section a modest but valuable paper on the 'Mountains of Val Masino,' illustrated with plates, which combine absolute fidelity with some artistic merit, and a map which, it is not too much to say, is the first accurate representation on an adequate scale of the Italian portion of this interesting district. Its author has set right on paper, once for all, the relations of the Passi di Ferro and di Bondo, which had been misrepresented or ignored with consummate obstinacy not only in the Federal Map, but in later Swiss publications (e.g. Ziegler's Map of the Engadine), and has carried out the work which the Swiss Club failed adequately to attack in the year they made the Bregaglia their *Excursionsgebiet*. He gives us the first accounts that have been published of ascents of the Corno Bruciato and Pizzo Torrone Occidentale, and of explorations in the mountain-ranges between the Baths of Masino and Val Codera. He also adds

\* Freshfield's *Italian Alps*, Appendix.

some corrections of heights, the result of numerous observations. Of these the most important is the Corno Bruciato, 10,211 feet. A new cabin has been erected, principally at Signor Lurani's expense, 2 hours above the Alp Preda Rossa and at the very foot of the Disgrazia. Antonio Baroni, of Sussia, San Pellegrino (Val Brembana), is strongly recommended as a first-rate guide for difficult expeditions, and the names of several more strictly local men with some glacier experience are given.

As a whole this paper shows a rare thoroughness of information, literary as well as local, and a total absence of the national jealousy which, imported into some Alpine papers, has gone far to render not only the authors but their pursuit ridiculous. It is, in short, a model of what an amateur topographer's work should be, and we wish we had many like it in store for this journal.

It is a pity, surely, that so few of our younger members care to carry their energy beyond the shadows of Mont Blanc, Monte Rosa, and the Finsteraarhorn; or when they do, only afford themselves time to attack one great peak in each district. The excuse that the Lesser Alps are exhausted is, even from the gymnast's point of view, without foundation in fact. At any rate we are grateful to Signor Lurani for having shown that there are granite needles which scarcely yield even to those of Chamonix in the qualities which attract scramblers, and that in the Italian Alps there are inns where, in the intervals of stoneman-construction, our thirsty members may erect pyramids of (Chiavenna) beer-bottles equal to that which rises annually beside the Riffelhaus in the last days of September, and is known to the guides as 'Le Monument du Club Anglais.'

D. W. F.

*Da Torino a Lanzo e per le Valli della Stura: Guida descrittiva, storica ed industriale.* Da Carlo Ratti. (Turin: Casanova. 2 francs.)

There are probably few valleys in the Western Alps at once so unfamiliar to our members while comparatively so much visited by Italian climbers, as those which bear the collective name of the Valleys of Lanzo; yet few have had so many monographs written on them. Described by Albanis de Beaumont in 1782, they have since formed the subject of works by M. Ponsillon (1790), Count Louis Francesetti (1823), and Colonel Clavarino (1867), while the special wants of mountaineers have been amply supplied by the guide-books of Clavarino (1874), of Vaccarone and Nigra (1878), and of Martelli and Vaccarone (1880), not to speak of Mr. Ball's 'Alpine Guide.' They have now been thoroughly explored by Italian climbers, but the members of our club who have visited them may almost be counted on the fingers of both hands. The distance from Turin to Lanzo is but twenty miles, and is traversed by a railway; good char roads will shortly be completed thence up to Forno, Balme, and Useglio, the villages at the head of the three valleys; while numberless ridges interpose a barrier of snow and rocks most tempting to the climber who wishes to gain the valley of the Arc. The little book before us describes at length the railway and plain between Turin and Lanzo, and the roads and paths up the three valleys—the Valle Grande, the Valle d'Ala, and the Valle

di Viù—but dismisses the glaciers, passes, and peaks in a rather summary fashion. The position of Forno, in the Valle Grande, is said to be particularly beautiful. The historical student will be interested in the sanctuary of the Madonna near Forno (dating from 1630), and that of St. Ignatius Loyola near Lanzo (dating from 1635), and may devote his energies to tracing out the supposed Roman road across the Colle dell' Autaret from Usseglio to Bessans, and the Roman remains in the church at Usseglio and elsewhere. Signor Ratti's little work will serve as a good introduction for all who intend visiting this part of the world. The numerous woodcuts with which it is illustrated are clearer than might have been expected from their small size, and the get-up of the book is very creditable to Signor Casanova, to whom we already owe many like pretty and useful volumes published in his 'Biblioteca Alpina.'

## ALPINE NOTES.

TO AROLLA BY VAL DE NENDAZ AND THE ROSA BLANCHE.—An hour's walk below Sion is a bridge over the Rhone from which a track ascends to the village of Nendaz. Beyond and just outside the latter a small path through meadows on the right leads to a track ascending through a wood to the well-made and comparatively level main track, which is carried at a considerable elevation along the left bank of the valley. The track is reached in the neighbourhood of some prettily-situated villas overlooking the cultivated upland slopes that droop to the Rhone valley.

The head of Val Nendaz is a remarkably pleasing vale of broad pasture land, liberally adorned with fine-grown and picturesque timber. In front is Mont Fort and its spacious glacier, and the valley is divided into two branches by a spur of the former. Left is the large Alpe Tortain, at the edge of a level grass plain, whose commodious châteaux seemed to promise good sleeping quarters. Hence is a pass over the glacier to Fionnay,\* and, at a lower point, the Col de la Chauz to Lourtier. Right, in a little grass basin, is the ruder Alpe de Cleuson (5½ hrs. from Sion), in approaching which the upper track should not be lost sight of; the starting-point of the Cols de Louvie and Cleuson to Fionnay, and the Col de Prazfleuri to Val d'Hérémente.

At the last-named châteaux Mr. J. B. Parish, Xavier Andermatten, and I passed the night of August 11 last year, flealess but fireless, for the hut where the fire was made was only indicated by a far glimmering across a dark and marshy expanse. In the morning the fire proved to be in the open air, giving heat at the expense of smoke. The right bank of the Glacier du Grand Désert (2 hrs.) is easily reached from the brow below the precipitous wall of rocks, seen in front when the bend of the valley is turned. The ascent of the Rosa Blanche (1½ hr.) from the neighbourhood of Col de Cleuson is quite easy. The view is much praised

\* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xi. p. 116.