

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'Héremence.

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.

by Herr Weilenmann, who in 1865 made the first ascent (we found no names of English visitors), and is the counterpart to the finer view from the Vouasson. The most striking object is the bold precipice of Mont Pleureur. An easy rock arête leads down to the Glacier des Morts, whence the highest gap should be taken to the lower and much larger Glacier des Ecoulayes, which is a flat tract of hard ice. We lost much time in descending the cliff at a lower point. From the shoulder on the right bank of the glacier an agreeable terrace path leads to the alp of Liappey (? $1\frac{1}{4}$ hr.). Here we had delicious milk, worthy of the fame of the Seilon pastures.* Hence to Arolla $3\frac{1}{2}$ hrs., the left bank of the Glacier de Seilon being reached by a convenient natural bridge over the Liappey torrent, just above a little rock gorge shown on the map. This pleasant walk, if the direction be reversed, may be made in one day (say 12 hrs.).

A. Cusr.

COL DE L'OULIE CECCA.—The only deep depression in the range between the Col d'Olen and the Crête Sèche lies between the Sciassa and the Oulie Cecca. The existence of a pass is indicated on the new Swiss map, but the name Col d'Otemma is bestowed on another passage on the other side of the Sciassa.† When with Xavier Andermatten I crossed the pass on August 21 last, the probable reason became apparent; viz. that though no more than a walk on the Swiss side, on the Italian the gap is parted from the small unnamed glacier at its foot by a low rampart of rocks which, though not steep, are less easy than those below the other pass. The above name is now suggested.

The col is reached in little over 1 hr. from the Otemma glacier. In approaching from Arolla a snow gap should be crossed in the ridge N. of the Sciassa, which we found protected on the side of the col by a perilous arête of toppling towers. Descent to foot of small glacier, $\frac{1}{2}$ hr.; thence by the shoulder to the left of the ravine, on the edge of which is a convenient cattle track, to the châteaux of Boetta, $1\frac{1}{2}$ hr.; to Bionaz, $1\frac{1}{2}$ hr.

At Bionaz we were hospitably entertained by the agreeable curé, a new-comer from the neighbourhood of Aosta, who personally waited on our comfort. Everything was clean, the *poulet* tender, and the wine good. In the matter of charges travellers will do well to precede enquiry by making out their own bill.

A. Cusr.

ASCENT OF LLIWEDD BY NORTH FACE.—Lliwedd (about 2,900 feet) is the highest point of the ridge which runs from Snowdon towards the south-east. On the south side it can be ascended anywhere from Cwm-y-Llan by grass-grown or boulder-covered slopes, and the ridge itself can be traversed with ease. But on the north it falls away in magnificent precipices to the slopes above Llyn Llydaw. This northern face consists of four buttresses with three fairly well defined couloirs between them. The summit ridge has two peaks, of which the western, nearer Snowdon, is the higher by a few feet. In January 1882 from the summit of Cribgoch Mr. A. H. Stocker and myself were struck by the grand appearance of the Lliwedd cliffs; and hearing from Owen, the landlord of the Pen-y-gwryd Hotel, that

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. vi. p. 25.

† *Ibid.* vol. x. p. 492.

the northern face had never been climbed, the desire to make the first ascent naturally came upon us. On the 10th we made our first attempt by the central couloir, which leads up to the depression between the two summits. As it was raining the whole day the rocks were in an abominable state, and it was with the greatest difficulty that we managed to get up about 150 feet. The task we had set ourselves was beyond our powers, and we were reluctantly obliged to descend and postpone the attempt for a year. We left a postcard with Owen, which we asked him to send us in case anyone succeeded in ascending the northern cliffs, and we passed a year in daily expectation of receiving the news that Lliwedd had been conquered. The new year 1883 found us again at Pen-y-gwryd with eighty feet of rope and our trusty axes. With delight we heard that Lliwedd's northern face was still untrodden ground. Bad weather delayed us, but on January 3 we again tried the central couloir. Rocks could hardly be more deceptive in appearance; they looked easy from below, but proved far too smooth and slippery for comfortable climbing. We therefore changed our point of attack. On January 4, after carefully observing the rocks of the buttress to the west of the central couloir, we came to the conclusion that it might be possible to cross the face in an upward direction from east to west, and then strike straight up. At 11.15 a.m. we got on the rocks, beginning from the lower of two dark green patches seen from below. From this a ledge runs up to the right; and, if it had only been continuous, Lliwedd would present no very great difficulties. Unfortunately this was not the case; there were most formidable-looking gaps in it, and the ledges above and below were tacked on to it by smooth and almost perpendicular gullies. Three bits in particular may be mentioned as far the hardest, although they are more or less typical of these crags, which nowhere offer twenty consecutive yards of easy rock-work. The first difficulty which presented itself was where the ledge was broken by a bold face of rock. One of us was pushed to the top of the smooth part; and finding that he could not descend to the ledge on the other side, he ascended a little higher, anchored himself firmly to the rocks, assisted his companion up, and let him down to the required ledge. Then throwing the rope over a pinnacle, he gave both ends to his companion to hold tight, and slid down the forty feet of rope to join him. After a few yards of easier work we came to a ledge about six inches wide and four yards long; the rock above was nearly perpendicular, with no handhold, and there was nothing below. It was the only way; we could not turn it, and somehow we got over, but we neither of us wish to be there again. From that ever to be remembered ledge the climbing was grand work up to the point where we had to turn from a westerly direction to go straight up the face. Here there was one nasty corner. A narrow ledge about two inches wide had below it a sloping face of rock with three minute cracks in it. One of us had crossed this in safety, and so assumed a position in which the rope would have been of very little use. He was then opposed by a steep bit topped by four feet of perpendicular rock, with a very steep slope of heather above. At the moment that his last foot left the highest peg of rock his other

knee slipped, and the heather, grass, and earth began to give way in his left hand. It was an awkward moment, for the other was not very well situated for supporting a jerk at the end of thirty feet of rope, which would mean a fall of about fifty feet. Happily the other knee got on the heather and the axe held firm in the earth. Our difficulties were then over. The rocks grew less and less difficult as we ascended; and, after four hours and a half of incessant work up 850 feet of rocks, we found ourselves on the summit ridge exactly thirteen yards from the cairn. It may be mentioned that the only real difficulties lie in the first 200 feet; above that point the mountain presents rockwork of a very high order, but nothing stupendously difficult, the rock being very firm. Of course we adhered to the Alpine rule that only one should move at a time. And we should recommend all following in our footsteps to take at least sixty feet of rope, and to get on the rocks as soon as possible. Future climbers will probably find that of the three couloirs the western is comparatively easy; the central may perhaps be ascended by climbing the lower rocks on the right, and the eastern by a long *détour* to the left. The buttress to the left of the central couloir looks as difficult as rocks possibly can look. But there is a chance that a careful search among the rocks to the left of the central couloir might reward a rock-climber with an exciting and successful scramble. In any case the whole northern face is distinctly difficult.

T. W. WALL.

ALPINE INNS AND HUTS.—It may be convenient for some wanderers in the Cottian Alps to know that the Baracco, or refuge, on the summit of the Col de Sestrières, between Césanne and Fenestrelles, offers very fair quarters, and is the best starting-point for the Rognosa di Sestrières, which offers a most magnificent panorama. At Massello, in the valley of S. Martino, I was most hospitably entertained by the Waldensian minister. This is a good centre for exploring the neighbouring ranges, Perrero being rather too far down the valley. At Fenestrelles the picturesque Rosa Rossa, at S. Véran the Auberge Fine, and at Embrun the H. de la Poste may be recommended. I regret to say that several of the refuges of the Briançon section of the French Club are in a very bad state of repair (e.g. Refuges de Provence and Césanne), while the Refuge Tuckett has lost many of the few conveniences with which it was formerly furnished, and the Refuge des Lyonnais seems to have been totally abandoned by the section. The refuge at the Châtelleret rock in the Etançons valley is now completed; the Bonnepierre hut and the Refuge de la Pilatte are solidly built and well supplied with necessary utensils. All these belong to the Isère section. It may be as well to state here that the char road from Venosc to S. Christophe will, it is hoped, be finished this year or next; that the railway from Gap to Embrun will be opened to the public this spring (the continuation to Briançon is slowly progressing); and that a char road has now been made along the right bank of the Ubaye from S. Paul to Maljasset.

On revisiting, after an interval of many years, the well-known inns at the Kl. Scheidegg and at Ried in the Löschthal, I was delighted to find that my pleasant recollections of their comfort and of the civility of their landlords were fully confirmed. The walk from the former

along the right slope of the Trümletenthal to the Lauterbrunnen valley is highly recommended; the way is not altogether easy to find. The Meiringen guides hope to build a hut this spring near the Oberaarjoch, to facilitate the ascent of the Finsteraarhorn from the Grimsel, whether by the ordinary or the eastern route. The Bergli Hütte, on the way to the Mönchjoch, is being rebuilt on a larger scale and in a more convenient position. I am informed that Madame Epiney's snug little inn at Zinal has been enlarged and now contains forty rooms, including three public sitting-rooms. The number of bedrooms at the Arolla inn has been doubled.

W. A. B. COOLIDGE.

ALPINE MEETING IN WALES.—On Friday, March 30, fourteen members of the Alpine Club met at Carnarvon, and the following day crossed the mountains from Nantlle to Beddgelert, ascending Moel Hebog on the way. In the evening seventeen members sat down to dinner, Mr. H. Walker, one of the vice-presidents of the Club, in the chair. The following day Snowdon was ascended by the southern face. The party was fortunate in having splendid weather for the two days. Much snow was found on the higher parts of the mountain.

MAURER FUND.—We learn that Herr Bohren, of the Adler, Grindelwald, has paid over to Melchior Anderegg, as trustee, the sum of 326 francs for this Fund, being the amount collected at his hotel last summer.

PETRUS FUND.—Messrs. Baumann, Puckle, and Stirling have received the following sums:—Prof. T. G. Bonney, President of the Alpine Club, 4*l.*; J. E. Bode, 5*l.*; John Baumann, 2*l.* 2*s.*; W. S. Gibson, 5*l.*; G. Gruber, 10*l.*; F. C. Hartley, 1*l.* 1*s.*; T. M. Kitchin, 1*l.* 1*s.*; Lady at Ripon, 5*s.*; J. O. Maund, 2*l.*; A. D. Puckle, 10*l.*; W. B. Puckle, 10*l.*; Wm. Scott, 1*l.*; A. Sedgwick, 5*l.*; H. Stirling, 5*l.*; H. Warren, 2*l.* Total, 63*l.* 9*s.*

This amount has been sent out to Mons. Alex. Seiler, who kindly offered to see to its investment and settlement upon the widow and children of Johann Petrus, and who writes word that he has, after consulting the widow, placed the money 'contre hypothèque très-sûre des biens de campagne.'

WINTER EXPEDITIONS IN THE ALPS.—Unusually few winter expeditions have as yet been reported. Amongst these the most remarkable is the series of ascents made by Mrs. Burnaby (wife of Col. Fred. Burnaby) in the Mont Blanc district, viz. :—

November 1.—From Chamonix to the Cabane d'Orny in one day by the Col et Aiguille du Tour.

December 20.—Passage of the Col du Tacul from the Glacier de Leschaux to the Glacier du Géant.

January 5.—An attempt on Mont Blanc, defeated by mist when the party had got to the top of the Mur de la Côte.

January 15.—Col et Aiguille des Grandes Montées.

January 20.—Aiguille du Midi in one day from the Montenvers.

February 2.—From the Châlets de l'Ognan to Orsières in 16.20 (including halts), by the Col du Chardonnet and Ferêtre de Saleinoz.

February 7.—From l'Ognan to Orsières in 18.10 (including halts), by way of the Col d'Argentière.

March 3.—Attempt on Monte Rosa. The start was made from the Théodule hut, and the final arête was gained, but a violent wind and piercing cold forced the party to retreat before reaching the summit.

On all these expeditions Mrs. Burnaby's guide was Edouard Cupelin, and on the attempt on Monte Rosa her party was reinforced by Signor Vittorio Sella and three Val Tournanche guides. This unparalleled series of winter ascents executed by a lady will form one of the most brilliant chapters in the history of winter mountaineering: a climbing tour in winter is now proved to be as practicable as isolated ascents at the same season. All Alpine readers will look forward with the greatest interest to the book by Mrs. Burnaby which Messrs. Sampson Low & Co. announce as almost ready, and which will be entitled 'The High Alps in Winter; or, Mountaineering in Search of Health,' and is to contain several illustrations and a portrait of the adventurous authoress.

STUDER'S 'UEBER EIS UND SCHNEE.'—A fourth or supplementary volume of this very valuable work has just appeared (Dalp, Bern), which incorporates all new ascents and routes made in the Swiss Alps since the publication of the original three volumes in 1869–1871. It is brought down to the latest date, including several expeditions noticed in the last number of the Alpine Journal and the attempt on Monte Rosa made barely two months since. We hope to give a detailed review of this new volume in our next number, and must content ourselves for the present by thanking the veteran author in the name of the Alpine public for the enormous pains and trouble he has taken to make his book complete and accurate. Our Club may well feel proud to number among its Honorary Members one who has done so much for Alpine history and topography as Herr Gottlieb Studer.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

February 6.—A General Meeting of the Club was held, Professor BONNEY, F.R.S. (President), in the chair.

Messrs. MACDONALD BEAUMONT, JOHN FISHER, R. L. HARRISON, and JAMES JACKSON were elected members of the Club.

The Hon. SECRETARY and TREASURER presented the Club accounts for the year 1882, which were, on the motion of Mr. STAFFORD HILL, unanimously passed by the meeting.

Mr. STAFFORD ANDERSON read a paper, which was illustrated by a large sketch, upon 'A New Route up the Dent Blanche'—printed in the February Alpine Journal. At the conclusion of the paper, Messrs. W. E. DAVIDSON, A. W. MOORE, and G. P. BAKER made some remarks, and the PRESIDENT proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Anderson for his very interesting paper. Mr. ANDERSON briefly responded to the vote, which was unanimously accorded to him.

March 6.—A General Meeting of the Club was held, Professor BONNEY, F.R.S. (President), in the chair.