

ascended to its top. Then we descended a short knife-edge of snow, covering a dip in the arête; and along the arête for about 100 yards to the rocks composing the summit, which was reached at 12.58, *i.e.* just one hour from the Steinernes Mändl.' Mr. Binney states that the view was at first totally obscured by mist, but this cleared partially away, so that they saw the Venediger, some of the Dolomite peaks, and the Millstädter See. Mr. Binney rejoined Mr. Butler at 2, and the party soon started down the rocks. Then a gliasade brought them to the ice of the Trippenkees, whence they descended to the head of the Güssgraben over steep *geröll* and grass. The further journey to the Flügelhof in the Maltathal (which was reached at 8.45 P.M.) was not agreeable, the path being at first very rough. A good walker would probably find 5 to 6 hours enough to allow from the summit to the Flügelhof. The best way to ascend the Hochalm Spitze is clearly from the Elendhütte by the Gross Elend Kees (Brunnhahrkees of Ball). The glacier slopes very gradually to within a short distance of the summit; and though this can probably be actually reached only by the short 'knife-edge' of which Mr. Binney speaks, there would not seem to be any difficulty in crossing the north-east ridge from the head of the Gross Elend to the Hochalm glacier.

Dolomites.

DREI SCHUSTER SPITZE (c. 3,100 mètres = 10,171 feet). *July 16.*—Dr. K. Schulz, Herr E. Zsigmondy, and Herr L. Purtscheller, without guides, climbed the northern point of this peak from Innerfeld-Sexten, in 12¼ hrs., with halts. They were separated from the highest point by a series of teeth, some of which were higher than their standing-point. The difficulties are described as being very great, and the party were benighted on the way down.

CROZZON DI BRENTA * (3,129 mètres = 10,266 feet). *August 8.*—Dr. K. Schulz (after a previous attempt on August 3 in company with M. de Falkner, when the middle peak was reached for the first time) with Matteo Nicolussi, effected the first ascent of the highest point. Starting from the Tosa hut at 4 A.M., they passed over the Cima Tosa at 6.30, reached the south point of the Crozzon at 8.55, the middle point at 9.20, and at 10 A.M. the northernmost and highest peak. The descent into the gap between the central and northern points was difficult owing to the steepness and rottenness of the rocks.

ALPINE NOTES.

WINTER MEETING AND DINNER.—The Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held at the Club Rooms, on Tuesday evening, December 16, at 8.30 P.M.

The Annual Winter Dinner will take place at Willis's Rooms on Wednesday, December 17, at seven o'clock. The chair will be taken

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xi. p. 316.

by F. C. Grove, Esq., President of the Club. The price of the dinner will be one guinea a head, to be paid on entering the room. Members intending to be present are requested to send their names, together with those of any friends whom they wish to introduce, to the Hon. Secretary, not later than Saturday, December 13.

As in former years, there will be an exhibition of Alpine paintings at Willis's Rooms during the afternoon of Wednesday, December 17, from 2 P.M. to 5 P.M., to which members and their friends will be admitted. Gentlemen willing to lend pictures for exhibition are requested to communicate with the Hon. Secretary on or before Saturday, December 13.

All communications respecting the dinner or picture exhibition should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary of the Club, W. E. Davidson, Esq., 3 King's Bench Walk, Temple, E.C.

REPRINT OF BACK NUMBERS OF THE JOURNAL.—It is proposed to reprint (probably without illustrations or maps) the third volume of the 'Alpine Journal' and numbers 78 and 79 (all of which are entirely out of print), if a sufficient number of subscribers can be found to secure the Club against any loss. Names should be forwarded as soon as possible to the Hon. Secretary of the Club, or to the Editor of the Journal.

MOUNTAIN EXPLORATION.—The Geographical Society has made a grant of 250*l.* to Mr. Forbes towards the exploration of the Owen Stanley Mountains in the south-eastern extremities of New Guinea. The highest point yet measured reaches 13,200 feet. A grant of 200*l.* has been made to Mr. Im Thurn for an expedition to the Table Mountain of British Guiana (Roraima), the summit of which, an extensive forested plateau cut off by perpendicular cliffs, has never yet been reached. A fuller account of this remarkable summit will be found on p. 501 of vol. ix., where it is compared to the Mont Aiguille, one of the Seven Wonders of Dauphiné, of which Rabelais writes ('Pantagruel,' iv. 57), 'le mons du Daulphiné, dict Inaccessible, pource qu'il est en forme d'un potyron, et de toute mémoire personne surmonter ne l'ha pu, fors Doyac, conducteur de l'artillerie du roi Charles huictiesme, lequel avecques engins mirifiques y monta, et au dessus trouva un vieil bélier. C'estoit à diviner qui là transporté l'avoit.'* In the August number of the 'Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society' will be found an account of a recent visit to the base of Roraima and its sister mountain, Kukenam, by Mr. H. Whitely. The object of the journey was bird collecting; but Mr. Whitely examined the cliffs of Roraima, and discovered one weak place in them where (as shown in an illustration) the precipice is intersected by a sloping shelf. This shelf is not altogether continuous, but Mr. Whitely expresses an opinion that the break in it 'might be overcome by taking ropes and all necessary implements under direction of someone skilled in overcoming difficulties of a like nature.' The height of the base of the cliffs was found by aneroid and boiling-water observations to be 7,759 feet.

Dr. Güssfeldt, in some remarks which accompany the reproduction

* It appears it was not really D'Oyac but Julien Captan of Montélimar who first climbed the cliffs.

in the 'Zeitschrift' of the German Alpine Club (1884, p. 404), of his photograph of Aconcagua, the highest peak of the Andes (6,970 mètres = 22,769 feet), ascended by him to a height of 6,400 mètres on February 26, 1883,* announces that his report on the scientific results of his South American journey has been presented to the Royal Prussian Academy of Sciences (it was read at the session of July 24 last, and a copy has been sent to the Club by the author), adding that the eighty mountain views he took are in course of reproduction, and that a descriptive account of his explorations will appear in the October 1884 and following numbers of the 'Deutsche Kundschau.'

THE WESTERN DRU.—It will be remembered that the second ascent of this peak was made on August 6, 1883, by Mr. J. W. Hartley with Emile and Joseph Rey.† The third ascent was made on August 28 last by Mr. James T. Van Rensselaer, of New York, with Edouard Cupelin and François Simond. Starting from the Montenvers half an hour after midnight they gained, without any difficulties worth speaking of, the shoulder of the mountain seen to the right from Chamonix. Leaving this point at 8.15 A.M. they reached the summit at 11.45, after an extremely difficult climb up very steep rocks and gullies. The descent to the shoulder took $4\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. and was as difficult as the ascent. It was found necessary in many places to drive into crevices in the rocks iron nails with a ring at one end, through which they passed a rope doubled, which was pulled down after the party had passed each bad bit. The Montenvers was regained at 10 P.M., after an outing of $21\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. The above details are taken from Mr. Van Rensselaer's narrative, published in 'The Continental Times' of September 6, 1884. Mr. Van Rensselaer also made the ascent of the highest peak of the Dru.

MOUNTAINEERING WITHOUT GUIDES.—We have before now ‡ had occasion to mention several remarkable ascents effected without guides by the brothers Zsigmondy of Vienna, but this summer they have completely eclipsed their former performances. Between July 16 and Sept. 2, accompanied in most cases by Herr Purtscheller of Salzburg and in many by Dr. K. Schulz, they carried out the following magnificent series of ascents in the Dolomites and Western Alps: Dreischusterspitze (north peak), from Sexten, Croda Rossa, lowest of the Drei Zinnen (3rd ascent), attempt on the Marmarole, Croda del Lago (2nd ascent, the 1st ascent having been made a few days earlier by Baron Eötvis), the Tofana, Antelao, Civetta, Vernel (2nd ascent), Vezzana, Sass Maor (4th ascent), 3rd ascent of the Sasso di Mur by a new route from the Alpe di Neva and passage for the first time from the western to the eastern pinnacle ($\frac{1}{2}$ hour up, $\frac{1}{4}$ back), Monte Rosa from Macugnaga (two nights on the way owing to bad weather), Castor, Matterhorn crossed for the first time without guides, Zinal Rothhorn, Weisshorn, Bietschhorn by a new route from the south which Dr. Schulz had attempted the year before. It may be remarked as a curiosity that in September two English gentlemen, who had been up the Wetterhorn

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xi. 407.

† *Ibid.* vol. xi. p. 368.

‡ *Ibid.* xi. 182.

with guides, were so anxious to obtain a view that they *twice* in the same week repeated the ascent without guides, on the last occasion attaining their object, and effecting the entire ascent up and down in one day from Grindelwald.

SWISS-ENGLISH.—The remarkable specimen of Swiss-English reprinted below *verbatim et literatim* first appeared in the 'Times' of August 11 last. We have no reason to think that the 'idyl' has not found an immediate purchaser, and it is on its literary merits alone that we reproduce Herr Mosse's announcement:—

FOR SALE, the acknowledged most beautiful idyl of the Alps region, viz. the private PROPERTY, with a small lake, which has been described by authors as the Jewel of Switzerland, Unicum, Inigma, Pearl, &c. Terms favourable. Album on view. Pamphlets and drawings sent free on applying to E. 580, care of Rudolf Mosse, Zurich.

REVIEWS.

Above the Snow Line. By Clinton T. Dent (Longmans).

IN the old days books on the Alps used to be written by men who had perhaps not scaled a very large number of high peaks, but who had fallen under the spell of the great hills (being true mountain lovers and not peak hunters), and who tried as far as they could to express it in words. But of late years Alpine books (with a few rare and brilliant exceptions, which will occur to everyone) have come from the pens of those who know the outward aspect of the Alps far better than their predecessors, but who seem deaf and blind to all else concerning them. Perhaps this is because familiarity breeds contempt; perhaps (and we are inclined to think that this is the true reason) the number of mountain lovers is much smaller in proportion to that of mountain climbers than was formerly the case. It is therefore with very great pleasure that we welcome Mr. Dent's book. Mr. Dent has hitherto been known to the world as a daring and successful mountain climber; by this book he has won for himself an honourable place in the far narrower circle of mountain lovers. 'Above the Snow Line' is perhaps the most successful, certainly one of the most successful, attempts to render into words the true delights of climbing that we have met with in the course of a tolerably wide course of reading in Alpine literature. Mr. Dent often succeeds in putting into words what many before him have tried in vain to express; now and then he contrives to call up and revive a fleeting and shadowy fancy which we had fruitlessly sought to fix and retain.

It is very probable, however, that many will turn to this book in hopes of finding in it accounts of stirring adventures by rock and snow rather than an analysis of the fascination of Alpine climbing. And we can promise Mr. Dent's readers that they will not be disappointed, for the book contains some very vivid sketches of ascents and mishaps, though happily none of these last are of a very serious kind. We climb with Mr. Dent up the Balfrinhorn, the Südlenzspitz, the Portienhorn in