

we should read the rather ambiguous statement in the preface that the 'tourist will find all the necessary information that the larger and more expensive guide books afford' as an acknowledgment of the editor's indebtedness to his predecessors?

If the omissions in this guide are serious the sins of commission are remarkably few, for we will not count as such the printer's errors which have escaped a first revision. The worst thing we have come on is the string of historical and scientific statements that follows.

'The changes in this (Lower Grindelwald) glacier have been very remarkable. Three hundred years ago an easy path led through its present bed into the Valais beyond. In the seventeenth century the glacier increased enormously, and, rushing down into the Grindelwald valley, carried away many dwellings and the Church of St. Petronella, &c.' On the *rushing* glacier we need hardly comment. The very slender historical basis these exaggerations rest on is set out in Mr. Longman's papers in vol. viii. of this Journal.

Here is a sentence which needs to be reversed to correspond with nature: 'The scenery of the Lake of Lecco, though pretty, cannot vie in beauty or grandeur with that of the Lake of Como.' Again, 'beautiful grounds' are exactly what the 'Grand Hôtel de Locarno' has not. 'Centre for most beautiful excursions' would be more to the point. The new hotel on Monte Mottarone is not mentioned; and the editor shows a certain innocence in quoting Mr. Augustus Hare on mountain views. That eminent copyist can, it is well known, hardly mention a mountain without a mistake, and that Mont Blanc 'stands out against the crimson sky at Varese' is one of his numerous elementary misconceptions! The following suggestion is crude and obsolete: 'To avoid sunburn use glycerine and salad oil.' Cold cream in small zinc bottles is less nasty and more efficacious.

Such slips are, however, the exception. On the whole we can cordially recommend the guide to those for whom it is intended. It is written throughout in an intelligent and educated style, which contrasts pleasantly with that of another cheap handbook still on the market. Practical details as to conveyances, distances and fares, have been worked out, apparently with minute care, except as to new railroads. The production of the volume (type, paper, &c.) has been carefully attended to. The maps are scanty and poor; but the plans of towns are numerous, exceptionally clear, and up to date.

RECENT ALPINE ACCIDENTS.

FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE CORNETTES DE BISE.—On May 22 a most melancholy accident occurred on the Cornettes de Bise to a youth of eighteen, Mr. Charles K. Puckle. He with a friend named Ormsby, son of the chaplain at Clarens, made the ascent of the mountain during the night, arrived safely at the top, and then took what they thought a short cut on the way back. They arrived at a place where there seemed no use but some danger in going on, and stopped a moment on a grassy ledge to consult. Suddenly the ground gave way under Puckle's

feet. He made a spring for what he thought a solid rock, which, however, was a loose boulder and gave way with him, both rolling down the slope upon another great stone, which Puckle struck with his head. He then bounded down the slopes and little cliffs in company with the two large stones, fell over a precipice, and finally stopped on an avalanche track 800 feet below the point whence he fell.

Mr. Ormsby appears to have followed his friend by almost the same track, but he does not know how he got down, except that he seemed to be always jumping or falling. When he reached his companion he found him terribly injured, but still breathing, though unconscious. He remained by him for nearly three hours, chafing his hands and looking out for assistance, till, half frozen from sitting in the snow, he left the spot to try and find help. He fortunately met two men within a short distance, and they carried the dying boy to the chalet of Bise. On the way Mr. Puckle died, having never been conscious since his fall.

The catastrophe caused a most painful sensation at Clarens, where the victim was a general favourite, and much sympathy was felt for his relations.

FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE GROSS GLOCKNER.—How impossible it has been to rely on the paragraphs in English newspapers relating to this terrible accident may be inferred from the following extracts:—‘They started from Kals . . . intending to cross from the Klein Glockner to the higher mountain by the most difficult way over a fish-backed glacier’ (‘Times’). ‘The ascent of the Gross Glockner is, under the most favourable circumstances, a stiff piece of mountaineering. From Lienz the ascent is not very difficult’ (‘St. James’s Gazette’). Lienz occupies to the Gross Glockner the position Martigny does to Mont Blanc. The Gross Glockner is accessible by four routes, none of them offering any difficulty or danger under ordinary circumstances to fair mountaineers.* One of the climbers who have perished—the Marquis Pallavicini—sought out in 1876 another and more impracticable line of ascent, which has never been repeated. ‘This ascent,’ writes Herr Hess in his ‘Hohen Tauern Führer,’ ‘leads directly from the Pasterze Glacier to the highest peak without touching the Klein Glockner. It is one of the most difficult in the Eastern Alps.’

The following details are taken from the press:—On June 25 the Marquis Alfred de Pallavicini and Mons. H. A. Crommelin, secretary of the Dutch Legation at Vienna, both experienced mountaineers, left Kals with two of the best Tyrolese guides—C. Ranggetiner and E. Robesoier—to ascend the Gross Glockner. None of the party returned, and after a protracted search their bodies were found on the upper slopes of the Pasterze Glacier. The distance at which the body of the Marquis de Pallavicini lay from those of his companions and other circumstances led to the melancholy conclusion that he had survived the fall and perished subsequently from exhaustion consequent on loss of blood.

According to Herr Meurer’s account—received at the last moment—the climbers fell from the ridge of the Glocknerwand at a point more

* See *Alpine Journal*, vol. vi. p. 150.

than an hour below the summit, while engaged on a reconnoitring expedition on June 26, owing to the giving way of a snow cornice, on which they had all ventured unawares at the same moment. Their intention was on a subsequent day to ascend the Gross Glockner by a partly new route over the Glocknerwand, Unter Glocknerscharte, and Teufelshorn-Glocknerhorn. Herr Meurer is of opinion that the guides ought to have noticed the indications of a cornice on the ridge.

ACCIDENT ON THE JUNGFRAU.—The following account is taken from the 'Times' of July 23:—

'On Tuesday, July 18, Herr F. Burckhardt, member of the Basel section of the Swiss Alpine Club, accompanied by the guides Fritz Teutschmann and Johann Jossi, both from Grindelwald, made an attempt to ascend the Jungfrau from the side of the Little Scheideck. After leaving the Guggi cabin the party mounted the glacier of the same name. The usual precautions were, of course, taken—that is to say, the three men were roped together, Herr Burckhardt in the middle, one of the guides before, the other behind him. When the climbers reached the séracs, at a point marked on the Siegfried Karte as being at an elevation of 2,700 mètres, an enormous piece of ice broke off from the upper part of the glacier, and came thundering down. Although by good fortune the mass of the avalanche did not sweep across the path of the three men, they were struck by several large blocks of ice and sent flying. Jossi, who was leading, went head first into a crevasse of unfathomable depth, dragging after him Herr Burckhardt, who, however, contrived to hold on to the edge of the crevasse, but in such a position that he could not budge, and was unable to help either himself or Jossi. Their lives at that moment depended absolutely on the staunchness of Teutschmann, who alone had succeeded in keeping his feet. It was beyond his power to do more; impossible by his own unaided strength to haul up the two men who hung by the rope. If he had given way a single step all three would have been precipitated to the bottom of the crevasse. So there he stood, with feet and ice-axe firmly planted, holding on for dear life, conscious that the end was a mere question of time, and a very short time; his strength was rapidly waning, and then? It would have been easy for the two to escape by sacrificing the third. One slash of Burckhardt's knife would have freed both Teutschmann and himself. But no such dastardly idea occurred to either of them. They were resolved to live or die together. Half an hour passed; they had almost abandoned hope, and Teutschmann's forces were well-nigh spent, when help came just in time to save them. The same morning another party, consisting of two German tourists and the two guides Peter Schlegel and Rudolph Kaufmann, had started from the Little Scheideck for the Jungfrau, and coming on traces of Burckhardt's party followed them up, and arrived before it was too late on the scene of the accident. Without wasting a moment Schlegel went down into the crevasse and fastened Jossi to another rope, so that those above were enabled to draw him up and release Burckhardt and Teutschmann. Jossi, although bruised and exhausted, was able to walk as far as the Scheideck, and all reached Grindelwald in safety.'

The ascent of the Jungfrau from this side has been generally acknowledged by the English climbers who have made it to involve a serious risk from falling ice, and for this reason has not been recommended to mountaineers. This account, following immediately upon the publication of Dr. Güssfeldt's narrative (see p. 50), must impress most forcibly on all engaged in alpine travel the fact that no amount of experience can avail against falling missiles, and that the best skill of the true mountaineer is shown in keeping out of their way.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Club Rooms on May 4, 1886. F. C. GROVE, Esq. (President) in the chair.

In accordance with the notice previously given, the Hon. Sec. proposed, and Mr. DENT seconded on behalf of the Committee, an alteration in Rule III. providing that 'the Hon. Librarian for the time being should be eligible as an extra member of Committee, thus raising the number of extra members from four to five.' After a short discussion the motion was carried *nem. con.*

Mr. YELD then read his paper on 'Some New Expeditions in the Grand Paradis District,' at the conclusion of which remarks were made by Mr. BAKER, who had accompanied Mr. Yeld, and by the President. After Mr. YELD had replied, the President proposed a vote of thanks for the paper, which was unanimously accorded.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Club Rooms on June 1. F. C. GROVE, Esq. (President) in the chair.

The PRESIDENT read a letter from Herr Meurer, of Vienna, thanking members of the Club for his reception at the meeting on April 6.

A discussion arose on the subject of the Candidates' book, in which Mr. KING suggested that if it were proposed to make the entries in the book retrospective or historical only, it would meet his views, though neither he nor Mr. Holzmann considered that the decision to keep the book locked up was in accordance with the rule.

Mr. CLAUDE WILSON then read his paper on 'Mountaineering in Norway,' at the conclusion of which an interesting discussion took place, in which Mr. Cecil Slingsby, Mr. Beaumont, Mr. J. Bryce, and Mr. Russell Starr took part. The President then proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Wilson, which was unanimously accorded. Mr. WILSON briefly replied, and the proceedings terminated.

The SUMMER DINNER took place on Wednesday, June 16, at Gravesend. Forty-eight members and their friends were present, of whom about forty availed themselves of the special steamer.