

nature of the contrivance admirably. Its interest was, however, chiefly historical. Possibly, in the future, grand-motherly Alpine legislation will direct that articles of this sort shall be kept at the huts, together with an automatic pill-delivering machine in case the worn mountaineer needs medicinal aid. The experiment of forming a temporary collection of appliances was so successful that it seems well worth repeating on some future occasion, when we hope better opportunities for examining the exhibits will be available. Among the contributors were the following:—Messrs. E. Whymper, F. F. Tuckett, C. E. Mathews, W. F. Donkin, J. A. Hutchinson, R. Spence Watson, H. Fox, C. Pilkington, L. Pilkington, J. H. Wainwright, E. T. Coleman, F. O. Schuster, G. P. Baker, C. T. Dent, Julius Meurer, F. Taylor, G. H. Savage, Horace Walker, D. W. Freshfield, Mrs. Jackson, R. M. Beachcroft and Mrs. Beachcroft, Rev. H. B. George.

The rooms were well lighted by a temporary installation of electric light, successfully carried out by Messrs. Woodhouse and Rawson, who gave satisfaction by reason of the quickness of their work and the complete attention to all details. Considering the crowd, no other method of lighting the pictures was possible. The band of the Grenadier Guards was in attendance during the afternoon.

IN MEMORIAM.—F. J. CHURCH.

It will not be a surprise, though a sorrow, to many of the members of the Club to hear that F. J. Church (the only son of the Dean of S. Paul's) died of lung disease at Hyères on January 16 at the early age of thirty-three. He had been failing in health for some months. He will be missed from our meetings, but still more from Zermatt, his favourite summer resort. Though not distinguished as a pioneer, he was well known as a critical observer of other men's work; and though at times sarcastic in expression, he was a man of great kindness of heart and fond of culture. He was a reviewer, and a writer who had great power; he hated shams, and was free in his condemnation of what he considered to be such. Though at first rather feared than loved by the majority of the guides, he became a hero to them after his self-sacrificing efforts for the families of those who had suffered in Alpine accidents. Old Franz Andermatten was his favourite guide, and Church was Andermatten's favourite 'Herr.' Of late years he made far more plans for expeditions than his strength would allow him to carry out; his ideas were larger than his power to perform. His tall, thin figure will be missed, and his stimulating sarcasm will be often remembered at the Monte Rosa Hôtel.

G. H. S.

ALPINE NOTES.

THE LATE A. W. MOORE.—We are requested to announce that, by the permission of the Head Master, a tablet has been placed in the chapel at Harrow in memory of Mr. A. W. Moore by a few of his friends and colleagues in the Alpine Club and India Office.

WINTER EXPEDITIONS IN THE ALPS.—The fine and settled weather which prevailed in January, and the comparatively small quantity of snow, are no doubt the reasons of the numerous and important winter ascents made this year in the Alps.

First come Mrs. Jackson's most remarkable and daring exploits in the Oberland, of which she has most courteously communicated the following particulars to us:—

'January 5, Mrs. E. P. Jackson and Mr. Emil Boss, with the guides Ulrich Almer and Johann Kaufmann, made the first ascent in winter of the Gross Lauteraarhorn.

'Leaving the Schwarzegg hut at 4 A.M., they crossed the Strahlegg Pass and made direct for some rocks running south from the peak; these were followed (narrowing into a small couloir) until a snow col at the foot of the final arête was reached. The rocks of this arête were in perfect condition, quite free from ice or snow, and warm as in summer. The descent from the foot of the arête to the Strahlegg Glacier was made in one hour by a long snow couloir.

'January 6, the same party, leaving the Schwarzegg hut, crossed the glacier to the foot of the Klein Viescherhorn,* and ascending easy slopes of snow, reached the east arête, by which the summit was gained in two and a half hours from the hut. The descent was made on to the Grindelwald Viescher Firn, and Grindelwald reached in the evening.

'January 11, the same party, with Ulrich Almer and Christian Jössi as guides, left the Bergli hut at 7 A.M., and crossing the lower Mönch Joch and part of the Ewig Schnee Feld, ascended by long snow slopes to the foot of the S.S.W. arête of the Gross Viescherhorn. This was followed without difficulty to the summit, the rocks in parts being covered with snow. Descent in thirty-two minutes direct from the top by a long slope of snow.

'January 16, the same party, with Ulrich Almer and Peter Baumann as guides, left the Bergli hut at 5 A.M., and ascending the Jungfrau by the ordinary route, crossed it to the Wengern Alp. Some step-cutting was required shortly after leaving the summit; the rocks of the Schnee-horn were difficult to ascend on account of the deep snow upon them, and a large portion of the upper ice-fall of the Guggi Glacier having broken away, a very long time was lost in trying to force a way through it.

'The snow everywhere was in perfect condition, the upper rocks free from snow, the only trouble from ice being on the Jungfrau.'

Such a series of great ascents in winter has hitherto been accomplished by no English climber, and will long remain unsurpassed.

We beg leave to offer Mrs. Jackson our most hearty congratulations on her brilliant successes.

On January 5, Mr. P. J. de Carteret made the second winter ascent of the Schreckhorn. The following details of the climb have been kindly communicated by him and will be read with great interest:—

* [Mr. Emil Boss informed me the day after the party returned to Grindelwald that the peak reached by them was a point on the N. ridge of the Ochsenhorn, which bears many names, and is possibly identical with, certainly not distant from, either the Grindelwald Grünhörli (3,121 mètres) of the Siegfried map or the point marked 3,360 mètres.—W. A. B. COOLIDGE.]

'I started from Grindelwald on Wednesday, 4th of January, with Christian Roth and Christian Bohren, at 11 A.M., for the Schwarzegg hut, reaching it at 6 P.M., after a stiffish struggle with the snow.

'We were two parties in the hut, and having enough fuel, did not suffer from the cold, and, thanks to Mr. Emil Boss's good management, we breakfasted luxuriously on hot soup and steaks.

'We were off by 4 A.M., found the snow in fair condition though somewhat powdery. We arrived at the Sattel at 12, left it at 12.30. From the Sattel to the point where you strike the ridge there was ice, which entailed some step-cutting; the arête itself was in good order, the rocks being free from ice, and we did not encounter any serious difficulties. We reached the top at 2 P.M. The view was superb. We were back in the hut at 6.30 P.M. We saw Mrs. Jackson's party on the summit of the Lauteraarhorn.

'I believe a good deal of climbing might be done in the winter, provided one only starts in settled weather; there is but little danger of avalanches till the end of February, and the rocks on the higher mountains are generally in good order. The views are finer than in summer, the air being so much clearer.'

On January 5 the four Signori Sella, headed by the indefatigable Signor Vittorio Sella, and led by the three Maquignaz and Emile Rey, succeeded in *crossing* Mont Blanc from the Aiguille Grise hut to the Grands Mulets. On the summit the tent in which M. Vallot spent three days last August was found in perfect condition. The Signori Sella have now made by far the greatest number of high winter climbs as yet recorded.

Travellers, as distinct from climbers and invalids, are beginning to find out that the Alps in winter have a charm of their own. A striking proof of this was the pleasant English party (varying from eight to twenty) which early in January gathered together under the hospitable roof of the Bear Hôtel, at Grindelwald. The fascinating pursuit of 'tobogganing' was varied by many excursions up the neighbouring hills, in which tracks, deep and plain, were to be found. The Faulhorn, both Scheideggs, the Eismeer, Waldspitz, were frequently visited, even by ladies, and some very excellent photographs procured. An amusing feature of these walks was the fact that some of the numerous Bear dogs were generally of the party, whether a great St. Bernard like Sultan, a 'dachshund' like Spatz, a fox-terrier like Vickey, or a spaniel like Hunter.

The Messrs. Boss outdid themselves in providing for their numerous guests, who were not, as a Paris paper reported, 'half-starved,' but rather the reverse.

ALPINE ACCIDENTS IN 1887.—The Editor has received the following letter:—

SIR,—I have read with pain the long list of Alpine accidents reported in your number for November. I need not say that I agree with your general moral; it is no doubt desirable to preach caution. But I confess that I do not quite agree—nor do I think this moral quite consistent—with your opening statement. We might imagine, you say,

that one main cause of these mishaps was the neglect to take guides; but you consider that the narratives of the accidents show the 'baselessness' of this view. In answer to this, let me take some of the facts which you proceed to give:—

1. Six young Swiss were killed on the Jungfrau, by a fall upon a snowslope over a bergschrund. One of the party was almost a guide, others were good gymnasts. Now I observe that one guide (or quasi-guide) to five travellers is very short allowance. The party lost their way, which they would have been less likely to do with good guides. Had three of the party been good guides, would they not have had a better chance of stopping the fall? I once had a fall nearly on the same ground, though I had only one fellow-traveller and two guides (Melchior Anderegg and Christian Lauener). As it happened, they could not stop us till we got to the bottom; but they alone gave us a chance of stopping. I need not explain to readers of the 'Alpine Journal' why a party with a due proportion of experienced guides would have a better chance than one of which five-sixths were not guides, though they may have been good athletes. You attribute the accident to the badness of the rope. Surely, as in the well-known accident on the Matterhorn, the weakness of the rope was the sole chance of escape. It was, it seems, strong enough to pull the whole party down. If it had not broken at all, would it not have done the same thing? Had some remained standing, the weakness of the rope would explain the loss of the others, or the safety of those who escaped. As it was, I do not see how it can be called a 'cause' of the accident. The badness of the weather, again, might have endangered a stronger party; but the weakness in guides certainly made the bad weather more dangerous.

2. Mr. Wheeler's death was clearly due to his carelessness in crossing a snow-covered crevasse, which no tolerably prudent guide would have allowed. (May I say in passing that Mr. Sully was in bad health, utterly inexperienced, and from all that I have heard, would in all probability have lost his own life, without saving Mr. Wheeler's, had he acted differently?)

3. The accident to Messrs. Lammer and Lorria on the Matterhorn was happily not fatal, but was surely just one of those which would be less likely with good guides. An avalanche in a couloir may come without warning; but it is precisely one of the dangers which an experienced guide foresees and avoids.

4. The loss of Mr. Schreyer on the Steinernes Meer is, again, as I think, a case in point. A couple of travellers wander for two days in the snow till one dies of exposure. Would such a catastrophe be likely to happen with decent guides?

Here are four accidents, and I might add one or two of the others mentioned, which would have been far less likely if guides had been taken. You apparently exclude my No. 3 because it was not fatal, and No. 4 because it happened 'below the snow line.' Yet it was on snow, and in course of climbing a mountain nearly 10,000 feet high. If you will forgive me for saying so, I do not quite understand the logic of this mode of classification. Whether the accident happened above or below the snow line, it is equally true that it would not have hap-

pened if a good guide had been employed. The truth is, I take it, that in most expeditions below the snow-line—though some such expeditions are quite as dangerous as any—it is not generally thought necessary to take guides. Therefore we cannot condemn people for not taking them. But we must still note the fact that they would on some occasions have been useful, and that the catastrophe must in that sense be ascribed to their absence. In some cases mentioned, *e.g.* the fall on the Sanetsch Pass, it would of course be absurd to say that there should have been a guide. But I do not see that this is true in the Steinernes Meer case. There it seems to me the travellers ought to have had a guide, though their point was only 9,640 feet high. In short, the true criterion is not the height but the nature of the expedition, which may or may not render the presence of a guide a natural precaution whatever its height.

And this brings me to my point. I do not object to expeditions without guides. On the contrary, it has always been my opinion that a man should, if possible, qualify himself to climb without guides. To take a guide is an obvious precaution, necessary for some people even in the simplest expeditions, unnecessary for others even in the most difficult. Every vigorous young man should try to place himself in the class which can dispense with guides. That is the way to restore the charm of novelty to peaks already climbed. But then, a man ought to qualify himself carefully, and to abstain till he is justified in his confidence. Till he has done so, I think (and I think that the cases in question prove) that he will act very rashly if he tries a dangerous expedition. Agreeing with you that it is necessary to preach caution, I think that this is one of the first and most obvious precautions to be taken. In this, as in most cases, it is utterly impossible to lay down any hard and fast line. What would be dangerous for me would be safe for Anderegg or for our best English climbers. What is safe for me to-day would be dangerous for even Anderegg to-morrow. And in this matter, I hold that the Alpine Club should do everything in its power to set a high standard, to condemn all rashness, and to point out that it is as dangerous to dispense with a guide as to dispense with a rope in crossing hidden crevasses, until you have skill and experience enough to be capable of acting as a guide to yourself.

Yours, &c.,

LESLIE STEPHEN.

[We gladly print Mr. Stephen's letter and fully acknowledge the right of criticism to which his great Alpine experience entitles him. We are, however, unable to agree entirely with him, for the following reasons :

(1) In the case of the Jungfrau accident, Mr. Stephen does not even mention the fact that the party had successfully found the right way (as the Lauterbrunnen guides, who were likely to be prejudiced against them, allow) up from the Roththal, a way which is much harder than the usual way from the Aletsch glacier. They had thus showed that they were distinctly good men. On their way down the easy side of the mountain they lost their way in a tremendous storm, as any ordinary guide would probably have done. A first-class guide *might* possibly

have extricated them from their perilous position, but we fear that the great majority of guides who lead travellers up the Jungfrau from the Aletsch side can scarcely be called first-class. Besides, this is only a possibility, and it is certain that their rope was bad and broke in many places. The accident seems to us to have been due far more to the great storm than to any want of skill on the part of the six climbers; with fine weather they would pretty certainly have come down safely.

(2) Mr. Wheeler, in the course of a stroll, went a short way on a well-known glacier, having his ice-axe with him. He can scarcely be blamed for not taking a guide any more than ordinary tourists who venture a few steps, say on the Ober Aletsch glacier.

(3) Herren Lanmer and Lorria have very great Alpine experience, and at the moment the avalanche fell were, we believe, descending in the steps they had made in the morning, having been turned back by iced rocks high up on the peak. Assuming that the best of guides would have attempted to repeat Mr. Penhall's expedition at any time, we fail to see what he could have done beyond what these gentlemen actually did. He could not have altered the state of the rocks or averted the avalanche, and it is scarcely wise to strike out late in the afternoon any variation on the route taken on the ascent.

(4) Herr Schreyer had completed the ascent of the Hochkönig, and had reached on the descent the high valley at its foot. It appears, further, from the authorised account ('Mittheilungen des D. und Ö. Alpenvereins,' 1887, No. 17, p. 212), that he and his friend had previously made the ascent (which is an easy one, according to Büdeker), and that the accident took place *not* on permanently-lying snow, but on snow which had fallen to a depth of 2 mètres in consequence of the terrific storm which raged over the Alps from August 16 to 21.

We freely admit 'that the true criterion is not the height but the nature of the expedition;' yet, in the matter of taking or not taking guides, a broad distinction has always been drawn between expeditions above and below the snow line. Until of late years the 'Alpine Journal' took no notice, save in special cases, of accidents occurring below the snow line. Three of the four expeditions which Mr. Stephen mentions cannot be described as, in themselves, dangerous; in the case of the fourth, the climbers were men of great experience. In each case we hold that it was not rash or foolish to undertake them without guides. Mr. Stephen, mindful of the giants of old days, does not realise that a really first-class guide is now very rarely to be met with, and the few there are would scarcely have been taken by any of the parties whose neglect he so severely blames. If first-class men are required on every ascent which may conceivably become dangerous, the number of ascents made will be very seriously curtailed. Many mountains are now so well known that the risks attending their ascent are reduced nearly to their minimum.

We cordially thank Mr. Stephen for his remarks, the principle underlying which is most excellent, though we cannot agree with him in his application of it to the four cases he has selected.

EDITOR.]

THE ACCIDENT ON THE BONDASCA GLACIER.—The Postscript which appeared in the last number of the 'Journal' about Miss Barker's death in the Val Bondasca last October gave a somewhat incorrect account of the exact details.

Miss Alice Rosa Barker, with a guide from Bondo (Andrea Piccenoni the elder), left Promontogno at 7.30 A.M. on October 13, 1887, to cross over the ridge which separates the Val Bondasca from the Val d'Albigna by the Sciora (Cacciabella) pass. The expedition is a very usual one, and in the summer months eight or nine hours are sufficient to allow from Promontogno to Vico Soprano by this pass. Their walk so far as the 'Forte di Sciora' was uneventful, but on making a short halt for breakfast Miss Barker, who partook of very little in the way of refreshment, got chilled—'perchè vi era della neve,' to use the guide's expression in his written official statement made immediately after the accident to the 'Attuario di Circolo' of the district. The guide states that at this point, and under the existing circumstances of cold, he advised a return to the hôtel by the same way as they had mounted. Miss Barker, however, was unwilling to be beaten, and they pushed onwards, reaching the summit of the pass at 2 P.M. Here, after a moment's halt, the lady fell down on the snow, fatigued and overcome with cold. A retreat was again recommended by the guide, who remarked that they could visit the Val d'Albigna another day from Vico Soprano if she wished to see it. To this proposal Miss Barker consented, with the words 'Domani anderemo da Vico Soprano.' On their way down to the 'Forte' she received much assistance from the guide. Arrived at last at their halting place of the morning she drank a little wine, but was at that time convulsed altogether by the cold. At last the guide said, 'Andiamo andiamo, stie in piedi'; but she could go no further, and she died where she was, with the words, 'Che dite, che dite?' on her lips. The guide then placed the body under a sheltering rock and went down to Promontogno immediately for assistance. The body was brought down next day (Friday, October 14) to Promontogno. Miss Florence Barker, who was at the Hôtel Bregaglia with her maid, was already in delicate health, and the shock was altogether too much for her. She was so overcome with grief at her aunt's death that she pined away and died on Sunday, October 16, in the house.—F. T. WETHERED.

THE NEW REGULATIONS AS TO GUIDES IN THE VALAIS.—In our last number (p. 422) a brief mention was made of the new regulations relating to guides published in the Valais in the early part of the summer of 1887, and of the criticisms passed on them in the 'Echo des Alpes,' the official organ of the French-speaking sections of the Swiss Alpine Club. We now give further particulars. Here is the text of the two most objectionable paragraphs:—

'Art. 11.—Il est défendu aux guides de montagne d'accompagner des touristes pour les ascensions de premier ordre, ainsi pour le passage des cols réputés dangereux, à moins d'être à deux pour un voyageur seul, et s'il y en a plusieurs, dans la proportion de trois guides, au moins, pour deux voyageurs.

'Art. 12.—Les cabanes construites par des Sociétés ou des particuliers

pour faciliter les ascensions sont placées sous la sauvegarde des guides de montagne, qui doivent veiller à ce qu'il ne leur arrive aucun dommage. Chaque fois qu'ils auront occupé une de ces cabanes, ils feront constater dans leur livret sous la signature du touriste qu'ils accompagnent, l'état dans lequel ils ont trouvé la cabane à leur arrivée, et l'état dans lequel ils l'ont laissé au moment de leur départ.

'Le guide qui sera déclaré en contravention aux articles précités sera puni d'une amende de 5 à 50 francs, ou du retrait limité ou définitif du diplôme.'

We are very glad to learn, and take great pleasure in announcing, that, on the suggestion of the Geneva section, the 'Sections Romandes' of the S.A.C. have decided to issue a joint protest against these extraordinary regulations. Monsieur A. Tschumi, to whom the idea of such a protest is due, has written a scathing criticism of the new rules in No. 3 of the 'Echo des Alpes' for 1887. After premising that Article 11 sanctions what may be called the 'système sandwich,' the guides supporting and holding together the ham—that is, the traveller—he points out that this rule is harmful both to travellers and to guides. It is harmful to travellers, for its terms will lead more travellers than ever to make ascents without guides, and thus increase the chances of accidents happening to men who do not possess the requisite qualifications for going alone on high ascents. It is harmful to guides, not only because fewer will be employed than formerly, owing to the increase in the number of ascents without guides, but because it practically puts an end to the useful and hardy race of porters in favour of 'guides patentés.' M. Tschumi slyly remarks that as the Valais Government is so anxious to protect the lives of travellers, it might have done so far better by raising the standard of the examination required to be passed by would-be guides than by its wonderful new rules. This clause, too, will tempt the inferior guides to inform against their more skilled comrades, who much prefer a good porter without a 'livret' to a poor guide with one. Again, on difficult places every increase in the number of the party retards progress, and therefore makes it more likely that the party will be overtaken by darkness before having got off the hard part of the mountain. Finally, M. Tschumi asks, How are we to find out which ascents are ascents of the first order and which passes are dangerous? for, as every climber knows, a heavy fall of snow or a sudden storm may turn an easy ascent into a most dangerous one. He therefore calls on all mountaineers to help him in protesting against these rules, in hopes of getting them rescinded before the season of 1888 commences. We can but approve of this protest, and we hope English mountaineers will associate themselves with the opposition of their Swiss colleagues to these vexatious and useless regulations.

M. de Torrenté, the president of the Monte Rosa or Valais section of the S. A. C., also writes to the 'Echo,' explaining that his section, while ready to welcome help given by the Government, entirely refuses to accept the new code of rules. He suggests, ironically, that the Government should *every year* issue a list of the expeditions included under Article 11, and hints that travellers ought to be classed, as well as the

peaks and passes they want to do. He insists, too, on the great danger of introducing a system of spies among the guides themselves.

On Article 12 both writers are equally severe. M. Tschumi draws a ludicrous picture of the absurd inconveniences of forcing every party spending a night in a clubhut to record, in the early morning, their impression not only in the 'livre des voyageurs,' but in the 'livrets' of their two or more guides. The writer of this summary spent a night last August in one of the Valais clubhuts, in company with twenty-one other souls, making up seven parties in all, and shudders to think of the scene which must have taken place if any attempt to carry out this *règlement* had been made. This, however, was fortunately suggested by no one, though certainly the state of the hut was most filthy and deplorable—a disgrace to the Valais guides.

We have preferred to summarise the views of Swiss climbers rather than attempt to express what we believe to be the opinions of English mountaineers on this subject. It is all the more needless to take the latter course, for we are convinced that the members of the Alpine Club will emphatically endorse the unanimous condemnation passed on these unlucky rules by all experienced climbers, whether amateurs or guides. The Valais Government no doubt honestly wished to put some check on the increasing number of Alpine accidents, but it has taken the very worst way of carrying out a very praiseworthy wish. We can only urge them to try again, and wish them better luck next time.

TRAMPS IN THE WESTERN HIGHLANDS.—Alpine Clubmen who may be tempted by the promise of hard scrambling in the Coolins held out by Mr. Pilkington, and who are something of tramps as well as gymnasts, may be glad of the suggestion of a route, or several routes, by which Skye may be approached through some of the most beautiful and unfrequented parts of the Highlands. Four years ago I made my way north from Arisaig to Loch Maree and Gairloch, among lochs, glens, and heights, where I came across tourists and their tracks only at rare intervals, and lodged at inns, homely indeed, but in which I was treated as a guest, and not as one of a gang, and was allowed to start when I liked and to eat as I wished.

Lochs Nevis and Hourn are visited by yachtsmen, and Mr. Black, the novelist, has used them freely as backgrounds. But to the pedestrian and his guide-books they are almost unknown.

Baddeley's 'Highlands'—I need not limit the remark to one of an admirable series—is an excellent work. Its publisher deserves the best thanks of geographers as well as of pedestrians for the excellent contour maps he supplies. He was the first man to produce district pocket guides in this country which compare favourably with those published abroad. But on this wild coast even Baddeley is at fault, partly, perhaps, because the Ordnance maps have only lately been issued. 'It is difficult,' he writes, 'for the most enduring pedestrian to plan a route by which he can bring the scenery at the head of Loch Hourn within the compass of a day's journey.' I did not find this sentence quite justified, but I am grateful for it. The challenge implied was just the incitement I needed, and it led me through some noble scenery.

My route was as follows: Arisaig, Loch Morar, Tarbet Inn, Loch Nevis, boat to Inverie, pass to Loch Hourn, ferry, Glenelg, Shiel House Inn. Thence tourist ground is traversed to Strome Ferry. A track leads from the northern shore opposite the inn over the moors of Applecross to Shieldag on Loch Torridon, and along the south shore of that wild loch to the little hamlet and rough inn at its head. There are roads to Kinlochewe and Gairloch, and any supporter of Mr. Bryce's 'Free Access to Mountains Bill' prepared to violate a 'sanctuary' might go directly over very high and rugged hills to Loch Maree.

Should I revisit this district I would go up Loch Arkaig, ascend the fine summit Sgòr na Ciche (3,410 feet) behind Sourlies at the head of Loch Nevis, and so to Loch Hourn Head and Shiel House.

I will note briefly the views on the road which remain in my memory. First I recall the noble outlines of Rum and Figg, seen from the heathery shore near Arisaig. Next the outlet of Loch Morar. The strong bright stream from the lake runs only a few hundred yards, and then tumbles in a pretty cascade between red-berried ash-branches into a land-locked tidal bay or creek, where boats ride among banks of brown seaweed, and the splash of the waves mingles with the sound of the waterfall. This landscape, in its fantastic combination of natural incidents seldom found united, might, were not the incidents all so homely, suggest a drop scene. Loch Morar is spacious and melancholy, and the wretchedness of the few farms scattered along its shore deepens the impression of the scenery. Loch Nevis in the gloaming seemed to me stately, and the mountain forms at its head are surely among the most striking in Scotland. The inn at Inverie has not been shut, as stated by Baddeley. The little port is so cut off by hills and ridges that its post-town is in Skye. Loch Hourn is thoroughly Scotch—wild and picturesque. I prefer the lower portion of it, particularly the views from the birch-wood at the highest point in the road between Armidale and Glenelg, whence the greater part of the loch, the coast of Skye, and the Atlantic with the bold shores of the lesser islands are all in sight at once. A pious reverence for Dr. Johnson made me follow most of the old horse-track from Glenelg to Shiel House. Loch Torridon is one of the grandest sea lochs. I wonder geologists have not insisted on the traces of glacier action on the great promontory near Shieldag. The ice, while perfectly powerless to remove the obstacle in its path, has scoured the side of the crags opposed to its progress till they are as smooth as glass, and has thrown erratic blocks about in the most lavish manner.

Baddeley calls the walk from Shiel House to Invercannich by Loch Affric 'the grandest pedestrian route, in Scotland,' and I am not prepared to gainsay him. There are, as usual, ten dull miles near the watershed, but the whole descent of Glen Affric is very beautiful. The scenery keeps up its interest all the way from Loch Affric to within three miles of Beaully—that is, for about thirty miles. The river flows through a narrow gorge, or expands into beautiful lakes and reaches, the nearer hills are clothed in birch forests, and the forms of the landscape have more than the usual grace of Scotch scenery. I should not have said thus much in confirmation of the guide-book's excellent description

and map had not I learnt both from the host at Invercannich and from subsequent conversations with friends how few sturdy tramps make this 'variation' from the Highland Rail. I may add that the prettiest path lies along the southern shore of Loch Affric, and not the northern, as stated by Baddeley.

D. W. F.

KILIMA-NJARO—It seems desirable in the interest of mountain exploration that attention should be directed to the loose use of the expression 'ascent' made in many geographical publications of authority. An ascent of a mountain, properly so called, is an ascent to the summit of the mountain, not necessarily, perhaps, to its loftiest crag or ice-comb, but at any rate to the highest crest. Where the title 'ascent' is transferred to an ascent in this respect incomplete, it not only serves to obscure the history of exploration, but also to check adventure and discovery. If Dr. Meyer's attempt on Kilima-njaro was an ascent in the true sense of the word, an incentive to further enterprise has been removed from himself and others. It appears certain, however, that it was not so, and should not have been so described. Several accounts of Dr. Meyer's expedition have appeared in Germany. We take as the basis of these remarks the preliminary report sent by him to the Verein für Erdkunde in Leipzig, and published with a map in 'Petermann's Mitteilungen' for December last; and a statement made by him to the Berlin Geographical Society on December 3.

On July 9 last, the third night after leaving the native village of Marenga, Dr. Meyer and his companion, Lieutenant von Eberstein, camped at a height of 4,300 mètres (13,210 feet). Here the first patches of snow were met with. Eight of his native attendants refused to go further, and the travellers were left to continue their march with three negro porters. They followed in a N.W. direction the base of a line of five small volcanic cones connecting Kibo with the lesser summit of Kimawenzi (16,252 feet, Kersten). They camped at the foot of the last of these cones after eight hours' walk, during which they already suffered from the rarity of the air, at a height variously given as circa 5,000, 4,900, and 4,700 mètres (16,408, 16,078, and 15,422 feet). We accept the middle figure (that given on the map in Petermann), as most probably that which Dr. Meyer prefers. The three negroes were sent back with instructions to return on the second day. The cold in the night was 12° Fahr. (−11° Cent.).

The mountain presents on this (the S.E.) side a vast dome. Ridges of lava descend from near the top, separating beds of hard eternal snow, the lower limit of which is stated at 15,400 feet on the S. and S.W. sides, and 18,000 feet on the N. and E. sides of the dome. For some time all went well; the sky was clear and the snow hard. But the climbers found the labour of climbing three-times as exhausting as at lower elevations. At the end of three hours Dr. Meyer inspected his instruments, and found that the needles of his two aneroids had passed 5,000 mètres and begun to go round again—that is, as we read it, they had become useless. Mists now came on, and the thermometer fell 5° Fahr. below freezing point. In three-quarters of an hour more Lieutenant von Eberstein broke down, while Dr. Meyer pushed on to a snowfield strewn with glacial fragments, above which

he saw looming in the mist a wall of ice only some twenty yards distant, but inaccessible to a solitary climber. Dr. Meyer believes this wall to have been the actual outer edge of the crater, and he estimates its height at 110 to 130 feet above him. The total height of the peak he estimates (map) at 6,050 mètres (19,852 feet). He was suffering at this time from exhaustion, giddiness, palpitation, and want of breath. Despite these physical hindrances and a driving snowstorm he noted his barometers (? the aneroids) and thermometers before hurrying back to his friend. On rejoining him he rested, while the lieutenant took observations with a boiling-point thermometer. They then returned in two hours to camp, after an absence of, in all, seven hours.

Several matters require further explanation in the foregoing account. It is quite clear that not more than $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours, including halts, were spent in the ascent. It is highly improbable that a man, not only untrained, but suffering seriously, should have climbed at a rate of nearly 1,000 feet an hour at that height over rough ground. Mr. Whympfer achieved this feat, it is true, in his *second* ascent of Chimborazo, but this was after months of training at great altitudes. In his first ascent he and his guides only made half the height (500 feet) in the hour. Again, Kilima-njaro has been very carefully triangulated by Baron von der Decken's companion, Herr Kersten, whose repeated measurements, which are regarded with confidence by critics well qualified to judge, give a result of 18,681 feet for the top of Kibo. Geographers must have very strong proof of the accuracy of Dr. Meyer's observations before they can consent to upset the received figures. At present Dr. Meyer's estimate seems hardly reconcilable with the time occupied in his ascent. Possibly he has himself arrived at the same conclusion, for he is represented in the 'Globus' (liii. 2) to have stated at Berlin the height of Kibo as 5,692 mètres, or 18,677 feet.

It appears, moreover, open at least to doubt whether the ice-wall Dr. Meyer saw was really the actual crest of the crater, or the lower edge of the glacier hanging from that crest. It is certain from Mr. Johnston's sketches that in many places the glacier extends some hundreds of feet down the flank of the mountain. However this may be, it is obvious that, no part of the summit ridge having been attained, no information is as yet forthcoming as to its character and dimensions, or as to those of the crater it encloses. Dr. Meyer himself proposes to make another attempt to ascend the great mountain on which he has so gallantly failed. We wish him most heartily full success, and there seems every reason to anticipate it if, as he believes, he has ascertained that the N. side of the dome is unprotected by the ice and snow obstacles, which led to his recent defeat.

The map published in 'Petermann' has, it may be noted, no scale, and the contour lines are imaginary. The lesser peak of Kimawenzi is marked as bearing glaciers, which is remarkable. The distinction between Firm and Gletscher is not always grasped by English translators, and Dr. Meyer is not responsible for a mistake arising from this cause on p. 45 of the January 'Geographical Proceedings'; but in the case of Kimawenzi the word used is Gletscher.

Those who wish for further information as to the great African volcano will find it in Baron von der Decken's excellent and thorough work, and in Mr. Johnston's very readable volume.*

P.S.—Since this note was written Dr. Meyer has, in the 'Mittheilungen' (January) of the D. und O. Alpenclub, published a further narrative, which fully justifies the doubts expressed above. He now fixes the height at which he left his companion at 17,060 feet, the further ascent he made alone at 820 feet (1 hr. 24 min.). For this height he apparently relies on his overworked aneroids! He altogether abandons his new estimate of the height of the mountain published in 'Petermann,' reverts to Kersten's measurement, and allows that the highest point he reached was probably over 800 feet below the true summit, though close, he believes, to the crater-ridge on the side by which he approached it.

D. W. F.

SNOW-BLINDNESS †—Dr. Scriven, in his notice of a preventive for snow-burning, in the last number of the 'Alpine Journal,' does not mention snow-blindness, which is a very serious matter for those who chance to suffer from it. I had the misfortune to undergo an attack in the Himalayas, which resulted from crossing the Manji Kanta Pass early in June 1861. This pass leads from Jumnootri to the Tonse Valley, and although not of great height, being 13,500 feet only, yet, being on the Indian slope of the Himalayas, it receives a large fall of snow, and even in June we had a long tramp upon it. I had a green veil, but found it troubled me while struggling through the snow, and it prevented me from seeing either the way or the views around; so I took it off, and I found no ill effects at the moment. Here lies the danger. Before going to bed at night the eyes felt uncomfortable, and I waked early in the morning with the feeling that they were full of gritty lumps of some kind or another. I got a dish of water, and bathed them at intervals; but I could not march that day, a failure which might be serious at times in mountaineering. Before night I again felt nearly all right.

In 1873, when in California, I learned there that the trappers who had to cross snowy mountains were in the habit of blackening for about an inch round their eyes, and that this was a sufficient preventive. A burnt cork will do to produce this, or any kind of black paint—a most simple remedy. I have not tried it myself, but I was told that the people connected with the Hudson's Bay Company had long practised this means; and that they derived it originally from the Indians. One would have thought that the faces of the Indians would have been dark enough without the burnt cork. The coolies who carried our luggage over the Manji Kanta Pass, were of the usual complexion of natives, and that did not save them. In the early morning, when I was suffering from my own eyes, I heard a group of them at the tent door saying, 'Sahib, hum log rat ke morphic,' which means, 'we are like night,' or stone blind. This would indicate that the ring round the eye should be a substantial black.

* *Reisen in Ost-Afrika*, Leipzig, 1879; *The Kilima-njaro Expedition*, London, 1886.

† See *Alpine Journal*, vol. ix. p. 175.

I had further confirmation of the value of the remedy afterwards. In 1875 an Arctic Expedition was being fitted out, and the papers were full of letters giving advice and hints; and among them was one about snow spectacles to save the eyes. Seeing this, I sent a letter to the 'Daily News,' which appeared on April 23, 1875—in which I described the simple remedy of the burnt cork. This served one purpose at least, as it produced corroborative evidence. Mr. Valentine W. Bromley, a very promising artist, who died young, wrote to give the experience of an American officer on the alkali plains of Nebraska. This officer suffered from the glare of the alkali, and an old trapper told him that if he put a black ring round his eyes he would escape the bad effects. He did so, blacking his cheeks and forehead at the same time, and the result was successful. This officer stated that it had another advantage, it enabled him to see objects at a distance more clearly.

Mr. Joseph Bonomi, the well-known Eastern traveller and Egyptologist, also sent a letter, stating that a similar practice existed in Syria, where the muleteers who were in the habit of crossing the Lebanon from Beyrout to Damascus 'invariably blackened their faces to save themselves from becoming blinded by the intense sunlight reflected from the snow.' In this case the blackening 'was performed by making a paste of gunpowder with water and a little milk or grease in the palms of their hands and besmearing the entire upper part of the face, particularly the cavity of the eye, so that all lights reflected from the surrounding prominences of the face were considerably diminished.'

As already stated, I have had no personal experience of this saving means, but these testimonies, coming from such widely different localities, must surely be of some value. It occurs to me that if some black substance were added to the preparation recommended by Dr. Scriven, it would make it more effective, and give it at the same time the additional virtue of preventing snow-blindness.

WILLIAM SIMPSON.

THE INNKEEPER AT SCHLING.—In the 'Alpine Journal' for May last, p. 289, mention is made of a curious local law prevailing formerly in the parish of Schling, near Mals, under which the local innkeeper was an elected parish officer. The Editor encourages me in thinking that some readers of the Journal may be interested in seeing the full text of this law. I have therefore extracted it from the third part of 'Die tirolischen Weisthümer,' edited in 1880 by Herren von Zingerle and von Inama-Sternegg. For the benefit of those readers who are not familiar with the High Dutch as written in the sixteenth century, I have translated it to the best of my ability. The last paragraph appears to be 'plusquam-Thucydidean' in its constructions, but I hope I have given its purport correctly. I may perhaps be allowed to add that the whole collection of 'Weisthümer' is full of interest to students both of local customs and of dialectic forms.

A. J. BUTLER.

'Am maientag soll man ain pauerschaft halten, ainen ieden herren von Sand Muriaberg wo es anhaimb wär, oder in seinem abwesen seinen anbalt wissen lassen. Auf denselbigen tag setzt man dorfmaister, saltner, und ainen gemainen wiirt . . .

‘Vom wirt, wie und sich ain iedlicher wirt halten sol, der soll auch an den maientag furgenomen und gesetzt werden.

‘Welicher zu ainem wirt erwelt ist, der soll innerhalb vierzehen tagen wein im haus haben; thäte ers aber nit, solle er durch die dorfmaister umb ain urn wein gestraft werden.

‘Damit sich aber der furgenomen wirt seines unvermögens nit zu beklagen habe, solle ainem ieden angeenden wirt zu anefang von der gemain vier gulden furgesetzt und gelichen werden; die selben vier gulden sol ain ieder wirt zu ausgangs jares, wann ain ander erwelt ist, dem neuen wirt überantwurten und par hinaus geben, damit der selbig angeent wirt auch zum anfang habe.

‘Der wirt soll erber nach gestalt der jar raitung machen; wirt er aber ungechickt, sollen die dorfmaister einsehen und wendung thuen.

‘Und das ainem erwelten wirt in dem, das er zu der wirtschaft mit wein und ander notturft versehen sein soll, und aber daran kain schad und verlegenschaft an speis und trangk nemen, solle sonst kain ander nachpaur in der gemain vailen wein, würtschafft, noch gasterei umb losungs willen halten, sonst mag ain ieder nachpaur zu seiner hausnotturft frembden und freunden, oder wo ain wirt nit wein der selbigen zeit hiet, wol wein ausgeben.’

‘On Mayday shall a parish meeting be held, and notice be sent to each and every householder of St. Mariaberg, in the event of his being at home, or in his absence to his proxy. On the same day are appointed overseers, watchman, and a parish innkeeper . . .

‘Of the innkeeper, how every innkeeper is to conduct himself, who also is to be on the Mayday appointed and installed.

‘Whoever is chosen to innkeeper shall within fourteen days have wine in his house; but should he not do so, he is by the overseers to be fined one cauk of wine.

‘But to the end that the appointed innkeeper shall not have to make complaint of his inability, there shall to each and every incoming innkeeper at the beginning be assigned and lent by the parish four gulden; the same four gulden shall each and every innkeeper at the year's outgoing, when another has been chosen, surrender to the new innkeeper, and pay down the like sum, to the end that the said incoming innkeeper may also have them to begin with.

‘The innkeeper shall duly, according to circumstances, make account for the year; but if he be unlearned the overseers shall look into it and take order.

‘And to the end that an elected innkeeper, in that he has to be provided with wine and other necessaries for his innkeeping, may over and above that receive no damage and inconvenience in the matter of food and drink, no other neighbour besides in the parish shall retail wine nor keep inn or hostelry for remuneration; nevertheless any neighbour may, according to his own domestic needs, or where an innkeeper has not wine at the moment, dispense wine to strangers and friends.’)

THE WOLFENDORN ‘KIND.’—On October 6, 1887, I started from Gries-am-Brenner at 5.50 A.M., along with Franz Aigner (Wirthsohn

in Gries), with the ostensible purpose of finding a new way up the last rocks of the Wolfendorn (9,095 feet). We took with us a rope and *Steigeisen*. The new snow forced us to deviate considerably from the usual route, but about 10.30 we arrived between the last rocks and the rocky finger so conspicuous from the high ground near Gries, nicknamed by us the Wolfendorn Kind. Here I was surprised and somewhat alarmed to hear that my companion was anxious to try the Kind. The side next us was plainly overhanging, but on moving round to the S.E. side a narrow almost vertical *Rinne* was discovered leading up to a notch between the two summits of the Kind, and by this Franz declared, in spite of my remonstrances, that he meant to try. From the base to the notch was perhaps 50 feet, and the summits, perhaps, 10 to 15 feet higher. We put on the *Steigeisen*. Franz tied the rope round him and started. For about 25 feet there was no great difficulty, but here a rock projecting a little nearly filled up the *Rinne*. There was just room to squeeze in between the rock and the left wall, but there was no hold. At last Franz got a hold above with the hook of his alpenstock, got the spikes of his right *Steigeisen* against the opposite face, and with an effort was flat on the top of the projecting rock. Then again it was easier, and he went round the left-hand peak on a narrow ledge, and in about ten minutes appeared in the notch. After clearing away rubbish to get a good seat, he threw the rope down to me. There was just enough to tie on, and I began. For the first bit, also, I had little difficulty, having the rope. Here I squeezed in between the rock and the wall, but I declared many times I could get no further. At last, however, following Franz's tactics, and taking a good pull at the rope with my left hand, I was landed sprawling on the rock. I declined to go round, as I should lose the support of the rope, and elected to try straight up. Just below the notch was a place which gave a deal of trouble, but at last we were together in the notch. I could only see the line of ascent by craning over. I descended behind this through a crack so narrow that I could not pass one foot before the other on to a small slope of rubbish. Franz joined me by another way, and we went behind the right-hand peak. Here we found a crack just wide enough to squeeze into. Franz got up by aid of his hook, and I followed, holding on to the rope and to Franz's boots. Here we were at the top, but we could only sit round it. There was no room to stand on it. We built a small stone man; Franz chipped our initials on a flat stone, and we prepared to return. To the notch we got without difficulty; but when seated, ready to commence the descent, I hesitated long. It seemed exactly like throwing one's self down; once off, it was not so bad. I never swung in the air, as I was afraid I should. The projecting rock was passed easily, and in five minutes I was on *terra firma*. Franz's task was not so easy. I told him to fasten the rope and come down by it, and we would leave the rope. He did so and came down to the projecting rock. Then he thought he could loop the rope twice, and so not lose it. He went up, looped it, and came down, but the rope would not come away, and he had to go up again. This time it succeeded, but it was a hard matter to loop the rope over the flat rock. At last he succeeded, and

at 2 p.m. we were both down. Franz had been 3 hrs. 20 min. engaged with the Kind; I only 2½ hrs. Gries was reached at 5.30. I was very stiff for a day or two, but otherwise felt no ill effects.

J. SOWERBY.

BOUNTY FUND FOR GUIDES IN THE ORTLER DISTRICT.—The Hamburg section of the German and Austrian Alpine Club has just set on foot a new scheme for assisting guides. It seems that a sum of 225*l.* has been collected for a memorial to the late Dr. Ferdinand Arning, who held high office in the section. Dr. Arning had taken a great interest in the Club fund for the assistance of guides, and the Hamburg section have resolved to perpetuate his memory in a way that would have approved itself to him. They have founded an 'Arning Fund,' with the object of aiding any needy guides in the Ortler district (Dr. Arning's favourite resort) and their relations. It is hoped that the 225*l.*, which forms the original capital, may be increased by further donations. The Hamburg section have engaged to subscribe 5*l.* a year. The interest on the total capital will be distributed annually, the administration and property being vested in the Hamburg section. This is, so far as we know, an entirely new departure, for the regulations do not state that the guides assisted shall have become incapacitated for work in consequence of injuries received in the exercise of their profession. The scheme appears, on the face of it, to be merely a charitable fund for aiding a certain class of the poorer inhabitants of a particular Alpine district, and we shall be curious to know how it is found to work.

CONGRESSES OF THE FOREIGN ALPINE CLUBS.—The Swiss Club held its annual meeting at Bienne from August 20 to 22 last. The discussion largely turned on certain modifications of the Club statutes which were adopted. Hence the government of the club will be vested for four years (instead of three) in one or other section, and the 'Clubfest' will only take place every other year, though delegates from the thirty-two sections will meet every year. For the period 1887-91 Section Tödi (Glarus) will administer the club affairs, while the next 'Clubfest' will take place in Zürich in 1889. There was a very lively discussion on Alpine accidents brought on by the Oberland section, which demanded a formal expression of disapproval of expeditions made without guides; but strong objections were urged against such a course, as the club had already caused to be circulated and put up in the Swiss hotels a warning to all travellers against imprudent climbing, and had published Herr Baumgartner's pamphlet on the dangers of mountaineering. The negotiations for the admission of the Club Alpino Ticinese as a section of the S. A. C. have nearly been brought to an end. The special district for 1888 and 1889 is to be the group of the Graue Hörner, on the borders of S. Gallen and Graubünden. It was announced that the S. A. C. had, together with other societies, issued a protest against using the falls of the Rhine at Schaffhausen for industrial purposes; and that 105 guides (82 belonging to the canton of Berne) had insured their lives for a gross sum of 303,000 francs, towards which the S. A. C. contributed 3 per cent., or 909

francs. 162 persons sat down to the banquet, which seems to have been as successful as usual.

The Italian Club met at Vicenza on August 27 and following days, making an excursion to the Sette Comuni. The number present was over 300, the largest hitherto recorded. It was resolved to form a fund for helping Italian guides who are for a time or permanently disabled from following their profession, or, in case of death, aiding their families. The club numbers thirty sections, comprising 4,025 members. The meeting in 1888 will be at Bologna.

The French Club met in the Vosges from August 9 to 18, Belfort being the centre from which many excursions were made. The meeting was attended by about 200 members and their friends.

The German and Austrian Club met in Linz from August 20 to 22, this meeting being followed by a gathering at Radstadt to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the foundation of the Austrian Alpine Club, one of the two societies which joined together to form the D. und Ö. A. V. About 250 members attended the Linz meeting. The 1889 meeting will be at Lindau. The united club numbers 155 sections and 20,004 members.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

Zur Erinnerung an die vor 25 Jahren erfolgte Gründung des Oesterreichischen Alpenvereins. (Vienna: R. Lechner, 1887.)

It may seem rather premature to write the history of the various European Alpine Clubs. It is, however, very desirable to put on record an authentic account of the origin of each before the founders have passed away and while materials are still abundant. Hence several of the principal clubs have thought it well to publish some sort of history of themselves. That of the Alpine Club, the oldest of all these societies and now just over 30 years old, will be found in the appendix (pp. 83-94) to vol. viii. of this Journal; while that of the Italian Club (founded October 1863) was worked out by Signor Isaia some years ago in an interesting pamphlet noticed in these pages.* No doubt the Swiss Club (founded April 1863) will this year celebrate its 25th anniversary by issuing an historical account of its doings. This the Austrian Club did last year in the illustrated pamphlet now lying before us.

At the close of the annual congress of the German and Austrian Club in 1887, at Linz, many of the members journeyed on to Radstadt, where, on August 24, the Austrian Club celebrated the completion of the first quarter-century of its existence. The pamphlet we are noticing is intended to be the permanent memorial of this festival. It contains the interesting oration delivered by Herr von Mojsisovics, and a detailed history of the club by Herr Emmer, together with lists of its publications, its presidents and committees, the still surviving

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xi. p. 125.