

were apt to feel like the Wedding Guest in the poem. They could hardly believe that their new acquaintance was a native of Grindelwald and one of a family of Swiss innkeepers. He seemed rather an adventurer strayed out of the Elizabethan age, one of those eager spirits who sailed the Spanish Main under Drake and Raleigh. Emil would have been happiest in some Great Adventure—such as there are in this time—of African discovery or Polar exploration. Fate placed him in youth in a position in life in which the office of steward on a French ocean-going steamer was the readiest gate to distant travel. As soon as the winter snows covered his native valley in their white monotony he would disappear, like the birds-of-passage, to some far-off and uncertain part of the globe. Previous to his two mountaineering journeys he had been in Australia, South America, North Africa, India. In several cases he left his ship and penetrated far into the interior; how far it is impossible now to say. But in spring he generally returned to his home with strange stories of many lands. In the course of these wanderings he made himself an excellent linguist. And in many other directions he had, from the time when, as a boy, the village schoolmaster found he had no more to teach him, natural capacities beyond his fellows. He possessed, besides, an amiable and generous character, which helped to make him the favourite son and brother in a large and attached family, and now adds keenness to the sense of their loss.

Of late years the increasing responsibilities attendant on the success of 'The Bear' kept Emil Boss much at home. After his journey in India—there seems no certain reason for saying in consequence of it—symptoms of abnormal brain excitement, coupled with intervals of melancholia, showed themselves from time to time, and caused much concern to his friends. Last winter, however, he seemed to be more himself, and he took a leading part in much of the winter climbing, of which Grindelwald was the centre. At the beginning of the summer he went to Meiringen as the manager of the 'Wilder Mann.' There he felt ill and depressed, and in the last days of June returned to his old home on a visit; returned, as it proved, to die. In his death we lament the loss of an original and fascinating character, as well as the premature cutting off of a mountaineer who, with ampler and kindlier chances, might have carried man's highest on the mountains even higher than he did.

D. W. F.

NOTICES.

Die Berge am Vierwaldstättersee. Von G. A. Türlér.
(Lucerne: Doleschal, 1888. 3f.)

ARDENT mountaineers will scarcely choose as the field for their activity the comparatively low ranges surrounding the Lake of Lucerne. Less ambitious travellers, and those who like lake views and autumn rambles will find Herr Türlér's book of considerable use. It describes systematically all the hills and ridges around the lake, giving in each case concise directions as to the route, times, inns, &c. The Rigi and

Pilatus are naturally treated at length, but the Bristenstock, the Rothenstock, and the giant of the district, the Titlis, are by no means passed over. The botanical and geological characteristics are indicated with some fulness, and considerable space is devoted to picturesque descriptions of footpaths, in many cases probably unknown to foreign visitors. Scattered through the work, we find a number of woodcuts, illustrating Swiss life, which are rather of the romantic type, though they do not make out that Swiss herdsmen are like Arcadian shepherds or that Swiss mountains are always snow-covered and hidden in the clouds.

Guia Itineraria de las Serras de la Costa de Llevant ó sia del Besós al Tordera.
Por Arthur Osona. (Barcelona: 1888. 16mo. 1s. 6d.)

Guia Itineraria dal Vallés Superior ó sia del Congost al Llobregat.
Por Arthur Osona. (Barcelona: 1888. 16mo. 1s. 2d.)

Guia del Alt Plá de Barcelona y del Baix Vallés. Por Arthur Osona.
(Barcelona: 1888. 16mo. 10d.)

These three neatly got up little guide-books form part of the series which is being compiled by the indefatigable Señor Arthur Osona, and issued by the Associació d'Excursions Cataláná, better known to foreigners as the Barcelona or Catalan Alpine Club. Complete ignorance of the districts therein described prevents us from criticising or examining the subject-matter of these booklets. The method of description adopted seems to be well chosen and carried out, and the books themselves—one of which is barely more than a pamphlet—will doubtless be essential to all who meditate a visit to Catalonia, though there are no maps of any kind attached to them. The tongue in which they are written is the Catalan dialect, which can be made out without much trouble by anyone moderately acquainted with any of the great Romance languages. We trust that some members of the Alpine Club will profit by the information given to travellers by Señor Osona, and will not merely visit Catalonia, but describe its mountains in the pages of the *Alpine Journal*.

Der Tourist in der Schweiz. Von Iwan von Tschudi. 30th edition.
(Zürich: Orell, Füssli & Co. 8f. 50c.)

We are very glad to find that this well-known guide-book will still be published, despite the death of its original compiler. The well-known Zürich firm of Orell, Füssli & Co. have undertaken the publication, and propose to keep it up in future years. In the present edition the omission of the notices of the several cantons in the introduction, and of the railway maps (which may, however, be obtained separately) at the end, have reduced the bulk of the volume, and still more its price. The text is stated to have been carefully revised, but there are certainly some considerable changes which have not been noticed, and it seems as if the chief new ascents of 1887 had not been entered in their proper places. The work of keeping up such a tightly packed volume to some approximate accuracy must be very great, and we are well pleased that the 'Tourist' will still be the companion of numberless travellers in Switzerland. The new edition appears in a plain red cover, the delightful picture of former editions having been dispensed with.

Flora von Bern. Von L. Fischer. 5th edit. revised. (Bern: Huber, 1888. 4f.)

Prof. FISCHER of Bern has recently published a monograph (price two francs) on the vascular plants of the Bernese Oberland. His publishers have now issued a fifth and revised edition of his 'Flora' of the district around the town of Bern. It is based entirely on his own personal investigations and those of other trustworthy botanists, but he has not neglected to consult all the more important and more general botanical works in which information on the Bernese flora was likely to be found. In his present volume, of about 300 pages octavo, he describes the plants in a concise and systematic way. The number of species catalogued is no fewer than 1,041, of which 891 are phanerogams. There are, however, only fifty species which can in any sense be said to belong to the flora of the neighbouring Oberland district, so that the book will chiefly interest those interested in the Swiss flora generally, not necessarily the strictly Alpine plants only. A transfer from the Siegfried Map and a careful index complete a work which will commend itself to those of our readers who visit Switzerland, not only for climbing, but also for more purely scientific pursuits.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING was held in the Club Rooms on Tuesday, May 1, Mr. C. T. DENT, *President*, in the chair.

The CHAIRMAN introduced to the meeting the Chief Justice of Hyderabad, who was present as the guest of Mr. H. S. King, M.P.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the subscriptions to the Alpine Club Fund for the relief of the distress caused by the avalanches in the Alps had now reached a total of about 460*l.*, of which 200*l.* had been sent to the President of the Italian Alpine Club, 40*l.* to Herr J. Seiler for the Zermatt valley, and 40*l.* to Rev. J. C. W. Tasker's committee for the Saas valley (see p. 66).

The CHAIRMAN then called on Mr. H. S. KING to read his paper on 'Three New Ascents in the Bernese Oberland,' at the conclusion of which Mr. J. T. WILLS (who had climbed the Eiger Hörnli the day after Mr. King) said it certainly was not easy, and it would be hard to guess the right way up, except when snow lay in the gullies. The chimney was very difficult, but would be easier when the rocks were dry. He thought the next peak on the ridge would be worthy of notice.

Mr. SCHUSTER wished to know if Mr. King could understand the Swiss Federal Map of the Jungfrau and Silberhorn; it was apparently misleading. He considered the Roththal Hut was in the finest situation of any hut in the Alps. The Silberhorn could be reached from it in seven or eight hours.

Mr. KING, in reply, said he went up first and studied the map afterwards. He was so puzzled by it that he thought considerable alterations must have taken place from changes in the glacier. He strongly recommended a repetition of the climb with map in hand.

The CHAIRMAN said that, to judge by the discussion, Mr. King had broken decidedly new ground. The Silberhorn appeared to be very little known, and the glacier changes taking place there were well