

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

worthy of study. It would be a reproach if the map were to remain inaccurate.

A vote of thanks to Mr. King was carried by acclamation.

A General Meeting was held in the Club Rooms on Tuesday, June 5, Mr. C. T. DENT, *President*, in the chair.

Mr. H. REMSEN WHITEHOUSE and Mons. FRANÇOIS HENRI DUNOD were balloted for and elected members of the Club.

The CHAIRMAN stated that since the last meeting 100*l.* had been sent from the Alpine Club Relief Fund to Mons. Gallati, *President* of the Swiss Alpine Club, leaving a sum of a little over 100*l.* still in hand. He also said that an appeal had been made on behalf of the village of Schwanden, near Meiringen, which had recently been entirely destroyed by inundations, in order to enable the inhabitants to migrate elsewhere. The Committee, however, considered that the Avalanche Relief Fund was not applicable to the case of Schwanden.

Mr. POLLOCK said that neither the Committee nor the present Meeting had the power to apply the Fund to any other than its original purpose without the consent of every subscriber.

The CHAIRMAN then called on Mr. ECCLES to read his notes on Lightning-struck Rocks. Mr. ECCLES illustrated his brief paper by a series of curious specimens of rock, portions of which had been more or less completely vitrified by lightning.

Remarks were made by Mr. HOLZMANN, Capt. MAESHALL HALL, Mr. D. FRESHFIELD, Mr. BUTLER, Major MARRIOTT SMITH, and Mr. ELLIS CARR on various effects of lightning noticed by them.

The CHAIRMAN said that the specimens shown by Mr. Eccles were very remarkable, and quite new to most members present. The whole subject of lightning-stroke was very imperfectly understood; some good examples of its effects had lately been shown at the Meteorological Society. He proposed a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Eccles, which was carried by acclamation. Mr. ECCLES having briefly replied, the CHAIRMAN said it was a charming contrast to turn from these mighty effects of nature to the admirable works of art exhibited in the room. He would take the opportunity of congratulating Mr. Willink on the admirable show of pictures he had contributed (see p. 64).

The proceedings then terminated, and Mr. Willink's unique series of sketches—over 60 in number, which were arranged on screens and on the walls of the room—were examined with great interest.

The exhibition remained open to members and their friends daily until June 26.

The Summer Dinner took place on Thursday, June 7, at the Queen's Hotel, Richmond, and was attended by thirty-eight members and their friends.

Errata.

- Vol. xiii. p. viii. List of Illustrations, for 'Ushba from the path between Adish and the Mujalalis' read 'between Latal and Betsho.'
- " " 371, footnote. According to private letters of M. Lerco he failed on Elbruz, but reached the summit of Kazbek by a new route up the face seen from the Post Station, descending by the same route as Mr. Freshfield's party in 1868.
- " " 511, footnote, for 'Snanetiens' read 'Imeritiens.'