

## ALPINE NOTES.

MONT BLANC FROM COURMAYEUR, AND THE DÔME-HUT ON THE AIGUILLE GRISE.—In 1891 the Italian Alpine Club opened a cabane (10,236') on the Aiguille Grise in order to facilitate ascents of Mont Blanc from Courmayeur.

It must be stated that what is usually called the ascent of Mont Blanc by the Aiguille Grise has nothing to do with the Aiguille Grise. The upper névé of the Italian Miage Glacier is divided into three parts by two spurs: the *Aiguille Grise* on the west, and the *Rochers du Mont-Blanc* on the east. The former joins the chief arête of the Mont Blanc chain between the Aiguille de Bionassay (13,324') and the Dôme du Goûter (14,210'); the latter between the Bosses (14,961') and the summit of Mont Blanc (15,782'). The glacier between the two spurs is called *Gl. du Dôme*; that on the west of the Aiguille Grise, the *Upper Miage Glacier*; that on the east of Rochers du Mont-Blanc, *Gl. du Mont-Blanc*.

It is by the Glacier and the Rochers du Mont-Blanc that travellers used to reach the top of Mont Blanc from Val Vény and the Lac de Combal. There are two cabanes on those rocks; the lower one (10,171'), built in 1875, is now out of use; the upper one, Quintino Sella Hut (11,057'), built in 1885, is in good order.

The way up to Mont Blanc by the Rochers du Mont-Blanc (which reaches the main ridge above the highest Bosse), is not considered to be extremely difficult, though certainly long, and it wants a good man to do it well; but during the afternoon it is exposed to the danger of falling stones, therefore climbers, after having reached the summit by the Rochers du Mont-Blanc, used to descend to Chamonix. Recently an easy and safe way has been discovered on the Italian side—I have not heard by whom\*—which enables the traveller to return directly to Courmayeur.

The first part of the new route coincides on the descent with the Chamonix route as far as the Dôme du Goûter, from which it continues to follow the main arête in a W.S.W. direction. At the point 12,763', between the Dôme and the Aiguille de Bionassay, the way leaves the arête, turns to the left, and leads over tolerably steep snow-slopes to the bottom of the upper Dôme Glacier. As soon as the level of 10,200' is reached, you take the Aiguille Grise rocks on your right, and arrive a short time afterwards at the Dôme Hut. It is to be remarked that on the whole way down you do not touch a single rock except within the last 20 minutes.

On my expedition (September 10, 11, and 12, 1891) I was accompanied by Emile Rey, Laurent Croux, and Laurent Proment, of Courmayeur. The climb from the Cabane Sella over the Rochers du Mont-Blanc to the top took us 8 hours 50 minutes, of which seven and a half

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\* The route must correspond in part with that taken by Mr. F. Brown in 1868 (see vol. iv. pp. 261 *sqq.*); but he appears to have struck the main ridge at or near the summit of the Dôme.

were spent in actual walking. We reached the summit at 11.8 A.M. (September 11), the Vallot Hut at 12.50 P.M. From thence we started at 1.45, reached point 12,763' of the snow arête at 3.30, and arrived at the Dôme Hut at 5.36. There were no serious difficulties to overcome on the descent except in the séracs of the Glacier du Dôme; but travellers ought always to mind the cornice of the main arête between the Dôme and Aiguille de Bionassay.

If the Glacier du Dôme is in good condition (as usually in July and August), you can descend in 5 hours from the top of Mont Blanc to the Dôme Hut, and even in less time if a previous track exists; it takes 5 more hours to get to Courmayeur. Therefore, during the period of long days and short nights, travellers who are anxious to dwell as little time as possible in the upper regions can arrive at Courmayeur the same day on which they started from the Sella Hut. Good conditions of rocks and snow supposed, it would require 17 to 18 hours actual walking. Signor Gonella, the well-known Italian mountaineer, who ascended Mont Blanc by the Dôme Hut route and went back on his track, arrived the same day at Courmayeur.

The appended table gives the results of my own measurements, founded upon the known heights of Courmayeur, Lac de Combal, and Mont Blanc; it has been drawn up because it takes the place of an accurate description of the route.

I wanted to draw the attention of my fellow-mountaineers to the expedition described above not only because it is one of the finest in

Table of Heights.

	Mètres	English Feet
Courmayeur . . . . .	1,215	3,986
Cantine de la Visaille . . . . .	1,650	5,414
Lac Combal . . . . .	1,940	6,365
Moraine of the Miage Glacier . . . . .	1,940-2,070	6,365-6,789
Junction of Miage and Mont Blanc Glacier (about) . . . . .	2,450	8,038
Spring in the grass slopes . . . . .	2,645	8,678
The lower hut on Rocher du Mont-Blanc . . . . .	3,100	10,171
The upper, <i>i.e.</i> Q. Sella Hut (pseudo-Aig. Grise Hut) . . . . .	3,370	11,057
The little snow plateau . . . . .	3,650	11,975
Difficult passage (séracs, bergschrund) . . . . .	3,710-3,800	12,172-12,468
The lower Mont Blanc rock arête . . . . .	3,845-4,400	12,615-14,436
Snow arêtes, snow slopes . . . . .	4,400-4,510	14,436-14,797
The upper Mont Blanc rock arête . . . . .	4,510-4,680	14,797-15,355
Its junction with the chief arête . . . . .	4,700	15,421
Summit of Mont Blanc . . . . .	4,810	15,782
The upper Bosse . . . . .	4,560	14,961
The Cabane Vallot . . . . .	4,380	14,370
Junction of the Chamonix and Dôme Hut route . . . . .	4,300	14,108
The Dôme Hut route leaves the snow arête . . . . .	3,890	12,763
Dôme Hut on the Aig. Grise . . . . .	3,120	10,236
Dôme Glacier joins Miage Glacier (about) . . . . .	2,680	8,793

the Alps and combines two routes of very different character, but also because it belongs to the domain of Courmayeur. At a time when some of our best old hunting-grounds are played out, we have to look out for new mountaineering centres. I venture to say that Courmayeur is particularly entitled to become one, because it answers to the fundamental conditions of good mountains, good guides, and good accommodation.

DR. PAUL GÜSSFELDT.

The following account has also reached us of an ascent by the route which Dr. Güssfeldt took in descending :—

MONT BLANC BY THE GLACIER DU DÔME.—As I was reputed, at Chamonix, the first Englishman, and the third traveller, to have made this ascent, some account of it may be interesting, especially as the new Italian club-hut on the Aiguille Grise seems at present almost unknown.

We left the Cantine of Visaille—which I found dirty, bad, and expensive—about 1 P.M. on August 13, and walked up the most uninteresting Glacier du Miage to the foot of the Aiguille Grise. There is a good and easily-found path up to and some way beyond the old *gîte*.

I was a total stranger to the district, and neither of my guides had been there before, but there was no missing the path as far as a small snowslope. There were traces of someone having crossed this slope; so we followed, but before we had gone a few yards all traces disappeared. The only likely place to get off this snow was an unpleasant-looking rock couloir; so up it we started. It was not difficult, but full of loose stones, which it was not easy to avoid dislodging, and which occasionally dislodged themselves above us. Moreover, it was very wet. It was about six o'clock when we reached the top, and we had no idea whereabouts the hut might be; but I spied a footstep in a bit of snow showing at the top of the couloir, so we were happy, and sat down to eat and drink. The snow, however, was too soft and steep to follow on to at that time; we, therefore, kept away up some easy rocks to the left, and when well out of the couloir all three scattered to search for the hut.

In five minutes we were in it; and a model hut it is—quite new and admirably fitted, and water within easy reach. We started the fire, and set on the soup, and then the guides went out to reconnoitre the route. They returned in about an hour, saying it seemed all clear. I judged the hut to be slightly higher than the Grands Mulets.

We being strangers could not do much in the dark, so did not start till 3.30, first over some easy snow, then easy rocks, and at last on to the glacier. Here there are some magnificent séracs and crevasses, and I can imagine in some seasons it may well be impassable; but, except in one place, fairly low down, we found no difficulty. That once we kept away too much to the right, and had to make a rather long circuit to the left, which delayed us a little. The upper part of the glacier, however, was quite easy, though, the snow being hard, steps were required nearly all the way, and we got on to the ridge between the Aiguille de Bionassay and the Dôme du Goûter without encountering any formidable bergschrund or other difficulties.

Here the new part of the route ends, though I believe this ridge has

not very often been traversed.\* However, we found not the slightest trouble in it, beyond the labour of step-cutting, which, as halfway up it turned to ice, was considerable.

On the shoulder of the Dôme du Goûter we were met by a bitter north wind, which almost blew us off the arête; but, after half an hour's warming in M. Vallot's hut, we started again, and reached the summit at 9.45. We left at 10, stayed 20 minutes in M. Vallot's hut, 30 minutes at the Grands Mulets, an hour and a half at the Pierre Pointue, and were down in Chamonix at 4.30—i.e., notwithstanding the step-cutting, the expedition took us, exclusive of halts, less than ten hours.

W. MAUDE.

ISENFLUH AND THE SAUSTHAL.—In vol. xiii. of the 'Alpine Journal' (p. 423) the Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge has given an account of his crossing the Sausgrat with Christian Almer, the younger, and, in describing their route through the Sausthal, says that 'instead of taking the path to the Obersaus Alp indicated on the map (for it apparently led up and over very precipitous rocks), we kept to the well-marked stony path on the left bank, by which (having passed a very fine waterfall) we gained the glen to the N. and W. of the Mettlenberg ridge.'

The route taken by Mr. Coolidge has certainly the advantage of affording a good view from below of the fall referred to, which comes from the Obersaus Alp; but the view from above the fall is incomparably finer, and this is obtained by taking the path which Mr. Coolidge avoided. I have seldom seen a more fascinating fall, or, as perhaps it would be more correctly designated, water-slide. And from a projecting rock on the N. side, above the fall, the whole of it is visible. Except the Tosa fall, the view of which from the bridge immediately above the fall is extremely grand, I hardly know any other cascade which can be so fully viewed from above. The Schmadribach is very disappointing in this respect. The precipitous rocks mentioned by Mr. Coolidge present no difficulty whatever. If the excursion consist, as mine last June did, of a day's walk from the charming *pension* at Isenfluh to the head of the Sausthal and back, one cannot do better than go by the Obersaus Alp, which leads to the cairn-crowned hillock mentioned by Mr. Coolidge and joins his track there, and return by the lower path. The homeward way may be varied by turning to the N. just opposite the fall, and ascending to the Sausboden, and traversing it and the Suls Alp, and descending by the Unter Suls See (at the foot of the Sulegg) and the Guferswald to Isenfluh. The Sulegg, 7,913 feet, is a very fine standpoint, equalling in some respects the Schilthorn, and far superior to it in the northward, eastward, and westward views.

The views from the Gummen Alp, above Isenfluh, towards Grindelwald, Lauterbrunnen, and Interlaken, are also most charming. Neither the inn at Isenfluh nor that at Gimmelwald is given in the

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\* It was in all probability by falling from this ridge in the storm of August 19-20 last year, that Count Villanova, with his guides Maquignaz and Castagneri, perished. (See p. 274.)

list in Mr. Coolidge's admirable book, 'Swiss Travel and Swiss Guide Books.' Possibly he deemed them hardly within the category of mountain inns, and yet they seem to be as much so as those at Beatenberg, Trachsellauinen, and others. FRED. STRATTON.

POINTES DE MOURTI.—No account of the ascent of these peaks in the ridge between Val d'Hérens and Val de Moiry appears to have been published.\* Mr. C. G. Monro reached the summit of the western one (3,585 m. = 11,762 ft.) on September 1 last, and found a stoneman containing records of ascents by Captain Utterson-Kelso in 1882, and by M. Charles Montaudon in 1890. The line taken was N.E. from the Alpe des Rosses, till the W. ridge of the peak was reached, and followed without difficulty to the top. A stoneman was also seen on the Eastern point, the height of which is usually given at 3,570 m. = 11,713 ft. Mr. Monro, however, considered that it looked the higher of the two; but it must be remembered that of two neighbouring summits of nearly equal height the one which you are not on always appears higher to the eye, unless you have a level horizon.

GROSS VENEDIGER (3,660 m. = 12,005 ft.).—On September 3 an expedition, organised by the Salzburg section of the D.Oe.A.V., was made to the summit of this popular mountain to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of its first ascent. The veteran Dr. Anton von Ruthner, who made the ascent, of which he has given a most charming description in his well-known work 'Aus den Tauern,' on September 3, 1841, was one of the party, but was not able to go beyond the Kiirsinger Hütte, which stands at a height of about 8,700 ft. on the right bank of the Ober Sulzbach-Kees, and in which on the previous day a memorial tablet in his honour had been unveiled. Here he awaited the return of the younger generation from the summit. It is curious to read that this peak, perhaps the most easily accessible of its height in the Alps, was long regarded as inaccessible. Even the enterprising Archduke John was driven back from it by an avalanche (which nearly ended the life of one of his guides) in 1828; and no further attempts upon it seem to have been made until Dr. von Ruthner's successful attack, when a large party reached the top. It has now been ascended from almost every direction, the last 'new route' having been achieved by Dr. Guido Lammer this year on August 25. He reached the summit by the north-west face, after three hours' hard step-cutting through 8 inches of powdery snow, and crossed the enormous cornice which in most years prevents access to the actual highest point. This route would seem to be chiefly interesting as forming the only dangerous way up the Venediger.

SIGNOR ALESSANDRO SELLA.—We regret to have to record the premature death of this member of a well-known mountaineering family. Signor Alessandro Sella, the eldest son of the statesman, who died on July 24 last, at the age of 34, of an illness contracted during his recent tour in Abyssinia, will be best remembered as one of the party who

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\* See *Pennine Guide*, part i. p. 86.

first found the way to the top of the Aiguille (or, as the Italians like to call it, Dent) du Géant. He had, however, made many ascents in all parts of the Western Alps.

PETER JENNI.—Those who knew Pontresina in former days, when it was more of a climbing centre and less of a fashionable summer resort, and possessed more than one guide capable of better things than loafing about with a badge on his hat in the intervals of going the 'Diavolezza round,' will regret to learn the death of a man who in his time led many parties to the conquest of the Engadine peaks. Peter Jenni died in the course of last June in the hospital at Chur, being, it is said, at the time of his death in extreme destitution.

HUTS.—Among the new huts completed in the course of the present year attention may be called to the following:—The Turin section of the C.A.I. opened in August a hut on a spur of the Aiguille Grise, on the right bank of the Glacier du Dôme, at a height of about 10,500 feet, and 1½ hr. above the Chaux de Pesses, to facilitate the ascent of Mont Blanc from Courmayeur by the glacier in question (or, perhaps, rather the descent to that place) which, by the ordinary 'Aiguille Grise' route is rendered dangerous in the afternoon by falling stones. The first ascent from the new hut was made by Signor Gonella, with Julian Proment and Joseph Croux, on August 13. No doubt the tracks seen by Mr. Maude (see p. 554) were due to this party. Dr. Güssfeldt also sends an account of the descent by this route, which will be found on p. 552. This hut is known as the *Cupanna del Dôme*.

The fine group of mountains separating Val Viola from the Valtellina, of which the culminating point is the Cima de' Piazz, lying almost exactly midway between the Bernina and the Ortler, has been much neglected, probably owing to the lack of accommodation. This will be in some measure supplied by the *Cupanna Dosdè*, just erected by the Milan section on the pass of the same name, which leads from Val Grosina, by its western arm, Val Vermolera, into the upper part of Val Viola Bormina. The altitude of the hut is 2,850 m. = 9,335 ft. It is well placed for the western part of the chain, but, unfortunately, is of no service for the ascent of the Cima de' Piazz. In the account of the opening festival \* we notice a statement that on the following day a party made the first ascent of the Corno di Dosdè. Unless two peaks bear this name there must be a mistake here, for the Corno di Dosdè was ascended, September 7, 1866, by Messrs. Thomas, Lewin, and Finney, as may be read in this Journal (vol. ii. pp. 407 *sqq.*) Their ascent is also mentioned in the 'Alpine Guide,' § 36, Rte. M. It may be worth noting here that a new inn has recently been opened at Livigno.

In the Lower Oetzthal the Innsbruck section of the Oe.T.C. opened, on September 7, a hut in the Fundus Thal, a side valley near Umhausen, at the foot of the Feiler (3,076 m. = 10,090 ft.)—a fine point of view, but one which has hardly yet found its way into the guide-books—for the benefit of tourists wishing to ascend that moun-

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\* *Rivista Mensile*, pp. 263-4.

tain, but unequal to the walk from Umhausen. The hut has been named *Frischmann Hütte*, in honour of a neighbouring landowner who gave much assistance in the work.

Lastly, we must mention what seems to be the newest thing in huts. Prof. K. Müller, of Teplitz, has erected on the Pfaffennieder,\* or col leading from Stubai to Ridnaun, between the Oestlicher Pfaff and Wilder Freiger, at a height of about 10,500 ft., an edifice of quite novel construction. Instead of the solid stone walls with which we are familiar the *Müller-Hütte* is formed of a framework of stout beams, boarded on the outside and covered with tarpaulin, and lined inside with slabs of cork about 2 in. thick. A steel wire rope passes round the building, and is made fast in four directions to the rocks. Herr Meurer, who passed the night of August 30 there, in bad weather, gives in the 'Touristen-Zeitung' for September 15 an enthusiastic account of the warmth and dryness of the hut. It remains to be seen how the structure will weather the storms of winter; but, should the result be favourable, we may expect to see Prof. Müller's pattern widely copied. The profits of the hut are to be applied in perpetuity to the relief of the poor of the Ridnaunthal.

The hut to be erected next year on the Signal-Kuppe is all ready at Gressoney. When the Queen of Italy visited that place on August 15 it was put together, and, after an open-air Mass had been said near it, her Majesty was pleased to 'christen' it in her own name, and it will be known as the 'Capanna alla Regina Margherita.'

CAUCASUS.—We learn that Herr Purtscheller's party had, in spite of weather, a fairly successful tour in the Caucasus, ascending, among other peaks, Tetnuld from the Zanner glacier, Dongusorun, the highest peak (which they found difficult), all three peaks of the Leila, Adirsu-bashi, and Mr. Cockin's peak of Janga by a new route. An attempt on Ushba failed through the great quantity of snow. After Herr Purtscheller's departure, his companion, Herr Merzbacher, ascended Kazbek and Gumaran Choch (c. 15,700 ft.). Their guides were Kehrer and Hofer, of Kals.

NEW ZEALAND.—The New Zealand Alpine Club is now fairly launched. At a meeting held on July 28, at Christchurch, twenty-seven members and five 'subscribers' were elected, rules were considered and adopted, and officers were appointed. Mr. L. Harper is president; Mr. A. P. Harper, secretary; Mr. G. E. Mannering, editor of the journal; Messrs. Mannering and Dixon, with the officers, forming the Qualification Committee. Besides these there are four vice-presidents and five other members of the executive committee. 'Subscribers' will have the privileges of the club, but no voice in its management. Encouragement will be given to the formation of sections for the various centres in the colony. We are glad to see that a proper spirit of independence already prevails—if we may judge from the only business, besides the organisation of the club, which was done at the first meeting. 'Mr. Dixon

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\* See *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiii. p. 127.

showed an ice-axe of local make, manufactured by Mr. Martin, of West Eyreton, which he (Mr. Dixon) pronounced equal to any imported axe.' This is quite as it should be—provided that those of us who go there are not forbidden to import our own weapons. Meantime all members of the Alpine Club will wish prosperity to its hopeful offshoot. Incidentally it may be mentioned that Mr. Mannering has already brought out a work which, under the title 'With Axe and Rope in the New Zealand Alps,' relates some of the recent work done by himself and others. Messrs. Longman are the publishers.

ICELAND.—From a letter in the *Times* we learn that the ascent of Oræfa Jökull (c. 6,550 ft.) has at last been accomplished. Our readers will doubtless remember the account in the first volume of 'Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers' (second series) of an attempt upon the mountain made by Messrs. Holland and Shepherd in 1861. It has now been conquered by Mr. F. W. Howell. Accompanied by two Icelanders he reached the summit in 9½ hrs. from the first snow. No particulars have reached us of the ascent.

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 " " " " Vol. V., Nos. 9, 12; Vol. VI., No. 3; Vol. IX., No. 6. 6d. per number.  
 Società degli Alpinisti Tridentini, Annuario, 1877, 1878-9, 1886-7, 1888. 2s. each volume.  
 Club Alpin Français, Bulletin, No. 4, December 1875. 6d.  
 " " " " Bulletin Trimestriel, 1876; 1877, Parts 1, 3, 4; 1878, Parts 1, 2; 1879, Part 4; 1880, Parts 3, 4. 1s per part.  
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 Oesterr. Alpen-Zeitung, Vols. I.-VIII., 1879-86, wanting Nos. 1, 3, 5, 8-10, 26, 66, 89, 104, 109, 110, 123, 135. 20s. the lot.  
 Jahrbuch des Ungarischen Karpathen-Vereins, Vols. I. and XV., 1874, 1888. 1s. each volume.  
 Giornale delle Alpi. G. T. Cinino. Anno I., Fasc. 1-4, 9-12; Anno II., Fasc. 1-6. 1864-5. 7s.  
 Jahrbuch des Oesterr. Alpen-Vereins, Vol. I. 1865. 5s.  
 Mittheilungen des D. u. Oe. Alpen-Vereins, 1878, No. 2; 1879, No. 1; 1889, No. 6. 6d. each number.  
 Bibliotheca Carpatica. Von Hugo Payer. 1880. 2s.  
 Rassegna di Alpinismo. Da F. Carega di Muricce. Anno II., Nos. 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 10-13. 1880. 2s. the lot.  
 Zeitschrift des D. u. Oe. Alpen-Vereins, Vols. 3, 4, 17, 1872, 1873, and 1886. 5s. per volume.

- Zeitschrift des D. u. Oe. Alpen-Vereins, 1873. Heft I. only. 1s.  
 Bollettino della Sezione di Brescia, C.A.I., 1874. 6d.  
 C.A.I., Sezione di Agordo. Adunanza Straordinaria, 1 Settembre 1878. 8d.  
 La Vaudaine: Etude sur le Vallon de la Vaux-Daine. H. Ferrand. 1879. 6d.  
 Suggestions for the Exploration of Iceland. W. Longman. 1861. 9d.  
 Die Stubaier Gebirgsgruppe. Barth u. Pfandner. 1865. 7s. 6d.  
 Les Alpes du Dauphiné. E. Debriges. 1885. 6d.  
 Mont Blanc. Italian Ode translated into English Verse. 1879. 1s.  
 Materiali per la Carta Geologica della Svizzera. Vol. XVII. Appendice ed  
 Indice [only]. 1880. 6d.  
 Bibliothek der Sektion Bern des S.A.C. 1887. 6d.  
 Alcune Varietà Alpinistiche nel 1878. C. Isaia. 1879. 6d.  
 Anleitung zu wissenschaftlichen Beobachtungen auf Alpenreisen, D. u. Oe.  
 A.-V. 5 parts, 1878-82. 10s.  
 Wanderstudien aus der Schweiz. Osenbrüggen. Vols. 1, 6. 1867, 1881.  
 2s. 6d. each.  
 La Caverna del Rio Martino. G. B. Araldo. 1885. 6d.  
 Itinerarium für das Excursionsgebiet des S.A.C. für 1882, 1883. E. v. Fel-  
 lenberg. 1882. 6d.  
 How to See Norway. J. R. Campbell. 1871. 1s.  
 Aus der Firnenwelt. Weilenmann. Vol. I. 1872. 2s.  
 Sulzfuhr: Excursion der Section Rhätia. 1865. 1s.  
 Verhandlungen des Oesterr. Alpenvereins. Heft. I. 1867. 1s.  
 Mittheilungen des Oesterr. Alpenvereins. Band II. 1864. 2s.  
 Jahrbuch des Schweizer. A.C., II., 1865, and Artistische Beilagen. 5s.  
 " " without Beilagen. 2s. 6d.  
 " " XVI., 1880-1, without Beilagen. Half-calf, 4s.

THE LIBRARY.—The following additions have been made since August 1, 1891:—

- Gomis (D. Cels). Botánica Popular ab gran nombre de confrontacions. Small 8vo. Barcelona, 1891. (Presented by the Associació d'Excursions Catalana.)  
 Türler (E. A.) St. Gotthard, Airolo, und Val Piora. Pictoreske Beschreibung der Natur und Landschaft des St. Gotthardgebirges. 8vo. Plates. Bern, 1891. (Presented by the Author.)  
 Chrouschoff (Michel de). Pau: Souvenirs et Impressions. 8vo. Pau, 1891. (Presented by the Author.)  
 Fischer (Andreas). Zwei Kaukasus-Expeditionen. 8vo. Maps and Plates. Bern, 1891. (Presented by the Author.)  
 Annuaire du Club Alpin Français. Dix-septième Année, 1890. 8vo. Plates. Paris, 1891. (Presented by the Club.)  
 Jahrbuch des Schweizer Alpenclub. Sechszwanzigster Jahrgang, 1890 bis 1891. 8vo. Plates. Bern, 1891. (Presented by the Club.)  
 Smithsonian Institution. Annual Report of the Board of Regents, showing the Operations, Expenditures, and Condition of the Institution to July 1889. 8vo. Washington, 1890. (Presented by the Institution.)  
 Bollettino del Club Alpino Italiano per l'anno 1890. Pubblicato per cura del Consiglio Direttivo. 8vo. Plates. Torino, 1891. (Presented by the Club.)  
 Annuaire de la Société des Touristes du Dauphiné. Seizième Année, 1890. 8vo. Grenoble, 1891. (Presented by the Society.)  
 A Handbook for Travellers in Switzerland. Part I. Switzerland without the Pennine Alps. Part II. The Alps of Savoy and Piedmont, the Italian Lakes, and Part of the Dauphiné. Eighteenth edition. 8vo. Maps. John Murray, London, 1891. (Presented by the Publisher.)  
 Richter (E.) Geschichte der Schwankungen der Alpengletscher. Separatabdruck aus der Zeitschrift des D. und Oe. Alpenvereins, 1891. Band XXII. 8vo. Plates. Wien, 1891. (Presented by the Author.)

Zeitschrift des Deutschen und Oesterreichischen Alpenvereins. Jahrgang 1891. Band XXII. (Presented by the Club.)  
 Jahrbuch des Ungarischen Karpathenvereins, 1891. (Presented by the Club.)

GENERAL MEETING AND WINTER DINNER.—The annual general meeting will be held on Monday, December 14. The dinner will take place on the following day, and the Picture Exhibition will be open in the afternoon and evening of that day, and throughout the following day, Wednesday, December 16. It is requested that all communications relating to loans of pictures may be sent as early as possible to the Honorary Secretary.

## REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

*Der Gebirgsbau der West-Alpen.* Von Dr. Carl Diener. (Vienna: Tempsky. Leipzig: Freytag.)

The leading object of this work, as stated by the author in the preface, is, after a survey of the structural features of the Western Alpine system, to determine what relation this system bears to that of the Eastern Alps; to define the boundaries of both; and to decide whether, and under what modifications, any of the structural units of the former are continued into the latter. Both Studer and Desor recognised that the structure of the Alpine chain was interrupted beyond the eastern end of the St. Gothard massif and near the Splügen. Mojsisovics was, however, the first, as pointed out by Dr. Diener, to insist upon the actual independence of the Eastern Alps relatively to the Western both in their history and structure, and his researches led him to conclude that the southern chains along the boundary of the two systems afforded proof of an older bow-shaped curve of the Eastern Alps, with its concavity turned towards the Adige, which was anterior to the formation of the half-bow curve of the Western Alps. But while this question is of very great importance, Dr. Diener's treatment of it, though by no means inadequate, yields in interest to his remarkably clear and comprehensive description of the structure of the Western Alps and the relations of their various members to each other.

The author follows in the main Lory's classification of the Western Alps from the Mediterranean to the St. Gothard into four zones, which correspond with the general trend and strike of the mountain chains; and each of these zones is characterised by certain constant or well-recognisable and distinguishing structural features. These zones are:—

1. The zone of Monte Rosa, or the zone of the Inner central massifs.
2. The inner Kalk-and-Schiefer zone of the Western Alps, or Zone of the Briançonnais.
3. Zone of Mont Blanc, or zone of the outer central massifs
4. Kalk-zone of Dauphiné. (Lory's 'Zone des Chaînes subalpines' corresponds with the 'nördliche Kalkzone der Schweizer Alpen'.)

In addition to the zones mentioned, the investigations of Alphonse