

ALPINE NOTES AND NEW ROUTES.

STEIN TO ENGELBERG. ROUTE BY THE FÜNFINGERSTÖCKE.—In vol. vii. of the 'Alpine Journal,' page 327, Mr. T. C. V. Baslow describes an excursion he made with the object of improving upon the circuitous route from the Stein inn to the Wenden glacier, and thus to Engelberg. A gap in the rocks to the west of the Fünffingerstöcke was made for and crossed, but considerable difficulty seems to have been experienced on a small glacier on the other side, and situated above the Wenden glacier.

In 1884 Mr. J. A. Hutchison and I came upon a snow col at the head of the east branch of the Oberthal glacier,* and we discussed at the time the possibility of reaching Engelberg by this route. The Federal map makes the glacier appear easy enough, but in matters of detail even this admirable map cannot be entirely relied upon.

On September 1, 1891, Mr. Frank Gare and I set out from Stein to solve the problem, and we found that the route indicated is not only practicable, but short as well. We reached the snow col between peaks marked 3,002 and 2,992 m. on the map, in 2½ hrs., exclusive of halts, by an obvious route. Then came a short level tract of snow, leading to the top of a steep slope some 200 or 300 ft. in height. Descending this, and bearing somewhat to our right, so as to keep clear of an overhanging cliff of ice on the left, we emerged on to a small glacier—steep, but less inclined than the snow slope—containing a few easily crossed crevasses. Threading our way through these, we shortly afterwards reached the nearly level Wenden Glacier, and, in 1¼ hr. from the snow col, were on the Joch overlooking the Engelberg valley. The total time was thus 3½ hrs. from the inn to the Joch, exclusive of halts. Our pace would be a fair average, the snow on the Wenden Glacier and in some other parts being in excellent condition, whilst in certain other places it was soft and laborious. We returned to Stein by the roundabout way for the sake of variety, it not being convenient for us to proceed to Engelberg.

The Fünffingerstöcke route possesses some attractive features and some disadvantages over the customary one. It is far finer in respect of views and general interest, but it has the drawback of being fully 1,000 ft. higher. Many of the persons, moreover, who frequent the Wender Joch might also consider the glacier and snow slope inconveniently steep. However, the more elevated passage obviates the considerable and annoying descent at the outset in order to enter the Wendenthal, and it further avoids the trying jolt over the long moraine of the Wenden Glacier.

It may be added that Herr Dübi followed somewhat in the tracks of Mr. Baslow's party in 1871,† and he mentions that he met with no difficulty on the north side of the Urathorner.—LEGH S. POWELL.

* See *Alpine Journal*, vol. xii. p. 266.

† *Alpine Journal*, vol. viii. p. 175.

BERNINA GROUP.—On Friday, August 28, 1891, a party, consisting of Mr. E. A. Broome and Mr. H. W. Holder, with Josef Marie Biner, of St. Nicholas, and Johann Gross, of Pontresina, as guides, started from the Roseg Restaurant at 12 50 A.M. They reached the summit of the Scercen, by the ordinary route, at 8.22 A.M. Proceeding by the arête, the top of the Piz Bernina was gained at 1.55 P.M. They descended by the Scharte, and were on the top of the Pizzo Bianco at 2.55 P.M. They arrived at the Roseg Restaurant at 7.55 P.M., the whole expedition having lasted nineteen hours. This was the first time the three peaks had been ascended in the same day, and it is said to have been the second time that the descent from the Piz Bernina had been made by the Scharte and Pizzo Bianco. The snow was in excellent condition for the ascent of the Scercen; but the snow and ice on the rocks made both arêtes in some places both difficult and dangerous.

'SCHARTE' ROUTE ON PIZ BERNINA.—We take the following from the *St. Moritz (now Alpine) Post*. Readers will probably be able to make their own comments—at the rate of about one for every line of the extract:—'Shortly after the beginning of September, three ladies, with three guides, made the ascent of Piz Bernina by the popular "Scharte" route. The party quitted Pontresina at midnight. On reaching the Fuorcla Prievlusa, the elder lady complained of fatigue, and wished to return; she was, however, overruled by the guides, and the expedition was continued, the two younger ladies walking admirably, though the pace was extremely slow owing to the exhaustion of their aunt. No mishap occurred, however, till after they had descended into the "Scharte." The four who were first on the rope (curiously enough, the eight were on one rope, to which fact the four who were leading owe their lives) were on the ice slope, rounding the tower, when the elder lady slipped, and pulled down the three nearest to her on the rope. The others were firmly placed, and able to hold, so no fatal results ensued. We may add, for the benefit of those who do not know this part of the mountain, that a fall at this point, unless checked by those on the rope, must inevitably lead to destruction. The summit was reached at a late hour, and the party had to spend the night on the rocks just above the Labyrinth, not getting down to Boval till next morning, after twenty-eight hours out.'

COL DE FONTANABRAN.—The Rev. A. Sloman writes:—'A letter has been forwarded to me by our President, from M. R. van Breugel Douglas, about my note in the February number of the Journal on the Col de Fontanabran. M. Douglas writes that the name "Col de Fontanabran" has already been appropriated for a depression between one peak of Fontanabran and a point on the southern arête, and that the col to which I called attention has been named Le Col de Fenestral. The rocks upon the right of the col (coming from Fins-hauts), he says, have been ascended four times—(1) in 1886, by M. P. Beaumont, who christened the peak Pointe Beaumont; (2) in 1889, by M. Aug. Wagnon; (3) in 1890, by MM. Fiaux, Beaumont, and Wagnon; (4) in 1891, by MM. Beaumont, R. van Breugel Douglas, J. de Roovere van Breugel, and G. de Kattendijke. M. Douglas is

mistaken in supposing that I claimed to be the first discoverer of the pass. From its position it must have been used by shepherds for many generations, but it was not marked in any map, nor mentioned in any book, so far as I could discover. My note was therefore merely intended to supply this deficiency. In the Federal Map the whole "massif," of which the "Pointe Beaumont" is the highest peak (2,474 metres), is called La Rebarmaz. M. Douglas, however, I know not on what authority, wishes to confine this term to a peak of a neighbouring mountain, marked on the Federal Map as La Barmaz.'

THE NAME LO BESSO.—Mr. Coolidge has kindly sent me the following note in reply to my query in the last number of the 'Alpine Journal.'

'The name Lo Besso appears on Studer's map of 1849. Keller's (1836) edition calls it "L'Obèche."'

The following passages bear on the question:—

(1) Julius Fröbel, "Reise in die weniger bekannten Thäler auf der Nordseite der Penninischen Alpen," Berlin, 1840. This is probably the earliest description by an outsider of the Anniviers Valley. On p. 140 (*note*), among names given to him by Canon Berchtold, of Sion, and Conrad Zeller, two of the great early authorities on the mountains of the Vallais, he cites "Le Bêcho," distinguishing it from Le Blanc. On his panorama it is "Lo Bêcho." On p. 143 he says: "Ein anderer [he has been speaking of Le Blanc] weiter vortretender Gipfel, welcher in zwei schwarze Spitzen ausgeht, wird Lo Bêcho, d. h. der Zweifache, der Zwillingsgipfel, genannt. Die Form l'Obèche, wie der Name auf Kellers Karte erscheint, ist fehlerhaft: das Wort kommt ohne Zweifel vom lateinischen 'bis.'"

(2) G. Gilléron: "Patois de la commune de Vionnaz (Bas-Vallais)," Paris, 1880 (fasc. 40 de la Bibliothèque de l'École des Hautes Études), p. 140, "Bésö = Jumeau. Bésü = endroit où se bifurquent deux branches d'arbre d'égale puissance."

'The most thorough and scientific investigation into the Savoyard dialect generally is François Brachet: "Dictionnaire du Patois Savoyard tel qu'il est parlé dans le canton d'Albertville." Albertville, 1889, 2nd edition.

'I know of no special work on the phonology of the Val d'Anniviers, but the dialect is only a slight variant of the Savoyard spoken in the Lower Vallais. Scattered indications and hints occur in divers works, e.g.:—

'Berndt's "Monograph" (1882) on the valley (see "Alpine Journal," xi., 234, p. 50, with two specimens of the Paternoster in dialect.

'Gatschet (1870) in Wirth's "Allgemeine Beschreibung der Schweiz," ii. 304. This is mainly reproduced by Berndt, but there are a few more facts given.

'Stalder, "Die Landessprachen der Schweiz" (1819). This gives the parable of the Prodigal Son in the Romance dialect of the Lower Vallais.'

W. L.

FERRICHLÜCKE, BALFRIN.—The Rev. G. Broke writes: In my paper

read on March 1, I spoke of having crossed the Ferrichlücke from the Ried Glacier to Huteggen. From sheet 500 of the Federal map, I see that we did not cross the Ferrichlücke of that map (2,889 m.), which is to the north of the Ferrichhorn, but an unnamed pass (3,088) to the south of that peak. The guides called it the Ferrichlücke, and I don't suppose for a moment that it is a 'new expedition,' and probably not even an unrecorded one; but I should be glad if a note could be inserted to explain our route, and to show the existence of this other pass, which is not mentioned in the 'Pennine Guide.'

The new sheet gives only 3,623 as the height of the north point of the Balfrin, i.e. 23 m. lower than Conway's Balenfirnjoch between the two points. When I went up it five years ago, we rose distinctly from the col, and at that time (July) the north was higher than the south point (3,802), though the guides said that after a hot summer the south would be the higher. Ought 3,623 to be 3,823?

NOTES IN THE BERNESE OBERLAND.—Having slept at the Schwarzegg hut, I left it with 'little' Peter Baumann at 4.50 A.M. on September 19 last. We followed at first the track to the Finster Aarjoch, but about the point where that track descends on to the glacier, to pass through the séracs, we bore to the left up easy snow-slopes towards that peak of the Strahlegghörner which is nearly opposite the summit level of the Finster Aarjoch. We reached the peak at 8.5 A.M. without the slightest difficulty, and found a bottle with one card in it, that of Mr. Henry Bowyear, with the date of July 18, 1890.* We believed this peak to be that marked 3,453 m. in the Siegfried map, but Mr. Bowyear considers he left that point on the right. Our point, therefore, I suppose, must be Mr. Bowyear's second peak.

Leaving the summit at 8.50 A.M., we determined to try and make our way along the ridge to the Strahlegg Pass. The point we were on is separated from the next on the ridge by a deep gap. We went down, gently at first, by snow to the top of the rocks leading to this gap, and descended there for a short distance on the arête. Then we came to a sudden drop, beyond which we could see another where the rocks apparently overhung. As we were only two, we thought it unwise to try and get down here, so we returned to the snow and went down along the junction of the snow and the rocks until we were about on a level with the saddle in the gap. Then, as we did not want to go all the way round by the base of the rocks, we determined to try and traverse the face of them to the gap.

At first we got on pretty easily, but soon the rocks got worse. Everything was loose, and the rocks got very steep. Not only were the ledges covered with loose stones, but most of the rocks *in situ* were loose also. The projections we wanted to put our feet on were loose; the hand-holds were loose also; the whole wall was shaky. More than once Peter said, in answer to my inquiry whether he was firm, 'I am safe, I shall not fall, but I could not hold you if you slipped.' More than once, also, we had seriously to consider whether we could get on any farther, and once Peter called me up to him and said he did not

* See *Alpine Journal*, vol. xv. p. 308.

think we could get on, and asked what I thought. I pointed out a way by which I thought we could get on a little farther and see round a corner, and he said, 'Well, we'll try; we've got on very well so far.' So we gradually got on, sometimes having to pass projecting rocks that nearly pushed our centres of gravity beyond their base, and at others having to clamber up places with little hold; but at last the rocks got easier and we reached the arête again just above the snow-saddle in the gap, where we arrived at 10.25 A.M. Peter then remarked, 'Well! that's equal to the Zinal Rothhorn.'

After a short halt, we went up easy rocks and snow to the next point on the ridge, where Peter put up some stones as a mark. On looking at the rocks on the arête where we turned back, Peter thought that a party of three or more could get down. We then continued to follow the ridge, passing over several minor points till we came to a square tower of rock which stands out from the ridge and is conspicuous from various points below. Passing round the base of this, we attacked it from the westward, and after a short scramble reached the top—a short, nearly level ridge. The actual highest point is at the south-eastern end, the last few yards being a slab of rock inclined at a not very steep angle. We passed along this by holding on to the upper edge and sidling along it. There were no signs of its having been visited before, and we made a small cairn at the nearest point to the highest where there was room to build up stones.

Between this point and the Strahlegghorn proper were two other points, the first a rough hump evidently quite easy of access, and the other a sharp pinnacle of rock which might be difficult. We thought we should not have time to go up these, so, passing by their western bases, we mounted by the ridge beyond to the Strahlegghorn proper without any difficulty, reaching it at 12.10 P.M.

From this we descended to the Strahlegg Pass in forty minutes, having to move carefully, as in some places there were loose stones covered with snow in bad condition, and in others thin ice. From the pass we descended to the Eismeer in fifty minutes.

The weather and scenery were glorious, and the whole expedition most enjoyable; but I would advise any party of three or more to try and descend from our first point to the gap by the ridge, and not follow our course.

E. CLAYTON.

THE AUSTRIAN EXPEDITION TO THE HIMALAYA.—Dr. Diener informs us that the mission on which he has been sent by the Austrian Geographical Society is purely scientific in its aims. He does not intend to take any Alpine guides, since he says, 'I hope to be able to reach the points which I shall have to visit for scientific purposes, and which are far from exceeding a height of 20,000 feet, equally well with native attendants.' Indeed, he thinks that the time at his disposal will not be more than enough for his geological researches, and will leave him no leisure for mountaineering pure and simple. At one time Dr. Christomannos, of Meran, a well-known climber, had an idea of accompanying him and taking Tyrolese guides, but this plan is abandoned.

ZERMATT IN 1830.—Some recent correspondence between the Rev.

F. T. Wethered and the present Lord Minto has led to a search for, and the discovery of, the MS. journal kept by the second earl in 1830, when he made the second recorded ascent of the Breithorn. The journal is now the property of the Hon. G. Elliot, by whose kindness we are enabled to make use of it for the purpose of the 'Alpine Journal.' We hope to give copious extracts from it in the August number.

BE C DE L'HOMME, DAUPHINÉ.—In search of rest, after a course of waters at Aix les Bains, I found myself at La Grave, in Dauphiné. I could not resist a little excursion, and decided on the Bec de l'Homme (11,340 ft.), which, according to Baedeker, takes '6½ hours; somewhat difficult; tariff 3.' I engaged J. Bouillet as guide, and acceded to his request to take a porter, as there had been a heavy fall of snow three days previously. We started at 3.15 A.M. on August 26 last. The usual route is over the Pic de l'Homme, a subsidiary summit, of 9,525 ft. I, however, suggested that, to save time, we should leave this to our left, and make straight for the arête between it and the Bec. I led, and had no difficulty in finding an easy way. On reaching the arête, it seemed easy enough, but too much up and down, so we soon roped, and took to the Glacier du Bec on the left. This proved to have about 18 inches of new snow on it, and to follow it to the summit would have been very heavy work; so after a little we returned to the arête, and then worked over to the right to a small stone couloir, by which Bouillet said he had previously ascended. This, instead of stone, was full of living ice at a steep angle, and we cut across to the small N.N.W. arête, overhanging the Glacier de Tabuchet. The crest of this was kept right up to the summit, which was reached at 1.15. The loose stones, which had continually to be removed from the only practicable way, amply confirmed Bouillet's statement that this arête had never previously been climbed; and, although of no excessive difficulty, that it required considerable care is proved by the fact that the whole ascent took us ten hrs. instead of six, notwithstanding that the first half of the ascent had been made in a third less than the ordinary time. An hour on top in glorious clear weather without a breath of wind. Descending, we raced down the Glacier du Bec to the foot: this, according to Bouillet, is also a new variation. It should, I think, take less time than the descent by the ordinary route; while the arête by which we ascended is certainly, in point of interest, an improvement. La Grave was reached at 6, much time having been wasted over luncheon and picking edelweiss, which grows in the greatest profusion.

H. T. MUNRO.

DISCOVERY OF A RELIC IN NORWAY.—On August 19, 1891, Herr Carl Hall and a guide climbed the northern peak of the Skagastölstinder, an easy mountain buttress or stump, terminating a beautiful range of peaks. On the flat summit they picked up a time-bleached piece of reindeer-horn, on which was engraved the letter K. There is hardly a vestige of doubt that this memento was left there by Professor Keilhau—the De Saussure of Norway, the first and bravest of Norsk mountaineers, who is known to have ascended this mountain when making an unsuccessful attempt on the great Skagastölstind in

1820. The same peak was also climbed by the German professors, Naumann and Schubert, in 1822. With the exception of an ascent made a few years ago by some Englishman, the top has been unvisited by man between the years 1822 and 1891, as it is not a mountain which has many attractions for the mountaineer, because of the host of finer mountains in its immediate vicinity. W. C. S.

CLUB ALPIN FRANÇAIS.—The annual Congress of this Club will be held at Grenoble in August. An International Alpine Exhibition, of which MM. Duhamel, Pocat, and Lory are the managers, will be held, under the auspices of the Club, in that city, from July 15 to the end of August.

LIBRARY DUPLICATES FOR SALE.—Application to be made to the Assistant-Secretary:—

- Club Alpino Italiano, Bollettino, Nos. 15 and 22. 1s. each.
 " " Rivista Mensile, Vol. II., No. 4; Vol. III., No. 4;
 Vol. IV.; Vol. V. (wants No. 1); Vol. VI., Nos. 1-6, 8-10. 5s. the lot.
 Club Alpino Italiano, Bollettino, Vol. V., Nos. 9 and 12; Vol. VI. Nos. 3
 and 5; Vol. IX., No. 6. 6d. per number.
 Club Alpin Français, Annuaire, 1876-9. 5s. each.
 " " Bulletin, No. 4, December, 1875. 6d.
 " " Bulletin Trimestriel, Vol. 1876; Vol. 1877, Nos. 1, 3,
 and 4; Vol. 1878, Nos. 1 and 2; Vol. 1879, No. 4;
 Vol. 1880, Nos. 3 and 4. 1s. each.
 " " Bulletin Mensuel, Vol. 1883; Vol. 1884, Nos. 2-6, 8, 9;
 Vol. 1885, Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-9; Vol. 1886, Nos. 1-7, 9; Vol. 1887-9;
 Vol. 1890, Nos. 1-3, 5-7, 9. 20s. the lot.
 Club Alpin Français, Section Lyonnaise, Nos. 1, 3-6. 1s. each.
 Appalchia, Vol. V., 1887-9. 5s.
 Norske Turistforenings Årbog, 1882, 1886. 1s. each.
 Echo des Alpes, 1879, No. 1. 6d.
 Jahrbuch des Ungar. Karpathen-Vereins. 1888. 1s.
 Giornale delle Alpi. G. T. Cimino. Anno I., Fasc. 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12;
 Anno II., Fasc. 1-6. 1864-5. 7s. the lot.
 Deutscher und Oesterr. Alpenverein, Mittheilungen, 1878, No. 2; 1879, No. 1;
 1889, No. 6. 6d. each.
 " " " Zeitschrift, Vol. III., 1872; Vol. IV.,
 1873; Vol. XVII., 1886. 5s. each.
 Oesterr. Touristen-Zeitung, Band IX., No. 11, June 1, 1889. 6d.
 Bibliotheca Carpatica. Von Hugo Payer. 1880. 2s.
 Rassegna di Alpinismo. Da F. Carega di Maurice. Anno II., Nos. 1, 3-5, 7,
 8, 10-13. 1880. 2s.
 Bollettino della Sezione di Brescia, C.A.I., 1874. 6d.
 Sezione di Agordo, C.A.I. Adunanza Straordinaria, 1 Sett. 1878. 6d.
 Suggestions for the Exploration of Iceland. W. Longman. 9d.
 Die Stubaier Gebirgsgruppe. L. Barth and L. Pfaundler. 1865. 5s.
 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. 1880. 6d.
 Bibliothek der Sektion Bern des S.A.C. 1887. 6d.
 Alcune Varietà Alpinistiche nel 1878. C. Isais. 6d.
 Anleitung zu wissenschaftlichen Beobachtungen auf Alpenreisen, D. und
 Oe.A.V. 5 parts, 1878-82. 10s. each.
 Wanderstudien aus der Schweiz. E. Osenbrüggen, Band I., 1867;
 Band VI., 1881. 2s. 6d. each.

- La Caverna del Rio Martino. G. B. Araldo. 1885. 6*d*.
 Itinerarium für das Excursionsgebiet des S.A.C. für 1882. 6*d*.
 Aus der Firnenwelt. J. J. Weilenmann. Vol. I. 1872. 2*s*.
 Sulzfluh: Excursion der Section Rhätia. 1865. 1*s*.
 Schweizer. Alpen-Club. Jahrbuch, 1865, and Beilagen. 5*s*.
 " " " without Beilagen. 2*s*. 6*d*.

THE LIBRARY.—The following additions have been made since January 15, 1892:—

- Whymper (Edward). Travels amongst the Great Andes of the Equator. Medium 8vo. Maps and Illustrations. John Murray, London, 1892. (Presented by the Author.)
 Whymper (Edward). Supplementary Appendix to Travels amongst the Great Andes of the Equator. Medium 8vo. Illustrated. John Murray, London, 1891. (Presented by the Author.)
 Whymper (Edward). How to Use the Aneroid Barometer. Medium 8vo. John Murray, London, 1891. (Presented by the Author.)
 Main (Mrs.) My Home in the Alps. 8vo. Sampson Low and Co., London, 1892. (Presented by the Authoress.)
 Steel (W. G.) The Mountains of Oregon. 8vo. Plates. Portland, Oregon, 1890. (Presented by the Author.)
 Freshfield (Douglas W.) Exploration in the Central Caucasus in 1890. From 'Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society and Monthly Record of Geography,' February No., 1892. 8vo. Pamphlet. Panorama and Map. London, 1892. (Presented by the Author.)
 Dornford (J.) Mont Blanc. From the 'New Monthly Magazine,' Vol. I., 1821. (Presented by H. Cockburn, Esq.)
 Kennedy (E. S.) De Profundis ad Suprema. 8vo. Simpkin, Marshall, and Co., London, n.d. (Presented by the Author.)
 Martin (Alexandre). La Suisse Pittoresque et ses Environs. Medium 8vo. Illustrated. Paris, 1835.
 Schwarz (Dr. Bernhard). Die Erschliessung der Gebirge von den ältesten Zeiten bis auf Saussure (1787). Zweite Ausgabe. 8vo. Leipzig, 1888.
 Meyer (J. J.) Voyage Pittoresque dans le Canton des Grisons en Suisse vers le Lac Majeur et le Lac de Come à travers les Cols de Splügen et de Saint-Bernardin. Accompagné d'une introduction et explication de M. le docteur J. G. Ebel. 8vo. Map and Illustrations. Zürich, 1827.
 Anon. Iter Helveticum. Printed privately. 8vo. Keighley, 1887.
 Vincent (Henri). Les Vingt-deux Années du Père Tasse à Chamrousse. 8vo. Illustrated. Grenoble, 1891.
 Jean-Jacques et le Pays Romand. Extraits des Œuvres de J.-J. Rousseau. Publiés par la Section de Littérature de l'Institut Gènevois. 8vo. Genève, 1878.
 Shairp (John Campbell), Tait (Peter Guthrie), and Adams-Reilly (A.) Life and Letters of James David Forbes. Portraits, Map, and Illustrations. Medium 8vo. Macmillan and Co., London, 1873.
 Echo des Alpes. Index des Vingt-cinq Premières Années de 'l'Echo des Alpes,' 1865-1889. Par Edouard Combe. Genève, 1892. (Presented.)
 Svenska Turistförenings Årsskrift för år 1892. Utgifven af Jacques Lagercrantz. 8vo. Map and Illustrations. Stockholm, 1892.
 Svenska Turistförenings Cirkulär. Meddelanden angående Svenska Turistföreningen. Small 8vo. Pamphlet. Stockholm, 1892.
 Symonds (John Addington and Margaret). Our Life in the Swiss Highlands. Portrait and Illustrations. 8vo. A. and C. Black, London and Edinburgh, 1892. (Presented by the Publishers.)
 The New Tourist's Map of Switzerland and the New Tourist's Map of the Austrian Alps. Cassell and Co. (Presented by the Publishers.)