

## ALPINE NOTES AND NEW ROUTES.

POINTE 'MAXIMIN' (3,329 m.=10,930 ft.) (between Aiguille Rousse and Aiguille d'Olan), first ascent.—On the night of June 14 we slept at the La Lavey hut. We started on the morning of the 15th at 4.40, stopped from 6.15 to 7.45 for breakfast, reached Col des Aiguilles at 10.15, left at 11.45, and descending a short way on the Valjouffrey side, traversed to our left eastwards to another small col, which we reached at 12.45, left at 1.50. We climbed up the slopes immediately facing the Pic d'Olan for about three-quarters of an hour, when we reached the ridge (extremely difficult owing to the snow on it). This we followed in the direction of the Aiguille d'Olan, reaching the top of our peak (No. 182 in Dauphiné Guide) about 4. Descending by same route we reached our small col at 5.30, and the Désert en Valjouffrey at 8.30. Guides: Gaspard père, Maximin Gaspard.

GRAND PIC DES SOUFFLES (3,099 m.=10,145 ft.), first ascent.—On June 17 we left Le Désert at 3.30, reached col (between it and Villard Loubière) at 7. We descended this and, turning to our left, reached the rocks of the southern face of the peak at 10.40. We then climbed the two western points by mistake, as we could not see the highest point from below. We reached the higher of these two at 1.30, but finding a long ridge intersected by several small depressions between us and the highest point, which we had now localised as between that reached by us and that climbed last year by Mr. Holmes with Maximin Gaspard, we decided not to attempt the highest point till next day. We reached the village of Villard Loubière en Valgaudemar at 5.30.

June 18.—We left at 4 A.M. and reached the foot of rocks of southern face at 11. We traversed across the glacier to our right eastwards, the rocks immediately below the Grand Pic being inaccessible. Climbing up the rocks to our right for about half an hour we turned to our left westward across rocks and patches of snow until reaching a couloir of ice (similar to the 'Couloir Whymper' on the Ecrins). We ascended this to about half its height, when we again turned to our left and climbed straight up the steep icebound rocks to a small gap. We then followed the ridge westward, and reached the first point 1½ hr. This proving not to be the highest, we descended into a second gap; then, following the crest (very insecure), we slid down a short but very thin cornice, and soon reached another small gap, 50 min. We now again turned to left and, climbing up some steep but comparatively firm rocks, reached the highest point in 25 min., being 3 hr. 15 min. from the foot of rocks. We reached highest point at 2.15 P.M., leaving at 2.35 by same route, an attempt to find a way down the north side having been abandoned owing to bad state of snow. We reached foot of rocks at 5.10. Traversing to west we reached col above Désert at 7.30, and Désert en Valjouffrey at 8.20. Guides: Gaspard père and Maximin; porter, Casimir Gaspard.

GLACIERS DE LA HAUTE PISSE (Pointe No. 206, Dauphiné Guide), first ascent.—Messrs. Coolidge and Perrin have been kind enough to name this 'Pointe Swan,' approximate height 3,300 mètres.

On the night of *July 5* we slept in Vallée de l'Enchatra, at foot of glacier.

*July 6.*—We started at 4, reached col (Les Berches) at 7.15, left at 9, and traversing to our right on Valjouffrey side, across patches of snow, then followed the ridge, and reached the lower point at 10.50. On this we found a pole. We left at 11.30, the pole in charge of Joseph Turc (Gaspard's nephew). We descended, following the ridge into a small gap, and then climbed the last part of the peak by the short ridge to our right. The last thirty mètres alone presented any difficulty. We reached the top at 12, and we made our pole the centre of a huge cairn. We left at 12.30, reached col 1.30, and St. Christophe at 7.30.

Guides : Gaspard père and Maximin.

THE MONT PELVOUX (first ascent from Glacier Noir by north side).—I intended to have attempted this fine climb some years back, but the weather was too bad, and, having been unable to go to the Alps since, I had no opportunity till this year.

*July 9.*—At 7.15 A.M. we left St. Christophe, intending to sleep as near the Glacier Noir as possible. We passed La Béarde at 11.30, reached Carrelet at 1.15, left at 3. The weather being very doubtful, we decided to sleep this side of the Col de la Temple.

Accordingly we slept in a cave used on former occasions by M. de Castelnau. This we reached 5.30.

*July 10.*—At 3 A.M., pretty well stiff with cold, we made a start, reached Col de la Temple at 4.45. We went down a short way on far side and halted for breakfast from 5 till 6.40. Our porters left us on the Glacier Noir with orders to go down to Ville Vallouise, get provisions, and rejoin us that evening at the Refuge Puiseux.

We attacked the first slope of ice above glacier at 7.45, and traversing eastwards, reached some rocks forming a sort of spur almost immediately below Pointe Durand at 9.20; here we halted for breakfast till 10.40; we reached the snow slopes above at 11.30, and traversing east reached the great couloir (to east of Pointe Durand) at 1.15; we reached top of couloir at 2.30; we then passed a small gap to our left, and turned a small but very well-defined *aiguille\** next it, hoping to reach the main north eastern ridge; but being disappointed in this we had to turn to the north side again; reached it at 2.45; descended about twenty metres into couloir; crossed it; reached another couloir to west at 3; climbing straight up this, cutting steps, we reached snow slopes below ridge at 3.15; these presented considerable difficulty, the snow being in powder and the protruding rocks covered with ice; we, however, managed to push Maximin up

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\* See Signor Sella's photograph of Pelvoux, No. 504. We could probably have reached the small gap between Pointe Durand and the Pointe Puiseux direct by the snow slopes, by traversing *west* instead of *east* to the great couloir. The objection to this was the danger from an enormous cornice of ice which overhung the whole of the north-western slopes of the mountain immediately below the said gap. As we should have been obliged to remain in danger of this cornice for at least three hours, I decided, on the advice of both Gaspards, to try, as we did, more to the east.

on to the rocks, where he got a comparatively firm foothold; then Gaspard père and I, by help of the rope, managed to join him at 3.40. We at last reached the ridge; following this, which seemed easy after what we had climbed, we reached the Pointe Durand at 4.30; leaving this at 4.40, we reached the highest point of the Pelvoux at 5.

We reached the Réfuge Puisieux at 7.40, by the glacier on south side of mountain, by the ordinary way. Glacier much crevassed.

July 11.—Leaving Réfuge at 4.15, reached Col du Selé at 10.45, La Bérarde at 5, St. Christophe 8.15.

Guides: Gaspard père and Maximin.

AIGUILLE DES MARMES (first ascent from W.).—Left Désert at 3.40, reached col between Désert and Valsenestre at 6.50; leaving at 9, reached top of aiguille by couloirs (rock) facing on to col at 11.15; left at 1, reached col 2.30, valley of Valsenestre at 3.30, and leaving at 5, reached village of Valsenestre at 5.30.

I found the Pelvoux from Glacier Noir quite the most difficult climb I have yet done.\*

F. E. L. SWAN.

PIC DE TURBAT, 3,031 m. (=9,960 feet). July 17.—Mr. Alfred Holmes, with Maximin Gaspard and Joseph Turc, of St. Christophe, made the first recorded ascent of this peak. They left La Chapelle in Valgaudemar at 4.30 A.M., and in four hours walked up to the Col de Turbat. From the col they turned to the left, and by loose stones and a steep snowslope gained an easy rock ridge by means of which they completed the ascent in 1½ hour from the col—the descent was made by the same route.

PIC D'OLAN. July 22.—The same party made a new and easier route up this peak. After passing the night at the side of a rock just below the Glacier d'Olan 4 hours above La Chapelle, they left their sleeping-place at 4.30 A.M., and ascended the Glacier d'Olan to the rocks on the S.E. face, up which they climbed, but always inclining to the left until they struck the great couloir; they climbed up this to the Brèche, between the central and north peaks, 8.14 A.M.; in 26 min. more they climbed to the summit of the central point; from here they descended to the Brèche and climbed the north point in 55 minutes, they then descended N. arête to La Lavey in 4 hr. 20 min. walking. Whilst on the central peak, by means of a spirit level and a flat piece of wood, they found that the N. peak was the higher by some 6 or 8 metres.

PIC DE CLOUZIS (11,375 ft.).—The same party made, July 27, the first ascent of this peak, the third in height of the Séguret Foran range. From the Chambran châteaux they went to nearly the head of the Vallon de l'Eychanda, and then turned to the left, ascending grass slopes and rocks to the glacier, which on M. Duhamel's new map is to be called the Glacier de Séguret d'Avant. This was ascended and crossed to the base of the E. face of the N. ridge of the Clouzis; the ascent was com-

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[\* A capital account of the new routes made in Dauphiné last summer will be found in No. 17 of *Grenoble-Recue* (Grenoble: Baratier and Dardelet), from the pen of M. 'Jean Vénéon.']

pleted by this face and arête in  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from Chambran. The descent was made by a couloir in the S.E. face to (on the new map) the Glacier de Clouzia, and then over loose stones and grass to the Chambran châtelets, 1 hr. 45 min. actual walking; Ville Val Louise, 1 hr. 15 min. more.

**LE PLARET BY NN.E. RIDGE.**—On July 18, 1891, Messrs. G. H. Morse, C. H. Pasteur, and J. H. Wicks ascended Le Plaret by the NN.E. ridge, which leads round to the Fête de la Gandolière, and by what seems to be a new way. Ascending at first the glacier du Plaret by the ordinary route, they gradually bore to the right and struck the ridge above mentioned where it commences to rise towards the peak. At this point the rocks were very firm, but soon afterwards they changed to those of the loosest and rottenest description. The ascent was made by keeping as much on the ridge as possible, but they were forced at times to the left, that is on the E. face. La Bérarde to summit,  $4\frac{3}{4}$  hours' actual walking.

**TOUR DU S. ANDRÉ, 3,630 m. (=11,907 feet) ON THE RIDGE N. OF TOUR DE GRAND ST. PIERRE.** August 10.—Messrs. G. Stallard and A. L. Ormerod, with the guides Johannes Ogi-Müller and Abraham Müller, of Kandersteg, started for the Grand St. Pierre by the Valeille route, but on reaching the end of the King's hunting path they took the point 3,583 for the Tour, and mounted by the V. Gran S. Pietro of the Italian map up a snow couloir, by which they reached the summit of the Coupé de Monei (crossed by Mr. Yeld in the reverse direction in 1881). Then leaving the point 3,583 on their left, they followed the ridge to the rocky point 3,630, passing en route over a minor snow hump. On the highest point they found a few small stones, under one of which was a card of membership of the Italian Alpine Club (owner's name illegible), recording an ascent with Blanchetti, of Ceresole, in August 1881. The descent was made by the rotten rocks of the ridge shown on the Italian map, running down to the lower part of the Valeille Glacier. The name given above was kindly suggested by Mr. Yeld.

**POINTE DE L'HERBETET 3,778 m. (=12,395 feet).** August 3.—The same party made the fourth ascent and first traverse of this splendid peak, ascending by the great E. rock arête (first followed by Messrs. Yeld and Baker) and descending by the N. arête (of Signor Barale and Mr. Coolidge). On the ridge below the upper rocks of the N. arête they found the snow in a somewhat dangerous condition, and were compelled to bear to the right and descend by the steep snow on the N.E. face of the mountain. It is curious that this fine peak, affording such first-rate rock climbing and a glorious view of the Tarentaise and Dauphiné mountains, has been so persistently neglected by mountaineers.

**PETITE AIGUILLE ROUSSE (of Val d'Isère). 3,434 m. (=11,266 feet).** August 18.—The same party, having ascended the Grande Aiguille Rousse by the N. arête, descended by the W. ridge in 20 min. on to the Petite Aiguille, from which they effected a new and easy descent down the snowy N. face to the Glacier du Col de la Vache.

**BRÈCHE DE LA MEIJE.**—This much-frequented pass has been rendered somewhat more difficult than usual this year by the extension of a huge

crevasse, some little distance below the well-known bergschrund, which has to be crossed just below the summit of the pass on the La Grave side. The only way of crossing this obstacle (unless a ladder is used) is to make a detour to the right towards the slopes of the Râteau, and cut up a steep wall. A traverse to the left then leads to the point where the bergschrund is usually crossed.

INN AT TERMIGNON.—The Lion d'Or (next the bridge), though unattractive in appearance, is in the hands of an extremely obliging landlady, who provides very fair accommodation at very moderate prices.

G. STALLARD.

CRODA ROSSA, VARIATION ON S.E. ROUTE TO FOOT OF ROCKS.—On August 25 I ascended the Croda Rossa from Platzwiesen, and as there is practically no *geröll* to be climbed, I would suggest to those who intend to ascend this peak from Schluderbach by the S.E. route to make the detour above mentioned (about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. longer) so as to avoid the long *geröll* slope on the ordinary route.

GEISLERSPITZEN.—With the exception of the easy Sass Rigais, as far as I know, none of these have been ascended by English climbers, and as they afford good climbing and superb views, the following notes may be acceptable. The Regensburger hut is most sumptuously fitted up; tinned provisions, tea, coffee, wine, beer, musical instruments, and an English novel are to be found there, and milk can be had from the adjacent malga. FURQUETTA.—On September 2, with M. Barbaria, of Cortina, I left the hut at 7.15 and reached the pass to the east of the Sass Rigais at 8.35. After  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr.'s halt to survey, we made up the rocks to the right, by somewhat annoying traverses, to the gap immediately to the N. of the Furquetta (or Gabel), and then climbed the arête (a very pleasant climb) to the top, 10.10. FERMEDATHURM.—On September 3 the same party left the hut at 5.30 for the Fermedathurm, and began by cutting up a grass gully (the one below that which seems most promising). We ascended this till within 50 ft. of its top, then turned to the right, and by alternate traverses and ascents easily reached the Platten, which from below we had voted impracticable. We were obliged, however, to traverse them to the N.W., the grass adding materially to our difficulties, and finally reached a chimney leading to the ridge. The climb along the ridge was by no means easy, and we did not get up till 9.45 (the ascent has been made in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.). We returned to the hut by the same route, and to S. Ulrich via S. Jakob, a very beautiful walk. This must be counted as one of the difficult dolomite ascents.

MITTLERE SPITZE, 1st Ascent.—On September 5 we left S. Ulrich at 2.55, to ascend the Langkofel, but were driven back from the first snow couloir by incessant falls of stone. We then crossed the small glacier at the bottom of the couloir diagonally to its S.W. corner, and after passing the schrund without difficulty, and climbing a steep snow and ice wall, found ourselves on a small ridge running nearly north from the main ridge connecting the Langkofel with the Fünffinger Spitze. We then made a traverse to the right on the E. side of the ridge, and, when this was no longer practicable, by a decidedly difficult climb straight up reached the peak in which this ridge ends. As

this is a convenient expedition when the Langkofel is found impracticable, the peak seems worthy of a name, and Mittlere Spitze suggests itself as an appropriate one. FÜNFINGER SPITZE, 4th ascent, new (3rd) and easier route.—On September 9 the same party, led by Luigi Bernard, of Campitello, with the addition of Franz Fistil, of S. Ulrich, as a volunteer, left Campitello at 2.55 to try a route which Luigi was sure would take us to the top of the Fünffinger Spitze. Following the usual route to the Grohmann Spitze, but traversing immediately under the rocks of the Fünffinger to the E., we halted for breakfast 5.50-6.30 on reaching the rib descending from the easternmost finger to the S. We got on to the ridge of this by an awkward chimney and traverse, and ascended it without any trouble till nearly on a level with the gap, to the W. of the last-mentioned finger, which was reached by a traverse requiring care. We then climbed up the very steep but not difficult rocks of the small finger to the east of the highest till we reached the ridge descending from this to the N. (This point had been previously attained by Luigi with Herr Darmstädter.) The most formidable part of our route (though not extraordinarily difficult) lay in climbing up this ridge, till it was possible to get into the ice couloir above a large stone which blocks it up. Some 50 ice steps took us to the gap to the E. of the highest finger, whence the top was reached without difficulty in 5 minutes—9.45. We returned to Campitello in 4 hrs., exclusive of halts.

GROHMANN SPITZE. Variation on Mr. Rogers' route.—On September 12, with Bernard and Barbaria, I left Campitello at 8.30 to ascend the Grohmann Spitze by the usual route, but on reaching the pass between it and the Fünffinger we determined to try and reach the Johannes-Kamin (vol. xv. p. 365). This we succeeded in doing by a wearisome but not difficult traverse of the E. and S. faces of the mountain on a level of 100 ft. above the pass. In the chimney the waterfalls existed, but we were not troubled by ice, and reached the top at 11.10 (including 1 hr.'s halt on the way). This route would be useful if the N. (Campitello) route should be found impracticable or for the descent, as it seems doubtful whether it is possible to descend the last 350 ft. of Mr. Rogers' route.

SANTNER SPITZE, 4th ascent (3rd made last year by Mr. Uttersson Kelso).—On September 14 the same party ascended the Santner Spitze, the N. point of the Schlern: an exceedingly interesting and in places difficult climb. I would greatly recommend this ascent to those who, being at Razes or Seis, want a good but short day's work before reaching Bozen in the evening. The view from the top is limited.

H. J. T. WOOD.

EGGINER: DESCENT BY N. RIDGE.—On page 182, vol. xiii. of the Journal, is a communication by Mr. R. Hughes, recording his climb along the arête from the Mittagshorn to the Egginerhorn. An editorial note points out that this route had been previously traversed by Mr. H. W. Topham, and asks for further information. On July 29, having ascended the Egginerhorn by the arête in question, I suggested to my guide, Albert Supersax, that we should return the same way. This, he assured me, had not been done in this direction. We found,

however, little real difficulty in reaching the Mittaghorn, the interval from peak to peak being traversed in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours. The rock all the way is thoroughly sound, and only at two points—i.e. at the steep place immediately below the Egginerhorn, and at a spot about two-thirds along the arête towards the Mittaghorn—was extra care needful. The ascent of the Egginerhorn by the ordinary route from Saas Fee, with return *viâ* the arête and Mittaghorn, would make a very pleasant excursion—more interesting, I think, than the usual reverse order.

F. W. OLIVER.

CHÂLETS DE BY.—Mr. C. G. Monro writes: 'The following note concerning the Val d'Ollomont may be of use to future visitors. I spent four days in September last at the Châlets de By. The patron's name is Alexis Ansermin; and, by writing to him a few days beforehand, we were provided with a separate room, two bedsteads, plenty of hay, and clean sheets and blankets. We carried tinned meat with us; but bread and wine, cups, plates, and forks were fetched up on the evening of our arrival from Ollomont. Our sleep was not disturbed by anything more unpleasant than the noise of cowbells. In every way we were treated with the greatest civility, and were really very fairly comfortable.'

COL DE FONTANABRAN.—While exploring this summer the neighbourhood of Fins-hauts, on the Salvan route to Chamonix, I came upon a well-defined col, which apparently is unknown and unnamed. It lies between the peaks of Fontanabran and La Rebarmaz, being about 8,000 feet in height, and leads direct from Fins-hauts to the upper part of the Triège valley, offering to those who prefer going over to going round an alternative route to the Col d'Emaney and Luisin. The ascent to the col on the side of Fins-hauts is up steep grass slopes; the descent on the northern side is over a small snow-field and rocky débris, but presents no special difficulty. It is proposed to call it the Col de Fontanabran. The final crags of La Rebarmaz from this col would prove, I think, an interesting piece of work. They looked very stiff, and I could not hear of any ascent having been made. My party at the time was too weak to attempt it.

A. SLOMAN.

THE NAME 'LO BESSO.'—This form seems out of place in the Val d'Anniviers, and I should be glad if anyone could explain it. The obvious suggestion is that the word is a dialectal form for *Les Bessons*, 'the twins.' *Besso* is the Provençal form for *Besson*, a word which is familiar to readers of *La Petite Fadette*. There is said to be a variant form, *L'Obèche*, which would seem to suggest 'the bishop.' The double-pointed peak is very like a mitre, and the mountain would be as appropriately called by this name as by that of 'the twins.' For the 'o' at the beginning one would, of course, compare the Spanish, 'obispo.'

But neither of these derivations will hold water. I discussed the question with an intelligent native of the valley, who asserted that *Lo Besso* was not a local form at all, but 'French.' He said that the local name was *Le Bèche*, and that it was only a name, and meant nothing in *patois*; certainly it did not mean either 'the twins' or

'the bishop.' Can it be a local form for 'Le Bec'? This word takes the form 'bèche' in Walloon, but it is a long way from Zinal to Flanders. If any reader of the Journal could refer me to any work on the phonology of the dialect of the Val d'Anniviers, by which this question could be answered, I should be obliged.—WALTER LEAF.

[Is it not simply 'The Spade'? Several mountains in the Alps have similar names, from some fancied resemblance of outline, I imagine. Schaufelspitze in the Stubai group and Cimon della Pala are well-known examples. However, *bec* and *bèche* are from the same root.—A. J. B.]

THE BREITHORN.—Miss Walker writes:—'In reference to the interesting article by Mr. Coolidge on the first ascent of the Zermatt Breithorn, which appeared in the "Alpine Journal" of May 1891, may I be permitted to say that Mr. Ball was not mistaken in attributing an early ascent of the mountain to Lord Minto, as the late Lord Minto told me some years ago that his father had made the ascent of the Breithorn (called by his guides Monte Rosa) in the year 1818.'

[A curious question arises with regard to this. As we go to press, the present Lord Minto informs us that his grandfather's journal, which has recently come to light, records an ascent in 1830. On this occasion his son, the late Lord Minto, then a lad of 16, accompanied him. Either, then, he made two ascents or there has been a lapse of memory somewhere. We hope to recur to the subject hereafter.]

THE FIRE AT MEIRINGEN.—The Rev. F. W. Bull writes:—'On Sunday, October 25 last, a most disastrous fire occurred, as is known, in this much-visited village of the Bernese Oberland. The fire began about 7.45 A.M. in the hamlet of Stein, near the Alpbach Fall, being caused by a spark from a chimney falling on a pile of wood which had been stored for winter use. As the "föhn" was blowing strongly at the time, the burning embers were borne by its force into the centre of the village, and in less than three hours almost the entire place, including the picturesque "Kirchgasse," with its quaint wooden houses, was completely destroyed. I was there three weeks later, and found that the village church, the school-house, and the Hotel "Zum Wildenmann" were the only buildings of importance remaining. The total loss amounted to 2½ million fr., about 2¼ million being covered by insurance. A relief fund, started immediately after the fire, has produced over 250,000 fr. This is the third disastrous fire which has occurred in Meiringen during the present century, one having taken place as recently as February 1879. It is now proposed to rebuild the village on a different plan, so as, if possible, to keep the houses out of the line of the treacherous "föhn." The "Wildemann" is the only hotel left in Meiringen, but the Reichenbach Hotel and its *dépendances* still go on, as the fire did not reach that part of the valley.

HUTS IN THE TRENTINO.—That active little club the Società degli Alpini Tridintini has constructed huts on the Monte Baldo (*Rifugio Monte Baldo*), on the Dos del Sabbione, near Pinzolo (*Rif.*

\* See *Alpine Journal*, vol. xv. p. 437.

*del Sabbione*), and on the Grostè Pass, leading from Cles to Campiglio (*Rif. Antonio Stoppani*). These will be ready for use next summer.

ALPINE APPLIANCES.—In view of the issue of the provisional report of the special Committee appointed by the Alpine Club on equipment for mountaineers, the exhibition of Alpine appliances at the Whitehall Rooms, on December 15 and 16 last, had a special interest, inasmuch as an endeavour was made to bring together the various articles therein recommended for use.

As the report itself is in the hands of members of the Club, and as everyone will doubtless have ideas of his own as to where it is deficient, if at all, it would be superfluous to comment specially upon the exhibits. Suffice it to say that the collection appeared to be very complete, and the Committee are to be congratulated upon the thorough manner in which their difficult task has been performed.

In these days, when many an Alpine climber has turned explorer as well, it was only fitting, perhaps, that the premier Alpine Club should become responsible for hints and recommendations as to what mountaineers are likely to require when climbing further away from home than the old playground.

That the report will be of value is unquestionable, and when the additional hints, which it is to be hoped members of the Club will supply in response to the invitation of the Committee, are embodied, it ought to be even more complete than in its present form.

If we had any suggestion to offer it would be that the various articles recommended should be printed under more distinctive headings, and we would certainly advise the substitution of a better woodcut in place of the somewhat eccentric production on p. 26.

At the Congress of Geologists, held at Washington, U.S., in the summer of last year, a proposal was made for an international committee to report upon the organisation of glacier observations. The matter, like most Geological Congress work, was put off to the next meeting, appropriately to be held at Bern. The proposer, Captain Marshall-Hall, was unable to attend the Washington Congress.

#### NORWAY IN 1891.

##### *The Justedals-bræ.—Re-opening of an ancient route.*

KVAMME SKAR (about 6,100 ft.). *July 21, 1891.*—Mr. J. J. Hoddinott, with Lars Jansen, of Olden, as guide, after sleeping at the new tourists' hut at Næsdal, in Loendal—a welcome substitute for the former filthy quarters\*—ascended by the Kvandal ravine and glacier in six hours to the cairn on the summit of the pass between Kronen and Olden. Then, seeing that the Kvamme glacier was in good condition, they descended by it and reached Rustoen in five hours from the cairn without much difficulty. A century ago this glacier was often traversed

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\* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xi. p. 152.

by bagmen, but, owing to the shrinkage of the ice and increased difficulty, it was abandoned. Mr. Hoddinott is to be congratulated for thus re-opening this route. Very probably in the middle of August this glacier may prove to be much more formidable. In this case the descent may be made by Sundal, a route followed by Mr. Gordon, an English artist, a few years ago.

#### *Horung-tinder.*

RAVN SKAR (Raven Pass) (about 6,300 ft.).—STÖLS MARADALS-TIND (about 6,500 ft.). *July 27.*—Mr. J. J. Hoddinott, with Herr Thorgeir Sulheim and Kristoffer Furaas as guides, left the Alpine hut at Berdal at seven o'clock. At nine they reached the Berdal glacier, and at 10.30 they gained the summit of the pass, where a party of Alpine climbers were benighted in 1889, and gave the col the name of the Raven Pass, because of the unwelcome attentions of one of these birds of ill omen during a descent of exceptional severity from the summit of Austabot-tind, very near to the pass. After a half-hour's rest Mr. Hoddinott and his guides started to descend the Gravdals-bræ. At first, smooth and awkward slabs of rock gave a good deal of trouble, and they had considerable difficulty in gaining the glacier, which, once reached, proved to be a capital highway, and the party steered across it to the foot of Stöls Maradals-tind, which they ascended by easy rocks, and reached the summit at 4.45, and the sæter in Stöls Maradal at 10.15 P.M.

GJERTVAS-TIND AND SKAR AND STYGGEDALS-TIND. *July 29.*—The same party reached the summit of the Gjertvas-tind—which is also called the East Styggedals-tind—by the usual way at 11 A.M., and decided to attempt the descent to the great gap on the west by a tongue of glacier which winds round the north side of the mountain from the gap 600 feet below to within a few feet of the top of the mountain. This tongue of ice is probably as steep as any glacier in Europe, and is somewhat similar to, but more difficult than, the remarkable little glacier by means of which Messrs. Wilson and Harrison climbed Knutshul-tind a few years ago. The summit of the Gjertvas-tind actually overhangs the gap, and on the occasion of the first ascent of this mountain in 1876 it was repeatedly found that if a stone were simply dropped over the edge a little to the south of the col  $9\frac{1}{2}$  seconds intervened before it was seen to strike the ice some distance from the base of the rock. This means that the top of a precipice, some 1,400 feet in height, overhangs its actual base by several feet. The profile of this mountain, when seen from the south, is very remarkable; strangely enough, at the extreme west of the range at the Ravn Skar there is almost the counterpart on a rather smaller scale. Oddly enough, too, Herr Sulheim met with very great difficulty in descending an ice slope to Ravn Skar in 1889. Mr. Hoddinott and his guides started to descend the glacier tongue at 11.30, and found it to be a wall of ice, frightfully steep, and about 500 feet high, with a huge bergschrund at the bottom. The rocks at the side were hopeless. After four hours of severe and

constant work, where hundreds of steps were hacked out, they gained the great col, which is a very weird place indeed, and heads a pass between Vormelid and the north, which has been twice crossed, first by Herr Hall, a member of the Alpine Club, and secondly by Miss Green, who pluckily combined with it the ascent of the highest Styggedals-tind.

During the last few years Herr Hall has done much exceedingly good work on this grand mountain range, and, in addition to climbing nearly every mountain worth climbing, has traversed most of their jagged ridges. These climbs he has described in Danish in the Norsk Alpine Journal, and has added to the interest by copious illustrations.

Mr. Hoddinott followed Miss Green's route to the top of the latter mountain, and was well rewarded by the glorious view, especially of Skagastøls-tind. At 5.15 they again stood on the col and regained their rucksacks. They started immediately to descend the Gjertvas-bræ. Mr. Hoddinott writes: 'This glacier is very steep, and was in bad condition. In the middle it formed four divisions with a huge crevasse between each. The sides were perfectly impracticable. We found a snow bridge over the first crevasse, but were driven back several times when trying to find a way over the second. The upper lip was much higher than the lower, and eventually, after cutting steps, we descended on the rope. The third was worse still, and the only way was to jump to the lower edge, more than twenty feet below. This we did one at a time, and found it no joke. Before jumping, Sulheim threw down his rucksack. Instead of resting on the edge of the crevasse, it rolled down and disappeared for ever in the chaos of crevasses below. All our provisions were in it. By steering to the left we found snow bridges where required, and at 7.30 we reached the top of the Styggedals-bræ, left the ice finally at 8.30, and at 2.30 a.m. we stepped into Herr Sulheim's cosy house at Skjolden.'

This is one of the finest expeditions ever yet made in Norway. The upper portion of the Gjertvas-bræ is exceptionally steep, and much contracted by a crag over which avalanches are constantly falling. Above this crag the glacier is not unlike the north ice arête of the Mönch; and the Gjertvas-tind, like the Mönch too, can only be climbed on rare occasions from this side. Though the present writer has been twice on the top of the Gjertvas-tind, he has twice failed to ascend the Gjertvas-bræ to the col, and has failed on three occasions in an attempt to climb Styggedals-tind in the months of August, September, and November. On four out of the five failures he was accompanied by Herr Sulheim. The Gjertvas-bræ has on two previous occasions been descended from the col above. But, difficult though this feat proved to be, it was yet merely typical of much good glacier work in the Alps. The new work, from the top of the peak to the col, is, however, a feat far above the common, and Herr Sulheim, who was the leading guide and is proud to have the blood of King Harald Haarfager coursing in his veins, has certainly inherited the courage and the ability to do great deeds from his illustrious ancestor; and this was never better proved than when executing this brilliant mountain

expedition. Mr. Hoddinott may be congratulated most warmly upon his success.

Men who intend to climb in Norway must remember that the almost nightless days of June and July cause the glaciers to change much more rapidly and thoroughly than is the case in Switzerland. Thus it often happens that a route is found to be wholly impracticable in August and September which is very easy in July. W. C. S.

FROM BOJUMSDAL TO FOND I STARDALEN. *July 23.*—Rev. F. M. Beaumont and Mr. A. L. Bill, with Hans Boïum and A. Mendal, crossed the Justedal from Boïums sæter direct to Fond in the Stardal. An early start was made from the very comfortable new hotel at Mendal, and Fond was reached at 5 P.M., descending by some rocks to the west of the Fondsdalbræ. The weather was perfect and the snow in excellent condition.

GJEGNALUND.—The same party, with O. K. Simonsen Hope, made the first ascent from Hope of the above mountain, previously climbed from Hestnesøren by Skjærdal. The magnificent view was seen to great advantage. The district is little known, but will repay a visit, if an ample supply of provisions is taken, as nothing but milk and butter can be obtained there. The fladbrod is uneatable.

THE LIBRARY.—The following additions have been made since October 15, 1891:—

- Zucher et Margollé. *Les Glaciers.* 3me édition. 8vo. Plates. Paris, 1875.
- Hooker (Sir J. D.) *Himalayan Journals; or, Notes of a Naturalist in Bengal, the Sikkim and Nepal Himalayas, the Khasia Mountains, &c.* Cheap edition. 8vo. Plates. London, 1891. (Presented by the Publishers.)
- Manning (George Edward). *With Axe and Rope in the New Zealand Alps.* 8vo. Plates. London, 1891. (Presented by the Author.)
- Hutchinson (Rev. H. N.) *The Story of the Hills.* 8vo. Plates. Seeley and Co., London, 1892. (Presented by the Publishers.)
- Slingsby (Wm. Cecil). *The Justedalsbræ Revisited.* 8vo. Map and Plates. (Presented by the Author.)
- Alpenlandschaften. Ansichten aus der deutschen, österreichischen und schweizer Gebirgswelt.* Leipzig.
- Stubei: *Thal und Gebirg, Land und Leute.* Herausgegeben durch die Gesellschaft von Freunden des Stubeithales. 8vo. Maps and Plates. Leipzig, 1891. (Presented by the Publishers.)
- Jahrbuch des Ungarischen Karpathen-Vereines.* XVIII. Jahrgang, 1891. Mit 3 Beilagen. Deutsche Ausgabe. Iglo', 1891. (Presented by the Society.)
- Explorations Pyrénéennes. Bulletin de la Société Ramond.* 26me Année, 1er et 2ème Trimestres de 1891. Paris. (Presented by the Society.)
- Alpine Lyrics.* W. Bainbridge. Small 8vo. London, 1854.
- Le Alpi Occidentali nell' Antichità. Nuove Rivelazioni pel Dott. Gio. Allais.* Torino: Vincenzo Bona, 1891. (Presented by the Author.)

MURRAY'S HANDBOOK.—We are requested to state that the 18th edition of Murray's Handbook for Travellers in Switzerland, entered on p. 560 of the last volume as 'from the publishers,' was presented by the Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge.

DUPLICATES FOR SALE.—A list of the Library duplicates for sale will be found in No. 114, p. 559. The following, however, have been sold, and should be struck off the list:—

Società degli Alpinisti Tridentini, Annuario, &c.

Oesterr. Alpen-Zeitung, Vols. I.—VIII., &c.

Jahrbuch des Oesterr. Alpen-Vereins, &c.

La Vaudaine, &c.

How to See Norway, &c.

Verhandlungen des Oesterr. Alpen-Vereins, &c.

## REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

*Zeitschrift des Deutschen und Oesterreichischen Alpenvereins.* Band xxii. (Lindauer: München: 1891.)

The first article in this volume, by Prof. E. Richter (Graz), on the 'History of Glacier Variations,' is the subject of a separate notice.\* Several other articles are of so technical a nature that they seem equally to require a specialist to treat them properly. Dr. S. Finsterwalder (Munich), in an article on the 'Erosion of Glaciers,' gives an account of a series of experiments on various kinds of stone which were alternately frozen and thawed at various pressures under the air-pump. These he thinks may tend to elucidate the question and reconcile contending theories. Dr. Franz Walker (Vienna), after observing that the study of any science enhances instead of detracting from the enjoyment of a tour, proceeds to discuss the origin of the limestone Alps and the different animal structures of which they are built up, with too many scientific terms for any but a geologist. From science we pass to poetry and painting as directed to Nature and life in the Alps. Herr Hermann Ritter (Würzburg), after a general disquisition on the changed ideas about the Alps in different periods, illustrates these by quotations from poets from the earliest times to the present day. The first entire poems devoted to this subject were 'The Alps,' by Albert Haller, a Swiss (1708–1777), and the 'Parthenais' by Jen Baggesen, a Dane (1764–1826). In quoting Schiller and Goethe, Herr Ritter observes that the former, while describing the Alps like a born mountaineer, had never seen them, whilst Goethe had paid them frequent visits. Passages from Byron's 'Childe Harold' and 'Manfred' are quoted, of course in a German translation. The Alps are said to have only received their due meed of admiration in the present day, and this fact is visible in the increasing number of poets who write about them. As the Alps were neglected by poets, so they were by painters. For centuries after the great revival of the middle ages artists were content to go on copying old models without studying nature or life, least of all in the Alps. Dr. Hans Schmolzer (Trient), after giving some account of this, devotes the greater part of his article to an account of an artist of Innsbruck, Placidus Altmutter (1780–1819). His father, Franz, was also a painter after the old style, engaged chiefly in frescoes for churches,

\* See p. 72.