

Guide Books:—

Conway and Coolidge's Climbers' Guides:—

Vol. VI. The Adula Alps of the Lepontine Range. By W. A. B. Coolidge. 32mo. T. Fisher Unwin, 1893.

Vol. VII. The Mountains of Cogne. By Geo. Yeld and W. A. B. Coolidge. With map. 32mo. Unwin, 1893.

Guides-Joanne:—

Italie du Nord. Turin, Gènes, Milan, Venise, les Lacs et les Vallées Méridionales des Alpes. Par Paul Joanne. With 5 maps and 16 plans. Hachette et Cie.

Italie du Centre. Bologne, Florence et Rome. Par Paul Joanne. With 5 maps and 42 plans. Hachette et Cie., 1893.

Illustrierter Führer durch die Ostalpen. II. Oestlicher Theil. Von Julius Meurer. With numerous illustrations, maps, and plans. Hartleben, Wien, 1893.

Guida di Monte Baldo. Di Ottone Brentari (Società degli Alpinisti Tridentini, XVII. Annuario). Illustrated. 1893.

Baedeker. Switzerland, and the Adjacent Portions of Italy, Savoy, and the Tyrol. Fifteenth edition. With numerous maps, plans, and panoramas. Leipsic, 1893.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

Mountaineering. By Claude Wilson, M.D. With illustrations by Ellis Carr. (Bell and Sons.)

It was, we suppose, a foregone conclusion that when 'Mountaineering' had once been included in the 'Badminton' series the 'All England' series should follow in the steps of its statelier rival. 'Follow in the steps,' we say, for no new route was here possible. The 'Badminton' book went pretty well over the whole ground; but, fortunately, literature offers more opportunities for variations than climbing can. To drop metaphor, the existence of a book at 10s. 6d. in no way bars or renders superfluous the production of another at 2s. One is nice to put on our book-shelves, and turn over in an armchair by the fire; the other is good to put in our pocket, read in the train, or consult on the mountain-side.

As a matter of fact Dr. Wilson's book should be compared rather with Herr Meurer's 'Handbuch des Alpinen-Sport.' The historical and bibliographical portions are cut down to the smallest possible dimensions; art is not touched; and the pages are almost entirely filled with practical advice. That this is uniformly sound hardly needs to be said. If we are to offer any criticism, it would be that the 'Packing List' is rather too copious. No doubt boot-trees, chess-boards, tinned jams, 'and other sweetmeats' (as the old notice had it) are very soothing at certain moments; but they add materially to the bulk of the luggage to be looked after. We cannot help thinking that the happiest mountaineer in these days, at all events, is he who leaves his home with little more property than can be contained in a knapsack, with a Gladstone bag as reserve; and his inn with a lump of bread and another of any cold meat that may be obtainable—bacon for choice. For drink the present writer believes in the almost omni-

present water, with a suck of whisky (or the best substitute that can be procured) for those who are used to alcoholic stimulus. A fresh lettuce, which can be got wherever human habitations reach, is no trouble to carry, and relieves thirst, besides operating beneficially on the digestive apparatus.

Here and there something betrays the writer to whom 'the Alps' mean Switzerland and Savoy. This is especially noticeable in the matter of guides' prices. So far from 'fifty francs for a mountain, twenty-five for a pass, and eight to eleven per off-day' representing anything like Austrian rates, we have known one of the best guides in the Eastern Alps perfectly satisfied with fifty francs for five days, in the course of which three passes, between 10,000 and 11,000 ft. high, mostly new, had been crossed, and one of the finest peaks in the district ascended.

The glossary at the end of the book is a praiseworthy attempt to give the terms most frequently met with in mountaineering, and assign their habitats. It is, however, incomplete, and not always accurate. We do not believe, for instance, that any German ever used 'Griff' for 'foothold.' On the other hand, some words are given which are in no way peculiar to climbing, and some which are hardly more than the jokes of a *côterie*. A really exhaustive and exclusive glossary, with perhaps a little etymology, would be very interesting, and might now be compiled without much trouble. This for the benefit of future editions; for which it may also be mentioned that Mr. Hinchliff's name occurs in three places incorrectly spelt.

The Alpine Club may feel thankful that, after so many of its ablest climbers, writers, and medicine-men had devoted themselves to the production of a somewhat similar work, it could prove that it still possessed another qualified in all capacities to undertake the present volume, and, it may be added, an artist whose pencil (as indeed can be seen in this very number) shows itself, even through the somewhat disfiguring medium of cheap reproduction, to be no unworthy rival of that wielded by our champion illustrator.

Les Alpes Françaises, les Montagnes, les Eaux, les Glaciers, les Phénomènes de l'Atmosphère. Par Albert Falsan. Paris: J.-B. Baillière et Fils. 1893.

This little book gives a general sketch of the stratigraphy and the mode of formation of the Alps, with a short account of the hypotheses concerning the elevation of mountain chains which at the present day find most favour. This done, it passes on to consider more at large the structure of the French Alps. The mineral springs, streams, lakes, and glaciers are duly noticed; grottoes and caves are not overlooked; and some curious sculptures upon ice-worn rocks are figured. The age of these is not easily settled; some of the forms suggest a neolithic date; others, however, have a suspiciously modern aspect. Two small errors may be noted. The author in passing repeats the well-known statement that the variolite of the Durance occurs as a border or selvage to the euphotide of that region, and has forgotten that this has been proved erroneous by Messrs. Cole and Gregory in a paper published in the 'Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society of London' for

1890. The other is the statement that the gorge of Trient is cut in the *poudingue anthracitifère de Salvan*. This rock indeed, occurs in the immediate neighbourhood, but the gorge itself is cut in the gneiss, which underlies the carboniferous conglomerate and is vastly older than it. We should hardly be inclined to speak of this gorge as an *immense crévasse, que le torrent a un peu élargie*. Surely no doubt can be entertained that it has been mainly, if not wholly, cut by the torrent. Perhaps the most interesting part of the book is the description of the *débris* left on the French lowlands by the ancient glacier of the Rhone as it debouched from the Alps. Woodcuts of some of the larger erratics are given. Two are said to be near Lyons. The district around Gap also appears to be remarkable for the number and variety of its erratics; three, of very considerable size, are figured. The book, of course, is merely a *résumé* of what has been already published on the subject of the French Alps, and sometimes is necessarily rather 'sketchy,' but it will be found useful to anyone desiring to obtain a general idea of the main physical facts concerning this part of the mountain chain.

T. G. B.

Mountain Exploration. By Edwin Swift Balch (Philadelphia).

The Philadelphia Geographical Club, recognising that mountaineering is the highest branch of geography, has very properly opened the first volume of its 'Bulletin' with a paper on that subject. The author, Mr. E. S. Balch, has not only had a good deal of experience in the Alps, but is well up in Alpine literature; so that he was able to provide good entertainment for the Philadelphia geographers. Addressing an audience to whom the subject was for the most part new, he was naturally obliged to enter more into the rudiments of the science than is usual here; but even in this line he has some remarks which deserve attention. He insists as strongly as some of our own prophets have done on the distinction between climbing and mountaineering. 'A man might be a good climber and yet a poor mountaineer. In mountaineering it is the head which does the work, not the muscles. It is a question of knowledge, not of mere physical force—knowledge to find the road, to keep it, to read the weather. . . . There is often some perfectly easy way up some great and fearfully inaccessible-looking mountain; and good mountaineering consists in finding that safe and easy way. In sheer climbing you start to break your neck or not, just as it happens.'

Mr. Balch seems to be in error in describing his ascent of the Nadelhorn in June 1882 as the first by a traveller, unless by 'traveller' he means 'foreigner.' The party who went up in 1858 were at any rate amateurs, the nearest approach to a guide in the party being, apparently, Pfarrer Imseng, for the J. J. Imseng whom Studer mentions looks like a 'doublet' of his clerical namesake. Where to find 'the guides who, led by Franz Andermatten, are said to have made the first ascent in 1859' we know not. Studer says nothing of them. In reference to a passage on the same page we may point out to Mr. Balch that Mr. Graham's estimate of the height which he reached on Kabru does not command universal assent, and that the

established 'record' so far is held by Mr. Conway. Let us add one more small criticism. 'The Englishman,' says Mr. Balch, 'sometimes destroys the dignity of Mont Blanc by speaking of it as "Blank."' We were under the impression that if an Englishman ever does use the term he believes himself to be talking American.

The paper is illustrated with some phototypes from sketches by the author, some of which, particularly the frontispiece (representing the Nägeli's Grätli from the Grimsel), have a good deal of true 'feeling' in them.

GUIDE BOOKS.

Climbers' Guides.—*Adula Alps*. By W. A. B. Coolidge. *Mountains of Cogne*. By George Yeld and W. A. B. Coolidge (Fisher Unwin).

Illustrierter Führer durch die Ostalpen. II. *Oestlicher Theil*, von Julius Meurer (Wien, &c.: Hartleben).

Guida di Monte Baldo, di Ottone Brentari. (Bassano: Stabil. Tipogr. Sante Pozzato.)

It is hardly necessary to do more than note the appearance of two more 'Climbers' Guides.' Of these two the second will probably be most in demand; but the first introduces its readers to a far less familiar region. The Adula Alps are defined as the 'tangled ranges' between the St. Gotthard Pass on the West and the road over the Splügen to the East, the northern limit being formed by the Oberalp road from Andermatt to Chur. Among them, says Mr. Coolidge, 'the wanderer will be rewarded by many experiences of a pleasant kind, which prove that "Unknown Switzerland" still exists, and that its natives have not everywhere been spoiled by a cosmopolitan horde of tourists.' The chief peaks are Pizzo Tambo (10,750 ft.), the Güferhorn (11,130 ft.), and the Rheinwaldhorn, or Piz Valrhein (11,150 ft.), from whose glaciers the main stream of the Rhine takes its rise.

In the Cogne guide the chief feature which strikes the reader is the thoroughness with which the district has been worked. To very few peaks, and those mostly insignificant, are the inspiring words 'No information' appended. The book will, nevertheless, be certainly much appreciated by all who intend to climb in the Eastern Graians. Though the descriptions of routes are necessarily of unequal merit, it has been compiled with all the exactitude which might be expected from the joint authors, and its value is very greatly enhanced by the map which accompanies it. It would have been preferable had this map (which may be found in the last number of the Journal) been mounted on linen, and as no heights are marked it is a pity that the heights of the various inns and huts recorded at the commencement of the book are not given. We have noticed with regard to the Grivola from the south-west that the only route given is that followed by Messrs. Ormsby and Bruce on the occasion of the first ascent of the mountain in 1859. The more modern route, which is shorter and more interesting, seems hitherto to have remained undescribed, though it was certainly known fifteen years ago.* With respect to the Punta

* For a description of this route see p. 461.

del Broglio (Cima di Breuil of the Italian map) to reach the gap between the two southern points from the Col du Grand Etret, after ascending the snow-slopes to the foot of the peak, it is certainly far easier to mount the easy snow and stone slopes on the W. side, and only to cross the arête and go on the E. face when about two-thirds of the height from the snow fields has been made. On p. 134, last line but three, there is an evident error in the text, as the Italian map gives 2,277 and not 2,777 mètres.

Herr Meurer's guide embraces the country east of the Krimmler Tauern and the Sexten Thal—that is, roughly speaking, the Venediger, Glockner, and Hochalpenspitze groups, the Dachstein, Watzmann, and other limestone districts to the north and east, and the Dolomites of Auronzo, Agordo, Cadore, to the south, together with the mountains of Carniola. Together with the western half, published last year, it forms a collected edition of the various guides already produced by the author, most or all of which have already been reviewed in this Journal; and thus hardly calls for any very extended notice. One useful feature may be indicated. In all cases where there is an important difference in the times required for a route according to the direction in which it is taken, it is described in both directions under the section appropriate in either case to the starting-point. This adds, no doubt, to the bulk of the book; but, on the other hand, the sheets, as in Bädiker, are so arranged that it can be easily divided into eight parts. The maps strike us as on the whole inferior to those in the Coblenz classics, perhaps in consequence of the unnecessarily large character used for the names.

The guide to Monte Baldo is another product of the indefatigable industry which Dr. Brentari devotes to making his favourite district better known. Like others of his books, it is really more than a guide book; it is a full description of the part with which it deals, from every point of view—historical, botanical, geological, as well as topographical. It is like a well-informed companion who shows you the road, and tells you all about everything that attracts your notice as you go along. Monte Baldo itself, the great mountain mass which overhangs the east shore of the Lake of Garda, is said to command a magnificent view; but the prospect of a grind up six or seven thousand feet of limestone under an Italian sun has probably deterred many tourists from verifying the statement. Those who do go should note that the point called 'P'Altissimo' is far from being the highest. However it is the one where the *rifugio* is, and for that reason no doubt attracts more visitors than the true summit, or Cima di Val Dritta. With the aid of Dr. Brentari's book, either one or the other may be safely attacked by any moderate climber.