

Even should Switzerland become a nest of railway stations other regions will be left for those who do not share the ambition once expressed to the writer by an American from the Far West—'Sir, I wish to see the glasher region in a day from Bern without sleeping out; can you direct me to the best sample?'

NEW EXPEDITIONS IN 1896—(*continued*).

FUSSHORN. *July 13.*—In 1895 the Messrs. Hopkinson climbed the middle point of the range, which as seen from the Bel Alp or Brieg is, with the exception of the N.W. or highest peak, the most conspicuous point in the ridge.* On July 13, 1896, Messrs. C. Pilkington, W. C. Slingsby, E. Carr, and G. A. Solly gained the Fusshorn rocks from the Ober-Aletsch glacier, a little to the left of the great couloir running up to the N.W. of Messrs. Hopkinson's peak. Ascending over broken rocks and grass between this couloir and a secondary ridge running S.W. from the main one, they climbed a steep open couloir, the rocks of which were smooth, black, and water-worn, and crossed the upper part of the secondary ridge, gaining the crest of the main chain by steep and very loose rocks. A mass of flame-shaped splinters appeared to be the summit, but by skirting underneath it a less dangerous and higher point was found to stand on the junction of the secondary with the main ridge—a shaky tower of no great height. After they had swarmed up the N.W. end it was found that a narrow crest, part of which had to be passed by hanging on to the narrow flake of rock with legs dangling towards the Triest glacier on the east, led to a point some 150 ft. higher, but less conspicuous from many points of view, than the Messrs. Hopkinson's peak.

The descent was shortened by avoiding the couloir of black rocks and descending by the slopes on the other or northern side of the secondary ridge. The climb from the glacier to the summit, including halts, occupied 5 hrs., and the return to the same point less than 3 hrs.

ALPINE NOTES.

ADDRESSES OF MEMBERS.—The Honorary Secretary would be much obliged if any member could give him any information which would enable him to communicate with the following members, whose names appear in the Club list without any address, owing to their having availed themselves of Rule XVII. :—

J. R. Trevilian, elected 1863 ;
 John Macpherson, elected 1865 ;
 Major-General W. M. Campbell, † elected 1871.

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xvii. p. 588.

† Major-General in 1872, present rank not known.

THE SOURCES OF THE MOUNTAIN LANDSCAPE IN TENNYSON'S POETRY.—Professor F. T. Palgrave, in his interesting new volume on 'Landscape in Poetry,' suggests that the scenery of the Idyll in 'The Princess,' 'Come down, O maid,' was drawn from the Pyrenees. I am able to correct this supposition, and to fix with some local precision the scenes in turn described in this poem. The 'wreaths of dangling watersmoke' were suggested by the Vale of Lauterbrunnen; 'the firths of ice' by the glaciers of Grindelwald, and 'the azure pillars of the hearth' by the smoke of cottages in the Vale of Meiringen seen from the ascent to the Brünig. All these particulars were given me by the poet himself. I may add, on the same authority, that the lines entitled 'The Voice and the Peak' were written at Ponte Grande, in Val Anzasca. Elbruz was changed to Elburz in the line

Elburz and all the Caucasus have heard,

for the sake of the sound, and not with any geographical intention. Tennyson's landscape of Mount Ida is mainly Pyrenean. He thought Wordsworth's lines, 'The Simplon Pass'—afterwards incorporated in 'The Prelude'—among the finest descriptive passages in his predecessor's works, and frequently repeated them.

D. W. F.

WINTER ASCENTS.—(1) *Schreckhorn and Wetterhorn*.—Mr. O. G. Jones, with Hans Almer and Peter Jaggi, climbed the Schreckhorn on January 12. They took $5\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. to reach the Schwarzegg hut the previous afternoon, and $10\frac{1}{4}$ hrs. to reach the summit from the hut. The descent to the hut was accomplished in a trifle over 4 hrs., and the remainder of the journey to Grindelwald in 2 hrs.

A week later Mr. Godfrey Ellis reached the summit of the Wetterhorn in 5 hrs. 45 min. from the Gleckstein hut. He had Ulrich and Hans Almer as guides, and found the climb to the hut very troublesome.

(2) *The Bernina*.—On Friday, February 19, with the guides M. Schocher and Schnitzler, Mr. E. L. Strutt left Pontresina at 9 A.M., reaching the Boval Hut, *via* the medial moraine of the Morteratsch Glacier, at 1.20 P.M. Starting again from there next morning at 1.45 A.M., by brilliant moonlight, they had crossed the 'Labyrinth' without difficulty by 8.30 A.M. and the plateau by 6 A.M. Proceeding up the arête, no difficulty was experienced till the last 200 ft., the rocks below being entirely free of ice and snow. On the upper portion of the ridge the powdery nature of the snow made great care necessary. At 8.15 they reached the summit, staying till 9.5, when they descended, regaining the Boval at 12.45 P.M. and Pontresina at 5 P.M. Throughout the snow was in admirable condition, and that in spite of the abnormal fall in the Engadine this winter.

(3) *M. Viso* (8,843 m.).—The Duke of the Abruzzi, A.C., undertook on March 3 the ascent of M. Viso, accompanied by Mr. F. Gonella, A.C. On account of the stormy weather they stopped at Crissolo one day, visiting the sanctuary of St. Chiaffredo and the *grotto* of Rio Martino. On the following day they started at 2 in the morning,

with the guides David Proment, of Courmayeur and Claude Perotti, of Crissolo, and two porters. They were obliged to turn back once before reaching the Col Sagnette, and arrived at the refuge Q. Sella (3,000 m.) at 2.20 P.M. There they slept, after having cleared away the snow which filled the refuge.

Next morning at 6 they set out for the peak of M. Viso, the weather being fine, the temperature relatively mild, and the air calm. As it was necessary, however, to remove the great quantity of fresh powdery snow while continually cutting steps in the hardened snow beneath, and to avoid the danger of starting avalanches, the ascent occupied 8 hrs.

At 2 P.M. they reached the summit, leaving as a souvenir a handkerchief tied to the iron cross erected there two years ago by Don Lanternino, the parish priest of Crissolo. By 6 P.M. they had returned to the refuge, where they passed the night. The day after at 9.30 A.M. they were at Crissolo.

ALASKA.—S. Vittorio Sella starts this month with H.R.H. the Duke of the Abruzzi for Alaska, with the intention of exploring in the neighbourhood of Mount St. Elias.

THE NEW EDITION OF MR. BALL'S 'ALPINE GUIDE.'—It may interest the readers of the 'Alpine Journal' to learn that, despite many delays caused by my broken health, the preparation of the new edition of this work has made considerable progress. Unless something unforeseen occurs, I hope to complete the revision of the entire text of the first volume ('Maritime Alps to the Simplon') in the course of the month of May. In that case the MS. would be placed in the hands of the printers in June, and that volume, with its numerous district maps, would be issued in the spring of 1898. A portion of the second volume is ready, and that volume will require less labour than the first. In order that I may not overlook any changes of importance to mountaineers, I should be very glad to receive notices of any alterations as regards inns, roads, paths, Club huts, &c., which may take place in the summer of 1897. All communications should be addressed to me *after* October 15 next at the Bear Hôtel, Grindelwald. W. A. B. COOLIDGE.

THE SNOW-FLORA OF MONT BLANC.—Professor Chodat of Geneva has contributed to the 'Bulletin de l'Herbier Boissier' an interesting paper on the flora of the snowfield of the *Col des Écandies*, to which are appended some remarks on snow-floras in general. Professor Chodat thinks it probable that the organism which gives rise to the phenomenon known as 'red snow,' whether called *Hematococcus*, *Protococcus*, or *Chlamydomonas*, is everywhere the same, viz., a form of *Sphaerella nivalis* Sommerfeldt. This species would then have an exceedingly wide distribution, having been found on Arctic and Antarctic snows, on the Alps, reaching an altitude of over 3,000 m. on the Col du Géant, the Carpathians, the Pyrenees, the Sierra Nevada, and the Andes. It was found by Professor Chodat on the Col des Écandies in the form of minute ellipsoidal cells of very variable size, the contents being of a colour varying from brick-red to purple-red; in some cases the

cell-contents were dividing into spores. Transported to Champex, at a height of 1,460 m., it produced biciliated zoospores, and was scarcely distinguishable from *Hæmatococcus lacustris*, an inhabitant of the Lake of Geneva. Among other organisms found on the Col des Écandies was a new species of *Raphidium*, which the author names *R. nivale*, and one belonging to a higher order of structure, a very little known desmid, *Ancylonema Nordenskiöldii*, hitherto found only in Scandinavia.

A. W. B.

GIFTS TO THE CLUB.—The following gifts have been made to the Club during the past three months:—Two water-colour pictures by Josiah Gilbert, 'Cima della Pala and Cima della Vezzana' and 'Valle di Cadore,' presented by Mr. D. W. Freshfield; a large number of Caucasian photographs by Signor Sella, presented by Mr. D. W. Freshfield.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

The Distribution of Plants on the South Side of the Alps. By the late John Ball, F.R.S. (Transactions of the Linnean Society of London, vol. v., part 4.)

THE geographical distribution of Alpine plants was a subject which exercised a great fascination on the author of the 'Alpine Guide,' and it is probable that it was never absent from his mind in his numerous expeditions. For the last thirty years of his life he was patiently accumulating the facts of distribution now issued in tabular form by the Linnean Society. How this came about is explained in the following paragraph from the introductory note by Mr. Thiselton Dyer, Director of the Royal Gardens, Kew, which accompanies Mr. Ball's work.

'Mr. Ball died on October 21, 1889, somewhat unexpectedly, after a brief illness. Some time afterwards his widow placed in my hands his botanical papers, in the hope that I might be able to extract from them something of permanent value which would record his long and patient labours upon the Alpine flora. The task was no easy one; and I think I should have shrunk from it without the encouragement of Mr. G. C. Churchill, the best surviving authority in the country on the subject, and of Mr. J. G. Baker, F.R.S., the keeper of the Kew Herbarium. As the result, I found that practically the whole of Mr. Ball's work on the flora of the Alps is concentrated in the elaborate table of the distribution of plants on the south side of the Alps, which is now submitted to the Society.' It is this table, extending over a hundred quarto pages, which constitutes the subject of this notice.

Mr. Ball set himself the task of tabulating the plants growing on the southern side of the chain of the Alps, so as to show their distribution within the range of the Alps and on the other mountains of Europe. The southern side was selected because of the richness and varied character of its flora, and because it had been less fully investigated. This region he divided into fifty