

ALPINE NOTES.

GIFT TO THE ALPINE CLUB.—Mr. Heelis has presented to the Club a picture of Gaurisankar and Makalu, by Mr. Alexander Scott.

THE NEW EDITION OF MR. BALL'S 'ALPINE GUIDE.'—We would remind our readers that Mr. Coolidge will be very glad to receive notices of any alterations as regards inns, roads, paths, Club huts, &c., which may take place this summer. All communications should be addressed to Mr. Coolidge, *after* October 15, at the Bear Hôtel, Grindelwald. The first volume has gone to the printers.

ALPINE ACCIDENTS.—As usual a number of accidents are reported, chiefly from the eastern portion of the Alpine region. Two young Swiss who foolishly attempted the Schreckhorn without guides fell some 1,500 ft. through cutting inadequate steps on an ice-slope. They were fortunate enough to escape with their lives and three broken legs. M. Goudet, a Swiss engineer, has died from the effects of a fall while climbing with Herr T. Keidel, Vice-President of the Austrian Alpine Club, on the Buchstein, near St. Gall.

It is, as Mr. E. Whymper has shown in his recent letter to the 'Times,' impossible in the lack of evidence to form any decided opinion whether the recent disappearance of an elderly Englishman near Zermatt was the result of physical collapse, or of an accidental fall, or of a crime. To those acquainted with the circumstances none of these hypotheses can seem inadmissible. It is a misfortune for the inhabitants of Canton Valais that past experience gives travellers but little confidence in any investigation conducted by the local authorities.

'LE ALPI ILLUSTRATE.'—We have received a specimen number of this attractive collection of Alpine photographs (photogravures), which is published with the approval of the Italian Alpine Club. It appears in twelve monthly parts, each containing five illustrations, at a very moderate price. The publisher is Sig. Antonio Fusetti, 8 Via Pasquirolo, Milan. We hope to notice this collection more fully when it has been completed.

MONTE DI SCERSCEN AND PIZ ROSEG.—We have received the following from Captain L. S. Blackden:—

'In the November '96 number of the "Alpine Journal"—"In Memoriam, Roman Imboden, by Mrs. Main"—there is a statement to the effect that the "Monte di Scerscen" has not been climbed since 1894.

'On Tuesday, 24th September, 1895, I left the "Capanna Marinelli," with Martin Schocher and Bartholomew Wohlwend, at 8.50 A.M., and reached the summit of the Monte di Scerscen at 8.35 A.M.

'We returned by the Scerscen Grat and Piz Bernina, reaching the latter summit at 12.10 P.M. and the Boval Hut at 4.15 P.M. An entry will be found in the book at the Boval Hut to the above effect.

'I might add that, although the ascent of a proverbially "stoney" mountain was made in the September of an exceptionally stoney year, we saw no stones fall, except those we sent down ourselves, until some time after we had reached the summit.

'I do not know if the following "variation" is at all rare; I do not believe it is new. On Friday, 20th September, 1895, with the guides Schocher and Wohlwend as above, on the descent from Piz Roseg, we reached point "3,599" at 12 noon, and turning north descended by a rock arête on to the Tschierva Glacier, the bergschrund of which was crossed at 1.45. We followed the ridge to near where contour 3,860 crosses it, and then turning east descended direct on to the glacier. There is one difficult piece on the ridge, when the last man requires the assistance of the rope, and the whole of it affords fine climbing.'

LA CHANOUSIA.—We learn from the June 'Rivista Mensile' of the C.A.I. that the Alpine Garden on the Little St. Bernard will be shortly inaugurated. It takes its name from the rector of the Hospice, the Abbé Chanoux. The secretary is Sig. L. G. Bonelli. The chief object of the garden, the work of which is undertaken under the auspices of the Turin section of the C.A.I., is to prevent the extermination of the rarer Alpine plants. We wish it all success.

DESCENTS OF YORKSHIRE POT HOLES. LONG KIN HOLE AND ROWTON POT.—The sport of cave-hunting and the exploration of pot-holes, which received so great a stimulus two years ago by the plucky descent of Gaping Ghyll by Monsieur E. A. Martel, has since been carried on with considerable vigour by various members of 'the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club.' The two principal successes scored this year are the descent of Long Kin Hole, on Ingleborough, and of Rowton Pot, near Ingleton. The former at the top is a mere long and narrow crevasse on a limestone plateau, here and there bridged over, and only about 2 ft. 6 in. to 5 ft. wide, a gruesome hole which is 925 ft. deep. This was explored on May 15 and 16 by Mr. Edward Calvert, the leader, who reached the lowest and blackest depths; Mr. Firth, who descended all but the last pitch, and who would have done that but for want of time; and Messrs. Ellet, Green, Slingsby, and Mason, whose ambition was conveniently tempered by an indulgence in the belief that, on this occasion at least, there was truth in the adage that 'discretion is the better part of valour.' Rowton Pot—a dirty pot too, in spite of its constant washing by a stream of water—also afforded much sport, and was descended on July 4 by Messrs. Booth, Swithenbank, Cuttriss, and Scriven, assisted by Woodhouse and Somers. It is 365 ft. deep. Both pots had been previously reconnoitred, and their descents attempted by some of those who ultimately succeeded in reaching their innermost recesses. Rope ladders were used in both cases, and each expedition afforded many and very various adventures, which will give ample materials for a most sporting paper. For the present I will merely say that the descent of a pot such as Long Kin Hole by rope ladders, where there are only three

ledges and four pitches, demands at least as much good generalship, and requires at least as much pluck, strength, and powers of endurance on the part of the leader, as the ascent of a fashionable Zermatt peak.

WM. CECIL SLINGSBY.

WILDSTRUBEL.—On March 22, 1897, with Jean Maître and a porter, Mr. O. K. Williamson ascended the Wildstrubel from the Hôtel du Parc, Montana. Starting at 8.30 A.M. the summit (of the W. peak) was not reached until 1.45 P.M., owing to the softness of the snow for a great part of the distance. The hotel was not regained until 9.30 P.M. The weather was brilliant, but exceedingly warm, and the views beautiful.

THE COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE DES GLACIERS.—This body, the appointment of which was to some extent a result of the steps taken by our own Committee to promote the study of glacial movements throughout the globe, is active in its task. Messieurs Forel and Pasquier continue their annual reports on the Alpine glaciers, the majority of which are showing a tendency to retreat, which yearly grows more accentuated. M. Rabot has published a tract on 'The Variations in Length of the Arctic and Northern Glaciers' (Georg, Geneva, 1897).

CAUCASIAN GLACIERS.—Mr. Douglas Freshfield, who has recently been appointed the English member of the Commission above mentioned, writes as follows:—'I find in the Report for 1895 (p. 139) an allusion to the glaciers of the Caucasus, to which I may perhaps usefully add some further general statements. The evidence as to the oscillations of Caucasian glaciers is still necessarily very defective. Only one glacier in the chain—that of Devdorak, on the N.E. slope of Kasbek—has been studied with any continuity, and that on account of the practical effect produced by the outbursts of water and ice blocks (improperly called avalanches), which, originating in it, have from time to time destroyed or injured the highroad of the Dariel Pass.

'The material at present at the disposal of students is limited to a few measurements made by the Russian surveyors and M. de Déchy in the central group or at the sources of the Baksan, to the notes of Alpine climbers, and the numerous photographs taken by them of late years.

'My own personal notes have this exceptional value, that they are severed by a distance of twenty years (1868 and 1887 to 1889). I can state without hesitation that the main tendency of the ice during this period has been one of retreat, and that this retreat has been very general and considerable. The best positive proof I can show of this is the contrast between some photographs taken by a member of Count Levaschoff's military expedition to Suanetia in 1869 and photographs by M. de Déchy (*circa* 1885), which show the lower end of the Zanner Glacier. At the time, however, of my two last visits (1887 and 1889) a new movement was commencing; it had not, I think, reached the front of the glaciers, but was made manifest in their central portion by the casting of fresh rubbish over the green moraines. I need not trouble the reader with the numerous

observations on which I ground my conclusion, but I am convinced that a fresh advance of the ice was in progress in 1887-1889. How far that advance has been continued I do not possess sufficient materials for judging.

'It is much to be desired that the Russian Government or scientific societies should arrange for the periodical measurement of several of the principal ice streams on either side of the chain. The Azau Glacier, the Bezingi and Shikildi Glaciers, the Karagom Glacier on the N., the Chalaat, Leksur, and Adish Glaciers on the S. would be good examples. Failing this, successive travellers should measure and report on these or any other conspicuous glaciers, and use their personal influence to induce the Priestav of Betscho, and the princes of Urusbieh, or the Načhálnik at Naltshik to take up the work. M. Jukoff did what he could while engaged on the Survey (see "The Exploration of the Caucasus in 1890," in R.G.S. "Proceedings," 1892), but he was naturally removed after one or two seasons to another part of the country.'

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE NEW ZEALAND ALPS.

To the Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

Thames: March 27, 1897.

DEAR SIR, — May I, as spokesman of the N.Z. Alpine men, express my appreciation of Mr. Freshfield's very able summing up of the points at issue between Mr. FitzGerald and myself?

We young colonists are very touchy when anything is said which may tend to depreciate our hard work, and imagined our past labours in opening up our Alps were being overlooked when, perhaps, there was really no cause for protest.

I thoroughly endorse the concluding remarks of the article, and can only again express, as already testified in Mannering's and my letters, our congratulations and admiration of Mr. FitzGerald's climbs out here with his guide.

I should be glad if you could find space for this note, as evidence that we accept Mr. Freshfield's verdict and thank him for his very exhaustive and interesting summing up of the whole subject.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

ARTHUR P. HARPER.

THE SUMMER EXHIBITION.

AMONG the smaller picture galleries of London it would be difficult to find one superior to that belonging to the Alpine Club. Admirably lighted, most suitably decorated, and situated within a few hundred yards of the chief exhibition rooms of London, it might reasonably have been expected that its walls would be