

later in the presence of the captain of Bernard's battery, and of MM. Guy de Valence and A. Chambre, the French climbers, who had kindly lent their guides. The guides, Auguste Clapier and his brother, Louis Faure, and Joseph Amiez, are highly praised for their conduct.

In an accident on the Hochswab a party left an exhausted companion alone while they continued on their way to the hut; they then sent a guide to him, who assisted him some distance further, left him again exhausted, and returned to the hut. When he went back with help the unfortunate traveller had disappeared. The body was not found till three days later. Of the two experienced travellers who had so narrow an escape on the Schreckhorn one had lost his axe, and so was unable to hold up his companion, who was descending in front of him. The large guideless caravan on the Grosser Buchstein, when Herr P. Goudet, of Geneva, was killed, were roped in parties of two each. A party descending from the Mönchjoch to the Eggischhorn were unroped; the guide, with the rope coiled up on his back, was examining a snow-bridge. It broke under him, and he fell into the crevasse. He was rescued with difficulty. Can it be wondered that accidents happen?

The moral is, as it has so often been before, that no precaution ought to be neglected, especially in a bad season. No party should attempt an ascent such as will be a severe tax on their powers unless they have the necessary experience, are in proper numbers, and, should they not be accomplished climbers, are attended by trustworthy guides. No traveller should be left alone when exhausted. In the case of treacherous snow, when an experienced guide is of the party, his opinion should be asked, and if he is doubtful as to the prudence of the ascent the expedition should be abandoned. For glacier expeditions less than three is not a party. We all deeply regret that the mountains have claimed so many victims in 1897, but it is clear that needful precautions have been, one might almost say, consistently neglected, otherwise the black list would have been much shorter. We may quote again the lines once so aptly cited by a former President of the Club:—

The little more, and how much it is,
And the little less, and what worlds away.

No doubt there are accidents in the proper sense of the word, but we think it is clear that, had due care been exercised, the large majority of so-called accidents of the present year would never have happened.

ALPINE NOTES.

A FORTHCOMING BIBLIOGRAPHY OF TRAVELS IN SWITZERLAND.—
Our readers are doubtless aware that the Swiss Federal Government has undertaken the publication (through K. J. Wyss, of Bern) of a most elaborate Bibliography relating to Switzerland in all its

aspects. This is divided into sections, which are issued independently as they are ready. Two of these are especially interesting to mountaineers. The publication of that (No. ii.) dealing with Maps, Plans, Reliefs, and Panoramas, was begun in 1892, and the several parts issued, with many additions, &c., in a single volume of over 700 pages in 1896. No. iii. is to be devoted to Geographical Descriptions, Narratives of Travels, strictly mountaineering works (all concerning Switzerland only), &c., and has been in active preparation for some years past by Herr A. Wäber-Lindt, formerly editor of the Swiss 'Jahrbuch,' and joint editor of the new edition of G. Studer's 'Ueber Eis und Schnee' (the second volume of which is now in course of revision). We believe that the indefatigable author has several thousand slips of titles of works to be included in his list, and it is certain that the book will be as nearly complete and exhaustive as is possible in such a wide field. We understand that the work will comprise twenty-five sheets in all (the elaborate index covers two sheets to itself), and that Herr Wäber hopes to issue the book complete in the spring of 1898. We have been permitted to see the first six sheets in type, and can assure our readers that they will not be disappointed when the result of the unwearied labours of so competent a writer is in their hands.

THE ACCIDENT OF 1866 ON THE ANCIEN PASSAGE.—Some remains of Captain Arkwright, who was killed by an avalanche on the Ancien Passage on October 13, 1866, were found by a couple of guides near the left bank of the Glacier des Bossons on August 22. They were easily identified, as a pocket-handkerchief bore his name in full; and further search discovered other portions of the body, his alpenstock, and other articles. It may be remembered that the corpses of the guides, victims of their own suicidal rashness, were recovered after the accident: Captain Arkwright alone was buried so deeply in the snow by a second avalanche as to be irrecoverable. The Chamonix authorities at once communicated with his family, several members of which came over from England, and the remains were laid to rest in the English churchyard on August 31, beside the grave of Mr. R. L. Nettleship, who perished on Mont Blanc in 1892 under circumstances even more painful, which are probably freshly remembered. Nearly all Chamonix attended the funeral, a large number of guides in procession preceding the coffin, and the general feeling of sympathy and respect was most marked—with one exception, or perhaps one ought to say two. Somebody managed to take a couple of photographs of the remains first found, while the guides were gone down, as in duty bound, to report their discovery, and promptly exposed them for sale in the shops. Nor could he be induced to withdraw these, which had no interest except the morbidly horrible, or to give up the negatives, until Captain Arkwright's brothers had paid a considerable sum to redeem them. And the Chamonix paper, not content with publishing a couple of columns, professedly scientific, giving minute details as to the various frac-

tures and other injuries, promised its readers a picture of the remains. On pressure from the town authorities, at the instance of the Arkwright family, this was abandoned, and the following note was inserted instead:—

'Avis.—Nous avions promis à nos lecteurs une vue des principaux restes découverts au Glacier des Bossons. Au moment de mettre sous presse la gravure que nous en avons fait exécuter, nous sommes informés que **M. le Colonel Arkwright s'oppose formellement à cette publication.** Nous ne pouvons que déférer à cette injonction, mais nous userons du droit strict que nous possédons de remettre à nos amis, individuellement, des épreuves de notre gravure qui, d'ailleurs, ne présente absolument rien d'inconvenant.'

We are too familiar with the manner in which the glacier treats its victims to be able to learn anything from reading a description of the mutilations of Captain Arkwright's body: it is only a penny-a-liner, seeking to gloss over his liking for the horrible, who could call them a highly interesting scientific document. But the accessories found may be described without wounding natural feelings of humanity, and they give a more striking illustration of the caprice of the glacier, in preserving some fragile things while breaking others with extraordinary force, than even the relics of Dr. Hamel's accident, which we have all seen. I should add that the brother, Colonel Arkwright, showed these articles to me at Chamonix, and to no one else outside the family, and that I give this account of them to the 'Alpine Journal' with his concurrence.

The alpenstock, an ordinary fir sapling shod at the thicker end, had been bent to breaking at several points, while the wood was saturated with moisture, and a piece of the upper end had been broken off. As the wood dried on coming to the air it stiffened in its bent form, so as to present a singularly crippled appearance. The spike had dropped out as the wood dried: it was a little bent, but very slightly rusted; the iron ring remained in place on the pole. The pocket-handkerchief was intact, the coloured border scarcely faded, and the marking (in ink) quite perfect. The shirt had been torn to pieces, but two of the studs and the collar-stud, somewhat elaborate in pattern and therefore easily to be injured, were found intact in the button-holes. A cartridge, doubtless forgotten in the pocket of his shooting-jacket, was found there, with the paper reduced to pulp, but the shot still in it. There was a gold pencil-case, which would still open and shut, with lead that would still mark. Most remarkable of all was the watch-chain, made of solid gold links perfectly plain. Not a scratch was visible, and the gold was as clean as if it had been just rubbed up for wear. He had left his watch behind with the relatives who accompanied him to Chamonix, and in place of it had put on the chain a ring to which were attached a couple of keys: these, unlike the alpenstock spike, were rusted almost away. The portion of the rope with which Captain Arkwright was attached to the guides was also found—a loop tied in an ordinary hard knot. It had

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THE SHAM SWISS GUIDE.—On October 19 a circular was issued by the Committee warning members against a swindler calling himself Mütznér, who was passing guide himself off to those interested in Alpine matters as a Swiss guide. In it, any member who should come across this man was requested to at once give him in charge of the police, as a warrant had been taken out against him in the city of London, and the Club were proposing to prosecute him.

The sequel to this warning was not long delayed, but its end has been unexpectedly tragical.

On October 24 he came to the house of a member living in one of the south coast towns. He was recognised, as answering the description in the circular, was given in charge of the police, and the City police were communicated with, but though visited, as usual, in the police cell, he committed suicide during the evening by hanging himself.

This man had never been a guide; it seems probable that, as he stated, he did come from Meiringen or its neighbourhood, and perhaps he had at some time acted occasionally as a porter.

A few years ago he victimised a large number of members of the various foreign Alpine clubs, and his proceedings were fully commented on in their periodicals at the time.

His operations commenced in England some three or more years ago, and during this time have extended to almost every county in England, Wales, and Scotland. His tale was almost always of a very similar nature, and such is the sympathy of those interested in the Alps for their inhabitants when thought to be in distress, that he was rarely unsuccessful.

How he obtained the names of those likely to take an interest in the fortunes of a Swiss guide has not been ascertained; he certainly

did not confine his operations to members of the Club only, but it seems likely that by some means he obtained possession of a Club list, as the names he used as his supposed employers were almost always those of officers of the Club, and therefore likely to be well known to those he was begging from. It seems incredible now that he could pursue his course of fraud so long without detection.

PRESENTS TO THE CLUB.—Mr. Justice Wills has presented to the Club a complete set of newspaper cuttings relating to the 1865 Matterhorn accident, and also a set of cuttings containing the reviews of his books 'Wanderings among the High Alps' and 'The Eagle's Nest'; also a portrait of his guide Auguste Balmat, and another of himself and Balmat, which latter is interesting as showing the short-handed ice-axe then in use.

ARARAT.—We take the following from the 'Daily Chronicle' of October 12, 1897:—'St. Petersburg, October 11. The newspapers announce that during the ascent of Mount Ararat by the members of the recent Geological Congress, one of the party, M. Stoerber, professor of medicine, from Vladikavkas, was frozen to death.'

SEL GILL POT HOLE, PENYGHENT, YORKSHIRE.—On September 18 and 19 Messrs. E. Calvert, F. Ellet, Percy Lund, T. Gray, W. C. Slingsby, and B. Mason made, by means of rope ladders, the first descent of the three great pitches of which the above-named pot principally consists, and explored numerous wet and dry passages and some enormous caverns, one of which was large enough to contain an ordinary parish church, and steeple too. During the exploration a weird subterranean waterfall, of about 100 ft. in height, was seen both from above and below, and the falling water added a deep diapason tone, which was quite in keeping with the surroundings. Some passages were not explored for want of time.

Underground mountaineering possesses an indescribable charm of its own, which is quite different from Alpine climbing, and it demands quite as much, if not more, nerve than the latter, and rope ladders are apt to play funny pranks when used by a novice.

SPITZBERGEN. MT. MARMIER.—It may serve to prevent future confusion to point out that the Mt. Marmier shown in Sir W. M. Conway's recent map of part of Spitzbergen ('Geo. Journal,' vol. ix., No. 4) is not the peak lying to the N. of Mt. Lusitania, the ascent of which was described under that name ('Alpine Journal,' vol. xvii., p. 315), but is the hill shown as Viking Hill in the sketch map ('Alpine Journal,' vol. xvii., p. 310). The Flower Valley of Sir W. M. Conway's map, (running N.W. from Mt. Lusitania) is shown as Reindeer Valley in the above-mentioned sketch map.

VICTOR H. GATTY.

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MR. COOPER AT ZERMATT.—We learn just before going to press that the body of Mr. Cooper has been found in a lonely wood between Zermatt and Täsch. Rev. F. T. Wethered informs us that it was in the forest of the Tufteren Alp. He had, to judge by appearances, fallen, from a rock above—a distance of 15 metres. His money and articles of value were found

on the body. We are very glad that all suspicion of foul play has thus been removed.

FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE WETTERHORN.—We deeply regret, at the moment of going to press, to receive the news of a fatal accident on the Wetterhorn. On Saturday, November 6, three young fellows left Bern to make the ascent of the Wetterhorn, one of them the son of Herr Wäber-Lindt, formerly so well known as editor of the Swiss 'Jahrbuch,' and now as joint editor of the new edition of Studer's 'Ueber Eis und Schnee.' The party slept at the Gleckstein hut on the night of November 6, and on the 7th attained the summit in safety. On the way down they had reached a point below the 'Sattel,' near the edge of the great couloir, and then imprudently (for the survivors allow that they had seen rocks fall there, and the mountain is absolutely snowless just now) sat down to take off their crampons. A stone whizzed through the air and struck the unfortunate young Wäber-Lindt, fracturing his skull. He lived some hours, but died on the mountain on the night of November 7. We may mention that one of the two survivors was a doctor. The body was brought down on November 8 by a rescue party. A guide would doubtless have warned the young travellers of the dangerous character of the spot where the accident happened. It is very sad that after so successful an ascent the expedition should have ended so tragically.

THE NEW EDITION OF MR. BALL'S 'ALPINE GUIDE.'—We hear from Mr. Coolidge that about three-quarters of the first volume is already in type, and that by the end of November the whole of the volume will be completed.