

The weather up till this had been excellent, but on this day it broke, and continued more or less bad until a heavy snowstorm on September 4 cleared the air, after which the weather remained fine.

The camp on the Athabasca Pass was reached on the 27th, and the party started back for Laggan on the 28th. Bear Creek was reached on the 31st.

On September 2 an attempt was made to climb Mt. Murchison from this camp, but it was abandoned at about 8,800 ft. on account of the large quantity of new snow on the mountain and the weather being bad. Next day the party started up Bear Creek, crossed the Bow Pass on the 5th, and camped on the shores of the Upper Bow Lake.

On September 6, the weather having become brilliantly fine again, a peak lying just on the N. of the summit of the big icefall of the Bow Glacier was ascended (11,100 ft. to 11,200 ft.). From its summit a magnificent view was obtained, Mts. Assiniboine, Sir Donald Forbes, Freshfield, Lyell, and those over the Athabasca Pass being clearly visible. The peak was covered with fresh snow.

On September 7 the party started down the Bow Valley, and on the following day arrived at Laggan railway station.

During the expedition the plane table survey started last year by Mr. Parker, and carried on by Mr. G. P. Baker, was continued. Several minor peaks were climbed for this purpose, the first being a rock peak lying between the middle and the north fork of the Saskatchewan (8,600 ft. to 8,700 ft.); two others near the Athabasca Pass were ascended; also Mr. Woolley climbed a rock peak at the head of the Athabasca River, Mt. Wilcox (10,000 ft.). The various heights were taken both with an aneroid and a mercurial barometer, and checked by the height of the mercurial barometer at Banff.

J. N. C.

ALPINE ACCIDENTS IN 1898.

ONCE again the list of Alpine accidents is appalling. This year the names of two members and one ex-member of our Club appear in the black list. Last year—a season of bad weather—no English Alpine Clubman was lost. This year—a very favourable one—our loss is heavy. Is there any connection between the good season and the sad result? Is it that the fine weather caused the relaxation of some of the precautions usually observed by prudent climbers?

Even if we stretch the meaning of the word accident it will cover only a few of the catastrophes which are of yearly occurrence in the Alps. We have, it will readily be conceived, every desire to spare the feelings of those who suffer most from these sad disasters; but it is our positive duty to point out that a due number of good guides or thoroughly seasoned amateurs, whether in the case of very difficult ascents or when ladies are of the party, is absolutely

a *sine qua non*. Exceptional men may perform exceptional feats, but the climber of little experience should be slow to imitate methods which, possibly safe to a Mummery, are distinctly dangerous to the less gifted mountaineer.

The apparently growing practice of starting for a difficult climb alone cannot be too strongly condemned. Mont Blanc and the Aiguilles d'Arves are little better than death-traps to the solitary climber. This year for the first time, so far as our recollection serves, the rope has been deliberately cut. On an act so absolutely contrary to the principles of mutual trust and confidence, on which all loyal comradeship depends, we do not think it necessary to comment. When climbers are roped together they are by the unwritten law of mountaineering pledged to use every effort to support and preserve each other, and the greater the risk the more imperative this duty becomes.

We this year print a full list of the Alpine accidents which happened at over 2,000 mètres (6,562 ft.). Accidents at lesser heights have been omitted. Where precautions are neglected accidents must follow. We might almost say 'no precautions have been taken, therefore the death roll is heavy.' No one who loves the mountains can read the following list without anger—anger doubtless mingled with natural sorrow. For a man without what the guides call 'the habitude of the mountains' to climb alone over difficult places in search of edelweiss, or to go on a snow-covered glacier roped to one companion, is little less than suicide. Sign-posts and marked rocks may be snares, not safeguards, to the unwary and the inexperienced. Those who establish them have no slight responsibility. We trust our foreign colleagues will succeed in discovering some method of making the dangers of solitary climbing and of climbing in insufficient numbers more clearly known to visitors to their beautiful mountains. It must be a source of deep sorrow to all capable and enthusiastic mountaineers that so many catastrophes have occurred, and we share their sorrow. Experience is dearly bought everywhere, perhaps more dearly amongst the mountains than anywhere else. That we have ourselves lost two of our members, one a distinguished climber and the other a very promising mountaineer, as well as an ex-member of great experience—all of whom we deeply regret—brings home to us much the same lesson. Are we always as prudent as we should be? Have we no lapses into carelessness to reproach ourselves with? Let us all see to it that not through us shall climbing for the future suffer shame.

FATAL ACCIDENTS IN THE HIGH ALPS IN 1898.

Place	Date	Name	Cause and Reference
Schneeberg (Kaiserstein)	April 10	F. Schlichting	Exhaustion in a great snowstorm ('D. u. Oe. A.V. Mitth.' p. 102)

FATAL ACCIDENTS IN THE HIGH ALPS IN 1898 (*continued*).

Place	Date	Name	Cause and Reference
Raxalp (Katzenkopfstieg)	April 10	Hermann Pressler and Richard Zink	Slip on a stone slope, and fall over a precipice in the same storm, both roped together ('D. u. Oe. A.V. Mitth.' p. 102)
Dent de Valerette	May 15	A botanical student from Saxony	Fell on his ice axe, which pierced his stomach ('Echo des Alpes,' p. 196)
Karlspitze (Kaisergebirge)	June 19	J. Schleber	Giving way of a handhold on wrong route in the Steinerne Rinne ('D. u. Oe. A. V. Mitth.' p. 192)
NEAR DÔME CLUB HUT (M. BLANC)*	c. July 18	H. N. Riegel	Slip on rocks of Aiguilles Grises ridge; alone ('Revue Alpine,' p. 249)
Hochthor (Gesäuse)	July 17	Ludwig Konrad	Descending alone ('D. u. Oe. A.V. Mitth.' p. 188)
Nuvolau	July 20	Carl Rieder	Probably giving way of handhold; alone (<i>ibid.</i> p. 192)
Zugspitze	July 22	Curt Irmer	Slip in an ice gully; no guide (<i>ibid.</i> p. 205)
Monte Orsiera	July 29	Ercole Daniele	Slip on rocks; alone ('Rivista Mensile,' p. 305)
PARSEIERSPITZE	Aug. 1	Carl Leschr	Fainted and slipped ('D. u. Oe. A.V. Mitth.' p. 192)
METTENBERG (FAR DOWN THE)	Aug. 2	Wilhelm Zumbrunn	Slipped while picking edelweiss ('Alpina,' p. 101)
Oltchikopf (Faulhorn range)	Aug. 6	Walter Mooser	Slip on smooth rocks (<i>ibid.</i> p. 102)
Kreuzli Pass	Aug. 6	A. Müller	Exhaustion from fatigue (<i>ibid.</i> p. 102)
DREISCHUSTERSPITZE	Aug. 6	H. Buchenberg and Victor Naager	Struck by stone loosened by party in front, and so hurled down; roped together ('D. u. Oe. A. V. Mitth.' p. 205)
ROCHEMELON	Aug. 12	Livio Cibrario	Slipped on ice; with one inexperienced companion, and apparently unroped ('Rivista Mensile,' p. 308)
Rochers de Naye	Aug. 14	A French tourist	Slipped ('Alpina,' p. 103)
EBENFERNER (Ortler group)	Aug. 19	Bronislaus Kotula	Fell into crevasse; brother cut the rope ('D. u. Oe. A.V. Mitth.' p. 216)
TOFANA DI MEZZO	c. Aug. 22	S. Panzer	Slipped on hard snow; alone (<i>ibid.</i> p. 217)

* The accidents at over 3,000 mètres are printed in small capitals.

FATAL ACCIDENTS IN THE HIGH ALPS IN 1898 (*continued*).

Place	Date	Name	Cause and Reference
Anthorspitze	Aug. 27	Fräulein Gilmozzi	Slipped on steep slope while picking edelweiss ('D. u. Oe. A.V. Mitth.' p. 218)
PETITE DENT DE VEISIVI	Aug. 27	Dr. John Hopkinson, with son and two daughters	Slip on rocks; no guide ('Alpina,' p. 114)
BELLAVISTA SATTEL	Sept. 1	Dietrich Nasse	Shock from fall into bergschrund, though roped to a guide ('D. u. Oe. A.V. Mitth.' p. 237)
Fünffingerspitze	Sept. 10	L. Norman-Neruda	Slip on rocks; ill (<i>ibid.</i> p. 229)
AIGUILLE DES CHARMOZ	Sept. 15	F. Aston-Binns and Xaver Imseng (guide)	Slip into bergschrund ('Revue Alpine,' p. 304)
SOUTHERN D'ARVES	Sept. 19	Joseph Roche	Slip on steep rocks; alone ('Revue des Alpes Dauphinoises,' p. 102)
Kurfürsten (Scheib- enstoll)	Oct. 5	A. Forrer	Hand slipped from rock while working round a steep bit ('Alpina,' p. 127)

THE ACCIDENT ON THE PETITE DENT DE VEISIVI.

We are indebted to Professor J. A. Ewing, F.R.S., for the following account:—

'There is really not much to add by way of detail to the brief accounts which have already been published of the lamentable accident by which Dr. Hopkinson and three of his children lost their lives.

'Dr. Hopkinson and his family had been staying at Arolla from the beginning of August, and had been doing a good deal of climbing. Dr. Hopkinson's skill and experience as a mountaineer are too well known to need remark. His son Jack, though only eighteen years of age, had spent several seasons with his father in the Alps, and was an accomplished climber. He was fully accustomed to lead up difficult rocks with a dexterity and care on which the local guides used to comment. Miss Hopkinson, whose age was twenty-three, was also a thorough expert. She generally accompanied her father and brother in their climbs, and was, in her father's phrase, "as good as a man." A few days before the accident she, with her father and brother, without a guide, had made the ascent of the Aiguille de la Za on the Arolla side, over the rocks all the way. The fourth member of the ill-fated party was another daughter, Miss Lina Hopkinson, nineteen years of age. She was strong, active, and fond of mountain walking, and though her experience of rock climbing was not to be compared with that of the others, she had done enough to show that she possessed the necessary qualities of head and nerve, and she was anxious to do more.

'The party left the hotel at 7.30 on the morning of August 27 to climb the Petite Dent de Veisivi. As was their usual custom in such climbs, they took no guide. To us in the hotel, who knew their powers, there was nothing remarkable in this; indeed, we should have felt surprised if they had taken a guide. There was no suggestion that a guide should be taken.

'I understood that their intention was to proceed to the Col de Zarmine and make the ascent of the Petite Dent in the usual way along the ridge from there. But from the position in which the bodies were found, it appears that if this was their plan when they set out it was not followed, and that when the accident happened they were climbing the peak directly by its S. face, taking a line somewhat to the S.W. of the summit. I believe this route had been taken by other climbers before. The party had accomplished the greater part of the climb when they fell.

'There is nothing to show how the accident happened, but it appears in every way probable that it was due either to a falling stone, or to the leader's hold giving way. The four were on one rope, the son leading, then the younger daughter, then Mr. Hopkinson, and lastly the elder daughter. A large stone was found lying on the body of the leader, and Dr. Hopkinson's hand was grasping the rope in a way which suggests that he was trying to check the fall of one or both of those in front. The bodies had fallen about 500 ft., and it was clear that death had been instantaneous in every case.

'All the climbers in the Hôtel du Mont Collon, and as many guides as were available, joined in the search, which began as soon as darkness closed in without the return of Mr. Hopkinson and his party. The bodies were found at daybreak on the 28th by Mr. G. T. Walker and Mr. M. Travers, who, with Pierre Maître and other guides, were searching the foot of the rocks. A watch was kept over them all that day and the following night until the district magistrate could hold his inquiry before authorising their removal. This was done early in the morning of Monday, August 29, and the bodies were then brought down to Satarma. The biers were reverently laid out there, and when they had been covered with fair sheets and mountain flowers the burial service was read by the Rev. George R. Thornton with a simple impressiveness which will not be readily forgotten by those who were present. The guides and porters then took up their burden again to carry the bodies to Haudères, where they were placed in the Communal Council Chamber. Arrangements for the funeral had meanwhile been made by Dr. Waugh, with the co-operation of Mr. Galland, English Consul at Lausanne. On the following morning the bodies were taken in the coffins to the hospital at Sion, where they lay in a mortuary chamber pending the arrival from England of Dr. Hopkinson's brothers. On Friday, September 2, they were buried at Territet in the presence of many sorrowing friends.'

THE ACCIDENT ON THE FÜNFINGERSPITZE.

The following account is abridged from the 'D. u. Oe. A.V. Mitth.,' No. 18:—On September 10, 1898, Mr. L. Norman-Neruda, the well known rock-climber, died on the Fünffingerspitze. He was climbing the mountain (which he had previously ascended quite a number of times and knew thoroughly) with his wife and Herr Theodor Dietrich by the 'Schmittkamin.' They had already got over the worst parts, when, about 2 P.M., Mr. Norman-Neruda suddenly fell back on to a ledge below. Herr Dietrich, with great presence of mind, seized the rope (above Mrs. Norman-Neruda) and prevented a further fall. He then, with much difficulty, made his way to him. The party's signals of distress were soon seen at the neighbouring Sellajoch inn, and help was promptly forthcoming, for the relief party reached the Sellajoch inn at 10 P.M. that night. There seems to be no doubt that the fall was caused by a sudden failure of the heart's action, and was not due, as was at first reported, to a rock-hold giving way. No medical aid could possibly have saved the unfortunate traveller's life. The rescue party reached the scene of the accident early the next day. Mr. Norman-Neruda, who was unconscious when they arrived, died at 3 P.M., 25 hrs. after his fall. The body was got down with great difficulty. The funeral, which was very largely attended, took place at St. Ulrich on September 13, amidst every token of affectionate respect and sympathy. The speed with which the rescue party was formed, and the conduct of the guides, deserve the highest praise.

THE CHARMOZ ACCIDENT.

We owe the subjoined account to Mr. Vail. Mr. Frank Aston-Binns with Xaver Imseng as guide, left Chamonix on Thursday, September 15, 1898, with the intention of traversing the five points of the Grands Charmoz.

From a memorandum found in the pocket-book of Mr. Aston-Binns it is seen that they reached the Plan de l'Aiguille at about 7.20 P.M., having left Couttet's at 5 P.M.

They started from the Plan de l'Aiguille at 3.50 the next morning. At 9.30 they were seen on the first 'gendarmes' on the N.E. extremity of the ridge, and their traverse across the top was easily followed by friends through the telescope. The summit of the highest and last gendarme was reached at 11.10. This is the entry found in Mr. Aston-Binns's book. At 2.30 P.M. they were seen through the Plan de l'Aiguille telescope descending the couloir that leads to the junction of the Grépon and Charmoz routes. If all had gone well they should have reached Chamonix before 6, their intention being to descend directly by the 'Chalets de Blaitière.' As they did not return that night search parties were organised the next morning, which resulted in the discovery of their bodies in a large crevasse, at a depth of about 65 ft., close to the upper séracs of the Glacier des Nantillons. Mr. Aston-Binns's watch had stopped at 3. As far as can be gathered from the

account of the search party and knowledge of the place, the accident was caused by a slip of about 70 ft. down the slope above the crevasse. Owing to long-continued fine weather this slope consisted of exceedingly hard ice. Their death must have been instantaneous and painless.

ALPINE NOTES.

M. MORION.—In July, 1895, I climbed a point in the Valpelline district which I thought was M. Morion. I was led to this conclusion by the Italian map, which seemed to make the buttress, on which is a point marked 2,887 m., lead to the top of the ridge at 3,520 m. On the summit I found a cairn with the card of Mr. Baker-Gabb, who climbed to this point in 1891 from the direction of the Crête Sèche. I gave an account of my ascent to this Journal,* stating that I had found the card. Some months later I was told that Mr. Monro had made the first ascent of M. Morion and had seen from it a peak, close to and just S.W. of him, but slightly lower and with a cairn on it. To settle the question I made an ascent of M. Clapier,† and at once saw that neither Monro, Baker-Gabb, nor I had been on M. Morion, but that Monro had made the first ascent of the unnamed point 3,327 m. N.E. of M. Morion, and that Baker-Gabb and I had been on the smaller intermediate point. I communicated this to the 'Rivista Mensile,'‡ stating that M. Morion had not been ascended. This did not escape the eyes of Mr. Aston-Binns, who with Dr. Wherry made the first ascent of the real summit this season, after being taken by the Curé of Bionaz to the Baker-Gabb peak. The new Valpelline sheet of the Siegfried map gives this range much more clearly than the Italian map, and shows that the buttress 2,887 m. does not lead up to M. Morion, but the height of the buttress is not given. The Swiss surveyors have unfortunately inserted on this sheet the ridge E. of 3,327 m. I. map, 3,321 m. S. map, and marked 3,337 m., which does not exist. Between M. Clapier and M. Morion there is a deep cleft in the ridge.

ALFRED G. TOPHAM.

M. BERIO AND P. FIORIO.—In a previous number of this Journal § there is an account of the ascent of M. Berio by the N.E. arête by Messrs. Longstaff and Ashby. On the summit they found the cards of Signori Canzio, Mondini, and Vigna. Signor Mondini at once wrote to me, asking me to look into the question, as he and his friends had climbed this peak in 1895, and had given it the name of P. Fiorio. To arrive at the peak marked M. Berio from

* Vol. xvii. p. 580.

† *Alpine Journal*, vol. xviii. p. 247; *Rivista Mensile*, vol. xvi. p. 134.

‡ *Ibid.* 1898, p. 21.

§ Vol. xix. p. 62.

|| *Rivista Mensile*, 1895, p. 352.