

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.

Bionaz, by the route indicated in the Journal, the English climbers would have had to cross over the long ridge of the Clocherots (3,092 m.) which descends from the unnamed peak (P. Fiorio), and then cross a very deep valley, full of huge boulders. The true M. Berio is a quite unimportant point S.W. of P. Fiorio and at the other side of this deep valley. The route taken by the English climbers up the N.E. arête was pointed out to me this year by their guides, and was described by them as difficult. I have before seen the arête from M. Clapier, which is close by, and it is nearly all knife-edged from the Col to the top, whereas the N.E. ridge of the true Berio is very broad and easy. The conclusion is that Messrs. Longstaff and Ashby unintentionally made a new (and difficult) route up P. Fiorio (3,357 m. Italian map, S.W. of M. Clapier, not marked on the Swiss map) and not up M. Berio, and I am requested by them to make this correction to their previous notice. They descended the peak on the W. and then crossed the foot of the Clocherots ridge (which they mistook for the M. Faga Bella), and did not circle round the Faga Bella as stated in the Journal. To understand the Morion range it must be clearly understood that from Bionaz neither M. Berio nor the little M. Faga Bella are seen, as the Clocherots ridge entirely hides them. This ridge is higher than M. Berio, and would entirely block out a view of the Morion-Faudery range from anyone standing on M. Berio. The whole range is very precipitous on the Val d'Ollomont side.

ALFRED G. TOPHAM.

THE JUNGFRAU RAILWAY. — About September 10 the Swiss papers contained announcements of the arrangements that had been made for the opening of the Jungfrau Railway on the 18th. There is a story that a gentleman once interposed in a conversation on Mont Blanc: 'Moi aussi j'ai fait l'ascension au Mont Blanc, pas tout à fait au sommet, mais jusqu'au Montenvers.' On this principle the Jungfrau Railway may be said to have been made—not quite (thank goodness) to the summit, but as far as the edge of the Eiger Glacier. The *concessionnaire* may be congratulated on having completed this section, which will doubtless pay well enough, and on having given a very successful luncheon on the occasion of its opening. One of the speakers is reported to have declared that as much interest was taken in the undertaking in England as in Switzerland—a phrase which may have more than one interpretation. M. Guyer-Zeller is now engaged in forming a company to carry on the work, which has hitherto been in his own hands. His countrymen do not seem very anxious to invest their francs; it remains to be seen whether the American dollars will be more confiding. The investment may be safely recommended to any persons who have money they want to get rid of.

The tunnel has progressed several hundred yards, the work having been carried on steadily since last autumn. At this rate it ought easily to be finished in 1910; the date, 1904, given in the reports is an obvious transposition of the figures.

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IN MEMORIAM.

FRANCIS ASTON-BINNS.

THIS season has been the most disastrous in my recollection except that of 1882 when Balfour and Penhall lost their lives. These deaths came close to me, for Penhall was a pupil of mine, and Balfour was one at whose feet I sat in reverence. But this year a friendship has been torn from my life by the death of Francis Aston-Binns, and the Alpine Club has suffered the loss of one of its most enthusiastic members. He had climbed with me this summer with more energy and enjoyment than ever before in our companionship of ten years. We began early in August with a training walk up the Val de Bagnes, and traversed the Rosa Blanche, then crossed the Bec d'Epicoun to reach Bionaz in the Valpelline, and in that district we climbed the Dent di Vessona, Mt. Morion, and Mt. Faudéry. At Saas we made an attack upon the Dom, but were beaten back at the sleeping place by a storm; we climbed the Weissmies by the long arête from the Laquinjoch, and when my holiday was over, Aston-Binns ascended the Südlensspitz and Nadelhorn. On September 4, in the Chamonix district, he ascended the Little Dru, on September 8 the Aiguille Blaitière, on the 10th the Aiguille du Tacul, on the 13th the Chardonnet; on the 15th, with Xaver Imseng, he traversed the five points of the Aiguille des Charmoz, and reached the summit before noon. In the descent the fatal fall occurred which cost both their lives, the bodies being found in a crevasse below the upper Séracs of the Glacier des