

## THE NEW EDITION OF BALL'S 'ALPINE GUIDE.'

HAVING undertaken, at the request of the Committee, the general editorship of the new edition of the second volume of Ball's 'Alpine Guide,' I venture to appeal to members of the Alpine Club and mountaineers generally for assistance. It is obvious that the revision of a work dealing with so wide a region can only be satisfactorily accomplished by the co-operation of many climbers and lovers of the Alps. Such help was freely accorded to Mr. Ball in the preparation of the first edition, and it is more needful than ever now, for the present editor cannot lay claim to the minute personal knowledge which Mr. Coolidge was able to bring to bear on the revision of the volume already published. While my special object in writing these lines is to appeal for help of a general character, I may take the opportunity to mention that, although definite promises of literary assistance have been received for most of the sections, there are still a few for which (at the time of writing) no one has volunteered, viz. 26 (Forest Cantons), 28 (Säntis District), 38 (Bergamasque Valleys), and 39 (Val Camonica District); and I shall be very glad to hear from anyone who will undertake to revise the whole or part of any one of these.

The volume now to be taken in hand embraces the whole of Switzerland (except the region of the Pennine Alps), together with the Italian valleys between the Simplon and the Lake of Garda and those portions of the Tyrol and Vorarlberg that lie to the W. of the Adige and the Inn (from Finstermünz to Landeck) and are bounded on the N. by the line of the Arlberg Railway. General information of all kinds will be welcome; but I may mention the following points in regard to which notes will be especially useful:—

Details as to unfrequented routes, whether described in the former edition or not.

Information as to new or little-known expeditions that can be recommended as worth being made more frequently.

Accounts of important variations on the ordinary routes of peaks or passes. Such are often caused by the opening of a new inn or hut.

Recent information in regard to portions of routes liable to frequent change, *e.g.* as to passing difficult ice-falls or getting on or off glaciers.

Notes as to inns, in regard to which the former edition contained a great deal of first-hand information.

I shall gratefully acknowledge all communications. They may be addressed to me at the Alpine Club, 23 Savile Row, W., or (except during the winter months) may be sent direct to Berkeley Lodge, Ridgway, Wimbledon. They should reach me not later than November 1, 1902, in any case, but the earlier they can be forwarded the better.

A. V. VALENTINE-RICHARDS.