

Westman, J. Beobachtungen ü. die Gletscher v. Sulitelma u. Älmajalos. 8vo, pp. 45-78; map, ill. In 'Bull. Geolog. Inst. University of Upsala.' iv. pt. 1, no. 7. 1899

An elaborate account of the observations made by the Author in the years 1897-8 on some of the glaciers on the northern borders of Norway and Sweden, with the most accurate map yet published of the district.

(Presented by the University.)

Wilson, E. L. Mount Washington in Winter. 8vo, pp. 135-155; ill. In 'Scribner's Magazine,' New York. Feb. 1891

[Reprinted in 'Mountain Climbing,' Scribner, 1897.]

Workman, Mrs. F. Bullock. Amid the Snows of Baltistan. 8vo, pp. 74-86; ill. In 'Scottish Geog. Mag.', xvii, 2. February, 1901

(Presented by the R. Scot. Geog. Soc.)

NEW EXPEDITIONS IN 1900—*continued.*

CENTRAL CAUCASUS.

Kuish Group.

THIS is not so much a report on new feats as a number of questions to Messrs. Collier, Newmarch, and Solly, and to 'a person or persons unknown.'

CHARINDA (8,572 m. = 11,700 ft.).—These are name and height given (on the one-verst map) to the mountain which my wife and I, with Muratbi as porter, reached on August 19 in 7 hrs. from Prince Dadeshkeliani's house in Ezeri (Barshi). We had aimed at a peak visible from Ezeri (always $z = ts$) and situated between Charinda and Zyrniar (8,200 m.). It has no name on the one-verst map, and I propose to call it 'Little Charinda.' Its height should be about 500 ft. lower than the chief summit. This latter we gained by the connecting ridge and the S. face, which offered a good scramble over fair rocks. From the top an instructive photograph of the Kuish group was obtained. For the descent we used the somewhat rotten W. ridge, which we subsequently left in order to cross the small glacier and the watershed intervening between us and the Ezeri valley.

No traces of previous ascents were found on any of the summits. Charinda is identical with the Bak of Freshfield's map, and thus probably the peak climbed by Mr. Collier and his party in 1894.

To the W. of Charinda is a high pass called Bak on the new Russian map, but which according to native statements ought to be named Ha-il. The designation Bak Pass had better be reserved to the important and much-frequented col leading to Maseri. It appears that 'Bak' is a collective name given to everything and anything at the head of the Ezeri shelf. But, besides it, special names exist. There are now two Bak Passes on the Russian map—a state of things which ought never to be allowed, even if the objectionable method of inventing new names has to be followed as a last resource.

ZALMAG (8,992 m. = 13,090 ft.).—The new map calls it Zalgmil,

but I prefer the name used by me, as I always heard it like that from natives in various valleys. We climbed it on August 27 by the S. (S.S.W.) face and the S.E. ridge from a camp near the glacier. A night had been spent at the village of Zoleri, and a delightful ride along the Kwa, that most colossal of grass ridges, brought us to the camping ground (c. 8,000 m.).

In Freshfield's book Zalmag is still described as unclimbed; and, as since the publication of that work hardly any climbing had been done in the Caucasus, I expected a virgin prize, the more so as our doyen promised a 'sharp climb.' To my great disgust I discovered a stone-man about 100 ft. under the top, on the ridge. It was a fine piece of work, very thin, very high, and very solid, but contained no cards.

I wrote to several gentlemen about this; but none of them were able to throw any light on the mystery. A Russian topographer is hardly to be thought of, as the rocks, though not difficult, are too repulsive for non-mountaineers. Native hunters do not build cairns to amuse themselves.

Did Collier and party cross a great amount of glacier? If so their Bak might be identical with either Zalmag or its neighbour Liadeval. But the distance from the Becho valley is extremely long, and I may perhaps not seriously suggest the possibility. If anybody climbed Zalmag since the publication of Freshfield's book a mere mistake in nomenclature would be quite inexcusable, for the mountain is far too conspicuous. It is the boldest object in Lower Suanetia.

Ushba Group.

TOTAN.—This is an unimportant summit rising from the pass S.E. of Gulba, and it is about 600 ft. lower than that mountain. My wife and I ascended it on September 9, during one of our photographic excursions, from the Gul Moraine, where we camped for a whole week in splendid weather.

Leila Group.

LEILA PASS.—We were, I believe, the first party to cross by this glorious and magnificent route. One ought to speak of the Leila Passes, for west of the Leila peaks the chain diverges into two branches imprisoning the Khudesh valley. Over the higher and snowy spur we have the pass Pitchkhan (c. 8,500 m. = 11,400 ft.). Then one loses many hundred feet in height until the lower of the two passes is gained. This latter the natives call Leila (c. 8,100 m. = 10,000 ft.). The view from the higher pass only shows Elbrus and Dongusorun. From the second the central mountains stand revealed, with Ushba boldly in front of the spectator.

From Lentekhi one follows the Kheledula valley past the villages of Khelade (2 hrs.) and Katchwash (2 hrs.), until after six or seven hours (walking distances) the mouth of the Djudari valley is reached. On Freshfield's map the Djudari branches off too soon

from the main valley, I think; also the direction of the latter seems to be more S.E. The district has been surveyed for the 1-verst map, if I was rightly informed, but the sheets are not given to outsiders.

There are a few houses at the point where Djudari and Kheledula join. The view of the Leila peak from here is an astonishing revelation. Rising at the extremity of a long, straight, narrow ditch full of black firs, the Leila cleaves the sky like a wedge of rock and ice.

From the last houses (which will not be the last very long) one has to struggle for 5 hrs. through grand forests until the valley suddenly opens out into the park-like circus of Skimeri. This place alone repays all the trouble one has taken in choosing this route. Surrounded by an amphitheatre of snowy crests we find a wonderful garden composed of virgin forests and pastures, of clumps of graceful trees and lovely glades, all untouched by the hand of man or the browsing of cattle. Prince Otar Dadeshkeliani has selected this unique valley, which forms part of the family properties, to construct a summer house, which is to be inhabited in 1901. In connection therewith the path through the jungle of Djudari will be made easy for horses.

From Skimeri it takes 10 hrs. to get to Zkhomari, in the Ingur valley, and the peak can easily be added. The route is self-evident from the first. The only precaution necessary is a supply of dry stockings in one's knapsack, for one has to wade during 8 hrs. through grass which is more than knee-deep. When wet it soaks the legs in a surprisingly short time.

No climber will wish to miss the Leila Pass. The heavy baggage can be sent round by Latpari. In Skimeri circus fine large trees are found at great heights, providing splendid shelter and fire wood. There is an ideal camping place, with water quite near, in the highest clump of trees on the conspicuous green ridge coming down from the pass.

W. R. RICKMERS.

ALPINE NOTES.

'THE ALPINE GUIDE.'—Copies of Vol. I. of the new edition of this work, price 12s. net, and of 'Hints and Notes, Practical and Scientific, for Travellers in the Alps' (being a new edition of the General Introduction), price 3s., can be obtained from all book-sellers, or from Messrs. Stanford, Charing Cross.

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THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY, 1900.—Rev. C. H. Hawkins (1872).

PROFESSOR OTTO TORELL.—We learn with deep regret that Professor Torell, who was the oldest honorary member of the