

carry their lives in their own hands, and perhaps the safer plan for future expeditions of this kind will be to make the ascent roped in the usual way on snow 'raquettes,' carrying the skis on the back. On the descent the risk of breaking through the snow covering during the rapid progress on skis would of course be very much less than on the ascent.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

The Alps in 1864: a Private Journal. By A. W. Moore. Edited by A. B. W. Kennedy, LL.D., F.R.S. (Edinburgh: Douglas. 1902.) 36s. net.

WITH bibliomaniacs, Alpine or other, it is not so much the quality as the quantity—or rather the lack of quantity—in the supply that regulates the demand. Comparatively few copies of Moore's original volume were printed, and these were given away solely among friends, many of whom are happily still living, and little likely to part with the valued memorial of an old comrade. This fact would in itself sufficiently account for the high price members of a younger generation have hitherto had to pay for the work. But 'The Alps in 1864' has no lack of quality; we doubt if an uncut copy of it could be found in the market. It is, perhaps, the most authentic, exact, and vivid record of what climbing was to early explorers of the High Alps. To some modern readers this may seem exaggerated praise. It is praise, however, that involves a grain of criticism.

In the mountains Moore was a mountaineer pure and simple. Throwing aside official duties and the cares of statesmanship, he gave himself up to his passion for the Alps—a love undistracted by any subsidiary preoccupations, whether scientific, literary, or artistic. But even in his holiday humour he could not help being thorough; he put forth all his singular energy of disposition and accuracy of mind both in his expeditions and in the careful Journals that recorded them. Moore was of rare endurance, and on a path a very quick walker, but his short sight made him painstaking rather than brilliant as a climber. Without being nervous he was always sensitive to danger; he was never ashamed of finding a place difficult, and never forgetful of a mountaineer's first duty—to run no risk for himself or his companions that pains can avoid or care diminish. Yet the present difficulty or danger seldom absorbed him so as to prevent his appreciation of the landscape. A truer lover of nature never lived; and there was no kind of mountain scenery that did not appeal to him. 'No one really knows a group till he has been up and down all its valleys' was a proposition the present writer heard him enunciate to a perplexed and incredulous votary of the old Riffelhaus. One of the discoverers and few frequenters of the Valleys of Ticino, he would have shaken his finger—a familiar gesture the Club once knew well—with unusual emphasis at any Member who had in his

time ventured to suggest that the Canton might with advantage be omitted from the 'Alpine Guide.'

When Moore sat down to write out his Journal it was to please himself and his intimates. He had no ambition to be eloquent; he never aimed at effect, though he sometimes achieved it; he seldom, and then by chance, as it were, selected and enlarged on any particular incident; he had not even a corner of his eye on the public, much less on a publisher. In small things he was something of an egotist. He was critically interested in himself; his own occasional mischances, or his doubtless at the time suppressed emotions during 'a bad five minutes,' his enjoyment of the flesh-pots of an Alpine inn—all the incidents, great and small, that form the memories of a successful journey were faithfully and humorously set down in these Private Journals. Their pages have, consequently, something of the engaging frankness of the best autobiographies. They are, in fact, a fragment of the autobiography of a typical mountaineer.

Professor Kennedy, by conspicuously emblazoning on the back of his new volume the old title, 'The Alps in 1864: a Private Journal,' challenges our verdict on the question whether such a Journal should be given to the world. We believe that he will be honourably acquitted of any indiscretion by Moore's old friends, as he certainly will be by the general public. He has obviously entered on his task in a spirit of becoming piety and with the desire to do all possible honour to his forerunner. The new edition is produced in an attractive form. By adding four chapters from Moore's subsequent MS. diaries its bulk and interest have been increased. One of these additions records an expedition of which Moore habitually spoke with peculiar respect—the passage from the Geschenen Thal to the Rhône Glacier over the Winter Joch—while the others deal with the Mönch, the Grandes Jorasses, and the Miage route up Mont Blanc. We wish that room could have been found for Moore's papers on mountaineering in winter ('Alpine Journal,' vol. iv. p. 309; vol. v. p. 62), of which by his passages of the Strahleck and Finsteraarjoch in 1866 he set the fashion in this country. The maps that accompanied the original volume have been wisely reproduced without alteration.

The numerous photographic illustrations are many of them (*e.g.* in the case of the view of the Ecrins) of essential service in illustrating the narrative, while in other cases commendable pains have been taken to obtain variety of atmospheric effect. The arrangement of the plates, however, is occasionally bewildering. We spent some minutes in attempting to trace a connection with the Wetterlücke in a view which finally revealed itself to be in Val d'Anniviers. And this is not a solitary case. A portrait of Moore, from a drawing, given as the frontispiece, will be welcome to his surviving friends, while Mr. Horace Walker's 'obituary note,' reprinted from this 'Journal,' forms an appropriate addition to the Preface.

The notes the editor has thought it necessary to add are arranged

at the end of the chapters, so as not to interfere with the perusal of the text. How far they are complete or exact as to Dauphiné there is only, perhaps, one person living who would venture to pronounce offhand. We have made no close inspection, and can only note a few corrections. The Carte Vicinale, framed for administrative rather than topographical purposes, is not 'the best' for a mountaineer (p. 17). There is a pass across the ridge of the Meije from N. to S., the Brèche J. Turc (p. 47; 'Alpine Journal,' vol. xvii. p. 571). The col crossed by Mons. B. de Castelnaud is now known to have been not the Col des Bans, but the Col de la Pilatte (p. 118; 'Rev. Alpine,' vol. iv. p. 322). The omission to refer to Mons. Durier's volume on Mt. Blanc seems to us regrettable (p. 158); Mr. Mummery's passage of the Col des Courtes has been overlooked (p. 181; 'Alpine Journal,' vol. xvii. p. 251). The Dom was first climbed in 1858, not 1859 (p. 244; 'Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers'). François Dévouassoud was the leading guide in the first passage of the Bies Joch in 1862 by two Frenchmen (p. 278; Studer, vol. ii. p. 320). Mont Blanc de Seillon was climbed in 1865, not 1854 (p. 279; Studer, vol. ii. p. 396). Why is Mr. Coolidge's climb direct to the top of Mt. Blanc by the Brenva route omitted (p. 393; 'Alpine Journal,' vol. v. p. 185)? The note (p. 410) on the Zadezan-Arolla Passes does not seem to be in accordance with the last edition of Ball's 'Western Alps.'

While we entirely agree with the editor that it is 'very interesting' to compare Moore's account of the ascent of the Ecrins with that first given by Mr. Whymper in the 'Alpine Journal,' and repeated in 'Scrambles in the Alps,' we cannot acquiesce in his further belief that 'there is no disagreement between the two accounts.' To the average reader they must seem to differ throughout, just as accounts written by two men of very different temperaments, habits and professions might in such a case be expected to differ. For instance, the details with regard to the circumstances attending the change of route in the ascent are a little difficult—unless for a trained theologian—to harmonise, though doubtless each records with accuracy the impressions and recollections of its writer. And there are minor yet not unimportant discrepancies even in matters of fact. For instance, was Almer roped or unroped when the snow gave way with him on the final ridge? He cannot have been both; and that the snow gave way with him on two exactly similar occasions—though, perhaps, the natural supposition for a commentator—seems unlikely. Again in the descent the incidents one narrative emphasises the other omits. Moore dwells on the passage of an appalling knife-edge. But he makes no reference whatever to a leap made by Almer during the descent, the recollection of which suggested to Mr. Whymper's artistic instinct one of the most telling illustrations in his 'Scrambles in the Alps.' This woodcut was first published seven years after the event, but Mr. Whymper has recently vouched for its substantial accuracy, and it may be noted that it represents Moore in a position whence he could not see the leap, which Mr. Whymper further tells us proved 'easy enough'

for the rest of the party. The best explanation of these and similar divergencies is probably to be found in the fact that Moore did not print his Journal in order to confirm his companion's narrative. His object, as he put it to his friends, was to give them an independent account from his own point of view of expeditions which seemed to him deserving of a fuller record than that contained in Mr. Whymper's 'Alpine Journal' article.

Alaska; giving the Results of the Harriman Alaska Expedition, carried out with the Co-operation of the Washington Academy of Sciences. 2 vols. With Maps, numerous Plates, Coloured and Photogravure, and Text Figures. (London: Murray. 1902.) 3l. 3s. net.

This handsome book, of composite authorship, has a rather unusual origin. A wealthy American had planned a summer cruise along the Alaska coast 'for the pleasure and recreation of his family and a few friends.' But a large steamer had to be chartered, to avoid unnecessary risks, so he determined to add guests whose special knowledge would make the expedition not only more instructive to the original party but also a gain to science. So when the steamer left Seattle for the Alaskan coast it had on board twenty-five scientific men, with artists, photographers, and stenographers, seven in all, besides the host's own party of fourteen, the ship's crew, packers, camp hands, and others, altogether numbering 126. The original intention had been to stop short at Kadiak Island, at the mouth of Cook Inlet; but the plan was greatly extended, for the vessel not only rounded the Alaska Peninsula but also touched at some of the islands in Behring Sea, going as far N. as Port Clarence, at the southern opening of Behring Strait, besides visiting the Siberian shore at Plover Bay. As this was a coasting trip its members seldom penetrated far inland, and no mountain-climbing worthy of the name was attempted; but though as a rule the scientific work was done in the immediate neighbourhood of the vessel large and interesting collections were obtained of rocks and fossils, of plants and animals. These will be described in a special series of volumes, but, as the editor, Dr. Merriam, remarks, they have already supplied material for twenty-two papers to the 'Proceedings of the Washington Academy of Sciences.' So much has still to be done in exploring this lonely and intricate coast that collectors find plenty to reward them even in the neighbourhood of the sea. Birds are abundant both on it and on the land, many of the latter being visitants to California in the winter season. The Rufous Humming Bird was not uncommon as far N. as latitude 58°, but is surpassed in beauty by the Kadiak Pine Grosbeak. Mammals are few, but the host himself had the satisfaction of shooting a Kadiak bear and cub—*Ursus Middendorfi*, if it be a distinct species.

As we have said no mountain-climbing was done, but glaciers were visited, and one discovery of interest was made—a fjord some dozen miles long, surrounded by snowy mountains and glaciers, the entrance to which is believed to have been hitherto unnoticed. Professor Muir, whose name is borne by one of the great glaciers

which he may be said to have discovered in 1879, near Mt. St. Elias, describes the ice-clad region. This forms a belt about 2,000 miles long, mostly narrow and broken in the southern half, broad and continuous in the northern one, which extends through British Columbia and south-eastern Alaska. Here the great mountains along the coast are usually covered with snow; glaciers descend into the valleys, and come down lower as they increase in size, till between latitude 56° and 61° they sometimes reach the sea. This district, about 500 miles long and 100 broad, in which the mountains rise highest, probably includes nine-tenths of the ice on the coast. Many glaciers stop just short of the water, the largest being the well-known Malaspina, at the base of the St. Elias range. This, about twenty-five miles long, and sixty-five or seventy wide, is a typical example of a piedmont glacier—one where a number of ice streams descending from a range unite in a kind of lake at its base. But more than thirty glaciers (Professor Muir himself has seen twenty-eight) reach the sea and discharge bergs. We can obtain an excellent idea of the scenery from the numerous photographic illustrations, but Mt. St. Elias has already figured in this 'Journal' * in Dr. De Filippi's account of its ascent by the Duke of the Abruzzi, but it is only one of a scattered army of giants, by one at least of which—Mt. McKinley (20,464 ft.)—it is overtopped. Perhaps the greatest charm of the scenery is the combination of forest and glacier, as in Switzerland, the latter sometimes ploughing its way through the former. But on the whole the ice is retreating, and in some cases rather rapidly; then the trees pursue it, and the bare waste is again covered with verdure. West of Kadiak the scenery changes, trees becoming rarer and vast expanses of grass replacing forests. Here it is less attractive, and apparently oscillates between that of the west coast of Norway north of the Lofotens and Spitsbergen. Studies of Alaska are of special value to geologists, for they help them to form a mental picture of many parts of the Alps and some even of our own islands in the Great Ice Age. The travellers landed on Bogoslof Island, which 'has been in recent years the seat of more violent volcanic activity, and has undergone greater changes of form than any other part of North America.' Old Bogoslof, as the earlier part is called, was thrown up in 1796, and a companion volcano was born in 1883. Here the scientific members of the expedition did work which will be of great value to future students. We must leave unnoticed many things in this interesting work, and content ourselves by saying that it is a valuable record of a journey which, by the liberality of Mr. Harriman, was transformed from a mere pleasure trip to an expedition resulting in real additions to knowledge.

Zeitschrift des D. O. A.-V. (vol. xxxii. 1901.)

THIS is, as usual, a beautiful volume, with twenty-three full-page illustrations and about 100 others in the text, largely from the

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xix. p. 116.

brush of Mr. E. T. Compton, who seems to be the official artist of the Club. Quite one-third of the volume is occupied with articles of historical or scientific interest which it would require an expert to criticise. Dr. C. Diener writes of the formation of the Eastern Alps, their origin and present condition. Herr Eugen Oberhummer describes the old maps of the Alpine regions, with numerous illustrations from the second century A.D. to the eighteenth. Herr Franz Ramsauer describes the Alps as known to the ancients—their form, position, extent, the passes, productions, &c., with many hundred references to ancient authors.

Herr Hans v. Zwiedineck-Sudenhorst contributes another article on the Eastern Alps during the French wars—the campaign of 1813. Dr. Ludwig v. Hörmann writes on national characteristics in Tyrol. The article sums up his impressions derived from the examination of the upper and the lower Innthal; the Wipptal from Innsbruck to Brixen; the Pusterthal and the Vintschgau. It would, however, require a lengthened and extensive study to speak with any certainty. Amongst the various traits of character two stand out conspicuously in the Tyrolese, the love of home and of their native land. Prof. Dr. Karl Puntschart describes the ceremonies used in the Middle Ages at the installation of the Dukes of Carinthia and the homage paid to them at the Fürstenstein (prince's stone), near Karlbürg, N. of Klagenfurt. This was made up of some Roman remains, so as to form two seats looking E. and W. The Duke in peasant attire, with a numerous train of nobles, appeared before the stone, on which a peasant was seated. After certain questions had been asked and answered, and a certain payment made, the peasant made way for the Duke to occupy the seat. Then came the anointing by the Bishop of Gurk, and the Duke returned to the stone to receive the homage of his subjects. The stone was in 1862 enclosed by a railing, but is now transferred to the 'Wappensaal' (Hall of Arms) at Klagenfurt.

We now come to the first mountain expedition. This is the ascent of Ixtaccihuatl (5,280 m.=17,323 ft.), in Mexico, by Dr. Emanuel Böse and Ezequiel Ordoñez. This mountain is a neighbour of Popocatepetl, but is a great contrast to it; for while the ascent of the latter is tediously monotonous that of the former is full of variety, and now and then presents no little difficulty. Both mountains were ascended in the sixteenth century. The present ascent was commenced on October 30, 1898, from the village of Amecameca (2,282 m.=7,321 ft.). The first bivouac was under a rock at 3,390 m. (11,122 ft.), the second in a cave at 4,110 m. (13,485 ft.). On November 1 they started at 5.15 A.M. The snow was reached at 4,690 m. (15,387 ft.) at 7 A.M. Dr. Böse, who had the only ice-axe, had to cut about 2,000 steps! * These had to be large, for guide and porter had only sandals. The top was reached at 12 noon. On the descent they again bivouacked in a

* There must be some error. Two thousand steps in 5 hrs., more than six in a minute

cave at 3,985 m. (12,073 ft.), and the following day reached the plain. On the ascent no one seems to have suffered from sickness, but all from fatigue, requiring a halt every five minutes. Dr. Jul. Mayr describes an ascent of the Gran Sasso d'Italia. On August 5, 1898, they drove from Aquila (on the western slopes of the Apennines) to Assergi, and thence on horseback to the Rifugio di Gran Sasso (2,200 m.=7,218 ft.). This they found badly provided and the fleas terrible. On August 6, starting at 1.30, they reached the top (2,962 m.=9,720 ft.) at 4 A.M. Here they enjoyed a beautiful sunrise, and the shadow of the mountain was wonderful. After $\frac{3}{4}$ hr. halt they reached the Rifugio in 55 min. Aquila was regained at 10 A.M. and Terni at 9.30 P.M. The whole expedition, including carriage, horses, guide, 'Trinkgeld,' and hotel bill, cost only 52 lire, 26 for each traveller.

Herr Felix Cube, with his friend L. L. Kleintjes, made a number of ascents in Corsica in August 1899. With the exception of ascents of Mte. Rotondo and Mte. Cinto but little has been done in this mountain district. They made their headquarters at Calacuccia, a village on the eastern side, and from this made many excursions. Five days they spent in a 'bergerie,' a kind of 'Sennhütte,' consisting of walls with a few planks for a roof. They were, on the whole, well received by the shepherds. One evening, when the shepherds were absent, they were joined by an individual in rags with a gun and a dog. At first suspicious and silent, he presently became communicative, and spoke freely of his adventures as the hero of a vendetta, now sought for by the police. Besides Mte. Cinto and Mte. Rotondo they made ten ascents, most of which were new. Punta Minuta (2,547 m.=8,356 ft.) is said to be far more interesting than Mte. Cinto. Capo Larghia (2,520 m.=8,267 ft.), south-west of Mte. Cinto, was the most difficult.

Dr. Heinrich Pfannl, with two friends, Herren Thomas Maisberger and Franz Zimm, effected the difficult ascent of Mt. Blanc by the Aiguille Blanche de Pétéret. Leaving Courmayeur on July 22, 1900, at 8.15 A.M., they reached, about 8 P.M., a refuge on a ridge of the Aiguille Blanche. Leaving this on July 23, at 2 A.M., the aiguille was reached at 5 A.M., and Mt. Blanc at 6.30 P.M. They found the observatory occupied by a number of astronomers and porters, and had to push on to the Cabane Vallot.

Dr. V. Wessely describes the second guideless ascent of Mte. Rosa from Macugnaga. On August 9, 1900, with a friend, Dr. F. Hörtnagel, he spent the night in the Capanna Marinelli. The hut was very badly supplied; * they had to carry up wood. On August 10 they started at 1.55 A.M. The Marinelli Couloir was reached in 20 min. Hörtnagel was leading; although the entrance and exit were both difficult, and he had to cut not only steps but handholds, they both were across in 20 min. They got clear of the part exposed to avalanches in $3\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. Both of these times are the shortest known. The top was reached at 1.15 P.M., and Zermatt at 8.15 P.M.

* It is, of course, very seldom used.

Dr. Carl Blodig contributes a second article on his excursions in the Rhätikon. He has ascended all the summits of any importance, often three or four on the same day. His traverse of the Kirchlisptzen (which lie between the Scesa Plana and the Drusenfluh) from the Douglas Hut to the Lindau Hut was new. In descending from the highest peak he was in considerable difficulty for want of a rope. The section Lindau has constructed good paths in many places, notably one from S. Rochus, in the Gamperton Thal, over the Panueler Schrofén and the Scesa Plana to the Douglas Hut.

The other articles are all descriptive of groups, and are, as it were, guide-books to the districts of which they treat. An outline map is attached to each, which makes the description much more intelligible.

Dr. Hermann Ude-Bernays describes the Parzin group, in the Lechthaler Alps (Parzin Spitze, 8,463 ft.). This lies N.W. of Imst, between the Lechthal and the Innthal. It was formerly little visited, but is now rendered more accessible from the Muttekopf Hut (6,400 ft.), on the S. ($3\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. from Imst), and the Hanauer Hut (1,920 m. = 6,300 ft.), on the N., in the Angerle Thal, above Boden. The scenery is equal to anything in the Dolomites.

Herr H. Krantz, who last year wrote of the Steinberg of Lofér, now describes the Steinberg of Leogang. This is a small mountain group to the S. of the Lofér group. Its highest summit is the Birnhorn (2,620 m. = 8,595 ft.). The Passauer Hut (6,600 ft.), on the Mittagscharte ($3\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. from Leogang), facilitates excursions. The Birnhorn can be reached in about 3 hrs. from the hut, but is difficult.

Dr. Guido Eugen Lammer (who, with Herr Lorria, long ago made many remarkable ascents) describes the Texelspitze group, N.W. of Meran. This lies between the Schnalser Thal, the Passeier Thal, and the lateral valleys Pfossenthal and Pfelderthal. The group has been much more visited since the building of the Stettin Hut, on the Eisjochl, between the two latter valleys, and of the Lodner Hut, in the Zielthal. The highest summit is the Texelspitze (8,820 m. = 10,892 ft.), which is accessible by six different routes.

Herr Adolf Stirner describes the W. part of the Julian Alps about Raibl. Twenty years ago it was said that the portions here were larger and the prices less than in any part of the Eastern Alps. But in spite of this the number of visitors seems to decrease. The district is in the charge of the Villach section, which has three huts, on the Manhart, the Wischberg, and in the Seissera Thal. These huts are said to be often robbed—the Wischberg hut, indeed, every year.

Dr. Hans Wödl, who has written so much on the Niedere Tauern, describes the Biegegebirge (Bent hills), in the Carnic Alps. These lie in a semicircle round the Upper Wolayerthal. The highest summit is the Seekopf (2,550 m. = 8,366 ft.). The party made the first guideless ascent on June 29, 1898, not without difficulty. The picture of a certain traverse looks anything but pleasant. The

group has been thoroughly explored by Pietro Samassa, a well known chamois-hunter and poacher of Collina (al Leone), near Forni Avoltri (Sottocorona).

Herr H. Steinitzer contributes another article on the Carnic Voralpen, illustrated by the pencil of his friend Reschreiter. This comprehends the district of Claut, chiefly the Cridola and Premaggiore and the mountains between them. Many new ascents were made, but mostly of little account. On the attached map the fountains are all marked, showing how generally dry the district is.

Sonnets in Switzerland and Italy. By Canon H. D. Rawnsley.
(London: Dent. 1899.) 4s. 6d.

The sonnet is a literary form which requires much practice before a writer of verse can handle it with ease. Canon Rawnsley has had very considerable practice, and the sonnets in this volume run with smoothness, and the matter of the sonnets expresses an even affection for the scenes of nature and steady kindliness to humanity. It is no disparagement of such a volume as this to say that one does not, of course, look for original poetic feeling in it, but the sonnets describe much which lies near the hearts of our readers, and the reading of them may perhaps awaken pleasant memories. The sonnet to Ulrich Lauener may be given as a fair specimen.

Last veteran of a lion-hearted band,
Withered of form, in spirit unsubdued,
The conqueror of the mountain solitude,
He stood alone; his snow-seared eyes still scanned
The well-loved heights: I held his horny hand,
That hand so sure in all vicissitude,—
And this was he who first of men had stood
On many a virgin peak of Oberland;
And this was he who well had fenced with death,
Who well had kept all charges to him given.
Now he was old, his bones were racked with pain.
'Farewell,' I cried, and, 'Brave heart, we meet again!'
And Ulrich answered grave, beneath his breath,
'Master, no more on earth! perchance in heaven.'

Cose d' Alpinismo. Di Mario Cermenati. 8vo. Pp. 363. (Roma: Soc. Editrice Dante Alighieri. 1901.) Lire 3.50.

Most of the matter in this book has been already printed in the publications of the Italian Alpine Club and in less accessible form elsewhere, but we are glad to see the whole brought together in one volume. The chapter on royal mountaineers is specially interesting in the history of mountaineering. The matter is not new, but it is presented in a much more readable form than is usual in dealing with isolated items of history. Hadrian at least twice climbed a mountain-top to admire sunrise, Peter III. of Aragon made a solitary ascent of Canigou, while Charles VIII. vicariously enjoyed the ascent of Mont Aiguille, up which he sent some of his courtiers. The contrast is great between the scant references of centuries dealt with in this chapter and the account of school climbing dealt with in the first chapter. Once it was the rarest

event for any one who could avoid it to climb a hill, now it is very common to have school parties, regularly organised by the local sections of the alpine clubs, trained in the art of mountaineering. A suggestive chapter of this book is one in which the writer shows how often in literature a true love for mountain scenery has been combined with a love for the sea—though perhaps the writer carries his idea too far, for not every mind is so balanced as to love the depths because it also loves the heights.

Vette e Ghiacci. Di Alfredo Baccelli. 8vo. Pp. 216; ill. (Roma: Soc. Edit. Dante Alighieri. 1901.) Lire 2.50.

Balda esultanza palpita in cuore;
Negli occhi il cielo ampio e le nevi;
S' apre alla mente l' onda infinita;
Ride la vita.

So writes the author of this pleasant, light-hearted book, in prose and verse, on the scenery of the Alps. Excursions, climbs, legends, local incidents are all treated in the same happy way. With this book in one's hand one's mind may wander with delight over the alpine district of the north of Italy. The illustrations are unfortunately badly printed. The book forms the first volume of a *Biblioteca dell' Alpinista* which is being issued by this society.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall on the evening of Monday, February 3, at 8.30, Sir Martin Conway, *President*, in the chair.

Messrs. A. F. Broun, G. W. Lloyd, R. J. G. Mayor, E. F. Stapleton, L. J. Steele, R. E. Thompson, D. A. F. Vesey, A. B. Walford, F. Whelan, and J. W. Wyatt were balloted for and elected members of the Club.

The PRESIDENT thanked the Club for the honour done him in electing him as President.

Dr. COLLIE read a paper entitled 'The Lofoten Islands,' which was illustrated by lantern slides. Additional slides were shown by Mr. Priestman and by Mr. Woolley.

Mr. BRYCE thought that Dr. Collie had not in the least exaggerated the charm of the peaks of the islands. None of them was as high as Ben Nevis, but yet that could not be compared in grandeur to them, though it too got the full benefit of its height by rising sheer out of the sea. They resembled many other Norwegian mountains in being much harder to climb than any one would suppose from looking at them. It was true that the foregrounds lacked the beauty of the heather of Scotland, but in some valleys he had seen great masses of crimson willow-flower which had excelled the colour of the heather. The picturesque summits of the mainland and the vast expanse of the Arctic Ocean on the W. gave great variety of view.