

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.

The PRESIDENT was sure that no lover of mountains who should go to Lofoten would be unrewarded. He trusted that some member of the Club would push further north to Spitsbergen, which was only two days further on, and where the charms of the long Arctic days were more prominent even than in Lofoten.

A hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Collie brought the proceedings to an end.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall on Tuesday evening, March 4, at 8.30, Mr. Walter Leaf, *Vice-President*, in the chair.

The following candidates were balloted for and elected members of the Club:—Messrs. J. W. F. Beaumont, E. A. Kolp, C. R. Lyne, G. B. Tunstall-Moore, J. M. Whiting, and J. H. Wigner.

The HON. SECRETARY, in presenting the accounts for 1901, said that there was an increase of 45*l.* 3*s.* in the receipts from subscriptions and entrance fees as compared with the previous year, which was principally due to the increasing number of 2-guinea subscriptions. The receipts from the letting of the hall were the same as in 1900. In respect of expenditure the principal feature of the past year was that it had been extremely normal; there were no extraordinary items, and there was no exceptional expenditure of any importance under any of the ordinary headings. As compared with the year before there was a decrease of 155*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.*; nearly 100*l.* of this was due to the cost of the 'Library Catalogue' and one or two other extraordinary items which did not appear in this year's accounts; the rest resulted from a decrease on most of the other variable items. There was a decrease of 20*l.* in the net cost of the 'Alpine Journal,' but in spite of that, the cost of printing and publishing was still very high; still, after having looked carefully into the question, he thought that, though it might be further reduced, it would not be easy to make a substantial reduction, except by the application of a very large amount of time and attention to the subject, an amount to which the results obtained would perhaps be disproportionate. There did not appear to be anything noteworthy in respect of other items. There was a certain amount of give and take between one year and another, and last year had probably been rather a lucky one in this respect, and the expenditure rather below the average. The result was that there was a large excess (281*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*) of income over expenditure; and this, together with the balance from the previous year and that on the Ball republication account, brought the total balance in hand last December up to 500*l.* He considered that that sum, together with the proceeds of sales, which might fairly be expected to be as large as those of volume i., ought to be very nearly, if not quite, sufficient to cover the cost of the second volume of the 'Alpine Guide,' and, though balances as large as in the present year could not be expected, it ought to be possible to lay aside a substantial reserve fund before the expiration of the lease in 1910.

Mr. PUCKLE suggested that a further effort might be made to

induce those members who still paid one guinea to pay two guineas as subscription ; but this proposal did not meet with support.

In reply to a question by Mr. SHEA, the HON. SECRETARY explained that the Club had agreed to make the general funds of the Club chargeable with the cost of the second volume of the 'Alpine Guide.'

The accounts were then passed.

Mr. A. P. HARPER gave an account of his work in the Alps of New Zealand, with lantern slide illustrations.

Mr. WOOLLEY asked whether the statement that the Franz Josef Glacier moved 15 ft. a day was made as the result of careful measurement, for the movement of European glaciers was at the most 3 ft. He also asked if Mr. Harper had himself seen many avalanches fall over the precipices at the end of the snowfields above the main portions of disconnected glaciers.

Mr. LEAF thanked Mr. Harper for the beautiful photographs shown, and a vote of thanks was heartily accorded by the meeting.

Mr. HARPER, in reply, said that he had made the glacier measurements with great care with a prismatic compass, and had found the highest rate to be 207 in. in 24 hrs. This might be a little over or under the mark, but the figures were approximately correct; he had gone very fully into the question of glacier-movement in his book. He had placed a row of pegs across the glacier from a fixed point, and three days later laid another row from the same point and measured the distance between the two rows. When kept in camp by wet weather he had watched the glacier for hours at a time and had been able to see the actual movement after a few hours. The Franz Josef Glacier fell 1,000 ft. per mile ; it lay in a rock valley in a warm climate with an annual rainfall of 126 in., and no wonder therefore that it should move rapidly. With regard to avalanches over the precipices in disconnected glaciers, he had heard as many as twenty-five fall in an hour on a wet night, and had seen them constantly falling in the daytime. The névé was sometimes infinitesimally small compared with the trunk of the glacier. The rainfall of the West Coast crossed the divide only a little over one mile.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall on Tuesday evening, April 8, at 8.30, Mr. Hermann Woolley, *Vice-President*, in the chair.

Messrs. W. E. Fielden, T. G. Ouston, and C. M. Spurling were balloted for and elected members of the Club.

The VICE-PRESIDENT informed the meeting of the death of Mr. A. Croft.

He also announced that Dr. Franz Schrader, President of the French Alpine Club, and Dr. Fritjof Nansen had been chosen honorary members of the Club.

He also stated that Mrs. William Mathews had presented to the Club a framed sketch of a portion of the range of Mont Blanc made by Elijah Walton.

With regard to the proposed arrangements for the Winter Dinner, the VICE-PRESIDENT said that the Committee had very carefully considered the question, and having taken into consideration the reluctance of many members, including the President, to sever their connection with the present room, and the likelihood that no other rooms would be so comfortable or so convenient for hearing the speeches, had decided to propose that similar rules to those of last year be applicable to the introduction of guests this year. Only two changes of any importance in last year's rules were suggested, viz. that the number of tickets to be balloted for should be 90 instead of 80, and that the applications be sent in a week earlier.

Dr. KENNEDY had pleasure in moving that the regulations submitted by the Committee be approved and adopted. The choice was to go back to the old plan of an overflow room, to adopt the regulations, or to go to other rooms, and he thought that the balance of advantage rested with the plan proposed by the Committee.

Dr. SAVAGE seconded the motion, as he considered that the plan had worked smoothly, and that it should be once more tried.

A member wished to know more fully what were the objections to a change of place which had led the Committee to suggest limiting the size of a dinner to which very many wished to be invited.

Mr. PICKFORD said that the matter of change of place had been very carefully considered by the Committee. The reasons against change were that the Club had long gone to the present room and had found everything there most satisfactory, and that the Committee had been unable to hear of any other room in which the dinner was likely to be so well provided, and, what was more important, in which the speeches could be at all so well heard.

Mr. WOLLASTON thought that it had been a serious drawback to the ballot that it gave too short a time for the inviting of guests; but he considered that the earlier date for sending in applications met this objection.

Mr. SHEA, from his experience of various large dining-rooms in London, confirmed what Mr. Pickford had said as to the Whitehall Rooms being the best for speaking and for hearing.

The motion was then put to the meeting and carried by a large majority, viz. that the following regulations hold for guest tickets at the Winter Dinner in December:—

(1) The President shall be entitled to two guest-tickets, the Vice-Presidents and the Hon. Sec. to one guest-ticket each.

(2) Each Member may apply for one guest-ticket, and on Tuesday, November 11, 90 guest-tickets shall be balloted for by all Members whose applications for them shall have been received on or before Monday, November 10, if such applications amount to more than 90. The priorities of all the applicants shall be determined by the ballot, and any guest-tickets which may become available subsequently shall be allotted accordingly. The result of the ballot shall be communicated immediately to all applicants, and posted in the Club-rooms.

(3) If less than 90 applications are received by Monday, November 10, the

excess shall remain in the hands of the Hon. Sec., to be allotted by him according to priority of application.

(4) The Committee shall have a discretionary power to allot guest-tickets not exceeding five in number, independently of the ballot.

(5) Seats shall be reserved for Members elected on December 15, provided that notice of their intention to be present is received from their proposers on or before Friday, December 12, and seats shall not be guaranteed to other Members unless their applications are received on or before that date.

(6) Notice of the above regulations shall be given by circular in May and October, but no applications for guest-tickets or seats shall be received before the issue of the October circular.

Mr. J. J. WITHERS read a paper entitled 'From Vallouise to Courmayeur,' which was illustrated by lantern slides.

Dr. KENNEDY differed from Mr. Withers as regards the appearance of the country, for he found that only portions of the high ground were covered with green, and that near the Aiguilles d'Arves the ground was covered with something very like coal-dust. If any one were unfortunate enough to be detained at Modane, it might be worth his while to visit a very fine col which lay due south, and from which a very beautiful view of the Dauphiné mountains might be obtained if the weather were at all good. He had been much interested in noticing how vigorously Mr. Withers had pursued his route.

Mr. BOOTH had taken almost the same route as Mr. Withers in the reverse direction and shared his opinion of its attractions. The new hut on the Col de la Vanoise would, he believed, be finished this year, and would be a great assistance to climbers in that region. There was no hut at present on the south side of Mont Pourri.

Dr. WILLS had been in the district in 1899, and had found the inn at Ailefroide the very worst he had ever been in. The Chalet de l'Alpe, near the Col de Lauteret, was a very good place to stay in. It was a good centre with many climbs, easily accessible, and very comfortable.

Mr. KESTEVEN said that M. Torrent's solitary ascent of the southern peak of the Aiguilles d'Arves was an extraordinary feat of rock-climbing.

Mr. WOOLLEY said that Mr. Withers's paper would appeal to many mountaineers who did not care for the more noisy climbing centres but preferred mountain scenery without the 'side-shows' of such places. Of all mountain districts Dauphiné was the one that had least suffered from modern improvements. Its streams were not yet enclosed in the iron pipes of the electrical engineer. The members of the Alpine Club had from the beginning taken a leading part in opening up Dauphiné and the Western Graians. The Tarentaise had been somewhat neglected by English climbers.

A hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Withers brought the meeting to a close.