

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

La Haute-Savoie. Guide du Touriste, du Naturaliste et de l'Archéologue.
Par M. Marc Le Roux. 105 dessins et photographies. 3 cartes en couleurs. (Paris: Masson et Cie.) 4 f. 50 c.

THIS is one of a collection of guides published under the editorship of M. Marcellin Boule by Messrs. Masson, the publishers of 'La Nature.' It seems to us to be both useful and interesting. It is not only intended to serve as a guide-book in the ordinary sense, but gives considerable space to geology, climate, flora, folklore, agriculture, and history (to mention some of the principal headings of its chapters). To show its comprehensiveness we may note the remarks on agriculture (p. 146), on forests (pp. 146-7), on cheese (p. 144). One of the most interesting chapters is that entitled 'L'Homme Actuel.' We may extract from it one proverb in patois:—

'Quand ma borsa fât tin, tin,
Tot le monde ést mon cosin;
Mais quand lë fât ta, ta,
Tot le mond s'en va.'

This might easily pass as a translation of Ovid's often quoted couplet beginning, 'Donec eris felix.' The author has a pleasant sense of humour, as, for example, when he is describing wedding customs, 'tândis que les garçons exécutent des salves de coups de pistolet, pour le plus grand danger des assistants.' The maps are adequate for the ordinary traveller, and include one of the electric railway from Le Fayet to Chamonix. The illustrations are numerous, and many of them charming. A small one of 'Mégève et le Mont-Blanc' on p. 186 brought back vividly to our memory one of the finest views in the whole of the Alpine chain. One statement (on p. 210) seems to us to require a good deal of modification. 'On peut se rendre de là (le Jardin situé à l'entrée du glacier du Chardonnet et de celui des Améthystes) au Jardin de Taléfre par le col des Droites' (3,726 m.). An easy pass across this ridge has, so far as we know, yet to be discovered.

Saas-Fee und Umgebung: ein Führer durch Geschichte, Volk und Landschaft des Saasthales. Von Dr. Heinrich Dübi. With 51 Illustrations, a Panorama from the Plattje (2,578 m.), at the foot of the Mittaghorn, by M. Pierre Odier, and a map reproduced with additions and corrections from the Siegfried map. (Bern: A. Francke. 1902.)

This guide-book, as might be inferred from the author's name, is excellent of its kind. For those visitors to the Saasthal who read German it will be found very helpful. It deals not only with the mountains but with the history (the chief avalanches, for example, that have ravaged the valley will be found duly noted) and folk-lore of the valley. In Appendix A will be found a list of the Saasthal guides, while Appendix B gives the official excursion tariff. Amongst those to whom the author acknowledges his

obligations in the preface we find the name of the Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge, of whose notes on the political, Church, and commercial history of the valley he has largely availed himself. The map is taken from the Siegfried atlas, with additions and corrections. We commend the book to visitors to Saas.

Conway and Coolidge's Climbers' Guides. The Bernese Oberland. By G. Hasler. Vol. I. From the Gemmi to the Mönchjoch. Pp. xxv and 164. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 1902.)

It is hardly necessary to do more than chronicle the appearance of this the latest volume of the well-known series of 'Climbers' Guides' by Sir Martin Conway and the Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge. It is devoted to the Bernese Oberland from the Gemmi to the Mönchjoch. The second volume, already in draft, will be devoted to the mountains between the Mönchjoch and the Grimsel. 'The third and fourth volumes will be devoted to the description of the two great wings that stretch E. and W. respectively of this central mass; to the E. the Dammastock, the Sustenhorn, the Titlis, and the Uri Rothstock Groups; and to the W. those of the Wildstrubel, Wildhorn, Diablerets, and Grand Muveran.'

The book is written upon much the same lines as the previous volumes of the series, which have proved so useful to climbers, and will doubtless be found equally helpful. The author, Mr. G. Hasler, when giving in his preface the names of those to whom he has been beholden for help, remarks, 'I am also greatly indebted for much help and counsel to Mr. Coolidge, who placed at my disposal all his MS. notes, as well as his library of Alpine books. Among those notes I would specially mention the outline Climbers' Guide (from the Dent de Morcles to the Jungfrau) drafted by the lamented Mr. E. F. M. Benecke, which, especially for the Bietschhorn Group, has been of much value to me.'

Chamonix and the Range of Mont Blanc. By Edward Whympier. Seventh Edition. (London: John Murray. 1902.)

Zermatt and the Matterhorn. By the Same. Sixth Edition. Same Publisher.

These excellent guide-books have, as usual, been brought up to date. From the Chamonix guide we learn that most of the Chamonix hotels are now on the telephone. We regret to see chronicled the deaths of M. Joseph Tairraz, the well-known photographer, and of M. Venance Payot.

In the Zermatt guide we read: 'Winter set in late at Zermatt, and this year's summer has begun early. An unusual amount of snow fell in March, 1902, and in April several large avalanches came down from the Mettelhorn to the bottom of the valley and covered up both road and railway.'