

## 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 8s., can be obtained from all booksellers, or from Messrs. Stanford, 12 Long Acre, W.C.

'THE ALPINE GUIDE,' THE CENTRAL ALPS. PART I.—A new edition of this portion of the 'Alpine Guide,' by the late John Ball, F.R.S., President of the Alpine Club, reconstructed and revised on behalf of the Alpine Club under the general editorship of A. V. Valentine-Richards, Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge, is now ready, and can be obtained from all booksellers, or from Messrs. Stanford, 12 Long Acre, W.C. It includes those portions of Switzerland to the north of the Rhône and Rhine valleys.

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY IN 1908.—Sir Henry Bergne (1870), F. Hardcastle (1879).

THE HEALTH OF THE REV. W. A. B. COOLIDGE.—Dr. Dübi sends us the following letter, which we publish with much pleasure (Mr. Coolidge's recovery from a serious illness is a matter of concern and congratulation not only to our members but to all who are interested in the exploration and history of the Alps):—

'Dear Sir,—I venture to send you the following news, which will, I am sure, interest and please the members of our Club: Mr. Coolidge, after a serious and at one time alarming illness of four months, and a stay of eight weeks in the hospital at Interlaken, was, on October 2, able to return to his home at Grindelwald. He appears to be on the way to a speedy and we trust complete recovery, and has already been able to some extent to resume his literary work. Permit me to add that during his illness Mr. Coolidge was, in recognition of his many and important contributions to Swiss and Alpine history, elected an honorary member of the Schweizerische Geschichtsforschende Gesellschaft.

DR. H. DÜBI.'

ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA, SUMMER CAMP, 1909.—Mr. A. O. Wheeler, President of the Alpine Club of Canada, has invited a party of fifteen or twenty members of the Alpine Club to be the guests of the Canadian Club at their Annual Summer Camp, 1909.

Details will be communicated later, but Lake O'Hara (Canadian Rockies) is mentioned as the probable site of the Camp, and Mr. Wheeler states that the Canadian Alpine Club intends to undertake all arrangements for the comfort and entertainment of the visitors from the time of their arrival at the nearest railway station to the Camp.

Any member of the Alpine Club who may be able to accept this invitation is requested to send his name to the Assistant Secretary.

THE ITALIAN ALPINE CLUB CONGRESS.—Favoured by magnificent weather the annual gathering of the Italian Alpine Club, known as the 'Congresso degli Alpinisti Italiani,' was held this year in the Casentino, the Florence Section doing the honours for the first time for thirty-three years. Some one hundred members and foreign delegates took part in excursions in the beautiful hill region in which the Arno rises, and visited the monasteries of La Verna, Camaldoli and Vallombrosa, as well as places of interest in the valley below.

The principal events of the week's programme took place on September 12, at Camaldoli, where the 'Alpinisti' were addressed by Dr. Sanarelli, Under-Secretary for Agriculture, whose presence evinced the interest taken in, and the encouragement given to the healthiest of sports, by the Powers that be. The general meeting of the Italian Alpine Club was held in the historical library of the whilom Camaldolese convent—now an hotel; and the 'official dinner' took place in the evening in the handsome refectory of monastic times. Commendatore Grober, the veteran President of the Italian Alpine Club, was in the chair, supported by the President of the Florence Section, and by the representatives of the few foreign clubs present. Speaking in Italian after dinner, as the only Alpine Club member present, Mr. J. L. Tod-Mercer expressed the pleasure it gave him to convey the friendly greeting of the *doyen* of Alpine clubs to his Italian colleagues. Mr. Tod-Mercer went on to allude to our jubilee festivities of last winter, and to the sympathetic interest with which the Alpine Club had watched the birth and development of its Italian younger brother. He could assure his hearers that his English colleagues attached the greatest importance to the maintenance of the most cordial relations of Alpine *camaraderie* with their fellow-mountaineers of Italy, and he felt sure he was expressing the feeling of the members of the English club in wishing long life and a continuance of its present prosperity to the Italian Alpine Club.

THE NEW MAP OF THE GRAND PARADIS GROUP ('Gruppo del Gran Paradiso: Pubblicazione fatta sotto gli auspici del Club Alpino Italiano. Proprietà delle Sezioni di Torino e d'Aosta').—All mountaineers will be delighted to hear that the long promised map of the Grand Paradis Group, by S. P. Paganini, of the Istituto Geografico Militare at Florence, has now been published. We give it a very hearty welcome.

MITTAGHORN BY A ROCK RIDGE ON THE N.W. FACE.—Messrs. G. H. Bullock, H. E. G. Tyndale, and R. L. G. Irving left Obersteinberg at 2.45 A.M., and in 3 hrs. reached the Schmadri glacier, under the S. side of the Schmadri-rück, above the lower icefalls.

Crossing the ice in a S.E. direction they gained the foot of a broad ridge of rocks overlooking on the S. side a series of ice cliffs and avalanche-swept slabs of rock. The Siegfried map rather suggests there might have been continuous glacier there twenty or thirty years ago.

The rocks begin at about 10,000 ft., and the climbing is

excellent for 2,000 ft., till a wall of vertical rocks stops direct progress. A succession of short but difficult traverses to the N. and a direct climb up turned the obstacle, but the general angle of the rocks and snow-covered ice was so great that, in the absence of satisfactory belaying-pins, the position was a most uncomfortable one. The rest of the climb was quite straightforward, but it was 8 P.M. before the main S.W. ridge of the mountain was struck, 8 hrs. having been spent on the bad bit, which was less than 800 ft.

The highest point of the Mittaghorn was reached at 4 P.M., and the Lötschenlücke hut at 6, the snow on the Ebnefluhfirn being in vile condition.

The bad bit near the top spoilt what would otherwise have been a splendid route. It looked possible to avoid it by keeping further to the right lower down, but this might involve exposure to stones and even ice, from which the route followed is quite free.

This latter course was taken by Herr Dübi in 1880, though the information in the 'Climbers' Guide' scarcely implies that he was ever away from the glacier.

GROSSHORN BY THE N.E. ARÊTE (DESCENDED).—The same party left the Fafier Alp at 5, reached the Jägilücke at 8, left at 9, and reached the top of the Grosshorn by the S. ridge at 12. This ridge was heavily corniced, but the snow on the W. side was excellent. There were no signs of any previous ascents this year. Leaving the top at 12.15, the N.E. ridge was followed to a snow saddle, this being considerably the lowest depression between the Grosshorn and Mittaghorn.

The whole descent from the top of the Grosshorn was about 400 ft., and was broken by three drops, two of them difficult. The absence of suitable rocks prevented assistance from the spare rope, and the drops were turned by the slopes on the N. side. On the last 180 ft. of rope were wanted for the leader, as a descent of 120 ft. and a traverse of 50 to 60 ft. had to be made. Nearly all the climbing was on snow or ice, but one or two little bits were of a mildly gymnastic order. It took 4 hrs. to get down the ridge, but 15 min. were wasted in looking for a route on the S. side of the final drop. It would have been shorter to have continued on the ridge over a small gendarme to the Mittagjoch of the Siegfried map, and descend thence by a snow slope to the Anen glacier, but a steep couloir immediately below proved too seductive. An ascent of a few yards enabled us to work our way under the cornice that blocked the top of the couloir. The latter was very steep and icy in parts. It was also very long, and the Anen glacier was not reached till 7.30. It was dark before the party got off the ice and 11.30 when they reached the Fafier Alp.

The climb is an admirable one, and would be even better reversed.

COL DES COURTES, BETWEEN THE AIGUILLE MUMMERY (8,692 m.=12,118 ft.) AND THE AIGUILLE DE TROILET (8,879 m.=12,727 ft.).—On July 26, 1900, Mr. G. B. Tunstall-Moore, with Alphonse Simond and Edouard Payot, of Chamonix, left Lognan

at midnight, and followed the same route as that described by Mr. Mummery in 'My Climbs in the Alps and Caucasus' to the bergschrund under the pass (4.80 A.M.). Hence they ascended more or less over Mr. Mummery's route, but bearing slightly more to the right across two stone-swept couloirs to the summit of the pass (9.80 A.M.). The party did not, as Mr. Mummery had done, go S. along the ridge, but descended direct over steep rocks (much exposed to falling stones) to the Talèfre glacier. Montanvert was reached at 4.30 P.M.

'A PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDY OF MONT BLANC FROM THE AIGUILLE DE CHARMOZ.'—We understand that the splendid double-page illustration with this title, which appeared in the 'Graphic' of October 3, 1908, is from a negative by Mr. Alfred Holmes.

WINTER WEEK OF THE TOURING CLUB OF FRANCE.—The Touring-Club de France will hold a winter week from the 23rd to the 30th of January, 1909—partly at Grenoble, partly at Chamonix. Full information may be obtained from the Touring-Club de France, 65 Avenue de la Grande Armée, Paris.

BALFRIN (8,810 m. = 12,500 ft.) BY CHIMNEY AND RIB ON E. FACE. *July 25, 1908.*—Dr. O. K. Williamson and the Rev. E. C. Kempe, with Daniel Maquignaz and Heinrich Fux, having left Saas Grund at 3.4 A.M., crossed the stream which descends from the Bider Glacier, and so reached the snow below the E. face of the Balfrin (Nadelgrat Glacier of Dr. Dübi's map). After halting from 6.10 to 6.45 A.M. they crossed the low rock-ridge which separates this glacier from the Bider Glacier, and so reached the névé of this just above the icefall. Opposite to them was a rock chimney on that face of the mountain which rises from the Bider Glacier and is separated by a rib from the true E. face. The upper part of the rib in question is visible from the Hotel Monte Moro, at Saas Grund. The rock chimney, which contained many loose rocks, but is of no great height, was ascended to the rib, the rock of which (easy, but in a really abominable state of repair) was followed to the névé of the Balfrin Glacier. After another halt, from 9.20 to 9.44 A.M., the N.W. peak was reached at 10.20 A.M. The descent was made *via* the lower peak and the Ried pass. No signs of any previous visitors were seen in the chimney or on the rib.

POINTE D'OTEMMA (8,394 m. = 11,186 ft.). DESCENT TO THE GLACIER D'OTEMMA.—The Misses E., M., and D. Wilkinson, with Antoine Georges and Jean Métrallier, left Chanrion at 5 A.M. on September 6, 1907, ascended the Pointe d'Otemma by the ordinary route, spent about an hour on the summit, and left at 9.80. They descended by the S. arête as far as the second couloir on the W. face; thence they climbed down steep walls on this face, traversing at times, but descending vertically in most cases. They kept on the S. side of a wide snow couloir, reached the foot of the rocks about 12.80 P.M., and then, to avoid falling stones, they crossed to the N. side of the couloir and continued the descent under a rock wall to a little glacier. They then pro-

ceeded over moraine and steep grass slopes till a passage was found to the Glacier d'Otemma at about 2.80 P.M. They continued up this glacier, crossed the Col de la Vuignette, and descended by the Pièce glacier to Arolla, which was reached about 7 P.M.

ASCENT OF THE JUNGFRAU FROM THE GUGGI HUT VIA THE JUNGFRAU JOCH. *Friday, July 31, 1908.*—Mr. F. W. Balston, with Peter Inäbnit and Fritz Steuri as guides, left the Guggi hut at 1.80 A.M. *en route* for the Jungfrau Joch. The glacier was crossed by the usual route, the guides having examined it (by crossing it) carefully the previous evening. In some cases benefit was derived from steps cut by a party who left the hut at 11.45 P.M. for the Jungfrau *via* the Silberhorn Sattel.

The first icefall was approached at the lowest point, and not by the gully under the rocks on the left, where a party a few days previously had ascended, as inspection through the telescope at the Kleine Scheidegg inclined the guides to think this inadvisable, owing to a recent fall of ice over the late tracks.

The other party for the Jungfrau attempted to pass through the icefall on the extreme right, but abandoned it and eventually followed in Mr. Balston's footsteps. Candles were put out at about 4.15 A.M., in the middle of the fall. The 'great crevasse' at the top of the fall was turned on the extreme left, and the two parties separated near the ice wall leading to the Joch at 5 A.M.

A short meal was taken directly under the ice wall, and on closer examination it seemed better to attack the top icefall in preference to cutting up the wall.

The party accordingly crossed the rocks on the left of the wall diagonally from right to left, then went up the couloir and into the fall on the left, about two-thirds of the way up between the plateau and ice cliff above the rocks.

From that point a slight traverse was made to the left, then up, then back again upwards to the right. This last move had to be retraced, owing to an impossible crevasse at the top. The party then went considerably to the left in a horizontal direction, and found a convenient ice couloir between two séracs, up which they went, reaching the level snow-field on the top.

The Joch itself was gained at 7.80 A.M., where the party remained until 8 A.M. From there the ascent of the Jungfrau was made *via* the Roththal Sattel, the arrival at the summit being at 11.80 A.M.

After half an hour's rest the party made their way to the Bergli hut, arriving there about 5 P.M.

The general conditions of weather and snow were fairly good.

SÜDLENZSPITZE.—On p. 178 of the present volume the date of Dr. O. K. Williamson's ascent should be July 25, 1904.