

bounding it they reached, after crossing several narrow but steep ice couloirs, the last outcrop of rocks, whence an uncommonly steep wall of névé, about 25 m. high, led to the summit (2 h. 40 m.).

Maritime Alps.

PUNTA DELL' ARGENTERA (3,290 m.) BY THE CRESTA SUD.—A full account of this ascent, made in June 1908, is given by S. Angelo Brofferio in the 'Rivista Mensile C.A.I.' for May 1909, pp. 146-52.

Mont Blanc District.

AIGUILLE DE L'ALLÉE BLANCHE BY THE E. RIDGE. *July 17, 1908.*—SS. A. Brofferio, U. de Amicis, and E. Santi accomplished this ascent. They reached the summit in 5 hrs. 35 min. from the Allée Blanche huts, *via* the Estellette Col and the Col de Trélatete. The climb was very interesting. They returned to the Allée Blanche huts from the summit in 4 hrs. 5 min. 'Rivista Mensile,' May 1909, p. 160.

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 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.

PROPOSED MONUMENT TO THE MEMORY OF COUNT HENRY RUSSELL.—A committee has been formed, with M. Claretie, of the Académie Française, as president, and Messrs. Schrader and Béraldi as vice-presidents, with the object of erecting a monument at Gavarnie, or some other place in the Pyrenees, to the memory of Count Henry Russell. The committee includes the presidents of the various clubs and societies to which Count Russell belonged, and the members of those societies are invited to contribute to the cost of the memorial. Subscriptions from the members of the Alpine Club may be sent to the Honorary Secretary, 23 Savile Row.

HUTS.—The German and Austrian Club granted in 1908 to its various sections for the construction of huts and paths the sum of 143,385 marks, or about 7,300*l.*, equal to about 28 per cent. of its ordinary revenue. The individual sections added considerable

amounts, so that probably the total expenditure on these objects was upwards of 10,000*l.*

The Austrian Alpine Club spent in 1908 on maintenance and rebuilding of huts 29,793 kronen, or about 1,200*l.*

The S.A.C. granted in 1908 to its various sections for new huts, repairs, furniture and insurance of huts, 20,155 francs. or over 800*l.*, equal to 30 per cent. of its total revenue. Individual sections contributed in the same period probably 400*l.* to 500*l.* for the same purposes.

The Section Uto is about to build at a cost of 15,000 francs a new hut on the Fuorcla de Lavaz, at an altitude of about 2,520 m. It is reached from Curaglia (Hotel Lukmanier reported well kept) on the Disentis-Lukmanier road in about three hours. The hut is a new departure, consisting of two separate units, each complete in itself, the object being apparently to avoid disturbance by late arriving or early starting parties. It will serve a very interesting and little known district of the South Grisons, the principal peaks being the Piz Medel, The Vial and Gaglianera, all upwards of 10,500 ft.

The Panossière hut is being enlarged and will be reserved for members of the Geneva Section, S.A.C., on August 8, 9, 10.

The Section Thurgau, S.A.C., is about to build a hut in the Upper Etlzlihal (Canton Uri), near Müllersmatt, about 2,000 m., five hours from Amsteg on the Gothard Railway. The valley is a very wild one, and offers some very good climbing. The principal summits are the Sonnigwichel, the first ascent of which by its very difficult W. face was made by a very good mountaineer, Mr. V. A. Fynn, the Piz Ner, Piz Giuf, Crispalt and Bristenstock, whilst the Oberalpstock could also be included without too great exertion.

GUGGI HUT.—A new hut is intended to be built at an altitude of about 2,850 m., or some 450 m. higher than the old hut. From the site an almost level traverse will lead to the Guggi Glacier above the worst of its crevasses. A sketch in 'Alpina' 1909, p. 119, shows the relative positions of the two huts.

The Windgällen hut in the Maderaner Thal has now been rebuilt and will be reopened on July 20.

RAILWAY FROM DAVOS TO THE ENGADINE.—The railway from Davos to Filisur on the Chur Engadine line was opened in July. This brings Davos within about 2½ hr. of Pontresina.

THE EAST FACE OF THE BIETSCHHORN.—Supplementing the list of ascents and descents by this route given in 'Alpine Journal,' xxiv., I learn from Dr. Coolidge that on July 27, 1899, Dr. Andreas Fischer, his brother Melchior and his cousin Otto Fischer descended by the main E. arête, which was first used by Herr v. Kuffner's party and they appear to have followed exactly the same line. Dr. Fischer, who is, of course, a most competent authority, found some difficulties during the first hour after leaving the summit, viz. a slope covered with a thin crust of ice and the intervening rocks very much broken and treacherous. Some short traverses required great care. As soon as the arête became well defined

Dr. Fischer describes it as interesting without any particular difficulty. About half-way down, where the descent seemed and proved to be easy, the party left the arête for its S. slope, and by some rocks and a snow couloir reached the base of the rock face in three hours from the summit. They crossed the bergschrund without difficulty, and so reached the Aeusserer Baltschiederfirn, whence the further descent by its right or S. edge is quite simple. Dr. Fischer considers that with the exception of the first part (from the top), which depends a good deal on condition, this route is easier than the W. arête, and perhaps the best line for the ascent of the mountain, certainly very interesting.

A FURTHER descent by this route is described in 'S.A.C. Jahrbuch,' xliii., p. 85 *seq.* The party consisted of MM. A. Spoerry and Ch. Simon, with the guides Franz and Alfred Burgener—date July 20, 1905. They put the height of the face from the bergschrund to the summit at 800 m., and took six hours to descend it, following v. Kuffner's line.

J. P. FARRAR.

HEINRICH ELMER.—This guide, well known in his time, died at Elm, Canton Glarus, in January, aged 86. He took part in a good many first ascents in his district, was an ardent chamois hunter, and a good rifle shot.

GIOVANNI STORPAES.—This well-known Dolomite guide died on April 6, aged 40.

GUIDE BOOKS.—The S.A.C. have lately published a 'Clubführer durch die Tessiner Alpen' in the same style as their 'Führer durch die Urner Alpen.'

Both take the well-known climbers' guides as their model, but contain in addition many most useful sketches of routes, which plan has very much to recommend it, and is indeed far more instructive to the mountaineer than any description, however precise.

The boundaries of the district treated in the 'Tessiner Alpen' are: on the N. Val Bedretto and Val Canaria, and further by the Val Cadlimo, the Lukmanier Road as far as Olivone, the Val Luzzone and the Val Scaradra. On the E. The Lenta and Zapport Valleys, the Vals Calanca and Traversagna.

Most of the expeditions described have been done by one or other of the three authors, Herren L. Lisibach, G. End and J. Kutzner.

Price is, for members of the S.A.C., 1 fr. 80 c. including postage, and it can be ordered by members from the S.A.C. Central Bureau, Fribourg.

THE Berne Section of the S.A.C. has published a very complete catalogue of its library, one of the best in the club.

RUWENZORI.—In a paper printed in the 'Geographical Journal' for August Major Bright, of the recent Anglo-Congolese Boundary Commission, makes some brief references to Ruwenzori. Its height was determined as 16,794 ft., a result closely corresponding to the previous determinations, also trigonometric, of Lieutenant Behrens and the Duke of the Abruzzi's party (16,618 ft. and 16,815 ft.). The name Ruwenzori is said to be unknown in the country, where the range is called Gambalagala by the Ba-ganda.

The map attached to Major Bright's paper adds many details and native names in the outskirts and southern portion of the range, but no attempt seems to have been made to add to the Duke of the Abruzzi's delineation of its central portion.

In this map a tract N.W. of the snowy peaks is marked as 'inaccessible country.' It was, however, into this tract, or at any rate to its verge, that Lieutenant Stairs penetrated (see Stanley's 'In Darkest Africa,' vol. ii. pp. 254-8). The mountain in the centre and background of the woodcut on p. 256 of the same volume is unmistakably identical with the Duke of the Abruzzi's Mount Emin (see illustration, p. 241 of 'Ruwenzori'), and the Duke thought he recognised Stairs' 'Twin Cones' on one of the spurs of Mount Emin. The title of the woodcut in Stanley's book leads to confusion. The 'Twin Cones' are the peaks on the extreme right of the sketch, not the loftier one in its centre.

Roads suited for motor cars are now being made in Uganda, and by this means Ruwenzori may shortly be brought within four weeks of London. It is to be hoped that by that time the boundary question may be settled and the mountain region included in British territory. A frontier running through its heart would tend to produce a native Alsatia, and would be in many ways most undesirable for the neighbouring States.

ACCIDENTS.—On April 17 two climbers, Glur and Wegelin, were overwhelmed by an avalanche when passing a spur of the Wild Andrist after an unsuccessful attempt to ascend the Büttlassen in the Kien Thal.

On May 23 two young engineers, Paul Holzach, aged 25, and Otto Kindliman, aged 28, of Winterthur, set out to follow the path along the ridge from the Säntis to the Altmann. Finding the snow in bad order they attempted to descend on the N. side, but fell over a precipice about 200 feet high. Kindliman was killed on the spot, and Holzach died of his injuries whilst attempting to reach the Meglisalp.

THE SWISS ALPINE CLUB.—All who are interested in the formation of a section of the Swiss Alpine Club in England are requested to apply to G. Steel, Esq., 16 Argyll Mansions, Addison Bridge, London, W., or J. A. Bruce, Esq., Selborne Lodge, Guildford. We hope to give full information on this subject in the November Journal.

DR. LONGSTAFF'S HIMALAYAN EXPEDITION.—In a letter just received giving some account of the exploration of the Bilaphond (Saltoro) Glacier and Pass, Dr. C. G. Longstaff says: 'Our discovery is that the glacier across the Saltoro Pass is enormous and flows south-east, and not north-west, as shown on the latest maps. No European has previously seen this glacier, and no native has crossed the pass for a century.'

The party numbered twenty-five, and was away from the base camp for a week. The height of the pass is about 18,700 feet. The passage appears to have been very arduous. The rope was in constant use, and much difficulty was experienced in negotiating

the large crevasses (often concealed from view), seracs, and the very unsatisfactory form of moraines. Avalanches were of frequent occurrence. Unfortunately, the meteorological conditions were unfavourable to plane-tabling.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held on Tuesday evening, April 6, 1909, at 8.30 P.M., Mr. Hermann Woolley, *President*, in the chair.

The Accounts for 1908 were presented by the HONORARY SECRETARY and unanimously adopted. The Hon. Secretary reported that he had arranged that the Club should pay £400 for the dilapidations required on the expiry of its lease, and the thanks of the Club were accorded to him for the trouble he had taken in arranging this.

The PRESIDENT, having alluded to the deaths of Sir Maurice Holzmann, K.C.B. (1874), a former Vice-President, and Col. H. G. Watson (1908), announced that the late Mr. C. E. Layton had left instructions that the Alpine Club was to be empowered to select from his collection any books suitable for the Club Library; the Librarian had gladly availed himself of this privilege.

Mr. ANDREWS read a paper on 'Climbing on Lliwedd,' which was illustrated by lantern slides.

Mr. READE was sure that all who knew Lliwedd had enjoyed the paper. Climbing on Snowdon had the advantage of being within easy reach of one's hotel. He thought Lliwedd the finest cliff in England or Wales. It looked from the bottom extraordinarily impossible, and when climbing on it, it appeared so steep that one could not see more than a few feet ahead. Some of its tremendous slabs were comparable to those of the Chamonix aiguilles.

Captain FARRAR said that his interest in Welsh climbing was first aroused by travelling with a friend in the Alps, who was always comparing them with the mountains in Wales. He went to Wales with a languid interest, but returned in a week a humbler and much wiser man. He was led over some desperate places. He had been accused of using strong language, but it was always, he considered, appropriate. He found harder things in Wales than he had ever found in the Alps. They were short or they could not be done at all. One had to use every muscle and every bone, and even then it was hard work to get up. It was a splendid training-ground for the mountaineer.

Professor J. B. FARMER thought that everyone would realise how fine a training-ground it was. He knew no cliff where balance was more necessary. The rock was very varied in character. It had been bent and twisted, and as a result in the comparatively short distance of half a mile there was a great variety of rocks of different texture, and for that alone it was well worth not