

actual going 16½ hrs. In good conditions and by crossing the Thieralplistock instead of descending to the Grimsel, the time required should be much less.

The Gelmersee, which we visited another day, is most exquisitely situated in a romantic hollow in the hills immediately opposite Handegg, and is well worth a visit. A steep and almost dry water-course, the so-called 'Katzenweg,' leads down from the lake towards Handegg; but though this proved a delightful afternoon's scramble from the hotel, it would prove awkward to descend in the dark at the end of a long day. A good path descends from the S. end of the lake and reaches the Grimsel road above the Hellamad bridge.

GEO. E. GASK.

THE GROSS SCHRECKHORN (4,080 m. = 13,386 ft.) BY THE S.W. ARÊTE.—August 20, 1909. Dr. Th. Thomas (of Paris), with Auguste Blanc and Jacomin (both of Bonneval-sur-Arc).

From the Schwarzegg Club hut the party mounted by the usual Schreckhorn route to the S. foot of the S.W. arête of the peak. They then bore l., and, instead of climbing the rocky spur to the crest of the S.W. arête of the peak, preferred to mount the rocks of the S. slope of the S.W. arête till on a level with the great snowy gully that descends to the r. of the aforesaid rocky spur and from the small platform on the S.W. arête. In order to gain this snow gully the party had to traverse some steep rocks, which were rather hard. Then the gully was mounted to the shoulder on the S.W. arête, and that arête followed to the top—there were some bad bits, but the rocks were dry and very firm. The time taken from the Club hut to the top of the peak was 6½ hours, halts included.

The descent was made by the N.W. arête (then covered with much powdery and unstable snow), and Grindelwald gained by the Lauteraarsattel.

[This would seem to be the third party which has taken this route, the first having been that of Messrs. Wicks, Bradby, and Claude Wilson, on the ascent, in 1902 ('A. J.' vol. xxi. pp. 269, 501-2), and the second, Messrs. Greenwood, Ling, and Raeburn, on the descent, in 1906 (*ibid.* vol. xxiii, pp. 342 and 437-8).]

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.

ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH MEMBERS OF THE S.A.C.—A general meeting of this Society is to be held at the Alpine Club rooms on June 9, at 8.45 P.M., when a resolution in support of the proposal to present a Club hut to the Swiss from the British will be submitted. Donations amounting to over 160*l.* have been received, but the total sum required is 500*l.* Further donations can be sent to the treasurer, C. King-Church, Clive Lodge, Albury, near Guildford. The Association has already proposed 150 new candidates for the S.A.C.

ITALIAN ALPINE CLUB, TURIN SECTION.—The subscription, 18*s.*, can in future be paid to C. J. Hambro & Son, 70 Old Broad Street, E.C., for account of G. Donn & Co., Bankers, Turin.

SWISS NATIONAL PARK.—It is proposed to acquire the Val Cluozza, near Zernetz, in the Engadine, to serve as a sanctuary for plants and animals and to form the nucleus for a Swiss National Park. For this purpose the Schweizerische Bund für Naturschutz, or Swiss Society for the Protection of Nature, has been formed, its address being 22 Spitalstrasse, Bâle.

About 1,000*l.* will be required, as the area to be acquired is about 5,500 acres.

The President is Dr. Paul Sarasin, and the annual subscription is 1 fr., but of course larger donations will be very acceptable.

INN ON THE COL DU GÉANT.—Our readers will hear with regret of the death at Courmayeur in March of Louis Bareux, for eleven years the *gardien* of this Inn.

He was a well-known personage in his valley, had been guide-chef of Courmayeur, and was always keenly interested in the progress of his native place. His warm welcome will be missed by many of us.

MONTE VISO. BY THE E. FACE.—Ball's Alpine Guide, 'The Western Alps,' states: 'The route up the E. face seems to offer no very serious difficulties and to be quite safe.'

About two hours from the hut it is necessary to traverse the E. face diagonally under the 'tourion S. Robert.' Here the way is blocked by a serious difficulty in the shape of a chimney filled with a tongue of very steep ice, the rocks being normally glazed owing to dripping water.

We were informed by C. Perotti (the local guide who keeps the hut) that the ice chimney was always difficult and sometimes insuperable.

WILLOUGHBY JARDINE.

NEW ZEALAND ALPS.—Mr. Malcolm Ross writes: 'Captain Head (from England) has just made the first ascent of Mount Aspiring, a very interesting mountain near Lake Wanaka, while Earl (a member of the Club) and Head have just made the ascent of Mount Sefton. This is the second ascent. They did not take Fitzgerald's route, but went over into the Copeland Valley, and climbed from the west.'

This should have been an extremely interesting climb, and I expect Earl will have some good material—both descriptive and photographic—for the 'Journal.'

AKADEMISCHE ALPEN-CLUB, ZURICH.—This small but most energetic Club, which consists of 2 honorary members, 34 ordinary and extraordinary members, and 77 'old gentlemen,' has a marvellous record for last season. The forty-five members who sent in reports had collectively ascended 339 summits and crossed 95 passes. Of the ascents 40 were new, whilst the percentage of expeditions with guides was under 1 per cent. of the whole.

It is amusing to note that the 'old gentlemen' include such redoubtable names as V. A. Fynn, Dr. Helbling, Prof. Dr. Paulcke, and Dr. Herzog. One wonders what is expected of the young gentlemen who constitute the ordinary members! The Club owns two huts—the Mischabel hut and the Windgällen hut in the Maderaner Thal, rebuilt last year. One most willingly echoes the words with which the Report closes, 'Heil A.A.C.Z. !'

CORRECTIONS IN FEBRUARY 'ALPINE JOURNAL.'—In the article 'Between the Inn and the Adda,' p. 7, line 35 should read 'Torrone Orientale first climbed by Herren Rzewuski and Paulcke.' P. 12, line 4, for 'Mounte Sissone' read 'Monte Sissone.' On the illustration facing p. 4 for 'Güssfeldt Sattie' read 'Güssfeldt Sattel.' P. 19, line 8, for 'Porcellizzo-Codera watershed' read 'Bagni-Codera watershed'; and line 16, for 'we crossed the watershed between the Porcellizzo and Ratti valleys' read 'the Bagni and Ratti valleys.'

In the illustration, 'The Bondasca Peaks from the Marcio,' which faces p. 21, the present Ferro Centrale is the lower (E.) peak of that summit; Ferro Centrale (highest W. peak) should be where Ferro Occidentale now is. Place now occupied by Passo del Ferro is *not* a col; Passo del Ferro should be where Passo di Bondo *now* is. Ferro Occidentale should be where 3223 m. now is; 3323 m. should be the next tooth to the right (W.), now nameless. And between that tooth and the *present* 3323 m. (really the Ferro Occidentale) lies the Passo di Bondo, therefore the place that col should occupy is (on the photo) practically invisible.

MAP OF THE GRAND PARADIS GROUP (THE 'CARTA TOPOGRAFICA DEL GRUPPO DEL GRAN PARADISO').—Climbers may be glad to know that this excellent map (published by the Turin and Aosta sections of the Italian Alpine Club) may be obtained from the secretary of the Turin Section C.A.I., Via Monte di Pietà, Torino, at a cost of four francs (postage 50 centimes). Members of the C.A.I. may obtain it for two francs.

NEW VOLUMES OF THE 'CLIMBERS' GUIDES' SERIES.—We learn that in June Mr. E. L. Strutt will publish his 'Bernina Climbers' Guide.' This includes the entire region between Chiavenna and the Bernina Pass, and for reasons of practical convenience is divided into two parts. Part i. describes the Masino-Bregaglia district (W. of the Muretto Pass) and is accompanied by a revised edition of

Dr. Claude Wilson's excellent map, originally published in our own pages (vol. xxiv., to face p. 392). Part ii. takes in the Bernina Alps proper between the Muretto and the Bernina Passes, and has an appendix describing various other favourite climbs round St. Moritz and Pontresina, such as the Trais Fluors, the Zwei Schwestern, and the Piz Julier. We understand that Mr. Strutt is thinking of preparing several other volumes, in order to complete his description of the ranges round or near the Engadine. One (or two) would take in the region from the Splügen Pass to the further end of the Silvretta district, while another would comprise the region between the Bernina Pass and the Reschen Scheideck-Stelvio Passes, of which Livigno is perhaps the best known bit.

BRUNEGGHORN (a correction).—In vol. viii. of the 'Alpine Journal' (p. 108), amongst 'New Expeditions,' a note of mine occurs having reference to an expedition made on July 29, 1876, by Messrs. F. Gardiner, A. Cust and myself (accompanied by three guides) to the summit of the Biesjoch, from which point of vantage two of us, including myself, ascended the Brunegghorn in forty-five minutes from the Joch, and thence descended on to the Bruneggjoch, on the northern side of our peak, returning into the Zermatt Valley, at Herbrigen. Mr. F. Gardiner alludes to this delightful traverse in his article entitled 'Expeditions round Zermatt and the Riffel in 1876,' on p. 381 of the same volume of the 'Alpine Journal.'

But, in the 'Zermatt Pocket Book,' 1881 (p. 130), as well as in his 'Climbers' Guide to the Central Pennine Alps,' 1890 (p. 119), Sir W. M. Conway gives our ascent of the peak as having been made from the Bruneggjoch; and Signor L. Vaccarone in his 'Statistica delle Prime Ascensione nelle Alpi Occidentali' (3 Ed., 1890, pp. 96, 97) adopts the mistake.

On p. 209 of 'A. J.,' vol. ii., the ascent of the Brunegghorn appears amongst the New Expeditions of 1865—from the Randa side *via* the Biesjoch—as having been made by Messrs. G. F. Cobb, W. D. Rawlins and R. B. Townsend, with François Dévouassoud of Chamonix and Antoine Clément of Champéry (on September 19, 1865), and an 'N.B.' at the foot of this note informs us that 'it is said that the Brunegghorn was ascended some time ago by the curé of St. Niklaus, but there is no known account of his ascent.'

On p. 129 of the 'Zermatt Pocket Book,' the first ascent of the peak is attributed to Hieronymus Brantschen (reference being made to Studer, iii. 199, cf. ii. 83), from the Biesjoch; while Signor L. Vaccarone (in 1890), when attributing the first ascent to Mr. Cobb and his party in 1865 from the Biesjoch, adds 'Si attribuisce la prima salita al paroco di St. Niklaus.'

F. T. WETHERED.

THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE LADIES' ALPINE CLUB will take place on December 7 at the Great Central Hotel, London.

THE FIRST ASCENT OF THE FINSTERAARHORN BY A TRAVELLER.—This took place, as is well known, in 1842, and was effected by Herr J. Sulger (of Basel), with Hans Jaun (of Meiringen) as his chief guide. This date is fifteen years earlier than the famous

expedition in 1857, so vividly described by J. F. Hardy in the first series of 'Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers.' It was therefore with joyful though legitimate surprise that in 1908 (sixty-six years after the climb!) the Basel Section of the Swiss Alpine Club ascertained that Herr Sulger is still alive at the advanced age of over ninety years, and persuaded him to allow the Section to print (1909) in its forty-sixth annual report ('Jahresbericht'), pp. 3-15, the original account of this memorable ascent. As might be expected the narrative is an historical document of the very highest class, and should be studied by everyone interested in Alpine history. A shorter notice of the 1842 ascent was published in 1842 in a Bernese paper, and thence reprinted in vol. xxvi. (pp. 419-422) of the S.A.C. 'Jahrbuch.' But that given to the world in 1909 is much more detailed. It may be noted that as far back as 1864 the impressions left by the same ascent on the mind of the leading guide of 1842, Hans Jaun (who died in 1860), were given to the world. These are hidden away, amid scientific papers, in vol. v. part i. (pp. 360-372) of Dollfus-Ausset's 'Matériaux pour l'Etude des Glaciers' (Strasburg), though most of the Alpine narratives are contained in vol. iv. of the same work, entitled 'Ascensions dans les Hautes Régions des Alpes.' Hans Jaun's recollections of his Alpine career extend from 1841 to 1857, and are most entertaining and very brightly written. Not merely do they supplement the notices published by some of his 'Herren,' but they are of great historical importance, as will be shown by the following list of climbs effected and described by him: in 1841, the Jungfrau (with Desor and Forbes); in 1842, the Finsteraarhorn twice (once with Andreas Abplanalp and once with Herr Sulger); in 1844, the first ascent of the Hasli Jungfrau (with his comrade, Melchior Bannholzer), in the Wetterhorn group; in 1845, the first ascent (with Mr. Speer) of the Mittelhorn, in the same group; in 1854, the Hasli Jungfrau, from Rosenlauri (with Mr. Eardley Blackwell); in 1855, the attempt on the Mönch by the Countess Dora d'Istria (this narrative is particularly amusing and spicy); in 1857, the Finsteraarhorn (with Mr. Hardy's party), and the crossing of the Strahlegg (with W. and St. John Mathews); and, finally, also in 1857, the crossing of the Mitteljoch and of the Lauteraarsattel (with Mr. A. P. Whately) from Rosenlauri to the Grimsel. The early history of climbing in the Bernese Oberland is thus greatly enriched by these narratives of Herr Sulger and his leading guide, and one hopes that other narratives of a similar kind may be brought to light some day.

W. A. B. COOLIDGE.

ALPINE ROPES.—In view of several recent accidents, some experiments are being made on behalf of the Club as to the safe loads of the various ropes now generally used.

It is hoped that these may lead to the designing of a rope of much increased strength without any increase in price or weight.

The experiments may be completed early in July and possibly some of the new ropes be available for this climbing season.

Further information may be available about July 5 on application to the Honorary Secretary.