

the lower col between the points 3,365 and 3,377, but the Bies Glacier was reached at 6 A.M. The N.E. corner of the N. face of the Weisshorn was then attacked slightly to the left of Mr. Winthrop Young's route of 1909. With the exception of twenty minutes on the easy rocks of the lower part of the face immediately above the bergschrund the climb was entirely on hard snow with some ice (step-cutting for about six hours). The summit of the Weisshorn was reached at 1.25 P.M.; total halts about 1½ hours.

ALPINE ACCIDENTS IN 1910.

ACCIDENT ON THE BERGLI ROCKS. DEATH OF ALEXANDER BURGNER.

A most lamentable accident occurred on July 8 on the Bergli rocks, by which one of the most famous of guides, Alexander Burgener, of Eisten, his son Adolf, two Grindelwald guides, Peter and Rudolf Inäbnit, and the guardian of the Concordia hut, Christian Bohren, as well as their two travellers, Herren Alfred Kühn, of Strassburg, and Hans Barthold, of Saarbrücken, lost their lives, whilst two others of the party, Burgener's younger son, Alexander, and another Grindelwald guide, Fritz Brawand, were severely injured. After being detained in Grindelwald by several days of bad weather the party started from the Eismeer station to traverse to the Bergli hut, intending to ascend the Jungfrau next day. Burgener was doubtless well aware of the state of the snow after all the bad weather, and hence recommended his employers to engage the two Inäbnits, from the Eismeer station, so as to get along quicker. This was done. At about 6 P.M. the whole party had reached the rocks below the Bergli hut, and were within a very few minutes of the hut. Observing their labours and also another party of porters lower down, Christian Bohren came out of the hut and went down to meet them through the deep soft snow. He had just reached Burgener's party when suddenly the whole snowslope at the head of the rocks broke away, the new snow at the plane of fracture being stated to be eight feet thick. The enormous avalanche bore down on the doomed travellers, divided into two arms as it

Blanc. Wishing to ascend the Bieshorn, it struck them, upon inspection from the Dom hut, that the shortest and best way would be to endeavour to reach the upper basin of the Bies Glacier from the Weisshorn hut by following the glacier to the N. of the hut as far as the arête joining the points 3,781 and 3,365. From this arête they proposed to make as short a descent as practicable and to cross the spur of the Weisshorn running down from point 3,781 to point 3,028, so as to gain the Bies Glacier at the actual foot of the N. face of the Weisshorn. This plan they successfully carried out. Incidentally of course this forms a very much shorter and easier approach to the N. face or N.E. corner of the Weisshorn as well as to the Bieshorn and Biesjoch. The discovery of such an obvious and useful route, which nevertheless, so far as is recorded, had never before been attempted, is a signal testimony to the open-mindedness of the two mountaineers.—J. P. F.

reached the rocks, the right arm overwhelming and carrying down Burgener's party, including Bohren, whilst the left arm reached the party of porters far below and carried them down also, without, however, doing them any permanent damage.

Burgener's party were carried down over the rocks some two hundred metres, and of course the consequent injuries were almost bound to prove fatal. The bodies were recovered the same night, those of the Valais guides and of the travellers being sent home for burial, whilst the others were buried at Grindelwald.

It is a very bold man who will presume to question the judgment of an Alexander Burgener.

Certainly the weather had been bad, and much new snow had fallen. The traverse to the hut was, however, short, and was one that was made every fine day in summer by perfectly inexperienced, often incapable, travellers. The party was under the command of the most experienced active mountaineer of his time. Although nearly sixty-six years old his enormous strength and endurance had scarcely, if at all, abated. He was still an ardent chamois hunter, used to the state of snow under nearly every condition.* He had taken the precaution of being supported by five other guides, four of whom were in the flower of their youth and strength. He is universally described by the men who knew him best—some of them once his pupils, and now themselves famous guides—as a very great judge of a mountain, and pre-eminently prudent and careful.

If any party of mountaineers can be safe his ought to have been. One can only call it fate which on a perfectly easy spot and, by a peculiar irony, in sight of one of the most famous of his many exploits, in one mad, surging rush hurled the great guide and his companions to their doom.

Alexander Burgener is dead, but he will live for ever in Alpine history as one of the most dauntless mountaineers of his day. The leader of Mummery, of Güssfeldt, of Schulz, of v. Kuffner, to him belong the honours of some of the most terrible climbs in the Alps. If at last the mountains have beaten him he only shares the fate and joins the immortal ranks of such men as Michel Croz, as Christian Rangetiner, as Ferdinand Imseng, as Michel Innerkofler, as J. A. Carrel, as J. J. Maquignaz, as Emile Rey, as Zsigmondy, as Purtscheller, as Mummery himself. One will remember him, as one knew him in the heyday of his magnificent strength and dauntless courage, in his later days, when time seemed to have no power over him. The sound of his name to all those who know and appreciate such deeds as his which the Alps witnessed will not fail to cause that involuntary tightening of the heartstrings that is the truest tribute which men can pay to sustained and brilliant courage.

J. P. F.

* It is related of him that out alone one day last autumn four chamois fell to his rifle, and that he carried two down the same night, four hours to the valley.

On May 15 **Herr Fritz Heidecke**, of Zürich, who, with a party of friends, was ascending the **Oberalpstock** from the Maderaner Thal, slipped on some snow and was picked up dead 600 feet lower down. The party was not roped.

On June 5 **Herr Frank Riegler** succumbed to injuries received by a fall near the summit of the **Totensessel**, in the Kaisergebirge.

On June 25 the young Munich climber **F. Werner** and **J. Salch** attempted the **Kopftörli** at im Hohen Winkel, Kaisergebirge. Bad weather compelled them to turn back. They were benighted in the Hoher Winkel and were found dead from exposure after a search much prolonged by the absence of information as to their intentions.

On June 26 **Herr Lausegger**, of Innsbruck, with a companion, ascended the **Marchreisenspitz**, near Innsbruck, by its N. face. He was so exhausted that his companion, after giving him all available clothing, had to leave him on the summit (2,623 m. = 8,603 ft.) while he went for help. A snowstorm however came on and the relief only arrived to find Herr Lausegger dead from exhaustion and cold.

On June 26 the **Herren K. Mayr, Dr. H. Renezeder, and Fräulein B. Wondraschek** attempted the ascent of the **Schneeberg** from the Höllenthal, on the Semmering, by the **Stadelwandgrat**, which is one of the most difficult of the many routes. The men are described as competent climbers, but it is said that the girl had never been on a mountain before, and it is possibly due, in a measure, to this cause, as also to a late start and consequent hurried pace, as the weather was threatening, that the very lamentable accident is to be ascribed.

The bodies were not recovered until July 3, as the party had left no word of their intentions and the search consequently had to cover much ground.

On July 28 a German army surgeon, **Dr. Kaupe**, of Dortmund, while crossing the short arête between the **Gross and Klein Glockner**, slipped, dragging down his guide, **Franz Lechner**, of Krimml. The bodies were picked up on the **Ködnitz Kees**. The mountain was ascended on the same day by many parties, and the accident may possibly be due to some sudden indisposition on the part of Dr. Kaupe, who, moreover, is stated to have weighed nearly seventeen stone.

On August 6 two young Italian climbers, **Gerolamo and Enrico Segato**, sons of General Luigi Segato, left Val Savaranche to ascend the **Grivola**. They apparently reached the summit safely, for their terribly mutilated bodies were found on the 8th, on the Cogne side, by Messrs. G. W. Lloyd and Aldridge, with the guides Gérard of Cogne. The young men are described as active and enthusiastic climbers, and their early death is most regrettable. The funeral ceremony at Cogne was attended by the above mentioned gentlemen and by Mr. Yeld.

On August 16 **Herren Walter Kinscherf and Hans Wenner**, with **Fraulein Gertrud Farner**, all of Zürich, left the Rottal hut to ascend the **Jungfrau**. The weather in the preceding night had been very stormy, and the other parties in the hut, including Dr. O. K. William-

son and his guides, who intended to undertake the same expedition, decided to abandon it. The unfortunate party are stated to have only left the hut at about 8 A.M., and to have been seen on the summit of the Jungfrau at about 5 P.M.

The following day three axes were found on the Rottalsattel, but it was only after a prolonged and dangerous search that the bodies were discovered on August 22, in the Rottal, some 3,000 feet below the Rottalsattel. The whole party are described as, and certainly had every appearance of being, thoroughly competent and well equipped mountaineers. The most lamentable accident, involving the loss of three young lives—the girl being only about 22—must be ascribed, purely and simply, to forcing an ascent in bad weather.

On August 24 Herr Konstantin Knöringer, of Baden, Switzerland, was killed while descending the *Piz Rotondo*. The descent was made on the N. side, and in attempting a glissade Knöringer was killed. His companion went down for help and the body was eventually recovered on the Geren Glacier.

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 Rhone and Rhine valleys.

'BALL'S GUIDE.'—Since the Rev. A. V. Valentine-Richards became Dean of Christ's College, Cambridge, his work at the University has very largely increased, and he has been reluctantly compelled to inform the Committee that he sees no chance of being able to finish the revision of Part II. of the second volume of 'Ball's Guide' within a reasonable time, and that he must therefore resign the post of General Editor, though quite willing to do all in his power to aid his successor, and also to continue the revision of certain sections.

The Committee approached the Rev. George Broke, who at first feared that he too would be unable to give enough time to the work, and that, while one or two sections were being got ready for press, the next might get out of date and have to be largely re-written owing to the construction of new mountain railways or club huts. Eventually he consented, partly on the understanding that speed