

Climbing in the Ogwen District. By J. M. Aroher Thomson. London: 1910. 8vo. 5s.

This is the second of the Guides issued by the Climbers' Club. The general plan is the same as that of the similar volume on Lliwedd, but it covers much more ground, dealing with the climbs, upwards of seventy in number, on the Carnedd, the Glyders, Tryfan, Y Garn, Elidyr Fawr, and a 'new' mountain, Creigiau Gleision, which was unknown to climbers until Easter 1910. Each climb is described in sufficient detail to enable any one visiting the mountain for the first time to find it, gauge its difficulties, and see how they are to be overcome, and identification is further assisted by photographs and diagrams. The accounts hit a happy mean between the 'ultimate pemmican,' as it has been called, of a 'Conway and Coolidge,' and that anecdotic diffuseness which, long before the third reading stage, becomes as intolerable as the 'unexpectedness' of Peacock's landscape gardener. There is scarcely a sentence which does not convey useful information, but the rigid exclusion of the irrelevant does not prevent the discriminating reader from enjoying those subtle and indefinable elements which go to make up style, and becoming conscious of a mind full of meditative enthusiasm—that emotion remembered in tranquillity which Wordsworth regarded as the essence of poetry—and open to many things beyond the joy of the mere physical struggle.

The introduction contains some excellent remarks on the differences between Alpine and English climbing, and on the manner in which the severer of the rock-problems described in these guides should be regarded, as well as notes on folk-lore; and the first two chapters, by Professor Farmer and Professor Orton respectively, deal briefly with the flora and the birds to be found in the district. Among the photographs those by Mr. H. Speyer are specially notable for their combination of clear definition with artistic effect.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall on Tuesday Evening, November 1, at 8.30 P.M., Mr. Hermann Woolley, *President*, in the chair. Messrs. G. Bartrum, J. W. Brown, E. D. Murray, L. G. Shadbolt, O. E. Todd, W. H. Witherby and C. H. Wybergh were balloted for and elected members of the Club.

The *PRESIDENT* said: 'Since the last meeting we have lost two of our members—Mr. Tendron and Canon Hutchinson, who was elected in 1862. Another death to which I must allude is that of Alexander Burgener, who perished in the lamentable Bergli accident last July. It has caused a universal feeling of regret amongst mountaineers that a guide with so fine a record should have ended his career in so sad a manner.'

Mr. C. T. DENT said: 'I wish to add one word. I should not like the occasion to go by without just paying a brief tribute to the memory of one with whom I did a great deal of mountaineering in the old days. I met Burgener first some time before 1870, when he was then spoken of as a remarkably strong and promising guide, and we did many expeditions together. I think that I may say this much of him, that of the second generation of guides, as a climber and as a mountaineer he was in the first rank. In all the years—and there were many—that we were associated together on the mountains, I never found him other than a straightforward and honest person in all his dealings. Besides being an excellent mountaineer he was a good traveller, for he was with us in the Caucasus on one occasion. And it is hardly a pity that to one who lived many years among the mountains death should come at last among those mountains. Those whom the gods love, I believe, die suddenly.'

The PRESIDENT said: 'It is an unusual if not unprecedented event to hold a General Meeting in November, but I am sure that you approve the action of the Committee seeing that it will enable us to have the pleasure of hearing a paper from Dr. De Filippi. This is not the first time that we have been indebted to Dr. De Filippi's good nature. We had a similar favour in 1898 in the form of a paper on the ascent of Mount St. Elias. I am sure that we all highly appreciate his kindness in coming here again.'

Dr. F. DE FILIPPI read a paper on 'H.R.H. the Duke of the Abruzzi's Expedition to the Karakoram Range,' which was illustrated by lantern slides from photographs taken by Signor Sella.

Sir MARTIN CONWAY said: 'We have all listened to this paper with interest and delight. To me it has been an especial interest and delight. To have had brought before us, as by the wonderful slides that we have seen to-night, a view of those magical peaks is indeed a rare privilege. This group of mountains transcends all other groups of mountains in the world, not only for the concentration in a small area of a number of peaks but for their astounding precipitance and grandeur of form. It is difficult for anyone to believe that a mountain that he has not seen is inaccessible. Those who have been up the Baltoro Glacier agree that there are many peaks beside it, up which it will be a long time before any human being finds a way. Perhaps some are not for ever inaccessible, but they are not accessible to man as at present constituted, and with the resources which the region supplies even to a well-equipped and expert party. Take the Grépon and magnify it fifteen-fold. You could not get up it, because the ascent would take more than a day and you could not sleep on the side of it. Every foot of a route may be climbable, and yet if it cannot all be climbed in one day and there is nowhere to spend a night, what can you do? And, still more, what if the ascent requires several days, and if there is continual danger of avalanches besides? These are the

kind of impediments that will prevent the Baltoro peaks from being climbed for many years to come. Then there is the question of weather. I have never heard of a week's fine weather experienced by any party in the region. There may be a single day or two days of fine weather among days of severe storm. On such practical difficulties I need not enlarge. I would however enlarge upon the pleasure we feel in having Dr. De Filippi among us, and the pleasure given by his paper and by the slides shown us and the evidence of the pluck and endurance manifested by the whole party and of the splendid leadership and organisation which made the expedition so greatly successful.'

Colonel GODWIN-AUSTEN said: 'It has given me infinite pleasure to see the photographs which have been shown on the screen. Many of the peaks I knew well many years ago. No words of mine can express the admiration I feel for the grand piece of work that H.R.H. the Duke of the Abruzzi and those with him effected on that glacier. It was my good fortune, when a subaltern in the 24th Regiment, to be on the Kashmir Survey, and a few days after I joined it to assist Captain Montgomerie in taking angles with the theodolite towards K2. I was recording the angles as he read them. While at work, he said "I have just seen a fine peak far away in the distance." I looked through the telescope, and that was the first time that I saw the top of K2. Several other peaks were seen in its neighbourhood that morning and afterwards fixed from other principal trigonometrical stations. That was in 1857. In 1861 Captain Montgomerie sent me to make the survey of the glaciers at the head of the Shiga Valley. I first followed the course of Adolph Schlagintweit over the Skoro La to the Punmah Glacier. That was the first large glacier I surveyed, and I got within half a mile of the Mustagh Pass, but was stopped by a heavy snowstorm. Coming down the valley again, towards Askolay I turned off east to survey the branch coming from the Baltoro Glacier up to that time unknown, for one of the passes to Yarkand lay up that way, but it had been unused for twenty-five years. This was crossed by Captain Younghusband some years later. The survey of the Punmah Glacier had taken so long, I was unable to reach the head of the Baltoro, I found my supplies running short. A more magnificent piece of scenery does not exist in the world. It has given me great pleasure to be here this evening and have it all brought before me again.'

Sir FRANCIS YOUNGHUSBAND said: 'It is with some diffidence that I address the Alpine Club, as I am only an Honorary Member and cannot claim to be an ascender of peaks. I am what an American lady visiting those parts described as "an Anglo-Indian valley-thumper." While thumping along the valleys north of the Karakoram I saw K2, and I am, I believe, the only European who has seen it from the north. So I like to give my evidence to corroborate the experience of H.R.H. the Duke of the Abruzzi that it

is inaccessible from that side as far as I can see. I cannot however give any opinion about the ascent of peaks before an assembly of this kind, but should like to give my testimony to the admirable manner in which this expedition was organised and fitted out and led. It appeared to me an absolutely ideal expedition. It had been most carefully planned out, all its members were well fitted for their task, and I do not suppose that a finer leader could be found than the Duke of the Abruzzi. He has all the care and method required in a leader, and also that dash to put in at the final and critical moment which helped him to make the highest ascent yet made. One thing I should like to remark, and that is that he found the Baltis useful as assistants. Some of the expeditions have behaved very badly to those men, but the Duke of the Abruzzi said that they were very helpful to him. In any future expedition it would be well to make the greatest possible use of the Baltis instead of importing so many guides and porters from Europe. I should like to bring to your notice the immense deal of work to be done beyond that region. From Windy Gap we saw great ranges of unexplored mountains to the north. All that part has to be thoroughly explored and mapped, and a more valuable piece of exp'oration cannot be found. In conclusion I would thank Dr. De Filippi for his admirable lecture and Signor Sella for the marvellous photographs which he took at great risk and danger.'

Dr. STEIN said: 'I confess that being asked to speak has taken me unawares. I came with a desire to see again the mountain a sight of which was the object of my first Indian holiday twenty years ago. I consider this a memorable occasion when the account of such an ideal expedition has been added to in interest by speeches from true pioneers in Himalayan exploration. I unfortunately never reached nearer K2 than the head of the Braldo valley. I shall never cease to regret that I did not exceed then my official leave to go across the Mustagh Pass. Perhaps in another birth I may achieve seeing it.

'To approach the unexplored ground east of K2 might be easier from the north. From what I know of the Kirghiz, north of the Karakoram, I believe that willing helpers could be found that way, and transport and supplies would be easier to arrange for than it would seem from a distance. But no one could achieve on that mountain, under present conditions, an ascent of the peak. I saw K2 in fine weather in September, and the impression I gained of the last 2000 to 3000 feet gave me the same feeling of helplessness which I gather those who have climbed near it have gained.

'Grandeur views than those presented to us to-night I have never seen in the Himalayas, and I hope many will be encouraged to add to a detailed survey of that fascinating mountain region.

'I add my heartiest thanks for the wonderfully complete and thorough account that Dr. De Filippi has rendered us. It was a fit account of an expedition which will be remembered as one of the most memorable that have ever taken place in Asia.'

Dr. LONGSTAFF said : ' I thank Dr. De Filippi for coming here and for the delightful way in which he has read his paper. The modest way in which the paper was read was in keeping with the manner of every member of the expedition. It is difficult to realise from the paper what an extraordinary feat has been accomplished. Although the leader of the expedition is a very experienced mountaineer, I think it a great feat that he got so high at his first attempt in the Himalaya as to dispose altogether of the question of the high altitude record. From the beginning he was quite uncertain about getting up K2. I do not know which to admire most, his endurance in camping on the Chogolisa Saddle for ten days during bad weather or the final climb. The thing that I remember most of the discomfort of mountain sickness high up is that of losing courage. That I shall always remember more than anything else. It was indeed a hard fate which robbed him of complete success when it was almost within his grasp, but to have continued any further was to court a repetition of the disasters on the Lyskamm. I thank Dr. De Filippi for coming here and giving us his paper and for showing the extraordinarily beautiful photographs that Signor Sella has made.

' Last year with Slingsby and Neve I discovered a very high mountain. Colonel Burrard had suspected one in that region. I sent him the angles and they worked out at about 30,000 feet. This seemed too high, and by legitimate cooking we brought the height down to 27,610 feet. On the other side of the Atlantic last summer, ruminating on the North Pole, I began to think that my mountain did not exist. The photographs of Signor Sella console me in this respect, for Teram Kangri appears in one of the panoramas.'

The PRESIDENT said :—' Dr. De Filippi alluded to the contest between mountaineers and mountains which may be said to have begun, in earnest, over 120 years ago with the first attempts to climb Mont Blanc. That contest has entered on a very interesting stage : this evening we have heard one of the most important chapters in its history, and now that the scene of action is transferred to the Himalaya it is evident that the mountaineer will have to fight hard for every additional advantage gained. After seeing Signor Sella's splendid views of K2, no one can wonder that it has hitherto proved unassailable, and even the most sanguine climber may well entertain doubts as to its accessibility. It has been a delightful experience and a great privilege to hear Dr. De Filippi's description of this exceedingly important and interesting expedition, and to see the magnificent photographs of scenes that few of us can hope ever to behold. I will ask you to endorse a very hearty vote of thanks to the reader of the paper for his kindness in coming here to-night and giving us this admirable address.'

Dr. DE FILIPPI in reply said : ' There only remains for me to thank you for the kind reception you have given me. I take your applause as a tribute paid to the leadership of H.R.H. the Duke

of the Abruzzi during the whole of the campaign. If I have been able to convey to you our feeling that only the obstacle of bad weather deprived him of his aim, I shall consider my lecture quite successful. I will be glad to convey to him your appreciation of his labours and to Signor Sella your appreciation of his work.'

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall on the evening of Monday, December 5, at 8.30, Mr. Hermann Woolley, *President*, in the chair.

The following candidates were balloted for and elected members of the Club: R. B. J. Binnie, C. F. K. Carfrae, J. Y. Dent, W. S. Jackson, G. L. Mallory, T. G. Moorhead, R. S. Morrish, B. F. K. O'Malley, W. M. Roberts, R. A. Wright.

The following members were elected officers of the Club for the year 1911:—

President: Sir Edward Davidson, K.C.M.G., C.B., K.C., in place of Mr. Hermann Woolley, whose term of office expired.

New Members of Committee: Messrs. H. D. Waugh, H. C. Bowen, and W. A. Brigg in place of Messrs. G. L. Stewart, G. Winthrop Young, and C. W. Nettleton, whose respective terms of office expired.

The Vice-Presidents, the Honorary Secretary and the other Members of Committee being eligible were re-elected.

Sir EDWARD DAVIDSON said: 'I thank you most sincerely for the very generous manner in which you have endorsed the nomination of the Committee. I esteem the distinction which you have just conferred upon me not only as the greatest possible honour that can be offered to any member of the Club, but as the greatest honour ever offered to me personally in any shape. At the same time I feel distrust of my ability to discharge the duties in the way in which the Club has come to look for their being discharged. However, having perhaps somewhat unwisely accepted the nomination of the Committee, I will to the best of my small ability endeavour faithfully to discharge the trust you have placed in my hands. I am encouraged very greatly by the generous reception you have given me to-night and I also know full well that I may rely on the loyal assistance of the Vice-Presidents, the Honorary Secretary and all the members of the Committee. And last but not least I know further, Mr. President, that you will assist and aid me with your wise counsel when I am in want of it and that alone is to me a great consolation, when I think of the difficulties that may beset my inexperienced feet. In quitting the chair that you have so worthily filled, you leave the Club prosperous, united, flourishing and vigorous to a degree that perhaps has not been equalled and has certainly never been excelled in its history. I shall endeavour to walk in the best traditions of our predecessors in office, traditions which you have so fully and firmly maintained, and I earnestly hope and trust that when the time comes for me

to resign my office I may hand it on to my successor equally unsullied and unimpaired.'

Messrs. R. W. Lloyd and R. L. Harrison were re-elected auditors.

The PRESIDENT said: 'I have to report since January 1 eight deaths—viz. Messrs. A. J. Butler, C. D. Robertson, E. Kelly, M. Carteighe, F. Tendron, C. B. Hutchinson, T. S. Treanor, B. Wainwright. I have to report also that Mr. Montagnier has presented to the Club a rare coloured print of Mont Blanc and a silhouette portrait of Mr. Beaufoy who was the first Englishman to make the ascent of Mont Blanc. The arrangement of the Exhibition has been due to Mr. Nettleton, and we have to congratulate him and ourselves on the conspicuous success of his efforts and I am sure that you will pass a very hearty vote of thanks to him for his services.'

A hearty vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to Mr. Nettleton.

The PRESIDENT then delivered an address.

THE WINTER DINNER of the Club was held in the Whitehall Rooms, Hotel Metropole, London, S.W., on Tuesday evening, December 6, 1910, at 7 P.M., Mr. Hermann Woolley, *President*, in the Chair. Two hundred and sixty-six members and guests sat down, among the latter being: Lord Mersey, Mr. Justice Warrington, Sir F. C. Gould, Captain T. Schlagintweit, Mr. Mark Beaufoy, Mr. Barry Pain, Mr. Owen Seaman, Mr. F. H. Cook, Dr. Scott Keltie and Mr. Alfred Hoare.

AN EXHIBITION OF ALPINE PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS by members and their friends was held in the Hall of the Club from December 5 to 24, 1910. Refreshments were served to members and their friends on the afternoon of the 6th.

POSTSCRIPT.

THE 'RIVISTA' OF THE ITALIAN ALPINE CLUB.—The No. for January 1911 (Vol. xxx. No. 1) appears under the direction of a new Editor. Professor Carlo Ratti, who has so long and so ably edited the 'Rivista,' is succeeded by Signor Walther Laeng. The 'Rivista' retains its familiar blue cover, but has been increased in size, and is now printed with two columns on a page. We wish the new Editor every success.

'ALPINE JOURNAL,' NO. 190, NOVEMBER 1910, ERRATA.—Page 348, line 29, for 'look' read 'took'; page 349, line 31, for 'by Zermatt arête' read 'by the Z'Mutt arête.'