

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.

'THE ALPINE GUIDE,' THE CENTRAL ALPS. PART II.—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 the Rev. George Broke, is now ready, and can be obtained from all booksellers, or from Messrs. Stanford, 12 Long Acre, W.C. It includes 'those Alpine portions of Switzerland, Italy, and Austria, which lie S. and E. of the Rhone and Rhine, S. of the Arlberg, and W. of the Adige.'

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY.—Sir George Clerk, Bt. (1871).

THE CLUB HUT BRITANNIA.—This hut is now in course of construction on the Hinter Allalin (3,077 m.), and is expected to be finished by the end of July. The inauguration is to take place in August. The ground floor contains caretaker's room, dining-room, 16 ft. by 22 ft., and guides' sleeping-room for twelve. On the first floor are dormitories for sixteen men and eight ladies, and a small dining-room and stove for the winter.

The cost is as follows :—

	frcs.
The building itself, including furniture and sundries	13,800
Transport of the whole	6,080
	19,880

or nearly £800.

This amount exceeds the original estimate by £100, and it will be necessary to raise this difference as the total amount collected to date is £717.

The hut is intended to be one of the best built and equipped huts in the Alps, and as the President of the Association states that it does not intend to build any more, it is earnestly hoped that the

present deficit may be speedily wiped out, and the matter set at rest.

Subscriptions should be sent to C. E. King-Church, Esq., Clive Lodge, Albury, Surrey, or to C. T. Dent, Esq., 61 Brook Street, W.

STRAHLEGG HUT.—This admirable hut built by the Basel Section of the S.A.C. is stated to have cost 18,300 frs. = £732.

HEIGHT OF THE MATTERHORN.—In the note in the last number of the JOURNAL (p. 92), the heights 4505 m. and 4482 m. of the two summits were transposed by a printer's error. In the 'Echo des Alpes,' 1912, pp. 99–108, M. Ch. Jacot Guillarmod, an engineer of the Swiss topographical service, examines in great detail the various authorities on the subject and shows that the heights calculated by the surveyors vary by several metres. His conclusion is that the question will not be solved until a detailed triangulation with modern instruments of precision is made.

MT. GHITSA, OR GYSA, AND CASSIORTE (AROLLA DISTRICT).—Canon Sloman descended last summer the N. arête of Mt. Ghitsa. Neither it nor Cassiorte is named on the Siegfried map, and some doubt appears to exist as to their exact identity. The Mt. Ghitsa ascended by Canon Sloman forms the most Eastern end of the Dolin ridge, and has a cross on it. Canon Sloman has had some correspondence with Mr. Larden on the subject, as the latter places Mt. Ghitsa 'between Dolin and La Roussette,' which the Canon thinks would answer to the small point forming the S. side of the Col de la Forclette.

JUBILEE OF THE S.A.C.—To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of its foundation the Assembly of Delegates of the S.A.C., held at Zug on November 6, 1911, has commissioned Dr. H. Dübi to write a history of the Club from 1863 to 1913.

SCHWEIZER ALPEN-CLUB.—The published accounts to December 31, 1911, of this Club give the following interesting information:—

Total members (including 1,424 new members)	12,298
Total income	frcs. 75,692 = £3,028

The principal items of expenditure are:—

For new huts (5)	frcs. 22,500
Repairs to old huts, furniture, assurance and paths	3,870
The fortnightly 'Alpina'	8,454
Assurance of guides	9,572
Various subventions	12,604
General expenses	6,577
The rebuilding of the Swiss Alpine Museum (instalment)	10,000

frcs. 73,577 = £2,943

Volume 46 of the 'Jahrbuch' with the Album of Club Huts cost 49,365 frcs., but this cost is covered by the allocation of a portion of the annual subscription, and hence is not shown as an item of general expenditure. The total assets of the Club amount to 72,581 frcs. = £2,903.

D. U. Œ. A. V.—The total income of this great Association for the year 1911 was as follows:—

Members' subscriptions (94,277, including 3079 new members)	mks. 639,629
Interest	7,219
Various sources	12,561
Advertisements	20,020
	679,429 = £33,971

The expenditure was as follows:—

	mks.
Zeitschrift	201,398
Mittheilungen	112,992
Huts and paths	176,438
Management	45,566
Expenses in connexion with guides.	28,508
Central Library	13,418
Alpine Museum	20,000
Accident Fund	18,000
Other objects	15,596
	631,916 = £31,595

The total assets of the Association amount to 365,262 mks. = £18,263.

RECORD ASCENT OF MONT BLANC.—On August 20, 1910, MM. Joseph and Marcel Bouchard and Alfred Couttet, the ski champion, left Chamonix at 10 P.M. and reached the summit of Mont Blanc at 7.15 next morning. They left the summit at 8 and reached Chamonix at 11 A.M., or 13 hours in all including halts.

Their time from the Grands Mulets to the summit was 4 hours ('La Montagne,' 1912, p. 105).

THE NADELGRAT.—The ascents recorded in the Dom hut book are as follows: Dom, 116; Hohberghorn, 5; Nadelhorn, 25; Stecknadelhorn, 14; Südlenspitze, 14; Täschhorn, 10. The total number of visitors to the hut was, tourists, 132; guides, 39.

ASCENTS OF SOME TYROLESE SUMMITS.—The Alpine Museum in Munich contains tabular statements of the number of ascents made of well-known peaks from the year 1897 to 1910. Thus the visitors to the Marmolata increased from 234 in 1897 to 1113 in 1910, and whereas in 1897 there were 29 guideless and 118 guided travellers,

the figures in 1910 were 515 and 326 respectively. The 1910 figures include 24 guideless and 4 guided ascents of the S. face. The total number of persons who gained the summit from 1897 to 1911, both inclusive, was 10,366.

The Kleine Zinne appears to have been ascended altogether by 3495 people, viz. :—

By the S.W. face		2,918
By the N. face		553
By the E. face		24

The Zugspitze is the most remarkable for its visitors, as on August 14–15, 1910, alone there are 700 entries in the visitors' book. The Totenkirchl is another great favourite, as in 1910 its summit was reached by 63 guided and 556 guideless climbers, including 8 and 23 ladies respectively.

ASCENT OF THE N. FACE OF THE MÖNCH—A COMPARISON.—Dr. Rudolf Beck of Vienna describes in 'Alpina,' 1912, p. 49 *seq.*, his experiences on this expedition, which he carried out on September 3, 1911, with the guide Josef Maria Biner (son), of St. Niklaus. Much ice was encountered, and it was decided to cut up the left or E. face of the famous 'Nollen' instead of attacking it in front, as has usually been done. It took Biner nearly three hours' hard work before he reached the top of the 'Nollen.'

Dr. Beck makes the following interesting comparison of the great ice climbs known to him :—

1. The E. face of Monte Rosa is the finest and most splendid.
2. The N. face of the Jungfrau is the longest and most arduous.
3. The N. face of the Mönch is the most difficult.

THE JUNGFRAU RAILWAY.—The tunnel from the Eigerwand station to the Jungfraujoch was pierced on February 21. A station is in course of construction at the Joch.

THE ZMUTT ARÊTE OF THE MATTERHORN.—It is a matter of interest to meteorologists that the four days' storm (August 20–24) which put a heavy covering of fresh snow on the Zermatt peaks was thought to have rendered the Zmutt arête quite impossible of ascent. A view obtained on the descent of the Italian side of the mountain brought our party to its foot on the next day. The ridge had escaped the storm in the sense that no fresh snow lay upon it, and the route was in good order.

J. M. ARCHER THOMSON.

FIRST ASCENT OF CERRO LA PALOMA (4,930 m. = 16,170 ft.).—According to an article in the 'South Pacific Mail' of March 13, 1912, the first ascent of this mountain was made on February 20 by Signor Felix Mondini, the well-known member of the C.A.I., and Messieurs N. R. Temperley and H. Trehweler. The peak is well seen from Santiago. The ascent was made from Los Bronces by a

N. ridge free from ice, and thence by the snowy edge seen from Santiago, the central and highest peak being attained.

THE BERGLI ACCIDENT.—The total amount subscribed for the sufferers from this accident was 47,334 francs, and in addition the guides were insured for 19,056 francs, making together 66,390 francs. The amount was distributed under the direction of Pfarrer Strasser, assisted by a very representative Commission, as follows :

I. To the Grindelwald families.

1. Peter Inäbnit's widow and 11 minor children :		frcs.	
Subscribed	22,081		
Insurance	4,000		
			26,081
2. Chr. Bohren's widow and 3 minor children :			
Subscribed	6,966		
Insurance	4,000		
			10,966
3. Rudolf Inäbnit's relatives :			
Subscribed	1,843		
Insurance	4,000		
			5,843
4. Fritz Brawand (wounded), wife and 6 minor children :			
Subscribed	1,420		
Insurance	256		
			1,676

II. To the Eisten families.

1. Alexander Burgener's widow and daughter :			
Subscribed	5,278		
Insurance	2,000		
			7,278
2. Adolf Burgener's widow and 1 minor child :			
Subscribed	5,278		
Insurance	4,000		
			9,278
3. Alexander Burgener, Junr. (wounded), wife and 5 minor children :			
Subscribed	4,468		
Insurance	800		
			5,268
		frcs.	66,390

The families of the two travellers who were killed subscribed to the fund as liberally as their means permitted. The amount subscribed by members of the Alpine Club was £108 19s.

ACCIDENT ON THE DOLDENHORN IN 1904.—It will be remembered that on June 19, 1904, three young Swiss medical students in descending the Doldenhorn slipped down a snow-slope, two falling into a crevasse. One of them died the same night and the death of the other, Herr Ernst Krebs of Oberbalm, is now announced. Herr Krebs, who was a man of very fine physique, a strong and practised mountaineer, never recovered the use of his legs after the accident, being paralysed from the waist.

FATAL ACCIDENTS IN 1911.—The 'Mittheilungen des D.u.Ö.A.V.,' 1912, pp. 37-40, 52-55, 65-67, and 79-82 gives a critical analysis of the many accidents recorded in 1911. The principal have already been dealt with in these pages.

The following summary speaks for itself. Fatal accidents occurred to :

1. 34 travellers unaccompanied, viz. :—

Fall from rocks.	. . . 25	Eastern Alps	21
Fall into crevasse	6	Western Alps	12
Cause unknown	2	Non Alpine	1
Frozen to death	1		
	34		34

2. 68 travellers accompanied by others, viz. :—

Fall from rocks	44	Eastern Alps	38
Fall from snow and ice	10	Western Alps	23
Fall into crevasse	2	Non Alpine	7
Stone fall	7		
Exhaustion	2		
Lightning	1		
Frozen to death	1		
Unknown reason	1		
	68		68

Injuries were reported to 89 travellers, while quite a number were reported missing.

FATAL ACCIDENTS IN 1911.—The 'Echo des Alpes' for April 1912 contains a list, compiled by M. F. Montandon, of the fatal accidents in 1911. He records the loss of 114 travellers (including 10 ladies) and 8 guides. The nationalities were as follows :—

German	45
Austrian	35
Swiss	20
French	9
Italians	7
English	2
Others	4
	122

M. Montandon makes the following classification :—

I.—*Unavoidable Accidents.*

- a. Objective, *i.e.* caused by the mountain without contributory negligence 12
- b. Subjective, *i.e.* caused by a sudden seizure, &c., without contributory negligence. 4

II.—*Avoidable Accidents.*

- a. Alone 27
- b. Accompanied
 1. Unroped 7
 2. Novices without guides 6
 3. Want of skill or nerve 6
 4. Getting into dangerous places 3
 5. Insufficient equipment 3
 6. Bad weather 2
- c. Unexplained accidents 40

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The causes of the various accidents are stated to be the following :—

1. Breakage of snow bridge or cornice 12
2. Storm, mist, or nightfall 9
3. Fall when gathering flowers 8
4. Slip on hard snow 7
5. Struck by stones 6
6. Weakness, sudden attack of giddiness, &c. 4
7. Missing the route (fine weather) 4
8. Falls in inhabited valleys 3
9. Avalanches from above 3
10. Disappeared 2
11. Avalanche trodden loose 1
12. False step on rocks and cases incompletely explained 51

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It is not at all clear why M. Montandon should set down as avoidable such accidents as happened to solitary climbers. Many of the accidents recorded are not mountaineering accidents in the strict sense, and *one thing is quite clear from all these records, and that is that an accident to a party of properly equipped and practised mountaineers is rare.* Mountaineering, properly practised, is not a mere risky sport, but is a pursuit that makes great demands on and builds up a man's endurance, strength, watchfulness, determination to overcome and skill in overcoming difficulties, and what, by careless or unskilled handling, do often become most serious dangers.

RELATIVE FREQUENCY OF ACCIDENTS.—Some very interesting tables have been drawn up for the Munich Alpine Museum which throw an interesting light on the relative frequency of accidents in the Eastern Alps. It has been calculated that the number of visitors to the huts of the D.u.Ö.A.V. between 1901 and 1910 has increased by 80 %, whereas the number of fatal accidents, even including flower pickers, has only increased 40 %. The members of the Section Bayerland of the D.u.Ö.A.V., which contains a large proportion of active mountaineers, have in fifteen years made 79,440 expeditions, of which 77,327 were without guides. These expeditions, many of which were difficult, involved only thirteen fatal accidents. Probably our own Club can show even a smaller proportion of fatal accidents.

Naturally the nearness of the Kaisergebirge to Munich makes it much frequented, and 47 fatal accidents are recorded against that district alone. (Cf. 'Mitth. D.u.Oe.A.-V.,' 1912, No. 3.)

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

The Climbers' Club Journal, 1912. *New Series*. No. 1. (To be continued annually.) Edited by A. H. M. Lunn. 3/- net. Horace Marshall & Sons.

WE welcome this New Series of the 'Climbers' Club Journal,' and wish it every success. The type is clear, the illustrations are good, and the Editor has succeeded in enlisting the help of many well-qualified contributors. The first article is on the 'Ascent of the Grépon by the Mer de Glace Face' by R. Todhunter. It is illustrated by a photogravure of the Grépon from a beautiful painting by E. C. Compton. This paper is followed by a characteristic article from the pen of G. Winthrop Young on 'Climbing Down.' J. M. Archer Thomson tells the story of the 'Exploration of Llechog