

'Mittheilungen' 1912, p. 112 *seq.* The 'Ö.A.Z.' 1912, p. 153 *seq.* also contains some interesting details of Herr Hacker's career by his friend Dr. Günter Freiherr v. Saar.

On April 28, **Dr. Semmelmann** of Munich was killed when ascending with two companions the S. face of the **Sonneck**. The unfortunate climber, who was leading his party, had already surmounted the principal difficulties and was within a few yards of the arête, the rope having been taken off. He was holding on to a big rock which gave way. He is described as a good and practised climber, having done many difficult rock climbs.

On May 5, **Herr Hans Jäger** of Offenbach, a young and capable rock climber, was killed on the **Rotenfels** near Münster-a.-St. The party was engaged in the descent, but at the actual moment Jäger was out of sight of his companions, so that the cause of the accident is not clear.

On May 16, three young climbers, **Georg, Freiherr v. Tucher, Hans, Freiherr v. Tucher**, and **Herr Ahrentraut**, of Munich were killed on the **Waxenstein**. They fell from near the **Mittagscharte** on the Greinauer side. Probably the wintry conditions had to do with the fall.

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.'

DEATH OF PFARRER GOTTFRIED STRASSER.—The death of the well-known 'Gletscherpfarrer' took place at Grindelwald on April 9. Born in Lauenen in 1854 Pfarrer Strasser became pastor of Grindelwald in 1879. He took a deep interest in all mountaineering matters and was always to the front when any trouble befell his small community. His place will be hard to fill.

DEATH OF HERR JOHANN SANTNER.—The death of this well-known climber and botanist is announced as having taken place at Bozen on April 21, in his seventy-second year. He is well known for many adventurous ascents—carried out often alone—in the vicinity of his home at Bozen. Among the first ascents made by him are those of the Grosse Furchetta, Santnerspitze, Grosser Valbonkogel, and variations on the Langkofel and Grohmannspitze. He was also the sole companion of Robert Hans Schmitt, whose name is indelibly imprinted in Alpine history, on the first ascent of the then considered inaccessible Fünffingerspitze by the famous Schmittkamin.

LE PÈRE GASPARD.—*La Montagne* for April 1912 contains a very appreciative notice by M. Emile Morel-Couprie of this famous guide, the conqueror of the Meije. Born at St. Christophe on March 29, 1834, the veteran guide, if one may judge from the picture of him which accompanies the notice, still retains much of his old vigour. Five of his sons—Maximin, Casimir, Joseph, Devouassoud, Alexandre—and his two sons-in-law—J. B. Rodier and Pierre Richard—are well-known guides. The eldest son Pierre who accompanied his father on the first ascent of the Meije was lamed by an accident cutting wood early in his career. Père Gaspard has had two wives, fifteen children and twenty-five grandchildren. He has accounted for upwards of 500 chamois, has had thirty-nine seasons as guide, and counts twenty-three first ascents to his credit among which are :

1. The Meije.
2. Pic Gaspard.
3. South face of the Ecrins.
4. Pic d'Olan from the north.
5. Central summit of the Ailefroide.
6. Pelvoux by the N. face.

THE KASBEK GROUP IN THE CAUCASUS.—Herr Oscar Schuster gives in the 'Ö.A.Z.' 1912, 145–148 some very useful information about travelling in this group. He deals with the question of literature, maps, inns, huts, &c. The information is supplementary to the Topographical notes given in Appendix B of Mr. Freshfield's 'The Exploration of the Caucasus.' Herr Schuster mentions that there is now a motor service on the 'Georgian Highroad' which does the journey between Wladikawkas and Tiflis in 10 hours.

The Kasbek district is the most easily reached and Herr Schuster's very useful information as to the present conditions is very welcome. The 1912 edition of Bäder's 'Russland' contains useful maps of, and information about, the Caucasus.

MOUNT BLACKBURN (ALASKA), 16,140 ft.—The semi-weekly *Colonist*, of Victoria, B.C., of May 28, 1912, announces the ascent of this peak by Miss Dora Keen of Philadelphia on May 19. This is stated to be the first ascent of the great Copper River peak.

Miss Keen with her instruments and tents sailed from Seattle on April 10, and upon her arrival at Kennicott her chief of staff, John E. Barrett, superintendent of the Blackburn mine, was ready with his five men and two teams of dogs. The party encountered many storms that compelled them to remain under shelter for days at a time. On May 7 three of the party returned to Kennicott for fuel, alcohol and provisions, the supplies having become exhausted.

Miss Keen attempted to climb Mount Blackburn last August, but was obliged to turn back after she had discovered what she thought to be a feasible route. This route was followed successfully by the present expedition.

NEW RAILWAYS.—The line from Zweisimmen to Lenk was opened on June 8. The line from Ilanz to Disentis is announced to be opened on August 1.

BOOTNAILS.—The Allers pattern UHU Stollen are now made by Max Seib, Karlsruhe. I have used them for several years and find them admirable. They need attention to see the screws remain tight and they do not seem to answer for heavy men.

J. P. F.

SWISS ALPINE CLUB HUT BRITANNIA.—This hut, built on the Kleine Allalinhorn Saas Fee, will be presented to the Swiss Alpine Club on behalf of the British subscribers at the inauguration, which will take place on Saturday, August 17, 1912.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

The Canadian Rockies: New and Old Trails. By A. P. Coleman, Ph.D., F.R.G.S., Professor of Geology in the University of Toronto. London: T. Fisher Unwin. 1911.

Everyone who cares for Alpine literature (using that adjective in its most comprehensive sense) will give a hearty welcome to this genial and attractive volume, in which Mr. Coleman, one of the original Vice-Presidents, and the second President, of the Alpine Club of