

VARIOUS EXPEDITIONS IN 1912 (AND 1899).

MONT BLANC DISTRICT.

MONT BLANC (4810 m. = 15,782 ft.) BY THE BRENVA.—Reverting to my *résumé* in 'A.J.' xxvi. 171-176, I have since ascertained from a letter addressed by Jean Maître to Dr. O. K. Williamson that in 1899 the late Mr. F. G. Leatham made the ascent by the Brenva with the guides Jean Maître and Pierre Maurys. This is accordingly the seventh ascent, and the subsequent ones need renumbering. The party appear to have crossed the Col de la Brenva without continuing to the summit of Mont Blanc. They turned the upper séracs on the right-hand side. They left the gîte on the Glacier de la Brenva at 3 A.M. and reached the Col de la Brenva at 6 P.M. They had very bad weather and found much difficulty with the séracs.

V. P. F.

Pennines.

THE DOVES (OR DOUVES) BLANCHES.—The long S.W. arête, which ranks as perhaps the longest and most difficult of the regular Arolla courses, was traversed on August 15, 1912, by a guideless party climbing in the following order on two ropes, (1) G. Mallory, G. Harford; (2) H. R. Pope, Mabel Capper, H. E. L. Porter. The arête was strictly followed with but two serious exceptions. One steep step, with an overhanging boss of rock guarding it, proved inaccessible after half an hour's resolute attack; and an earlier attractive tower was passed on the right simply for lack of time. But the first big gendarme, a conspicuous object from the route to the Bertol Hut, was, it is believed, climbed for the first time, no signs of the presence of previous climbers being found, though cairns and boot scratches were elsewhere in evidence. The leader first effected a somewhat delicate slab traverse and with indefinite holds to the right, and then climbed a steep slab by means of very small hand and foot holds in the rough surface of the slab, 60 ft. of rope being required. The times occupied in the several sections were considerable, the party including a veteran, Canon G. Harford, whose principal climbing in the Alps was done in 1883 and 1884, and a lady, Miss Capper, who only began last year. From the Hôtel Mont Collon to the point on the arête where climbing proper began took 3 hrs., the ridge being reached by the N.W. face. After half an hour for breakfast the traversing of the arête occupied 2 hrs., including half an hour for lunch, and half an hour for the ineffective attempt on the inaccessible step. The descent was made in 3 hrs. by the W. face, traversing in a N.E. direction over easy snow slopes to the lower part of the Za glacier. (Total time from the hotel and back, 14½ hrs.) It may be added that the middle part, with its sharp central edge and huge smooth swelling sides, aptly fitted the sobriquet conferred upon it in Larden's book, of the 'Inverted Boat.'

Two days later the expedition was in the main repeated by Dr. O. L. V. de Wesselow and Miss V. D. de Wesselow, with Antoine and Jean Rieder. But they got on to the arête by its S.E. face from the Plan de Bertol, and the climb had an unfortunate termination, the leading guide spraining his ankle some distance from the top. The rest of the party, however, managed to get him on to a point whence they could reach the snow on the E. side, and drew him down to the Plan de Bertol, whence he was fetched by other guides. Naturally this prolonged the day considerably, the climbers not returning till long after dark. Fortunately the mischance was rightly diagnosed by telescope from the hotel; so no undue anxiety was felt.

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 N. of the Rhône 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 Rhône and Rhine, S. of the Arlberg, and W. of the Adige.'

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY.—W. I. Beaumont (1907), A. L. Clover (1900), C. T. Dent (1872), Professor F. A. Forel (Honorary Member), R. Gaskell (1875), H. O. Jones (1910), Conte Francesco Lurani (1892), Rev. H. A. Morgan (1863), J. M. Archer Thomson (1900), J. W. Hook Thorp (1888), R. Walters (Original Member), Rt. Hon. Sir Alfred Willis (1858), Herbert Wilson (1883).

RIFFELHORN.—Mr. George H. Morse sends the following very interesting note:—In 'Conway's Guide to the Eastern Pennine Alps,' page 75, he records that this peak was 'first ascended by some