

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

Englishmen in 1842, see "Forbes' Travels," page 314.' Professor Forbes states that some English students of Hofwyl found a circuitous route on the Eastern side in 1842, and that his guide Damatter had learned the way, so he later on followed in their footsteps to take some bearings from the summit.

I have lately been shown an original letter, by Mr. Edric Barwell, the son of one of those students, and as readers of the ALPINE JOURNAL may be interested in the account, I have permission to offer it to you for reproduction in the JOURNAL.

The letter is dated Lugano, August 18. The Italian postmark is Domo-dossola, 22 Agos; the London postmark is August 30, 1842, and its destination mark is Norwich, August 31, 1842.

It commences:—

'My dear Parents, I have been to the Post Office at Como . . . A distinct description of our route I will give you when I arrive at Hofwyl, but I must now tell you an achievement of ours.

'Not far from the Monte Rosa is a mountain lying a little to the N.W., it stands on Keller's map between Zermatt and the Cima de Jagui, it is not named on his map; it bears, however, the name of Riffle Horn. It consists of a mountain easy to ascend to within 1500 or 2000 feet of the top, which last part is composed of rock, perpendicular and extremely ragged, and was considered inaccessible (or to coin a word unclimbable), as many unsuccessful attempts have been made. Now on the mountains lived a goat-herd who had become perfectly wild. He was accustomed to wander about the hills and to kill sheep and other animals and eat them raw. Many endeavours were made to catch him, but they did not succeed. No one could ever find where he hid in the winter. Well, one morning two monuments of stones were observed on the summit of the Rifflehorn; it had been ascended, but the goat-herd was never seen again. A neighbouring hill was ascended, and a skeleton was observed by means of telescopes on the top. Several guides and chamois hunters have since attempted the ascent, but in vain. When we had ascended the first part, the view of the Monte Rosa was splendid, but a perfect panorama was prevented by this peak. Our guide assured us we could not scale it, but, notwithstanding, the two Smiths and I began, and we succeeded, with incredible exertions, to ascend to the last perpendicular face of the rock, sometimes hanging by our hands or being pushed or drawn up by the other hanging over the glacier of the Monte Rosa. Here V. Smith asked us to stop, he would try to ascend, and we should stop to shout to tell him where to place his feet in his descent. At length a shout announced his arrival on the top, where he fixed a journey pole with a handkerchief as signal of his triumph. He descended to where we were and advised we should go down to tell them of our safety before we ascended again all three; this we did. Lushington accompanied us in our second. We reached the top in safety, wrote our names

on a piece of paper, secured the staff more firmly, and added some stones to the pile. Our feelings were singular; we stood on a point of the earth never before trodden but by one man, who there found his grave. One loud shout announced our success, to which the echoes replied with unaccustomed voice. The scene which spread itself before us is more easily imagined than described. We saw the Oberland of Berne; on every side was ice and snow piled to the heavens. We descended with difficulty, but in safety; so much for our mountaineering.

'The Lake of Como pleases me most of the Italian lakes at present. . . .

'I remain,
'Your affectionate son,
'J. BARWELL.'

Perhaps the most curious part of this story is about the wild goat-herd, and I wonder if any of the older members of the Club have ever heard at Zermatt the tradition of a skeleton being seen on the top.

Mr. John Barwell was born in Norwich in 1825, and was at school at Hofwyl. He died only the other day, February 9, 1912. His companions were Mr. Valentine Smith and his brother, and Mr. Lushington. The two Smiths were afterwards owners of the Thames Bank Distillery in London. Mr. Lushington was a son of Dr. Lushington, for some time a judge in the Admiralty Court, and a brother of Mr. Vernon Lushington, who died quite recently.

As the Rifelhorn has become such a popular playground at Zermatt, this account of its first ascent is, I think, worthy of record.

GEORGE H. MORSE.

NORWICH,
11th April 1912.

NEW HUTS OF THE S.A.C.—The following were opened during 1912 :—

The Liedernenhütte in the Kaiserstock district on the Lake of Lucerne.

The Campo Tencia Hut, canton Tessin.

The Britannia Hut on the Hinter Allalin near Saas. This hut, as is well known, was presented to the S.A.C. by its British members and others. An illustration of this splendid hut appears in 'Alpina,' 1912, p. 200.

After much negotiation the S.A.C. has at last succeeded in getting its plans passed by the communal and cantonal authorities for the construction of the Refuge Solvay. It is to be built near the old or upper hut on the Matterhorn, and is intended to serve simply as a refuge in bad weather, but not as a sleeping-place under ordinary conditions. The fund left by the late M. Solvay amounts to 22,000 francs. The Refuge is to be ready for next season.

NEW RAILWAYS.—The Bevers-Schuls section of the Rhaetian Railway, some 50 kilometres long, will be opened in the spring. This will facilitate access to the Lower Engadine.

NEW GUIDEBOOK TO THE ALPS OF GLARUS.—A second edition of Professor Dr. Näf Blumer's 'Clubführer durch die Glarner Alpen' appeared during the summer. It covers the whole of the Tödi district and neighbourhood. The sketches are a great feature. The marked routes do very much to elucidate, indeed to render almost superfluous, the printed text. Some of the illustrations are very striking, particularly the one on p. 198 showing Mr. Val A. Fynn's route up the stupendous W. wall of the Bifertenstock—the greatest climb in that district. The routes up the Hinter and Vorder Selbsanft, illustrated on pages 201 and 203, as well as those up the Tödi on p. 254, also deserve attention.

VAL TALAGONA.—In 'A.J.' xxv. 560 reference was made to this valley, one of the least known and most interesting of the Dolomites of Cadore. The 'Rivista del C.A.I.' vol. xxxi. pp. 259–270 contains a further article on this group, with much new topographical information and a sketch map.

REVIEWS.

Oxford Mountaineering Essays. Edited by ARNOLD H. M. LUNN. London: Edwin Arnold. 1912. pp. xi and 236. 5s. net.

THIS volume is a collection of essays by nine young Oxford men, eight named and one (for he tells of things that are forbidden) anonymous. They are all fresh from the schools and frankly and refreshingly very young and very solemn, as befits young men who have something to say, and are a little shy lest you shouldn't want to hear it. They are 'concerned with the message the hills hold for Youth, a message which Youth therefore may be pardoned for attempting to explain.' Cambridge discovered the Alps for us. Oxford first photographed them for us, and has had the larger share in cataloguing them. Cambridge again, once and for all, with the pen of Mr. Leslie Stephen wrote the first and last word of literature on Alpine travel. Lastly Cambridge taught the heterodox that College walls and roofs might serve a useful purpose for the aspiring mountaineer. It was time for Oxford to take up the challenge thrown down by a recent President of the Alpine Club and to proceed with the ancient rivalry. We must not quarrel if she speaks, with the lips of youth, in a manneristic strain. These gentlemen have no new ascents to record, though the names of some of the writers are familiar enough to modern climbers. We are to learn from them things possibly more important to the sport than the way to turn a particular difficulty or the technique of ice-axe and elbow.