

pp. 194–198, in both of which he discusses the remarkable breccias in the Flysch in the Grande Eau valley above Le Sepey. They both are mentioned, with more references to Continental authors in Lubbock's 'Scenery of Switzerland'—see table of contents.

The difficulty in appealing to overthrust masses (as Professor Bonney points out) for the sources of these blocks is that they are in the Flysch, which in this part of the Alps is Eocene, and *older* than the great periods of mountain-making, with which the 'thrusts' are connected. It is known that there were mountains on the site of the Alps prior to the Flysch, but of these we know very little—see Professor Bonney's 'Building of the Alps' for some remarks on this subject.

In conclusion, geologists will find the Habkernthal well worth a visit, independently of its granites, and can eat, drink, and rest at a comfortable little inn at Habkern, three hours' walk from Interlaken,

T. HOWSE, F.L.S.

## OLD FÜHRERBÜCHER.

MR. HENRY F. MONTAGNIER has kindly presented to the Club the Führerbücher, dating back into the late 'fifties, of the well-known Zermatt guides Johann, Matthäus and Stephan zum Taugwald. These guides were the immediate successors of Brantschen and Damatter, mentioned by Forbes, and took part in the early ascents of Monte Rosa and other peaks.

The book of Johann is of great value and contains many entries of historical interest. It may be said to be the most important document of the kind acquired by the Club since the Paccard notebook presented by the late C. E. Mathews.

The Club has also been able to acquire the Führerbuch of Franz Weisshorn Biener, who as he lay dying last September expressed the wish that his book should be offered to the Club of which so many of his employers had been or were members.

The Club is again indebted to Mr. Montagnier for his good offices in this matter.

It is intended to continue the 'Historical Document' series in an early number by an analysis of these books, and it is expected that further light may be thrown on the point, never very satisfactorily settled, how far the parties who made the attempts from the Silbersattel before the Höchste Spitze was attained really got.

It is also hoped to put together from Biener's Buch an account of the life of a guide who, if not of front rank, was a staunch and valiant mountaineer. The best thanks of the Alpine Club are due to Mr. Montagnier for his care for the interests of the Club and for the presentation of books of unique interest.