

he and his guides made the ascent by this route in 1921, and that they found traces of a previous ascent. Klucker told me this year (1923) that he had never heard of any previous attempt on the W. face, and that he was sure no ascent had been recorded. No one knows this group and its literature better than he does, and I accepted his word unreservedly. The statement in 'Ball's Central Alps' (pt. ii. p. 217), 'From the Gravasalvas Pass the Piz Lagrev can be climbed by reaching the W. ridge and following it to the summit,' appears to need explanation.

Many years ago, in the days of the 'Zermatt Pocket-book,' Sir Martin Conway laid it down that the only way to deal with mountaineering records was to regard unrecorded ascents as unmade. Consequently, it may be useful to insert this belated description in the ALPINE JOURNAL.

C. WILSON.

## ALPINE NOTES.

'BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE,' THE WESTERN ALPS.—A new edition (1898) of this work, reconstructed and revised on behalf of the Alpine Club by the Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge, Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, can be obtained from all booksellers, or from Edward Stanford, Limited, 12 Long Acre, W.C. 2. It covers the Western Alps from the Mediterranean to the Simplon, S of the Rhone. Price 10s. net, post free 10s. 4d. net.

'BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE,' THE CENTRAL ALPS. PART I.—A new edition (1907) of this work, reconstructed and revised on behalf of the Alpine Club under the general editorship of the Rev. A. A. Valentine-Richards, Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge, can be obtained from all booksellers, or from Edward Stanford, Limited, 12 Long Acre, W.C. 2. It includes those portions of Switzerland to the N. of the Rhone and Rhine Valleys. Price 5s. net, post free 5s. 4d. net, or unbound, 2s. 10d.

'BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE,' THE CENTRAL ALPS. PART II.—A new edition (1911) of this work, reconstructed and revised on behalf of the Alpine Club under the general editorship of the Rev. George Broke, can be obtained from all booksellers, or from Edward Stanford, Limited, 12 Long Acre, W.C. 2. 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. Price 5s. net, post free 5s. 4d. net, or unbound, 2s. 10d.

MAP OF THE VALSESIA.—Some copies of the Map issued with the ALPINE JOURNAL, No. 209, and of the plates opposite pages 108

and 128 in No. 208, are available and can be obtained from the Assistant Secretary, Alpine Club, 23 Savile Row, W. Price for the set (the Map mounted on cloth), 3s.

THE GUIDE DES ALPES VALAISANNES.—The four volumes are now all issued, viz. : Vol. I., Col Ferret to Col de Collon, par M. Kurz, 10s. Vol. II., Col de Collon to Col Théodule, par Dr. Dübi, 9s. Vol. III., Col Théodule to Weisstor, par Dr. Dübi, 8s. Vol. IV., Col du Simplon to Furka, par M. Kurz, 8s. To be obtained from Stanford, Long Acre, W.C. 2, at above prices. This French edition contains later information and is copiously furnished with route sketches.

A CLIMBER'S GUIDE TO THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS OF CANADA.—By Howard Palmer and J. Monroe Thorington, 1921. This very useful summary, with several maps, of what has been done in the Rockies to 1921, can be obtained from the Assistant Secretary, price 7s. 6d.

THE 'CLUBFÜHRER DURCH DIE BÜNDNERALPEN.'—Vol. IV., covering the Bregaglia and the Disgrazia group, by H. Rütter, with the assistance of Christian Klucker, can be obtained from Sauerländer and Co., Aarau, Switzerland.

ALPINE JOURNAL.—A full set, Vols. I. to XXXI., in brown cloth, and XXXII. to XXXIV. in parts, is for sale.—Apply, Assistant Secretary.

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :	Date of Election
Browning, Oscar . . . . .	1864
Middlemore, T. . . . .	1871
Bull, Rev. T. Williamson . . . . .	1875
Davidson, Sir W. E. . . . .	1875
Sterndale, Rt. Hon. Lord . . . . .	1894
Phillips, H. W. . . . .	1903
Ker, W. P. . . . .	1909
Oppenheim, Col. L. C. F. . . . .	1911
Hayden, Sir Henry H. . . . .	1921

POPE PIUS XI. has taken the occasion of the celebration of the millenary of St. Bernard of Menthon to address to the Bishop of Annécya, to mountaineers, very interesting letter.

His Holiness, after dwelling at some length on the character and virtues of St. Bernard and the service he rendered to travellers by his practical efforts to make the passages of the Alps less dangerous, proclaims him the Patron-Saint not only of the inhabitants of the Alps, but also of their visitors and of 'all who attempt to climb mountains.'

The letter concludes with an impressive tribute to the physical and moral benefits to be gained by the pursuit of mountaineering.

We furnish a translation of the Pope's words :

'Of all the exercises which afford a wholesome distraction there is—for a man who knows how to avoid rashness—none more serviceable than mountaineering for promoting both the health of the body and the vigour of the mind. In the laborious effort to gain the summits where the air is lighter and purer the climber gains new strength of limb, while in the endeavour to overcome the countless obstacles of the way the soul trains itself to conquer the difficulties of Duty ; and the superb spectacle of the vast horizons, which from the crest of the Alps offer themselves on all sides to our eyes, raises without effort our spirits to the divine Author and Sovereign of Nature.'

WE deeply regret to have to record the death, on August 24, of Mrs. Wheeler, the wife of Arthur O. Wheeler, the principal founder, and now the Director, of the Alpine Club of Canada. Probably only a few persons are aware of the full measure of her devotion to the interests of the Club, but many English visitors will remember her gracious and kindly presence at Banff, where in the midst of much hard and exacting work she always seemed to be able to emerge, serene and smiling, with a few minutes to spare for them. The Club House can never be the same without her.

SIG. ORAZIO DE FALKNER, President Florence section C.A.I., died, we regret to hear, after a long illness, on September 29. M. de Falkner was English on his mother's side, while his father, a fervid irredentist, was of Alsatian extraction. He was formerly a very active mountaineer, principally in the Graians, Brenta group, and Dolomites. His father and he, then a youth, in 1886, were caught out on the Matterhorn in terrible weather, when Borckhart succumbed. The elder M. de Falkner's letter on the subject appeared in 'A.J.' xiii. 101 *seq.*

WE much regret to note the announcement of the death, on March 23, of M. HENRI BOILEAU DE CASTELNAU, best known in Alpine circles as the conqueror, in 1877, led by the two Gaspards, of the Meije. M. de Castelnau was born late in 1857, and after this great ascent does not appear to have continued his Alpine expeditions.

WE much regret to hear of the death at the age of 61 of M. CHARLES MONTANDON, brother of our Honorary Member. The family is of Neuchâtel-Albigensian origin of Montandon in the Jura. Both brothers commenced their Alpine career at a very early age, Charles being credited at 15 with the first ascent of Büttlassen quite alone. A number of first ascents stand to his credit, done for the most part with his brother Paul, thus : Tschingellochtighorn,

Hühnerthälihorn, Gastlosenspitze, Gr. Diamantstock, S. Klein-Lauteraarhorn, Gr. Rinderhorn, besides other less known ascents. In 1882 he and two companions made the first guideless passage of the Wetterlücke which, it will be remembered, had been crossed 16 years before by Dr. Dübi with Mr. Freshfield and Mr. Tucker, led by F. Devouassoud.

His Alpine career is the subject of a sympathetic notice by Dr. Dübi in *Alpina*, September 15, 1923.

VISITORS TO THE HUTS OF THE S.A.C.

Bétemps . . . . .	720	Orny . . . . .	903
Matterhorn Inn . . . . .	192	J. Dupuis . . . . .	857
Schönbühl . . . . .	531	Britannia . . . . .	622
Dom . . . . .	93	Solvay . . . . .	224
Weisshorn . . . . .	75	Blümlisalp . . . . .	1725
Mountet . . . . .	357	Gspaltenhorn . . . . .	371
Bertol . . . . .	563	Mutthorn . . . . .	610
Chanrion . . . . .	411	Oberaletsch . . . . .	112
Panossière . . . . .	269	Konkordia . . . . .	383
Finsteraarhorn . . . . .	—	Boval . . . . .	1481
Strahlegg . . . . .	248	Tschierva . . . . .	548
Gleckstein . . . . .	595	Albigna . . . . .	118
Rotondo . . . . .	245	Sciora . . . . .	63
Ruckhubel . . . . .	772	Cadlimo . . . . .	534
Etzli . . . . .	400	Forno . . . . .	216
Hüfi . . . . .	588	Total to all huts	<u>33150</u>
Clariden . . . . .	660		
Fridolin . . . . .	212		

There was a diminution of over 11,000 against 1921, due probably to bad weather.

FAUTEUIL DES ALLEMANDS.—A well-equipped hut for 6 men to serve for the Aiguille Noire de Peuteret has now been built by the C.A.I.

THE VALLOT HUT.—M. Henri Bregeault, Hon. Sec. of the Paris section of the C.A.F., informs us that his section has taken this hut into its charge, and that by next August it is hoped to refit it.

NEW FINSTERAARHORN HUT.—In order 'to remedy the deplorable actual conditions,' a grant of 20,000fr. has been made by the C.A.S. to the Oberhasli section towards the construction of a new wooden hut to house thirty people, to be built rather below the present hut. (Total cost, 30,000fr.)

GELMERALP—A hut on the Gelmeralp in the Diechtortal is to be built by the same section with the aid of a grant from the C.A.S. of 12,000fr. (Total cost, 35,000fr.). Few English climbers know even

where this is, but they will find the Gelmerhörner, especially the Klein Gelmerhorn, offer something equal to the best of the Aiguilles.

**LAKE LOUISE DISTRICT (CANADIAN ROCKIES).**—A fine stone hut has been built by the C.P.R. on Abbot Pass, considerably shortening many climbs.

**MOUNT EVEREST EXPEDITION.**—Lieut.-Colonel E. L. Strutt delivered a private lecture, accompanied by the film, on the Expedition of 1922 to their Majesties the King and Queen of the Belgians, the Duke of Brabant, and Count of Flanders, R.N., at the Palace, Brussels, on June 18. The Royal Family displayed the greatest possible interest in the lecture.

Colonel Strutt delivered lectures to General Sir A. Godley and the Rhine Army on June 19 and 20. The first was at Cologne, and over 4,000 officers (including the Commander-in-Chief and Lady Godley) and men attended. The second was delivered in a Zeppelin shed at Wahn where most of the Army of Occupation are engaged in field training. Over 3,000 officers and men attended. Both lectures were listened to, apparently, with the greatest interest and attention.

A NEW aeroplane altitude record has been made of 35,237 feet.

**GENERAL BRUCE** has been elected an Hon. Member of the American A.C.

**THE SCIENTIFIC REPORTS OF THE ITALIAN EXPEDITION TO THE HIMALAYA IN 1913-14.**—These reports will form, when complete, a set of thirteen volumes. The first, on the 'Glaciology of Baltistan and Ladak,' has just been published. Sir Filippo De Filippi writes: 'We have in the press one volume on "Geodetical Observations" and one on "Anthropogeography," in addition to my own general report of the story of the enterprise, which is published by itself and does not form part of the set containing the results.'

**THE SECOND CLEMENCEAU EXPEDITION.**—At the end of his paper: 'First Mt. Clemenceau Expedition,' in the last JOURNAL, Mr. de Villiers-Schwab foreshadowed a further expedition. This year's party consisted of: H. B. de Villiers-Schwab, A.C., Henry S. Hall, jun., Am.A.C., Dana B. Durand, Norman V. P. Schwab, Bennett Durand, Amateurs; W. D. Harris, chief packer and cook, and 5 assistants.

The first three named constituted the climbing party proper, but Harris was taken along on the final climb, owing to the great size of the mountain and the number of crevasses.

The expedition left Jasper on July 19, reached Base Camp at the foot of Ghost Ridge by Wood River on the 24th, whence two days'

hard march established the climbers in Climbing Camp on July 26. A reconnaissance of the south side of Mt. Clemenceau was made on July 28 from a rock ridge across the névé field. Owing to much bad weather it was not until August 7 that a reconnaissance in force on the mountain itself could be undertaken, when a height of approximately 10,000 ft. was reached. The following day, a bivouac was placed at the south foot of the mountain, and starting about 4 A.M. on the 9th, the summit of Mt. Clemenceau was reached at 11.15 A.M. under good conditions of snow and weather. Climbing Camp was regained shortly before 8 P.M. On the 13th, the climbing party returned to Base Camp and arrived back in Jasper on the 18th.

A detailed paper is promised for the May JOURNAL.

ALASKA PENINSULA.—Towards the end of April Mr. V. A. Fynn made a second attempt to secure specimens of the large Kodiak bear. He sailed on May 1 from Bellingham, Washington, and landed at Squaw Harbour on Unga Island. From there he crossed to the mainland, 60 miles away, in a 45-ft. fishing smack, which returned with instructions to fetch the party forty days later.

The next day a storm set in which lasted eight days, aggravating an existing cold, and rendering the continuance of the journey inadvisable. His guide thereupon, in a 14-ft. open boat, fitted with a 2-h.p. engine, faced, with much courage, the 60 miles of open sea, to fetch the fishing smack, which conveyed the party back to Squaw Harbour.

The mountains in the country visited do not exceed 10,000 ft., but they rise right out of the sea, and 4000 or 5000 ft. peaks look quite imposing. There are a number of volcanoes and some very fine rock peaks, which, however, look unclimbable. The rocks above 3000 or 4000 ft. seem to be perpetually covered with a thick coating of ice, and these peaks look extremely like some of the Himalayan mountains depicted on Sella's photographs. The sharpest ridges are covered with bulging ice and icicles hanging down from the bulges.

Mr. Fynn's intention is to return to the same district in the spring of next year.

ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT.—The Fell and Rock Climbing Club has made, to the National Trust, a magnificent presentation of about 1000 acres of lakeland, which, with Scafell Pike, the gift of Lord Leconfield, may well develop into a great National Park, as was suggested by Sir F. D. Acland, M.P., of the Governing Body of the National Trust, when taking delivery. We learn from *The Times* that the territory handed over to the nation may be roughly indicated as consisting of the mountains on both sides of the Styhead Pass from Glaramara to Lingmell. Beyond Scafell Pike the club have bought and given Scafell mountain, but there is still a gap between the Pike and Scafell itself not acquired, and in

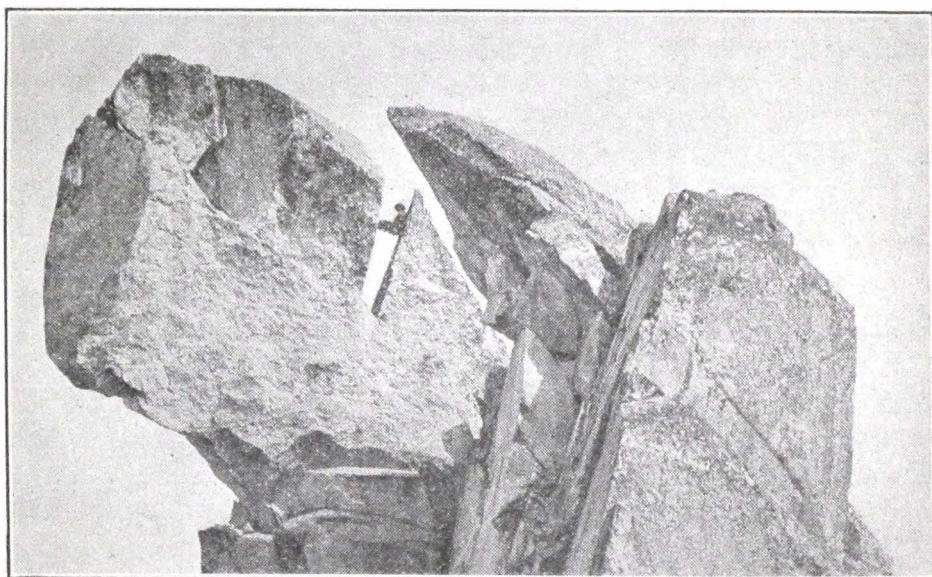
that gap lies the Mickledore chasm and escarpment. In the Gable group, with Great Gable itself, the land includes all the good climbing ground in Lakeland's choicest area, the Needle, Kern Knotts, etc., and away on the other side of the Styhead Pass all the land up to Sprinkling Tarn and Esk Hause. Bow Fell and Crinkle Crags, which lie in a different parish, would splendidly round off the National Park if ever an opportunity of acquiring them occurs.

The negotiations with Lord Lonsdale to acquire the Pillar may, it is hoped, seeing how great a sportsman he is, one day result in a fresh addition to the National Park.

The presentation was made as a memorial to the members who fell in the war.

Dr. Wakefield is the new President and Mr. Somervell (brother of Howard Somervell) the Hon. Sec.

BREGAGLIA GROUP.—I have just heard from St. Moritz that the 'Piz Gallo and the whole range near to it fell over towards the Bregaglia side. . . . Nobody can say how it happened . . . It



seems that between August 24 and September 4 it had not been visited. . . . The Gallo Ridge is the prolongation of the Sciora Ridge to the N. of the Cacciabella, *i.e.* towards Val Bregaglia. Claude Wilson climbed the Gallo this year.—E.L.S.

AN INCIDENT.—In *Alpina*, October 15, 1923, Herr H. E. Fierz, of Bâle section, states that on reaching the glacier *en route* for the traverse of Wellenkuppe-Obergabelhorn<sup>1</sup> 'Mr. Backhouse . . .

<sup>1</sup> Translated.

called me in as umpire. Two of his English acquaintances had a dispute with their guide [the younger brother of Mr. Backhouse's guide, Thomas Biner, killed with Mr. Backhouse soon afterwards]. The elder of the two Englishmen explained that he had engaged the younger Biner as porter, and that he therefore insisted that he (Biner) should go last on the rope. Biner declared, equally firmly, that he did not know the gentlemen well, and therefore declined to let them lead. . . . In the end the undesired guide was discharged. . . . After surmounting the great gendarme, 'looking round I saw that my friend [of the next following party] had remained behind. We heard a few shouts, then my friend's guide disappeared behind the tower and only reappeared, after fully 25 minutes, with another man. . . . The following had occurred. Just as I had started on with the two Perren a shout for help came from below. The Englishman who, before reaching the Wellenkuppe, had declared, "I positively must refuse to go behind a guide," begged urgently for help to climb the gendarme. After Hermann Biner with some trouble had got him up, he requested that his companion should be pulled up. The latter, however, declined to risk the ascent, so that . . . the gentleman-guide had to be lowered down again.'

This is not pleasant reading. Men cannot reasonably expect a porter who does not know them to follow them blindly. It would appear, moreover, from the foregoing narrative that the porter was justified in his doubt. Men who aspire to be 'guideless climbers,' should avoid the crowded districts, where, generally, they have to follow a guided party or a well-marked trail or can call for willing assistance on someone else's guide. The name 'guideless' is an absurd misnomer in high season in the Zermatt district in particular, and to employ porters beyond the hut is inadmissible.

A JUBILEE ASCENT.—On August 21 Mr. A. L. Mumm, accompanied by General Bruce, Mr. H. F. Montagnier, his old guide, M. Inderbinen, and the young Champéry guide, Ernest Jex-Collet, repeated his ascent of 1873 of the *Titlis*.

THE N.E. arête of the Jungfrau was, on July 31, 1923, gained in 3 hours from the Col restaurant, at its second great step (c. 3,900 m.) by climbing the S. rock buttress of the latter from the Jungfraufirn. The party consisted of Herr G. V. Salis-Marschlins with Hans Schlunegger of Wengen who accompanied Herr Weber in 1911 on the first complete ascent by the N.E. arête. Times to arête 3 hours, to summit 2 hours.—*Alpina*, October 15, 1923.

MR. EUSTACE THOMAS climbed the Jungfrau, Mönch and Gr. Fiescherhorn in one day, also Charmoz, Grépon and Blaitière in one day. The latter had been done by Mr. Geoffrey Young some years ago.

In three consecutive days Mr. Thomas traversed Rothorn—Trift

to Mountet, Dent Blanche via Viereselsgrat from Mountet to Schönbühl, and Matterhorn by the Z'Mutt to Zermatt. Guides, Joseph Knubel and Alexander Lagerger as second.

GRINDELWALD — SCHWARZHORN — FAULHORN — SIMELIHORN — RÖTHIHORN—GRINDELWALD.—This round was done on August 7 by Mr. Hasler in 12 hours 40 minutes (10 hours 30 minutes net), who incidentally then made his 116th ascent of the Faulhorn! A glance at the map will show the extent of the walk.

GANDEGG INN TO BÊTEMP'S HUT.—Dr. Roger Hoffmann of Geneva with Gottfried and Alexander Perren. July 11, 1923.

Gandegg . . .	12.0 A.M.	Signalkuppe . . .	3.20 P.M.
Breithorn . . .	4.0	Zumsteinspitze . . .	4.40
Pollux . . .	6.25	Ostspitze. . .	6.0
Castor . . .	8.5	Dufourspitze . . .	6.20
W. Lyskamm . . .	10.40	Bétemps hut . . .	9.0
E. Lyskamm . . .	11.50		

TRIFT INN TO WEISSHORN HUT.—Mr. A. Versluys with Josef Marie Julen and Heinrich Pollinger. August 9, 1923.

Trift inn . . .	12.45 A.M.	Schallijoch . . .	11.50–12.50 P.M.
Rothhorn . . .	5.0	Weisshorn . . .	5.5 – 5.30
End of N. arête	5.35–6.0	Below rock ridge	7.15– 7.50
Mominghorn . . .	7.5–7.15	Weisshorn hut	8.45
Schallhorn . . .	9.45–10.10		
	Gross 20 hours.		Nett 17 hours.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB.—The Club held a summer meeting, its second in the Alps, during the latter part of July. Arolla was chosen as the centre, but after the first few days members ranged far and wide among the adjacent mountains and valleys. Ascents were made for the most part without professional assistance, and the splendid weather which was a feature of the month enabled a large number of successful expeditions to be undertaken. These included the Dent Blanche, Matterhorn, Rothhorn, Wellenkuppe, Grand Combin, Dents des Bouquetins, Mont Collon, Aiguilles Rouges, Mont Blanc de Seilon and the Mont Pleureur, while among the passes traversed were the Cols de Valpelline, Valcournera, Collon, Seilon, Grand Cornier and Durand.

The party (which numbered 17 all told) much appreciated the well-known excellence of the Mont Collon Hotel, though it is to be feared that the liberality of M. Anzevui's cuisine gave occasion for some imprudence in the matter of diet which Nature handled with accustomed severity. The meeting was again voted a great success by all who attended it, and the Club will do well if it makes an Alpine meeting an annual event.

ROPES ON THE MATTERHORN.—It is reported that the younger Zermatt guides are much inclined to remove all the ropes on the Swiss side of the mountain—these are provided and maintained by the Corps of Guides. It is argued that the ropes enable guideless climbers to make the ascent to which their unaided powers are not equal. It would seem that the guides are within their rights in taking in the matter such steps as their interests dictate. From the climbing point of view, the Matterhorn is, of course, spoiled, as it is inconceivable that anyone will exert himself to *climb* the mountain when for long distances a rope dangles down alongside of him.

THE RIFFEL-ALP MOUNTAINEER'S PROGRESS.—

He comes, an inexperienced crock ;  
 He's bear-led up the Horn of Stock ;  
 Next, while contemptuous experts sniffle,  
 He scrabbles up the Horn of Riffel ;  
 His nose becomes a sorry sight  
 After he's done the Horn of Breit.  
 Yet soon he tops, with little parle,  
 The summit of the Horn of Strahl ;  
 He braves, no more a gasping limp fish,  
 The labours of the Horn of Rimpfisch ;  
 Though sluggards vow they judged the day odd, you'll  
 Find that he's crossed the Horn of Theodule.

The loosest boulder does not shift  
 Beneath him on the Horn of Trift ;  
 He sets the terrace in a chatter  
 When seen upon the Horn of Matter ;  
 He treads, as nimble as a goat,  
 The slabs upon the Horn of Roth :  
 He scales, inflexible as marble,  
 The two-pronged Horn of Ober-Gabel ;  
 Lastly, the telescope of Zeiss  
 Detects him up the Horn of Weiss.

L. R. WILBERFORCE.

THE LATE EDWARD T. COMPTON.—An oil painting by him, subject 'Glacier Scene in the Tyrol,' size about 5 ft. 6 ins. by 4 ft., price £30, may be seen (by kind permission) at the Alpine Club, 23 Savile Row, W.

MR. GEOFFERY YOUNG'S NEW POEMS.—'April and Rain' Sidgwick & Jackson, 3s. 6d., are announced. A review appears in the present number.