NEW EXPEDITIONS.

Notes of the following expeditions—believed to be in part or wholly new, or not made before by English mountaineers—were received too late for insertion in the last number.

WESTERN ALPS.

NORD END OF MONTE ROSA, *July* 5.—Mr. Coolidge, with the two Almers, made the second recorded ascent of this peak, from the Riffel. Keeping to the north of 'Ob dem See' and ascending a steep snow-wall, they emerged on the upper snow-fields, and only struck the ridge at the base of the final rocks. The cairn built round a pole by the party of 1861 was in excellent preservation. The expedition occupied seventeen hours, including all halts, owing to the extremely soft snow.

A NEW COL DES BOUQUETINS, *July* 2.—Messrs. W. B. Rickman and A. B. Hamilton ascended to the Col de Mont Brulé by the ordinary route from Arolla. When half way between that Col and the Col de la Valpelline, they turned off to the left, and reached without difficulty the snow plateau at the head of the Glacier de Montminé, at the point marked Col des Bouquetins in the Federal map. The view of the Val Pelline, Italian ranges and Graians, from a deep fosse round the base of the rocks on the right, was very fine. Skirting the base of the northern peak of the Bouquetins, they made for the gap in the ridge from which descends on the other side the glacier called in the Swiss Club map Glacier des Bouquetins. An overhanging corniche of about 10 feet in height had to be cut through on the southern side. The descent to the Glacier d'Arolla is very steep, and later in the season would probably require some step-cutting, but on this occasion there was no difficulty, owing to the quantity of snow. The times occupied, exclusive of halts, were, from Arolla to top of first col six hours, to top of second col two hours, and the return to Arolla two hours and a quarter.

THE MOMING PASS, *August* 27.—The Misses A. and E. Pigeon, with Jean Martin of Sierre and Johann Schaller of Randa, crossed this pass by a route different from that ordinarily taken. Leaving the highest châlet on the Arpitetta Alp at 4.15, they ascended the ice-fall of the Moming glacier under Lo Besso, and then followed the snow-field which circles round at the base of the ridge called 'Le Blanc,' to the foot of the final ice-cliffs leading to the pass, which was reached in five hours and three quarters from the Alp, halts included. The weather being very bad, and the guides unacquainted with the way to Zermatt by the Hohlicht and Rothhorn glaciers, they kept to the left from the pass and descended to Randa by the buttress of the Schallhorn between the Hohlicht and Schallenberg glaciers, partly by an ice couloir much exposed to avalanches, partly by rocks and snow-slopes, the whole route being very steep and difficult. Zermatt was reached at 8 p.m. This line of descent had previously been taken by Martin on July 8, with Monsieur Javelle of Lausanne, but is not likely to be generally preferred to the direct route to Zermatt usually followed.

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CENTRAL ALPS.

Unterbachhorn (circ. 11,800 feet), *September* 2.—Miss Brevoort, Messrs. A. Fairbanks and W. A. B. Coolidge, with Christian and Ulrich Almer, made the first ascent of this peak from the Belalp hotel. The party reached without difficulty the ridge connecting the Unterbachhorn with the Hohstock. Then ascending a steep rocky face, which looks quite hopeless from below, but is comparatively easy, the point marked 3,542 mètres (11,621 feet) in the Federal Map was reached in fifty minutes from the ridge. A very much shattered arête led thence to the 'Allerhöchste Spitze,' for which an aneroid gave an approximate height of 11,800 feet. The view was extremely fine, especially over the Pennine Alps.

Agassizjoch, *September* 7.—The last-named party, with the addition of Christian Inabnit, having reached the Agassizjoch from the Faulberg, *descended* the great couloir to the Finsteraarjoch in fifty minutes, the snow being in capital order, and reached the Ober Eismeer by the great ice-fall of the Finsteraar glacier. It is not known whether the couloir has been descended before this. From the top of the Agassizjoch Mr. Coolidge with U. Almer and Inabnit ascended the Agassizhorn in twenty minutes, returning in seven minutes. This peak commands an extraordinarily fine view, the village of Grindelwald and Hospice of the Grimsel, with all the intervening district, being clearly distinguished. The guides knew of no previous ascent, and M. Studer, in 'Ueber Eis und Schnee' does not mention one, so that this may be counted as the first ascent. The whole expedition (including the ascent of the peak) was repeated a few days later by a party comprising two English ladies.

Wellhorn, *September* 12.—The same party, after passing the night on the saddle between the Wetterhorn proper and the Mittelhorn, and witnessing the sunset from the former and the sunrise from the latter peak, descended by the usual route to the upper plateau of the Rosenlaui glacier. Mr. Coolidge and the two Almers, leaving the rest of the party, struck up to the left, traversed the lower rocks of the Wellhorn at a level, and, crossing a small hanging glacier, reached the ridge running due east from the summit. Following this, they attained the summit—a long ridge capped with snow at its culminating point—without difficulty, in forty-five minutes from the Rosenlaui glacier. Here the cairn and card of the only previous ascender, M. de Fellenberg, in 1866, were found. The view was confined to the valleys, but was very extensive. Bern was clearly seen, and the Rigi less distinctly. The rocks look most formidable from below, but are perfectly easy, though rather fatiguing from their loose condition. Rejoining the others on the glacier, the whole party, with extreme difficulty, owing to the lateness of the season, effected the descent of the upper ice-fall of the Rosenlani glacier, an operation which consumed no less than three hours. The arm of ice under the Engelhörner no longer exists. It may be worth mention, as a singular instance of the decline of peaks, that the same party, a few days later, climbed the Gspaltenhorn (first ascended in 1869 by Mr. G. E. Foster), under exceptionally favourable circumstances, there being but little snow on the arête. Starting from the

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gite of Messrs. Hornby and George in 1867, they reached the summit in little more than four hours, and returned in little more than two hours, excluding halts. The great slope of névé leading up to the sattel between the Gspaltenhorn and the Büttlässen, as well as that leading from thence to the Leitergrat, had almost entirely disappeared, their place being taken by banks of shale and débris.

Gross Doldenhorn, *September* 18.—The same party, with the substitution of Franz Ogi for Ulrich Almer, made the second recorded ascent of this peak. Starting from a bivouac on the terrace above the Byberg Alp, the party ascended a steep moraine and gained the upper plateau of the glacier by a couloir just under the point named 'Doldenstock' by M. de Fellenberg in his interesting book 'Doldenhorn and Weisse Frau.' Easy snow-slopes led to the saddle between the two Doldenhörner, and the party then taking to the N. arête, which turned out to be hard ice in great part, reached the summit, where fragments of the Swiss flag left in 1862 were found. The view was very fine, the Bietschhorn in particular towering up most grandly. On the way down the party kept more to the right, reached the Spitzstein (2,973 mètres), descended a slope of loose rocks, took to the long tongue of ice well marked on the Federal Map, followed it to its termination, and then, striking to the left, rejoined the morning's track.

'Our faithful dog Tschingel accompanied us over the Breche de la Meije, Col de la Tempe and Agassizjoch, and up the Wetterhorn and Doldenhorn, besides several other expeditions.'—W. B. C.

Gross Vieschерhorn, *September* 6.—The same party ascended this peak from the Faulberg by a route supposed to be new. Forcing their way up the ice-fall of the Ewigschneefeld, they struck up snow-slopes to the right, crossed a small bergschrund, and ascending the couloir farthest to the right, without any difficulty reached the sattel between the Gross and Hinter Vieschерhörner. A short half hour up a steep rocky ridge led to the top, in just over four hours walking from the Faulberg. The descent occupied little more than two-and-a-half hours' walking. The view was perfect.

North Side of Aletschhorn and Dreieckhorn, *August* 17.—W. Leaf, F. Pollock and J. H. Pratt, with Peter Baumann as chief guide, started from the Faulberg to attempt the ascent of the Aletschhorn from the north side. The névé on that face of the mountain is steep and much broken, and it seemed preferable to ascend by the northern arête of the Dreieckhorn. This, however, turned out more troublesome than it looked, the rocks being difficult and interrupted by a couloir. The top of the Dreieckhorn was reached in six hours from the Faulberg, being a few minutes longer than had been taken to climb the Finsteraarhorn from the same place the day before. The passage along the crest connecting the Dreieckhorn with the Aletschhorn looked possible as far as could be seen, but would have required much step-cutting, and was clearly too long to be done in the remaining time. The party accordingly descended on the south side, joining the route usually taken in ascending the Aletschhorn from the Æggischhorn. There appears to be no reason why, with an early start and favourable conditions, a way should not be made straight up the north face of the

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Aletschhorn. It might very possibly be shorter than the détour by way of the Dreieckhorn: but anyhow it would be a long piece of work. The Dreieckhorn was ascended for the first time, in 1868, by Mr. Murray Browne, by a route apparently somewhat different to either of those taken on the present occasion.

Brenta Alta, *July* 6, 1872.—An ascent was made from Molveno by W. M. and R. Pendlebury, Rev. C. Taylor, and W. H. H. Hudson, with Gabriel Spechtenhauser and Bonifazio Nicolosi. The wall of rock some little way below the summit had in former ascents been surmounted with the help of a gully. On this occasion, however, the face of the rock was climbed. Two gullies were observed. The ascent was made to the right of both, and the descent between them. Nicolosi climbed well.

'It appears that the descent from the summit might have been effected by means of a couloir leading to a point W. of the Bocca di Brenta, the Cima itself being on the S.'—W. H. H.

EASTERN ALPS.

Wildspitze and Taschach Gletscher, 1870.—W. M. and R. Pendlebury, and Herr Bereiter of Innsbruck, with Alois Ennemoser and Joseph Gstrein of Fend, ascended the Wildspitze from Fend, and descended by the Taschach Gletscher to Planggeros. The bergschrund gave some trouble in the descent. There is some good rock scenery at a point where the Gletscher makes a sharp turn to the left, appearing from above to be shut in. Ennemoser repeated the expedition near the end of July 1871. A day or two later it was made by W. M. Pendelbury, R. Pendelbury, C. Taylor, and Gabriel Spechtenhauser: it then took about twelve hours in all, of which five and a quarter were occupied in the ascent.

The Verpeil-Sattel, *August* 1, 1871.—The same party, taking Joseph Santhaler as porter, started from Planggeros to ascend the Verpeil Spitze. The Verpeiljoch, leading to Feuchten, was at first followed. The course then inclined to the left, in the direction of a sattel between which and the joch lies the Verpeil Spitze. The crevasses were well bridged. Towards the sattel the slope gradually became very steep. On the ridge was a formidable cornice, which had to be cut through. The rock kamm on the right, leading from the sattel to the spitze, presented no great difficulty except to the porter's dog, which had overtaken the party on the glacier, two hours or more from the start. The ascent took in all about five hours and three quarters, to the best of the writer's recollection. The descent from the sattel was by a new route, inclining still more to the left (or away from the Verpeiljoch) than the ascent. Lower down three routes were open to trial. 1. The ice-fall, lying below a much crevassed glacier. 2. Rocks on the left. 3. Rocks on the right. The third route was finally chosen. One difficulty was encountered, in the shape of a precipitous cleft in the rock. The first man having been let down 10 or 12 feet, contrived to land himself on the ledge at the head of the cleft. The rest followed

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in like manner, except Spechtenhauser, who however came down safely with help from below. A steep but low wall on the further side was then climbed, and all serious difficulty was over. From the glacier below, the rocks which had been descended looked quite impracticable. From this point a small side valley, debouching perhaps an hour above Feuchten, was followed. Until this present year Spechtenhauser regarded this as his most considerable expedition.

Ennemoser was said to have ascended the Verpeil Spitze alone in 1870. It seems, however, that he only reconnoitred it, without quite reaching the summit. Later in 1870 Herr Statzer of Vienna made the ascent with Ennemoser and Spechtenhauser, returning to Planggeros.

The real name of the local guide mentioned as Joull in the account of the ascent of the Thurnerkamp in the last number, is Georg Samer.

Marmolata, *July* 2, 1872.—R. Pendlebury, Rev. C. Taylor, and W. H. H. Hudson, with Gabriel Spechtenhauser of Fend, and Georg Bernard of Campidello, ascended the Marmolata by Mr. Tuckett's route, described on p. 95. The start was made at 2.32 a.m. from the inn at Campidello. The top of the couloir, where the rope was put on, was reached at 6.52. The course was now to the right, up hard snow, and shortly afterwards to the left, over rounded rocks with a loose crumbling surface, which in their then state, bare of the good snow which enabled Mr. Tuckett to ascend without difficulty, were neither easy nor safe. The rocks having been passed, the remainder of the ascent was uneventful. The top was reached at 9.37. The descent by the Fedaya to Campidello took from 10.24 to 1.52. Bernard deserves commendation for his rock climbing. Spechtenhauser was, as usual, good.

ALPINE NOTES.

The following note has been received from Mr. Ormsby:—

The Mountains of Spain.—The paper on the mountains of Spain, in the last number of the Journal, would perhaps convey the impression that Coello's is the only trustworthy map of Spain in existence. This, however, is not the case now that the map of the Spanish Peninsula (four sheets) by Karl Vogel, in Dr. Petermann's new edition of 'Stieler's Hand-Atlas,' has been completed. The latter is unquestionably in every respect the best general map of Spain as yet published; indeed, it is difficult to see how a map on the scale (1 : 1,500,000) could be better. The chief merit of Coello's map is, that it lays down the physical features of the country, the mountain-chains and river-systems, with great general accuracy. But in these respects Karl Vogel's map is at least equally accurate, while in execution, fullness of detail, and clearness, it is immeasurably superior. At first sight, indeed, it would seem open to an objection the opposite of that to which Coello's is liable—that it is over-elaborate, and too much crowded with names; but the workmanship is so neat, and the printing so distinct, that there is in reality no confusion. The heights, which are given in Paris feet, agree closely with those in Coello's map, and the figures are far more legible. There are, perhaps,

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