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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one or two instances of doubtful nomenclature, such as giving the title of 'Montañas de Leon' to the range on the *west* of the city of Leon. In local parlance the title is generally given to the mountains in the north-east corner of the province—the Leonese portion, in fact, of the mountain region, the other parts of which are called the 'Montañas de Burgos' and 'Montañas de Santander.' Again, why should 'El Escorial' be printed in the smallest character and in brackets, as if it was a sobriquet, while "S. Lorenzo" is given as if it were the name of the place? The full title of the huge building commonly called the Escorial is certainly the monastery of S. Lorenzo of the Escorial, but the name of the place is El Escorial, and that should have had the precedence on a map. Such trifles, however, even if they are oversights of the cartographer, do not diminish the value of the work, which is a real boon to the traveller in Spain.

The Passo di Ritorto.—The most direct, and perhaps the most beautiful way, from San Nicolo in Val di Zoldo to San Vito, is not marked in the large Government map or mentioned in the Alpine Guide. A path mounts from the church of San Nicolo—where the inn is very comfortable—to Coi, a hamlet perched on the ridge dividing the main eastern head of Val di Zoldo from the Brusadaz branch of the valley. Having followed a sledge-track along the crest of this grassy brow until it merges in a broad down at the southern base of the Pelmo, the traveller bears to the right towards the S.E. angle of the mountain, where a huge wedge of stone shooting out from the cliff overhangs its base to an alarming extent, and from a distance might be taken for a gigantic gurgoyle. Hugging closely the cliffs, the track crosses with very slight variations of level the Campo di Ritorto—the name given on the map to the open head of the Zoppé valley—and gains, in three hours from San Nicolo, the green saddle from which the ascent of the Pelmo itself is usually undertaken. The descent through Val Ruton to San Vito is a pleasant stroll of two hours. Further details as to this pass and the Pelmo will be given in a future number.—D. W. F.

The following note has been received from the Rev. T. G. Bonney:—

The Gross Glockner.—The Johannishütte is now rebuilt, comfortably furnished and well provided for a stopping-place. The name has been changed to the Hoffmannshütte, in honour of the eminent explorer of the Austrian Alps who lost his life in the late war, and a tablet of white marble, with an inscription, has been erected on the Franz Josef's Höhe to his memory.

The new route up the Gross Glockner from the Pasterze Glacier is also known as the Hoffmannsweg. It must be infinitely superior to the old way by the Leiterthal. You go straight up the glacier opposite to the Adlersruhe, and then up the peak. The glacier is steep in the lower part, but not difficult to anyone accustomed to ice; later in the year possibly crevasses might give trouble, but never, I conceive, anything serious. A wire rope is now fixed on the descent from the lower peak. The last 300 feet of the mountain require care; the rest is very easy. Times—ascent from hut, 3¾ hours; return, 1.40 min.; of each of these about 20 min. were spent in crossing the Pasterze Glacier.

There are now four ways up the Gross Glockner. From Heiligen-

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blut:—1. The Hoffmannsweg; 2. The old route by the Leiterthal. From Kals:—1. By snow slopes to Adlersruhe and so to peak; 2. Straight up rocks to final peak (used only late in the year). The charge of the Heiligenblut guides for the ascent is 8 florins 50 kreuzer, that of the Kals guides 7 florins 50 kreuzer. The latter, however, insist on two guides being taken by each traveller, a precaution perhaps advisable for the many Austrian tourists—perfect strangers to snow and icework—who now attempt the mountain, but ludicrous and vexatious when applied with Tyrolean stubbornness to practised climbers.

We have received from another member of the Club a description of an ascent made in company with some Kals guides, which suggests that in many respects they still live in a dark age, which it should be the task of the Austrian Alpine Club to enlighten.

'Mountaineering in the Oberland and the Pennines has almost obtained the rigidity of an exact science, guided by rules which are only disregarded by a genius or a fool. It may be interesting to consider a phase of mountaineering very far indeed from any 'positive stage,' and in which the simple enthusiasm of the tourist-patriot has not yet been replaced by the hard and fast system of the professional mountaineer. For the contemplation of the rapidly dying species referred to, there is no need to have recourse to the Antipodes. On the slopes of the Gross Glockner, within 60 leagues of Grindelwald, the Dodo mountaineer (though somewhat weakly now) may still be studied, and every facility exists for a comparison of the modern type of 'homo scandens' with his Pleiocene predecessor. In one respect, indeed, no development has taken place. The antediluvian aims at reaching the top of his peak, and often does what he aims at, and the modern can go no higher. The only difference between them is in the method adopted for getting there. Let us for a moment "assist" at an ascent of the Gross Glockner—old style. A roomy hut has been built within three hours' climb of the summit. To this repair five travellers and seven guides, the latter furnished with one ice-axe and five short lengths of rope. Though late in August, the hour for departure is fixed for two o'clock—why, heaven knows; and it is only through the resistance of one who has been corrupted by modern ideas that the start is delayed till near three. Darkness still broods over the mountain when the upper snows are gained. At half-past four a halt is called, and the upper slope of the mountain is regarded with an earnestness which might well thaw it if the hour were not so early. It is evident that there is ice there, and the modern philosopher begins to chuckle. Too soon, however. A thin tall man, in whom is soon recognised the owner of the single ice-axe, leaps forward and is introduced as the "vorgeher" who will relieve the travellers from their difficulties. He hacks away with a will, while his fellows, breakfasting, regard him placidly from below. Soon he returns discomfited, and requests the loan of an English axe, as his own is already blunted. The person addressed answers by a cold statement that on principle the mountaineer never parts from his ice-axe: surely those who are amply provided with *steig-eisen* can be in no need of an axe. The owner of

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the envied weapon becomes an object of interest; the party gather round him, and one elderly enthusiast becomes almost pathetic in his pleading. He does well to be pressing. It is his eleventh attempt on the peak, and he feels that it is now or never. The modern, however, will not betray his principles, but offers, if assistance is really needed, to cut the steps himself. The "vorgeher" is charmed; but the whole troop of antediluvians are, on a sudden, seized with jealousy and charge up the mountain, each tourist tied to his special guide—and to him alone—by a piece of rope four feet long, passed over the guide's shoulder.

'The study becomes interesting; and the observer having no wish to reach the summit first, has time to make a note of the true Gross Glockner method. Presently a formidable gap appears, lying between the two highest peaks. The passage of this duly excites the minds without endangering the bodies of the climbers; for stanchions are driven into the rocks, and a stout iron wire forms an admirable balustrade. Soon the top is reached; it is but 6 A.M.; and the triumph is intense. He who had persevered through ten failures is well-nigh overcome as his comrades present their congratulations one by one. The return is tumultuously joyful, though the critic shudders at the thought of what might happen if two men tied by a four-foot rope were to fall foul of a covered crevasse of 10 or 15 feet wide. In fact, however, the antediluvians well deserved their success: walking stoutly, talking cheerily, and parting good friends, even with the 'chiel' who had been 'amang them taking notes.'—C. C. T.

A NEW SCHOOL FOR CHAMOUNI.—A Bolivian gentleman, Mr. H. Meggs, together with other members of his family, has placed in the hands of the Corporation of Chamouni Guides the sum of 200*l.*, for the purpose of providing a school at which the youth of the valley may receive a better education than the very imperfect one now obtainable in the communal schools. It is intended that instruction shall be given in the new schools in modern languages and such other subjects as are most likely to be useful to the pupils in their future profession of guides, and to render them intelligent and valuable companions to their employers.

Mr. Meggs' very liberal gift will not suffice by itself for the construction and maintenance of the school; but a certain sum having been subscribed amongst the guides themselves, the school-rooms will be got ready in the course of next summer. Further subscriptions are necessary to provide for the furniture of the building and the payment of teachers. We are asked to make this fact known to the Alpine public, many of whom it is thought probable may be disposed to assist in assuring the success of the scheme which has been set on foot by Mr. Meggs' liberality. The President of the Association of Guides at Chamouni will furnish further information, and receive subscriptions, which may also be sent to the Editor of the 'Alpine Journal,' care of Messrs. Longman & Co., Paternoster Row, E.C.

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