MOUNTAIN HUTS.

HUT ON THE AIGUILLE GRISE.—The hut on the Aiguille Grise, 2,000 feet above the Miage Gl. and about 10,000 feet above the sea, alluded to in a previous number, was erected last July by the Courmayeur guides. It is said to be adequately furnished. The guides have not yet erected the hut close to the top of the Col du Géant, which is also planned.—H. B. G.

HUT AT THE PIERRE À BERENGER.—The condition of this hut is a disgrace to Chamonix. There is not even a raised sleeping-place or a flooring of hay, nothing but the four walls; and a great part of one of them has been torn away probably for firewood. Surely it would be worth the while of the guides to maintain at such a magnificently situated and convenient spot a shelter in which it is possible to eat and sleep.—H. B. G.

The preceding notes are sent by the Rev. H. B. George. The three following, founded on personal experience last summer, are contributed by the Rev. F. T. Wethered.

THE MATTERHORN HUT.—A stove has been introduced since the season of 1874, whereas formerly the cooking had to be done on the narrow ledge outside. The hut, however, is in miserable condition, and the roof very far from watertight. If there is to be a hut on the Matterhorn at all, it is high time a better one than the present should be constructed. The chains which used to hang on the outer wall have at length replaced the rotten ropes above the 'shoulder.'—F. T. W.

THE HOHLICHT HUT, on the Schallenberg and not far from the north bank of the Hohlicht Glacier, has been used for the first time this season in ascending the Weisshorn. The building was erected for cowherds. It is large and roomy, with a rude table in the centre, and a very decent sleeping 'trough.' The hut is situated three-quarters of an hour or more further up from Randa than that hitherto used on the Schallenberg.—F. T. W.

LE MOUNTET.—The club hut is substantially built on the rocks at the N. side of the Durand Glacier (four hours from Zinal), and is useful for the ascent of the Rothhorn and Gabelhorn from the Zinal side. It is furnished with two good sleeping-cots ranged one above the other. It is a pity that the area on which it stands is not a little larger; the situation quite admits of a more extended ground plan. The hut is provided with a stove.—F. T. W.

The remaining notes are collected from foreign publications:

Mons. Lintz, the hotelkeeper at Gressoney, has lately constructed a cabin with two beds, on the Hohlicht near the Lyskam Gl., at a height of 11,634 feet, a convenience which seems to be much appreciated. Its discomforts, when overcrowded, have been lengthily narrated in the 'Saturday Review.' Subject to some improvements in ventilation, the hut would seem to be well-built and provided for a small party.

From a woodcut lately inserted in 'The Family Friend,' and entitled 'The Summit of Monte Rosa,' it appears that the 'Allerhöchste Spitze' has recently been rolled out into a snow-plain on which stand two solid stone huts! Brambles grow on the protruding rocks! The

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accompanying letterpress informs us that 'all the way there are, here and there, huts for the accommodation of the adventurous, for storms occur and sometimes a part if not the whole of a night must be spent in the ascent.' The writer further remarks, 'In looking at such objects of nature (as mountains) we must guard against that utilitarian spirit which in regard to everything asks "What end does it serve?"' He would doubtless equally object to the question, 'What end does writing nonsense serve?'

The hut near the Guggi Gl. was last year rebuilt; the Grünhornhütte and Pavillon Dollfuss were thoroughly put in order.

Cave-Dwelling on the Marmolata.—The Agordo section of the Italian Alpine Club are engaged in constructing a hut within an hour of the top of the Marmolata. 'It will not be,' writes Cav^e^ Antonio de Monzoni, 'a mere shelter more fit for beasts than men, like some of those too familiar to climbers, but a large chamber excavated by blasting out of the solid rock.' The work has already been commenced by miners of the neighbourhood. The cost with fitments is estimated at 120*l.*, two-thirds of which have already been subscribed. Contributions will be gladly received by Cav^e^ Monzoni, Agordo, Provincia di Belluno, Italy.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

'THE ABODE OF SNOW.'*

According to the 'Times' this volume is a record of 'systematic mountaineering,' such as is seldom undertaken or described by members of the Alpine Club. We are sorry to see the leading journal expose both its complete ignorance of the subject it is talking about, and of the meaning of the words it uses. As we understand the word—and its introducers have perhaps the best right to define its meaning—Mr. Wilson's book is not a record of 'mountaineering' at all. It is the story of a journey made, with but one or two exceptions of a few miles, on horseback or in a litter. This kind of mountain travel was the only sort known to our ancestors. The modern passion for foot-climbing as an athletic sport was felt to be so distinct that a new word 'mountaineering,' had to be invented for it. The tendency to use loosely words whose only value lies in their special significance requires checking. To give another instance: 'crevasse' for 'a crack in glacier ice,' was a convenient addition to our language; when used, as we have seen it lately, as an equivalent for crack, it becomes, except to rhymers, a worthless superfluity.

The assumption of the 'Times,' that true mountain-travel is not recognised or recorded in the literature of the Alpine Club, is of course

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* 'The Abode of Snow.' Observations on a Journey from Chinese Thibet to the Indian Caucasus through the Upper Valleys of the Himálaya. By Andrew Wilson. Blackwood and Sons, 1875.

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