

up to the summit-ridge, reaching it about 15 yards N. of the actual top. (Time, 1.15 P.M.) The descent was taken by the ordinary way to Suldén. Peter Dangel, who led splendidly all the day, proved to be first-rate as ever.

'It has been said that stones and avalanches are liable to be so frequent on this route, as to make unjustifiable the risk incurred in the expedition. I am not prepared to express any opinion on this subject; at any rate, it is tolerably sure that in bad weather, or in a less perfect condition of the snow, the risk of stones and avalanches in the couloir will be a considerable one. Yet future travellers will do well not to take to the rocks on either side, but to follow the gully from bottom to top.'

Primiero Dolomites.

CIMA DI CANALI.—*August 30.* Mr. C. C. Tucker, with Michele Bottega of San Martino, made the ascent of the peak, known in the country by this name, probably the fourth in height of the Primiero summits. It is situated on the spur overhanging Val Pravitale and to the S.W. of the Cima di Fradusta, and consequently does not correspond to the C. di Canali of the old Lombardo-Venetian survey. In the new Austrian Map the name is given to the Cima di Fradusta with a height of 2,927 mètres. 'Starting from San Martino at 3 A.M. we reached the Passo di Ball (Rodera) at 5.25. The Cima di Canali was climbed from the little lake lying between it and the Palle di San Martino, first by a steep snow gully, and afterwards by the sheer and difficult rocks on its left-hand side. These led to a secondary summit, from which the true top was gained without serious difficulty at 9.15. No indication of the peak having been climbed was found on the summit, and neither my guide nor Santo Siorpaes had heard of any previous ascent. The height of the peak may be taken as about 10,000 ft. It probably out-tops the Cima di Fradusta by a few feet, but the superiority is at best a trifling one. The descent was made by the same route, and San Martino reached at 3.15 P.M. The expedition is a very fine one throughout, and here and there of considerable though not excessive difficulty. Michele Bottega proved himself upon this, as well as upon other expeditions, an active and competent cragsman, as well as a cheerful and pleasant companion.'

ALPINE ACCIDENTS IN 1879.

THE past season has been unusually fruitful in accidents to mountain travellers; but they have, with two exceptions, not been 'Alpine accidents' in the sense in which we use the word. They have happened on car-roads, on mulepaths, or among the slopes of the lower mountains to tourists who, from botanical zeal or lack of a guide, had wandered from the track. Among the deaths chronicled under this heading in our daily papers were those of two wild-haycutters, and of a peasant employed in cutting glacier ice for export in the Oberland.

Of the three deaths which occurred above the snow-level, two only

can be classed as 'Alpine accidents.' The third must be dealt with separately.

The following letter from Mr. C. E. Mathews, the President of the Club, which was published originally in the 'Times,' gives all necessary information as to the accident by which our Club lost one of its members:—

'Mr. William O. Moseley, M.D., of Boston, United States of America, was travelling in the Alps, in company with Mr. W. E. Craven. Both gentlemen were members of the Alpine Club, and both were accomplished and experienced mountaineers. They had secured the services of two of the ablest of the Oberland guides, Peter Rubi and Christian Inäbnit, both of Grindelwald.

'The party of four left Zermatt at 10.30 on the evening of Wednesday, August 13, intending to ascend the Matterhorn and return in one day, and so to avoid the necessity of camping out in the wretched hut on the north side of the mountain. They reached the summit in safety at 9 o'clock on Thursday, the 14th, Mr. Moseley having more than once complained of the rope as being, in his opinion, rather a hindrance than an advantage. After a halt of about twenty minutes, they commenced the descent, crossed the shoulder, and descended the difficult rocks, over which an iron chain is stretched. Mr. Moseley did not use the chain, and the party arrived at a point about three-quarters of an hour above the hut.

'The recognised difficulties of the mountain being now passed, Mr. Moseley asked that the rope might be taken off, when both Peter Rubi and Mr. Craven urged him to keep it on until they reached the hut. A few minutes later, Mr. Moseley again became impatient, and released himself from the rope, saying he could do better without it. Rubi then yielded, the rope was removed from the other members of the party, and they proceeded rapidly downwards. About twenty minutes from the hut they had to cross a projecting piece of rock with a smooth surface. Rubi crossed first, and planted his axe, so as to give Mr. Moseley, who followed, a firm foot-hold. Mr. Moseley, however, declined assistance, and placing one hand upon the rock endeavoured to vault over it. At this moment his foot slipped, his axe flew out of his hand, and he fell from the rock on to some deep snow beneath it, down which he slipped on his back and nearly succeeded in stopping himself with his elbows. Unhappily the snow was frozen, and he fell on the rocks beneath. Realising his position, he turned round with a great effort and tried to grasp the rocks with his hands; but the velocity he had then attained was too great, and he fell from rock to rock until he disappeared from view. Mr. Craven and the guides returned to Zermatt at 7 P.M., having been on foot over twenty hours.

'The guides were of opinion that Mr. Moseley had fallen on to the rocks immediately above the Bergschrund of the Furggen Glacier; but bad weather frustrated all attempts to recover the body of the unfortunate gentleman until Sunday last, when Peter Knubel, Peter Gabriel, and Joseph Taugwald succeeded in finding it just where they expected to do so, about 2,000 feet below the spot where the accident occurred. The body was brought to Zermatt—I need hardly say in what con-

dition—on Sunday evening by the guides whose names I have mentioned, assisted by Mr. Craven, Mr. Vernon, and Mr. Seymour Hoare.

‘I desire to give you only a statement of the facts, and to make no comment upon them; but I was shocked to find, on examining the remains, that Mr. Moseley had hardly any nails in one of his boots, and all rock-climbers know how impossible it is to ensure steadiness under such conditions, and it is quite clear that if the rope had not unhappily been removed, I should not have had to trouble you with this letter.

‘No blame whatever attaches to Rubi, to Inäbnit, or to Mr. Craven, for whose position the keenest sympathy is felt; and it is hardly necessary to state that the kindly and considerate conduct of M. and Madame Seiler is not likely soon to be forgotten.

‘Mr. Moseley’s effects have been forwarded by the authorities to the American Consul at Geneva; and my colleagues and myself have taken the responsibility of burying what is left of our friend under the south wall of the English Church at Zermatt, by the side of Lewis and Patterson, and under the shadow of the great mountain which now numbers another gallant mountaineer and accomplished gentleman among its many victims.

‘Zermatt, Aug. 19.’

Of the second fatal accident to a traveller, we have received no authentic details. According to the best accounts, on August 18 a party of young Englishmen, with ladies, but without guides, left Ormond Dessus to cross the glacier between the Diablerets and Oldenhorn. In the descent one of the young men, a Mr. Forester, attempting to glissade, fell over a precipice and was killed. His corpse was recovered with great difficulty.

THE DEATH OF JOSEPH BRANTSCHEN ON THE MATTERHORN.

Within a few hours of Dr. Moseley’s fall a second death occurred on the Matterhorn under very peculiar and painful circumstances. A Swiss party, consisting of Herr Lüscher and Professor Schiess,* of Basel, with J. M. Lochmatter and Joseph Brantschen of St. Niklaus and Pierre Beytrison of Evolena as guides, reached, on the afternoon of August 12, from Breuil, the cabin on the Italian side of the Matterhorn. There Brantschen was taken ill during the night; there he was left alone while his companions crossed over the top of the mountain to Zermatt; and there he was found dead (by three guides sent to his succour) on the afternoon of the 14th, some thirty-six hours after he had been left.

Shortly after this event the ‘Times’ published a letter from ‘An Alpine Clubman,’ giving a most distressing account of the circumstances. This letter is too recent in our readers’ minds to need reprinting. All the explanation it requires will be found on a subsequent page. About

* Professor Schiess is a member of the medical profession, and, we believe, practises as an oculist. He read a paper on ‘Mountain Sickness’ to the Congress at Geneva ten days before his ascent of the Matterhorn.