

to give their figures for the peaks for which (vol. ix. p. 410) I could only furnish approximate estimates. The Cima della Nasta, in place of 3,090 mètres, is 3,108; the C. della Culatta, which will be called Cima del Baus on the new map, is 3,068 mètres in place of 3,080; the Cima (Testa) della Rovina, 2,975, instead of 2,985 mètres.

D. W. FRESHFIELD.

DEATH OF CHRISTIAN MICHEL.—Christian Michel, who was for many years well known as one of the leading Grindelwald guides, died in June last, in his 64th year. He had been for some years past active work.

ALPINE ACCIDENTS. Since 1865 no Alpine season has opened so disastrously as that of 1880. We have already to regret the loss of two valuable guides and possibly permanent injury to a third, besides the death of two foreign travellers.

Peter Rubi and F. Roth have perished, with a Swiss traveller, Dr. A. Haller, in crossing the Lauteraar Joch. It is evident from a letter from Mr. P. Thomas, A. C., published in the 'Times,' that the party met their fate by the giving-way of the snow-arch over the 'bergschrund' on the Lauteraar Glacier side of the pass. Inäbnit has received severe injury from a fall caused by the giving way of an ice cornice or hanging sérac on the Jungfrau. The accident apparently happened on the ordinary route at the moment the party were reaching the Roththal Sattel from the Aletsch Glacier. Such at least is our reading of the confused account forwarded by the 'Times' correspondent at Geneva, which is a fair specimen of the communications which render the Swiss 'intelligence' of that journal a byword among mountaineers. Rubi's worn honest face was familiar to many of us, and all the three men were of good standing.

A German traveller, Herr Welter, of Cologne, has perished by falling into a crevasse on a glacier near Taufers in Tyrol.

Subscriptions for the widows and young families left by Rubi and Roth are received by Herr G. Strasser, Pfarrer in Grindelwald, and J. W. Hartley, A. C. Letrualt, Shandon, Dumbartonshire.

NOTICES.

JAHRBUCH DES SCHWEIZER ALPENKLUB, 1879-80.—The present volume begins with a good list of expeditions in the 'Club Gebiet,' or special district chosen for exploration, and is accompanied by a transcript of the portion of the 1:50000 Federal map dealing with the Bernina group. Unfortunately—we only echo the regret of one of the Swiss writers—no attempt has been made to carry on the survey of the Italian side of the chain, a task which would be worthy the skill and enterprise of a foreign Reilly.

Several papers—the most important, by Dr. Güssfeldt, deals with an expedition we have already recorded—are devoted to the now well-known central mass, or the peaks near the Bernina Hospiz. Then, as was to be expected, the scene is transferred to the hitherto by Swiss

climbers little visited range which rises above Val Bregaglia. Here an almost complete change in nomenclature has to be noted. English climbers in general (and I myself in particular) have been wont to call these mountains by the names given them in the old Dufour map. That famous authority has been in few places overthrown. But over these peaks our good Homer seems to have nodded; at any rate, his conclusions have been reversed and altered in every direction by the supervisors of the new 1:50000 map. We note only the more important changes. The highest peak of the group (first ascended by D. W. Freshfield and C. C. Tucker) takes, in place of Cima del Largo, the name of Cima di Castello; our Punta Trubinesca (also first ascended by D. W. F. and C. C. T.) becomes the Piz Cengalo; the Cima del Tschingel is now Piz Badile; the Cima del Rosso of the old map has no name (both these peaks were first ascended by Mr. Coolidge). As the map does not deal with the Italian side, the error in the old Swiss maps as to the position of the ridge dividing the Alpe di Ferro from the Porcellizza Alp is not noted, and consequently some confusion remains as to the position of the passes at the head of the Bondasca, a confusion which (unless all other indications mislead) is added to by the substitution of A. di Ferro for Porcellizza Alp in Signor Ganzoni's paper.

But enough of topography. The liveliest of the Club-district papers comes from Greifswald, on the Baltic shores, and is by Dr. Minnigerode, who describes his severe climb to the summit of the Badile, his ascent of the Cengalo, and his crossing of the Passo di Bondo, which he, like his predecessors, found very hard to find. I have still a very lively remembrance of an icewall, below one of the gaps Dr. M. rightly passed by on his way to the true col.

Herr Imfeld writes on the Evolena district. His most important contribution, however, is an admirable panorama from Monte Rosa, a work of great labour. He will pardon me for suggesting that to render the nomenclature complete, he should go over again some of the more distant groups, particularly the S. W. Alps, where the Grivola is left out, the Mont Blanc group, where there are one or two obvious errors in the identifications, and the Adamello group, where several identifications may be added.

The veteran Herr G. Studer has gathered together all the traditions of an old pass over the Vieschergrat, and has satisfied himself that the balance of evidence is in favour of such a pass having been in frequent use up to the latter half of the XVIth century. It is with the greatest deference, but without hesitation, that I am obliged to hold to the contrary opinion. I have not now the space, nor the authorities at hand, to meet Herr Studer's argument as it deserves. But I may briefly suggest that I should rely *first* on the evidence that there was no such enormous wasting of the ice at the period in question as would have been necessary to render a pass over the Vieschergrat preferable as a route to the (in time) inconsiderable circuit by the Grimsel; *secondly*, on the fact that authors contemporary with the supposed pass, who give detailed catalogues of the Valais passes, make no mention of any practicable route over the Vieschergrat. Strangely enough,

to none of these authors does Herr Studer refer. I can only now cite Stumpf (1546) the well-known Simler (1574), and Sebastian Munster (1543). North of the Valais, the passes mentioned are the Grimsel, the Gemmi, the Sanetsch, and the Lotschenberg, which was perilous. In Simler, the Vieschgletscher is mentioned, but no pass. Rebmann (1605) and Ægidius Tschudi (about 1540) may be looked to for general evidence as to the extent of the glaciers during that period.

The 'Jahrbuch' contains many other articles of general interest, of which I can only give the names. A. Wäber, 'Aus dem Aversthal;' Dr. P. Güssfeldt, 'Zermatter Berge im Jahr 1879;' E. von Fellenberg, 'Geologische Wanderungen im Rhonegebiet;' F. Schweizer, 'Der Pelvoux und Die Barre des Ecrins;' O. V. Pfister, 'Neue Streifzüge im Montafun;' Meyer von Knonau, 'Historische Mittheilungen über das Clubgebiet;' and Held, 'Die Schweizerische Landestopographie unter der Leitung von Oberst H. Siegfried.' It concludes with the usual short notices, reviews and proceedings.

D. W. F.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

May 4, 1880. Mr. C. E. MATHEWS, *President, in the chair.*

Mr. H. Seymour King was elected a member of the Club.

Mr. F. J. CULLINAN read the paper on 'An Ascent of the Aiguille du Talèfre,' printed in the present number.

Commander E. D. LAW exhibited some specimens of waterproof maps, printed on various substances, and suggested their applicability to Alpine travelling.

Some of these maps were presented to the Club, and can be seen in the rooms.

In the discussion that followed Messrs. DENT, FRESHFIELD, JACKSON, BARLOW, HEATHCOTE, MILLINK, and MATHEWS took part. The general opinion expressed was that the maps would be likely to prove both practical and useful.

June 1, 1880. Mr. C. E. MATHEWS, *President, in the chair.*

Mr. Alfred PARSONS was elected a member of the Club.

The HON. SEC. read Mr. F. Gardiner's paper on 'Three New Ascents without Guides in Southern Dauphiné.' The paper was illustrated by an excellent map, the work of Mr. C. Pilkington.

June 15, 1880. The Summer Dinner took place at the Ship Hotel, Greenwich. Sixty-five members and guests sat down.

A new Catalogue of the Library is in preparation, and will shortly be printed. For convenience of binding it will be uniform in size with the 'Alpine Journal.' The price of the Catalogue will be one shilling. Members desirous of possessing copies are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary or the Hon. Librarian, Mr. C. C. Tucker, at their earliest convenience.

A spirited black and white drawing, entitled 'Jack Frost,' has been presented to the Club by Mr. E. P. Jackson; and a clever water-colour drawing of the Matterhorn by Mr. E. T. Compton.