

ALPINE NOTES.

INDEX TO THE 'ALPINE JOURNAL.'—The amount of information in the publications of the chief Alpine societies grows annually as fresh volumes appear; and there is a general feeling that some sort of guide through this labyrinth should be furnished. Accordingly, in 1885 the Italian Club put forth an excellent classified index to the first fifty numbers of the 'Bollettino;' in 1886 the Swiss Club followed suit with an even more elaborate and carefully drawn up guide to the first twenty volumes of the 'Jahrbuch;' and it is now announced that the German Club has in preparation an index to all its publications from 1863 to 1885, an expansion and completion of an earlier sketch, from 1863 to 1877. It is only right that the Alpine Club should not be behind in this race, and should wish to open up the vast stores of information contained in the pages of the 'Alpine Journal,' in which the story of the conquest of the Alps is more fully told than anywhere else. Hence the Editor has, with the approval of the Committee, undertaken the task of preparing an index. It is proposed to continue this to the end of the present or thirteenth volume, and to publish it as soon as possible after the completion of the volume in May 1888. Assistance from members of the Club in indexing the several volumes has been gladly welcomed by the Editor, who, on application, has forwarded printed copies of his scheme for the index, and practical hints for ensuring uniformity. The Editor will supervise the whole work, and will amalgamate the different indexes into one. The MSS. of the separate indexes are, for the sake of convenience, to be in his hands as early as possible, and *not later than June 1, 1887*. Volumes i. to xiii. have been already taken by different members of the Club: vol. xiii. is for practical reasons reserved to the Editor.

THE PICTURE EXHIBITION.—The exhibition this year was not so rich in works of varied interest as sometimes it has been; nevertheless it presented some features of special note. Mons. Loppé was only represented by one canvas, bearing a vision of the Märjelsee, fine of its kind and a good example of the artist's forceful hand. The great feature of the collection was the large number of charming drawings, for the most part unfinished, contributed by Mr. Arthur Croft. These included a series of rugged pines, the scattered inhabitants of stony slopes about the Riffelalp Hôtel. Broken foregrounds and mountain distances form perfect settings for these aged trees, and Mr. Croft has made of his materials in every case a beautiful picture. From the Riffel too he saw the storm clouds swirling about the Gabelhorn, and skilfully depicted them in a beautiful sketch. Two or three views down the valley, with the Oberland shouldered between the nearer ridges, were likewise excellent, one especially so for the clearness and precision of the rock drawing. From Zermatt Mr. Croft takes us to the Lake of Geneva, and shows us Chillon with a gloomy sunset behind, and the Dent du Midi vignetted in mist and storm above the bluest expanse of water.

Mr. Compton sent a fine picture of the Glacier des Bossons with the Grands Mulets beyond in their wonted order—the drawing of the ice being remarkably good. Mr. Willink sent some more of the sketches of climbers in action with which last year's exhibition made us familiar. His 'Sunset from the Old Matterhorn Hut' was likewise cleverly done. Mr. MacCullum's large picture of the 'Alps in Winter' attracted much attention; but when we saw it there was not sufficient light to enable us to form a judgment upon its merits. Some large views of Skye by Mr. Williams are likewise deserving of appreciative mention.

There were few new photographs capable of being ranked with those exhibited for the first time in former years. Mr. Donkin's views from the Caucasus are indeed highly valuable, and often represent scenes of undoubted grandeur, but they were taken in the presence of exceptional difficulties, which of course have influenced the result. Signor Sella's view of the highest point of Piz Roseg as beheld from the lower summit is valuable, and his Verra Glacier and South face of the Breithorn, taken from a point on the S.W. arête of Castor, is a photograph that ought to find a place in every collection. What a pity it is that all these photographs are not printed by one of the permanent processes! No such criticism can be passed on the two portraits of guides exhibited by Captain Abney, and which, we understand, are to be regarded as specimens of the illustrations to appear in the forthcoming book on the great Alpine guides. The likeness of Melchior Anderegg is excellent, and the 'process' work is remarkably good. The prints are, in fact, mezzotints produced from a good negative by a purely chemical process. It is an open secret that the very good platinotypes of views in the Engadine and the neighbourhoods of Saas and the Montenvers were done by Mrs. Main. We have seldom seen better results obtained from film negatives. W. M. C.

THE DAMMAPASS.—The notice which appeared on page 122 of the last number of this Journal was already in print when the Editor called my attention to an incidental remark in Mr. T. S. Kennedy's account of the accident on the Brouillard glacier in 1874, stating that in the same year Johann Fischer had guided the Messrs. Marshall over 'a new pass from Geschenen, between the Damma and Rhone Stöcke.'* Mr. Frank Marshall, the only survivor of the party, of whom I have made inquiries, has kindly furnished me with information which leaves no doubt that his party ascended from the Damma Firn, very near to the Damma Stock, and keeping slightly to the north of the route taken by Herr Hoffmann-Burckhardt in 1865, reached the ridge almost exactly at the point from which he had started on his descent.†

M. HOLZMANN.

UNTER-GABELHORN FROM THE TRIFT VALLEY.—Since my note was published in the last number of the 'Alpine Journal' (p. 123), I have examined with care the description given by Mrs. Main ('High Life and Towers of Silence,' p. 178) of the gully which she climbed, and

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. vii. p. 112.

† *S. A. C. Jahrbuch*, iii. 131.

which had been previously ascended by the late Dr. Moseley. I now think (and Mr. Heldmann agrees with me) that this gully was the same as that by which we mounted. Mrs. Main's description is, however, a little misleading. The gully is close upon 100 feet high, and the bad bit comes a few feet only from the base, but in no part of the remainder is there any good handhold. We had a rope of 100 feet, and all of it was in use, so that when Biner was at the top of the couloir, I (the last on the rope) was about twelve or fifteen feet from its base.

ALFRED HOLMES.

ZERMATT GUIDES.—On August 17 last Mr. Lorria and I (with Peter Trüffer and the youngest Gentinetta as guides) were caught on the top of the Nord End by the great snowstorm which had such fatal results on the Matterhorn. We had great difficulty in finding the way back, and we got into the séracs of the Monte Rosa glacier above the Gorner glacier. Here, at about 2 p.m., we came upon a party of two French gentlemen with two Zermatt guides, viz. Johann Perren and Elias Lauber, and a porter, Josef Furrer, who, having failed on Monte Rosa, had now become quite bewildered and so completely demoralised that they had given up all hope of saving themselves. They were sitting under a small rock. The guides, on being remonstrated with, told us that it was better to die there than on the glacier. I have no doubt that if we had not actually forced them to follow us, and tied their rope and ours together, another catastrophe like that on the Matterhorn would have ensued. It was the guides, not the travellers, who behaved so very badly in this affair, and perhaps this incident helps to throw light on the question lately raised as to the competence of Zermatt guides. Eventually, after having left our charge at the 'Blattje,' we returned to the Riffelalp a few minutes before 6 p.m. With reference to what was then happening on the Matterhorn it may not be out of place to point out that on the same day the Dom, Weisshorn, Rothhorn, and Gabelhorn were all ascended successfully and in reasonable time by properly constituted parties.

FELIX O. SCHUSTER.

THE MARITIME ALPS.—I wish to ask your readers to correct the panorama of 'the Maritime Alps from the Ile Saint Honorat' ('A. J.' vol. ix. p. 385) by substituting for 'Rocca del Mat (?)' Rocca dell' Argentera, for 'Col di Cerieja' Col della Finestra, for 'Rocca dell' Argentera' Cima del Gelas, and by erasing 'Cima del Gelas,' 'Mont Clapier,' and 'Col di Tenda.'

I had an opportunity last November of carefully examining the range from the hill of 'Californie' through a powerful telescope. The group on the W. was thus decomposed into the Rocca dell' Argentera, Cima della Nasta, Cima della Culatta, Cima Balma dei Ghilié, and Cima della Rovina.

D. W. FRESHFIELD.

A company of guides has lately been founded at S. Martin Lantosque, now a favourite summer resort of the Nice residents, and an excellent headquarters for climbers. Several huts to facilitate the higher ascents are being built by the Italian and French clubs on their respective sides of the chain.

MOUNTAINEERING IN ALASKA.—The following extracts from some notes addressed to the Editor by Mr. H. W. Seton-Karr supplement

the more detailed account of the attempt on Mount Saint Elias, published in our last number. 'To form an idea of the scenery at Yakatat, it would be necessary to imagine four or five ranges of Himalayas placed upon the Norwegian coast. Mount Saint Elias stands comparatively close upon the shore, and thus displays conspicuously its 20,000 feet of altitude. Its breadth and massiveness of form seem somehow to dwarf and diminish the impression of height one would expect. The extent of the area of glaciers is alarming, and the enormous moraines are trying. After but little prelude in the way of "foothills," or minor ranges, between Saint Elias and the coast-line, the King of North American mountains shoots up from the ocean of glacier ice which stretches as far as the eyesight can reach, south, east and west. Probably no human eye has seen the north side of the mountain. Behind it in this direction (N.E.) and within a comparatively small area are crowded a number of exceedingly lofty ranges unsurveyed, unvisited, and unknown. . . . The scarcity of provisions (we took the whole of them with us, the Indians at the base of the mountain meanwhile subsisting on berries), the approach of storm-clouds, and the rapid obscuring of the summit, together with the severe illness of Schwatka (who wished, however, to go on), compelled us to turn to the right-about. I secured several sketches, several of which will shortly appear in the "Century" magazine and in book-form. I believe the mountain to be accessible, but only by a party led by first-rate Swiss guides. The landing at Icy Bay has the disadvantage of an almost constant surf, from which there is no protection. . . . While superintending the manufacture at Sitka of some ice-axes for the party, I was presented by a Russian settler there with a genuine Carter's ice-axe, which he had in his possession, and which he was in the habit of using as a hoe for his garden. He had no idea of the purpose for which such a curiously shaped instrument was intended, but noticed that its shape resembled some drawings that I had made. He knew nothing of its history. It proved exceedingly useful, and one of the last things I expected to find in such an out of the way place. There is a small store at the Indian settlement of Yakatat, kept by a Swede (who spoke good English), and lately started for the purpose of exchanging goods for fur, principally seal and bear. . . . I made two small ascents near Nuchek in Prince William Sound in October last.'

MOUNTAINEERING IN THE LAKE DISTRICT.—Mr. W. P. Haskett Smith writes on Jan. 13:

'Seeing my name mentioned in Mr. Slingsby's "New Ascent of Scafell," may I beg space to add a few words to his clear and accurate account?

'It was a member of the Club, Mr. T. L. M. Browne, who, nearly twenty years ago, first drew the attention of climbers to Deep Gill and the rock now known as Scafell Pinnacle or Deep Gill Pillar, remarking of the latter "it looks stiff." The men who descended the gill, when drifted up in 1881 or 1882, were Messrs. A. L. Mumm and J. E. King. Except Mr. Chr. Cookson, who descended with me in the summer of 1884, no one else is known to have passed the gill till the last few

days, when Messrs. J. W. Robinson and T. Creak got up in deep snow.

'The danger of being pounded between the two pitches is not really great, even to a solitary climber, as the "high perpendicular wall on the right" is not difficult (down it my first entrance to the gill was made, in 1882), and spite of the "well-nigh ledgeless cliff on the left hand" there is a simple exit round the foot of the pinnacle. Besides the little cave (which I use now as easiest and neatest) and the outside way, quite feasible even without help of snow, there is a way of passing the lower block by a break in the right-hand wall two or three yards lower down.

'Let me thank Mr. Slingsby through you for what he says of me; he makes, however, far too much of my little scrambles, never made except when the ice factor of difficulty "vanishes."

AN EARLY ALPINE ACCIDENT.—Mr. E. T. Coleman has kindly sent some notes on this accident (as to which information was sought in our last number, p. 130), which occurred on the Buet; and once on the right track it was fairly easy to find a published account of it.

In our own pages * Mr. Freshfield makes the following statement on the subject: 'At the close of the century the Buet was the scene of a fatal accident. A young German (other accounts call him a Swede), Eschen by name, having incautiously ventured alone on the glacier, fell into a crevasse and was killed. A judicious préfet "afin que ce malheureux accident servit de leçon aux curieux qui vont visiter les glaciers de Faussigny," had a kind of urn or obelisk erected to his memory.'

We read, too, in Ebel's '*Manuel du Voyageur en Suisse*' (1818, vol. ii. 239) a more detailed account, which in substance had already appeared in the German edition of the same work, published in 1809 (3rd edition, vol. ii. 317):—'Malheur arrivé sur le Buet. L'an 1800, le 7 août, un Danois nommé M. Eschen, connu en Allemagne par une excellente traduction en vers des Odes d'Horace, périt misérablement dans cette montagne. Parti la veille de Servoz avec son compagnon de voyage, M. Simschen, il coucha au chalet de Villy. Le matin ils gravirent le Buet avec leur guide. M. Eschen, qui était toujours quelques centaines de pas en avant, disparut tout d'un coup, lorsqu'ils furent arrivés sur le glacier de neige. M. Simschen et le conducteur se hâtèrent de rebrousser chemin pour chercher du secours, et la nuit même quatre hommes partirent de Servoz, entre autres le nommé Marie Déville et l'aubergiste Ettle. Ils trouvèrent l'infortuné Danois dans une fente du glacier de cent pieds de profondeur. Il était debout, les bras au-dessus de la tête, et entièrement gelé.' This narrative is most probably the authority for the paragraph in the first edition (1838) of Murray's *Swiss Handbook* (p. 288): 'The Buet is a dangerous mountain to visit without a good guide; the fate of a young Danish traveller, M. Eschen, is still remembered; he perished in August, 1800; his fate arose from his disregarding the advice of his guide.' In Dr. Martin Barry's '*Ascent to the Summit of Mont Blanc in 1834*' (Blackwood, 1836) we read (p. 29), in the description of the

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. viii. p. 19.

view from the Grands Mulets, 'Mont Buet's white dome—a warning monument of Eschen's fate—forbade the attempt to go higher.'

We have also had the good luck to come across the authentic version of this hitherto little known accident. Mons. A. Pictet (Prof. de Philosophie) published in No. 112 of the *Bibliothèque Britannique* (of which he was one of the Editors) an article entitled, 'Relation d'un accident fatal arrivé à un voyageur sur le glacier de Buet.' The copy in our possession is undated, being a 'tirage à part' of the article, but the article itself must have been written and published towards the end of 1800, the year when the accident happened. M. Pictet had started with M. d'Eymar, 'Préfet du Leman,' on a visit to the glaciers of Chamonix, and on August 8, 1800, met, soon after leaving Sallenche, a young man of dejected appearance, whom, on arriving at Servoz the same afternoon, the travellers ascertained from the guide Déville to have been the companion of a stranger who had perished the day before by falling into a crevasse on the Buet. The young man, 'M. Zimpssen' by name, had charged Déville to recover the body of his friend M. Eschen, and M. d'Eymar officially ordered Déville to execute this task. Meanwhile M. d'Eymar and Pictet had gone to Chamonix on their excursion, and here the latter gives the most authentic account obtainable of the way in which the accident had happened: 'Pendant notre séjour à Chamonix le citoyen d'Eymar, apprenant que le guide qui avait accompagné le malheureux Eschen habitait quelque part dans la vallée, le fit demander pour l'interroger avec détail sur l'accident. Il arriva: son visage et toute sa contenance peignaient encore le désespoir, mais il ne nous apprit rien que nous neussions déjà. C'était un guide pris au hasard [his name is never given]; qui paraissait peu connaître les montagnes et qui cependant, nous dit-il, avait invité Mr. Eschen, en arrivant sur le glacier, à ne pas se séparer de ses deux compagnons. Celui-ci, entraîné par cette sensation indéfinissable qu'on éprouve en atteignant les hautes cimes, et voyant au sommet du glacier, à peu de distance, deux chasseurs de chamois qui s'y reposaient, pressait sa marche pour les joindre: c'est alors qu'il fut englouti.'

Two days later, MM. d'Eymar and Pictet returned to Servoz, when they found that the body had been recovered by Déville with the aid of his two sons and Joseph Ettle, innkeeper at Servoz. A long extract from the *procès verbal* is given by M. Pictet. From this it appears that the body was found at a depth of more than 100 feet, having been stopped only by the narrowing of the crevasse, the existence of which had been all but concealed by snow. 'Le cadavre était debout, les bras élevés à la hauteur de la tête, la face regardant sur l'épaule gauche. Il était gelé.'

M. Pictet adds the following remarks, based on a personal examination of the body: 'Nous le (sc. le cadavre) contemplâmes avec une vive émotion, et en recherchant, avec une curiosité inquiète, à nous convaincre qu'il n'avait pas survécu un instant à sa chute. Nous en demeurâmes persuadés par des détails que nous ne tardâmes pas à apprendre et en observant qu'il avait trois des vraies côtes de chaque côté cassées, et une forte dépression du sternum; symptômes qui indi-

quaient qu'il avait éprouvé la compression la plus subite et la plus violente. Il n'était d'ailleurs nullement défiguré : et ses traits, en harmonie parfaite, ne présentaient aucune idée de souffrance. Son passeport, trouvé sur lui avec d'autres effets, nous apprit qu'il s'appelait Frédéric Auguste Eschen, né à Eutinen dans l'évêché de Lubeck, et qu'il était âgé de 23 ans.* M. d'Eymar ordered a monument to be erected over the grave of the unhappy young man.† Later in his article M. Pictet tells us that the pressure of the body had been so severe that M. Eschen's watch had been completely flattened. Seventy-eight francs in money were found on the body, and also vol. iii. of De Saussure's '*Voyages dans les Alpes*.'

M. Pictet, who had twice made the ascent of the Buet, expresses his

* Eutin (included in the administrative division—for the maintenance of the public peace—of the 'circle of Lower Saxony') was the residence of the prince bishops of Lübeck, whose temporal jurisdiction extended over parts of the eastern bit of Holstein (originally Slavonic but gradually Germanised), and did not extend to the free Imperial city of Lübeck, where they had only spiritual rights. The bishopric was secularised at the Reformation, and was held, as an hereditary possession, by the cadet or Gottorf line of the Holstein Kings of Denmark. In 1773 (to end a quarrel of nearly 100 years) the head of this cadet line (in right of his grandfather), the Czar Paul of Russia, received from the elder line of Denmark the county of Oldenburg (just W. of the Weser) in exchange for the cession of all claims on old Gottorf lands in Holstein and Schleswig. The Czar at once made it over to a younger son of the junior branch of his line, who in 1750 had received the bishopric of Lübeck from his eldest brother on the latter's being made King of Sweden (whose descendants, by the adoption of Bernadotte in 1810, still hold the crown). The nephew of this pluralist, Peter (1785 to 1803), was the last prince bishop, for in 1803 the temporal jurisdiction of the see came to an end, its territories being granted to him and transmitted to his descendants, the reigning grand-ducal house of Oldenburg.

As Holstein was a fief of the Empire, held by the Kings of Denmark, and Oldenburg a German district, we understand why M. Eschen is sometimes called a Dane, sometimes a German; while the fact that the bishop of Lübeck of his time was cousin of the reigning King of Sweden (head of junior branch of Gottorf), and might thus be counted as a member of the Swedish royal house, explains why M. Eschen is also called a Swede. In reality he was the subject of the prince bishop of Lübeck, who was also count of Oldenburg.

† We read in *The Alps, Switzerland and the North of Italy* (Cassell : 1854), p. 43:—

'A little retired from the village of Servoz, and where a most inviting path winds upwards through a rich defile towards Mont Buet, a simple column stands, on which the following inscription may be read:—

TO THE MEMORY OF
FREDERICK AUGUSTUS ESCHEN,

Naturalist, Scholar, and Poet.

Born at Eulenen, in the circle of Lower Saxony; swallowed up in a crevasse of the

Glacier of the Buet, 19th of Thermidor, in the year 8.

Recovered from that abyss by

John M. Devillaz, John Claude, and Bernard, his two sons, and John Otil.

Buried in this place by Mr. Deymar, Prefect.

This monument raised 21 Fructidor, in the year 9, under the magistracy of
Buonaparte, Cambacères, Le Brun, Consuls of the French Republic.

Department of Lake Leman.'

great surprise at the existence there of 'ces crevasses recouvertes de neige,' and adds some very wise advice to travellers, which would be admirable even in these days, when mountaineering has become so much more of a science. He points his remarks by referring to several other recent mishaps: a young Genevese without a guide, who lost his footing on the rocks at the foot of the Aig. des Charmoz, was killed by his fall into a rocky ravine; * a young man from Zürich dashed to pieces by falling from a hill to the north of the Col de Balme (this is the well-known accident to M. Escher in 1791 on the Croix de Fer); and a Genevese boy who was killed (1794) by a bit of ice falling from the roof of the Arvéron ice cavern in consequence of a pistol shot, and swept away in the roaring torrent, others of his family being at the same time very severely hurt. The whole article is well worth reading, and has a strangely modern ring about it.

FROM THE MITTAGHORN TO THE EGGINERHORN.—On August 28 last, guided by Xavier Andenmatten, I effected the first passage of the arête running from the Mittaghorn to the Egginerhorn, near Saas. The ridge is guarded by five principal gendarmes (some of these being upwards of 100 feet in height), besides smaller members of the force. For the first half of the passage, after leaving the Mittaghorn, the way lies mostly on the eastern edge of the arête, generally skirting the larger towers, until, just when further progress by that route becomes awkward, a large hole, 6 feet in height, gives access to the western side. On approaching the final knob which forms the top of the Egginerhorn, the ridge, which at times contracts to a mere knife-edge, becomes as broad and flat as a carriage road, but the ascent of the knob has a somewhat impracticable aspect. In front the cliff rises in a smooth precipice for 80 feet or so, and on the western side, though progress at first seems easy, overhanging rocks farther on bar the way to the top. On the eastern side, however, a narrow ledge leads out on to the face of the cliff, which here is practically perpendicular both above and below. After traversing the ledge for some 60 feet a way was found up a small vertical crack. It requires care, as there is a bad rock or two, and while the body of the climbing guide is bending out above his companion's head there is no rock in the vicinity of the latter round which a rope can be twisted. The stiff bit is, however, very short, and once passed there is no further difficulty. The time occupied from point to point was 3½ hours actual going, the final rocks taking 15 minutes.

REGINALD HUGHES.

[The same expedition had been made by Mr. H. W. Topham on August 23. Mr. Topham having reached the summit of the Mittaghorn in 2 hrs. 55 min. from the Fee hôtel, traversed the whole length of the arête between the peak and the Egginerhorn, taking 2 hrs. from

* This is no doubt the accident to which W. Coxe alludes in the following passage (*Travels in Switzerland*, third edition, 1794, vol. i. p. 344, Postscript to Letter 37). Cf. also *Alpine Journal*, vol. ix. p. 16:—'A summit under the Aiguille de Charmo near the spot from which a Genevan unfortunately fell and was dashed to pieces.'

the Mittaghorn to the foot of the Egginerhorn, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ hr. up the final rocks of the Egginerhorn. The rocks are described as 'very nearly perfect all along.' We are informed, however, that the same climb had been accomplished in 1885, if not earlier, and should be glad to receive further information on the subject.—EDITOR.]

CONGRESSES OF THE FOREIGN ALPINE CLUBS.—The Swiss Club held its annual meeting from September 4 to 6 in Winterthur. The chief discussion turned on the new regulations as to the huts under the protection of the Club, the respective rights of the Club and the sections therein, the acquisition of the ground on which the huts are built, &c. It was definitely settled that the huts are to be left open and that no charges are to be made for using them—a most liberal measure which we commend to the notice and imitation of certain other clubs and sections. In cases where the hut is provided with fire wood a charge may be made, but this is not to hinder travellers from bringing their own wood with them. About 260 members were present at the general meeting on September 5, and rather more at the banquet the same evening. Several honorary members were elected, Herr Weilenmann, Herr Iwan von Tschudi, M. Eugène Rambert, and Signor Vittorio Sella being among the number. The Finsteraarhorn group is again to be the 'Excursionsgebiet' of the Club for 1887, and it was announced that the Club numbered 2,745 members, distributed over thirty-one sections. Dr. Robert Keller delivered an interesting lecture on alpine plants. The meeting in 1887 will take place at Bienne (Biel).

The German Club met at Rosenheim on August 28 and 29, about 250 members being present. A committee (including Dr. Schulz and Herr Julius Meurer) was named to collect materials for a 'History of the Exploration of the Eastern Alps,' somewhat on the lines of Herr G. Studer's invaluable 'Ueber Eis und Schnee.' The banquet seems to have been very successful and animated. The 1887 meeting will be held at Linz.

The Italian Club met at Varallo, in Val Sesia, on July 31 and following days. The King's prize of 500 lire for 1886 was awarded to the Verbano section for the erection of a hut on the Motterone, the attention it had given to replanting its territory with trees, &c. Professor Mosso gave a lecture on the physiology of alpine ascents. Major Gallet described his new solar alpine telegraph. At the banquet there were 254 present. Collective excursions were made to the Sacro Monte, and to Fobello and Rima. The meeting in 1887 will take place at Vicenza and that in 1888 at Bologna.

The French Club, despite a previous meeting in Algeria in April last, gathered no fewer than 300 members and guests together in the little fortified town of Briançon, in the heart of the Dauphiné Alps. On August 13 and 14 excursions were organised to the neighbouring hills, to Vallouise and to the Queyras, and were largely patronised. The chief day was August 15, when the old Celtic sword dance of the 'Bacchu Ber' (preserved only at Cervières) was performed by nine men to the crooning of four old dames. It was followed by an excellent concert and by the banquet, which was very brilliant and successful. The Editor of this Journal represented the Alpine Club, and

wishes to publicly acknowledge the very flattering reception which he received in that capacity. A torchlight procession was followed by really superb fireworks, and the day was brought to a close by a crowded ball, which lasted into the small hours of the morning. The Swiss Club was represented by M. Tournier, the Waldensian pasteur of Freissinières, and the Italian by Professor Brunialti. On August 16 parties started to cross next day the Cols de la Lauze, des Cavales, and de la Temple, but the weather was not very favourable. The 1887 meeting will be held in the Vosges. Many of those present at the congress went over to La Bérarde to assist at the opening of the little inn constructed there by the Société des Touristes du Dauphiné, which has twelve bedrooms, besides a dining-room, a 'salon,' a kitchen, and other conveniences. It will be opened under the management of young M. Tairraz (son of the landlord of the Montenvers hôtel near Chamonix) on July 1, 1887.

A TRAVELLER SHOT AT ON THE GEMMI.—Towards the end of September last an English traveller started alone from Leukerbad to cross the Gemmi. As he was walking along the path between the Dauben See and Schwarenbach he heard a shot fired, of which he took no particular notice, but a second shot which followed almost immediately struck and shattered the top of his alpenstock. Much alarmed, he at once hurried on to Schwarenbach and Kandersteg, and reported the occurrence at the Bär Hôtel. The landlord (Herr Egger) soon afterwards started to investigate the matter, taking with him his son and a gendarme from Frutigen. On arriving at the spot they found broken pieces of the alpenstock lying on the ground and a man crouching in a deserted hut on the hill-side. On enquiring of him what he was doing there he explained that he had come up to bring some provisions to a hunter. Believing this story, the landlord and his companions went in search of this hunter, but were soon undeceived by him, though when they returned to look for the man with the gun the latter was not to be found. Ultimately, however, he was arrested, and charged before the magistrates with sheep-stealing as well as with the attack on the traveller. It is said that he defended himself by the plea that he only intended to commit a robbery, and he was discharged on the ground that he was not in his right mind. The above details are derived from an interview I had with the traveller himself, at Grindelwald, on September 22, and from a statement made some days later to another traveller by the landlords of the Bär at Kandersteg and the Hôtel des Alpes at Leukerbad, as communicated to me by my friend Mr. A. C. Vesey.

GEORGE BENNETT.

THE PIZ D'ALBANA.—On Wednesday, August 5, 1885, a fine hot day, I left the Hôtel Rivalta, Silvaplana, at 10.25 A.M. After a short walk up the Julier Road, for a mile or so, on to the pass, I took to the right up a steep and rather stony grass slope, and by half-past eleven was on the shoulder of the mountain, with a good view of the Piz Pulatschin and the long stone shoots on the E. side—down which I 'glissaded' a few days later, descending to the Julier Road from the top of the Piz in exactly an hour. From here I had a capital view of the Piz d'Albana, the summit of which appeared to consist of two or three sharp points

placed close together. Three quarters of an hour more over some tiresome boulders brought me to the foot of the Piz itself, which afforded some decidedly interesting 'climbing' for the first twenty minutes or so, up a steep sort of rampart of sound rock in regular strata, perfectly sound, but giving little foothold. Part of this was a little perplexing at first sight, the rock lying very like old masonry, with narrow strips of grass in the interstices, up which it was necessary to crawl with some care, the wall of rock itself being for some distance little out of the perpendicular. For some time (nearly a quarter of an hour I should say) this was so much so that the smallest stone I kicked away with my feet could be heard falling for three quarters of a minute by my watch. This nice bit of climbing landed me on the arête, which is extremely fine in every sense—a splintered edge of red rock rather like the spines on a perch's back, the top of which was in many places too sharp to handle. This arête runs as nearly as possibly due north and south; on the east side I should say it would be impossible; on the west I found a fairly good and sound ledge almost all the way up; to look over the spine of rock was like looking out of a high window, sheer down for some hundred feet at least, in places a good deal more. At 1.32 I was on the top (3,100 mètres=10,171 feet, Federal map)—somewhat warm after accomplishing 4,213 feet (for this is the rise from Silvaplana) in 3 hrs. 7 min. There are three points on the summit ridge, the ascent of the third being up a very diminutive 'chimney.' From these there is a fine view of the south (S.E.S.) side of the Piz Julier, separated from the Piz d'Albana by a ravine some 2,000 to 3,000 feet deep, the sides covered with loose rocks. After a few minutes' rest—having decided for various reasons not to descend by the arête—I came down the south face of the mountain, some distance east of the arête, of which I made a careful pencil drawing from somewhat below it. The process of 'letting oneself down gently' through and among a chaos of irregular boulders of all sizes was very laborious. My alpenstock I had to discard altogether, dropping it judiciously 30 or 40 feet at a time; and I was more than once unpleasantly near following it myself. It would be absolutely impossible, in my opinion, for any human being to *ascend* on that side, and I should think there must be a better way *down* in some other direction which I did not know of. There were no traces of a path or track anywhere. I reached home at 4.30 P.M.

The (better known?) Piz Pulatschin or Polaschin (3,017 mètres), which I ascended a few days later, in exactly the same time, seemed to me not nearly so interesting. The descent on the Julier Road side is warm (and amusing) work.

The arête of the Piz d'Albana, above described, is particularly fine. The nearest thing I have seen to it in form and sharpness of edge is the western arête of the Finsteraarhorn (immediately above the breakfasting place), but I do not know that this is ever ascended.

GEORGE H. POWELL.

VARIATION OF THE ADLER PASS.—The following route from the Adler pass direct to Fee is useful and perhaps not generally known:—

Descending the Allalin glacier from the col, keep near the rocks of

the eastern ridge of the Allalinhorn. Where the rocks end and before the point marked 3150 on the Federal map is reached, an easy snow-slope to the left leads to the Hohlaub glacier. Traverse the glacier towards its N.W. corner, where there is an obvious col, reached by a very short ascent. Follow the top of the ridge for a short distance from the col towards the east, and then descend on to the Fee glacier. A zigzag course over the glacier is now necessary to avoid crevasses. Eventually bear to the right horizontally for a few minutes, and then glissade down on to the high-level route from Mattmark to Fee, just under the Egginerhorn.

Time occupied by a party taking things very easily, $4\frac{1}{4}$ hrs. from the Adler pass to the hôtel at Saas Fee. J. A. LUTTMAN-JOHNSON.

DEATH OF MR. MOORE.—At the moment of going to press we learn that Mr. A. W. Moore died at Monte Carlo on Feb. 2. He had been a member of the Alpine Club since 1861, and had served it most faithfully as Secretary and as a member of the Committee. His Alpine record is one of the most brilliant known. The Sesia Joch, the Gross Viescherhorn, the Jungfrau Joch, the Ecrins, Col de la Pilatte, Mont Blanc from the Brenva glacier, the Ober Gabelhorn, Moming Pass, Piz Roseg—such are some of the expeditions he made *for the first time*. His ascent of Mont Blanc by the Aiguille du Goûter *alone* with Christian Almer, and his opening the way for winter mountaineering by his passage of the Strahlegg and Brèche de la Meije, show his unwearied activity and fearless enterprise. Nor should it be forgotten that he was a member of the first two expeditions to the Caucasus in 1868 and 1874. Several articles by him will be found in earlier volumes of the 'Journal,' but he steadily refused to publish any large work on the Alps he knew and loved so well, though in 1867 he printed, for private circulation, his journal of 1864, in our opinion one of the most vivid and fascinating books of Alpine travel which have ever been written. We believe we are correct in saying that it was only his modesty which more than once led him to refuse the presidency of the Alpine Club. A warm-hearted and devoted personal friend and a most brilliant Alpine climber, his loss will be deplored and deeply felt by all who knew him, whether in private life or among the mountains.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

High Life and Towers of Silence. By Mrs. Main, formerly Mrs. Fred. Burnaby. (Sampson Low, 1886. 10s. 6d.)

MRS. MAIN's second book on mountaineering and matters pertaining thereto has been composed and published in less frenzied haste than her former volume. It was therefore probable that it would be much better; we may go farther, and say at once that it *is* a vast deal better. She discourses very pleasantly on climbs and rambles in many parts of the Alps, mainly Chamonix, Zermatt, and the Engadine, and the book