

right bank of the stream, for the path bears away to the right high above it, in order, after passing through some very fine rock scenery, to descend into the Kienthal, the village of that name being gained in 1.50 from the further end of the Spiggengrund. After the village the char road ascends, though one is descending the valley, and leads to Reichenbach; but, as our destination was Frutigen, we took (55 mins.) a side path on the left to the hamlet of Kien (15 mins.), whence a dreary tramp, generally slightly uphill, brought us to our night quarters, at the Adler in Frutigen (1.25). Our times were thus: 4½ hrs. up, 6.25 down. But they are slow, as it was our first long walk of the season. I cannot say that the pass is very interesting, though there are many fine precipices and waterfalls on the way; but it is very lonely and unfrequented, so that though close to the Schilt-horn one might imagine oneself to be in some very remote district of the Alps, and not between two of the beaten Swiss tracks. The height of the pass is not very much less than that of the Kilchfluh pass.

W. A. B. COOLIDGE.

NEW GOVERNMENT SURVEY OF TYROL.—Our readers may remember that for the last twelve years, ever since its first publication, complaints have been constantly made in these pages by Mr. D. Freshfield, Mr. Holzman, and other travellers of the unsatisfactory character of the last survey of the Tyrol. These soon found an echo in Austria from the numerous tourists who now frequent the Eastern Alps.

But it is not often in our British experience that Government officers lend a ready ear to external criticism. We are glad, therefore, to find in the *Oesterreichische Alpenzeitung* the following announcement; and we cordially unite with Herr Meurer in his thanks to the directors of the survey for their resolve, and his hope for its speedy execution:—

‘In order to bring the maps of Tyrol into complete correspondence with those of the rest of the Monarchy, and to eliminate the errors of the first edition, the Directors of the Military Geographical Institute have determined to instruct their officers to make an entirely new survey of the Tyrol, and to construct on the basis of this survey new maps on the scale of 1:75,000. The survey will be completed in 1888, and the new maps given to the public at the earliest possible moment.’

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

The Pioneers of the Alps. By C. D. Cunningham and Captain W. de W. Abney, R.E., F.R.S. (London: Sampson Low. 4to. Nearly 50 illustrations in permanent photo-engraving. 2l. 2s.)

It will probably be admitted that mountaineers, in describing their expeditions, have been by no means niggardly in their praises of the guides who have accompanied them, and have so largely contributed to their pleasure, safety, and success. Yet it was well that a special and permanent record of *la vieille garde* of the army of Alpine conquest

should be prepared whilst many of its members are still living, and, in the above-named very handsome and interesting volume, such a record has, I venture to think, been, on the whole, worthily and satisfactorily supplied.

The limitation to certain leading centres of climbing activity—Chamonix, the Bernese Oberland, and Zermatt—most familiar to our countrymen generally, and the judicious arrangement adopted in the selection of names have resulted in a very fairly representative gallery of portraits, and, though we may miss some—such as Victor Tairraz, for instance—for whom we should gladly have seen a niche reserved in this literary Walhalla, our thanks are due alike to the editor, illustrator, and general contributors for having so successfully carried out the object in view. Perhaps, too, as one who has had repeated opportunities of seeing in action at least twelve out of the entire number of guides included in the volume, besides being personally acquainted with several of the others, I may be allowed to congratulate the writers of the various notices on the absence of anything like undue partiality, and on their evident desire to present an accurately truthful picture of their favourites. Of course such a collection of articles by various hands, some of whom, moreover, do not pretend to much personal experience of the subjects of their notices, will show differences of knowledge and literary skill, but the names of the writers are a guarantee for the quality of their work, and, as a whole, the volume is, to my thinking, a well executed monument to the *élite* of a noble profession, and, as such, fills a gap in Alpine literature.

It is really refreshing to see how the authors warm to their task as they recall with evident enthusiasm the traits of character and *tours de force* of their respective leaders, and to me one of the greatest pleasures in reading the volume has been to dwell on the enjoyment which its production must have procured for them in thus doing their part to portray brave men to whom they owe such a debt of gratitude. It would be strange indeed if we did not feel a warm affection for those who are ready to risk their lives, if need be, in our service, and to whom we unhesitatingly entrust our own; a trust so fully justified by the striking fact that, with a single exception which involves no slur but rather a double meed of praise, no life has ever been lost in the expeditions—probably some thousands in number—with which any of the twenty-two guides selected for illustration have been connected.

In his chapter on 'Guidecraft' Mr. Cunningham quotes a noble but richly earned tribute to the great guides of the Alps from the pen of Mr. F. Pollock (p. 74). From numerous appreciative remarks of his own I have only space to quote the following (p. 77):—'We value the friendship of our guide as one of the best possessions and memories of the long seasons we have spent in the Alps.' Again, take this pregnant and epigrammatic reference to Johann Jaun by Mr. Middlemore:—'However distinguished his fellow guides he would always be esteemed as their leader; however ordinary their rank he would never seem to lead'; or Mr. Coolidge's touching cry of pain in reference to the sad close of Christian Almer's climbing career:—'And I have lost the brave and faithful companion to whom I owe some of

the happiest days I have ever spent, the recollection of which can only pass away with life.' Almer's name, by-the-bye, should have been added to that of Cupelin (p. 189) as having been compelled to go on the 'retired list.'

The volume consists of a series of nine introductory essays on 'The Growth and Development of Mountaineering,' containing much interesting matter, together with a note on the portraits by Captain Abney, succeeded by notices, varying in length according to the materials available, of twenty-two leading guides, accompanied by likenesses in permanent photo-engraving by Messrs. Annan & Swan's process from negatives by Captain Abney. It concludes with somewhat shorter 'in memoriam' biographies of thirteen other gallant leaders who have passed away, but most of whose names will ever be as household words in the story of the conquest of the Alps. The portraits, so far as my acquaintance with the originals enables me to judge, are mostly excellent, though naturally varying in merit and picturesque charm, some of the subjects being much better suited for artistic treatment than others. Ulrich Lauener is really a superb study and admirably rendered, suffering less than some of the others from the nature of his headgear, which in some instances, notably that of Melchior Anderegg, is of a rather tryingly clerical type. Probably the general retention of the hat is deliberate, either with a view of giving tone to the features or because most familiarly associated with our recollections of the original.

Perhaps the least satisfactory presentment in the book is the occulted portrait in the frontispiece. Can it be that of the editor, whom his friend Captain Abney has caught napping, or who thus disinterestedly sacrifices himself to point a moral? A series of two dozen or more charming vignettes and tail-pieces, rendering with delightful freshness various episodes of mountaineering, further adorns the volume and adds to its value for all who have the happiness to possess a store of Alpine memories.

I have said, I hope, sufficient to show my own high appreciation of the feast of good things provided for us by Mr. Cunningham, Captain Abney, and the other contributors, and I trust I may be pardoned if I now briefly refer, in no spirit of fault-finding, to a few points which seem to me to call for criticism. Unless the remarks at pp. 1 and 12 are intended to be restricted, like the guides themselves, to three districts, the ascents of the Gross Glockner in 1802 and those of the Ortler Spitze in 1804, 1826, and 1834 might, I think, have been referred to. Again, the brief allusion to the conquest of 'several of the minor peaks of Monte Rosa' (p. 1) is surely far from doing justice to the prolonged series of plucky, and to a considerable extent successful, attempts in the *massif* referred to, from 1819 to 1854, by the Vincents, Zumstein, Molinatti, Von Welden, Gnifetti, Madutz and M. von Taugwald, Puiseux and Ordinaire, Ulrich, the brothers Schlagintweit, and the Messrs. Smyth and Kennedy. At p. 20, whilst Dr. Forbes' charming 'Physician's Holiday' receives well-merited praise, the classic and epoch-making work of Professor J. D. Forbes, 'Travels through the Alps of Savoy and other parts of the Pennine Chain, with observations on the pheno-

mena of Glaciers' (Edinburgh, 1848), is not even alluded to; an omission which is only partially repaired by a reference to its author's labours in the notice of his guide, Auguste Balmat.

To my thinking, the disparaging remarks at pp. 31 and 33 as to the 'diminished prestige' of the Alpine Club and the banter about its meetings—I offer no opinion as to their correctness—might have been omitted with advantage as being altogether foreign to the presumed object of such a publication. Is it quite fair either to our noble selves to imply (p. 32) that our activity for the benefit of the general mountaineering world has been pretty much limited to the production of a general map of the Alps? Are Mr. Reilly's and Mr. Nichols' labours and resultant maps, the issue of the volumes of 'Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers,' the maintenance of the 'Alpine Journal,' the production of the 'Alpine Guide,' the encouragement given by our Winter Exhibitions to Alpine artists—all practically outcomes of the Club—the efforts to improve the Chamonix guide system, and the numerous subscriptions in aid of sufferers by fire or flood, as well as for other objects, in the Alpine regions, or for disabled guides and the relations of dead ones, to count for nothing? Though 'boasting be excluded,' may we not take credit for having conferred some real benefits on mountaineers? At any rate, I do not think that our Continental brethren seem disposed to criticise us from this point of view. Lastly, I read with painful surprise of the 'envy, hatred, and all uncharitableness which pervades Alpine controversies' (p. 44). Such a remark, I rejoice to say, could never have been justified in the earlier days of the Alpine Club; and, if it is now fairly or widely applicable, which I should be very sorry to believe, I none the less wish that it had not been recorded in this volume.

Did space permit I might take exception to one or two other statements of fact, but I should indeed be sorry if, in what I have frankly said, I should be thought to show a captious spirit or seem to detract in any degree from the opinion expressed at the outset as to the great indebtedness of mountaineers to all who have contributed to this volume; which, beyond question, succeeds in its main object of doing honour and justice to the gallant men whom we all, whether old or young, so heartily respect and so warmly love.

F. F. TUCKETT.

Shores and Alps of Alaska. By H. W. Seton-Karr. (Sampson Low, 1887. 8vo. 16s.)

We have already published in these pages* some account of Mr. Seton-Karr's attempt on Mount S. Elias, in Alaska. He has now given to the world a full narrative of his explorations in a handsome and profusely illustrated book. His whole journey to Alaska centred round Mount S. Elias. No important additions are made to the already published accounts of his climb, but there are many particulars given which will be useful to future explorers, not forgetting the detailed inset map of the peak and its surrounding glaciers. These glaciers

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiii. pp. 89-93, 177-8.

seem to project into the sea and to be of enormous extent, a calculation being given according to which they cover 18,000 *square miles*! It seems a pity that the party had not had more alpine experience, for of the three who actually tried the peak, Lieut. Schwatka and Woods had *never* had any experience of alpine snow work, or of the use of rope and ice-axe. In fact Mr. Seton-Karr was the only member of the party who knew aught of ice work, and he modestly tells us that 'an expedition comprising Swiss guides, or consisting of experienced climbers, would be more successful.' It would seem best *not* to land at Icy Bay, but to go across country from Yakutat Bay, and the western arête of the peak seems to offer no difficulties once it is reached. The height of S. Elias appears to be from 19,500 to 20,000 feet, and is supposed to be the highest mountain in North America, though our explorer makes out that this honour belongs to Mount Wrangel, a volcano lying some way N.W. of S. Elias. In point of appearance S. Elias reminds Mr. Seton-Karr of the Piz Roseg seen from the Roseg glacier. Lieut. Schwatka* claims that Mr. Seton-Karr's party, by reaching a height of 7,200 feet, 'nearly all of which was above the sea level,' made the 'highest climb above the sea level ever made, certainly the highest on an almost wholly unknown mountain.' Mr. Seton-Karr, however, in his book (p. 104) says, 'I had ascended to a greater height over the summer snow level than is possible to accomplish in Europe, the snow level on Mount S. Elias being 400 feet only above the sea level, owing to the heavy annual snowfall,' thus greatly limiting the statement of Lieut. Schwatka. As a matter of fact we believe that in the case of Elbruz (which is generally counted as being in Europe) the peak rises 7,500 feet above a snow level which cannot be put at a height of over 11,000 feet, and is probably less.

The book should certainly be consulted by anyone meditating an expedition in these parts, which include much entirely unexplored country, tempting alike to the naturalist, the mountaineer, and the sportsman.

Apart from the alpine portion of the work, it is amusing to find that, in order to get back from S. Elias to San Francisco, Mr. Seton-Karr had to make a long journey far to the north, nearly to the Aleutian islands! Some interesting accounts are given of the seal fisheries, and there is a description of a marvellous brooklet which was so full of salmon that their backs were bare, while in another they were so crowded together that, in the rush to escape the author, many were actually forced out on the bank, where they lay trying to get back to the shallow water. Life at Nuchek, where Mr. Seton-Karr was delayed two months, is very curious and original. There is a graphic diary of the one white man who ever spent a winter among the Copper River Indians, while among the illustrations the engraving (p. 225) of Sett-Shoo, an Oodiak boy, is perhaps the most curious. Clad in a short shirt, without trousers, socks, shoes, or hat, he crossed a snow pass without inconvenience! Here is a hint for restless mountaineers in search of some striking novelty.

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiii. p. 93.

The book is very unpretending, for it is simply the author's diary, jotted down from day to day, but it is freshly and brightly written, and gives us some really valuable information about a little known part of the world.

Illustrierter Führer durch die Alpen von Salzburg, Ober-Oesterreich, Steiermark, Kärnten, Krain, Küstenland und Berchtesgadener Land. Von Julius Meurer. (Vienna: Hartleben, 1887. 8vo. 6s.)

Illustrierter Führer durch die Zillerthaler Alpen, und die Riesenerferner-Gruppe. Von H. Hess. (Vienna: Hartleben, 1887. 8vo. 6s.)

Each of these works is a continuation of a previously published guide-book, each relates to the Austrian Alps, each is issued by the same publisher in the same series, and each is lavishly illustrated, though the woodcuts in point of accuracy or artistic merit do not reach a high level.

Herr Meurer has already published volumes on E. and W. Tyrol. His latest work completes his survey of the Austrian Alps. It takes in (roughly speaking) the country E. of Salzburg and Lienz, and W. of Linz and Laibach. These districts are not very well known to English travellers, who by the publication of Herr Meurer's painstaking 'Führer' are deprived of one more excuse for not visiting them. It is superfluous for us to praise the execution of this volume, for Herr Meurer is a practised writer of Alpine guide-books, and knows what to select and what to pass over, though in some cases English wants are perhaps rather different from those of Austrians. There are fifty-six engravings and seventeen maps and panoramas. The weak point in the book seems to be the maps, which are on a very small scale, and would be of no practical use to mountaineers wishing to find their way over the glaciers of a district hitherto unknown to them. We would gladly exchange some of the poor engravings for larger and more numerous maps.

Herr Meurer may be warmly congratulated on the completion of his Guide to the Austrian Alps. Well printed, portable, accurate, posted up to date, it will be indispensable to all travellers visiting the country. Mountaineers may soon hope to have much additional information made accessible to them by the publication of the 'Austrian Studer' (an historical account of the conquest of the Tyrolese peaks), on which Herr Meurer, with other specialists, is understood to be engaged.

If Herr Meurer's guide-book may be described as roughly answering to Mr. Ball's 'Eastern Alps,' that of Herr Hess more or less corresponds with Mr. Conway's Zermatt book (plus information as to roads and railways). It is a monograph on the Zillerthal Alps, and appears to be most exhaustive. Each valley and glen is taken in turn, and described methodically, minute information being given as to all the peaks and passes therein included. For reasons of practical convenience the Rieserferner group is included, though properly it ought to have been included in Herr Hess's former book on the Hohe Tauern. We are warned in the preface that scientific information is rigorously excluded, as only suited to the wants of a special class of travellers;

and we infer (from the preface to the Hohe Tauern book) that this head included all facts as to the Alpine history of each peak and pass. It seems to us that the author, in writing such a special guide-book, has made a mistake in not making it complete at least on the last-named point. The number of names and dates which would have had to be added is comparatively small, and would have been very useful. A graver fault is the total omission of any list of maps or books referring to the district, an essential feature of a special guide-book. There are fifty illustrations, four maps, and a panorama. We regret much that Herr Hess has not followed the good example he set in his former work in the matter of large-scale maps. Then he gave us two admirable maps of the Venediger and Glockner groups on a scale of $\frac{1}{250,000}$ and $\frac{1}{400,000}$ respectively, whereas now we are put off with a very sketchy one on a scale of $\frac{1}{750,000}$ only. This omission can certainly not be due to want of material. Herr Hess's book is so good that one can afford to grumble at minor faults—it is only a good book which deserves criticism. We hope that he or some one else will soon monograph the Oetzthal and Stubaithal groups—they seem as yet to rejoice in no detailed guide-book of their own.

It may be added that in each of these books the tariff for guides at the different centres is usefully reprinted at length, for it is very complicated and minute, demanding prolonged study before it can be mastered. Finally we would call attention to the fact that special guide-books have now been published on the groups at the two extremities of the chain of the Alps, Tyrol and Dauphiné, whereas the Swiss Alps, though explored at a far earlier date, are almost destitute of similar monographs, while these special guide-books are fast superseding more general and more unwieldy volumes.

Le Mont Blanc et ses Explorations. Par A. S. de Doncourt. (Lille and Paris : J. Lefort, 1887. Small 4to. 6 francs.)

This book is one of the most shameless and unabashed pieces of book-making it has ever been our fortune to come across, even when we bear in mind that it was probably hurriedly got up for the De Saussure fêtes last summer. The text covers 216 pages, of which no fewer than 152 are taken up with a reprint of De Saussure's narratives of his attempts on and ascent of Mont Blanc, his sojourn on the Col du Géant, and his journeys to Chamonix and round Mont Blanc, passages being occasionally omitted and connecting sentences supplied by the editor or copyist. Now De Saussure's works are not very inaccessible, and if only the non-scientific portion of them is wanted, that can be found in the 'Partie Pittoresque des ouvrages de M. de Saussure,' published at Paris by Fischbacher, and costing only 3'50 francs. There is a preliminary sketch (15 pages) of De Saussure's life, superficial, inflated, and partly made up of large extracts from an unnamed work. The last forty-nine pages are taken up with various extracts from various writers. Thus Viollet le Duc is drawn on for the orography of the group (3 pages), Mlle. d'Angeville describes the fauna and flora of the Alps (8 pages), M. Le Tertre the 'Tour du Mont Blanc' (14 pages), M. Talbert the Alpine Clubs (8 pages), and an unknown

writer the roads and railroads of the Alps (10 pages). There is one chapter which seems entirely due to the pen of M. de Doncourt. It is that on Alpine accidents and the means of preventing them. Its value may be gathered from the fact that it covers six pages and is disfigured by numerous mistakes in names, dates, and general matter. This last is a failing which also appears in other parts of the book, even when the text is copied from some other writer; perhaps the most amusing case being that in which we are told, as a sort of climax, 'Enfin MM. Lammer et Lorria ont gravi sans guide la terrible Dent du Chat (1885),' the Dent Blanche of course being meant. Of the thirty-six engravings, it must suffice to say that many of them have no relation to the text (*e.g.* Davos, Rhine rapids at Schaffhausen, &c.), that they are generally hopelessly irrecongnisable and always execrably cut, and that the names are often quite wrong (*e.g.* the well-known view from Rosenlauri is described as 'Engelhorn, Wildhorn, Winterhorn'; in another the Eiger and Mönch are lumped together as 'La Jungfrau'). We would recommend anyone into whose hands this wonderful book falls to study the frontispiece (*L'Avalanche*) and the cut on p. 121 (*Guide et Touriste dans les Alpes*)—they will find an entirely new light thrown on objects with which they doubtless imagine themselves tolerably well acquainted.

Seriously speaking, we cannot imagine for what possible readers this pretentious and absurd volume is meant; it can be of not the slightest value or interest to any living person save M. de Doncourt himself. The odd thing about it is that he evidently thinks he has rendered great service to the Alpine world, and naïvely confesses his extensive borrowings, giving the names of his authors, and using marks of quotations very lavishly. This honesty is the one merit of the book.

Società degli Alpinisti Tridentini, XI Annuario, 1884-5; XII Annuario, 1885-6. (Rovereto.)

Since we last noticed the publications of this prosperous and industrious body two volumes of 400 pages each have borne witness to its continued activity. Its Alpine field may be defined as embracing the Adamello-Presanella Alps, the southern wing of the Ortler, and three of the most remarkable dolomitic groups, the Rosengarten, the Primiero, and the Brenta peaks. There is little room now left for new ascents or passes amongst these inaccessible-looking but not invincible pinnacles. The time has come for minute topographical studies, for settling knotty questions of nomenclature, for comparing or combining different excursions so as to procure for the traveller the maximum of fine scenery or amusing scrambling.

Perhaps the most important piece of solid work in these volumes is the collection of the true local names of the peaks and passes of the Rosengarten Gebirge, which had been somewhat needlessly Germanised by Herr Merzbacher. It seems an omission in the accompanying map that the fact that the Forca di Davoi (Tchagerjoch, 'Alpine Journal,' vol. x. p. 72) leads to Tiers, and the adjoining Passo delle Coronelle to Welschenofen is not indicated. And the statement that the Forca di

Davoi does not command a fine view is entirely erroneous. *Crede experto*. We find also a careful paper on the N. portion of the Brenta group, the curious ranges at the head of Val Flavona; the inevitable ascents of the Cimon della Pala and the Pala di S. Martino; and an account of how to go on from the Cima Tosa to the top of that noblest of towers the Crozzone di Brenta. A useful list of 51 'patented' guides and their qualifications is added. The Society, it appears, numbers over 830 members, so that if a fair proportion of them are active the guides can seldom want employment!

In studies on subjects of interest connected with Alpine districts the Trentine volumes are always rich. Here we can only refer to Dr. Frattini's Physical and Historical Notes on Primiero and the Canal S. Bovo, Dr. Bolognini's continuation of his notes on the legends of the Trentino, and several papers on local customs and usages. An article on 'Bears in the Trentino' contains some good hunting stories, an interesting sketch of the old hunter Luigi Fantoma, known as the Rè di Val di Genova, whom Payer immortalised, and some astonishing statistics as to the number of these beasts slain in recent years. Another on Alpine roads and inns abounds in sensible suggestions to local authorities desirous of attracting strangers. Molveno still waits for its landscape to be completed, as the author remarks with regret.

The volumes are fairly provided with illustrations, amongst which, as usual, those from drawings by Mr. Compton are pre-eminent equally for accuracy and artistic power.

D. W. F.

Postscript.

AT the last moment before going to press we learn that another fatal accident in the Alps has occurred, of which the following particulars have been communicated to us by a great friend of the family. On Friday, October 13, at 7 A.M., Miss Alice Barker, of Albrighton Hall, Wolverhampton, started, with a local guide, from the Hôtel Bregaglia at Promontogno (between Chiavenna and the Maloja Pass) up the Val Bondasca, to visit the glacier. Snow lay deep on the ice, and the walking was consequently very trying. After having reached a height of about 10,000 feet Miss Barker's strength failed, and becoming exhausted with the intense cold, she died in the arms of the guide shortly after having commenced to descend. The guide brought the body as far down the glacier as he could, and then went to Promontogno for assistance. Miss Barker's niece, Miss Florence Barker, was so overcome by the sad news of her aunt's death that she was taken ill and died at Promontogno on Sunday, October 16. Both bodies have been brought to England for interment.

Errata in last Number.

Page 332, line 40, for 'Six Madun' read 'St. Anna.'
 " 336, " 7, " 'pass' read 'peak.'