

Hill's exploit in 1786, the first recorded passage of the col by a traveller.*

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RESULTS OF THE NEW ITALIAN SURVEY OF THE EASTERN ALPS.—In several recent numbers† we gave the results of the new Austrian survey of the Eastern Alps. The following list (taken from the 'Rivista Mensile' of the Italian Alpine Club for May 1889, pp. 136–40) contains the provisional results of the Italian survey of the Italian portions of that district, and serves both as a supplement and a contrast :—

	Mètres.		Mètres.
Königsspitze . . .	3,860	Marmolata . . .	3,344
Monte Cevedale . . .	3,778	Cima di Vezzana . . .	3,194
Monte Zebbru . . .	3,740	Antelao . . .	3,263
Pallon della Mare . . .	3,707	Tofana . . .	3,241
Punta di San Malteo . . .	3,685	Civetta . . .	3,220
Thurwieserspitze . . .	3,652	Sorapiss . . .	3,206
Monte Vioz . . .	3,639	Pelmo . . .	3,169
Monte Saline . . .	3,613	Monte Cristallo . . .	3,153
Tuckettspitze . . .	3,469	Zwölferkofel . . .	3,095
Stelvio Pass . . .	2,756	Drei Zinnen . . .	3,000
Adamello . . .	3,554	Marmarole . . .	2,933
Lobbia Alta . . .	3,418	Paralba . . .	2,694
Lobbia Bassa . . .	3,315		

The height assigned to the Cristallo (3,153 mètres) differs so much from that obtained by the new Austrian survey (3,199 mètres) that it has been suggested that the former figures really belong to the Piz Popena (3,143 mètres according to the new Austrian survey).

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

The Alps. By F. Umlauf. Translated by Louisa Brough. (Kegan Paul, 1889. Large 8vo. pp. xii.–523. 25s.)

A FULL description and criticism of this work in its original German dress has already appeared in these pages.‡ It now comes before us in a well-printed English version. The translator informs us in her Preface that the text has been abridged in certain parts and that the very copious references in the notes to the literature of each branch of the subject have been omitted. Now the latter formed one of the most valuable features in the original, so that the abridgment deprives the reader of several valuable tables and of other useful details. In both cases the changes might be justified if the translator's hope that the work may appeal successfully to 'general readers' were to any extent realised; but we much fear that it cannot possibly be, for the only persons likely to consult this bulky production would certainly have

* See Mr. Freshfield's account of the pass (*A. J.*, ix. 22–4, where in the notes on p. 23 for '1793' read '1773,' and for 'i. 106' read 'iii. 106,' the passage in question appearing in the 1785 edition of Bourrit's work, not in that of 1781) and M. Durier's very full discussion of the subject (*ibid.* 87–9).

† *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiv. pp. 61, 252–3, 327.

‡ *Ibid.* vol. xiii. pp. 281–3.

sufficient knowledge to wish for those very details which are now cruelly withheld from them. The illustrations and maps are simply copied from the German edition, except in the case of the general map of the Alps, which is not an improvement on Prof. Umlauf's, and contains mistakes as well as many oddly-chosen names. The translation of the text has clearly been made by one who has either no acquaintance or a very slight one with the Alps, for in many cases a statement which is vague in the German original becomes a positive mistake in the English version. Altogether, those who find it necessary to consult Prof. Umlauf's work had better resort to the German edition, with all its shortcomings, rather than to the English, which does not correct the errors and omissions of the original while adding largely to them.

Les Alpes et les Grandes Ascensions. Par E. Levasseur. (Paris: Delagrave, 1889. Large 8vo. pp. viii.-456. 10 francs.)

This sumptuously printed volume has been described as 'the French Umlauf,' and not without reason, though it possesses also both merits and defects of its own. The first book of M. Levasseur's work is devoted to an enumeration of the chief characteristics of the Alps, while the second deals with their topography. Both are, as they could not well fail to be, interesting and instructive. The former suffers from the common, though none the less deplorable, defect of vagueness, aiming at describing in rapid succession the geology, the hydrography, fauna, flora, roads, population, agriculture, scenery, climate, &c., of the Alps—all in eighty-four pages! M. Levasseur cannot be congratulated on having accomplished his well-nigh impossible task, though it is only fair to say that there are many isolated remarks of value scattered up and down these preliminary pages. It would be interesting to compare and contrast in detail the main divisions of the Alps adopted by him and by his German rival, but we have only space here to mention M. Levasseur's scheme. According to him, the Alps fall into three great divisions—the Western (from the Savona-Mondovì Railway to the Col Ferret), the Central (from the Col Ferret and the Lake of Geneva to the Brenner), and the Eastern (from the Brenner to the Plains of Hungary). We may quote the summary of this first book in the author's own words: 'Si nous voulions exprimer par un mot les principaux caractères qui distinguent aujourd'hui les Alpes et qui les distingueront probablement encore dans l'avenir, nous dirions qu'au point de vue de la géographie physique, les Alpes sont le RELIEF le plus accentué de l'Europe, et, en conséquence, un CHÂTEAU D'EAU qui alimente quatre grands fleuves. Elles sont et elles resteront, pour l'ethnographie, surtout une FORTERESSE; pour la politique, une BARRIÈRE; pour l'économie rurale, un PÂTURAGE; pour l'alpinisme, un GYMNASE; pour tous ceux qui aiment la nature, un PARC sans rival.'

The rest of the work is taken up with a minute account of the topography of the Alps, the main divisions being broken up into many smaller sections, each of which is illustrated by a rather roughly executed but, on the whole, useful special small-scale map. Now it has always seemed to us that it is a mistake from every point of view

to give all these minute topographical details in the text of a general work on the Alps. Those to whom they might conceivably be of use would be persons who would certainly have the Ordnance maps of each country in their hands, and who might thus hope to be spared these terminable lists of names and figures in favour of a succinct topographical description capable of being grasped by non-specialists, and of being made interesting from a literary point of view. But M. Levasseur has not avoided this grave error of judgment, as we must consider it, any more than Prof. Umlauf. Further, if such minute details are given, it is of the first importance that they should be absolutely accurate and correct. Great fault has been found with the Eastern Alps section of M. Levasseur's work by those acquainted with that part of the Alpine chain; and the present writer is bound to say that the Western Alps section is filled with numerous and very bad mistakes of names and heights, as well as of topography pure and simple. The Central Alps section is probably not better than the others, though it takes in the best known part of the Alps. M. Levasseur deserves credit, however, for a very ingenious and, on the whole, well-executed scheme for relieving the strain on the attention caused by these endless lists of names and heights. He has secured the aid of various climbers (mainly French, but including a few members of our own Club), who contribute short accounts of their experiences on certain of the more conspicuous peaks included in each section. As was inevitable, the choice of the particular peaks to be thus distinguished, and of the writers who were to describe them, does not seem in every case all that could be desired, while the narrow limits of a page or two to which the articles are in each case confined cramp the energies of the several authors. But the idea is a good one, and it would be interesting to extend it by publishing a monograph on each group, with descriptions of the ascent of each of its great peaks by specially qualified persons. In such a case M. Levasseur's plan of luring his readers on to the study of topography by means of stories of adventure might be even more successfully worked out than in his present book.

To the larger edition of this work two Appendices are added. One of these deals with the history and present state of each of the chief Alpine Clubs or Societies (nineteen in number) now in existence, the writers having, as a rule, special facilities for collecting information on these points, and is one of the most important and valuable features of the book. Of the other Appendix we regret that we cannot speak in such favourable terms. It purports to contain a list of the chief books and maps relating to the Alps. That it is incomplete is no wonder, for Alpine literature is far more extensive than many persons imagine. But it is disfigured by such gross mistakes, misprints, and errors of every kind that not the slightest trust can be placed in it, and it must in a later edition be either entirely revised and remodelled, or else withdrawn altogether. Here are a few specimens taken quite at random: 'J. Simer, Vallis descriptio' (for J. Simler, Vallesiae descriptio); 'D. W. Freshfield, Bye Comers in Savoy' (an article which appeared in these pages in 1884-5 under a rather different title: see 'Alpine Journal,' xii.); 'E. Whympfer, The Ascent of the Wetterhorn:

Londres, 1880; 'Pritchard, Cramps in the Tyrol,' and so on. The entries are not arranged in any discoverable order, either of time, place, alphabet, nationality, or name. The section on maps is not quite so bad as that on books, but is far from good. In fact, this second Appendix is the weakest portion of the work, and greatly disfigures it.

There are about thirty illustrations (mostly poor and reproduced from worn plates), besides the forty-four rough special maps already mentioned. There are, besides, two larger maps, both well engraved and fair, despite some mistakes—the orography of the Western Alps, and the hydrography of Central Europe. A tolerably full table of contents is given, but, in a characteristically French manner, not the slightest attempt is made at an Index, the book contrasting in this respect very unfavourably with Prof. Umlauf's. The paper and print are all that can be desired, and the price is very moderate; but we fear that the book, as a whole, will not, at least in its present shape, become an 'Alpine Classic,' for its serious defects certainly outbalance its undoubted merits.

La Suisse Inconnue. Par Victor Tissot. (Paris: Dentu, 1888. 8vo. pp. 480. 3 francs 50 centimes.)

This is a brightly written book, the title of which is its chief drawback. M. Tissot has discovered that there is a Switzerland which is not that of M. Tartarin and of Mr. Cook; but then he falls into the grave mistake of imagining that he has visited it, for the districts which he describes are certainly far from unknown to English travellers, and probably not undiscovered even by M. Tissot's compatriots. He himself would scarcely contend that the journey from Paris by the St. Gotthard Railway to Lugano and Chiavenna (which fills the first hundred pages of his book) has anything to do with 'unknown Switzerland.' On the other hand, we cannot admit the justice of the name in the case of the Engadine, the Vorder Rhein Valley and the Valais, though the few pages on the Gruyère country, which bring the work to an end, have far more right to the title given to the whole book than any other part of it.

Apart from the question of title, the book is decidedly entertaining and worth reading. The excursions (with a solitary exception) described are of the mildest kind, but the sketches of different types of travellers are smart; while M. Tissot, being a Frenchman, could hardly fail to discover or imagine certain romances or intrigues among the travellers he came across. These tales of a traveller are undoubtedly amusing reading, and will serve to while away agreeably a few hours in a railway, when the reader may reasonably hope to have the same luck as the author. The 'Impressions de Voyage' seem to be all of recent date, except a description of the Lötschthal, written in 1868, when the curé of Kippel still lodged the rare visitors to his unfrequented valley. The only description of a climb is that of the ascent of the Dent Blanche in 1886 by M. Tissot's fourteen-year-old son, accompanied by two Evolena guides who had never been up the mountain. The father was for some time under the impression that

the Dent Blanche was the Dent du Midi of the district, and when it flashed on him that it was something quite different he behaved as might have been expected. The boy's narrative is very fresh and pleasant, but, of course, betrays his inexperience at every step. The account of the 'Medicine Woman' of Hérémence is a good specimen of M. Tissot's style and manner.

An English translation (fairly done and slightly expurgated) of the twelfth edition of the book has just been issued by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton (6s.).

Das Dachsteingebiet : ein geographisches Charakterbild aus den Oesterreichischen Nordalpen. Von Friedrich Simony. Part I. (Vienna and Olmütz : Hölzel. 4to. To be completed in four parts at 9s. each.)

Dr. Simony has, we believe, explored the Dachstein—the chief summit of the Salzburg Alps, though only 9,830 feet in height—during a long series of years, and he has undertaken the publication of the sumptuous work, of which Part I. is before us, with a view of advancing the cause of geographical science. He maintains, and we think rightly, that whereas the geological, zoological, and botanical characteristics of a district can be determined from a few specimens collected on the spot and preserved in a museum, those of the scenery of the district, regarded apart from its purely picturesque aspects, and rather as the field of operation of powerful natural agencies, cannot be grasped so easily because of the costly nature of journeys or of photographs of its main features and the impossibility, from a scientific point of view, of trusting to any less accurate representations. Hence he has determined to produce a monograph of a special district which shall illustrate its main physical features in minute detail, and thus make it possible for teachers and for students to see the actual working of great scientific laws, and this without entailing on them the expenses of a visit to the spot, or of gathering together a set of photographs of which, however, a complete and exhaustive set can never be obtained. He has naturally chosen his own special group of mountains, and certainly Part I. of his work promises well for the rest. It contains twenty-four pages of letterpress in which twelve photographs are printed. There are, besides, twelve phototypes, six fine heliotypes, and two large folding outline photo-heliographs (with keys to the names) of the group, all printed on separate sheets, so that they may be bound up in an atlas when the work is complete. Each of the four parts is to contain a similar number of illustrations. The views of the 'Karrenfelder' are very curious and striking, but those from the peak—despite a small glacier with one or two crevasses in it—are not very impressive. The material execution of the work is admirable, and we trust that the veteran author will obtain such support in his arduous undertaking that his long-continued efforts may be crowned with success.

Leggende delle Alpi. Da Maria Savi-Lopez. (Turin : Loescher, 1889. 8vo. pp. 358. 5 francs.)

Signora Savi-Lopez published in 1886 a book on the legends and folklore of the valleys of Lanzo. In the volume of the 'Bollettino

del Club Alpino Italiano' for the same year she gave to the world some further treasures from her stores, dealing with the Alps as a whole. These she has now reissued, with many additions and improvements, in the prettily printed volume before us, which is adorned by sixty illustrations of a quaint character. The space at our disposal will not allow us to do more than mention the headings of some of the more important chapters in this work. Demons, dragons, ghosts, sprites, water spirits and snow-queens, flowers and forests, witches and accursed people—all pass before our eyes with the curious tales and stories told of them by the mountain folk. Lakes and castles, the longing after the earthly paradise, and real historical events have also been drawn into the net skilfully thrown by the authoress, who has consulted many books in search of information. The result is a work which very usefully supplements our knowledge of the dwellers of the Alps, for if there is one subject on which they are particularly reserved and shy, it is their beliefs and superstitions. Legends they will tell freely enough, but their own firm trust in the present activity of spirits, good and evil, is a matter of which they are half ashamed, half afraid to speak. Hence any mountaineer who has a taste for folklore, and the gift of inspiring confidence in his guides or other mountain friends, may find much in Signora Savi-Lopez's book both to interest him and to set him in the right way for supplementing it, and thus adding to the materials of the 'folklorists' who, despite their barbarous name, are engaged on an important task, and one which shows how largely the real beliefs of modern men are directly based on those of their remote ancestors.

Der Beobachter. Von D. Kaltbrunner und E. Kolbrunner. Second edition. (Zürich: Wurster, 1888. 16s. 6d.)

This is the second German edition of a very useful and complete work which appeared in German in 1882, and in French, as the '*Manuel du Voyageur*,' in 1879 (see '*Alpine Journal*,' x. 285). It has been thoroughly revised and enlarged from 762 to 904 pages, though the price is very nearly the same. Great stress is laid in the Preface on a set of questions for use by travellers in wild countries, which seems in some way to have dropped out of our copy. The new edition is illustrated by 270 figures in the text, and 26 diagrams, is clearly printed, and contains a vast mass of information intended as hints for explorers, but which may also be of great service to stay-at-home people, by enabling them to systematise the results of their study of books of travels. After an introductory section dealing with the preparations for undertaking the exploration of an unknown or little-known land, come the two main parts into which the book is divided. One—'The Land'—deals with topography, geology, commercial and agricultural geography, climate, hydrography, botany, and zoology. The other—'The People'—deals with the question of the census of the population, races, dialects, manners and customs, beliefs and religion, dress, food, houses, social life, family and State organisation, laws, justice, and finances, industry, commerce, literature, art, and history. Nor should we pass over without mention the various useful tables of weights, measures, and coins, as

well as for facilitating trigonometrical, barometrical, thermometrical, and psychrometrical observations, which are placed at the end of the volume. The headings are numerous, but the matter is very clearly though concisely put, and in many cases the information may be of as great profit and use to the explorers of mountains as to the explorers of plains, for whom the work is primarily intended.

Unglücks-Chronik. Von J. Wenger. (Bern: Rudolf Jenni, 1888. 2s.)

If anyone desires nightmares and bad dreams let him at once purchase this small but grisly volume, and read it just before going to bed. In the space of 150 octavo pages it contains a summary list of all the great horrors causing loss of lives or property of which the earth has been the scene, beginning with the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, and coming down to the spring of 1888. Earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, landslips, avalanches, tempests, famines, plagues, fires, war, cannibalism, religious persecutions, despotism, lunacy and crime generally, colliery explosions, railway accidents, panic, drunkenness, hot climates—each finds its place in carefully arranged chapters. Chapter III., on landslips and avalanches, falls alone within our jurisdiction, and seems fairly complete. Certainly it may be convenient to have at hand the dates of all these terrible calamities, and probably the advance of science has diminished the chances of their recurrence, but one cannot help shuddering at the calm grimness with which the writer tells us that his object is to ‘call attention to the enormous influence exercised, *in a negative sense*, by such events on the material and moral progress of the world.’

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING was held on Tuesday, May 7, 1889, at 8 30 P.M., Mr. C. T. DENT, *President*, in the chair.

Messrs. A. D. CARLISLE and B. J. M. DONNE were elected members of the Club.

The new cabinet, containing a complete collection of the late Mr. W. F. Donkin's photographs, which had been ordered in accordance with the resolution of the General Meeting of December 18, 1888, was shown, and received general approval.

The PRESIDENT announced that Sir Joseph D. Hooker, C.B., F.R.S., &c., had been elected an honorary member of the Club; also that Mr. B. J. M. Donne had kindly presented the Club with two of his water-colour drawings lately exhibited at the Club rooms, and the thanks of the meeting were unanimously voted to Mr. Donne for his valuable gift.

The HON. SECRETARY mentioned that the committee had lately been able to acquire about sixty back numbers of the ‘Alpine Journal’ (ranging from No. 58 to 101), many of which were quite out of print, and only to be obtained with great difficulty; and invited members desirous of obtaining any of them to apply to him.

Mr. G. YELD then read his paper on ‘The Grand Paradis by a new