

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

route, and other New Expeditions in the Mountains of Cogne,' which was later printed in the May number of the 'Alpine Journal.'

The Rev. W. A. B. COOLIDGE opened the discussion on Mr. Yeld's paper, urging members to visit the district more frequently, and calling attention to the interesting climbs and to the magnificent views it affords, particularly of the Zermatt and Chamonix mountains. Mr. G. P. BAKER referred to the ascent of the Grivola by the N.W. arête, which he considered a better climb than the Schreckhorn. Mr. E. S. KENNEDY expressed the hope that members visiting the Graians would pay some attention to the geology of the district. A carboniferous formation commences in the valley of the Rhone, and between Mont Blanc and the St. Bernard it crosses to the valley of Aosta and beyond, and he hoped that fossil deposits would be found on the Graian Alps.

Messrs. C. E. MATHEWS, D. FRESHFIELD, A. L. MUMM, and the PRESIDENT also spoke, and the proceedings terminated with a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Yeld, who briefly replied.

A GENERAL MEETING was held on Tuesday, June 4, 1889, at 8.30 P.M., Mr. C. T. DENT, *President*, in the chair.

Messrs. W. A. P. BURNELL and H. CHICHESTER HART were elected members of the Club.

The PRESIDENT announced that Signor Vittorio Sella, who had come over from Italy on purpose to arrange the magnificent collection of his photographs now on view, had presented the Club with all the large photographs exhibited, and a most cordial vote of thanks was accorded to him by acclamation.

Mr. J. G. COCKIN read a paper on the 'Ascent of Ushba.'

The PRESIDENT, in inviting discussion on the paper, introduced to the meeting Dr. G. Radde, Director of the Museum at Tiflis, and an honorary member of the Club, and Mr. Peacock, H.M. Vice-Consul at Batoum, to both of whom the Club was largely indebted for the great assistance members travelling in the Caucasus had received from them.

Mr. CRAUFURD GROVE considered that Mr. Cockin, in his account of his ascent of Ushba, had unduly minimised the great difficulties of the climb. He thought, and everyone who had seen the mountain would agree, that Mr. Cockin had accomplished one of the most difficult ascents in the world. He asked whether Mr. Cockin had been able to ascertain which of the two peaks of Ushba was the higher. Proceeding to speak in French, Mr. Grove expressed his pleasure at meeting Dr. Radde, and spoke of his great achievements as one of the earliest explorers of the Caucasus.

Dr. RADDE, also speaking in French, thanked the meeting for the cordial reception accorded to him. He considered that the principal work in the mountains of the Caucasus had been done by members of the Alpine Club, but he looked upon what had been achieved simply as a beginning, and called attention to the hitherto unexplored mountains east of Kazbek—the range of Tebulos-mta with the Azunta Pass, the mountains of the Chewsurs and Tusches, Kvavlos, Diklos, and Katscha,

the Bogos range, the Alps of Daghestan, with Schalbus, Basardusy, and Schah-dagh; finally Karabagh, with the volcanic mountain Kapud-shich. His own explorations had taken him only to the limits of vegetation, which, however, in the Eastern Caucasus and on Elbruz extended to a very great height—12,000 feet and upwards. Travelling in these mountains would always be found very difficult unless the explorers were provided with the necessary introductions, and he would always be happy to assist any member of the Club to the best of his ability.

Messrs. TUCKER and PEACOCK concurred with Mr. Grove as to the great difficulties which the ascent of Ushba must involve.

The PRESIDENT thought it a pity that Ushba had been compared with the Matterhorn, as both mountains had characteristic and distinct features of their own. The first view of Ushba from the Betsho valley was quite unique; it was the finest rock peak one could wish to look upon. As to the difficulty of the climb, that must vary considerably according to the season; he thought the mountain could only be climbed when there was much snow on it. Caucasian rock peaks were apt to be extremely dangerous, owing to the rotten condition of the rocks, and stone avalanches were frequent. He considered Mr. Cockin's ascent one of the most remarkable feats of mountaineering ever accomplished, and concluded his remarks by moving a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Cockin for his excellent paper.

The vote having been unanimously accorded by acclamation, Mr. Cockin briefly replied, still maintaining that he had found the ascent not very difficult, no doubt owing to the great quantity of snow on the mountain, although sometimes dangerous. As to the relative height of the two peaks, he could form no opinion, as they had been in the clouds nearly the whole time.

An interesting collection of Alpine photographs by Signor Vittorio Sella, and some oil paintings by Signor J. Micocci, were on view at the Club rooms on this and some subsequent days. (See p. 403.)

THE ANNUAL SUMMER DINNER was held at the Star and Garter Hotel, Richmond, on Friday, June 14, the President, Mr. C. T. DENT, in the chair. Forty-three members and their friends were present.

Postscript.

AT the last moment before going to press we learn, with deep regret, of the sudden death of one of the honorary members of the Club, Sir F. O. Adams. This occurred on July 20 at Grindelwald, shortly after his return from a mountain excursion. Sir Francis resigned in 1888 the post of British Minister to the Swiss Confederation, which he had held for several years, and it was in recognition of many courteous services rendered during that time to English mountaineers, as well as of his enthusiastic love for the mountains (despite his 63 years), that he was elected an honorary member of the Club. Only last spring he published, together with Mr. C. D. Cunningham, an elaborate work entitled 'The Swiss Confederation' (Macmillan).