In descending they determined to follow Herr Darmstädter's instructions better, and accordingly kept along the arête to the edge of an almost vertical rock-wall, which faces S.E. and descends to the little col passed in the morning. Here Zecchini, who was leading, spent a long time in searching for a way down the rocks, which he at length found; and by the aid of 120 feet of rope they descended, one at a time, to the rocks just below the W. side of the col. Michele, who came last, had great trouble in getting down safely, though minus his boots, as the last 20 ft. was very difficult. Each of the party was 7 min. in descending this 120 ft. of rock, which is decidedly the most difficult part of the route, though by no means so dangerous as the E. face. The little col was left at 12.50, the San Martino side of the Cimone reached at 1.10, and the hotel at 4.10 P.M.

Norway.

GJURATIND FROM EIKIDALSVAND.—This fine peak, which was first ascended by Mr. W. J. Napier, in 1884, from the Isfjord side, was climbed for the first time from Hoem on Eikidalsvand by the Rev. F. M. Beaumont, and Messrs. A. Bill, R. B. Caldicott, and R. A. Rotherham, on July 29, 1889. The ascent was made by the southern arête, which gave some good climbing.

They were delayed by mists, and obliged to descend the same way, but it would be easy to descend either to the Isfjord or to Utigaard. Aslak Overaas (from Overaas) and Christopher Vike (from Vike) accompanied the party, and will both make excellent guides.

Kristian Vike (from Overaas), a lad, who asked to come for pleasure, was also with them, and climbed very well.

ALPINE NOTES.

LEPONTINE ALPS.—Mr. Archibald J. Mackey writes, 'It was my good fortune, in company with my friend Mr. H. F. Dickens, to spend a few very fine days in August last in walking from the falls of Tosa, by way of the Neufelgin pass, the Colle di Vanin, Alpe Devera, and Alpe di Veglia, to Isella, on the Simplon route. It is a beautiful and interesting walk, well suited to the middle-aged pedestrian, but too long for such a person to accomplish in one day. We therefore—I at least belonging to the class of walkers just mentioned—spent the night at Al Ponte, on Alpe Devera, a spot of great beauty in itself and surrounded by alps more beautiful than any I know elsewhere. Al Ponte would be a delightful spot for a sojourn of some days or weeks for ladies and others who are not ambitious of doing high work, but still want walking. Even the "emeritus" division of the Alpine Club would, I think, find plenty of moderate and interesting climbing in that district among the mountains which stretch from the Ofenhorn to Monte Leone; but, alas! there is no comfortable hostelry. Baedeker, in his latest edition, stars an inn at Al Ponte, but after spending a night there we felt justified in writing to Herr Baedeker and telling him

Digitized by Google

that by starring the house, or rather cabin, he might be misleading people into the belief that they might get comfortable accommodation there, to their serious inconvenience. The inn was apparently a four-roomed building, if one may dignify the various compartments of it by the name of rooms. There were two double-bedded rooms, shabby and mean in the extreme and not altogether clean, while on the floor below them was, on one side of the passage, an ill-furnished kitchen, and on the other a room with a fixed wooden table, and two forms and an open fire-place. In fact, it in no way differed from the kitchen, except that it was not used for cooking. The fare was coarse and scanty. The host was very civil, and did what he could for us as far as his small means permitted. The accommodation of another sort was filthy. What is wanted is a clean, comfortable inn, not an hotel. Is it possible to get the Italian Alpine Club to take the matter up? Alpe di Veglia is also a pretty spot. There *is* an inn there (Roja's, I think), better than Al Ponte by many degrees, but nasty in sanitary matters and wanting even in the least luxurious description of furniture. Hardly could a lady stay at Alpe di Veglia. But perhaps things will be altered *there* some day, for, unless I mistake, the Simplon Tunnel is to have its Italian mouth there, so that first there will be a navvies' encampment and town; then, when the railway is open, several fashionable hotels, with lawn tennis and golf and theatricals, &c.; and, lastly, it will be the haunt of the personally-conducted. But Al Ponte should have a better lot.'

Winter Ascents.—On Feb. 27 the first winter ascent of Piz Palu was made by Mr. W. H. Bulpett and Mr. J. H. Wainewright, with the brothers C. C. Grass and H. C. Grass as guides. Leaving the Bernina Häuser at 3 A.M., they reached the summit of the E. peak at 3 P.M. As it was then too late to traverse all the peaks, they returned by the same route, and regained the Bernina Häuser at 8.45 P.M. There was much step-cutting and some difficulty with the crevasses, which were very open. The weather was fine, but intensely cold all day, with a bitter wind.

A few days previously the same party (with the addition of Mr. Sandeman) crossed the Diavolezza, which they found almost as easy as in summer—taking, with long halts, less than nine hours from the Bernina Häuser to the Morteratsch Restaurant.

We are informed that Mr. W. M. Conway proposes to issue, in time for the forthcoming Alpine season, the first portion of a new edition of 'A Climber's Guide Book,' intended to replace the 'Zermatt Pocket Book.' The new guide book will be in two volumes, similar in form and size to the 'Zermatt Pocket Book.' The first volume, which is about to be issued, will describe all ascents and passages of peaks and passes lying between the Great St. Bernard and the Theodul Pass. The second volume, to be issued next year, will cover the area between the Theodul and the St. Gothard.

The Weissmies and the Fletschhörner.—There has been a great deal of confusion about the names and heights of these peaks, so that the publication of sheet 504 (Simplon) of the Siegfried map—which finally settles the question—may serve as an occasion for giving to the

Digitized by Google

world the following table, in the hope that it may be of some use to those investigating early Alpine history. The peaks are enumerated in order from south to north.

—	Old names	Dufour map	Swiss Alpine Club map	Siegfried map	Names current in 1876 ('Alpine Journal,' vol. viii. p. 151)
1	Laquihorn * (12,431 Swiss feet) Laquinhorn † (? 4,038 mètres)	Weissmies (4,031 mètres)	Weissmies (4,031 mètres)	Weissmies (4,031 mètres)	Weissmies
2	Grouped under the name	Fletschhorn (4,016 mètres)	Laquinhorn (4,061 mètres)	Laquinhorn (4,005 mètres)	Laquinhorn (Simpeln) Fletschhorn (Saas)
3	Fletsch-horn ‡ (12,395 Swiss feet, 4,025 and 3,917 mètres)	—— (3,988 mètres)	Fletschhorn (Rossbodenhorn) (3,917 mètres §)	Fletschhorn (4,001 mètres)	Fletschhorn (Simpeln) Rossbodenhorn (Saas)

The names by which they are ordinarily known to mountaineers are:—(1) Weissmies; (2) Laquinhorn; (3) Rossbodenhorn.

THE POINTE DE BAZEL AND THE COL DE LA TSANTELEINA.—When describing certain excursions in the Graian Alps which I made on August 29 and 31 last, ‖ I expressed some doubt as to which of two peaks near the Col de Rhèmes had been climbed by Signor Troya's party on August 7, 1881, and I also claimed to have made what was apparently the first passage of the Col de la Tsanteleina. Signor Troya has published, in the February number of the 'Rivista Alpina Italiana' (pp. 73–5), a long letter describing his route in 1881, and his statements make everything clear. Coming from the direction of the Col de la Goletta, he made that day what is undoubtedly the first complete traverse of the Col de la Tsanteleina, though I may plead in my defence that until his letter, dated February 12, 1890, no mention of or claim to this expedition had ever been made—at least publicly—by him. He then circled round the N. foot of the peak 3,446 mètres (Italian map) or 3,443 mètres (French map) to the Col de

* See Müller's panorama, as reproduced on Engelhardt's map, and the latter's 1852 book, *Das Monte-Rosa- und Matterhorn-Gebirg*, pp. 50, 181, 195.

† Ziegler's name and Berchtold's height (*Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers*, First Series, pp. 202, 521).

‡ For the names see the above references, that in *Peaks, Passes, &c.*, p. 521, supplying the further information that Studer names it the Laquinhorn. The heights in Swiss feet are taken from Müller and Engelhardt, those in mètres from Berchtold (*apud Peaks, Passes, &c.*, p. 521).

§ These figures do not seem to refer to quite the highest point, which has none at all.

‖ See *Alpine Journal* for November last, pp. 489, 490, 492.

Digitized by Google

Rhèmes, whence, by very much the same route as I described—viz. up the E. face to the N. ridge—he ascended that peak (my Pointe de Bazel) which lies W. of the col, returning to the pass by the same route, but having left only a few stones heaped together on the summit—scattered, no doubt, by the winds long before 1889. I gladly, therefore, give publicity in these pages to the facts that the first passage of the Col de la Tsanteleina and the first ascent of the peak W. of the Col de Rhèmes (which I propose, for reasons I have given, to name the Pointe de Bazel) were made by Signor Troya on August 7, 1881. I may, perhaps, be allowed to add that his description of the nature of the ground on both expeditions seems to me to be somewhat inaccurate, and I say this not merely on the ground of my recollections of 1878 and 1889, but of photographs taken in 1889 by my friends M. Henri Ferrand and Signor Bobba, now lying before me. The glacier on the W. side of the col is *not* 'horribly crevassed,' while the slope on the E. side is of very moderate inclination and the couloir is non-existent. I also fail to understand why Signor Troya, who had made the ascent of the peak late in the afternoon, and was desirous of rejoining his friends on the pass as soon as possible, did not save time by descending the gentle snow slopes on the N.W. flank (down which we went), and then round back to the col, particularly as he had been able to study them attentively on the way from the Col de la Tsanteleina. Nor is it intelligible why he took the long route to the Soches chalets along the Ghiacciaio di Centelina, at the E. foot of the Granta Parey wall, instead of the direct and short route from the Col de Rhèmes, which we took up and down on August 31. As to Signor Troya's statement that he had not the time to climb the peak E. of the col de Rhèmes, and besides thought it looked too difficult, it may suffice to say that on August 29 I took 1½ hour from the col to the peak W. of the col, and on August 31 40 minutes from the same col up the lower peak to the E. In neither case were there any difficulties, but the latter ascent was both shorter and easier than the former. I think it best to make these remarks, in order to avoid any confusion in the future, as the so-called difficulties are not any more likely to disappear than they were to appear, the glaciers there being very gently inclined and not subject to any violent alterations.

I have only to add that I am quite unable to accept Signor Troya's nomenclature. He rests it on the alleged fact that the Col de Rhèmes of the Italian Government map is known to the natives of the Val de Rhèmes as the Colle di Calabre, and then draws the natural conclusion that the peak to the W. of the col should be called Punta Calabre. In my notes already referred to I have discussed the whole question of the names of the peaks and passes of this ridge, and while not in the least wishing to force them on anyone I still think my conclusions are more reasonable in themselves, and better supported by historical evidence, than those of Signor Troya, from whom I beg leave to differ respectfully and good-humouredly, but quite decidedly.

The following slips in my notes should be corrected:—On p. 490, line 5 from top, for 'N.' read 'W.,' and on p. 493, line 28 from top, for '3,341' read '3,457, the lowest point of the ridge.' W. A. B. Coolidge.

Digitized by Google

THE ACCIDENT TO MR. WATSON ON THE BILDSTÖCKL JOCH.—The date of this misfortune seems to be somewhat uncertain. Mr. C. E. Mathews put it at 1865 in his paper entitled 'The Alpine Obituary.'* In the following number of the 'Alpine Journal' I corrected this to 1860,† my information being derived from a very good authority, and being, I believe, quite accurate. I was much pleased to find Mr. Butler adopting 1860 as the date in his paper on the Oetzthal,‡ and flattered myself that he had seen my correction, so that I was much surprised to see that in the February 'Alpine Journal'§ he corrected it back‖ to 1865. I understand that my correction had escaped his notice, and I am led to repeat and endorse it by the fact that Signori Fiorio and Ratti in their recent work, 'I Pericoli delle Alpi,' which displays an exhaustive knowledge of the literature of their subject, have also overlooked it (see leaf of errata at the end of the volume), not having been able to discover whence Herr Emil Zsigmondy had obtained the date 1860, which I believe to be the right one. W. A. B. COOLIDGE.

CORRECTIONS.—Some errors, not perhaps of a very important kind, but still inconsistent with absolute accuracy, have been pointed out in two of the 'Alpine Notes' of the February number. The Editor regrets that these should have occurred, and takes this opportunity of reminding those who are good enough to contribute to this portion of the Journal that they no longer have to deal with a living encyclopædia of Alpine dates and facts. He begs, therefore, that correspondents will verify these matters so far as they can, or will notify him when they have been unable to do so.

The points to which attention has been drawn are these: Mr. W. E. Corlett writes, with reference to Mr. R. F. Ball's ascent of Sgurr-nan-Gillian (p. 71), to say that, though one of the party who traversed the ridge and climbed the tooth in August, he can lay no claim to be the first who made that expedition. 'The route to the top of Sgurr-nan-Gillian by the gully between the two highest peaks, and thence along the west ridge to Bealach-am-Bhasteir, was climbed by Sheriff Nicolson many years ago. . . . The ridge from Sgurr-nan-Gillian to Bealach-am-Bhasteir was descended by Messrs. Stocker and Parker in 1886.'

The other correction is made in the 'Rivista Mensile' of the Italian Alpine Club, vol. ix. p. 119, and refers to the ascents of the Vernel, which in Capt. Utterson-Kelso's note (p. 79) seem to have got a little mixed. The first 'touristic' ascent was made by Herr Merzbacher and Signor Tomè, with B. and G. Bernard, in 1879; Herren Zsigmondy and Purtscheller went up without guides in Aug. 1884; and Herr Euringer, with B. Bernard, a few days later. We may add that, from the account given by Herr Merzbacher ('Zeitschrift des D.Oe.A.V.' 1880, Heft 2, p. 314), it seems doubtful if G. Bernard had previously been to the top.

---

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xi. p. 87. † *Ibid.* vol. xi. p. 192.
‡ *Ibid.* vol. xiv. p. 457. § *Ibid.* vol. xv. p. 100.
‖ [An inadvertent and over-hasty following of Mr. Mathews. There is no doubt whatever that the true date is 1860, as a reference to the *Annual Register* for that year will show.—A. J. B.]

Digitized by Google