attention to Alpine history in general, was equally in the dark. Both the gentlemen who were named as having been up the mountain in 1874 were at that moment members of the Alpine Club, yet neither had thought it worth while to send a few lines to the 'Alpine Journal,' or in any way to call attention to their ascent, despite Mr. Gardiner's claim, set forth publicly in 1876. As the matter seemed to me one of great historical interest, I requested Mr. Gardiner to communicate with Mr. Morshead on the subject, and I am enabled by the courtesy of both gentlemen to give the following extracts from Mr. Morshead's reply:—

'I never thought about my ascent of the Dent Blanche with Hoare in 1874 as an ascent by a new route. . . . I made no notes and thought nothing more about it' until he was asked for details by the 'occasional correspondent' of the St. Moritz paper, whose name he mentions. 'Under these circumstances I do not think that I can claim any credit for a new ascent, and I would rather leave that with you. I had not noticed the account in Conway's book, and should not have said anything if I had; for an ascent made unintentionally and never recorded for the good of others cannot be considered a proper ascent.' Mr. Morshead has since written to me to the same effect, but in even more emphatic terms. Mr. Morshead's letters thus settle the question in Mr. Gardiner's favour, and the last uncertainty as to the early Alpine history of the Dent Blanche is thoroughly cleared up.

I trust these pages may be of some use to the future historians of the Alps (in a wider sense even than that in which the phrase was applied to Bourrit a hundred years ago), while to all who have made or are planning new routes I would commend the comments of the editor of the St. Moritz paper given above, the gist of which Mr. Conway has tersely summed up in these pages in the words, which no mountain explorer should ever forget, 'An unrecorded ascent is nothing; one badly recorded is little more.'*

IN MEMORIAM.

Since the appearance of the last number of the Journal two more of the original members of the Club have passed away—the Bishop of Durham and Lieut.-Col. Eustace Anderson. It will probably be somewhat of a surprise to many to learn that Dr. Lightfoot claims a notice in these pages. His name, however, will be found among those named by Mr. W. Longman, in his account † of the early days of the Club, as having given in their adhesion to its formation; and Professor Hort writes as follows:—

'All his letters of that period are lying before me. On December 5, 1857, he begins thus: "I write a line or two in haste to ask you what you intend to do about the Alpine Club. Shall you join? . . . I shall feel rather like an impostor, as it is very little probable that I shall ever get up another 13,000 feet. But I feel disposed to follow your lead in the matter of the said Club."'

---

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiii. p. 166. † *Ibid.* vol. viii.

Digitized by Google

What Dr. Hort's lead was is well known, and he still remains with us; but Dr. Lightfoot, though his interest in the Alps and Alpine doings continued till long after, seems to have withdrawn his name from the Club even before his removal to Durham. It is interesting to learn that he was the 'friend' who was obliged to leave the party of which Mr. Vaughan Hawkins and Dr. Hort were members just before that adventurous attack on Mont Blanc from St. Gervais in 1856 which Mr. Hawkins has narrated in the first volume of 'Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers.'

Colonel Anderson remained a member of the Club till the end of his life, though his Alpine career closed long ago, and for many years past he has been rarely, if ever, seen at our meetings. But his name will be remembered as one of the contributors to the volume mentioned above, in which he relates his persevering, though unsuccessful, assault of the Schreckhorn in 1857. In the previous year he had published a little book—'Chamouni and Mont Blanc'—which has a certain interest as a late example of what has been called 'the pre-Alpine period of literature.' Travellers no longer 'abstain from everything likely to produce concussion of the air,' nor when a companion jumps a crevass without the rope on 'remonstrate with him on the impropriety of his conduct in thus endangering his life.' When volunteering first came into fashion Mr. Anderson took it up with great energy and joined the Victoria Rifles, which he ultimately commanded.

ALPINE NOTES.

KILIMANDJARO.—Full particulars of the ascent of Kibo, the highest peak of Kilimandjaro, by Dr. Hans Meyer and Herr Purtscheller are given in the January number of 'Petermann's Mitteilungen' (Gotha: Perthes). On October 2 the travellers pitched their tent on the saddle plateau which lies between the peaks of Kibo and Mawenzi, at a height of 4,350 m. (= 14,260 ft.). On the 3rd they started (duly provided with rope and axes, and in Herr Purtscheller's case with Steigeisen) at 2.30, and made their way by lantern-light through the masses of volcanic débris in a north-westerly direction. About 7 they reached the first snow at 5,000 m. (= 16,400 ft.), after passing unmistakable traces of glaciation on the rocks, though the glacier terminates at present 400 metres higher. By 9.50 they had reached the lower edge of the ice caps, presumably that which stopped Dr. Meyer's farther advance in 1887; height 5,570 m. (= 18,274 ft.). The slope of this was 35°, and after a short halt Herr Purtscheller went to work with the axe. There were a few crevasses, which do not seem to have given any trouble; and finally at 1.45 they reached the edge of the crater (5,860 m. = 19,245 ft.). During the last part of the ascent the rarefaction of the air was very sensibly felt and rendered progress slow. From the point where they stood, a little S. of its eastern limit, the crater showed as a circular basin, about 2,000 m. (=1¼ mile) broad and 200 m. deep. A 'cone of ejection' rose a little north of the

Digitized by Google