

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 Lightfoot, though his interest in the Alps and Alpine doings continued till long after, seems to have withdrawn his name from the Club even before his removal to Durham.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 crevasse 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 Mittheilungen' (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. (= 1½ mile) broad and 200 m. deep. A 'cone of ejection' rose a little north of the

centre to a height of 150 m. Otherwise the basin was floored with ice, which issued as a glacier through a breach on the W. side. They were not quite at the highest point, which lay almost exactly at the S. of the ring; and judging that they would not have time to reach it that day, they descended to their camp. At midday on the 5th they again left this, and reached, after five hours' scrambling, a 'roomy lava-cave' at a height of 4,620 m. (= 15,145 ft.) and much nearer to the peak. Starting thence at 3 A.M. on the 6th, they gained their previous position by 8.45, and turning to the left followed the ridge to the summit. Three small rocky peaks rise through the ice, each of which they climbed, and found that the middle one was by 15-20 m. the highest. The aneroid indicated exactly 6,000 m. (= 19,685 ft.). At 10.45 they planted the German flag and named the rocky tooth 'Kaiser Wilhelm-Spitze.'

In the following week they turned their attention to the lower, but more difficult, Mawenzi. On October 13, after some hours of what Dr. Meyer calls 'die halsbrecherischste Kletterei meiner bisherigen Bergpraxis,' they reached a pinnacle of the W. ridge, at a height of 5,120 m. (= 16,798 ft.). The character of the rocks may be inferred from the fact that they could see daylight through the ridge when they were still some 10 m. below its actual crest. On the 15th they made another attempt, starting at 4.30, and bearing somewhat to the right, S. of their former route, succeeded in reaching by 8.30 one, though not the highest, of the peaks of the 'Hauptkamm.' Two more subordinate peaks lay between them and the actual summit, and the difficulties of farther progress seemed to be greater than so small a party could safely attempt to encounter. They appear to have reached a height of about 5,200 m. (= 17,050 ft.), the summit being some 50 m. higher. They were back at their quarters by 11.40, and enjoyed 'a jolly snow-storm' in the afternoon.

On the 17th the indefatigable explorers started for a third ascent of Kibo, this time from the N.E. On this side the lava ribs are steeper, and the ice does not begin till nearly 600 ft. higher, and is also steeper. They did not on this occasion go up farther than the foot of the ice, but returned to the attack next day. After sleeping in another lava cave they started at 8.15, reached the rim of the crater at 7.45, and descended into it in about 50 min. more. The ice, or névé, was too much crevassed to allow of their reaching the central cone, so after making some observations they returned to the ridge and sunned themselves (temp. 50° F.) on a snow dome a little S. of the E. point. They were back at the tent by 2.50.

October 21 was devoted to a last exploration of Mawenzi on the N., when a point 5,020 m. was reached on the N.N.E. ridge.

Two views and a bird's-eye view of the crater illustrate this interesting report, which is further elucidated by the map accompanying Dr. Meyer's narrative of 1887 (vol. xxxiii. p. 354).

Both to him and to Herr Purtscheller we beg to offer our heartiest congratulations on the success which has attended their efforts to 'solve the riddle of Kibo.'

SGURR-NAN-GILLIAN (3,180 feet?) TO BHASTEIR AND THE BHASTEIR

**TOOTH, BLACK COOLINS.**—On October 2, with the guide John Mackenzie, of Sconcer, I started from the Sligachan Inn, Skye, and ascended Sgurr-nan-Gillian from Bhasteir Corrie by a gully which was followed up to the larger of the two notches between the highest and adjacent peaks. From the summit of Sgurr-nan-Gillian we climbed along the ridge to the summit of Bhasteir, passing the Sgurr-nan-Gillian Tooth by a descent of 20 or 30 feet on the Sligachan side. From the top of Bhasteir we dropped, with aid from the rope, into the cleft below the Bhasteir Tooth, ascended this tooth, and reached the scree beneath by a gully running southwards. Sligachan was regained by passing the col below the Bhasteir Tooth. This route, from the notch first mentioned to the col, consists almost entirely of rock-climbing, frequently of considerable difficulty, and occupied (including short halts) 4 hrs. 50 min. The ascent from and descent to the Sligachan Inn together occupied 4 hrs. 25 min. Mackenzie states that the ridge and the Bhasteir Tooth had each been climbed only once before, on different days in August last.

R. F. BALL.

**MOUNTAINEERING IN NEW GUINEA.**—We copy the following from the numbers of the 'Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society' for October 1889, pp. 605-6:—'We are indebted to our colleague, the Rev. W. G. Lawes, of Port Moresby, for the following interesting details regarding Sir W. MacGregor's successful journey to the summit of the Owen Stanley Range in New Guinea. The route taken was *viâ* Redscar Bay and the Vanapa river. A camp was formed about forty miles up this river, and Mr. Cameron sent thence to the Rigo district, thirty miles E. of Port Moresby, to engage the chief Kebokanamao (who accompanied Mr. Cuthbertson two years ago to Mount Obree) and a number of Papuans. The party left camp for the range on May 17. It was composed of four Europeans and thirty-eight natives, including several South Sea Islanders, good bushmen and travellers. The route was one never attempted by any previous traveller, and led over hill and valley, across rivers, and through scrub, a path being made by knife and axe, until the summit of Mount Musgrave was reached, about 9,100 feet. From this some of the carriers were sent back, others remained with Mr. Cameron, whilst Sir William and a faithful five, Mr. Belford (a Samoan half-caste), a Fijian, and three Papuans, pressed forward. On June 11 the latter reached the highest crest of the range, 13,121 feet above the sea. The elevation was named Mount Victoria. The weather was damp and foggy up to 8,000 feet, but above that height a clear blue sky prevailed. During the ten days the party was above 10,000 feet not a cloud was seen; the climate was simply magnificent. The sea on both sides of the island was visible; the N. side, of course, the most distant, and the stretch of inland country towards it was much more level than that on the southern side; it was, therefore, concluded that the ascent of the range from the N. would be unobstructed and easy. From Mount Victoria eastward to Mount Lilley stretches an uneven crest thirty miles in length, and along it Sir William travelled, being altogether three and a half days on the summit. His eyes were here gladdened by the sight of daisies, buttercups, forget-me-nots, and white heath,

which grows densely in large patches looking like snow. Large icicles amused his tropical companions, who thought their mouths were burnt when they tried to bite them. Larks were plentiful, similar in wing and song to those of Northern Europe. There are no trees within 1,000 feet of the summit. The long-tailed Bird of Paradise, once before obtained by Belford (now in the Sydney Museum), was met with from 5,000 to 9,000 feet, some half-score specimens being secured. Another, apparently new, Bird of Paradise was obtained on the top of Mount Knutsford. The southern slope of the range is drained by the Vanapa river, the head of which was crossed at an elevation of 10,180 feet. No natives live on the mountains above 4,000 feet, but they hunt as high up as 9,700 feet. Although the Papuans at the base of the hills proved very friendly, nothing would induce them to accompany the party in the ascent. Sir W. MacGregor's botanical collection has been sent to Baron von Müller, of Melbourne, for determination; the zoological and geological collections would be taken by Sir William himself to Brisbane. The party returned to Port Moresby safe and well on June 25. The following are some of the principal heights observed by Sir W. MacGregor's party:—

			Feet.				Feet.
Mount Victoria	...	...	13,121	Mount Griffith	...	...	11,000
" Albert Edward	...	...	12,500	" Gillies	...	...	8,000
" Scratchley	...	...	12,000	" Parkes	...	...	8,000
" Knutsford	...	...	11,157	" Musgrave	...	...	9,100
" Douglas	...	...	11,796	" Belford	...	...	6,000
" Service	}	...	10,000	" Henry Forbes	...	(?)	3,000
" McIlwraith		between	and	" Frank Lawes	...	(?)	3,000
" Morehead		...	...	11,000			

NOTES FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF STEIN.—The comfortable little inn at the Stein Alp used in former years to be quite a favourite resort of mountaineers tired of the more fashionable parts of the Bernese Oberland, but seems recently to have fallen into unmerited neglect. It is now one of the pleasantest and most unpretending mountain inns of the old style (like those at Zinal in former days or at Ried now), and is a centre from which many interesting climbs may be undertaken. I was there for a week in rain and snow in July 1888, and for another week in 1889, when I was more lucky in point of weather, and I now venture to offer a few scattered notes on some of the excursions around, which may be made when the higher mountains are still too deep in snow to be accessible.

Our first walk (July 2) was one suggested by a note in these pages\* by Messrs. Hutchison and Powell. Young Christian Almer and I went straight up the E. branch of the little Oberthal Glacier to the snow col (overlooking the Wenden Glacier) between the points 2,993 and 3,002 (3¼ hours). Thence we rounded the peak 3,002 to the col between it and 3,036, and returned to Stein by traversing the Klein Sustlifirn, the Sustenlochfirn, and the Sustenloch, reaching the zigzags on the Wasen side of the Susten Pass, 5 minutes below the top of the

\* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xii. pp. 266-7.

pass (2½ hrs. to Stein from the Oberthal col). On July 3 we went over to the Göschenen Alp by the Sustenlimmi, taking on the way between the Thierberglimmi and that pass the beautiful snow dome of the Gwächtenhorn (3,428 mètres), so conspicuous an object from the windows of the little inn at Stein. In addition to the topographical evidence which identifies this peak with the Steinberg, climbed by Messrs. R. W. E. Forster and Hardy Dufour in 1861, its appearance, as we reached it from the Thierberglimmi, was absolutely identical with the sketch given by those gentlemen.\* There is no longer any priest resident at Göschenen Alp, but the old parsonage now serves as a quaint little mountain inn (a good deal frequented by excursionists from Göschenen), kept by the people of the house opposite. Next day (July 4) we returned to Stein by the little-known pass named Sustenjoch (2,657 mètres) on the Siegfried map and Wallenbühl Pass by Mr. Ball.† We lost much time by a traverse very high up on the mountain side between Wüest and Hornfeli, so that I strongly advise future travellers to descend to Wicki, at the junction of the valleys, and then to remount the Voralpthal to Hornfeli, as much time must be saved thereby. The way up the Sustenjoch from Hornfeli was easy but dull, the chief object in sight being the Sustenhorn from an unusual side (by which there is a very tempting new route, which was taken on August 4 by Herr Naef and found not to be difficult).‡ The small glacier is perfectly easy, and the pass was gained in about 2½ hours from Hornfeli. The descent of the great rock-wall on the N. side (so well seen from the Susten Pass) proved unexpectedly easy (40 minutes to glacier), though its appearance is most formidable. From its foot a traverse led in 30 minutes to the foot of the last zigzags of the Susten Pass on the Wasen side, 40 minutes from the top of the pass.

There is a high pass from the Wendenthal to the Trübsee, called the Titlisjoch, which is described in the Travellers' Book at Stein by Mr. T. C. V. Bastow (if I remember rightly), but which does not seem to be mentioned in the guide-books. The best way from Stein is to traverse round from the Feldmoos chalets to the Wendenthal (not by the usual traverse to the Wendenjoch by the small lake near Grätli, 2,067 mètres), whence grass and rocks lead up to a very steep rock-wall. Mr. Bastow recommends climbers to scale it close under the Titlis; we took it much nearer the Reissend Nollen, and found it a rough scramble, save the last few feet, which involved distinct climbing. The Klein Gletscher was thus reached in 1 hour from the base of the rock-wall. Traversing it to the N., another easy rock-wall leads (1 hr. 10 min.) to the pass which lies between the Titlis and the Reissend Nollen, and close to which the ordinary Titlis route is joined. Including the circuitous round by the lake, we took (on July 7) 6½ hours' slow walking from Stein to the pass, and 2 hrs. 5 min. thence to the Engstlen Alp inn. It is, perhaps, worth noting here that the Wendenstock (9,987 feet) is a short and easy climb from this latter inn by way of the Pfaffen Glacier, a chimney up to the

\* See *Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers*, 2nd series, vol. ii. p. 90.

† *Central Alps*, p. 143.

‡ *Schweizer Alpen-Zeitung*, 1889, p. 168.

W. ridge, and the W. arête, the only approach to difficulty being the passage from the lower to the higher peak. On July 8 we took 4 hrs. 10 min. up from Engstlen, and 2 hrs. 55 min. down. The Engstlen inn is to be very much enlarged next year; the old Trübsee inn is closed, while a new one has just been built at the summit of the Pfaffenwand.

The Gross Spannort (10,506 feet), the second in height of the Titlis group, seems a long way from Stein, and so it is, but it may be of use to climbers to have a note of the route by which (having gained the summit on July 10 in 3 hrs. 25 min. from the club hut or Hôtel Uto by way of the Schlossberglicke and Spannörterjoch) we reached Stein the same evening. From the Spannörterjoch we traversed, in 35 minutes, round the west foot of the Klein Spannort to the broad snow-pass (marked 2,940 metres on the Siegfried map) which Von Tschudi's 'Turist' (30th edition, p. 114) calls the Kùhfad Pass. Thence an easy glacier, débris, and grass slopes led down to the Klein Alp hut, at the head of the Klein Alpthal (1 hr. 5 min.), near which the route from Mr. Tuckett's Grassen Pass is joined.\* In 40 minutes thence we reached the Susten road, over which a long tramp brought us back to Stein in 2½ hours, after a pleasant four-days' round. I may add that the S. A. C. Club hut near the Trift Glacier is in bad repair, and has lost almost all its fittings, that the upper ice-fall of that glacier is of surprising magnificence, and that, favoured by hard snow (except on the peak itself), we found it possible to quit the Rhone Glacier (on its left bank, where the usual Galenstock and Nägeli-grätli tracks the same) in just over 2 hours from the summit of the Dammastock.

W. A. B. COOLIDGE.

INTERCOURSE BETWEEN THE VALAIS AND GRINDELWALD IN THE SIXTEENTH AND SEVENTEENTH CENTURIES.—In the course of a paper on the alleged old glacier pass between the Valais and Grindelwald (which, it will be remembered, is supposed to have been frequented by Protestant dwellers in the Valais, who brought their children across to be christened in their new faith), Pfarrer Strasser, of Grindelwald, has, in his interesting and valuable periodical, 'Der Gletschermann' (Numbers 29-31, 1889), printed for the first time full extracts from the parish registers of Grindelwald. The main results are as follows: There are seventeen baptisms registered between 1557 and 1621, in which one or both the parents are said to be natives of the Valais; in two cases it is specially recorded that the parents came from Saas, and in two others from Löttschen. There are twenty-two marriages registered between 1560 and 1616, in which one or both parties are stated to be natives of the Valais, twelve being men and eleven women. In the cases of two women whose marriage is recorded also in the Zermatt register and two other women, the place of origin is stated to be Zermatt; three men and one woman hail from Löttschen, two men and one woman from Saas. There appears to be nothing in any of these entries which in any way points to the fact that the glaciers were crossed for the purpose of baptism or mar-

\* See too *Alpine Journal*, vol. vi. p. 78.

riage. It is probable that these Valais men and women came to settle in Grindelwald as ordinary emigrants, though possibly for religious reasons. Most likely they came over the Lötachen Pass between the Lötschenthal and the Kanderthal, for that pass was well known and frequently traversed from an early date, whereas the existence of the alleged glacier pass between the Valais and Grindelwald is not supported by any distinct and undoubted evidence, though many legends and local tales have been adduced in its favour. It may be well to state here that the earliest known occasion on which it is certain that a pass was effected across the glaciers from Grindelwald to the Valais is the traverse of the Mönchjoch by Caspar Rohrdorf and his party in 1828 (August 27-8, and September 8).

While on the subject of passes over glaciers said to have been frequently made in olden times, we may refer to two recent contributions to the literature of the subject. In Nos. 9 and 10, 1889 (May 15 and 31), of the 'Mittheilungen' of the German and Austrian Alpine Club, Dr. Walter Schultze, of Halle, has collected from many quarters scattered allusions to glacier passes in the Central Alps, which are believed to have been crossed in former days—Petersgrat, Gelten Pass, Lötschen Pass, Mönchjoch, Strahlegg, Triftlimmi, Col de Fenêtre, Col de Collon, Col d'Hérens, St. Théodule, Monte Moro, Old Weissthor, Triftjoch, Adler Pass, and Sandgrat. No fact previously unknown seems to be brought forward, but the paper puts together conveniently all that has been known or conjectured on the subject, with abundant and careful references to the works in which these statements are to be found. The other is an elaborate and full account of the working (from 1705, and specially from 1782 to 1805) of the lead mines at the head of the Lauterbrunnen valley. It was delivered by Dr. A. Bähler as a lecture before the Bienne section of the Swiss Alpine Club, and is printed in Nos. 9-13, 1889 (April 15 to June 15), of the 'Schweizer Alpen-Zeitung.' Two specially interesting items may be briefly noted. It seems to be a well-ascertained fact that in 1346 and 1349 a colony of Lötschenthal men was established near Mürren and Trachsellaunen. This would show that the Petersgrat was then a frequented pass. Again, we hear of four of the lead miners crossing the glaciers from the Lauterbrunnen Valley to the Lötschenthal on July 12, 1783, for the purpose of attending mass at Kippel, and returning the same or the next day. It is often said that they crossed the Wetterlücke, but this must always have appeared doubtful to anyone acquainted with the formidable glacier difficulties of that pass, at least at present, while the fact that the Petersgrat was an old and well-known pass makes it probable that the four miners crossed that pass and not its more difficult neighbour.

CONGRESSES OF THE FOREIGN ALPINE CLUBS.—The Swiss Alpine Club assembled at Zürich from August 17 to 19, its meeting this year being of a specially joyous nature, as it was also the celebration of the 25th birthday of the Society. A large number of members attended, among others being Professor Melchior Ulrich (now 88 years of age), who thirty and forty years ago did much good work in the Alps. The general assembly took place on the morning of the 18th, about

220 being present. President Grob delivered an eloquent speech, reviewing the past history of the Club, and giving a most favourable account of its present condition. At this assembly there were announced the results of the deliberations of the business meeting of delegates from the different sections which had taken place the previous day. There was a lively dispute between the Geneva and Monte Rosa sections for the possession of a legacy of 3,000 francs left by M. Bétemps (one of the Federal Surveyors) for the construction of a hut in the Monte Rosa district. It was officially proposed, in accordance with the understanding arrived at last year, that the money should be spent in building a hut at the upper end of the Val de Bagnes, but the delegates, influenced by the fact that M. Bétemps had done much work round Zermatt, and by the representations of the Valais members, resolved by a large majority to build the hut at the foot of Monte Rosa. A sum of money was voted to the new society 'Linnæa' for its garden of Alpine plants in Bourg St. Pierre, and it was resolved to study the question of establishing a central library for the Club. No reply had been received from the Federal authorities as to the scheme for constructing a relief of Switzerland. The Rhätikon (exclusive of the Silvretta group) was selected as the Excursionsgebiet for 1890-91. The section Rhätia proposed that the central committee should contribute to the maintenance of the fittings in the 33 club huts, and that the huts themselves should be declared to be the property of the Club, the several sections being charged with the looking after them. The second proposal found but little support, and the first was carried in the form that the Central Committee should hand over 50 francs annually for the specified purpose, to such sections as stand in need of it, provided that the general regulations as to the club huts had been observed. 200 francs were voted towards the expenses of erecting a memorial to the late M. Eugène Rambert. It was resolved to collect and publish in compact form all the existing tariffs for guides in Switzerland, and to defray the excess of the expenses over the estimate (about 1,150 francs) for a relief map of the Canton of Glarus. It was announced that the Central Committee had taken steps to abate the nuisances caused by advertisements on the gorge of the Devil's Bridge, and that, as no section had offered to receive the Club next year, the choice of the place of general assembly should be left to the delegates of the sections. There has been an increase of 367 in the numbers of the Club, and a new section—Emmenthal—has been founded. There was a balance of 40,000 francs in favour of the Club. It has now 3,251 members, and 35 sections.

The German and Austrian Alpine Club met in Botzen from September 7 to 9. 1,743 members, from 121 sections, were present. It was resolved to change the name of the Sonnblickhaus to Zittelhaus in honour of the former Central President of the Club. A lively debate on an elaborate set of regulations concerning paths and club huts ended in the adjournment of the debate till 1890; but it was resolved that the sums voted in 1889 for the construction of huts should only be paid over when complete security was obtained that the existing rights (whether as owners, lessees, or users) of the Club would be upheld. About 1,800*l.* was voted towards making paths and building

huts. Mainz (Mayence) was chosen as the meeting place for 1890, Graz for 1891, and Zell am See for some later year. At the end of August 1889, the Club numbered 22,586 members (an increase on the year of 925) distributed over 175 sections. Its budget for 1889 amounts to no less a sum than 8,250*l*.

The Italian Alpine Club held its festival at Ascoli Piceno, in the Abruzzi, from August 30 to September 5, and everything seems to have passed off very successfully. The delegates of the sections held their business meeting on July 14. At the latter meeting it appeared that the Club had a favourable balance for 1888 of 14,000 francs. The prizes founded by the will of the late Signor Quintino Sella for the Italian guides who within the five years after his death should have most distinguished themselves by faithful performance of their professional duties were awarded to J. J. Maquignaz (1,000 francs), Emile Rey (400 francs), and Antonio Castagneri (150 francs). The proposal of the Signori Sella to build a hut at a height of over 4,500 mètres (=14,765 feet) was accepted, and a commission named to examine the matter, which has since reported in favour of a spot (4,540 mètres) close to the summit of the Punta Gnifetti or Signal Kuppe.\* The Club now numbers 4,416 members, distributed into 33 sections. At the festival it was unanimously agreed amid enthusiastic applause that the meeting-place of the Club in 1890 should be Rome.

The French Alpine Club, as on the occasion of the Exhibition of 1878, held its congress in Paris from August 9 to 12. Though but 340 members took part in it, the proceedings were animated and interesting. The business meeting was revived for the first time since 1878, but nothing very important was done. There was a discussion on the subject of 'caravanes scolaires,' an announcement that the commune of Chamonix has agreed to add a room (to be used for meteorological observations) to the *cabane* on the Grands Mulets, and the expression of a wish that accounts of the principal ascents hitherto made should be issued in a volume, so as to form a history of climbing. The great dinner took place at Meudon; excursions were made to Compiègne and Pierrefonds, as well as the ascent to the summit of the Eiffel Tower, while a journey to Normandy (August 13-16) brought the congress to an end.

The November 'Bulletin' of the C.A.F. contains an interesting catalogue of the objects which the C.A.F. exhibited in the Exhibition. Besides many paintings in oils and water-colours, drawings, photographs, maps, a set of the publications of the Club and its sections, as well as of many of its members, was shown. Among other objects we note a working model of the Chatelleret Club hut, in the Vallon des Etaçons, the tent in which M. Vallot spent three days in 1887 on the summit of Mont Blanc, and the plans for his proposed hut on the Bosses du Dromadaire. A large glass case contained the ice-axe of J. P. Cachat, one of De Saussure's guides; Dr. Hamel's compass, lost

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\* From *La Nazione* of January 23 we learn that a subscription to meet the cost of this (estimated at 15,000 francs) has been set on foot. The Central Committee furnish a subsidy—3,500 francs—for the initial expenses.

in 1820 and found in 1863; \* the two bits into which M. Cordier's ice-axe was broken on the occasion of the accident which cost him his life; and one of the ropes left on the Meije at the time it was first climbed in 1877. Another glass case protected a collection of ninety rock specimens, taken from summits in the French Alps between St. Martin Lantosque, in the Maritime Alps, and the Little St. Bernard. The geological character of each specimen was determined by M. Stanislas Meunier, who found in several cases traces of vitrification, due to lightning. It is announced, in another part of the same 'Bulletin,' that this collection, which was formed by Mr. Coolidge, has been presented by him to the C.A.F.

MONTE CRISTALLO BY THE N.N.E. ARÊTE.—In our November number (pp. 505-6) we gave a summary of the account of this expedition sent to the 'Mittheilungen' of the German and Austrian Club by Herr Artmann, who accomplished it last summer. Herr Artmann has since written to the same periodical (number for October 31, pp. 249-50), stating that this route was not entirely a new one, as he had previously supposed, for the ascent by this ridge was first made on September 19, 1877, by Professor Minnigerode, with Michel Innerkofler, and repeated at least once since that date. At one point the 1877 route trends to the left, while that of 1889 goes to the right, the two later crossing each other. Herr Artmann therefore considers his route to be an independent variation of the 1877 way, the latter being the less difficult of the two.

AIGUILLE DU MOINE.—On August 3 last Dr. Leith and Mr. R. A. Robertson, with J. B. Aymonod, of Val Tournanche, and a Chamonix guide, discovered a route up this peak which seems not to have been previously taken. Starting from the Montenvers, they mounted the Mer de Glace to the point where it is left on the way to the Dru, and then ascended in a parallel line with it to the base of the great couloir which descends in a S.W. direction nearly from the summit of the Aiguille du Moine. The party climbed up this couloir and by the W. face of a ridge intersecting it, till they gained its uppermost end. Then striking to the left they attempted to climb the final peak by its W. face, but being prevented by a mist from succeeding in this (no serious difficulties would, however, be encountered in finer weather), they crossed round and joined the ordinary route about 20 minutes below the summit of the peak. Times, actual walking:  $9\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. up;  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. down.

WINTER ASCENTS.—On January 7 the first winter ascent of the Eiger was made by Messrs. Mead and Woodroffe, with Ulrich Kaufmann and Christian Jossi. They reached the summit at 1 p.m., in 11 hrs. from the Little Scheidegg. Much step-cutting was required, but otherwise there were no serious difficulties. The weather was so perfect that through the telescope of the 'Bear' a guide could be seen on the summit in the act of striking a match in the approved Swiss fashion and handing it to his 'Herr,' who, after lighting his pipe, let it burn out.

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\* Thanks to the courtesy of the French Club these interesting relics—axe and compass—were among the objects on view at the recent exhibition of the Alpine Club.

On the same day Mr. Theodore Cornish, with the brothers Almer, ascended the Jungfrau in 8 hrs., and on the following day the Gross Viescherhorn in 4 hrs. 10 min., from the Bergli hut. The latter peak was also climbed by Mr. Mead's party on the 10th, but not without considerable difficulty, the weather having changed for the worse since the early part of the week.

SAAS. DOLOMITES.—The hotel at Saas-Grund has been again taken under the direct management of J. P. Zurbrüggen, its proprietor. Zurbrüggen, an excellent mountaineer, was well known some few years ago as an able guide. While he retained the hotel in his own hands it was thoroughly comfortable and well-arranged, considering its modest pretensions and moderate charges.

Members of the Club appear to be taking an increasing interest in the Dolomite group; and, while writing, I should wish to allude to the Vernel, a satellite, so to say, of the Marmolata and hardly known to Englishmen.\* This steep, huge rock rises somewhere to the W.N.W. of the principal peak of the Marmolata, and might be combined with it in one expedition from either of the inns on the Fedaja. Its height is about 10,500 feet (3,197 mètres). The rocks to the summit offer a stiff, unbroken climb of about one hour from the snow. I was taken to the top in the summer of 1887 by Giorgio Bernard, of Campidello, who climbed in rope shoes. He was the first to make the ascent, some two or three years before, and then he repeated it with the Bavarian climbers Herren Merzbacher and Euringer, after which it was climbed by those celebrated Alpinists Purtscheller and Zsigmondy, without guides. I was much pleased with Bernard, who is the most efficient guide of this district.

The two aiguilles of the Schlern (Schlern-Spitzen), which rise above Ratzes-Bad, although not high, are very stiff, the highest having been first conquered by Santner, of Botzen, alone, the other by a younger brother of Bernard's, now dead, who took Herr Euringer with him to the summit.

W. E. UTTERSON-KELSO.

The first general meeting and dinner of the Scottish Mountaineering Club took place on December 12 at the Grand Hotel, Glasgow, thirty members being present. The Club now has its full complement of 'original members' (100), and it is proposed to increase the numbers and start a small journal on the lines of the 'Alpine Journal.'

C. PILKINGTON.

We regret to learn that another Alpine region is in danger of being invaded by the steam engine. The 'Oesterr. Touristen-Zeitung' for January 1 announces that a concession is being sought for a cog-wheel railway from Bruck-Fusch to the Glockner-Haus, by Ferleiten and the Pfandl-Scharte. The best prospect that is held out is that the line may be taken *under* the Pfandl-Scharte in a tunnel and not over the top of it. But in any case the vulgarisation of the Glockner, which has already advanced pretty far, will be carried some way further. Fortunately for mountaineers, the most interesting ascent is from the other side.

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\* The Vernel must not be confused with the Sasso Vernale, which rises to the S. of it, on the other side of the Ombretta Pass.