

peak by the usual route resolved to attempt the descent by way of the arête running down to the Col du Chardonnet.* The unusual amount of snow on the rocks forced them, however, to try another new route down the S.E. face, which is broken up into couloirs separated by ribs of rock, then rendered difficult by untrustworthy snow. The party zigzagged across this face at first in a westerly and afterwards generally in an easterly direction, keeping to the rocks when possible, though the couloirs were more frequently practicable. They thus joined the route from the Col du Chardonnet by the third couloir W. of the col. The descent of this face, which was uniformly steep, occupied 4 hrs. (including a halt of 35 min. just below the summit), great care being needed in many places with the step-cutting.

On the following day Mr. Arkle and Mr. C. J. Arkle made the ascent of the peak by the S.E. face, following the same route taken by the previous party on the descent.

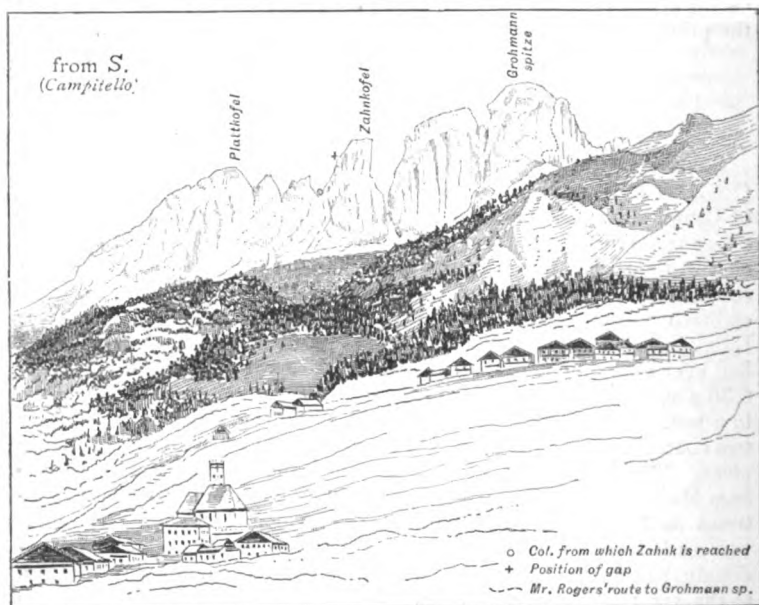
ALPINE NOTES.

SOME ASCENTS IN THE LANGKOFEL GROUP OF THE DOLOMITES.—

(1) *August 31.*—Giorgio and Luigi Bernard, the well-known guides of Campitello, accompanied me in an ascent of the Grohmannspitze by a new route direct from the south side. Giorgio had looked at a certain cleft in the rocks, which runs down from the little gap almost at the summit of the mountain down to within 350 feet of its base, for some eighteen years with an ever-increasing belief in its practicability. Luigi believed that the first 350 feet were inaccessible; but as no one had ever experimented upon this route, we started at the late hour of 6.30 A.M. (it being Sunday) to put Giorgio's hopes, and Luigi's doubts, to a test. The climb began at about 8.45, the guides leaving their two (out of three) ice-axes and their hobnail boots at the breakfasting place. The first reach of rock equalled the commencement of the Sass Maor in smoothness, steepness, and difficulty, but was about three times as long. Luigi led with splendid vigour and skill. The start was made from a point about 200 yards to the left of the point immediately below the bottom of the cleft, and when, after a traverse to the right of the same length, the commencement of the cleft was reached, the guides unanimously declared that the new way had been won. The first feature in the cleft was a perpendicular chimney about 25 feet high, down which a waterfall of melted snow poured. The rocks to the right and left were smooth, glazed, and somewhat overhanging. Luigi accordingly led up straight through the waterfall like a merman, and the rest of the party followed. All the rocks above were glazed or filled with fresh slippery snow. Two other total immersions in chimney-waterfalls induced the guides to name the new cleft the Johannes-Kamin. If it had not been for the waterfalls, the iced rocks, and the snow upon the rocks, the Kamin would have pre-

* For previous attempts by this ridge see *Alpine Journal*, vol. x. p. 233; *Bulletin du Club Alpin Français*, 1889, p. 71.

sented no extraordinary difficulties. Giorgio expressed an opinion that these difficulties would always exist, as the upper part of the Kamin was never without snow, although it was not to be expected that they would exist to such an extent as on the first occasion of their being encountered. As it was, ice, snow, and water rendered the Kamin almost impracticable, and our party only arrived at the gap where the old joins the new route at 1.20, and there unroped and scrambled to the summit (10 min.). Meanwhile, as snow had been falling since 11 A.M., it was thought better to descend by the old route, where, at any rate, the last man could loop the rope round jutting pieces of rock. The guides, however, had never seen the northern gully in such a bad snowy condition. Rock-climbing in difficult places was out of the question, and in two places—the descent into the

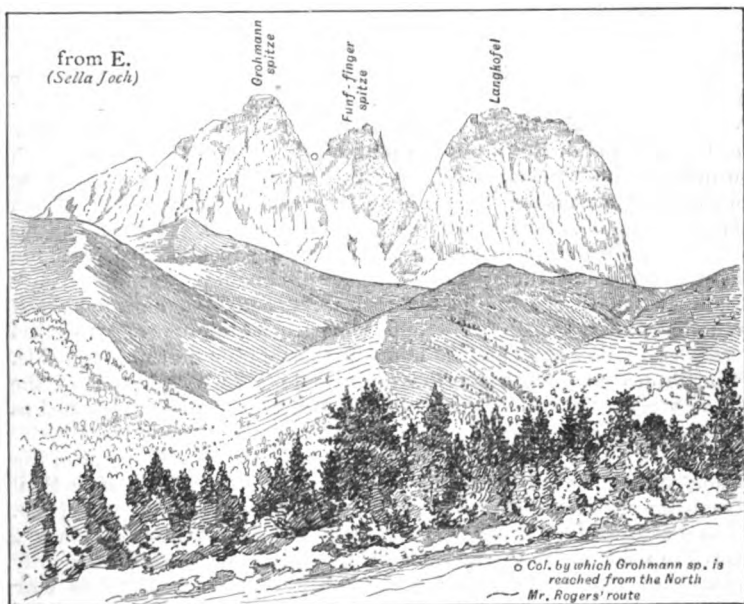


gully and traverse from left to a point right of the gully (as you face it)—more reliance was placed upon the rope than is usually advisable. The last difficulty in the descent—namely, the 50-foot traverse from right to left—was surmounted at about 5.30. Luigi was last man over three parts of the descent; Giorgio then took his place. As the easy rocks which remained were covered with more than a foot of snow, and as it did not cease to snow until about 8 P.M., Campitello was only reached at 10 P.M. No pauses were made except for breakfast (8.20 to 8.45) and lunch (1.30 to 2). Luigi's skill and strength in climbing, and Giorgio's coolness, and steadiness, and judgment merited the highest praise. There was a cold mist, but little wind. (2) Giorgio Bernard accompanied me in a third ascent of the Zahnkofel from the

Campitello side on August 28. The first ascent from this side was made on June 16 by Herr Max Schlessinger, accompanied by Giorgio and Luigi Bernard. As no Englishman had previously ascended it, the following account of our ascent may be of interest:—After ascending to the Joch between Zahnkofel and Plattkofel, and then turning back and down to the right for about 100 yards, a series of easy chimneys leads to the two difficulties of the ascent. The first is a long steep chimney (about 80 feet), rather like that on the Cima dei Canali, and this leads to the little gap, or lücke, visible from Campitello. After this, a climb of about 80 feet on fairly smooth and steep rocks rather like those on the traverse on the Croda del Lago, brings the climber to a point from which the summit is easily reached in 15 min.—4½ hrs. in all from Campitello. It is an extremely interesting and fairly short excursion, and no difficulties were encountered from snow and ice, although there had been heavy snowfalls a few days previously.

J. D. ROGERS.

FÜNFINGER SPITZE.—This rock, shown in our illustration between the Langkofel and the Grohmannspitze, was ascended (August 8, 1890) by Herren Schmitt and Santner. The ascent was made from the



Sella Joch, and is described by Herr Schmitt, who is well qualified to express an opinion, as 'by far the most difficult which I have ever undertaken.' From his account in the '*Oesterreichische Alpenzeitung*' (No. 304, p. 215) we should judge that nothing short of Mr. Willink's illustrations to 'Snap' (which visitors to the Picture Exhibi-

c c 2

tion of last December will recollect) could give any adequate idea of the more exciting incidents of the climb.

TWO NEW ASCENTS AT SAN MARTINO.—On August 3 I made, with M. Bettega, of San Martino, the first ascent of the Cima Cugilio, the highest of the western offshoots of the Rosetta. The route taken was straight up the gully leading to the arête between the double peak. No particular obstacle was encountered till near the end, when the gully narrowed to a Kamin of extraordinary difficulty. Ninety-eight feet of rope was requisite for the upper part of it, which Bettega insisted on climbing in spite of my wishes to try another route, as there would have been no possibility of my holding him in case of his slipping. Another route was discovered for the descent, descending about 200 feet on the side facing the Rosetta, then traversing the arête separating my peak from the lower Figlia della Rosetta (first ascended in 1889 by Herr von Radewski, with M. Bettega), and joining the route taken on the ascent about 200 feet below the Kamin. No particular difficulty was met with, but the rocks were bad and at some points the falling stones were troublesome. Time, $4\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. up, 4 hrs. down, including several long halts—slow walking, as I had come straight out from England. The 'kamin' is certainly the hardest on any of the ordinary routes up the San Martino or Ampezzo Dolomites.

On August 7, with Bettega and M. Barbaria of Cortina, I made the first ascent of the Cima di Pradidali; not the peak of that name mentioned in Herr Meurer's guide, which appears to be that known locally as Cima di Val di Roda, but the peak on the right of the Passo di Ball, which presents a remarkable appearance from the Rolle Pass as being inclined at a considerable angle to the perpendicular. We left San Martino at 3.30, and reached the Passo di Ball at 6. After a halt for breakfast, we walked round the N. face of the rock, and decided on attempting the ascent by the last principal chimney next the Cima di Ball. From thence to the top took three hours—a most delightful climb and easy, though snow and some ice on the upper part caused considerable delay. The final climb was made from the south-east side. The return was made by the same route. This was one of the pleasantest of the San Martino ascents, but is not to be reckoned as one of the difficult ones.

On August 18, I, with M. Barbaria, made the second ascent of the Campanile di Val di Roda, the first having been made by Herr Paul Neumann with Giuseppe Zecchini, of San Martino, on July 16, 1889. The Passo di Ball route was followed for about 2 hrs., and then a traverse made under the rocks of the Cima di Val di Roda till the gully separating that peak from the Campanile was reached. This took $2\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. to ascend, as serious difficulties were encountered. It would be easy, or perhaps impossible, according to the state of the snow and ice. From the pass to the top was exactly 1 hr., the greater part easy, though one chimney was met with which was no easier than the well-known one on the small peak of the Sasso Maor. This is one of the most varied and interesting ascents at San Martino.

J. T. H. Wood.

JÄGERJOCH.—Mr. L. Norman Néruda with Chr. Klucker crossed this pass on August 23, 1890, from Zermatt to Macugnaga, ascending the Jägerhorn from a point to the north of the Joch, on the way. He was at the time under the impression, which Dr. Curtius, who crossed the Horn from Macugnaga just three years earlier,* appears to have shared, that it had never before been traversed in that direction. As a matter of fact, however, the pass was so traversed by Mr. W. E. Davidson with Ferdinand Imseng in 1876, though the fact seems never to have been recorded in these pages. This party did not climb the Horn, the weather being unpropitious; but that part of the route was accomplished by Mr. Peebles-Chaplin shortly afterwards. So far as can be ascertained, he ascended by the north side, and descended to the west side, returning to the Riffel. Mr. Norman Néruda's actual line of climb up the final peak, which occupied a little over a quarter of an hour, seems to be new.

DOM.—Mr. Norman Néruda and Klucker made, on August 12, a variation, which, though probably not new, has not been hitherto recorded, on the descent from the Dom to Randa. The snow was in good order, so instead of retracing their steps over the ordinary 'snow-route,' they climbed straight down and through the séracs between that and the 'rock-route,' thus making the entire descent from the summit to Randa in 2 hrs. 25 mins.

MONTE GIRALBA: A CORRECTION.—By an oversight, Mr. Norman Néruda's ascent of this peak was recorded in the last number (p. 315), among the 'New Expeditions.' It had escaped both his notice and that of the Editor, that its ascent had been duly effected by Mr. Holzmänn at some unspecified date previous to August, 1874.† In those days a secondary peak, under 10,000 feet high, was less of a prize than it now is, and Monte Giralba was not even accorded a place in the index to the volume.

WETTERHORN: DESCENT BY THE RENFEN GLACIER.—Mrs. Main writes: 'Leaving Grindelwald on September 14, Herr Theophil Boss and I, with Ulrich Kaufmann and Christian Jossi, slept at the Gleckstein hut, and went up the Wetterhorn the ordinary way. We came down the Rosenlaui side until we got to the snow-basin where one begins to go down to the left for the Dossen hut. This basin we crossed, and made as if for the Gauli Pass; but the guides were struck with a brilliant idea of getting down quickly to the Urbach Thal. So when we reached the great snow-plateau, we bore to the left, and came to the top of a very cheerful-looking icewall. Here we should have steered to our left, and gone down partly by the rocks of the Dossenhorn, and partly by snow close to them. But, in our ignorance, we bore very much to the right, and after two hours' step-cutting gained the rightmost rib of rock, and got down without any further trouble, except that we had to build a bridge over the Urbach. This line of descent, direct down the middle of the Renfen Glacier,‡ the

* See *S. A. C. Jahrbuch*, '87-'88, p. 51.

† See *Alpine Journal*, vol. vii. p. 27.

‡ *Ibid.* vol. iv. p. 256; vol. ix. p. 488.

guides believe to be new. On a nice warm July afternoon it would probably be accelerated by avalanches.'

WINTER ASCENT.—The 'Journal de Genève' of January 25 announces that on January 14 Dr. Güssfeldt with Emile Rey and a troop of men ascended the Grandes Jorasses (first winter ascent) from Courmayeur. Top reached at 1 P.M., hut regained at 7. A great track had been made by a party of men sent some days before to clear the way as far as the Italian Club hut.

A NEW DESCENT FROM THE SCHRECKHORN, AND SOME NOTES FROM THE ZERMATT DISTRICT.—The following notes may be of interest to some of your readers: On July 25 last, having made the ascent, the first of the season, of the Schreckhorn, with Christian Jossi, of Grindelwald, and Joseph Taugwalder, of Zermatt, and having reached the summit early (at 7.40), I determined to try what I had often had in my mind—the descent of the mountain by the east side to the Gleckstein hut. Accordingly, having halted an hour on the summit and enjoyed the magnificent view, under the influence of the soothing pipe, we started down at 8.45, taking to a rib of rock running apparently half-way down the east side, starting just south of the first or pseudo-summit of the mountain, and bounded on the left by a long and nasty looking ice couloir. Owing to the high angle at which the mountain lies on the east side, great care had to be exercised, and we were some two hours in descending to the extremity of the rocks; we then had to cut downwards across the ice couloir on the left to a patch of rocks on the left; this took us till 12.30. From the end of these rocks we cut across the couloir to what seemed the continuation of our original rib, whence we reached the foot of the mountain in an hour more; this brought us to the south-west of the snow-saddle, running to the Lauteraarjoch rock arête, and a quarter of an hour's walking found us on the upper Grindelwald glacier. Unfortunately, here, fog and rain came on, and from 2 till 10 we erred on the glacier, not able to see a yard in front of us, and spoiling considerably the pleasure of a most successful and enjoyable expedition. The rocks are good and the expedition seems to me, with ordinary care, a good one, and not dangerous, and, besides, likely to be less trying and laborious than the traverse the reverse way successfully accomplished by Messrs. Pendlebury and Woolley.

I can endorse what Mr. P. W. Thomas says in the August number, with regard to the ascent of the Dom by the south-west rock arête, though I would differ from him in calling them easy rocks; I should call it a really good climb, and one, I think, but seldom made. I would also point out that I believe the way up the Dent Blanche from the Schönbühl glacier by the rocks, striking the rocks of the south arête at their beginning, is a better and a shorter climb than the ordinary way. Though probably known, I doubt if the route was used before my ascent of the season before last, but the *gîte* of the Schönbühl glacier is a very good one, and by following Mr. Whitwell's route (*vide* Conway's Guide) about half-way, and striking the south arête at its commencement, you make the Dent Blanche a rock climb the whole way, and can avoid the bad snow of

the descent by the ordinary way. I may mention that for those who go up to the Trift hut for Ober Gabelhorn or Zinal Rothhorn, are overtaken by doubtful weather, and have to return to Zermatt—an oft-recurring experience last season—the Unter Gabelhorn by the rocks direct from the hut is a good climb of some $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 hours.

CLAUDE A. MACDONALD.

THE SWISS ALPINE CLUB.—The assembly of delegates of the Swiss Alpine Club met on October 13, 1890, at Baden to transact business. It was agreed to form a special library of works relating to the mountains, which is to be housed with, but kept distinct from, the Town Library of Zürich. It was resolved that from January 1, 1890, the Club should issue a periodical publication, which is to appear at shorter intervals than the "Jahrbuch," and also to increase the sum set aside for defraying the expenses of the "Jahrbuch," which is to be improved in several aspects. The club will henceforth pay 5 per cent. (instead of 3 per cent.) of the insurance policy effected by each guide against the danger he runs in pursuing his calling; but the question of framing a general tariff of the amount to be paid to each guide for every mountain expedition throughout Switzerland, was postponed on the ground of its complexity. The sum of 400 francs was granted to the Commission engaged in making scientific observations on the Rhone glacier. The club festival of 1891 will take place at Zofingen.

HEIGHT OF SOME NORTH AMERICAN PEAKS.—We read with some relief in the 'Oesterreichische Alpen-Zeitung,'* that Professor Heilprin's final results leave the great Mexican peaks in a very fair position among the big mountains of the world. Orizaba comes out at 5,549 mètres=18,207 feet, Popocatepetl 5,341 mètres=17,515 ft., and Iztaccihuatl 5,170 mètres=16,950 ft. (It does not appear whether this last is given as the height of the actual summit, or of the point, a little below the actual summit, which Professor Heilprin reached; probably the latter, as his measurements were barometrical.) On the other hand Mount St. Elias has been terribly reduced by the latest survey. Its 19,000 and odd feet have, in the hands of the emissaries of the United States National Geographical Society, come down to something less than 14,000. We believe it has been recently decided that Mount St. Elias is in British territory.

A COMPANION OF ALBERT SMITH.—The Club Library has acquired a little book, privately printed at Manchester in 1851, entitled 'A Reading Party in Switzerland; with an Account of the Ascent of Mont Blanc on the 12th and 13th of August, 1851. By Francis Philips, Christ Church, Oxford.' Mr. Philips and his friends were the party who accompanied Albert Smith, or rather whom he joined. Thus we have an independent account to compare with Albert Smith's better known one. In all material particulars they agree; but towards the end of Mr. Philips's narrative is this curious passage:

* *Oe. A. Z.* No. 310, p. 289. The same number contains an account of the ascent of Ajusco (13,612 feet—English or Viennese is not stated). This appears to be a perfectly easy expedition.

'We all commenced the ascent with the impression of finding the fatigue and danger much exaggerated. Albert Smith in particular fully intended to expose the whole affair as an imposition, fancying the guides were leagued together in representing it as much more hazardous than would prove, on trial, to be the case.' This is quite inconsistent with the fact that Albert Smith was already by no means a stranger at Chamonix, and with the tone of his own narrative. It seems probable that, although he speaks with much cordiality of his companions in the ascent, he could not resist the temptation to mystify them to some extent. They were innocent enough for it. Mr. Philips relates how they solemnly put themselves into training, and called for *bifstek à l'Anglais*, ten days beforehand. Anyhow, the noble invention of Bompard in 'Tantarin sur les Alpes,' is here, though in meagre fashion enough, anticipated. F.P.

TRAVEL IN THE CAUCASUS.—Mr. Douglas Freshfield has, in reply to inquiries he addressed to Mr. Peacock, H.B.M.'s Consul at Batoum, received the following very satisfactory communication. The best thanks of English mountaineers are due to the Governor-General of the Caucasus for the liberal facilities that have always been accorded them by the higher authorities, and it may be confidently hoped that cases of over-zeal on the part of local officials, such as were reported last summer, will not occur again after this emphatic expression from the Governor-General himself:—

'British Consulate, Batoum,
'December 24, 1890.

'I hasten to inform you that in reply to my letter addressed to the Governor-General of the Caucasus, with reference to the question of right of travel in this country, I have received an official communication that no special permits are required either in the Terek district or Daghestan, or, in fact, in any part of the Caucasus.

'In applying for information on that subject I had, of course, to mention the difficulties encountered by Mummery and Petherick, and again by Baker. The authorities are desirous to know the names of the local officials who demanded special permits, in order to be able to impress upon their mind that, in future, travellers are to enjoy perfect freedom in the Caucasus. 'D. R. PEACOCK.'

AN ALPINE QUERY.—A gentleman asked me gravely last year in the Alps, 'Why do mountaineers take *two* guides with them? Is it in case they should lose one?' F. T. WETHERED.

THE NEW EDITION OF 'THE ALPINE GUIDE.'—As will be seen from the circular published in the present number, the promises of subscriptions have reached a sum sufficient to justify the Committee in thinking that, although the list is still open (which readers will kindly note), practical steps may now be taken to proceed with this work. The Editor will be glad to hear from any members who are willing to give assistance. It should be understood that the object is not to rewrite the book. Except in matters of detail, as where heights have been more accurately determined, old inns improved, club-huts substituted for the precarious shelter of Sennhütten, almost

everything that Mr. Ball wrote is of as much service to travellers now as it was fifteen years ago. It will be only necessary to bring the work up to date, preserving the lines which he laid down. Nor is there any intention of entering into competition with 'The Pennine Guide,' or other books adapted solely to the requirements of the *Hochtourist*. It cannot be too carefully remembered that the ultimate divisions of the book are 'Routes,' not 'Excursions;' and that while due notice is taken of the more important peaks, it has not been thought necessary to give minute directions for the ascent of every point in every ridge. At the same time an endeavour will be made to render the new edition a trustworthy guide for mountaineers. The best service towards its preparation will be done by those who will act (to borrow an apposite term used by Mr. Tuckett in a letter to the present writer) as 'topographical missionaries,' those, that is, who will devote a part of their next summer's tour to working out in detail one or more sections of the book—correcting and supplying as may seem to them necessary. The most gratitude will, of course, be earned by those who will undertake the least-frequented districts. For the great Italian, French, and Swiss 'centres,' and several of the Tyrolese groups abundance of information is to be got from English sources, though, in the case of the latter, we should often be all the better for such careful working as a few of our members have bestowed on the South-Western Alps. But when we come to districts like the Silvretta, and its northern division the Ferwall group (reported to offer some of the best rock-climbing in the Alps), or to the ranges east of the Glockner, or to those that enclose the Ultenthal and Val di Rabbi, we shall find plenty of work for our 'missionaries.' Let them name their sections, and they shall be supplied with interleaved copies and pencils.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

Jahrbuch des Schweizer Alpenclub. Vol. XXV. 1889-90. (Bern: J. Dalp).

THIS volume, No. XXV., is larger than any of its predecessors, containing no less than 744 pages. As in previous volumes, the interest passes more and more from the accounts of mountaineering expeditions to the articles which are indirectly connected with the Alps in the departments of history or science. In the Preface the Editor (Herr A. Wäber) calls the particular attention of the Club to three points. (1) The request of Professor E. von Fellenberg for specimens of rock from new summits to enable him to classify their geological position and to correct errors. This request is motivated by the fact that Herr Montandon found granite on the top of the Lauterbrunner Breithorn, which has hitherto been regarded as entirely limestone. (2) Another request from Herr Reber, asking tourists to spare the trigonometrical signals set up by the Federal surveyors. When on the Fluela Schwarzhorn preparing to observe the signal on the Scesa Plana, 40 kilometres (25 miles) distant, the first thing he saw was a party of