

Photographs, &c.

- *Panorama of Murchison Glacier and Malte Brun Range, New Zealand. (Presented by G. E. Mannering, Esq.)
- *The Matterhorn from the Riffel Alp, December 26, 1890. C. T. Dent, phot. (Presented by C. T. Dent, Esq.)
- *The Dom and Täschhorn from the Hörnli path, December 24, 1890. C. T. Dent, phot. (Presented by C. T. Dent, Esq.)
- *Portrait of Horace Benedict de Saussure. (Presented by M. Henri de Saussure.)

Maps.

- *Andorra, constructed by F. H. Deverell, 1890. Based on the scale of the French Ordnance Survey map, 1 = 80,000 (Presented by the Constructor.)
- *Geologische Karte des Karwendelgebirges herausgegeben vom deutschen und oesterreichischen Alpenverein. Entworfen von A. Rothpletz unter Mitwirkung von W. Clark u. a.

ALPINE JOURNAL BACK NUMBERS.—The following numbers may be obtained on applying to the Assistant Secretary at the Alpine Club Rooms, 8 St. Martin's Place, W.C.: 5, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 39, 50, **53**, 54, 57, 69, 73, 84, **85**, 87, 88, 89, **90**, 91, 92, 93, 97, **100**. The Editor has also Nos. **70**, **86**, and 109; and vols. **xiii.** and **xiv.**

Those indicated by black type are out of print.

The following numbers are required by members to complete their sets. Offers to be addressed to the Assistant Secretary: 21, 63, 64, 66, 67, 71, 72, 79, 86, 94, 101; also vol. iii.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

The Story of the Nations—Switzerland. By Lina Hug and R. Stead.
(London: T. Fisher Unwin.)

Switzerland and the Alps are not identical or convertible terms, though it is to be feared that many persons think them so. Still, the Alps have, no doubt, had a good deal to do with making Switzerland what it is politically and nationally. This being so, we rather wonder that the authors of the book before us have so little to say about them. With the exception of a page or two on Suwarrow's campaign, there is hardly a word from which the reader would gather that any rising ground exists in Switzerland. Of course, for obvious reasons, few of the important events in Swiss history have taken place in the higher Alps; but the 'story' of a nation can hardly be thought complete which takes no notice of the first subject which comes into everyone's mind on hearing its name. However, this feature, or its absence, practically removes the book from the category of those with which the 'Alpine Journal' is concerned; nor does the introduction of a few exceedingly poor mountain views, quite unconnected with the text, help the matter. As a political history of Switzerland, and an account of how the federation of states became the federated state, it has its merits.

* Presented.

Mittheilungen des D. O. A. V.: 1890.

On May 2, 1889, Herr Gottfried Merzbacher ascended Mount Ætna, and on May 24–25 the Gran Sasso d' Italia. The quantity of snow was very great, considering the latitude and the time of year. The Rifugio di Roma on the Campo Pericoli (? 2,000 mètres = 6,562 feet) was completely buried in snow. Two hours' labour were spent in effecting an entrance, and he and his guide passed a most miserable night. The next morning the summit was reached in 3 hrs. Herr M. would have done better to sleep at Assergi (847 mètres) and make an early start.

On August 4, 1889, Herr Merzbacher, with the guide Preiss (*vulg.* Punz), of Ramsau, effected the sixth ascent of the Piz Bernina by the Bernina Scharte. This was in order to judge for himself of the difficulty of this, avowedly, the most difficult excursion in the Pontresina district. Another tourist with two guides was permitted to join the party. The sudden drop in the ridge, which constitutes the chief difficulty of this expedition, was passed with tolerable ease. The guide Preiss, who was last, to the astonishment of the Swiss guides, came down without even looping the rope. Herr Merzbacher concludes that in favourable conditions of weather and snow there is no serious difficulty for rock-climbers. The times seem unusually short. Leaving the Rosegg Restaurant at 1.30 A.M., the Fuorcla Prievlusa was reached at 6.20 A.M. After 35 min. halt, they were on the Pizzo Bianco at 9.15 A.M. The critical spot was reached at 10 A.M., and in half an hour they had all passed it, and were on the Piz Bernina at 11.15 A.M. They left at 12.15 P.M., and passing through the labyrinth the Boval Hut was reached at 4.45 P.M., and Pontresina at 8 P.M.

Herr Finsterwalder (Munich) contributes an interesting article on the application of photography to surveying. Photographs can be taken more rapidly than sketches, and answer their purpose more completely, and so save a great deal of outdoor work.

An area of 1,000 square kilomètres, including the valleys of Cogne and Savaranche and the summits of the Grand Paradis and the Grivola, was mapped by both the new and the old method, and the success of the former was so great that General Ferrero in charge of the survey had no hesitation in extending the application of it.

The sixth number contains an article from the pen of the late Editor of the 'Alpine Journal,' the Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge, describing a fine excursion made on July 22, 1888, from the Concordia hut.* With the guides Christian and Rudolf Almer, he ascended the Gross Viescherhorn by the N.W. ridge, descended by the S.E. ridge on to the almost unknown snow plateau inclosed by the peaks of the Viescherhörner; from this ascended the Ochsenhorn, and then effecting the circuit of the latter returned by the Viescherjoch to the Concordia hut. Time, 13 hrs. 5 min., of which 2 hrs. were devoted to halts.

From an article, in Nos. 7 and 8, by Herr L. Purtscheller, on his ascent of Kilimandjaro, it is plain that the assistance of a skilled mountaineer was much more necessary to Herr Meyer than appeared

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiv. p. 156.

from the reports in newspapers. When in the ascent of Kibo they reached the edge of the ice (5,570 mètres = 18,274 feet) they had to cut steps up a ridge of ice at an angle of 35°, with an overhanging icecliff on their right 70 to 80 feet high, and a rock precipice on the other. The ice was hard and glassy, requiring 20 to 25 strokes for each step, and the greatest precaution was required to prevent slipping. Again when, on October 6, they climbed Mawenzi, he can only compare the ascent of the great lava cone to the ascent of the Watzmann from S. Bartholomä (which has only been effected by Herren L. Purtscheller and G. Merzbacher, with the guide Punz (Preiss), of Ramsau, and is accounted by these excellent mountaineers, perhaps, the most difficult rock-climb in the Alps). The holds for hands and feet were bad, the lava slabs were inclined unfavourably downwards, there were narrow ledges and perpendicular gullies, and the difficulty was increased by the cold, which for the 1½ hr. did not rise above freezing point. Sometimes the ridge they were on seemed almost suspended in the air, and the sky was visible through cracks in it ten minutes before they reached it. Their labour was increased not only by the rarefaction of the air, but by the excessive changes of temperature, which varied in the course of a few minutes from 107° F. in the sun to 32° to 34° F. when affected by fog or wind.

Herr J. Pock (Innsbruck) contributes a (? final) article on his tour in 1888 in the Sarntal group. He has described the ascent of 28 peaks, of which any one is accessible in a day's journey from the Eisackthal, and from Innsbruck by aid of the rail.

The new ascents made in the Sulzthal by Herr L. Purtscheller in 1887, and by Herr Palloccay in 1888, show how neglected this district (the Sulzthal) has been by tourists. Many new ascents yet remain to be made, and these are facilitated by the Amberger hut. Three reliable guides are to be had in the village of Gries, of whom Quirin Grisch (*vulg.* 'der G'sunde,' say, 'the fit man') is the best.

The difficulties which have arisen between tourists and game-keepers in preserved districts have led to a good deal of correspondence. Paths and improvements made by sections have been destroyed, and tourists have been rudely treated. As in such districts the by-roads are all private, it would seem only proper to refrain from using, marking, or altering them in any way without permission.

With respect to subterranean explorations, such as those in the 'Reka Höhlen' (S. Canzian), Dr. Frischauf recommends the use of 'Fluorescein,' which causes the water to remain coloured for a great distance and length of time. On a trial made at the 'Aachquellen,' 11 kilometres distant from the Danube, the discolouration appeared in that river after 60 hrs., and continued for 36 hrs.

In June a festival was held in the grottoes of S. Canzian. The Brunnen grotto, the finest yet discovered, was brilliantly illuminated. The grottoes have been made accessible by a convenient path, and other tracks have been constructed to exhibit their beauties to advantage. The new paths have enabled the explorer to advance a kilomètre (5 furlongs) beyond the point reached in 1887.

On June 8, 1890, Fräulein Toni Santner was one of a party which

ascended the Fermeda Thurm, the most difficult summit of the Geislerspitzen.

A great number of ascents are recorded, many of which are new, or by new routes.

Mr. Norman-Neruda (London) contributes a long list of peaks climbed by new routes, in which he was accompanied by Chr. Klucker (Dr. Curtius' guide), whose performances he cannot sufficiently praise.

Herr L. Purtscheller has been actively engaged in making up for his lost summer. Between May 11 and October 5, 1890, he made no less than 143 ascents in 55 excursions from the Lesser Tauern to the Maritime Alps, and including an ascent of Mont Blanc. Many of these were what he calls 'ridge walks' ('Gratwanderungen'). On August 18, 19, and 20 he ascended five, four, and six peaks respectively; and on August 22 no less than 10 peaks, three of them being new ascents. On the whole he made 14 new ascents. In 20 of the 55 tours he had a companion. In three he took a guide, probably more to show the way than otherwise, since only one peak, the Kumpfkarspitze (2,394 mètres = 7,855 feet), was a first ascent. In five he took a porter. In the others he was alone.

Seventeen accidents (or supposed accidents) are reported, most of which have been already noticed in the 'Alpine Journal.' Of one or two, however, all the details have not been mentioned.*

On May 26 Herr Christian Schollhorn (Munich) started at 2.30 A.M. with the guide Punz (Preiss) to ascend the Watzmann from S. Bartholomä. Preiss had urged him to take a second guide, but he refused. About 7 A.M. they were above the 'Randkluft.' Here a difficult 'platte' had to be crossed. The guide unroped himself, and bidding the tourist stay where he was, proceeded to climb the wall, holding the end of the rope in his left hand. When near the top the rope was pulled out of his hand by a jerk which nearly dislodged him from his precarious hold. In alarm he descended to the spot to find the tourist gone. He had evidently fallen down the precipice (about 100 feet) into the 'Randkluft.' He made his way back to Berchtesgaden, and gave the alarm. May 27, an expedition of seven guides, headed by Kederbacher, reached the spot. Kederbacher was lowered into the 'kluft' to a depth of 24 mètres (79 feet), and lowered a lantern into a funnel-shaped aperture below, but could discern nothing. On May 28 the bad weather prevented further search, but on May 29, with eight other guides, he again reached the spot. This time he descended 16 mètres (52 feet) deeper into the 'trichter,' and perceived Schollhorn's foot. The body was found to have the rope wrapped round it, and by means of this drawn up with difficulty, and by their united efforts got down over the steep rocks. Two hours were occupied in getting the body to the surface, and seven in getting it to S. Bartholomä. Kederbacher on this occasion was lowered about 220 feet. His leading on this expedition deserves all praise.

On June 20 E. Böhm, a postman of Vienna, perished on the Planspitze.

* See p. 225.

He left Vienna immediately after his morning's round, and went with his brother-in-law by train to Gstatterboden. Here, at 1 P.M., they started on the Peterspfad, a difficult route leading to the summit. About 9 P.M. in bad weather they were near the ridge. Here Böhm became quite exhausted, and they were forced to bivouac. Next morning he was too weak to proceed, whereupon Pallausch tied him to a rock and went to Johnsbach for help. Pallausch was too exhausted to join the search party, which did not succeed in finding Böhm, who had then to pass another night in that exposed position. Next day he was found dead.

On October 16 two tourists named Leuch and Paganini left the Bottersalphütten in fine weather to ascend the Sántis. A sudden and violent storm came on, in which they are supposed to have perished, since nothing has been heard of them.

N.B.—The expected outbreak of the glaciers in Martell did not take place in 1890. The Furkele glacier has advanced considerably; the others in a less degree. J. S.

Section Lyonnaise du Club Alpin Français : Septième Bulletin.
(Lyon : Imprimerie Mougin-Rusand.)

The 1890 volume of the periodical issued by the Lyons section is, as reading, equal, or perhaps superior, to any of the Alpine publications of the year. It is 'impressionist,' it is decidedly 'eccentric,' and nobody, we think, will be able to make any use of it whatsoever for historical or 'documentary' purposes. It contains five articles—a thrilling adventure in bad weather on the Buét, by 'J. C. ;' an account of a tour from Mont Blanc to the Pelvoux, with some notice of the ascent of those peaks, by M. Adolphe Gamet; 'Some Corners of Unknown Switzerland,' by M. Prosper Chappet, who has discovered the Maderanerthal, the Lukmanier, Val Maggia, Binn, and other spots not precisely so much frequented as Zermatt or Pontresina; 'In the Tyrol and the Dolomites,' by M. Th. Camus (this, as anyone who figures to himself the French tourist in Tyrol will readily conceive, is the gem of the volume), and one scientific article. All are characterised by a pleasant cheeriness, a delightful independence in regard to such details as the spelling of foreign names or the quotation of heights, and a general holiday spirit which carries one back to the early days of Alpine literature. Whether it be M. Gamet and his party crossing from St. Christophe to Vallouise by the Aiguille du Plat de la Selle and the Col des Ecrins with only four hours' repose between the two excursions, or M. Camus killing time on the Fedaja Alp, after a rebuff from the Marmolata, by ascending Monte Padon in his slippers while his companion sleeps in the sun, or any of the others in any position whatever, every one of these jolly gentlemen of Lyons seems to understand fully the meaning of the phrase, 'All in the day's work.' The paper on the Dolomites has a little touch of tragedy. M. Camus, being on the Tofana, saw with a glass the guide Michael Innerkofler and his party on the Cristallo. On their return to Cortina they were met by the news, 'Innerkofler ist todt.' They must have been the last persons, except his own party, who saw that valiant guide alive. But for a mere

chance they would themselves have been with him; 'and,' says M. Camus, 'we reflected that if he had been with us he would still be living, for *we* should never have consented to be both together on a snow bridge.' The last article, 'Alpinisme et Hygiène,' is by Dr. P. Marduel. The doctor's opinion is gratifying. He says, 'What all bodily exercises—walking, gymnastics, swimming, fencing, boating, riding—effect, viz. the training of the muscles and toughening of the frame for labour, "alpinism" effects better than any of them,' with which view readers of this Journal will agree.

Annuaire de la Société des Touristes du Dauphiné. 15^{ème} Année, 1889.
(Grenoble : Allier, 1890.)

Contrary to custom, the most important communication to the 1889 'Annuaire' is not connected with Dauphiné. The chief place is occupied by an article by the Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge on 'Three Ascents of the Grand Paradis.' We have here not only a very interesting account of the actual climbing, but a history of the peak, and all such information connected with guides, routes, inns, and maps as the tourist can require. We trust that many will be incited by Mr. Coolidge's account to make the ascent, and hope they may enjoy on the summit such a *véritable révélation* as he did in 1888. The map attached to the article is not quite what it should be. To pass by other faults, the Grivola and Becca de Montandeyné should surely have been indicated. On the other hand, it should be noted that this is the first map to mark the Col de l'Abeille.* The other chief articles are on the first ascent of the Aiguille Marcieu, and a week in the Queyras and Grand Rubren district, a part probably little known to English mountaineers. Science is represented by a 'Note sur l'Enseignement de la Lecture des Cartes.' In the list of ascensions in Dauphiné for 1889 we are pleased to see the names of a fair number of English clubmen amongst the climbers of the Grande Meije, the Ecrins, and Pelvoux. On p. 161, St. Véran, 2,002 m., is described as the highest village in France; but has not Avérole, under the Charbonel, an altitude of 2,035 m.? We congratulate the Société des Touristes on the success of their efforts to open up Dauphiné, and to promote the comfort of travellers amongst its peaks and passes, and wish them all prosperity for the future.

G. Y.

Monte Rosa e Gressoney. By V. Sella and D. Vallino (Biella).

This charming volume is one which ought to find a place in every Alpine Library, notwithstanding its somewhat inconvenient form for the requirements of ordinary bookshelves. It is a pity that an English edition of it has not been published, though we may state at the outset that the illustrations are of far more importance than the text. A well-written and scholarly monograph on the valley and folk of Gressoney might be made singularly interesting, for the German population still retains many of the customs and traditions which it brought from Wallis, and now is the time to record them before

* See *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiv. p. 285.

they have been obliterated by the planing away which improved means of communication with Italy will of course effect. For the folk-songs and other records collected by Signor Vallino we are thankful, though he has only scratched the surface of the ground. With much that has been observed and recorded by foreign observers before him he has failed to make himself acquainted. The historical chapter is especially thin. In fact, in respect of scholarship, the volume leaves much to be desired.

In the present brief notice all we can do is to correct certain errors of fact in the record of mountain achievement in the Gressoney neighbourhood. Omissions, which are very numerous, we cannot attempt to supply. Mr. Déchy's ascent of Monte Rosa, in 1871, was not made 'by the same route' as that followed by Messrs. Digby and Heathcote in 1868. Déchy ascended a rock-face, Digby a conspicuous buttress some way further west. Again, the route followed by Rey in 1886 was identically the same as that discovered by Mr. Hulton in 1874, and so vaguely described in the '*Alpine Journal*.'* One party approached from Zermatt, the other from the Lysjoch; both ascended the same main rib to the summit. This same rib had been ascended three times by Mr. Abercromby, and by five other parties known to the present writer, before the year 1881, and the route was well-known to the Zermatt guides as the route 'by the rocks.' The Zumstein Sp. was not ascended from the Grenz-Sattel in 1819, but from the plateau between the Zumstein Sp. and the Signal Kuppe. The first ascent from the Grenz-Sattel was made in 1886.† Signor Perazzi's ascent of the Lyskamm in 1884 was made by practically the same route as that followed by Messrs. Morshead and C. E. Mathews, in 1867.‡ Both parties attained the summit by the same ridge. The English party reached this ridge from a shelf of névé lying under the saddle between the two peaks of the mountain. Signor Perazzi's variation consisted in passing below this shelf and making the ascent from the very foot of the rocks of the rib. The latter route is of all ways the best by which to ascend this glorious mountain. The mistake as to these routes arose from a misdescription of Morshead and Mathews' route published in the '*Zermatt Pocket Book*.'

It now only remains to bestow unlimited praise upon the beautiful illustrations with which the volume is so plentifully illustrated. They are all process reproductions of photographs by Signor Vittorio Sella. Thirty-one are full-page plates, with many of which we have already been rendered familiar by examples shown at the Winter Exhibition in London or included in our own collections of Alpine views. By no means the least interesting are the instantaneous renderings of incidents in the life of the people—Girls at the Village Fountain, or Preparing Polenta, and the like—for the most part delightfully chosen or composed. The strictly Alpine views are, of course, more important; and

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. vii. p. 107; xiii. p. 203, 263; *S.A.C.J.* vol. xv. p. 211; *Boll* 1885, p. 145; 1888, p. 107; *Rivista*, vol. v. p. 247; vol. vi p. 83; vol. viii. p. 260. See also forthcoming *Pennine Guide*, vol. ii. pp. 53, 55, 56.

† *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiii pp. 126, 163.

‡ *Ibid.* vol. iv. pp. 55, 67.

amongst them the most beautiful is the view taken from the Q. Sella Hut, on July 15, 1888. It embraces a wonderful panorama of rock and downy cloud, brilliantly and mysteriously illuminated, and forming an almost perfect composition of mass, shadow, and line. The plate is printed in a greenish ink which suits the subject marvellously well. The Gorge of Guillemore makes another beautiful plate, and so does the view of the Höchste Sp. and Zumstein Sp. from the Lysjoch, which forms the frontispiece of the volume. In this the long rib climbed by Mr. Hulton forms a conspicuous feature.

There are, besides, some forty-two illustrations included in the pages of text. Many of them are good examples of process blocks, and the whole series forms a valuable contribution to Alpine iconography. A few more examples of climbers in action would have been pleasant, but where there is so much to be thankful for, it were scurvy to complain. Let us rather conclude by expressing a hope that the reception accorded to this beautiful volume may induce its authors to provide us with others of the same kind. W. M. C.

Southern France from the Loire to the Spanish and Italian Frontiers.

By Karl Bädeker. (Leipzig: Bädeker, 1891.)

This, the English edition, corresponds with the third French edition of the *Midi* and *Centre de la France*; that is, we presume, it is translated from them. This may account for the frequency with which the terms 'difficult' and 'dangerous' occur in the sections dealing with the Alps; those terms having, as is well known, a somewhat wider 'connotation' abroad than is usually allowed to them in English writings on Alpine matters. Thus the Col Emile Pic, which Mr. Coolidge some time ago* pronounced with emphasis to be 'by far the easiest between Vallouise and La Grave,' is twice spoken of as dangerous, and once as difficult. The Aiguille d'Olan, perhaps by a confusion with the Pic of the same name, is called by both epithets. The Tsanteleina (called Sté. Hélène, and mixed up with the Pointe de Bazel) is dignified in the same way—'if the second peak be included.' Neither Mr. Nichols nor M. Ferrand was able to discover this second peak, both agreeing that the summit is a ridge about fifty yards long, with so little difference in height between the ends (instead of the thirty-five feet given here) that the former gentleman's guides were able to reverse their relative altitudes by building a stone-man on the lower.† What the 'second peak' of Herr Bädeker—the passage to which from the first, moreover, occupies three hours—can be, remains a mystery. To go back to Dauphiné, we find that, as in the second edition, the height assigned to the Ailefroide is that of its lowest summit; though the existence of the higher is recognised. In the same paragraph we regret to see that the clumsy appellation of 'Mont Salvador-Guillemín' is adopted for the S.W. peak of the Pelvoux, generally called 'Pic sans Nom'; a title of which its first climbers, Messrs. Pendlebury and Colgrove, were content to leave it in possession. This

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. x. p. 85.

† *Ibid.* vol. ii. p. 395.

again, by the way, is one of the 'difficult and even dangerous' division. One cannot resist a suspicion that some writers imagine danger to be a kind of extreme case of difficulty; the truth being, as every practised climber knows, that the two qualities are entirely independent of each other, and more frequently than not are to be found in very different places.

With regard to the inns in this district, Mr. Coolidge's note in the number of this Journal for November 1889* might have been studied with advantage.

Perhaps for the reason that the Mont Blanc range is better known, we find there less to remark upon. 'Danger' seems to be unknown in that more favoured region, and of 'difficulty' there is far less. Indeed, the style adopted, 'we' climb this *couloir*, 'we' ascend that *cheminée*, seems to bespeak quite an intimate acquaintance.

The other mountain sections, Pyrenees and Auvergne, are very satisfactorily treated, though a map of the latter district would be an addition to the utility of the book. The maps that are given are, as usual with 'Bädeker,' very well executed. We are surprised to see under the heading 'Maps,' in the Introduction, no mention of M. Duhamel's beautiful little map of Dauphiné and the adjacent parts.

Kalender des Deutschen und Oesterreichischen Alpenvereins für das Jahr 1891.
(Munich: Lindauer.)

This useful little pocket book contains: (1) A calendar showing the moon's age, the hours of sunrise and sunset, and the Church festivals specially observed in the German Alpine districts—an important matter in planning a tour in those parts; (2) a list of the sections of the D.O.A.V., with their respective presidents, days of meeting, &c.; (3) rules, statistics, publications of the club; (4) information as to other clubs; (5) the same as to maps, handbooks, equipment, &c.; (6) a table of huts; (7) a list of all the recognised guides in the German Alps, with their ages (here we have observed one or two inaccuracies) and their qualifications, arranged under their places of abode; (8) tables of comparative measures, and for calculating the exchange between Germany and Austria, according to the fluctuations, —which, as is well known, are 'frequent, and painful, and free'—of the gulden; with other miscellaneous information, such as key-maps to the sheets of the Swiss and Austrian Government maps. Finally, there are a number of blank pages ruled so that the conscientious climber can record the weather, his times, his (?) temperature, and any other observations of a scientific kind which may seem to him desirable. On the whole a very good eighteenpennyworth.

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiv. pp. 518, 519.