and a capable climber; it is too not the custom in the Oetzthal to take a second guide, perhaps 2 out of 500 tourists adopting this course. Gstrein explained that, as there was ice in a gully on the way down from the Gurgler Eisjöchl, he chose another route, over grass and stones. Modl was roped, but on a broad shelf sat down, and, against the warning given by Gstrein, began to glissade; before the guide could do more but roll the rope round his ice axe, firmly planted in the ground, Modl fell over a precipice, and dragged Gstrein with him. Modl fractured his skull and died almost at once; Gstrein was much injured, but in ¼ hr. managed to crawl to a shepherd's hut. It was also urged for the defence that though Gstrein had never been over the pass before this was not unusual in the case of a guide, as Tyrolese guides often went to unknown districts of the Alps, and even to the Caucasus; that this pass was not a difficult one, according to the 'Erschliessung der Ostalpen;' and that the use of 'Steigeisen' is not at all customary in the Oetzthal. Gstrein's counsel wound up his speech by declaring that in this case, far from the tourist having been sacrificed by his guide, it was the guide who had been nearly killed by the rashness of the tourist. The court acquitted Gstrein, as we have stated, and also relieved him from the payment of all costs, meaning thereby, no doubt, to show that no blame at all could be attached to him.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

A Facsimile of Christian Almer's 'Führerbuch,' 1856–94. Reproduced under the superintendence of C. D. Cunningham, and Captain W. de W. Abney, C.B., D.C.L., F.R.S. (late R.E.). With an Introduction and a Photogravure of Christian Almer. (London: Sampson Low, Marston, & Co. 1896. Two hundred copies only printed.)

THIS little volume inspired us at first sight with dire forebodings. We saw a fearful prospect before the Alpine traveller and reader. If the law makes a distinction between certificates given for professional or particular purposes and ordinary writings, and if the authors of such certificates have no control over their literary use, what a future may be in store for some of us! Every Guide's Book, every Hotel Book, every letter of recommendation furnished to a candidate for the Alpine Club, even the Candidates' Book itself—anything, in short, which can find a printer and a purchaser may become material for the enterprise of the literary—or illiterary Autolycus. All we have—in Mr. Cunningham's words—'hastily written on the evening of victory,' every casual slip in spelling or grammar, every accidental blot, may be reproduced with the terrible fidelity of Captain Abney's machine!

Such apprehensions are, it appears, unfounded. We have received the assurance of a professional authority that there is nothing in the character of such certificates as these to take them out of the class of writings over the literary use of which their authors have by English law the control.

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How the law may stand is one thing. What we have to consider in these pages is rather the question of conveniency. It seems to us in accordance with common sense and good manners that writings should not be used, without their authors' assent, for purposes and in a manner other than that for which they were intended. In the present instance, doubtless, the temptation to break this general rule was considerable, and the writers of the certificates have not been seriously injured. Few even of the most pedantic critics will think the worse of Mr. W. E. Davidson for putting his name under Jungfrau without a G or of Mr. Coolidge and two other climbers for leaving out the first C in Schreckhorn. It is true that an unhappy Alpine snob, to whom even Almer's book was not sacred, has defaced one of its pages by the superfluous gloss, 'the usual spelling amongst Germans is Schreckhorn.' We cannot affect any sympathy for this specimen of a class well known to all who have ever turned over old hotel books in the punishment that has overtaken him. But the inclusion of an anonymous scribble argues either singular carelessness or a curious failure in discretion on the part of the editors. The former alternative may be supported by the evident signs afforded by the *Introduction* that its writer has not studied very closely the entries which are professedly the subject of his commentary.

We have noted several matters of detail where corrections are called for. For instance, Mr. Justice Wills's ascent of the Wetterhorn was not the first ascent of the peak (as stated on pp. viii and xvii), but the first from Grindelwald. The facts are fully given in chap. iii. of Mr. W. Longman's 'Modern Mountaineering.'* Almer's attempts on the Jungfrau in 1851,† and (with the lady who wrote as the Countess Dora d'Istria) on the Mönch in 1855, might have been referred to, though their records were probably lost in the early 'Führerbuch,' which, we believe, was accidentally destroyed by Almer's children. The famous Matterhorn accident occurred on the 14th, not on the 15th, of July, 1865 (p. xiii). To write (p. xiii) that Almer was 'from 1868 to 1874' 'during the greater portion of this long period' engaged in exploring 'the mountains of Dauphiné' is misleading, as the entries in his book show. In the first place everything south of Mont Blanc is not 'Dauphiné,' and in the next Almer spent much time in other regions besides the S.W. Alps during this period. And why should Mr. Stead be quoted (pp. xiii–xiv) for information which he apparently conveyed from a note in the 'Alpine Journal' (xiv. p. 510)? The title of Mr. A. W. Moore's privately printed journal is 'The Alps in 1864,' but on pp. xix and xxviii it is quoted as 'Mountaineering in 1864.'

On pp. xvi–xvii there is further confusion. Here is a passage which certainly, on the face of it, calls for a great deal of explanation:—

'Christian seized this opportunity of abandoning his explorations in Dauphiné with Mr. Coolidge and returned to his dear Oberland,

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. viii. Appendix. † *Ibid.* vol. xvi. pp. 390–400.

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with whose mountains he must have had so many pleasant recollections. The following year' (the last date given is January 1885) 'Almer accepted various engagements at Grindelwald, and among other expeditions he ascended the Jungfrau and reached the final *arête* of the Schreckhorn, whence, however, his party had to return, owing to bad weather. In that year (1885)' (should this be 1886?) 'Almer may be said to have taken a new lease of life and commenced, what from various points of view has proved to be a most remarkable period of his career.'

When we turn to the 'Führerbuch' we find that it shows no entry at all for 1885; in 1886 the only first-class ascents recorded—those made with M. le Comte Paul Schouvaloff and his wife—do not include either the Jungfrau or the Schreckhorn; in 1887 there is only one entry and no ascent recorded, and it is not till 1888 that we find with ascents of the Wetterhorn and Mont Blanc an ascent of the Jungfrau, and one of the Eiger frustrated by bad weather.

When we carry our researches a little further we find with astonishment that Almer, instead of having been between 1868 and 1884 mostly in Dauphiné, not only had wandered far and wide on the Alps, but had very recent 'recollections with' the great Swiss and Savoyard peaks and even with those of 'his dear Oberland.' In 1875 he had climbed the Matterhorn, Gabelhorn, Rothhorn, Weisshorn, Mönch, Eiger and Schreckhorn, Klein Schreckhorn, A. de Blaitière (twice), Mont Blanc (twice), and A. Verte; in 1880 the Wetterhorn (twice), Mittelhorn, Dossenhorn, Gspaltenhorn, Jungfrau, Finsteraarhorn, Oberaarhorn, Schreckhorn, and Mönch, and in 1884 the Finsteraarhorn, Jungfrau, Schreckhorn, Wetterhorn (twice), Eiger and Klein Viescherhorn, and Klein Schreckhorn. In the *seventeen* years referred to by Mr. Cunningham we have counted up to over two hundred recorded glacier expeditions N. and E. of the Col de la Seigne, besides many more in the Maritime, Cottian, and Graian Alps.

We are reduced to these alternatives: either Almer's 'Führerbuch' for these years is unworthy of credit, or the facts of his career have been very carelessly represented by its Editor in the *Introduction.*

The book, if published at all, should have been indexed. But in our opinion 'Führerbücher' ought not to be published, and we trust that this volume may remain an unique specimen of its class. D. W. F.

Swiss Jahrbuch. Vol. XXX. 1894-5. (Bern: 1895.)

This is a handsome octavo volume, richly illustrated. Annexed is a case containing a panorama of Mont Blanc and other views, and it may with truth be said that no club presents its members with so handsome a volume at so small a price, the yearly subscription being only 7 fr., whilst the volume is issued to outsiders at 12 fr. The second sheet of the map of the special district (Albula) is not yet forthcoming. The finances of the club are not prosperous, since, in spite of an increased number of members (4,481), the entrance

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fees and yearly subscriptions amounted only to 25,425 fr. (1,017*l.*), and they were compelled to sell capital to the amount of 14,028 fr. (561*l.*) in order to balance income and expenditure. The map is responsible for much of this, figuring for nearly 300*l.*, whilst the item 'club huts and paths' amounts to no less than 644*l.*

In the Special District (Albula group) there are separate papers from Herren Ludwig, Imhof, and Zwicky, who, however, made the tours together along with the guide Peter Mettier, of Bergün. The chief expedition not before made was the traversing of Piz Uertsch and Piz Kesch from the Albula hospice to Bergün in one day. Herr Stokar had hoped to join his friends, but was unable, and followed after with the same guide. On the Piz Uertsch (August 22) he was nearly frozen. Herr Heinzelmann, with the same guide, made the first ascent of Piz d'Aela direct from the Aela hut, with descent to Bergün. Professor H. Schiess, with two sons and a daughter, and without a guide, effected the first traverse of Piz Uertsch from the Albula hospice to Bergün. They were out from 5 A.M. on July 25 to 1 A.M. on July 26. Herr Reber describes many expeditions in the Avers valley, the chief being an ascent of the Piz della Palü (3,182 m. = 10,440 ft.), a neighbour of the Pizzo Stella.

Out of the special district Herr R. Helbling describes a number of ascents made during a stay at Fionnay (1,497 m. = 4,911 ft.), in the Val de Bagnes. These peaks are neglected by climbers, being overshadowed by their higher neighbours, the Grand Combin, &c. As the Bec Termin (3,052 m. =10,114 ft.) had no stone-man the ascent was supposed to be new. Herr August Walker describes a number of excursions about Adelboden, including the ascent of the Tschingellochtighorn, a remarkable peak as seen edgewise in the illustration in the text. Herr A. Wäber effected the first ascent of the Altels direct from the Gasternthal. Herr Ernst Farner, along with Dr. Gassmann and Herr Paul Montandon, made a number of ascents from the Trift hut (Gadmenthal), finishing up with the ascent of the Thieralplistock (3,400 m. = 11,155 ft.). Having started very late they were benighted on the descent into the Gelmerthal, and, after encountering many difficulties, reached the huts at 2 A.M. Herr C. Seelig describes a number of excursions in the district of the Fellithal (Reussthal). In these he used the 'Climbers' Guide to the Range of the Todi,' to which he gives a proper meed of praise. The only new ascent was that of the Sonnigwichel (2,910 m. = 9,548 ft.), a mountain doubtfully identified with Piz Giuf. It lies between Piz Ner and the Crispalt, and though inferior in height to both of these is far wilder and more difficult of access. An incident occurred on this ascent which he is fortunately able to describe, but which might easily have cost him his life. Herr F. W. Sprecher, amongst other excursions from Vättis, describes an ascent of the Ringelspitz. This charming district is much neglected by English mountaineers. Professor A. Schiess, with his son, passed from Cagliari to Sassari over the Genargentù (1,870 m. = 6,135 ft.). Leaving Cagliari on Febru-

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ary 28, they slept at Arizzo. On March 1 they crossed the mountain to Fonni; on March 2 to Nuoro; and on March 8 reached Macomer, the station for Sassari. The opinion generally expressed was that only the rapidity of their passage saved them from being attacked. The prospects of travelling in comfort in Sardinia seem remote.

Professor Forel sums up the results of the glacier observations of the last thirteen years. Herr R. Zeller describes the geology of the Faulhorn group; Herr P. Mettier the topography, fauna, flora, &c., of the district of Arosa. Herr P. Blumer-Zweifel discusses the vexed question of the 'Föhn,' Herr R. Eblin the degradation of the cultivable regions in the upper Alps. Herr Meyer von Knonau contributes an interesting paper on the free communes of Allgäu, at Eglofs, near Immenstadt. They resembled those of Schwyz, and maintained their independent institutions for nearly six centuries until 1806. Herr R. Studer writes an interesting obituary notice of Pfarrer Heinrich Baumgartner, of Brienz, central president of the S.A.C., who died on November 12, 1894, at the early age of 48. He was equally zealous in Alpine and in clerical work. Most of the new expeditions have already been recorded in the 'Alpine Journal.' J. S.

Den Norske Turistforening's Aarbog for 1895.

The well-deserved reputation of the Norsk Alpine Journal is thoroughly sustained by our northern friends by this year's issue. As usual it contains capital papers, well illustrated, and printed on excellent paper. The President of the Forening, Dr. Yngvar Nielsen, who represented his country at the recent International Geographical Conference held in London, has contributed a valuable paper on the exploration of the snowy uplands which lie between the Lyster Fjord and Skiaker, a district which deserves to be better known than it is. Our old friend Herr Hall gives another well-nigh exhaustive treatise on the Skagastölstind range, enriched by the addition of some excellent photographs, which, as is the case with the other illustrations which adorn the journal, have been exceedingly well reproduced. The glacier picture, where six heroes are battling with the bergschrund, and the view of the hut under Skagastölstind are full of interesting details.

There are papers on 'Midt Maradal;' 'New Peaks in Jotunheim,' including the middle Thorfinstind—which ought to have been climbed a dozen years ago—'The District of Rondane,' and others. The present writer contributed a paper, in English, on 'Unknown Corners of the Justedalsbræ, which is well illustrated by reproductions of photographs taken by Mr. Cyril Todd.

Amongst the 'Notiser' are valuable hints from C. Hall, C. W. Patchell, and last, but by no means least, are the details of the adventures met with by Herr E. Aanessen, on his annual tour of inspection of the various works of the 'forening,' in progress or completed, such as Alpine huts, bridges, footpaths, &c. This tour, like that of the previous year, was the work of a modern Hercules,

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glaciers and unbridged rivers being about the least of the obstacles encountered by this most indefatigable secretary.

The volume shows throughout that the love of mountaineering and the knowledge of snow craft are increasing year by year in Scandinavia, and that the descendants of the vikings are thorough sportsmen, and still possess the energy and pluck of ancient days.

Turistforening for Bergen's by og stift. Aarbog, 1894–5.

As most of the finest scenery in Norway is to be found in the province of Bergen, it is not very surprising that the citizens of the ancient capital and the inhabitants of this romantic province possess a tourist club of their own. The thriving condition of this club is reflected in its 'Aarbog,' which contains several most interesting papers relating principally to mountain exploration and adventure. There are eight good illustrations and two maps. Amongst the papers is a very racy one written by a farmer in his local dialect about a new glacier pass. Herr K. Bing, the editor of the journal, who is never so happy as when above the snow line, where he frequently spends several consecutive days and nights, has contributed an excellent paper on the Aalfoten Bræ, where he climbed a remarkable aiguille,* and the Austerdals Bræ,† which, oddly enough, he explored on the same day as the present writer.

Another most useful paper is added by Herr Simonnæs, an inspector of fisheries, which contains much of general interest.

Amongst the Notes are a list of new expeditions, a short description of the Dæmmevand—the Norsk Märjelen See—and a prospective notice of the inauguration of reindeer sleighing over the Folgefond. Amongst the many new attractions invented to waylay the unwary traveller in Norway probably none will prove more fascinating than that of gaily gliding over the glacier in a sleigh. This may go on for years without any serious accident, as there are, as a rule, no visible crevasses. They are there for all that, and the danger is none the less because it is latent. Just before the inauguration, which was to be attended by a large concourse of people from Bergen, Christiania, and other parts of Norway, the present writer was rejoiced to hear that the reindeer had run away.

The 'Aarbog' is in every way a success, and is a welcome addition to contemporary Alpine literature. WM. CECIL SLINGSBY.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held in the Hall of the Club on Monday evening, December 16, Mr. Douglas W. Freshfield, *President*, in the chair. The following candidates were balloted for and elected members of the Club: Messrs. O. E. Bodington, L. R. Furneaux, Henri Harlé, N. A. Heywood, A. B. W. Kennedy, W. W. King, J. S. Masterman, C. N. Nicholson, H. W. Rose, and Charles Slater.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by Mr. G. E. FOSTER,

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiv. p. 382. † *Ibid.* vol. xvii. p. 351.

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