REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

Karte der Schweizer-Alpen, gezeichnet von L. Ravenstein. Frankfurt am Main. (In two sheets) 6s. per sheet. Mounted. Scale 1 : 250000.

THE title of these sheets is hardly adequate, for they include besides the Swiss Alps the ranges of the French and Italian Alps from the Little St. Bernard to the Stelvio. Herr Ravenstein's work deserves the compliment of careful examination. He employs the system, rendered familiar in this country by Messrs. Bartholomew, of producing the effect of relief and emphasising the larger features of the region depicted, by the use of tints varying with every 250 mètres (820 feet). This necessitates in the present instance the use of no less than fourteen tints—shades of brown up to the snow level, of gray-blue above it. The latter are not very clearly distinguishable, but the general effect is excellent. Snow and ice are shown in a light blue, and the extent of the glacier region is thus emphasised with great clearness. A doubtful experiment is the attempt to colour alluvial plains and valley-bottoms green, irrespective of their elevation. Thus the Vale of Urseren appears as a green spot, and there is a streak of green under Grindelwald. The ordinary tourist, we think, will incline to look on green as indicating relative depth, and be puzzled, for instance, at finding the ground at the *head*, but not at the foot, of the Lake of Orta green. This, it may be replied, is his own fault; he ought to consult the key. We have, however, another objection to urge. It is clear that the task of selecting 'levels' has been too much even for Herr Ravenstein's industry. Those of the Melch Alp and Rosenlaui, for instance, are not noted. Mountain tarns, except the largest, are invisible; they might have been a darker blue. There is a slight failure in the 'registration' in the colour-printing of a portion of the western sheet. Carriage roads have not in all cases been brought up to date with sufficient care. Perfection in this respect is unattainable, and we will not make a list of minor inaccuracies. But the highroad to Chamonix should not be shown as passing through Passy and Servoz. Having made certain criticisms in detail, we wish to add, with all the distinctness and emphasis possible, that, as a whole, this map, which represents an enormous amount of labour and great technical accomplishments in its compiler and producer, is one of the best of its class in existence. It may confidently be recommended to general travellers; for it combines in a rare degree the excellencies of a physical map and a road map. Pains have been taken, moreover, to insert mountain inns, and even in some cases huts. What a contrast to the old 'Keller's' and 'Leuthold's' of forty years ago, which were road-maps in the strictest sense of the word, and in the mountain region stirred our imagination and curiosity principally by their vagueness!

The Valley of Zermatt and the Matterhorn: A Guide. By Edward Whymper. With illustrations and maps. (London: John Murray. 1897.) Pp. 212.

With a railway to the Gorner Grat nearing completion the development of Zermatt continues, and tourists may be expected there in still increasing numbers. A new Guide to the district is opportune, and it is a happy fact that it should have been conceived and compiled by no less an authority than Mr. Whymper, whose name is indissolubly linked with the Matterhorn, and whose acquaintance with the locality is of long standing. This is, indeed, the promised companion work to his 'Guide to Chamonix' * (already noticed in these pages), and each volume may be described as a veritable *multum in parvo*.

Mr. Whymper's sketch of the history and rise of Zermatt, with its rapid strides to notice, will be read with interest, as was that compiled by Mr. Coolidge, to which Mr. Whymper makes no allusion.† This valley, peopled six or seven centuries ago, and which was known in much earlier times, was, though now so frequented by people of all nations, but little visited by strangers even in the earlier part of the present century—one, at least, of its earliest English visitors being still alive!

Those interested in climbing will find summarised here the mountaineering history of the great Zermatt peaks and passes—a record which would not be complete, unfortunately, without allusion to many an accident. Nor is one surprised that, as foreshadowed in the title, Mr. Whymper should repeat at some length the earlier history of the Matterhorn, and recount in detail its story of failure, of success, of death. The tale, complete, is here, to recall old memories and to stir new interest. A great portion, indeed, of Mr. Whymper's work—differing in this respect from most 'Guides'—affords reading of continuous interest. The other Zermatt peaks and passes receive due notice, and the first ascent of each is duly chronicled. Mountaineers will read with interest the new and curious details concerning the first ascent of Monte Rosa which Mr. Whymper has succeeded in unearthing. Minor excursions are by no means neglected, and we have lists and tariffs of guides, and much useful information respecting railways and hotels, given in a clear, practical manner.

Many illustrations, some old, some new, all well executed, add interest to the work, which includes a useful map of the district. We anticipate for this carefully compiled and modestly priced little book a welcome alike from the many—climbers and non-climbers—for whom the words 'Zermatt and the Matterhorn' possess an interest, whether from past or prospective acquaintance.

Robert von Lendenfeld. *Aus den Alpen.* Illustrated by E. T. Compton and Paul Hey. Vol. i. *Die Westalpen.* Vol. ii. *Die Ostalpen.* (Vienna: T. Tempsky. 1896.)

Much has been attempted by the author of these handsome and instructive volumes, and much undoubtedly achieved; whether the

* *A Guide to Chamonix and the Range of Mont Blanc.* London: 1896.
† *Swiss Travel and Swiss Guide Books.* London: 1889.

result will altogether satisfy the reader must entirely depend upon himself and what he expects.

The general scheme and treatment of the work, aiming as it does at a description of the whole of the Alps 'from end to end,' leads us to look for something still more comprehensive and complete than is perhaps possible in a book based on the author's own observations, and clothed in the shape of a personal narrative.

We must at once admit that to us the principal charm of these volumes consists in the altogether admirable illustrations supplied by Mr. Compton, which alone must give them a permanent value, and raise them far above the ordinary class of illustrated works. This artist combines with perfect truthfulness and remarkable freedom from exaggeration the thorough knowledge of his subject possessed only by a mountaineer, and individuality of thought and expression which places him among the foremost of Alpine draughtsmen. May we hope that he will lay the pencil aside for a while for the brush? Too much black and white cannot be of advantage to an artist who has already given great promise in oil and water-colour, and who may yet show that Alpine art is a possibility. Mr. Hey's drawings, which deal with figure subjects principally, are not so much to our taste, clever as they are; it may be they remind us too much of the unpleasant incidents of Alpine travel—of uncongenial travelling companions, and the like; perhaps they are intended to supply a humorous element—sometimes they border on caricature. With the exception of the two coloured plates, the illustrations are on the whole fairly well reproduced, considering that the book is not an expensive one.

The subject matter of the work is extremely well arranged, and extends from the Riviera to the eastern shores of the Adriatic, from the Punta dell' Argentera to Terglou, the author making it his object to visit each mountain group of importance, to climb and describe its highest and most prominent summits, and thus to gain and convey a general impression of each district. Much prominence is given to geological features, and the various mountain groups and their general geographical disposition are well defined. A description of the view from the Eggischhorn is used as an opportunity for a long dissertation on the origin and formation of glaciers, and a good deal of interesting historical information is also introduced incidentally. The author begins with an account of the shores of the Mediterranean—interspersed with moral reflections on gambling hells and the origin of soap—and takes us to the Maritime Alps (we wish there had been more about this district) and Monte Viso, then to Dauphiné, the Graians, Mont Blanc, the Grand Combin district, and the Southern Pennines and Monte Rosa. The Lake of Lucerne and neighbourhood are next dealt with, and so on: the Bernese Oberland, the Rhône valley, the sources of the Rhine, the Tödi district, the Italian lakes, the Engadin, and the valley of the Inn. This brings us to the end of vol. i., and vol. ii. deals similarly with the various Bavarian and Austrian mountain groups. But only the main features are touched upon, and there is no

attempt to describe each district minutely; thus many beautiful though less frequented valleys and mountains are left out, and we are not sorry that it should be so. The highest mountains of each group have been climbed, and are described (high passes are strangely neglected), and thus the author has acquired an unusually extensive and varied experience of mountain-climbing. His descriptions are always accurate, though not very precise in detail, but they seem to us written not on the spot and sometimes after the lapse of years only; they are like pictures painted in the studio from old sketches—painstaking, and often somewhat laboured. Nothing could illustrate our meaning better than the author's own account of the conditions under which he produced his work: 'surrounded by towering diaries and note-books, Alpine periodicals, guide-books, historical works and maps.' (Vol. ii. p. 239.) We are thus face to face more with the reflected thoughts of a multitude of writers than with strong individual sentiment or spontaneous impression. The author's own dicta we cannot always agree with: *e.g.*, to say that 'the two most beautiful valleys in the Alps, I assert unhesitatingly, are the Zermattthal and the Höhlensteinthal in Tyrol' (vol. ii. p. 237) is a bold statement, and an expression of opinion from which many lovers of the Alps to whom both these valleys are well known will venture to differ. Again, what is the meaning of a sentence like this: 'Italian sceneries are like elderly women who give themselves the semblance of youth by artificial means: they stand no close inspection in bright sunlight' (vol. ii. p. 216)? We further cannot forgive the author his apparent contempt for snow and ice: his sympathies are evidently with the modern school of 'gymnasts'; that he should talk of the 'tedious ascent of Mont Blanc, which is only a mere duty' (vol. i. p. 125), of Castor and Pollux as 'easy, dull, and fatiguing' (vol. i. p. 190), and so on, shows that some of the beauties and glories of the Alps have not yet dawned upon him. After such expressions of opinion we looked in vain for some stirring tales of a really difficult rock-climb, such as the Little Dru, or the Charmoz, or the south side of the Matterhorn. But only the ordinary routes are generally chosen; Monte Rosa from Macuguaga forming an interesting exception, and that ascent is very well described.

The author crosses the frontier into Austria with a sigh of relief; he feels more at home across the border, and that is at once apparent in his pages, which seem to testify to more frequent visits and a more intimate acquaintance not only with the mountains and valleys, but also with the dwellers therein, who in vol. i. are but rarely referred to. We can well understand the feelings of a native of Austria with regard to his own mountains. The Tyrol is a delightful country to travel in—before or after the regular travelling season; but the 'pseudo-Alpine Plebs' which makes the author shun the Dresdener Hut is, alas! too numerous to be found and avoided in that particular hut alone. In the description of these districts there is a greater warmth and spontaneity of feeling than we had previously found. An account of the König-

spitze ascended in winter is particularly happy. But in this part of the work, as well as in the first volume, we could wish for a little more conciseness and precision of detail in the descriptions of mountain expeditions, especially as to times; such information would have greatly added to their value. By circumstantial evidence we infer that as a rule the author's times are not fast; we mention this in no spirit of criticism, for our sympathies are altogether with the climber who takes his time over a mountain and enjoys it. But is the author quite fair to some 'members of the A. C.,' who, on his descent from the Matterhorn, look on with 'sneering depreciation' because, as he thinks, the ascent has taken him half an hour more than was necessary? May not the friend who receives him at the entrance of the Schwarzsee hotel and offers him a 'foaming tankard of champagne,' or the 'swarm of schoolgirls who look on shyly and admiringly,' be to some extent answerable for the uncomplimentary looks referred to? Altogether, allusions to foaming 'sec' are not infrequent, and they appear to take the place of the tender references to the climbers' pipes sometimes to be found in the pages of the 'A. J.' On some expeditions guides were taken; others—and we infer the majority, though it is not expressly stated—were done without guides; and we could wish for more information on that point. As a rule, when speaking of the mountains, the author forgets that he is addressing not mountaineers only, but the general public, and the terms 'easy' and 'difficult,' applied in a mountaineering sense, are apt to mislead. Moreover, is he quite candid, and does he take us into his confidence altogether? Has any one who has climbed so much no confessions to make—no tales of misadventures or narrow escapes? If not, he has been singularly fortunate; but, if he has, it would have been better to let the public know something of the dangers and difficulties as well as of the joys of mountain climbing. We have dwelt at length on the mountaineering part of the work, but the portions dealing with towns and sub-Alpine regions are also well worth reading, and full of interesting matter. The book is pleasantly written throughout, though here and there we come across an attempt at humour of a kind which we do not quite appreciate. The work is intended for the general reader, not for the specialist, and neither the mountaineer nor the scientific student will look to its pages for anything that is new to him; but it contains a great deal of varied and useful information, and it is a distinct addition to Alpine literature of more than temporary interest.

First Aid to the Injured, with Special Reference to Accidents occurring in the Mountains. By Dr. Oscar Bernhard, Head Physician and Surgeon to the Engadine Hospital, Samaden. (Samaden, 1896.) Translated from the German by Michael G. Foster, M.A., M.D. (Cantab.).

This little book attempts the difficult task of explaining that which can really only be taught by practical demonstration. This, however, the author fully recognises; indeed, he states in his introduc-

tion that the book is the outcome of such demonstration. It is freely illustrated by fifty-five plates, which are apparently photographic copies from large diagrams. They are on the whole clear and definite, but some suffer from a want of distinction.

The book originated in a course of ambulance lectures given by the author at Samaden, in 1894, to guides, members of the Alpine Club, and others interested in ambulance work. The Swiss Society of the Red Cross and the Swiss Ambulance Association requested the author to publish the diagrams used in these lectures, and the reproduction of them in their present form and size, with explanatory text, is the result of a request by the German-Austrian Alpine Club. Dr. Michael Foster's translation is deserving of all praise, the verbal errors which occur being apparently due to the fact that the English translation has been printed at Samaden.

On p. 17 the excellent advice is given to carry fainting persons, if they must be moved, with their head and shoulders low, but, curiously enough, it is recommended also that those suffering from unconsciousness as a result of a blow on the head should be carried in the same way. It need hardly be pointed out that in cases of effusion of blood into the substance of, or on the surface of, the brain, with or without fracture of the skull, such a position is not desirable.

The directions for the treatment of wounds and the arrest of bleeding are plain and simple. As a means of cleansing the hands (p. 19) before touching an open wound, soap, an article not uncommonly carried by travellers, and even by mountaineers, might have been mentioned.

The diagrams showing the method of application of various bandages are clear and explicit. The subject of the burning of the skin by the sun and snow-reflection might, we think, have been treated at somewhat greater length, several of the precautions ordinarily taken by those liable to this misfortune not being even mentioned, while cold compresses as a remedy are open to question. And with regard to snow-blindness, substitutes for goggles, such as split cards and blacking the eyelids, might have been mentioned, as well as the use of cocain as an alternative to cold compresses after the damage has occurred.

A little more emphasis on the symptoms of the onset of frost-bite would be advisable. The treatment suggested for sprains appears rather limited, being merely a cold application. Surely bathing with hot water, firm pressure with bandages, and, above all, massage might have been suggested. Of course it may be said in answer that the after treatment should be left to a doctor, and so it should if a doctor can be obtained. It is difficult, in writing such a book as this, to draw the line in giving information as to treatment.

The article on fractures is excellent, and the plates explain very clearly the various expedients to be employed for temporary splints.

Dr. Bernhard states that the cause of heat-stroke 'lies in excessive sweating, and when the secretion of sweat can no longer be

carried on the blood becomes thick and circulates with difficulty. The flow may even be entirely interrupted, especially in the brain; death is then instantaneous.' We do not know on what grounds this view of the pathology of heat-stroke is put forward. It appears to be a new one, and will hardly be generally accepted as correct. But the advice with regard to treatment is simple and sensible, though more stress might, perhaps, be laid on the necessity for profuse wetting with cold or, better still, iced water in cases of unconsciousness from sunstroke.

The definition of mountain sickness, as occurring only when climbing mountains of 10,000 ft. or upwards, is curious, for many people suffer from it at a considerably lower elevation.

The last section of the book, on transport and transport materials, is altogether excellent. It is full of practical suggestions for the best method of transporting injured persons, according to the circumstances under which they have met with their accident. The illustrations are numerous and clear, and should enable any climber to make the most of the resources at his command. How necessary it is to avail oneself of any advantage in transport that experience has dictated is best known to those who have been obliged to get a wounded man down a mountain-side, especially if there be no path and only a few men available. They will then wish they either had Dr. Bernhard's excellent little book with them or at least that they had made themselves thoroughly familiar with its contents.

ALPINE ACCIDENTS IN 1897.

A SECOND season of bad weather in the Alps has been marked by a number of accidents exceeding the record of any previous year. To one feature in this long catalogue we think prominence should deservedly be given. No member of our Club is found upon the fatal list, and of the two Englishmen who died in the Alps one was a lad of 16, who was taken by his Swiss tutor on an ascent, without guides, of the Mont Pleureur (12,159 ft.), obviously an exacting task for one of such years; while the other, Mr. Cooper, an elderly man, disappeared in a way with which climbing had plainly nothing to do.

In this connection, though we do not forget the calamities of past years, nor pretend that the risks of mountaineering can be altogether eliminated by any amount of care and foresight, we may fairly point with satisfaction to the obvious result of the advice of the leading English climbers, past and present, who have steadily set their faces against the tendency to depreciate and disregard the dangers of the mountains—a tendency which has unhappily been but too common in some quarters.

It would be tedious and unprofitable to give details of the numerous catastrophes, Alpine and sub-Alpine, which have been chronicled in Continental papers. One statement we reproduce. The 'Journal de Genève' of September 7 states that up to that date