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The New Edition of Ball's 'Alpine Guide.' *

By F. F. TUCKETT.

BY the members of the Alpine Club, as well as doubtless by a far wider public, the appearance of this goodly volume, so long and eagerly looked forward to, will be hailed with general acclamation and a feeling of warm gratitude both to those fellow labourers who have so ably assisted the editor and, in an especial degree, to Mr. Coolidge himself, whose modest preface serves only to enhance the sense of our deep indebtedness to him for his services under conditions of health which might well have discouraged one less enthusiastic and persevering.

It is no injustice to the classic work of our first President—a marvel of comprehensive grasp, scientific grouping, and accurate detail—to say, as he we know was the first to admit, that growth of knowledge and lapse of time must inevitably necessitate numerous additions and rectifications. But it would be falling short of the praise due to Mr. Coolidge if we did not fully acknowledge that, without so far remodelling the original as to lose the benefit of its most valuable and permanent characteristics, he with the aid of his associates has yet so expanded, and enriched, and revivified it as to have made it practically far more than what is ordinarily understood by a merely new edition.

Having gone through the whole of the proofs of those three original volumes, I can form some faint estimate of the labour

* *The Alpine Guide: the Western Alps.* By the late John Ball, F.R.S., &c., President of the Alpine Club. A New Edition, reconstructed and revised on behalf of the Alpine Club by W. A. B. Coolidge, Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, and formerly Editor of the *Alpine Journal*. With new and revised maps. Pp. xlix and 612. (London: Longmans, Green, & Co. 1898.)

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which must have been devoted to this new issue, and all the more so when, bearing in mind the well known minute and conscientious accuracy of the editor, one realises how much time, and thought, and patient research are embodied in his work. Probably to no other so competent hand in Europe could the task have been entrusted with such undoubting confidence; and, energetically backed by the unfailing support and encouragement of Mr. Douglas Freshfield as President, and aided, as Mr. Coolidge loyally and warmly acknowledges, by a band of highly qualified specialists, without whose co-operation even his encylopædic and practical knowledge of the region described would hardly have ensured such a brilliant success, he has erected around the central structure of Mr. Ball's great work a monument which, in conjunction with his previous publications, will give his own name as high a place in the history of Alpine literature as it has long held in that of Alpine exploration.

Since the volume has for some time been in the hands of the subscribers to the fund, and ought to be already in those of every member of the Club, as well as of those other readers of this 'Journal' whose misfortune it is to be not yet enrolled in our ranks, it may seem almost superfluous to expatiate or offer remarks in detail on the merits of a performance which each one can test and appreciate by an examination of those districts best known to himself. But it would be doing imperfect justice to the labour and care devoted to its production, if I omitted to point out that in bulk the new exceeds the original text by nearly 200 pages, whilst the Introduction has been judiciously curtailed and supplemented, as the very valuable original one prefixed by Mr. Ball is obtainable in a separate form. Amongst the improvements of system I note with special satisfaction that the former arrangement of three indices, in which one was constantly balked by finding oneself straying into the wrong section, has been abandoned in favour of a single one, which for all practical purposes is infinitely more handy, and which has the added convenience of containing the names of inns, after the example of the 'Guides' published by MM. Hachette et Cie.

The addition of the heights in mètres to those in feet throughout the text is a most useful one, and valuable for comparison with foreign surveys, whilst of course involving a very large amount of extra labour to the editor. Then, too, the maps show a vast stride in advance of those previously supplied, and represent the results of much patient and detailed study; for, besides the district maps of the Pennines

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extracted from that published by the Club, the editor has given us an excellent general map of the entire region described in the volume, and six—entirely new—of the country S. of the Little St. Bernard, on the very useful scale of $\frac{1}{250000}$. The compilation of these maps from different and frequently divergent surveys is an important contribution to Alpine Cartography of which the credit is due to Mr. Coolidge. I may, perhaps, note in passing that when he, in his reference to 'General Maps' at p. xxxix of the 'Preliminary Notes,' remarks that 'there exists at present no one map on a fairly large scale of the whole chain of the Alps,' he appears to have lost sight of the—for their date and scale—really excellent nine sheets, including the entire region from W. of Dauphiné and S. of Nice to Croatia, on a scale of $\frac{1}{450000}$, by J. G. Mayr, published in 1858 by Perthes of Gotha, under the title of 'Atlas der Alpenländer.' These cover nearly the same extent of ground as Andrée's excellent little map referred to, but which is only on a scale of $\frac{1}{2500000}$, and not '$\frac{2}{500000}$' (or ten times as large), as stated in the 'Notices.' Perhaps Mayr's scale may be considered too cramped, as it undoubtedly is for actual climbing purposes, for at p. xxxvii the Italian map of $\frac{1}{100000}$ is characterised as 'too small for practical use,' though the scale is the same as that of Dufour's. May I venture to suggest that, in view of the difficulties to be encountered in passing from Italy to France, and *vice versa*, it might have been well to insert in the general map the line of the frontier, though that is, perhaps, less necessary as it has been done in the six new special ones.

The bibliography contains a list of some 260 works, and though it 'makes no pretension to even approximate completeness' we may be very sure that the selection has been well considered, and accept it confidently on the high authority of the author of 'Swiss Travel and Swiss Guide Books.'

To those of us who look back affectionately to our genial and zealous President Mr. William Longman it is an additional source of satisfaction that the name of his firm continues to be associated with this reconstruction of Ball's 'Alpine Guide,' as are Messrs. Spottiswoode & Co. in the printing and Stanford's geographical establishment in the creditable execution of the maps.

No one can be more conscious than myself of the very imperfect justice which can be done to such a labour of love, and skill, and hearty co-operation in a brief notice like the present, and until one has had time more thoroughly to digest the 600 pages, which combine as much careful and well considered

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work as has, perhaps, ever been brought to bear on such a subject. I am sure, however, that in thanking Mr. Coolidge and his trusty associates, as well as all others who have contributed to further the object in view, for the great boon which they have conferred on their brother mountaineers, and the worthy memorial which they have constructed, with what is felt by Mr. Ball's family as a pious regard for the work, to the memory of one for whom we all feel such affectionate veneration, we can warmly congratulate both them and ourselves on the completion in so admirable a manner of this first stage of the formidable and responsible task they have undertaken, and wish them an equal measure of success when dealing with the subsequent portion of it.

From the Scesaplana to the Terglou.

By H. J. T. WOOD.

(Read before the Alpine Club, March 1, 1898.)

MY apology for this paper is taken from the 15th chapter and the 373rd page of the 'Alpine Journal,' where you will find these words written: 'But when we come to districts like the Silvretta and its northern division, the Fervall group (reported to offer some of the best rock-climbing in the Alps), or to the ranges east of the Glockner, we shall find plenty of work for our missionaries.'

Probably most climbers who go to the Tyrol make for the Dolomites. Now this is by no means a good district for getting into training in; for, though the good climbs there are undoubtedly very short, they tax the nerves very severely, and I think it is decidedly advisable to be in thorough training before attempting them. So I will give you a short account of some moderate but interesting mountains which may be conveniently taken on the way to the Dolomites—the Scesaplana group and the Zillerthal peaks.

On the usual Arlberg route to Innspruck the first stop of the express from Basle after crossing the Austrian frontier is at Feldkirch. About ten miles beyond this and the same distance short of Bludenz (where the ascent to the tunnel begins) is Nenzing. Here the expresses sometimes cross. If they do not it is best to drive from Feldkirch. From Nenzing an excellent path leads through one of the most beautiful valleys I have ever seen to the Nenzinger Himmel. This Himmel is not up to the expectations which may have been

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