Aletsch Firn) 'mit dem Aletschgletscher vereinigt' (No. 1, p. 12). 'Wo wir unser Nachtlager über dem Vereinigungspunkt des Aletsch- und Lötschengletschers nahmen' (No. 1, p. 14). 'Bei dem Felsen, wo wir unser zweites Nachtquartier aufgeschlagen hatten, eine halbe Stunde südlich von dem Mönch' (*i.e.* from the S. foot of the Trugberg—point 2856—which they speak of throughout as part of the Mönch), 'am Ausgehenden des Jungfraugletschers' (No. 1, p. 26). It is probable, I think, that *zweites*, in the third quotation, is a misprint for *erstes*, for all three descriptions appear to apply to the same site.

Thus, I entirely agree with Mr. Coolidge's conclusions as to the route followed in the ascent of the Jungfrau, but differ from him as to the position of the first bivouac—a matter, as he states, 'of comparatively slight importance.' From the geological observations made by the Meyers and carefully recorded in their paper, any competent geologist who would repeat their expedition would easily lay all doubts at rest.

The route followed by Gottlieb Meyer, when he made the second ascent of the Jungfrau, on September 3 of the following year, 1812, seems quite certain. He slept on the Grüneck, and ascended by what is now the ordinary route from the Concordia, thus approaching from the E. the Roththal Sattel, on which he joined his kinsman's route, and so gained the summit by the S.E. arête.

THE ACCIDENT ON MOUNT ARARAT.

THE following narrative is furnished us by Professor H. Fielding Reid, of the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, a member of the recent Geological Congress held at St. Petersburg :—

'One of the most attractive excursions offered to the members of the seventh Geological Congress (which met last summer at St. Petersburg) was that to Mount Ararat. Nearly thirty persons made this excursion. They drove in carriages from Erivan to Aralikh, and went on horseback from there to Sardar-Boulag, a Cossack camp near the saddle between the Great and Little Ararats, at an altitude of 7,500 feet. The main party spent the night of September 29 here, ascending Little Ararat the next day; but two subsidiary parties were made up to attempt the ascent of Great Ararat. The first of these parties was organised by Mr. Emanuel Stoeber, of Wladikavkaz, and consisted of himself, Dr. M. Ebeling, of Berlin, and Dr. A. Oswald, of Basle. They left Sardar-Boulag about 2 P.M., September 29, accompanied by a number of Cossacks, and slept out at an altitude probably between 10,500 and 11,000 feet. They all started off together the next morning, but Stoeber, desiring to go faster than the others, pushed ahead and was not seen again by them. The second party also divided up, Dr. Carlo Riva, of Milan, and the writer ascending along a ridge of rocks on the eastern side of the mountain. About 12 o'clock we saw Stoeber on the snow a little above these rocks, at an altitude probably a

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little under 15,000 feet. An hour later he was on the rocks, a few hundred feet lower. We could easily recognise him by his light fur coat and white hat; the other members of his party were less conspicuously dressed, and we supposed they were with him, but could not be distinguished against the rocks. About 2 o'clock we had nearly reached the place where we had last seen Stoeber, and shouted to some Cossacks who were ascending a ridge a few hundred yards to our left, and heard their answering shouts, but saw and heard nothing of him, so we concluded that he had descended more to our right. We did not ascend any higher, as it was evident that we could not reach the summit of the mountain that day without being benighted at a great altitude (the mountain is 16,916 feet high), a danger we were unwilling to encounter. We turned back and arrived at Sardar-Boulag about 8 o'clock in the evening. The other members of the second party arrived at various hours of the night. None of the first party returned that night, but this caused no anxiety, as we had all recognised the possibility of sleeping out a second night. The next morning, October 1, the main party left Sardar-Boulag, according to the plan of the excursion, and returned to Erivan.

'Drs. Ebeling and Oswald reached the summit of Mount Ararat at 5.15 P.M., and were obliged to pass the night, with considerable suffering, at an altitude not much under 16,000 feet. They arrived at Sardar-Boulag at 1 P.M. the next day, October 1, and learnt that Stoeber had not returned. This was the first intimation of any accident. A heavy storm which raged around the mountain during the afternoon made it impossible to reascend at that time, and although Cossacks were despatched from the camp to search the mountain, lack of familiarity with the Russian language made it impossible for Drs. Ebeling and Oswald to direct the search. They therefore hurried on to Erivan, where they arrived the next morning, and reported to Professor Loewinson-Lessing, the leader of the excursion. It was quite evident that Stoeber could not still be living high up on the mountain, and that unless he had descended to the lower slopes there was no hope of his life; so we waited until the next morning, hoping that a telegram might announce that he had been found. As none arrived, Drs. Ebeling and Oswald and the writer determined to return to the mountain, ascend to the place where Stoeber had last been seen, and discover, if possible, what had happened to him. We set out immediately, but the many difficulties which have to be encountered when one attempts to do anything rapidly in this region made it impossible for us to reach the Cossack camp at Sardar-Boulag until 1 o'clock the next day, October 4. By half-past three we were again *en route* to make a camp higher up the mountain, but had not gone far before we met some Cossacks coming down, who reported that they had found Stoeber's body. We returned to the camp to learn more details through our interpreter, and found it unnecessary to ascend the mountain, as the Cossacks received orders to bring the body down to camp, which they did the next day. An examination

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of the body and a careful questioning of the men who had found it showed that Stoeber slipped and slid a short distance on rocks near where he was last seen, and was stopped by coming in contact with some projecting masses, breaking his left leg at the ankle; there was no other serious wound on his head or body. He was lying on the slope with his head up; but he had not attempted to make an entry in his note book, nor to get at his brandy flask, nor to draw up his injured leg, and his hands were not clinched as in pain, so that we must conclude that he lost consciousness when he fell, and was frozen without recovering it. The body was taken to Aralikh under the charge of the civil officers of the district, and the news was telegraphed to his family.

'This sad accident is, I believe, the first that has occurred on Mount Ararat. In some descriptions of former ascents the mountain is represented as offering no difficulty to mountaineers, and this is certainly true—at least in autumn; but M. Stoeber was not a mountaineer, and, failing to realise the dangers to one unfamiliar with mountains, he left his companions and attempted the ascent alone. I was in the neighbourhood of the place where he fell, and am sure that a man of fair mountaineering skill would not have been in any danger there; though, indeed, it is never very safe to climb alone.

'The accident must be ascribed to solitary climbing by an inexperienced man. No blame whatever can attach to Professor Loewinson-Lessing or to Stoeber's companions. The former was not a mountaineer and did not attempt to direct the subsidiary parties on Great Ararat. The latter did not desert Stoeber, but he left them, and as he had claimed an experience with mountains which we afterwards found he did not possess, and as they encountered no serious difficulty, they did not anticipate any accident.

'The search was begun by the Cossacks as soon as Drs. Ebeling and Oswald arrived at the camp and learnt that Stoeber had not returned; but even then he had probably been dead for nearly a day. 'HARRY FIELDING REID.

'Geological Laboratory, Johns Hopkins University,
'Baltimore, U.S.A.'

THE ALPINE CLUB PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION.

AN unusual degree of interest and excellence marked the exhibition of photographs held in December at the Club-rooms. The standard has now grown to be a very high one, and the alpine world may congratulate itself on possessing so many experts in one of the most difficult branches of photography.

Over 250 photographs were sent in, of which the majority were enlargements, which was doubtless quite in accordance with the taste of most of the visitors to the Club-rooms. For our own part, we confess to a feeling of regret that there were so few silver prints,

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