REPUBLICATION OF BALL'S 'ALPINE GUIDE.'

[A circular on this subject has been issued by the 'Alpine Guide' Republication Sub-committee. It is reproduced here with some modifications which have seemed desirable.]

It will be in the memory of many of our members that shortly after the death of Mr. John Ball a circular was issued to the members of the Alpine Club by the Committee, pointing out that the most fitting tribute to the memory of the first President of the Club would be for the Club to take in hand the publication of a thoroughly revised edition of his 'Alpine Guide,' and that for this purpose Messrs. Longmans had liberally offered to transfer to the Club their interest in the work.

The first estimate of the cost of revising the whole work was 750*l.*, and subscriptions closely approaching to this amount were promised, and have, with a few exceptions, been paid. Much to the regret of successive Committees, several years have passed without any portion of the work having reached a state fit for publication. In the first place the revision has proved a much more formidable task than had been anticipated, and Mr. A. J. Butler, who had first undertaken it, felt compelled, by the pressure of other literary work, to give up the editorship. The Committee were fortunate in finding in Mr. Coolidge a person admirably qualified to accomplish such a task; but through his prolonged and serious illness, now happily at an end, further delays were caused. Meantime, it was found that, to make the book in every sense worthy of its original author and of the Club, it was necessary that new maps should be provided for the whole of the South-Western Alps, and that the other maps should be revised as far as was consistent with the costly process of altering the steel plates. Further, the bringing up to date of the text involved references to many articles and books as well as to numerous travellers of various nationalities, so that nearly every page had to be largely rewritten. The total cost of producing the first two volumes will amount to not less than 1,300*l.*

Volume I. is now in the press, and will be in the hands of subscribers in the early summer. A considerable quantity of notes and material has been collected for Volume II., which will be published as soon as possible.

Having regard to the large outlay already incurred, the Committee have not thought it right to undertake any pecuniary liability in respect of Volume III., though preliminary steps have been taken towards its preparation.

Under these circumstances they feel that the cost beyond

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the subscriptions already received should not be thrown on the Club's finances, and they think that it will be agreeable to the feelings of members of the Club who have been elected since the last circular was issued, and possibly also to others who have not yet subscribed, to aid in the completion of the work which was set on foot by their predecessors.

If the response to this circular provides the balance between the 750*l.* already subscribed and the 1,300*l.* needed, the Committee think that the sales to the general public of the first two volumes may fairly be relied on to provide funds for the issue of Volume III.

Mr. Coolidge, while preserving, as far as possible, the original arrangement, character, and style of Mr. Ball's work, has brought to its revision not only his own unrivalled general and detailed knowledge of the Western Alps, but also the local experience of a number of explorers—French, Swiss, and Italian, as well as English— in particular districts, as well as the results of the most recent Government surveys. The book, therefore, will be as complete as it can be made in every detail. It is believed that it will fill a gap in Alpine literature, since it treats with the same thoroughness the regions both above and below the snow level; and will, therefore, be equally useful to the traveller and the climber, and indispensable to those who are both. It ought, in this respect, to take a place between 'Murray' and the 'Climbers' Guides'; while, owing to the attention paid to byways and uncrowded districts, it should be—as the original edition was thirty years ago—a valuable aid to those who wish to extend their wanderings beyond the main routes and centres. All details as to inns, &c., being placed in the index of each volume, future editions of the book may easily be brought up to date by simply reprinting the index.

With regard to the maps, the Alpine Club Map has been adopted and slightly revised for the district maps within its limits, and new maps have been prepared of the districts south of Little St. Bernard, which can be combined and published as a separate complete sheet of the South-Western Alps, should it be thought hereafter desirable.

The original circular stated: 'It is intended that subscribers of one guinea and upwards shall receive a copy of the entire work free.' Owing to the increased cost of publication, as stated above, original one-guinea subscribers will obtain the work at much less than the cost of production. The Committee will, of course, carry out the intention therein

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expressed with regard to the original subscribers; at the same time they will be glad to accept from them any increase of their subscription they may be willing to give. But for the future the rule will be that new subscribers of one guinea will receive the first volume, and those of two guineas and upwards a copy of the entire work as published, including the scientific preliminary matter, which will be issued separately.

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W. A. WILLS (*Hon. Secretary*).

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NEW EXPEDITIONS IN 1897.

Graian Alps.

CIMA DI CIARFORON (11,999 ft.). *July* 10, 1897.—Messrs. E. H. F. Bradby and C. Wilson, with Henri Rey, ascended this peak by the E. arête. Leaving the *Colle della Torre* (10,457 ft.) at 10.20 A.M., the first pitch in the arête was climbed, and the second skirted on its northern side, by which means the snow below the rocks of the N.E. face was reached. Traversing just under the rock wall, the second couloir was selected, and, climbing by this and by the rocks on its true right (left going up), the arête was regained at the top of a well-marked perpendicular pitch, which is probably unclimbable. Hence the arête was followed roughly, first by the rocks on its N., and later by those on its S., until a point was reached about 200 ft. below the summit. Here the party was forced to retrace its steps for some fifty or sixty feet, and to climb out on to the S.E. face, where the grey rocks, which from below looked so very unpromising, were attacked at a point vertically below the summit. These did not prove to be so difficult as had been anticipated, and the ridge was regained at a cleanly-cut notch some 30 or 40 ft. below the cairn, which was finally reached at 12.45 by a short

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