. . . This chain has peaks rising up into the air and other peaks lower. Some have said that certain people have reached these mountains and ascended them, and looked over to the other side, where they saw a sea with troubled waters, dark as night, this sea being traversed by a white stream, white as day, which enters the mountains from the north. . . . Some say that people have ascended the mountain, and one of them began to laugh and clap his hands and threw himself down on the further side of the mountain. The others were afraid of being seized with the same fit, and so came back. It is said that those who saw it saw bright snows, like white silver, glistening with light. Whoever looked at them became attracted and stuck to them until they died, and this science is called human magnetism.'

'It is said that a certain king sent an expedition to discover the Nile sources, and they reached copper mountains, and when the sun rose the rays reflected were so strong that they were burnt. Others say that these people arrived at bright mountains, like crystal, and when the rays of the sun were reflected they burnt them.'

Surely it is difficult to believe that no substratum of fact underlies these graphic details. D. W. F.

NOTES FROM SIKHIM.

Mr. Douglas Freshfield writes, 'I have received the following account of a journey made last summer in Upper Sikhim, behind Kangchenjunga, from M. de Righi, the proprietor of the Woodlands Hotel at Darjiling. It furnishes an agreeable proof how easy it may be for travellers with the necessary will and energy to travel in this part of the Eastern Himalaya. I trust that before long this wonderful region may become familiar to many of our countrymen resident in India.

'For me at least, and perhaps for some of your readers, M. de Righi's letter has a further interest. It may be remembered that in my volume "Round Kangchenjunga" (p. 191) I described how, in 1899, on our descent from the Jonsong La into Nepal one of our coolies was missing, and was reported by his companions to have begged them to leave him to die. This is what I wrote at the time: "They furnished him with a few biscuits, covered his face with a cloth, and continued their march. At first we had so many disappearances and returns that I was incredulous of the tale; and, until we regained Darjiling, I entertained strong hopes that the missing man would appear among the list of deserters. But he never did, and Rinsing finally brought forward a claim for damages for the life of his retainer or tenant."

'For this alleged loss to my party I incurred the blame of the egregious Mr. Crowley and sundry other press writers. They will doubtless be glad to learn, on the excellent authority of the missing

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man's village chief and landlord, Rinsing Kazi, that my first feeling of incredulity was well founded, and that he is now reported to be alive and well in Nepal. 'D. W. F.

'"Woodlands Hotel, Darjiling, September 4, 1906.

'"DEAR SIR,—As a total stranger I must ask you to excuse my liberty in addressing you, but, as I have just returned from a visit to the Zemu Glacier, where I found your upper camp, I thought you might be interested to hear that it was at the time of my visit, on August 17, a garden of alpine flowers, with heaps of edelweiss, primulas, gentians, primroses, &c. The remains of your camp were very evident, and I am sure I am the first human being to visit it. I give you here an extract from my diary:—'On coming across the highest camp abandoned by the Freshfield party I immediately searched around for what he says in his book he must have left behind—ice axe, &c. Although I thoroughly searched the place I found nothing but empty tins—oxtail soup, Lambert and Butler's bird's-eye—the labels being still legible. I also found two cups (native), one enamelled, in first-class condition, one of china with the bottom broken, an empty bottle, the cork inside. I concluded that the heat of the sun had drawn it in and the contents—possibly coolie rum—had evaporated. I also found two iron cooking pans (native) and a good many tent pegs, some *in situ*, with bits of rope tied to them, but rotten; also a couple of mallets, both split at one end, a broken toilet bottle, and last of all some remains of mutton or deer bones, but no ice axe of any kind. I had the place systematically searched by my coolies, but no sign of it. Very glad to find heaps of nice dry firewood collected by their coolies.'

'"I experienced very bad weather while on the glacier, and, as my time was limited, I had to push on for the return journey. It was cloudy all the five days I was there. My highest camp was on the same spot as Mr. White's, on the shore of the Green Lake.

'"My route was from Darjiling to Gantok, Dikchu, Singtam, Bé, Talung, Tizong, Yumtso La, Zemu Glacier by the yak route, then over the Tangchung La, Thé La, Lungnak La, Tangu, Lachen, Chung Thang, Gantok, and back to Darjiling. Time occupied, thirty-four days. As I was alone I had only seven coolies, and sent four back when I could hire yaks from Tizong to Lachen.

'"It may interest you to know that Rinsing told me that the man who was supposed to have died during your crossing of the Jonsong La is alive and well in Nepal; at least so he has been informed by one of his men who said he saw him.

'"I am forwarding to you the broken china cup as a memento of the camp from which you had such trouble to return. I can quite imagine it. It was bad enough with no snow on the ground. I am also enclosing some edelweiss from the same spot. I may add that I never saw Kangchenjunga from the glacier, it always being very cloudy, but I got a fine view from the top of the Thé La.

'"Yours faithfully,

'"A. DE RIGHI, C.A.I."'

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'I may conveniently note here that Dr. Jacot-Guillarmod has contributed to the "Jahrbuch" of the Swiss Alpine Club for 1906 an article on the unfortunate expedition conducted on behalf of the "Daily Mail" by Mr. Crowley in 1905. It is illustrated by a panorama of the Talung Glacier and other photographs, but the map, or at least corrections of Mr. Garwood's map, we had been led to expect, are not as yet forthcoming.'

THE ALPINE CLUB LIBRARY.

THE following additions have been made since July:—

New Books and New Editions. Presented by the Authors or Publishers.

Baltzer, A. Das Berneroberland und Nachbargebiete. Ein geologischer Führer. Sammlung geolog. Führer XI.
8m. 8vo, pp. xvi, 347; maps, ill. Berlin, Gebr. Borntraeger, 1906. M. 8
This, the first of two parts in which the Bernese Oberland is to be described geologically, is the part for practical use on geological excursions. The phenomena along main routes are described and well illustrated. The Oberland is an excellent district for field geology, for the faults and twists and strata are uncovered to the eye: and this book forms a good handbook. It is one of a series of small volumes, of which two are already in the Club Library, one on northern Italy and one on the district between the Bodensee and the Engadine.

Coolidge, Rev. W. A. B. Illustrierter Führer von Grindelwald. Revidierte Ausgabe. Grindelwald, Luf, 1906. Fr. 2
8vo, pp. 69; map, ill.

Daudet, A. Tartarin on the Alps. London, Maclaren [1905]
8vo, pp. 126.
This is a well printed 6*d.* edition.

Dessauer, A. "Das Totenwannerl." Ein humoristischer Roman aus dem Bergsteigerleben. Kürschners Bücherschatz, No. 499.
8vo, pp. 110. Berlin, etc. Hillger, 1905. Pfg. 20.

Förddereuther, Max. Die Allgäuer Alpen. Land und Leute. 1. u. 2. Lieferungen. Kempten u. München, Kösel, 1906. M. 1.20 each part
8vo, col. and other ill.
Very well illustrated. The coloured illustrations are from sketches by E. T. Compton. To be completed in 8–10 parts.

Frölich, Major. Militärgeographie der Schweiz, nebst kurzer Schilderung der Entstehung der Neutralität Savoyens und historischen Notizen über verschiedene Alpenpässe. Aarau, Sauerländer, 1906.
8vo, pp. iv, 118.
A work on the boundaries of Switzerland as affording protection from attack. Only on the north does the author consider that the broken nature of the ground affords serious protection.

Gehring, L. Die Lamprechtsofenloch-Höhlen bei Lofer im Salachtal (Pinzgau). Berchtesgaden, Ermisch, 1906. Pfg. 50
8vo, pp. 27.

George, Marian M., Edited by. A little journey to Switzerland. For home and school. Chicago, Flanagan (1902)
8vo, pp. 192; maps, ill.
An excellent school-book. The first ascents of Mont Blanc and of the Matterhorn are described and illustrated.

Hardmeyer, J.; *see* Illustrated Europe, 114–116.

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