Rigi-Bahn. Bern, Hubacher, 1906
Coloured panorama, 18″ × 7″.

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Prof. Russell died on May 1st last at the age of 54. His name occurs in Alpine literature as the author of 'Existing Glaciers of the United States,' 1885; 'Second expedition to Mt St Elias,' 1893; 'Glaciers of N. America,' 1897; 'Cascade Mountains,' 1900; and various papers.

Salève. Berne, Hubacher, 1906
Coloured panorama from the Salève.

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The Yverdon-Ste Croix Railway. Genève, 1906
8 coloured plates.

ALPINE ACCIDENTS IN 1906.

We must all deeply regret the large number of travellers who have perished in the mountains during the past summer, though happily no member of our Club has been lost. When so many tourists take part in mountain ascents it is natural that some accidents should happen, as they must happen in all sports. When so many of the climbers are inexperienced we may expect the list of disasters to increase, but the number of lives lost during the past season, when the weather was not, like that of 1905, exceptionally bad, makes it clear that rashness and want of care are deplorably common in the mountains. It is not necessary to refer to particular accidents. Were the laws of sane mountaineering observed by all climbers there would soon be a reduction in the long list of deaths which we all so greatly lament.

THE ACCIDENT ON THE AIGUILLE DU GOÛTER.

Messrs. Forster and Walker, of the Swiss Alpine Club, after a visit to the Vallot Observatory for scientific purposes in their descent on July 31, took the Aiguille du Goûter route. They were accompanied by the guide Ambroise Claret-Tournier.* On leaving the *cabane* on the Aiguille du Goûter at 10 A.M. the guide proposed that they should take off the rope, so as to enjoy greater freedom in descending the rocks, and to be better able to avoid falling stones, which are much to be feared in the couloirs of the Aiguille. His proposal was accepted, and he started downwards, followed by the two tourists. Suddenly the guide fell backwards, owing to the rock to which he was clinging coming away in his hand. After a direct fall of 9 or 10 ft. his body rebounded from

* The account in the *Rivista Mensile* for September, p. 332, mentions two porters also.

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rock to rock for a distance of 1,640 ft., and was then hurled down a couloir to the Bionnassay Glacier. On August 1 a party of twelve guides and porters recovered the body, which was disfigured almost beyond recognition. Poor Claret-Tournier was aged 44; he was married and had a family. A subscription for his widow and children was at once opened at Chamonix on the initiative of 'La Revue de Mont-Blanc.' This account is abridged from 'La Montagne,' September 1906, p. 436.

THE ACCIDENT ON THE MARMOLATA.

On August 9 last several parties (amounting in all to thirty persons) started for the Marmolata by the usual route by the glacier. One party, composed of two alpinists from Berlin and the guide Nepomuceno Dal Buos, of Caprile, to whom the accident happened, were at the time traversing the glacier roped together and taking every precaution, as, notwithstanding the early hour, the air was warm and made it likely that the snow covering crevasses would give way easily. Close to the Rifugio, hollowed out in the rock by the Agordo Section, it is necessary to cross a large crevasse covered by a snow bridge. This gave way under the weight of the caravan, and all three members of the party were precipitated into the vault. One of the travellers found himself in a sitting position at a depth of about 26 ft.; after recovering from the faintness caused by the shock he saw the guide below him lying motionless against the wall of ice with a severe wound in the head, and at a still greater depth perceived his companion, who said that he could still support himself for a short time in the perilous position in which he was placed. Cries for help were heard by the other parties who had halted on hearing the crash caused by the fall of the snow bridge, and the guides hastened to the rescue of the fallen climbers. Luigi Pallua and Mattia Demez with the assistance of the others were let down into the crevasse, and with the help of the rope drew out the two Alpinists, one slightly wounded in the head, the other unhurt. They then recovered the body of the guide, whose death must have been instantaneous, as his head had been dashed heavily against a sharp projection in the ice. The body was transported to Caprile, where the funeral was largely attended. The two travellers gave a generous contribution to the subscription which was promoted for the family of the lost guide. This account is taken from the 'Rivista Mensile' for August 1906.

THE ACCIDENT ON THE SUSTENLIMMI.

On August 30 last while Herren Schreiber and Barola were on the Susten glacier, close to the Sustenlimmi, Herr Schreiber in leaping a crevasse, which Herr Barola had already cleared, fell in. His friend, being unable to pull him out, was obliged to leave him in the crevasse, suspended by the rope (which had been fastened to Herr Barola's ice axe), while he went for help to the Kehlen Alp-

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He returned with Florian Gehring and two other volunteers. In his eagerness to pull out the traveller Gehring fell into the crevasse. The story has a pathetic ending, for while Herr Schreiber was got out in safety poor Gehring, a heavy man, was so severely injured, owing, it would appear, mainly to his having tied the rope, which was let down to him, round himself in a slip knot, that when at last he was drawn up life was extinct. The above account is much abridged from that given in 'Alpina,' No. 16, p. 157.

THE ACCIDENT ON THE CENTRAL AIGUILLE D'ARVES.

On September 8 last four young friends, Emilio Questa and B. Figari, both of Genoa, H. Maige, of Chambéry, and R. du Verger, of St. Thomas, without guides, having ascended this peak by the usual route up the S.E. face, descended also by the usual route down the S.E. face towards the small glacier between the Central and the N. Aiguilles. There remained only a snow gully to overcome, and the party would then be on that glacier and free from the anxiety of a night spent in the open. About 6.30 P.M. three members of the party had successfully crossed this gully, Questa being still about 6 ft. from its edge, and the rope which bound him to his comrades being fastened by them round a boss of rock, when an avalanche of stones roared down from above. Questa was carried away by it and in his descent dragged his three companions with him, as the rocks were smooth and afforded no hold. They were all carried down for about 130 ft., the three in advance being whirled on to the *lower* ledge of the bergschrund, while Questa, the last on the rope, was supported by it as he hung in the chasm itself. Maige was the first to regain consciousness, but darkness had then come on. Figari and Du Verger could render no help, as they were severely injured. But Maige, looking into the crevasse (which was only 13 ft. or 15 ft. in depth), managed to let down Questa a little way, so as to rest on the snow at the bottom. Having rendered what help he could to his unfortunate comrades, Maige (though himself injured) at 8 P.M. set out with a lantern, but took 5 hrs. to get down to the first chalets—those of Commandraut. Thence he sent four men back to the scene of the accident, while another party was despatched from Valloire, where Maige arrived at dawn. But Questa had expired (of internal hæmorrhage) about a quarter of an hour after Maige's departure. The two injured men were brought down to Valloire, as was also the body of Questa, which was buried in the churchyard there. The three survivors are all doing well. Questa, who was but 27 years of age, was making his fourth visit to the Aiguilles d'Arves region, which had strongly attracted him. The above details are mainly taken from a narrative by M. Maige in the 'Revue Alpine' for October, pp. 291–5 (with a sketch of the spot where the accident occurred), and an article by Signor Bozano (the President of the Genoese section of the Italian Alpine Club) in the 'Rivista Mensile' for September, pp. 329–31.

W. A. B. C.

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THE ACCIDENT ON THE DÔME DU GOÛTER.

On September 11 last Herr Albin Roessel and Lieutenant Max Preissecker, both Austrians, started to make the ascent of Mont Blanc without guides. They slept at the Pavillon de Bellevue. On the 12th after climbing the Aiguille du Goûter they passed the night at the Refuge Vallot. On the morning of the 13th it was very cold. Lieutenant Preissecker gave up Mont Blanc, while his comrade decided to continue the ascent. Lieutenant Preissecker began the descent by the route of the previous day. Eventually he lost his way and got into great difficulties on the steep slopes of the Dôme du Goûter, from which he apparently tried to descend to the Glacier de Taconnaz. By means of glasses he was watched from Chamonix painfully cutting steps and gradually growing weaker from 8.30 A.M. to 2.40 P.M., when the end came. He lost his balance and fell to the Glacier de Taconnaz, from which his body was recovered in a terribly mangled state.

Herr Roessel failed to reach the summit of Mont Blanc and was found half-frozen 'sur l'arête des Bosses' by Herr Otto Bleir, of Vienna, and his guides, one of whom was Edouard Payot. By them he was assisted to Chamonix. This account is abridged from 'La Montagne' for October 1906, pp. 479–80.

THE ACCIDENT ON THE GRAND MUVERAN.

On September 30 last the bodies of four young travellers, named Haller, Kleinert, Schräder, and Gachet, were found on the Plan Névé Glacier. It seems probable that they meant to ascend direct thence to the Tête aux Veillon (9,661 ft.), S.E. of that glacier, and that the accident took place on the N.W. face of this peak.

The bodies were found, as mentioned above, on the Plan Névé Glacier some 50 yards to the S. of the couloir leading to the Col du Pascheu (*c.* 9,088 ft.), to the N.E. of the peak named.

OTHER ACCIDENTS.

On May 20 last three young students from Zürich—Herren Gerhardt, Steigelmann, and Kirsch—who had spent the night at the Glärnischhütte, two hours after leaving it (the ascent of Glärnisch having been abandoned), in falling snow, were carried down by an avalanche. The two first named escaped, but Kirsch was killed.

On July 8, on Piz Julier, one of a party of young botanists was killed.

On July 16, on the Winklerthurm, when the guide, Peter Fuchsbrugger, fell, owing to the giving way of a hold, the rope, a new one, broke, and he was killed.

On July 29 one of a party of six soldiers (non-commissioned officers) who had ascended the Galenstock shortly after beginning

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the descent to the Tiefensattel fell on to the Tiefen glacier and was killed instantly.

On July 31 Dr. K. Gödel was killed on Mangart.

On August 3, on the Gross Venediger, Dr. Nürnberger lost his life. This accident occurred owing to the party not being roped. It appears from a communication from Meran in the 'Daily Mail' of November 7 that the guide, who neglected to rope the party on the Gross Venediger (referred to above), has been punished by three weeks' imprisonment for disregard of the German-Austrian Alpine Club's rules as to roping. The guide's name in the 'Mitteilungen' is given as Ennsmann, in the 'Daily Mail' as Gunnisman.

On August 15, on the Weisseespitze, Dr. Averbeck, when travelling with Herr Willibald Kuppers, fell into a crevasse. The axe round which the rope had been fastened was jerked out of the snow, and Herr Kuppers fell forward on his chest; there he lay for about half an hour, while Dr. Averbeck was hanging in the crevasse. Then, at the request of his unfortunate companion, he cut the rope. All that he could hear were some faint moans. After waiting about 45 minutes he went to fetch help. The weather hindered the rescue party, and when they arrived Dr. Averbeck was found dead, after having made a most plucky effort to save himself. The editor of the 'Mitteilungen' (No. 16, p. 200) well says in his comments upon this accident that all travellers who do not take guides should make themselves masters of mountain craft before they begin guideless climbing, so as to be ready for all emergencies. He also insists that on crevassed snowfields the number of travellers should not be less than three.

On August 20 the young guide Umberto Milesi was killed on the Cacciabella Pass.

On September 3, on the Kleine Zinne, Dr. Hober was killed, owing to the guide having taken a 'rotten' rope which he had been warned was unfit for further use.

On September 30, on Piz Morteratsch, one of a party of three was hurt; one of his companions stayed with him while the other went for help, but when the rescue party, who were hampered by bad weather, arrived, the injured man had already succumbed.

This brief chronicle by no means contains *all* the accidents which have taken place during the season. One life was lost on the Tödi.* On this occasion the guides Wichser and Schieber won much praise for themselves. We hear also of an accident on the Roththal side of the Jungfrau, by which two lives were lost. The bodies have not been found, but during the search for them the corpse of Michael Gander, of Beckenried, was discovered. He appears to have been trying the ascent of the Jungfrau alone. *Quid plura?*

* *Mitteilungen*, no. 16, p. 201.

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