also told that fifty or sixty years ago the glaciers were almost as low as at present.

The Government of India has sent Mr. H. H. Haydyn to survey and report upon the Hindu Kush glaciers, and surveyors have also been at work this year in Kumaon, so before long detailed reliable information will be available. Last year there was a flood in the upper Shayok, due to the advance of the lower Kunduz glacier, which caused a similar catastrophe sixty years ago.

IN MEMORIAM.

GEORGE CHEETHAM CHURCHILL.

In George Cheetham Churchill, who died at Clifton on October 11 of last year, the Club lost a member who added to a love of the Alps a remarkable knowledge of their flora. Born at Nottingham on September 25, 1822, and educated as a solicitor, he followed that profession, first in his native town and afterwards at Manchester. An ardent naturalist from boyhood, he gradually gave his chief attention to botany, devoting his holidays to the enrichment of his herbarium, while an early interest in geology and agriculture had led, through William Gilbert, afterwards knighted in honour of his researches in agricultural chemistry, to a friendship with his artist brother Josiah. The two, with their wives (Churchill married in 1853), were gradually drawn to the Alps, and in 1856 obtained their first glimpses of the Dolomites, then all but unknown to English travellers. They were fascinated at once, though some time elapsed before a really close acquaintance became possible. In 1860 Churchill, unaccompanied, visited the Fassathal, and the four together carried out a systematic tour in the following summer. Starting from Atzwang in the Eisack valley they worked their way through the now well-known Dolomite mountains to the Gailthal in Carinthia, and thence through the Terglou district to the Sulzbacher Alp in Styria. In the summer of 1862 they again traversed the same region, mostly by different routes, in the opposite direction (Churchill and his wife starting for botanical reasons a month before the others), and completed their knowledge by a supplementary journey in 1863. The outcome was 'The Dolomite Mountains,' published in the following year. Gilbert's sketches illustrate the volume and he apparently wrote much of the text, but Churchill contributed the scientific remarks, the account of his journey in 1860, and the concluding chapter on the physical geography of the region, his wife's letters describing their wanderings in the early summer of 1862. Well written, with a certain sense of humour and a keen appreciation of natural beauty, the book attracted much attention, opened a new region to Alpine travellers, and is now numbered among their classics.

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In 1868, Churchill was able to retire from business and devote himself wholly to scientific pursuits, settling ultimately at Clifton. He was elected a member of this club in 1864 and a Fellow of the Geological Society in the same year. In 1866 he suffered the loss of the companion of his rambles, and, marrying again two years later, was a second time left a widower in 1870, till in 1873 he found a consort who survived him. Though not a climber in the ordinary sense of the word, for he frankly confesses that his 'willingness to ascend ceases with the last phanerogamous specimen,' Churchill had nevertheless a deep and true love of the Alps, and in his extensive and minute knowledge of their flora was probably excelled only by John Ball. A man of wide sympathies and generous nature, he won the regard of all who knew him, and deserves to be remembered, if only for the gift of his great herbarium to Kew Gardens.

T. G. B.

THE ALPINE CLUB PICTURE EXHIBITION OF 1906.

THE index to the catalogue of this year's Exhibition suggests some curious inquiries. The contributors are divided into exhibitors and artists. Some appear as both, but Mr. Colin Phillip is entered as a contributor and not among the artists! It would appear that the intention was to make one class of those who lent pictures, whether as owners or painters, and a second of painters only. The result is open to misapprehension. We notice also misprints which confound family relationship—J. Fox and Miss J. M. Dox, W. Donne and Mrs. W. Foune!

The aspect of the show as a whole suggests to us some general reflections. The wave of impressionism has made but little stir in the backwater of Alpine art. We might expect, remembering Turner, that the mountains would lend themselves readily to such treatment. But then we recollect that the modern impressionist is as a rule averse from light and sunshine and the great effects of Nature. He cares little for line or delicacy of detail. He finds himself more at home under gloomy skies when the trees recall Mrs. Browning's description of them as 'saturated sponges' than among the snows. Take the general purpose of the paintings on our walls, and we shall conclude that they are not characteristic of any particular tendency of the day, unless it be a negative one, an effort to discard the prettiness of the old-fashioned watercolour art of the chalet and pinewood period. They represent more or less capable attempts to put faithfully on paper or canvas the average impressions of contemporary visitors to Switzerland. If there is no commanding talent, no such originality as carries with it a fresh impression to our minds and reveals to us new beauties, there is plenty of honest and pleasing endeavour.

We can mention but a few of the meritorious works noticeable on the walls. First in order of place is a luminous coast view,

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