Wilson, A. M. Mont Blanc & its glaciers; or, mountaineering in the higher Alps, being an account of the ascent of Mont Blanc as far as the Dôme du Goûter and of the crossing of the Col du Géant . . . Sheffield, Leng, 1888 8vo, pp. 27.

Yeigh, F. Mountain climbing in the Canadian Alps. Part 2. In Sunday at Home, R.T.S., London, N.S. 14. December, 1906 8vo, pp. 102–109; 9 good photographs.

Item.

Schneiter, J. D. Relief-Karte der Schweiz. 2te Aufl. Bern, 1851 Map 20″ × 13″.

ALPINE NOTES.

'THE ALPINE GUIDE.'—Copies of Vol. I. of the new edition of this work, price 12*s.* net, and of 'Hints and Notes, Practical and Scientific, for Travellers in the Alps' (being a new edition of the General Introduction), price 3*s.*, can be obtained from all booksellers, or from Messrs. Stanford, 12 Long Acre, W.C.

CENTRAL AMERICAN VOLCANOES.—Dr. Tempest Anderson has just returned from a nine months' journey among the Volcanoes of Mexico, Guatemala and the West Indies, during which (amongst others) Cerro Quemado, Agua, Atitlan, Mont Pelée, and the Soufrière of St. Vincent were ascended, and many photographs taken.

MR. BIRD'S ATTEMPT ON MONTE ROSA AND ASCENT OF THE CIMA DI JAZZI IN 1854.—In Mr. E. S. Kennedy's addition to the second edition of 'Where There's a Will There's a Way,' p. 122, the following allusion to this expedition occurs:—

'No further attempt to reach the highest point was, I believe, made until July, 1854, when Mr. S. D. Bird ascended to a point within 100 ft. from the summit.'

Now the whole of this addition of Mr. Kennedy's first appeared (with a few trifling differences) in 1854 in the 'Illustrated London News,' vol. xxv. p. 399 *sqq.* His narrative naturally attracted the attention of Mr. Bird, who, at p. 422 of the same volume of the same periodical, addressed the following letter to the editor. It seems worth while to reprint it, as it is interesting in itself, and seems to settle *finally* the question of the exact point (the Silbersattel) reached by him on his attempt.* His ascent (1854) of the Cima di Jazzi seems to be the earliest recorded, for Herr Gottlieb Studer only went up in 1855,† and Mr. Hinchliff in 1856,‡ while Mr. Bird's notes seem to have formed the basis of the account of the ascent of this peak which first appeared in the 7th or 1856 edition of 'Murray's Handbook for Travellers in Switzerland,' p. 306 (it does *not* appear in the previous or 1854 edition, p. 297).

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* See *Alpine Journal*, xv. p. 496, xvi. p. 47.

† New edition of Studer's *Ueber Eis und Schnee*, i. p. 13.

‡ *Summer Months*, p. 155.

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'To the Editor of the "Illustrated London News."

'Sir,—Seeing my name mentioned in your last Number as having been the first traveller, since the ascent of M. Studer, to explore the northern side of Monte Rosa, permit me to add a few observations to the interesting narrative of Mr. Kennedy. The name of the guide who first attained the summit of the Höchste Spitze is neither Turgwald nor Durchwald, but Tauchwald. He is the best guide I have ever known in the Alps; having a strength and endurance truly marvellous. He carried, without apparent effort, the whole provisions of my expedition—the two other guides being quite exhausted by the rarity of the air, and the fatigue of walking through snow up to the hips, on a very steep incline. He also enjoys the reputation of being the best cobbler in the valley.

'I may mention, for the advantage of future ascenders, the reasons that prevented my attaining the highest point. Contrary to my suggestions, the guides all asserted that 2 o'clock would be soon enough to leave the Ryffelberg, though the full moon rose two hours earlier. The consequence was that, when we arrived at the steepest part of the ascent, the sun had surmounted the crest of the mountain, and soon rendered the snow so soft that we sunk up to the knees, or even hips, at every step, which made our progress excessively laborious. Mr. Kennedy, being a month later than myself, avoided this inconvenience. We were also delayed for an hour or more in attempting a short cut up a slope of ice, where every step had to be cut with the hatchet, and which proved so steep that further progress was out of the question, and we had to retrace our steps and try another route. This was, no doubt, avoided in subsequent ascents. The heat, after the sun rose, was most oppressive, though it froze hard in the shade—the snow getting softer; so, on our arrival at the plateau, Tauchwald strongly advised me not to attempt the ascent of the cone, as this would delay us 1½–2 hrs., and that, by that time, the state of the snow on the glacier lower down would be such as to render the return highly dangerous. The last climb, at the time of my visit, would have been very hazardous, as the great heat of the sun, during the days of fine weather, had melted the snow in the crevices of the rock, causing the water to trickle over its surface, which the mighty frosts thus converted into an almost continuous sheet of polished ice, so that no foothold was perceptible on it.

'On our return, I found Tauchwald's advice was wise; as we had a good deal of difficulty in passing the snow-bridges over the crevasses, which frequently gave way with one or other of the party, whose fall into the chasm was only prevented by the rope with which we were tied together.

'Let me advise future travellers, if they attempt the ascent in July or August (which is considered the best season for the High Alps), to profit by my experience, and start from the Ryffelberg at midnight, at the latest, so that they may reach the plateau while the snow is yet hard, and fatigues of the climb will be thus diminished by one-half.

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'I may mention to those who wish to explore the snowy solitudes of these mountains, that to the N.W. of that mountain is a peak 13,000 ft. in height, called the Curia [obvious misprint for Cima] di Jazzi, to the right of the redoubtable pass of the Weissthor, which may be easily reached in 4 hrs. from the Ryffelberg, the whole ascent being on a gentle slope. There is no mountain, to my knowledge, in the Alps, that may be so easily attained. The view is much the same as that from Monte Rosa, except the part shut out by the mass of that mountain, comprising the icy sea of Swiss, Savoyard, and Tyrolese pinnacles to the N. and E.; to the S., the valleys and lakes of Italy, bounded by the Maritime Alps, whose dim blue outline alone prevents a glimpse of the Mediterranean.

S. D. BIRD,
King's College, London.'

It would be interesting to know more of the climbs of this early English mountaineer. W. A. B. COOLIDGE.

BREITHORN (ZERMATT) (S. 4,771 m. = 13,685 ft.). THE EASTERN NORTH RIDGE.—On August 18, 1906, Messrs. Mayor, C. D. Robertson, and G. Winthrop Young, with Joseph Knubel and Moritz Rappen, after an attempt on the previous day, which had terminated in a snow storm rather below the great gendarme, left the Gandegg hut at 3.30 A.M., and traversed the glacier to the conspicuous col on the Triftje at the foot of the western north ridge. Descending by an easy chimney, and profiting by previous experience, they crossed the rifted plateau that connects the two ridges close under the face of the peak, and, using the descending steps of the day before, struck the edge of the eastern north ridge not far below the lowest rocks visible from this side at 6.30 A.M. (On the preceding attempt the ridge had been joined much lower down, almost at the level of the plateau above the Klein Triftje.) The ridge, of hard snow and occasional ice, sharp and set at a high angle, called for continuous and careful step-cutting, pleasantly varied by small gendarmes and exacting little traverses. The actual rocks of the great forbidding-looking tower gave delightful climbing, equal to that on the main E. ridge of the Breithorn,—and therefore to anything in the district,—but all too short. The final snow arête proved remarkably steep. Where it abutted on the precipitous face of the peak a short ice-traverse to the W. and a very awkward little corner, that only went at the third attempt, gave access to an open ice-glazed couloir, by which the corniced main E. ridge was reached, just W. of the peak, at 1.20 P.M. The all too seldom visited E. arête, with its admirable rocks and exquisitely delicate snow-crests, was traversed to the final summit of the Breithorn at 4.40. The ridges had exacted a rather excessive allowance of step-cutting, and the 'highroad' of the descent afforded a placid change. By this the Gandegg hut was reached at 6.10, and the Riffelberg, after an hour's halt for tea, at 8 P.M. The ridge is deserving of more attention; it is not exposed to the same risks as its more popular western neigh-

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bour, from which a huge avalanche was observed to fall during the ascent just described, and though it is not easy to get at and somewhat long, yet the climbing is continuously fine and legitimate. Most of the difficulties after the main ridge has been joined can, if necessary, be avoided, and there is always the comfortable prospect, however late the hour, of a 'cart-track' descent from the summit. G. WINTHROP YOUNG.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

The Life and Letters of Leslie Stephen. By F. W. Maitland. (London: Duckworth & Co., 1906.)

IT is impossible to take up this volume without a double sense of regret. The biographer has too soon followed his subject, the nephew his uncle. To praise either here would be superfluous. Lovers of English literature have gained as much as friends of Leslie Stephen by the time granted to Mr. Maitland to complete his pious work. Its best praise is that many readers—both men and women—who did not know Stephen and are far from sharing some of his views or tastes, have laid it down with a sense that they have made a new friend. Maitland has succeeded in being intimate and appreciative without being uncritically admiring. His portrait may be a little softened; in certain aspects Stephen seemed more formidable, especially to younger men, than he is here represented. There were times and moods in which Stephen did not 'suffer gladly' any social duty or interruption that might befall him. His neighbour at a dinner, such as that humorously described by Mr. Gosse, may sometimes have wished that the flashes of speech would come more frequently between the silences. He hardly appreciated the occasional effect on others of an 'inward groan' that was not meant to be taken too seriously. He could groan, as his biographer proves, even in a love letter! But the portrait given to the public is undoubtedly that of the real Stephen as he was best known to his intimates, to those whom he frequently joined in that modest company the 'A.D.C.,' which occupies in some sort to the Club the position 'the Apostles' do to Cambridge. At those little dinners, held at first in an hotel in Leicester Square, which became too notorious by a murder, but more recently, under episcopal guidance, in the less romantic region of a Regent Street restaurant, Stephen and Moore, Grove and Macdonald, W. E. Hall and C. E. Mathews were among the most constant of the early attendants.

Of Stephen as a critic and a man of letters I wrote elsewhere at the time of his death ('The Author,' April 1, 1904). I may venture to repeat here to a different public something of what I then said with regard to his love of the Alps and his influence on Alpine literature.

Stephen was happy not only in his literary profession, but also in a

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