

I ventured to address the eminent author, pointing out that, as far as I knew, in all the previously recorded instances where human remains had been recovered from glaciers after many years of travel in the ice nothing but mutilated fragments had been found, that it would be interesting, therefore, from a scientific point of view, to know under what conditions this particular victim had escaped the common fate, and that I should be glad to be furnished with the names of the locality where the incident was stated to have occurred, and of the journal or book in which it was recorded. Sir E. Ray Lankester was good enough to reply to my letter, but he did not supply me with the information I had asked. I am therefore reluctantly driven to the conclusion that the story he tells is a romance (possibly founded, to some extent, on the recovery of Captain Arkwright's remains in the lower portion of the Glacier des Bossons in 1897, thirty-one years after his death on Mont Blanc). I am confirmed in this belief, since, could the tale be established, we should have to reconsider theories founded on a very large number of observations as to the conditions of the interior of a moving glacier.

D. W. F.

SÜDLENZSPITZE (4,800 m.) BY W. FACE AND N.W. ARÊTE.—On July 25, 1907, Dr. O. K. Williamson, with the guides Joseph and Heinrich Pollinger, leaving the Festi hut at 8.16 A.M., reached (after halting 12½ min. at the Festi Joch) the bergschrund at the foot of the W. face of the Südlenspitze at 6.8 A.M. Proceeding at 6.16 A.M. they crossed this at a point N. of the rib which descends directly from the summit of the peak, and started the ascent of the face. They soon reached rock, which was followed by snow and ascended this, bearing to the left. Again climbing rocks on which, owing to their looseness, care was necessary, the N.W. arête was reached and followed in about 10 min. to the summit (7.58 A.M.). The return journey was made over the Nadelhorn and Ulrichshorn, St. Niklaus being reached at 5.40 P.M. It may be noted that in Pollinger's opinion the route taken during the ascent would not be possible except under unusually favourable conditions.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

The Complete Mountaineer. By G. D. Abraham. Methuen and Co., London, 1907.

THE author of this stout volume of nearly five hundred pages is at pains to apologise in his preface for the title his publishers have imposed on him. The apology is not unneeded, though we doubt whether the responsibility in this case rests wholly on the publishers. The title at any rate is very far from indicating the character of the work Mr. Abraham has produced.

For the *Complete Mountaineer* is of a triple nature. In his youth he is a climber of crags, natural or artificial, Cumberland cliffs or college roofs; he proceeds to learn icecraft in the Alps

under the leadership of good guides or competent companions; he thus becomes a Mountaineer. He has then to complete himself by testing his skill and judgment on the virgin snows and untried heights of more distant ranges. While the Alps were still in parts unknown, this test could be applied within their limits. It may still be partially applied by those who will wander far and wide among them without local guides; that is, without guides taken from the localities visited. But the highest qualities of the mountaineer are put to the severest proof when he has to apply his knowledge and to modify his action under the altered conditions of a strange region. Mr. Abraham can hardly dissent from our definition, for he has distinctly laid down that it is 'wide experience of various ranges and formations' that constitutes 'a mountaineer in the truest sense of the word,' and he applies the same principle in the case of guides when he emphasises the merits of those who have visited 'distant mountain ranges outside the Alps.'

Mr. Abraham may possibly suggest that we are making a long vacation and a longer purse essentials to the Complete Mountaineer. To a certain extent this is, no doubt, true—at any rate temporarily. The disorders in Russia have practically closed the Caucasus, and other ranges are remote. But Mr. Rickmers has shown how easily and at what moderate cost a trip to that country may in ordinary times be carried out. Suanetia is little, if at all, further in matter of time than the Dolomites were fifty years ago.

Mr. Abraham has not been content to write only what his publishers seem to have called for—a Manual for Mountaineers. In so far as it covers this field his work may possibly be considered by some superfluous. But on the whole the 125 pages devoted to practical precepts deserve commendation. The general rules laid down are sensible, and foolhardiness, above the snow level at any rate, is properly discouraged. The suggestions as to payment are judicious, though in the old days travellers were not, as a rule, expected to pay their guides' hotel expenses when away from home. The statement that 'the best guides are almost invariably bad teachers' is contrary to our experience. We know no better training than to watch and profit by the skill and judgment and patience of a great iceman, and then, after a time, with a friend and possibly a porter, to undertake great peaks under his sole leadership. No amount of practice in Great Britain can give the same aptitude in dealing with the eternal snows. We might make other exceptions; one or two specimens will suffice. The inside curve in an icefall is *not* generally the more practicable, though avalanches may by way of exception make it so. Even the most 'advanced experts' are not secure from falling into concealed crevasses; their presence is not 'always indicated' to a trained observer, even though he be a chamois.

Mr. Abraham has filled out his big volume by throwing in an epitome of District Guides to some of the more frequented alpine centres, and a detailed description of many of his own climbs in Great Britain and the Alps. It is as the Autobiography of a Rock-climber that we find most interest and novelty in his pages. Mr.

Abraham has done whatever man may do in the Lakes: there are few edges or crannies that are not marked by his bootnails. Like Milton's angels, his 'proper motion' is to ascend. The vertical, if his photographs are trustworthy, has no terrors for him; he would even appear to prefer his chimneys overhanging. He has been more than once to the Alps, and has climbed round Chamonix, Zermatt, Grindelwald; he leaves us a little uncertain how far his descriptions of the Graians, Dauphiné, and the Dolomites are based on personal knowledge. But he seems to have visited several of these districts, and he describes in full detail the ascents of the Schreckhorn and the Wetterhorn, and a failure on the Dent Blanche, that most uncertain of peaks. On Mont Blanc he had the rare ill-fortune to be detained, and that in June, for two hours by a crevasse above the Petit Plateau. He has tried hard to be fair to the Alps and their snows, but we feel all through that his heart is fast on his native crags. This comes out in odd places, and as it were by involuntary confessions. Thus Mont Blanc is by implication 'an uninteresting mountain,' the Col de Collon 'a wearisome trudge,' the ordinary route up the Marmolata 'a somewhat dull walk,' the descent from the Wetterhorn to Rosenlauri 'a wearisome and comparatively uninteresting proceeding,' and it is assumed that there is no scenery about Rosenlauri to make it worth a climber's while to spend a single night there! We might go on accumulating 'obiter dicta' which tend to prove that gymnastics are the thing, and that all the other attractions the mountains had to their first explorers are only secondary. We may remind Mr. Abraham and his readers of the saying of a fine mountaineer, 'Rock-climbing is a natural instinct, inherited perhaps from our earliest progenitors; but what I may venture to call Icemanship is a fine art, only acquired by much experience.' Far be it from us, however, to disparage the joy of negotiating difficult rocks; but it is one of the joys, not the only joy, of the complete mountaineer. He loves also the fierce struggle in the labyrinth of an icefall, the tension of every nerve on a risky ridge or snow-slope, and even the long trudge over the crisp morning snowfield to the white gap from which he will gain a new horizon and a prospect offering a rich promise of future interests and delights.

We must not be taken to imply that our author is insensible to the charms of alpine scenery, and snow and ice expeditions. He does his best to appreciate them, and he often very nearly succeeds. But the 'sub-conscious self' is still obtrusive. Yet we would not despair of his complete conversion. He will not be the first man we have known who began to climb as an acrobat and ended as a mountain-lover. Meantime if he proposes, as a passage on the last page of the Preface indicates, to republish his volume at frequent intervals, he should look up his references. He will find not a few minor corrections to make. The Titlis was first climbed in 1744, not by monks, but by four peasants from Engelberg (p. 11).*

* See Studer, *Ueber Eis und Schnee*, vol. iii. p. 471. Bern, 1899.

Petit Dru and the Aiguille du Géant are not 'Swiss Alps,' and the highest point of the latter was climbed by an Englishman (p. 20). Mathews is frequently spelt with two *t*'s, and the *a* in 'chalet' is wrongly circumflexed throughout. A. W. Moore is put in out of date (p. 18), and the date of the first ascent of Monte Rosa is July 31, 1855, not August 1. The Meije was climbed not in 1871 but 1877 (p. 19), the Oberland peaks not after, but long before; Whympfer first visited Dauphiné and climbed the Pelvoux in 1861. The second party went to the Caucasus not in 1873, but 1874 (p. 20). The New Zealand Alpine Club has unfortunately been for several years in a state of suspended animation. The rule of the *tour de rôle* at Chamonix does not affect 'real mountaineers' who can easily bring themselves under one of the exceptions to it (p. 427). We might easily enlarge the list.

The chapter on 'The Early Mountaineers' betrays throughout a superficial knowledge of the subject. No direct connection has been shown between the initials and date A.D. 1615 near the Col d'Olen and Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519). Gruner, who is not mentioned, was in Saussure's youth the leading authority on glaciers. We do not know where Gibbon has recorded his impressions of the scenery of Chamonix. Finally we would ask Mr. Abraham to reconsider the statement that 'Dolomites are firm tenacious rocks. "As rough and as firm as a Dolomite" has become almost proverbial when describing climbs in other lands.' Our experience is the exact opposite: and so was Ball's. He wrote in the 'Alpine Guide': 'When the cragsman has acquired a little familiarity with the rock, so as not to feel uneasy in places where the surface is rotten and pieces are detached by the hand, he gets to prefer dolomite climbing to all other rockwork, finding it affords far more of excitement and variety than the crystalline slates, or even granite.' Amongst the Dolomites, again, to say nothing of passes, the Pelmo, the Civetta, the two highest summits both of the Rosengarten and the Primiero groups, four of the principal peaks of the Brenta group, the Sass Maor, Cima di Canali, Cima di Ball, Rosetta, Fradusta, Piz Popena, Hohe Gaisl, Cinque Torri, Becco di Mezzodi, and the lower summits of the Marmarole and Sasso di Mur were all first climbed by our members, who also were in many cases the first to follow the indefatigable Dr. Grohmann.

It is hardly correct, therefore, to state that 'English climbers seem to have neglected the district.' Moreover, it is ungraceful, even though they were not climbers, to make no reference to 'Gilbert and Churchill,' except indirectly in spoiling a good story (p. 459). It was to Mr. Gilbert himself that the lady whom he was told to take down to dinner made on the stairs the delightful remark, 'Oh, Mr. Gilbert, I am longing to read your book; I am told the Dolomites are such an interesting sect.' We had the story at the time at first hand.

Mr. Abraham's volume is written generally in an easy and readable style, which tends in places to the diffuseness and 'anecdotalage' of the popular lecturer. The photographs of scenery are both

numerous and admirable. Mr. Abraham has the rare art of poisoning his camera so as to secure pictures equally beautiful in themselves and instructive as illustrations of the physical features of the snow-world.

His rearward portraits of rock-climbers at work may possibly also have profited by judicious manipulation on the part of the artist. They are too terrifying to be recommended 'for family use.' Some of them may remind our readers of a remarkable apophthegm produced by the combination of an Alpine author, the late Mr. Walter White, and his printer—'attitude not pulchritude.'

The Land in the Mountains; being an Account of the Past and Present Tyrol.
By W. A. Baillie-Grohman. (London: Simpkin & Co., 1907.)

In his latest book Mr. Baillie-Grohman has not undertaken the task of writing a history of Tyrol from the student's point of view, as the systematic treatment of the country's history is confined to a few attractively written chapters, but the whole volume is richly stored with information concerning the land and its people, expressed in so engaging and so pleasantly discursive a style that the reader is content that the author should tell his story in his own manner.

The interest of the work is centred mainly round Schloss Matzen, the author's picturesque home about half-way between Innsbruck and Kufstein. The castle, dating from Roman times, looks down on two great highways—the road leading from Germany to Italy over the Brenner Pass, and the river Inn down which the imperial barges formerly floated to the Danube, this route being in those days the quickest and, in spite of the rapids below Grein, no doubt the safest from Innsbruck to Vienna.

The eventful history of the Brenner road is graphically described from its construction to enable the Roman legions to march northward, through the later periods when hordes of Goths poured over it into Italy, when it was used by Charlemagne and afterwards by successive emperors marching southward, by crusaders, pilgrims, soldiers of fortune, and merchants till at last the time came when the Brennerbahn was made and changed the fortunes of the posting towns which the old road had enriched for ages.

It was partly owing to being traversed by this highway of nations and partly owing to its peculiar geographical position that Tyrol so frequently became involved in the quarrels of its neighbours and, in addition to enduring the evils of its own internal disputes, had to suffer from the quarrels of the Guelphs and Ghibellins, from the War of the Spanish Succession, from the Napoleonic and many other wars.

During part of this stormy period the story of Schloss Matzen is bound up with that of Northern Tyrol, as for three hundred years the castle belonged to the powerful Frundsberg family, to whose history the author devotes several chapters. Special prominence is given to the most heroic figure of the family, George Frundsberg, as renowned for his military ability as for his courage and bodily strength. This warlike 'excentrist' fought in every country from

Italy to the North Sea and the Baltic, and became especially famous for the part he played in revolutionising European warfare by training the first regular infantry (*Landsknechte*) bearing firearms.

One of the best and most interesting chapters is that dealing with the peasantry, and contrasting their condition under the feudal system with the happier lot of the peasants of to-day. The author reviews very impartially the advantages and disadvantages of universal military service, and gives some interesting reasons for the 'Italianisation' that is gradually taking place in South Tyrol.

A prominent feature of the book is the number of uniformly excellent illustrations, some of them—notably the view through the window of Schloss Matzen—being triumphs of photographic skill.

Alpine Plants at Home. First Series. London and Glasgow :
Gowans & Gray, Ltd., 1908. Price 6d. net.

This little work, consisting of 'sixty photographs of Alpine plants growing in their haunts,' by Somerville Hastings, F.R.C.S., is a wonderful book at the price. The photographs are many of them excellent—e.g. that of *Anemone narcissiflora*, which forms the frontispiece, *Anemone Alpina*, *Ranunculus aconitifolius*, *Trollius Europæus*, *Dryas octopetala*, and *Saxifraga oppositifolia*. In addition to the Latin names the English, French, and German names are also given. We recommend the book to all lovers of Alpine plants.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE BARMAL GLACIER.

To the Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

Kashmir: May 1, 1908.

SIR,—In the January number of the 'Journal of the Royal Geographical Society' there appeared an account of Dr. Hunter Workman's lecture about Nun Kun, in which he does me the honour of mentioning my high level explorations of that mountain. There are two points upon which he expresses his disagreement with me, and both refer to the Barmal Glacier. The Trigonometrical Survey map very incorrectly omits it altogether, and marks a large glacier discharging into the Suru River near Tongul. Dr. H. Workman's map shows that the Barmal glacier discharges south into the Bod Zoj Nai River. I claim that it goes due west and joins the Bot Kol. I have a letter from Major the Hon. C. G. Bruce, who writes that I am correct, and that he crossed the Sentik Pass, as shown in the map of my route in the 'Alpine Journal' for February 1908, and followed down to the Bot Kol. Dr. H. Workman does not accept this statement, and considers the topography of Major Bruce's expedition too confused.

If this direct statement is put upon one side, then many appar-