

climbing difficulty—to the foot of the great summit snow slope or calotte of the Parrot Spitze (about 5 hrs. from the hut). The ascent of this—it is best to keep as far as possible to the barely emerging crest or convex part of the slope away to the right—takes, when steps can, as is usually the case, be kicked, 1 hr. One aims for the lower end of a curtain of rocks which lead in 35 min. to the N.E. arête of the Parrot Spitze, some 60 or more feet above the true col, to which the descent is easy, or the summit of the Parrot Spitze is reached over an easy snow arête in 20 min. more. Total time from the hut to the pass, 6 hrs. 35 min.

From the summit of the Parrot Spitze it is easy to descend the S.W. arête to the Piode Joch (20 min.), whence the Gnifetti hut is reached *via* the Lys Joch in about 1½ hr.

The Sesia Joch does not, when the above route is taken, in any way deserve its name of 'a difficult and dangerous expedition,' nor ought even the descent to offer any serious difficulties or dangers. On the contrary the expedition is a very fine one, well within the powers of any party of qualified mountaineers. It is apparently unknown to the Zermatt guides. The rock-climbing cannot be called in any sense hard, and unless the calotte is ice, as it may be later in the season, the snow work is nothing very exceptional.

The Gugliermas, whom we met at the Valsesia hut, pointed out to me that the earlier parties obviously kept to the N.E. of the hanging Parrot Glacier, whereas the present route keeps to its W. The routes only join somewhere about the foot of the calotte. This is certainly in accordance with Mr. H. B. George's very vivid description of the first passage of this great col, when he and Mr. A. W. Moore were led by Almer, then in his prime, and no doubt the difficulties they met with on their route warranted the character which he bestowed on the expedition.

I cannot too strongly recommend this triple expedition as a most interesting addition to the regular Zermatt programme.

My companions were Mr. H. V. Reade and Mr. George Gask (who led us well on the Sesia), and the dates July 25, 27, and 28, 1908.

J. P. FARRAR.

CORRECTIONS IN 'ALPINE JOURNAL,' No. 183.—P. 440, l. 9, the date of Mr. W. Trotter's election should be 1863; p. 453, l. 15, col. 2, *for* A. W. *read* R. W.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

The Climbs on Lliwedd. By J. M. Archer Thomson and A. W. Andrews. With illustrations and diagrams. Issued by the Climbers' Club. London: Edward Arnold, 1909. 12mo. 5s. net.

THIS volume is the first of a new series. Modern guide-books to climbs in the United Kingdom may be said to have begun with Mr. Haskett-Smith's little volume, about the size of the one before

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us, issued in 1894. That gave some information as to the kind of rock-climbing to be had in many different districts of England and Wales, together with historical and antiquarian notes, and described in detail some of the best known ascents. In 1897 came the bigger book in which Owen Glynne Jones narrated the systematic exploration of the Lake District climbs by himself and others, with a happy mixture of adventure and philosophy which made it a not unworthy successor to the Alpine classics. Now we have what is probably the last stage, the counterpart of the 'Climbers' Guides' which deal systematically with every route up every peak in a given district. This volume, indeed, deals with a single peak only, but from the British climber's point of view Lliwedd is almost a district in itself. Thirty distinct routes are catalogued at the beginning, thirty-six climbs in the chronological list at the end, more than enough to fill an ordinary 'season' of four weeks' climbing. Since all these are found on a single cliff about half a mile across and 1,000 feet high, the writer who was dealing with an Alpine district might dismiss them in a couple of lines as 'variations.' But most of them, at any rate, are distinct enough for practical purposes. Where is one to draw the line between a new route and a variation? Perhaps it is as difficult as it is in biology to distinguish a species from a variety. One might suggest that if one can pass from Route A to the neighbouring Route B at many different points, they are merely variations of the same route, and this appears to be the case with many of the thirty routes on Lliwedd. But the enthusiast might reply that if, as a matter of fact, you can climb Route A without once encroaching on the territory of Route B, each has a right to a separate existence. A study of the diagrams on pages 29 and 71 of this volume will show that some of the routes actually cross one another, and require re-sorting. The upper part of the 'Avalanche Route,' for instance, is appropriated to it merely because it was first done by the same party on the same day, and in reality the Central Route, Avalanche Route, Central Chimney, Roof Route, and Route II. are different ways of reaching a broad terrace, from which three or four different routes lead to the E. summit. However, these are academic questions; the peculiar pleasure of conquering a difficult pitch one has not tried before does not in the least depend on its claim to be called a route rather than a mere variation, and many who thought they knew Lliwedd fairly well will find a feast of such pleasures revealed to them by this little volume.

We have called the book a 'Climber's Guide,' but as it covers a much smaller field it has not to be confined so rigorously to the strictly practical. Anecdote, indeed, is excluded, but the descriptions, if condensed, are vivid, and are not the less thrilling for being impersonal. Here is a typical passage:—

'When, however, the gradient becomes formidable, seclusion is sought in the chimney, which steepens and finally narrows down to a vertical fissure. It has been stated that good holds exist, but they are none the less undiscoverable when the hands are benumbed

by icy water. Then, at any rate, it becomes necessary to improvise new tactics. The width of the chimney permits the climber to lie sideways at full length, and to wedge in the forearm above the head. With this as a lever and anchor it is possible to writhe up one to two feet. Friction, materially increased by inspiration, provides the mainstay, while the arm is moved up. The process is repeated until the third dimension of man precludes all possibility of further progress. One hand now grasps a yellow stone in the fissure; the right leg is brought out of the chimney, and thrust up to a sloping step on the face. A strenuous effort is then needed to overcome the combined forces of friction and gravity and escape from the vice. The spot thus reached is hardly a landing-place—it accommodates one foot only—but the desired rest can be obtained by leaning well back against a projection; in this half-recumbent attitude above and athwart the crack we are in a good position to enjoy the circumambient air, a wide view of the face, and an unobstructed outlook over Cwm Dyli.

On the whole the authors have succeeded in avoiding the merely sensational, while laying due emphasis on the extreme difficulty of many climbs which they describe. Instead of a classified list of routes in order of difficulty, there is a brief note at the beginning of each climb to indicate its character and special difficulties, thus:—

‘THE CENTRAL CHIMNEY ROUTE.

‘A stiff chimney. A traverse over very steep rocks. A steep slab. A difficult rib with few holds; 120 feet of rope desirable for upper part. Two or three climbers. All holds sound, but rocks continuously steep and very exposed. Unsuitable for cold, wet, or windy weather.’

This avoids the objections which have, with much justice, been raised to the ‘order of merit,’ that it tempts the reckless to begin at the wrong end. It is another good feature of the book that the names of those who made ‘first ascents’ appear only in a chronological appendix, and we note with much satisfaction that none of the climbs are labelled with the name of a climber. The introduction, in two parts, one geological and descriptive, the other mainly historical, is excellent; the photographs are for the most part well chosen, and the diagrams just what is wanted. Of the illustrations from sketches, the less said the better; they are the one blot on the book.

The volume is well printed, and bound in a waterproof cover; and though larger than a Climber’s Guide ($6\frac{1}{2} \times 5$ inches, weight $7\frac{3}{4}$ oz.) it is not too big or heavy to be carried even on the most difficult of the routes which it describes.

Zeitschrift des Deutschen und Österreichischen Alpenvereins. Vol. xxxviii. München, 1907.

In the first section of this year-book, devoted to papers of scientific and general interest, Herr E. W. Bredt continues his treatise on the ‘Pictorial Representation of the Alps,’ and deals with the artists

of the seventeenth, eighteenth, and first half of the nineteenth centuries. The illustrations, some sixty in number, though small, are admirably reproduced, and represent, besides the works of well-known painters, prints from Scheuchzer and from books of later date on the Alps.

Herr Oberhummer has a short paper on the 'Oldest Maps of the E. Alps,' illustrated with some interesting specimens of the primitive pictorial maps of the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries; while Professor M. Mayr's article on the political history of S. Tirol contains a carefully studied summary of the interminable contentions between German Tirol and Trent, and has a special interest in view of the 'Irredenta' movement.

The two papers on extra-European mountains deal respectively with Russian Turkestan and Bolivia.

Herr Rickmers describes the ascent of Atchik (ca. 20,000 ft.) in the Peter the Great Mountains, which, for their height, carry very little snow and glacier. The ascent of about 5,200 ft. from the bivouac to the summit occupied only $4\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.; the cold was very severe, but none of the party, which included two ladies, suffered from difficulty of breathing.

Dr. H. Hoek's concluding chapters on his Bolivian wanderings contain little of actual mountaineering, but display, as usual, his graphic and entertaining style in the descriptions of scenery and incidents of travel.

The only article on the Swiss Alps is somewhat of a new departure. That daring and accomplished climber, Herr H. Pfann, after giving an excellent description of his traverse of the Rothorn, Schallhorn and Weisshorn in one expedition, made with Herr E. Christa in 1901, narrates two *solitary* ascents—the Gabelhorn and the Matterhorn by the Zmutt ridge—both made in 1906.

Herr Pfann explains the circumstances under which he yielded to the temptation of undertaking these climbs alone; but the Editor does not explain whether the accounts are published in the 'Zeitschrift' as an example of that which should be imitated or eschewed by others. Not every climber is possessed of Herr Pfann's experience and ability.

All the remaining papers, with one exception, are devoted to the E. Alps and, towards the end of the volume, provide almost a surfeit of Dolomite and similar rock-climbing.

Dr. K. Blodig heads the list with an account of numerous ascents made during the last twenty years in the comparatively unfrequented Bregenzerwald. The disfigurement of Mr. Compton's pleasing sketches in the text with so heavily dotted route lines seems rather unnecessary.

The adjacent and geologically interesting Mädelegabel group is the subject of a pleasant paper by Herr E. Enzensperger, who describes the various routes up the Mädelegabel, Hochfrottspitze, and Trettachspitze; the last-named peak affords some difficult rock-climbing. The final chapter of Dr. E. Niepmann's monograph on the Ortler group deals with Monte Cevedale and the various other

summits accessible from Sta. Caterina. Herr Ad. Gstirner also concludes his treatise on the Julian Alps, giving considerable attention to the routes up Montasch (Montasio), one of the highest and finest peaks which excited Mr. J. Ball's admiration nearly forty years ago.

The continuation of Herr Doménigg and Dr. v. Saar's 'Karnische Voralpen' treats of the peaks grouped round the head of the Valle Toro—Castellato, Cima Toro, Cima Monfalcone, &c.—and, like its forerunners, is remarkable for Mr. E. T. Compton's striking illustrations. It seems strange that a district so near to the Ampezzo Dolomites and so rich in attractions to the lover of the picturesque as well as to the climber should have remained so long neglected.

Herren H. Barth and A. v. Radio-Radiis resume their articles on the Brenta Dolomites and give a stirring account of the third ascent of the formidable Guglia di Brenta, while Herr A. Witzemann begins a monograph on the Sexten Dolomites with a lucid and well-illustrated description of all the various ways of climbing the Grosse Zinne and Westliche Zinne.

The illustrations are, as usual, numerous and excellent, and it is pleasing to see an increased proportion of the full-page views reproduced on matt-surfaced in place of the usual glossy paper. The maps issued with the Year-book are two sheets of the Algan and Lechtal Alps (1 : 25,000) by Herr L. Aegerter.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MAP OF THE BREGAGLIA GROUP, IN THE FEBRUARY NUMBER OF THE 'JOURNAL.'

To the Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

SIR,—My attention has been called to the fact that the portion of the Disgrazia shown in the S.E. corner of this map is inaccurate. I regret it was not stated in the text that any pains bestowed upon the map were limited to the area with which the paper dealt. On insufficient grounds I had concluded that this would probably be self-evident. The position of the Disgrazia was indicated merely to show its relation to the Bregaglia Group, and the few details needful for this purpose were roughly copied from the Siegfried map with any inaccuracies which might there exist.

With regard to the map proper, I may say that it underwent several stages of revision, the final corrections being made after it had been submitted to Christian Klucker, who now considers it accurate in essentials.

C. WILSON.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall of the Club on Tuesday, February 2, 1909, at 8.30 P.M., Mr. Hermann Woolley, *President*, in the chair.

Messrs. G. H. Bullock, C. Candler, T. H. Fitzpatrick, H. Foot,