

days among the rocks and snow, we find them all here and welcome them with thrills of recollection. Fortunate the man who can write—

Together on the ice-glazed wall,
 Numbed by the slow snow-breath,
 Oft have we heard that instant pace
 And looked intent upon the face
 Of our rude comrade, Death ;
 And our clear hearts have leapt to feel
 Muscle and will brace tense as steel
 To wrestle one more fall.

This is not only fine writing ; it is noble feeling too. Only those who have seen the sight after a long fighting day know truly the time

When in the hour of mountain peace
 The passion and the tumult cease
 As the red sun-floods sink,
 And the pale lords of sovereign height
 Watch the cold armies of the night
 Mustering their first assault.

But for some of us at least the most potent spell is not danger, nor beauty, nor fulness of life, but a simple call, a sense of craving when we are not with the mountains, of content when they stand about us. This peculiar joy and satisfaction is a proper stuff for poetry, an emotion with a mystic touch. Those who feel it will read with an intimate pleasure three poems which do not yield their secret to the first comer—'Mountain Playmates,' 'A Hill,' and 'The Treasure of Heights.' In the absorbing detail of technique, in the pleasures of achievement, in familiarity, the romance of early days is only too likely to disappear: for Young it has grown to be 'the lamp of vision and the river of song.' Dante's brows touched a river, and it faded into the beatific vision. To each according to his gift. Those who drink the draught offered in this book will see—what they have eyes to see. But see they little or much, if they love the mountains truly they will find in the author a certain friend.

C. D. ROBERTSON.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A PROTEST.

To the Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

SIR,—I am informed that certain words appended to an entry in the *Fremdenbuch* at the *Staffel Alp* have given the impression that they were written by me, or by my friend Captain Hordern, as a reflection on our guides, Chr. Jossi, F. Amatter, and J. Biener. Since there are, apparently, people to whom it is not incredible that we should use the *Fremdenbuch* to make comments on our guides, I shall be obliged if you will allow me to state that the words to which I refer were not written by us. I can only imagine that the comment, 'Very unfriendly people,' was added by some kind person

to the entry we made in the book after an ascent of the Dent d'Hérens last July, and was intended to apply (I hope undeservedly) to the employers rather than to the guides.

As a matter of fact our guides not only gave unqualified satisfaction on this particular expedition, but two of them have been for years my constant companions in the Alps, and amongst my most valued personal friends, and I know that Captain Hordern has much the same feeling for his guide, Joseph Biener, whom I also reckon among my friends.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

W. E. DURHAM.

The Rectory, Newton Abbot :
October 4, 1909.

THE ILLUSTRATIONS IN THE NOVEMBER 'A. J.'—Our thanks are due to Dr. H. Brun, Dr. Dübi, the Editor of 'the Jahrbuch of the Swiss Alpine Club,' as well as to Herr Wehrly of Zurich, for their kind permission to reproduce the illustration to Mr. Raeburn's paper. Two of the illustrations to Mr. Reade's article 'A Night on the Sustenhorn' are also reproduced from the *Jahrbuch* by kind permission of the photographers and the editor, Dr. Dübi. The first, which appeared in Vol. XXVIII. p. 346, taken by Col. Huber from near the top of the Stücklistock, E. of the Hinter Sustenhorn, shows the Sustenjoch and the N.E. ridge of that peak, as well as a part of the main arête leading to the Gross Sustenhorn. The other (Vol. XXXIV. p. 112), taken by Dr. Brun from the Kühplankenstock further to the S.E., shows the whole range, the Hinter Sustenhorn being on the extreme right, and the Gross Sustenhorn in the centre.

DR. LONGSTAFF'S EXPLORATIONS IN THE HIMALAYA.—Dr. Longstaff, in a letter to *The Times* of November 23, 1909, corrects a statement to the effect that he had found the source of the Tarim River of Kashgaria to be in the Siachen Glacier of Nubra. What Dr. Longstaff has proved is that the Siachen Glacier of Nubra is merely the lower portion of the glacier found beyond the Saltoro Pass by Dr. Arthur Neve, Lieutenant Slingsby, and himself in June last, and which they temporarily designated the Terim Glacier.