NEW RAILWAYS.—The Bevers-Schuls section of the Rhaetian Railway, some 50 kilometres long, will be opened in the spring. This will facilitate access to the Lower Engadine.

NEW GUIDEBOOK TO THE ALPS OF GLARUS.—A second edition of Professor Dr. Näf Blumer's 'Clubführer durch die Glarner Alpen' appeared during the summer. It covers the whole of the Tödi district and neighbourhood. The sketches are a great feature. The marked routes do very much to elucidate, indeed to render almost superfluous, the printed text. Some of the illustrations are very striking, particularly the one on p. 198 showing Mr. Val A. Fynn's route up the stupendous W. wall of the Bifertenstock—the greatest climb in that district. The routes up the Hinter and Vorder Selbstsanft, illustrated on pages 201 and 203, as well as those up the Tödi on p. 254, also deserve attention.

VAL TALAGONA.—In 'A.J.' xxv. 560 reference was made to this valley, one of the least known and most interesting of the Dolomites of Cadore. The 'Rivista del C.A.I.' vol. xxxi. pp. 259–270 contains a further article on this group, with much new topographical information and a sketch map.

REVIEWS.

Oxford Mountaineering Essays. Edited by ARNOLD H. M. LUNN. London: Edwin Arnold. 1912. pp. xi and 236. 5*s.* net.

THIS volume is a collection of essays by nine young Oxford men, eight named and one (for he tells of things that are forbidden) anonymous. They are all fresh from the schools and frankly and refreshingly very young and very solemn, as befits young men who have something to say, and are a little shy lest you shouldn't want to hear it. They are 'concerned with the message the hills hold for Youth, a message which Youth therefore may be pardoned for attempting to explain.' Cambridge discovered the Alps for us. Oxford first photographed them for us, and has had the larger share in cataloguing them. Cambridge again, once and for all, with the pen of Mr. Leslie Stephen wrote the first and last word of literature on Alpine travel. Lastly Cambridge taught the heterodox that College walls and roofs might serve a useful purpose for the aspiring mountaineer. It was time for Oxford to take up the challenge thrown down by a recent President of the Alpine Club and to proceed with the ancient rivalry. We must not quarrel if she speaks, with the lips of youth, in a manneristic strain. These gentlemen have no new ascents to record, though the names of some of the writers are familiar enough to modern climbers. We are to learn from them things possibly more important to the sport than the way to turn a particular difficulty or the technique of ice-axe and elbow.

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We want to know what depth of root there is in the love for the mountains which has meant so much to so many of us these last fifty years. These writers certainly have that sacred emotion, and are sincerely anxious to communicate it. They are very articulate and in no way ashamed of their enthusiasm. Perhaps as most mountaineers like to have something to be ashamed of, they will be suspected of affectation. And to this charge they have themselves lent a certain colour by the arrangement of their book. Most of the mountaineering doctrine which they preach is so orthodox, that it was a pity to start off with the string of heresies and paradoxes contained in the first essay on Fauvism, Cézanne and Mr. C. J. Holmes. Then we come to Mr. Julian Huxley, who tells us how he found the Alps to be not eternal but transitory and in telling us raises all the romance that lies in modern methods of teaching geography; to Mr. Norman Young with a delightful essay—academic as is right for a book by Oxford men—on 'The Mountains in Greek Poetry'; to Mr. H. K. Lunn, who suggests as well as any recent writer the strange physical delight in physical travel—we should have liked his essay better without Cynara; to Mr. Tyndale, Mr. N. T. Huxley, and Mr. Arnold Lunn, with perhaps the best paper in the volume, telling of many strange incidents on the lesser Alpine summits and ridges, and an apprenticeship to the craft which should fit him for great adventures. All are full of the true spirit, and in their hands the ice-axe and the rope will lead to a lifetime of delight among the mountains which they love. So we might close the book in joy. It is a source of melancholy, a reminder of the sternness which is even in the games of youth, that the same number of this JOURNAL which contains this notice of their book should chronicle also the death among the mountains of one of the most promising of their company. Here in an essay on 'British Hills' Mr. Pope wrote of how he saw the mountains and what he sought among them. 'It is of the nature of mysteries that they cannot be interpreted to those who do not know.'

Nella Catena del Monte Bianco. A history and description of some of the principal Summits. With 25 full-page illustrations, 31 smaller, 3 panoramas and 12 sketches; pp. 251. By AGOSTINO FERRARI. Turin: 1912.

WE have read this splendid monograph with the greatest pleasure and interest. We quote at full length the list of the summits dealt with: Aiguille de Trélatête, Grandes Jorasses, Aiguille d'Argentière, Aiguille de Bionnassay, Aiguille de Leschaux, Mont Dolent, Aiguilles des Glaciers, 'the quickest way up Mont Blanc from the Italian side,' Col de la Tour Ronde,* Tour Ronde, Col de Rochefort, Dent du Géant, Mont Blanc du Tacul, Col du Midi, Aiguille du Moine, and Aiguille de Triolet. There follows a short but important *résumé* of some of the latest expeditions accomplished among these peaks

* Now called Col du Trident, *c.* 3650 m. (*loc. cit.* p. 249).

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of the Chain, nearly all of which, it will be noticed, are situated on or about the frontier ridges.

Signor Ferrari has adopted the excellent plan of giving, at the head of each article, a topographical description of the peak, the *raison d'être* (where known) of its name, the altitudes assigned to it by the various maps, quoting the Barbey map (1910) as the final authority. Then follows a history of the different routes; lastly the author gives an admirable and often most picturesque account of his own ascent of the peak in question. No one realises better than ourselves the labour and time required for a monograph of this size and description, yet we cannot help wishing that Signor Ferrari had been able to bring the historical part *thoroughly* up to date. The great expeditions of 1911 remain for the most part undealt with save in the briefest and most incomplete form in the appendix; a full description by so sympathetic and able an authority would have still further enhanced the great value of the work. Some of the 'new' ascents, so briefly quoted, date back as far as 1901 and 1902. Of Signor Ferrari's own exploits, those of the Aiguilles de Bionnassay, des Glaciers, and Mont Blanc du Tacul appeal to one most; both the latter routes were new. The author has also given a short but most interesting description of several combined expeditions and *tours de force* that have been effected, notably the traverse in one day of Mont Blanc from the Col de Miage to the Col du Midi; there is a humorous reference to the iron legs of the well-known mountaineers who accomplished this feat of which '*Il solo pensiero mi affatica*' (pp. 57–8).

The print is excellent and the illustrations by various distinguished photographers are worthy of the text; the telephotographic panorama of the S. slope of the Main Chain taken from Monte Nix, by the Staff of the third regiment of Sappers, is especially magnificent; we presume that the date of this panorama is September 1911. The sketch of the different routes up the S. face of Mont Blanc is also of surpassing interest; we deeply regret that the compilers have not been able to give us a similar design for the S.E. and E. face routes. In conclusion, we thank Signor Ferrari for his brilliant work and for the immense trouble that he must have taken, even granting, as he aptly puts it, '*Vi parlerò ora colla passione dell' innamorato.*'

The Yorkshire Ramblers' Club Journal. Edited by Wm. Anderton Brigg. Vol. iii. No. 11. (Published by the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club, 10 Park Street, Leeds.)

Another interesting number maintains the reputation of this well-known Journal. The subject matter is, as usual, very varied, and extends from such peaks as the Zinal Rothhorn and the heights of 'Romance and Effort' (by Mr. G. Winthrop Young) to the 'Cave of the Dragon' (in Majorca) and the Swinsto Cave where the potholer finds his subterranean joys. We briefly illustrate them by a

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quotation: 'At this point the passage was 3 ft. high and the water 20 in. deep. We could still see the tunnel stretching straight ahead and the roof keeping at about the same level, but as we had then been some two hours underground, and had been wet through the whole time, the water having been in places above our waists, we hurried back to the main chamber and reached the open air as quickly as possible. The climb up the ladder was complicated by the acetylene lamp being put out by the fallen water, the only lighted candle getting knocked over into the stream and the matches being soaked with water.'

The article on 'Authorised Guides,' by Mr. E. Kitson Clark, deserves a wide publicity. His scheme is thus explained by the author: 'The nature of my scheme is sufficiently described by the title of the paper. It is meant to meet the difficulties which the commander of a defensive force would have in a country he can only know from a map, by providing him with guides who are not only men of honour but also furnished with intelligence and a special knowledge of the country. . . . The guide we want must have all this knowledge of the country, and with it, all the gipsy's intimate acquaintance with its contents. The Rambler is the man to solve the proposition, and especially a Yorkshire Rambler, for being a member of a recognised Association he can, in time of war, be found at once and given a definite job to carry out.' 'The Summit of the Rothhorn from the E.,' by Eric Greenwood, and 'Gaping Ghyll,' by C. Hastings, are the most striking of the Illustrations, though the smaller pictures of Rock-climbing at Ilkley and elsewhere are decidedly attractive.

The Selkirk Mountains: A Guide for Mountain Climbers and Pilgrims. By Arthur O. Wheeler and Elizabeth Parker. Stovel Company, Winnipeg. 1911.

Mr. Coleman's climbing reminiscences, which were noticed in the last number of the Journal, carry us back thirty years to the very beginnings of mountaineering in the Rockies and the Selkirks. The present volume is at the opposite end of the scale. It is extremely up to date, and the mere appearance of a work of this character is a noteworthy event in mountaineering history, for, so far as we are aware, there is nothing else of a similar kind in existence dealing with any mountain-range outside Europe. Externally the book closely resembles Edward Whymper's 'Guides to Zermatt and Chamonix,' and the general treatment and arrangement follow the same admirable model. In the introductory sections the authors explain their respective shares in the production, and Mrs. Parker then allows herself a whole-hearted rhapsody on the Selkirk mountains and Canadian travel generally. After this they settle down to business, and give us a brief sketch of the early exploration of the Rockies, and a somewhat fuller one of that of the Selkirks, together with a concise summary of the climbing accomplished in the latter range from 1895 to 1911. Then follows the 'Guide for Climbers

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and Pilgrims' in the strict sense, which occupies about two-thirds of the book and includes Mr. Wheeler's monograph on the Caves of Cheops in a condensed form. Finally there are subsidiary chapters on the Geology, Fauna and Flora of the Selkirks, Equipment, &c., and one, all too short, on the birth and progress of the Alpine Club of Canada, in which Mrs. Parker again lets herself go with refreshing and infectious enthusiasm.

The greater part of the 'Climbers' Guide' portion is, as might be expected, taken up with the peaks, passes, glaciers, &c., reached from Glacier House. These are arranged alphabetically, and very full information is given with reference to each under the following headings, or some of them: Name, Location, Altitude, First Ascent, Distance, and Time required, Route and View. The 'Name' heading, which tells us who gave the name, and why, provides much instructive and amusing information.

Very few centres even in the Alps command so great a variety of expeditions as Glacier House; for the mountain pilgrim there are walks of all kinds and lengths, and the climber who does not aspire to do something new will find a goodly number of peaks that can be reached from the hotel itself or by sleeping out for a single night—more than enough, probably, to keep him occupied for a whole season. Those, however, whose interest in a 'Climbers' Guide' centres in the words 'No information,' will have to go farther afield. Southwards they will find on the extreme limit of the region mapped by Mr. Wheeler a few virgin summits for which several days' travel and a camp outfit are required, and Mt. Topham ('three fine days. All supplies must be carried on the shoulders'). Or, N. of the C.P.R., they may see if they can get to Mt. Sorcerer (11,000 ft.) and the other 'fine snowclad and rock peaks' beyond the Hermit Range on the far side of Mountain Creek; but they are warned that 'there is no known trail up Mountain Creek or its tributaries. Or if there be, it is unfit for travel (1911).'

Even more interesting in some respects than the Glacier House chapter are those dealing with the outlying regions, the Dogtooth and Spillimacheen ranges, the Columbia valley above Golden, and the country around Revelstoke. Probably the information here given with regard to the latter districts could be obtained nowhere else than in this book, and it should prove highly stimulating to seekers after novelty.

Of the book as a whole it is only necessary to say that it is worthy of its authors. Mr. Wheeler's services to Canadian mountaineering are too familiar to need recapitulation, but Mrs. Parker's share in creating the movement that led to the formation of the Alpine Club of Canada (*very* modestly hinted at in the chapter above referred to) is not so well known here as it deserves to be. It is most fitting and appropriate that they should have again worked together in producing the first of Canada's 'Climbers' Guides,' and we cordially congratulate them on the result of their collaboration.

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