very little snow on the top at the time, but big patches of it here and there. We descended a different way going back to Gotemba, to which place I had told the hotel proprietor to send down my bag. Gotemba was farther than Subashiri, being thirteen miles to the top instead of about nine, but the going was very easy, in the volcanic rock, our boots sinking in comfortably (I have called it volcanic rock, but it was loose volcanic stones rather like coke in nature, but of a reddish colour); under these circumstances we found running the easiest method of descending. We got back to Gotemba in a little over five hours, and I spent the night there in another Japanese inn; but here they catered for foreigners as they provided me with a table, I also had a good meal of ham and eggs, which was satisfactory after two days of approximate starvation. At the coolie's suggestion I had a leg massage after the efforts of the day, for which I paid thirty sen (about 7*d.*), which is fairly cheap.

'*Saturday* 30*th.*—I left Gotemba at 10 A.M. and went by slow train to a place called Shidzuoka, and there picked up an express to Kioto, at which I arrived at 7.30 P.M.'

A VETERAN NOVICE.—This winter the well-known old guide, Blanc le Greffier, of Bonneval-sur-Arc, made his first attempt at ski-ing most successfully. Last summer at the age of seventy-two he led in the traverse of the Ecrins. He was the only professional in a party of five, and ascended by a route which was a variant of his own devising.

ERRATUM.—'A.J.' vol. xxvii. p. 344, line 24, *for* 'Sulden' *read* 'Fend.'

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

Sport in Art: An Iconography of Sport during Four Hundred Years from the Beginning of the Fifteenth to the End of the Eighteenth Century. By William A. Baillie-Grohman, author of 'Sport in the Alps,' 'The Master of Game,' &c., &c. London: Ballantyne & Co., Ltd. Large 8vo., pp. 422. Illustrations 243. Price £2 2*s.* net.

As a skilful and intrepid mountaineer, a pioneer in distant lands, a first-class big-game shot, an historian of the beauteous land of Tyrol he loves so well, and as one of the greatest exponents of the difficult art of chamois-hunting, Mr. Baillie-Grohman is well known to us. By that superb reproduction 'The Master of Game' he has shown himself to be one of the chief living authorities on the ancient art of venery; and in this fascinating volume on 'Sport in Art' we have presented to us the history of sport during 400 years, both pictorially, and in writing which reveals to us the

researcher in ancient lore, the scholar, and the enthusiast. Mr. Baillie-Grohman possesses what is probably the finest collection of sporting (used in the mediæval acceptance of the word) prints in existence. They number over 3000, and we have been privileged to see many of them. From this collection, 243, some coloured, have been selected by him, with much judgment, and we venture to say with considerable restraint, for the purposes of this work.

In connexion with it, we think the word 'review' is incorrect, for it is impossible adequately to deal within the limits of our space with all the interesting points, to express its charm, and to do justice to the labour which the author has expended upon the book. Those, however, who take it up will not be satisfied until they have read each page. To the lover of history, the scrupulous accuracy as to fact and fidelity in reference will appeal, and the text and footnotes bear evidence of the author's long and painstaking researches. In effect the book is not only 'Sport in Art' but the History of Sport as illustrated by the best artists of each period. As an historian Mr. Baillie-Grohman excels because he does not content himself merely with dry facts, but he gives such details that we are enabled to visualise the personalities of his heroes; and we appreciate the restless energy of the versatile Maximilian I. of Austria, and the comparatively low standard of life prevailing in the minor Courts of Germany during the stagnant seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

In the preface it is distinctly stated that the work does not deal with athletics, but it gives 'the story of the evolutions which hunting, shooting, falconry, and fishing underwent during the last 400 years. . . . And the first pictorial descriptions of mountain climbing have been included in the last chapters.' In the opening one, the psychological aspect of sport, which has tormented the minds of many humane persons, who cannot resist the allurements of hunting and shooting, is presented to us in a new guise, which may go far to soothe their qualms. Originally, man, a pigmy, timid and fearful was not 'the hunter, but the hunted'; and doubtless he was a very toothsome morsel to grotesque beasts of the Saurian type. He gradually discovered means of self-protection and then of aggression. And it may be that man is still paying off old scores, and the debt is not yet cancelled. Apart from this conjecture, sport and its pictorial representations receive at the hands of the author a most ample vindication and able appreciation of their value on p. 4.

In the Middle Ages, the great ones of the earth had two pursuits, war and the chase, and the afforestation of Europe was so dense as to give full scope to the latter. Nevertheless, we are astounded at the colossal size of some of the 'bags.' Maximilian's record is not so great as some of the seventeenth century. He prided himself on his markmanship and on quality rather than quantity. Thus

his 'Secret Book of the Chase' records that he killed 100 wild-duck with 104 shots, and bagged with one and the same cross-bow bolt twenty-six hares without missing. Later sportsmen, notably the Electors of Saxony, John George I. and II., have left records of their enormous 'bags.' They claim to have killed 110,530 deer, 54,200 wild boar, 6067 wolves, 477 bears, and of small game proportionate hecatombs, and a part of this number whilst the Thirty Years' War was raging. If we can believe their statistics, and there is no reason to the contrary, the size and weight of wild beasts must have decreased, for we read of boars of 550 and 700 lb. and of a stag of sixty-six points and weighing 59 st. 9 lb. However, the present-day sportsmen of the honest sort find quite enough to satisfy their energies, and the father of a friend of the reviewer killed a boar of 400 lb. in the Ardennes, thirty years ago. The establishments which were maintained for the colossal slaughter of the Middle Ages were proportionate, and we read that in Gaston de Foix' kennels there were 1600 hounds. Into the vexed question of the identity of that extinct animal, the aurochs, the author goes at considerable length, and he shows clearly that it was structurally different from the European bison, and that the last aurochs died, as far as is known, in 1627. The habit of persistent and careful research on the author's part was rewarded by his discovery of the long lost 'Gjaidbuch' or 'Hunting-Book,' belonging to the Emperor Maximilian. It seems to have disappeared for over 300 years, and was found by Mr. Baillie-Grohman in the Burgundian Library at Brussels. As he modestly writes 'A glance at its pages, and more particularly at the finely executed illuminations illustrative of sporting scenes, thrust upon me the pleasurable conviction that I was holding in my hands the long lost original.'

Several early Alpine prints find a place, and we ought to treasure these, also those others by such an artist in woodcut as Edward Whymper, because we fear that in these days of the fatally facile snap-shot photograph, the arts of pictorial representation on wood and steel are doomed to disappear.

We have been at some pains to note a few of the interesting and important statements, because we feel that by doing so we are better able to convey some idea of the scope and object of this book; and we must confess to a want of ability in descriptive and epithetic phraseology, such as would convey to the reader all the pleasure and delight we have experienced in reading it.

Finally, with all respect, we would venture upon a suggestion—namely, that means may be found whereby a portion of the author's valuable and unique collection of sporting prints may become available for inspection and examination by members of the Club, and serve as an iconographical study of subjects, cognate to the sphere of its own activities.

A. H. Tubby.

Inscriptions from Swiss Chalets. By Walter Larden. With 52 illustrations reproduced from photographs. Printed for the author by Horace Hart, at the University Press, Oxford. 1913.

Readers of this JOURNAL and English readers in general are already well aware of the merits of Mr. Larden's newest book, defined by the author in the sub-title as a collection of inscriptions found 'outside and inside Swiss chalets, storehouses, and sheds.' A carefully selected choice of such inscriptions, all taken in the Upper Lötschenthal, together with ten illustrations, were printed in the ALPINE JOURNAL, August 1912. About thirty specimens, mainly from the Bernese Oberland (Kandersteg, Adelboden, Saanen, Grindelwald), a few ones from Binn and Avers, had been given us before, without illustrations, in the same author's 'Recollections of an Old Mountaineer,' chapter xvii. In this book, that was issued in 1910, the author tells us that he began collecting House-inscriptions in 1899; but it was not until 1907–1908 that he set about it in earnest, the leisure he then had, and the discovery of the enormous advantages gained by using binoculars, causing the work to advance much more rapidly and satisfactorily. In 1911 he sought to make his work more complete by the aid of photography. When he published his article in the ALPINE JOURNAL, August 1912, his work in collecting and deciphering inscriptions carved outside and inside Swiss chalets and other wooden buildings had resulted in a fairly large illustrated collection, which he hoped to persuade some publisher to convert into a book. Fears that the public interested in such a subject would be but a small one for some time prevented anyone from making the venture. But the interest shown by all connoisseurs of Swiss folklore, who had an opportunity of seeing specimens of the collection, together with the assurance given to the author by Professor Hoffmann-Krayer, editor of the 'Swiss Folklore Journal,' that 'there does not exist any important collection of Swiss House-inscriptions' and that such a publication as the one proposed would be very welcome in Switzerland and elsewhere, added so much to the increasing fascination the author had found in his pursuit since 1907 that he endeavoured in 1913 to bring out his book despite all hesitations of a commercial nature, being fired by the apprehension that the still existing stock of such inscriptions may get lost by fire or water, the fire destroying the wooden buildings, the water being used by the inhabitants for furbishing-up their house-faces and so 'cleaning-away' the inscriptions. The increasing habit of pulling down the older houses or modernising them is also an enemy much to fear in our days of so-called progress.

So really Mr. Larden need not apologise for publishing his collection, and he is only too modest in the preface of his 1913 book. As I had an occasion to see him at work, copying, deciphering, photographing House-inscriptions at Saas-Fee in 1912, I can testify that in all these departments the author had to rely almost entirely on

himself, and the poor help I could give him *in situ* enables me to subscribe to his conclusion—'that practice is a more valuable asset than is a greater knowledge of German or even of dialect.' But this practice had to be won by a great deal of patience and mental and even bodily exertion. I remember seeing Larden perched on some unstable bundles of firewood piled up before a chalet at Lomatten, near Saas-Fee, trying to decipher by touching them with the tips of his fingers some specially weather-worn letters. And hear what in the 'Introduction' he says of his method of reading such delicate things as the inscription outside the 'Moschegg' House near Gstaad: 'The first point was to note at what time in the day the position of the sun was favourable and to go then. The lines, long and short, were then mapped out in the notebook, and all words and letters that could be read at once were inserted in their proper places; and a cross was put for each doubtful letter. Gradually words began to stand out, and sense began to evolve itself. Sometimes the incomplete record in the notebook had to be studied in the evening with a view to clearing up difficulties.'

After the deciphering came the even more difficult task of translation. From the beginning of his collecting work Mr. Larden had in view English readers, and for their benefit, as early as 1910, he added translations as well as explanations to the texts of the German and Latin inscriptions inserted in chapter xvii. of the 'Recollections of an Old Mountaineer.' As he continued to do so in his article of 1912 and in his book of 1913, I may as well characterise the comment given to the first publication, the notes added concerned the localities where the inscriptions had been found, the state of preservation, the characters used, the arrangement of the lines or verses, the spelling of the names, the functions of the persons named. In determining such words as *Wandknecht*, *Hausmeister*, *Werkmeister*, Mr. Larden had again to go his own way by comparison and induction, as even educated Swiss could not always help him. But by-and-by, consulting the villagers and some Swiss authorities, comparing inscriptions from different localities and ages, Mr. Larden worked out quite a system of these denominations, and in his 1913 book he was able to describe in detail the functions of the persons named and the work they did in house-building. We learn to distinguish between the *Zimmermeister*, i.e. the master-carpenter and architect of wooden chalets, and the *Zimmerman* or carpenter, and to discern the former from the *Baumeister* or (in some cases) the *Werkmeister* who undertook both woodwork and stonework. We learn that the *Wandknecht* was the skilled labourer who fitted together the already prepared beams. It is essential also, explains Mr. Larden, to keep well in mind that when a man is said to have *gebauen* or *lassen bauen* a house, he is the owner, at the order and expense of whom the chalet was built by another, who is occasionally said to have *gemacht*

or *gemeistert* it. It is really marvellous how Mr. Larden, as a stranger, managed to go through these very intricate questions of ownership, handicraft, &c., although he could not get much help from the Swiss themselves. For 'even when they felt sure of the meaning of a word, the meaning they gave might be a more modern one and fail to fit in with the context of the inscription in which it occurred.' The result of his labours in this department adds much to our (the Swiss) knowledge of these things, and further studies in this field must be measured by Mr. Larden's standard work.

Now for the translations. Here one is even more surprised to find how much progress Mr. Larden, an Englishman, who 'taught himself such German as he knows,' has made since he, in 1910, began teaching his countrymen to understand Swiss House-inscriptions by explaining and translating them in English. It was also very thoughtful of the author to keep to the *Nibelunge Nôt* in order to interpret the real meaning of some older inscriptions, especially those from the Lötschenthal. In fact their language and spelling come in some way nearer to medieval poetry than to modern High German. It was also wise to give occasionally to the paraphrase the form and spelling used in English bibles and prayer-books. So inscriptions from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries retain even in translation their antique flavour and scent. A careful comparison of the context and translation will show in most cases that Mr. Larden, who had to rely in the main upon himself, did sufficiently good work in this department also. Of course there are some mistakes and inaccuracies, not to be wondered at; to quote the author's excuse in the author's words: 'The ground is treacherous and difficult for the solitary traveller, especially when it is strange to him.' I know by my own experience, having discussed one or other of these German inscriptions and secured the opinion of other Swiss scholars, that sometimes it is really not possible to find out the real meaning of a phrase or a verse, as the grammatical form will allow two interpretations equally probable. Taken all in all, English readers may with confidence, keeping well in mind the explanations given in the preface and introduction to Part I. of the book, trust the accuracy of Mr. Larden's translations. They may even try to learn some German, or the Swiss form of it, from those inscriptions, as the author himself did. For their trouble they will be rewarded by quite unexpected glimpses into the souls and mindings of vanished generations of Alpine peasants in valleys well known and cherished by English travellers, and they will so better understand why the author and his helpers are anxious to preserve as many remnants of those bygone days as possible. Mr. Larden is quite right when he says that some of the verses he quotes 'represent to a greater or less extent the more serious side of the popular poetry of the time.' Others are suggestive in the way of archæology, trade, religion or

history, and in all of them the folklorist will find a rich harvest for his purposes. Before I end my review I may be allowed to write out from the preface the plan of the collection, so that the reader of this review may know what he will find in it.

In Part I., Nos. 1–107 include inscriptions from near Adelboden, Kandersteg, Gstaad and Binn, with a few odd ones from Grindelwald, Champéry, Graubünden, and the Riederalp, arranged chronologically. Then follow some from near Meiringen and Trubigen, and from the Diemtigthal, grouped under the heads of these respective districts. With the exception of the few from Binn, Champéry, Graubünden, and the Riederalp, all in Part I. are from Protestant districts, and all save I. 21 and 38 are external. In Part II., all are from Catholic districts, and most are internal inscriptions; they are arranged in groups under the heads of the respective districts where they were found. The author regrets that he did not follow this system from the beginning. It would indeed have allowed a better classification. As it was not possible, seeing the often very different characters of even two or more separate verses in one inscription, to construct a satisfactory table of contents or index, the author had to content himself, in the Appendix to both parts, with classifying the whole *corpus inscriptionum* under the following headings: Types of very common occurrence; deprecation of criticism; imminence of death, uncertainty of life; whence and whither; a blessed death, help in the hour of death; heaven; heaven and hell; future judgment; God or Christ the foundation or corner-stone; texts quoted or paraphrased; hymns quoted; miscellaneous references to God; miscellaneous references to Christ; miscellaneous religious inscriptions; references to particular events or facts; concerning young people; various moral precepts and reflections; miscellaneous items. In a separate chapter of the Introduction, the author deals with the sources of the verses. He makes it appear probable that only in a few cases have they been made for the occasion by the owners or their friends. Many were repeated over and over again in the same district and found to be known in Tirol and in the Quoich district, as well as in the Bernese Oberland; finally there is reason to believe that travelling workers carried inscriptions with them.

All these things, as they are described in detail by Mr. Larden, are highly interesting, and some of them quite new even to Swiss scholars. So are also some technical hints the author gives about the working of the carvers, their methods of spelling, of preparing the beam for carving, &c. In fact his book contains valuable contributions not only to Swiss archæology and folklore, but also to the history of Swiss architecture. And the many excellent photographs add splendidly to the merits of this first monograph on Swiss House-inscriptions. We hope that Mr. Larden's book will have the effect on Swiss people, of stimulating their interest in a matter the literary part of which had seemed neglected by them only too long. And if English climbers who haunt the Alps are

eager, as Mr. Larden suggests to them, to pay a just debt 'to a country which has given them so much,' they can do no better or more profitable thing for both than to buy and study carefully a copy of our friend's and fellow-climber's book that is itself a homage to Switzerland.

I finish by quoting once more to the honour of Mr. Larden the words from an Inscription :

> Gefällt es schon nicht Jedermann,
> So hab' ich doch mein Best gethan !

And I lay stress on the word ' best.' H. D.

Thirty Years in Kashmir. By Arthur Neve, F.R.C.S.E. With illustrations and a map. London: Edward Arnold. 1913. 12*s.* 6*d.* net.

In this work Dr. Arthur Neve gives us an account of all his mountaineering expeditions, journeys, and explorations in Kashmir during thirty years. Mountaineers will welcome it because no one is more competent to write about the great mountain ranges of Kashmir than Dr. Neve; others who are anxious to learn about one of the most fascinating and out-of-the-way parts of the British Empire, where 'three Empires meet,' will find plenty and to spare in this fascinating volume.

Dr. Neve and his brother, Dr. Ernest Neve, together have, since 1886, been in charge of the Medical Mission in Srinagar, where there is a most efficient hospital. It was during such time as could be spared for holidays that most of the journeys described in the book were undertaken. From Srinagar in the south to Hunza on the north, Leh in the east, and Nanga Parbat on the west, Dr. Neve has wandered amongst the great mountain ranges of the Himalaya and the Karakoram, climbing, exploring, and whenever possible giving medical aid to the natives in those out-of-the-way districts.

He has been in close contact with the most magnificent mountain country in the world, and has several times been to over 20,000 feet.

The first journey he describes is how he attempted to cross the Nushik pass to Hunza and reverse the expedition made by Colonel Bruce and Zurbriggen; it was, however, far too late in the year (September) and the crevasses on the north side of the pass were impossible. Next he crossed the Himalaya from Kashmir to Chilas on the Indus by the Barei pass, making the first recorded crossing of the pass by a European. He returned over the range by the Barbasar pass to Khagan.

His account of the Hunza campaign (1891), one of the most dramatic of the smaller Indian border wars (where three V.C.s were earned), is particularly interesting, for he not only has been over the whole of the ground, but no doubt got much of his information at first hand.

Next he gives a description of the two great peaks of Nun Kun

(23,447 ft.); they are situated in the Himalayan range east of Kashmir. These he revisited in 1910 and proved conclusively that the great W. glacier of the Nun Kun range flowed down to the Bhot Kol; this had been contradicted.

The most interesting exploration, however, was to the Nubra Valley in the Karakoram. In 1907 the Murgisthang glacier was visited, and in the following year, with Dr. Longstaff and Lieutenant A. M. Slingsby, he went to the Saltoro and the Bilaphond pass. It was after crossing this pass that they discovered the Siachen glacier, 'which is far the largest in Asia or elsewhere outside the Arctic regions.' They also discovered a whole range of high snow peaks unknown to the Indian Survey, the highest of which they named Teram Kangri (about 25,000 ft.). Besides all these accounts of expeditions to the mountains there is naturally much information about the country and the people.

Srinagar in the 'Eighties, The Medical Missions, The Conquest of Little Thibet or Ladak by the Dogras, &c., are some of the more interesting subjects he deals with. He also gives very interesting accounts of most of the important political events that have had to do with the borderland that lies N. of Kashmir, and that separates the Indian Empire from Chinese and Russian territories.

It is impossible, after thirty years' work amongst the people of the country, not to have amassed a unique amount of information, and Dr. Neve has made good use of his knowledge. He has produced an eminently readable book, and one which not only is of great interest at the present time, but one which later will always be of value as an honest and truthful account of the happenings in Kashmir during the last thirty years. The illustrations are very well chosen, and there is only one complaint to make—the map might have been better.

J. N. C.

La Dent du Midi, par R. de Breugel Douglas, with 16 illustrations and 2 watercolours. W. P. van Stockum et Fils. La Haye, 1913. (Price 10*s*.)

For those, like myself, to whom the environs of the Lake of Geneva are a second home, the splendid Dent du Midi has a peculiar fascination. I know of no mountain of its size which offers such striking effects.

The present elaborate work is obviously enough a labour of love. Twenty years ago Baron de Breugel Douglas was the most assiduous of the wooers of the great mountain, and may be said to have brought out the excellent Salvan guides, Pierre Délez and the late Emile Revaz. With them he made the first ascent of the St. Maurice face of the Cime de l'Est, a difficult and exposed rock climb, and with Délez alone the first passage of the Col de l'Est, involving some difficult ice work.

M. de Breugel has had the assistance in preparing his book of M. E. R. Blanchet, who, in company mostly of one of the Les Plans

guides, Veillon, has done many daring ascents in the vicinity. Between them they have produced a monograph so detailed and minute as hardly any other summit in the whole Alps can boast. The author takes each summit of the massif and has unearthed a mass of very interesting details as to the first ascents by the various routes. Thus we learn that the direct ascent of the Haute Cime from Champéry was first made in 1855 by a Scotchman, E. Bradshaw-Smith, with a Champéry guide, Rey, and the following year an enterprising solitary guideless climber, a certain McCulloch, repeats the ascent, although this route is even to-day seldom preferred to the easier, if longer, Pas d'Ancel-Susanfe route.

When we come to the Dent Jaune the most interesting, for us, of the routes is that opened from the N. side by two honoured members of the A.C., the late Horace Walker and Mr. Charles Pilkington. The author's remark, 'Cette ascension, faite pendant l'orage, la neige et la grêle, doit être considérée comme un des assauts les plus formidables livrés à la Dent du Midi,—digne de membres du Club Alpin Anglais!' is of course not quite unwelcome to our ears.

No doubt, of all the summits, the Cime de l'Est, which dominates the Rhone Valley, is the most interesting to the mountaineer, and of this the author gives three very interesting sketches showing the routes followed on the several faces—and which certainly enlightened me, although I thought I knew the mountain and its history pretty well. The most interesting ascent of this summit is undoubtedly that made by M. de Breugel himself with my friend Délez right up the face that dominates St. Maurice, and which has, so far as I know, seldom been repeated.

The author then goes on to treat *seriatim* the Cols and the couloirs of the great Dents, and here again the most interesting is the famous Couloir de Chalin, some 500 metres high, leading to the Col de l'Est, and which was used in part by himself in his passage of that col.

M. de Breugel credits me with an ascent of the Matterhorn which properly belongs to Mr. J. T. Wills, and he also mentions an ascent in the day of all the summits of the Dents du Midi which Daniel Maquignaz, Délez and myself did one year. This is really not so very extraordinary when one is dead fit. We were out for a game that day and romped along, the great Daniel strolling after us anyhow, until when starting to descend the very much iced summit plaque of the Dent Jaune we found it extremely advisable to ask the great man 'si vous voulez bien passer le dernier,' which he did with a mastery and ease that were his very own.

The book is one that will not appeal in the slightest degree to the mere tourist, but it is a treasure-house of lore to the mountaineer whose interest in a mountain does not cease when he takes off his climbing boots. To the desperate cragsman the route-marked illustrations will be suggestive of many a fine climb.

The get-up of the book must have left the author a considerable

loser, but he has laid his offering at the feet of his divinity and I in particular am very grateful to him for recalling to me many a glorious and arduous day in winter, spring, and summer on the great rock wedge he loves so well.

J. P. FARRAR.

Die ersten fünfzig Jahre des Schweizer Alpenclub. Denkschrift verfasst von Dr. Heinrich Dübi. Bern, 1913. (Presented to members of the S.A.C.)

To commemorate their Jubilee the S.A.C. have issued a book of some 300 8vo. pages, giving in the greatest detail the history of the Club and all its sections—among which is mentioned the Association of British Members of the S.A.C. The Club may be justifiably proud of all it has done in the interests of mountaineering. It now owns 75 huts, with sleeping accommodation for over 2000 people.

Chapter I. gives a short résumé of what ascents had been made up to the founding of the S.A.C. in 1863, and very proper credit is given to the Meyer family for the valuable aid in mapping and opening up the mountain country, as well as for their energy in making several ascents very early in last century. Of course English names constantly crop up in these early days, and it is also amusing to read that when Herr Hirzel-Escher in 1822 reached the Monte Moro Pass from Macugnaga he was told by his guide that the great mountains before him were the 'Mistgabelhörner,' or Dungforkhorns! An interesting portrait is that of Dr. J. Coaz, who, born in 1822, made the first ascent of Piz Bernina nearly sixty-four years ago, and, still a hale and hearty veteran of over ninety, attended the S.A.C. Jubilee meeting last autumn. The remainder of the book is mainly taken up with very detailed accounts of the internal economy of the Club and its various sections, and of its general activities.

One is compelled to marvel at the prodigious industry of the editor, Dr. Dübi, in getting out this monumental production.

L'Opera del Club Alpino Italiano nel primo suo Cinquantennio, 1863–1913. With numerous illustrations, pp. 282. Turin. 1913.

This work, a memorial of the jubilee of the C.A.I., is presented to every member of that club, by the generosity of the Directing Council. It is worth possessing for the beauty of the photographs and prints alone. These illustrate every portion of the Italian slope of the Alps, and include some of Cav. Vittorio Sella's superb Himalayan views—all are deserving of the very highest praise. When we add that the text, besides its great intrinsic interest, is also of exceptional literary merit, we do not think that we are saying a word too much.

'Fifty years of Italian mountaineering' [G. Lampugnani,

pp. 9–44], is perhaps the most interesting and charming chapter in the book. It contains an eloquent tribute to the names of those departed or still living members who have raised the C.A.I. to its present high level; the great Italian guides of the past, Carrel, Maquignaz, Castagneri, and Rey are also not forgotten, and there runs throughout the chapter a touching devotion and loyalty to the Royal House of Savoy. We note the usual more than kindly references to our own English-speaking members who have contributed in any way to the splendid work of the Italian Club.

Among other chapters of great value is one on the huts, paths, etc., constructed by the C.A.I. [A. Ferrari and F. Santi, pp. 45–75]. No one is more competent to discuss Club matters than Signor Walther Laeng, editor of the admirable *Rivista Mensile*, and he does so in three chapters, 'The Association of Alpine Students, etc.,' 'Mountaineering and Winter Sports,' pp. 159–173, and 'Scientific Research in Mountainous Regions,' pp. 205–248. This latter chapter is of surpassing interest, Signor Laeng even includes our own Lake hillocks among *Altre Regione Montuose*; as these said other mountainous regions include the Himalayas and Andes, we fully appreciate Signor Laeng's sense of the ludicrous.

We have specially noted these chapters, but every page of the work can be read with pleasure and profit. As a further example of the Italian Club's generosity, we may add that the registered postage of the reviewer's copy amounted to no less than 2 fcs. 50 cents.

We conclude by quoting from the President's introductory address: '. *Vada a tutti coloro che nel pieno vigore della vita formano la numerosa falange che brillamente segue le orme dei primi nostri soci e mantiene alto il nome del Club Alpino Italiano.*'

The Alpine Club most heartily and sincerely endorses these words: long may the C.A.I. flourish!

E. L. S.

TWO GERMAN PICTURE-BOOKS.

1. *Hinauf.* By Theodore von Wundt. Demy 8vo. 192 pp. Stuttgart: W. Spemann.

At first sight, this book appears to be a motley series of pictures of every sort and kind that can be said to have any connection with mountains and mountaineering. Most of them are photographic reproductions: many are very beautiful; some are humorous; others have a topographical interest; while others again relate to the valley, or to peasant life.

Every page is illustrated, and beneath each picture is a quotation —almost invariably in verse. Some are from Schiller and Goethe; a few are translated from Byron, and many are verses from Volkslieder. To an English ear, however, a good many of the poets'

names are unfamiliar. Very occasionally we find a selection of prose, or a mountain proverb or pithy saying. The general impression the book gives is that we are dealing with an Alpine 'Kalendar.'

On looking more carefully, however, we find that the book is divided into sections under various headings, such as 'General Impressions,' 'Touring,' 'Mountaineering in general,' 'Ice-work,' 'Rockwork,' &c. There is a chapter, too, on 'Winter Sport,' and on 'Curiosities and Idiosyncrasies.' Closer study shows that neither illustrations nor text have been selected haphazard—that the latter has been chosen to illustrate the former, and that it is the text alone which gives the sequence of thought and plan.

The quotations are well chosen: the illustrations fit them aptly, and the two together are so arranged as to present a series of the various impressions and emotions which the tourist, the Alpine climber, or the student of human nature, may experience among the mountains and their inhabitants.

General von Wundt must have been at great pains in selecting, arranging, and harmonising his material. While those who cannot read German must lose the real meaning of the book—although they must derive enjoyment from the beautiful illustrations—those who know the language will appreciate his thought and industry, and will be well repaid.

2. *Der Alpinismus in Bildern.* By Alfred Steinitzer. 482 pp. 4to. Munich: R. Piper & Co. 1913. Price 20*s*.

This is a beautiful book of illustrations which every lover of mountaineering should possess. It is divided into twelve sections, each having an opening chapter giving the author's views on the particular subject treated. There are 680 illustrations and eight coloured plates, and for almost all the pictures we have nothing but unqualified praise. They are chosen from the point of view of the mountaineer rather than from that of the artist, the author's aim being to give either technically interesting, or topographically correct, illustrations. Some of the early plates are of special interest, and have never, probably, been reproduced before; and, so wide has been the field selected from, that the readers will be few indeed who can claim familiarity with more than half the total number. The collection must have cost endless time and trouble; and the preface, with its acknowledgment of permission to reproduce the pictures, makes one realise the wide research and careful industry that have been devoted to the work.

Though expressly limited, as the title shows, to mountaineering in *art*, Herr Steinitzer in the three pages of the Introduction (Section I) gives a very fair summary of the history of mountaineering in general. Some of his statements here, as elsewhere, are open to criticism, but as the volume is essentially a picture-book we need

not refer to various slight inaccuracies that occur in the text. The explanatory notes accompanying the plates are almost invariably excellent.

Section II, on 'Der Präalpinismus' (30 pp.), brings the reader up to the end of the eighteenth century. Though Hannibal is said to have climbed Etna to see the sunrise, the author considers Dante to have been the first true mountaineer, since he used to climb even in winter for the sake of the view. Leonardo da Vinci was far ahead of his contemporaries in appreciation of mountain scenery. A reproduction of one of his drawings of a storm in the Alps appears on p. 11. Before the end of the eighteenth century, no climber, as the author states, troubled to make accurate drawings, for the simple reason that nobody cared about the subject. Yet, the picture of the Géant and Jorasses (p. 31), drawn in 1781, leaves little to be desired.

Section III, on 'Classical Mountaineering,' forms the kernel of the book and occupies 200 pages. It begins with de Saussure's ascent of Mont Blanc in 1787, which is regarded by the author as the beginning of true mountaineering, and ends with the conquest of the Brouillard and Furggen ridges in 1911, and the last great problems of the Western Alps.

The early pages of this section contain specimens of Bourrit's work, the first of the long list of mountaineers who have also been artists. There are good examples from the Mont Blanc monographs; and, in addition to illustrations—some historically interesting, and some grotesque—we find a few remarkably accurate delineations, drawn in the first half of the nineteenth century, among which that of the Finsteraarhorn on p. 59, and that of the Charmoz on p. 67, may be specially mentioned. Later we come to pictures taken from 'Peaks, Passes and Glaciers,' Whymper's 'Scrambles,' Dent's 'Mountaineering,' and examples—to take well-known English names alone—from Coleman, Compton, Croft (misprinted 'Craft'), Gilbert, McCormick, Colin Philip, Tuckett, Elijah Walton, and Willink. In a book so well illustrated by representative drawings, and including photographic studies by Sella, Wundt, Abraham and others, it is curious that no example of Bonney's Dauphiné sketches should have been included, that the name of Loppé is nowhere to be found, and that the photographic work of Donkin and of Holmes should be quite ignored.

The 26 pages of Section IV are of 'Der moderne Alpinismus,' and the words are, for the most part, used in a highly technical sense, referring to rock-problems of exceptional difficulty, and to the exaggeration, actual or faked, of 'accidents' and thrilling moments. The popularisation of mountaineering, the portability of the modern camera and the inexpensive methods of reproduction now available, have led to an enormous increase in the pictorial representation of actual climbing, and this development has culminated in kinemato-

graph ascents of Mont Blanc, the Jungfrau, and the Matterhorn. Unfortunately the modern mania for excitement has led to much exaggeration and abuse, a condition which our author deplores as much as any of us. A picture of Herr Trier's on p. 242 is acknowledged by the artist himself not to be true mountaineering at all, but sheer love of adventure; and Herr Steinitzer considers such books as Nordhausen's an insult to the public, the illustrations being so obviously faked: two of these are given on p. 252. But the best of modern work is to be welcomed, and the section closes with a few beautiful examples of recent Alpine art.

Section V (58 pp.), on Extra-European Mountaineering, has some splendid Himalayan illustrations by Sella, Rickmers, and others, and pictures are given of the Andes, the Rockies and the Mt. Cook range. Mountaineering as a sport has only recently been introduced into Japan—the first of Asiatic countries to adopt it—but the beauty of mountain scenery has apparently always appealed to the Eastern mind. European illustrations of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries are childish compared with some exquisite Chinese drawings of more than a thousand years ago, given on p. 262; and only da Vinci's sketches are in any way comparable to Japanese work of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries (pp. 263, 264). Though conventional, like all Oriental painting, these Chinese and Japanese illustrations have the true mountain atmosphere.

There are short chapters on Ski-ing (16 pp.), Military Mountaineering (22 pp.) and Aviation (14 pp.) The pictures illustrating the chapter on 'Means of Communication and Aids to Climbing' (36 pp.) are very varied, and represent inns, huts, tents, roads, bridges, staircases, ladders, fixed ropes, pitons, sedan-chairs, diligences, railways, and funiculars.

In the last fifty pages of the book, Herr Steinitzer has collected caricatures, humorous sketches, posters, advertisements, Alpine Club menus, book-plates—all pictures in one way or another relating to mountains and mountaineering.

Among minor slips there is an obvious misprint on p. 36—'1904' for '1804'—and Mr. Carr's drawing of the Napes Needle on p. 186 should be, of course, in Cumberland—not Skye. But the illustrations with their accompanying notes have, on the whole, been arranged with great accuracy and judgment. Finally a word of special praise is due to the frontispiece by Bourrit, and the other coloured plates, which are extremely well reproduced. They include specimens of work by E. T. Compton and A. D. McCormick, and several distinguished German artists. Many references in the text to the British School of Mountaineering are flattering, and will gratify English readers, who will also appreciate—not less than their German-speaking friends—the carefully prepared index with which the volume closes.

C. W.

Führer durch die Mont Blanc Gruppe im Auftrage des Ö.A.C. Verfasst von Dr. Wilhelm Martin, Paul Reuschel, und Dr. Richard Weitzenböck (with 53 marked sketches of routes and a skeleton map). Vienna, 1913. Price 8*s*.

Twenty-two years ago M. Louis Kurz published his admirable 'Guide de la Chaîne du Mont Blanc,' subsequently translated in the Climbers' Guide series. Since that time the opening up of the group has progressed at a great rate, and consequently the want of a new edition * had long been severely felt. It is notorious, however, that the publication of such a book usually means a loss to the author, and it is hence readily to be understood that frequent new editions are out of the question. The gap has now been filled by the publication, under the auspices of the Austrian Alpine Club, of a most workmanlike guide in German. Some indication of the very thorough exploration of the group which has taken place in the interval is given by the fact that the Kurz guide published in 1892 contains less than 250 route descriptions, whereas the new Austrian guide contains nearly 800.

The actual authors of the Guide are the well-known mountaineers Dr. W. Martin (Berlin), Dr. Richard Weitzenböck (Graz), and Herr P. Reuschel (Hamburg), and one or more of them have spent a considerable time in the Group in carrying out many expeditions as well as verifying other descriptions.

The book is of very handy size (pages $6\frac{1}{4}'' \times 4''$), is printed on thin but scarcely tough enough paper, and forms a convenient and very light pocket volume of about 250 pages. All the routes described are numbered consecutively, an admirable arrangement for facilitating reference.

A small supplementary volume contains the references to published accounts of the expeditions (71 pages). These might very well have been placed at the head of each route, and as weight is of course of great importance the book could have been made to divide into sections like Bädeker.

One very important feature in the book is a series of black-and-white sketches on which the routes are marked and numbered to correspond with the text.

For my own part I rarely trouble to read closely the detailed and often none too clear route descriptions contained in these guides for climbers; in fact I would go so far as to express the opinion that elaboration of description does certainly not tend to forward the education of the rising mountaineer. But I am always quite ready to look at a marked sketch or photograph, so as to get an idea of the general direction. One is then forced to draw on one's own powers to work out the details on the spot, and this plan is infinitely more instructive than turning to a detailed description at the

* A new edition in French is promised for the season of 1914.

least provocation. Descriptions are moreover notoriously often very puzzling when one is traversing the reverse way of the book.

I am bound to say that many of the sketches in the present volume might be very much clearer, *e.g.* the sketch of the E. face of Mont Blanc, p. 168, and others. I confess, however, in looking rather carefully through them, that some have quite sufficed to give me a pretty accurate insight into the line of ascent of more than one peak still on my agenda, and which I had hitherto been too idle to read up. Still the Club Führer of the S.A.C. and the clear sketches which accompany many of the papers of Dr. Guido Mayer have accustomed us to rather more finished work—and this will, I understand, be attended to in the next edition. The ideal sketch would of course be a reproduction of a photograph, and it seems to me that such a feature would be willingly paid for. Evidently great trouble has been taken by the authors in elucidating the route descriptions, but they allude very feelingly to the unfortunate want of clearness of many of the published descriptions of expeditions in the group, and they will certainly not be offended by the intimation of any errors.

The book includes all the new expeditions made in 1912. The wet summer of 1913 was barren save for the expeditions recorded in the November 1913 and February 1914 ALPINE JOURNALS. So far as I have examined the text, the descriptions are concise and clear. The Capucin (3831 m.), on the S.E. arête of the Mont Blanc du Tacul, still, I believe, unascended, is not separately indicated although casually mentioned on page 78. But the book is generally extremely complete, mentioning even many quite unimportant variations. The two volumes are enclosed in a rather superfluous case, and accompanying them is a skeleton route map on tracing paper for placing over the Imfeld-Barbey map.

The Ö.A.C. is most heartily to be congratulated on its public spirit in bringing out this very useful book, but still more on the possession of sons willing and competent to undertake the very arduous labour. J. P. FARRAR.

Les Alpes de Savoie, Guide pour l'Alpiniste. Par Emile Gaillard. Librairie C. Faure, 5 Place de la Barre, Macon.

Vol. I. *Massifs entre l'Arc et l'Isère.* 7 fr. 50 (published in 1912).

Vol. II. *La Frontière Franco-Italienne entre la Seigne et le Thabor.* 8 fr. (to be published very shortly).

Vol. III. *Massifs entre la Savoie et le Dauphiné.* 4 fr. (to be published in 1915).

The second volume of this very useful guide-book is now announced covering the Tarentaise, a district not already annexed by a Climbers' Guide, and to which the best guide-book at the present time is Dr. Coolidge's incomparable edition of 'Ball's Western Alps,' which, however, does not, of course, profess to be a Climbers' Guide, although during a month's visit to the country between the

Mont Cenis and the Col de Bonhomme I carried nothing else, and found it ample. M. Gaillard is an officer in the French Génie. His first volume is well got up in a handy size ($4\frac{1}{2} \times 7$) and contains fourteen very useful skeleton maps to a uniform scale of 1 : 100,000.

The descriptions are very much after the well-known style of the Climbers' Guides, but the short 'Historique Sommaire' at the commencement does certainly not replace the very interesting historical notes which are one of the most valuable features of the Climbers' Guides.

The mountains in the country described are scarcely such as to need the marked outline sketches which always impress themselves on my mind much more permanently than any detailed description, and without which no modern Climbers' Guide can be considered complete. J. P. F.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A General Meeting of the Club was held in the Hall, 23 Savile Row, London, W., on Tuesday evening, November 4, 1913, Sir Edward Davidson, *President*, in the chair.

The following candidates were balloted for and elected members of the Club—namely, Messrs. A. Barnes, I. de Bruÿn, E. C. Francis, Major P. B. Lindsell, and Lieut. R. D. Squires.

The President said: 'Gentlemen, although since we last met in June the Club has suffered some sad gaps in its ranks, I am glad to say that no serious accident has happened to any of our members in the Alps during the season just past. I much regret, however, to have to report the deaths of several members whose loss will, I know, be deeply felt by us all.

'First on the list comes Mr. F. F. Tuckett. He was in his eightieth year when he died, and was elected a member of our Club in 1859, two years after its foundation. He had long been one of the old guard, and had lived to become even a "vieux de la vieille." He was for some years perhaps the most active and ubiquitous of all the great climbers of his day, and combined, to a degree that has never been surpassed, skill, strength, and endurance as a mountaineer, with scientific knowledge, topographical aptitude and the true spirit of the investigator and explorer. He served on the Committee of the Club, and was Vice-President in 1866. On more than one occasion an offer of the Presidency was pressed upon him, but his invincible modesty, which was, otherwise, one of his greatest charms, unfortunately induced him to decline a position for which he was so eminently fitted, and which he would have greatly adorned.

'I will add no more to-night, as an admirable notice in the August