before Herr Willers, junior, any proposal as to his intended interference with the right to use paths which either lead to huts standing on their proprietors' own ground or which have been regularly used for many years.

The neighbourhood of the Pasterze is well known as offering the very scantiest pasture, insufficient for any animal.

It will be easily understood that the claim has led to severe comment in the Austrian and German press, as well as to resolutions of various Councils and interpolations in the Tirolese and Lower Austrian Landtage.

Further developments will be watched with the closest attention. —'Mitteilungen des D.u.Oe.A.-V.,' 1914, p. 169.

THE ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA.—The annual camp, to be known as 'Upper Yoho Camp,' is to be pitched at an altitude of 6700 ft. near timber-line in the Upper Yoho Valley about 18 miles from Field on the C.P.R., and is to last from July 21 to August 11.

The Yoho valleys are said to present the finest scenery in the main range, and among the peaks to be climbed are the President (10,287 ft.), Mt. Habel (10,361 ft.), Mt. Collie (10,315 ft.), Mt. Gordon (10,336 ft.).

A FAMOUS VETERAN.—The Rev. T. H. Philpott, aged seventy-two, a member of the English Alpine Club, who between 1863 and 1867 made several first ascents of the Alpine giants in the Bernese Oberland, has just returned to Grindelwald after a long absence to look at his conquests.

He made the only known ascent of the Silberhorn, 12,185 feet, from the north side in 1865. Owing to its great difficulty this feat has never been repeated. He was also the first to cross the Ebnefluh, 13,005 feet, which has only been accomplished since on one occasion, and the ascents of the Schmadrijoch, 10,863 feet, and the Agassizjoch, 12,630 feet, took him twelve hours.—*The Daily Express* Correspondent.

NOTES ON THE CAUCASUS.

THE KUISH (OR KWISCH) GROUP (CENTRAL CAUCASUS).—Dr. Oscar Schuster publishes in the 'Ö.A.Z.' 1914, pp. 161–6, an interesting review of what has been accomplished in this group, which lies immediately to the W. of the Ushba, on the route of the most frequented passes from the Baksan Valley to Suanetia, and which is probably the best explored of any of the Caucasian groups.

The peaks are more distinguished for the remarkable views they offer than for any particular difficulty, and it is to be hoped that

the proposal to build a small hut near the tongue of the Kuish Glacier can be carried out, as from it most of the summits of the group could be ascended. The hut could be easily reached from the Baksan Valley over the Betsho Pass.

Dr. Schuster refers the reader to the great works of Freshfield, of Merzbacher, and of de Déchy, to an article by Rickmers in the 'Zeitschrift des D. & Oe. A.-V.' for 1903, and to the splendid series of Sella photographs, for full topographical information.

The principal summit is the Dongus-orun, the E. peak of which (4442 m.) was first ascended by Donkin and Fox with the guides Fischer and Streich from the Dolra-tschala Valley (*cf.* Merzbacher's map) in 1888, shortly before the fatal accident which befell the party.

The W. (4437 m.) and highest peaks (4468 m.) were first ascended in 1891 from the Baksan Valley by Merzbacher and Purtscheller with the guides Kehrer and Unterweger.

In 1910 a splendid expedition was made by Dr. O. Hug and M. Casimir de Rham, who traversed the summits of Dongus-orun from one end to the other.

The following is a translation of Dr. Hug's note to Dr. Schuster:

'End of August 1910. From a main camp at point 2212, near the end of the Kwisch Glacier (Merzbacher's map), ascend to the rocky S.E. spurs of Ledöscht-Tau (Freshfield's Ledesht). Good bivouac (about $\frac{3}{8}$ in. left of the w. in Kwisch).

'Ascend at first over moraine ($\frac{3}{4}$ hr.) and then glacier and névé to Pt. 3752, keeping always to the right bank of the Kwisch Glacier. From 3752 ascend direct the S. face of Pt. 4277 by a sort of steep névé slope, ending in a steep snow arête (about 5 hrs. from the bivouac). Pt. 4277 was named Nakra-Tau, but is also called Lesser Dongus-orun. Follow the steep narrow névé arête eastward to the saddle between 4277 and 4437, which latter ascend in one hour by its W. arête (rocks and snow, easy). From 4437 without any difficulty up 4468 (névé plateau) and 4442 ($\frac{3}{4}$ hr.). Then along the easy E. rock arête to Pt. 3805. Descent to the Dolra Glacier down snow slopes and easy rocks, and then bear E. along the N. edge of the glacier to the icefall, which turn on the N. and reach without difficulty the Betsho Pass route at Pt. 2417. Return to the bivouac in about 5 hrs. Enjoyable, easy expedition.'

Dr. Schuster is good enough to suggest the following new route: Camp high up in the Jusengi Valley (Freshfield's Oxengi) and gain the E. arête, mentioned above, by its steep N. flank. (See the illustration 'Dongus-orun vom Betscho-Pass,' 'Ö.A.Z.' 1913.) It is important to cross to the W. bank of the Jusengi torrent *low down*, as higher up it is almost impossible.

Of the other peaks the Tscharinda 3579 m. (Freshfield's Bak), the Zalmiag 3992 m., and the Leirag 3755 m. are the best view-points.

One of the best ascents in the group is the ascent of the first by its N. arête, well seen in the illustration in Merzbacher, i. 56. The view of Ushba is superb.

The Zalmiag has been already traversed (*v.* 'V. Jahresbericht des A. A.-K. Bern' and Afanasieff's '100 Kaukasus Gipfel,' p. 30).

The following details of the traverse of Leirag and Ledöscht Taus are taken from a note to Dr. Fischer from Dr. Hug, who, with M. de Rham, made the expedition:

'Mid-August 1910. With C. de Rham. From the bivouac at P. 2212 at foot of Kwisch Glacier into the saddle between Lakra and Leirag. Ascent of Leirag—a rounded névé top, falling away steeply on the N.E. and W. sides—from S.E. up rocks. Along the E. edge of the névé up steep ice (partly hard snow) slopes into the saddle between Leirag and Ledöscht Taus. [This is the Kwisch Pass crossed by Schuster and Wigner in 1903.] From here up easy snow slopes to the summit of Ledöscht. Descent: Down the N.E. ridge to the Kwisch névé (the upper part easy rocks, then steep névé); finally the gently-sloping crevassed Kwisch névé and back to the bivouac. Times: Bivouac—Leirag 6 hrs.; Leirag—saddle 1½ hrs.; saddle—Ledöscht ¾ hr.; Ledöscht—Kwisch-névé 1 hr.; névé to bivouac 3 hrs.'

Dr. Schuster thinks that it would be quite possible to pursue the journey over Nakra-Tau (4277 m.) and the summits of the Dongus-orun. MM. Hug and de Rham also ascended Merzbacher's Pt. 3849, incorrectly marked 3980 on the plate, Merzbacher, i. 56, and named it Dolra-Tau. No difficulties—time about 5 hrs. from the 2212 bivouac. They also followed the ridge to Pt. 3980, named Kwisch-Tau or Hewai.*

Dr. Schuster gives the following useful summary of the respective literature:

Zalmiag-Tau: 'Zeitschrift D. u. Oe. A.-V.' 1903 (Rickmers); 'A.J.' xx. (Rickmers); 'V. Jahresbericht A. A.-K. Bern' (Hug).

Lakra-Tau: 'A.J.' xx. (Rolleston).

Leirag-Tau: 'A.J.' xxii. (Wigner); 'V. Jahresbericht A. A.-K. Bern' (Hug).

Ledöscht-Tau: 'A.J.' xxii. (Wigner); 'Zeitschrift' 1903 (Rickmers); 'V. Jahresbericht' (Hug).

Bak-Tau: 'V. Jahresbericht' (Hug).

Dongus-orun: Merzbacher, i. chap. 22; 'Jahrbuch S.A.C.' xli. (Weber); 'A.J.' xiv. (Donkin's route), see also 'Proc. R. G. S. 1889' with map; 'V. Jahresbericht' (Hug).

Little Tscharinda †: 'A.J.' xx. (Rickmers); 'Zeitschrift,' 1903 (Rickmers).

Great Tscharinda: 'A.J.' xvii. (Collier); 'A.J.' xxii. (Wigner); 'Mitteilungen des D. u. Oe. A.-V.' 1903 (Rickmers); 'Zeitschrift des D. u. Oe. A.-V.' 1903 (Rickmers); 'A.J.' xx. (Rickmers).

Nakra-Tau: 'V. Jahresbericht A. A.-K. Bern' (Hug); Fresh-

* Afanasieff, p. 28.

† Afanasieff, p. 31, but omitted in the index.

field's 'Exploration &c.' (Appendix); Merzbacher, i. chap. xxii.

Dolra-Tau: 'V. Jahresbericht A. A.-K. Bern' (Hug).

Kwisch-Tau (Hewai): 'A.J.' xxii. (Wigner); 'V. Jahresbericht A. A.-K. Bern' (Hug).

Tscharinda-Murkwebi Towers: 'V. Jahresbericht A. A.-K. Bern' (Hug).

Kogitai-Baschi (Ciat Baschi), 'Boll. C.A.I.' xxiii. (Sella); Merzbacher, i. chap. xxii.

Guide-books: Afanasieff's '100 Kaukasus Gipfel' (in German), Hahn's 'Short Caucasus Guide-book' (in Russian).

As to the passes in the district, the Betsho or Gulsky Pass and the Dongus-orun or Nakra Pass are well known. The N. side of the former is well seen in Freshfield's 'Exploration &c.,' p. 10, where the pass lies on the extreme right.

The Kwisch Pass between Ledöscht and Leirag Taus lends itself to the following interesting round: Betsho—Kwisch Pass—Nakra Valley—Dongus-orun Pass—Betsho Pass—Betsho. Pack animals can be sent over the Dongus-orun, and porters over the Betsho Pass. The ascent of Elbruz can be combined with this tour, as also the ascent of the still unconquered Kuarmasch (3719 m.) (Freshfield's Kuarmash), or the Dongus-orun-Baschi (3551 m.) above the Dongus-orun Lake (Merzbacher, i. chap. xxii.).

The Nakra side of the group has been hitherto neglected, and would no doubt offer interesting work.

I hope Dr. Schuster will pardon my making this somewhat lengthy extract from his article. He can scarcely be surprised if his writings on any mountaineering subject awaken the greatest interest, since they invariably contain much masterly instruction, based on close observation and profound research. I only regret that he does not see his way to embody his knowledge in a book that would be certain to rank with the great works of Freshfield, of Merzbacher, of de Déchy and others.—J. P. F.

Expeditions to the Caucasus in 1914.—Besides Mr. Raeburn's expedition, we understand that Mr. and Mrs. Visser and two other members of the Dutch Alpine Club, with two guides, go out in August to Suanetia.

Herren Karl Egger and G. Miescher, the well-known members of the S.A.C., have also planned an expedition to the Tschegem (Freshfield's Chegem) district, crossing later to Suanetia, where they hope to do something in the Leksur district and then to ascend Kasbek.

The 'Orient Reiseklub' of Leipzig is organising a tour *via* Odessa and Batoum to Tiflis. Visits will first be paid to Erivan and Etschmiadsin, and the journey then made by motor-car over the Krestovaya Pass to Vladikavkaz, returning by the Mamison Pass to Kutais. Some time will be available for mountain ascents. Departure from Odessa, August 17, returning September 13.