In an ordinary year this should be a very pleasant route. I gather from Mr. Meade that he had no trouble on the rocks, which were quite dry and easily climbed. This year, of course, one could hardly find a rock anywhere on a mountain. There was more snow everywhere than can be remembered, and even in the Dolomites I found six to eight feet of snow in places that usually were dry rocks.

R. W. Lloyd.

CASUALTIES AMONG MEMBERS OF THE A.C. IN THE BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

The regrettable death in action of Major Corry, D.S.O., is dealt with elsewhere in this number.

Captain E. L. Strutt was unfortunately severely wounded on October 14 at Croix Barbée. When in temporary command of his battalion, the 2nd Royal Scots, he left his trench to report to his Divisional Commander Major-General Hubert Hamilton, whom he saw approaching. At that moment a bouquet of six shells burst low in quick succession over the party. The second killed the general, while another blew Captain Strutt several yards, rendering him unconscious and inflicting very severe contusions. For some days he was partly paralysed and stone deaf. He has been invalided home, and save for a troublesome lameness is making a good recovery, but he obviously had a very narrow escape.

Captain L. C. F. Oppenheim, H.L.I., was wounded near Ypres about November 10. He got a shrapnel bullet clean through his thigh, but fortunately no bones were broken and he is doing as well as possible.

ALPINE NOTES.

'Ball's Alpine Guide.' Vol. I. 'The Western Alps.'—Copies of the new edition (1898) of this work, price 12*s.* net, can be obtained from all booksellers, or from Messrs. Stanford, 12 Long Acre, W.C.

'Ball's Alpine Guide,' The Central Alps. Part I.—A new edition (1907) of this portion of 'The Alpine Guide,' by the late John Ball, F.R.S., President of the Alpine Club, reconstructed and revised on behalf of the Alpine Club under the general editorship of A. V. Valentine-Richards, Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge, is now ready, and can be obtained from all booksellers, or from Messrs. Stanford, 12 Long Acre, W.C. It includes those portions of Switzerland to the N. of the Rhône and Rhine valleys. Price 6*s.* 6*d.*

'BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE,' THE CENTRAL ALPS. PART II.—A new edition (1911) of this portion of 'The Alpine Guide,' by the late John Ball, F.R.S., President of the Alpine Club, reconstructed and revised on behalf of the Alpine Club under the general editorship of the Rev. George Broke, is now ready, and can be obtained from all booksellers, or from Messrs. Stanford, 12 Long Acre, W.C. It includes 'those Alpine portions of Switzerland, Italy, and Austria, which lie S. and E. of the Rhône and Rhine, S. of the Arlberg, and W. of the Adige.' Price 7*s.* 6*d.*

THE ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH MEMBERS OF THE S.A.C. has started a Swiss Guides' Relief Fund. The amount received to date (November 12) is £110. Subscriptions should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, J. A. B. Bruce, Selborne Lodge, Guildford.

LE SIRAC.—Dr. Coolidge, whose knowledge of the Dauphiné, as of nearly every part of the Alps, is of course unrivalled, has sent to the Editor the following remarks with reference to the discusion on p. 354 :—

'In "A.J." viii. I stated quite clearly on p. 332 that in *1877* we went *down* the *entire* snow couloir to the glacier after descending the first steep rock bit in it—see too my article in "C.A.F. Ann.," 1877, p. 275.

'In *1885* I went *up and down* the entire couloir ("S.T.D." 1885, p. 105–6 ; see in general my monograph in "R.A.D." viii. pp. 135–6).

'As after 1877 people complained that this couloir itself was very hard, I inserted the words "or the rocks of its left bank," in the first edition (1887) of my "Guide du Haut Dauphiné."

'On neither of my ascents did I take to the rocks on either side of the couloir (see my marked route in "L.M." vii. p. 718 and "R.A.D." viii. p. 131).

'If you look at No. 226 of Holmes' photographs you will see that the snow couloir does *not quite reach* the great S.W. arête of the mountain. Hence near the top of the couloir you *must* climb up a steep bit of rock. This is what I said in "A.J." viii. p. 332, where I state that on the descent (the ascent of the peak was made by a totally different route) we took 20 min. from the notch in the main S.W. arête to the glacier. This *descent* of mine only is mentioned in "A.J." so that Mr. Hope's statement is incorrect.

'In *1885* we found far less snow in the couloir than in 1877, so we held more to the rocks of the left bank of the couloir, taking much longer (even on the descent) than in 1877. But my 1885 ascent has never been mentioned in "A.J." It is, however, the source of my statement in my 1887 book. Later parties have found the couloir very difficult.'

DR. COOLIDGE also points out, in reference to 'A.J.' xxviii. 334, that it was the *Roche* de la Muzelle to *Valsenestre* that was crossed by Père Gaspard.

EBNEFLUHJOCH.—Dr. Coolidge is good enough to point out that Mr. Philpott crossed the Col and not the Ebnefluh itself, as stated on p. 335. The Col has not since been crossed (cf. 'The Bernese Oberland,' vol. I. pt. i. 82–5).

THE COL DES CRISTAUX ('A.J.' xxviii. 333–4).—Dr. Coolidge has written to express the opinion that the first *complete passage* of this col is to be ascribed to Mr. Withers's party, inasmuch as M. Fontaine and his guides did not make the descent to the Argentière Glacier *from the exact point* reached from the Talèfre side, but first followed the main arête for a bit. The question can be further studied in 'Mont Blanc Führer,' p. 152; 'Guide de la Chaîne du Mont Blanc' (1914 edition), pp. 104–5, in which very full references are given; and in M. Fontaine's article in 'Echo des Alpes,' 1911, pp. 299 *seq.*

Mr. Withers writes:—"I have refreshed my memory and I think the statement in the new edition of Kurz is fair and right to all parties. Of course I had no idea, nor had any of the numerous people I applied to for information at the time any idea, when I wrote the article in the ALPINE JOURNAL, that anyone had been on the ridge at that particular point or down the buttress. So far as I knew M. Fontaine had never claimed the traverse of the Pass as his."

NEW HUT NEAR THE ALLÉE BLANCHE.—Mr. Ruthven W. Stuart writes that Signor Gamba has again put mountaineers under obligation by building a hut on the small col to the N.W. of the Pyramides Calcaires. This hut will be very useful for the splendid, but very much neglected, western end of the Mont Blanc chain, comprising such peaks as the Aiguilles des Glaciers and de Trélatête.

NOTES ON THE CAUCASUS.

CAUCASIAN PLACE-NAMES.—Mr. D. Freshfield sends the following note:

'As President of the Royal Geographical Society I desire to call your attention to the method—or rather the want of method—in dealing with the choice and spelling of place-names in the Caucasus, which has been apparent in the pages of the ALPINE JOURNAL of recent years.

'The normal and proper course in the case of all foreign place-names when used in English literature is to accept the name adopted on the Government Surveys of the country in question, and in Russia to use the spelling consistent with the system of transliteration laid down by the Council of the R.G.S. This system is followed by the Departments of His Majesty's Government and in many other quarters, and may fairly be called official.