# 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 ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY.—Arkle, R. N. (1887). Cullinan, Sir F. F., K.C.B. (1877). Cust, Sir Reginald (1884). Heathcote, C. G. (1863). Maude, W. (1890). Morshead, F. (1861).

FLIGHT OVER MONT BLANC.—M. Parmelin, a pilot of the Deperdussin flying school at Rheims, left Geneva at 1.39 on the afternoon of February 12 and passed over the summit of Mont Blanc at a height of about 17,700 feet, the cold being intense and the wind terrific notwithstanding a brilliantly blue sky. Owing to fog, he was compelled to land at 3.15 P.M. at Aosta.

THE WINTER IN COURMAYEUR.—'Wonderful weather: bright sun with frost, but next to no snow. Least snowy year anybody here has known. The sheep are still grazing at heights of 9000–10,000 feet. Two regiments have been up here for the last four weeks for ski practice; as yet they have had practically none!' (Feb. 11.)

THE DRAINAGE OF THE ENGELBERG VALLEY.—We have received the following from Mr. C. Comyns Tucker:

'I do not find in the latest edition of "Ball's Guide," or in any

other English guide-book which I have had the opportunity of consulting, any notice of an interesting natural feature in the drainage of the Engelberg Valley.

'About ten minutes' walk along the path leading to the Horbisthal and just at the junction of that valley with the main valley of Engelberg, a bridge is reached crossing a powerful torrent which at first sight seems to represent the stream from the Horbisthal. A closer inspection, however, shows the latter stream to contribute an insignificant part only of the water that flows under the bridge, the far larger part being supplied by a tumultuous torrent falling into it from the N.W. about 100 yards above the bridge. This stream does not correspond with any definite valley or opening in the hills behind it, and on being followed upwards for some four or five hundred yards is in fact found to issue from the face of the grassy Alp in some dozen or so of splendid springs, ranged in a rough semicircle of about 100 yards in diameter and uniting themselves into a single stream within 30 or 40 yards. This drainage outlet, if not so romantic in its surroundings as the source of the Barada in the Lebanon or the powerful stream which issues from the tableland of the Sette Comuni at Oliero, is, I think, sufficiently curious to merit a notice in a guide-book or to justify a short half-hour's walk from the Engelberg hotels.

'At a guess this stream, which I conceive to represent the drainage of the Planken Alp nearly due N. of Engelberg, supplies one half of the total volume of the Engelberger Aa.'

C. COMYNS TUCKER.

COLLE DEI RONCHI.—This little pass, mentioned under 'New Expeditions in 1913' in 'A.J.' vol. xxvii. p. 434, was first crossed (from W. to E.) on September 8, 1911, by SS. P. Viglino and V. Paglieri (see 'Rivista Mensile del C.A.I.' for 1912, p. 116) who gave it the name of *Bocchetta dei Ronchi*, by which name, of course, it will in future be known. The same travellers also ascended the southern Punta di Val Soera, which is separated from the Punta di Val Soera (climbed by Messrs. Irving and Tyndale in 1912) by the depression of the Bocchetta dei Ronchi.

DR. GUIDO MAYER'S ASCENT OF THE AIG. DU PLAN ('A.J.' xxvii. 441).—The upper part of the S.E. arête followed is shown in a photo in 'Echo des Alpes,' 1910, p. 172, and the point 3607 referred to by Dr. Mayer is shown in a photo p. 167 of the same.

THE FIRST ASCENT OF THE FINSTERAARHORN, 'A.J.' xxvii. 263–300. Sir Martin Conway writes to Captain Farrar as follows:

'There is an important point you have not referred to. At the end of paragraph 14 the men are reported to have said that the sun was *reflected* from the surface of the Lake of Thun. This was at 4 P.M. The lake is roughly W.N.W. from the peak. The

sun would not, therefore, be seen reflected from its surface till much later in the day. A simple calculation would show at what hour on August 16, but certainly after 6 P.M. Hence this detail is untrue.

'I quite agree with what you say about Meyer's style of writing about mountains. There was nothing like it for clearness and accuracy for almost fifty years.'

KILIMANDJARO.—It is interesting to read that even this far-away peak has its club huts. Dr. Förster, a planter; runs an hotel at Alt-Moschi, and has built a hut, the Bismarck-Haus, at an altitude of 2800 m., and a second hut the Dr. Karl-Peters-Haus at an altitude of 4200 m. on the plateau between Kibo and Mawensi. He proposes, if any assistance is forthcoming, to build two other huts, one for each of the peaks, at an altitude of about 5000 m. The ascent is described as of great interest. From the port Tanga a railway leads in about fifteen hours to Neu-Moschi about 800 m. From here the glacier-covered Kibo 6020 m., the highest peak of Kilimandjaro, and, to the eastward, the precipitous rock peak of Mawensi 5560 m. are in full view—an imposing sight.

Alt-Moschi which lies very well at an altitude of about 1100 m. is two hours beyond Neu-Moschi and Dr. Förster's hotel is described as very comfortable.

The other distances are as follows :

Alt-Moschi to Marango where Dr. Förster also runs a rest-house, five hours.

To the Bismarck-Haus, four and a half hours. From here the highest point of the Bismarck crater can be reached in about half an hour, whence the view is very fine.

To the Dr. Karl-Peters-Haus, five hours.

The mountain itself offers no great difficulties.

The through line to Lake Tanjanika is expected to be open this summer, which will facilitate the visit to other ranges such as the Uluguru mountains.

Travelling in the interior is described as scarcely more expensive than in Central Europe, and game is stated to be very plentiful.—*Mitteilungen des D. u. Oe. A.-V.*

NEW HUTS IN THE ENGADINE: CHRISTIAN KLUCKER'S WORK.—The new hut on the Crast' Agüzza Sattel, altitude about 3600m., has now been completed. It is the property of the Sezione Valtellinese of the C.A.I. The installation, owing to the bad weather of last summer, was a very arduous undertaking.

The supervision of the work was placed in the capable hands of our old friend, Christian Klucker. His services were also requisitioned to supervise the reconstruction of the Boval inn which, it will be remembered, had been destroyed by an avalanche. It is, no doubt, in some measure due to the intense energy of the man that

it was completed in an incredibly short time, and was ready for the season. At the same time he superintended the rebuilding of the old Boval Hut, of the Raschèr Hut at the E. foot of Piz Kesch, of the Mortèl Hut, and of the additions to the Tschierva Hut.

Klucker has renounced guiding, and occupies himself mainly with the care of the botanical garden at Sils. His unrivalled mountaineering experience is, however, frequently drawn on for the instruction expeditions of guide candidates. No man is more qualified, whether in respect of his splendid record of work or of his great force of character, to be a sound instructor of the men who may follow in his footsteps, but who can scarcely hope to rival, still less to surpass, those great deeds of his, which will always remain the admiration and wonder of his contemporaries.

It is interesting to note the channels into which some of the energies of this great mountaineer are directed, and his continuing services to mountaineering. Men who knew him well in the heyday of his splendid powers still hold that a better man on a mountain or a more all-round accomplished mountaineer they never saw.

May the great little man long survive to greet his old friends with those piercing eyes that have scarce lost any of their keenness, and to offer that mighty right hand that has tamed full many a defiant peak. No stouter heart or more dauntless spirit ever lived. Prosit, zum Neujahr, unser Unfehlbarer !

New Hut in the Mont Blanc Group.—We understand from 'R.M.' [1913, p. 368] that Signor Cesare Gamba encouraged by the great success which has attended the construction of the new hut bearing his name, situated in the basin of L'Innominata, has generously promised to build another hut in the same district. The position of this hut will be in the Aiguilles de Trélatête group, close to the Col d'Estellette on a buttress running in the direction of the Aiguille des Glaciers. The construction is said to have already been begun.

The Gamba Hut, which has been presented to the Courmayeur guides, is already, next to the Rifugio Torino, the most visited of all huts in the Courmayeur district.

Die Schutzhütten der Schweizeralpen im Winter.—Herr Karl Egger, the well-known member of the A.A.C.Z., has compiled a very useful pamphlet giving, in some twenty pages, short particulars of various Club huts from a winter point of view. He is very careful to warn where possible danger of avalanches exists, and to state explicitly that the mere passing of the usual ski-test is not sufficient to warrant a man's undertaking expeditions which the huts facilitate, but most of which ought only to be undertaken by men with previous experience, more particularly of mountain expeditions in winter.

The Jamthal Hütte at the edge of the splendid glacier cirque

forming the head of the Jamtal has now been rebuilt and may almost be called an hotel. It is the property of the Section Schwaben.

NEW REGULATIONS OF THE S.A.C.—At the general meeting held in November last it was resolved that all members should be compulsorily insured and the Club authorities have accordingly entered into contracts with four Swiss Assurance Companies. The premium payable by each member is 1 fr., and the amount assured is 5000 fr. (£200). The resolution was only carried by a small majority after very extensive discussion.

Many of the sections—the Uto section among others—require a payment of 2 fr. from each of their members to form a fund for the building of new huts.

These various amounts bring the total subscription to the S.A.C. to the very modest sum of 20 fr. For this sum the member receives the annual 'Jahrbuch' and the bi-monthly 'Alpina,' gets many reductions on the various railways, and what is more important to regular climbers, is *entitled* to the use of the huts. The courteous practice of the S.A.C. all these years past, to extend to all and sundry the use of the Club huts, may have to be reconsidered in view of the great increase in the number of travellers. It has become quite a practice for large co-operative parties of tourists, including English, to make use of the Club huts as very convenient and essentially cheap inns. This leads to much overcrowding and discomfort to members of the S.A.C., and it would not appear at all unreasonable or discourteous if in the very near future the great hut-building Clubs find themselves compelled to limit the use of their huts to their own members and those of affiliated clubs, at whose expense and for whose benefit the Club huts have been built. In this manner they would increase their membership, and it might reasonably be expected that this would lead to a stricter control and consequent better observation of the very proper regulations that have been laid down for the use of the huts.

AN ANCIENT MONASTERY ON KASBEK.—Dr. Vittorio Ronchetti, the Caucasian authority, recounts in the November number of the 'R.M.' a most interesting verification of an old legend. On the S.E. slopes of Kasbek, near the snout of the Ghergheli Glacier, at a height of *c.* 2438 m., there are several ancient crosses, the construction of which is traditionally attributed to St. Nina. The Saints are supposed to have come down the heights above to pray there during the night. This legend is apparently founded on fact. In the course of last year (1912), a gentleman named A. L. Dukowsky of the Russian Alpine Club with the local guide, J. Besurtanow, noted that certain old monastic buildings exist at a height of about 3962 m. (= 13,000 ft.), amidst a vast mass of mountain débris. Wishing to confirm their previous observations, the party set out again on July 26 (July 12, o.s.), 1913; after a long march over ground

which the height rendered far from easy, they found indubitable evidence of the presence of six ancient habitations as also the traces of a church crowned with a cross. Wooden portions of the structure were even visible in the remains. There is talk of an antiquarian expedition to explore and photograph this very interesting discovery.

DR. THÉODORE THOMAS of Paris, the well-known French mountaineer, visited the Caucasus during last summer. He made the ascent of Kasbek, and visited the Elbruz Glacier, but no serious mountaineering was attempted. The journey extended into Persia.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECTION AMPEZZO OF THE D. U. OE. A.-V. (Herr FRITZ TERSCHAK) has requested the insertion of the following note :

On August 15 Mr. H. Wood, on account of the 25th anniversary of his first visit to Cortina, was kind enough to invite the nine eldest guides to luncheon. They want to thank Mr. Wood warmly for his great kindness, and are eager to tell him how thoroughly and highly they appreciate the honour of his invitation. And finally they express their desire to see Mr. Wood back in Cortina again for many years to come.

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| MANSUETO BARBARIA. | ANTONIO DIMAI. |
| ALESSANDRO LACEDELLI. | LUIGI MENARDI. |
| GIOVANNI BARBARIA. | SIMONE GHEDINA. |
| GIUSEPPE COLLI. | TOBIA MENARDI. |

ARCANGELO DIBONA.

THE JUBILEE OF THE S.A.C. was celebrated in September last at Lucerne by three days' festivities. The formal business included the election of a new President, Dr. Janggen, and of several hon. members, including Dr. Dübi and M. Gallet. The second day was taken up principally with a great banquet in the Kursaal, at which about nine hundred members sat down. Several very patriotic and enthusiastic speeches were delivered, and the function passed off with great *éclat*. The S.A.C. had invited the attendance of delegates from the principal mountaineering clubs, and the Chairman, speaking for the moment in English, was kind enough to express in very cordial terms the satisfaction of the S.A.C. to welcome at its Jubilee celebration the representative (Captain Farrar) of the oldest of Alpine Clubs.

The thanks of the foreign delegates were kindly taken as delivered, as the acoustic properties of the room and the growing enthusiasm of the festivities made hearing impossible as the day progressed.

The third day was spent, by the more valiant clubbists, in a traverse, in pouring rain, of Pilatus.

THE JUBILEE OF THE ITALIAN ALPINE CLUB was celebrated at Turin by a congress and various other functions extending from September 5 to 12. Parties of members visited the source of the Po and made the ascent of Monte Viso and of the Grand Paradis, and on September 12 a largely attended pilgrimage was made to the tomb of Quintino Sella at Oropa, the well-known statesman and founder of the Club.

At the banquet which is not the least important part of a congress the principal Foreign Alpine Clubs were represented by delegates, our own Club being worthily represented by Mr. J. E. C. Eaton, whose eloquent speech in Italian was listened to with great approval. At no period of its existence has the Italian Alpine Club shown more enthusiasm and energy than at present, and it may rest assured of the very sympathetic attitude towards it of our own Club.

AN ASCENT OF FUJI-YAMA.—The following is an extract from a letter written by Mr. Douglas Baker.

'I left Yokohama on *Saturday, August* 23, for Hakone, a little place in the mountains. After about two hours in the train I got out, left my trunk at the station and proceeded by tramcar for another hour and a half chiefly uphill. I then got out and walked the rest of the way, a coolie carrying my suit-case. It is not exactly a convenient thing to take to the mountains, but it was all I had; after about four hours' walk uphill I arrived at my destination, a Japanese hotel, but one accommodating foreigners also, that is to say, one could sleep on a bed and not lie on the floor. This hotel was on the side of a lake, and some Yokohama people were staying there—it was a very pretty little place, and I got some good photos around.

'On *Tuesday* 26*th* I left in the rain for a place called Miyanoshita, hoping it would clear up. I walked to this place over a high mountain pass called Ojigoku, which being interpreted is 'Big Hell.' This is a most extraordinary place—an utterly desolate spot with sulphur springs bubbling up everywhere, and the most potent stink imaginable—a sort of glorified chemical laboratory; strange to say in this very unpleasant place there is a tea house, a cheerless sort of place to live in. Near here there were hot-water springs, some of which were tapped to provide water to an hotel in the valley below. I eventually reached Miyanoshita about 4 P.M. thoroughly wet through, but after a hot bath I felt quite all right.

'*Wednesday.*—I had intended leaving Miyanoshita for Gotemba near Fuji-yama, but was unable to make a start as a typhoon raged all day.

'*Thursday.*—It cleared up overnight, and so I left for Gotemba with a coolie. This was a very good walk over a high mountain pass called Otome-tonge. On the way up the valley the effects of the typhoon were very evident. Several bridges had been carried away, and the road was blocked in numerous places by fallen rocks that had been washed down from above.

'My idea in visiting Gotemba was either to go up Fuji or to make a partial circuit of it, going down some rapids amongst other things. After the typhoon I thought the rapids might be too dangerous, so gave up the idea of that trip. I thought that I might just catch Fuji on a fine day and so decided to make the attempt. I was nearly dissuaded from Fuji at Miyanoshita because three people in the hotel had been up, and they were rather knocked up one way or another, one had a touch of malaria. However, I decided to go. Gotemba was the nearest point to Fuji on the railway line, and so I had my trunk sent up there from its last resting place. I arrived at Gotemba about 3 P.M. and, having ascertained that my trunk had arrived, proceeded by a funny little horse tram (running twice a day) to a place called Subashiri. There was a Japanese inn here at which I spent the night. Luckily I still had some foreign food left over from lunch which I had brought from Miyanoshita, and so did not have to partake of the Japanese relishes consisting of rice and all sorts of extraordinary vegetables.

'I retired to rest after giving orders to the coolie to wake me at 2 A.M.

'*Friday.*—I slept pretty well and the coolie woke me all right; poor fellow, he had had a most unpleasant time—"no slip—fleas" was what he said. I was very lucky to bring along the coolie from Miyanoshita, as he could understand and speak a few words of English, and I should have been badly off without him. I bargained with him before starting to pay five yen (10*s.*) for the two days, which is pretty cheap. I gave him another yen in the end because he was such a cheery fellow. I had decided to go up Fuji and return to Gotemba in the one day. I did not want to run the risk of a night on the mountain in one of the rest houses where there are animals galore and only Japanese food. It is usual to take two days over it. We started off at 3 A.M. and made the summit in 7¼ hrs., which was pretty quick going considering that Fuji is 12,400 odd feet and Subashiri not more than 2520 ft.; after the first 2½ hrs. the ascent was on a very rugged path of volcanic rocks, exasperating stuff to go up hill on, as it has a tendency to give way under one. We nearly lost the path in places, and would have done so altogether if it were not for the cast-off straw sandals that the pilgrims throw away as they get worn through. I wore nail-less boots, having left my climbing boots in Canada, but I put on the straw sandals over my boots until I had worn two pairs through.

'Fuji is an enormous mountain, rising as it does right out of the plain, but it is a most uninteresting one to climb and is nothing more than a fearful grind. I took several pictures during the ascent. The crater at the top is of great size, having a diameter of 2630 ft., and depth 450 ft., according to the guide book. It was decidedly cold on the top, but the sun was very hot, as we could verify, having had it on our backs for several hours. There was

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.'

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## 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