

the readings at the sea-level and the summit of Stack-a-Biorrach was .23 of an inch its height works out at 200 feet almost exactly.

‘ RICHARD M. BARRINGTON.

‘ Fassaroe Bray,
Co. Wicklow.
Feb. 3, 1915.

‘ P.S.—Wishing to obtain the latest information in possession of the Admiralty, I have been advised by that office, since writing above, that the height of Stack-a-Biorrach is given as 210 feet in a map published by the Geographical Society, but that the accuracy of that figure is not vouched for.—R. M. B.’

REVIEW.

Den Norske Turistforenings Aarbok for 1915.

THIS annual, as usual, devotes a good part of its space to mountaineering. Herr Tönsberg contributes two papers. The first, which deals with some remarkable achievements on the rock peaks of the Nordland coast, has previously appeared in ‘ Norsk Fjeldsport,’ a book which has already been reviewed in our JOURNAL. The second describes a winter journey on ski through the mountains of Jotunheim. The Norwegians are beginning to discover the possibilities of winter mountaineering and Herr Tönsberg is one of those who are giving them a lead in this direction.

There is a paper on the ascent of Uranaastind in Jotunheim and another on the glacier region at the head of the Aalfotfjord, but for those who are interested in Norwegian mountaineering the principal item is ‘ A Guide to the Climbs in the Horunger, prepared by the Norsk Tindeklub.’ This is an instalment of the first climber’s guide ever published in Norway. A start has rightly been made with the Horunger, for the group contains a finer combination of first-class ice and rock climbing than any other in the country.

Anyone who has followed the development of mountaineering in Norway during the last ten years will know that the authors have brought to their task a very intimate knowledge of their subject, and they are to be heartily congratulated on the result of their labours. There are broad directions for the ascent of each peak by various routes, and there is a wise restraint from those minute descriptions of detail which so often prove useless in practice. I am able to compare the directions for the majority of the routes with memories of finding my own way up or down them, and I believe that they should be sufficient to bring about the finding of the right way by anyone who has judgment and experience enough to make him a fit leader above the snow-line. The division into three classes, difficult, medium and very difficult, is a doubtful advantage when

applied to climbs on which the conditions of ice and snow vary so greatly from season to season.

The effort to cover the ground thoroughly has been successful with a few notable exceptions. No guide which treats of the Skagastölstinder should fail to mention the two fine routes up their eastern face from the Styggedalsbræ, the one to Mellemste Skagastölstind and the other to Vesle Skagastölstind. The first of these was made by Messrs. Ashford and Kempson with Ole Öiene in 1897 and was recorded in the Aarbok for 1898, and the second by Mr. Lowry with Ole Öiene in 1902. Mr. Slingsby's descent in 1897 from the V-shaped gap to the Styggedalsbræ, which is not mentioned, may perhaps be regarded as of minor importance, but it is quite as worthy of record as several other expeditions for which room has been found.

Passes have not been dealt with very fully, but as some of these are only half in that portion of the group which is included in the present instalment it is possible that the authors intend to describe them later. Such a one is the crossing from the Maradalsbræ to the Slingsbybræ, first made by Carl Hall in 1887. There is no similar reason for the omission of the pass over the main ridge from Turtegrö to the Utladal by the Skagastölsbræ and the Midtmaradalsbræ.

The guide is illustrated by some clear and useful diagrams, and also by a number of photographic pictures. Some of the latter are good, but most of them have already done duty elsewhere, and in any case they are hardly in place in a climber's guide. The photograph of Mr. Howard Priestman's very excellent map is neither large enough nor clear enough to be of much use, and we must still wait for the publication of some better map of the Horunger than the small lithographic reproduction of Mr. Priestman's work which is to be found in 'Norway, the Northern Playground.'

The pages of the Aarbok are obviously not the best place for a climber's guide, nor is the system of publication by yearly instalments suitable for the purpose. This work is much too good for such modest treatment, and it is to be hoped that the reception of the first instalment may be such as to encourage the authors to complete their guide for the whole of the group before the allotted time and to publish it in the form of a small book.

The many English friends of that best known of all Norwegian guides, Ole Berge of Turtegrö, will read with interest that he has made his 100th ascent of Store Skagastölstind, and that the Turistforening has appointed him an honorary member in recognition of his many and varied services to mountaineering.

A yearly feature of the Aarbok is the return, also prepared by the Norsk Tindeklub, of mountain ascents in Norway during the previous year. It cannot be said that the list for 1914 is evidence of any great enterprise on the part of the general body of mountaineers in Norway. The major part of Norwegian mountaineering is naturally enough done in the Horunger, but of the twenty expeditions in this group which are recorded, no less than fourteen were ascents of Store Skagastölstind, and in twelve of these both ascent and descent

were made by the ordinary route on the rocks of the western side. With certain brilliant exceptions, Norwegian climbers show some tendency to return again to a few well-known rock routes in the Horunger, and to shut their eyes to the splendid snow and ice climbs which surround them on every side, more especially in the eastern portion of the group, which appears to have been quite unvisited in 1914.

This can be accounted for to some extent by the very great scarcity in Norway of guides who are competent to lead a party on difficult ice and snow. The Turistforening are therefore to be congratulated in that they are making an effort to mend matters. In 1914 they held their second annual course of instruction for guides. These courses have been held at Turtegrö and have been attended by men from various parts of the country who have wished to qualify themselves to become guides, or to add to the limited knowledge of the principles of mountaineering which they already possessed. About a week has been devoted to the work, the days being spent in actual practice upon ice and rock under the supervision of Ole Berge and several skilful amateurs, and the evenings in theoretic instruction, the study of map reading, first aid, and that much neglected subject, the correct formation on an alpine rope of the few necessary knots—a subject which frequently remains unmastered by men who have climbed for years.

Even the Norsk Tindeklub come to grief over knots, for in 'Short Instructions for Climbing and the Passage of Glaciers,' which is printed each year in the Aarbok, they continue to exhibit a picture of a fisherman's bend tied wholly against the lay of the rope and another of a middleman's noose tied half against the lay and half with it, this last being accompanied by a diagram showing clearly the ingenious and only too well known manipulation by which that wrongful result can be reached. It must be confessed that more than one English author has been guilty of the same error. For all this the instructions are an admirable summary of mountain lore and contain most of those things which experience can suggest to help inexperience to go safely in high places.

R. BICKNELL.

THE PORTRAITS OF COL. BEAUFOY AND JEAN-MICHEL CACHAT.

THE portrait of Colonel BEAUFOY was presented by Mr. Mark Hanbury Beaufoy, grandson of Colonel Beaufoy, to Mr. H. F. Montagnier, and by him to the Alpine Club on behalf of Mr. Beaufoy.

Forbes states 'that Colonel Beaufoy . . . ascended the Aiguille du Midi at least up to the foot of the last rock summit' ('Travels