

a village near the baths of Lucca. The important part taken by the Italian Alpine Club in founding throughout Italy a number of such observatories is perhaps scarcely known in England. Monthly reports from over sixty stations are regularly published. A new one was established at Ceresole in the course of last month, and there are now few parts of the Italian Alps unprovided.

The meeting of the Italian Alpine Club for 1877 will be held at Auronzo.

The annual meeting of the French Alpine Club will be held on the 13th, 14th, and 15th of August at Annecy. Excursions will be organised to the Semnoz, the Parmelan, and the Tournette, also to Chamonix by the Col des Aravis. The Tarentaise Section proposes to meet on the 8th of August at the Lac de Tignes, and undertake some excursions before joining the general meeting. Members of the English club are especially invited to attend.

The Swiss Alpine Club holds its annual meeting at Fribourg on the 26th to 28th August.

The American 'Rocky Mountains Club' held its first meeting at Colorado Springs on April 15, 1876, when Dr. Robert Lamborn was elected president. It is proposed at once to found a library, stored with maps, books, and government publications illustrating 'the Great West,' the want of which has up to the present time been severely felt by travellers and residents.

NOTICES.

THE 'SWISS JAHRBUCH.*'—The special district for 1874 lay between the Vorder-Rhein-Thal, Val Medel, and the Safien-Thal. Herr Coaz writes on its general physical character, fauna, flora, &c.; Herr v. Sprecher, on its history. A manuscript of Placidus a Spescha, written in 1803, on the Passes of the Grisons, is here first published (from F. v. Salis, of Chur). Excursions were made in the special district by Herren Müller-Wegmann, Zeller-Horner, Seyffertitz, and Hoffmann-Burckhardt. The two former contribute some excellent illustrations. Besides these there are papers on 'Mont Ventoux in Provence,' 'Round Monte Rosa,' and 'The Matterhorn.' There were no less than five parties on the mountain on the same day, August 10, 1874, amongst them Mr. Whymper with a photographic apparatus. This ascent is a strange contrast to Mr. Wethered's on the same day of '75. From the Oberland we have 'First Ascent of the Gschinenhorn,' 'The Tachingel Pass in Winter,' and 'First Passage from the Altels to the Balmhorn.' 'The Difficulties of Geodesy in the High Alps,' 'Sectional Excursion to the Rothe Wand near Bludenz,' 'The Hohe Tatra and Mont Viszoka,' by Mons. Déchy, 'Mountain Slips and their Causes,' by Herr Baltzer;

* *Jahrbuch des Schweizer Alpenklub*, vol. x., 1874-5. Bern: Dalsp'sche Buchhandlung.

'Erratic Blocks in the Grisons,' by F.v. Salis, 'Alpine Lepidoptera,' by Herr Gerber, 'Lake Soundings,' by Herr Denzler; 'Division of the Alps,' by Herr Wäber, 'A Lost Swiss Conquest,' by Herr Meyer v. Knonau, and an account of the German colonies near the Gries make up the list of papers. Minor communications, literary notices and a chronicle of the Club doings and accounts for the year conclude the volume. It extends to 700 pp., with about twenty illustrations in the text, and is accompanied by a case containing maps and panoramas, some of them of large size and beautifully coloured.—J. S.

The annual publications of the Carpathian and Styrian Clubs have reached their second and third volumes respectively.*

APENNINE GUIDEBOOKS.—The titles of two useful little volumes lately published at Florence are given below. The 'Itinerario,' a thin pocket volume of fifty pages, leaves, so far as we can judge, nothing to desire. It is practical, terse, and yet complete, and by its aid strangers may easily plan out for themselves a delightful week's ramble through this most romantic region. An excellent large scale map is attached to the cover.

The second item on our list is a pamphlet containing a narrative of the ascent of the two highest summits of the Alpi Apuane, with a sketch of them as seen from the Pania della Croce. In addition Dr. Major of Florence has in preparation a 'Guide for the Apennines, including the Apuan Alps.' The book will be framed on the model of the 'Alpine Guide,' and have an appendix with scientific information, panoramas, and maps. It will be published this year. Copies may be ordered of the author, 1 Piazza Santa Trinità, price 6 francs.

SIGNOR CORONA'S SCRAMBLES.†—This well-known Italian mountaineer has collected in a volume a series of lively accounts of some of his principal expeditions. Santa Catarina, Breil, and Cogne are the points round which the ascents here recorded mostly centre.

A POCKET-GUIDE TO PONTRESINA.‡—Mr. F. S. Reilly has translated, and Messrs. Longmans have published the guidebook to Pontresina and its neighbourhood, put forth last year by a local physician, Dr. J. M. Ludwig. 'This little book,' its author modestly says, 'makes no pretensions to completeness in any respect. It merely leads the visitor through our village and its neighbourhood, sets before him our granite (?) giants and their glaciers, and here and there takes the opportunity to chat with him on things past and present.' It contains a great deal of information about near walks, climate, hotels, lodgings, and tariffs, and will doubtless prove useful to many visitors. It seems a pity that among the higher expeditions notice should not be taken of the most popular of them, the 'high-level tour' of the Bernina. The

* *Jahrbuch des Ungarischen Karpathen-Vereines*, 11 Jahrgang 1875. *Steirischer Gebirgsverein*: Jahrbuch. ii. Jahrgang; 1874. iii.; 1876. *Selbstverlag der Vereines. Itinerario alle più alte cime delle Alpi Apuane* da E. Bertini e I. Triglie. Firenze, 1876. 1 fr. 50 c. *Il Pisanino e il Pizzo d'Uccello*. Firenze, 1876.

† *Picchi e Burroni. Escursioni nelle Alpi*. Fratelli Bocca, Torino. 1876.

‡ *Pontresina and its Neighbourhood*. By J. M. Ludwig, M.D., Resident Physician at Pontresina, with a map. Longmans & Co.: 1876.

practically prohibitive charges for some of the more difficult ascents are, we see, still maintained. When satisfactory evidence is forthcoming that there are guides in the Engadine fit for first-class work, it will be time to call for their alteration.

It is needless to say that the translator's work has been thoroughly well done.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

May 2.—A General Meeting was held at the Club Rooms, Mr. C. E. MATHEWS, *Vice-President, in the Chair.*

Mr. G. FITZGERALD was elected a member of the Club.

Mr. TUCKER read the paper published in the last number, by Mr. Whitwell, on the 'Ascents of the Aiguille de Blaitière and Dent Blanche.'

At the conclusion of the paper Mr. GEORGE said, from an examination of the eastern face of the Dent Blanche, that the route Mr. Whitwell took in his descent of the lower part of the mountain was undoubtedly the right one.

Mr. WALLROTH said that having carefully looked at the eastern face from the top of the mountain, he could fully bear out Mr. Whitwell's statement as to the disintegrated state of the rocks, and from their great steepness he considered that the risk from falling stones was very great. He also spoke of an attempt he had made to reach the summit of the Blaitière from the base of the séracs of the Géant, but which he found impracticable, owing to falling stones and the nature of the rocks.

Mr. HOARE, who had descended the Blaitière by this way, confirmed the impracticability of an ascent.

Mr. MATHEWS congratulated the Club on Mr. Whitwell having succeeded in finding a new way up a first-rate mountain.

May 30.—A General Meeting was held at the Club Rooms, Mr. R. C. NICHOLS, *Vice-President, in the Chair.*

Mr. OAKLEY MAUND read a paper on 'The Mountain Districts of Sardinia.'

June 21.—The Summer Dinner was held at the Crystal Palace, Mr. HINCHLIFF, *President, in the Chair.*

About 60 members and their friends sat down.

We regret to have to record the death of one of the earliest members of the Alpine Club, Mr. H. WARWICK COLE, Q.C. Until his comparatively recent appointment to a County Court Judgeship at Birmingham, Mr. COLE was a frequent attendant at our meetings. Though not a great climber, Mr. COLE was fond of seeking out little-visited parts of the Alps, and a pleasant record of one of his journeys remains in 'A Lady's Tour round Monte Rosa,' published by Messrs. Longman in 1859.