

guide to the spot, and found his friend lying dead in the place where he had left him. A more pitiful story has never been told in the history of mountaineering.

WINTER ASCENTS.—Piz Margna (3156m. = 10,355 ft.) was ascended from Maloja on March 5 by Mrs. Main and Mr. Bulpett accompanied by Martin Schocher and Martin Weibel, both of Pontresina. The party left the Maloja Kulm at 6.30 and mounted for some time over grass and heather. The ordinary summer route was followed throughout. The northernmost end of the summit ridge was reached at 1. The snow was everywhere on the Maloja side in magnificent condition. The rocks were free from ice, but from their peculiar formation gave little hold.

The long arête connecting the first point with the second and higher one was quickly traversed; and a warm and sunny spot having been discovered on the southern slope an hour was pleasantly spent there, till at 3 p.m. the return was commenced, the party deciding to go down on the Val Fedoz side. The snow on the glacier was firm, and the hollows in the rocks below were so well filled up that the descent was rapid and easy, and before five o'clock the valley of Fedoz was reached.

The Margna was ascended some years ago in winter, but we understand that the party on that occasion started from and returned to Sils. This is believed therefore to be the first time that anyone has been up the Maloja side at this season.

The first winter ascent of the Presanella was made on March 13 by Signor Orazio de Falkner and Count Armandi Avogli, from the *rifugio* in Val Nardis. Leaving this at 7.15 they reached the summit at 12, and were back at 3. The snow in the lower part was soft, but near the summit very hard.

ALPINE JOURNAL BACK NUMBERS.—A few more of these have recently been acquired, and the following numbers may be obtained on applying to the Hon. Secretary at the Alpine Club Rooms, 8 St. Martin's Place, W.C.

31, 36, 39, 40, 46, 51, 53, 62, 64, 65, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 77, 78, 83, 84, 85, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 95, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101.

Those indicated by black type are out of print.

## REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

*Im Hochgebirge.* Wanderungen von E. Zsigmondy. (Leipzig: Duncker and Humblot. Pp. xvi, 360. Price 36s.)

This is a remarkable book in many ways. It is a pleasure to look at it. It fulfils Mr. Ruskin's conditions. It is beautifully printed. The type is large and clear, the paper excellent, the margin wide and inviting, and, above all, Mr. E. T. Compton's illustrations are quite first rate. It is almost a measure of human progress, the difference between these beautiful and accurate drawings and the dear old coloured plates of the peaks, passes, and glaciers of our youth. There are more than two hundred illustrations, of which perhaps the Ortler,

from the Hochjoch, is the best, though it is hardly fair to the rest to say so. There are no back-slapping, flag-flying, *hoch*-shouting enthusiasms on the tops of peaks; and if one or two of the mountain gymnastic vignettes put the human form into positions which would ensure its speedy destruction, and one gentleman is attacking a wall of icicles with the expression of Christian in his last dash at Apollyon, these are but small blemishes, and not Emil Zsigmondy's fault; and to make up for them we have one or two correct mountain attitudes, and two or three young ladies rather airily dressed—symbols perhaps of the facility with which at some of the Alpine centres permanent engagements have been entered into.

The book is a selection from Emil Zsigmondy's diary, with a preface by Dr. Schulz, and an account by the same gentleman of one or two expeditions in Dauphiné in the year of Emil Zsigmondy's death. It is good not to forget our dead, and Emil Zsigmondy seems to have had a singular power of attaching his friends to him. He was born in 1861, was very successful in his school and medical student life, and was beginning his career as a doctor under the brightest auspices, when his life came to a sudden end by a fall down the terrible southern precipice of the Meije on to the Glacier des Etançons in August 1885.

He had not reached his twenty-fourth birthday. His record of peaks is tremendous for so short a life, and ranges from heights such as the Matterhorn or the Meije to climbs on the less ambitious tops among the Ennsthaler or the Zillerthaler groups. Vienna is a glorious city to live in for a hard-working professional man with the love of the mountains in him, and Emil Zsigmondy began his climbs very early in life. At the age of thirteen he was already learning to scramble with his elder brother Otto and other friends, and year after year he was continually in the mountains, gaining experience occasionally with guides, but far oftener without them. Climbing without guides may be more dangerous than with them, but there is no doubt that it is the way to make a man a good mountaineer. Emil Zsigmondy was a first-rate mountaineer. He seems to have possessed both the instinct and the science of the pursuit, and to have developed it by the most varied and self-reliant experience.

The book contains accounts of the ascents of twenty-six peaks, selected from a list of a hundred and fifty or more. There is no mention of either the Chamonix district or the Oberland; but the tours range from the Oedstein, in the Ennsthal, to the Meije. They include ascents in the Tauern, the Dolomites, the Pennines, the Zillerthal, the Ortler, the Adamello group, the Engadin, and the Stubaijerferner. To cross the Matterhorn from Zermatt without guides and get down safely to Breuil, after becoming involved in such thick mist and snow that nothing could be seen, is a feat to be proud of. The climb up the Croda del Lago and especially the fight with the lowest peak of the Dreizinnen show remarkable powers of rock-climbing and facility in retracing a difficult track. The Ortler, from the Hochjoch, is no child's play; and, lastly, the passage over the arête from the Pic Central to the western peak of the Meije will always remain one of

the very grandest bits of climbing ever done in the Alps. It is true that in a few days after this Zsigmondy was dashed to pieces in attempting to climb the southern face of the Meije; but he says himself that the glories of mountaineering are worth an occasional human victim, and perhaps a man has no right to complain if he becomes a special instance of his own general maxims.

There is a small point of mountaineering morality in regard to which the world still wants a prophet. We allude to the habit, which some climbers have developed, of taking the card of the last climber of the mountain from the bottle in which he has presumably left it as a record for the eyes of an admiring posterity. There it ought to remain in addition to the general stock of human knowledge; but these sinners take it out, put it in their pockets, and carry it away to grace a private triumph. This is a crime against society. It is amusing to watch Emil Zsigmondy's conscience in this matter. One or two cards he carried away. Mr. Freshfield's, I was glad to find, he left in the bottle. On another peak being short of a bottle, he transferred the cards to a preserved meat tin. At last he does, what everyone ought to do, who carries off a card, he leaves an accurate copy of it in its place.

In the February Number of the *Alpine Journal* for 1886\* is a review of a book of Emil Zsigmondy's on Alpine dangers. The present book is a running commentary on his views. His 'form' differs from English 'form,' principally in the use of *Steigeisen* and variations in the use of the rope. The irons in our author's opinion are evidently to save step-cutting. The reviewer holds that good balance will give you everything that irons will give you, and conversely that the use of irons will spoil your balance. There may be some truth in this, but there are certainly instances in this book where much time and hundreds of steps were saved on hard snow by their use. After reading this book one would feel inclined to give them a trial. We do not think that Emil Zsigmondy ever seems to have grasped the idea that the rope can give moral support as well as physical. For instance, on the south side of the Matterhorn the two Zsigmondys and Herr Purtscheller were on a slope of ice-covered rocks, very steep and not one of them had any hold. In such a position a slip of one destroys all. He, or rather in this instance Dr. Schulz, observes that the use of the rope was only justified by the shortness of the traverse. He implies that if the distance had been longer, each member of the party ought to have shifted for himself and taken his own risk. This is exactly opposed, and I hope always will be opposed, to the English feeling on this point. If a party decide or are forced to cross such a place, the risk of one ought to be the risk of all, and the risk of each is certainly lessened by the moral support. On the other hand these Austrian climbers have developed to a great extent on difficult rocks the art of *Abseilen*. They use either a ring and catch or simply double the rope round a projecting bit of rock and then let themselves down it. In the climb along the arête of the Meije this plan was often and most skilfully employed.

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\* Vol. xii. p. 472.

Emil Zsigmondy's imagination is said to carry him away. After reading this book I am not inclined to think that the charge is true, or, rather, I do not think it does so more than it has done many of us. Compare, for instance, his account of the ascent and descent of the Matterhorn with, say, Professor Tyndall's accounts, or with Mr. Crawford Grove's. They are all three graphic and suggestive of smash; but it may be questioned if the Austrian account is more curdling than the others, and it must be always remembered that the Austrians were without guides, and had never been on the Matterhorn before, and were in a thick mist.

The question of guideless climbing cannot be passed over in a review of this book. It is never insisted on, and it is never, or hardly ever, boasted of; at the same time it pervades and gives a special flavour to the whole book. For those who, like the present writer, have done a good deal of it, there can be no question whatever about one point. It is far the most enjoyable climbing: also, it may fairly be held to rank higher as a sport, just as in yachting it is a much more difficult and fascinating pursuit to sail and navigate your boat yourself than to have it sailed for you by the best professional in the world. Granted this is so, there are two questions to ask: Is it more risky? and, if so, Is the extra risk worth running for the sake of the greater pleasure and the higher sport? The first question cannot be absolutely answered; but, granted first-rate guides and first-rate amateurs, we cannot but admit that it is more risky; but, on the other hand, the combination is not always one of first-rate amateurs and first-rate guides; but of second-rate guides and *n*th-rate amateurs who occasionally attempt climbs far beyond their united power, and most men would rather be third on a rope with two first-rate amateurs than a part of such a combination.

There are dangers enough and to spare in this book, and the party occasionally got into places where, with guides who knew the ground, they would certainly never have found themselves, and only escape by a mixture of luck and good climbing; but even first-rate parties get into such places by accident, or chance them in order to secure a longed-for peak or pass. Read Mr. Forster's 'Descent of the Aiguille de Midi,' 'The First Passage of the Tiefenmatten Joch,' 'The First Passage of the Bies Joch,' and many others, where the climbers put themselves into very unjustifiable places indeed. We do not think that any position described by E. Zsigmondy is worse than these. It is true he was killed at last, but he is not the only one, and probably all of us can remember times when we ought to have been killed—when we have chanced a stony couloir or an ice-swept slope, and have been neatly missed.

The enthusiasm and imagination in this book are the enthusiasm and imagination of a young and vigorous and gifted man. It has in it the freshness and the energy of youth, and few readers will close the book without a feeling of sorrow for Zsigmondy's death; those to whom he was personally unknown will further regret that they did not know him, and never enjoyed a climb with him.

J. STODDON.

*Statistica delle prime Ascensioni nelle Alpi Occidentali.* Da Luigi Vaccarone. (Torino: Tipografia L. Roux.) Pp. 179. 3 lire.

Signor Vaccarone's list of first ascents, from the Col di Tenda to the Simplon, has reached a third edition. The term 'first ascent' is construed pretty widely, as it is taken to include not only first ascents in the strict sense, or ascents made by routes different from those previously taken, but even ascents made by a route which has been previously taken when the subsequent descent was new. It is, perhaps, needless to say that in all kinds Mr. Coolidge is first—we may almost add, the rest nowhere! It is, of course, impossible to be quite satisfied with an arrangement according to which peaks, like votes, are 'numbered, not weighed,' and the 'first ascent' of the Aiguille du Fruit (3,056 ft.) or the Bec de Trudière (3,070 ft., and a 'signal' found on the top!) ranks with that of Mont Blanc or the Matterhorn; but Signor Vaccarone will say that his business is statistics, and to the statistician one item is as good as another. Moreover, as setting forth clearly what still remains to be done in this region, the book will, no doubt, have its use.

*Guide du Haut-Dauphiné—Supplément.* Par W. A. B. Coolidge, H. Duhamel, F. Perrin. (Grenoble: Imprimerie Breynat et Cie.) Pp. xii, 90. 2 fr. 50c. (post free).

*Climber's Guide to the Central Pennine Alps.* Part I. By W. M. Conway. Pp. viii, 156. 10s.

*Illustrirte Führer* (Hartleben):—*Durch die Dolomiten.* Von Julius Meurer. Pp. xii, 321. 3 fl. = 5.40m. *Durch Mittel-Italien.* Von J. Oberosler. Pp. xviii, 442. 4 fl. = 7.20m. *Durch Saalfelden im Pinzgau.* Von Hans Blank. Pp. viii, 78. 1.20 fl. = 2.25m.

*Südbaiern, Tirol, und Salzburg.* Von Karl Bädeker. Vierundzwanzigste Auflage. Pp. xx, 500. 7m.

*Relief-Karte von Tirol, Südbayern, &c.* Von R. Leuzinger. (Augsburg: Lampart.) 5m.

It might have been thought that the original 'Guide du Haut-Dauphiné'\* hardly admitted of any supplement, so thoroughly did it cover the ground with which it dealt, and so perseveringly had this been worked by the authors and others. A close observer might, however, have observed here and there after the name of a peak the significant word 'virgée.' Whatever theologians may hold, this is not a state which mountaineers regard as deserving of any honour in the case of peaks, and consequently several additions to the 'Guide' have been rendered necessary in the course of the past three years. Then, again, the virtue of a peak can be invaded in more ways than one; or, to drop the somewhat risky metaphor (for which, after all, we are not in the first instance responsible), 'new routes' can be made. Not only have all these to be recorded, but also reference must be made to the literature, in periodicals and elsewhere, to which they have given rise. Even so, however, and although there are ninety-three headings, including accounts of sixty-five new expeditions, a good part of the new hundred pages consists of old matter. Where, for example,

\* See *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiii. p. 277 sqq., for notice of this.

by the discovery of a new route, that given in the original book has become only an alternative, the whole description of this is re-written (as in the case of No. 187, 'Aiguille des Arias'), in order that a '1° *Par le Versant* so-and-so' may be inserted at the head of it—a practice which savours of prodigality. The only real fault we can find with the book is that it seems almost too dainty to be carried in the pocket of a climbing-coat and consulted in a snow-storm. We are requested by Mr. Coolidge to add that M. Duhamel's five maps appeared a year ago, and may be obtained from the publisher of the original 'Guide,' M. Alexandre Gravier, Grande Rue 23, Grenoble. The 'Supplément' must be ordered of the printer.

The 'Zermatt Pocket Book' has been in existence three times as long as the 'Guide du Haut-Dauphiné,' and deals with a far more frequented district. With very few exceptions, moreover, the routes which it describes lie entirely among the ranges whose waters go in part or wholly to swell the Visp. For most of them Zermatt is the starting-point. It was, therefore, almost a matter of course that sooner or later the work would require extension; and (later, as some may think) Mr. Conway has undertaken to give it what must, for the present geological period at least, be its definitive form. Nothing short of a new ice age (setting aside cataclysmic theories) would seem to be required in order to make further instructions necessary for reaching any point of the earth's surface in that neighbourhood to which anybody can conceivably want to go. The present instalment covers the ground from the Great St. Bernard to the Theodul, Mr. Conway having (as he with perhaps somewhat brutal frankness admits) divided the book at the latter point in order to make it necessary for climbers settled at Zermatt to buy both volumes. The method is much the same as that of the original 'Pocket Book,' except that more attention is paid to bibliography, wherein we may doubtless see the hand of Mr. Conway's collaborator; the arrangement is somewhat altered. Formerly it was by districts; now it is rather by ridges. Thus Mont Collon and the Aiguille de la Za, which once came into the same section, are now divided. In its present form, in short, the book treats rather of the ways in which to reach given points, than of the point to be reached from a given place; and so far may be regarded as illustrating the author's sentiments in regard to 'centres.'

The only criticism we have to make is that no apparent principle seems to govern the order in which the various routes under any head are given. To take instances at random, or nearly so. The routes up the Weisshorn are in the following order:—S.E., W., N., E.: Mont Collon; S., S.E., E., N.W.: Pigne d'Arolla; S.E., S.W., N., N.E.: Wellenkuppe; E., N., W. In a book which takes account, as this does, of the history of exploration, a chronological order (as in the Dauphiné Guide) would seem the most appropriate. Perhaps, too, some exception may be taken to the author's practice of giving as 'times' the fastest recorded. If this does not foster the pernicious habit of 'record-breaking' we shall be surprised.

The time has hardly come for the settling of Alpine names on scientific principles; but we can hardly believe that a glacier could

ever have been named 'of the Red Lyre'; and 'Mittleres Collonjoch' is surely an unjustifiable bit of Teutonic encroachment.

Herr Meurer, by no means faint, pursues steadily his task of expounding the Austrian Alps. In the present volume he has strayed across the frontier, and described the important portion of the group which lies in Italian territory. Nor has he confined himself to the district which, it is to be feared, is alone suggested to English readers by the name of 'The Dolomites'—viz., the country about Cortina and San Martino—but has conscientiously pursued the formation across the Adige. Herr Meurer's name is a guarantee for accurate and thoroughgoing work, and the tourist who may use his book will find little to grumble at, unless it be the weight of the volume. The text has, however, been so arranged (as in the recent editions of *Bäderer*) that this can be divided into four parts without cutting into the sheets. A feature of the book is the greater fulness with which directions are given for passes as compared with peaks. This, the author tells us, is done on the assumption that for the latter guides will be employed, while, at all events in the case of easier passes, the traveller will trust to his own resources, supplemented by a guide-book. How far this is the case we are not prepared to say. We should have thought, however, that since the ascent of a peak is consistent with returning to the point of starting, while a pass necessarily involves the transport of baggage, the latter was less likely than the former to be attempted by the unaccompanied traveller. At any rate, the doctrine will hardly approve itself to the 'gymnast.' But he, in his most developed form, probably dispenses, or will dispense, with map and guide-book no less than with guides. In the style of Mr. Wemmick he will say, 'Hullo! here's a peak. Let's go up it'; and will not care what its name may be, or how others have gone. Even for the old-fashioned climber these large guide-books are rather out of place. What is wanted is the small handy book, like those of Mr. Coolidge and Mr. Conway, for the expert, who after all, if he has a decent map, scarcely wants any directions for three-fourths of the excursions described in Herr Meurer's book and its fellows; while the larger volume should be reserved for such matters as 'bequemere Reisende' may desire to be informed upon. It should be added that Herr Meurer's book contains a map, on the scale of two miles to the inch, of the Dolomite country east of the Brenner line. It is, like the *Generalstabskarte*, on which it is based, too full of lines; but as it embodies the results of the last survey it will be very useful.

The Guide to Central Italy only calls for notice here in respect of the accounts which it contains of the ascents of Gran Sasso d'Italia, the Carrara mountains, and one or two others. Even these are described rather from the picturesque than from the mountaineering point of view. There is a Cimone (not to be confounded with its Dolomite namesake) something over 7,000 ft. high, to be reached from Pistoia, on the summit of which travellers may, and are strongly urged to, pass the night, and see the sunrise.

Saalfelden, in the Pinzgau, is a convenient headquarters for the exploration of the wild limestone region known as the *Steinernes Meer*,

lying south-west of the Königs-See. The peaks of the Hochkönig (2,938 m.=9,640 ft.) and Watzmann (2,714 m.=8,905 ft.), though not strictly included in the area which bears this name, may be regarded as the chief summits of the group. Herr Blank's little guide to the district in question may be used with advantage by others besides climbers. He has something to say about the history, customs, &c. of the various places which come under his notice. At the same time, he gives a fair quantity of mountaineering information, and a convenient map on the scale of 1 : 50000.

The twenty-fourth edition of Budeker's 'Südbaiern,' &c. demands little more than a recognition of its existence. Its qualities are too well-known to need any fresh estimate. The present issue contains precisely the same number of pages as that of 1888; but, by a judicious retrenchment of the index (effected mainly by means of the omission of the names of streams synonymous with their valleys and the like) and some alteration of the Salzburg section, twenty-seven pages have been gained, of which the lion's share goes to South Bavaria. Maps and plans of towns remain the same as in the last edition, except that there is a new map of the Glockner group, the map of the Adamello and Sarca district is on a larger scale, and the plan of *Trient* is substituted for that of *Triest*. The description of the latter town, also, is now relegated to the 'Guide to Austria.' We rather regret that Herr Budeker, in his recent editions, has omitted the convenient table of metres and feet (English, German, and French) which his book used formerly to contain. It took up little space, and afforded a harmless occupation for a wet day.

So-called 'relief'-maps are pretty to look at, and give a fair general idea of a country, but they are not of much practical use. Herr Leuzinger's is no exception to this rule. The scale, 1 : 500000, is too small to make it of any service to the tourist, and it is hardly as full as it might be even with its limitations. Important peaks like the Weisskugel and the Langkofel are not named, and in several cases peaks which are named have their heights incorrectly given. Still, it enables one, more perhaps than any ordinary map can do, to realise what an up-and-down country Tyrol is. Switzerland has its lowlands and plains; no place in Tyrol is less than 1,500 ft. above the sea until we get to Meran and the 'Etschland,' and there we are only at the bottom of a mountain valley.

*Picturesque Wales: Handbook of Scenery accessible from the Cambrian Railways.* Officially published. Edited by Godfrey Turner. Price 6d.

This little book (whose title, by the by, seems to exclude the possibility of any Welsh picturesqueness other than that accessible from &c.; but this is no doubt intentional) is much better than most of its class, and is disappointingly devoid of amusement accordingly. There are no ridiculous rhapsodies, and there is a good deal of interesting, if scrappy, reading. It is not a mountaineer's book, in that it contains less about mountains than about most other things. Nor is it an artist's book, though its illustrations are never exaggerated, and sometimes not unpleasing. The maps are sufficient for their purpose, the

isothermic charts of air temperature especially. The book is really just about what it professes to be, a pleasant little handbook for a railway tourist; but it would fulfil even this function better if it gave some information about the history of its own railway, *à la* Acworth. It ought also not to omit systematic reference to hotels, prices, time-tables, driving, steamers, distances, and other prosaic details important to travellers. We are bound to state, however, that the reader is duly referred to the company's time-tables and guide-books on these points.

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#### PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING was held on Tuesday, May 6, 1890, at 8.30 P.M., Mr. F. A. WALLROTH, *Vice-President*, in the Chair.

Messrs. W. Parry Haskett-Smith and William Maude were balloted for and elected members of the Club.

The CHAIRMAN announced that Mr. F. A. Chapin, of Hartford, Connecticut, had presented the Club with an album containing a large collection of photographs of the Rocky Mountains, and the thanks of the Club were voted to Mr. Chapin for his handsome present.

Mr. THEODORE CORNISH read a paper on 'The Ascent of the Weisshorn from Zinal, and some winter expeditions in the Oberland.' After a brief discussion, in which Messrs. TROTTER, MEAD, and the Rev. A. FAIRBANKS took part, the CHAIRMAN moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Cornish for his interesting paper, which was carried unanimously, and the proceedings terminated.

An interesting collection of water-colour drawings, by Mr. C. J. Way, of mountain scenery in various parts of the Alps was on view during the meeting and on the following day.

A *General Meeting* was held on Tuesday, June 3, 1890, at 8.30 P.M., Mr. S. F. STILL, *Vice-President*, in the Chair.

Captain C. H. Powell, Messrs. G. Hastings, G. H. Rendall, and H. J. T. Wood were balloted for and elected members of the Club.

Mr. DOUGLAS FRESHFIELD read a paper on 'The High Level Route of the Caucasus and the Forest of Abkhasia.'

At the conclusion of the paper Mr. DENT remarked that he felt sure some members would go to the Caucasus again this summer, and that he hoped more attention would be paid to the Adai Choch group, where very little had hitherto been done. The Skatykom valley had not been touched, and would probably well repay exploration; there must be most magnificent passes between the Caragam and Ceja glaciers, and only one peak in the group, and that by no means the most important one, had been climbed. The maps hitherto published of that district were not to be trusted. His advice to future explorers, who were also climbers, was to give their whole attention to single groups, and not to endeavour to cover a great deal of ground. With regard to the Saluinan Chiran Pass, which had been so well described by Mr. Freshfield, he felt most strongly that, if crossed at all, it should only be taken from west to east, and not *vice versa*, as their party had