

that it was unable to resist an attack of influenza at the end of February. On the very day on which he had planned to return to his home at Salzburg his mortal remains were escorted to the grave in the picturesque cemetery surrounded by the hills he so loved, by a vast concourse of admirers—I may say, of disciples—from all parts of the Continent. E. T. C.

### THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SECTION OF THE ALPINE CLUB EQUIPMENT EXHIBITION, DECEMBER 1899.

It will be generally admitted that while this section of the exhibition formed an important feature of the winter show, the exhibits of cameras and their accessories were confined very strictly to the one branch of photographic paraphernalia which appeals to the mountaineer.

The principal points to be emphasised in a mountaineer's outfit are:—

- (a) Compactness and portability.
- (b) Lightness consistent with sufficient strength and rigidity.
- (c) Sufficient potential *camera extension* to permit of the use of long focus and telephoto lenses.
- (d) The use of magazine or changing box, or six double backs, which may be deemed sufficient for each day's work.
- (e) The ability to employ a 'single' lens, as well as a R.R. or R.S.
- (f) A rising front and swing back or front. (This is *absolutely necessary*.)
- (g) Snapshot cameras for those who are content to limit their work.

The task we have before us is to consider how far the more important exhibits of cameras carry out these principles.

*Exhibit No. 16 (Newman & Guardia).*—(a) See catalogue;  $\frac{1}{4}$ -plate camera, with vertical and horizontal rising front and double extension. The workmanship is good, and possesses the advantage that the mechanism can be got at from every point. Its bulky shape is a decided drawback to the rock-climber. Its weight—5 lbs.—is too great.

(e) 'Nydia'  $\frac{1}{4}$ -plate pocket camera. The only fault of this make is that it has no rising front; otherwise its very compact size ( $7\frac{1}{2}$  by  $1\frac{3}{4}$  by  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in.) and its weight of only 1 lb. 15 oz. make it one of the most efficient of its kind. It is self-contained, without any loose parts, and includes a changing box for eight plates, with shutter made entirely of metal. It can be used as a stand camera.

(f) Surveying camera. This is the first attempt we know of to apply the Bridges-Lee patent of photo surveying to an ordinary 5 by 4 camera. It is fitted with three levelling points with a screw adjustment and spirit level, and, in order to make it self-contained, an aneroid barometer and compass are attached to the top of the

camera, though these may be carried separately. The changing box for twelve plates contains a cross-thread frame carrying the tangent scale. The camera is very portable, weighing only seven pounds with an unloaded changing-box, and for amateur map-making should be of great value. For ordinary landscape work an extra changing box is necessary, as the frame carrying the tangent scale cannot be detached. (h) 'Eiffel' stand. This make of stand does not commend itself to us. It appears too fragile and too bulky.

*J. H. Dallmeyer (Limited).*—Much has been said elsewhere on the usefulness of the (a) telephoto lens introduced by this firm; for us it only remains to record our experience. These lenses need very careful using, and should be tried experimentally at home before they are taken abroad. They need improvement by the substitution of a slow-motion screw for focussing the positive and negative elements of the lens. We are also of opinion that a finer medium than ground glass for the focussing screen is required to be fitted to a telephoto-camera. Furthermore a very rigid stand is essential with a large base, and the stronger and heavier the camera the less likely is one to get vibration and blurred negatives.

(e) *Burchett screens.*—It is doubtful whether these are better than the ordinary yellow screens; at any rate they are in an experimental stage, and their superiority has yet to be completely demonstrated.

(f) Long-focus camera. This is very good; it has been found all that can be desired, save on the points of the ground glass and the want of an arrangement to keep light out of the plate carriers when the slide is withdrawn.

*Exhibit No. 19 ('Tella' Camera Company, Limited).*—This make is of recent introduction with a number of ingenious contrivances, which are no doubt very excellent so long as they work smoothly. The 'Tella' carries fifty films registering the exposures as they are made, the mechanism being such as to make it impossible to record a double exposure, a fault so common with all operators. The shape is awkward and bulky for a climber.

*Exhibit No. 20 (Kodak, Limited).*—Of these exhibits the No. 2 folding pocket 'Kodak' commends itself for snap-shot work. It is only  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches thick when closed, and weighs  $16\frac{1}{2}$  ounces. A special advantage of the daylight cartridge film roll-holder is that the spool can be changed in the daylight.

*Exhibit No. 21 (J. F. Shew & Co.).*—Of all the exhibits (a) the cameras by this firm are the best adapted for the climber. They are portable, very light; being mounted, as they are, with aluminium. A  $\frac{1}{4}$ -plate weighs 15 ounces, whilst the (d) magazine to fit weighs another 12 ounces. (k) The 'Eclipse' pattern is particularly well adapted for telephotographic work, but whether rigid enough is very doubtful.

*Exhibit No. 23.—R. & J. Beck (Limited).*—From a purely mountaineering point of view the (a) 'Frena' is defective, in that it has no rising front, for which defect the limited swing back does not fully compensate. The interior mechanism also is easily liable to injury, and films or backings sometimes get detached

and remain in the camera-front, and so spoil a whole set of pictures.

*Exhibit No. 24.—Ross (Limited).*—It is needless to say that the lenses of this firm are first class.

G. P. B.

## ALPINE NOTES.

'THE ALPINE GUIDE.'—Copies of Vol. I. of the new edition of this work, price 12s. net, and of 'Hints and Notes, Practical and Scientific, for Travellers in the Alps' (being a new edition of the General Introduction), price 3s., can be obtained from all book-sellers, or from Messrs. Stanford, Charing Cross.

THE LIBRARY CATALOGUE is now printed and may be obtained, bound in cloth, on application to the Assistant Secretary, 23 Savile Row. Price 3s.; postage, 3d.

PRESENTATION TO THE ALPINE CLUB.—Dr. F. P. Moreno, Director of the Argentine National Museum at La Plata, has presented the following photographs (shown at the May Exhibition in the Hall) to the Club—viz. :—

(1) The Cordillera of the Andes and Aconcagua, taken from Contrabanista's Gap.

(2) Glacier in the Western Branch of Lake Argentino, Patagonia.

(3) Glacier of Lake Viedma, Patagonia.

(4) Glacier of Mount Balmaceda, Last Hope Inlet, Patagonia.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ALPINE CLUBS.—As announced in the last number of the 'Journal,' an International Congress will be held in Paris on August 12-14, under the auspices of the French Alpine Club, who will at the same time celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the foundation of the Club. The President of the French Club having asked the Alpine Club to nominate delegates to attend the Congress, the Committee has appointed the following members: Mr. James Bryce (President), Sir Martin Conway, Sir Henry Bergne, Sir Frederick Pollock, Mr. C. E. Mathews, and Dr. W. A. Wills (Hon. Secretary). Dr. Wills has also been appointed corresponding member of the Organising Committee, and will be glad to receive the names of any members of the Alpine Club who may wish to attend the Congress, and to forward to them forms of application for membership. The subscription for membership of the Congress is 10f.

IN VALPELLINA.—This splendid monograph by SS. E. Canzio, F. Mondini, and N. Vigna, extracted from the 'Bollettino of the C.A.I. for 1899' (Vol. xxxii.) should be studied by all climbers and travellers who visit the Valpellina. The authors, as they gracefully acknowledge in the introductory pages, received much help from Mr. A. G. Topham. We hope shortly to notice the work at greater length.