

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

The Alpine Club. By L. Spiro. 'Écho des Alpes.' 1915, No. 10.

'Il est impossible de jeter un coup d'œil sur le développement de l'Alpinisme sans voir se dresser devant soi la grande silhouette de l'Alpine Club, la doyenne des associations alpines.'

With these words M. Spiro opens an article of some twenty-four pages dealing with the formation and activities of the Club since its inception. While some of M. Spiro's assertions are not entirely in accord with the facts as received by us, we acknowledge with much appreciation the general tone of his article.

The statement that the British minister at Berne offered £50 to the Alpine Club towards building a hut on the summit of the Jungfrau is certainly quite erroneous, nor is anything known among us of one of the Presidents having proposed to vote funds towards the building of small mountain inns!

It is true that the commune of Zermatt did once offer to the Alpine Club a concession of the ground on which the Zermatterhof now stands for the purpose of building an hotel, which offer, of course, could not be entertained.

Some comment is made on the policy of the Club in avoiding, in its corporate capacity, financial responsibilities in the direction of the building of huts and developing generally the accessibility of the Alps, but the recognition by individual members of their responsibilities by joining the various national Alpine Clubs and by subscribing to various accident funds is duly emphasised.

Generally speaking, the financial resources of a small club, like the Alpine Club, are as a rule much overrated by our Continental confrères.

It will be remembered that English climbers may be taken to spend on their guides and mountain expeditions generally a sum that is scarcely a negligible quantity in many an Alpine village, while in case of sickness or need the English mountaineer has seldom been behindhand in voluntary assistance.

We value highly the words with which the author ends his article: 'L'Alpine Club n'en a pas moins rempli la charge qui lui était dévolue; son action sur l'alpinisme a été forte, droite et juste; il était équitable de la reconnaître et d'en marquer de la gratitude.'