

## REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

## BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE.\*

THE 'Alpine Guide' has been lately reissued in ten small volumes, a form very convenient for travellers intending to confine themselves to one or two districts. The new edition is advertised as corrected up to July in last year. It is disappointing therefore to find numerous cases in which no notice is taken of important expeditions chronicled not only in foreign publications but in the pages of our own Journal. The following specimens of 'corrigenda' taken at random from different sections may be useful, but might be largely added to. It is stated that the ascent of the Weisshorn from the Bies glacier remains to be tried. Mr. Kitson gave ('Alpine Journal,' vol. v. p. 305) an account of the successful accomplishment of this expedition, which was repeated (p. 277) by Mr. Coolidge. The Editor has still 'not heard of any ascent of the Bietschhorn subsequent to Mr. Stephen's' ('Alpine Journal,' vol. v. p. 277, and vi. p. 114), and believes that 'the Tschierwa Sattel still remains to be accomplished' ('Alpine Journal,' vol. vi. p. 94). Despite the account of its passage long ago published ('Alpine Journal,' vol. ii. p. 242) 'the Biferten icefall' is still said 'to have been pronounced utterly impracticable by all who have approached it.' 'The Langkofel,' we read, 'looks as if it might long continue to defy all attempts at an escalade.' It was ascended in 1869 by Herr Grohmann, and Mr. Utterson-Kelso has given an account of his own ascent in the Journal, vol. vi. p. 202.

The task which Mr. Ball brought to completion some years ago was one of prodigious labour, and it was accomplished with, at the time, marvellous accuracy. It will be a cause of serious regret to all Englishmen interested in Alpine travel if the completeness and usefulness of his book are allowed to be marred by the want of thorough occasional revision. This the Editor himself may not be able to find leisure to bestow, but we believe there would be no difficulty in finding a member of the Club competent and willing to undertake the work.

The maps also call for some criticisms. In the general maps the new carriage-roads (*e.g.* the Furca and the Albula) seem to have been in no case inserted; even the railway up the Save Thal is not shown. Some of the district maps (*e.g.* those of the Todi and Orteler groups) ought to be replaced by productions less imperfect in execution and more on a level with modern information. At present those given contrast most unfavourably with the maps contained in the 'Guides' published in Germany, where the practical details of rapid and economical handbook-production seem to be better understood than in our own country.

The absence of a separate index to each section is an oversight which can only require pointing out to be promptly remedied.

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\* *The Alpine Guide*. New edition, in 10 sections, each complete in itself, with general and special maps. July 1873. London: Longmans & Co.

It has been our duty to call attention to these conspicuous but easily removeable blemishes. It may therefore be right to repeat once more the opinion often expressed in this Journal—that for English travellers of every description the 'Alpine Guide' is at once the pleasantest and most useful companion. It is the only work of its kind which, taking the Alpine chain as a connected whole, treats of every valley between the shore of Mentone and the rails of the Semmering. Considered as the work of one man, it will probably long remain the most remarkable achievement in Alpine literature.

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### THE SWISS JAHRBUCH FOR 1873.\*

THE district chosen by the Club for special examination by its members in the summer of 1872 was the Adula district, and a special map on the scale of 1:50000 was as usual issued to them.

The volume contains only three excursions in the appointed district. Herr Hoffmann Burckhardt (president) ascended the Rondadura; the Piz Scopi from the Lukmanier Pass descending to Campo; the Rheinwaldhorn, through Val Carassina, descending to Hinter Rhein; and after various excursions in the south of the district, crossed from Val Verzasca to Faido by a pass which he proposes to call Barona Pass. Bad weather defeated an attempt on the Campo Tenca.

H. Zeller-Horner communicates a series of excursions in the years 1867, 1868, and 1872, in the course of which he ascended the Frunthorn, Kirchalhorn, Marscholhorn, and Bürenhorn, chiefly to elucidate the topography and nomenclature of the Adula group. Many of his additions and corrections are inserted in the 'Excursion's-Karte.' His paper is illustrated by views of the Zavreila Horn from the village of that name; the shattered ridge of the Frunthorn; the Fanella Horn; the Lenta Thal; and of the Rheinwaldhorn and Guferhorn from the Marscholhorn.

Herr Calberla ascended the Piz Terri (3,151 m) from the S.W. side; the chief difficulty being the ascent of a very steep rockwall about 1,000 feet high, the descent being yet more hazardous. This is called a first ascent, but I believe the mountain was climbed by Spescha, though from the E. side.

He ascended also the Rheinwaldhorn and Zapporthorn (3,149 m.) The latter was reached from the Zapport Pass, but finding the W. and N. sides of the peak impracticable, they were driven to cross the Stabbiogrät to the south, and gained the summit by the eastern ridge. Returning by the same route, they ascended the Poncione di Freccione (3,199 m.), and descended by the Zapport Pass into Val Malvaglia.

In crossing from Olivone to Faido over the Pizzo Molare the same gentleman was nearly carried over a precipice by the rubbish giving way in a couloir which he was crossing.

Herr Güssfeldt contributes a paper on an ascent of the Disgrazia, made August 21, 1869. From the chalets of Chiareggio he climbed,

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\* *Jahrbuch des Schweizer Alpenklub für 1873.* Bern.

by the Ventina glacier to the Passo di Mello, in 5 hrs. He then held left, and in about 3 hrs. gained the ridge between Val di Mello and Val di Sasso Bisolo. An attack of illness forced him to descend to the chalets in the latter; whence the ascent was effected next morning in 7 hrs. Herr Güssfeldt, with habitual inaccuracy, counts this as the second ascent, reckoning that of Jenni and Fluri, October 23, 1866, the first, but the Editor observes that the ascents by Messrs. Kennedy and Stephen in 1862, and by Mr. Tuckett in 1867, are undoubted, and that therefore this can only be the fourth ascent.\*

Herr Güssfeldt's passage of the Tschierva Sattel has already been mentioned in the Journal (vol. vi. p. 94).

Herr E. J. Häberlin describes an ascent of the Hinter Viescherhorn made July 13, 1871, and one of the Ortler made July 20, 1872, by the 'Hinteren Grat,' with J. Reinstadler and Aloys Pinggera as guides. Herr Harprecht had on the previous day made the first ascent by this route since Gebhard's in 1805. The snow arête appears to be very long and narrow, and to require great steadiness. The same day Herr Dechy of Berlin, with J. Pinggera, ascended by the Stickle Pleiss, and descended by the Hinteren Grat to Sulden.

Next we have an interesting geological excursion by Herr E. von Fellenberg, in the Lotschthal district, in which he ascended the Lotschthaler Breithorn, crossed the Baltschieder Joch, and crossed from Gampel by the Jiolli-thal (Jole in Federal map) and a new pass, Jiolli-Lucke (3,300 m) to the Lotschthal. He speaks highly of the corrections of the Federal map by Herr Häberlin [Jahrbuch, vol. vi.]. The paper is illustrated by views of the Jagi-gletscher and the Jiolli-Lucke.

Herr J. Beck ascended the Mönch with a photographic apparatus, which he was fortunately able to use. Two illustrations are taken from the views obtained—the Jungfrau and the Trugberg.

The first ascent of the Grand Combin from the south side was made by Herr H. Isler from the chalets of Lancet in the Val de Bagnes, with Joseph Gillioz, September 16, 1872. Leaving the chalet at 5 a.m., they reached the Col du Sonadon at 9. Descending slightly on the other side, they gained a couloir running up towards the W. peak of the Combin. They followed this to its head, and then over steep rocks and snow, requiring much step-cutting, they reached the lower peak at 2.30, and the higher peak along the arête in 1 hr. more. The same route was followed in the descent. They were benighted, and in spite of a full moon, did not reach the chalet till 9 p.m.

Herr Dubi describes the ascent of the Basodine from Pommatt and the Hohsand Pass into the Binnenthal.

Herr C. Hauser, a visit to the Martinsloch (the first from the Glarus side), with ascent of the Segnesspitze and Vorab.

Herr L. Gerster describes a walk from Sallenches to Thones over the dividing limestone range. He accepted the guidance of a couple of smugglers, and in crossing during the night a pass more difficult

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\* Herr Güssfeldt will be remembered as the climber who was unwilling to allow Messrs. Moore and Walker the credit of the ascent of the final peak of the Piz Roseg.

than the ordinary routes, but less strictly watched, he was lucky enough neither to break his neck nor to be shot by a 'préposé.' These, however, we are told, are only allowed to fire when the smugglers are armed.

Then we have papers by Herr E. Imhof on 'The Progress and Mode of Execution of the Federal map'; by Herr A. Heim on the 'Theory of Glacier Motion,' and on 'Alpine Panoramas'; from Dr. C. Meyer, on Albert von Haller's poem 'Die Alpen'; from Professor G. Meyer von Knonau on 'The History of Haali and Unterwalden'; from H. Zahringer on the Mountain Campaigns of 1798 and 1799; from Herr G. Studer, 'An Account of a Visit to the Pyrenees, with a View of the Maladetta from the Porte de Venasque'; from C. Hauser on 'Some Wonderful Ice-flowers on the Piz Urlaun'; by Professor Schnetzler on 'The necessity of Climbers paying some attention to Scientific Observations,' pointing out that Herr Isler on the Grand Combin discovered the rare lichen *Umbilicaria Virginis*, known hitherto only on the Jungfrau; by Dr. Bernoulli on 'The Flora of the Special District'; by Herr F. v. Salis on 'The Marks of Ancient Glacier Action'; and by E. Lindt on 'The necessity of Extending the Limits for Alpine Flora, as in ascending the Finsteraarhorn he found *Saxifraga bryoides*, and *muscoides*, *Achillea atrata*, and *Ran. glacialis* in the last 1,000 feet: the last on the very summit, 14,106 feet.

A summary of the doings of the sections for the past summer (1872) is headed by Dr. Rutimeyer with a general account of the Adula district, its meteorological conditions, &c., followed by remarks from the President on the expeditions made in it, which he regrets were not more numerous.

Amongst the expeditions, either new or nearly so, which have not been already mentioned, are the direct descent from the Tödi to the Val Rusein, by the President; the Brunnen Kogl and Sexten Joch, by E. Häberlin; as also an attempt on the Finsteraarhorn from the north side; the Ortler by the Hinteren Grat by T. Harprecht; the Trifhorn, by Naye and Aveneyre; Trugberg, by H. Burckhardt, in 1871.

The club rejoices now in 1,474 members, and a balance of 800l. Since 1863 it has erected 10 'clubhütte,' and the Pavillon Dolfuss has just been made over to it by the relatives of the late Herr Dolfuss.

Amongst various things at the end of the volume is a proposal from the Tödi section to establish an insurance society for guides, which was warmly taken up by the central committee, and may be of much practical benefit.

The principal changes in the 'Excursion's Karte' are as follows: The glacier at the head of the Hinterrheinthal is now divided into Rheinwaldfirn on the W. and Zapport glacier on the E. The western peak of the Vogelberg retains the name, the eastern takes that of Rheinquell Horn. The peak (3,149 m) at the head of Val Calanca is named Zapporthorn: the highest summit between this and the Vogelberg is named Poncione della Freccione (3,199 m). Many subordinate peaks and passes have also received names. This will no doubt be the basis of future editions of this part of the Federal map.

J. SOWERBY.