assistance. We then had to mark our way with chalk and small bits of stone, fearing we might not be able to find it on our return. We went up very close to the edge, looking down on Grindelwald, sometimes throwing over large stones to hear them crash down beneath the clouds. We got to the top—the two guides kindly gave me the place of first man up—at 12 o'clock, stayed about ten minutes, fearing the weather, and came down in four hours, avoiding the very steep place, as, looking down from above, we found out a *couloir*, down which we came, and just saved ourselves by a few seconds from an avalanche.

'I was met at the bottom by about thirty visitors, and we went up to the hôtel. They doubted if we had been on the top until the telescope disclosed the flag there. The hotel proprietor had a large gun fired off, and I seemed for the evening to be a "lion."

'Thus ended my first and only visit to Switzerland. Not having money enough with me to try the Matterhorn, I went home. Nothing could exceed the kindness of Almer and Bohren. I am sorry to hear the latter has passed away. Both were splendid mountaineers, and had I not been as fit as my old horse "Sir Robert Peel" when I won the "Irish Grand National" with him, I would not have seen half the course. I may add that when leaving Grindelwald for the Eiger I was surprised to see the families of the guides in a state of distraction at their departure for the ascent, and two elderly ladies came out and abused me for taking them to risk their lives. Your affectionate brother, CHARLES BARRINGTON.'

NEW EXPEDITIONS (*continued*).

Pennine Alps.

THE AIGUILLE ROUGE OF AROLLA BY THE EASTERN FACE (3,650 mètres = 11,976 feet). *September* 9.—Messrs. Reginald Hughes and D. W. Stable with Franz and Adolf Andermatten reached the highest aiguille by a new route. The wilderness of débris which separates the Aiguilles Rouges Glacier from the Glacier des Ignes was reached by the ordinary cow-path from Arolla. A central ridge of moraine matter curving away in a south-westerly direction was then followed, until it comes to an abrupt termination at a spot where the glacier is at its narrowest, and where the head of the aiguille shows due north-west of the spectator. The glacier was then crossed directly to the base of the peak, where four little bays of snow run upwards to the cliff. Of these the two to the right abut against an eastern tongue or grat descending almost at right angles to the main chain; the third gives on a flat buttress which fits irregularly on to the central mass; while the fourth bay, that immediately in front, lies at the foot of a little precipice slightly to the left of the true peak. Walking across the first and second of these bays, the party reached some easy rocks which led to the top of the third, whence they climbed up high enough to cross to the top of the little precipice above the fourth snow bay, and gained a couloir running some way into the heart

of the mountain. This is very steep and narrow, and, on the return of the party (11.30 A.M.), was observed to be swept by showers of stones. It was perforce ascended, but only for some 60 or 80 feet, when a traverse was effected on to the face of the buttress. The great cliff to the left hangs over so much as to preclude the idea of ascent on that side, but to the right there are a succession of convenient cracks in the generally smooth and rotten rock, only to be reached, however, by some decidedly awkward traverses. By following these, after a good deal of dodging and doubling, the great overhanging wall was turned and the final ridge struck about 10 minutes south of the top. Here the rocks suddenly change in character and become quite easy—the counterpart, in fact, of those of the Schreckhorn ridge. The view was magnificent, and the time occupied, with short halts, was, from Arolla and back, 12 hours. The leading features of the climb were its extreme steepness, and the multitude of stones perched in every crevice of the cliff; one pyramidal specimen with a base of a square yard, which stuck by the point in an unavoidable couloir, and which 'wobbled' at a finger touch, needed very delicate circumventing. The party were able to identify the point they reached in the snowstorms of September 1881 by following the eastern grat above mentioned, as the *épaule* of a lower aiguille 50 feet further north, and connected with the Grande Aiguille by a practicable ridge. The route then followed, though longer, is probably the easier and the safer, although that of this year has the advantage of being clear of snow even in the worst weather. The present ascent is certainly the first by the face, but it seems doubtful whether it be the second, third, or fourth actual ascent of the mountain, the summit of which was first gained by Mr. Kennedy and Fischer in 1869 or 1870.

NADELHORN FROM THE HOHBERG GLACIER (4,334 mètres = 14,876 feet). *July* 14.—Messrs. Ellerman and Passavant, with the guides Alex. Burgener, Louis Zurbrücken, A. Imseng, and Vienz, left the upper sleeping-place on the Festi at 3 A.M. They reached the lowest point in the ridge between the Hohberg and Festi glaciers at 6. Thence they crossed the Hohberg glacier to the rocks under the Nadelhorn, and ascended these, bearing to the left till they got into a conspicuous couloir. Following this for a short distance, they again turned left and ascended a second very steep couloir that led on to the main north-west ridge close to the summit. This consists of two rock-peaks, the second and highest of which was reached at 9.30. Owing to the great difficulties encountered in the ascent, the party chose a different way down. They descended towards the Ried glacier for some distance, cutting steps all the way in order to circumvent a rock-ridge. They then reascended to the north-west ridge (11.45). From this point they went down the back of a rock-rib, and then into a couloir leading directly down to the glacier between the Nadelhorn and the Stecknadelhorn. While descending the couloir they were involved in an avalanche. The descent of the face occupied 3 hrs. in all. The Festijoch was reached in 40 min. more, and Randa 4 hrs. later. The whole expedition occupied 17 hrs., of which only 1¼ hr. was

spent in halts. The greater portion of these routes can be followed in the photograph in vol. x. p. 332 of the Journal.

In July the Nadelhorn was ascended by Mr. E. S. Balch from Saas, by the route mentioned in vol. x. p. 337. He describes the expedition as long and on the whole uninteresting. Messrs. Freeman and Sloman likewise reached the summit from Saas on August 16.

ALPINE NOTES.

'Our own Correspondents' on Alpine Accidents.—To refer in detail to the many inaccuracies in the telegrams relating to Alpine news, ascents and accidents sent home during the past twelve months by our newspaper correspondents might seem trivial, and would certainly be tedious. But before another season commences it may be as well to ask publicly, and in print, a question which must often rise to the lips of our readers. What good purpose can be served in the case of accidents by the premature publication of these irresponsible paragraphs? In so special a subject it may be unreasonable to expect of a correspondent, even though he be resident at Geneva, such an elementary knowledge of mountain craft and Alpine topography as might enable him to sift to some extent the rumours that reach him—and to spell decently. As a fact we know that the average correspondent, or his reviser, confuses the Bernina and San Bernardino, the Mont Cenis and Monte Cenere; that he thinks Breil a possible starting-point for the ascent of the Dent du Géant! He can even send home without blushing such a piece of intelligence as this—'A new railway is in contemplation from Innsbruck to Maloya, which will shorten the journey from Central Germany to Verona.'

Mountaineers have no right to complain of the exceptional publicity given in the press to the details of Alpine disasters. If they teach a lesson to others, it is well that these details should be fully reported and discussed. But then they must be reported by competent writers. There can be no profit, and there may be much pain, involved in the publication of fictitious details, as in the case of the Wetterhorn accident, or with regard to Professor Balfour's anticipation of extraordinary peril. Again, a few gossipmongers may be gratified to know twenty-four hours earlier that 'another Englishman has lost his life near Zermatt.' But is their pleasure to be weighed against the anxiety caused in many homes by an announcement so cruelly and needlessly vague? It is difficult to feel any patience with the sender who, living at Geneva, might in a few hours, and at the cost of a few pence, have obtained from Monsieur Seiler all needful details.

Is it not obvious that while special correspondents in Switzerland are what they are, they should leave Alpine accidents to be reported by competent persons on the spot? Private letters are never wanting, and are invariably published. It seems a pity—even from the editorial point of view—that so large a portion of them should have to be devoted to refuting the previous statements of paid contributors. And