NEW EXPEDITIONS IN 1886 (*continued*).

Dolomites.

CRODA ROSSA OR ROTHWAND (3,133 mètres=10,279 feet). *October* 8.—Herr August Lorria with Michael Innerkofler, of Schluderbach, followed the usual route up this peak from Schluderbach as far as the valley N. of the Col Freddo, known as the Castello del Val Buones. Instead of continuing by the ridge between this valley and that of Monticelli or R. Sella (the ordinary way) they climbed up over *débris* to a point directly beneath the summit, near the base of a red gully in the mountain. They made their way up this narrow gully, which is not difficult, save at one point where it is closed by a great block of rock fallen from above. Then they came to a shelf of *débris* which from below has the appearance of a red hole. They thus gained the dark red wall, whence by a cleft, smooth slabs of rock, an ice couloir and chimney, they gained the summit in 2 hrs. 10 mins. from the Castello. This route, according to Innerkofler, has been taken once previously, but there seems to be no record of it in Alpine literature. It offers a very interesting climb, but much more difficult than the ordinary route. Times: 4.55 up from Schluderbach, 3.52 down.

ALPINE NOTES.

ALPINE EXHIBITION AT LIVERPOOL.—The managers of the Liverpool Jubilee Exhibition have decided to devote a portion of their 'Exploration' Court to an Alpine Court, and have asked for the assistance of the Alpine Club. The Committee have agreed to support the undertaking by the loan of pictures, maps, &c., belonging to the Club, and have appointed Messrs. C. Pilkington, Conway, Gardiner, and Walker, a sub-committee, with the President and Hon. Secretary of the Alpine Club to act on behalf of the Committee.

Any member willing to lend pictures or other interesting Alpine objects is requested to communicate with Mr. J. G. Thrupp (Commissioner for Exploration Courts), Jubilee Exhibition, Liverpool, or with Mr. Horace Walker, South Lodge, Prince's Park, Liverpool.

THE INDEX SCHEME.—The draft of the index is making good progress, most of the Editor's helpers having sent in their volume indexes long before the expiration of the period fixed. It has been determined to include in the index the three volumes of 'Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers' (as well as the 'Knapsack' edition of vol. i.), which, though not officially published by the Alpine Club, are practically the early form of the 'Alpine Journal,' and form with it the only complete connected view of the doings of English climbers since the foundation of the Alpine Club.

MONTE ROSA FROM THE SOUTH.—The attention of the reviewer of the Italian 'Bollettino' in the last number of the Journal (p. 203) has been called to a note in 'A. J.' vii. 218, which he had overlooked. It runs thus:—'Mons. M. Déchy wishes it to be stated that, in speaking of his ascent of Monte Rosa as a new expedition he did not mean to

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imply that the top had not previously been reached from the Monte Rosa Glacier. What he wished to point out was, that his ascent was the first which proved that the mountain could be easily reached from the Val di Lys.' In other words, M. de Déchy followed the Lysjoch route some way down on the Swiss side, and then reached a point just above the *Sattel* by a route which was made independently, but which was only a variation of Messrs. Digby's and Heathcote's route of 1868, and is so reckoned by Mr. Conway (Zermatt Pocket Book, p. 51). The reviewer wishes also to point out that the main object of Signor Grober's paper was to stimulate his fellow-countrymen to follow M. de Déchy's route—a most praiseworthy endeavour, in which we hope that he will succeed, though it is to be regretted that his paper is disfigured by such serious misstatements of historical facts relating to the ascent of Monte Rosa from the South. It may also be pointed out that the whole of the S. and S.W. faces of the Höchste Spitze of Monte Rosa are in Swiss territory, and that they can only be gained from Italy by crossing the Lysjoch, the Sesiajoch, or the Grenz Sattel, so that an ascent of Monta Rosa from the South cannot, strictly speaking, mean an ascent by the Italian face, though the starting-point of the expedition may well have been some place on the Italian side of one of the minor peaks of the Monte Rosa group.

The Recent Accident on the Matterhorn.—The Editor has received the following letter (dated March 14) from Mr. J. B. Mercer:—

'My attention has been drawn by friends in the Alpine Club to a letter from Messrs. King and Wills, in the "Alpine Journal" of November 1886, in reference to the accident on the Matterhorn last August, in which they regret that the first party "raised no alarm" on its arrival at Zermatt, and also that "all of us were in ignorance that there were other parties on the mountain at all."

'Inasmuch as the first party alluded to consisted of my two guides, Franz Anthamatten and Joseph Furrer (both of Saas), and myself, I may perhaps be permitted to show why none of us had reason to suppose that the other parties on the mountain were in any greater difficulties than I myself experienced.

'I reached the top at 7.30, Moser's party arriving there at 7.50, all four parties having left the hut about the same time; and we commenced the descent at eight o'clock, meeting the third and fourth parties about twenty minutes down, still ascending, thus showing that they were slower than myself. At any rate I had no reason to suppose that they would not all at least reach the lower hut before night. When I was about three-quarters of an hour above the hut I shouted, and was replied to by the Dutch party, who had previously shouted that they had heard the party above them.

'I reached the hut at nine minutes past two, and Zermatt soon after 4.30 P.M. I went to bed about 9 P.M., and was much surprised on coming down the next morning to hear that none of the other parties had arrived, and that a rescue party was then just starting. There was nothing to show that there was any cause for alarm, or that any interference on my part was necessary; and my two guides, both experienced men, evidently thought there was no danger, for they did

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not refer to the other parties at all during the evening; and this is borne out by the hour at which I arrived at Zermatt, and by the fact that so many other parties were out on different mountains, all of whom arrived back in reasonable time, as pointed out by Mr. Schuster in his letter in the February number of the "Alpine Journal."

'I cannot help thinking that, had Messrs. King and Wills been in my position, they would not have thought it necessary to raise any alarm, which they regret in their letter was not done. It is evident that Mr. Seiler must have been aware that there were other parties on the mountain, for he had been consulted as to the engagement of two guides by Mr. Davies himself, as stated in his letter to the "Times" of August 28.'

A Tablet to the Memory of Sir Humphrey Davy.—The Carniola section of the German and Austrian Alpine Club has resolved to put up on the Old Posthouse at Wurzen, the favourite headquarters of Sir Humphrey Davy, a tablet to commemorate his services in making known the S.E. Alps of Austria and in attracting visitors thither.

A. Lorria.

Huts in the Eastern Alps.—The Munich section of the German and Austrian Club is building a hut on the Watzmann. A large hut in the Pflerschthal (Stubaiferner) will next summer be built by the Magdeburg section, and another by the Frankfort section on the Gepatsch glacier, three or four hours higher up than the Gepatschhaus, built by the same section some time ago. A. Lorria.

The 'Old Man of Skye' by the West Edge.—Messrs. C. and L. Pilkington made, on August 18, 1880, the first ascent of this point, called the 'Inaccessible Pinnacle,' by way of the eastern side.* In company with Mr. A. G. Parker I succeeded on August 19, 1886, in making the same ascent by the western edge. The N. face of the W. edge is broken by three ledges, the highest of which slopes unpleasantly outwards. It is but a step from the first ledge to the second, from which the highest is easily reached. The only difficulty—hardly worthy of the name—consists in crossing the sloping ledge and working on to the W. edge of the Pinnacle. The whole climb is about seventy feet, and takes less than five minutes. The attention of climbers in Skye may be called to a pretty little chimney to the left (east) of the sloping ledge, the foot of which might be reached from the ledge; the rest would be easy work and give an interesting variation in the W. climb. The south face too deserves attention, for it is much more broken up by ledges than it appears to be from below. The north face looks as impracticable as overhanging rocks can look.

A. H. Stocker.

The First Ascent of the Mönch.—It is curious that a cowl of mystery should have hung, chronologically, over the head of the Mönch as regards the *date* of the first authenticated ascent of this mountain and as to the members of the party who made it. The Rev. Coutts Trotter and the late Mr. Macdonald, each of whom have written articles on the Mönch in the first volume of the 'Alpine Journal' (pp.

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. x. p. 111.

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82–86, 423–429), agree in fixing 1858 as the year of Dr. Porges' ascent, which is universally recognised as the first authenticated one. Mr. Coutts Trotter moreover remarks that 'Peter Bohren, who was one of the guides on the only previous ascent (*i.e.* in company with Dr. Porges), had reached the summit in about two hours and a half from the Col,' &c.; and Mr. Macdonald accentuates this reference to Peter Bohren's alleged presence on the occasion of the first ascent by quoting Mr. Coutts Trotter's words in regard to him.* Mr. Ball assigns no exact date either as to month or year to Dr. Porges' ascent of the mountain, nor does he give the names of any other guides besides Christian Almer who were members of Dr. Porges' party. 'The first authentic ascent was by Dr. Porges, of Vienna, with Christian Almer and other Grindelwald guides.' †

In 'Modern Mountaineering,' ‡ Professor Studer§ is cited as the authority for Peter Bohren having accompanied Christian Almer and Dr. Porges in the first ascent of the Mönch, and also for fixing the date as August 15, 1857. 'They slept an hour below the Mönchjoch, and reached the top by the Mönchjoch arête after cutting 300 steps in ice at 3 P.M., having been eleven hours from their bivouac. The weather was unfavourable and the snow in bad condition, which may partly account for the enormous time consumed.'

It turns out, however, on incontestable evidence that although the year last given, viz. 1857, is the correct one, as I have ascertained from Dr. Porges himself, as well as from Christian Almer himself in the course of a very recent interview with him (the latter's 'Führer-Buch' giving August 15, 1857, as the date), Peter Bohren was at that moment 'over the hills and far away' from the Mönch and its neighbourhood, being on August 15, 1857, waiting at the Riffelberg with Mr. Eustace Anderson (at which hôtel they had arrived on the 14th) for fine weather to enable them to ascend Monte Rosa. Peter Bohren's original 'Führer-Buch' is on the table before me as I write, and Mr. Anderson's sign manual is attached to the above statement as to their whereabouts together on the day and in the year named.

Christian Almer states that the guides who actually accompanied Dr. Porges were himself, Ulrich Kaufmann (who is Christian Almer's brother-in-law), and Christian Kaufmann (long since dead). It is odd that Peter Bohren's name should have been thus erroneously associated with the first ascent of the Mönch by so many 'authorities.' He was the principal leader on mountain expeditions in the neighbourhood of Grindelwald at that period, and this fact must be taken to account for the error having crept in. F. T. WETHERED.

NOTES ON SOME PEAKS AND PASSES IN THE OBERLAND.—The following note by Mr. G. E. Foster appeared on p. 155 of vol. iv. of the 'Alpine Journal:'—

'1868, July 21.—With Hans Baumann and a porter from Grindelwald I left the chalet beside the Lower Grindelwald glacier about

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. i. p. 125. † *Central Alps*, ed. 1870, p. 111.
‡ *Alpine Journal*, vol. viii. Appendix, p. 80.
§ *Ueber Eis und Schnee*, i. 144.

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3.30, and crossed the cirque of the Viescherhörner, between the lower Viescherhorn and a point called the Pfarrerhorn; then bearing to the left over snow slopes, ascended some steep rocks which are much swept by avalanches, and reached the col on the left of the Ochsenhorn at 4.15 P.M., the last slope having taken over six hours to cut steps up. Ascended the Ochsenhorn in fifteen minutes from the col, returning to which we descended to the Viesch glacier by some awkward broken rocks and reached the Rothhorn cave at 8.45. The pass I propose to call the Ochsenjoch.'

I had never been able to make out quite to my satisfaction the exact route followed on this occasion; and when, on August 5, 1874, I crossed what my leading guide, Christian Almer, called the Ochsenjoch (ascending the Ochsenhorn from it in a few minutes) it seemed to me that this pass was identical with that commonly known as the Viescherjoch.

Mr. Foster has lately, at my request, been looking up the matter and examining maps and photographs. I understand that he is quite clear on two points—

(1) That, having started from the Bärenegg hut, he left the Strahleck route *before* reaching the Enge, striking up directly to the N. ridge of the Ochsenhorn, which was gained at a point a little to the S. of the Pfaffenstöckli (3,121 mètres) of the large Federal map.

(2) That from this point he did *not* follow the N. ridge to the summit of the Ochsenhorn, but bore round to the left and reached a small snow plain, from which a very long piece of step-cutting led him to a point on the main ridge just E. of the Ochsenhorn (3,905 mètres = 12,812 feet), which was climbed by its E. ridge in fifteen minutes.

Mr. Foster is hence inclined to think that this *second* pass was the Viescherjoch, crossed on July 30, 1862, by Mr. Leslie Stephen and a party of friends,* who, however, reached it from the Kastenstein by way of the upper Eismeer, the 'Grünenwäng,' and the first glacier flowing down E. of the Ochsenhorn. This point was also reached from the Kastenstein on July 28, 1864, by Herr von Fellenberg,† who identifies it quite certainly with the Viescherjoch (one of his guides—Peter Baumann—having also been with Mr. Stephen on his 1862 expedition) and thence made the first ascent of the Ochsenhorn. In 1874 I certainly followed the route taken in 1862 and 1864, which is illustrated by a diagram and described minutely in Herr von Fellenberg's book.

Hence I should propose to retain the name of Viescherjoch for this pass, assigning that of Ochsenjoch to Mr. Foster's first pass across the lateral ridge between the Pfaffenstöckli and Ochsenhorn. Mr. Foster kindly allows me to state that his views on the whole question are entirely in accordance with mine.

Another topographical point relating to this group which has long troubled me has also just been set at rest. In the supplementary

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. i. pp. 105–8; *The Playground of Europe*, pp. 152–8.
† *Das Hochgebirge von Grindelwald*, p. 122 sqq.

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volume of Herr Studer's 'Ueber Eis und Schnee'* I read that on August 2, 1878, Mr. E. R. Whitwell, with Christian Lauener and Peter Schlegel, made the first ascent of the Viescherhörner from the N. side, though it was uncertain which peak was reached. This statement was based on a short note in the 'Neue Alpenpost' (viii. 62), which in its turn had taken it from the 'Oberland' newspaper. Mr. Whitwell has kindly sent me his recollections of his expedition. Starting from a bivouac on the Zäsenberg, they struck the N. ridge of the Ochsenhorn and followed it all the way to the summit of the peak, chiefly over rocks, partly by ice. The last part was very steep and climbed in dense mist, which compelled the party to descend to the Eggischhorn by the ordinary route over the Grünhornlücke.

Mr. Whitwell would thus seem to have followed Mr. Foster's route to the Ochsenjoch (properly so called) and then kept straight up the ridge, instead of bearing round to the left and mounting to the Viescherjoch. In fact his route is precisely that followed, independently, on August 17, 1886, by Mr. J. Stafford Anderson.†

I am now quite satisfied in my own mind as to the exact routes followed in 1868 and 1878 (and 1886), and am induced to put these notes before the readers of the Journal to avoid future confusion and to help the Alpine historian of the Oberland.

I take this opportunity of clearing up the topography of the great S. spur of the Aletschhorn, which has been much confused owing to changes of name on the large (or Siegfried) and smaller (or Dufour) Federal maps. There are three main peaks on it.

(1) Of these the highest is estimated by both maps at 3,746 mètres. It bears no name on the Dufour map, though the ridge descending from it to S.E. is called (on both maps) 'Geissgrat;' on the Siegfried map the point is named 'Sattelhorn,' a name transferred from a peak of 3,270 or 3,274 mètres to the S.E. This is the peak of which I made the first ascent on August 26, 1880,‡ and which, following local usage, I called 'Geisshorn.'

(2) To the S.W. of No. 1 lies a peak, marked 3,666 on the Dufour map and 3,701 on the Siegfried. The latter map calls it 'Rothhorn,' a name which occurs so frequently that it may be well to get rid of it when possible. This peak is properly the highest point of the Fusshörner group, and was ascended for the first time on August 28, 1871, by my aunt, the late Miss Brevoort, Mr. S. P. Cockerell, and myself, with the dog Tschingel.§ Our ascent was made from the Triest glacier.

(3) Finally, we have the point marked 3,648 on the Dufour map and 3,628 on the Siegfried map, in each case forming part of the Fusshörner group, of which it is properly the second peak. The first ascent has not hitherto been recorded; it was made on September 21, 1876, by my aunt, the late Miss Brevoort, with Mr. W. Little, the guides being two Belalp men, Moritz Salzmann and Peter (?); the

* Vol. iv. p. 45; published in 1883.
† *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiii. p. 122.
‡ *Ibid.* vol. x. p. 98. § *Ibid.* vol. v. p. 276.

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cook of the Belalp hotel and Tschingel were also of the party. The ascent was, I believe, made by way of the face above the lower part of the Ober Aletsch glacier. In 1886 the ascent was repeated by Mr. T. P. H. Jose with Anton Walden, who ascended from the Ober Aletsch glacier by way of the S. face and the left-hand ridge, and found traces of a cairn on the summit. This is the peak which is so conspicuous from the Belalp inn as, apparently, the culminating point of the great rock wall of the Fusshörner. W. A. B. COOLIDGE.

WINTER EXPEDITIONS. — The following letter appeared in the 'Standard' of February 8:—

'It may be of interest to some of your readers to hear that the ascent of one of our highest peaks, the Mönch, has been made this week.

'A Mr. H. Woolley, from Manchester, left Grindelwald at six o'clock on Monday last, January 31, accompanied by two guides, for the Club hut on the Mönchjoch. They reached there at seven P.M., and started next morning at six for the ascent of the peak. They arrived at the top of the Mönch near midday, and were back at the Bär Hôtel, Grindelwald, at ten o'clock the same evening.

'Mr. Woolley has found the ascent not any more difficult or dangerous than in summer. Up to the Club hut the party found the ascent rather more fatiguing than in summer on account of the snow. From the hut to the top the snow was in good condition. From the cold the party did not suffer, and the view from the mountain was very fine, owing to the bright, fine weather and the clear winter air.'

We learn that the guides were Ulrich Almer and Christian Jössi.

The Mönch had been already ascended in winter by Herren F. Bischoff and R. Bohren with one of the Michels, Peter Bohren, and Peter Baumann on January 24, 1874.*

On March 8 Herr Emil Boss and Ulrich Almer started from the Schwarzegg hut and effected the first winter ascent of the Finsteraarhorn. They followed the ridge running up from the Agassiz Joch. The snow was in excellent condition on the way up and the temperature on the summit agreeably warm. On the descent, effected by the ordinary route, the snow was in a very bad state, and it was not till about 4 A.M. on the morning of March 9 that the party reached Viesch, having descended the entire length of the Viescher glacier. The three highest summits of the Mont Blanc, Monte Rosa, and Oberland chains have now been scaled in winter.

We hear also that two Englishmen with two guides crossed the Col du Géant on January 16.

THE FIRST ASCENT OF THE JUNGFRAU.—The following account, taken from the old travellers' book at the Grimsel and preserved by J. R. Wyss,† is interesting as giving the first impressions of the first conquerors of the Jungfrau, who later wrote a full account of it:—'On July 30, 1811, the undersigned, fully equipped, passed by this place with the intention of climbing the hitherto unascended Jungfrauenhorn

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* *Alpine Journal*, vol. vi. p. 413; *S. A. C. Jahrbuch*, vol. x. p. 670.

† *Reise in das Berner Oberland* (1817), vol. ii. pp. 753–4.

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and of exploring the connection of the great sea of ice with other glaciers. On August 5 they returned to the Grimsel, after having succeeded in planting a black flag as a signal on the highest peak of the Jungfrauenhorn, Saturday afternoon, August 23 [misprint for 3]. The nearest and best way to reach the mountain is from the Lötschenthal, in the Valais, over its glacier. The undersigned had the good fortune, in this very favourable year for glacier journeys, of reaching the foot of the last peak without great difficulty. They must, however, point out that, as the glaciers change every year according to the weather, in a more unfavourable year than this the way they took to the foot of this last peak may be impassable; so that each time (for even the most experienced chamois hunters never venture for many hours so far on the sea of ice) it will be necessary to discover the way to the spot where one is obliged to spend one or more nights on the glacier, for this must be done twice if one wishes to attain the object of the journey. The ascent of the highest peak is, on the other hand, only to be made in face of almost insurmountable difficulties and of great danger. From the summit and neighbouring heights the junction of all the glaciers may be seen which unite behind the Jungfrau and the Mönch in the great sea of ice. JOH. RUD. MEYER, jun., of Aarau; HIERONYMUS MEYER, of Aarau.'

MADAME CARLE AND HER MEADOW.—All who have travelled in Dauphiné will remember the stone-strewn plain above Ailefroide, where the ice-streams of the Glacier Blanc and the Glacier Noir formerly united. This plain is commonly known as the Pré de Madame Carle; but the question who this lady was has remained a mystery till M. Aristide Albert (a well known Dauphiné antiquary) published a note on the subject in No. 22 (April, 1887) of the 'Bulletin de la Société d'Etudes des Hautes Alpes,' pp. 143-4. It seems that one Geoffrey Carle, President of the 'Parlement' or Supreme Court of Justice of Grenoble from 1500 to 1516, bought from the Luzerne family the 'Bâtie' or castle of Vallouise, and many estates and rights in the same valley. His son Anthony died young, and Anthony's widow, 'demoiselle Louise Sereyne, dame Carle,' managed his estates as the guardian of her ten children. This was the lady whose name was given to the pasturages above Ailefroide, then probably luxuriant, now covered with stones, save the rapidly diminishing little forest of pines. Madame Carle was thus a real historical person, and not the creation of legend, as one was often led to suppose.

MAPS OF THE ALPS.—For a general view of the Alps as a whole, I know of nothing better than sheet 52 of the second edition of Richard Andree's 'Allgemeiner Handatlas' (Velhagen and Klasing; Bielefeld and Leipzig; 120 maps for 24*s.*), now in course of publication. Though only on a scale of 1 in 2,500,000, it is very clear and marvellously accurate, all the *very* latest authorities having been utilised. Sheet 53 (on a scale of 1 in 1,000,000) comprises all the Western Alps from the Lake of Geneva and Monte Rosa to the Mediterranean, and is specially good in the case of the tangled ranges on the French side of the range. It is astounding and most gratifying to find a publisher willing to devote special attention to

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these neglected districts, and with such good results. All the great peaks of the Graian, Paradis, Tarentaise, Dauphiné, Cottian, and Maritime Alps are *correctly* represented, with their right names and right heights, the misprint of 3,100 mètres for 3,400 in the case of the Aiguille de Chambeyron, and the omission of the Charbonel (3,760 mètres), the monarch of the Western Graians, being the only ones I have noticed. It is a great boon to have a handy and accurate map of the Alps as a whole, in particular one of the Western Alps, and some members of the Club may be glad to have the existence of such maps pointed out to them. These two sheets are very probably included in the supplement (to the first edition) of 33 new maps, which can be procured separately for six shillings. W. A. B. Coolidge.

A Medieval Passage of the Great St. Bernard.—The following lively description of Master John de Bremble's sufferings on the Great St. Bernard in February 1188 is taken from a letter of his written from Lombardy to Geoffrey, the sub-prior of the monastery of Christ Church at Canterbury, of which house John was a monk:—*

'Pardon me for not writing. I have been on the Mount of Jove; on the one hand looking up to the heavens of the mountains, on the other shuddering at the hell of the valleys, feeling myself so much nearer heaven that I was more sure that my prayer would be heard. "Lord," I said, "restore me to my brethren, that I may tell them, that they come not into this place of torment." Place of torment indeed, where the marble pavement of the stony ground is ice alone, and you cannot set down your foot safely; where, strange to say, although it is so slippery that you cannot stand, the death (into which there is every facility for a fall) is certain death. I put my hand in my scrip, that I might scratch out a syllable or two to your sincerity; lo, I found my ink bottle filled with a dry mass of ice; my fingers too refused to write; my beard was stiff with frost, and my breath congealed into a long icicle. I could not write the news I wished.'

Lectures to Guides.—Several of the foreign Alpine Clubs have arranged for courses of lectures to be delivered to guides, or aspirants to the position of a guide, on various matters connected with their profession. For example, before the examination for guides' certificates at Interlaken all candidates are required to attend lectures extending over a week or more. But perhaps a larger audience of guides and would-be guides never assembled than at Innsbruck from February 27 to March 7, when a course had been organised by the German and Austrian Alpine Club. No fewer than 168 were present. The subjects of the lectures were glaciers, Alpine and local topography, how to read maps, the use of the compass, thermometer, and barometer, the rights and duties of guides in general, instructions how to act in case of an accident, Alpine clubs, guides' societies, guides' insurance, use of rope and axe, names of mountains, cookery, and forestry. The 168 were

* *Epistolæ Cantuarienses*, letter no. cxcvii. vol. ii. p. 181, of the *Chronicles and Memorials of the Reign of Richard I.* in the Master of the Rolls' series (1865), quoted by Bishop Stubbs in his *Lectures on Medieval and Modern History* (1886), p. 128.

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divided for the sake of convenience into six sections. The lectures are said to have been very much appreciated, particularly that on how to act in case of an accident, the zeal and interest shown being very great. A short examination (prizes being awarded) and a social evening concluded the proceedings. The Innsbruck section is to be congratulated on a distinct success.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

Zeitschrift des Deutschen und Oesterreichischen Alpenvereins. Jahrgang 1886. Band xvii. (München: J. Lindauer.)

THE strictly mountaineering portion of this volume becomes less every year. The most interesting papers are contributed by Herren Purtscheller, Lammer, Lorria, and Schulz, and have mostly been already referred to in the pages of the 'Alpine Journal.'

Herr Purtscheller ascended all three peaks of the Watzmann in a single day from S. Bartholomä. The mountain on this side is accessible only by a long couloir with precipitous sides, and interrupted here and there by short steep faces of rock. Where these cannot be climbed the sides must be scaled in order to turn the obstacle. The mouth of the gully is in the face of a cliff, and the ascent by this route is thought to be possible only in the early summer, when the snow-slopes reach up the cliff to the ravine. Herr Schück, with the guide Köderbacher (of Ramsau), climbed the central and highest peak (2,714 mètres = 8,905 feet) on this side (S.E.) in 14 hrs. on May 6, 1881. Köderbacher proposed to Herr Purtscheller to make a trial in the autumn. Leaving S. Bartholomä in the early morning of October 28, 1883, they got into the couloir only by a difficult and dangerous traverse, 2 hours being consumed in ascending about 50 mètres. In spite of Köderbacher's powers the first cliff could not be surmounted. The chasm between the snow and the walls was impassable, and at 9.30 A.M., after 8 hours' labour, they were forced to return. A second attempt was made on July 13, 1885, with the guide Preiss (also of Ramsau, and said to be quite as good a cragsman as Köderbacher). The access to the gully was easy, but the cliff which stopped them before was again found impassable. The side of the gully was climbed by a crack scarcely affording room for the tips of their fingers. In this precarious position Herr Purtscheller had to take off the guide's shoes, and he got up with the greatest difficulty. 'Those were exciting moments,' says Herr Purtscheller, 'such as I have seldom experienced in the Alps.' They soon had to enter the gully again. They had again to take off their shoes to surmount a second cliff. Here, whilst Herr Purtscheller was watching the movements of the guide above him, his footing gave way and he slipped down more than half a yard. He recovered his hold, but involuntarily clutched the rope with his left hand, thereby giving Preiss a jerk, which might easily have been fatal to both. The latter, however, only laughed instead of scolding, and went on as if nothing had happened. The

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