ALPINE NOTES.

WINTER MEETING AND DINNER.—The Annual General Meeting of the Alpine Club will be held at the Club rooms on the evening of *Monday*, December 16.

The Picture Exhibition and Winter Dinner will take place at the *Whitehall Rooms* (*Hotel Métropole*) on the afternoon and evening of *Tuesday*, December 17. An endeavour will also be made to organise on a more extended scale an exhibition of Alpine appliances, to be held at the same time, and to be transferred, if practicable, to the Club rooms for some days subsequently. Loans of such appliances, and of pictures, photographs, &c., will be gladly welcomed, and it is specially requested that all communications relating to such loans may be sent as early as possible to the Honorary Secretary of the Club, F. O. Schuster, Esq., 50 Belsize Square, South Hampstead, N.W.

CHANGE IN THE EDITORSHIP OF THE 'ALPINE JOURNAL.'—Mr. Coolidge has resigned the editorship of the 'Alpine Journal,' after having held it since August 1880, a longer period than any of his three predecessors—Mr. H. B. George, 1863–67; Mr. Leslie Stephen, 1868–72; and Mr. D. W. Freshfield, 1872–80). The vacant post has been offered by the Committee of the Alpine Club to Mr. A. J. Butler, who has consented to accept it, and to whom all communications for the Editor should be henceforth addressed at the Alpine Club Rooms, 8 St. Martin's Place, Charing Cross, W.C.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE CHIEF FOREIGN ALPINE CLUBS IN 1888.—It may be interesting to our readers to see the sums spent in 1888 by the chief foreign Alpine Clubs on their periodical publications. The German and Austrian Club spent 2,128*l.* on its annual volume (the 'Zeitschrift'), and 1,693*l.* on its fortnightly journal ('Mittheilungen')—in all 3,821*l.* for the year, or about 59 per cent. of the ordinary income of the Club; the estimate for 1889 is 3,765*l.*, and that for 1890 is no less than 4,687*l.* The Italian Alpine Club expended 279*l.* and 258*l.* respectively, or in all 537*l.* (26 per cent. of its gross income), on its two publications ('Bollettino' once a year, 'Rivista Mensile' once a month). In the same year the Swiss Alpine Club made a profit of about 60*l.* on its 'Jahrbuch,' and gave 40*l.* as an annual subsidy to the 'Echo des Alpes,' the organ of the French-speaking sections. The French Alpine Club spent 915*l.* on its 'Annuaire,' and 285*l.* on its 'Bulletin' (nine numbers a year), or 1,200*l.* in all, being 33 per cent. of its gross income.

SIX HUNDRED 'GRANDES COURSES.'—We are informed that towards the close of last summer Mr. Coolidge accomplished his 600th 'grande course' in the Alps. Every peak included in this list is 10,000 feet (roughly speaking, 3,000 mètres) or more in height, as is also nearly every pass, the few passes below that limit being in every case glacier passes, and within a few feet of the 10,000 feet limit. We learn, further, that this large number of 'grandes courses' has been made in the course of twenty-five consecutive summer, and three winter, campaigns among the mountains, and that all these expeditions, with the exception of fourteen, were carried out in those portions of the Western

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and Central Alps which are comprised between the Col de Tenda on the south, and a line drawn from the Lake of Lucerne to the St. Gotthard Pass on the east.

MOUNTAINEERING IN AFRICA.—It is announced that in July last Dr. H. Meyer, undaunted by his previous failures and adventures, started again to attempt the ascent of Kilima-Njaro. He was accompanied by the well-known German climber, Herr Ludwig Purtscheller of Salzburg. Letters received from the party, dated Zanzibar, August 30, stated that the preparations for starting had taken so long that they would not be able to get off till the beginning of September. They expect to spend three months in exploring the Kilima-Njaro group, and then to proceed to Mount Kenia, having arranged to be absent from Europe for about a year. Should political troubles prevent them from accomplishing their explorations in Eastern Africa, the party propose to sail for New Guinea.

ROYAL MOUNTAINEERING.—The Queen of Italy, whose visit to the Col du Géant we recorded last year,* spent the month of August last in and around Gressoney St. Jean.† During her stay she made many excursions among the neighbouring hills, visiting the Lys Glacier and also the Col d'Ollen. The most considerable expedition undertaken by her Majesty was an excursion to Zermatt, which was reached on August 20 by way of the Betta Furka, Cimes Blanches, and St. Théodule. The weather was, unfortunately, very bad during her sojourn at Zermatt, but on August 24 the Queen went to the Gornergrat, where she drank to the health of the Queen of Great Britain, in acknowledgment of the cheers of an English party on the summit. On August 26 her Majesty ascended the Breithorn, spending two nights at the St. Théodule inn, and regaining Gressoney St. Jean next day by the same route as that by which she had come. The Breithorn (13,785 feet) is as yet the loftiest point which has ever been reached by a reigning European sovereign. Queen Margaret, in undertaking high ascents, has followed the example set her by the sovereigns of her illustrious house. Yet though Charles Emmanuel II. (August 5, 1659), Victor Emmanuel II., and (before his accession) Humbert I. all climbed up the Roche Melon, that peak is but 11,605 feet high, and has a zigzag path in lieu of a glacier on the Italian side, so that the present Queen of Italy, by her latest mountaineering feat, has completely distanced all her royal predecessors.

BOTH PEAKS OF THE AIGUILLE DU DRU IN THE SAME DAY.—The traverse from the higher to the lower peak of the Dru was first achieved by Monsieur Henri Dunod, on August 31, 1887, with Emile Rey and François Simond (see 'Alpine Journal,' xiii. 469; 'Annuaire du Club Alpin Français,' 1887, pp. 97–101).

Last summer the feat was repeated, and in a very ingenious way, both up and down. Miss Katharine Richardson, with Emile Rey and J. B. Bich, left the Montenvers inn at midnight, on August 30 last,

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* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiv. p. 163.

† A full account of her sojourn has been published by M. de Peccoz in the *Rivista Mensile del C.A.I.* September, 1889, pp. 273–9.

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and gained the summit of the Petit Dru at 9.50 A.M., while Messrs. W. Williams and T. A. Nash, with François Simond, Frédéric Payot, and Auguste Cupelin, also starting from the Montenvers at midnight, attained the top of the Grand Dru at 9.55 A.M. Both parties left their respective peaks at 10.45 A.M. Miss Richardson and her guides descended to the notch between the two summits, and then climbed up to the foot of a cliff 60 feet high, and practically perpendicular. Meanwhile the other party had descended to the upper edge of these steep rocks, and let down two of their number by a rope, Émile Rey, on the other hand, being hauled up to within a few feet of the top, and then lodged firmly on a ledge, helping the other members of the two parties. Thus three persons were hauled up and five let down these rocks in the space of two hours. The time taken by each party in effecting the traverse from one peak to the other was approximately three hours. Miss Richardson's party regained the Montenvers the same night at 10.15 P.M., but the other, more numerous, party were benighted on the rocks of the Petit Dru, one hour above the glacier.

This is the first time that the Grand Dru has been reached from the Petit Dru.

RAILWAY UP THE JUNGFRAU.—Whether anything comes of the following proposal or not, this telegram in the *Standard* of October 21 deserves to be preserved as a curiosity:—'The engineer of the Eiffel Tower, Herr Köchlin, has applied to the Swiss Federal Council for authorisation to construct a cog-wheel railway to the summit of the Jungfrau from Lauterbrunnen.' The following particulars taken from the Swiss papers of October 21 show that M. Köchlin at least is a firm believer in the practicability of his bold project. The first bit of the line will be along the Lauterbrunnen Valley as far as Stechelberg (rather over 3 miles). Thence to the summit of the Jungfrau the distance is reckoned at 3½ miles more. On this bit there will be six tunnels (the longest about 1½ miles long), and the line will attain the peak at 5 minutes below the highest summit, on which an inn will be constructed. The line will be either a funicular railway (like that at Glion) in five bits or on the cog-wheel system (like the one on Pilatus). The slope is estimated at 50°, and the period required for building the line at seven years. The cost of construction is reckoned at 9,746,000 francs (about 390,000*l.*), of which 546,000 francs (about 22,000*l.*) are for the valley bit, and the rest (368,000*l.*) for the mountain line proper.

On the other hand, as the price of a single ticket (does this mean that one can go 'en pension' in the inn on the summit?) is to be 25 francs and a return one 35 francs, while thirty working days a year are counted on, and 35,000 visitors hoped for annually, the gross annual receipts are calculated as likely to be from 35,000*l.* to 49,000*l.*, or from about 9 to 12½ per cent. on the capital.

M. Köchlin has, however, already found a rival, as appears from the following telegram from Berlin in the *Standard* of October 24:—'A Lucerne engineer, already favourably known as the builder of the Brünig Railway, has petitioned the Swiss Federal Council for the concession to build a railway up the Jungfrau. He estimates the expense

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at five million francs, or only half as much as Herr Köchlin, yet he demands that nearly double the fare proposed by Herr Köchlin shall be charged—viz. 65 francs, instead of 35.'

THE GROSS VIESCHERHORN BY THE NORTH-WEST ARÊTE.—There has been a little confusion lately as to the first party which ascended the Gross Viescherhorn by the N.W. ridge. For many years it was supposed that this route had been taken on August 4, 1863, by Messrs. G. Chater and Hopper with Ulrich Kaufmann and Peter Baumann, as stated in a note published in these pages;* but in 1885 Herr Lorria reported that, according to Peter Baumann, this party had *not* climbed the N.W. ridge,† and narrated his own attempt to descend it (July 27, 1885), which failed, owing to the dangerous condition of the snow lying on the ice. The question was thus supposed to have been settled, but it has been recently reopened, and it now seems certain that the 1863 party did climb a bit of the N.W. arête, though not the whole of it. Mr. Chater has referred to his diary, and has found his copy of the Dufour map on which he marked his route at the time he made it. His party appears to have climbed the snow gully (well shown on the Siegfried map) leading from the Ewigschneefeld to the crest of the N.W. arête just at the N.W. foot of the final rocks of the peak—this gully lying just N. of the great rocky spur descending from the peak in a S.W. direction. Mr. Chater's party took 1½ hrs. from the glacier to the ridge, and then, keeping rather on the right-hand side of the ridge, climbed at first steep ice with rocks here and there, and then rocks only, up to the summit, gained in 1½ hrs. from the time the ridge was struck. The descent to the Ewigschneefeld was made by the same route and took 1 hr. 55 min. Thus the 1863 party climbed, roughly speaking, about one-third of the N.W. arête, reckoning from the depression E. of the point marked 3,642 mètres at the base of the peak. Peter Baumann, when consulted on the subject in the spring of 1889, was of opinion that he had climbed the N.W. arête in 1863, but only a small bit of it. The other guide in 1863 was Ulrich Kaufmann, whose death was recently recorded in these pages,‡ and not Peter Kaufmann, as stated by Herr Lorria. Ulrich Kaufmann had been with Messrs. George and Moore and Christian Almer on the occasion of the first and only previous ascent, and in 1863 pointed out to Mr. Chater the 1862 route, which lay over the great S.W. spur.

Thus in 1863 only the upper third of the N.W. arête had been ascended. It is to Mr. Hermann Woolley that the honour belongs of having first traversed (on July 31, 1887) in its entirety this arête, and he was followed on July 22, 1888, by Mr. Coolidge, who at the time was ignorant of the 1887 expedition,§ and had been twice prevented (July 4, 1886, and July 20, 1887) from trying it after bivouacking at the Berglihütte. The N.W. arête was again climbed on September 14, 1888, by Herr Carl Lüscher, of Basel, and once more on September 28, 1888, by Dr. Dübi, of Bern, who descended it only, having on

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. i. pp. 319–20.
† *Ibid.* vol. xiii. pp. 380–1.
‡ *Ibid.* vol. xiv. p. 321.
§ *Ibid.* vol. xiv. p. 156.

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the previous day climbed the Ochsenhorn by the N. arête and slept at the Concordia hut.

Thus the ascent of the Gross Viescherhorn by the N.W. arête is now one of the well-established 'grandes courses' of the Oberland.

Dr. Dübi has published, in the current 'S.A.C. Jahrbuch,' pp. 102–22, a most interesting monograph on the Viescherhorn group. It should be carefully studied by anyone interested in this range, which has received very little attention as yet, considering its great height and grand appearance from Grindelwald. To avoid confusion it may be pointed out that the Viescherjoch was first crossed on July 30, 1862,* *not* on July 8, 1863, as Dr. Dübi states; and that on September 6, 1872, Mr Coolidge was the only amateur in the party which went up the Gross Viescherhorn, neither Miss Brevoort nor Mr. Fairbanks making the ascent that day. Dr. Dübi has, too, apparently overlooked an elaborate note in these pages † clearing up the confusion between the Viescherjoch and the Ochsenjoch.

THE MÄRBEGGLÜCKE.—As it was our intention to reach the Lötschenthal from Kandersteg, and we (Mr. C. Cannan and myself) did not wish to cross the Lötschen Pass, it was decided that we should attempt the pass known to Tschudi ‡ as the Märbegglücke, and to the large Federal map as the Märwiglücke; the 'Lücke' is a well-marked depression in the rocky 'grat' connecting the Sackhorn and Hockenhorn, and is visible both from the upper Gasterenthal and from the slopes of the Lötschenthal opposite Ried.

Taking with us two incompetent 'guides' we started from Kandersteg about 2 A.M. on Monday, August 5, and reached Selden between 5 and 6. It was then raining heavily. When it partially cleared we began the ascent, crossing the Kander, and going directly S. from Selden. The next two hours were not agreeable; a long couloir of avalanche snow was succeeded by tedious grass slopes, and these by a violent thunderstorm. When the rain had ceased—though the weather was still extremely disorganised—we had ascended to the crest of a narrow arête of grass and rock, sloping up to the rocky face of the main ridge. We had now to decide on our route. Below us to the left was a small glacier, or steep snow-slope—I forget now which—and to our left front the 'Lücke' itself, hollowed out of the ridge immediately S.W. of the Sackhorn, and seamed by two or three narrow couloirs. To cross it we must have descended to the glacier or snow-slope above mentioned, and then ascended either by one of the couloirs or the adjacent rocks, neither of which looked pleasant from the point of view where we stood, the rocks being apparently sloping slabs, and the couloir probably swept by stones. The guides knew nothing of the pass, except some vague reminiscences of a doubtful 'Gemsjäger'; and, though inclined to this route rather than to that which we eventually adopted, they regarded neither this nor any other with any approach to enthusiasm. Mr. Cannan then decided to ascend the rocks immediately before us, or, rather, to bear slightly to the right,

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. i. pp. 105–8. † *Ibid.* vol. xiii. pp. 266–7.
‡ *Der Turist in der Schweiz*, 30th edition, p 89.

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and then begin the ascent. After waiting a short time for the weather to improve we did so, Mr. Cannan leading; it was then between 9 and 10. During the next hours I cannot remember how many 'gendarmes' we crossed or skirted, or how often we had to complain of the extremely dilapidated condition of this part of the Oberland; but, apart from the rottenness of the stones, the rocks, though consistently steep, were not, I believe, what is technically called difficult. Shortly after noon we had reached the summit of the ridge, and were rewarded by a good view of some of the Valais peaks. We stood on an elevated point above and immediately S.W. of the Märwiglücke, and in full view of both Sackhorn and Hockenhorn. The descent thence to Ried is unattended by difficulty.

M. Montandon writing in the 'Jahrbuch' of the S.A.C.* describes the passage of the Märwiglücke in the reverse direction. It appears that he descended one of the couloirs I have spoken of, thus traversing the depression itself, not keeping to the S.W. of it as we did. His route is very likely the right one, and appears from his account to be not extremely difficult. I have only written of our ascent because it may provide climbers with a variation from the somewhat tedious route of the Lötschen Pass.—A. D. Godley.

The Weisshorn from the Zinal Side.—On August 8 last I made the ascent of the Weisshorn from this side, accompanied by my two guides, Ulrich and Hans Almer, of Grindelwald. Unfortunately I took no notes during the expedition or immediately after it. I was unaware at that time of the immense difficulty of the ascent by this route, and I had not even read up beforehand the accounts of their ascents given in previous numbers of the 'Alpine Journal' by Mr. Passingham † and Mr. Farrar.‡ Also our intention had been to make an attempt by the S.W. arête, so that my attention had been wholly directed to that point, which we had prospected on our descent from the Rothhorn on the 6th. At the last moment we determined to attack the mountain on the western face, and I found, during the long day that succeeded this resolve, that my whole attention and energies were wanted to successfully accomplish what proved to be an exceedingly difficult and (I say it with all seriousness) dangerous climb. I was under the impression at the time that the last six hours of our climb was by an entirely new route, and though I find many points of similarity in Mr. Farrar's account, I think the probabilities are, when comparing his account with my own impressions, that we struck on different routes, but with much the same difficulties and surroundings. We slept at the chalet on the Arpitetta Alp, where we spent a most comfortless night, and started at 3 A.M. The first hour was over moraine, and the next two hours or less were spent on the Weisshorn glacier, and in getting off the glacier on to the rocks. The latter we found a most difficult operation. The next three hours or so we were working along an arête of rock which runs up this face of the mountain. This ridge was exceedingly diffi-

* Vol. xviii. 1882–3, pp. 89–94.
† *Alpine Journal*, vol. ix. pp. 366, 427–31: August 13, 1879.
‡ *Ibid.* vol. xi. pp. 416–17: August 15, 1883.

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cult, as loose and crumbling rocks abounded everywhere, and sometimes we were really in great danger. This ridge finally terminated in a short snow arête which led up to a kind of rocky tower, on which was a small cairn of stones, where a letter was found, left by some guides who had been on the search for the body of Herr Winkler, who in August 1888 attempted the mountain alone and was lost.* At this point our greatest difficulties commenced. Slabs of rock such as those mentioned by Mr. Farrar were crossed with much difficulty, strata of ice being sandwiched in with the ice-glazed rocks in places. Step-cutting was perilous work on these occasions, as the coating of ice was too thin to allow of firm foothold, and a heavy party possibly would not have got across. We had two very steep snow couloirs to ascend, broken occasionally by sheets of hard ice and slabs of rock, the traverse of which at an almost impossible angle of steepness was very difficult and perilous. Luckily the weather was fine, and a cold wind kept the snow in a good condition. Finally, after about six hours of slow but exhausting climbing, partly over snow, partly over rocks, the N. arête was struck about half an hour or so from the summit, which we reached at 4 P.M. The route taken may be one of those suggested by Mr. Farrar, when he says, 'Probably several lines of ascent might be struck out over this broad western face;' and I entirely agree with his remark, 'a really easy way would be difficult to find.' The Almers said the route taken was 'too dangerous' to allow us to think of returning that way. We had taken 13 hours to the summit, including two or three moderate halts. The descent, which in comparison was ridiculously easy, was made to Randa, and was quickly accomplished. About 3 hours to the hut (including half an hour's halt), and a little more than 2 hours on down to Randa by the fitful aid of a moon, brought us to the hôtel about 10 P.M., 19 hours from the start. I was singularly fortunate in my guides, who were excellent, Ulrich showing real genius under most difficult conditions, and Hans rendering powerful aid on all occasions.

THEODORE CORNISH.

COL DE LA TOUR NOIRE.—The 'Echo des Alpes' (No. 3, 1889, pp. 188–9) announces that, in consequence of representations from different quarters as to the inconvenience of altering the name of this well-known col crossed in 1863, M. Barbey has abandoned his proposal † to rechristen it 'Col des Améthystes,' and proposes to call the as yet untraversed col between the Aiguille de la Neuva and the Tour Noir the 'Col Supérieur du Tour Noir,' to distinguish it from its neighbour.

A note in the same periodical (pp. 231–2) asks for information as to the gender of 'Tour' in this region, so we hope that this curious grammatical question will soon be settled. It seems that though the literary gender of the word is feminine—and is so still in the valley of Chamounix—the masculine gender has been adopted by M. Javelle and others, it does not appear on what authority.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE BERNINA AND DISGRAZIA DISTRICT.—Mrs.

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiv. p. 136.

† See last number of *Alpine Journal*, pp. 405–6.

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Main and Herr A. Lorria propose to publish a collection of photographs illustrating this district in the same way that the 'Pennine Alps' were illustrated in the first volume of the 'Alpine Portfolio.' The work will contain about 100 heliogravures, of the same size as those in the 'Pennine Alps' volume, besides zincotypes in the text, including portraits of Engadine guides, winter scenes, &c., as well as letterpress, and will be issued by Messrs. Sampson Low & Co, Fetter Lane, Fleet Street, E.C., by whom orders for the work will be received. It will be bound in book form. The subscription price will not be higher than four guineas, possibly less, much depending on the number of subscribers. Promises of contributions from many amateur photographers have already been received, and Herr Lorria would be very much obliged if others who possess unpublished views of the district would kindly communicate with him (Schottenring 14, Vienna, I.).

THE GRAND PARADIS.—After sleeping on August 8 last at the bivouac at the base of the rocks between the icefalls of the Tribulation Glacier (now known as the Balme des Bouquetins), I started next morning at 3 A.M. with my guides, Clemenz Zurbriggen of Saas, and Joseph Truffer of Randa. There had been thunder in the night, with some rain, but it was clear over the Tour Saint Pierre when we started. Climbing up the rocks to the great Plan de la Tribulation, we crossed the glacier to the foot of the rocks, which lead up to the lowest point between the Gran and the Piccolo Paradiso. Here a violent storm broke upon us, and we saw nothing until we were almost on top of the peak. Zurbriggen thought that the rocks were not safe in bad weather, and cut straight up the N.E. face of the peak, for three-quarters of the way in hard ice and then in snow. Finally we had to climb some almost overhanging rocks in order to reach the ridge halfway between the cairn and the true snowy summit, the latter being reached in a few minutes more. We were 6 hours cutting up the face, and 9 hours in all from the sleeping-place. Both Truffer and I were hit by stones, so that I cannot recommend our line of ascent.

Just before reaching the summit the sun came out and drove away all the clouds, so that we had a fair view. We descended straight down the Glacier de Lavetiau to the moraine separating it from the Glacier de Montandeyné (the way being perfectly easy), gained the king's hunting stables, and reached the Val Savaranche at Terre some way below Pont. Thence we went down to Dégioz, which we reached at 6 P.M., having reached the top at noon, and spending some time there and at the king's stables. At Dégioz I was surprised and pleased to find excellent accommodation for the night at the Cantine du Club Alpin. It is now easy to procure a carriage at Villeneuve, where the Val Savaranche joins the main Aosta valley. F. C. MILLS.

Messrs. A. L. Mumm and C. A. James, with Clemenz Zurbriggen of Saas, and Joseph Jeantet of Cogne, started on September 6, 1888, to ascend the Grand Paradis from the Cogne side by way of the couloir falling to the Col de l'Abeille, which Messrs. Coolidge and Gardiner had descended on August 12 of the same year. They ascended the rocks of the ridge to the left (in ascending) of this couloir, but, having gained the summit of the couloir, were prevented by a violent storm

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from going on to the top of the Grand Paradis, 15 or 20 minutes off. The return was effected by some rocks a little to the south.

The Grand Paradis was ascended from the Cogne side on July 26, 1889, by Signori Corra, Dogliotti, and Gonella, with Michele Ricchiardi of Groscavallo, and Joseph Jeantet of Cogne. They ascended by exactly the same route as the party of September 6, 1888, finding no difficulties save at the very top of the couloir. They descended to Val Savaranche by the Glacier de Lavetiau. This party thus reached the Grand Paradis from Cogne by the new route *via* the Col de l'Abeille; but it is distinctly misleading to call this ascent 'the first complete ascent of the Grand Paradis from Cogne by way of the Col de l'Abeille,'* for it conveys the erroneous impression that some part of the route was new, whereas the great couloir, or the rocks at the side, had been twice taken before, and the party of September 6, 1888, had achieved the whole route save the last few minutes, during which the track is practically the same as on the ordinary ascent of the Grand Paradis from the Val Savaranche. W. A. B. Coolidge.

Inns and Huts in the Alps.—There are several important changes to record as to the inns and huts in the south-western Alps. The splendid new Grand Hôtel at Ceresole, in the Val d'Orco (a centre for undertaking many Alpine expeditions, particularly among the southern ridges of the Grand Paradis), was opened on July 1, and was visited early in August by Mr. Gardiner and myself. It is not quite finished as yet, but is most luxuriously fitted up, and rejoices in polyglot officials, the electric light, a ball-room, a lawn-tennis ground, and an occasional 'Times.' Everything was most excellent, but we found the prices excessively high (for two nights' lodging for ourselves and two guides we had to pay 109 francs 30 centimes!), so that mountaineers may be advised to put up with more humble quarters (and less exorbitant prices) at the old Albergo della Levanna, which stands just opposite and is still to be carried on. The Hôtel Royal at Noasca is a *succursale* of the Grand Hôtel at Ceresole. I heard very favourable reports of a new little inn at Dégioz, in the Val Savaranche. It is called 'Cantine du Club Alpin,' and is stated to be very clean and comfortable, while the food was very good. It contains two nice iron bedsteads in an upper room. It is to be hoped that it will be sufficiently patronised to ensure its continuance. At La Val d'Isère, 1 hr. above Tignes, in the upper Isère valley, M. Moris has opened a very decent little mountain inn, which I can highly recommend, after having visited it several times during the course of the past summer. The food is excellent, the *salle à manger* and bedrooms clean, and the prices very moderate. M. Moris has travelled much, and will make further improvements in his house if (as is to be hoped) he receives sufficient encouragement from travellers. La Val is connected by many glacier passes with Italy, while the easy tracks over the Iseran and Palet lead respectively to Bonneval and Bozel (for Pralognan). M. Culet, who has for many years kept a little inn at Bonneval (at the head of the Arc valley), which, at any rate since Mr. Cowell's visit in 1860, has been the

* So *Rivista Mensile*. See *C.A.J.* September 1889, p. 257.

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rendezvous of mountaineers wishing to explore the intricate ranges around, has, owing to age and infirmity, given up receiving travellers; while the accounts of Blanc's inn, in the same village, are very unfavourable. At Bessans, 1 hr. farther down the same valley, the Garinots have also retired; but fairly good and comfortable quarters may be found *chez* Cimaz, whose house is the first after crossing the great bridge when one comes from Lanslebourg. He promises further improvements. The Hôtel du Mont Blanc at Ste. Foy affords very fair accommodation. The Piantonetto refuge of the Italian Alpine Club was inaugurated at the end of June, and was occupied for two nights in August by Mr. Gardiner and myself, with our guides. Though small it has two rooms, and is very comfortably fitted up. It serves as a starting-point for the Tour du Grand St. Pierre by the S. face, the Rossa Viva, the Ondezana, and many passes, as well as for further explorations in the still imperfectly known ranges around. The hut stands on a bold rock promontory, half-way between the Col Monei and the huts of the Muanda di Teleccio, the latter of which it directly overlooks.

I learn that the Swiss Alpine Club has built a club hut near the fine Forno Glacier, which is not far from the Maloja Pass in the Engadine. It is on the last rocks on the right bank of the glacier about 200 feet above the ice, and just before the gap where a lateral glacier flows down, beyond which rises Monte Sissone. It contains two rooms, accommodating in all twenty-four persons, the sleeping quarters being arranged in three stories, and each person having a separate bed to himself. It is very completely furnished, and is very commodious. Three hours' walking from the Maloja or two from the Cavlocchia Lake suffices to reach the hut, which will be of great service to climbers, in particular for those wishing to make the ascent of the Monte della Disgrazia, to reach which hitherto from the Engadine a considerable circuit has been required. W. A. B. Coolidge.

The landlord of the little Trift inn has built a small house in the Mellichen Valley, just below the Obere Täsch Alp. It consists of one public room, and three bedrooms containing five beds, while below are the kitchen and guides' room. Everything last summer was clean and neat, while the charges were reasonable, except perhaps the wine, which was rather dear and decidedly indifferent.

A new Mountet hut has been constructed by the Diablerets section of the S. A. C., on a ledge just above the old one. It is called the 'Cabane Constantia.' On the ground floor are the guides' room (with places for five) and kitchen, in which is a magnificent stove, and every kind of pot, pan, and other cooking or eating utensils. Beyond this is the guardian's room, which was locked when we were there. Upstairs there are the ladies' room (with sleeping accommodation for seven), and the common room (intended to hold fifteen). The whole hut is admirably constructed and extremely comfortable. It is, I believe, proposed to establish a permanent guardian there, and to levy a small charge from visitors. George Broke.

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