ALPINE IMPLEMENTS, ETC.

THE experiment first tried two years ago of adding a collection of Alpine appliances to the Picture Exhibition was repeated this year, and with marked success.

In point of interest this year's collection certainly surpassed its predecessor, and the fact of its being subsequently transferred to St. Martin's Place enabled those members who wished to examine the collection at leisure and undisturbed by such distractions as must necessarily be caused in a crowded assemblage such as met in the Whitehall Rooms. The collection was representative of the ancient and the modern in climbing.

Of the former perhaps the most interesting exhibits of all were two, for the sight of which visitors to the exhibition are indebted to the kindness of the French Club. The compass belonging to Dr. Hamel, which was lost in the accident on Mont Blanc in 1820, was one of the relics yielded up by the Glacier des Bossons in 1863, and, considering its adventures, it is in a fair state of preservation. The *prehistoric* ice-axe found an example in that formerly belonging to Cachat (L'Aiguille), one of De Saussure's guides, its very shape showing how little of what is required of an axe was then understood. An axe exhibited by Mr. Tuckett shows the persistence of the early type; while the germ of the *historic* or recently evolved form may be traced in that of Mr. Horace Walker. An atlas by John Speed, published in 1627, was interesting as showing in its map of Africa the Nile issuing from two lakes, and mountains—Linca Montana, supposed to be identical with Ruwenzori, rediscovered by Mr. H. M. Stanley.

Of modern appliances we had axes to suit many tastes, from the lady's axe to the somewhat formidable weapon manufactured by a Norwegian peasant, with a removable head, which it is conceivable might prove as great a snare and delusion as the fire-escape appliances recommended by their enthusiastic inventor for use in rock-climbing. We doubt, too, if a closer inspection of *Steigeisen* will encourage their adoption by members of the Club, though possibly they possess advantages undreamt of by those who have never tried them.

Valuable hints as to the best form of sleeping-bag, of *Rücksack*, of lantern, of cooking apparatus, of compass, of aneroid, might have been gleaned from the specimens exhibited.

We noticed that a self-cooking soup tin, by Messrs. Silver & Co., was specially commended, as was also an 'insect puzzler,' 'for use in all parts of the world.' We rather fancied the 'Rob Roy' cooking apparatus as containing a good deal in a small space, and we believe the Viennese form of folding lantern to be still the best.

A tent used in the Caucasus was on view, as was also that used by M. Vallot during the three nights passed by him on the summit of Mont Blanc.

Altogether the exhibition was an interesting one, and we shall hope to see it repeated and still further extended in future years.

P. W. T.

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