

tind forms a very substantial stone bridge, 16 feet long, which the writer has crossed over.

KVITEGGEN (about 5,500 ft.) *September 1.*—Messrs. Patchell and Mather made a variation of Mr. Slingsby's route in 1881* by keeping near to the north-west angle of the north face. They climbed up a difficult buttress to the base of the perpendicular rock face immediately below the first summit. Then they traversed this face westwards by a very narrow ledge where the holds were scarce and small, which brought them to the usual route. The descent, which was made by the same route, was not absolutely without danger. New snow was also present. The time occupied was 5 hrs. up from Fibelstadhaugen and 4 down.

ROMEDALSHORN † (4,510 ft.). *September 4.*—Messrs. Patchell and Mather left the Kjölaas farm at 8.10 A.M., reached the sæter called Stenstöl at 9.30 and the top of the 'band' at 11.10. From here steep and hard snow slopes led to a gully west of the final peak. From 1.10 to 3.10 P.M., including the time spent over lunch, they had some excellent rock-climbing up to the top. They left the summit at 4 and descended by a series of gullies and steep pitches to the upper Romedals Sæter at 6.45, and reached Kjölaas again at 8. The mountain is a typical Söndmøre peak with very narrow and jagged ridges. The party found clean quarters and most kindly people at the farm.

WM. CECIL SLINGSBY.

ALPINE NOTES.

AIGUILLE FORBES.—With the consent of the first ascenders of the peak this name has been given to the point marked 3,549 m. on the Siegfried map and to the N.E. of the Aiguille du Chardonnet, which was first climbed in 1893 by Messrs. Holmes, Brigg, and Greenwood.‡ As this summit stands opposite the Aiguilles Dorées and the Fenêtre de Salinaz, both associated with Principal Forbes, there is a certain appropriateness in commemorating in this neighbourhood the explorations of one of the early travellers in the chain of Mont Blanc. The name 'Aiguille Forbes' will, therefore, appear on Herr Imfeld's forthcoming map.

AMONGST THE LEPONTINE ALPS.—The ascent to the summit of the *Helsenhorn* (3,274 m.) from the Kriegalp Pass was effected with great difficulty by Herr J. J. Weilenmann as far back as 1863. No account of this expedition seems to have been published, and it is known only from scattered allusions,§ while, apparently, it was not repeated till 1894. Hence the following notes describing the second ascent by this route may be of use.

On July 20, 1894, I started from Binn with my usual guides,

* *Den Norske Turist Forenings Aarhog for 1881*, p. 109.

† *Vide Söndmøre*, by Kristofer Randers, p. 106.

‡ *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiv. pp. 514-5.

§ See references in *Lepontine Alps*, p. 22.

Christian Almer, jun., and his brother Rudolf, and followed the ordinary route to the Kriegalp Pass as far as the edge of the final plateau (2 hrs. 50 min.). We then mounted S.W. over stones, leaving to the right hand a great couloir running up towards the Vorder Helsen (3,109 m.), and ascended by broken rocks to the base of the very steep snow slopes lying to the N. of the great snowy N.E. face (1 hr. 10 min.). Hence we ascended these slopes as nearly as possible in a straight line to some rocky terraces, climbed up these, and by a final very steep snow slope gained the N.W. arête (1½ hr.), 20 min. up which led us to the summit of the peak in 2 hrs. 45 min. from the Kriegalp plateau. No difficulties were encountered, but the slopes were very steep, and, from a distance, look even steeper than they really are. The snow was in excellent condition. Another route (probably more closely resembling Herr Weilenmann's than that described) was taken on August 5, 1894, by Signor R. Gerla, with three friends and the guides Marani and Roggia. From Veglia they gained the ridge between the peak and the Kriegalpetock, and then mounted, in 4½ hrs.—to the N. of a great snowy couloir—by rocks and an ice slope, and the rocks above it, direct to the summit.*

Herr Schmid, the enterprising landlord of Binn, has built many cairns, and in places made a small path, to mark the route up to the Ritter Pass, on the E. slope of the Kummenglen. We took this route on the descent from the Helsenhorn, but unanimously agreed that our old route,† more to the W., in the same glen, is infinitely to be preferred in every respect. Herr Schmid has also made a very convenient new path from Maniboden to the Geisspfad lakes, keeping N. of the great couloir mentioned under (a) in my account of the Geisspfad Pass. ‡

I may add that on July 21, 1894, we three made the second ascent of the *Klein Schienhorn* (2,925 m.), § climbing the final needle from the gap between the two highest points. As our 70-ft. rope reached easily from the gap to the summit, the height of the final needle is not much over 60 ft. The rocks are steep, but good.

In 'Alpine Journal,' vol. xvii. p. 47, line 13, for N.E. read S.W.

W. A. B. COOLIDGE.

IN THE BERNESE OBERLAND.—Many small changes have taken place in this district in 1894, or will be carried out in time for the season of 1895. It may be useful to mention those which have a special interest for climbers.

Inns.—The new 'Bear' Hotel at Grindelwald was finally opened in June 1894. It can accommodate 400 persons, and is to be open all the year round. Many English visited it at Christmas time. The Hotel Victoria at Grindelwald was opened in 1894: it is some way N. of and above the W. end of the village, on the edge of the forest, and occupies perhaps the finest position in the valley. The

* For further details see the *Rivista Mensile* for September 1894, pp. 323-4.

† Fully described in *Lepontine Alps*, p. 20.

‡ *Lepontine Alps*, p. 32.

§ *Ibid.* pp. 35-6.

inn on the Männlichen, near Grindelwald, is now in the hands of Herr J. Boss, the eldest of the well-known brothers. A *char* road to connect it with the inn on the Kl. Scheidegg is in course of construction, while a good footpath down to Wengen has been already completed. The Hôtel Bellevue, on the Kl. Scheidegg, has been rebuilt on a very large scale, and it is said that a large rival house will soon be built near it. The inn on the Great Scheidegg has also been rebuilt on a larger scale. The new inn on the Engstligen Alp, above Adelboden, was opened last summer, and greatly facilitates the ascent of the Wildstrubel and other summits in its neighbourhood.

Club Huts.—The Pavillon Dollfus has now become the property of the Swiss Alpine Club, and has been doubled in size. A new path to the Schwarzegg hut was made in September 1894: it passes by the Bäniseegg and above the right bank of the Eismeer, thus saving the *détour* by the Zäsenberg and the Enge. In the spring of 1895 a new path is to be made up the Kalli slopes on the way to the Bergli hut. It seems likely that a Club hut will at last be built near the Gauli glacier, where one has long been wanted; but the rather absurd scheme for one on the Petersgrat does not seem to make much progress. The Dossen hut was in very bad condition in June 1894, and it is said that it is to be once more removed to another site. The Frauenbalm (or Blümlisalp) stone hut is in a bad situation under a great rock; a large new wooden hut has consequently been built, a little higher, up on the very crest of the ridge between the Oeschinen and Kien glens, just S.E. of the great yellowish rocky face (pierced by a hole) to the S.E. of the Hohthürli Paas. The Guggi hut was rebuilt in 1893.

Railways.—It is announced that the funds for the construction of the railways up the Eiger and the Jungfrau (1894 scheme) have really been secured. The first section of the Eiger railway (from the Kl. Scheidegg inn to the edge of the Eiger glacier, at the foot of the Rothstock) is to be constructed in 1895. According to the 'Oberland' newspaper for October 11, 1894, the latest proposed railway (an electric one) up the Jungfrau is to leave the Eiger line at the Eiger Glacier station, and is then to run through the Mönch to the summit of the Jungfrau. The force (3,000 horse-power) to drive it is to be obtained from that bit of the Lütschine river which is between Lauterbrunnen and Zweilütschinen. The projector of this lamentable scheme, Herr Guyer-Zeller, is reported to be determined to carry it out. The concession for the Eiger line has been obtained; that for the Jungfrau railway was also (we regret to say) granted during the December session of the Federal Assembly. As to the Jungfrau line several interesting details were made known during the debates in the Federal Assembly. The last bit of the line is to consist of a vertical tunnel and a lift, but an amendment was accepted by which the right of all persons who reach the summit on foot to move about freely on top was specially reserved, the company being only allowed to expropriate so much space as is necessary for the station, &c. The cost of the construction of the line is estimated at 8,000,000*fr.*, and the annual profits at 360,000*fr.* It is hoped to convey 10,000

travellers annually. The price of a ticket for the single journey is to be 31f. 50c., and for the double journey 45f.; but guides, porters, and other natives are to be allowed reduced fares, not exceeding 50 per cent. It is said that the line will be completed in five years. Special precautions are to be taken as to securing the safety of the workmen engaged. A meteorological observatory is ultimately to be built on the summit. One really wonders how much room there will be left on the summit after all these buildings are constructed, and whether any of the projectors have actually seen the top with their own eyes!!

Miscellaneous.—The road over the Grimsel Pass was opened in September 1894. The fee of 1 franc per traveller charged for the maintenance of the path up to the Bäregg inn, near Grindelwald, and for the use of the ladders leading down to the Eismeer will be abolished in 1895; the ladders will remain *in situ*, but will no longer be kept up.

Ascents in 1894.—After another long interval the Mönch has been again scaled from the Wengern Alp, but the difficulties *en route* were so serious that the summit was only gained at 3 p.m. This ascent took place on June 29, and was made by Herr A. Hügli (a Bernese law student) with the two Johann Kaufmanns, uncle and nephew. More than 4 hrs. step-cutting and a ladder were required to clear the great difficulty. Herr Andreas Fischer and young Johann Kaufmann, on July 8, traversed the *whole* of the ridge leading from the Jungfraujoeh to the summit of the Mönch. Full particulars of these two climbs will be given in a later number. The Altels was ascended from the N. by the Herren Wäber on July 25. The second ascent of the Wetterhorn from the Huhnergutz Glacier was made on July 1 by Herr J. E. Strauss, of Vienna, with C. Jossi and Ig. Lorenz, more than 2,200 steps having to be cut.

W. A. B. COOLIDGE.

FUSSHÖRNER.—On August 11, 1894, Mr. P. E. Lord and I, with François and Sylvain Pession, made an attempt on the peak of the Fusshörner next, I believe, to the north of the one marked 3,106 m. on the Siegfried map. We attacked it nearly straight up from the Ober Aletsch glacier, but were driven back by a fierce wind and sleet. When we turned François said we were close to the top; the climbing here was very difficult. The great feature of the climb was a splendid rock chimney, which our rope of 100 ft. was just long enough to allow of our ascending one at a time, after François had got up it, unaided, by a splendid piece of climbing. The sleet changed first to snow and then to rain, and we arrived at the Bel Alp hotel wet through.

G. YELD.

HUT AT PIAN D'ORSINA.—This hut, which is situated above Palagnana (Lucchese), in the Apuan Alps, was opened on August 10. It is to be kept as an inn, in Tyrolese fashion, and is provided with all accommodation needful for tourists. The situation is described as exceptionally fine. Attempts have been made to cultivate various trees and Alpine plants in the neighbourhood; they appear to be successful.

THE NEW MONTE ROSA HUT.—A hut, named Cabane Bétémps, after

its donor, has been erected on the Untere Plattje, at the foot of Monte Rosa. The hut is situated close to the right moraine of the Grenz glacier, and is easily visible from the ice. A good path leads to it over the moraine. It is a comfortable two-storied building, and will be useful for a variety of expeditions for which the Riffel was a somewhat remote starting-point. In 1895 it will be a small inn with a resident caretaker.

Piz MONDIN (3,163 m. = 10,375 ft.).—In the 'Alpine Journal,' vol. xvi. p. 521, an ascent of this peak by Mr. L. Friedmann and Dr. Christomannos on August 25, 1893, from the Engadine side is described as probably the first ascent since that of Coaz in 1849. The top was, however, reached on more than one occasion in August 1885, by various members of a reading party stationed at Hochfinsternünz. The route may be described as follows: 'Scramble down the cliff to Altfinsternünz, cross the Inn by the plank bridge at the tower, ascend the forest path to the highest hay-hut, and go straight up 5,000 ft. of the steepest grass slope till you come to the ridge, which will lead you to the top. The last 300 ft. is large débris and easy rock.' Mr. R. C. Gilson, having led one of these determined assaults, can vouch for the fact that no implements, except walking sticks, need be taken, and that the fatigue of the expedition, if taken at a suitably late hour in the day, will be found about equal to that of three ordinary grand courses on rock and ice. Whether the *earliest* of the treadmill walks of 1885 was in any sense a 'first ascent' he is unable to say; but as the plank bridge was carried away in 1893, and no one seemed to have any intention of replacing it, it appeared likely that the *latest* of them will prove a *last* ascent from Altfinsternünz. At least it would then have been necessary to go most of the way down to Stuben and back again to get across the river, and this additional fatigue would, it is confidently believed, increase the angle of the grass slope beyond the limit of what is practicable without the aid of machinery. The bridge was, however, rebuilt in 1894.

R. C. GILSON.

[It is worth noting that at least two parties between 1849 and 1885 are recorded to have reached the lower or W. peak, neither, however, climbing the tower to the N.E., which is the highest summit of the mountain. Studer, in 'Ueber Eis und Schnee,' iii. p. 128, mentions one of these attempts, which was made by Herr Theobald with some friends from Sampaun; the other was made by Herr Reber, one of the Federal engineers, August 8, 1884,* the lower summit being most convenient for his purposes.—*Editor A.J.*]

THE ALMAGELLHORN (3,332 m. = 10,932 ft.): FIRST ASCENT BY S.W. ARÊTE AND DESCENT BY W.—Tempted at Saas-Fee in August 1892 by the words 'No information' appended to this mountain in Conway's 'Eastern Pennine Guide,' I set off alone one day to reconnoitre it, with a view to help Mr. Coolidge, whom I had met in July at Binn, to fill up at least one blank in a new edition of the book. Reaching Almagell by the ordinary way from Fee in 40 min., I made for Furggstalden by the steep path which strikes off the main road to

* *S.A.C. Jahrbuch*, xx. p. 240.

the left just beyond Almagell church, and pushed on to the Furgg chalets, arriving there at 10.50. From these I fancied the ascent could be made if a N.E. course were held, and accordingly, as the weather was fine, and a good lunch was in my knapsack, I determined to try the ascent. Clambering up to the point marked 2,279 on the Swiss map, the way seemed tolerably clear and easy, and at 12.10 P.M. I reached the first depression, or small gap, above shelving rocks, on what was now a pretty well defined arête (the S.W.) running into the main W. arête of the mountain. A rocky couloir on the left seemed easier going than on the big boulders of the arête, so I made my way up it and lunched at its top, piling a few stones together as a landmark for my descent. Left at 12.35, and kept to the S.W. arête till a second gap was reached at 1.12 P.M., and a third 10 min. later. I gained the shoulder (shale) of the W. arête at 1.30, and following a N.W. course for 20 min. surmounted the final ridge, which led me to the summit in 7 min. more. Time from Saas-Fee, including halts, 4 hrs. 40 min. To my disappointment I found a cairn, and a bottle with two notices, of which I took copies. (1) 'R. C. Gilson, with Pierre Maître, of Evolena, August 10, 1891. Ascent by arête immediately to the E. of the Weissthal Glacier to the point marked 3,311 m. Thence along the arête hither. So far as is known a first ascent, though probably chamois hunters have traversed the mountain before. Time: 8 hrs. from Fee, including stoppages.' Mr. Gilson had evidently taken the route from the Almagell Alp.* The second notice was as follows:— '1. August 1892. M. L. Courvoisier, Stud. Phil., Aug. Hagenbach, Stud. Phil., und Dr. E. Hagenbach, S.A.C., bestiegen ohne Führer die Spitze über den W. Kamm vom Almagell Alp aus von Saas Grund kommend. Wetter schön warm. Aussicht leidlich, gegen Italien ganz hell. Abstieg direct ins Furggenthal. Alle drei aus Basel.' † This ascent was made only two days before, but their route, as well as Mr. Gilson's, was different from mine. The S.W. arête is easy rock-climbing. After reading the latter notice I made up my mind, rather hastily, to descend by the W. arête, and left the summit at 2.45. This descent is not to be recommended for a solitary climber. However, I persevered in it till within 80 yds. of the point marked 2,814, and then descended some very steep and smooth rocks in the direction of the Almagell huts. In turning over on my face in a smooth gully my axe slipped over my wrist, and it careered wildly down out of sight. I had some difficulty in reaching the débris at the foot of the rocks, and spent three-quarters of an hour searching for my axe in the neighbourhood, but had to content myself with leaving information about it, and the promise of a reward, at the huts. I reached Saas-Fee at 7.10 P.M. My axe came home three days afterwards, and the reward was gladly paid.

COLIN CAMPBELL.

PETITE DENT DE VEISIVI: NEW DESCENT ACROSS E. FACE TO COL DE ZARMIN.—On August 15, 1893, with Jean Vuignier, of Evolena, I

See *Alpine Journal*, vol. xvi. p. 174. This party descended partly by the N.W. arête.

† See *S.A.C. Jahrbuch*, xxviii. p. 462.

ascended this mountain from Arolla, following the W. arête to the top, as described in the 'Central Pennine Alps.' I proposed to Jean to attempt in our descent to traverse the ridge all the way to the Col de Zarmine, and we set off at 1 o'clock. All went well for about 25 min., till we reached a gendarme which blocked our path on the narrow but safe ridge. The only possible side on which it could be negotiated was the east, and accordingly we dropped down a few yards on that side, but found that we must continue to work our way across it rather than attempt to regain the ridge. This we did with some difficulty for about a quarter of an hour, on good rocks for the most part, until we were stopped by a steep gully, which we had to descend for a few minutes, one at a time, before we could find rocks on the other side sufficiently rough to hold by. We now moved slowly across the face in the direction of the col, gradually approaching the ridge, and after three-quarters of an hour's interesting climbing reached the col at 2.35 P.M.

COLIN CAMPBELL.

SCRAMBLES IN THE BADUS GROUP. DESCENT OF SIX MADUN, OR BADUS, BY PIZ TEGLIOLA.—On July 8, 1893, I left the Oberalpsee hotel (comfortable little place, excellent food, including splendid trout; Madame Christen very civil and attentive) at 4.15 A.M. for the ascent of the Badus by the Tgietlems huts and the Toma See. The col between Piz Toma and the Badus (2,931 m.) was reached, including halts, at 7.50, where Franz, my porter, and I breakfasted. The summit was gained at 8.45. The view is very fine, but I could not convince myself that I saw Coire, 45 miles off, as Father Placidus hath it. On the summit I read again the passage in the 'Adula Alps' ('Climbers' Guides'), on p. 15, regarding a route up the mountain from the S. which that worthy affirms to be the easiest of all, and wondered if it could not be discovered by descending it. Franz knew nothing of it; so off we went along the S. arête, which we found quite easy, and in half an hour reached Piz Tegliola (2,711 m.), where we rested for 10 min. Still following the arête, which now became steeper, but still easy, we came in 20 min. to some precipitous rocks leading direct to the Lohlen Pass. These we avoided, bearing to the left across steep grassy slopes, and reached the E. side of the pass, half-way between points 2,388 and 2,234, in 50 min. from the summit of Piz Tegliola. The ascent of Badus could thus be most easily made from the S. side, either from this spot, or from the L. de Siarra, by following the stream above it until the arête leading to the summit of Badus is gained. The remark of Father Placidus and Theobald is thus apparently confirmed. Our route homewards lay past L. Maigels and L. de Siarra and the Tgietlems huts. The hotel was reached at 3 o'clock.

PIZ TOMA (2,788 m.) was easily secured on July 10. I left the hut at the west end of the Toma See at 3.35 P.M., and mounted towards the col between Badus and Piz Toma for 30 min.; then bore to the right for 10 min. more, traversing the S. face of the mountain across earth, stones, and finally a snow-slope, until the highest gap on the S. arête was gained. From this point the summit was reached in 5 min.—in all 45 min. from the hut—a quick time, because of an approaching thunder storm. I found neither cairn nor bottle on the top. The climb could have

been done from the col by keeping to the S. arête all the way, but it is unnecessary to mount so far to the south. I descended in 12 min. by the steep rocky north arête, and over stones and earth into a snow couloir lying between Piz Toma and Piz Prielet, and held on towards the right across shingle and earth, so as to avoid a steep rock face over which water falls. The course is then along either bank of the stream flowing from Alp Toma into the lake. The hut was regained in 42 min. from the top.

PLAUNCAULTA AND PIZ PRIELET were climbed on July 13. From Piz Nurschallas, the most northerly summit of the Six Madun ridge, I had observed, on July 7, that, with the possible exception of the gap between Piz Prielet and Piz Toma, the whole distance from Piz Nurschallas to the last-named peak could be traversed by keeping to the arête; but I wished to reach Plauncaulta from the Toma Lake, as the 'Adula Alps' gave me some hope of doing. Accordingly from the Tgietlems huts I made for the rocky barrier above the Toma Lake, where a wooden 'profile,' or surveyor's cross, stands, from which I counted my time. This point was left at 3 P.M. I struck up W. along this ridge to 2,740 on S. map in 20 min., and in a hurried scramble point 2,832 (where there is a stone-man) was reached in 10 min. more. The flat top from 2,832 to 2,839 of Plauncaulta was taken at a run (say, 7 min.), and the sharp ridge was followed more cautiously all the way to Piz Prielet (2,770 m.), which was gained at 4.10 P.M. The arête needs care, for though the rocks are good they are thin, and the precipices on either hand, especially on the W., fall away very abruptly. The summit consists of a splintered rock tooth. No traces of former travellers were found. Before the fog which eventually enveloped us came on I saw down into the couloir between Piz Prielet and Piz Toma, where we had been three days before; and, as the descent looked too steep for hasty and safe negotiation, we concluded to retrace our steps. As it was we lost ourselves in the fog, after leaving point 2,740, for about $\frac{3}{4}$ hr. before we caught a glimpse of the Bündner Hütte, as Franz called the Tgietlems huts.

It will be noticed that, with the exception of the Badus, these little climbs were done in the afternoon. It was really the only occasional fine time in execrable weather, which at last compelled me, much to my regret, to leave the Oberalp district, with Piz Ner and Piz Portgèra unexplored.

COLIN CAMPBELL.

GRAND TAVÉ (3,154 m. = 10,348 ft.).—From the Panossière hut (the new hut is within a few yards of the old one), on July 20, 1894, Mr. H. A. Cohen and myself went N. along the moraine of the Corbassière glacier for a little way, then turned N.E. and reached the ridge of the Grand Tavé over débris slopes (leaving the Col des Otanes to the left) in 1 hr. 5 min. From there snow and rock led to the top in 10 min. On the descent we went due S. and reached a snow peak on the ridge due E. of the point marked 2,713 m. in 50 min. From there we went down a shale couloir in 55 min. to the hut.

This peak seems to be visited pretty often; it is certainly a splendid point of view.

E. F. M. BENECKE.

AIGUILLE VERTE BY THE MOINE RIDGE.—Messrs. G. Hastings and

A. F. Mummery and Dr. J. Norman Collie on August 11 last effected the ascent of this peak by the late Rev. C. Hudson's 1865 route ('Kurz,' p. 42). They left the Pierre à Béranger at 3.15 A.M., and, having crossed the Glacier de Talèfre, ascended the stone slopes on its right bank till a fairly unbroken shelf of glacier lying just below the Moine ridge was reached. This shelf was traversed till a point almost immediately beneath the peak, known as the 'Sugar Loaf,' was reached. The bergschrund being easily crossed, a rib of rock dividing two well-marked couloirs gave easy access to the main ridge at 8.20 A.M. The ridge, at first easy, became steadily more difficult, and afforded some pleasant climbing as the top was neared. At 1.30 P.M. a short snow arête was reached, which led in 20 min. to the summit. Owing to bad weather a very short halt was made. The rib leading down to the glacier was reached at 5.10 P.M., the Béranger hut at 7.40 P.M., and the Montenvers at 10.40 P.M.

There is no danger from falling stones on this route, and it would appear to be the safest and best way to the summit.

Owing to the prevalence of fog, and a marked tendency in the party to sit down and wait till the fog should clear, the time taken in the ascent was much greater than will usually be found necessary. The time taken in the descent—which was effected in a snowstorm—is a better guide in this particular.

NEW CLUB HUTS IN THE WESTERN DOLOMITES.—Last summer two new huts were opened in this part of the Dolomites—on August 16 the Bamberg hut (built by the Bamberg section of the German and Austrian Alpine Club) in the Sella group, and on September 9 the Langkofel hut, built by the Vienna University section of the same Club.

L. NORMAN-NERUDA.

ALPINE EXHIBITION AT LEEDS.—On Tuesday, January 15, the 'Yorkshire Ramblers' held, in Leeds, an exhibition of articles of equipment suitable for mountaineers, travellers, and tourists, which was a great success. Some 200 different articles were shown.

THE GRAND CORNIER FROM THE N., AND THE FIRST ASCENT OF MONTE ROSA.—The Rev. F. T. Wethered writes, 'I am anxious to correct some statements of my own in past numbers of the "Alpine Journal." First,* it was not Mr. O. Bornand who made the first ascent of the Grand Cornier from the N., but Mr. T. Bornand (in 1873); and, when I and my guides ascended this mountain (in 1878) from the N., we were driven over to the *western* face, not to the "southern face." from the arête. Second,† the first ascent of the Allerhöchste Spitze of Monte Rosa was not on August 1, 1855, but on July 31, 1855.'

THE CRÊTE DE MILLON.—I observe that on p. 257 of the November 'Alpine Journal' the ascent of the S.W. arête of the Crête de Millon by Mr. O. K. Williamson last summer is entered as a 'New Expedition.' May I say that (as is recorded in the travellers' book at the Hôtel Durand at Zinal) there has been a previous descent by this arête? On August 23, 1887, Mr. W. J. Kippen and myself, with P. J. Truffer,

* See *Alpine Journal*, vol. ix. p. 106.

† See *ibid.* vol. xvi. p. 47.

of St. Niklaus, started hurriedly at 6.55 A.M. from Zinal for the Diablons by way of the Col de Tracuit. We floundered through deep fresh snow to the col, and, being without a map, went up the Crête de Millon, which Truffer asserted to be the Diablons: 'he had always been so told when on the Weisshorn.' To humour his obstinacy we descended by the S.W. arête, according to the directions for the Diablons in the 'Zermatt Pocket Book,' p. 132, took 3 hrs. on the gendarmes (the face being very snowy and nasty), and reached the hôtel in the dark. Owing to these discreditable circumstances our descent is, as I found on a visit to Zinal in August 1894, notorious among the local guides, and I was much surprised to hear from Elie Peter that until this year the arête had been left severely alone, for it affords capital climbing immediately after bad weather. The rocks between the Garde de Bordon and the Pigne de l'Allée—the next best refuge I know for the snowed up mountaineer at Zinal—are very inferior; one of them (I think that marked 3,176 m. on the Swiss map) was christened by another Truffer (J. J., of Randa), on what may or may not have been its first ascent on August 8, 1891, by the very significant name 'Dies-Ding-Da.'

C. CANNAN.

Mr. O. K. Williamson writes, 'Owing to a mistake on my part, my ascent of the Tête de Millon on August 21, 1894, was given by me as a "new" expedition. The mountain had been traversed at least once before by precisely the same route; consequently the expedition was in no respects a new one.'

COMBIN DE ZESSETTA.—By an oversight of mine the height of this peak was given on p. 254 of the last number of the 'Alpine Journal' as 4,078 m. The error is of importance in so far as it suggests that the summit of the Combin de Zessetta is situated at the point where the figures 4,078 appear on the Siegfried map. This is not the case. The Combin de Zessetta lies at the corner where the ridge of the Combin, after running due E., suddenly turns to go almost due N.; it is immediately S.E. of the figures 4,080 on the map. The actual summit is the pretty little snow pyramid, rather like a miniature Silberhorn, which is so conspicuous to the left of the main mass of the Combin whenever that mountain is seen from the N.E., *e.g.* from the top of the Bietschhorn. It has neither name nor number on the map, but its true height is about 4,120 m.

SPALIHORN (2,452 m. = 8,045 ft.).—This curious little peak (which can be well seen from the valley a few steps below the hotel at Kied) consists of two almost equal parts, divided from one another by an enormous cleft, running roughly N. and S., whence the name. The two parts are rather like two bricks set up on end, as each has a flat top and four sides at right angles to one another. These sides are nearly everywhere sheer, and in places overhanging. On July 31 of last year I went up from Kied, viâ the Weritz Alp, to the N. end of the above-mentioned cleft in 2½ hrs. From there (the only point where the rocks are at all broken) to the top of the W. half of the peak was a sharp and interesting 10 minutes' scramble. An excursion in the opposite direction, along the ridge to the N.W., led over a couple of rock towers to the top of the Stühlihorn (2,709 m. = 8,788 ft.) in

1½ hr. Both these little peaks, the very existence of which is unknown to the majority of people who come to the Lötschthal, are well worth a visit in wet weather.*

TATLISHORN (2,505 m. = 8,219 ft.). On August 7, 1894, Mr. H. A. Cohen and I followed the Gemmi path to a point about midway between the 'Stock' and Spitalmatt (1 hr. 25 min. from the Hôtel Gemmi, at Kandersteg), and then turned E., crossed the Schwarzbach, and ascended grass slopes (steep in places) and débris to the top of this peak (which is crowned by a large stone-man), in 1 hr. 10 min. As the ascent is absolutely simple, and the route to be followed obvious, people who are crossing the Gemmi and have a couple of hours to spare might do worse than walk up the Tatlishorn, for the view down the practically sheer precipices of the E. face of the mountain is a surprisingly fine one. E. F. M. BENECKE.

THE TÖDI.—It may be well to put on record certain facts as to this splendid peak which have come to my knowledge since my Tödi Guide Book was published last summer. I have come across a very early version of Prof. Ulrich's account of his 1853 ascent of the Glarner Tödi. This was set before the members of the Zürich Natural History Society in the shape of a lecture, delivered on December 19, 1853, and was printed in their organ ('Mittheilungen d. Naturforschenden Gesellschaft in Zürich'), vol. iii. (1854), pp. 253-279. It is the first draft of the long article later published (1859) in the first series of 'Berg- u. Gletscherfahrten.' A very clear and accurate map by Herr G. Studer (one of the 1853 party) accompanies the paper, and is of considerable historical value.

Mr. Douglas Freshfield informs me that, after consulting the photographs taken last summer by Mr. W. M. Conway, he is convinced that the couloir leading up to his *Ruseinlücke* is that immediately N. of Piz Mellen, or the more southerly of the two descending to the Rusein Glacier. The other (or more probably the slopes N. of it) leads, therefore, to Herr Hauser's *Ruseinpforte*.

W. A. B. COOLIDGE.

MISS EDGEWORTH ON THE ALPS.—The correspondence of Miss Edgeworth, lately issued under the superintendence of Mr. Augustus Hare, includes an account of a visit to Chamonix, and a tour through the Bernese Oberland, in 1820. The authoress enjoyed her 'glaciers and cascades,' particularly the Giessbach, 'the most beautiful I ever beheld and beyond all of which poetry or painting had given me any idea.' 'The first moment when I saw Mont Blanc will remain an era in my life—a new idea, a new feeling, standing alone in my mind.'

M. Pictet, the Genevese librarian, arranged an excursion to Chamonix for the authoress. The inns on the Chamonix road she found 'much better than those on the road from Paris.' The guides, especially

* A full account of the Kl. Spalihorn and its first ascent by tourists on August 4, 1882 (M.M. C. and P. Montandon), is given in the *S.A.C. Jahrbuch*, xviii. pp. 14, 449. Cf. *S.A.C. Jahrbuch*, xiv. pp. 279 sqq.

Pierre Balmat* and his son, were 'some of the best informed and most agreeable men I have ever conversed with.' At the *table d'hôte* at the hotel at Chamonix thirty guests sat down. At the Baths of St. Gervais there were about fifty. An amusing sketch is given of the company. The source of the Arveyron and the Flégère were the limits of Miss Edgeworth's excursions, and the interest she shows in scenery, if genuine, is somewhat superficial. Oddities in humanity attracted her attention more readily than moraines and crevasses. The most interesting passage, perhaps, with regard to Alpine history in her letters is the following, which conveys the immediate impressions of a survivor of the famous accident to Dr. Hamel's party on Mont Blanc:—

'September 6.—Mrs. Marcet has just told us that at a breakfast given by M. Prévost to M. Arago and many scientific and literary people, a few days after the accident, parties ran high on this as on all affairs. Some said it was all M. Hamel's fault; some said that it was all the guides' own fault. One said he wished one of the English gentlemen who was of the party was present, for then they should know the truth. At this moment the servant announced a stranger; "Monsieur Rumford" the name sounded like as the man pronounced it, and they thought it was Count Rumford come to life. M. Prévost went out and returned with Mr. Dornford, one of the Englishmen who had been of Dr. Hamel's party, who came, he said, to beg permission to state the plain facts, as he knew they had been told to Dr. Hamel's disadvantage. He, Dr. Hamel, Mr. Henderson, and M. Lelleque, a French naturalist, set out; the guides had not dissuaded them from going up Mont Blanc—only advised them to wait until a threatening cloud had passed. When it was gone they all set out in high spirits, the guides cutting holes in the snow for their feet. This, it is supposed, loosened the snow newly fallen, and a quantity poured down over their heads. Mr. Dornford pushed on before the guides; he shook off the snow as it fell, and felt no apprehension. On the contrary, he laughed as he pawed it away, and was making his way on when he heard a cry from his companions, and looking back he saw some of them struggling in the snow. He helped to extricate them; saw a point moving in the snow, went to it, and pulled out Marie Coutay, one of the guides. He was quite purple, but recovered in the air. Looking round, two guides were missing; looked for them in vain, but saw a deep ravine covered with fresh snow, into which they must have fallen.'

Mr. Hare has failed to correct the following misspellings: 'Dornford' for 'Durnford,' 'Coutay' for 'Couttet,' and 'Lelleque' for 'Selligue.'

D. W. F.

TOURNIER L'OISEAU.—The Badminton volume on 'Mountaineering' is ornamented with a frontispiece representing a patriarch, described as 'Marie Tournier (dit l'Oiseau), the last survivor of De Saussure's

* Bourrit, *Cols des Alpes*, vol. i. p. 179, refers to this guide 'Pierre Balmat, qui fit ses premiers essais avec moi et qui a été pendant vingt années le guide de M. de Saussure, est un des plus instruits.' See also De Saussure's *Voyages*, *passim*.

guides.' The authority for this statement was a MS. note on a photograph taken in 1864 and presented to the Alpine Club by Lieutenant-Colonel Barrow, F.R.S., from which the plate is copied, which states that the individual in question was the 'last survivor of De Saussure's guides, who, with Cachat and two other guides, accompanied him on his sojourn on the Col du Géant,' and that he died at the age of 96 in 1866. This description has been challenged, not without reason. De Saussure does not give the names of his Col du Géant guides; but he supplies a complete list of his companions on Mont Blanc, and the Christian names of the only Tourniers among them are given* as 'Jean Michel' and 'Alexis,' and no Marie Tournier is mentioned anywhere among the guides of the time. Nor is it likely that a youth of 18 would have been employed as one of his four guides on the Col du Géant by De Saussure.

Of the two Tourniers mentioned, Alexis made the second ascent of Mont Blanc (often forgotten), with J. Balmat and J. M. Cachat, on July 5, 1787. De Saussure's was the third ascent.

Jean Michel accompanied Exchaquet in his passage, the second on record, of the Col du Géant in 1787. The same guide crossed the Col du Géant two months later with Bourrit.† Bourrit calls his guide elsewhere Tournier l'Oiseau, and Jean Michel is, therefore, clearly identified on the best authority with the bearer of this nickname. Tournier l'Oiseau was one of Bourrit's ordinary guides, attempted Mont Blanc with him in 1787, and travelled with him elsewhere. He died before 1803.‡

Bourrit in his list of Chamonix guides, published in 1808, does not mention any Tournier;§ but in his 'Itinéraire de Genève,' &c., 1808 (p. 61), he mentions among the former guides 'Tournier l'Oiseau,' and among the existing guides 'Tournier, fils de l'Oiseau.'

Here seems the key to the puzzle. Marie Tournier was, probably, this 'fils de l'Oiseau.' He may well have served as guide or porter to Bourrit with his father. Bourrit's last visit to Chamonix was in 1812; he died in 1815, at the age of 81. Marie Tournier must in his youth have seen De Saussure frequently, and may possibly have been one of the five porters whom we learn, from a drawing found among De Saussure's papers and reproduced by his grandson, M. Henri de Saussure, were employed in addition to the four guides on the Col du Géant.¶ M. Loppé, who knew the old man, states, however, that he did not claim to have acted as guide to De Saussure, but that he did assert he had been employed by Bourrit. He also tells me that it is common at Chamonix for a nickname to be transmitted from father to son.

It is true that Pictet, in his 'Itinéraire des Vallées autour de Mont-Blanc,' 1808, states (p. xix) that 'Tournier Alexis, dit l'Oiseau,' was

* *Voyages*, vol. iv. p. 142.

† *Alpine Journal*, vol. ix. pp. 87-9.

‡ Bourrit's *Description des Cols des Alpes*, vol. i. p. 30.

§ *Ibid.*, pp. 203-4.

¶ *Mémoires de la Société de Physique et d'Histoire Naturelle de Genève*, vol. supplémentaire, 1890, No. 9.

then an active guide, and that Leschevin, in his 'Voyage à Genève,' &c., 1812, repeats (p. 344) that 'Alexis Tournier, dit l'Oiseau, guide de M. de Saussure,' was then alive. But we know on Bourrit's much better evidence that Jean Michel was the original 'Oiseau.' Alexis may have been alive at that date, but it seems more probable that these handbook writers may have made a double blunder and been really referring to 'l'Oiseau fils.'

D. W. F.

MOUNT MLANJI.—A Renter's telegram, dated Blantyre, November 2, states, 'Mr. Sharpe and Captain Manning have succeeded in making an ascent of the highest peak of Mount Mlanji, which, so far as is known, is the highest mountain in British Central Africa. The altitude of the highest peak was ascertained to be 9,680 ft.'

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

Den Norske Turist Forenings Aarbog for 1894.

THE well-earned reputation of this northern Alpine year-book has been well sustained by the publication of the current number. The editor introduces his numerous readers to many most delightful but almost unknown, hitherto well-nigh inaccessible, regions which the indefatigable Tourist Club are opening out, by the building of most comfortable Alpine huts and bridges and other laudable means. These huts are infinitely superior to the usual huts in the Alps, such as Chanrion and others, and are generally placed near some sæter where food may be obtained, or, better still, are in charge of a man and a girl or two, who provide most excellently for the wants of travellers.

Some of the illustrations in the 'Aarbog' are admirable, notably one of the foot of the Briksdalsbræ, one of the best ice pictures I have ever seen.

Herr Annæus Øyen, the geologist who accompanied the unfortunate Wellman Arctic expedition, and who was left alone on Danes Island, has contributed two capital mountaineering articles, in which he has most modestly described his expeditions. It is, however, much to be regretted that Herr Øyen has not added a paper on the passage over the Justedalsbræ from Fjærland to Oldendal, which he made last year in company with Peder and Johannes Mundal, which was one of the finest pieces of glacier exploration yet made in Norway, and took them about 26 hrs. to accomplish. The interest in this grand glacier region increases yearly, and is likely to be maintained. Natives are now becoming enthusiastic guides, and will in time be as efficient as they are enthusiastic. They no longer fear to enter upon the unknown, but are instead desirous of seeing what is on the other side. Herr Øyen's brilliant exploit of last year has already led others of his countrymen to emulate his deeds of daring.

The mountain warrior Herr Hall has enriched the 'Aarbog' with three most interesting papers on new ascents in the Eikisdal and amongst the Jotunfjelde, which, as usual, he has illustrated. Herr Hall has, very wisely, made much use of new tourist huts and im-