driving snow, the top of the Monte della Disgrazia was reached at 10.35 A.M. The Forno hut was regained the same evening at 6.30. This is the first time the Disgrazia has been ascended in winter.

'On February 19 the same party, with the addition of Mr. A. Dod, made the first winter ascent of *Piz Zupo* in 5 hrs. 15 min. from the Boval hut. They were much assisted both by their own tracks on their ascent of the Crast' Agüzza and by those of a party who had attempted Piz Zupo the week before, but had been turned back by the cold.

'On the 22nd the same party and Miss Pennington Legh made the first winter ascent of the *Drei Blumen*. On this occasion they were more inconvenienced by the presence of some winter snow than had been the case on any of the higher mountains.'

The Jungfrau was traversed on February 19-20 by Herr Charles Flach and Mr. Steane Price, with Christian Jossi and his son. Starting from the Guggi hut at 3.30 A.M., it was not till 2.40 P.M. (in a snow storm) that the party succeeded in gaining the Silberlücke. The upper glacier was attained at 7 P.M., and it became necessary for the adventurers to spend nearly 12 hours under the overhanging edge of a crevasse, 40 min. below the summit of the Jungfrau. That peak was reached next morning, but the usual route down (over 7 hours having been consumed in cutting down to the Roththal Sattel) was in so bad a state that the Bergli hut was not attained till 8 P.M. that evening. Herr Flach has published a full account of his expedition in the number of the 'Volksbote' (the new weekly paper printed at Grindelwald) for February 26, 1896. This expedition is far too long for a winter climb, and while admiring the pluck of the climbers which carried them through many unpleasant experiences, we may be allowed to hope that they will find but few followers on a route which even in the height of summer is long and arduous.

THE FLORA OF COGNE.—The 'Rivista Mensile del C.A.I.' for March 1896, pp. 88-90, contains some notes on the Cogne flora, by Sig. F. Santi, which will be found very interesting to plant-lovers visiting the district.

'THE EXPLORATION OF THE CAUCASUS.'—Mr. D. W. Freshfield's book under this title has been delayed by technical difficulties, but is now in the press, and will be published very shortly. It contains 74 photogravures, 3 panoramas, about 140 illustrations in the text, and 4 maps. Chapters are contributed by Mr. H. Woolley, Mr. Cockin, Mr. Holder, M. de Déchy, and Professor Bonney.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

Zeitschrift des Deutschen und Oesterreichischen Alpenvereins. Vol. xxvi.

THIS volume (perhaps to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the club's existence) has blossomed out into a larger size, almost a quarto. At this rate after the next fifty years it will become a

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folio. Beginning in 1862 with a couple of modest duodecimos, it grew in 1864 to an octavo, and so remained until now. The present enlarged size is not nearly so convenient to hold. It contains, however, much interesting reading. Herr L. Purtscheller and Dr. Blodig contribute a number of interesting excursions without guides in the Maurienne and Tarentaise. On July 23, 1893, they succeeded in climbing the Southern Aiguille d'Arves, where Herr Purtscheller, with Herr Schulz and Herr Kellerbauer, had failed in 1885. The frontispiece, from a painting by E. W. Compton, gives a vivid representation of the 'Mauvais Pas.' Mr. Norman Neruda gives an interesting account of the different routes up the well-known Fünffingerspitze. All of these he has traversed on one occasion, alone. The climb, by all the routes, is one of exceptional difficulty, and for this very reason he thinks it will become a 'Modeberg,' which mountaineers sufficiently active, but not experienced, will ascend with good guides, to get the credit of having been up, though they were hauled up like sacks over the bad places, or told at every step how to move in order to reach the hand- and foot-holds. Herr Ernst Platz has devoted much time to the portion of the Karwendel group, immediately N. of the Vomperloch, near Schwaz. The ascents are not new, but there are many interesting traverses. The climbing resembles that in the Dolomites, but the scenery is not so attractive. Herr M. von Prielmayer describes the topography of the Granatspitze group. This lies to the W. of the Gross Glockner, from which it is separated by the Kalser Tauern. The article is, in fact, a 'climber's guide' to the group. Herr Frido Kordon, with various friends, made a number of excursions in the Malteinthal. Of these the ascents of the Zauberernock (2,941 m. = 9,648 ft.) on the S.W. side, and of the Schwarze Schneide (3,083 m. = 10,115 ft.), a neighbour of the Hochalmspitze, were new. On this last peak, the highest of the group, he spent a very uncomfortable night in an improvised bivouac, with a friend who was anxious to complete a panorama from the summit. Herr Hans Wödl adds a fifth and concluding chapter on the mountains of the Lesser Tauern, thus bringing his account to their eastern boundary, where the railway between Admont and S. Michael passes along the Palten and Liesing valleys. Dr. Carl Diener takes us to the Central Himalayas of Kumaon and Gurwal. The expedition was made more in the interest of geology than of mountaineering. On the Utadhura Pass (17,590 ft.) he felt the effects of the rarefied air so severely that he had to stop every three or four minutes to take breath. One of his companions (Herr Griesbach) had to be supported by two coolies up the last 300 ft., whilst the third (Mr. C. S. Middlemiss) felt only a slight headache. After some practice these sensations are no longer felt, for Dr. Diener a few days later ascended Kungribingri (19,170 ft.) from the camp (over 17,000 ft.) without feeling any inconvenience, though having to struggle through fresh snow and against a high wind. In 1883 Mr. W. W. Graham reached, on Kabru, a height of nearly 24,000 ft. without suffering. Sir W. M. Conway,

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however, doubts the accuracy of this measurement. Herr Willy Rickmers describes an ascent of Ararat on September 4, 1894, with the Cossack Posharski, who had made the ascent alone a few days before. There are two articles on glaciers, one by Drs. Ad. Blümcke and H. Hess on the Hochjoch Ferner in 1893, and one by Dr. H. Hess on a survey of the changes in the Alpeiner Ferner (Stubai) between 1886 and 1892. Each article is accompanied by a map. Herr Albrecht Penck describes the river Adige, with special reference to the recurrence of its floods. Herr Carl Pfund describes the attempts at mining in the Isar basin and the Werdenfels district in the fifteenth century. There is an amusing article by Herr Carl Wolf on the Volksschauspiel at Meran, and the efforts which he made to induce the peasants to take part in it. Herr J. C. Platter gives an interesting description (with plates) of the chief castles in Tyrol. The volume is adorned with thirteen full-page illustrations and more than forty lesser ones. Attached to it, beside the maps above mentioned, are a panorama from the Ahornspitze (Zillerthal), by J. R. Sigl (Innsbruck), and the first sheet of the special map of the Oetzthal and Stubai (1 = 50,000), by S. Simon (Interlaken). J. S.

Report of the Department of Lands and Survey, New Zealand, for the Year 1894–95. By Stephenson Percy Smith, Esq., F.R.G.S., Surveyor-General.

Some sections of this report will prove of special interest to many of our members. Of these sections that by Mr. A. P. Harper, A.C., on 'The Karangaroa River and Passes to Canterbury' deserves first attention.

In it Mr. Harper describes the explorations which he carried out in company with Mr. C. Douglas in that network of valleys to the south-westward of Mount Cook. These deep valleys, with their steep sides clad in luxuriant vegetation, present great difficulties to the explorer. For some distance he may have made his way with comparative ease over flats where wandering glacier streams form a network of channels, and then suddenly be brought to a stand by a precipitous gorge through which the concentrated strength of the torrent rushes with fury, and to force a passage he is compelled to ascend the mountain-sides, where difficult crags with treacherous crevices are marked by dense vegetation. All the rivers in these gorges have sources in the glaciers which form a background of snowy splendour to every scene.

Mr. Harper, being possessed of a keen appreciation of the beautiful in nature, is admirably fitted for that particular work of the survey which aims at opening up the wealth of beauty to the general public. One of the tributary valleys—that of the Copeland—included in the excellent map accompanying Mr. Harper's report is of special interest at present, owing to its leading to the pass recently crossed for the first time by Mr. Fitz Gerald, and connecting by what in the future may be an easy horse-track that portion of the west coast with the Tasman valley and civilisation.

The paper by Mr. W. H. Dunnage on 'An Ascent of Mount

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Ruapehu ' and a first descent over snow and ice to its crateral lake, is also of much interest, and, like Mr. Harper's paper, is illustrated by reproductions of photographs. W. S. GREEN.

Un Angolo Dimenticato delle Pennine : la Valle di St. Barthélemy. (Turin : 1895.)

An interesting and valuable monograph on the mountains round this valley, lying between the Valpelline and the Valtournanche, has been issued by SS. Canzio and Mondini. It is reprinted from the pages of the 'Bollettino' for 1894, and will be invaluable to travellers who may have the good fortune to visit that beautiful district. We understand that the curé of the valley intends to make an arrangement whereby, on payment of a small fee, climbers will be enabled to occupy rooms at the sanctuary of Cunei. At St. Barthélemy itself the inn is being greatly improved, and next summer it will probably afford comfortable quarters, so that climbers who are making their plans for 1896 will do well to consider the claims of this little-visited but easily accessible corner of the mountains.

CORRESPONDENCE.

NANGA PARBAT.

To the Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

SIR,—Referring to the subject of mountain sickness, which was mentioned in Dr. Collie's very interesting paper on Nanga Parbat, I may mention that I have climbed mountains in Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, and have always found that I suffered from it at great heights, especially when a little out of health or condition; also that the symptoms disappeared altogether when at rest or descending, and were worse in a dry than in a moist climate. I never felt them so much as I once did in the Rockies, at a height of only 14,000 ft.

I may add that the name 'Nanga Parbat' is derived from the Sanscrit, and means 'Naked Mountain.' The natives pronounce it 'Nunga Purbut,' the *u* being sounded as in 'sun' and the *r* rolled. The sound of *a* in 'bat' is, as far as I am aware, unknown in Indian languages.

Your obedient servant,
J. R. OLIVER, Maj.-General.

Army and Navy Club : February 19, 1896.

S. A. C. HUTS.

To the Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

DEAR SIR,—As no one else appears as yet to have sounded the alarm, I venture to ask whether you think that through the columns

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