

crevasses, into which they broke through more than once. Went down glacier and valley to camp.

BOOMING PEAK (c. 3,500 ft.), overlooking Booming Glacier, near Brent Pass, the col between Advent Vale and the Sassendal.—This was ascended on July 28 by Mr. Garwood. The route lay up a long snow arête, running S. between Booming and Baldhead glaciers.

HORN SUNDS TIND (4,560 ft.), overlooking Horn Sound, the highest measured peak in Spitsbergen.—This was climbed by Mr. Garwood, Mr. Trevor-Battye, and Ice-master Bottolfsen on August 18. The ascent was somewhat misleadingly described in the 'Times' by Mr. Trevor-Battye. Mr. Garwood led over several miles of crevassed glacier, and found the peak, which he had never seen, through a dense fog. They camped for some days at the foot, and finally made the ascent in bad weather. Mr. Garwood led the whole way and cut all the steps. He reached the long summit ridge, but could not climb the final rock-tooth, being inadequately supported by his companions. A full account of this, the most important climb of the expedition, will be published in the 'Alpine Journal.'

W. M. C.

ALPINE ACCIDENTS IN 1896.

THE past summer, though not rivalling the phenomenal season which preceded it, has, nevertheless, been far too prolific in the matter of Alpine accidents. It might have been expected that the very bad weather which prevailed in the Alps this year would have reduced the number of fatal accidents, as it certainly reduced the number of expeditions made. It is true, no doubt, that while there were in the High Alps during the fine summer of 1895 fifteen accidents, costing twenty lives (including, in addition to those tabulated by us at the time, the death of Herr Franellich, noted at the end of this article), in the bad season of 1896 we record but eight accidents (eleven lives lost). Yet even this number is far too large, and is due in part to the increasing custom of attacking peaks even when they are in bad condition. In 1896, as in 1895, there were also many fatal accidents on minor summits (Dent du Jaman, Croix de Javernaz, and many in the Eastern Alps), while among the narrow escapes none is, perhaps, more remarkable than that of a young Oxford man, who, while climbing (with guides) the Aiguilles Rouges d'Arolla, was so frightfully injured by a falling stone in a gully that at one moment the doctors gave him but twenty-four hours to live—a prophecy fortunately falsified.

Dismissing at once the Oedkarspitze accident (which happened very early in the season, and at a spot where there is usually no snow), and that on the Upper Grindelwald Glacier (which took place on what may almost be called a beaten track), the six others were due, as will be seen from the table subjoined, to one or other of two

causes—a slip on rock, or a fall through a snow cornice. Both causes were, in part, at least, due to the bad weather, which rendered the season of 1896 so wretched. Yet this bad weather should have impressed on the minds of climbers the necessity of extra caution, above all in the case of corniches. We have commented on each accident separately, and need only say here that it must always remain a profound mystery that so experienced a party as that on the Lyskamm should have, we must say, deliberately attacked a dangerous peak when in a most dangerous condition.

TABLE OF ACCIDENTS IN 1896.

Date	Name	Place	Lives lost	Cause
June 22	Otto Fellner ...	Oedkarspitze ...	1	Slip on hard snow; unroped.
August 11	R. Majoni ...	Zwölferspitze ...	1	Slip on rock.
" 15	C. H. Funk ...	Predigtstuhl ...	1	Slip on rock.
" 20	{ E. Thorant A. Payerne }	Meije ...	2	Probable slip on rock, perhaps avalanche.
" 26	G. Corra ...	Petite Sassièrè	1	Fall through snow cornice.
September 5	F. Drasch ...	Gross Mörchner	1	Slip on rock.
" 9	G. R. Betjemann	Upper Grindelwald Glacier	1	Collapse of snow-bridge.
" 10	{ Max Günther Roman Imboden P. J. Ruppen }	Lyskamm ...	3	Fall through snow cornice.

ACCIDENT ON THE OEDKARSPITZE.

ON June 22 Herren Georg and Otto Fellner, of Munich (the former an experienced climber), started at 5.30 A.M. from the Angeralm, and ascended, by way of the Marxenkar, the three peaks (highest 9,003 ft.) of the Oedkarspitze, in the Karwendel group, N. of Innsbruck. They had intended to climb also the adjacent and rather higher Birkkarspitze, but, abandoning this idea on account of a dangerous cornice on the ridge, proceeded down the Schlauchkar (then filled with snow) on their "steigeisen." They were following the tracks of a previous party when Otto slipped, flashed past his brother, and fell over a cliff about 150 ft. in height. His brother rejoined him in $\frac{1}{2}$ hr., and managed to convey him off the snowfield; but Otto soon after died from internal injuries. The two brothers were alone and without a

guide, while at the time of the accident they were not roped. From Purtscheller and Hess's 'Hochtourist in den Ostalpen,' i. p. 38, it appears that usually the Schlauchkar is a rock gorge filled with huge boulders, there being only a few patches of old snow near the opening between the Oedkarspitze and the Birkkarspitze.

ACCIDENT ON THE ZWÖLFERSPITZE.

On August 11 Dr. Rudolf Majoni, a young man of 22, and son of a high official at Innsbruck, lost his life on the summit (8,353 ft.), which rises above Neustift in the Stubai thal, and is the end of the ridge coming from the Habicht. With his sister and another lady, but without a guide, he made the ascent, and on the descent had reached the last difficulty. This is a chimney, leading the way down which the unfortunate man slipped, turned over several times, and was found dead at the base. He seems to have struck his head almost immediately against a rock, and to have lost his consciousness at once.

ACCIDENT ON THE PREDIGTSTUHL.

On August 15 Herr C. H. Funk, of Munich, the Secretary of the Bayerland Section of the German and Austrian Alpine Club, and a rock climber of great experience, was killed on the Predigtstuhl (8,850 ft.), in the Niedere Tauern range. Accompanied only by a friend, he had reached the most difficult part of the ascent, a rock-step at the upper end of a steep rock chimney about 100 ft. below the summit. His friend, who was leading, could not manage to get up this bit, whereupon Herr Funk tried a way to the right which seemed to him easier; but he had hardly got up 10 ft. when he lost his hold, and was precipitated some 650 ft. through the chimney to the Griesenerkar below. It was only after four days' strenuous labour that the body was recovered and brought down. The two friends were not roped on this ascent, which is described by Purtscheller and Hess, 'Hochtourist in den Ostalpen,' ii. p. 156, as not a difficult climb.

ACCIDENT ON THE MEIJE.

On August 20 two French climbers, MM. E. Thorant and A. Payerne, of Grenoble, perished near the foot of this peak. The following account is abridged from a very detailed narrative, which has been courteously placed at our disposal by Mr. Stutfield, who took a prominent part in organising the rescue party:—On the night of August 18 four parties found themselves at the Châtelleret Club but. Of these Messrs. Stutfield and Spencer had that day climbed the Meije, and two other English parties proposed to do the same on the morrow, while the two French climbers had

arrived (accompanied by their wives, Madame Thorant being, we believe, the first lady who ever ascended the Meije) from La Grave over the Brèche de la Meije. Next morning the French ladies returned to La Grave by the Col du Clot des Cavales, while the two English and one French caravans set out for the Meije, the French climbers being without guides. They were passed on the 'Promontoire' by the English parties, and again on the descent, the French gentlemen then stating that they proposed to pass the night on the rocks near the foot of the Glacier Carré. They were seen from La Grave on the summit at about 2.30 P.M., and later in the evening from the S. side on or near the Glacier Carré. The weather had been fine during the day, though it grew dull and threatening towards evening; but rain was falling (no doubt snow above) on the morning of the 20th. As the French climbers had not arrived, Messrs. Stutfield and Spencer, with a number of Swiss and Dauphiné guides, set out in order to render aid if required. Two of the Dauphiné men went ahead and found the bodies at the foot of the 'Grand Couloir' descending W. from the 'Pyramide Duhamel,' and returned with the news to the rest. Mr. Spencer, however, thought it better to go up himself in case the Frenchmen were not dead, but found the bodies already stiff and cold. Mr. Stutfield meanwhile descended to La Béarde, and gave the alarm. Next day, after some delay, owing to opposition by the local authorities on formal grounds, a large party of gentlemen and guides went up and, with the aid of a party of villagers which arrived later, brought the bodies down to La Béarde. We give here Mr. Stutfield's exact words:—'The body of M. Payerne was lying face downwards in the snow; that of M. Thorant hung on the rope, which was unbroken, in the crevasse between the rock and the ice, and we had some difficulty in extricating it. Their hats, gloves, one boot torn from M. Payerne's foot, a crampon, and other articles littered the snow, but the axes were not to be found. Both had sustained severe injuries on the head, and it is satisfactory to know that death must have been instantaneous. Curiously enough, M. Payerne's watch was still going; that of M. Thorant had stopped at 7.45. It went on again, however, on being shaken, and I do not think this can have been the hour of the accident, as there was no snow on either of the bodies when they were found.'

Assuming that the two unfortunate climbers carried out their expressed intention of sleeping near the foot of the Glacier Carré, they must, on the morning of the 20th, have descended the great rock wall which constitutes the chief difficulty of this expedition. Thence the way is much easier, and it would seem that they were within a few yards of safety (namely, the Etançons Glacier) when the mishap took place. How precisely this occurred will never be known with certainty. Perhaps one of them was exhausted by the long descent in bad weather and slipped; perhaps a small snow avalanche in the couloir carried them off their feet. But when it is asserted (as has been the case) that their undertaking was a very

rash one, it ought, in fairness to those who can no longer speak for themselves, to be remembered that they had alone practically accomplished the ascent and descent (under unfavourable circumstances) of one of the most difficult mountains in the Alps, and perished just as their climb was about to be crowned by success.

M. Thorant was buried (without any religious ceremony) by his own formal desire, several times expressed, in the *commune* wherein he met his end, and now rests by the side of another victim of the Meije, Dr. Emil Zsigmondy, close to the little churchyard of St. Christophe. He was only 40 years of age, and a bold and experienced climber, though he preferred to go alone. Witness his solitary ascent of the S. Aiguille d'Arves, and his traverse in very fast time of the three peaks of Belledonne. He was the founder (in 1895) and President of the 'Rocher Club,' of Grenoble, formed to encourage the guideless climbing of rock peaks. M. Payerne was rather older, and a professor at the Lycée, of Grenoble. Contrary to what has been stated he was a good and experienced climber, and had done much good work for the 'Société des Touristes du Dauphiné,' first as assistant secretary, then as librarian. He was buried at Grenoble, over 6,000 persons being present at the funeral, as we learn from one who was there. It is pleasant to read in the French papers the warm expression of thanks to Mr. Stutfield, Mr. Spencer, and all other foreign gentlemen and guides, who exerted themselves with true courtesy to do their utmost for their unfortunate comrades in arms.

W. A. B. C.

ACCIDENT ON THE PETITE SASSIÈRE.

ON August 26, Signor G. Corra, one of the most active members of the Italian Alpine Club, lost his life on or near this very easy peak (12,051 ft.), which rises just to the N. of the Aiguille de la Grande Sassière in the Tarentaise. Accompanied by G. B. Pellissier and Cæsar Meynet, both of Val Tournanche, he had started early that morning from the hamlet of Fornet at the head of the Val Grisanche, and had effected (it is said very quickly) the ascent of the Grande Sassière apparently by the S.E. arête, a route discovered in 1878 by Messrs. Coolidge and Yeld.* The party then descended by the N. arête, but it is not quite clear from the published accounts in the 'Rivista Mensile' whether they had got much beyond the depression between the two peaks, or had actually gained the summit of the Petite Sassière itself, though the latter seems most probable.† Somewhere on this ridge a snow corniche broke under their feet, and all three fell down the Italian

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. ix. pp. 101-2.

† The traverse from one peak to the other offers not the slightest difficulty, and was first effected in 1889 by Signor G. Bobba, who took only 50 min. *Bollettino del C. A. I.*, 1890, pp. 79, 80. *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiv. pp. 493-4.

slope. The rope soon broke, and Meynet was left behind, his two comrades being carried some 300 ft. lower. Both guides were injured, but Signor Corra had sustained such wounds in his head that in about 10 mins. after the fall was checked he had ceased to live. The guides went down to the highest hamlet in the Val Grisanche and reported this sad accident. That night a search party was sent out, which next day discovered the body, 'almost covered with snow and frozen, about 650 ft. below, or to the E. of, the summit of the Petite Sassièrè, in other words, just opposite the Col de Bassac déré.'* It was transported down to the valley, and later to Turin, where Signor Corra resided.

The surviving guides declare that the snow was in very bad condition, while the weather was bad, the clouds thick (so that they could scarcely see each other, though tied close together, as the rope was too short), and the wind very strong. These things being so, it is most likely that the party kept too much on the crest of the ridge, instead of on the easier French slope, and not being able to see the corniche fell, as might be expected, when they trod upon it.†

W. A. B. C.

ACCIDENT ON THE GROSS MÖRCHNER.

ON September 5 Dr. Fritz Drasch, of Graz, one of the best and most experienced of the present generation of Austrian mountaineers, perished in rather a singular fashion on this peak (10,785 feet), one of the Zillerthal group. We summarise here the very detailed account by his companion, Herr Sirk, which is printed in No. 18, 1896, pp. 221-2, of the 'Mittheilungen' of the German and Austrian Alpine Club, while we avoid any expression of opinion as to the heated controversy which has arisen with regard to the acts of a German climber and his guide, who climbed the peak the same day. For a long time Dr. Drasch had entertained the idea of ascending the Gross Mörchner from the N.E., starting from the Greizer Club hut at the head of the Floitenthal. A steep ice-gully descends from the summit, and is limited on either side by a rock ridge, the right-hand one of which (looking from the Club hut) was that up which Dr. Drasch proposed to clamber. With his friend, Herr Sirk, he slept with this intention at the hut on the night of September 4. A German climber and his guide were also there, and started next morning half an hour before Dr. Drasch and Herr Sirk. When the latter reached the foot of the mountain they found that the others had ascended by the right-hand ridge, and therefore, to avoid the stones dislodged from above by them, attacked, but with a certain hesitation, the left-hand ridge, which was known to be the

* *Rivista Mensile*, Sept. 1896, p. 392.

† For further details see the official and authorised accounts published in the August and September numbers of the *Rivista*, pp. 350, 391. The poor illustration at p. 75 of the 1890 *Bollettino* shows the slope down which the fall took place.

more difficult of the two. The ascent proved as difficult as was feared.

The two friends had reached the upper third of the mountain, when it became necessary for Dr. Drasch to climb over a great boulder, Herr Sirk remaining behind this rock and wedging the rope in between the boulder and the rock. Dr. Drasch had his end of the rope securely fastened round his body, while he carried three or four lengths of the rope across his chest and one shoulder. Herr Sirk could now see nothing of what his friend was doing, but felt the rope tighten then slacken, according as Dr. Drasch advanced or retreated. Suddenly, however, without hearing any cry or other noise, Herr Sirk felt a terrific jerk of the rope, which forced his left hand against the rock and injured it. As he received no answer to his repeated shouts, he managed to get on to the top of the boulder, and there saw his unfortunate friend hanging at the end of the rope. Herr Sirk, with a whistle, gave the 'Alpine Distress Signal,' in hopes that the other party, then on the summit, might hear it, but in vain. With great difficulty he succeeded in descending to Dr. Drasch. He tried to revive him by rubbing with cognac and snow, but efforts were fruitless. He then managed to get down the dangerous ice gully somehow (as his injured hand did not allow him to climb rocks), and reached Ginzling that night, but owing to the weather it was only two days later that a strong party of guides succeeded in bringing down Dr. Drasch's body. Herr Sirk (who is a member of the medical profession) states that when he reached Dr. Drasch both his heart and pulse had ceased to beat. He had fallen twice the length of the free rope, or between 80 and 95 ft. Death was due to the terrific jerk, which caused internal injuries, and *not* (as was at first believed) to one of the coils of the rope having got round his neck and throttled him. This latter point was made clear when it was later discovered on carefully examining the body that the rope across his chest had only bent his head on one side. Dr. Drasch was but thirty-nine years of age, but had been a climber for eighteen years, having often been with Herr Purtscheller, who has written a touching notice of his lost comrade.

Most probably a slip on the rock was the cause of this sad accident, but possibly the handhold may have suddenly given way. As Herr Sirk heard no cry, it is pretty certain that the mishap proved fatal at once. It is also said that the mountain was in bad condition that day, while Dr. Drasch was rather excited by the fact of another party having taken his intended route, and so was inclined to hurry and to force bad bits, which he might have hesitated to try when in a calmer frame of mind.

ACCIDENT ON THE UPPER GRINDELWALD GLACIER.

ON September 9 Mr. Gilbert Richard Betjemann (a young man of thirty-one, who was a violinist at the Opera in London, his father

being leader of the orchestra there) was killed on this glacier. He left Grindelwald in the morning with Rudolf Bernet (said to be a young and inexperienced guide) to make the excursion to the Gleckstein Club hut and back. They took the ordinary route by the Milchbach chalet, and had reached the right edge of the glacier when the accident took place. The following account is mainly taken from that published in the 'Revue Alpine' (of Lyons), 1896, p. 302, by Mr. Andreas Fischer, one of the teachers at the Grindelwald Secondary School, who was one of the first persons on the spot after the accident occurred. In order to gain the rocks on the right bank of the glacier it was necessary to cross a snow-bridge of avalanche snow, which had been used all the summer and safely traversed that very morning by another party. Bernet, however, seems to have had his doubts as to its solidity, and bidding Mr. Betjemann remain on the ice, proceeded himself cautiously on to the bridge. But it gave way under his weight, and he fell some distance into the chasm thus caused. He was hurt considerably, but after recovering himself was able with some difficulty to climb out on to the ice. To his surprise Mr. Betjemann was not there, and getting no response to his repeated shouts he concluded that his employer had probably run back in search of help. (Most likely he had been stunned by his fall, and imagined that a longer time had elapsed since the accident than was really the case.) He therefore started back, but at the chalet ascertained that Mr. Betjemann had not arrived there. Joined by Mr. Fischer, who happened to be on the spot, and by two other guides, who were on their way down the Wetterhorn, he returned to the scene of the accident. Crossing the snow-bridge further to the left, the party soon caught sight of the unfortunate traveller, who was lying on the rocks after a fall of 15 to 20 ft. He was still breathing, but after he had with some difficulty been taken out of the chasm soon passed away, despite all efforts to preserve his life. The body was carried down to Grindelwald that night. We are informed that the local doctor who was called in to certify the cause of death was of opinion that the gentleman was far less hurt than his guide, but that he perished through suffocation, owing to the mass of snow and ice which had fallen on his face and chest. It is obvious that this accident belongs to the class of those which will happen despite all care, and was the purest mishap. The two were not roped together, but the glacier at that point is so easy that it is not at all usual to rope while crossing it.

ACCIDENT ON THE LYSKAMM.

THE most terrible accident of the past season was that in which Dr. Max Günther (to whose projected journey to the Sikhim Himalayas in 1897 allusion was made in our last number), with his guides, Roman Imboden and Peter Joseph Ruppen, perished by a fall through a corniche on the E. arête of the Lyskamm. The

printed accounts state that the spot was precisely the same as that on which two English climbers, with the three brothers Knubel, lost their lives in 1877. But we are informed in a letter from Joseph Imboden (father of Roman) that the accident took place not on the 'grande corniche,' but on a minor one, presumably nearer the Lysjoch.

On September 8, Dr. Günther's party slept in the new Bétémps Club hut, at the foot of Monte Rosa. Here they met Herr Spinner, of Aarau, and his guide, Zuber, who were contemplating the ascent of Monte Rosa. The weather on the 9th was thoroughly bad. During the day Dr. Günther invited Herr Spinner to join his own party, at any rate as far as the Lysjoch, whence they could continue the ascent or not as they felt inclined. The united parties accordingly left the hut at 4 A.M. on the morning of the 10th. Though the sky was quite clear, a warm S. wind was blowing, and the snow was so soft as to make the ascent exceedingly laborious. They reached the Lysjoch at 9 A.M., and as Herr Spinner did not wish (according to his statement in the November 'Alpina,' p. 198) to continue the ascent, he made a rendezvous at that spot for 3 or 4 hrs. later with Dr. Günther's party, and proceeded with his guide towards the Ludwigshöhe, which he had some idea of climbing. He could thus watch the other party on its way up the Lyskamm, which would have been impossible from the Lysjoch itself (*ibid.*). At 10.30 Zuber, who had been watching the progress of the others (rendered slow by the state of the snow), heard the roar of an avalanche, and saw a cloud of snow blowing from the E. ridge of the Lyskamm. He at once feared that an accident had happened, and being joined by the caretakers of the Capanna Margherita on the Signal Kuppe (who had also seen this cloud and the fall), the four proceeded to a point whence the three bodies could be seen lying on the snow at the base of a precipice of about 1,500 ft. in height. Zuber and his employer at once descended to the Riffelalp, one or both of the Italians going down on the Italian side to give the alarm. Search parties at once set out from either side. The Swiss found by the bodies a party of ten Italians, who had come up earlier, and who helped to convey the bodies as far as the Lysjoch, whence they were brought down to Zermatt on the evening of the 11th. Each of the victims had received injuries which must have been instantly fatal; but, while it is satisfactory to know that none of them died a lingering death, there is considerable reason for supposing that they did not fall simultaneously. The hole in the corniche, which was clearly visible from below, was singularly small and well defined, thus negating the supposition that they all three fell together. The bodies of the two guides lay prostrate on the snow, but that of Dr. Günther occupied a sitting posture, and presented the following peculiarities: The coat was turned up firmly over the head, while the right arm was stretched upwards, the shoulder being dislocated, and the hand firmly clenched. From these and sundry minor indications it has been argued that Imboden, who

was leading, must have suddenly disappeared through the corniche, that Dr. Günther must have struck his axe into the snow, and held on to it firmly with one hand while he was being pulled feet first through the rotten eave of snow, and that Ruppen must have been jerked from whatever position he was in by the fall of the second man. The rope was broken between each of the bodies, while of the three ice axes only the iron head of one was found. The 'Alpina' November number, p. 129, announces that neither guide had insured his life according to the scheme arranged by the Swiss Alpine Club, while we are informed that Ruppen leaves a young widow and six children in great poverty. When dealing with the Lyskamm accident of 1877 we wrote* :—'Even the best guides have a tendency to underestimate an invisible danger on well-known ground. Moreover, a leader and step-cutter has special temptations to keep near the crest of the mountains, where he finds the slope less steep than a yard or two lower down, and the foothold often snow in place of hard ice.' These words need only to be supplemented by the fact that in 1896 the S. wind had made the snow and ice so rotten that even in the forenoon the party did not dare to skirt on the N. face for fear of starting avalanches, to explain why Dr. Günther's party lost their lives. We are compelled, taking all these points into consideration, to express our utter amazement that a party of experienced mountaineers should have even thought of trying under such conditions a mountain so notorious for its dangerous corniches as the Lyskamm.

ACCIDENT IN THE URI ROTHSTOCK GROUP.

It seems best to chronicle here an accident which occurred towards the end of November 1895, though but little is known about it. On November 23, Herr Julius Franellich, of Trieste, a young man of twenty-four years of age, and a student at the Federal Polytechnic School in Zürich, left Zürich, slept that night at the Krönte Club hut, at the head of the Erstfeld valley, and next day, alone, effected the ascent of the Gross Spannort. He descended that afternoon to Engelberg, where he arrived between 3 and 4 P.M., but made no stay, inquiring the way to the Plankenalp Club hut, for which he started alone at once, as he proposed to cross the Uri Rothstock the next day to Isenthal. Since that time no traces have been found of the unfortunate traveller. As he did not return to Zürich by the 27th, his friends searched nearly the whole range of the Uri Rothstock, but in vain. There was no certain trace of his having been in the Club hut, or on the summit of the Uri Rothstock, or in any of the chalets in the Grossthal and Kleintal, which descend from the peak to the hamlet of Isenthal. His fate, therefore, must remain a matter of conjecture. Some think that he fell over the steep rocks at the head of the Horbisthal,

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. viii. p. 349.

as darkness would have overtaken him before reaching the Club hut; others are of opinion that he fell into a crevasse on the Blümlisalpfirn, below the peak. A full account of the search is given in No. 8, 1896, pp. 81-3 of the 'Alpina,' the organ of the Swiss Alpine Club. In the January number of the same paper (p. 10) it is stated that Herr Franellich had climbed Mont Blanc, the Matterhorn, &c., without guides. But that is quite a different thing from venturing to climb *alone* in the early winter, perhaps on glaciers which are not in themselves difficult, but at that season very treacherous. Solitary climbing has thus claimed yet another victim.

At the beginning of last October it was stated in the Austrian Parliament by one of the members that since 1889 there have taken place on the Raxalp no fewer than thirty-seven fatal accidents, while eleven persons were severely hurt; of this number of accidents twenty-seven and three respectively took place in 1896. The Raxalp (highest point 6,591 ft.) is a favourite resort of holiday-makers from Vienna. Bädeker describes it as a plateau (whereon are many hay huts and an inn) with steeply-sloping sides, up which tracks have been made. It would thus appear that it is not the High Alps only which are the scene of fatal accidents among the mountains, and newspaper writers would do well to bear this in mind when penning sensational articles for popular consumption.

ALPINE NOTES.

NOTES FROM COGNE.—It would seem that the Herbetet is often struck by lightning, for when I climbed this attractive peak, on July 25 this year, my guides, Albert and Benedikt Supersaxo, of Saas, who, with Mr. F. W. Oliver, made the first ascent by the S. arête on September 20, 1895, were surprised to find that nothing was left of the cairn that they had on that occasion rebuilt upon the summit.* Perhaps the disappearance of the pinnacle which played a prominent part in the first ascent of the Grivola in 1859† may be due to the same cause. I have often thought it would be interesting if a record of some prominent and familiar summit could be kept, and the changes in its shape noted from year to year. In default of a sketch or photograph a short verbal description might suffice; and I hereby make my contribution to the subject. 'On July 18, 1896, the summit of the Grivola was a delicate crest of snow, some 10 yards long, highest at the E. end, where it culminated in a fine three-sided point. This crest of snow was about 4 ft. high on the S.E. side, resting on rock.' Perhaps some one

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xviii. p. 94.

† *P., P., G.* vol. iii. p. 336.