of the body and a careful questioning of the men who had found it showed that Stoeber slipped and slid a short distance on rocks near where he was last seen, and was stopped by coming in contact with some projecting masses, breaking his left leg at the ankle; there was no other serious wound on his head or body. He was lying on the slope with his head up; but he had not attempted to make an entry in his note book, nor to get at his brandy flask, nor to draw up his injured leg, and his hands were not clinched as in pain, so that we must conclude that he lost consciousness when he fell, and was frozen without recovering it. The body was taken to Aralikh under the charge of the civil officers of the district, and the news was telegraphed to his family.

'This sad accident is, I believe, the first that has occurred on Mount Ararat. In some descriptions of former ascents the mountain is represented as offering no difficulty to mountaineers, and this is certainly true—at least in autumn; but M. Stoeber was not a mountaineer, and, failing to realise the dangers to one unfamiliar with mountains, he left his companions and attempted the ascent alone. I was in the neighbourhood of the place where he fell, and am sure that a man of fair mountaineering skill would not have been in any danger there; though, indeed, it is never very safe to climb alone.

'The accident must be ascribed to solitary climbing by an inexperienced man. No blame whatever can attach to Professor Loewinson-Lessing or to Stoeber's companions. The former was not a mountaineer and did not attempt to direct the subsidiary parties on Great Ararat. The latter did not desert Stoeber, but he left them, and as he had claimed an experience with mountains which we afterwards found he did not possess, and as they encountered no serious difficulty, they did not anticipate any accident.

'The search was begun by the Cossacks as soon as Drs. Ebeling and Oswald arrived at the camp and learnt that Stoeber had not returned; but even then he had probably been dead for nearly a day. 'HARRY FIELDING REID.

'Geological Laboratory, Johns Hopkins University,
'Baltimore, U.S.A.'

THE ALPINE CLUB PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION.

AN unusual degree of interest and excellence marked the exhibition of photographs held in December at the Club-rooms. The standard has now grown to be a very high one, and the alpine world may congratulate itself on possessing so many experts in one of the most difficult branches of photography.

Over 250 photographs were sent in, of which the majority were enlargements, which was doubtless quite in accordance with the taste of most of the visitors to the Club-rooms. For our own part, we confess to a feeling of regret that there were so few silver prints,

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which, we fear, may gradually disappear altogether from these exhibitions. Certainly no other process shows to the same degree perfect definition combined with the delicate softness so desirable in snow and ice pictures.

A noteworthy feature of the enlargements was the large number of carbon prints in a green tint, which is admirably suited to both snow and rock subjects. It has, perhaps, the slight drawback of somewhat killing grey or black-and-white tints in its neighbourhood. Of the great mountain ranges, the Canadian Rockies, Alaska, and, of course, the Alps were particularly well represented; Norway and the British Hills to a lesser extent; the Caucasus and the Himalayas making a very meagre show. New Zealand and the Pyrenees were conspicuous by their absence. We should like to have seen something of the work of the Aconcagua expedition, which would have added materially to the interest of the exhibition.

Most of our well-known mountaineering photographers—or, to put it more correctly, photographing mountaineers—were represented, Sir Martin Conway and Captain Abney being almost the only notable absentees.

The greatest interest was, perhaps, aroused by Signor Sella's Alaskan views, showing as they did the scene of one of the latest Alpine triumphs, in which we may be permitted to feel a certain amount of pride, since the three leaders of the expedition, although Italian, are all members of the Alpine Club. That the photographs were not all as good technically as we are accustomed to expect from Signor Sella was, without doubt, not the fault of the photographer. There was, however, little fault to be found with the wonderful panoramic view of the Titanic Seward Glacier and its attendant peaks, which included Mount St. Elias and the yet loftier virgin summit of Mount Logan. Other beautiful examples were 'Mount St. Elias from the Newton Glacier' and 'Sunset in Alaska.' The whole series was, of course, of immense topographical interest. Signor Sella sent also a very nice set of stereoscopic views in the Caucasus.

Of equal interest were the numerous photographs taken in the Canadian Rockies by Mr. G. P. Baker and Dr. Norman Collie. Mr. Baker sent what was, pictorially, perhaps the best thing in the room: 'Looking towards the Freshfield Group from Peak Sarbach,' a very artistic rendering of a storm-laden mountain landscape, in which a ray of sunlight breaks through the clouds, lighting up the peaks below with a most picturesque effect. An enlargement of the Freshfield Group, in which the names of five Presidents of the Alpine Club have been happily perpetuated, was very effective, although the glacier in the foreground was, perhaps, a trifle too black. 'Hector in the Bow Valley' was interesting to a geologist as well as a beautiful picture.

Dr. Collie's twenty-eight enlargements were all so excellent that it is difficult to single out any for special praise.

Dr. Grylls Adams also sent an interesting series of small views of the same district.

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A frame of three fine views of the superb Kinchinjunga range from Darjiling, kindly lent by Mrs. E. P. Jackson, did duty for the Himalayas.

A very beautiful 'Ushba from the Betsho Woods' was, we regret to say, the only contribution by Mr. Woolley, as well as the only representative of the Caucasus, excepting Signor Sella's stereoscopes mentioned previously.

Professor Kennedy sent several enlargements, of which the best were 'The Dent d'Hérens from a ridge south of Breuil' and two views of the Matterhorn from the south side, one of which was additionally interesting from the fact of its being taken from a point almost diametrically opposite to Zermatt.

Mr. Alfred Holmes' exhibits numbered over twenty, none of which quite equalled his best work in previous exhibitions. We preferred the frame of small silver prints, of which 'Looking N.E. from the Parrot Spitze' and 'The Grand Combin from the Cabane d'Orny' were the most striking. 'The Obergabelhorn and Triftjoch' was imposing, and reminded us of some of Signor Sella's work. The frame of small prints of climbing incidents in the Lake district were well done, but there is a certain monotony in the subject as far as an exhibition is concerned.

Mr. Maclay lent a very beautiful sunlit winter (or Easter) view of 'Bidean-nam-Bian, Argyllshire,' taken by Mr. Boyd.

Mr. Eccles made a welcome re-appearance with two frames of delightful silver prints, remarkable as usual for the lovely cloud effects which are a feature of his work. One of these, entitled 'Clouds about the Chamonix Aiguilles from the Montagne de la Côte,' was repeated in the form of an enlargement, which was one of the best things in the room. He also sent the portrait of an old friend to many members—namely, 'Michel Payot.'

Mr. C. T. Dent once more justified his reputation as one of our finest photographers. His exhibits included a frame of six very delicate silver prints, of which the two ice studies re-appeared on the opposite wall as enlargements, both quite charming and typical. 'Winter in the Saas Valley' was perfect as a study of snow-modelling and hoar-frost. In addition to these, Mr. Dent also showed three fine enlargements: 'The Rothhorn from the Singline Alp,' 'The Aiguille du Plan after Fresh Snow,' and 'The Dent du Géant from the Géant Glacier.' All Mr. Dent's work was, it is needless to say, most artistic.

Dr. Howard Barrett sent a pretty series of small views round the Montanvert.

Amongst Mr. Littledale's six Dauphiné pictures was a striking view of the Ailefroide cliffs from the Tête de Chéret. We think that this is Mr. Littledale's first appearance in our midst as a photographer, and we welcome him as a most promising addition to our ranks.

Messrs. Spitta make also, we believe, their first appearance on our walls. Their three enlargements were technically as good as anything in the room, but we did not quite like the composition of

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the two Gornergrat views. They also sent the four telephotographs showing the progress of a party ascending the Südlenzspitze and another of the Dom from Saasgrund.

The remarkable telephotograph of Mont Blanc from Geneva by M. Boissonas has, we think, been shown before at one of our exhibitions.

Mr. Shea's Dolomite pictures were admirable, and characteristic of him and the district. We need give them no higher praise. Nothing could be better than 'Through Swirling Mists,' which, as a picture, is one of the best things he has shown us.

Mr. Hoddinott's 'Mont Collon' was a singularly artistic rendering of a somewhat hackneyed subject. His 'Sunrise over the Jungfrau' was also quite a picture.

Mr. H. Priestman demonstrated his artistic capabilities in a perfectly composed picture of 'The Store Troldtind, Lofoten Islands,' which was an example of what can be done with a not very striking subject.

Mr. F. M. Govett sent three pretty frames, 'Monsoon in the Ceylon Hills,' 'The Dachstein,' and a very good rendering of snow in his Rhone Valley winter view.

'A Sea of Clouds from the Grigna, Lake Como,' was a fine cloud study which has been kindly presented to the Club by Count Lurani.

Another exceedingly good example of a similar subject was shown by Mr. Sydney Donkin in 'The Gross Venediger from the Zillerthal Alps.'

Mrs. Main's three views in the Pennine Alps were in her best style, and displayed once more her mastery of the gradations of shade in snow. Her 'Vengetinder, Norway,' was also excellent.

Mr. Gerald Arbuthnot sent an interesting lot of Norwegian views. The panorama of the Sondmore Alps from the Slogen would have been more effective if the different views had been separated, as the skies were somewhat uneven.

Mr. Anthony Dod's 'Matterhorn from the Stockje' was very beautiful, and might have been taken by Mrs. Main.

Mr. O. K. Williamson sent a charming view of 'The Aiguille d'Argentière and Tour Noire from the Fenêtre de Saleinaz,' which was unfortunately hung rather too high to be seen well.

Mr. Morshead lent three frames of good work by Monsieur Du Pontet. We liked especially the 'Mont Blanc Range, taken on the way to the Col des Grands Montets.'

Dr. Tempest Anderson exhibited several enlargements, including a wonderfully effective view of the precipitous summit of the Becca del Deir Verd.

Mr. Sydney Spencer has very rapidly taken a place in the front rank of Alpine photographers, and his exhibits fully maintained his reputation. Most of his views were printed in a blue tone. This method, unquestionably, arrests the attention, but the effect is not altogether pleasing. The negative of a view of the Chamonix Aiguilles must have been perfect, and the circular shape of the

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picture is a good innovation. But the deep blue tint of the print cannot do the negative justice, and it seems a pity when an effect of sunlight has been so admirably secured to adopt a tone suggestive of moonlight. On the other hand, Mr. Spencer's 'Avalanche near Zermatt,' an impressive and novel view, is well suited by the paler blue tone of the print. The broken lights of the fallen mass of snow are excellently rendered. Indeed, Mr. Spencer in all his pictures shows true and keen sense of values, and, while avoiding conventionality of composition, secures pictorial qualities. As an instance, his 'View near Saas Fée' may be noted, and the fine landscape from the Aiguille Verte. It would be well for the Club to institute 'si parva licet componere magnis,' a kind of Chantrey collection, and to secure two or three of the best photographs of the year for permanent display in the rooms. Had such a selection been made by ballot this year, Mr. Spencer would probably have been at the top of the poll.

Good work was also sent in by Messrs. Scriven, Goodenough, Calvert, Bullock, Compton, Brushfield, Withers, and Thompson.

Last, but certainly as one of the very finest pictures in the room, we have to mention Mr. Garwood's magnificent 'Kings Bay Glacier, Spitzbergen.'

A melancholy interest was added to the exhibition by the photographs of some of the relics of the Arkwright catastrophe (Mont Blanc, 1866), which came to light this year near the summit of the Glacier des Bossons. We believe that the negatives, taken by a Chamonix photographer, showing the remains of the unfortunate victim, were happily bought up by his relatives. This horrible misuse of a useful science cannot be too strongly condemned. We have been informed, to our great regret, that in the case of the bringing down of the bodies of the unfortunate Dr. Schnurdreher and the Courmayeur guides killed with him, the disgusting photographs, taken also by a Chamonix photographer, found the largest sale amongst our own country people. We can only hope that this is not true, and that the public generally, in whose hands it rests mainly, will prevent a recurrence of similar scandals by refusing to buy such gruesome mementoes.

THE HIGHEST CLIMBS ON RECORD.

A NOTE BY DOUGLAS W. FRESHFIELD.

In an Article on Mountaineering in Part XI. of the 'Encyclopædia of Sport,' now in course of publication, Sir Martin Conway calls in question the claim of the party consisting of Mr. W. W. Graham and the late Emil Boss and Ulrich Kaufmann to have reached a point within 50 ft. of the summit of Kabru (24,015 ft.) in Sikkim in the autumn of 1883.

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