

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

Swiss Jahrbuch.

THIS volume (xxxv. 1899-1900) is in no way inferior to its predecessors, and exceeds them all in the number of the illustrations, there being no less than nineteen full-page ones, one of which extends to the size of four pages. The editor, however, complains that he cannot from several quarters get photographs suitable for reproduction, whilst his colleague of the 'Zeitschrift' can send a special artist into any district to obtain such. The Club district (Unter Engadine) closes with this year, and the new Club district (the Swiss side of Mont Blanc) begins, and will last till the end of 1901. The ascents, either new or by new routes, which have not appeared in the 'Alpine Journal,' are as follows:—On August 19, 1898, Mr. J. P. Sisley, with the brothers Crétaz, after ascending the Aiguille d'Argentière from the Cabane d'Orny, effected the descent by the rock face overlooking the Gl. de Chardonnet; on July 23, 1898, MM. L. H. and Th. Aubert, with M. Crétaz, ascended the Tour Noir by the N.E. ridge; on July 30 the same ascended the Aiguille du Chardonnet by the E. ridge; in August, 1898, M. J. B. Guyot, with Adolph Rey, ascended the Aiguille du Triolet from the S.E.; in August, 1898, Sig. G. Bobba, with Casimir Thérissod and a porter, ascended the Mont Brouillard (3,966 m. = 13,013 ft.) by a new route from the W.; on August 19, 1898, SS. G. B. Origoni and Ab. J. Bonin, with a porter, ascended the central peak of Mont Rochefort (3,433 m. = 11,263 ft.); on September 6, 1899, the S. peak of the same mountain was ascended by SS. Ad. Hess and Dr. Flavio Santi, with a porter; on August 20, Mr. Schintz, with Jos. Croux and Pollinger, ascended the Aiguille Rochefort from the Italian side; on August 23-27, SS. G. F. and G. B. Guglielmina, with the porter Nic. Motta, crossed the Col Emil Rey from the Gl. du Brouillard to the Gl. du Mont Blanc. They had to bivouac three times on the ascent and once on the descent, chiefly to avoid the danger of falling stones. The New Pass was reached on August 26, and Courmayeur on the 27th, by the Gl. du Miage; in 1899 (no date) the ridge of the Aiguilles Dorées was traversed from E. to W. by M. Achille Escudicé, with M. Crétaz. In the traverse, seven peaks were climbed, of which four were new. On August 1, 2, 1898, MM. René and Arnold Corveon climbed the Pointe Allobrogia (3,167 m. = 10,390 ft., part of Mont Dolent); on September 13, M. Gustave Jacot, with P. Delez and C. Bochatay, climbed the Aiguille Verte from the col between that mountain and Les Droites; in the descent the great couloir was avoided by keeping towards Les Droites. They left the Couvercle at 1.30 A.M., reached the top at 11 A.M., the Couvercle at 5 P.M., and Chamonix at 10 P.M. On July 20, Dr. F. L. Fankhauser and Mr. E. J. Perkins climbed the Grand Tavé from the Panossière Hut by the S. ridge; on July 27 Dr. Fankhauser and Herr E. Panchard climbed the Tour de Boussine from the Chanrion Hut

by the S. face (the first ascent since that of the late Herr Weilenmann in '67); on July 31 Dr. Fankhauser climbed the Mont Gélé direct from the Col de Fenêtre, and regained the col by the S. face; on August 4 Dr. Fankhauser and Dr. J. Jacot-Guillarmod ascended the Dents de Bertol (3,556 m.=11,667 ft.) by the S.W. ridge; on August 26 Mr. A. G. Cooke, with Benj. Rouvinaz and Toni Theytaz, climbed the great Gendarme on the N. ridge of the Weisshorn; on August 1 MM. Léon Dufour, A. Vinthier, and A. Martin from the Concordia Hut traversed the Dreieckhorn and Aletschhorn, and on the descent had to bivouac at 3,800 m.; on August 7 the same party, after ascending the Wellenkuppe by the usual route, descended to the Trift Glacier by a couloir on the N. arête, a route unknown to the Zermatt guides and not mentioned by either Conway or Studer; on August 14 MM. Léon Dufour and A. Martin from Saas ascended the Sudlenz Spitze, thence gained the Nadeljoch, and joined the usual route to the Dom, which they climbed, thence descended by the Hohberg Glacier and the Festi Joch to the Festi Hut and Randa; on July 16 Herr W. Flender, with Heinrich and Aloys Burgener, reached the Nadelhorn from the Hohbalen Glacier by the E. face; on September 5 the same, with Heinrich Burgener and Ferd. Furrer, traversed the Nord End, descending by the N. ridge to the Jager Joch; on September 4 Sig. Domenico Ferrari ascended the Filarhorn (3,679 m.=12,069 ft.) from Macugnaga (probably by the same route as Prof. K. Schulz in 1882); on August 4 SS. Ric. Gerla and C. Casati, with Lor. Marani, crossed the Passo del Rothorn from the Cap. Sella to Macugnaga; on August 3 Mr. F. Schrempf, with J. Baptiste and Anselme Macquignaz, crossed the Schwarzsee Joch in the Furggenrat (W. of the Théodule) from Fornet to Zermatt; on August 7 MM. E. Born and J. Jacottet, with Chas. Veillon, climbed the Grand Moeveran from the N.E.; on August 7 MM. J. Jacottet, Aug. Baumann, and Ad. Perrenod climbed the Dent de la Forclaz (2,727 m.=8,946 ft.); on September 7 H.H. J. Liniger, R. Winterhalter, and J. Bolli from the Concordia Hut ascended the Grindelwald Viescherhorn, thence gained the S. peak by the S.E. ridge, and descended to the Bergli Hut; on July 19 M. Julien Gallet, with Jos. Kalbermatten and Abr. Muller, climbed the Doldenhorn from the N.E.; on August 26, 27 SS. Anton. Campari and Dr. Don Ottolenghi, with F. Longhi and C. Alberti, crossed the Passo del Cervandone from Devero, and returned thither by the Krieg Alp Pass; on March 19 H.H. Oscar Schuster and R. Helbling ascended the Gwächtenhorn (Steinberg, 3,428 m.=11,246 ft.) by the S. face; on July 19 H.H. G. B. Litscher and R. Helbling ascended the Stucklistock by the W. face; on July 22 Herr G. B. Litscher descended from the Maasplankstock (3,403 m. = 11,165 ft., Geschenen Thal) by the E. face; on August 14, H.H. Jos. Liniger, Carl Hermann, and E. Winterhalter climbed the Stotzigrat (S. of the Dussistock); on June 25, 1898, H.H. G. Brion, L. Zündel, and A. Schweitzer traversed from E. to W. the Ruchen (8,625 ft.,

in Erstfeldthal) and three adjoining peaks; on July 17, 1898, the same party traversed from E. to W. another Ruchen (9,505 ft.); H.H. G. Brion and L. Zündel traversed the Mantliser (9,551 ft.) from E. to W.; the same traversed the Kronte (10,197 ft.) from E. to S.W.; on June 3, 1898, Herr G. Brion climbed the Wichelhorn (9,083 ft., S. of Kronte); on July 23, H.H. A. Oswald and A. Schweitzer climbed the Sennenkehlenstock (9,093 ft.); on June 29 the Vrenelisgärtli was climbed direct from the Klonseesee by four members of the *Alpina Turicensis* (?); on August 7 Herr D. Stokar with Oswald Mettier ascended Piz Forbisch by the W. face; on August 11 the same, with Mr. Shattuck, traversed the Errgrat; the same ascended Piz Platta by the N.E. ridge; on July 28, S.S. Dr. Carlo Riva, Prof. L. Brugnatelli, and Ant. Cederna, with Enr. Schenatti and Carlo Albareda, ascended Piz Cambrena by a new route (doubtful); on June 12 Herr A. Rydzewsky, with Ch. Klucker and A. Dandrea, ascended the Punta S. Anna (? Piz Trubinasca or Badile) by the N. face; on July 9 the same, with Joh. Eggenberger, ascended the Punta Alessandra (pt. of Torrone); on July 31 Mr. J. T. Burton, with Chr. Zipperl and Fl. Grass, ascended Piz Spigna (3,825 m. = 12,549 ft., in Piz Palu) by the N.W. ridge; on August 19, 1898, Herr Hans Biendl, with Jos. Ladner, ascended the Faselfadsfütze (Fervall) by a new route; on August 23, 1898, the same traversed the N. Pflünspitze from E. to W.; on August 19, 1897, Herr Hans Forcher-Mayr descended from the Rothpleisskopf (Silvretta) by a difficult route to the Urgsee; on September 24, 1898, H.H. Franz Hörtnagel, A. Ledl, Jos. Pircher, L. Prohaska, and F. Stolz traversed the Klein Piz Buin from E. to W.

In the Club district there are but four articles. Herr E. Schenckel (St. Gall) describes two ascents in the Ofen Pass district in 1897. The ascent of Piz Tavrill (3,070 m. = 10,072 ft., W. of Scarl) is probably new, as on starting from Scarl it was not exactly known where the top was. The descent was made to the Ofen Pass and thence to an alp above S. Giacomo di Fraele. The party meant to go the next day to Pontresina, but were attracted by the Piz Murtaröl (3,183 m. = 10,443 ft.), which was reached in 6½ hours. Then descending to S. Giacomo, they crossed the Alpisella Pass to Livigno. Herr W. Flender (Unterengadin), on June 19, 1899, with the guide Jacob Brunett, ascended Piz Lischanna from Schuls by the W. face and the N.W. ridge. This ridge and a gendarme on it offered considerable difficulty, but the top was reached in 6½ hrs. This forms a fourth route up the mountain. On June 24 with the same guide he ascended Piz Pisor (3,178 m. = 10,429 ft.) from the Scarl side. This was attended with many difficulties. Twice they had to turn back, and the col between the peaks was only reached after 11 hrs. hard work at 5.35 P.M. They did not visit the top, though only a quarter of an hour off, but after 10 min. halt descended by the usual route. The snow in the couloir was in such good order that they were able to glissade, and Fontana (5,500 ft. below)

was reached in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hr. at 7.15. Prof. Schiess-Gemuseus (Basel) made a tour through the Club district in 1899. The Professor, who has contributed many articles to the 'Jahrbuch,' made his first visit to the district in 1860. On the present occasion he was accompanied by a grandson of thirteen years. That he is still a sturdy walker is proved by his having in one day crossed the Alpisella Pass from Livigno to S. Giacomo di Fraele, thence to the Munster Alp, and over the Dosradond Pass to S. Maria in Munster. Time 10 hrs. 25 min. Even this was not enough, for after supper they went out for a stroll towards Munster. Dr. E. Walder (Uto) spent some time in the Vercina Hut (built by section Uto). With the guide Peter Guler he climbed the Fluela Weisshorn (3,088 m. = 10,131 ft.), and another Weisshorn (2,833 m. = 9,294 ft.), N. of the Hut, and from this made a traverse to the Canard Horn (2,611 m. = 8,566 ft.). This group deserves far more attention than it receives. Next come excursions out of the Club district. Madame Eugénie Rochat has at last succeeded in reaching the summit of the Aiguille Verte. With Jos. Demarchi and his son Jean she left the Couvercle at 10.15 P.M. on August 23. The top was reached at 6.15 A.M. Here Demarchi wished only to remain ten minutes. They, however, rested half an hour, and then the guide would wait no longer. The descent was difficult from soft snow. The Couvercle was reached at noon. Here they spent another night. The lady wished to ascend Les Droites, but, as both guides objected, was contented with Les Courtes, which was reached in a very leisurely fashion in $9\frac{3}{4}$ hrs. Many crystals were found on the way. The descent was difficult and dangerous on the loose stones, but the Montanvert was reached at 8 P.M., and Chamonix by lantern-light at 9.45 P.M. Herr A. Pfunder (Uto) describes many pleasant places in the neighbourhood of Bex and some mountain excursions. The ascent of the Grand Moeveran on June 3, 1897, was more difficult than usual on account of the great quantity of snow. Herr J. Labhardt (Basel) describes a traverse of the Zinal Rothhorn. He and his friend H. Robert, with the guides Joachim, Tabin, and Felix Abbet, left the Mountet Hut at 1 A.M. on July 29, 1899. The difficulties are well known. As each was passed Tabin thanked it for letting them pass so nicely: 'Au revoir, mon cher! comme tu as été gentil.' Being asked as to the stability of a piece of rock, he said: 'I have spoken to it, and it has told me it would hold.' The top was reached at 9.15 A.M. The descent was difficult, and in some parts dangerous. On the steep slope above the Trift Glacier Abbet and the first tourist, against Tabin's wishes, began to glissade. They soon set the snow on both sides in motion and strove to stop. The effort would perhaps have been in vain had the avalanche not stopped of itself. At this spot a few days later, on August 4, the guide Tabin and Herr Baumann of Zürich and the porter Antille perished, falling 2,000 ft. on to the Trift Glacier. The party reached Zermatt at 7 P.M. Herr Robert Helbling describes various ascents in the mountains E. of Saas, not because they are new, but because he thinks the district is unreasonably

neglected. He would have the name Saas restricted to the Fletschlhorn-Weissmies group, and the name Mischabel retained for the mountains to the west. With his friends he spent several nights on the Almagel Alp above Saas, and he gives an amusing description of the Sennerin, who was astonished at their consumption of milk, and at last refused to supply any more. One of the party had almost to go on his knees to get a glass of Cognac. 'Es ischt üch nit ärscht'—'I don't believe you, you're not serious.' Herr A. Bosshard (Wintertthur) being hindered by bad weather from completing the Panorama from the Sulzfluh, left Paznaun and went to Rankweil (near Feldkirch). From this he made his way into the Laternserthal. It was September 24, and the Alps were already deserted. The rude bathing establishment of Hinternbad was indeed not closed, but there was no one there. The mattresses were hanging in the bedrooms, and he would have stayed all night, but he had only a piece of chocolate to eat, so he was fain to go on. He reached the Furka (5,808 ft.), leading to the Bregenzer Wald, at 8 P.M. After passing with difficulty through a wood in the dark, and then following a track with stepping-stones and mud between (where he had to walk in the mud, as he could not see the stones), he reached Damüls at 9 P.M. He brought a 'gruss' to the host of the village public from a friend near Rankweil, who provided him with his best clothes and a cordial welcome. Thence he proceeded by Hochkrumbach (Lechthal) and the Genteljoch to Oberstdorf on September 27. He climbed various of the picturesque peaks of the district, the last being that of the Nebelhorn from Oberstdorf. From this he descended by the ridge to W. After some scrambling he reached the Rubihorn. He descended with difficulty a narrow ravine, and finally found himself at the top of a smooth rock-face, too high for a jump and with no holds to speak of. He managed to get down far enough to venture on a leap, which landed him in safety. He ought not to have attempted this, especially as he owns he is not free from giddiness. He learned afterwards this passage was one of the most difficult tours in Allgäu. Dr. W. K. A. Nippold takes us to almost entirely new ground in the Transylvanian and Roumanian Alps. The great charm of this region is its freshness. The local club (which consists mainly of Germans) has been at work for twenty years and has accomplished much, but there is still plenty of novelty. In the woods are bears and wild swine. Eagles are common, and brigands not unknown. The highest summit is the Negoï (2,544 m. = 8,346 ft.). There are three shelter-huts (two of which are open as inns), situated about 1,000 m. (3,281 ft.) below the peaks. The scenery is beautiful, and often grand. The N. face of the Negoï is very bold. The flora is remarkably rich and beautiful. The language may be a difficulty. Latin was found to be useful. The word 'bib' was always understood.

Dr. R. Zeller (Bern), who two years ago wrote of the Natron lakes in the Libyan desert, now describes his travels through the Algerian Atlas in April, 1893. The centre from which excursions

were made was Batna (1,050 m.=3,445 ft.), S. of Constantine. The new town was built in 1844, and is exclusively a military station. The Hôtel des Etrangers was found quite satisfactory. From this he made the ascent of Cedar Peak (2,094 m.=6,870 ft.). A good winding path leads to the summit, which is entirely covered with cedars. The fallen giants rendered progress difficult when he left the path. The extent of the cedar forests in Algeria is estimated at 50,000 hectares, and some of the trees are as much as 3 m. (9·8 ft.) in diameter. The aftergrowth is, however, spoiled by the pasturing of goats, &c., and many forests are dying out in spite of the Government efforts. Cedar forests are found also in Cyprus, in the Taurus Mountains in Asia Minor, and on the Lebanon. Here is the most famous forest known in history. It is now reduced to about 800 trees, which are all old, and there is no young growth. The wood of the fallen trees does not lose its hardness, and therefore the growing trees are not cut down. The age is not known, but a tree with a diameter of 5 ft. 10 in. was found to have 310 rings. On the high plateau between the Great and Little Atlas are found great quantities of Halfa grass, which grows in clumps like our sedges. It is used extensively in the country for making baskets, ropes, shoes, and cloths. These are to be found in every bazaar from Spain, through Morocco, and Algeria to Tunis. By far the largest amount, however, is exported to Europe (and to England especially) for the manufacture of the finer qualities of paper. The whole export is estimated at 225,000 tons, of which 210,000 are used in the manufacture of paper.

Dr. Ad. Oswald describes an ascent of Ararat made in 1897. He observes that until the tenth century A.D. the name 'Ararat' was applied to a country and not to a mountain. The ascent was commenced on September 29 from Sardar Bulagh (2,290 m.=7,514 ft.). Partly riding, partly on foot, they reached a bivouac at about 3,000 m. (9,843 ft.). Next morning they started at 6 A.M. Herr Stober and the Cossacks soon went on in front, whilst the others maintained a steady pace. After 3 hrs.' weary climbing over slopes of rubbish and lava blocks they reached the great snowfield. They hoped to reach its upper edge in 2½ hrs., but it was only reached at 2 P.M. They were, however, glad to see that the Little Ararat (3,914 m.=12,941 ft.) and the Tschat (4,520 m.=14,829 ft.) were both below them. After laborious climbing the summit of the Great Ararat (5,156 m.=16,917 ft.) was reached at 5.45 P.M. Here an icy wind compelled them, after ten minutes' halt, to descend. In half an hour, however, the darkness arrested their progress, and they had to bivouac as well as they could at a height of about 4,800 m. (15,748 ft.). As Dr. Stober and the Cossacks had most of the provisions with them, the party were badly off. Herr Oswald had only a piece of chocolate, an apple, and an egg—the two latter, of course, being frozen. The lights seen over the plain were wonderful, and the stars magnificent. At 5 A.M. on October 1 they were able to start, and after a difficult descent over lava blocks, often iced and often unstable, they reached easier ground. At

12.30 they joined the Cossacks, who were also descending. These had eaten most of the provisions, and had left only black bread and frozen soup, but even these were acceptable after a fast of 30 hrs. Sardar Bulagh was reached at 2 P.M. Dr. Stober had not arrived. At Erivan they obtained an interpreter and returned to search. An hour above Sardar Bulagh the body was found. His watch and purse were missing. He had been murdered, and the body thrown into a cleft in the rocks. A Plastun (foot Cossack), who was afterwards on his trial at Erivan for various crimes, confessed that he had committed the murder.

M. H. Correvon (Genève) writes of the Turtmann Valley. This is small, but can show all the phenomena of the Alps. Hotel accommodation is not deficient, but nevertheless it is much neglected by the tourist. Perhaps this neglect is one of its charms. The *Hôtel du Glacier* at Meiden is a curiosity. The landlord is a many-sided man, given even to inventicn. His house is a veritable museum, and is ornamented by himself with his latest invention of 'pyrogravure.' Flowers, trees, birds, and animals are thus depicted on the doors and other flat surfaces. He has even invented a flying machine and taken out a patent. This activity probably renders the long winters more endurable to him than to the other members of the family, since it is the only one that remains in the valley all the year. Besides describing the ascents and passes, M. Correvon relates many interesting customs of the inhabitants. Perhaps the most curious is that of distributing one day's produce of the Alps amongst the poor. This is in gratitude for the deliverance of the Alpine pastures from a plague of serpents. Persons come from Gampel and even from Leuk on August 13, and on the following day go first to the most distant alp (Hungerli) and to the others (seventeen in number) in succession. It is worth their while, for not unfrequently each person receives at each alp half a kilogramme of cheese.

Messrs. Forel, Lugeon, and Maret make their twentieth report of the glaciers. They complain that the sheets of the map (50166) being issued at different periods do not show the condition of the glaciers at the same date. They admit, however, that to effect this would be very difficult. Prof. Forel states that in part of the Valais (included in 19 sheets of the map) the area of the glaciers in the period 1871-1881 was less than that in 1889-1860 by 54 sq. kil. (about 21 sq. m.), and of course the difference between the maximum of 1820 and the minimum of 1900 would be much greater. He suggests methods of correcting the discrepancies, but the question is very difficult. In 1899 seventy-three glaciers were observed. The retreat is still general over the greater part. Most of those which were advancing have ceased to do so.

Herr C. Egger (Davos) describes the houses in the Engadine. The character of these has remained the same in spite of the many violent changes which have passed over that region. The houses are built almost exclusively of stone, whereas in the other Alpine valleys wood is used. This arises probably from their relation to

Roman rather than German habits. The question is asked, 'Then where has all the wood gone to?' Much, no doubt, would be wanted for limekilns, and also for smelting purposes, since in earlier times mining was not uncommon. The article is illustrated by many photographs of the old houses, one of which dates from 1542.

Dr. W. Schibler (Davos) has an interesting article on Davos. It is chiefly economical. He describes the houses, farms, &c. There is a strange contrast on a market day in the winter between the peasants who bring their goods to market and the fashionable company at the winter Kurort from all parts of the world. Herr F. W. Sprecher (Piz Sol) writes on Avalanches with special reference to the Taminathal (Ragatz). Many illustrations are given of the special avalanche courses. It has been estimated that in one year in five of the principal mountain cantons, 1,325 hectares (3,305 acres) of wood were destroyed. The same writer gives some account of the ascent of the Bifertenstock (11,240 ft.), the second summit of the Tödi group, a much neglected mountain which has only been ascended three times in the last thirty-six years. There are photographs of the two remarkable caldrons which must be traversed in the ascent from the Muttensee Hut.

The Editor sums up the various Alpine accidents in the past year. The loss of life was forty-nine, of which thirty-one were of parties either without guides or walking alone.

All the reviews except three are by the Editor, and two of these three (to judge by the initials) are by the previous Editor, who has done much work with Dr. Dübi.

A new hut has been built on the Hufi Alp in the Maderanerthal to accommodate forty persons.

The Central Committee reports (1899) that tourists are becoming more and more exacting. Some years ago the Cabane d'Orny was thought a charming abode; now it is regarded as little better than a stable. Several tourists have complained that there were in the huts neither pegs to hang their clothes on nor slippers to replace their boots. There seems to be a desire that the huts should be made pleasant places of resort, like little hotels. (Such they are, indeed, in various parts of the Eastern Alps.) The Committee recommend that refuges should be placed as high up as possible, and it should be understood that they were not intended for a lengthened stay. During their term of office ten new huts have been erected.

A new guides' tariff has been issued for no less than 2,510 ascents.

Three hundred and seventy guides are now insured for 1,255,000 fr. (50,200*l.*).

In spite of the construction of the new hotel on the Place de la Concorde, the Club intend to renew and refit the old Concordia Hut. (This was done in 1899.) The Lower Matterhorn Hut is to be repaired by the Club and enlarged, as its present accommodation is quite insufficient.

The number of members at the end of 1899 was 5,802, and the balance to credit of the Club was 33,234 fr. (1,329*l.* 8s.).

The case attached to the volume contains panoramas from the Calanda and the Fahnenstock (near Elm), and a plan of the Hufi Alp Hut.
J. S.

A. B. C. für Schweizer Bergführer. Von G. Strasser. 8vo. pp. 10. (Grindelwald: Peter. 1900.) 20 cts.

An A. B. C. in verse, as thus, under F:—

‘Firn! die Felder blinken weit; Hehrer Friede rings gedeiht.
Führer, fühlst du irgendwo Dich wie hier so frei und froh?’

South-Western France. South-Eastern France. By Augustus J. C. Hare. 2 vols. 8vo. (London: George Allen. 1890.)

Mr. Hare's guide-books are not for the climber, but as they embrace the Jura Mountains, Savoy, Dauphiné, and the Pyrenees, and as they are pleasantly and well written, they are of value for the more intelligent tourist through those mountainous regions. The plan adopted is to describe in regular order, historically and otherwise, the places along the lines of railway, or within easy access of them. The books are delightfully illustrated by woodcuts from sketches and photographs; and the printing is of course excellent. The price of each volume is 10s. 6*d.*

Ein Winter in der Gletscherwelt. Skizzen vom Bau d. Jungfrauabahn. Von F. Wrubel. 8vo., pp. 92. (Zürich: Zürcher. 1890.) fr.1,50.

An account of the housing and provisioning, during the winters of 1897–99, of the eighty workmen employed in cutting the Jungfrau railway. They were housed on the Eiger Glacier, at a height of 2,360 m., and were therefore frequently cut off from communication with the lower world. Water was provided by electrical melting of the snow. This winter the work is slowly though steadily being carried on.

Das Oberengadin in der Vergangenheit und die Gegenwart. Von Ernst Lechner. 8vo., pp. vii, 188; ill. (Leipzig: Engelmann. 1900.) M. 3.

This work contains an account of the history of the Upper Engadine, a chapter on the ‘romansch’ language and its literature, and a guide to the district, including the ascents which may be made. As in previous editions (‘Piz Languard u. d. Berninagruppe,’ 1858 and 1865), the account of the first ascent of the highest point of the Bernina, by J. Coaz in 1856, is here reprinted from the ‘Jahresber. d. Naturf. Ges. Graubündens.’ The illustrations are fair, and include reproductions of the three copperplates of the first and second editions, which are of interest.

Dizionario alpino italiano. Vette e valichi italiani per cura dell' ing. E. Bignami-Sormani. Valli Lombarde per cura dell' ing. C. Scolari. 8vo., pp. xxi, 309. (Milano: Hoepli. 1892.)

This is one of the excellent ‘Manuali Hoepli,’ and is issued under the auspices of the Milan section of the C.A.I. It is a gazetteer of the peaks, passes, and valleys of Northern Italy;

towns, villages, &c., are not included. The following extract shows the method adopted :—

'Disgrazia monte (Alpi Retiche) m. 9676s.m. Da Cattaeggio (Val Masino), m. 795s.m. per la valle di Sasso Bissolo alle alpi di Preda Rossa m. 1059s.m. ore 4, sentiero. Da qui alla Capanna Cecilia del C.A.I. m. 2558s.m. ore 2. Da questa all'altra capanna del C.A.I. m. 3400 ed alla vetta ore 4.30. Sulle roccie e sul ghiacciaio. Da Chiesa . . . (ecc.). Osterie e guide a Cattaeggio, e San Martino. Albergo e guide a Chiesa. Ricoveri alle capanne del C.A.I. Cecilia, all'altra seguente ed alla terza di Corna Rossa.'

The size of the volume is for the pocket, 6 in. by 4 in., and $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick, and the price is 3.50 lire.

Le Nevi. Da I. M. Angeloni. 8vo, pp. 83. (Torino: Roux e C. 1900. L. 1.)

A short volume of poems of sentiment by a mountaineer, who, like many others, finds among the Alps his solace for the worries of life. As the writer expresses it—

Quivi il passato, in silenzio,
Dorma il suo sonno di pace.

Montblanc. Roman. Von Rudolph Stratz. 8vo, pp. 304.

Der weisse Tod. Roman aus der Gletscherwelt. Von R. Stratz. 8vo, pp. 250. (Stuttgart: J. G. Cotta. 1899.)

Each year the subject of mountaineering becomes more popular. The sixpenny magazine and the sentimental novel nowadays make diligent use of it for sensational description. In 'The Woman of Fortune' Mr. Crockett hauled his hero up the Jungfrau by a new route, known only to Mr. Crockett. In 'Montblanc' Herr Stratz lures his hero to suicide by persuading him of the charms of a solitary night ascent of the mountain, despite the doctor's warning that climbing would be fatal. The hero is found dead at the top by the woman whose conduct towards him had reconciled him to probable death. There are evidently readers for such stories, who enjoy sharing the breathlessness of the climber, for 'Der weisse Tod' has reached its fifth edition. The collector of Alpine books ought to obtain Herr Stratz's two novels, not necessarily to read them, but because they are interesting specimens of a curious order of mountaineering literature. The price of each is 3 M.

Les variations périodiques des glaciers. 5me rapport, 1899, rédigé par E. Richter. 8vo, pp. 20. (Genève: Georg. 1900.)

This is the fifth report of 'La Commission internationale pour l'étude des Glaciers.' It contains short summaries of observations made, during the year 1899, in Switzerland, where out of seventy glaciers observed the Glacier de Boveyre, in the Rhône basin, was the only one which showed distinct increase, while most of the others clearly showed decrease; the Eastern Alps, where the glaciers were found to be on the whole decreasing; Dauphiné, where also decrease was noted, as was the case too among the mountains of North America, where some forty glaciers were under observation; in Norway, Sweden, Spitsbergen, Greenland, and

Russia. The chief publications of the year on this subject were 'Untersuchungen am Hintereisferner,' issued by the German and Austrian Club as the second of the 'Wissenschaftliche Ergänzungshefte zur Zeitschrift,' and 'Observations dans les Alpes Dauphinoises organisées par la Soc. d. Touristes du Dauphiné sous la direction du Prof. W. Kilian;' and particulars of both these important works are to be found in this report.

Les variations d. glaciers dans les régions arctiques et boréales. Par C. Rabot. 8vo, pp. 86. (Genève; Georg. 1897.)

Like the previous pamphlet this also is published by the International Commission. It describes Greenland and Iceland. In the latter the glaciers have steadily progressed since the Norman colonisation—especially about the beginning of the eighteenth century—till within recent years, when a slight retrogression is to be noted, not at all comparable, however, in amount to that in the Alps between 1850 and 1880.

The Geographical Journal. January, 1901.

This number contains a paper, with illustrations, by Mr. J. E. S. Moore, descriptive of the country to the north of Lake Tanganyika, in central Africa, including the range of Ruwenzori, the summit of which is stated by Mr. Scott Elliot and Dr. Gregory to be about 16,500 ft. The first attempted ascent of this range was made by Mr. Stairs, a member of Mr. Stanley's party, who reached a height of about 10,000 ft. Mr. Moore, in 1899, made an attempt to reach the summit of Ngomwimbi, one of the highest peaks of the range. According to Sir Harry Johnston's calculation, made on visiting the region last year (a report of which visit is also contained in the above Journal), Mr. Moore would appear to have ascended to over 13,000 ft., which is just below the line of permanent snow; while Sir Harry Johnston himself ascended the range to 14,800 ft., the highest point yet reached.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall of the Club on Monday, December 17, at 8.30 P.M., the Right Hon. James Bryce, *President*, in the chair.

Messrs. O. J. Bainbridge, A. L. Clover, Gilbert Davidson, E. Freeman, T. H. Grose, C. E. Groves, Sir Charles B. Looock, Bart., Messrs. W. A. Mounsey, F. C. Squance, F. B. Stead, were balloted for and elected members of the Club.

On the motion of Mr. MORSE, seconded by Mr. HULTON, the Right Hon. James Bryce was re-elected President for the next year.

On the motion of Mr. HORACE WALKER, seconded by Mr. H. PASTEUR, the Vice-Presidents and other members of Committee, being eligible, were re-elected.

On the motion of Mr. WOOLLEY, seconded by Mr. LUTTMAN-