

Mr. A. W. Andrews and Dr. O. K. Williamson, with J. M. Lochmatter and Jean Maitre, traversed the long ridge leading from the Hohenfirnerjoch to the Zufrittspitze. Leaving the Cevedale hut at 5.39 A.M., the Hohenfirnerjoch was reached at 7.22 A.M. The Cima Marmotta was then climbed, and the ridge from here followed over the top of the two Venezia Spitzen. The Hintere Schranspitze (8,854 m., D. und Oe. A.V. map) was turned on the S. side, and the Hintere Rothspitze ascended. The ridge was then descended to the Sällentjoch. An interesting rock scramble now led up point 8,158 m. (D. und Oe. A.V. map). The Sällentspitze was next turned on the S. side, and the Hintere Nonnenspitze traversed about 50 ft. below its summit on the N. side. The ridge was then followed over point 8,270 m. (D. und Oe. A.V. map) to the summit of the Lorkenspitze. From here the Weissbrunner Joch was reached, the Weissbrunner Spitze turned on its S.E. side, and the Zufrittspitze ascended (5 P.M.) by the ordinary route from the Zufrittjoch. The Ober Martellalp was reached about 8 P.M., after 10½ hrs.' actual walking, or 14 hrs. 40 min. including halts. This expedition is a fine one, affording grand views, particularly of the ranges to the E., and gives a good insight into the topography of the district. The ridge was traversed in 1891 from the Cima Marmotta to the Hintere Nonnenspitze by Dr. Ch. Christmannos, A. von Krafft, and R. H. Schmitt.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

Mountaineering on the Himalaya and other Mountain Ranges. By J. Norman Collie, F.R.S. (Edinburgh: Douglas, 1902.)

THIS interesting and discursive volume might be described as the 'Confessions and Professions of an Eclectic Mountaineer.' The author is eclectic in all things. In the quotations, for example, that head his chapters he ranges from Ecclesiastes to Freshfield and Pilkington! Again, in his devotion to many different fields of enterprise scattered over three continents, he wanders—to alter the hymn—from India's icy mountains to the Lofoten's rocky strand. He is eclectic once more in the spirit in which he pursues our favourite sport. At one moment he describes with so much gusto the details of a rock-climb in which there is no foothold, and where the climber runs the risk of having, like vermin on a keeper's barn, to hang till he drops, that we are disposed to class him among the new school of acrobatic climbers. But on the next page, mounted on his pinnacle, he uses it as a pulpit to profess his abhorrence of these misguided mortals and all their works, and to assert his absolute sympathy with the old mountaineer who holds that, after all, snow and ice craft constitute but half the battle, and that there is a rapture in the assault of mighty peaks, and still more in the exploration of virgin snows, that no performances in a chimney, however perpendicular, can ever impart. Professor Collie goes even

further than we should care to follow him in his frequent lamentations over the state of the Alps. As far, at any rate, as the Western and Central Alps are concerned, a map coloured to show the tourist tracks and centres would reveal the very large spaces of delightful scenery and 'noble hills to climb,' which remain unpolluted by the multitude. Even the fact that the inmates of many large Alpine inns are wholly given up to golf and lawn tennis, and hardly know one end of an ice axe from the other, is, in so far as it reduces the circle of contamination, an advantage to the mountaineer. We feel more diffidence about the state of things in Tyrol. There the man with the paint pot has of late years worked wonders. Nothing is sacred to his audacious brush. We doubt whether there is any considerable peak east of the Ortler which he has not behutted and besmeared. Starting from a railroad station he daubs indifferently rocks and trees, churches, chapels, even crucifixes. His misdeeds do not go unpunished, but the punishment falls on the city clerks and professors who pant on wherever the red marks lead them. The number of lives lost this year in the Austrian Alps was appalling, and for many of them 'Wegmarkirung' must be held responsible.

We cannot quite agree with Professor Collie that the distinction between hotel haunters and climbers is that the one class studies man, the other nature, or the aspect of nature we commonly call scenery. The earlier Alpine travellers studied both. Take De Saussure, for instance. He surely enjoyed man, as modified by Alpine life. So did the English men and women who wandered about in the Alpine valleys forty years ago; they learnt to know something more of humanity outside their daily round, they made friends in new spheres of life. The interest in man of the leader of the cotillon or the champion of the tennis court in a mountain inn is on a par with the interest in literature of the student who is satisfied with the food provided on the reading-room table of the same establishment.

But Professor Collie has led us into a digression. There are many entertaining and instructive chapters and remarks in his varied volume; but in the history of mountaineering it will take its place as the record of a most desperate assault made on a great Himalayan peak by three first-rate rock-climbers. Readers of this 'Journal' do not need to be reminded of the issue of the expedition. The party set out to assail the peak of Nanga Parbat, which rises in the wilderness beyond Kashmir and looks down on the traveller in the torrid gorge of the Indus, as if to tantalise him with its cold ice cliffs. They circled round the spurs of the great mountain until Mr. Mummery at last led 'a forlorn hope,' and was repulsed only when victory seemed brought within the range of possibility. A few days afterwards the great climber and two faithful Ghoorkhas disappeared for ever, buried under one of the ice avalanches that fall ceaselessly over the cliffs of the Himalaya.

It is well the story should have been given with full detail to the world—for it is through the experiences and misfortunes of their

forerunners that the future conquerors of the Himalaya will best learn their way to success. The impression left on the reader by a perusal of the account of this campaign, simply but forcibly given by Professor Collie, is that the climbers suffered from two drawbacks—the absence of a supporting party, responsible for sending on supplies, and the waste of energy in preliminary but arduous explorations. Consequently they were never able to deliver an attack in force on Nanga Parbat itself. Climbers of the Himalaya will, we think, do well to find some less ambitious friend to serve at the base; or, better still, to enlist the active personal support of a local officer. With a Viceroy who is himself an explorer the time when independent travellers will be looked on without suspicion and dislike by the Departments at Calcutta, and local officials will be at liberty to give them the aid they as a rule are most willing to afford, to act as Mr. Douglas Freshfield has told us Captain Le Mesurier did by his party, has, we trust, at last come.

It is, no doubt, difficult to go straight to your peak—at any rate, for the first mountaineering party—but for their followers the difficulty is far less. We would suggest, what may seem to some a paradox, that the experience of explorers tends to show that residence at great altitudes, coupled with the fatigues and privations of high climbing, diminish both the physical and moral force, and that the fewer 'training walks' there are before the great climb in contemplation is attempted the better the chance for its success. But it must be noted that Professor Collie's experience does not lead him to believe in the physical effects of altitude forming any insuperable obstacle to climbers, and that he accepts without question the ascent of Kabru (24,015 ft.), in Sikhim, by Mr. W. W. Graham. In the Himalaya the climber has yet another enemy which may wreck the best laid schemes—the weather. We have lived hitherto in the hope, rather than the belief, that whatever might be the summer rains in Sikhim it was comparatively dry in the ranges beyond Kashmir. The experiences of Professor Collie, and still more of an Austrian party this summer in the Karakoram, seem to show that bad is the best of Himalayan weather. If all the summer it rains, and the first autumn snowfalls block the passes and pastures, what is to become of the climber? High passes are crossed by natives in winter, when the sun ceases to destroy the night's crust on the snow fields. But the great peaks could hardly be climbed at that season. There remain a few fine intervals in the rainy season. The climber who would set up a comfortable camp under his peak, and, having made all his preparations, try to rush it in the first spell of summer fine weather, might perhaps stand the best chance. This, at any rate, is the opinion of some of the Anglo-Indians most qualified to judge. A further requisite for success is specially trained porters. If the Indian Government would allow Colonel Bruce to train some dozen Ghoorkhas up to the level of fair Alpine guides, so that they would be able to use ice axe and rope, and fetch and carry to high glacier bivouacs, and then place them at the disposal of mountaineers recommended by

the Alpine Club or the Royal Geographical Society, one of the chief obstacles to the conquest of Nanga Parbat or K² would be removed. We do not see how any first-class Himalayan summit is to be reached without such aid. Swiss porters are not only expensive, but apt either to fall sick or to turn home-sick.

Having reached the climax of the Himalayan tragedy, the reader may feel some difficulty in coming down to a description of the difficulties and pleasures of travel in the Rocky Mountains of North America. This chapter is full of interest, but all too short. We read of burnt forests and trackless wilds, of prodigious glaciers and countless lakes, of a region where the traveller takes ten days to go ten miles, and that in a valley—where his way lies through immense timber, swamps and streams, ‘along insecure river-banks, climbing up the hill-sides, jumping logs, cutting through fallen trees and undergrowth, so that one could hardly see a yard, splashing, fighting, and worrying ahead. . . .’ ‘So the days go by, and often real mountaineering has to be left to the last.’ No wonder! When it comes it appears to be satisfactory, though the peaks illustrated hardly rival the best of the Old World.

Professor Collie takes us next to the edge of the Arctic circle and the rocks of the Lofoten Islands, a fine group of granite mountains plunged to their shoulders in the Northern Sea, which provide desperate climbs and exquisite sunsets for the æsthetic gymnast. Still as we turn over the pages we go down the scale of height—as we used to do in the ‘Comparative Altitudes of the Chief Mountains of the Globe’ stuck in a corner of the map of the world in our school atlases—till we come to Skye, the Lake District, and the mountains of Ireland. A new Irish grievance has been left to Professor Collie to discover. No one has ever brought forward an Irish climb as a qualification for the Alpine Club. It is clear however, from the descriptions given in this volume, that lovers of wild scenery and rough scrambles may find plenty of suitable pleasure grounds on the Atlantic coast.

We need hardly add that the book is well written, that the descriptions of adventure are lively, and those of scenery striking. Our only doubt is whether the author does not protest too much against the errors of those who still decry the mountaineering faith. Our form of religion is now so well established that it hardly stands in need of further justification, while, looking to the limited accommodation open to worshippers within a reasonable distance of their homes, the expediency of endeavouring to make further converts is, from any but a highly altruistic point of view, very questionable. The volume has been fully provided with maps and illustrations, and is in all respects well brought out. Some of the ‘gravures’ display in a very striking way the characteristic steepness of the Himalayan ranges, while others attempt with success atmospheric effect. A little less blackness in the foreground in some cases is all that the most exacting critic can ask for.

La Partie Suisse de la Chaîne du Mont-Blanc. Itinéraire du Champ d'Excursions du Club Alpin Suisse pour 1900 et 1901. Par Louis Kurz et Eugène Colomb, anciens membres du Comité Central du S.A.C. Neuchâtel: Attinger frères, éditeurs. 1900. Pp. viii, 232.

This compact and handy little work, the correctness of which is vouched for by its authorship, is, so far as we know, a new departure in Alpine literature. It is a specimen, for its own extremely limited district, of what might be done for the Alps throughout. Beginning with a bibliography of books relating to the eastern, or Swiss, end of the Mont Blanc range, the writers, in a short preface, state their main object—namely, to give an orographical and historical description of the area selected for two seasons' excursions of the Swiss Alpine Club. Twenty pages are devoted to a general description, after which follows the main part of the work, the historical, presenting in systematic order and with almost microscopical completeness the several peaks and passes of the district. The Aiguille d'Argentière, the Tour Noir, and Mont Dolent are the chief points round which the other eminences group themselves; and the glaciers of Trient, les Grands, Orny, Saleinaz, la Neuvaz, and Mont Dolent sufficiently indicate the field under review. The authors give accounts of the earliest ascents, not always confining themselves to first ascents, when special interest attaches to later ones, authenticating them by references to original authorities. The amount of research they have bestowed on these will appear from the fact that the exploits of some two hundred amateurs of various nationalities are recorded, besides the names and doings of guides. Amongst the most prominent are the well-known names of Adams-Reilly, Forbes, Kurz, Javelle, and Barbey. A few years ago the district had been very imperfectly explored, but of late, and especially since the S.A.C. devoted special attention to it, little has been left for others to do, even the Aiguilles Rouges du Dolent having, it is said, all yielded to the climber, although our authors report all but one untouched.

A chapter is devoted to the Orny and Saleinaz huts, as is natural in a publication intended primarily for the Club to which they belong; but we are rather sorry that the authors descend to endorse the practice of marking the rocks with paint to indicate the routes to them.

The practical section of the book is simply a climbers' guide, giving heights and the routes to the various objectives in the usual way.

M. Colomb has drawn a panoramic view from the Aiguille du Tour to illustrate the work.

MM. Kurz and Colomb have produced a most interesting and readable little book, useful to climbers in the district, well printed, and at a low price. We are all greatly indebted to them.

We hear the book is now in a second edition.

A. C. D.

Den Norske Turist Forening's Aarbog for 1902.

In these days it is well known that the high and rugged *fjelde* of Norway afford a delightful playground for the adventure-loving

mountaineer. Should, however, some sceptic deny this, a glance at the 'Aarbog' would convince him of his error.

This year's issue fully sustains the high reputation of its predecessors, and two papers especially show how keenly our Norsk cousins have taken up the sport of mountaineering. One of them, written by Kristian Tandberg, describes the most remarkable ridge-wandering yet accomplished in Norway, in which I am glad to see that Fröken Bertheau took part. This was the traverse of the whole range of the Skagastölstinder—omitting the great peak—the Central Tind, Styggedalstind, and Gjertvastind, a really glorious expedition of 17½ hrs. from and to Turtegrö, of which 13 hrs. were spent on the narrow rock ridges or steep ice slopes. Ole Berge and Per Bjerk were the guides.

The second really sporting paper, by Eilert Sundt, refers to the ascent of Knutshultind from Knutshullet. This first-rate climb was first made by Dr. Claude Wilson's party, with Johannes Vigdal as guide,* and up to last year had never been repeated.

Herr Øyen contributes a valuable paper on the movement of glaciers in 1901. Though in most cases a shrinkage was observable, in others an advance was noticed.

There is an interesting biographical notice by Dr. Yngvar Nielsen on Lieut.-General F. Næser, formerly a cavalry officer, who during a long term of years devoted much time and energy to furthering the interests of the Forening.

Dr. Arentz, a very able mountaineer and a great pedestrian, took a tramp last year from Sætersdal to Jotunheim, and relates his experiences. He speaks of his walk as 'en dree marsch,' and those who know the highlands of Hardanger can readily believe that it could well be termed in our North Country phraseology a *dree march*.

At the request of the Editor, the present writer wrote a paper on mountaineering in general in Norway, which Fröken Bertheau was good enough to translate into Norsk, in which form, illustrated by excellent photographs of Mr. Howard Priestman's, it appears in the 'Aarbog.'

A paper of forty pages on a tour made in 1852 is delightfully fresh, whilst another on the Simadal in Hardanger reiterates the statement that much magnificent and almost unknown scenery can be found almost everywhere within a few miles of the best known tourist routes in Norway.

There is also a paper in English. It is one too which has appeared elsewhere, and with exactly the same geographical errors. Surely, when anyone decides to write an account of a walk along the Justedalsbræ or in any other place which is unknown to him, the least he can do is to consult a map? In this case a cursory examination of the ordinary maps of fifty years ago, or of the advertisement maps of the steamboat companies of the present day, would have helped the writer to make his paper

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiii. p. 155.

intelligible. For at least a century the true northern limits of the Justedalabræ have been recognised, and during this period tens of thousands of horses, bred in the Nordfjord district, have been driven on their way to the Christiania market over the wild Kamphammer Pass, within a stone's throw of its most northern glacier arm. This glacier arm drains through several lakes and the Otta river into Gudbrandsdal, and so to the Christiania fjord, and not into the Justedal.

The prosperity of the Norsk Turist Forening is shown by the numbers of its members, which reach the grand total of 2,221.

WM. CECIL SLINGSBY.

The Yorkshire Ramblers' Club Journal. Vol. I. No. 4. Edited by Thomas Gray. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 1902.)

We congratulate the Yorkshire Ramblers on the completion of the first volume of their journal. The present number maintains the high standard of its predecessors. Amongst other articles it contains one on 'A Run through the Dolomites in 1876,' by the Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge, and a brilliant paper by Mr. C. E. Mathews on 'Personal Reminiscences of Great Climbs.' At the same time what may be called the home work of the Club is very adequately represented. Of the Illustrations, of which there are a considerable number, that of 'Pike's Crag, Scawfell Pike,' pleases us most. It is satisfactory to find that the roll of members has increased, and that the social functions of the Club continue to prosper. We congratulate the editor on an excellent number.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ORTLER GUIDES.

To the Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

SIR,—In August 1895 you published in large type a note setting forth that complaints had reached you 'respecting certain second-class guides of the Ortler district who stated to their employers that they were in the habit of breaking up parties of four or more into parties of two, and roping one guide and one traveller together when about to cross *névé*, because such was the rule made by the German and Austrian Alpine Club,' and you stated that the representatives of that Club assured you that such statements were devoid of all foundation. Your number for May 1896 contained further correspondence on the same subject.

I desire to bring to the notice of all who may be concerned the following facts: In September last, with four young relatives, I arrived at Sulden, and was met by appointment by the head of the Sulden guides. He informed me that by the orders of the Prague Section of the German and Austrian Alpine Club, to which the Sulden guides were subject, every traveller in glacier expeditions.