

**Studer, Th.** Edmund v. Fellenberg, ein Lebensbild. 4to, pp. 19; portrait. Neujahrsblatt v. Histor. Verein d. Kantons Bern für 1903.

Bern, Wyss, 1902. M. 1.50

\***Wandern und Reisen.** Illustrierte Zeitschrift. Monatlich zwei Hefte. Vol. 1, nos. 1-7.

Düsseldorf, Schwann, 1903. Pfg. 50 each no.

**White, R. B.** Ascent of an Andean volcano, Puracé, 1869. 8vo, pp. 57-65. In Scot. Geog. Mag., xix. no. 2.

February 1903

(Presented by the Secretary of the Society.)

*Items.*

**Exlibris.** An alpine exlibris designed by Otto Hupp, represents a winged ice-axe with rope, standing against a mountain like the Wetterhorn, with the motto, 'In monte libertas,' across the sky at top. This may be had coloured or, preferably, uncoloured.

— Section Schrobenhausen, D. u. Oe. A.-V.

An elegantly designed framed view of the village of Schrobenhausen with a ridge of the Bavarian hills behind. This copy has been sent by the courtesy of the Herr G. Hitl, President of the Section.

**Post-Cards.** 9 excellent coloured postcards by E. T. Compton and Grubhofer, of Ortler, Trafoi, Suldengletscher, etc.

Edlingers Verlag, Innsbruck, 1903

## ALPINE NOTES.

'THE ALPINE GUIDE.'—Copies of Vol. I. of the new edition of this work, price 12s. net, and of 'Hints and Notes, Practical and Scientific, for Travellers in the Alps' (being a new edition of the General Introduction), price 3s., can be obtained from all book-sellers, or from Messrs. Stanford, Charing Cross.

THE LIBRARY CATALOGUE is now printed and may be obtained, bound in cloth, on application to the Assistant Secretary, 23 Savile Row. Price 8s.; postage, 4d.

THE FOUNDER'S MEDAL, ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.—We take the following from 'The Geographical Journal,' April, 1903, p. 447:—'The Founder's Medal has been assigned to Mr. Douglas W. Freshfield in recognition of his valuable contributions to our knowledge of the Caucasus, both by his journeys and writings, and for his recent explorations round Mount Kangchenjunga. It is also intended as a mark of appreciation of his persistent efforts in behalf of the improvement of geographical education.' We offer our hearty congratulations to Mr. Freshfield on the distinguished and well-deserved honour which has been conferred upon him by the Royal Geographical Society.

NEW EXPEDITIONS IN THE CANADIAN ROCKY MOUNTAINS.—It should have been stated in the February number of the Journal that all the new ascents, beginning with Mount Columbia on p. 387 and ending with Mount Wilson on p. 340, were made by the Rev. J. Outram and Christian Kaufmann.

'CLUBFÜHRER DURCH DIE GLARNER-ALPEN.'—This, the first of

\* See 'Reviews and Notices' in this number.

a new series of climbers' guides to be published by the S.A.C., can be recommended to any one who is thinking of visiting the Glarus district this summer. We hope to give a notice of the book later on.

THE COL DES HIRONDELLES RIDGE OF THE GRANDES JORASSES.—On August 22, 1902, I left Courmayeur with Alphonse Simond, of Chamonix, and Alexis Brocherel, a porter of the former place. Our intention was to ascend the Grandes Jorasses, and if possible effect a descent down the ridge which leads directly to the Col des Hirondelles. We stayed at the club hut that evening, and, starting off at 1.30 the following morning, reached the summit by the usual route about 6. The descent towards the col was commenced immediately and continued with but few halts for  $6\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. The point we had then arrived at is just about halfway between the summit and the col. Directly in front the ridge steepened considerably and ended in a cliff. It was not deemed prudent to go quite to the edge so as to ascertain its height, as the slabs above the lip of the fall were covered with verglas. The 'Coupure' itself can be easily seen from the Tacul, and less distinctly, of course, from the Montenvers; it may be as much as 150 ft. high, thus forming a very serious obstacle. Lower down we knew there was another similar cut which had once stopped Mummery; any advance then here might have brought us into a very tight corner. To our right a stone-swept couloir led downwards towards the Fréboutzie glacier, and possibly by following it a traverse at a point below the 'Coupure' might have been made, and the ridge in that way regained once more. Simond, however, was all against attempting this, owing to the numbers of stones constantly falling, and from which there would have been no escape once in the gully. On the other side, to our left, there was an uninterrupted view of the Léschaux glacier thousands of feet below, but the way thereto was not exactly easy; first a formidable ice-slope would have had to be cut across, followed by smaller ones lower down, and in between these uncompromising bits of red-looking slabs doubtless covered with the usual coating of ice. I expect that even with our dozen odd 'pitons' and spare rope we should hardly have got down under 10 hrs. Still, I think we might have had a try had there been snow instead of, or rather, as well as, ice on the face. Whatever way we took then meant sleeping out somewhere, and this we had made up our minds not to do from want of provisions in the first place, and also on account of the appearance of the weather. As everyone knows, last summer was about the worst on record; no two consecutive fine days could be guaranteed, and more often than not the evening was ushered in by a thunderstorm; at any rate, that was my experience. So we reluctantly gave it up and hurried back to the top as fast as we could, and so on down the way we came to the hut once more, well pleased to have got off the mountain before dark. Courmayeur and the Hotel Royal were reached at 11.15 P.M. To the point where we turned back there were no difficulties other than those usually met with on a very

steep ridge, but our advance was necessarily slow, owing to the quantity of snow and ice everywhere on the arête; probably this side of the mountain with its nearly N. aspect will always be more or less in this condition. Our fears as to the weather were fully justified. On arriving at the Col du Géant next morning there was a dense fog, and long before we got to the Montenvers it was snowing heavily.

G. B. TUNSTALL-MOORE.

THE DOIGT DE CHAMPÉRY (DENT NOIRE), BY THE N. SIDE.—In the 'Alpine Journal' for November 1902 is a short account of an ascent—the first by the N. face—of the Doigt de Champéry, the second point of the Dent du Midi, usually known at Champéry as the Dent Noire, which was successfully accomplished on August 23, 1902, by Count O'Gorman with two Champéry guides, Emile Joris and Célestin Oberhauser. A few notes of an unsuccessful attempt at the same climb made a year before may add a touch more interest to their success. On August 20, 1901, I started from Champéry with the guide Edouard Défago at 1 A.M.; and after a tedious candle-light grind of 3½ hrs., by way of Anthémoz, we reached the foot of the rocks just at daybreak. Thence we started by the route taken in climbing the Dent du Midi (Haute Cime) on the N. side; but soon left this route on our right, and climbed straight ahead of the rocks, till we came on our left hand to the side of a narrow but deep and very steep couloir filled with ice. We crept up the precipitous right side of this till we came to a place where we could cross it, and reached a small col, joining a rocky spur to the massif of the Haute Cime. We were directly below the summit of this latter, and looking up could make out figures on the top watching our attempt; one of these was the guide Emile Joris, and in that clear still air, by shouting very loud, we could actually converse with him, though the voice took quite a long time to travel the distance. Unfortunately we were still on the wrong side of another small couloir, also very deep and filled with ice, the rent of which separates the Haute Cime from the Dent Noire; and Emile Joris, who from his position could see more than we from ours, called to us that we ought to have crossed this below, if possible. Evidently he did not think it looked feasible from where we were. However we kept on, hoping to find it practicable to negotiate the crossing higher up; and for a long time we mounted higher and higher, scaling the ledges of rotten rock at the side. At last, however, we came to the conclusion that the crossing would be too risky and too difficult, necessitating a great deal of step-cutting in black ice, under a very dangerous fire of stones from above. But, having given up our object, we had still to think of how to get out of the rather nasty place we were in. The rock we had come by was so bad that we both regarded a descent by the same route as a very desperate and last expedient; and we therefore set ourselves to reach the top of the Haute Cime. The rock was still very bad; and we were never sure that we might not at any moment be turned back. But after some time we got on to rather easier ground, and finally reached the summit of the Haute

Cime, 9½ hrs. after leaving Champéry. Though we had failed in our object there can be little doubt that we had reached the Haute Cime by a way no one had ever gone before, or will probably ever care to go again.

F. W. BOURDILLON.

WINTER ASCENTS AT PONTRESINA. PIZ BERNINA.—A party consisting of Mr. E. L. Strutt and the Pontresina guides Martin Schocher and Sebastian Platz accomplished this climb on January 27. They left the Restaurant Mörteratsch on the preceding day at 10.15 A.M., and reached the Boval Hut in 3½ hrs. easy walking, using Canadian and Engadine snow hoops. They left the hut at 4.15 A.M. next morning, and reached the central icefall of the Mörteratsch Glacier—the Labyrinth—in 2 hrs.; this was crossed without difficulty, and the usual breakfast place attained at 8.15 A.M. From here as far as the rocks of the arête the labour became very great, no less than 4 hrs. being required. The rocks themselves gave no trouble, being quite free from snow, but on the final arête over four hundred steps in hard ice were required, a strong wind adding considerably to the difficulties. At 2.15 P.M. the summit was reached and an unclouded view revealed. By 2.30 P.M. the descent was commenced, and the hut regained at 7.45 P.M., the last 2 hrs. being accomplished in an absolutely oppressive gloom. The party remained a second night at the hut, and returned next morning to the Restaurant Mörteratsch.

PIZ SELLA.—The same party, with the addition of Herr E. Thoma, accomplished this ascent on February 22. They left Pontresina at 10.30 A.M. on the 21st, and by 1 P.M. were at the deserted Roseg Restaurant. Here they were compelled by the extraordinary heat of the day to halt till 3.30, as the softness and wet condition of the snow rendered the snow-shoes—both ski and Engadine hoops—perfectly useless. The Canadian shoes, however, came through the test with flying colours. Owing to these delays they did not reach the Mortel Hut till 6 P.M., and that only after excessive labour. A very warm night followed, and, as the weather seemed doubtful, they did not start till 5.50 A.M. Without much trouble they reached the depression between the two peaks of the Sella at 10.30 A.M., and the summit at 11.10, much ice being encountered on the short final arête. On the sheltered side of the peak it was thawing fast. They reached the hut at 1.5 P.M., or 1 hr. and 35 min. from the summit. Starting again at 2.35 P.M., they found the snow in the same lamentable condition, the strong Föhn wind having done still more damage than the overpowering sun of the previous day, so that they did not reach Pontresina till 6.25 P.M. Throughout the day many avalanches were seen to fall, and the ascent of a steeper mountain than the Sella would not have been feasible.

ALPINE HUTS.—There was recently a request in the 'Alpine Journal' for information as to out-of-the-way huts, and the following notes may be of use:—

*Dauphiné District.*—*Cézanne hut.* A new hut was being built in 1902.

*Provence hut*, on Mt. Pelvoux. The only stove is a petroleum one, but there is a rough stone fireplace for wood outside. Water about two minutes off. Good sleeping accommodation.

*Cabane R publicaine* (for the Aiguilles d'Arves). A small hut, consisting of one room. Water close by. Petroleum stove. We brought petroleum, but found no wicks, and in the Provence hut we found wicks but no petroleum. It is, therefore, advisable to bring both. B edeker gives the height of this hut as about 7,870 ft., and says that the Col Lombard (10,865 ft.) is 'ten minutes beyond' it!

W. T. KIRKPATRICK.

TOFANA DI ROCES (8,215 m. = 10,550 ft.) BY THE S.E. FACE.—The first ascent by this route was made in July 1901, by two Hungarian ladies, daughters of Baron Roland E tv s, with Antonio Dimai and two other guides of Cortina. The cliffs and couloirs on this side of the mountain have a formidable look about them, and credit is due to the first party for attacking them. It is a matter of regret that they were too modest to leave a record of their successful attempt in the book at the Tofana hut.

On July 9, 1902, Mr. G. L. Stewart, with Johann and Ferdinand Summermatter, of Randa, made the second ascent by this route, having the advantage of Dimai's experience, which he had readily given them. The previous day they had been on the Cinque Torri, and they therefore found it convenient to spend the night at the Falzarego Inn. This they left at 8.30 A.M., the rucksacks being sent on to the Tofana hut to meet them. Passing through the trees and up the grass slopes above, they continued along the base of the mountain to the foot of the big couloir, which descends from the great hollow in its S.E. face, arriving at this point about 5 o'clock. Here they exchanged boots for scarpeti, and commenced the ascent at 5.15. After climbing the rocks on the left or N.E. side of the couloir for 1½ hr. they passed a stone man, and crossed the head of the couloir, where the rocks were covered by an accumulation of snow. They then traversed to the left, and scaled a wall of rock to a level place on which there is a stone man, and where they breakfasted at 7.15. The sun's rays had during the past few minutes struck into the upper part of the great hollow referred to, and were then bringing down small falls of stones. On starting from their breakfast-place the party climbed a chimney, and then traversed horizontally to the left, passing a stone man near a rock, to which was attached a rope left by the first party to facilitate descent to the ledge below. Continuing the traverse at the foot of a great column with a chimney on its right, they climbed on to a short and level ar te to the left of the column. This ar te, which has a stone man on a projecting part of it, forms part of the S.W. ar te of the mountain, and can be clearly seen from the Faloria Hotel. From this point they made their way up a chimney, partially blocked by rocks, which gave the second guide, who carried the boots and provisions, no little trouble. Emerging on the *d bris* and shale which strew the slopes, they soon came to a rock ar te, and followed this to the *d bris*-covered slopes of

the final summit, which they gained at 11.15, having taken 6 hrs., including halts, from the foot of the rocks. The north-eastern slopes were thickly covered with snow, and boots and axes, which had often been in the way on the ascent, were here very useful. The party left the top at 12.25, and, being able to glissade almost the whole of the descent, were at the hut in 40 min.

Little of the climb is easy, and bits here and there, particularly the wall after crossing the head of the big couloir, are sufficiently difficult. Combined as it was on this occasion with the traverse of Tofana di Mezzo, the following day, on the way back to Cortina, the expedition is recommended as one of the most interesting in the district.

TENTS IN BATUM.—Mr. W. R. Rickmers, Radolfzell (Baden), would be greatly obliged if Members who have deposited tents in the Caucasus would be kind enough to communicate with him.

'ALPINE JOURNAL,' NOS. 78 AND 79.—These two numbers are required by the Appalachian Mountain Club to complete their set. Would any Member who may be willing either to sell or to present them to the Appalachian Mountain Club be good enough to communicate with the Assistant Secretary, Alpine Club?

LLIWEDD, E. PEAK.—The first ascent of the E. peak of Lliwedd from the N. was effected on April 24, 1903, twenty years after the first ascent of the W. peak.\* A practically straight line was maintained up the centre of the buttress to the cairn. A ledge large enough to afford sitting room for the party—Messrs. Archer Thomson and O. Eckenstein—was met with at the height of 400 ft. A hundred feet above this point the difficulties moderate. The climbing is severer than upon the W. buttress. Time, exclusive of halts, 8 hrs.

A. T.

## REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

*L'Alpiniste. Revue illustrée de l'alpinisme.* Nos. 1-4. (Genève, 44 rue de Montchoisy. 1903.)

*Deutsche Alpenzeitung.* Vol. 4, and vol. 5, no. 1. (München, G. Lammer, 1902-3.)

*Wandern und Reisen.* Illust. Zeitschrift für Touristik . . . Kunst und Sport. Nos. 1-7. (Düsseldorf: L. Schwann, 1903.)

These are three fortnightly periodicals, published independently of any of the Alpine Clubs, the contents of which are concerned chiefly with mountaineering. The 'Deutsche Alpenzeitung' is now in its fifth volume, and keeps up its excellent character. As it was reviewed in the last number of the 'Alpine Journal,' it is unnecessary to describe it here again. The other two papers are products of this year. 'L'Alpiniste' is a small paper of eight pages in each issue, and requires to be very much improved to make it of value among Alpine periodicals. The German paper, 'Wandern

\* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xi. pp. 239-41.