

from the smudginess which one so often sees in coloured representations of flowers. The book is furnished with an index, and a glossary supplies the meanings of such botanical terms as are likely to give trouble to non-scientific readers; for the work 'is not intended as a foundation for strictly scientific study but as an introduction to the gay and lovely flora of the High Alps.' The illustrations are not all equally good, but if *Eritrichium nanum* and *Aretia vitaliana* hardly satisfy us, we have but to turn to *Anemone alpina* and *Ranunculus pyrenæus* to be consoled. *Ranunculus glacialis*, if a little rosier than one usually finds it, is yet delightful. We feel sure that lovers of flowers who are not botanists in the strict sense of the word will find this volume a very pleasant help among the mountains, and a by no means despicable resource on a rainy day.

A Fine Pair of Horns. By F. T. Wethered.

This is an account of the ascent of the Täschhorn from the Fee Glacier, which appeared in 'Alpine Journal,' vol. ix. pp. 200-208, and of the passage of the Mönch from the Eggischhorn to the Little Scheideck, which was briefly described in 'Alpine Journal,' vol. vii. pp. 325-326. The longer description of the latter expedition here given will be welcome to climbers. The booklet is a reprint from the 'Guardian' of April 15, 1903.

CORRESPONDENCE.

'CLIMBERS' GUIDE TO THE BERNESE OBERLAND, VOL. I.'

To the Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

SIR,—In the number of the 'Alpine Journal' for February, 1903, I notice that on pp. 345-46 an anonymous critic prints a list of what he believes to be mistakes in the above work. Your critic (who is *not* reviewing the book, as it was noticed in your number for August, 1902, p. 205) has certainly lighted upon various misprints and omissions in the book, and he might have found more. But he himself makes various mistakes. I beg leave, therefore, to correct certain statements of this anonymous writer, particularly as most of his criticisms refer to the ranges enclosing the Lötschenthal, and as I am the fortunate possessor of most of the original notes of my lamented friend Mr. E. F. M. Benecke, which he compiled expressly with a view to the 'Climbers' Guide.' I follow the order of the observations of your critic.

Plattenhörner.—The book names only the three higher points of this jagged ridge, and not that (705 ft. lower than the lowest of these three summits, and not 1,000 ft. higher than the Gemmi Pass)

marked 2,622 metres. But among Mr. Benecke's notes there is a notice of the ascent (July 3, 1895) of point 2,622 m. by Mr. Cohen (55min. from Hôtel Wildstrubel, cairn found on the summit), as well as of his attempt to proceed thence to point 2,848 m., which resulted in his slipping and falling about 70 ft. Undeterred by this adventure, Mr. Cohen forced his way along the N.W. face of the ridge till just below point 2,837 m., but was beaten about 50 ft. beneath that summit. This description was before me when I wrote in the 'C. C. Guide' that attempts on the higher peaks had been made 'later' than the only one hitherto recorded in print—that of 1868.

Ober Tatlishorn.—The notice of Mr. Benecke's ascent in 'Alpine Journal,' vol. xvii. p. 584, was extracted (like the following notes) by myself from Mr. Benecke's notes. I see that this reference has somehow slipped out of the account in the 'C. C. Guide.' But though your critic is right in pointing out that Mr. Benecke did not take 5 hrs. for this ascent, he does not seem to have noticed that the detailed 'times' we give— $3\frac{3}{4}$ (misprinted $3\frac{1}{2}$) hrs. to the saddle and 1 hr. 55 min. thence to the summit—are those given by Mr. Benecke himself, and that they come together to 5 hrs. 40 min., as your critic states. Further, your critic is of opinion that Mr. Benecke's estimate of the easiness of the ridge between this summit and the Balmhorn is 'evidently incorrect,' because Herren Wäber took about 4 hrs. (not $4\frac{3}{4}$ hrs., as printed in the 'C. C. Guide') from the saddle to the Balmhorn. If your critic will consult Herren Wäber's own account ('Swiss Jahrbuch,' vol. xxx. p. 167) he will see that they state that in July, 1894, the hard upper crust of *snow* (not ice) on this arête entailed much step-cutting, and consequently much loss of time; this statement is summarised in the 'C. C. Guide' (p. 8) by the words: 'The times depend on the amount of step-cutting required.' I must say that I fail to see that Mr. Benecke's view at the end of June that this ridge is 'easy' is contradicted by the fact that in a particular state of the snow at the end of July much step-cutting was required—and the Herren Wäber mention no other difficulty of any kind.

Hockenhorn.—Mr. Reade's 1897 route up this summit was not mentioned in the text of the 'C. C. Guide'—first, because it is an unimportant 'variation' by which the ordinary route is rejoined; secondly, because, as Mr. Reade himself states, it is 'somewhat longer' than that route; and, thirdly, because the 'C. C. Guides' do not, so far as I am aware, describe, solely because they are 'interesting,' and not practically or topographically important, what certain mountaineers term 'interesting' routes. The proof of this will be seen abundantly in the forthcoming 'Dolomite' volume of the series.

Tellispitzen.—The 'thirdly' just mentioned answers your critic's criticism, for it is surely sufficient to describe how to reach the highest summit of a mountain without also describing what Mr. Reade himself terms 'a succession of rock towers.'

Grosshorn.—Your critic mentions Mr. Barnard's route of 1899

(omitted accidentally in the 'C. C. Guide'). But he seems to be astray in his belief that Mr. Barnard 'kept more on the arête from the Schmadrijoeh' than his predecessors, for, as Mr. Barnard states very clearly, he never went to the Schmadrijoeh at all, and he apparently only struck the N.W. arête very high up indeed.

Breitlauihorn.—Your critic's criticism consists in the fact that he or his informant took 1 hr. 40 min. from the Baltschiederjoeh as against the 2 hrs. given in the book; but 'times' vary very much. M. Gallet does not state that he ascended by the S. arête, but by the 'versant sud,' and this interpretation is adopted in the new edition of Studer, vol. i. p. 386, note: 'Ueber den stark zertrümmerten Südabfall des Gipfels.' In a private letter to me, dated July 19, 1895, M. Gallet thus summarises his route up the Breitlauihorn: 'Partis d'un bivouac au Baltschiederthal (2,116 m.), en 5 h. 55 min. au sommet, par de grands névés, une rimaie, et des rochers entrecoupés de glace.' Here there is no mention of the S. arête, but only of the S. *face*.

Mönch by the S.W. Arête.—Your critic states that Mr. Claude Macdonald has informed him that in 1895 his party did not follow the entire crest of the ridge. Now, Mr. Macdonald, in a letter to me, dated November 24, 1895, states that he reached 'the head of the Jungfraujoeh. Climbed Mönch by arête from here.'

In conclusion, I beg to be allowed to express my deliberate opinion (based on over twenty years' practical experience) that the preparation of a guide-book is far, far more difficult than it seems to be at first sight, and that few things are easier than to pick holes in a guide-book when published. Even a fairly satisfactory work can only be produced if climbers who have done what they think are 'new routes' or 'variations' either print notices of them in some recognised Alpine periodical, or communicate their notes privately to the compiler of such a book, who cannot possibly, from his own personal experience, know every route up every peak, or examine in minute detail every travellers' book in every Alpine centre. As a proof of the difficulty I have found in this matter of 'unrecorded' routes made by English climbers I may state that in answer to my appeal of February, 1894 ('Alpine Journal,' vol. xvii. p. 55), for help of this kind in preparing the 'Bernese Oberland Climbers' Guide,' I received *two* replies only, and no more!

W. A. B. COOLIDGE.

Grindelwald: March 17, 1903.

To the Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

SIR,—I avail myself of the opportunity which you have kindly afforded me of replying at once to Mr. Coolidge's letter. I much regret that my notes on the 'Climbers' Guide' (which I accidentally omitted to sign—an omission that would have been rectified in this number of the 'Alpine Journal') should have caused annoyance to Mr. Coolidge, to whom I have been indebted

for much information about Alpine matters. But it seems unfortunate that an attempt to correct slight errors and omissions in one of these invaluable handbooks, with the sole object of affording information which may be useful to other climbers, should be regarded as 'picking holes,' and resented accordingly by the authors. I will deal with Mr. Coolidge's criticisms as briefly as possible.

Plattenhörner and Ober Tatlishorn.—Those interested in the matter can judge for themselves how far my notes are required to supplement what is printed in the 'Guide.'

Hockenhorn.—The 1897 route (which was found by Mr. Barnard, not by me) is not a 'variation' on the ordinary route up the S.W. arête, but about as different from it as any route starting from the same valley could be. The question whether it is 'unimportant' depends on a general question of some interest, which is also raised by Mr. Coolidge's remarks under the head of the *Tellispitzen*—namely, what is the object which mountaineers have in view when they climb small peaks of this kind, which are certainly of no topographical importance? If the answer is, as I suggest, that they want to take the route which gives the most interesting climbing, then the information that, on the Hockenhorn, they can have an hour's good climbing instead of a twenty minutes' walk, and, on the Tellispitzen, can traverse the whole ridge, instead of merely going up to the highest point and down again, is by no means unimportant, but precisely what they will expect a 'Climbers' Guide' to supply.

Grosshorn.—Mr. Barnard did not start from the Schmadrijoeh, but he followed the upper part of the N.W. arête, which had apparently not been done before.

Breitlauhorn.—My note was intended to convey that there is only fifteen minutes' climbing on the peak, and that up the S.W. or S. face—there is, I think, no difference.

Mönch.—I wrote to Mr. Macdonald with the express object of ascertaining whether his note in the 'Alpine Journal' meant that he followed the crest of the arête from the Jungfrau Joch, or, like Mr. Wethered's party, the snow-slopes below the crest. His answer was to the effect stated in my note.

Yours faithfully,

H. V. READE.

JEBEL MUSA OR APES' HILL.

To the Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

SIR,—Mr. H. T. Munro's interesting paper on Jebel Musa, or Apes' Hill, recalls pleasant memories of a trip I made in the same district in the autumn of 1899. I can thoroughly endorse all that the writer says regarding the beauty of the Andjra highlands and the grandeur of Jebel Musa; but it is a pity he had so little time at his disposal, as otherwise his Arab guide would probably have

taken him up the northern face of the mountain—a far more picturesque and entertaining route than the stone shoot on the southern side. The ascent commences almost at sea-level, and the views, for the first three-quarters of the way, down the craggy hill-side, clothed with brushwood and olive groves, to the bay-indented coast, and thence across the Straits to Gibraltar and the Spanish mountains, are among the most enchanting I have seen in any country. Towards the summit the shore and the beautiful lower slopes of the mountain are lost to sight, and the prospect, though more extensive, is less picturesque.

I had better luck than Mr. Munro in seeing a group of over a dozen of the far-famed Barbary apes playing about, like a herd of chamois, on a great limestone bluff overlooking the Straits; but we were less fortunate in the weather, which was not sufficiently clear to enable us to see the Sierras Nevadas or the more distant mountains of the Riff.

The large birds which Mr. Munro saw were doubtless turkey buzzards, which are common enough. I have never seen vultures in northern Morocco: nor are wild horses to be found on Jebel Musa, or elsewhere in the country. The stone hut on the summit is a sort of rough *kubbah*, or saint-house. It is certainly not Roman in origin; probably Mr. Munro's guide said it was built by the *Roum*—a general term applied by the Moors impartially to all Europeans.

I descended by the *couloir* on the southern side, and returned to Tangier along the coast described by Mrs. Main, in the passage quoted by Mr. Munro, as infested by lawless Riffs and pirates, who are a terror to European mariners. I may say at once that I saw no bandits, marine or terrestrial; and the leisurely movements of some Spanish fishing-boats in the offing did not indicate any acute apprehension of attacks by Barbary corsairs. The predatory Riffians were probably at home in their mountain fastnesses, fifty or a hundred miles to the eastward. As a matter of fact, the Andjra, except in troubled times like the present, is quite safe. I enjoyed a week's shooting there twenty years ago, and have always found the inhabitants less fanatical and more friendly disposed towards Europeans than the majority of Moors.

Yours obediently,
HUGH E. M. STUTFIELD.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall on Tuesday evening, February 3, at 8.30, Mr. Walter Leaf, *Vice-President*, in the chair.

The following candidates were balloted for, and elected members of the Club:—Messrs. T. J. Bowlker, W. G. Clay, J. M. Clayton, G. E. Gask, S. Gask, W. N. Ling, J. T. Osler, R. O. P. Paddison, T. A. Rumbold, C. S. Thompson.