

Ræka (2,070 ft. aneroid), *Langö*.—First ascent.

This unique and legendary aiguille lies near the head of the Eidsfjord, close to which point the same party pitched their tent, and on August 18 started at 10 A.M. About noon a point on the N.W. face, some 1,050 ft. up, was reached, and nearly 5 hrs. were spent in unsuccessful attempts to enter a deep-cut central gully. Then, by traversing S.W. and ascending gradually, an ill-defined gully with an oblique and northerly bias was struck, by means of which the sharp summit ridge was reached at 8 P.M.

A previous attempt on the S.W. arête had proved unsuccessful, but furnished climbing of the highest interest.

Mendra (2,700 ft. aneroid), *E. Vaagö*. August 25.—First ascent.

The same party left Langstrand, on the Østnes Fjord, at 2 A.M. and rowed to the head of the fjord near Liland. Taking the road towards Higråffjord, and then ascending W. to about 650 ft., and N. of a prominent aiguille about 1,400 ft. high, they skirted a horse-shoe ridge enclosing Budalen and its contained lake, proceeding along the W. arête until it joined the final cliffs of the mountain, when a descent was made on to the S. face. This was traversed until a practicable gully was found leading to the summit ridge, the peak itself being gained at 10.45 A.M.

The descent was made straight down the S. face to the N. side of the lake. A full account of these expeditions will be found in the 'Alpine Journal' for May 1908, pp. 396-408.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

Guide to Switzerland. Macmillan & Co. 1903. Price 5s. net.

OF making handbooks to 'Switzerland' there is no end. We are promised a new 'Murray,' we have long been promised a revised 'Alpine Guide,' and here meantime are Messrs. Macmillan coming forward with another candidate for the favour of tourists. The task of compiling 'Guides' has lately been rendered easier by the number of local handbooks, foreign or English, which relieve an editor of much personal research. But it is not every editor who has sufficient skill and experience to enable him to collate his own information with that conveyed from other literary sources, or derived from individual contributors, and to avoid the inconsistencies likely to arise from the very diverse standards of his authorities.

The volume before us is a well meant effort to meet the demand of the moderately educated and fairly intelligent tourist who is not, in Emerson's phrase, a mere 'harrier of scenery.' The nameless editors supply introductory chapters; the first furnishes, in highly condensed form, food for those who take interest in the political institutions of Switzerland; another gives a sketch of the physical features of glaciers. For practical hints on outfit the aid of a member of the 'Climbers' Club' has been secured.

He is, as a rule, sensible in his advice, but his remarks on mountain sickness are crude and unscientific. Nor can we agree with him that 'English-made hats and caps are useless,' that a 'Tiroler hat is becoming' to the average Englishman, or that 'an ordinary cloth cap' is ever serviceable on snow. Another writer, in a separate article, suggests as head gear 'a large cabbage leaf worn under the hat and covering the back of the head, damped occasionally.' Strange things will be seen in the Alps next summer if Dr. Lunn's and Messrs. Cooks' tourists follow these various recommendations.

In the body of the work the editors are alive to the various interests of the towns and sites described. Their notes are possibly adequate to the requirements of holiday students. Yet 'the Vallée du Reposoir, where there is a convent of the Grande Chartreuse,' leaves, perhaps, something to be desired in the way of historical accuracy. 'Modern' seems an odd adjective to apply to the cathedral of Aosta, and an antiquarian may suggest that the collegiate churches of Bern, Luzern, and Zürich are not properly termed cathedrals. The literary associations of Geneva are dealt with at somewhat disproportionate length. Space is even found for an account of the 'forces motrices' of that city. Tennyson's Alpine Idyll and Coleridge's 'Hymn to Mont Blanc' are not honoured by a mention, while nearly a page of Byron's 'Prisoner of Chillon' is quoted. Elsewhere we are told that at 'Wengen' 'Byron composed a part of "Manfred," and the quiet and comfortable hotel on the left was a favourite resort of Frances Ridley Havergal.' The collocation of poets is, to say the least, odd, and Wengen and the Wengern Alp have obviously been confounded.

The chief aim and end of a handbook, however, is to be practical, and the test by which it must stand or fall is how far through its plan and execution it succeeds in telling its purchaser where to go and what to see. The general plan here adopted—to deal fully with tourist centres and sketch lightly cross routes—is reasonable, and suited to the mode of travel at present popular. But its execution leaves much to be desired. All handbooks to 'Switzerland' go beyond their title. No political limit can be satisfactory to a visitor to the Central Alps. Savoy and Mont Blanc, Aosta and the Italian Lakes have perforce to be included. But it was surely needless, while omitting Orta, Varallo, and Gressoney St. Jean, to include, as is done here, Cogne, Munich, and Innsbruck with a sketch of the life of the Tyrolese patriot, Hofer. To this extension we owe the following sentence: 'He (Hofer) had a funeral worthy of his heroism, and his remains were carried by twelve innkeepers and deposited in the Church of the Franciscans at Innsbruck.' The italics are ours.

To scenery sounding adjectives are applied with a curious lack of discrimination. Tastes no doubt differ; but a 'beautiful and secluded village' is a strange description of the Bel Alp; and 'strikingly grand' seems hardly the right phrase for 'the scenery round the Borromean Islands.' The view from the top of the

Gries is by no means 'enchanted' to the general eye. 'A magnificent gorge with stupendous precipices' is an exaggerated description of the entrance to the Prättigau.

Still, compared to accuracy in the practical information needed by the general traveller, these may be held minor matters. Even in the best of Swiss handbooks it is an easy task to pick a goodly number of holes in the extended field covered. No compiler can hope, least of all in a first edition, to avoid a considerable amount of error. In order to be as fair as possible we will not wander at random through the volume, but taking first a single well known district, the Upper Engadine and its approaches, note some of the 'addenda and corrigenda' which we have detected on a first perusal.

It is preposterous to say that less than fifty years ago the Upper Engadine was 'a wild and almost inaccessible region,' or that it is 'without a rival in respect to variety and grandeur of scenery,' or that 'profound gorges' are among its characteristics. Such remarks show a singular want of either local knowledge or perception. 'Gazögl' (see map), a small shallow pool in the stream between the Sils and Silvaplana lakes, and Lago Lunghino, the mountain tarn behind Maloja, which feeds one of the sources of the Inn, are not properly catalogued among the 'deep lakes' of the Engadine. The new railroad connecting Thusis and St. Moritz, though marked on one of the maps, is nowhere described. It was opened to Celerina this season. The fine road through the Schyn Pass is not mentioned. The hotel at Promontogno, the best stopping-place between the Lake of Como and the Maloja, is omitted; so is the beautiful excursion from it by a carriage road to Soglio, an upland village where an old 'palazzo' of the De Salis family has been turned into a 'pension,' frequented by artists. By a curious exception to the rule which has relegated hotels and inns to a separate table, the 'Maloja Palace Hotel' has a paragraph of what must be called advertisement, and might be called 'puff,' devoted to it. The place has, contrary to what is here implied, failed as a winter station. That it is 'the starting-point for many beautiful excursions' is true. Why then catalogue some under Sils and leave others out?

The Julier Pass is far from being 'one of the finest mountain roads in the world.' It is dull for an Alpine pass. Piz Julier is not difficult; a good path up it was opened in 1902. The two best views of the Upper Engadine, those from 'Alpina' and Muottas Muraigl, are passed over. There is no mention of the carriage roads up the Roseg Thal and Fex Thal, or of the hotel at the foot of the Morteratsch glacier, or of the fine Falls close to it. Restaurants are important to most tourists. Yet those on Piz Languard, on Alp Grün (not Grün), on the Surlei Fuorcla, in the Fex Thal, to say nothing of many minor ones, pass unnoticed. Worst of all is the omission of the little inn on the Diavolezza Pass, the best starting-place for Piz Palu and other high ascents. The way to Boval is not 'rough and over snow'; there is an excellent path.

For tourists crossing the Diavolezza Pass the Bernina Hospice is miles out of the way. It has apparently been confused with the Bernina Houses. It may be doubted whether any sane person has ever descended from the Fellaria Alp to Poschiavo by the Canciano Pass in order to return by the Bella Vista Pass (12,080, not 12,799, feet)—an ascent of 8,765 feet—to Pontresina. Yet this forms part of a suggested 'Round Tour,' which Pontresina guides are said to be ready to undertake 'for 14 francs a day and food'! Of the Marinelli Club Hut, the proper sleeping-place on such a tour, the editors appear never to have heard. Among the Pontresina excursions the 'Schwestern,' the favourite training-ground for novices in climbing, is omitted. The 'times' given are often inexact and inconsistent. Possibly in some cases times 'up and down' are meant, and in others for the ascent only. They are mostly exaggerated—as St. Moritz to Pontresina, 2½ hrs.; but the tourist who walks from Pontresina to Sondrio over the Sella Pass in 8 hrs. will establish a record.

Turning towards Tyrol there is no connected account of the easiest and shortest road from the Engadine to the Stelvio by the Ofen Pass and Wormser Joch. There is, in fact, no mention at all of the carriage road over the latter pass. 'English people' are oddly recommended to climb the Ortler direct from Gomagoi, which lies nearly 2,000 ft. lower than Sulden. The Locarno district is singularly badly treated; Val Verzasca and Val Onsernone do not appear even in the index, and the carriage roads by Val Canobbina and Val Centovalli to Domo d'Ossola are not indicated. The former has been in existence for years, and the short gap in the latter was two years ago well in hand. Neither on map nor in text are the roads from Osteno, on the Lago di Lugano, to Lanzo and Argegno indicated. The road to Macugnaga is also left out.

For mountaineers the book is quite unsuited. This is the description of Monte Leone: 'a splendid excursion, easy, and not more dangerous than other snow peaks.' Tourists are told that it 'can be ascended with far less difficulty from Gondo than from the Hospice.' Gondo is 3,775 ft. lower. The Dufour Spitze is said to be '14 hrs. from the hut.' This is the only mention of the Bétemps Hut, and the large hut on the Signalkuppe is ignored. The accounts of the ascent of Mt. Blanc and of the Col du Géant are most unsatisfactory. From the Grand Plateau we are told 'the summit is gained by one of three different tracks.' This is historically true but practically misleading. No mention is made of the Vallot Hut or of the house on the Col du Géant. The 'Alphubel Joch' is said 'not to be very difficult for experts.' The Petersgrat is called 'long and difficult.' The rocks of the 'Tschingeltritt,' described as 'trying,' are now never traversed, a route on the other side of the glacier being used. The inns on the Steinberg, not Trachsellaunen, are the best starting point for the pass to Kandersteg. On the Rawyl, an old mule pass, we read, 'There is no danger with ordinary care.' The 'Concordia

Club Hut' has long been a mountain inn. Two of the Grindelwald guides mentioned, Fritz Boss and Samuel Brawand, perished in 1901-2 on the Wetterhorn. Ulrich Almer is omitted. On p. 82 'Edward Forbes, De Pary, and Heat' should be James Forbes, De Pury, and Heath. But we must not begin to catalogue mere misprints.

The list of hotels has been judiciously printed separately; large type indicates houses frequented by our countrymen; prices are in many instances given; in a few cases descriptive adjectives are bestowed. The omissions are, however, many; among the most important we note St. Beatenberg, Binn, Montana (the large hotel here is referred to, but incorrectly, in the text only), Lanzo, St. Gervais le Village (of the separate existence of which neither the editors nor their mapmaker seem to be aware), Cresta, Vrin, Vals, Piora, Bergün, Ormonts Dessus. The Burgenstock and Axenstein are mentioned in the text, but are absent from the list.

The maps are numerous and various. Those that are extracts from issues of the Federal Survey are above criticism except in so far as they have not been brought up to date, or have been awkwardly divided. *E.g.* Arolla cannot be found on any map here given, large or small. The map of Mt. Blanc, which has been prepared in England, is very inferior in execution and imperfect in detail. No route is shown over the Buet, the Cabane Vallot is misplaced, and the little-used route by the Glacier du Géant and Col du Midi, which is not even mentioned in the text, is marked as the 'Chemin du Mt. Blanc.'

The Index exhibits specimens of almost every conceivable blunder to which a careless editor is liable. But here we must halt, though far from having exhausted our list of corrections. This volume will not travel with us; it will be relegated to our shelf of Alpine curios. It is a pity Messrs. Macmillan should have put forth such a hotch-potch, for their name carries weight, and half the critics of the town are incapable of judging a work of this kind on its merits. Let us hope its use may be restricted to the personally conducted, to whom its errors and shortcomings will be less prejudicial.

D. W. F.

Crag and Hound in Lakeland. By C. E. Benson. (London: Hurst and Blackett, 1903.)

This is a lively treatise on two main subjects—rudimentary rock-climbing and the hunting of the hill fox.

The latter topic is excellently treated, while on the former the writer is careful not to put himself forward as an expert, and speaks as a novice to novices. In fact, he describes his own work as a 'Child's Guide,' 'to fill in the interval between the chapters on elementary British mountaineering by Mr. Pilkington and Dr. Claude Wilson and the works of Haskett-Smith and Jones.' It would seem that if the mean is for children, one or other of the extremes must be suitable for very babes and sucklings.

Castle Head, a rocky hillock at Keswick, is chosen as a kinder-

garten, and round this as a text the author preaches with philosophic zeal and discursive gaiety, casting side-lights as he goes on meteorology, golf, medicine, billiards, poetry, hurdle-racing, cricket, painting, rowing, etymology, croquet, and the shooting of big game. This, coupled with rather copious quotation, gives the book a miscellaneous appearance; but it well repays perusal, even apart from the numerous illustrations, some of which are first-rate. One or two slips may be noticed. Approval is expressed of 'hot toddy when cold or wet,' but hot toddy should be drunk (if at all) when hot, and can only be drunk when wet. Rake's Progress (on Scafell) is given as an instance of a 'rake,' which it is not. The punning name was given to it some thirty years ago merely because it is the progress or continuation of Lords Rake. It is rather strange to find a student of the history of mountain terms using, instead of 'gill,' the modern affectation 'ghyll,' more fit for 'ghyddy ghygglyng ghyrls'; while the statement that 'arête' strictly speaking describes only a horizontal ridge will cause surprise.

Bollettino del Club Alpino Italiano pel 1900; vol. xxxiii. Num. 66; *pel 1901*, vol. xxxiv. Num. 67. (Torino: Sede Centrale, Via Alfieri, 9.)

The publications of Alpine societies have now become so formidable in number and size that it is not possible to do more than to select for comment the most generally interesting of the articles, even in such excellent volumes as these publications of the Italian Alpine Club. They leave little to be desired either in the illustrations or the maps. In vol. xxxiii. we have a memorial notice of the much regretted King Umberto, by Sig. V. Ricci. After reading this article it is easy to understand the affection in which the King was held, as well by mountaineers as by the Alpine companies of his army and the peasantry of the mountains, especially by those of the districts in which the chamois and bouquetin were preserved for the royal sportsman. It was very pleasant to see the King, as he might often be seen, conversing with peasant or soldier on the mountain path or in the village street.

S. M. Cermenati writes enthusiastically of 'Schiller and the Alps.'

The same writer contributes a long and interesting paper on the Ural Mountains. His excursion to them (in 1897) was made in company with 142 colleagues of many different nationalities, and preceded the seventh session of the International Geological Congress, which was held in that year at St. Petersburg. Naturally, therefore, geology occupies a leading place in his story, as do visits to the various famous mines of the Ural district. The travellers were everywhere hospitably received and generally entertained sumptuously. If a menu beginning with *Culebiaca rossica e coccosteo* and ending with *Astylospongia aurantia* is not a banquet fit for kings there is little indeed in sonorous names. The mountains, of course, are of a humble character, but the author enjoyed many fine panoramas, one of the finest being that from the

Alexandrowskaia Sopka. The silver birch (p. 256)—the lady of the woods—seems to have specially delighted the author. S. Carmentis writes throughout with skill and humour.

S. A. Cozzaglio treats of 'L' Analisi Scientifica del Paesaggio'; S. L. Molino Foti has an article on climbing in Sicily, 'A Monte Scuderi in Sicilia'; S. P. Bensa contributes an article on the caves of the Ligurian Apennines and of the Maritime Alps.

SS. U. Valbusa and Dr. A. Ferrari contribute the more strictly Alpine portion of the volume. The former discourses of 'L' Ardua Grivola Bella.' The article—a long one—is freely illustrated, the view which faces p. 168 being perhaps the most interesting. It shows well the great wall connecting the Grivola and Grivoletta. Dr. Ferrari writes of the Mont Blanc group: the Aiguilles de Trélatète, the Grandes Jorasses, and the Aiguille d'Argentière (of which his was the first Italian ascent). Dr. Ferrari's narrative will be found very interesting; moreover the illustrations which accompany it are excellent. There are seven full-page plates and six insets in the text. Both text and illustrations will well repay careful attention.

Vol. xxxiv. is devoted to the Alps. It opens with an exhaustive article on the chain of the Levanna, by the Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge. This monograph is such as might be expected from the unrivalled knowledge of the Alps possessed by its author. It must be studied by all who are interested in the group of which it treats.

Dr. A. Ferrari writes again of the Mont Blanc group. The Aiguille de Bionnassay, the Aiguille de Leschaux (of both of which his party made the first Italian ascent), and the Mont Dolent are the peaks treated of; again, the illustrations are numerous and excellent. The view of the Italian side of the Mont Blanc chain from the Dent du Géant to the Mont Dolent, taken from the Grande Rochère, by the brothers Origoni of Milan, is most interesting.

S. R. Gerla writes of the Hohsand Basin and of the mountains which surround La Frua (Val Formazza), a district on which he is a recognised authority. To give some idea of its importance we may mention that the article covers two hundred and twenty pages and is freely illustrated. It is divided into fourteen sections, the last of which consists of a bibliography.

SS. O. de Falkner and A. Hess take us to the Dolomites, the former to those of Cortina di Ampesso, the latter to the Selva Nera and the Cimon della Pala group. Both papers are well illustrated, the latter profusely. A view of the Cimon della Pala, girt with a belt of cloud, by Alfred Holmes, is perhaps the finest. The chain of the Pomagnon (Versante S.O.), by S. de Falkner himself, is instructive. S. F. Virgilio contributes the only non-climbing paper 'On New Theories of Glacial Erosion.' The volume can be heartily recommended to all mountain-lovers.

Chamonix and the Range of Mont Blanc. By Edward Whymper. Eighth edition. (London: John Murray. 1903.)

The Valley of Zermatt and the Matterhorn. By the same. Seventh edition. (London: John Murray. 1903.)

These excellent guide-books are too well known to need lengthy comment. They are both brought up to date, as usual. From the Chamonix Guide we learn that the first ascent of Mont Blanc in 1902 was made upon June 4-6, also that a new *train de luxe* will run, during the middle of the season, three times a week from Paris to Chamonix, leaving Paris at 8.40 A.M. and reaching Chamonix at 7.30 P.M. On p. 105 we find an account of a new and more direct path from Chamonix to the Flégère, which passes through forest and is in shadow most of the way. It begins close against the N. side of the Villa Vallot.

From the Zermatt Guide we learn that the first ascent of the Matterhorn in 1902 was made on July 6-8. Mention is made 'of the installation at the end of September 1902 of a wrought-iron cross about 10 ft. high, weighing 85 kilos., on the southern end of the summit ridge of the Matterhorn. Mass was performed on the occasion upon the summit by the Abbé A. Carrel. The cross was visible from Zermatt at the end of March 1903. It will be interesting to note how long this lightning-conductor will remain erect.'

'The number of visitors to Zermatt in 1902 was unprecedented. On August 19 nearly six hundred persons arrived by the railway alone. The ascending midday train had to be triplicated.' On p. 180 we read that on August 23, 1902, Mr. W. E. Davidson, with Joseph Pullinger and Julius Lochmatter, made the circuit of the Matterhorn from the Schwarz See Hotel and back *via* the Col Tournanche, the Tête and Col du Lion, and the Breuiljoch in eleven hours' actual walking. On the same day the Hon. G. FitzGerald, with the two Ulrich Almers, father and son, made the same tour in the contrary direction. The two parties met on the ridge between the Tête du Lion and the Col Tournanche at about 10 A.M.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall on Tuesday evening, May 5, at 8.30, Sir MARTIN CONWAY, *President*, in the chair.

Mr. W. R. RICKMERS read a paper on 'Ski-ing,' which was illustrated by lantern slides.

Dr. RICHARDSON, a guest of the Club, said that Mr. Rickmers had covered the ground so fully that anything he could say would be merely redundant; one point, however, he might dwell upon, and that was the ignorance which was still prevalent as to the possibilities of ski-ing; some of the photographs showing the curves of the skis on steep snow-slopes had aroused expressions of incredulity, but they were really matters of everyday occurrence. The mechanism of the ski was still progressing; he had found