ALPINE NOTES.

'THE ALPINE GUIDE.'—Copies of Vol. I. of the new edition of this work, price 12*s.* net, and of 'Hints and Notes, Practical and Scientific, for Travellers in the Alps' (being a new edition of the General Introduction), price 3*s.*, can be obtained from all booksellers, 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 3*s.*; postage, 4*d.*

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY IN 1904.—J. A. Luttman Johnson (1886), R. K. Parr (1902), G. F. Watts, Honorary Member.

RESIGNATIONS IN 1904.—B. J. M. Donne (1889), T. Barrett-Lennard (1883), Rt. Rev. C. J. Ellicott (1871), C. M. Spurling (1902), S. M. Vines (1892).

THE FRENCH ALPINE CLUB. REGISTRATION OF GUIDES AND PORTERS, AND FORMATION OF AN ACCIDENT FUND.—The French Alpine Club have just taken in hand the formation of a Roll of Guides and Porters licensed by the Authorities of the Club, after a proper examination into their fitness for the work. They are also establishing a fund for furnishing assistance in case of death or total disablement. In this good work the French Club desires to associate with itself all lovers of the mountains. Subscriptions to the fund are invited, and may be sent to M. Henri Cuenot, 30 Rue de Bac, Paris.

THE DAUPHINY 'CLIMBERS' GUIDE.'—Mr. Coolidge has nearly completed a new edition of this well-known book, and would be glad to receive from mountaineers any corrections or unpublished notes. These should be sent as soon as possible to Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge, Grindelwald, Switzerland.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE ALPINE CLUB FOR 1860.—Will any member who has a copy of the printed list of members for 1860 kindly communicate with the Assistant Secretary, 23 Savile Row, London. A copy of the list for this year is not in the Club Library.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

The Yorkshire Ramblers' Club Journal. No. 5. London: T. Fisher Unwin. 2*s.*

WE are glad to receive another excellent number of the 'Yorkshire Ramblers' Club Journal.' It maintains the high standard set by its predecessors. We cannot mention all the articles that it contains, but one or two call for special notice. The place of honour is given to an article by the President of our own Club, 'The Morteratsch Sattel: Extracts from a Diary written in 1876.' It is delightful to be taken back to those happy days.

We find the words of a wise experience even then in our Presi-

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dent's mouth. 'Cutting up a slope of black ice is bad enough, but cutting down is far worse.' For sheer excitement what rock-work can compare with this glacial excavation on a sharp descent? In those days too there were moving accidents doubtless by flood and field, but certainly by road. 'The only other adventure we had before reaching Pontresina was the coming off of a wheel, which happened twice, and we were all thrown out in a heap by the road-side.' The paper is most exhilarating. Let us add that an excellent illustration of the east side of the Morteratsch Sattel from the Diavolezza Pass serves as frontispiece to the number.

New climbs on Scafell Crags, Slanting Gully, Lliwedd and Savage Gully, Pillar Rock give details of work on what we may perhaps call the home preserves. Then 'Mountaineering Reversed' makes a good show with 'A Night in a Pot-hole (Lost John's): Alum Pot,' the 'mouth'—whereof an excellent illustration suggests Avernus (with the Sibyl in modern attire encouraging the bold descenders) —'Gaping Ghyll,' and finally 'Early Explorations in Ingleborough Cave, Clapham.' This last mentioned paper is extremely interesting. It contains letters from the Rev. G. Style, late head master of Giggleswick School, Professor T. McKenny Hughes, of Cambridge, and Mr. J. A. Farrer, which clear up the history of early explorations in Clapham Cave. All who are interested in such work will feel much indebted to Mr. J. A. Green, the author of the paper under notice, for the task which he has so successfully accomplished.

We heartily congratulate the editor, Mr. Thomas Gray, on a most successful number, and will conclude our notice by calling attention to a remark on the 'Disaster on Scafell Crags' (p. 78). 'Anything in the nature of competitive climbing such as this increase (in British crag-climbing) may bring into existence cannot be too strongly condemned, and a man who becomes imbued with the mere desire to surpass the rock-climbing feats of others will deserve the fate he is not unlikely to meet with.' This is sound doctrine and cannot be too strongly emphasised.

Adventures on the Roof of the World. By Mrs. Aubrey Le Blond (Mrs. Main). Illustrated. (London: Fisher Unwin. 1904.)

'This book is not intended for the climber. To him most of the tales will be familiar in the volumes on the shelves of his library or on the lips of his companions during restful hours in the Alps.' This statement in the preface is fully borne out by the book itself. After reading the volume it seems to us that 'Alpine Accidents and Narrow Escapes' would best describe it.

Considering that climbers write 'for each other in esoteric periodicals like the "Alpine Journal"' (as we lately read in a monthly publication), whereas the compiler of the volume under notice 'makes the perils and delights of the sport intelligible to the common man' (how salutary it is to learn how others look upon us), it seems strange that so large a proportion of the matter should be taken from the pages of this 'Journal.' Very interesting stories they are too that are thus excerpted. Adventures on ice-slopes, adventures

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in thunder storms, escapes from avalanches, escapes from crevasses are given in much variety. It is hardly needful to specify the peaks and glaciers on which they occurred, or to give the names of the well-known mountaineers whom they befell, for we have heard them already intentively and not by parcels. They are part of the climber's heritage of story.

One omission we notice. On pp. 127–132 is given Mr. G. E. Foster's graphic account of his descent of the Aiguille du Midi (this expedition, by the way, was made on July 16, 1869, and not in 1871, as stated on p. 126*) with Mr. Horace Walker, Jakob Anderegg, and Hans Baumann, but the last paragraph of Mr. Foster's account is omitted. This, we think, is a pity, as it contains a very weighty recommendation. 'One word more and I have done. To those about to follow in our steps—don't.'

Caucasian story is represented by Mr. C. T. Dent's account of the ascent of Gestola, and of the Search Expedition in 1888.

One of the most interesting portions of the book is entitled 'A Stirring Day on the Rosetta,' from the mountaineering diary of a young English girl. It is transparently truthful and natural, and is charming to read. Mrs. Le Blond's personal contribution is an account of adventures on the Zinal Rothhorn and of an ascent of the Hohberghorn, on which she and her favourite guide, Joseph Imboden, had a very narrow escape, owing to the conduct of the third member of the party.

There are many illustrations, varying in merit. Some are excellent, many of these being by Mrs. Le Blond herself; most of them are arranged four on a page. 'From the Rosetta,' by S. V. Sella, which faces p. 182, pleases us most. Many phases of mountaineering are illustrated in them.

The book will probably find many readers, for there seems to be a considerable public who like exciting accounts, and, as a well-known mountaineer, famous for his skill alike as a climber and a writer, once remarked, 'Of course to people who like highly spiced narratives the casualties can hardly be too frequent.'

Zeitschrift des Deutschen u. Oesterreichischen Alpen-Vereins, vol. xxxiv. 1903.

In this volume, which is, as usual, freely furnished with illustrations and maps, Herr Fritz Frech opens the scientific and historical section with a geological paper on 'The Configuration of the Central Alps of Tirol,' in which he reviews the various causes which have determined or modified the surface of the district round the Brenner Pass. Herr Eugen Oberhummer continues his story of 'The Development of Alpine Maps in the Nineteenth Century' in an instructive article on Austrian maps, a series of specimen reproductions showing the progressive stages in map-making from 1817 onwards, and indicating the greater precision employed in Alpine nomenclature since mountaineering became popular.

* *A. J.* iv. 383.

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Herr Adolf Schiber concludes his treatise on 'The Teutonic Races in the S. of the Alps,' in which he discusses the place names of N. Italy and of the S. Alpine valleys, and the oft-debated migrations of Lombards, Burgundians, Goths, &c. Herr v. Zwiedineck-Südenhorst transcribes 'Archduke Johann's Journey through the Oetzthal in 1846' from the traveller's journal; and Herr E. Waltenberger gives an interesting description of the methods used in the revision of the boundary between Bavaria and Tirol in the Karwendel and Wetterstein mountains, in which work the author was engaged in 1900, 1901, and 1902. Finally Professor Rudolf Hauthal in a paper on 'Nieves Penitentes,' which is illustrated by some striking photographs, states his belief that the heat of the sun alone, without the aid of wind, is responsible for their formation.

Turning to the lighter literature of mountaineering and exploration, with its numerous attractive full-page illustrations, we find first Mr. W. R. Rickmers's entertaining account of his journey to Karch-khal and Suanetia in 1900, when he was accompanied by Mrs. Rickmers. After strongly recommending those who pass through Batum to devote a few days to the splendid woods and other beauties of the Karch-khal mountains the author narrates his journey to Suanetia by the Kheledula valley and Laila Pass, the scenery on the S. side of the pass being described as marvellously beautiful. The paper contains an account of the first ascent of Zalmag and some interesting information about the Dadishkilian families.

Dr. Felix v. Cube describes his second visit to Corsica in October 1902, when Herren Scheck, Schlagintweit, and Vollnhals joined him in a climbing expedition to the steep, rugged granite peaks of the Monte Cinto group. In spite of the lateness of the season, of snow storms, and torrents of rain, numerous ascents were made. One of the finest peaks—Capo Tafonato (2,343 m.)—still remains unclimbed.

In a joint contribution Herren Hacker and Pichl tell the story of their guideless *tours de force* in the Alps of Dauphiné in September 1902. The traverse of the three Aiguilles d'Arves from N. to S. was interrupted by a severe thunderstorm, and during the Meije traverse from W. to E., which occupied 34 hrs., the Pic Central was crossed by moonlight. On at least two occasions the authors extricated themselves from situations of considerable danger only by exercising all their skill and ingenuity.

Dr. Karl Blodig commences a pleasantly written article—beautifully illustrated with excellent reproductions of Mr. E. T. Compton's sketches—in which he describes ascents of several peaks of the Saasgrat. The author, however, avoids the use of the name 'Saasgrat' except, in one instance, to designate the Fletschhorn-Weissmies range.

The rest of the volume is devoted to the Eastern Alps, the first two papers treating of districts easily accessible from Innsbruck. Doctors v. Unterrichter, Ampferer, and Beyrer conclude their article on the Miemingerkette with detailed accounts of several new expeditions made in 1897 and 1898, the illustrations in the text

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being reproduced from charming sketches by W. Hammer, while Herr Karl Berger writes of various ascents in the Kalkkögel during the years 1898–1902, giving graphic descriptions of the scenery and of amusing experiences with the 'Senner' of the district. Herr O. Melzer's photographs of these two groups merit special mention, the view of the Kalkkögel from the W. being particularly good.

Passing to the Berchtesgaden district we have from the pen of Herr W. v. Frerichs an enumeration of the many routes by which the Watzmann has been climbed from all points of the compass. Details of several recent ascents made by the author are given, and the paper closes with a short sketch of the guides Preiss and Kederbacher, who have been closely associated with the history of the mountain. With similar minuteness and thoroughness Herr C. de Beaulieu deals with the history and general features of the Fuscherkamm and the neighbouring ridges in the N. of the Glockner mountain-group.

The final paper of the volume takes us to the S. Martino Dolomites; Herr A. v. Radio-Radiis, who has made a special study of the topography of the district, describes the peaks and passes of the N. section of the Pala group from the Rosetta Pass to the Val di Valles. A considerable portion of this group is undeservedly neglected by climbers, owing, no doubt, to the absence of inns within a convenient distance. The author earnestly recommends the building of a Club hut on the Passo di Mulaz.

As previously mentioned the book is lavishly illustrated. Besides the views already noticed there are excellent photographs by Sig. V. Sella, Herr F. Scheck, and many others. The additional maps given with this volume are a useful general map of the W. Dolomites and a large scale map of the Adamello and Presanella groups.

Life and Letters of Mandell Creighton, some time Bishop of London. By his Wife. 2 vols. (London: Longmans. 1904.)

There is only one small portion of these two volumes that is of special interest to readers of this Journal; this is found on pp. 69–70 of the first volume. Dr. Creighton was 24 at the time.

'"*To R. T. Raikes.* '"Pontresina: July 22, 1867.

'"I took my first expedition among the ice in the shape of the ascent of Monte Rosa. About Alpine mountaineering the most enormous twaddle is talked: it is really very easy with a good guide, but without a guide of course it is impossible, or at least extremely dangerous. The real truth is that the guide pulls you through all inevitable difficulties, and avoids all that can possibly be avoided. It also sounds very awful to be told that we were 13½ hrs. in the ascent of Monte Rosa; but this includes halts every 3 hrs. for food; and also the pace is very slow, never more than 3½ an hour over level, and in the steepest ascents is very slow indeed, as the guide has to cut steps for you in the ice; consequently the real fatigue is not so very enormous. . . . Switzerland is very stu-

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pendous, but I own that a week of mountains at a time is enough for me . . . the uniform white colour of the mountains palls upon one. Shape alone without colour will not make a landscape that can satisfy one for ever, I find. . . ."

'He used to tell an amusing incident in connection with this journey. One of his companions was Mr. W. Sidgwick, a member of the Alpine Club. One morning they went out for a stroll together on a glacier with their ice axes, but without a guide. They came to a difficult place, where it was necessary to cut every step in the ice, and deep crevasses opened on every side. Sidgwick led the way, and Creighton had to follow ; it seemed to him extremely perilous, and, as he put it, "I had to screw my head on tight and grind my teeth, but I was not going to give in." They got over the dangerous part, and walked back to their hotel without a word on the subject. Some time afterwards in an Oxford Common Room men were talking over Alpine experiences, when Sidgwick said, "I never was in real danger but once, and that was when I was with you, Creighton, on that glacier." Creighton exclaimed in surprise that he had thought from Sidgwick's behaviour that he considered it quite an easy place, and so had not liked to show his own alarm. "By no means," was the answer; "but when you, a mere novice, said nothing, and took it as something quite simple, I was not going to show that I was in a funk."

'This was the only time Creighton attempted high Alpine climbing. He had found that he could do it, but it did not appeal to him. He always said that above the line where the chestnuts grew the mountains began to lose their charm for him.'

It was a remarkable beginning, not wanting in rashness. What a pity that he did not continue to climb, for so enterprising a novice, having by good fortune survived his first attempts, might have come to great things. He might have found mountaineering 'really very easy' even without a 'guide who pulls you through all inevitable difficulties.'

Tibet and Nepal, Painted and Described. By A. H. Savage Landor. London : A. and C. Black. 1905.

Mr. Landor's last book is one of a series of volumes with the coloured plates which have become a fashion of the day. In the present case, as the title implies, the *raison d'être* of the work is furnished by the illustrations, and no apology can be required for dealing with them first. They are all reproductions from original sketches made by the author. The numerous studies of heads or single figures of natives of the Himalaya are clever and characteristic. Here unfortunately our praise must stop. The views of mountain scenery reproduce vague 'impressions' of abnormal, if not impossible, glaciers. The representations of incidents in mountain travel and climbing are for the most part wildly sensational, such as we look for rather in books of adventure for boys than in a serious work of travel.

But after turning the pages we must recognise that these startling

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pictures form no inappropriate accompaniment to the text they illustrate, for Mr. Landor, as the reader of his earlier volume on Tibet * may remember, belongs to no mountaineering school or club save that which once held its meetings at Tarascon. In his view of climbing he is in all essentials at one with the famous president of the Club des Alpines. He agrees with him in holding that the dangers of the snow world are mostly imaginary; that what is known throughout Europe as Alpine craft is a fraud imposed upon giddy and inexperienced tourists. By discarding rope and ice-axe he goes even further than his great original. He trots up peaks of over 23,000 feet clad in 'the thinnest tropical material,' with 'no underwear,' 'shoes of medium weight with no nails in the soles,' and a bamboo cane in his hand. It is a pity he does not give the address of the bootmaker who can make shoes of this character that will survive their first encounter with a Himalayan moraine. Closely united in his climbing prowess to the immortal Tartarin, our author resembles him also in the miraculous escape from death that crowns his recorded career. With a fine contempt for old-world principles which he himself admits was foolish, Mr. Landor on the top of his peak sat down and kicked his heels upon an overhanging cornice. The snow naturally gave way, and in one of the most astounding of his drawings we see the artist dangling over the face of the precipice, held up by his wrists by a sturdy native follower.

Mr. Landor is a miser with dates, but we gather that the feats he describes were performed in the course of 1899 and on the western border of Nepal. Mr. Landor crossed the Kali River, which here forms the boundary, at a place called Garbyáng. Having, as he reports, defeated by force the attempt of a Nepalese frontier guard to stop him, he made several excursions on the glaciers of a side-glen, some twelve to fourteen miles long, which lies within the limits of the native State. He furnishes a 'sketch map of glaciers and peaks explored and surveyed by A. H. Savage Landor.' This appears to be in the main a reduction, with a few added heights, of a portion of sheet 37 of the Survey map of Kumaon and British Garhwal.

We are not told whether these additional heights were confirmed by the Survey officials or rest on the author's own observations. One of them is important, since it is that of the 23,490-feet peak by the ascent of which Mr. Landor claims to have established a mountaineering 'record.' This, he tells us, was 'measured by me with the hypsometrical apparatus, with three boiling-point thermometers checked at the Kew Observatory before my departure and after my return. Two excellent aneroids which I also carried gave a similar figure within a few feet.' On another ground—for pace attained at a high elevation—Mr. Landor might, we think, claim this expedition as a 'record.' We deduce from his narrative that he climbed up something between 8,500 and 9,000 feet in eight and a half hours, though his party were in a state of 'indescribable exhaustion,' and halting at every few steps for breath.

* See *Alpine Journal*, vol. xix. pp. 277, 364.

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There is no inherent impossibility in great heights being reached with relative ease in the Himalaya even without mountaineering appliances, but Mr. Landor has only himself to thank if mountaineers decline to discuss seriously claims which he does not give them sufficient data to verify. He has even suppressed the names of his native companions. The reason he alleges for this singular course is the risk of exposing them to 'further persecution' from the Indian Government. With regard to his own treatment by our authorities he entertains the strangest impressions. He is under the belief that they opened his letters and that the Government of the North-West Provinces sent a message to the Tibetans to this effect:—

'Mr. Landor is coming to Tibet . . . he will enter alone and be at your mercy.'

He further alleges that two *chuprassis* were despatched to his camp to hinder his expedition. These men, he tells us, 'received a sound thrashing. I took them prisoners and brought them along with me.'

A traveller prone to take the law into his own hands is not likely to be made welcome on the Indian frontier, and may expect to be hindered rather than helped by the Government. But we trust that Mr. Landor's allegations are hallucinations, and we are inclined to this belief by the fact that he exhibits in other matters an uninformed or prejudiced mind. For instance, he speaks of the well-known Russian agent lately at Lhasa in these terms: 'The mythical and much feared Dorjeff is possibly—at least as far as power is concerned—nothing more than the creation of hysterical Anglo-Indian officials.' There is clearly hysteria somewhere: is it so certain that it is on the side of the officials?

First Aid to the Injured, with special reference to Accidents occurring in the Mountains: a Handbook for Guides, Climbers, and Travellers. By Dr. Oscar Bernhard, Head Physician and Surgeon to the Engadine Hospital, Samaden, formerly Resident Physician at Maloya, Engadine. Translated from the German by Michael G. Foster, M.A. M.D. (Cantab.). Samaden: Simon Tanner, 1896. London: T. Fisher Uwin. Price 2*s*.

This is distinctly a good book, and what is more contains several points both new and true. Of ordinary ambulance manuals the name is legion and they are mostly copied from one another. The author of this has hit on the happy idea of writing one for the use of guides and mountaineers, in which the illustrations of improvised appliances are drawn from materials commonly used during ascents or obtainable on the mountains themselves or at chalets and Alpine cow sheds. He has added articles on such subjects as snow-blindness, sunburn, frost-bite, and apparent death from exposure, cases of which are more likely to occur at high altitudes. Most of the directions given are simple and good, and we have not detected any absolutely bad, as, for instance, the well known suggestion for treating bleeding from a cut throat by putting on a tourniquet. The book might well serve as a text book for a course of ambulance lectures to guides, and would very appropriately lie about in a Club hut or the smoking-room of a mountain hotel.

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