REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

Zeitschrift des Deutschen und Oesterreichischen Alpenvereins, vol. xxxv. 1904.

THE current volume—the tenth which has appeared under the editorship of Herr H. Hess—is of special interest, as it contains an account of the memorable Suanetian campaign of 1903, a short report of the expedition of 1902 to the Mustagh Range, and an important paper on the glaciers of the Argentine Cordillera.

This year geology is represented by Herr J. Blaas, whose paper on 'Structure and Relief in the Alps' treats for the most part of the Eastern Alps. Herr E. Oberhummer's third article on 'Alpine Cartography' deals with Swiss map-making. The productions of the earlier workers from Türst (1495) to Meyer (1786), and also of some modern cartographers, are briefly reviewed, the bulk of the chapter being devoted to the history of the Dufourkarte and to the technical differences between it and the admirable Siegfried-atlas.

Professor R. Hauthal contributes from La Plata a paper on the glaciers in the neighbourhood of Lago Argentino, in the Patagonian Cordillera. The ice streams of this region have been subject, in the past, to great oscillations in their periods of advance and retreat; at present the only one which is advancing is the Bismarck Glacier, whose tongue stretches $2\frac{1}{2}$ kilometres into the lake. The author discusses the subject of moraine-formation at considerable length; one of the photographs, taken in 1900, shows the margin of the Bismarck Glacier with some huge blocks of stone, of which there had been no trace the year before, the only explanation being that they had formed part of the ground moraine and had been thrust up laterally by some movement of the ice. Professor Hauthal believes that, under certain conditions, an *advancing* glacier can exert considerable erosive action on its bed.

Dr. L. v. Hörmann, with the aid of Herr Ernst Platz's excellent sketches, describes the costumes worn by the natives of Montavon, the Bregenzerwald, and the Walzerthal—the only Vorarlberg valleys where the 'Volkstracht' is still found. The Walzerthal 'Tracht' appears to be more quaint than becoming. It seems inevitable that, with the advent of the tourist, the old dress will disappear from these districts, even as it has vanished from so many other Alpine valleys.

The papers essentially on exploration and mountaineering occupy more space than usual in this year-book. Dr. H. Pfannl gives a necessarily condensed account of the expedition undertaken in 1902 with Dr. Wessely, Dr. Guillarmod, and Messrs. Eckenstein, Knowles, and Crawley to the Karakoram Range with the object of attacking K2, and with the hope of ascertaining to what degree the power of climbing is affected by diminished air-pressure at altitudes previously unattained by mountaineers.

After travelling by way of the Zoji La, Dras, and the Indus

Valley to Askole, the party arrived in the second week in June at the Baltoro Glacier, ascended it for eight days, and then turned N. up the Godwin-Austen Glacier to the foot of K2, for which they obtained from the natives the name Chogo Ri (Great Mountain). On gaining the point marked 'Possible Saddle' on Conway's map it was discovered that the Godwin-Austen Glacier extended about eighteen miles further to the N.E., and about midway up this higher glacier basin the furthest camp was placed, at a height of 19,450 ft., and was occupied from July 1 till August 6. During this time the glacier was explored, and a series of reconnaissances were made, in order to find a route by which coolies could be taken to a high bivouac on K2, Doctors Wessely and Guillarmod gaining a height of 22,000 ft. But the work was impeded by the persistent bad weather and heavy snowfalls. Eventually Dr. Pfannl, disabled by illness, was accompanied by Dr. Wessely to a lower camp, and unfavourable weather stopped further operations.

The party seem to have been well equipped, and the commissariat and transport arrangements to have been carefully organised. The author believes that, as men in good health quickly adapt themselves to the altered conditions, one of the great peaks will soon be climbed. The experience of this expedition, however, would indicate that everything will depend on the possibility of efficiently supporting the actual climbers with supplies, &c., from the lower camp.

The expedition to the Caucasus, which took place under the guidance of Herr W. R. Rickmers in 1903, is the subject of a series of papers by various members of the party. The journey from Kutais over the Laila to Suanetia is excellently described by Fräulein C. v. Ficker, and Herr Rickmers tells with his usual buoyancy and vigour how the first ascent of Shtavler was made and how the journey to Elbruz was cut short by the disappearance of all the provisions beneath the waters of the Nakra. During the last seventeen years the crags of Ushba have looked down on some stirring scenes—not always chronicled—but surely on nothing so dramatic as the events recorded in the succeeding chapters. Herr H. v. Ficker's paper relating the unsuccessful attack on the south peak of Ushba supplements the account already given to the Alpine Club by Herr Rickmers. The author describes the preliminary reconnaissance and discovery of the narrow couloir giving access to the lower ice slope, the long and desperate struggle with the formidable western rock-wall, the fall of the leader—Herr Schulze—and the perilous and exhausting task of lowering the unconscious comrade to the foot of the rocks.

The narrative is continued by Herr A. Schulze, the only member of the first party who shared in the final attack. Herr v. Ficker's hand had been disabled at the moment of the accident. This time the dangerous rock-face was safely climbed; some idea of its difficulty may be gained from the times given. The ascent from the Gul camp to the summit of the S. peak occupied seventeen hours, inclusive of halts, and of this period nearly eight hours

were spent on the western wall, estimated to be about 500 ft. in height. The author, who led the party, describes the steep pitch near the top of the precipice as the most difficult and hazardous place he had ever climbed.

As the summit was not gained till daylight was fading the descent had to be commenced directly, and after an alarming electrical disturbance had passed off the night was spent on the highest snow-slope, at a height of some 15,000 ft.

A fortnight later the adventurous traverse of both peaks of Ushba from N. to S. was accomplished, and Dr. G. Leuchs gives a most lucid and interesting account of this exploit. On the first day of the expedition the author, with Herren Distel and Pfann, ascended the Ushba Glacier (on the W. side of the mountain) to the foot of the great icefall, where the night was passed, and here the sleeping bags were left behind.

Next day a way was forced through the icefall to the shoulder of the N. peak, and after six or seven hours of rather risky ice-work on the steep N. ridge the second bivouac was made at about 15,000 ft., 2¼ hours below the summit.

In respect of distance covered the third day was a short one; the N. peak was crossed, but extraordinary and unexpected difficulty was encountered in traversing the saddle, above the S. end of which the third night had to be spent. Here Herr Leuchs had the serious misfortune to lose his rucksack, which fell on to the Ushba Glacier with most of his spare clothing and nearly all the remaining provisions; so that during the last forty-two hours of the climb the party were almost foodless.

On the fourth day the top of the S. peak was gained by a climb of four hours up rocks covered in many places with ice. The descent of the western rock-wall was facilitated by the ropes and loops left by Herr Schulze's party; the fourth bivouac was at the top of the narrow couloir above the Gul Glacier, and the village of Gul was reached at 1 P.M. on the fifth day.

This expedition must rank as one of the most remarkable displays of skill, determination, and endurance in mountaineering annals. Fortunately the weather remained favourable throughout; had the climbers been overtaken by really bad weather after leaving the N. peak their situation would have been serious in the extreme. It is noteworthy that the members of the party were led to the conclusion that the N. summit is the higher of the two peaks, this opinion being supported by aneroid readings.

From these exciting incidents in distant lands we turn to the more familiar scenes of the Alps. The following two chapters deal with a form of sport which the climate of these islands does not favour—i.e. winter expeditions on ski—Herren E. Schottelius and H. Hoek describing ascents respectively of the Strahlhorn and of the Blindenhorn. In the first mentioned expedition the ski were left below the Adler Pass.

Dr. Karl Blodig continues his attractive paper on the Saasgrat, and after recounting several ascents of the Mischabel peaks con-

cludes with the traverse in one day of the Nadelgrat from the Lenzjoch to the Dürrenhorn, his companion on this occasion being Mr. E. T. Compton, whose admirable sketches, as before, illustrate the article.

Mont Blanc is the subject of two papers, both describing guideless ascents made in 1903 from the Italian side under somewhat unfavourable conditions. In one case Herren Hacker and Pichl made a variation of the Dôme route; in the other Herren v. Radio-Radiis and Weber slept at the Col de Miage and traversed the Aiguille de Bionnassay. Both parties had to pass the night at the Cabane Vallot during the ascent.

The remaining six chapters, collectively occupying nearly half the volume, are devoted to monographs on various mountain groups in the Eastern Alps, the authors maintaining in almost every instance that these particular districts are undeservedly neglected by mountaineers. This section of the book is illustrated by many excellent full-page reproductions of photographs by Herren Benesch, Kleintjes, Mayr, and others.

Dr. F. v. Cube contributes the first part of a treatise on the topography and mountaineering history of the Hornbach range, in the Algäu Alps, and Herr H. Leberle begins a similar article on the Wetterstein group, much frequented as to its highest peak, the Zugspitze, but, comparatively speaking, forsaken elsewhere. This chapter closes with a good account of an eventful ascent of the Wetterwand in 1903.

Dr. F. Hörtnagl's paper takes us S. of the Inn valley to a much higher range, the Kaunergrat, in the N. of the Oetzthal Alps, while Herr M. H. Mayr sings the praises of the seldom visited Pfunderer peaks, in the S. of the Zillerthal Alps.

Another neglected district—this time in the Dolomites—finds its champion in Dr. V. W. v. Glanvell, who describes a number of first ascents in the Fanis-Tofana group. The summits mentioned as having been strangely disregarded by climbers lie to the W. and N. of the Tofana massif; they offer the attractions of interesting rock-climbing problems, and are accessible without great difficulty from Peutelstein or Falzarego.

The series concludes with a supplementary chapter to Dr. K. Bindel's monograph of 1899–1900 on the Sella group, bringing the climbing records and other information up to date. An excellent large-scale map of the Langkofel and Sella groups accompanies the volume.

The Alps. By W. Martin Conway. Painted by A. D. McCormick. London: A. and C. Black. 1904.

This, as might naturally have been expected, is a delightful book. On the one hand, it does not endeavour to describe the indescribable. 'The great revelations of nature's majesty are indescribable. Who that had never seen a thunderstorm could learn its majestic quality from description?' On the other hand, it is no mere question of *εἴπω τι τῶν εἰωθότων*; the book has been written and the

illustrations painted by two of those who know, 'to remind those who know; to suggest further visions of a like character to those they possess within themselves.'

The book is divided into twelve chapters, of which Chapter V., entitled, 'The Moods of the Mountains,' perhaps appeals to us most. From it we extract the following account of climbers in a storm. It will awaken vivid memories in most of us:—

'This final onrush is often a most magnificent and solemn sight. The gathering squadrons of the sky grow dark, and seem to hold the just departed night in their bosoms. Their crests impend. They assume terrific shapes. They acquire an aspect of solidity. They do not so much seem to blot out as to destroy the mountains. Their motion suggests a great momentum. At first, too, they act in almost perfect silence. There is little movement in the oppressively warm air, and yet the clouds boil and surge as though violently agitated. They join together, neighbour to neighbour, and every moment they grow more dense and climb higher. To left and right one sees them, behind also and before. The moments now are precious. We take a last view of our surroundings, note the direction we should follow, and try to fix details in our memories, for sight will soon be impossible. Then the clouds themselves are upon us—a puff of mist first, followed by the dense fog. A crepitating sound arises around us; it is the pattering of hard particles of snow on the ground. Presently the flakes grow bigger and fall more softly, feeling clammy on the face. And now, probably, the wind rises and the temperature is lowered. Each member of our party is whitened over; icicles form on hair and moustache, and the very aspect of men is changed to match the wild surroundings. Under such circumstances the high regions of snow are more impressive than under any other, but climbers must be well-nourished, in good hard condition, and not too fatigued, or they will not appreciate the scene. No one can really know the high Alps who has not been out in a storm at some great elevation. The experience may not be—in fact is not—physically pleasant, but it is morally stimulating in a high degree, and æsthetically grand. Now must a climber call up all his reserves of pluck and determination. He may have literally to fight his way down to a place of shelter. There can be no rest, neither can there be any undue haste. The right way must be found and followed. All that can be seen is close at hand, and that small circle must serve for guidance. All must keep moving on with grim persistence, hour after hour. Stimulants are unavailing, and food is probably inaccessible. All depends upon reserve stores of health and vigour, and upon moral courage. To give in is treason. Each determines that he, for his part, will not fail his companions. Mutual reliance must be preserved.

'At first the disagreeable details are most keenly felt by contrast, but, when an hour has passed and the conflict is well entered upon, they are forgotten. We become accustomed to our surroundings and can, if we will, observe them with a deliberate interest. How the winds tear the mists about! There is no constant blast of air,

but a series of eddying rushes, which come and pass like the units of an army. Each seems to possess an individuality of its own. Each makes its attack and is gone. One smites you in the face; another in the back. Some seem not devoid of humour; they sport with the traveller in a grim way. Others are filled with rage. Others come on as it were reluctantly. . . . Unpleasant is it? Well, perhaps! but it is good to have had such experiences. They develope a man's confidence, employ his powers, and enrich his memory.'*

From Chapter XI., entitled 'The Human Interest,' we take the following:—

'Some part of the popularity of the ascent of Mont Blanc from Chamonix is due to the fact that the mountain is the highest in the Alps; part is due to the fascinating beauty of the ice and snow scenery passed through; but far the highest attraction is the long and interesting history of the climb. No one, I suppose, ascends Mont Blanc without a thought of Balmat and De Saussure, and at least some dim consciousness of the number of early climbers who mounted by the way he takes, and felt all the strange emotions and high excitements they so naïvely recorded. What would the Tödi be if robbed of the memory of Placidus à Spescha? Even a Mont Ventoux can attain dignity and importance by association with so great a man as Petrarch.' †

The last chapter is devoted to volcanoes which we hardly expected to meet with in this book; because, as the author remarks, 'there does not exist a single volcano in the Alps nor, so far as I am aware, even the ruins of one. To the mountain-lover, however, in the broad sense—and it is for such I am writing—volcanoes are as interesting as any other definite type of peak, and I therefore propose to devote this chapter to a consideration of them from the picturesque and climbing point of view.' ‡ We venture to think that most readers will be grateful to Sir Martin Conway for this chapter.

Among the passages that we noted for remark we find, 'We quit the valleys for the high snows in search of beauty. From the heights we return to the valleys on the same quest. Everywhere we may find it, and to find it is all we need ask; for it is like pure gold, whereof no fragment is intrinsically more precious than another.' § 'The green of the Alps is the true keynote of Swiss colour.' ‖ But space forbids us to do more than quote them.

We have noticed but one error, a misquotation on p. 126, last line, where 'reach out' has been substituted for 'puts forth.' And though this is not a work such as absolutely demands an index, yet if the author had supplied one he would have still further increased the gratitude which we feel towards him for this excellent book.

Grateful, too, all readers will be to Mr. McCormick for his

* Pp. 115–9. † P. 264.
‡ P. 274. § Pp. 226–7. ‖ P. 249.

delightful illustrations. We have left ourselves small space for comment upon them, but one or two we must mention. Our favourites are: No. 65, 'In the Val d'Aosta,' which recalls to us many an afternoon halt in that paradise of Italian softness and exuberant fruitfulness; No. 80, 'The Aletschhorn, with clouds gathering at sunset'; No. 42, 'The Breithorn from Schwarz See'; and No. 26, 'The Madonna del Sasso, Locarno.'

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall on Tuesday evening, February 7, at 7.30, the Bishop of Bristol, *President*, in the chair.

Messrs. T. T. Jefferey, L. H. T. Martin, A. E. Russell, and E. H. Stevens were balloted for and elected members of the Club.

The PRESIDENT stated that news had been received of the death of Dr. Edouard Richter, an honorary member of the Club, the author of 'Die Gletscher der Ost-Alpen' and editor of 'Die Erschliessung der Ost-Alpen.' He also informed the Club that Mr. Weston had presented to the Club a very beautiful and valuable Japanese Kakemono, by Kanō Hōgen, a leading artist of the Kano School, which was found and acquired by him at a monastery in the mountains of Japan. With reference to the Winter Dinner, he proposed, on behalf of the Committee, the resolution of which notice had been given in the circular, 'that it is desirable that a committee be appointed to consider the possibility of holding the next Winter Dinner in a larger room.' He said that the value of the Dinner with many members depended a good deal on their being able to bring a guest. A large number of members were already prevented from doing so; the figures which would be mentioned by the Hon. Secretary showed that it would be necessary to reduce the number of guest tickets to be balloted for still further next year if no change was made. Moreover it was necessary to bear in mind that the jubilee of the Club was approaching, when an unusually large attendance at the Dinner might be anticipated, and it would be well to face the difficulty before that occasion arrived. The Committee, therefore, desired to have an expression of opinion from the Club as to whether the question of holding the Dinner in a larger room should be considered. It was proposed to appoint a small sub-committee, consisting partly of members not now serving on the General Committee, to inquire into the matter.

The HON. SECRETARY went into the figures of the numbers dining for some years past. He said that the decisive factor was the number of members who dined, and that this showed a steady tendency to increase; during the five years preceding the introduction of the ballot it had remained nearly stationary, between 160 and 170, only rising above 170 in the last year, but in 1902 and 1903 it had risen to above 180, and last year had advanced to 205. The consequence was that it had been necessary for a good many