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 10½ × 7½ : pp. 363 : maps, plates. Berlin, Borntraeger, 1912

Among the articles are the following :—

- October. K. Oestreich, Der Tschochogletscher in Baltistan.  
 December. O. D. v. Engeln, Glacier drainage and wastage.  
 May. J. Y. Buchanan, Einwirkung d. Strahlung auf das Gletschereis.  
 April. R. S. Tarr, Properties of ice : experimental studies.

#### *Older Books.*

- Ball, John.** Observations on the structure of glaciers. In *Phil. Mag.* vol. 14, no. 96. December, 1857  
 9 × 5½ : pp. 481–504.
- Remarks on the veined structure of glaciers. In *Phil. Mag.*  
 9 × 5½ : pp. 6. April, 1859
- [Budworth, Joseph.]** A fortnight's ramble to the Lakes in Westmoreland, Lancashire, and Cumberland. By a Rambler. The second edition.  
 8½ × 5½ : pp. xxxii, 292 : 1 plate. London, Nichols, 1795
- Mahtab, B. C.** Impressions. The diary of a European tour.  
 8½ × 5½ : pp. xiv, 273 : portrait. London, St. Catherine's Press (1908)
- Moseley, Canon Henry.** On the veined structure of the ice of glaciers.  
 In *Phil. Mag.* London, vol. 39, no. 261. April, 1870  
 9 × 5½ : pp. 241–245 : plate.
- Smith, Albert.** The Mont Blanc room at the Egyptian Hall. Presented, by Mr. Albert Smith, to the ladies in the gallery, on the occasion of the 1856th representation of 'Mont Blanc,' March 1, 1858.  
 13½ × 9½ : lithograph.
- Switzerland.** Letters from Switzerland and France ; written during a residence of between two and three years in different parts of those countries.  
 9 × 5½ : pp. 104 : 3 plates. Boston : printed for Wells and Lilly, 1819  
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 Vol. 6, no. 3 of *Voyages and travels.*
- Thomson, James.** On the plasticity of ice as manifested in glaciers. In *Phil. Mag.* vol. 14, no. 96. December, 1857  
 9 × 5½ : pp. 548–550.
- Whymper, Edward.** A new playground in the new world. In *Scribner's Mag.* vol. 33, no. 6. June, 1903  
 9½ × 6½ : pp. 633–660 : ill.

## ALPINE ACCIDENTS IN 1912.

ON August 1 **Herr Möllmann** of Hamburg, aged twenty-seven, made the traverse of **Piz Bernina** with the guide **Franz Fux** of St. Niklaus and his cousin **Severin Fux**. Owing to snow and fog during the last three hours the party only reached the summit at 7 P.M. They attempted the descent through the Labyrinth, but were compelled by a heavy snow-storm to bivouac at a height of about 2500 metres. They continued their journey next morning at six, but Herr Möllmann was too exhausted to proceed far and unfortunately died of exposure at eleven.

On August 12 **Herr Franz Obexer**, President of the Akad. A.C. Zürich, was killed on the **Pfäferscher Tribulaun**. He and a fellow-student named Leitner had reached the chimney close to the top, in which is a fixed rope, but wishing apparently to make a new route they followed a ledge further E. until they gained the foot of a sharp arête leading direct to the summit.

Obexer had climbed the arête for about half a rope's length when he drew in the rope, apparently with the intention of descending by means of a doubled rope. Either the rope slipped off the belay or else he let go, for suddenly Leitner saw the body of his unfortunate comrade flying through the air until it disappeared down the overhanging precipice.

The weather was misty and very cold and the following day snow set in and lasted several days.

The body fell into the enormous gully which stretches down from the gap between the main and E. peaks some 1000 metres to the screes at the foot of the precipices of the S. face. This gully is so very dangerous from continued stone-falls that up to the present attempts to recover the body have had to be abandoned owing to the great risk.

The powers and experience of the unfortunate climber were not such, especially under bad conditions, as to allow him with safety to make experiments.

About August 15 **Herren Karl Tobler** and **Louis Ischer**, both of Berne, were killed on the **Blümlisalp**, apparently by the breaking of a cornice on the arête. Their bodies were found on the 20th, high up on the snow plateau half-way up the S. precipices (cf. illustration 'A.J.' xxv. p. 170). The skulls were badly fractured in both cases.

On August 17, two Turin tourists, **Si. Federico Bravo** and **G. Cornaglia**, undertook the ascent of the **Punta d'Arnas** from the Rifugio Gastaldi with the guide **Domenico Castagneri**. About 30 metres under the summit they started to cross a steep snow couloir. The snow gave way under the feet of the leader, Castagneri, and the party were carried down about 400 metres. Bravo came to himself and went down for help, but the rescuers found the two others dead.

On August 21 the well-known Ortler guide **Josef Angerer** of Gomagoi was killed by falling into a crevasse on the **Ortler plateau**.

Three Dresden climbers started on August 20 to ascend the Ortler by the Marltgrat. Owing to extremely unfavourable conditions and a violent snow-storm they were compelled to bivouac. They continued the ascent next morning. This was observed from Sulden and it was decided to despatch two guides with provisions to their encounter. The climbers were already on the lower part of the Ortler plateau, where they met the guides, who were not roped.

They all descended together, the three tourists continuing roped while the two guides went ahead unroped. Suddenly Angerer broke through into an enormous crevasse. One of the tourists who was walking alongside was only saved by being roped. The other guide and one tourist immediately hurried to the Payer hut to fetch help, but although a guide, Jakob Thöny, was let down 80 metres into the crevasse no trace of the unfortunate man could be found and the body was not recovered till several days later.

On August 27 **J. Dengg, junr.**, aged eighteen, son of the well-known guide Dengg of Partenkirchen, crossed with a companion the Zundergrat (Wettersteingebirge). Towards evening thick weather came on, and they lost themselves on the **Grosser Hundstallskopf**, and were forced to bivouac. Next day they attempted to descend the ridge covered with fresh snow, but at 3 P.M. young Dengg was unable to go any further. His companion went for help but the elder Dengg only arrived to find his son unconscious, and very soon afterwards the young man expired.

Many other accidents are reported, but where the details are not known or where they offer no mountaineering interest or instruction they are not here repeated.

#### THE ACCIDENT ON THE MONT ROUGE DE PÉTÉRÉT.

**DR. PAUL PREUSS**, the sole survivor of the party, has been good enough to furnish the following account of the sad disaster on the Mont Rouge de Pétérét in which Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Jones and the guide Julius Truffer lost their lives.

‘So many fantastic and incorrect accounts of this accident have appeared in the ordinary newspapers, and in some cases also in Alpine papers, that I feel impelled, in answer to a request from the editor, to give a detailed account of the accident and a criticism of its causes, painful though it is to me to revive these mournful memories.

‘H. O. Jones, his young wife (they had been married but a fortnight), and his guide J. Truffer, together with G. W. Young and his guide J. Knubel, went to the Gamba hut at the foot of the Innominata, to stay there for several days. On August 11 the party (Mrs. Jones excepted) made the first ascent of the N. peak of the Dames Anglaises. On August 12 I came to the hut alone. The weather was then unfavourable, and Young and Knubel went down to Courmayeur on August 13. On August 15, the first fine day, it was decided, as fresh snow had fallen down to the 3000-metre level, to ascend the Mont Rouge de Pétérét by the N. ridge. This peak is a minor summit of the Pétérét ridge and has a height of 2951 metres; there was no snow on it. It had not yet been ascended from this side, but no particular difficulties were expected.

‘Jones, his wife, and Truffer put on the rope as soon as they reached the Fresnoy Glacier. The actual climbing did not begin until

the depression between the Mont Rouge and the Aiguille Noire was reached. Jones asked me to go ahead by myself, to reconnoitre the best route. The rocks are rather complicated. His object was to save his wife any unnecessary work; she was rather untrained. It did not seem probable that any serious difficulties would be encountered. The guide led and Mrs. Jones went next. Jones went last on the rope, so as to help his wife from below; he carried the slack of the rope (about 15 metres) which connected him with his wife loosely coiled around his arm. Unfortunately he rejected my advice, that his wife, being the weakest member of the party, should go last; he referred to the possibility of having to do traverses. The climbing is approximately of the same order of difficulty as the Daumenschartenweg on the Fünffingerspitze. The roped party progressed very slowly, so that I was able to cover much ground and reconnoitre it thoroughly. At first we kept substantially to the crest of the ridge; then, in order to avoid an obstacle, we went out a little on the Fresnay side. I was on easy ground, about 6 metres above the guide, when the latter was just about to leave a short chimney, by going to the left. Mrs. Jones was about 2 metres below, at the bottom of the chimney, in a good position (about 15 metres of loose rope lying on the ground in between). Jones was immediately below his wife. A handhold, about the size of half a brick, came away when the guide (who hitherto, as far as I could observe, had climbed quite carefully) trusted his weight to it; he fell over backwards, and the others were carried away. No sound was uttered. All three fell down the wall (which overhangs below) and on to the Fresnay glacier, which is about 300 metres below. The catching of the rope, hanging, and similar nonsense, which appeared in some newspapers, did not occur. The next day we brought the bodies down to Courmayeur without particular difficulty.

'The breaking out of a handhold was the primary cause of the accident, a subsidiary cause being perhaps the defective technique of not distributing one's weight properly, and of trusting one's whole weight to a single hold. Still I feel inclined to consider the fall of the leader, caused by a mishap, as an unfortunate accident which might perhaps happen to anybody. But I consider the real reason why this accident resulted in a catastrophe involving the death of three victims to be the wrong order of roping, which reduced the possibilities of the rope as a safeguard. The general principles relating to the use of the rope, in my opinion, include among others the following: the weakest member of a party of three climbing up rocks should go last; the length of the rope between him and the second should be smaller than that between the latter and the leader, so that the weakest can be placed in the middle in cases of traverses, without any need for altering all the tying; no roped member of such a party should be allowed to climb below the weakest member.'

## THE ACCIDENT ON THE ALETSCHHORN.

## DEATH OF DR. ANDREAS FISCHER.

AT 4 A.M. on July 20, Dr. Andreas Fischer, Dr. Ernst Jenny and the guide Ulrich Almer left the Concordia Hut to ascend the Aletschhorn by the rib of rocks leading to the Aletschjoch. On the Col the party was surprised by thick mist. The summit was, however, gained in safety. The descent was commenced by the S. side to the Aletsch Hut. The wind, however, soon became a hurricane, and masses of driving snow made progress almost impossible. Several couloirs had to be crossed, which became a matter of great danger, as steps were no sooner made than they were filled with masses of snow. The violence of the storm increased to such an extent that the party decided to regain the summit and to attempt the descent by the Mittel Aletsch Glacier, which route is under ordinary conditions little more than a walk, and which they expected would be more sheltered. With great exertion they regained the summit, but on the descent got too much to the right into crevassed country, and were forced to remount to the Aletschjoch. The storm now increased to such a degree that they gave up any idea of forcing the descent lest their strength should give out entirely. They dug a shoulder-deep hole in the snow on the S.E. side of the Aletschjoch to get, if possible, some shelter. The hurricane of snow, accompanied by thunder and lightning, however, never relaxed for an instant, so that they were soon buried up to their heads. All that night the storm raged to such a frightful degree that it looked as though they must be buried in the snow. The moment it was light they made a fresh attempt to descend by the steep N.E. slopes of the Mittel Aletsch Glacier—sinking up to their waists in snow. Dr. Fischer suddenly collapsed and fell out of his steps down the slope. He was held up by the rope, but it was nearly half an hour before he could be rescued from his perilous position, and he expired almost immediately afterwards. The autopsy showed that his neck was broken.

The other two struggled downwards, but only gained the junction of the Mittel Aletsch with the Gross Aletsch Glacier at nightfall. Almer had been compelled to discard his spectacles owing to the mist, and his eyes were so affected that he considered it unsafe to attempt to cross the Glacier, and remained where he was, only reaching the Belalp Hotel at 9.30 A.M. on the 22nd. Dr. Jenny, however, reached the Rieder Furka Hotel at 11 P.M. the same night (21st). Dr. Jenny suffered from frostbite of the right hand and face, but was able to leave the hotel on the 25th. Two days' careful treatment in a dark room restored Ulrich Almer to his normal health. Dr. Fischer's body was finally recovered by a search-party of guides.

Thus died on the mountains he loved so well a very remarkable man. Son of the guide Johann Fischer, who, in 1874, was killed on the Brouillard Glacier with Mr. Garth Marshall, Ulrich Almer alone escaping; brother of Johann Fischer who, again with our own people, Donkin and Fox, was killed in 1888 on Dych Tau, Andreas Fischer was born at Brienzwiler near Meiringen in 1865. Dr. Coolidge has kindly informed me that Fischer obtained his Führer Patent on June 23, 1891, but already in 1889 the young man accompanied the late Mr. C. T. Dent and Mr. Freshfield to the Caucasus, and he was one of the search party who found the last bivouac of the unfortunate party of the previous year. The history of the search expedition has been well written by the late Mr. C. T. Dent in 'A.J.' xv., 26-39.

Fischer, however, was not content to rely on the precarious profession of a guide. He acquired successively his certificates of master of primary and secondary schools, and in the latter capacity was for some years stationed at Grindelwald. By dint of very hard work and much self-denial he was able in 1899 to take his doctor of philosophy degree of the University of Berne. For some years he had been, up to the time of his death, teacher of languages at the Upper 'Realschule' in Bâle. He wrote English practically like an Englishman, and spoke it exceedingly well. But his greatest delight was to get away to the mountains. His interest in them never flagged, and scarcely a season passed but he spent most of his hard-earned holiday among them—usually accompanied by one of the Almers.

Little more need be said about the accident. They battled like men but the mountain won.

[From published reports supplemented by private information kindly supplied by Canon Sloman and others.] J. P. F.

### THE ACCIDENT ON THE PIC DU MIDI D'OSSAU.

HUGH ROSE POPE, of Eton and New College, was killed on October 7 while ascending a couloir on to the north ridge of the Pic du Midi d'Ossau, above Pau. His body was recovered on October 16 by a party of friends and Swiss guides. A man of fine intellectual promise, of great charm of character and manner, and an all-round athlete—he represented Oxford at lawn tennis this season—his interest centred in mountaineering, and he was a leader in a remarkable group of Eton and Oxford friends whose association lately produced the 'Oxford Mountaineering Essays.' Endowed with phenomenal height, strength, and reach, his style in climbing was practically perfect in its grace, security, and finish. Those who had an opportunity of judging considered him the greatest rock-climber of his time, and he showed promise of being an unrivalled

mountaineer. One of the best of Swiss guides said of him 'Mr. Pope could not fall on difficult rock or ice,' and his ascent, with two friends, of the Dent Blanche by a new ridge from the W., this season, must take rank with the few great guideless first ascents made in the Alps. Only an unaccountable combination of circumstances could have caused his fall on a passage where, with a companion of anything like equal skill and caution, no rope would have been used. He knew the risk and the charm of solitary wandering, and wrote of it with singular felicity. In the case of few men could the dangerous practice be considered less blameworthy. The presence of a friend as witness of the unexplained accident that brought about his death could only have hastened by a few days the gathering of friends and contemporaries who brought him to rest at Orthez, within sight of the mountains. Mountaineering has lost by his premature death the man most signally qualified by an ideal combination of qualities to carry on and exalt its highest traditions in the coming years.

G. W. Y.

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## NEW EXPEDITIONS IN 1911 AND 1912.

### *Graian Alps.*

PUNTA FENILIA (3054 m. = 10,020 ft.).—August 10, 1912. Mr. G. Yeld with Benjamin and Augustin Pession of Val Tournanche ascended this peak from the Valnontey by the Grangetta glen in 5 hours from Cogné. The ascent is steep but not difficult. The view of the Cogné basin from the summit is very fine. The party did not ascend wholly by the W. arête which is so conspicuous from the Cogné meadows, though they climbed portions of it. The N.W. face consists mainly of great slabs. They descended on the Valeille side and kept to the E. of the P. di Vigiusa of the new map, and then turning W. eventually struck a path above Silvenoire. Cogné was reached in 3 hrs. 25 mins., halts included.

PUNTA NERA (of the Eaux Rouges Valley) (3064 m. = 10,053 ft.).—August 12, 1912. The same party climbed this peak, which is very conspicuous from the road between Cretaz and Cogné, in about 4 hrs. 30 mins. from the Chavanis pastures by a rather roundabout route. There are four very conspicuous gendarmes on the W. side of the peak which make a brave show from Cogné. The most westerly of these (which seemed to the party to be the highest, though the new map gives that pre-eminence to one of the others)