

was somewhat avalanchy on the southern slopes, but in good order on those facing northwards. I was fortunate in striking the most brilliant day of the few really fine ones met with during the month when I was in the mountains.

Time of actual going, 10 hrs. 52 min.; halts, 2 hrs. 33 min.; total, 13 hrs. 25 min.

The expedition is an interesting one and affords magnificent views.

OLIVER K. WILLIAMSON.

### *Bregaglia Group.*

MONTE ZOCCA (3179 m. = 10,430 ft., *S. map*; 3190 m., *I. map*; 3174 m., *Lurani*).—By the entire S.W. arête, attained from the N. June 16, 1913, Captain E. L. Strutt with Josef Pollinger, of St. Niklaus. Left Albigna Club hut at 4.30 A.M., up Albigna glacier to bergschrund at base of frontier ridge, between Monte Zocca and Pizzo di Zocca [*'Climbers' Guide'* = point 3081 m., *I. map*], i.e. at N. foot of *'Bocchetto di Zocca'* (*Guida*, c. 3050 m.), 6.30 A.M. Left 6.40, straight up easy snow couloir to Bocchetto, attained 7.10—first ascent from N. Thence by easy E. arête to Pizzo di Zocca, 3081 m., attained 7.20—first ascent by this route. Left 7.21, by same route back to Bocchetto, thence N.E. by S.W. arête of Monte Zocca, big tooth turned by a descent and traverse to the S. over steep and very insecure rocks [far better climb straight over tooth, as did the first and only previous party, *'A.J.'* xxv. 458]; crest regained at a marked depression; over crest to W. and lower top. Down steep snow to deep gap where ordinary route from N. falls in, then up and over easy S.W. arête to the summit, 8.35 A.M. Descent by ordinary N. route, down upper Albigna glacier, then up over N. Cacciabella pass to Val Bondasca and so to Promontogno. Weather and conditions perfect.

## ALPINE NOTES.

*'BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE.'* VOL. I. *'THE WESTERN ALPS.'*—Copies of the new edition (1898) of this work, price 12s. net, can be obtained from all booksellers, or from Messrs. Stanford, 12 Long Acre, W.C.

*'BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE,' THE CENTRAL ALPS. PART I.*—A new edition (1907) of this portion of *'The Alpine Guide,'* by the late John Ball, F.R.S., President of the Alpine Club, reconstructed and revised on behalf of the Alpine Club under the general editorship of A. V. Valentine-Richards, Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge, is now

ready, and can be obtained from all booksellers, or from Messrs. Stanford, 12 Long Acre, W.C. It includes those portions of Switzerland to the N. of the Rhône and Rhine valleys. Price 6s. 6d.

• 'BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE,' THE CENTRAL ALPS. PART II.—A new edition (1911) of this portion of 'The Alpine Guide,' by the late John Ball, F.R.S., President of the Alpine Club, reconstructed and revised on behalf of the Alpine Club under the general editorship of the Rev. George Broke, is now ready, and can be obtained from all booksellers, or from Messrs. Stanford, 12 Long Acre, W.C. It includes 'those Alpine portions of Switzerland, Italy, and Austria, which lie S. and E. of the Rhône and Rhine, S. of the Arlberg, and W. of the Adige.' Price 7s. 6d.

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY.—East, Sir Alfred (1899).

'SPORT IN ART.'—This book, by Mr. W. A. Baillie-Grohman, consists of pp. xxiii, 421 and contains 243 plates. The account on page 353 of the August 'A.J.' gives the number of pages wrongly and omits the number of illustrations.

DR. DE FILIPPI'S EXPEDITION TO THE KARAKORAM.—Dr. de Filippi's expedition to the Western Himalaya and Karakoram left for India in July.

The following are the members: Dr. F. de Filippi, organizer and responsible leader; Commander A. Alessio, second in command, in charge of the geodetic-astronomical work and of pendulum and magnetic observations; Signor G. Abetti undertakes astrophysical researches; Signori O. Marinelli and G. Dainelli undertake the geological survey of the districts traversed; Signor A. Amerio undertakes observations in solar radiation and atmospheric electricity; Marchese N. Venturi Ginori assists in the above researches and will undertake studies in photometry, and with Professor Amerio will also take charge of the meteorological station; Lieutenant C. Antilli takes charge of the photographic and telephotographical work; Mr. J. A. Spranger, B.A., Trinity College, Cambridge, acts as assistant topographer.

An officer of the India Trigonometrical Survey is to accompany the expedition and take part in the survey work, and Joseph Petigax, the well-known Alpine guide of Courmayeur, who accompanied the Duke of the Abruzzi in all his enterprises, is also of the party.

The Italian Government is providing the necessary scientific apparatus. Besides a handsome subsidy and the loan of a survey officer, the Indian Government has promised special Customs privileges for the scientific equipment and is giving the expedition all its support.

The list of subscribers includes the King of Italy, £400; the

Government of India, £1000; the Royal Society, £25; the Royal Geographical Society, £100; Mr. A. FitzGerald and Major E. FitzGerald, each £1000; Sir Hugh Bell, £100; Dr. F. de Filippi, £2000; Comandante L. de Filippi, £200; Commander R. W. Spranger, £1600; and various members of the Venturi Ginori family, £600.

**SIGNOR MARIO PIACENZA'S EXPEDITION TO KASHMIR. FIRST ASCENT OF NUN KUN (HIGHER SUMMIT).**—The 'Stampa' publishes the news received from Kargil, Kashmir, that Signor Piacenza, who is accompanied by Joseph Gaspard of Val Tournanche and other guides, has succeeded in gaining the hitherto unclimbed summit of Nun Kun, the height of which is stated to be 7200 m. = 23,616 ft.

During six days the party bivouacked at a height of 6500 m. = 21,320 ft.

The ascent is described as of great difficulty, and the party planted a small Italian flag on the summit.

Dr. Collie has kindly furnished the following information as to the previous history of the mountain:

'The Nun Kun peaks (there are two of them, 23,447 ft. and 23,264 ft.) lie E. of Kashmir.

'(1) Bruce was the first mountaineer to visit them, in 1898, when he made some minor ascents and passes with his Gurkhas to about 19,000 ft.

'(2) Dr. Arthur Neve went there several times, made also some ascents to about 19,000 ft. and also crossed some passes. Dr. Neve has done more work in this district than anyone else.

'(3) The Workmans went there in 1906, and Mrs. Workman climbed the lower of the two peaks, 23,264 ft.

'(4) Signor Piacenza seems to have climbed the higher of the two peaks, 23,447 ft.

'Besides what there is in the "ALPINE JOURNAL," there are also several letters and, I think, papers in the "Geographical Journal" by Neve and the Workmans.'

The following are the later references to Nun Kun in the 'ALPINE JOURNAL':—

'A.J.' xxii. 348–352, 'Nun Kun Revisited,' by Dr. Arthur Neve (with an illustration).

'A.J.' xxiii. 334–336. A note on Mrs. Bullock Workman's and Dr. Hunter Workman's exploration of the massif and the first ascent of the lower peak by the former.

'A.J.' xxvi. 409. A reference by Dr. Arthur Neve.

Dr. Arthur Neve's recently published book 'Thirty Years in Kashmir' (Edward Arnold, 1913. 12s. 6d.) contains two chapters: 'A First Exploration of Nun Kun' and 'Nun Kun Revisited.'

Further details will be looked for with much interest.

**TWO NEW CHALETs IN THE MONT BLANC DISTRICT.**—Last August Mr. Tyndale and I found out two chalets of which climbers may be glad to know. Both had been recently opened. One is at Pré de Bar, and is kept by Alexis Proment, who speaks Scotch fluently and takes in the 'Glasgow Weekly Herald.' Good beds, good milk, real ham and eggs, and a very warm welcome may be obtained there at a very moderate price.

The other is the Chalet du Miage, about half a mile nearer Courmayeur than the Cantine de la Visaille. There also we experienced excellent treatment. It is kept by the wife of the guide Napoléon Berthod. We happened to meet the latter three or four times in different parts of the Mont Blanc range. We have not seen him at work on a mountain, but his experience of the whole district, his extremely pleasant and obliging manners, and his good knowledge of English, justify us in bringing his name to the notice of the climbing public.

R. L. G. IRVING.

**THE MONT D'OR TUNNEL.**—This, the ninth important tunnel in Europe, has now been pierced through the Jura. It is about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles long, and will shorten the distance between Paris and Milan via the Simplon by about 10 miles.

The present line runs from Frasné to Pontarlier, and thence to Vallorbe, thus describing a very circuitous route, which, moreover, is greatly impeded in winter by snowstorms. The new line runs direct, almost as the crow flies, from Frasné to Vallorbe, which will, after the opening, become an important frontier station, and will, in fact, take the place of Pontarlier.

The Mont d'Or tunnel and the Frasné-Vallorbe line, of which it forms a part, have a total length of 15 miles 4 furlongs. It is being built by the P.L.M. Company, and will cost about £1,500,000. It was commenced in 1910, and ought to have been completed by now.

The reason for the delay has been the constant interruptions in the work, due principally to waterbursts. Again and again, during blasting, water has been tapped, and on at least one occasion a dam had to be constructed in the tunnel, and the water afterwards diverted.

On another occasion running mud was struck, and for some days work had to be stopped. For its size, indeed, no tunnel perhaps has given more trouble than the Mont d'Or.

**THE TUCKETTHÜTTE.**—In the admirable 'In Memoriam' of Mr. Tuckett in the last number of the 'ALPINE JOURNAL' (page 346) the writer says: 'His name has been affixed by the local authorities to a peak in the Orteler Group, and a pass among the Brenta Dolomites.' I beg to call your attention to the fact

that a hut as well bears Mr. Tuckett's name, viz. the Tucketthütte near the Brenta Glacier, about one hour below the Tuckettpass, and belonging to the Section Berlin, D.Oe 4.V.

OTTO LECHER, A.C.

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*We regret that, owing to pressure upon our space, several Reviews have had to be held over.*—EDITOR, 'A.J.'