

his valuable assistance at all times in the general activities of the Club. The Club numbers 365 members, including a considerable number of ladies, and about 70 members have served or are serving in H.M. Forces in the various theatres of the War. The Club supports a section in the Citizens' Training Association, and does its share of garrison duty in the Cape Peninsula. The Club hut on Table Mountain was used by a large number of visitors.

SERIOUS LANDSLIDES AT CHAMPÉRY took place in December last. The ground was sodden from continual rain for months, and did not freeze. Then came three feet of snow, followed by three days' warm rain. This was too much for the slopes to stand. A big slide started high above the railway station, carried away half of a chalet and landed in the Buffet de la Gare, the children having to be taken out of the second-storey window. The worst seemed over when another big slide commenced pouring down between Defago's new hotel and the blacksmith's. At first the damage was not great, but it continued to rain all night, and the slide uncovered some underground springs. Next morning down came the rest of the slope—rocks, trees, and all with a fearful noise. The mud poured right through Defago's hotel—only finished three days before—even up to the second storey. The damage is estimated at 20,000 francs. Much regret will be felt for the inhabitants, already hard hit by the War.

THE 'ALPINE JOURNAL.'—A set in original cloth, Vols. I. to XXVIII., fetched at auction in April, £17.

## REVIEWS.

*Jahrbuch des Schweizer Alpenclub*, vol. L, 1914 and 1915. Edited by Dr. H. Dübi.

AFTER an interval of two years this new volume is very welcome. It is well got up in every respect, while some of the illustrations by a process called incavo-gravure, of the firm of Brunner & Co. of Zurich, are among the very best things of the kind I have seen. Dr. Dübi is to be congratulated on the production of a superb volume. The advantage of an annual volume over our quarterly journal is a certain convenient uniformity of contents, so that one always knows where to look for a particular kind of article.

The mountaineering articles include :

Dr. Täuber's account of a journey in the Alps of Northern Albania in April 1914, starting from Cetinje and visiting places that have become since familiar, such as Prisen and Uskub.

A very instructive and charmingly written article by Dr. Hans König on the Albigna group, which my friends Strutt or Claud Wilson are better qualified to review than I am.

In 1915 Dr. König's original plan, modified by the frontier guard, was to send two porters with eight days' provender from Maloja

to the Albigna hut while he and his friends went to the Cavloccio Lake and spent the night in the Piancanino huts, crossing next day the Cima del Largo and the Bacone to the Albigna hut. This seems to be a good approach to the group. They were however forced to descend to below Casaccia, whence they toiled up the rough footpath to the well-placed Albigna hut. The Cima del Largo and the Bacone were ascended, but an attempt on the Ago di Sciora failed. The journey finished with what must be a very instructive traverse along the arête Pizzo Scalino, Cima di Cantone and Cima del Castello.

With the article appears a sketch map on a scale of 1 : 50,000 of the Albigna group, embodying the different nomenclature and measurements, in which the assistance of my good friend Klucker is fully acknowledged. The illustrations to the article are superb.

Herr A. Specken tells a happy, well-illustrated tale of a visit to the Dolomites, with ascents of the three Drei Zinnen.

Two articles which deal particularly with well-known districts are Herr L. Meyer's 'On the North Side of the Dent Blanche and Weisshorn,' and 'Pictures in the Val d'Hérens,' by Dr. Oskar Frey, both superbly illustrated from photographs by the authors. Herr Meyer's article deals with what he calls the northern route from Arolla to Zermatt. He had in former years gained Zermatt by a *middle* route, viz. the Col de Bertol and the Col d'Hérens, and by a *central* route, viz. by the Col de Za-de-Zan to the Aosta hut in Valpelline, whence the Dent d'Hérens was ascended, and Zermatt eventually gained by the Château des Dames to Breuil and the Furggloch to Zermatt, a cross-country journey to be recommended to my young countrymen as a corrective to peak-hunting at Arolla or Zermatt.

His northern passage was made by ascending, from the Col de la Dent Blanche, the S. arête of the Grand Cornier. The view of the N. face of the Dent Blanche, as well as of its Viereselsgrat and its arête de Ferpècle seen in profile, is of course superb, while across the valley the great W. face of the Rothhorn and the Zinal face of the Weisshorn are a notable feature.

The descent was made by the Mountet route to Zinal, whence after a night at Combasana, kept in my time by one of the Theytaz, very friendly but rough quarters, the Col de Tracuit was crossed and the Bieshorn ascended. The descent was made at first by its E. arête, which however was quitted too soon by its S. flank, so that a re-ascent had to be made to the Biesjoch. The easy ascent of the Brunegghorn (the view from the summit is highly praised) from the Biesjoch followed, but instead of descending to St. Nicolas, a route unknown to the guide, J. M. Lager of Mörel, the party descended the Turtmann Glacier, exchanging the ice near Pt. 2641 for the rocks of the right bank, a broad scree-filled gully, hard to find, giving access to the glacier below the ice-fall. The right-hand moraine of the glacier tongue was first followed,

but the tongue then crossed in a N.W. direction to the left bank, and the good little inn at Gruben gained late at night.

Dr. Oskar Frey's article is mostly taken up with descriptions and pleasing illustrations of the valley proper of Evolena, of the Combe de Ferpècle, and of Arolla, whence he crossed the Cols de Bertol and d'Hérens to Zermatt. The interesting statement is made that the Arolla Glacier has gone back 200 yards in the period 1894-1910, and the suggestion is thrown out that, in the years of maximum advance, 1855 and especially 1820, to conclude from the old moraines, the tongues of the Arolla and Zigiorenove glaciers united 200 or 300 yards above the Hotel Mont Collon. A view of the Vuibez Glacier is given, which would doubtless offer some interesting ice-work.

Herr Hans Dübi, son of our honorary member Dr. Dübi, one of the engineers of the Swiss Topographical Survey, gives some particulars of his work. He commences with a very instructive notice of the work of the men who have brought mountain surveying to its present high state.

Commencing with Professor Tralles of Berne, who at the end of the eighteenth century, armed with an English theodolite, made ascents for this purpose, and may be said to be the originator of the Federal Survey, mention is made of the work of MM. Henry and Delcros, engineers sent by Napoleon, whose triangulation of 1806 brought in the Finsteraarhorn. They were followed by Trechsel and his assistant, J. J. Frey of Knonau, who made many ascents, Finsler, Sulzberger, Buchwalder and Eschmann, whose 'Results of the Trigonometrical Measurements in Switzerland,' published in 1840, formed the basis of the Dufour map. Particular mention is made of the well-known triangulation of the canton of Valais by Berchtold, the ecclesiastic of Sion. Irritated by the criticism of a religious work issued by him in 1822, he resolved to devote his spare time to the survey of his canton, and measured a base line near Sion.

I must refer the reader to Herr Dübi's paper for details of the remarkable work of the later Federal surveyors, and come to his own work on the Finsteraarhorn and the Dufourspitze.

His work on the former in 1913 was to erect the pole and stone-man on the summit. In 1914 a camp was pitched at the Déjeunerplatz and the triangulation completed in seven ascents to the summit. Interesting snapshots show the difficulties of transport, while a remarkable full-page view of the S.E. arête from the summit seems to show the *Vorgipfel* standing away from the main arête in a manner that I do not remember.

The triangulation from the Dufourspitze, undertaken in the same summer, gave more trouble. The summit was reached in bitter weather, but it was only after the carrier column had been reorganised that the instruments could be got to the top. Work for the year came to a sudden end by the case containing the telescope.

of the theodolite making a rapid descent to the Grenz glacier. In 1915 a camp was pitched in some Geröll near the *Satteldohle* at an altitude of 3750 m. and in three ascents in splendid weather the triangulation was completed. Towards the evening of one day the atmosphere was so clear that Milan and many towns and villages in the Po basin were clearly visible.

An article by Dr. A. Bähler on the French invasion of the Pays d'Enhaut in 1798 deserves careful study.

The article which will attract English readers is 'Recollections of Melchior Andereg,' by Dr. Dübi and M. Paul Montandon. Dr. Dübi's careful review, with its list of Melchior's ascents and of all the articles referring to him, will probably remain the most complete record of his career. Dr. Dübi mentions the attempt on the Z'Muttgrat in 1863, which does not seem to be quite authenticated, and it is generally understood that Melchior's first complete ascent of the Dent Blanche was in 1876—the previous attempts not having succeeded. Dr. Dübi states that Melchior once told him that Almer never ought to have given the signal to advance on reaching the summit of the Col de la Tour noire from the W., by which he committed his party to the terrible descent of its E. face.

M. Paul Montandon's contribution is a very valuable addition, and is concerned rather with a critical survey of Andereg's qualities and powers. He lays very properly great stress on Melchior's high sense of duty and conscientiousness, which, added to great powers as a guide and an attractive personality, gave him his unique position among mountaineers. A superb picture of Melchior in 1898 by Dr. Hans Brun completes the paper.

The most important article from the scientific point of view is by Professor Dr. Mercanton on 'Les variations périodiques des Glaciers des Alpes Suisses.' It covers the annual reports for 1914 and 1915. I shall not presume to give even a summary of this valuable paper, which deserves the closest study of anyone interested in glaciers and their ebb and flow. Generally speaking, there is since 1913 a tendency to advance or flow, and some glaciers like the Rhône and the Upper and Lower Grindelwald glaciers have made quite notable advances.

The usual full list of New Expeditions and details of accidents are given.

A new hut, the Sustlihütte, has been erected near the Sustenpass to serve the interesting glacier *massif* comprising the Wichelplankstöcke, the Wasenhorn and the Fünffingerspitzen, all of which offer good climbing. The long overdue and very necessary improvement has been made of reserving one sleeping compartment entirely for members of the S.A.C. Sleeping (!) in a club hut is fast becoming a martyrdom to the climber, and there is absolutely no reason why, with its very moderate subscription, the S.A.C. should not reserve its huts entirely for its members whose money erects

them. The Reviews are not so plentiful as usual, owing to the rather verbose *Chronik* of the sections. M. Paul Montandon's review of the 'Climbers' Guide to the Engelhörner' is very amusing. Altogether a fine volume.

F.

### PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall, 23 Savile Row, W., on Tuesday, February 6, 1917, at 8.30 p.m., Captain J. P. Farrar, D.S.O., *President*, in the Chair.

Captain Farrar, on taking his seat as President for the first time, was warmly greeted by the members present.

The following candidates were balloted for and elected members of the Club—namely, Messrs. C. A. Elliott and R. J. Farrer, Lieut.-Col. B. E. M. Gurdon, C.I.E., D.S.O., Mr. R. Lamb, and Captain P. H. Sharpe, R.E.

The PRESIDENT announced the deaths since the last General Meeting of the following members of the Club—namely, Mr. Montagu Woodmass (1863), Mr. A. H. Burton (1874), and Mr. F. W. Whitridge (1884).

He also referred to the telegrams which had passed between the American Alpine Club and this Club, copies of which appeared in the February number of the JOURNAL, and mentioned that one of our members, Mr. N. H. Read, an American elected in 1916, is serving in the British Army as a 2nd Lieutenant in the R.F.C. His father writes: 'No matter what John Bull thinks of U.S., every *American* is for old England.'

Sir MARTIN CONWAY then read a Paper entitled 'A Paper without a Title.'

A discussion followed and Mr. DOUGLAS W. FRESHFIELD said: It is difficult in this arctic temperature to collect one's thoughts sufficiently to make even a few remarks. But I am glad to testify to the pleasure we have all had in listening to Sir M. Conway's suggestive discourse. What he said about mountain nomenclature specially interested me, for I have had in my time something to do with it in different countries. In a popular district names tend to multiply, for whenever a fresh knob is climbed, its conqueror strives to give it an individual existence by putting a name to it. Sir M. Conway has perhaps accomplished a unique feat in not only imposing names of his own invention on Swiss peaks, but in inducing the Federal Staff to adopt them and insert them in the official maps. In the Himalaya I have been less lucky; the Indian Survey stick to 'Mount Everest' as against any Tibetan or Nepalese title. In the Caucasus, however, I have played godfather to several important summits, among them Shikara, the third (or possibly second) highest in the range. I am very much in favour, in