

ALPINE NOTES.

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :	Date of Election.
Brown, F. A. Y.	1866
FitzGerald, G.	1876
Godley, A. D.	1890
Benson, A. C.	1895
Maclay, J.	1896
Schrader, F. (Hon. Member)	1902
Davies, W. M.	1907
Brockman, R. T.	1918
Vallot, J. (Hon. Member)	1924

'BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE,' THE WESTERN ALPS.—The edition (1898) by Mr. Coolidge covers the Maritimes, Graians, Dauphiné, Mt. Blanc group, and Pennines to the Simplon. With maps of each district, 1 : 250,000, and a general map. Price 10s., or 10s. 4d. post free. Obtainable from any bookseller or the Assistant Secretary.

'BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE,' THE CENTRAL ALPS. PART I.—The edition (1907), by Rev. A. A. Valentine-Richards, covers Switzerland N. of the Rhone and the Rhine. With nine maps, 1 : 250,000, and a general map. Price 5s., or 5s. 4d. post free, or unbound 2s. 6d., or 2s. 10d. post free. Obtainable as above.

'BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE,' THE CENTRAL ALPS. PART II.—The edition (1917), by Rev. G. Broke, covers the Alpine regions S. and E. of the Rhone and Rhine as far as the Adige, *i.e.* the Lepontine, Grisons, Rhaetian (including Bernina), Ortler and Adamello groups. With nine maps, 1 : 250,000, and a general map. Price 5s., or 5s. 4d. post free, or unbound 2s. 6d., or 2s. 10d. post free. Obtainable as above.

MR. COOLIDGE'S edition of BALL'S 'WESTERN ALPS' is still the only complete guide to the country described, and, save as to the detail of inns and club huts, is as instructive and sufficient to the mountaineer—and to the climber with eyes—as when published, while the maps are admirable.

The volumes of the 'Central Alps' are, for the mountaineer, the best general guides to the districts described and contain the well-known Ravenstein maps.

‘GUIDES DES ALPES VALAISANNES.’—

Vol. I. Col Ferret to Col de Collon, by M. Kurz, 10s.

Vol. II. Col de Collon to Col Théodule, by Dr. Dübi, 9s.

Vol. III. Col Théodule to Weisstor, by Dr. Dübi, 8s.

Vol. IV. Col Simplon to Furka, by M. Kurz, 8s.

At Stanford's, Long Acre, W.C. 2.

LES AIGUILLES DE CHAMONIX (GUIDE VALLOT).—Par J. de Lépiney, E. de Gigord and Dr. A. Migot, with 39 route-marked illustrations and 2 outline maps. Paris: Fischbacher, 33 rue de Seine. 1925. 20 fr., or from the Assistant Secretary, 23 Savile Row, 6s. post free.

This admirable Climbers' Guide is a complete monograph of the Aiguilles and may be said to be a much enlarged and more elaborate ‘Kurz’ or ‘Mont Blanc Führer.’ See Review in last number.

A CLIMBER'S GUIDE TO THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS OF CANADA.—By Howard Palmer and J. Monroe Thorington, published for the American A.C. by the Knickerbocker Press, N.Y., 1921. This very useful summary, with several maps, of what has been done in the Rockies to 1921, can be obtained from the Assistant Secretary, 23 Savile Row, price 7s. 6d.

THE ‘CLUBFÜHRER DURCH DIE BÜNDNERALPEN.’—Vol. IV., covering the Bregaglia and the Disgrazia group, by H. Rütter, with the assistance of Christian Klucker, can be obtained from Sauerländer and Co., Aarau, Switzerland.

LES ALPES DE SAVOIE.—Vol. VI., Part I., by Commandant Emile Gaillard, M.C. (Dardel, Chambery, 27 fr. 50 post free), covering the groups Trélatête, Bionnassay-Goùter, M. Blanc, Brouillard-Peuteret, and Maudit-Tour Ronde, with skeleton maps of each group and several marked sketches, has just appeared. It follows generally the plan of the Kurz guide, and includes the full information of all recent climbs. See Review.

Part II., covering the groups of the Chamonix Aiguilles and the groups of the Grandes Jorasses and the Talèfre will appear early next year and can be subscribed for at 22 fr. 50 post free from the Assistant Secretary.

The full series is as follows :

Vol. I. Le Massif entre l'Arc et l'Isère (new edition).

Part I. N. of Col de la Vanoise, 27 fr. 50 post free.

Part II. S. of Col de la Vanoise, 22 fr. 50 post free.

(To appear at Christmas.)

- Vol. II. La frontière entre la Seigne et le Thabor, 22 fr. 50 post free.
 Vol. III. Les Massifs entre la Savoie et le Dauphiné, 24 fr. 50 post free.
 Vol. IV. Les Massifs de Beaufortin et Les Bauges, 27 fr. 50 post free
 Vol. V. Les Massifs entre le Lac d'Annécý et le Léman (to appear in 1926).
 Vol. VI. Le Massif du M. Blanc.
 Parts I. & II. as above.

The volume of Commandant Gaillard's 'Les Alpes du Dauphiné,' Part II., covering the Massifs of the Meije and Ecrins, is announced for 1926 and can be subscribed for later.

These guides have full sets of skeleton maps and many route-marked sketches, so that the French Alps are now very well off for guidebooks.

Commandant Gaillard will issue early in 1926 a new coloured map of the M. Blanc group, scale 1:50,000, with all the most recent nomenclature.

THE JOURNAL OF DE SAUSSURE covering his sojourn at Chamonix in July and August 1787, with an introduction and many notes on little known details by Commandant Gaillard and Mr. Henry F. Montagnier, and heliogravures, will be published at Christmas, with the authorisation of the family. It shows his preoccupations and hopes and finally his unmixed joy at the success.

Subscriptions can be sent direct to Commandant Gaillard, M.C., St. Alban-Leyse, Savoie, France. Edition de Luxe, 4to, 105 fr., ordinary 4to, 45 fr., post free.

LA SOCIÉTÉ DE GÉOGRAPHIE DE FRANCE has conferred on Commandant Gaillard, in recognition of his work on his series of Guides, *Le Prix William Huber* with a silver medal.

The distinction is well earned. His work has been done in a conscientious and able manner, comparable in every way with the Conway-Coolidge Climbers' Guides and other similar works, and those who have any experience of such work know full well the meticulous care and very considerable research such work demands.

THE marriage of LT.-COL. E. F. NORTON, D.S.O., R.A., to Miss Joyce Pasteur, daughter of Lt.-Col. W. Pasteur, C.B., F.R.C.P., which takes place on December 18, is of peculiar interest to the Alpine Club, inasmuch as Col. Norton is a nephew of Dr. W. A. Wills, Hon. Sec. 1897-1900, and a grandson of Sir Alfred Wills, President of the Club 1864-5, while Col. Pasteur was elected to the Club in 1879, and his father, Mr. Henry Pasteur, was Vice-President 1893-5.

MR. COOLIDGE attained his seventy-fifth birthday on August 28, and was the recipient of many good wishes. The Bernese Historical Association, of which he is an hon. member, the Central Committee and the Section Berne of the S.A.C., were foremost in their congratulations and sent flowers as well.

His general health, unfortunately, causes his many friends and disciples anxiety.

AN ATTEMPT ON THE MATTERHORN IN 1865.—In 'A.J.' xxxii. 97-98 there is a reference by Dr. Güssfeldt to this attempt. M. Paul Montandon is good enough to send us the translation of a note from 'Die Alpenrosen' for 1876, published in Berne, reading:

In a recent lecture held at the Berlin Section of the Deutschen Alpenvereins, Dr. P. Güssfeldt reported as follows:

. . . Two months after the first ascent of the Matterhorn (July 14, 1865) I came to Zermatt with the firm purpose of ascending the peak. I addressed myself to the guide Taugwalder; but he was still too much shaken by the mishap at which he had escaped death only by mere chance, and it required long negotiations and ample promises to induce him and his son to try once more this dreaded enterprise. The party resolved to attack the peak from its Italian side and crossed, for this purpose, the Matterjoch. At Breuil they engaged an Italian porter and went on. From the beginning the greatest difficulties were met with, and after 4 hours' climbing the porter declared that he would not go one step farther. The party had no other choice than to leave him behind sitting on a small rock, after handing him some bread and wine. Then climbing began again. The difficulties—steep snowfields, ice-coated rocks, crumbling stones—increased with every step, and finally, being only about 1500 ft. under the summit, they stood at the foot of a quite perpendicular rock-wall. There was no question but that their expedition must here come to an end. . . .

On their way down they picked up the porter, lost their way on the glacier, and, at last, reached Breuil during the night. The advanced season and the absolute refusal of the guides rendered another trial impossible. Only in the year 1868 could Dr. Güssfeldt try once more. On an afternoon of August he reached the hut on the Zermatt side with the guides Knubel and Lochmatter, and on the following day (August 9) at 10 o'clock the summit. The same day saw them back at Zermatt.

Dr. Güssfeldt was undoubtedly one of the boldest and most determined climbers of his time. It is certainly remarkable to find the two Taugwalders prefer to attempt the Italian side about which they knew nothing.

ELBRUZ.—The generally well-informed *Journal de Genève* publishes the following perfectly incorrect telegram :

' *L'Elbrouz vaincu.*

' Moscou 23 août 1925.

' Un groupe de dix-neuf alpinistes a pu accomplir la difficile ascension de l'Elbrouz, le pic le plus élevé de la chaîne du Caucase. La cime a été atteinte après onze jours de marches épuisantes à cause des violentes tempêtes de neige, dont une a duré six jours.

' L'ascension de l'Elbrouz était tentée depuis un siècle, mais jusqu'à présent personne n'avait dépassé 5000 m. C'est à dire qu'on n'avait pas même atteint la crête de la haute chaîne de 5200 m. en moyenne qui relie comme un mur de glace les cimes principales dont la plus haute est de 5642 m.'

It is well known that the ascent of the E. peak (18,347 ft.) was made in 1868 by Messrs. Freshfield, Moore, and Tucker, and that of the W. peak (18,470 ft.) in 1874 by Messrs. Grove, Gardiner, and Walker as recorded at the time in the JOURNAL.

They are fully described in Mr. Freshfield's 'Caucasus and Bashan,' 1869, and Mr. Grove's 'Frosty Caucasus,' 1875. They have been more recently recorded in Mr. Woolley's 'List of Caucasian Ascents' ('A.J.' xxvi. 96). Subsequent ascents have been fairly frequent. Neither summit presents any difficulty to active mountaineers, nor was the gap between them formerly defended by an ice-wall such as the Russian party describe.

The Hon. Membership of the Alpine Club has been offered to :

S.A.R. IL PRINCIPE LUIGI AMEDEO DI SAVOIA, DUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI, in high appreciation of his great expeditions to Ruwenzori, the Karakoram Himalayas, Alaska and other parts of the world (Ordinary Member, 1894-1925).

H.E. The Swiss Minister to Great Britain, MONSIEUR C. R. PARAVICINI.

SIGNOR CAV. VITTORIO SELLA, in high appreciation of his great work in connection with the expeditions of H.R.H. the Duke of Abruzzi and of Mr. Freshfield, and of his services to mountaineering (Ordinary Member, 1888-1925).

At the Assembly of the Delegates of the Club Alpin Suisse, held at Interlaken in September, the distinction of Hon. Membership of the C.A.S. was conferred on MR. FRESHFIELD and CAPTAIN FARRAR. The latter had been an ordinary member for thirty-one years.

GENERAL BRUCE, MR. YELD, and MR. G. WINTHROP YOUNG have had the distinction conferred on them of Membres d'Honneur of the C.A.F.

WE much regret to learn that the only son of ADOLPHE REY, the leading guide of Courmayeur, was killed whilst scrambling near Bardonnèche, where he was doing his military service. He was buried next his grandfather, Emile Rey, in the churchyard at Courmayeur. Adolphe will need no assurance of the warm sympathy of the many English friends of himself and his family.

WE much regret to learn that the only son of GOTTFRIED BOHREN, guide-chef of Grindelwald, was killed in a motor accident. He had driven a party over to Visp. He left there alone late, crossed the Grimsel, and passed Meyringen next morning at 5 A.M. The car was found, upside down with him pinned underneath, in the water of the Lake of Brienz at a point soon after the road attains the N. shore. It is presumed that over-fatigue caused momentary slumber as motor-drivers know does happen. The young man was previously a guide, and with his father had made various great expeditions, generally with Mr. Allston Burr.

I AM grieved to learn that FRITZ BOSS, the very fine young porter who was my companion on the Ebnefluh in 1924 ('A.J.' xxxvi. 402), died of pneumonia in June. He had been busy getting in his hay in wet weather and got repeatedly wet. I saw him at work in difficult circumstances that would have tried the *moral* of an ordinary man, whereas he never turned a hair and came down last over an ice-cliff ending in a big jump of quite 20 ft., all the while in a tempest of hail. One cannot spare men cast in such a mould. J. P. F.

THE death at eighty-two is announced of STEPHEN KIRCHLER of Sand in Taufers, in his day the greatest of the Zillerthal guides. His descent of the Stillupp face of the Löffler with Dr. Diener was one of his noteworthy exploits, and many of the new ascents in his group were led by him. He was later gardien at the Chemnitzer hut.

THE death at seventy-seven is announced of the guide DANIEL INNTHALER of Nasswald on the Raxalpe, well known as a brilliant rock-climber. His most famous ascent was the N. face of Planspitze in the Gesäuse. He was the teacher of Konrad Kain, now resident in British Columbia, who comes also from Nasswald.

M. PAUL MONTANDON speaks very highly of the Hotel Belalp, kept by the brother and two sisters Klingele. 'It has kept all the charm of old times . . . there were a good many Englishmen and English ladies there and the hotel had a good season.'

SEPP INNERKOFER OF SEXTEN.—The death of this famous Dolomite guide, of whom a portrait appears in 'A.J.' xxxv. opp. 262, was announced in 'A.J.' xxxi. 127. Details are now given by Oberstleutnant F. Kupetz who commanded the battery which

put up the barrage to cover the attack in which Sepp was killed. Some details of Sepp's activities are to be found in the Obituary Notice of Sir Edward Davidson. In his Dolomites he had only one possible rival, Toni Dimai. None of us who have climbed with him will forget his grace of movement on difficult rocks or his frank and honest ways.

Sepp was 50 when the war with Italy broke out, but joined up with his sons Gottfried (aged 22) and Sepp (aged 18), and was stationed on the Sexten Plateau front where, of course, he knew every stone. Many tales are told of his gallant behaviour. In the early days the Paternkofel, next to the Drei Zinnen, had been used as an observation post by the Austrians, but early in June 1915 an Italian patrol occupied, and built an entrenchment of stones on, the summit. The post was too valuable to surrender, and Sepp who, by this time, had been advanced to *Ober-Jäger*, volunteered to dislodge the Italian garrison whom he put at six or eight men. He proposed to ascend by the N.N.W. arête (of which he had made the first ascent in 1896) with five other guides and his son Gottfried. The climb ends in a nearly vertical chimney finishing a few feet below the summit, so it was hoped to surprise the Italian post. The attack was arranged for the night of July 3-4, but in view of the risk young Gottfried was forbidden to go. The attack was to be covered by a barrage from a battery on the Dreizinnen plateau and Sepp carried a flag to signal the battery when to lift. The party duly left at 2 A.M., and everything went according to plan. At 9 A.M. Sepp, followed by another guide, appeared just under the summit plateau. The barrage promptly stopped. Sepp, followed by the other men, was seen to dash forward and to throw three or four hand grenades. He was met by ten or twelve Italians from behind their stone wall. Suddenly the attackers threw themselves to the ground while the defenders retired behind their wall. It appeared that an Austrian machine gun on the Innicher Riedl had opened fire. Immediately it stopped three or four Italians dashed out once more, including a gigantic Alpino. Sepp sprang to his feet but was instantly shot by the latter, threw up his hands, and fell backwards over the edge, his body lodging in the Opelkamin some 25 ft. down. The other guides instantly retired, descending the rocks at their utmost speed, all but one escaping unhurt although pelted with rocks by the Italians who had put up so staunch a defence.

Sepp's body was recovered by the Italians and buried, it is stated with military honours, on the summit, the offer of his companions to rescue it in the night being deemed too risky.

The other guides reported that Sepp threw four bombs of which only the third exploded, and that he was shot dead through the head.

On August 17, 1918, when the summit was reoccupied the two sons and a patrol in command of an officer made the ascent and found the grave marked with a cross bearing Sepp's name. The

body had been buried wrapped in an Italian patrol tent, and was quite recognisable. He was reinterred in the family grave at Sexten. His youngest son manages the family Gasthof on the Fischleinboden, and is one of the most sought after guides of the district.—From *Mitteilungen D. und Œ. A. V.*, July 15, 1925.

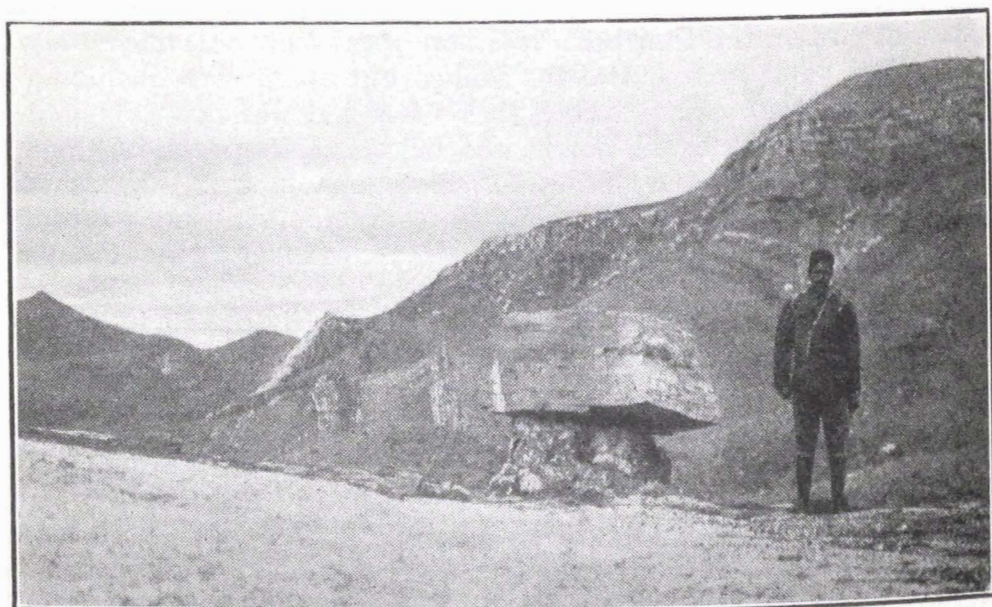
THE LATE MAJOR LINDSELL.—Mr. Charles Morger, member of Committee S.A.C. section, St. Gall, writes :

‘It was on one of the rare fine days of 1922 that I met on the way to the Hüfi Hut Major Lindsell with two guides—one his favourite, Biner of Zermatt. I was amazed that the party made only one stop on their way. So we reached the hut in 2½ hours, which may be considered as the minimum.

‘At sunset I had the chance to enter into conversation with Major Lindsell. We stood before the hut, and he seemed to be thoroughly acquainted with all the surrounding peaks and their routes. He told me that in a few weeks he would complete his 65th year, and that before then he would finish his trips in the higher Alps by climbing the Tödi *via* the difficult west route. “I am not of your opinion,” I replied, “as I had the occasion to watch your going up to the hut, and venture to say that the Tödi will not be the keystone of your alpine career.” Major Lindsell smiled, saying “Well, you may be right.” . . .

‘Now, on reading the article of E.L.S. in the ALPINE JOURNAL, I am pleased to learn that I was right, and with deepest regret I take note that our Alps have lost one more of their excellent admirers.’

GYPSUM ‘GLACIER’ AND TABLE, SOUTHERN PERSIA.—This photograph may interest those familiar only with the similar



phenomenon on glaciers of ice ; it may, however, be quite unique. In this instance the glacier is of gypsum, squeezed out from the highly gypseous rocks of the region, and its surface dissolving under the action of the tropical rains ; a block of hard limestone, stranded on it, has protected the surface on which it rests, and in process of time become raised above the general level. The action is paralleled by that of the formation of 'earth pillars' to be seen in many regions in moraines and old boulder clays, though in the latter case it is one of mechanical corrosion of the small material not protected by the cap rock, and not of solution as in the phenomenon illustrated.

N. E. O.

GEOLOGICAL NOTE ON N.-E. RIDGE OF AIGUILLE VERTE.—The steepness and slabby character of the ridge, particularly in its lower part, seems to be due to the gneiss of which it is composed having been subjected to an excessive amount of lateral pressure or squeezing, which has caused it to develop a very pronounced vertical jointing, and given the long stretches of unbroken slab.

N. E. O.

N. ARÊTE OF NORDEND.—This was first *descended* by the late Walter Flender with Heinrich Burgener and Ferdinand Furrer in 1899, then by Herren E. Christa, Pfann, and Dr. F. Pflaum in 1901, and by Dr. G. Leuchs and A. Schulze in 1902. The descent was repeated by Herren A. Matschunas and W. Welzenbach, two of the young and capable Munich Akademikers, on August 15, 1925.¹ After *climbing down* the four great pitches they *reclimbed* each without artificial aid and accordingly claim to have made the *first ascent*. While no doubt the performance shows them to be very competent climbers, the *first ascent* of the arête was made some years ago by Capt. Ryan with the guides Josef and Franz Lochmatter, as mentioned in Dr. Dübi's *Alpes Valaisannes*, vol. iii. 117. Franz Lochmatter told me that gaining the arête to start with was the main difficulty, as the slabs were very smooth and overhung.

Further particulars will be obtained on Franz's return from the Karakoram.

J. P. F.

Mt. BLANC by the AIG.-BLANCHE and the PEUTERET ARÊTE.—This great expedition was repeated during the season by two Munich Akademikers Dr. W. Allwein and Herr W. Welzenbach. They bivouacked on the Brenva glacier ; again on the Col de Peuteret, and reached the Vallot hut late at night, where they were held up two days by bad weather.

A NEW stone hut is now completed on the rocks at the foot of the S.E. ridge of REQUIN and will serve for the Requin, Midi and Plan.

¹ See *Der Bergsteiger*, September 18, 1925. (An interesting, well-run weekly paper published in Vienna.)—J. P. F.

THE new Chalet-hotel on the COL D'ISERAN, over which a high-road is being built, was opened in August last. The celebration was attended by the President, Commandant Regaud and Baron Gabet, past President C.A.F., and by Signor Cav. Bobba of the C.A.I., and MM. de Cessole, Faist and Joublot of the C.A.F.

A NEW hut below the COL DU CARRO has also been opened by the Section Lyonnaise C.A.F., which includes many brilliant mountaineers.

A NEW Aletsch Hut has been opened at an altitude of 2745 m. on the Thorberg.

THE KAISERGEIRGE, a limestone range in N. Tirol, has long been known as the theatre of very desperate climbs, and there are probably more men killed there each summer than in all other *climbing* expeditions in the Eastern Alps put together, excluding the Raxalpe. The super-climbs were hitherto the W. face of the TOTENKIRCHL and the E. face of the FLEISCHBANK, described in this Journal. On July 28, however, Herr Roland Rossi of Innsbruck and a Munich friend succeeded in climbing the yet more desperate S.E. face of the latter. Their previous attempts were frustrated by weather, and meantime a member of a Munich party led by the well-known Toni Leiss, which also attempted it, met with a fatal accident.

Herr Leiss himself, one of the best of the Akad. Alpenverein Munich, has now been killed on the Gehrenspitze in the Tannheimergebirge, W. of the Lech valley, on the Austro-Bavarian border. Details fail so far. There is little question but that these young Munich climbers are forcing the pace. There is a dangerous spirit of emulation which tends to carry them over the limits of reasonable risk. Some of the best of them have already paid the penalty. The tendency to treat them as heroes is thoroughly vicious. No doubt the forcing of a route up some desperate and doubtful face puts to the test the leader's nerve, sangfroid, strength, endurance and skill, but there is a limit, and a fatal accident only reveals the fact that the man tried himself too high. Of their courage there is no question, and it is doubly regrettable to see such young lives thrown away, on the threshold of their usefulness in life, on an object which, however, suited to training one's faculties, is, after all, not worth the ultimate sacrifice.

THE NEW FRENCH GOVERNMENT MAP 1 : 50,000.—The following sheets have been published: Tignes, Petit St. Bernard (Ruitor), Lanslebourg (Charbonel, Bessanese and Ciamarella). Obtainable from Barrère, rue du Bac, Paris.

MONTÉ VISO.—This magnificent viewpoint is now within easy reach of Turin. A train leaves Turin at 5.45 A.M. for Bargé and an auto connects with Crissolo, arriving about 10 A.M. The route up

to the Lago Grande di Viso is in Dr. Coolidge's Ball, p. 62: 'Follow the telephone poles.' There is now a small inn, Albergo Quintino Sella, on the Balze di Cesare, as well as the Quintino Sella Club hut (Ball, p. 61) $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours further on, which has blankets and straw, but no wood. There is generally a guide at the Inn. The Viso can be climbed next day and the VISOLOTTO the day after. It is better if climbing the Visolotto to leave rucksacks about $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours from the Inn and to descend to the mule path to Piano del Re. An auto leaves Crissolo early and Turin is reached about 10 A.M.

H. E. N.

TURLO PASS.—Italian soldiers are improving the path on both sides. The descent in the Val Quarazza is on the right (E.) side of the valley. Ball, p. 530, and *Les Alpes Valaisannes*, iii. 149, describe the pathless route to the left.

POLLUX.—The S. ridge can be climbed without any difficulty. Just before the two gendarmes visible from both sides, turn over to the W. and climb a moderately difficult chimney with two chock stones. Then up a steep rock wall with good holds to the easy snow ridge which leads to the top. This is not described in the *Walliser Alpen*, though it is well scratched. It makes a welcome variation in the continuous snow work of the traverse of Pollux and Castor from the Théodule to the Sella Hut. The chimney was clear enough of ice on the third day after a spell of bad weather.

H. E. N.

MONT POURRI.—There are now three small hotels at Nancroît, one mile above Peisey (P.L.M. auto from Landry). The C.A.F. are erecting a hut next year about three hours on. It is marked in the *new edition* of Gaillard's *Alpes de Savoie*, vol. i., Part I., p. 136.

ASCENT OF ÖRAEFA JØKULL—ICELAND (about 7000 ft.). The first ascent was made by Mr. F. W. W. Howell, drowned later in crossing a river in Iceland, on August 17, 1891 (cf. *Geographical Journal*, 1892, 841–50). One of his guides, Jòn Plåsson, is still living at Svinafell. It has now been ascended about eight times. An ascent was made on August 16, 1925, by Mr. Ruthven Whitewright Stuart with two guides. They started from the Sandfell Parsonage at 11.35 A.M., and reached the top at 7.57 P.M. The glacier was much crevassed and the steep ice of the final peak required step-cutting. The approach to the group is troublesome as the rivers are very full in summer, and a passage for the ponies has to be made on the ice.

Fog is also very prevalent. Mr. Stuart writes that one risks drowning before reaching the base of the mountain, and that the ice-fall of the Svinafell Jökull is the finest he has ever seen in the Alps or the Canadian Rockies. 'The two glaciers, one on each side of the broad rocky ridge by which one approaches the peak, are

very fine. . . . The eastern ridge leading up to the peak is very fine to look at, but impracticable.'

Mr. Stuart also ascended Hekla.

A SCOUTS' ALPINE CLUB, Club Alpin des Eclaireurs, has been formed—subscription 10 Swiss francs.

THE Cairngorm Club formally opened on August 1 a mountain indicator on the summit of Ben Macdhui in memory of its first President, the late Alexander Copland, to whose patience and care in the preparation of the panoramic view from the summit due tribute was borne by Mr. William Garden, President of the Club, and member of the Alpine Club. The unveiling was made by Mrs. Garden in a witty little speech, and among the 140 persons present were members of the Alpine, Climbers', and Rucksack Clubs, together with Mr. J. A. Parker, C.E., who was responsible for the erection of the indicator, Major Sir J. D. Ramsay, Bt., son of the late Sir James Ramsay, Bt., of Bamff, and other members of the Ramsay family.

HIMALAYAN NOTES.

THE VISSER EXPEDITION BEYOND THE KARAKORUM—Mrs. Visser write as follows :

Shimshal,
July 9, 1925.

DEAR CAPTAIN FARRAR,

From this quaintest of places I am writing to tell you how we are getting on.

We started from Srinagar on April 25th and crossed the Tragbal and Burzil passes to Gilgit, where we stopped three days to make further arrangements—then on to Hunza (visit to the Mir), and thence to our base-camp at Pasu, where we arrived on May 29th.

From here my husband and the guides made a reconnoitring expedition up the Pasu glacier to judge of the condition of the snow and also for topographical work.

They found there was still too much snow to venture to any great altitude yet, so we therefore decided to first explore the Khunjerab and Ghujerab valleys.

The chief difficulty here is the water ! It is no easy matter to get into the Khunjerab. The gorge is so narrow and at every turn the cliffs rise perpendicular to such enormous heights, that one is continually forced to wade through the streams so as to be able to advance at all. Sometimes even this mode of progress is impossible, and the way is barred. The Khunjerab is a veritable 'mouse-trap.'