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NOTES.

THE unusually heavy list of fatalities in the Alps during the past summer has saddened the whole climbing world. No season passes without several accidents. Frequently it happens that those who suffer are the inexperienced or the rash. This year, however, among the victims are included some who could rightly be considered masters of the art of mountaineering. Our deepest sympathy is naturally with those upon whom this heavy loss has more specially fallen.

A fund is being raised on behalf of the family of the guide Xaver Imseng, who in September last was killed on the Grand Charmoz with Mr. Aston Binns. Any member wishing to contribute to this fund should send cheque or postal order to H. Stuart King, Esq., 65, Cornhill, E.C. All contributions will be acknowledged in the columns of the *Alpine Journal*.

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IN our last issue we spoke of Mr. G. D. Abrahams' ascent of the Matterhorn on the 15th July as the first ascent of a first-class peak this season. Several members have written to correct this. Among other peaks, the Schreckhorn, Wetterhorn, Ortler Spitz, and Meije had all been climbed before that date—the Schreckhorn by the difficult route from the Lauteraar Glacier as early as 13th June.

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THE *Daily Chronicle* has received a cable, dated from La Paz, 20th October, stating that Sir Martin Conway, after making a series of attempts upon Mount Sorata (Illampu), has had to abandon the climb. The party suffered severely from cold, and both guides were frost-bitten. The temperature is given as being as low as 2 degrees Fahrenheit. The highest point reached was well over 23,000 feet, and was probably about 24,000 feet. Illampu is a volcanic peak in the Eastern Cordillera of the Andes of Bolivia. If Sir Martin Conway is correct in his calculations, he has reached a greater altitude than ever previously attained by climbers. The height of Aconcagua, first ascended by Matthias Zurbriggen in January last year, is 23,080 feet.

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ALL frequenters of the Snowdon district of North Wales will be pleased to hear that the new scheme for running a light railway from Portmadoc to Beddgelert has been successfully resisted, and that for

the present the Pass of Aberglasyn, one of the finest approaches to Snowdonia, is saved from disfigurement at the hands of the contractor. This light railway, had it been constructed, would probably have had the effect of unduly popularising the Beddgelert and Cwm-y-Llan ascents. The steam tramway from Llanberis to the summit of Y-Wyddfa, unsightly though it is, has served one good purpose. It has concentrated the ordinary tourist and excursionist upon the least interesting side, and left the climber in undisturbed possession of the wilder portions of the mountain. Were it not for this fact, the ever-increasing hordes that overrun Snowdon during the summer months would compel the climber to desert it and seek less frequented cliffs. Only those who have attempted the ascent of one of the Clogwyn-y-Garnedd gullies on a fine August or September afternoon can quite appreciate what a source of danger the British tourist is. As Mr. Pilkington says in "Mountaineering" (Badminton series), "No amount of climbing skill or precaution will save you from a well-aimed gingerbeer bottle."

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For the benefit of climbers wishing to try the Peak District "Practice Scrambles," Mr. Baker points out that Matlock is a convenient starting point for the Black Rocks and the Alport Stone, and also for the "Robin Hood Stride" and Cratcliff Tor; but the last two are a little nearer to Rowsley, where there are two hotels. At Edale there is a small but comfortable hotel, and this is a very good place from which to reach Kinderscout. At Christmas time, if the weather be favourable, Mr. Baker will probably be found in the district; and we feel certain that, should any member require further directions, he will be pleased to supply them.
