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## REVIEWS.

ALPINE JOURNAL. November, 1905.

IN this number we find discussed the usual heavy crop of Alpine accidents. There are two articles on well-known peaks, and a like number on distant fields of exploration, Messrs. Meade and Broome respectively treating of the Jungfrau and Monte Rosa, while Dr. Fischer and Mr. Shawcross supply briefer and less descriptive notes of journeys in the Caucasus and the Himalaya. The latter range figures also in some further correspondence on the now well-worn question as to the genuineness of Mr. Graham's ascent of Kabru three-and-twenty years ago.

To most of us, the two papers of greatest interest will be the obituary notices of our late President, Mr. C. E. Mathews, and Mr. Kirkpatrick's highly entertaining account of ten years of guideless climbing. Taking the latter of these into consideration first, we must beg leave to express some doubt whether the effect of it will be wholly salutary. We must never lose sight of the danger that many beginners, misled by the very great success which has crowned somewhat happy-go-lucky methods, may forget that only men specially endowed by nature and peculiarly suited to each other, can hope to conduct similar expeditions with success, or even with impunity.

Running in double harness is always a delicate matter, and Messrs. Hope and Kirkpatrick seem to be rather prone to meet the difficulty by not putting the harness on at all.

To all, however, who read the article in a proper spirit, it will be found to supply many valuable hints, especially on the important subject of equipment, which those who act as their own porters will do well to consider very closely.

The melancholy topic of Mr. C. E. Mathews' very sudden death is well handled by Mr. H. B. George, who gives a clear sketch of that remarkable man, his professional success, his municipal activity, his zeal as a mountaineer, and his keenness in pursuit of his varied intellectual interests. Attention is rightly drawn to a surface-contradiction in his character; an eager reformer, he was extremely tenacious of custom. It might have been added that something of the same conflicting tendencies was reflected in his admirable speeches. To those who had been fortunate enough to hear many of them, it was an added pleasure to trace in them echoes of familiar phrases and cadences to which the same rich voice had so often lent music in the past. Yet, all the time the old material and the new were blended together with such skill, marshalled with such cogent logic, and so much strenuous sincerity, that the whole result was a new creation, which not merely gratified the artistic tastes, but stirred the heart like a trumpet. Mr. George concludes by dwelling on the service which Mathews rendered to mountaineering by insisting upon the need for prudence, and is followed by Mr. Morshead with a few personal reminiscences.

Among the additions to the Alpine Club Library, we find recorded :—

“Twenty Years on Ben Nevis.” By W. T. Kilgour.

“Remarks on a Tour from London to the Lakes . . . in 1791.” By Adam Walker.

“The Voice of the Mountains.” By E. A. Baker and F. E. Ross.

“Mendip Caves” (article in *Spelunca*). By S. Balch.

“Climbing in the Bernese Oberland” (article in *Pall Mall Magazine*). By G. D. Abraham.

“A Scramble on the Wellenkuppe” (article in *Idler*). By E. E. Stock.

## REPORT OF THE RÜCKSACK CLUB FOR 1904-5.

WE have received the "Report of the Rucksack Club for 1904-5," an excellent number, giving evidence of the vigour and strenuousness of this Lancashire organisation. Lectures are reported as having been given by Mr. W. C. Slingsby, Mr. W. P. Haskett-Smith, the late Mr. C. E. Mathews and others during the year under review, and a particularly strong programme for the current season has been arranged. Turning to the articles, Mr. W. Heap writes a brief account of the first ascent of the gully between the third and fourth pinnacles of Sgurr nan Gillean in Skye, a by no means easy climb; Mr. E. A. Baker tells of his troubles with new boots, mist, deer forests, and the want of meals in Glen Affric; and Mr. P. S. Minor gives a not very clear account of two scrambles on the comparatively little known west face of Tryfaen; the far more attractive east face gullies and buttresses are easier to find from Pen-y-Gwryd or Gorphwysfa, and nearly monopolise the energies of climbing parties visiting Tryfaen from that side; the great slabs on the west face are well worth a visit, but the gullies are broken and disappointing. The range of the other articles extends from the Tödi and The Vosges, to cave work in Somerset; there is also an interesting account of the Club meets at Buttermere, Gatesgarth, Langdale and Wirksworth. The number closes with appreciative in-memorial notices of Joseph Collier, the late President of the Club, whose reputation as a rock man and mountaineer will long be remembered in Wastdale and the Alps, and of C. E. Mathews, who was an honorary member. We can only wish for continued success to the Rucksack Club, and a large increase in the already substantial membership.

YORKSHIRE RAMBLERS' CLUB JOURNAL. Vol. II. No. 6.  
1904-5.

THIS number contains some very interesting articles. Especially noticeable is "A Fortnight in the Eastern Alps,"

by Wm. Anderton Brigg, an amusing and eminently readable description of a tour in 1904. Speaking of the custom of climbing with one guide and a short rope, he says: "Like other animals of an earlier period, they went two and two, a Herr and a guide, the latter leading the former with two yards of rope . . . ." We have often watched these performances in the Ortler district, and, though they seem absurd, we have never been able to decide whether there is not some sound principle underlying it. Given a "tourist" and one guide, and no unknown snow-covered glacier, it is possibly advisable to have the "unknown quantity" within easy reach. We congratulate the writer on his strength of mind in refusing to take four guides on the Cevedale.

Another very good article is "A Holiday among the Horungtinder," by J. A. Green. These fine peaks afford better rock-climbing than most of the Alps, some of the scrambling being as good as that in Lliwedd in North Wales. There are still many new climbs to do in the district, but the tendency seems to be for climbers, with a few brilliant exceptions, to follow the old routes. Mr. Green says that he was obliged to ascend and descend Store Skagastölstind by the same route, *i.e.*, Heftze's Crack, but why did he not take, in one direction, the great gully up the centre of the west face, which is so prominent an object in the picture facing page 123? This was first climbed by the writer of this review, who considers it much more interesting than Slingsby's or Heftze's route. It is about equivalent in difficulty to the Central and Western Buttress route of Lliwedd.

We give one instance of a possible new climb: the north-west ridge of Skagastölstind, which, we believe, has not been ascended. The writer has climbed all but about 30 feet from the point where the ridge overhangs to the easy slope on the top, and believes that this would go by a crack on the left or north face. Between Herr Ullén's climb on the south ridge of this mountain and the great gully, there are several possible ascents explored by the writer in 1899. A week, at least, could be spent on Skagastölstind, and that is only *one* of the

Horunger mountains. We hope that this article may lead more members of our Club to explore this fascinating region.

A. W. A.

WALL AND ROOF CLIMBING. By the Author of "The Roof Climbers' Guide to Trinity."

"They tell me if I climb and stand  
 Upon those distant ledges,  
 I shall but see on either hand  
 Dim fields and dusty hedges,  
 But yet I know my fairyland  
 Lies somewhere o'er these edges."

The writer has found a fairyland even among bricks and mortar. We understand that the work is not a serious manual, but rather a flight of the imagination, appropriate to such a country, but there is much sound and valuable advice in it. "Roof climbing is no child's play, and the local mill chimney is not a fit practice ground for the anxious novice . . ." The writer remembers one occasion when he shut the door of his flat and left the key inside. He prospected a traverse to the scullery window, but quailed at an uncompromising ledge, about three inches wide, and the dark abyss below, and weakly retired to a hotel, where he was regarded with deep suspicion by the proprietor, owing to the absence of hat and baggage, and obliged to pay in advance. All this trouble was due to the absence of a reliable guide-book.

As it is probable that this review will lead to a large demand for the work in big cities by professional and business men, it is fair to point out to intending purchasers that the book is theoretical only, and not intended to take the place of a local climbers' guide, such as the "Roof Climbers' Guide to Trinity," which can still be obtained from Messrs. Spalding, Cambridge.

The information is, as the Parson complained in Stevenson's "New Arabian Nights," "not set forth soberly after the

manner of a manual," but disguised in a literary dress consisting largely of quotations and allusions. It will be remembered that the Parson wished to dispose of a stolen diamond, and was recommended to read Gaboriau.

On the whole, however, the information contained in this work is exhaustive, but we venture to suggest that more attention might have been paid to the different stones used in buildings, and their weathering and general reliability from the climbers' point of view. For instance, the Sphinx is composed of a thoroughly reliable rock, and so is St. Paul's, but the writer would not venture to trust himself on certain well-known buildings in London put up by the L—n C—y C—l.

The notes on climbing on wood (*i.e.*, trees) and hay are somewhat sketchy (merely three pages are devoted to the latter, but they will no doubt be amplified in later editions).

The book (2s. 6d.) can be obtained from the Assistant Secretary of the Alpine Club, who will not be responsible for any improper use to which it may be put by professional men.

SCOTTISH MOUNTAINEERING CLUB JOURNAL. No. 46,  
January, 1905.

A BREEZY article, entitled "Random Musings," by Stair A. Gillon, will be appreciated by the climbing fraternity as a whole, and particularly by those of them who are familiar with the Scottish hills.

The charming reproductions of two of the Rev. A. E. Robertson's photographs, "The Head of Loch Nevis" and "The East End of Loch Morar," are the only other items in the number to which we need call special attention.

SCOTTISH MOUNTAINEERING CLUB JOURNAL. No. 47,  
May, 1905.

THIS number contains two articles, and a further section of the S. M. C. Guide Book. The interesting and carefully

written article by F. S. Goggs, the Club's excellent Librarian, entitled "Stuchd an Lochain and the upper part of Glen Lyon," with notes on the Cashlie Forts, should be noted by climbers who happen also to be archæologists.

The illustrations, which are, as usual, excellent, indicate beauties in the North-West Highlands, which might well tempt a few of us to that somewhat outlandish region.

SCOTTISH MOUNTAINEERING CLUB JOURNAL. No. 48,  
September, 1905.

ANOTHER excellent volume is completed with this number. A very readable article on "Scottish Snow," by Harold Raeburn, is equally applicable to English snow. Mr. Raeburn might, perhaps, have entitled it "Snowcraft No. 2," the first article under that title, by a different author, having appeared as far back as 1893. The article gives the beginner just the information he needs; information, moreover, which it is not easy to get in a succinct form. The tyro and the veteran alike will read it with pleasure and profit.

An interesting article, by James Maclay, on the celebrated Crowberry Ridge, of Buchaille Etive Mor, with an outline sketch from the Abrahams' well-known photo., is deserving of special notice.

CAIRNGORM CLUB JOURNAL. No. 24, January, 1905.

THIS number concludes Vol. IV., and starts with an article on Beinn Eighe, by A. L. Bagley. Perhaps a glance at the 6-inch Ordnance Map would solve some of his topographical queries? An article, by the Rev. Geo. C. Watt, on "The Tulchan Hills" shows a keen appreciation of the hill side.

In "Three visits to the Garbh Coire," the author, who frankly acknowledges that he is not a rock-climber, says: "here came in a commonplace difficulty of climbing: what I had ascended with much difficulty I could not descend at all." This so-called "commonplace difficulty" is surely wrongly

named. We would prefer to call it a serious breach of one of the fundamental rules of climbing, if not of common sense, viz., "never go up where you cannot come down." The number is as varied in interest as usual.

CAIRNGORM CLUB JOURNAL. No. 25, July, 1905.

THIS number is very varied in its contents, both as regards locality and subject matter.

From Ben Ledi we roam over Scotland, and then far away until eventually we find ourselves on the summit of one of the highest peaks in the Canadian Rockies—Mount Assiniboine. There are two articles to interest the ornithologist, and one on the Loch Treig district will furnish thought for the geologist. The number is unusually well illustrated.

