
Review: Mountaineering in Norway

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only, and the number of Gaelic speakers in Scotland and Ireland are also somewhat in error. There are creditably few misprints in place-names, certainly not more than one would expect to find in an English book of similar scope. Some false impressions may be created by the necessary brevity of the descriptions. From references to streets of dreary two-storied houses in London, and to the lowest classes in Edinburgh living in the highest houses even up to fourteen stories, the German reader might possibly conjure up exaggerated pictures of both towns, but no one can deal with a large subject in small space without running such risks. There are clear black-and-white maps in the text, and eight full-page views of typical scenery, all, as it happens, of mountains, cliffs, or lakes, but all well selected and excellently reproduced.

H.R.M.

LONDON: NEW STREETS AND OLD SITES.

'Old-Time Aldwych, Kingsway, and Neighbourhood.' By Charles Gordon. London: Fisher Unwin. 1903. Pp. xiii., 368. With six Plans.

It may be doubted whether any section of London, so small as that bounded by Temple Bar, the Courts, and Lincoln's Inn Fields, Wellington Street, and Holborn, has ever received more detailed treatment than that accorded in this bulky volume. In four chapters Mr. Gordon deals with the various negotiations which led up to the great work which is now going slowly forward from each end of the new thoroughfare; in which connection it is interesting to note that the idea of a north-and-south thoroughfare somewhere near the site now adopted has been in the minds of the different councils concerned from a date at which William IV. was yet on the throne. After these introductory pages, the author turns to the history of this patch of land, beginning from the derivation of the old name, now happily restored—Aldwych, which appears to be undoubtedly connected with a settlement of Danes in this quarter after King Alfred had established peace with the invaders. It suffices here to say that his story is told with minuteness and care, and makes most interesting reading. Three of the plans reproduced are perspectives of 1560 (Agas') and 1654, and Hollar's map of about 1700. The change in the century between the two first is instructive, for while Agas shows practically open country between the Strand and "Oldborne," with the 1654 plan it would have been possible, until the council got recently to work, to find the way with comparative ease from St. Clement's across to Gray's Inn Road. The illustrations, very largely from old prints, are well reproduced, and show how much of picturesqueness London has sacrificed to unlovely utility. The interpolation of the definite article ('Old-time Aldwych, *the* Kingsway,' etc.) in the title on the cover, is at variance with the title-page; the discrepancy should be remedied in a subsequent edition.

O. J. R. H.

MOUNTAINEERING IN NORWAY.

'Norway, the Northern Playground.' By William Cecil Slingsby. David Douglas, Edinburgh: 1904. Pp. xviii., 425. With nine Maps.

It is very well that Mr. Slingsby has been persuaded to lay before lovers of "the northern playground," the results of his climbs over the remarkable period of thirty-one years—1872 to 1903. On the sport of mountaineering at large he speaks, of course, with the voice of authority, but he is peculiarly fitted to deal with it in Norway, for there he was its pioneer. He was first attracted to Jotunheim, that wild district whose fringes are even yet scarcely touched by the thousands of visitors to Sognefjord, Nordfjord, and Gudbrandsdal. Romance clings about its very name, "the home of the mountain demons," and it is a fitting

seat for them, as appears from Mr. Slingsby's appreciative accounts of sombre valleys which human foot may hardly penetrate, and untrodden snow-peaks from the ascent of which the natives shrank at first through fear of something more than mere physical difficulties. Here, after erecting the first cairn on many peaks, Mr. Slingsby at last succeeded in conquering the giant Skagastölstind, accomplishing, on his first ascent, the last few hundred feet alone—a remarkable triumph over a most difficult task not unaccompanied by danger. The author also takes us to the glaciers of Jostedal (surely so, not Justedal), to Söndmøre (not Söndmore, as in the map), and to the famous peaks of Romsdal. His work in the further north, however, as for instance in Lyngen, and in Lofoten, where he accompanied Dr. Norman Collie last year, he merely indicates.

Science is kept in the background. The book is simply a colloquial and very charming account of the author's travels, the more charming in that he does not, like some who are sportsmen and nothing more, condemn a holiday and the country where it was spent out of hand because sport failed. His failures, in the face of bad weather and other adverse conditions, were frequent. But he loves the country, and describes it for its own sake; he is a scientific student of scenery, moreover, for geological formations find frequent mention in their bearing upon the surface met with by mountaineers; nor are the fauna and flora of the various districts ignored. In short, this is a book of thoroughly general interest, for Mr. Slingsby happily rejected the counsel of friends who "wished me to keep well above the snow-line."

The full-plate photographs are very beautiful, but the line drawings in the text are, unfortunately, not commendable. Nor are the maps of value; those which are merely reference-diagrams serve their purpose, but in the large-scale maps of confined districts the contours are apparently only imaginary, or even if they are approximately true, no reference is given to the elevations they represent, nor are the summit-heights marked.

O. J. R. H.

A TYPE OF ALPINE MOUNTAIN STRUCTURE.

'De Sonnwendgebirge in Unterinnthal.' By Dr. Franz Wähner. Part I. Leipzig Franz Deuticke. 1903.

THIS fine monograph, the fruit of many years of patient research, treats of the geological structure and orographical features of a small mountainous area in the Austrian Tyrol—the Sonnwendgebirge, otherwise known as the Rofan group. The stratigraphical succession includes all the representatives of the lower Mesozoic rocks in that part of the Alps from the base of the Triassic through the Rhaetic to the Upper Jurassic (Malm), and the alternation of white masses of dolomite or limestone with red Liassic strata and brownish radiolarian cherts and cherty shales gives the rock-scenery considerable variety and expresses the geological structure very clearly in the superficial configuration. In consequence of the alteration of the rocks by pressure metamorphism, fossils are comparatively rare, but they are sufficiently common to establish the position of all the members of the series. The author has come to the conclusion that the Jurassic limestones are mainly coralline, and that, with the radiolarian cherts, they indicate the prevalence of deep-sea conditions in this region through a long period. This is really a reversion to older views regarding the origin of these strata.

More interest centres, however, in the orogenic features of the district than in its lithology. The standpoint of the author is that to which most students who are engaged in unravelling the geological history of mountain districts at the present day have been led. Formerly the Sonnwendgebirge were regarded as of exceedingly simple structure; their rocks were considered to be of great thickness,