

ALPS

The Ibex. Mountaineers interested in big game, who find themselves in N. E. Switzerland, should not fail to visit the Peter and Paul Park on the outskirts of St. Gallen, where ibex and chamois are bred for the National Park. The reserve, situated on high ground, commands a remarkable view of the Lake of Constance, and the animals are maintained on natural cliffs. The ibex were brought from the Italian herd at Cogne, having been extinct in Switzerland since the sixteenth century, and since being released have reoccupied their former ranges, numbering several hundred head in the main park areas N. and S. of the Ofen Pass. Another large herd maintains itself on the Harder, above the Lake of Brienz, while breeding is also being carried on at the small park at Interlaken Ost.

In St. Gallen one should see the Jägerstube in the Hotel Walhalla, whose late proprietor, Herr Mader, was primarily responsible for the rehabilitation of the ibex in Switzerland. Besides an unusual collection of antlers and horns, the room contains an excellent small portrait of Christian Klucker, as well as one of the renowned hunter of Pontresina, Jan Marchet Colani (1772-1837), who brought down 2700 chamois, two ibex, two wolves and two stags during a hunting career of thirty-five years. Another portrait of Colani is in the Rhaetic Museum at Chur, the charming capital of Canton Graubünden, whose coat-of-arms, an ibex, is painted on the walls of many of the old houses.

At the library of the Stiftskirche, St. Gallen, one can see the well-preserved manuscript maps of Switzerland drawn in the fifteenth century by Aegidius Tschudi (*A. J.*, 46, 146).



Chamonix. In connection with the celebrations attending the visit of British royalty to France, M. Paul Payot, at the Ruskin Stone, read a paper on "The Englishman at Chamonix," and exhibited in the window of the Pâtisserie des Alpes various appropriate items from his remarkable collection of prints and manuscripts. A wreath was placed below the Paccard plaque by members of the American Alpine Club present at the time.

Our attention was called to the neglect into which the unique local Alpine Museum at the Hôtel de Ville has fallen, it being now closed to the public and many of its exhibits in danger of destruction. As this is due to the indifference of the Conseil Municipal, it is hoped that steps will be taken to reopen the rooms, which contain much that is interesting to visiting mountaineers and travellers.