

FAR-FAMED ALPINE HO

The Monks of St. Bernard Their Celebrated D

Many Travellers' Lives Are Them Annually.

In a few weeks from now, fore the snows of early winter blocked the roads for ordinary traffic, the statue of St. Bernard, who at present lying at Martigny, transported to the head of the mous pass, where—in full view of the Hospice which bears his name—to stand as a memorial of his labors. The visitors who spend a few days at the Hospice during their travels in Switzerland will perhaps think no memorial was wanted by the Hospice, which, after the nine centuries, is still freely open to all and any who make the ascent of the Alps by this route.

On the night of Sunday, August, of this year, no less than 1,000 guests were accommodated, and no charge is ever made by the Hospice for the entertainment, the only charge being that not more than one night can be spent at the Hospice. The rescue work for which the Hospice is famous, its brotherhood has been so far advanced that it has been considerably simplified. The advances of modern civilization have made its value is still real enough, and those for whose benefit maintenance of the Hospice is maintained. Do not think that a large number of those who take the path in the tenth century, pilgrims en route for Rome, is possible that St. Bernard's Hospice is mainly in view when provision for the relief of the distressed.

But the twentieth century has seen the stream of poor travellers who come to the Hospice, the mountains, and for the vision is necessary. In the winter there is a regular influx of road-menders and the like from Northern Italy into Switzerland, France, and among these there are a small number of women, who, in the simple kinds of employment in the autumn these people return to their homes beyond the mountains, and as they are too poor to pay the expense of a railway journey, they accomplish the distance on foot. Formerly it was the rule at the Hospice to sally forth in search of travellers at least once a day during the winter, and occasionally more frequently if the danger was great. The matter is simplified by the use of the telephone. At some distance from the Hospice, a station of the pass, is a canton station, from which messages are despatched.

Whenever travellers pass the Hospice, the information is sent to the Hospice, and steps are taken for the relief of the wayfarers in case of difficulty. Naturally the new road which has replaced the old mule track is tunneled for some distance through the rock at the summit, to escape the avalanches, assisting the route, though it is a little avail in the worst weather, such times the help of the dogs is still invaluable. They not only assist in finding those who are lost, but, what is equally important, they are able to find those who are able to take the route, the route to which might be missed but for their assistance.

On the occasion of our visit to the Hospice, in August of this year, one of the monks described to us how eager the dogs are to take, and how they will wait for the first place when a party is about to set out. He added, however, that it was not able to take two dogs together, they were inclined to play. The Hospice is manned at present by fourteen monks, who are assisted by nine dogs. The names of the creatures are evidently handed down from one to the other, and informed that the dogs were to endure the life for many years.

We sat in the salon in the Hospice, the one of the Brothers asked, "not the English lady give the music?" and then they told us of apparent pleasure, that the dog had been presented to them by the king of England when he was prince of Wales. The piano was played by a neat cover, on which was embroidered the motto, "Fideliter, Felicitas." It was played by a walk along the terrace above the Hospice in the morning sunshine. The down the steep road from the Hospice, which the pack mules were used with supplies of food or fuel in the terraced garden, where an area was made to cultivate the flora, is neglected now, for the study was too great; and the Hospice is completely built up.

Beyond the lake, on the "Jupiter," where the Temple