

region for the purpose of hunting. I wish now to add that during the past summer Dr. L. B. Sperry, who was with me a year ago, has again visited the region and solved the problem of the glacial water of Avalanche Lake, as described in my former paper. His party discovered in the mountains at the head of Avalanche Basin, a hitherto unknown glacier which will hereafter be known as the Sperry glacier. Like the majority of the glaciers of this region it begins in narrow gorges, high up in the mountains, and spreads out into a hand-like mass terminating near the top of the cliffs above Avalanche Basin. In form it is the exact opposite of the glacier explored by myself. That seems to be unique among those yet discovered in filling a large amphitheatre and in extruding thence by a long narrow tongue much farther down the mountain side than do any of the others.

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#### INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN AERONAUTICS.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The excellent article published in your issue of October 9th on an International Association for the Advancement of Science deserves the attention of every friend of scientific progress. If your suggestions are adopted, as they certainly will be, the rivalry between different nations will become beneficial, as the peculiar genius of each will serve to excite mutual emulation.

A good example of what cooperation can accomplish may be found in the proceedings of the International Congress of Meteorology held in Paris during September. I shall confine myself to a brief notice of what has been accomplished by the Committee for Scientific Aeronautics, of which Mr. Lawrence A. Rotch and I are members. It is well known that in 1892 MM. Hersuite and Besançon carried out experiments with balloons and measured the temperature of the air at altitudes exceeding 10,000 meters. By gradually enlarging the diameter of these balloons altitudes exceeding 60,000 m. have been reached and temperatures below 50° C. have been recorded. These experiments published in the *Comptes Rendus* and in *L'Aérophile*, attracted the attention of the Aéro-

nautical Society, of Berlin, which has sent up to great altitudes a number of free balloons carrying self-registering instruments. This work was assisted by a large subscription from the Emperor of Germany.

It has now been proposed to establish a series of simultaneous ascents from Paris, Berlin and Strasburg (where an Alsatian Aëronautical Society has recently been formed), and ultimately from St. Petersburg. This work is under the charges of the Committee on Aëronautics appointed at the Meteorological Conference. A free balloon will be sent up from Paris by Wm. Hersuite and Besançon, on November 14th, at 2 p. m., and it has been requested that balloons be sent up from the German stations at the same time. This night has been selected in view of the meteoric showers, as ascensions may be made to advantage by aëronauts to observe the meteors above the clouds, and they could at the same time secure records with barometers and thermometers. I may be permitted to say that I have myself set the example of making an ascent on that night, which I did as far back as 1867. The results of this ascent by night were published in *Aërial Travels*, edited by T. Glaisher.

If this short note should induce any American observer to make an ascent or to send up free balloons at the dates fixed on in France and Germany, he will do a great service by publishing the results in SCIENCE, so that they may be known abroad. W. DE FONVIELLE.

PARIS, October 30, 1896.

#### SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

*The Life and Letters of George John Romanes:*

Written and edited by his wife. 8vo. Pp. IX., 360. Longmans, Green & Co., London, New York and Bombay.

This charming memorial of Romanes should be widely read. Romanes was not only an investigator of ability, a writer of great gift, but he was also a man endowed with a rare combination of personal qualities. The portrayal of his character is an interesting revelation even to those familiar with his writings. The biography is more than well done, for it bears on every page the signs of loving discrimination, and, though the editor retires entirely behind