

After this we kept along under the ridge in an easterly direction, and by glacier, snow, and rocks, made our way back to the cabane, arriving at 3.30 p.m.—12½ hrs. from the start. In the hut I found my dry clothes, which I donned with much satisfaction, and, it now being time for afternoon tea, there followed a meal and some rest. Our Neuchâtel friends and their guide had returned from their climbing and exchanged friendly accounts with us of the day's work. They were vigorously plying the camera upon one another, and seemed to extract great amusement from the process.

A little later we set out for the descent to Orsières. Below the snout of the glacier we noticed the wooden trough, extending far down into the valley, by which ice for commercial purposes is conveyed to a small dépôt. At Praz de Fort, the point at which the Saleinaz valley joins the main Val Ferret, we called upon M. Louis Kurz, who received us hospitably and offered congratulations upon our two 'first ascents.' I was glad to hear the views of so great an authority upon this chain in reference to the second new col, which he remarked had previously been looked upon as impassable. Since then I have consulted him as to the name of this pass, which I propose to call the 'Col de Saleinaz,' and I am glad to possess his entire concurrence in this name. After a pleasant half-hour with him we resumed our way, and reached Orsières at 9 p.m., ready for supper and a good sleep before my departure for England the following day.

I attribute much of our success to Crettex, who led admirably, and, though the entire expedition was as new to him as to myself, never hesitated. On former occasions I have sometimes failed through the ignorance or timidity of guides, but Crettex showed both pluck and resource. He is a young married man, and I think has a good future before him. I parted from him and Rosis with regrets and pleasant recollections, hoping to come back and employ them again.

THE AIGUILLE DE TRÉLATÈTE.

By ALFRED HOLMES.

EARLY in July last year I made some ascents in the Dolomites with Mr. E. J. Mazzuchi, and when he left me in the middle of that month we agreed to meet at Courmayeur later on, and climb the Aiguille de Trélatète together. In accordance with this arrangement I arrived at Courmayeur on July 27. There was a severe thunderstorm

A. du Glacier.

A. de l'Allée Blanche



Alfred Holmes, photo.

Swan Electric Engraving Co.

GLACIER DE L'ALLÉE BLANCHE.

on the way up, soon after leaving Aosta, and the two or three days following were fine but cloudy, so, as our expedition was partly a photographic one, we had to wait for a clearer sky.

Courmayeur has now become quite a fashionable centre, but appears to be declining as a climbing one, and although the 'Royal' has been enlarged and a spacious ball-room added, there is in August considerable difficulty in securing rooms there. Possibly this may be the reason that Courmayeur is a distinctly dearer place than it used to be.

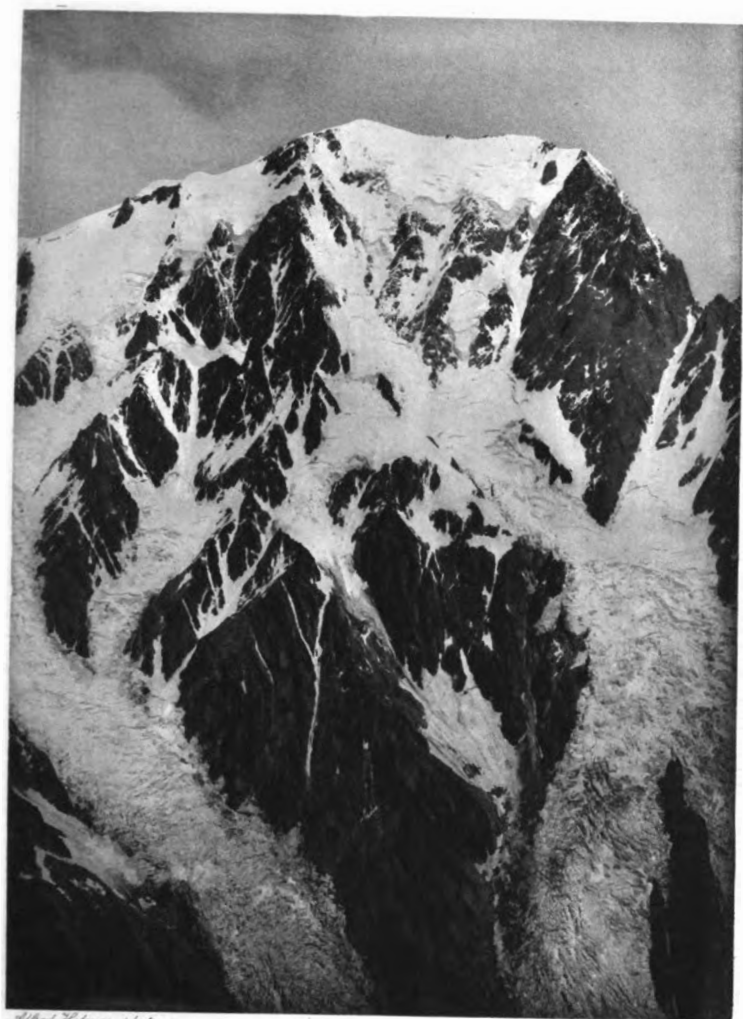
On the 30th the weather improved, and we should have gone off that afternoon, but, unfortunately, religious reasons prevented us. Next day, however, Mazzuchi and I, with César Ollier and a porter, left in the afternoon, and in rather less than 4 hrs.' easy walking arrived at the lower Allée Blanche chalets, where we proposed passing the night. Unfortunately, when we arrived there we found the door of the chalet set apart for climbers locked, and the proprietor at the higher chalets some distance away. We sent off the porter for the key and some milk, and then we had a weary wait of nearly 2 hrs. in a very cold wind before he returned. We found the chalet very clean and roomy; it contained two large beds, covered with linen sheets and blankets, and a good stove with all necessary cooking apparatus. For a pail of milk and the use of the chalet we were only charged 10 lire for the party. We passed a very comfortable, though somewhat short, night—Mazzuchi and I in one bed, the guides in the other.

The route now followed in the ascent of the Trélatête is different to that in use in the early ascents of the peak, and, so far as I can discover, is not mentioned in Kurz, and has never been described in this 'Journal;' and, as we were fortunate enough to find a new, easier, and much quicker way down, an account of our journey, I am told, may possibly be of interest.

We left the chalet next day (August 1) at 2.20 A.M. by a well-marked footpath, which led us, after crossing a torrent, to the E. moraine of the Glacier d'Estellette. After proceeding along this for a few minutes we turned to the right up a broad couloir, full of scree and snow-patches, to a col without a name immediately to the N. of the Aiguille d'Estellette, arriving there at 4.10. This col might conveniently be styled Col d'Estellette. We saw traces of chamois on the Estellette, and Ollier informed us that one morning some weeks before he had shot three from this col.

After a stay of 20 min. we descended a rather steep snow-slope, and in 10 min. reached the Glacier de l'Allée Blanche; this we, going in a E.N.E. direction towards the Petit Mont Blanc, crossed above the lower icefall. When near the foot of this peak we halted 20 min. for breakfast. At 5.50 we addressed ourselves to finding a way through an immense system of some of the finest séracs I have ever seen. The accompanying illustration will give some idea of their size and splendour. For about an hour we went fairly well and without much difficulty; then progress was stopped by enormous ice-cliffs. Ollier went off to prospect, and returned in a few minutes with the report that there was no possible way out in front. We then examined the rocks on the left bank, which come down from the lowest and most southerly point of the Trélatête. These rocks for 18 or 20 ft. were quite smooth, and we were separated from them by a gulf. A sérac, however, offered us a means of getting out of our difficulty, for by mounting it we were able, after a rather sensational jump, to reach a small recess in the rocks just above the smooth part. From here the rocks, though steep, were easy. They brought us out into a bay at the foot of a couloir which comes down from the S. and middle points of the Trélatête. Here we halted from 8.15 to 8.55, then, taking a wide sweep in order to avoid the rocks at the base of the middle point of the Trélatête, we walked up easy snow-slopes towards the Col de Trélatête as far as the beginning of the rocks which form its eastern side. We then turned E. up a steep snow-slope, crossed a bergschrund with some little difficulty, and gained the above-mentioned rock ridge at 10.5. This was followed for about half an hour, and was succeeded by snow, and then rocks again. The rocks, which were nowhere difficult, were climbed either on the ridge or the S. side. The top was reached at 11.45. The summit was a rather narrow ridge of rock partly covered with snow, with a cornice overhanging the Miage Glacier. It was not at all a comfortable place from which to take photographs. A thin haze creeping up the Miage Glacier warned us that if we wanted to get any pictures work must begin at once. The view of the western face of Mont Blanc was most impressive: it is not often that one has the privilege of seeing a precipitous face of rock and ice of between 7,000 and 8,000 ft. The illustration which faces this page shows the most imposing part of what we saw. The distant view was obscured by haze.

We commenced the descent at 12.45 P.M., and followed the



Alfred Holmes, photo.

Swiss Alpine Club, Geneva, 1902.

*Mont Blanc
from the A. de Trélatite.*

same route as in the ascent as far as the plateau immediately below the bergschrund, arriving there at 1.50. From here we decided to try a new way down. We left the morning's route, and going in a south-westerly direction descended gently sloping snow to some rocks, which cut across the glacier from the Aiguille de l'Allée Blanche to the icefall at the base of the S. point of the Trélatête. We descended these easy rocks by the middle couloir to the glacier below. Still going S.W. over easy glacier, with a crevasse here and there, which were turned without difficulty, we made for a prominent col in the ridge between the Aiguille du Glacier and the Estellette. On arriving there we found that the couloir leading down to the Estellette Glacier did not look at all inviting. Its descent would necessitate some step-cutting, and half-way there was what looked like a precipice. We then walked up to the ridge (only a few feet) to inspect the rocks of the Estellette, and as these looked easy we decided to traverse round by them to the unnamed col we had left early in the morning. We found no difficulty whatever in doing this, and arrived on the col at 3.15. The Allée Blanche chalets were reached at 4 P.M.

Ollier was greatly pleased with the new route, as he thought the shortening of the ascent by about 2 hrs. would be an inducement to visitors at Courmayeur to climb the Trélatête for the sake of the magnificent view. For our own part, we were thoroughly satisfied with the climb, and can confidently recommend it to future travellers.

A NEW MOUNTAIN ANEROID BAROMETER.

(Reprinted, with corrections, from the 'Times,' December 17, 1898.)

29 Ludgate Hill, London : December 9, 1898.

SIR,—Mr. Murray published in 1891 a pamphlet [*'How to Use the Aneroid Barometer,'* 8vo., pp. 61, John Murray, Albemarle Street, London], which gave some of the results that had been obtained from numerous comparisons of the Aneroid against the Mercurial Barometer, made by me between the years 1879 and 1890. The earlier of these comparisons were made out of doors up to a height exceeding 20,000 feet; and the later ones were made in the workshop down to a pressure of 14 inches, which is about what one may expect to experience at the height of 20,770 feet above the sea.

These comparisons, or experiments, brought out certain