

small, and when we totalled up our croppers at the bottom they came to a very respectable sum.

Finally the flat level of the Rhone valley was reached, and then our hotel, at the somewhat tardy hour of nearly half-past nine. Our appearance created a tremendous sensation, for old Kreuzer had come in half an hour before to report that we were all most certainly killed. He had waited for 3 hrs. where we left him, and then, deciding that we were probably killed, but might possibly have found some better way down, had collected all our impedimenta and made the best of his way back to the Saasbach, where he had waited a long time in the vain hope of seeing us descending by that valley, till gathering darkness drove him at last homewards.

He fell on our necks with such unfeigned joy at our safe return, and poured forth such eulogies on our masterly performances, that our wrath speedily evaporated, though that of my sister revived to some tune when she found that, on the assumption that she was either lost or slain, her room had been bestowed on some other travellers. They were speedily evicted, and after we had taken turns at the one tub of the establishment and discussed an excellent supper we finally retired to rest about midnight.

Now this is the sort of climbing to which almost every lady may aspire. So many who are thoroughly up to a day of 10 or 12 hrs. are disgusted with the noblest of all sports by being started on their career with a long dull snow-grind from a fashionable centre, preluded perhaps by a miserably uncomfortable night in a hut, or in one of those tiny inns so abundant now at places like Zermatt, in which sleep is generally almost unprocurable. If only their male belongings would give them short days with plenty of rock-scrambling, expeditions such as may be found in abundance in less frequented districts like the Lepontines, fewer of our members would give up climbing, fewer wives would be left behind, and it would be found that not a few ladies were in time perfectly capable of making 'a third on the rope' even in a guideless party.

THE GRINDELWALD DRU.

By G. HASLER.

THE peak now for some years known under this name is that to which the figures 3414 are attached on the Siegfried map, and forms the lowest part of that rocky ridge



Photo by G. Hasler

[Swiss Electric Engraving Co.]

THE LOWER "GENDARME." (THE GRINDELWALD DRU.)

which runs from the Wetterhorn in a north-west direction. From that point nearly perpendicular buttresses lead down to the Great Scheidegg route, whereas from the Hühnergutz Glacier a wall of smooth rocks leads to the arête which comes down from the Dru in a south-west direction.

Seen from Grindelwald the peak seems to be accessible without serious difficulties, but the nearer one gets to it the steeper and harder it becomes.

After several unsuccessful attempts we—that is, my two guides, Chr. Jossi, Peter Bernet, and I—started again from the Gleckstein Hut on May 13, 1901, at 3.15 a.m. The first part of the way was the same we had taken some days before for an ascent of the Wetterhorn from the Hühnergutz Glacier. We reached the arête N. of the Krinne Firn at point 2867, then followed it to the breakfast place, from which I took some photographs. Walking over the Hühnergutz Glacier through very soft snow, we came first to easy rocks, and afterwards over a steep snow ridge to a smooth rocky wall, which, however, was covered with snow, so that we could traverse it. This part will very probably be impossible in summer, when no snow enables the climber to get to the foot of the Dru.

From a somewhat safer place here I succeeded in taking photographs of our route.

The last part of the snow traverse was rather awkward. Then we got to the upper of the two little snow-fields, from which smooth perpendicular, or even overhanging, rocks lead to the gaps in the arête above. Our four-yard-long wooden pole, which we had carried so far, began now to help us. With iron nails and ropes we fastened it on the wall, and, although rather unsafe, Peter began to climb it. It shook dangerously, being barely three inches thick. Still Peter managed to reach the gap. There Grindelwald, which had been hidden for some time, appeared again. We had to pass over two very nasty 'gendarmes' (the second of which is shown in the accompanying illustration), whose rocks were entirely rotten; the first especially was in a bad state.

As soon as we had passed the second tower the difficulties were over. In five minutes more we reached the top over easy snow-covered rocks. There we spent more than an hour in building a cairn and hoisting a white flag on our pole easily visible from Grindelwald. The ascent took us 13 hours from the hut. The top of the Dru looks quite harmless. The difficult part is the traverse of the smooth rocks and the bit above the two snow-fields with the two gendarmes.

In coming down we did not go over these, but managed with rope and iron nails to let ourselves down to the snow. For the benefit of future climbers I may remark that no rope has been left behind. We were back in the hut at midnight.

THE ALPINE CLUB ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS.

THE Exhibition of Photographs that was held in the Hall of the Club during the month of May was quite up to the usual level, though there were perhaps fewer very striking pictures than in some previous years.

Mrs. Aubrey Le Blond showed some good work, but her most conspicuous contribution, a view of the Portiengrat, though vivid and impressive, struck one as being rather lacking in the half-tones which this lady's work usually possesses.

Mrs. Bullock Workman is only less gifted as a photographer than as a lady explorer. One of her photographs showed a region which had never before been visited, having been the subject of discovery by this distinguished lady and her husband. Another, a view of 'Mt. Bullock Workman,' showed well the contrast in tone between snow and sky which appears to prevail in this region. The footmarks leading to the very summit place it beyond doubt that this point, which was at an altitude of over 19,000 ft. above the sea, was actually ascended by the party.

A view of some crevasses on the Doldenhorn, by Miss Benham, showed good work.

Another interesting view in the Himalayas was a panorama of a part of the Karakorums, by Sir Martin Conway. A portion of this which was framed separately was perhaps even more striking. Sir Martin also showed three views of Illimani, which indicated in a manner full of significance to the mountaineer the difficulties of transport which may be caused by soft snow in the Andes.

The work of Mr. Valentine Richards made one feel at once that photography is a field in which the qualities of the artist can be shown with great effect. A general view looking from the Galenstock was beautifully soft. The slopes on the far side of the valley in the middle distance were indicated with what we could but describe as a clean wash, which was very happy in effect, while indistinct patches of snow in the far distance mingled with the sky in a manner which really recalled actual experience. The view of the Saasgrat from above Saasgrund was delightfully atmospheric. The foreground was chosen with great taste and judgment.

Mr. Dent had a large view of the Finsteraarhorn from the Gastenhorn, which was very pleasing and technically excellent, though perhaps the sky was a little too dark. The effect of mist in the long valley which stretched away into the mountains appeared to us to be particularly realistic, and to indicate the difference in