

others struggled with frozen fingers to encircle themselves with the rope, for 1,000 ft. of steep snow couloir lay between us and the wished-for col. Fortunately, as sometimes happens when rain has been judiciously mingled with the sleet, the snow was in perfect order, the couloir itself was sheltered from the howling blast, and 1½ hr. of steady kicking up ever-steepening snow, in which were two rather uncomfortable avalanche gutters and an opening bergschrund, landed us one by one into the teeth of the gale again. 'Facilis descensus,' especially as the couloir on the other side was not so steep; and Veglia was gained more rapidly than we had expected, though William, who perhaps had begun to have qualms as to the mere 'showeriness' of the weather, had been anxiously looking out for us for an hour or two. But that is why the Italian side of the Kriegalp Pass with its track leading up to 2,567 is still a mystery, so far as I am concerned.

THE RANGE SOUTH OF THE OTEMMA GLACIER.

By A. CUST.

THE Italian monograph 'In Valpellina,' by Signori Canzio, Mondini, and Vigna, published originally in the 'Bollettino' of the Italian Alpine Club, vol. xxxii, 1899, and briefly noticed in 'A. J.' vol. xxi. p. 64, deserves the study of English climbers, if only that the mountain part of interest to climbers was produced in collaboration with Mr. A. G. Topham, to whom the manuscripts were submitted.

The two Ciardonnays are distinguished, in accord with the latter and myself, as Becca di Ciardonnay Superiore and Inferiore. The first has two summits, marked on the Italian map E. 3,347 m. and W. 3,343 m., but the height for the mountain on the Swiss map, 3,398 m., is preferred.* I regret that another suggestion to change 'Great' into 'Little' in the title of point 3,437 m. (a height to be reduced, it appears, by about 100 m.) could not be adopted. The obvious misnomer, however, Grand' Epicoun, is, in

* The point where we made our cairn was a rocky cone E. of the snow ridge which forms the general summit of the mountain. On leaving the rocks about the middle of this we found a convenient shale path below it to the base of the cone. Our descent being to S.W. over snow S. of the summit ridge, we no doubt passed the second summit on our right. After following down the arête that descends to the Colle di Berlon we found a devious way down among ridges on its W. side, which brought us near the top of that pass. We then reached the route of the Crête Sèche, though perhaps not at the actual col. Mr. Topham's rectification of the watershed determining the frontier line, making it pass from the summit of the Lower to those of the Upper Ciardonnay by the intermediate col, is accepted.

fact, applied to it in the valley. Its very existence has been disputed (in 'A. J.' xv. 487), but Signori Canzio and Mondini made the ascent in 1897, and it is described as a triplet of rock summits, of which that to the N.E. is the highest. It lies between the Rayette, the Swiss name of which is Bec d'Épicoun (the only double name happily retained), and the Oulie Cecca. It is to be hoped that the opinion expressed in the monograph that the latter name (a corruption, we are told, of Ouille or Aiguille Sèche)—restored therein from the Sardinian map in place of M. Oulie of the modern Italian map, being also that by which the mountain is known in Valpelline—should be definitely adopted will be followed in future revisions of the maps to the exclusion of all others.*

The details of the ridge between the Oulie Cecca and the Blancien were fully discussed in correspondence between Sig. Mondini, who wrote the mountaineering part, Mr. Topham, and myself, and as a result the Italian monograph endorses my previous note on the subject.† On the propriety of applying the name Col d'Otemma to the low and practicable gap adjoining the Oulie Cecca (8,550 m.) on the E. we were entirely agreed, and the monograph certifies that the pass is so called in Valpellina. The Siegfried pass of the name between the Becca di Sciassa (8,480 m., S. map; 8,477 m., I. map; so called on the Sardinian, but unnamed on the Italian map) and the Punta Boetta has no support either in the monograph or the revised 'Studer,' and is, I take it, simply fictitious. The Punta Boetta, which equals the Oulie Cecca in height, has two summits, formed by the ends of a nearly level ridge composed of large blocks of rock, and running N.W. towards the Otemma Glacier, whence in consequence it has a bold appearance.‡

The accompanying map § shows the names authorised; the

* On the unsatisfactory nomenclature of Siegfried see Herr Wäber's note in Studer's *Über Eis und Schnee*, vol. ii. second edition, p. 528. The whole of this range is excellently seen in the photographs from the Ruinette (*In Valpellina*, pp. 88, 112). If the name Rayette could be authoritatively preferred as the sole name for the peak bearing it on the Italian map, and the lower point to S.W. now so-called on Siegfried be either deprived of it or called Petite Rayette, the present confusion of names at this part would be dispensed with.

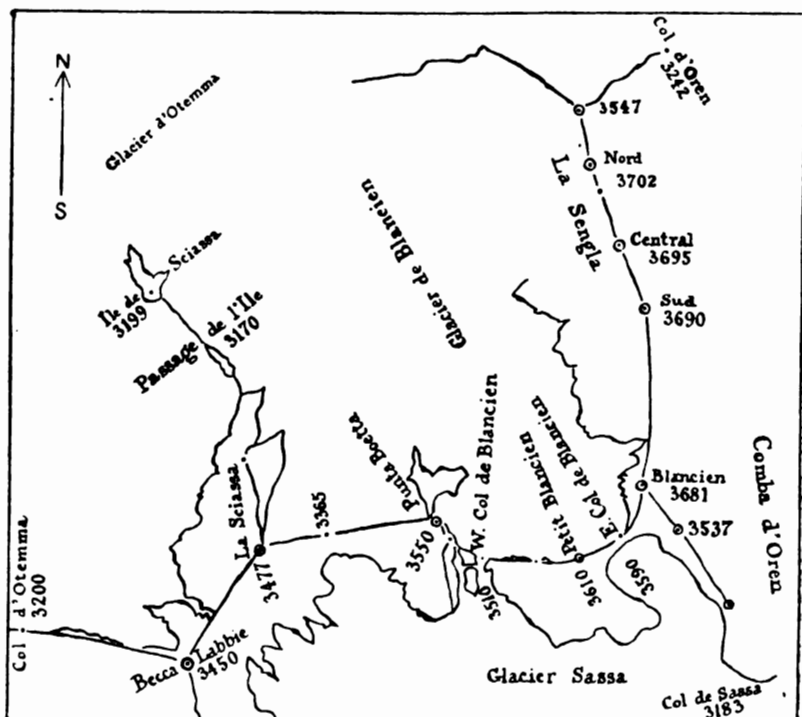
† A. J. vol. xix. p. 369.

‡ The N.W. end, where there can be no doubt we made our cairn in 1881, is, I believe, the higher. From a note which I made on my visit to Arolla in 1897, that the only col which Anzevui knew was that between the Sciassa and Oulie Cecca, it seems most likely that this was the pass crossed some time prior to 1879 by M. Gira, the geologist, in his company (see concluding note in A. J. ib.) It also best accords with the description given me in 1879 by Elie Peter, though Anzevui at that time identified the passage with the one I had just made (E. Col de Blancien). Signor Mondini informed Mr. Topham that 'Grande Zamaine' is *patois* for Gran Chamin, by which name the Valletta di Sassa is also called (see *Valpellina*, p. 90); and that in reaching the Glacier d'Otemma thence the only route taken by the chasseurs of Valpelline is by the first-named pass (the true Col d'Otemma).

§ Based generally on the Italian map, with the Blancien as a fixed point; and also adjusted and drawn in detail from photographs, such as those in the monograph, and my own sketches. There is a difference of nearly 500 mètres

heights so far as they are new on the Blancien-Labbie ridge were proposed by myself (that given on the Italian map for the Becca Labbie, 3,821 m., is certainly too low). The names Ile de Sciassa, Passage de l'Île, and Glacier de Blancien for the E. branch of the side glacier between the Sengla-Blancien ridge and the Sciassa are now suggested.

As to the confusion between the E. and W. Cols de Blancien pointed out in the monograph, Sir Martin Conway did not communicate with myself either when engaged on the 'Climber's Guide'



Scale 1 : 25000 ca.

or when penning his previous 'vivace critica,'* now shown, on the authority of the Italian writers, to be erroneous, † or the misapprehension that the col reached by himself was identical with that

in the distance of the Oulie Cecca from the Blancien on the Italian and Swiss maps, the latter, which places it further W., appearing to me most nearly correct.

* *A. J.* vol. xv. p. 261.

† 'Da verifiche fatte dal sig. Topham e da noi, colla scorta di fotografie dei due versanti, risulta che il Conway venne tratto in inganno appunto dall'errata ubicazione del colle Est di Blancien' (note, p. 111; see also following page).

reached by me in 1879 would have been cleared up. It may be observed, however, that the fact that on leaving the Col de Sassa we went to the right up snow slopes to a high gap, whence the Blancien is easily ascended (in little over $\frac{1}{2}$ hr.), is incompatible with the supposition that the pass reached by us on that occasion was the W. Col de Blancien.* To have reached the latter we must have descended, rounded the base of the Petit Blancien, and then ascended a gully in the rocks, while in so doing we should have been going away from our mountain.

The beauty of the view from the Blancien (the Italian height 3,681 m. seems preferable to the Swiss 3,662) particularly impressed me, and I had rarely been so charmed with a mountain prospect. The most pleasing elements were present—the broad Otemma Glacier on one side, the deep Valpelline, with its long sweep to the Val d'Aosta on the other, the vapoury gap over Ivrea, the uninterrupted horizon of peaks, with nothing near to interfere, from Mt. Blanc to Mte. Rosa, the jagged, broken ridge of the Sengla, giving a bold contrast close at hand. The S. summit of the latter was ascended by Signori Canzio and Mondini from Prarayé in 1898, who found it higher than the Blancien; the central summit was higher again.

Both Studer and the monograph discuss Mr. E. G. Foster's expedition: the first holds that it is involved in too much uncertainty to found on it a claim to the first ascent of the Sengla; the latter disputes that ascent altogether, suggesting that the 'small peak' ascended was the W. Becca d'Oren (3,506 m.), which is in fact accessible by an hour's easy ascent from the Col d'Oren, while pointing out that the Sengla is anything but a small peak, and 460 m. above the pass, on which it descends in a ridge of glacier and steep rocks. Certainly the photographic views of the mountain on that side given in the work do not harmonise with Mr. Foster's language in writing to me (I quote from memory) that 'it was very easy, so easy, in fact, that I hesitated about sending it up to the "Alpine Journal," but thought it a pity others should not enjoy the view.' It is an objection to the Becca d'Oren that it lies E. of the pass, whereas the name on Dufour's map is in the other direction. If the pass crossed was the Col d'Otemma, neither the Sciassa of Dufour's map, which is the Oulie Cecca, nor the more insignificant peak so called answers the description. The latter obscure summit—possibly one of the last summits on the main ridge of the Western Alps bearing a name on the map to be victimised—seems to be precluded by a final climb along a narrow arête precipitous on the Italian side. But the ascent of the neighbouring Becca Labbie is a mere walk, and, as the locality corresponds better with the name than that of the Becca d'Oren, it occurs to me as presenting a possible solution.

Attention may be a second time called to the map accompanying

* *A. J.* vol. ix. p. 365. See the illustrations, pp. 109, 123; from the first all three cols named are seen.

the monograph (the Italian map on the scale of 1:50,000 corrected), as the nomenclature represents the results of alpinistic exploration on ranges extending from the Vélán to the Dt. d'Hérens; and, being made out of four sheets of the original, while the colouring renders it more pleasing to the eye, it is just the companion an explorer of the district would like to have.

I hear from Mr. Topham that Sig. Felice Mondini, who, he adds, has done useful work on the Italian frontier mountains, had recently informed him that he was going to reside at Santiago, Chili, where he hoped for some climbing in the Andes: he promised assistance to any English climbers that came his way.

THE ALPINE CLUB ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION.

THE annual summer exhibition of photographs was this year hardly as good as we have sometimes known it. There were, however, some excellent individual pictures.

The Club was very fortunate in having so many lady exhibitors; in fact, their contributions would almost have made an exhibition of themselves. Some of the best photographs in the room (by a lady exhibitor) were some views by Miss M. L. Longstaff of the Canadian Rockies and of the Selkirks. They were extremely picturesque and very good in artistic treatment and composition. The view of the Vermilion Range especially was remarkable for a very pleasing effect of cloud and distance. The way in which the dark fir trees in 'The Illecillewait at Dawn' cut the distant sky was also particularly clever and effective. We cannot help also mentioning the charming composition of 'Lake Louise.'

Mrs. Arthur Schuster, a very welcome new contributor, sent three views of mountain scenery in California, taken from the valleys, showing very good and careful work. Miss E. Venables also contributed a few photographs. Miss Evelyn A. Arkle had one particularly meritorious picture of Monte Rosa seen from the Strahlhorn. The composition was good, and there was a fine effect of clouds breaking on the upper firn like surf on a beach. 'The Pigno d'Arolla' was also a good photograph, but the trees on the left-hand side were rather too dark. Miss Marion Barrett kindly allowed Mr. G. W. Stevens to exhibit her nice soft cloud effects all in one frame. Mr. C. Thurston Holland sent a view entitled 'The End of the Glacier' which showed nice gradation of shade in the ice. Mr. John Gunston possesses good technic.

Mr. Mumm sent half-a-dozen enlargements of photographs taken in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They were all of great interest, especially for those who would in future journey there. Mr. A. W. Andrews exhibited a view of the icefall on the Durand Glacier which was remarkable for good and clear detail. 'The Rothhorn and Moming Pass from Lo Besso,' by Mr. J. W. Wyatt, was very