

NEW EXPEDITIONS IN 1908 (*continued*).*Titlis District.*

BRUNNENSTOCK.—On September 4, 1908, a guideless party, consisting of Messrs. Legh S. Powell, W. C. Compton, A. V. Valentine-Richards and T. H. Fitzpatrick, made what appears to be the first ascent of the Brunnenstock, which was identified by Messrs. Reade and Benecke in the visitors' book at Stein (August 3, 1893), as 'the E. buttress of the Giglistock, seen as a sharp rock peak from the Steinlimmi glacier.'

The point appears from the contours to be about 2,700 metres in height, and, though only rising some 20 or 30 metres above the depression between it and the Giglistock, is a very formidable peak when seen from the East, on which side it falls precipitously to the Steinlimmi glacier, throwing out a very remarkable gendarme, as if its own face were not sufficient defence against attack on that side. As a matter of fact the rocky ridge seems quite inaccessible except on its N. face and from the depression at its W. end. The route taken from the Stein Hotel was by the Seeboden and the valley W. of the Thaleggi and then by the Thaleggi glacier to the depression mentioned, which is close to the W. end of the Brunnenstock arête. From this point an interesting climb of 25 minutes up the arête led over a lower summit to the highest point, which was reached in about 3½ hours from Stein (halts not included). No sign of any previous ascent was found, but a small cairn was then constructed from the loose material of the narrow arête, names being deposited in a jam-tin, as no better receptacle had been carried to the top. After visiting the two summits of the Giglistock, the return was made by the gap N. of the Brunnenstock and a couloir leading down to the Steinlimmi glacier. This route is much more direct than that followed in ascending.

The peak may be distinguished from another and lower point to the N.E.* for which it may have been mistaken, by the fact that the Stein Hotel is not visible from it: it is evidently the same as the Brunnenstock mentioned in the 'Führer durch die Urner Alpen,' vol. ii. p. 112, though it is there stated that the peak 'is easily accessible from the S.'

WANGHÖRNER.—On September 7, the same party made what seems to be the first traverse of the Wanghörner, from N. to S. These peaks form a ridge running N. and S. on the E. of the Trift glacier, and W. of the Giglistock.

The route from Stein lay by the Seeboden and Thaleggi, from which a long traverse led to the Gigli glacier. This was ascended, first by the rocks on its right (E.) bank, afterwards by a diagonal traverse towards the Wanghörner, whose N. peak (2,823 m.) was

* This lower point was also ascended by the above party, who saw from it the Stein Hotel, and it is the point called Brunnenstock in *The Climber's Guide to the Bernese Oberland*, edited by Dr. Dübi, vol. iv. part i. p. 103.

easily reached by the E. face and N. arête, fresh snow occasioning the only difficulty encountered. The descent of this peak on its S. side presented no serious difficulty, though it afforded one or two bits of interesting climbing.

From the col between the two peaks the ascent of the S. Wanghorn (2,837 m.) is easy until a gendarme conspicuous from the Giglistock is reached. The only way of turning this appears to be by a traverse on the W. involving the descent of a steep chimney, and an interesting scramble back to the ridge, which may be reached just below the summit. The descent to the second col (S. of the higher peak), though steep, presents no difficulty. The ascent on this side was made by Mr. and Mrs. Baker-Gabb in July 1898,* but apparently not the traverse.

The return to Stein was made by a not very desirable couloir leading from the Drosi glacier to the ridge N. of the Giglistock, which again allowed of an easy descent to the Thaleggi glacier and so under the Brunnenstock to the Steinlimmi glacier, near its foot.

This traverse is among the more interesting of the shorter expeditions to be made from Stein. The times, which were slow, were as follows (exclusive of halts):—Stein to the N. Wanghorn, 5 hrs.; traverse to foot of S. Wanghorn, 2½ hrs.; return to Stein, 1 hr. 50 min.

Eastern Alps.

ZUENIG SPITZE (9,805 ft.). *September 19.*—Miss Adeline Edwards, with the guides Josef and Alois Trost (aspirant), made the first ascent by the west ridge of the Zuenig Spitze, a fine mountain at the junction of the Tauern, Virgen, and Isel valleys, in the Tyrol. After traversing a very broken ridge for 2 hrs. they came to a small fenêtre framing an exquisite view of the snowfields of the Gross Venediger, and then almost immediately found themselves on the edge of a 48-ft. perpendicular face-rock, with a drop on to a bridge about 2 ft. wide—a distinctly awkward spot—from which point on the other side the ascent of the Wand at once began, and afforded splendid rock work for 1¾ hr.

ALPINE NOTES.

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‘THE ALPINE GUIDE,’ THE CENTRAL ALPS. PART I.—A new edition of this portion of the ‘Alpine Guide,’ by the late John Ball, F.R.S., President of the Alpine Club, reconstructed and revised on

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xix. p. 253.