

On September 8, **Herr Hans Dürr**, of Innsbruck, described as an experienced and very careful climber, aged thirty-two, set out from the **Alphaus**, intending to follow the somewhat difficult arête from the **Hochwand** to the **Karkopf**, in the **Mieminger Gebirge**. His body was discovered next day about 200 metres down on the N. face of the **Karkopf** by **Herren Ernst Clément** and **Blaschke**, members of a numerous body of friends forming the search-party.

On September 8, a young Viennese, **Leopold Rudolf**, was leading in an ascent of the difficult N. face of the **Hochthor** in the **Ennsthal**. When close to the top he suddenly fell and was dashed to pieces, his companion being only saved from sharing his fate by the breaking of the belayed rope.

ACCIDENT IN THE LAKE DISTRICT

On September 26, **Mr. Thomas James Rennison**, aged twenty-nine, of **Kirkby Stephen**, **Westmorland**, was killed while attempting the ascent of the **Eagle's Nest** ridge on the **Great Gable**.

The party consisted of **Mr. Fred Botterill**, **Mr. Oliver Thorneycroft**, **Mr. Fred Aldous**, and **Mr. Rennison**.

Mr. Botterill had made the ascent five times previously and had led on four of these occasions, but in this instance **Mr. Rennison** was leading by his own wish, **Mr. Botterill** being second on the rope. When about 200 feet up and some 12 feet above the belay where **Mr. Botterill** stood, and just at the worst part of the climb, **Mr. Rennison** slipped and fell some 200 feet, being picked up in **Needle Gully** with his neck broken.

The rope, which is described in evidence as an ordinary climbing rope, 80 feet long, and as having been eighteen months in use and a little worn, broke between **Mr. Rennison** and **Mr. Botterill**, but **Mr. Botterill** expressed the opinion that even a new rope would have broken under the circumstances.

It will be noted that in three of the accidents described in this number has a belayed rope failed to ensure the safety of the leader.

NEW EXPEDITIONS IN 1909.

Eastern Graians.

PUNTA VACHÈRES OF THE NEW ITALIAN ALPINE CLUB MAP (no height given, but probably about 10,000 ft.). *August 10.*—**Mr. George Yeld**, with **Benjamin Pession**, of **Val Tournanche**, went up from **Cogne** by way of **Gimillian** and the **Testa Chaplane** (2,673 m.) of the **New Map** to the ridge between the **Grauson** and the **Arpissou** valleys. They ascended a point on that ridge (possibly that marked 3,033 m. on the **New Map**, though they think that their point was probably higher and nearer to the **P. Vachères**), and subsequently went up the **P. Vachères** itself. Approximate time, 5 hours. They could see nothing higher than their second point

(the Vachères) between them and the Tour d'Arpisson (the latter ascended by Mr. Yeld, with François Pession, in 1897, *A. J.* xviii. pp. 525-6). Clouds, succeeded later by a thunderstorm, prevented the party from making the complete examination of the whole ridge which they had proposed. No traces of a previous ascent were found on either of the points climbed.

PUNTA DEL TUF (Climbers' Guide to the Mountains of Cogne, p. 122) or CIMA DI LEVIONA (New Italian Alpine Club Map, which gives the name Punta del Tuf to the point 3,392, immediately to the S. of the Passo del Tuf) (3,420 m.—11,221 ft.) by the W. arête. *August 12.*—The same party, having ascended this peak by a variation (they went for a considerable distance up the glacier, instead of keeping to the actual N.E. arête all the way) of the route taken on the first ascent in 1893, descended the W. arête, passing over the point marked 3,262 m. on the New Map, for some distance beyond that point. Then, as the rocks became smooth and slabby, they turned to the right, and by means of a small couloir and of an ill-defined ridge on its right-hand side, got down to the lowest part of the Timorion glacier (New Map). The last piece before the glacier was reached was very unpleasant, as at first the slabs were smooth, and after that a thin covering of snow lying upon them made progress slow. The party then descended to Dégioz, the views of the Erbetet and his southern neighbours being particularly striking.

The first and apparently only previous ascent of this peak was made August 21, 1893, by Signor G. Bobba, with Casimir Thérissod, and Mr. G. Yeld, with François and Sylvain Pession (*A. J.* xvi. pp. 507-8). This party went up by the N.E. arête and descended by the S. arête to the col between the peak and the Gran Sertz, so that all three arêtes of the mountain (so well shown on the New Map) have now been climbed.

Approximate times: the ascent from Cogne should take from $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 hours, while the descent to the end of the Timorion glacier took $1\frac{1}{2}$ hour.

TÊTE DE GRANDCROU or TESTA GRAN CROU (New Map) (3,440 m.—11,286 ft.). *August 14.*—The same party, with the addition of a porter from Val Savaranche, made the first ascent of this point, which is really the last buttress of the Grand Paradis towards the E., and was at the time the only point still unascended between the Col de Grandcrou and the Grand Paradis.

The party, starting from the Victor Emmanuel Club hut, crossed the Col du Grand Paradis, traversed the Noaschetta glacier, ascended the Becca di Noaschetta, descended to the Col di Noaschetta, and then traversed to the col between the Tête de Valnontey and the Tête de Grandcrou. Going exceptionally slowly they took nearly an hour from the Becca to the col. From the col they ascended over snow by its N.W. arête to the top of the Tête de Grandcrou (5 min.), where they built a small stone man. They then began the descent by the E. arête to the Col de Grandcrou. The rocks were difficult, and the descent of the 462 ft. between the top

and the col took $1\frac{1}{2}$ hour of varied and exciting work. The party then made the long descent to Noasca, where they found very fair accommodation. The weather during the climb was very fine.

TOUR DE GRAUSON (3,237 m.—10,621 ft.). *August 18.*—The same party, without the porter, made the first ascent of this fine peak, which, though well seen from Cogne, up to this time has been strangely neglected by climbers. They slept at the chalets of Grauson (2,271 m.), $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours above Cogne, where the herdsmen were very hospitable, and the sleeping quarters quite good.

Leaving the chalets at 6.20 A.M. the party crossed the Lussert torrent and then went N.E. up to a little col in the N.E. arête of the peak, from which the Lussert lakes were visible. After that they walked for some time S.W. along that arête, and then went diagonally from S.E. to N.W., from ridge to hollow and from hollow to ridge (in places decidedly steep), till they arrived just under the actual summit of the peak at 10.30 A.M. (about $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours' walking from the chalets). When examining the mountain from Cogne they had been very doubtful as to which of the many points on the summit ridge was actually the highest, and, on finding, after careful examination, that the actual summit was close at hand, were much relieved, as it would have taken a long time to go on to the pinnacles further to the N.W. The mountain, on the Lussert glacier or N. side, is very steep, and apparently dangerous by reason of falling stones, though possibly a better way up may be found from below than the party could see from above. A stone man was made on the highest point.

The route followed on the descent was entirely different from that taken on the ascent. There are several great couloirs in the S. face of the mountain that are well seen from the Grauson chalets. One of these big couloirs begins almost under the very summit, descends straight down for some time, then turns to the right (W.), and finally becomes a torrent bed (in parts very steep and not easy). In this couloir, or on its sides (except in one place where for a short time a side gully was followed) the party descended. The very last bit of the torrent bed, the steep part of which was about 100 metres above the Grauson chalets, was turned by the left bank. This is probably much the quickest route for the descent, as the party took only 2 hrs. 10 min. actual walking down to the chalets. This couloir, in which the party descended 3,000 ft. at least, is the great feature of the mountain, and was carefully examined by them from the chalets on their return.

The most interesting part of the view from the summit was the sight of the Valnontey from end to end.

Mont Blanc Range.

AIGUILLE BLANCHE DE PEUTERET (4,109 m. = 13,480 ft.) ASCENT FROM THE FRESNAY GLACIER AND DESCENT TO THE BRENVA GLACIER.—On August 16, 1909, Mr. H. O. Jones, with Laurent Croux

(guide) of Courmayeur and Laurent Croux (porter) of La Villaire, set out from a bivouac on the left bank of the Brouillard Glacier at 3.25 A.M., reached the Col de Fresnay at 6, descended to the lower basin of the Fresnay Glacier, and reached the base of the Aiguille Blanche at 8. Crampons were worn, and no steps had to be cut on the steep ice and snow slopes; otherwise much more time would have been taken to reach the Fresnay Glacier. (Subsequent observations showed that the base of the Aiguille Blanche could have been reached in much less time by crossing the Col de l'Innominata between the Innominata and the Aiguille Joseph Croux, and ascending the Fresnay Glacier, which is possible between the point thus reached and the base of the Aiguille Blanche.) The bergschrund was crossed at the foot of the second couloir S.E. of the great icefall between the upper and lower basins of the Fresnay Glacier; the rocks on the S.E. of the couloir were followed for a short distance; the couloir was then crossed and the rocks on its other (N.W.) side followed mainly by their crest. These rocks were at first moderately hard, but became much more difficult as the ascent continued, and some passages were of a high order of difficulty. It was intended to take to the snow by traversing to the north-west at a level just below that of the Col de Peuteret, but finding the slope to consist of hard ice partly covered by powdery snow it was decided to keep to the rocks, which was done until the summit of the more northern of the two rock towers on the ridge leading from the summit of the Aiguille Blanche to the Col de Peuteret was reached. This ridge was then followed to the summit reached shortly before 4 P.M. Descending by the ordinary route on the Brenva face, a bivouac was made under an overhanging rock above Güssfeldt's first bivouac (3,200 mètres) at 6.30. From 2.30 P.M. the mountain was enveloped in dense fog and from 4 P.M. there was continuous hail or snow and thunder through the night and the next morning. Setting off at 5.30 A.M. on August 17 Courmayeur was reached at noon.

The times (excluding halts) taken between the various points are as follows:—

	h	m
Bivouac to Col de Fresnay	2	10
Descent to Glacier de Fresnay		35
To base of Aiguille Blanche		35
To main arête above Col de Peuteret	5	20
To summit of Aiguille Blanche	1	30
To second bivouac	2	15

The ascent from the Fresnay Glacier by this route appears to be quite safe from falling stones (the only place where the tracks of falling stones were crossed was in traversing the couloir, and the few stones which were seen to fall there on that day or on previous

To M. Blanc
de Courmayeur

Col de
Peuteret

Summit of
Aiguille
Blanche de
Peuteret



THE AIGUILLE BLANCHE DE PEUTRET (FRESNAY FACE)
FROM THE INNOMINATA.

----- Mr. H. O. Jones's route.

+ Place where Professor F. M. Balfour and Petrus were found.

occasions fell late in the day and were quite small). The Brenva face is also safe in good weather when the face is in shadow.

The route is shown on the annexed photograph, whilst the approximate line followed by Sir Seymour King with the guides Emile Rey, Ambros Supersax, and Aloys Anthamatten when making the first ascent of this mountain on July 31, 1885, lies considerably higher up, nearer the Mont Blanc de Courmayeur.* It will be seen that Mr. H. O. Jones's route is completely new from the Fresnay Glacier until the main arête from the Col de Peuteret to the Aiguille Blanche is struck, as from the Col de Fresnay he descended direct to the *lower basin* of the Fresnay Glacier, whereas Sir Seymour's party continued along the ridge dividing the Brouillard from the Fresnay Glaciers practically to where that ridge abuts against the Mont Blanc de Courmayeur. From this point the party descended with great difficulty to the *upper basin* of the Fresnay Glacier, whence they reached without difficulty the Col de Peuteret, and then followed the main arête to the summit of the Aiguille Blanche.

Mr. Jones's route was the outcome of a considerable amount of exploration in order to find a safe route from the Fresnay side, in view of Sir Seymour King's emphatic warning as to stones. This year no stones were observed to lie on the Fresnay Glacier at the foot of the Aiguille Blanche.

How far Professor F. M. Balfour with the guide Petrus got on their unfortunate attempt on the Aiguille Blanche will never be known, but their bodies were found at the foot of the couloir on the S.E. side of the icefall dividing the upper and lower basins of the Fresnay Glacier, as marked with a † on the photograph.

It must not be forgotten that to Mr. James Eccles and his guides Michel and Alphonse Payot and to Signor Gruber and his guide Emile Rey are really due indications which eventually led to Sir Seymour King's successful ascent of the Aiguille Blanche from the Fresnay side, now repeated, though by a distinct route, by Mr. H. O. Jones. Mr. Eccles's party in 1877 had already followed practically the whole of Sir Seymour King's route as far as the foot of the Col de Peuteret. From this point they struck up the great couloir contained between the main mass of the Mont Blanc de Courmayeur and its great E. arête, which descends to the Col de Peuteret, taking to this arête about half-way between the Aiguille Blanche de Peuteret and the top of Mont Blanc de Courmayeur. This expedition of the very first rank, was repeated with important differences in 1880 by Signor Gruber, under the guidance of Emile Rey. This party descended from the Col de Fresnay on to the Glacier de Fresnay, the upper basin of which they gained by climbing very difficult rocks at the E. side of the icefall between the upper and lower basins. (It was on these rocks or in the neighbouring

* Cf. *Alpine Journal*, vol. xii. p. 431 *seq.*

couloir that Professor Balfour and Petrus were killed in 1882.) From the upper basin they gained in an easy hour the Col de Peuteret and then followed the great arête to the summit of the Mont Blanc de Courmayeur, being forced to bivouac at a height of 4,400 m., probably at the place where Rey again bivouacked with Dr. Güssfeldt thirteen years later. The experience there gained may be said to have shown the possibility of the expedition of Sir Seymour King, of 1885, in which Rey took a leading part, whilst the expeditions of Mr. Eccles and Signor Gruber also anticipated Dr. Paul Güssfeldt on the great arête of Mont Blanc de Courmayeur. The evolution of these expeditions, among the greatest ever carried out in the Alps, is exceedingly interesting, nor will the names of the great guides who rendered their employers such brilliant service be readily forgotten, least of all that of the Italian, Emile Rey, who played such a leading part in the expeditions of 1880, 1885, and 1893.

It will also be remembered that considerable exploratory work on this face of Mont Blanc had previously been done by Mr. John Birkbeck, by Mr. T. S. Kennedy and Mr. Middlemore with the guide Johann Fischer, and by Mr. Garth Marshall, who, with that guide, was killed on the Brouillard Glacier in 1874.

The splendidly illustrated article in *Bolletino*, xxxv., by F. Mondini, the brothers Gugliermi, and E. Canzio, should also be consulted by students of this face of Mont Blanc, upon which the authors are the most recent authorities.

A *résumé* of the routes on the Brenva side of the Aiguille Blanche is given among Various Expeditions.

J. P. FARRAR.

Pennine Alps.

WEISSHORN (4512 m.=14,804 ft.).—Direct ascent from the Bies Glacier by the N.E. ridge. On August 31 Messrs. Oliver Perry-Smith and G. Winthrop Young with the guide Joseph Knubel made this ascent. The line of ascent appears to differ from that followed by Mr. Kitson in August 1871, which ascent was repeated a month later by Mr. Coolidge, the guides in each case being Christian Almer père and Ulrich Almer.

Full particulars of the present ascent will be given in an early number.

KLEIN DÜRRENHORN (3,831 m.=12,569 ft.), by E. face. *July 30, 1909.*—Dr. O. K. Williamson, with Daniel Maquignaz and Heinrich Fux, having left the Mischabelhütte at 4.16 A.M., reached the Windjoch at 5.45 A.M., and after a halt of five minutes descended the slopes on the W. side of the pass to the névé of the Ried Glacier. Looking at the Dürrenhorn from here, a broad snow couloir which descends from the col between that peak and the Klein Dürrenhorn is seen. The rocks to the right (N.) of this couloir were chosen for the ascent. Starting at 6.40 A.M., an ill-defined rock couloir was crossed to the right, and the party thus reached the second faintly marked rib to the right of the above-mentioned snow couloir. The rocks here were steep and loose but not difficult. They halted

on the rib, 6.57–7.33 A.M. They then ascended rocks, then a snow ridge inclined at a moderate angle, and more similar rocks. These became steeper, and an interesting chimney followed by a short traverse to the right led to the summit at 8.45 A.M. A halt of 33 minutes was made shortly afterwards, and the top of the Dürrenhorn reached by the N. arête at 11 A.M. The descent was made by the abominable W. arête to Herbriggen.

NADELHORN (4,334 m.=14,219 ft.), by N. face. *August 2, 1909.*—The same party left the Mischabelhütte at 3.35 A.M., and having halted 3 minutes *en route*, reached the Windjoch at 5.5 A.M. Here the putting on of crampons exacted a halt until 5.50 A.M. A start up the N.E. arête of the Nadelhorn was then made, and at 6.15 A.M. the party traversed to the right on to the N. face of the peak. A crevasse soon necessitated a short descent, and they then ascended towards the arête which connects the Nadelhorn and Stecknadelhorn. The snow was here powdery. A halt was made from 6.50–6.55 A.M. They ascended obliquely to the right (snow henceforth excellent), and having easily crossed the bergschrund, ascended the very steep final snow slope. The angle of this eased off, and they reached at 7.48 A.M. the N.W. arête of the Nadelhorn at a point not a great distance above the lowest gap between this peak and the Stecknadelhorn. The summit of the Nadelhorn was reached *via* the arête at 8.43 A.M. The descent was made in bad weather over the Stecknadelhorn and Hohberg Glacier to Randa, which was reached at about 3.30 P.M.

DÜRRENHORN (4,035 m. by the E. face=13,235 ft.). *July 30, 1909.*—Mr. H. Symons, with Franz Lochmatter as guide and Johann Perrn as porter, left the Mischabel Hütte at 4.15 A.M., and crossing the Windjoch proceeded down the Ried Glacier till directly under the summit of the Dürrenhorn. Here a projecting rib of rock, slanting upwards slightly to the right (N.), affords an obvious means of attack. A couloir has soon to be crossed, down which stones frequently fall, but it is narrow and should be free from danger if taken immediately after a shower of stones. The rib gradually merges into the face, and the way lies almost straight up very steep rocks, and occasional patches of snow (which would probably disappear in a normal summer). Good holds can be found throughout, but much care is needed in testing them owing to the rotten nature of much of the rock. For the last third of the way the angle eased off somewhat, and the going became quite easy. The ridge was attained about 50 yards S. of the summit, which was reached at 10.37. Times (actual going): Hut to Windjoch, 1½ hrs.; Windjoch to foot of peak, 20 mins.; thence to summit, 3¼ hrs. The Siegfried map shows far too much snow on this face.

Bernese Oberland.

OBER JUNGFRAUJOCH. *July 30, 1909.*—Dr. Andreas Fischer, with Hans Almer and Ulrich Almer, jun., accomplished this feat. Leaving the Guggi Club hut at 1.50 A.M., the party (aided by their

tracks made on an attempt on July 28) reached the plateau of the Schneehorn at 6.50 A.M. They then bore S.E., and at 7.15 A.M. crossed the easy bergschrund at the foot of the long steep ridge that runs from a point on the N.E. arête of the Jungfrau down to the Schneehorn. It had been hoped (as so much snow had fallen in June and July) that this ridge would be composed of snow. But, on the contrary, nearly the whole of it was made up of hard ice. The party aimed at a small gap (well seen from below) in the N.E. arête of the Jungfrau. But, after 6 hrs. of continuous step-cutting up the very hard ice slope, it was decided to try the rocks to the left hand. These proved steep, much broken, covered with snow, and treacherous, so that the ascent up them required the greatest care, and the N.E. arête of the Jungfrau was not attained till 2.45 P.M., at a spot a little to the E. of the gap, that was soon reached. A strong and very cold N.W. wind had been blowing ever since the party quitted the Schneehorn, and proved to be more than unpleasant on the shelterless N.E. arête. This troublesome wind, the amount of ice and snow on the N.E. arête, and the lack of time prevented the party from pushing on by Mr. Meade's route to the top of the Jungfrau. So it was decided to turn the 'gap' into a pass, which may be named 'Ober Jungfraujoeh.' At 5 P.M., after much time lost in exploration, the descent towards the Jungfraufirn was begun down a very steep, irregular couloir, which, though not very tempting, was the only direct route from the 'gap' that could be discovered. Even by the aid of a rope some 350 ft. in length, Hans Almer had not been able (when exploring) to see the whole of this couloir. It was not till 10 P.M. that the party crossed the bergschrund at the foot of this couloir, and then by the ordinary Mönchjoeh route reached the Bergli Club hut at 12.15 A.M.

'The character of the couloir (deep snow, too soft to be safe, and lying on ice, with some broken and loose rocks intervening) explains why the party took so long on the descent. We fixed spare rope wherever there was a firm hold, and only moved one at a time. With better snow, the descent would be easy enough. Hans Almer worked admirably, and, besides his well-known pluck and skill, displayed the greatest care and took all possible precautions.' (A. F.)

UNTERBÄCHHORN (S. 3517 m.=11,536 ft.). *South Ridge*.—In A. J. xix. p. 355, I referred to this ridge from the Dame Alys to the Unterbächhorn as still unclimbed. In the interval the omission does not seem to have been rectified. On August 1 George Mallory and myself, leaving the Bel Alp Hotel at 5.30, ploughed across the Unterbächen Glacier and, by means of a short open couloir, struck the ridge between two conspicuously sharp horns, north of a square-topped tower and just south of a subordinate peak (faced with reddish broken rock), which acts as a buttress for the south side of the Unterbächhorn (9 A.M.). We followed the ridge to the top of this 'peak' (10 o'clock), for which, as it is the depressing fashion to give names to all the points in these Bel Alp ridges, we suggest tentatively the name *Der Enkel*.

The precipitous farther wall of the deep notch that parts this point from the Unterbächhorn we had foreseen would give us our only difficulty. It might be possible to turn it by a descent and traverse on the loose west face. We chose the direct attack. Twenty feet of difficult crack up an almost sheer slab to a projecting corner on the tower, a short sensational traverse on to the east face, and forty feet more up a steep scoop brought us to the top of the 'step' and of a delightful piece of climbing, worthy of Lliwedd (11.30). From here we followed the ridge comfortably to the summit (12.35). A glorious bathe in the lake was the only feature of the descent.

G. WINTHROP YOUNG.

NESTHORN (S. 3,820 m.=12,530 ft.). *South-East Ridge*.—This was descended in 1895 by the Messrs. Hopkinson, Slingsby and Lowe, who took 9½ hours from the summit to the hotel.* The descent was repeated (in 1906 ?) by Mr. Walton with two good local guides. By report, they seem to have found the ridge as long and no less exacting. The chief difficulty lies in the length. It remains to be shown whether the foot of the arête proper could not be reached, from the Ober Aletsch hut, up the crevassed glacier under the east face, and thence up the side wall of the ridge to the col marked 3,533 m. in Siegfried, or whether the same point might not be reached from a bivouac in the Gredetschthal, on the other side. From Bel Alp, however, the only approach is over the summit of the Unterbächhorn and thence along the entire length of ridge. This connotes some 2¼ miles of sharp ridge-climbing, continuously exacting and occasionally difficult.

In 1899 I slept out for the climb, on the Unterbächhorn, with a local guide. The ridge intimidated him, and we spent the day in failures to descend into the Gredetschthal, whence we hoped to re-ascend beyond Point 3,617. In 1902 we again allowed ourselves to be led away by the temptation of a direct ascent of the South ridge.

This year Mallory and I selected a good camping oasis on the Unterbächen Glacier; but the weather proved contrary, and on August 2, with the addition of Donald Robertson, we moved round to the Ober Aletsch hut to attempt the short cut by the glacier to Col 3,533 (as suggested above). A wet snowstorm hunted us back next day to Bel Alp. We were, however, fresh from England, and, leaving the hotel the same night, at 3 A.M. (August 4) we plodded, first in rain and then through hail and windy snow, up to the familiar Unterbächen Glacier. The clouds grew lighter with dawn, and at 7 o'clock we resolved at least to climb the Unterbächhorn and prospect. The rocks were covered with fresh snow and some glaze; the ascent of the usual chimney proved positively difficult, and we only reached the summit at 9. By this time we were above the storm-mists, and, though still sulky and cold, the weather had a feeling of 'betterment' that encouraged us to proceed. The ridge gave great climbing. The snow-covered faces forced us to follow

* A. J., xvii. p. 588.

the true edge; and tower, knife-edge and notch kept every muscle in action, with once or twice the assistance of a double rope on the descent.

We crossed Point 3,617 and reached the col at 3,533, where the ridge develops into the arête of the Nesthorn, at 12.30.

The four large initial gendarmes were turned, the first two on the south, the second by difficult traverses on snow and ice-covered slabs, necessitating much step-cutting, on the north. These took us until 4 P.M. Above, the big steps in the arête were for the most part climbed direct. Some of them verged on the perpendicular, but all offered good holds. On only one, the highest conspicuous tower, was time lost, when a dangerous attempt on the overhanging south face had to be corrected by a diagonal traverse on the north up a wall of snow on ice, which missed the vertical by only a few degrees. The last awkward rock nose was climbed direct, and landed us on the snowy summit just before 7 P.M.

The snow on the north and west faces was well preserved with the cold winds. After due attention to a magnificent sunset over clouded valleys, we raced over the minor snow points of the west arête and, threading the crevasses in the usual north couloir by failing light, reached the secure but knee-deep-laden glacier a short head—or rather eyeshot—in front of darkness. The heavy-weights of the party, helped down the Ober Aletsch Glacier by a stealthy moon and by the cheery light of two glow-worms up the 'zigzags,' reached the hotel at 12.30.

The climb is well worth repeating. The rock is sound and very attractive. If free from snow, as the ridge is in most years, the four big gendarmes could be turned in a third of the time we took, and another hour at least might be saved by side-traversing many of the points on the long preliminary ridge. Three superfluous hours of trudging could also be anticipated by sleeping out below the Unterbächhorn.

G. WINTHROP YOUNG.

DÜRLOCHHORN (2,400 m.=7,875 ft.). (See 'Bernese Oberland,' Vol. I., Part 1, new edition, 1909.) July 31.—Rev. H. J. Heard, accompanied by the guides Peter Brawand, of Grindelwald, and Hans Gertsch, left at 3.30 A.M. the Hubelalp chalets, which are situated about 1½ hours above and S.E. of Trachsellauen in the Lauterbrunnen Valley, where they had slept. They ascended first by steep grass and old moraine in a N.E. direction, crossing close underneath the snout of the glacier, and then by steep scree slopes to the lowest of the rocks on the N.W. ridge of and descending from the Ebnefluh. This rock is known as the Dürlochhorn, about 2,400 m., so called from a large hole roughly about 20–25 feet across which pierces the face, and visible from Mürren. The climb from the upper part of the ridge, though short, was by no means easy, and necessitated a double rope in the descent. The top was reached at 6.45. There are two points, separated by a gap, on each of which they placed a stone man. They then ascended by scree and rocks to the Rote Fluh (2,691 m.) from which a very fine view is to be had.

['Jahrbuch S.A.C.,' xlv., contains a panoramic view from the

Rote Fluh. Cf. also p. 378 *seq.* It is certainly very strange that a remarkable point like the Dürlochhorn should not have been previously ascended. Some confusion appears to exist between this point and the bastion 2,691 m. on the same ridge, which overlooks the Roththal and is called Rote Fluh. S.A.C., vol. xxix. p. 284 *seq.* contains an interesting account of a traverse from the Roththal Hut to the Schmadribach, when the party apparently intended to ascend the 'Dürlocherhorn' on the way. They, however, appear to have crossed the N.W. arête of the Ebnefluh, much above the Dürlochhorn which forms its lower extremity, and found a stone-man on a projecting rock on the arête. Doubtless this was the Rote Fluh.]

The Bregaglia Group.

PIZZO CASSANDRA (3,222 m.=10,733 ft.), *by S.E. face.*—This route, which is declared by the guides at Chiesa to be new, was effected on June 26, 1909, by Captain E. L. Strutt with Josef Pollinger, of St. Nikolas. It may, however, only be a variation of Signor G. Silvestri's expedition in 1905 (Rivista, 1909, p. 135.)

The party left the Hotel Malenco, Chiesa, at 6 A.M., and took the path to the S.W. of the hotel, which winds up the hill, and followed it as far as the chapel of Lago, near the partially dried-up lake (Pt. 1,598 M., Italian map). Leaving the path, they then struck straight upwards over a wooded and fatiguing shoulder, and so, steering due W., got into the wild wastes of the upper Valle Giumellino. They then mounted over the enormous and rather loose masses of *débris* which encumber this glen, till they reached the snow patches at its head, immediately under the S.E. cliffs of Pizzo Cassandra (8.45 A.M.), where half-an-hour's halt was made. Starting again, with every appearance of bad weather, they soon attained a short rib of red rocks projecting from the E. face; this rib was traversed on its S. side well below its crest, till it abutted against the S.E. face, close to a broad snow couloir. They mounted this couloir—which does not run towards the summit, but far more to the W., and which soon steepens and narrows considerably—to a little gap in its head, formed by the intersection of the said couloir with a minor buttress descending to the S.E. Here the long threatening storm burst, but the party, rightly considering that the summit was close, eventually determined to push on. Mounting the buttress over a few steep 'steps' and a small, steep snow ribbon, the heavily corniced summit was attained in less than half an hour from the gap (11.30 A.M.). The party at once descended the snowy S.W. arête towards the Colle Cassandra (Colle Ventina, Pt. 3,034 M., It. map); but not caring to face the descent of the crevassed Ventina Glacier, in the great snow-storm now raging, hurried back to the summit, and descended by the same route as in the ascent, except that they descended the snow couloir direct to the moraine and avoided the red rib. On attaining the end of the Valle Giumellino *débris*, they wisely deviated from their objectionable morning line, and, keeping straight down that glen soon picked up

a faint track to the left, which brought them to the Giumellino Alp, whence a good path leads to Alp Pirlo. Thence they crossed, by a bridge, the much-swollen Sassersa torrent, and by a good steep path down its left bank soon reached Chiesa, which village—white with snow—was attained in 2½ hrs. from the summit.

This expedition, which is not long and quite easy, is certainly one of the most repaying ones to be made direct from Chiesa, and is far shorter than the usual routes *via* the Cassandra Glacier and the S.W. face or S. arête. It should be added, however, that the Chiesa guides state that the S.E. face is generally dangerous from falling stones; with 3 feet of fresh snow on the rocks, the first party saw none.

PUNTA SERTORI (3,198 m., Lurani map=10,490 ft.).—This point, rising up sharply at the extreme end of the east arête of the Badile, was first climbed on September 17, 1900, from the south by Signori Ugo Monti and Giuseppe Gugelloni, with B. Sertori, of Cattagggio, who reached it from the S. route up the Badile by a traverse of the S.E. face of the latter, and returned the same way ('*Rivista Mensile*,' 1900, pp. 373-378).

Mr. G. L. Stewart, with Ferdinand Summermatter and Alphonse Simond, were, on August 11 last, traversing Piz Badile by its west and east arêtes, and on their way down noticed some narrow chimneys high up in the N. face of the Punta which looked promising. There was no difficulty in reaching the foot of these by a traverse to the left (N.) from the end of the rock ridge connecting the Punta with the Badile. The chimneys seen were impracticable, but in a corner on the right a crack, difficult and nearly vertical for some 30 ft., enabled them to climb to the top of the wall between and just below the two summits, of which the western is cairned; while the eastern, a few yards' distance, appears slightly higher but inaccessible. From the W. summit the party descended the S. face by steep and rather smooth rocks direct to the projecting shelf jutting out southwards about 200 feet below. In the lower portion of these rocks the holds are very small, and there being no convenient hitch for a doubled rope, it would be better to keep more to the west, as indicated by a fixed rope seen below them on their right when about half-way down. The descent from the projecting shelf to the glacier below took a somewhat devious route, bearing westward by steep chimneys and faces and narrow ledges requiring care, but not otherwise of special difficulty. The rocks are sound, and the holds, if sometimes small, are good.

Including halts of altogether 2½ hrs., the expedition occupied 13¾ hrs. from Masino.

MONTE DISGRAZIA (3,678 m.=12,063 ft.), *by the S. arête*.—This arête was first climbed by Signor Giuseppe Gugelloni with Bartolomeo Sertori, of Cattagggio in 1901 (?), who climbed the arête in its entirety from the Colle di Corna Rossa. No record was left by Signor Gugelloni, who was killed shortly after on Piz Roseg ('*Rivista Mensile*,' 1901, pp. 302-304). What is, so far as can be ascertained, the first recorded ascent of the mountain by this arête

was made by Mr. G. L. Stewart, with Ferdinand Summermatter and Alphonse Simond, on August 7 last; and, there being no record of the first, this note may be of interest. Their intention had been to spend the previous night in the hut on the Colle di Corna Rossa, and make this their starting-point. At Chiesa, however, they learnt that this hut was in a ruinous state, and that the repair and refurnishing intended to be carried out this season had not been commenced. Consequently they went to the Capanna Cecilia (nearly 6 hours from Chiesa) on the W. side of the Preda Rossa Glacier, and about half an hour further than the other. Looking up this glacier from the Cecilia hut, there will be seen a short, but conspicuous lateral glacier, descending abruptly to it from a small snow-field on the W. side of the arête. The rocks on the N. side of this glacier appeared the most direct and convenient route to the S. arête from the Cecilia hut, and this was accordingly chosen as an alternative to that from the col.

Leaving the hut at 5.2 A.M., the party proceeded up the moraine for about 50 minutes, and then crossed the Preda Rossa Glacier to (20 min.) the foot of the rocks referred to, which afforded a few interesting places among easier ways to the small snow-field above the lateral glacier. From this a snowy gap in the arête was reached at 7.1. A few minutes later they began the ascent of the arête, and except for short traverses of a few steps (generally on its east side), followed its rocky crest (broken here and there by short snow arêtes) closely for about an hour. The arête then becomes a snow ridge of gentle gradient, which forms the southern edge of a snow slope extending northwards to a well-defined notch in the summit ridge. From this snow ridge (5 min.) the arête rises abruptly some 150 ft., and continues at a higher level the remaining short distance to its junction with the main ridge. The snow slope referred to, extending along the W. base of this raised portion of the arête, enabled its abrupt elevation to be easily turned and its crest immediately rejoined by steep rocks on that side. A few minutes more brought the party at 8.25 to the point where the S. arête strikes the main ridge. This is presumably the E. peak referred to in Messrs. Barlow and Still's account (A. J., vii., p. 21). It does not appear to be much lower than the highest summit, but its height is not marked on the Lurani map. Descending about 150 feet by rocks partially coated with ice, which occupied about 20 minutes, to the notch already mentioned, they climbed the gendarmes of the summit ridge, traversing the last on the N.E. side and gained the highest summit at 9.24. Three-quarters of an hour later they went down by the usual route, and were at the Cecilia hut by 11.50 A.M.

Between the Colle di Corna Rossa and the snowy gap in the arête there are several teeth to cross, which might require time, unless a traverse below them can be made, as is probable, on the E. side. Above the snowy gap the arête is not very much broken, and, for some distance before it becomes a snow ridge, its gradient is slight. Though narrow, sometimes knife-edged, its brown granite rocks are sound.

The Bernina District.

PIZ ROSEG (3,943 m. = 12,935 ft.), *by the S.W. Arête.*—The upper portion has been occasionally climbed by parties coming up the S. face, and by others ascending from the west, who cross it lower down and then traverse below it on the S.E. side, rejoining it nearer the summit. On July 30 last Messrs. G. L. and C. G. G. Stewart, with Ferdinand Summermatter and Alphonse Simond, made the ascent of the mountain by this arête virtually in its entirety. They left the Mortel hut at 2 A.M. and reached the Sella Pass about 4.30. There was a strong cold wind from the west, and to take shelter from it while waiting for more light, the morning being very dull, they proceeded some 40 or 50 yards along the snow at the foot of the S. face of the arête. Making a start at 5 o'clock, they climbed to the top of the arête above them, and followed this to the summit, which they reached at 2.5. The greater part of the arête is sound rock, affording interesting work, but the last portion is much shattered. Throughout its whole length it is much broken up, and height gained at some effort has frequently to be in great measure immediately surrendered and won afresh. Until about the last two hours, traverses (usually made on the S.E. side) were the exception, but in the final portion of the arête were more frequently resorted to. Half an hour was lost about 10 o'clock in an attack on a short and wide chimney, of which the rocks were thickly coated with ice, on the N.W. side of the arête. This was ultimately abandoned, as taking too much time, for a traverse on the S.E. side, from which the arête was soon rejoined above the chimney. The party left the summit at 3 o'clock, and returned to the Mortel hut at 5.35 by the usual route.

HIMALAYA.

THE EXPEDITION OF THE DUKE OF THE ABRUZZI TO THE HIMALAYA. The expedition consisted of the Duke, his adjutant, Marchese Negrotti, Dr. Filippi, Cav. Sella, and eight Courmayeur guides. The party reached Srinagar on April 17, and, passing Askoley on May 14, camped on the 18th at the foot of the Baltoro Glacier. It was decided to try the south-easterly peak of Chogori (8,611 m.), overlooking the Godwin Austen Glacier, the slope of which peak is fairly uniform as far as a great shoulder, estimated at 7,500 to 8,000 m. From a camp at about 5,800 m. the Duke attained a height of 6,600 m. on this peak. An unsuccessful attempt was then made to ascend Staircase Peak, but after reaching 6,700 m., indisposition of two of the guides and an impassable crevasse forced the party to beat a retreat. Finally, after some bad weather, the Duke succeeded on July 18 in getting within 200 m. of the top of Bride Peak, the height reached being 7,400 m., which appears to be a record. (Reproduced from an article in the 'Corriere della Sera.')

We are indebted to Mr. Alfred Holmes (A.C.) for the following details contained in a letter from the Duke to Mr. Holmes :

'The highest altitude was obtained on the Bride Peak (Conway).

We could not reach the top, but in the second and last attempt reached an altitude of 7,450–7,500 metres, about 24,500 feet: the exact altitude attained is not yet known. Bad weather only prevented us reaching the summit.

DR. LONGSTAFF'S EXPEDITION TO THE KARAKORAM HIMALAYA.—Telegrams and letters received from Dr. T. G. Longstaff in July and August made it evident that his expedition to the Karakoram range had been attended by results of great geographical interest in the neighbourhood of the Saloro Glacier. A further telegram received from the explorer on his return to Leh shows that the later stages of the expedition have resulted in another interesting discovery in the neighbourhood of the Saichar Glacier. Details are still awaited, but in all probability Dr. Longstaff has made a discovery, the effect of which is to extend northwards the watershed of the Mustagh range. This discovery will add materially to the value of the full narrative of the expedition which is expected on Dr. Longstaff's return to this country. It will be remembered that this year Dr. Longstaff set out to explore the little known region between the Mustagh and Karakoram Passes. Part of the way through Northern India he travelled with the Duke of the Abruzzi, his field of work lying a little to the east of Mount Godwin Austen, which the Duke had selected for attack. Lieutenant A. M. Slingsby (of the Frontier Force) has been with Dr. Longstaff throughout the Expedition, and during part of the time Dr. Arthur Neve was also with him.

(This note is taken from the 'Field' of October 9 and 23, 1909.)

VARIOUS EXPEDITIONS.

Dauphiné.

S. FACE OF THE MEIJE—ZSIGMONDY'S ROUTE.—During the month of August 1909 a determined effort was made by Monsieur Casella of the C.A.F. to complete Zsigmondy's route up the S. face of the Meije. Monsieur Casella proposed to descend if necessary by ropes from the Brèche Zsigmondy to where Zsigmondy fell, and several days were spent in careful exploration, but finally the attempt was abandoned.

Graian Alps.

TRAVERSE OF THE GRIVOLA (3,969 m.=13,020 ft.), ASCENT BY THE N. FACE—On August 13 the Misses Ina Brodigan and Lina Perazzi, with the guides Jean Baptiste Pélissier of Val Tournanche, and G. Gérard of Cogne left the Noumenon chalets at 3.15 A.M. and reached the glacier at 6.15 A.M. They found the snow on the great N. arête good at first, but later had to cut many steps in ice as far as the Col near the summit. The top was reached at noon, and the descent effected by the E. face to Cogne in 4½ hours.