

- Monte Rosa:** Ostwand: Deutsche Alpenzeitung.  
**Muschenschneide:** *D.u.Oe.A.-V. Wien.*  
**New Zealand:** Bell, J. M.  
**Norway:** Wyllie, M. A.  
**Norwegian glaciers:** Oyen, P. A.  
**Novels:** Couch, Shadow of the peaks.  
 — Hoinville, Schneewittwe.  
 — Macdonald, A., Heart of Tibet.  
 — Ompteda, G., Excelsior.  
**Ortler glaciers:** Mariani, E.  
**Pamir:** *C. A. F. La Montagne.*  
**Pellegrin, Roc de:** *C. A. F. La Montagne.*  
**Peru, Geology:** Adams, G. I.  
**Philology:** Kübler, A.  
**Pic d'Olan:** *C. A. F. La Montagne. Soc. Tour. Dauphiné.*  
**Pic Palas:** *Akad. A.-V. Berlin.*  
**Piz Kesch:** *C. A. I. Rivista.*  
**Pizzo Badile:** *C. A. I. Rivista.*  
**Plan, Groupe du:** *C. A. F. La Montagne.*  
**Pte Cézanne:** *Soc. Tour. Dauphiné.*  
**Punta Bertani:** *C. A. I. Rivista.*  
**Pyrenees:** *Akad. A.-V. Berlin. C. A. F. La Montagne. D.u.Oe. Lausitz.*  
**Recastello:** *C. A. I. Rivista.*  
**Reiteralpe:** *D.u.Oe.A.-V. Traunstein.*
- Rocche del Cammello:** *C. A. I. Rivista.*  
**Rocche dell' Enfourant:** *C. A. I. Rivista.*  
**Rosalien-Gruppe:** Eichert, W.  
**Salzburg:** Jäger, V.  
**Schindelkopf:** *D.u.Oe.A.-V. Wien.*  
**Ski:** under Alpine Club Publications.  
 — Bilgeri, Georg.  
 — *C. A. F. La Montagne.*  
 — Centre excursionista.  
 — Conway, M.  
 — Hoek, H.  
 — Lunn, A. H. M.  
 — Piz d'Err: Deutsche Alpenzeitung.  
 — Richardson, E. C.  
 — Riokmers, W. R.
- Stein, Wandeln:** *D.u.Oe.A.-V. Wien.*  
**Switzerland:** Grieben.  
**Tibet:** Kawaguchi.  
**Tirol:** *Akad. A.-C. Züriich.*  
 — Allihn, M.  
 — Holland, C.  
 — Sommerville, F.
- Trees:** J. Coaz, Val Scarl.  
**Val Grosina:** Corti, A.  
**Val Scarl:** Coaz, J.  
**Vignemale:** *C. A. F. La Montagne.*  
**Wales:** Giraldus.  
**Zillertal:** Hartmann, O.

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## NEW EXPEDITIONS.

### Graians.

THE POINTE DU POUSSET (3,046 m. = 9,993 ft.) BY THE E. RIDGE.— At 7.45 A.M. on October 15, 1909, I left the Hôtel Grand-Paradis, Cogne, with the guides Alexis and Henri Brocherel, to climb the Pousset. Every climber who has visited Cogne will remember the look of this imposing little peak, the nearest summit to the village; but although my guides had passed it many a time they had not hitherto made an ascent. The E. arête, running down towards the Cogne valley, seemed the most direct route, and three hours after our start, having followed a mountain path through the woods, we were picking our way over the boulders to the steeper slopes which run up to the actual arête. When once this was reached serious climbing began. The slope steepened, and the strata, running downwards, rendered both hand and foot hold bad. After about two hours of this going we found ourselves at the base of a nearly perpendicular cliff. A large cleft in the rock seemed a likely way of overcoming the difficulty, and Alexis was soon lost to view reconnoitring, but reappeared in ten minutes' time and told us

that there was no way ; on the left of the arête throughout there was a sheer precipice, and there was nothing for it but to turn to our right along the base of the cliff. We were now obliged to descend three hundred feet or so until we reached a couloir which seemed to run back in the direction of our ridge. Ascending this for some forty feet fresh difficulties confronted us ; and the presence of melting snow on the rocks rendered foot and hand hold difficult. However Alexis, provided with a long rope, secured himself in a firm position about forty feet above us, where we soon joined him. For the next three hundred feet the same sort of thing was repeated until we again found ourselves on the arête, now very much steeper. Half an hour brought us to an overhanging pitch. We again turned to our right ; this time we soon found a crack which was climbed without much difficulty, and regaining our ridge, we stood in another five minutes on the summit, the climbing of the arête having occupied exactly four hours.

The descent was made by the ordinary route, which offered no difficulties, and at 4 P.M. we returned to the Grand Paradis Hotel.

C. F. K. CARFRAE.

#### *Mont Blanc Group.*

GRANDES JORASSES (highest summit 4,205 m. = 13,204 ft.). FIRST ASCENT BY THE S. FACE.—On August 12, 1909, Messieurs Hans Pfann and F. J. Gassner, from the Jorasses hut, returned by the track to the moraine ridge, and after crossing this, reached the Pra Sec glacier not far from its snout (2,600 m., 3 A.M.). The route now lies up the steep E. arm of this glacier to the foot of the S. face, which is contained between the ridge culminating in pt. 3,807 (of the Barbey map) and the long S.S.E. arête of the mountain. The further line of ascent is over the great snowy terrace bedded in the face (in some years, bare rocks) to the lower end of an impassable gully in the steep wall above the terrace. From this point the route is up a slabby buttress on the E. side of the gully, until finally the sharp crest of the S.S.E. arête is gained and followed.

‘During the night ascent of the bare glacier and on the terrace, our freshly-sharpened crampons did yeoman’s service, so that only on the glacier edge and on the upper part of the iceslope of the terrace, which was here well over 60°, did step-cutting prove necessary. Two enormous bergschrunds, severing the entire glacier arm throughout its whole width, were turned to the right by fantastic bridges. These owe their existence to the fact that ice avalanches, whose débris encumber almost the entire surface of the glacier, sweep the W. half of the S. face. From the glacier we reached, up a short pitch, the lower edge of the great névé field (3,100 m. 5.15 A.M.), which we ascended about its centre. From the upper edge we made a long upward traverse to the left to the above-mentioned gully, the floor of which was covered with hard ice. The first pitch in the E. arm of the gully was turned by means of an overhanging crack in the dividing rib. Soon after this the gully had to be crossed to the right as the wall on that side alone seems

possible, and about 60 mètres higher a difficult traverse on slabs led to a rib on the right. A good face-climb straight up followed until, about 80 mètres higher, a narrow vertical crack led to the crest of the E. buttress, by means of which the S.S.E. arête was at last attained, over the savage teeth and corniced notches of which, at times astride, the higher snow shoulder, and with it known ground was attained (4,000 m.; 1 P.M.,  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr. rest). At 2.30 P.M. we reached the summit.

'Heavy clouds prevented our crossing over to the near Pointe Whymper, and descending the Rochers de Whymper; nevertheless we consider ourselves justified in calling our tour the "First Traverse," since the short overlap of the new and the old route is quite insignificant in comparison with the length and difficulty of our ascent. The two hitherto accomplished routes, since there is barely a difference of 300 m. of height involved, must be classed as "variations of the original Whymper route."

'The ascent of the S. face of the Jorasses is only possible under good conditions (ice-free rocks), and must be reckoned among the most difficult of great expeditions. The minimum time required is about 10 hours, whilst the descent by this route owing to the danger of falling stones and ice is highly inadvisable.'

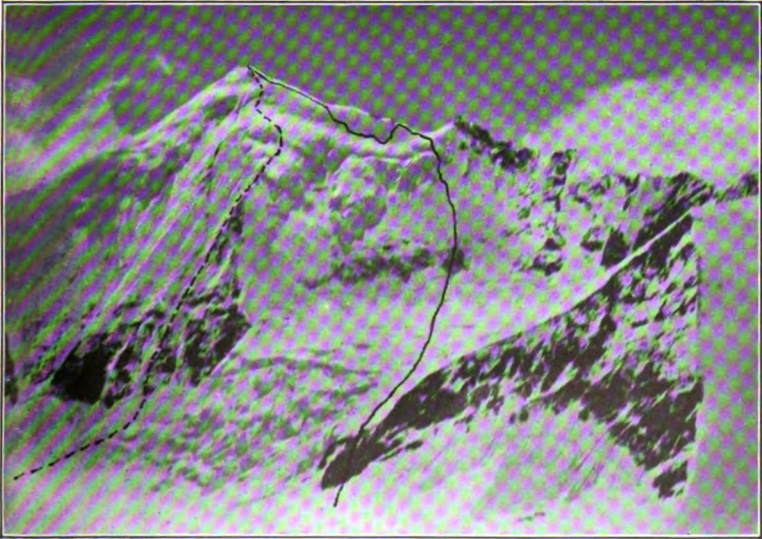
UPPER BOSSE DU DROMADAIRE OF M. BLANC (4,556 m. = 15,217 ft.) BY THE S.W. ARÊTE AND A NAMELESS SUMMIT (about 3,910 m. = 13,060 ft.) ON THE N.W. EDGE OF THE GLACIER DU MONT BLANC. Messieurs Hans Pfann and Hans Freiherr von Hertling. *July 29, 1909.*—From the Quintino Sella Hut the party ascended the steep ice slope to the snow ridge at the E. foot of the jagged Rocher du Mont Blanc (point 3,873, Imfeld map). From here they descended to the N., crossed a bergschrund, and so reached in 2½ hours the uppermost basin of the Glacier du M. Blanc. The gently inclined glacier was followed to its N.W. edge where a bold, nameless rock summit, higher than the point 3,873, crowns the dividing ridge. To the right and left of this summit are deep gaps by which possible passages to the Gl. du Dôme exist.

Ascending the rocky face, somewhat iced, and sprinkled with snow, of the dividing ridge, the E. gap was gained from the left, from which point the sharp arête was followed to the nameless summit, which was finally reached by a very difficult climb up its exposed N. flank. The descent to the gap was made by the same way.

The party then turned to the rocky arête descending to the Glacier du Dôme from the Upper Bosse, which, seen from this point, has the appearance of a sharp rock tower. The higher part of this rocky arête scarcely emerges from the wild hanging glacier of the face; indeed, it finally merges into the face; but below the nameless peak it descends as a mighty rock arête in a S.S.W. direction well down to the Glacier du Dôme. After 1½ hour's climb the first steep bit—a mighty buttress—was overcome by keeping mainly to



THE SOUTH FACE OF THE GRANDES JORASSES.  
*Showing Herr Pfann's route.*



THE NORTH FACE OF THE WEISSHORN.  
————— *Mr. Kitson's probable route.*  
..... *Mr. Young's route.*

the N.W. flank. Thereupon follows an easy rock arête with intervals of névé.

At about the level of the E. overhanging icefall the arête can be exchanged for the snow face, by which under good conditions a direct ascent might be made to La Tourette, close to the summit of Mont Blanc. As, however, there was only a thin, softened crust of snow on the face, the party kept to the arête until it disappeared, when they struck straight up, cutting many steps. The main arête immediately E. of the Bosse (point 4,556) was reached at 4.30 P.M. (five hours from the gap), and was followed to the summit of Mont Blanc.

The normal time for the ascent is put at seven hours, with 1½ hour's extra if the nameless summit is visited.

The objective dangers are described as much less than on any of the routes from the Sella Hut up Mont Blanc, and the insight into the splendid ice scenery of the W. flank of Mont Blanc is very highly spoken of.

[Translated from Herr Pfann's communication.]

#### *Pennine Alps.*

WEISSHORN (4,512 m. = 14,804 ft.). NORTH-EAST CORNER.—The first ascent from the Bieshorn Glacier was made in August 1871 by Mr. Kitson \*; a month later the climb was repeated by Miss Brevoort and Mr. Coolidge†, the line followed being the same as that of the first party. I am informed that the same climb has since been once repeated, but I have so far failed to obtain details.

Mr. Kitson's vigorous narrative is not easy to follow. Herr Biehly, in his interesting article in S.A.C.J. xxxiv. p. 79, based presumably on Mr. Kitson's account, construes the ascent as one made up the N.E. corner of the N. face. As marked in his outline plan the route ascends this corner, swings right across at a higher point to the main N. ridge (of which Herr Biehly himself made the first complete ascent), leaves this immediately and only rejoins it just below the summit. Herr Biehly has doubtless deduced this line from certain vague statements in Mr. Kitson's paper, but when we examine what Mr. Kitson says his party actually did, as contrasted with what he assumes they might have done, the route as outlined is at once seen to involve some inexplicable contradictions.

It must be remembered that the N. face of the Weisshorn is not as would appear when seen in face one plane, but two planes, or rather concave faces, looking respectively N. and N.E., and forming at their junction a salient corner or ridge. These faces descend respectively into the upper and lower basins of the Bies Glacier. The lower third of the salient corner is split into a trinity of rock ribs, of which the eastern is the most prominent. As can be seen on the S. Map, these rock ribs terminate in the lower bay of the Bies Glacier. Above their upper junction the ridge becomes for a short distance a sharp snow and ice crest. This continues upward as

\* A. J. vol. v. pp. 274, 305.

† *Ibid.* p. 307.

a big rounded corner broken by ice-cliffs. On the true N. face, between this N.E. corner and the main N. ridge, there are hanging ice-cliffs which prevent a traverse from the one ridge to the other until a point higher than the level of point 4,334 on the N. ridge has been reached. If we were to assume, therefore, with Herr Biehly that Mr. Kitson's route was up the N.E. corner, we should be faced with the following difficulties.

Mr. Kitson, as we know from his account, gained the upper glacier basin (above contour 3,600 S.). If 'the rocks' which he ascended after crossing the glacier were those of the N.E. corner, he must have turned on his tracks at a sharp angle and redescended at least some part of the ice-fall already passed.

He describes 'the slopes on each side' of the ridge which he did ascend as 'swept and bare.' If he ascended any one of the N.E. trinity of ribs, he had broken rocks and the two other ribs on one or both sides of him.

After making the '800 steps' up the higher 'slope' he says 'we here turned off our ridge, which a little higher became rocky again.' On the N.E. corner, once clear of the lower rock ribs, there are only ice walls and hanging glaciers until the summit is all but gained. No higher rocks would be visible.

He then speaks of being in a position to cross easily over on to the E. ridge (by which the peak is usually ascended), but instead of this he says they 'turned up on to the northern ridge.' The size of the two faces, the ice-hangs intervening, &c., would in this case make it necessary to assume that the party, if on the N.E. corner at all, had reached a point at least higher than the level of the col behind point 4,334 on the N. ridge, otherwise they could not have secured this facility of access to either the E. or the N. ridge.

On 'turning up on to' the main N. arête, however, they 'found it to consist of a mixture of hard ice and steep rock pinnacles;' it would have 'cost us five hours to reach the summit,' and they lost 'nearly an hour in the attempt.' So they turned back on to the easier snowslopes below the ridge, returned later on to the arête 'almost all ice, without the unpleasant rocks,' and, travelling rapidly, as he states, reached the summit, on a calculation of their times, some 2½ to 3 hours after first reaching the main N. arête.

Now, anyone who knows the N. ridge will remember that there are no 'sharp rock needles' anywhere on the upper part—there are certainly none between any point much above the Great Tower (4,334 S.) and the top—which could have caused the Almers in their prime 'to lose nearly an hour in the attempt,' and required from them a 'maximum of work with a minimum of progress.' Further, to quote two specimens of times, Herr Biehly and Heinrich Burgener, under apparently unfavourable conditions, took not more than two hours from the Tower itself to the summit, and a party of three of us in 1900 took 50 minutes from the same point to the top and 38 to return.\* Mr. Kitson and the Almers were

\* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xx. p. 263.

a strong and a rapid party, as their other times on this day as well as their records show. It is absurd to assume that they took, 'progressing rapidly,' somewhere about three hours to do only half this distance! It is even more difficult to believe that Christian Almer could possibly, as Herr Biehly's diagram would suggest, spend an hour on the easy upper portion of the arête and be compelled to retreat off it at the same point at which he had joined it! The party clearly must have first 'turned up on to' the N. arête at least as far down as the col south of Point 4,334 (the Great Tower). And to have reached this from the N.E. corner by any possible line across the hanging glaciers, as indicated above, they must have made a long traverse on a descending line, leaving a ridge whose difficulties were obviously at an end. This could not by any error of memory be described as 'turning up on to' the N. ridge.

Some time ago, therefore, I was forced to the conclusion that Herr Biehly's deductions were irreconcilable with the account, and that Mr. Kitson's route followed the line that local tradition has always assigned to it. His party on gaining the upper snow-field of the Bies Glacier traversed 'directly across to the angle between the N.' and N.E. ridges, and ascended one of the ribs leading up towards the hanging snow-field that slopes at an easier angle along the side of the crest of the N. ridge. On reaching these easier slopes they turned up on to the N. ridge on their right, probably just S. of Point 4,334. They turned off the ridge again and traversed the slopes beside it. They would seem to have rejoined it, for the second time at about the point where Herr Biehly's diagram marks their first junction with it, and so continued to the top.

This conjectural line agreed with Mr. Kitson's account of the ascent, and could also best be reconciled with his brief note of his descent. It was only necessary to assume that Mr. Kitson, when he spoke of being able to ascend either on to the E. or the N. arête, was confusing in memory the E. arête and the N.E. corner, a mistake which others have fallen into on this great convex face.

It was thus with very little doubt as to the independence of our route that we made the ascent of the N.E. corner in August 1909.

Since then the matter has been set beyond doubt by the notes and information with which Mr. Coolidge has most kindly furnished me. In September 1870 Miss Brevoort and Mr. Coolidge, pursuing, Mr. Coolidge thinks, a suggestion made in Moore's 'Alps in 1864,' were only prevented by bad weather from making the first ascent from the Bies Glacier. In August 1871 the Almers, who had been with them on this occasion, took Mr. Kitson up by the route they had prospected with Mr. Coolidge. In September of the same year, Miss Brevoort and Mr. Coolidge, refusing to be balked of their design, repeated the ascent by the same line and with the same guides.

The notes kept both by Miss Brevoort and Mr. Coolidge make it perfectly clear that the line we had deduced from Mr. Kitson's account was the actual line taken by both parties: from the upper basin of the Bies Glacier, first by a rib of rock probably forming one of the ridges descending below the Great Tower, then up the

steep ice wall to the edge of the hanging snow-field beside the N. arête, up to the level of the col behind the Tower; thence by the N. arête and the slope beside it to the top. The notes need not be quoted in full since the line on the illustration gives their substance, and has been approved by Mr. Coolidge as substantially correct. The exact rib by which the two first ascents commenced cannot probably now be identified, since the whole aspect of the lower part of this enormous amphitheatre varies almost from week to week with the condition of the snow.

The second line shows our ascent of last year. It leaves the lower bay of the Bieshorn Glacier by the eastern and most prominent of the three rock ribs into which the N.E. ridge divides. The rib ascended is seen in conspicuous profile from the E. ridge of customary ascent. Where the rock ribs unite above, the climb follows the sharp snow-crest of the ridge. Above a steep ice corner the ridge loses its identity in the ice-cliffs that sweep across the corner between the N. and the N.E. faces. Here the route zigzags to and fro, inclining towards the W. until the ice-cliffs are passed. Then it follows the ice and snow corner again, strikes the foot of a little rock rib, the true finish of the N.E. ridge, and emerges on the northern end of the summit ridge. It touches neither the N. nor E. ridges, and, except for the enforced zigzags on to the N. face, follows throughout the line of the (occasionally submerged) N.E. corner.

Some of us have had this climb under examination for several years. A very fortunate meeting on the Grépon gave Knubel and myself the additional pleasure of sharing the interest of the ascent with Mr. Perry Smith. One of the finest of transatlantic climbers, his two previous explorations well entitled him to a part in the final conquest.

Acting on local advice, Perry Smith, Knubel, and myself slept out on the Klein Kastel above Randa, several hours too low. On August 31, in uncertain weather, we started at 1.30 A.M., and turned into the Bies Glacier ice-fall just below the Freiwänge rocks. The fall this year was difficult, and not without risk from séracs. We did not reach the lip of the level glacier until after 5. Without 'irons' we should have taken at least an hour longer. On nearer view of the N.E. ridge, we chose the most eastern of the trinity of rock ribs, as the most central and most salient, affording complete protection from avalanches. The bergschrund proved easy. The rocks were snow-flecked, but as the stratification inclines from N. to S. through this peak, the holds proved good. We breakfasted at 7 on a ledge, and, climbing fast, reached the top of the rock rib about 9.30, only one corner offering any check. A sharp snow crest followed, and then a very steep and awkward nose of ice. Above, slopes of hard snow, with occasional patches of ice, alternated with stretches of excessively soft snow, where for a hundred feet at a time a tunnel had to be literally thrashed upwards through froth lying at a high angle. We turned the ice-cliffs as they came, generally on the W., chipped up the great final wall

and, following the line of the corner to the little rock rib that marks the finish of the N.E. ridge, emerged on the N. end of the summit ridge at 12.20.

The initial rock rib proved easier than we expected. The snow, though laborious, contradicted all prophecy in its complete security. The route proved to be protected from the two dangers that look to be inevitable on this N. face, rock-falls and avalanches; but it is a very long steep climb, and it certainly entailed, as we found it, without ever becoming actually difficult, more physical labour than any other ascent in my recollection. The Bies ice-fall should, of course, be avoided by bivouacking high up on the rocks of the Freiwänge.

G. WINTHROP YOUNG.

FROM THE S. ARÊTE OF THE DENT BLANCHE TO THE COL DU GRAND CORNIER. August 17, 1904.—Dr Th. Thomas (of Paris) with Auguste and Justin Blanc (both of Bonneval-sur-Arc).

The party descended the whole of the S. arête of the Dent Blanche to the spot marked 3912 m. on the Siegfried map. Desiring then to gain Zinal they took the following route, which was stated in 1904 by the Zinal guides to be impracticable. From the spot marked 3912 a ridge runs N.W. and ends E. of the spot marked 2808 m. on the Siegfried map. Between this ridge and the S.W. face of the Dent Blanche there is a very steep little glacier, that bears no name on the S. map, which simply indicates it. The party decided to traverse this little glacier in order to gain the foot of the W. arête of the Dent Blanche, at about the level of a great *débris* terrace (well seen on the photograph), then to cross this W. arête and by its N. slope to attain the Dent Blanche glacier and so the Col du Grand Cornier. The party left the S. arête of the Dent Blanche just before reaching the spot marked 3912 m., bore to the right hand to gain the aforesaid ridge descending towards the spot marked 2808 m., and went down that ridge till just above the séracs of the little glacier. They then left this ridge, crossed the little glacier above the séracs, descended the steep snow slope between the foot of the wall of the Dent Blanche and the séracs, crossed a huge and deep bergschrund, and then climbed up a rather hard little chimney (the route followed is shown in the photograph annexed) in order to gain the aforesaid *débris* terrace. By means of this terrace the crest of the W. arête of the Dent Blanche was easily gained. A short descent direct down the rocks of the N. slope of this arête was followed by a traverse (in order not to lose height) which led to the Dent Blanche glacier, that was reached some way below the Col du Grand Cornier, but not much below that pass in point of height. The usual route was then followed over the pass. It would be dangerous to cross the little glacier if a party were on the S. arête of the Dent Blanche, as it might easily send down stones. M. Thomas' party shouted to a party actually climbing that arête, and crossed the little glacier at running pace.

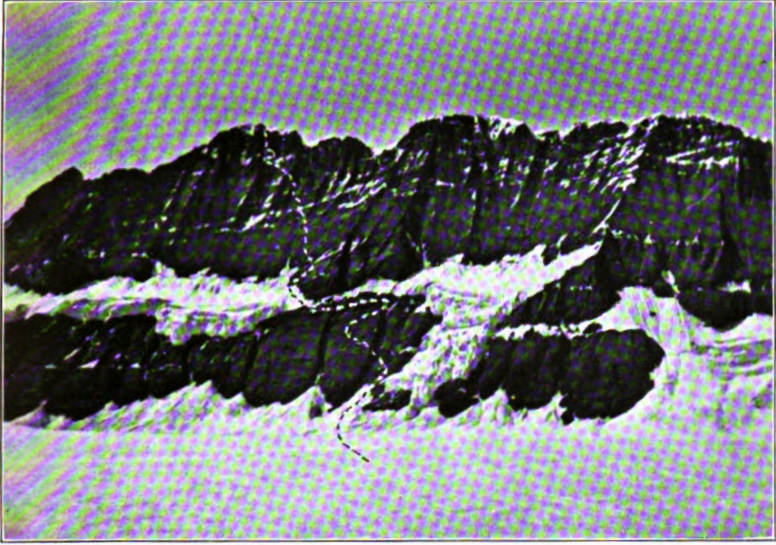
*Bernese Oberland.*

THE BLÜMLISALPHORN (3,671 m.=12,044 ft.) DIRECT FROM THE KANDER GLACIER. August 2, 1909.—MM. Th. Thomas \* and Jacques Susse, with Auguste Blanc.

Starting from the Mutthorn Club hut the party went down the Kanderfirn in a N.W. direction to the séracs beneath the Weisse Frau, and attacked the rocks of the S. face of the range to the left hand of these séracs, at a height of about 2,750 m. These rocks were mounted in zigzags, and then a great bend made to the left hand to the foot of the little rock wall that supports the great horizontal snow band which joins the glacier situated beneath the Weisse Frau to that beneath the Blümlisalphorn. The party went along the foot of this little rock wall, first bearing to the right hand as far as the séracs, and then mounting almost on the level below the great horizontal snow band, and reached in this way the little glacier situated beneath the Blümlisalphorn. They then went up this glacier obliquely, keeping close to the rocks on the right hand, till these rocks send out forth a small spur. The great S. rocky face of the Blümlisalphorn was now attacked, a bend being first made to the right hand, and followed by an oblique ascent to the long gully that is nearest to and to the right hand of the top of the peak, a number of gullies being traversed that seam this S. face of the mountain. The long gully was reached at about half its height and at the spot where it is broadest, just where the snow forms a great V, open at the top. Just below this V the long gully narrows and forms a projection, that consists of an enormous and quite impracticable ice-fall. This forced the party to diverge from a straight line up the peak. A traverse nearly on the level and to the right led them to a minor gully, that forms with the long gully a V open at the top (this minor gully is scarcely visible from the Petersgrat, and hence is only indicated on the photographs by a few isolated snow patches). In this minor gully there was another ice-fall, which was forced by means of cutting steps, and then above this ice-fall a traverse made back to the l. hand to the long gully. In order to gain the snow in it a huge corniche which blocked access to it had to be hewn down, and then a very exciting traverse of some mètres made along the smooth rock wall of the gully. This long gully was then mounted direct to its upper end in the midst of a storm, the inclination being very great. Thence the top of the peak was gained by following a short bit of the N.E. arête, which was dangerously corniched towards the S.

Owing to the very bad weather which forced the party to make many halts it is difficult to say how long this ascent should take. But

\* Through the great courtesy of Dr Th. Thomas (of Paris) we are enabled to lay before the readers of the *Alpine Journal* a series of most interesting notes relating to several new routes made by that gentleman, mainly in the course of the summer of 1909. We are also indebted to him for permission to reproduce several photographs taken by him, on which he has marked his exact routes, thus helping to make clear his written description of each.



BLÜMLISALPHORN FROM THE KANDER GLACIER.  
*Showing Dr. Thomas's route.*



FINSTERAARHORN FROM THE GRÜNHORNLÜCKE.  
*Showing route of Dr. Thomas.*

one might probably estimate the length of the climb from the foot of the rock wall to the top of the long gully at from  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 hours.

In the lower third of the ascent the rocks were not difficult and only moderately steep, but required great attention as they slope towards the precipice like the tiles on a roof, and are covered with *débris* that is much inclined to slip off them.

In the middle third the rocks were of much the same character, but much steeper, while the small minor gullies were defended by little rock steps that were hard to climb.

In the upper third of the wall the rocks were extremely steep, and it is absolutely necessary to climb them by means of the cracks in them.

[This would appear to be the first direct ascent of the S. face of the peak, as the two previous parties in 1874 ('A. J.' vii. p. 325) and 1907 ('A. J.' xxiv. p. 176) reached the gap between the peak and the Weisse Frau, and thence followed the entire N.E. arête of the Blümlisalphorn to the top. See the 'Climbers' Guide' for the Bernese Oberland, new edition of Vol. I, Part 2, pp. 19-20.]

THE S.E. ARÊTE OF THE FINSTERAARHORN REACHED FROM THE S.W. August 16, 1909.—Dr Th. Thomas (of Paris) with Auguste Blanc.

From the new Finsteraarhorn Club hut (3,237 m.) the party followed at first the usual route towards the 'breakfast place,' as far as the foot of the great broad snow gully that runs up to the right of the ridge on which is the 'breakfast place.' They then mounted this great gully, first by snow, and then by ice. (If it was entirely made up of snow one could follow it throughout its entire length till very near the 'minor summit.') The 1909 party, in order to avoid the icy bit of this gully, took to the rocks of its left edge (these were covered by *débris*) till the junction with the great gully of a minor gully at rather less than half-way up the great gully. This minor gully, on the edge of which rise several rocky pyramids, of which the most important is at its upper end (this highest pyramid is very well seen on the photograph), was then mounted. When in sight of this highest pyramid the 1909 party mounted directly by red and steep but very firm rocks (above they were slightly broken). This ascent brought them direct to the 'minor summit,' which was reached in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hours' actual walking from the Club hut. The usual S.E. arête route was then followed to the top of the peak in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours, while the descent was made by the N.W. arête to the Agassizjoch and so to Grindelwald.

[The S.E. arête of the Finsteraarhorn has been reached from the S.W. by several routes. The 1909 route is more direct than and to the N.W. of those recorded to have been taken. See the 'Climbers' Guide' for the Bernese Oberland, II. p. 37.]

*Bernina Group.*

GUMELS (E. PEAK) (3,523 m.=11,559 ft. S. map) (called PIZ SELLA, 3,518 m.=11,543 ft., on It. map) BY THE S. FACE.—Signori Aldo Bonacossa and Alfredo Corti, August 5, 1909. The party, starting from the Marinelli hut, followed the lower Scerscen glacier as far as the point marked 2,724 m. (S. and It. maps), at the foot of the great (about 2,500 ft. high) S. face of the peak. This rocky wall is flanked on the right (E.) by a big snowy couloir, which leads to the upper Scerscen glacier. The party mounted this couloir for some distance, in order to avoid the lower rocks of the face, which are covered with unpleasantly loose débris; later they climbed up good, easy rocks on the right (W.) edge of the couloir to the foot of the rocky rampart encircling the lower part of the face. Across this rampart, and running diagonally upwards from E. to W., is a commodious grassy ledge (visible from the Club hut). They followed this ledge to a species of *cairn*, and then climbed straight up easy rocks to a spot where the face became rapidly steeper. Bearing always rather to the left (W.) they scrambled up a short cliff composed of piled up boulders, and then turning to the right (E.) got into a very wet gully. This gully soon narrows into a mere chimney, and was climbed with some trouble to a projecting 'pulpit.' The party now climbed another chimney (about 120 ft. high), which proved difficult, owing to its *then* icy condition, to a slab, *above* which is an overhanging part of the wall. This part was turned to the left (W.) by a steep rock, about 30 ft. high, but possessing excellent holds. They then mounted easy rocks, bearing soon after to the right (E.) towards a *minor* top to the E., whence the broad, snowy E. arête brought them to the summit. The summit could also have been attained direct *via* the gap between it and the *lower* (E.) mound, by means of a ledge and a very short but steep ice slope. (3½ hrs.)

The rocks of the upper face are firm, but the *lower* part is somewhat exposed to falling stones.\*

PIZ ZUPÒ (4,002 m.=13,131 ft.) BY THE N.E. FACE.—Same party, August 6, 1909. From the upper end (N.W. corner) of the upper Fellaria glacier (reached in 3 hrs. from the Marinelli hut) the first party attacked the N.E. face of the peak, below (but slightly to the E. of) a prominent rocky rib, which rib strikes the watershed rather to the E. of the summit, and extends half-way down the said face. Crossing the bergschrund with care, they cut up the steep, snowy face till they reached the said rib (3 hrs.). Owing to its very icy condition the rib gave much trouble for the first 80-100 ft.; afterwards it became easy and brought them to the S.E. arête of the peak, whence the summit was attained in 10 minutes more. (2 hrs., or 8 hrs. from the Club hut.)

The face was covered with fresh snow, which made the rocks much harder than they usually would be; on the other hand *no* stones fell—also an unusual circumstance.†

\* *Jahresbericht der Alpenvereinssektion Bayerland*, xiv. 1909. pp. 98-9.

† *Ibid.* p. 99.

The expedition will apparently close the numerous list of *new* routes up this peak.  
E. L. STRUTT.

*Bregaglia Group.*

DENTE DI TRUBINASCA (c. 3,000 m.=9,843 ft.). FIRST ASCENT BY THE E. ARÊTE.—Herren J. Heller and G. Miescher, August 8, 1909. The first party, starting from the Sassfura huts, in Val Bondasca, crossed the Passo di Trubinasca (2,746 m.), and from the Italian side of that col skirted in a downwards and E. direction along a terrace till they attained (by a short ascent) by snowy ledges the depression (Forcola del Dente, 2,917 m., S. map) between their peak and the Cima Sant' Anna. From this depression they turned by a short descent to the S. and W. the first tooth on the E. arête of the Dente, climbing over a great smooth and loose boulder some 10 to 12 feet high, and then climbed direct upwards (N.) by a steep slab to the E. arête, which throughout is broken by great vertical rocky steps. These steps were scaled by means of small chimneys and ledges till the party arrived immediately beneath the overhanging summit pinnacle. By means of another chimney and ledges the party then traversed to the N.E. edge of the summit rocks, and by an exposed climb attained a long ridge-shaped boulder to the left (S.) of the top. Over this boulder a tough scramble led them to the top (7 hrs. from Sassfura).\*

The descent was made by the W. arête, by which route the only previous successful ascent of the peak has been accomplished (the guides Christian Klucker and Mansueto Barbara; June 20, 1900).

PIZZO DI TRUBINASCA (2,916 m.=9,567 ft.). FIRST ASCENT BY THE S.E. FLANK.—Same party and date. The first party, after the descent of the Dente, reached the S.S.E. flank of the peak over moraine and snow, and then from a point to the E. of the summit scrambled up direct to the top by a not altogether easy rocky chimney. (No times given.)†

CIMA SANT' ANNA (3,169 m.=10,397 ft., Lurani map) BY THE S. ARÊTE.—This fine route, which constitutes the sole access to the summit from the Val Masino side, and which has several times been attempted without success, was accomplished on August 11, 1909, by Signori Romano Balabio and Gaetano Scotti.

The first party having reached the summit of the Punta Torelli (3,132 m., It. map) proceeded to attack the long, jagged, and very narrow rock ridge which connects that summit with the Cima Sant' Anna. They first followed the crest of the arête for a very short distance, and were then obliged to descend the E. slope of the ridge over reddish rocks for some 90 ft.; then, turning the first tooth on the ridge by a short, exposed 'hand' traverse over a horizontal crack, regained the very narrow crest beyond the said tooth. They next followed the ridge to a vertical gap; this gap was overcome by means of a spare rope, and by a descent of the E. slope for some 70 ft.,

\* *Jahresbericht des Akademischen Alpen-Club, Zürich*, vol. xiv. 1909, p. 53.

† *Ibid.* p. 54.

whence a ledge brought them back again to the arête, which they followed to the second tooth. A traverse had now to be made on the W. (or Codera) slope over a huge slab, which was easily passed by means of two parallel and longitudinal cracks. A ledge was next followed to a little red chimney, which led them back to the arête, which was followed to the top of the last tooth (apparently the point erroneously measured 3,182 m. on the It. map). From the top of this tooth a spare rope had again to be employed in order to descend a vertical crack in it of some 30–40 ft. : this, however, could have been avoided by a descent of an ice chimney and traverse of the W. slope of the ridge. They continued to follow the ridge till they came to the snow on the S.W. face of the mountain, over which, abandoning the arête, they soon reached the steep boulders constituting the summit. The first party took 5 hrs. to traverse the arête, but consider that 2–3 hrs. should suffice for subsequent parties. The descent was made by the S.W. face (Count Lurani's 1893 route) and the Codera glacier, whence the Badile hut was regained by passing over the northern Passo di Porcellizzo.

AGO DI SCIORA (c. 3,201 m. = 10,502 ft.) BY THE N. ARÊTE (TAKEN IN THE DESCENT).—Herren J. Heller and G. Miescher, July 27, 1909. The party reached the top of the needle by the only previously known route, *i.e.* from the S. From the top they attained by a difficult climb, entailing the turning of a great boulder on the ridge, the gap between the summit and the N. or lower peak. From this gap they descended to a small platform on the E. slope, and thence a further descent led them to a second platform straight below the first. They next followed a narrow ledge in a N. direction, a boss in the middle of the ledge being turned with much trouble, to a small gap in the N. arête, from which one looks straight down on to the Forcola di Sciora, to the N. By a spare rope they next descended some 30 ft. to a platform on the E. slope of the arête, from which spot a similar process brought them to another step only a few feet lower down. Again, a similar manœuvre for some 30–40 ft. brought them to convenient ledges enabling a straightforward descent, the last steps being over snow, to the Forcola di Sciora. (No times given.)\*

The party descended to Val Bondasca by the W. slope of the Forcola di Sciora, which gave them great trouble—as might have been expected in the afternoon. The *ascent* of the Ago by this route is *most* probably impossible.

PUNTA PIODA DI SCIORA (c. 3,214 m. = 10,545 ft.) BY THE N. ARÊTE (TAKEN IN THE DESCENT).—Same party, July 29, 1909. The first party having reached (with difficulty) the summit, by the 'variation' to the ordinary route, which variation, starting from just below (on the E. slope) the Forcola di Sciora, joins the ordinary route by the N.E. face in the angle formed by the intersection of the S. arête and E. buttress, proceeded to descend by the N. arête. This very narrow ridge was then followed, till a narrow and flowery ledge enabled the party to descend on to its E. slope. By a descent from

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\* *Jahresbericht A. A.-C., Zürich*, vol. xiv. 1909, pp. 49–50.

left to right they next attained a ledge running N., from which the depression between the Punta Pioda and the Sciora di Fuori was easily attained.

SCIORA DI FUORI (c. 3,144 m. = 10,315 ft.) BY THE S. ARÊTE.—Same party and date. From the aforementioned depression the party then easily climbed over a great slabby tooth in the gap, and next turned to the right (E.) the first tooth in the S. arête of the Sciora di Fuori. The neighbourhood of this tooth affords the only safe rope anchorage for the very difficult climb which follows. This route now lies up a chimney between the tooth and the S. or lower summit, next up the very steep S.E. face, which affords but the scantiest holds, to the S. arête of the lower summit, which is only attained with very great difficulty. The ridge is then easily followed to the N. and highest summit. 2½ hrs. from the (?) top of the Punta Pioda.\*

PIZZO FRACCHICIO (c. 2,890 m. = 9,440 ft.) AND IL BALCONE (c. 2,760 m. = 9,051 ft.).—These teeth, which are not named, measured, or in any way indicated on the S. map, are to the N.E. of the N. Pizzo di Cacciabella (c. 2,980 m. = 9,777 ft.), on which peak's N. arête—not very accurately drawn on the map—they are noticeable objects from the Albigna glacier. First (recorded) ascent: Herren N. Rodio and K. Steiner, September 25, 1909.

From the gap between the N. Pizzo di Cacciabella and Pizzo Fracchicio, which was gained from its S.E. base, the party followed the easy S.S.W. arête to the top of the last-named peak. Continuing along the ridge by a short descent and reascent, they next attained Il Balcone, after a more interesting scramble. (No times given.) The descent was made to the small nameless glacier to the E. †

IL GALLO. (c. 2,770 m. = 9,082 ft.).—This startling-looking peak, which is to the N.E. of the N. Pizzo di Cacciabella and the two last-named points, was so christened by the first party. It seems to me (E. L. S.), however, to be *highly probably* the peak called PIZ PLATTA SQUITTRA, which not very delicate name (without a height) only appears on the *very* latest edition of the S. map. The tooth is very imposing from the Albigna waterfall, and is cut off in all directions by vertical walls. First ascent: same party and date.

Starting from the small nameless glacier shown on the S. map between the N. and N.E. arêtes of the N. Cacciabella peak, the most hopeful line of ascent seemed to be the right-hand (N.) one of two chimneys which furrow the smooth E. face of the peak. These two twin chimneys are separated by a buttress ending in the overhanging summit pinnacle. The party to reach this chimney attacked the N.E. arête at its base; then, in order to attain a shelf running parallel with but E. of its crest, turned on to the arête's right-hand (W.) slope, and climbed over an exceedingly difficult and overhanging slab by means of a tiny gash in it. They then soon reached and followed the steep but wide shelf till it came to an end, when, by means of a

\* *Jahresbericht A. A.-C., Zürich*, vol. xiv. 1909, pp. 50-1.

† *Ibid.* pp. 54-5.

rope noose securing the leader, the crest of the ridge could be regained by a climb to the right (W.). The ridge was then followed with much less difficulty till an upward traverse across a steep step brought the party to the outlet of the aforementioned chimney. The lowest step of the chimney proving impracticable, the party turned it by climbing a crack on its right (N.) edge, a jammed boulder enabling them to climb back into the chimney higher up. After about 50 ft. of upward progress the chimney became so shallow that it had to be abandoned, and the ridge regained by very smooth rocks. Over this ridge, turning a tooth on it, the party reached the N. foot of the summit pinnacle, which consists of two almost equally high rocky splinters separated by a crevice some 6 ft. wide. Working up this crevice the leader threw a rope over the thin *lesser* splinter, and so climbed up on to it. The leader now again threw the spare rope round the N.W. edge of the *summit* splinter, and after its loose end had been secured by the second man (standing below in the crevice) the leader was able to swing himself across the gap and so to the top. (No times given.) A spare rope enabled the descent to be made with comparative ease.\*

The first party state that 'in difficulty the peak is quite comparable with the Dent du Requin,' but add that it is 'accessible on its S. side by a narrow and exposed ledge.'

PIZ BACUN (3,249 m.=10,660 ft.) BY THE N.W. FACE.—Signor —Bonacossa and Herr W. von Rohden, June 3, 1909. From the small Bacun glacier (to the W. of the Albigna-Forno watershed) the first party scaled the broad snowy gully rather to the right (W.) of the summit. This gully is only easy when there is much snow. At the top of the gully they bore rather to the left (E.) and by a hard climb reached the W. arête close to (but W. of) two great towers. The first was turned, but the second, which is split by a great smooth cleft, the passage of which necessitates a very long reach, had to be climbed over. The remainder of the arête gives but little trouble, and soon passing the spot where the S. chimney route falls in the party quickly reached the summit. (No times given.)†

Piz Bacun has now been climbed from every point of the compass, the great S.W. arête (which joins the W. arête high up) alone remaining an unsolved problem.

CIMA DEL LARGO (3,188 m.=10,460 ft.) BY THE S. FACE AND N.W. ARÊTE.—Herren J. Heller and G. Miescher, August 3, 1909. From the depression between the Piz Bacun and the Cima del Largo (Forcola del Bacun) the first party followed the watershed N. for a few paces, and then descended (W.) over rocky steps and snow to a spot (presumably on the Bacun glacier) whence one can clearly see the immense precipitous rocky hollow lying between the scarped walls of the S. faces of the central and E. (or highest) summit of the Largo. A snow ribbon leads upwards (N.) into this angle. The first party climbed upwards a little to the left (W.) of the hollow by a

\* *Jahresbericht A. A.-C., Zürich*, vol. xiv. 1909, pp. 55-6.

† *Ibid.* pp. 49-50.

badly defined chimney, which gets gradually easier, to a small hole in the face, roofed by a great overhanging slab. They then climbed to the left (W.), and straddling a sharp projecting rock arrived at a sort of great cavern in the rocks, where the safety of the leading man was now assured. The leader had now to *descend* a little, and then traverse some distance to the right (E.); he could then perceive above him in the ridge a conspicuous boulder jutting out of some overhanging slabs. Towards this boulder the party then steered by means of narrow cracks seaming vertical rocks. Below the aforementioned overhanging slabs they attained a second large cave with an outward shelving floor; by means of a push from the second man the leader was able to climb out of the cave by its left (W.) edge over a steep slab some 7-10 ft. high; then, still more to the W., a difficult scramble over very steep slabs, lastly a little chimney, brought them to the summit ridge (N.W. arête of the E. peak) just to the E. of the central summit. They then followed the very sharp crest in an E. direction to a projecting shoulder; this was turned on the right (S.) by a very exposed traverse, passing over several awkward projecting bosses. Next they bore upwards towards a gap in the arête by a diminutive crack about 10 ft. long, which is climbed by means of a handhold to the left and by jamming one's fingers into the crack itself; a horizontal cleft is then reached, which brings one more easily to the gap. This and the following are the hardest parts of the climb. The next overhanging step in the ridge was impossible, owing to its iced condition, and had accordingly to be turned by means of a nearly horizontal but bent cleft in the rocks, which runs about E.; this cleft was attained with the assistance of a shoulder given to the leader, and a very difficult scramble then landed him in a little hollow under the arête and on its S. slope. The leader then threw up a rope-noose over a projecting splinter, and so effected the apparently highly dangerous manœuvre of regaining the arête by climbing up the rope. Thence the steep and excessively narrow crest of the arête was followed to the top. (No times given).\*

This route, which is one of the most nerve-trying that can be imagined, is, in the ascent to the summit ridge, a mere variation of the ordinary—but seldom-taken—route to the top of the central summit (c. 3,170 m. = 10,401 ft.). The traverse of the *three* summits from E. to W., i.e. in the *opposite* direction, had once been previously effected (Herren R. Bickler and H. Hoessli, August 18, 1906). On that occasion the greater part of the arête was turned by a descent of its S. slope for some 80 ft. and a traverse of a horizontal ledge in a W. direction, the ridge being regained W. of the bad bit described above.

**PIZZO TORRONE OCCIDENTALE (3,364 m. = 11,037 ft.) BY THE S.W. FACE.**—Signori Romano and Antonio Balabio and Mario de Benedetto, September 7, 1909. The first party followed the ordinary route of the Italian slope of the Colle della Rasica (c. 3,240 m.) as far as the top of the first rocky step in the icy couloir leading to that col. They then turned to the right (N.E.) and bore away towards the precipitous and

\* *Jahresbericht A. A.-C., Zürich*, vol. xiv. 1909, pp. 52-3.  
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ill-defined gully in the S.W. face of the Torrone Occidentale which leads diagonally upwards (from S.W. to N.E.) to the great gap in the peak's W. arête, which is so conspicuous both from the Forno glacier and from the S. They mounted first easy snow, then some smooth rocks, rather to the left (W.) of the gully which now appears to splay itself out into the face. Climbing up a steep crack the party attained a species of cave, egress from which was only possible by a most difficult climb to the left (W.) over its overhanging roof. Some easy rocks were next scaled, followed by three wet and scarpèd slabs. Easy red rocks were then mounted to a 'balma' (ample ledge?), from which a crevice and a horizontal ledge to the right (E.) brought them back to the here better defined main gully. The gully, however, proved so dangerous from falling stones that the party bore to the left (W.) of it, and mounted by a little ice chimney furrowing a great vertical rocky step; having overcome this they reached a second step by a traverse to the right (E.). Climbing over a huge overhanging boulder they bore away to the right (E.), and passing under great masses of icicles got into a cavern filled with ice. Hence they emerged by a narrow aperture above, which brought them *above* the step into the main gully leading to the gap in the W. arête, which was now quickly attained. The arête (Mr. Garwood's party's route in 1891) was then followed to the top. The first party, starting from the Allievi hut, took 7½ hrs. to the top; the descent by the same route required 7 hrs. The mountain was not in good condition.

This route, judging by its appearance, must *always* be dangerous as well as difficult. I am indebted to Signor Romano Balabio for the above details, as well as for the account of the Punta Torelli-Cima Sant' Anna traverse.

E. L. STRUTT.

#### *Silvretta Group.*

GARNERASPITZEN (2,843 m.=8,927 ft. and 2,859 m.=8,977 ft.).—On September 13, 1909, Dr. Blodig, Walter Clark and the writer left the Tübinger Hütte in the Garneratal, Montafon, at 7.30 A.M., reached the Kessilpitze, 2,834 m., at 9.45, and followed the ridge eastwards towards the Plattenspitz, passing over two hitherto unclimbed points, 2,843 and 2,859, for which the names 'Westliche' and 'Östliche Garneraspitzen' are proposed, but failed to reach the Plattenspitze, owing to iced rocks and a snowstorm.

SÜDLICHE VALGRAGISSPITZE (2,750 m.=8,635 ft.), NÖRDLICHE VALGRAGISTURM (2,800 m.=8,792 ft.), SÜDLICHE VALGRAGISTURM (2,790 m.=8,761 ft.).—On September 16 Dr. Blodig and the writer, starting from the same hut at 5.50 A.M., reached the summit of the Gross Maderer, 2,825 m. in 1½ hrs., and followed the arête southwards over Valgragis, 2,784 m., and those new peaks: c. 2,750, c. 2,800 and c. 2,790, which we propose to call respectively 'Südlische Valgragispitze,' 'Nördliche Valgragisturm' and 'Südlische Valgragisturm.' Our further progress was again stopped by the bad condition of the extremely jagged arête before reaching a bold double crag rather higher than the others.

SÜDLICHE PLATTENTURM (2,860 m.=8,980 ft.), NÖRDLICHE PLATTENTURM (2,865 m.=8,996 ft.).—September 17. After making the direct ascent of the Plattenspitze, 2,880 m., the same party attempted to complete the traverse of the arête leading from the Plattenjoch to the Gross Maderer. They climbed two crags, c. 2,860 and c. 2,865, which they propose to call Südliche and Nördliche Plattenturm, and were again turned back by the iced slabs of the twin peak. Both the above arêtes afford first-rate rock sport and interesting views of the Silvretta group, &c. The Tübinger hut is *bewirtschaftet* and comfortable, 4 hrs. from Gaschurn with its admirably kept 'Post' or 'Rössle.'

E. T. COMPTON.

[There is a paper on this district in 'Jahrbuch der S.A.-C.,' vol. xxviii., and 'Mittheilungen D. u. Oe. A.-V.,' Nos. 3 and 4, 1910, also contain information as to other ascents from the Tübinger hut which was only opened in 1908.]

## VARIOUS EXPEDITIONS.

### *Apennines.*

1. MONTE CAIRO (1,669 m.=5,575 ft.).—During a long visit to Rome early this year the sight of the lovely and subtle outlines of the snowy Apennines and lower ranges often gladdened my eyes, and the mountains seemed to beckon to me, as mountains almost invariably do, to pay them a visit. Mr. Freshfield had given me some valuable information about the Gran Sasso d' Italia (not itself visible from Rome) and other high mountain ranges, but as they were almost smothered in snow, I turned my attention to lower ranges.

At an earlier visit I remembered noticing the grand situation of the Benedictine monastery of Monte Cassino and the fine mountains behind. Baedeker shows that Monte Cairo is ascended from the monastery and that a guide can be found there. The sheet of the Governmental map which I got in Rome showed that the summit of Monte Cairo is equidistant from both Monte Cassino and Rocca Secca, and that a long flattish ridge leads from the top towards the latter town. I spent a night at the monastery, where a monk procured me a guide. I pointed out the ridge to the latter, and soon a bargain was struck, that he was to lead me to the top of Monte Cairo and to carry my rucksack, and that I should guide him along the ridge and down to Rocca Secca. This worked very well. I had about an hour's tramp on excellent snow on the ridge, whilst my companion, who wore sandals, skipped along merrily over the screes below, and parallel to, me. It was a most enjoyable expedition, the details of which I am describing elsewhere, and the night spent at Rocca Secca gave me an opportunity of seeing well the picturesque old town, the birthplace of St. Thomas Aquinas, and the ruined old castles which belonged to his family.

We were about 11 hrs. on the way, but it could easily have been