

NEW EXPEDITIONS.

Pyrenees.

PIC TÉNÈBRE (about 2200 m. = 7216 ft.), PIC RONGLET (2277 m. = 7469 ft.), COL MAUDIT (3200 m. = 10,496 ft.).—The 'O.A.Z.' 1911, pp. 161–166, contains a full account, with a map, of the first ascents of the Pics Ténèbre and Ronglet and the same paper, pp. 177–182, gives a description of the first passage of the Col Maudit, for a map of which see 'Zeitschrift' 1908, p. 141. Count Henry Russell described this col as so formidable as to be unequalled in the Pyrenees.

These expeditions were done by Dr. Georg Künne and Dr. Hans Schmidt. Dr. Künne gives, on p. 181, a useful summary of the more important recent books on climbing in the Pyrenees.

Eastern Alps.

THE 'Mittheilungen,' 1911, No. 2, pp. 17–19, and No. 3, pp. 29–32, contain a very careful summary—compiled by Dr. Franz Hörtnagl of Innsbruck—of all the new routes in the Eastern Alps which were opened in 1909. The summary is divided into groups, and gives the references to published accounts of the various expeditions.

Zillerthal.

ZSIGMONDYSPITZE (3085 m. = 10,119 ft.) by the N.E. face direct from the Floite.

This peak, 'the Matterhorn of the Zillerthal,' formerly called the Feldkopf, is well known through Zsigmondy's classic description of his first ascent of it. Its subsequent history is dealt with in a monographic article by Dr. Guido Eugen Lammer in 'Ö.A.Z.' 1891, pp. 297 to 305, and 313 to 318.

The author is well known as one of the most accomplished mountaineers of his day and even better as the most terrible of Alpine critics. His article is one of those gems of Alpine description and philosophy that are often to be found in our Austrian contemporary.

What Dr. Guido Lammer terms 'the most difficult but finest problem on this peak,' viz. the direct ascent of the stupendous precipices facing the Floitengrund, was solved on July 18, 1910, by the guide Hans Fiechtl of Brixlegg and the guide-candidate Hans Kotter of Ginzling.

The details of the climb are given in 'Ö.A.Z.' 1911, p. 133, and success was evidently only attained by the most desperate expedients. Twenty-two pitons were left and the climb took 10 hours—the vertical difference being under 800 metres. Fiechtl in his report says, 'The tour is one of the finest and most interesting, and makes a great impression. It is considerably more difficult than the W.

face of the Totenkirchl.' Now Herr F. Nieberl's verdict on this W. face is as follows: 'The climb is and remains—even in the opinion of its first conquerors—an undertaking in which no one, not even the most competent, can unconditionally pretend that he holds his life safe in his hand' ('Mittheilungen,' 1909, p. 267. Cf. also 'A. J.' xxv. 79), so that the climb up the Floite face of the Zsigmondyspitze may be considered as marking for the present the high-water mark of desperate climbing.

INGENT (2915 m. = 9561 ft.) TO THE HENNENSTEIGENKOPF (ca. 3000 m. = 9840 ft.). First passage of the arête.

This arête was followed for the first time, on August 9, 1910, by Herr Hermann Stieve of Munich, under the guidance of Hans Fiechtl of Brixlegg ('Ö.A.Z.' 1911, p. 134).

From the Ingent the fairly easy arête was followed to the deepest depression, which was attained by three Abseilens of 10, 12, and 18 metres respectively. The two following Gendarmes are climbed. From the summit of the second an Abseilen of 15 metres down the right flank enables one to reach the next gap. The next tower is ascended up bad rocks on its left side with great difficulty, and three succeeding towers traversed direct—very difficult. Climbing over a great chockstone the foot of a step about 6 metres high is reached, and this is overcome by means of a crack on its right side (most difficult place). Twenty minutes' easy going led to the Hennensteigenkopf, and the Ochsner was reached in half an hour more.

The arête took about 8 hours, and is described as a very fine and hard climb.

J. P. F.

Dolomites.

CIMA BAGNI (2984 m. = 9788 ft.). FIRST ASCENT FROM THE N. AND FIRST TRAVERSE FROM N. TO S.—This expedition was made on August 2, 1910, by the Herren Adolf Witzenmann, Fritz Becker, W. Grundner, K. Hannemann with Otto Opper as guide. Leaving their tents above the Arzalpe (about 2000 m.) at 5.10 A.M. they descended S.W. and crossed the glacier stream intersecting the Alp, aiming for a bay of snow (probably screes in ordinary years) which runs up into the rocks. From the N. front of the Cima Bagni two rock arêtes radiate: the one to the N. to Point 2744 (not a summit) and then falling to the head of the Arzalpe: the other runs N.W. and finds its continuation in the main arête, crowned with several independent rock towers, leading to the Cima Popera. Between these arêtes, from the abovenamed bay, a snow couloir (Rinne) leads upward S. towards the summit of the Cima Bagni. The route lay up this, mostly over good snow, but higher up over ice. Higher up where the couloir forks they took to the left hand (E.) branch. Finally passing under a huge rocky face to the left they crossed the N.E. edge of the summit rocks on to the N.E. face. This face was followed with difficulty and the ascent completed by the long summit ridge running from N. to S. (10.10 A.M.).

Herr Witzemann is of opinion that the Monte Giralba of the late Sir M. Holzmann is not the Piz Popera of Dr. Diener and of the late L. Norman Neruda (cf. 'Erschliessung der Ostalpen' vol. iii. pp. 533-534 and particularly 'A. J.' xv. 441-443, also 'Mittheilungen' 1891, p. 263) but that Sir Maurice really ascended the Cima Bagni. Herr Witzemann has ascended both the Piz Popera and the Cima Bagni and has followed the Stallata Valley, and bases his opinion (1) on the fact that the compass directions given by Holzmann do not correspond with the direction of the Stallata Valley, but rather with those of the Val Bastioi, a lateral glen of the Val Stallata, running up into the S. face of Cima Bagni and also called 'Deutschen Karl'; (2) on the fact that the description of the ascent corresponds with the terrain of the S. face of the Cima Bagni, but not of the Piz Popera; (3) on the fact that the description of the view also applies to the Cima Bagni (cf. 'Ö.A.Z.' xxxiii. 151-153 and footnote).

CIMA POPERA (2962 m. = 9715 ft.). **FIRST TRAVERSE FROM THE HOCHBRUNNERSCHNEIDE AND FIRST ASCENT FROM THE W.**—August 7, 1910, Herren Adolf Witzemann, F. Arndt, K. Hannemann, A. Lechner with O. Oppel as guide. The party left the Zsigmondy Hut at 4 A.M. and followed the ordinary route to the Hochbrunnerschneide as far as the main arête (6.20 to 6.35) and then crossed the N.E. wall of the Hochbrunnerschneide, descending to a broad steep snowslope. This was followed to the S. so as to gain the deep-cut gap between the Hochbrunnerschneide and Piz Popera (8.45 to 9.10). A 20 m. difficult chimney was then climbed and quitted on its right side when a ledge led to a big break in the rocks. From this point the rocks were very bad, but the party, leaving the first summit to the left, reached the gap between it and the main peak, 12.40 noon. From this gap a short, not easy, traverse to the right, and then a direct ascent over well-stepped rocks led to the summit, 1 P.M. to 1.40. Three of the party descended from the gap between the Hochbrunnerschneide and the Piz Popera into the Val Stallata and were finally benighted in the wet creeping pines half an hour above the junction of the Val Stallata and the Val Giralba Alta, owing to the 'right hand side of the valley' being used in its ordinary meaning instead of orographically in the note of Purtscheller and Hess's 'Hochtourist,' vol. iii. p. 184 (3rd edition).—'Ö.A.Z.' xxxiii. 153-154.

Southern Selkirks.

MOUNT TOPHAM (9478 ft.).—On August 6, 1910, Messrs. E. W. D. Holway, Frederic K. Butters and Howard Palmer accomplished the first ascent of this mountain. The start was made from a camp located in Glacier Circle at about 5800 feet, whence the northerly and easterly faces were traversed in an upward direction until the S.E. arête was struck at approximately 8000 feet. This eventually

brought the party out on the N. summit at 4 P.M. after furnishing some interesting but not difficult climbing, first over rocks and then over a short curtain of steep snow. The return was effected by the same route, the trip consuming with halts $11\frac{1}{2}$ hours, of which 6 were taken for the ascent and 4 for the descent (going time).

Glacier Circle may be reached in less than a day from Glacier House without difficulty, though apparently no one has visited it since 1890 (*vide* 'A.J.' xv. 420). With its sheer rock walls capped with ice on the N. and W. and the great Deville glacier pouring in its shattered mass on the S. only to send it forth again on the E., after a majestic sweep of 90° , in a reconstructed and augmented stream, this alcove in the range affords a unique and impressive, not to say comfortable, camp site.

GRAND MOUNTAIN (10,832 ft.).—This, the highest known unclimbed peak in the ranges south of Glacier House, was first ascended August 18, 1910, by Messrs. E. W. D. Holway and Howard Palmer. The start was made at 4.20 A.M. from a base camp 9 miles distant on the W. flanks of the Bishops Range. From there the way led E. over the easy Bishops Glacier to the pass 2100 feet above camp, reached at 6 A.M., then down the further arm of Deville glacier to the Deville névé ($4\frac{1}{2}$ miles). Turning S. around the E. end of the Bishops Range at 6.40 A.M., the course was directed across the Deville névé (ca. 8300 ft.) towards the E. shoulder of Mt. Wheeler, with excellent footing and few crevasses. Passing the E. face of Mt. Wheeler at 7.53 A.M., the party arrived at the bergschrund near the end of the mountain's S.E. spur at 8.25 A.M., 7 miles from camp. This occasioned little delay, since a favourable point for crossing had been selected during the approach. The ensuing 400 ft. of steep snow, overlying ice and thinning from about 14 inches to 6 inches near the top, required care, and though its condition was good, the ascent consumed a half-hour. Having passed this, the going improved and at 9.8 A.M. a halt was called for breakfast. Continuing after about fifteen minutes, a contour above the ice fall of the N. branch of Grand Glaciers was followed at a leisurely pace, keeping somewhat to the left of the goal that was now in plain view. Presently the easy slopes of Grand Mountain itself were reached, and at 10.40 the rocks of its remarkably long crescentic arête. This point commanded a most magnificent view of the region to the south, including Mts. Beaver, Duncan and Sugarloaf with their effluent glaciers.

From here a small outlying peaklet, capped with a stone-man, was traversed, and then the corniced snow ridge connecting it with the massif of Grand Mountain was followed. This also needed care owing to ice and a bergschrund cutting the snow ridge transversely. The final rocks were attained about 11.40 A.M. where some difficulty was experienced, but a traverse to the W. face offered a solution,

and over this the almost level summit ridge was gained at about 1 P.M. Ice again retarded progress here, and it was not until forty minutes later that the N. summit was reached. Observations by clinometer indicate that this peak is the top, but there is probably not ten feet difference between it and the S. summit, for a visit to which time was wanting.

After constructing a small cairn and lunching, the return journey was commenced at 3.10 P.M. by the same route. About an hour was spent in descending the 300 feet of rocks and the arête was left at 5.40 at the point where first reached in the morning. It took 52 minutes to go down the snow slope above the bergschrund which was left at 6.52 P.M. The Bishops Range was rounded at 7.45 P.M. and camp reached by the aid of the full moon and a lantern at 10.45 P.M. The trip took 18½ hours, of which 16 hours was going time. By the government map the distance travelled was about 18 miles and the height climbed from camp was 4900 feet.

The whole excursion occupied 4½ days from Glacier House. On the first, Bishops Camp 12 miles distant was reached *via* the Asulkan and Donkin Passes (see 'A.J.' xxv. 220); the second was spent in preparations; on the third the climb was accomplished; on the fourth the equipment was taken back to Dawson camp, whence the return was completed on the morning of the fifth day.

HOWARD PALMER.

VARIOUS EXPEDITIONS.

Pennines.

MONT COLLON (3644 m.=11,956 ft.), by the N. face.—On July 28, 1910, Jean Gaudin, of Evolène, Jean Bournissen, of Hérémece, and myself left the Kurhaus at 1.30 A.M. and followed the usual Col de Collon route to the middle section of the Arolla Glacier (on a level with the Plan de Bertol). A slightly inclined *névé* was traversed W. and, at 5.30 A.M., the party touched the N. face of the Collon some 50 feet from the main couloir, very clearly seen from Arolla. The climbing here offered little difficulty, but the rock-face being very rotten, great care was taken.

The party ascended steadily, leaving the main couloir to the right (W.) and at a respectable distance, for fear of flying missiles. Precaution, however, did not prevent a stone from being dislodged under the leading man's foot and badly smashing the forefinger of the second guide, some 30 feet below him. On the first comfortable spot a halt was made to bandage the disabled man and to administer to him a restorative. It was then about 7 A.M. and it seemed to us that our expedition had come to an untimely end. After a good hour's rest, however, Bournissen pluckily declared that he wished