

slopes by a couloir eventually joined the track over the pass, reaching Suknes in the Wardwar Valley at 3.35 P.M.

PEAK GAH LING (17,100 ft.), near Machai station S.W. of Umba La. July 28. Left camp in the Kuskokh Than Nullah S.W. of Umba on the 27th and camped on the Machai-Umba-La ridge at 15,750 ft. The following day the party (including Asdu Mir) started at 6.50 and climbed W. by loose rocks and bad snow to a shoulder about 1000 ft. above camp reached at 8.50. By a zigzag route crossing from one rock rib to another by steep snow couloirs they reached the top at 6.50. The ascent was difficult owing to bad snow and loose rocks. They descended by the same route to the shoulder and thence by a couloir to the bottom of the valley and thence to Umba. The height by aneroid was 17,100 ft., but judging from a reading made on the Umba La the following day the peak is probably just under 18,000 ft.

PEAK ABOUT 16,650 ft. at head of W. Branch of Shunderi Nullah. August 2. The same party left camp at the head of W. Branch of this nullah with the intention of climbing Peak D. 4 and ascended by a snow gully and good rocks to N.E. to a serrated ridge, which was followed S.E. to its highest point.

According to the survey map, the peak climbed was in the position of D. 4, but it did not seem high enough. Owing to misty weather it was difficult to ascertain if it was the highest peak in the neighbourhood; there appeared to be one or two higher points, but there was no peak N. of the Dras Valley, which looked more than a few hundred feet higher. The actual height of the peak ascended must have been about 18,100 ft. if D. 4 is 18,400 ft.

VARIOUS EXPEDITIONS.

Pennines.

OBERGABELHORN (4073 m. = 13,364 ft.).—On August 20, 1911, Mr. R. W. Lloyd, with Josef Pollinger as guide and Franz Imboden as porter, ascended the Gabelhorn by the N.E. arête from the Wellenkuppe, descending by the S. face. The intention was to descend by the route by which they ascended in 1904 (cf. 'A.J.' vol. xxv. p. 86), but owing to the ice in the couloirs they were forced out on to the slabs to the left, and had to traverse back across a good deal of the face low down to get off. The climb is an exposed one and there were somewhat frequent falls of ice from the Cornice and a good many stones.

PIGNE D'AROLLA (3801 m. = 12,471 ft.) BY THE N. FACE.—August 7, 1911. Messrs. G. Collins, G. A. Solly, and J. M. Archer Thomson. An ascent of the Pigne d'Arolla from the north was projected and a promising line selected in the belief that the face had not been

climbed. This hope was banished afterwards by the books, which noted a route made as far back as 1889. According to latest information the climb is little known and a few details will be useful.

We went up the west side of the Glacier de Pièce to a steep snow-couloir in a rock ridge called Loitecondoi. A quantity of avalanche débris first gave food for thought but proved afterwards a blessing in disguise and greatly facilitated ascent. After scrambling out of the couloir below its proper exit, we followed up the ridge over a glistening dome and thence to a sharp snow-arête which curved to the right. This inspired caution. Strange to say, a continuous crevasse gaped along the crest. Delicate work on the left flank brought us round eventually to a snow-slope and this again to a bergschrund, which we crossed with some ado. On the farther side we cut obliquely upwards and across a steep ice wall, and landed on a shattered rib in low relief.

The edge, not quite easy to follow, is the strongest part and the safest for a further reason. Stones make merry with dance and song. This rib brought us up to the snow cap that forms the actual summit. We descended easily in thick mist to the Col de la Serpentine.

J. M. A. T.

MARINELLI HUT FROM THE RIFFELHAUS.—The Marinelli hut may be reached from the Jägerjoch without any ascent on the Italian side.

On August 30, Mr. L. W. Rolleston with Josef Lochmatter and Albert Chanton left the Riffelhaus at 4 A.M. and arrived at the Marinelli hut at 1.30 P.M.

The Jägerhorn was ascended and the walking was slow owing to heavy loads (total halts about $1\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.).

The easy E. buttress of the Jägerhorn was descended for about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour and then a fairly straight traverse, descending slightly most of the way, made to the snowfield a few hundred feet above the hut. A couloir in which stones may fall must be crossed.

Bernese Oberland.

FINSTERAARHORN (4275 m. = 14,026 ft.) by the S.W. BUTTRESS AND THE S.E. ARÊTE.—Mr. H. A. Millington writes as follows:—

In 'A.J.' vol. xxv. p. 171 is recorded an ascent 'by the S.E. arête, reached from the S.W.,' or as I should prefer to describe it, 'by the S.W. buttress and S.E. arête.' The route by this buttress is altogether distinct from, and different to, the other more southerly routes to the S.E. arête, and it seems to me that the editorial note there leaves an impression which scarcely does it justice. Not only is it the most direct route up the mountain from the Finsteraarhorn hut, but it provides probably more continuously interesting rock climbing than any other (leaving out of account the one ascent by the E. or N.E. buttress).

On August 17, with Joseph Georges of Evolène I followed this

general route, but took to the rocks at their lowest extremity (just W. of the point 3536 on the S. map) and to the right (spectator's) of the 'great gully' referred to in Dr. Th. Thomas's account, which was not entered at all. The 'minor gully' there mentioned was encountered and cut across, and the whole of the 'several rocky pyramids rising on its edge' climbed over their crests. These, especially 'the most important at its upper end,' yield capital work, and give an interesting variation. The route could be indicated on Dr. Thomas's photo facing p. 170 by a prolongation of the dotted line downwards from the minor summit *straight* (instead of breaking away to the spectator's left) to the point of junction of the rocks with the glacier. With the exception of the lowest rocks for about $\frac{3}{4}$ hour, the rock is satisfactory. The usual route by the S.E. arête was followed from the minor summit to the top and the descent made by the N.W. arête.

The times were as follows: Left Finsteraarhorn hut 5.45 A.M., at foot of rocks 7 (detained by huge crevasses), at junction of S.W. buttress and S.E. arête 9.55, left same 10.35, summit 11.15.

ALPINE NOTES.

'THE ALPINE GUIDE.'—Copies of Vol. I. of the new edition of this work, price 12s. net, and of 'Hints and Notes, Practical and Scientific, for Travellers in the Alps' (being a new edition of the General Introduction), price 3s., can be obtained from all book-sellers, or from Messrs. Stanford, 12 Long Acre, W.C.

'THE ALPINE GUIDE,' THE CENTRAL ALPS. PART I.—A new edition of this portion of the 'Alpine Guide,' by the late John Ball, F.R.S., President of the Alpine Club, reconstructed and revised on behalf of the Alpine Club under the general editorship of A. V. Valentine-Richards, Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge, is now ready, and can be obtained from all booksellers, or from Messrs. Stanford, 12 Long Acre, W.C. It includes those portions of Switzerland to the north of the Rhone and Rhine valleys.

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