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ALPINE ACCIDENTS IN 1911.

On June 17 **Dr. Hermann Rumpelt**, aged 28, was killed by a fall from the summit of the **Gross Wehlturm** (Saxon Switzerland). He was a well-known climber and an authority on the Hohe Tatra group, where, usually with Dr. A. v. Martin, he had made several first ascents. He also had to his credit the first ascent of the S.E. face of the Zehner (Sella Dolomites). Dr. Rumpelt appears to have overbalanced himself when about to descend by a doubled rope and fell about 60 metres, succumbing within 2 hours to his injuries. (Cf. 'Ö.A.Z.', vol. xxxiii. pp. 214 and 217-218.)

On June 25 **Herr Karl Jene** and **Herr Ludwig Koziczinski** were killed in attempting to ascend the N. face of the **Rohač** in the Hohe Tatra. They were apparently ascending a rock rib about the centre of the face, and when attempting to traverse to the right across rotten sloping slabs, Jene must have fallen, dragging his companion with him. The rescue party reached the spot where

the party had apparently quitted the rib, as a rucksack and axe were found there, by an easy traverse from the other side. The bodies were found after some days' search about 1200 ft. lower down. Death must have been instantaneous.

On June 28 **M. Jean de Rufz de Lavison**, aged 25, camped alone just below the Col des Chamois in the Etançons Valley, giving orders to two of the Gaspards to bring him further food supplies on July 4. They found the tent empty, and after some search discovered the body of the unfortunate climber at the foot of the **Great S. wall of the Meije** below the Brèche Zsigmondy. It is surmised that M. de Rufz was attempting to complete the climb on which Emil Zsigmondy lost his life in 1885. He had apparently got as far as the end of the great snow band which intersects the face and fell while attempting to climb the wall below the Brèche Zsigmondy. M. de Rufz was an enthusiastic mountaineer and had just taken with much distinction his degree of docteur ès sciences naturelles.

On July 2 the Signori Farani with their sister ascended the **Corno Miller** in the Adamello. Descending a steep snowfield the sister slipped and broke her arm. One brother went to fetch assistance, the other brother managed meantime to throw a rope to his sister and attempted to pull her up to a better place. The rope, however, broke, causing her to fall further, when she was killed.

On July 4 **Herr K. Stenauer** was found dead at the foot of the N. face of the **Reichenstein**. This ascent is one of the most difficult ascents in the Gesäuse, and is also not free from falling stones.

On July 9 **Herr Reinhard Lindemann, Frä. Else v. Zimmermann** and **Frä. M. Krose** ascended the **Ellmauer Halt** in the Kaisergebirge. They were apparently overtaken by darkness when descending and missing their way were all killed.

On July 12 the body of **Herr M. Trebessiger** was recovered out of a crevasse of the **Gossau Glacier**, on which he had ventured alone.

On July 25 **MM. Joseph Caillet** and Jacques de Lépinez, with the guide Paul Bellin and the porter **Léon Simond** left the Chalet du Plan at 1.30 A.M. to make the difficult ascent of the N. face of the **Aiguille du Plan**. At 9.45 they reached a difficult couloir, rather off the usual route. While the guide went ahead to explore, a stone fell, striking Simond on the head so severely that he died in about a quarter of an hour. The party considered it more prudent, for fear of stones, to cross the summit and descend on the other side. At a particularly difficult place, to give the guide more rope, M. de Lépinez was untied. A snow slope gave way with M. Caillet, and although the guide managed to give the rope a turn round a rock, the strain broke it and M. Caillet slid down to his death. The survivors returned by the line of the ascent and reached the Chalet du Plan de l'Aiguille about noon next day.

On July 27 the young guide **Thomas Widauer**, aged 24, slipped and was killed while ascending the **Ellmauer Halt** in the Kaisergebirge, by the Gamsänger, with a tourist.

On July 28 the young student **Eduard Leisner** ascended alone the **Sas Rigais** from the Villnösthal. In attempting to descend by the Mittagscharte to the Broglesalpe he was killed, his body being found on August 3 at the foot of the N. face of the Sas Rigais.

On August 8 **Herr Josef Schiller**, whilst crossing the **Gaiskarferner** with two friends, unroped, fell into a crevasse about 70 ft. deep. Help was speedily forthcoming, but the unfortunate man was dead before he was got out.

On August 14 the body of **Herr Karl Mandl** was recovered out of a crevasse of the **Pasterze Glacier**, on which he had ventured alone.

On August 19 **Professor Ludwig Forbelski**, **Frl. Hilda Waldert-Brunner** and **Frl. Minna Furtner**, were killed when descending the S. side of the **Grosser Pyhrgas** in the Gesäuse. The party was badly equipped, one of the ladies having thin shoes with high heels and no stick—the other had nailed boots and a sunshade. The party improvised a rope out of various garments. Apparently one of the ladies fell and was killed; the second lady soon after shared the same fate, and very shortly afterwards the professor lost his footing and was found dead with his neck broken in the crevasse between the rocks and the snowlope at its foot. The lamentable loss of these three young lives was the result of almost unexampled levity.

On August 19 **Herr Fritz Reithmeyr** and **Herr Anton Bucher** left the Guggi hut at 6.30 A.M. to ascend the **Mönch** by its N. face. The former was leading and the party had not yet roped, when the icy condition of the slaty slabs that are encountered before reaching the Upper Firm caused **Herr Bucher** to slip. He was unable to stop himself and was killed.

On August 20 **Herr Zachmann** when descending the **Bristenstock** fell into a crevasse of the glacier above the Bristenseeli and was killed.

On August 24 **Herr Eugen Prosch** was killed in descending the **Guglia di Brenta**. The party was descending the N.W. edge, and when level with the piton in the W. face **Herr Prosch**, with the rope held by his two companions, who were well placed, started to traverse to gain the piton. He was out of sight of his companions, who suddenly heard the sound of a rock giving way, followed by an exclamation and a slight pull on the rope. The rope was on examination found to be cut clean through. The unfortunate climber fell some 400 mètres; his body was recovered in the gully between the **Guglia** and the **Campanile Alto**.

On August 28 a lamentable accident on the **Monte Cristallo** resulted in the death of the excellent guide **Angelo Gaspari** of Cortina, in his 46th year. He had accompanied **Hauptmann Viktor**

Kail, an Austrian officer, up the mountain by the ordinary route and slipped in descending the so-called Böse Platte. Although he was pulled up by the rope, his skull was so badly fractured as to cause instant death. It is said that he had been climbing almost every day since June, and it is thought that he may have had a sudden heart failure. He was one of the best of the Dolomite guides, and had also travelled in Switzerland.

On September 1 **Dr. Ernst Ludwig Pinner** (who was one of the party on the occasion of the fatal accident on the Guglia on August 24) was killed while attempting alone the ascent of the **Punta Emma** in the Rosengarten.

On September 4 **Herr Sepp Nieberl** was killed when attempting the first ascent of the S. arête of the **Guffert**. This very promising young climber was only 22 years of age, and a younger brother of the well-known Herr Franz Nieberl. He was at the time of his death President of the Akademischer Alpenverein München. The Guffert is a summit in the Unter-Achenthal, which joins the Valley of the Inn at Jenbach E. of Innsbruck. Herr Nieberl was with two quite inexperienced companions and had only 15 metres of rope. The arête in question is very difficult. Coming to a high step in the ridge, Herr Nieberl had to untie his companions to give himself rope enough. When nearing the top of the step his strength gave out, and he slid slowly down face to the wall. His feet struck the ledge on which his companions stood and he toppled over backwards, falling some 80 ft. clear and being instantly killed. His two companions were only rescued next day with very considerable difficulty. Herr Nieberl was intimately acquainted with the Guffert, having ascended it already six times by other routes. The loss of this brilliant and enthusiastic young mountaineer is greatly to be regretted. He is the subject of a very touching memorial notice by his brother Franz in the 'Ö.A.Z.' vol. xxxiii. p. 308 *seq.*

Many other accidents are recorded in the papers, due either to leaving the made path, plucking flowers, making ascents without proper boots or equipment, sudden attacks of illness and other causes, but as they offer no instructive features to mountaineers they are not here mentioned. Ordinary ski-accidents are not recorded.

NEW EXPEDITIONS IN 1911.

Graian Alps.

POINTE D'HERBETET (3778 m.=12,396 ft.) BY THE W. ARÊTE.—The ascent by the W. arête described in 'A.J.' vol. xxv. p. 735 was previously made in 1907 by Signorina Ottavia Dumontel and her brother Signor Giacomo Dumontel accompanied by another amateur as recorded in 'Rivista' 1908, pp. 96–97.