main range of the Rockies. The work last summer necessitated the climbing of some thirty peaks, the majority not yet named. Over three hundred photographs were taken from these high stations. On the passes the boundary line was established by concrete monuments built on the ground; on the peaks by brass bolts sunk in the rock and cairns of rock 5–7 ft. high erected over them. The maps which are now being prepared will give a graphic delineation of the ground.

The Chamonix Faces of the Aiguille du Plan.

WHEN preparing the note in the last number of the JOURNAL (xxvii. 446–9) with a view to clearing up the history of this side of the peak, a letter of inquiry was addressed to Franz Lochmatter for particulars of the ascent made by Mr. V. E. Ryan and brought a prompt reply of which the following is a translation:

'St. Niklaus. October 20th, 1913.

'In my guides book I see that the ascent of the Aig. du Plan was in the year 1905 and my brother [Josef] and Mr. Ryan were one party. Then there followed us a party consisting of M. Beaujard with the guide Joseph Simond of Chamonix and some porters whose names I do not know. The ascent is between the Aig. du Plan and the Aig. du Midi and so must be from the Gl. des Pèlerins. It led through a narrow chimney or couloir on to the arête which leads direct from the summit of the Aig. du Plan in the direction of Chamonix and finally along the arête itself which lies between the Gl. de Blaitière and the Gl. des Pèlerins.'

M. Beaujard's ascent is recorded in *La Montagne*, 1905, p. 539, as follows:

PIC DES DEUX AIGLES (3500 m. environ), Massif du Mont Blanc—15 juillet 1905—M. E. Beaujard avec Joseph Simond, des Tissourds.—Départ du Plan de l'Aiguille à minuit. Remonter le Glacier des Pèlerins par sa rive droite. Prendre à votre gauche, au N.O., le dernier couloir (celui-là même par lequel Mummery réussit son ascension de l'Aiguille du Plan, traduction Paillon (p. 170 et suiv.). Escalader d'abord les rochers rive gauche du couloir (4 h. 30 mat. environ). Entrer dans le couloir au point le plus élevé où l'on puisse y pénétrer. Tailler en montant vers les rochers rive droite. Quitter le couloir le plus tôt possible : danger de chutes de pierres. Continuer à monter les rochers rive droite (pénétrer une ou deux fois dans le couloir, mais le moins de temps possible). Au point où la glace cesse, attaquer le rocher à pic sur votre droite. Surmonter deux mauvaises cheminées: eau, verglas. De là, sans difficulté,

au Col des Deux Aigles entre l'Aiguille du Plan et le Pic des Deux Aigles (8 h. matin). Tourner à votre gauche. Par une pente de neige traverser face à l'Aiguille de l'M. Arriver au pied du pic sur une dalle étroite en pente. Passer la corde, sans difficultés trop grandes, par dessus le sommet. Monter à bout de corde dans le vide complet, le sommet étant en surplomb. Arrivée au sommet du Pic des Deux Aigles (3 h. soir) : le nom a été donné en souvenir de deux aigles qui n'ont cessé de voltiger autour de la caravane pendant toute l'escalade. Redescendre par le Col des Deux Aigles et de là emprunter la voie du Montenvers par le Glacier du Plan, le couloir N.O. étant impraticable dans l'après-midi.

Translation :

'Mount the Gl. des Pèlerins by its right bank. Take to your left N.W. the last couloir (the one by which Mummery succeeded in making his ascent of the Aig. du Plan) ['A.J.' xvi. 513 and 'My Climbs,' 166].

'Climb first the rocks of the left bank of the couloir. Enter the couloir at the highest possible point. Cut up towards the rocks of the right bank. Quit the couloir at the earliest moment—danger from stones. Continue to ascend the rocks of the right bank, taking once or twice, for the shortest possible time, to the couloir itself. Where the ice ends attack the vertical rocks on your right. Overcome two bad chimneys : water, verglas. From there, without difficulty, to the Col des Deux Aigles between the Aig. du Plan and the Pic des Deux Aigles.'

A comparison of Lochmatter's letter with the note by the late M. Beaujard at last definitely fixes Mr. Ryan's line of ascent which up to now had not been very clear. Lochmatter's 'arête which leads direct from the summit of the Aig. du Plan in the direction of Chamonix' is the arête carrying the Aig. des Deux Aigles, and its upper part is seen on the left-hand top corner of the illustration 'A.J.' xxvii. 448.

The Imfeld-Barbey map, which is, of course, based on the older maps, and not on a special survey, is not very accurate, even if its scale permitted of much accuracy in its delineation of the intricate country of the Chamonix Aiguilles, and a reference should be made to the larger scale (1–20,000) outline map published by MM. H. and J. Vallot in 'La Montagne,' 1909. This outline is based on the triangulations undertaken for their long promised great map of the Chain of Mont Blanc. and shows the subsidiary arêtes of the Aiguilles with accuracy. It will be noted that M. Beaujard terms Mr. Ryan's and his own line, quite correctly, a repetition of Mummery's ascent of 1893, described in a masterly note in 'A.J.' xvi. 513. This view is accepted by M. Emile Fontaine, the great authority on the Aiguilles, and by the authors of the very workmanlike 'Mont Blanc Führer' published in 1913 by the Austrian

Alpine Club, which should be in the hands of every student of that Chain.

On the other hand the attempt in 1892 made by Messrs. Mummery, Slingsby, and Ellis Carr, so vividly described by the latter in 'Two Days on an Ice Slope,' 'A. J.' xvi. 422, starts from the adjoining glacier, marked on Vallot's sketch map 'Glacier Nord du Plan,' and led right up the N. face of the Plan—so that no portion of these two climbs coincides. No attempt appears to have been made to complete the ascent by the N. face which this party were so very near carrying through. The reader of Mr. Ellis Carr's paper can vicariously get excitement and *frissons* enough without venturing himself on these terrible slopes. The N. face is shown by the sketches in Mr. Ellis Carr's paper, and even better by a photo in 'Echo des Alpes,' 1910, 167.

ALPINE ACCIDENTS IN 1913.

On September 7 **Mlle. Renée Eugster,** a well-known French climber, was killed on the **Aig. de la Persévérance,** one of the Aiguilles Rouges de Chamonix. With the guide Alfred Simond and the porter Robert Claret she attempted the descent on the Vallée de Bérard side, which is very precipitous. The party had already double-roped down two pitches and was engaged in descending a third by the same means. The porter had arrived below and was waiting on a small ledge. The rope, however, proved too short for the lady and she had to detach herself for the last bit, but shouted to the guide who was well placed out of sight above that she had landed all right. The guide then commenced to descend but, just at the overhang, he was rendered partially unconscious by a flash of lightning, let go the double rope and fell. The rope, however, got twisted round one of his legs and he fortunately happened to fall on the ledge half suspended by one foot.

The porter hastened to his assistance but Mlle. Eugster had disappeared. Apparently in the excitement she had slipped and fallen, feet first, down the snow couloir by the side of which she was standing. Her body was found 150 m. lower down at the edge of the bergschrund, her clothes having caught on the rocks which stopped her farther fall. A bad wound on the temple was evidently the cause of her death.

On October 26 **Herr Widauf,** aged 31, described as a competent climber and good gymnast, attempted the ascent of the difficult N. face of the **Vertatscha.** His companion turned back owing to illness and nothing more was seen of Herr Widauf until his terribly mangled body was found on the 28th at the foot of the wall.