

second mur de séracs peu élevé (environ 5 m.) dans un angle dièdre où un cône de blocs écroulés monte au niveau de la neige . . . et cette neige, c'est celle des douces pentes aboutissant au Col de la Brenva.'

In the same *Revue* are some 'Notes sur le versant de la Brenva du Mont Blanc' by M. Jacques Lagarde. They deal with the subject in a more complete and much more critical manner than did my summary in 'A.J.' xxvi. 171 *seq.*, and are, in effect, a précis of the narratives of previous ascents.

M. Lagarde distinguishes :

Route I. Moore, 1865.

- Variation (1) Ryan, 1906.  
 (2) Güssfeldt, 1892.  
 (3) Caesar, 1911.  
 (4) Lloyd, 1912.  
 (5) Coolidge,<sup>3</sup> 1870.

Route II. Gruber, 1881.

Among guides, Adolphe Rey has made two, Emile Rey two, Daniel Maquignaz two ascents, and Joseph Pollinger one ascent and one descent. Mr. Lloyd is the only traveller to have faced the expedition twice. There have now been three guideless expeditions, viz. 1894, 1904, and 1922.

Both papers, admirably documented, are great contributions to one of the most magnificent ice-climbs in the Alps—a great memory to its devotees, a great hope for its suitors.

The G.H.M., newest brotherhood of mountaineers, may rest assured that they will find nowhere keener and more interested admirers of their work or more assiduous readers of their admirable narratives than members of the older Club.

## A WINTER ASCENT OF MT. COOK.

**M**R. R. L. WIGLEY, with the guides Frank Milne and Murrell, left the Hermitage in perfect weather on the morning of Thursday, August 9, and reached the Ball hut at 4.30 A.M., Friday.

<sup>3</sup> My expedition in 1893, led by Daniel Maquignaz and Klucker, appears to have followed the line of Mr. Coolidge, led by Almer, which is satisfactory!

' From this point to the foot of the Haast Range . . . snow conditions were against us, the surface being too hard to use the skis, but not hard enough to bear our weight. . . . In some places the snow was very steep, and in others it presented an even coating over very steep rocks. We arrived at the Haast Hut too late to make any preparations in the way of kicking steps over Glacier Dome in readiness for climbing Mount Cook next day.

' Saturday, however, was spent in kicking steps over the Dome and round Silber Horn corner. . . . Sharp at 4 A.M. on Sunday we started off and tramped to the top of Glacier Dome.

' From here we skied to the Silber Horn Corner, and found ski-ing in the dark a most novel experience. Leaving our skis at the foot of Silber Horn we started off in the steps kicked on Saturday, and by daylight were well up the Linda Glacier. From this point on, conditions were fairly good, the snow being very soft. The prospects of reaching the top looked good. Several recent avalanches were crossed. . . . Some of the crevasses on the Linda Glacier are of great size, and absolutely magnificent. . . . The summit rocks we found in good condition, which luckily made climbing good. We halted a few minutes for a bite of bread and cheese and a drink from our water-bottles, which we had previously filled with cold tea. . . .

' Resuming the climb, we found the rocks were ice-glazed and very steep, but otherwise conditions were good right to the summit, which we attained at 1.30 P.M. . . .

' It was a glorious day, giving great visibility. Both coast-lines were clearly seen, as were also numberless peaks both north and south, Mount Aspiring being particularly noticeable. . . .

' At 1.50 P.M., after taking several photographs, we left on the return journey to the Haast Hut. . . .

' The rest of the journey was accomplished without incident, and after climbing over soft snow and ski-ing across the Hochstetter Plateau, we arrived at the Haast Hut at 8 P.M., very tired but very pleased with ourselves.

' Next morning we glissaded from the Haast Hut right down to the glacier and skied from here to the Ball Hut, and thence to the Blue Lakes, where we were very thankful to find the horses waiting for us. We were away from the Hermitage for five days, and had glorious weather the whole time.

' . . . On the day we climbed Mount Cook, we found the "wind clothes" used on Shackleton's expedition very good, being put on over our ordinary clothing. It may give you some idea of the temperature when I state that, on getting back to the Haast Hut, one of the party had to leave his socks in his boots, as they were frozen solid through the leather. We were very lucky in having such a glorious day. With a wind, it would no doubt have been so cold that we would have had to abandon the climb.

' We did not expect to be able to do the ascent from the Haast Hut in the excellent time of 16 hours. The record time for a summer climb was made by Lieutenant Gran with Guide Graham in 13½ hours. . . .

' I was blessed with two fine companions for such a trip, in Messrs. Milne and Murrell, but the success of the whole trip was due to Frank Milne, who is an absolute marvel on ice and rock and has a wonderfully fine judgment for snow conditions.'

(Curtailed from the narrative in *The Dominion*, August 18, 1923.)

## EXPLORATIONS IN THE MOUNTAINS OF EASTERN SPITSBERGEN.

By N. E. ODELL.

THE sledging journey into Eastern Spitsbergen undertaken in 1921 ('A.J.' xxxiv. 102 *seq.* and 506) had been regarded by R. A. Frazer and the writer as merely introductory and preliminary to a bigger attack on the unexplored parts of this region, to be carried out when opportunity offered at a later date. The opportunity presented itself this summer, when an invitation was received to join the Merton College (Oxford) Arctic Expedition and also financial assistance was forthcoming from generous friends in the Club. A party of four seemed to us the best working unit, and we were fortunate in getting A. C. Irvine and G. Milling of the Oxford Boat to join us.

The original plans of this year's sledging party provided for a journey into Northeastland to explore the inland ice cap, partially crossed only by the Swedish explorer and geologist Nordenskiöld in 1873, as well as to traverse if possible the unexplored region of Eastern Spitsbergen and come out on the western side of the main island at the head of Ice Fiord.