

great hold of him, and he had to be carried back under difficult conditions over a high pass to Lachen in Sikkim, in a very weak state. For two months he was in hospital, but as soon as he was up again his unconquerable spirit drove him across country, and after an arduous journey, which involved wading icy streams and much hardship, he rejoined the expedition.

He went with the party up to 22,000 ft., but it was by sheer will-power. He had shot his bolt, and although he was able to do the return journey to Darjeeling and home, the effort was a great strain, and after he got home a complete breakdown supervened, and for four long years he was gradually getting weaker, till the end came. The spirit had always been stronger than the flesh, and large drafts had been made on his reserve. This breakdown was a great disappointment to him at the moment of the supreme ambition of his life, the assault on Mount Everest.

He was elected to the Alpine Club in 1904, and was a frequent contributor to the JOURNAL, his papers including: 'Some Traverses in 1906' ('A.J.' 23, 425); 'Gran Paradiso by the S. face' (23, 592); 'Dent Blanche by the E. Ridge' (24, 627); 'Bec de l'Invergnan by the E. Ridge' (24, 321); 'Disgrazia by the N. Face' (25, 691); 'In the Caucasus, 1914' (29, 142); 'The Western Ridge of the Meije' (33, 215); 'The Southerly Walls of Kangchenjunga and the Rathong La' (34, 33). In 1920 he published an extremely valuable book entitled 'Mountaineering Art,' which is one of the standard works on mountaineering.

He was a delightful travelling companion; his thoughtfulness and care for others, his wide experience and extensive knowledge of all natural features, birds and flowers, endeared him to all his friends, and his death leaves a void which cannot be filled, in the loss of a trusty comrade, a well-trying friend, and an indomitable spirit. May the soil rest lightly upon him.

W. N. LING.

NEW EXPEDITIONS (1910; 1925-6).

Cottian Alps.

AIGUILLE DE CHAMBEYRON (3409 m. = 11,155 ft.), BY THE N. AND N.W. FACES. July 11, 1926. MM. Jean Coste¹ and Paul Guilleret. From a bivouac (left at 02.00) near Chillol in the Val de Mary glen of the Ubaye valley, the party crossed the Marinnet glacier, making for the base of the long and steep couloir seaming the N. face of the Aiguille de Chambeyron which abuts against the watershed at a

¹ M. Coste perished on the Meije a few days later.—*A.J.* 38, 346.

point W. of the summit and between it and the 'Great Tower'—now christened 'Tour Coolidge.' Crossing the almost invisible bergschrund, the party cut up the couloir as quickly as possible. This latter gets steeper and steeper, especially its last 10 metres; the rocks being almost impossible, the party were obliged to stick to the couloir throughout till they attained its top at 08.00 (4 hrs. from the base). Turning slightly to the W. by an iced and exposed traverse, the party attacked the perpendicular but good and firm rocks of the N.W. face (these red rocks provide ample holds), and attained the top, 10.00 (1½ hrs.). Descent by the Chauvet glacier to the La Blachière oasis and so to Jausiers. From *La Montagne*, 1927, pp. 1-6.

Le Dauphiné.

MONT PELVOUX (3954 m. = 12,973 ft.), BY THE N.W. (OR MOMIE) ARÊTE. August 28, 1926. MM. Pierre Dalloz and Georges Gaillard. From the Cézanne Club Hut the party, by the route of the Col de la Temple, attained the upper basin of the Glacier Noir. Thence, crossing the little glacier or great² couloir descending from the N. slopes of the Pelvoux (3 hrs.) they mounted the couloir descending from the lowest gap—*Brèche de la Momie*—in the Pelvoux's N.W. arête. Before attaining the gap itself, they took a second couloir to their right, and crossed the watershed between the Momie and Noir glaciers approximately at a great rose-coloured rock gully draining into the Momie glacier. Up this gully, first by the rotten rocks of its left bank, then by firm ledges on the right bank; then, crossing the arête above the inlet of the gully they turned on the N.W. (Glacier Noir) slope, a huge tawny step (2½ hrs.). A notch in the arête was thence reached by a climb over good rocks and the following step, crowned with two teeth, was also turned to the N.W. Thence by a curious white quartz chimney, firm ledges, later a difficult chimney, they attained a buttress of the main arête. This spot is marked by 300 ft. ice gully. By a smooth slab they climbed back to the main arête and steered towards the Junction of the Momie and Violettes (N.E.) arêtes (1½ hrs.). This point is attained first by a traverse on the Momie face, followed after the Junction by a prolonged similar movement on the Violettes slope, regaining the arête at a great bastion above which the ridge flattens out. Thence a series of iced ledges, teeth, and steps, sometimes on one slope, sometimes on the other, brought the party to the now nearly level arête over which the Pyramide Durand was easily attained (3¼ hrs.) followed by their arrival on the Pointe Puisseux (½ hr.). Descent to Ailefroide by the *Violettes* glacier in 2½ hrs.! From G. H. M. *Annuaire*, 1927, pp. 49-50; marked illustrations p. 69.

² It was up this couloir, taking very late to the N.W. arête, that the first ascent of the mountain from the N.W. was originally made, *A.J.* 16, 49-50.



Phot. the late J. Coste.

N. FACE OF AIGUILLE DE CHAMBEYRON
from close below the summit.



Phot. the late J. Coste.

N. FACE OF AIGUILLE DE CHAMBEYRON.



Phot. the late J. Coste.

TOUR COOLIDGE

PIC BOURCET (N.E. Summit or *Pointe Swan* 3697 m. = 12,130 ft.), BY THE W. ARÊTE. September 3, 1926. MM. Pierre Dalloz and Henry Bordeaux. From the Chatelleret Club hut to the S. bay of the Grande Ruine Glacier, the party mounted towards the *second* gap counting from the summit. Near the W. arête, and at about the level of the gap, they took a narrow ledge whence the crest was gained by a long and vertical chimney. Next a climb along the ridge—good firm rocks—turning the upper teeth by a traverse on the Etançons slope. A mistake was here committed; instead of attaining the floor of the *first* and very deep notch (described as a *Coup de Sabre*) by easy ledges on the W., they became involved in difficulties on the E. slope. From the deep notch a smooth slab was traversed on the E. slope and the arête regained, by an easy shallow chimney at a little notch close to a tooth. Crossing on to the Etançons slope, the party henceforward kept on that side not far from the crest, and by a series of cleft rocks, steep chimneys and gullies reached the *S. peak*, whence the *Pointe Swan* was attained by following the arête (3-4 hrs. from the 'deep notch'). From G. H. M. *Annuaire*, 1927, pp. 48-9.

[This route appears to be superior to previous ones and the rocks, in general, far firmer].

A variation of the *S.E. face* route is also reported in the current *Annuaire*, pp. 48-9.

PAVÉ (3831 m. = 12,570 ft.). *Traverse TO PIC GASPARD* (3880 m. = 12,730 ft.). September 12, 1926. MM. Pierre Dalloz and Albert Arnaud. From the summit of the Pavé ($3\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. from the Promontoire Club hut), by the rocks on right bank of the ice slope on the N.E. face, to the first step on the arête connecting the Pavé with the Pic Gaspard. Turn this step by a gully on the S. (Cavales) slope, and, by a chimney regain crest at a gap between the summit and a prominent tower. Passing over this tower—to which the name of *L'Ourson* appears to have been attached—and descending by narrow ledges on the N.E. slope, they attained the lowest depression, the so-called *Brèche Casimir-Gaspard*, between the Pavé and Pic Gaspard ($1\frac{3}{4}$ hrs.). From the depression, follow first the narrow rock ridge, then a ledge on the S. slope of Pic Gaspard's great N.W. arête. The party, leaving the ledge before its termination, then climbed steep rocks, followed by a short chimney, straight up to the arête. Then along the crest to the last step under the summit. A steep tooth is turned on the S. by a chimney and slab. An 100 ft. chimney, seaming the N. slope of the arête and close to an huge overhanging boulder, is next climbed and from it a little notch in the arête above the boulder, attained. A ledge, on the S. slope, interrupted by a bulging slab, is next followed and the arête, becoming more level, is reached by steep rocks. It is followed to the top ($3\frac{1}{4}$ hrs.). Descent by the very rotten rock gully on the E., the party being caught in a storm and having to bivouac in the cliffs of the Cavales

glen. The expedition is highly recommended. From G. H. M. *Annuaire*, 1927, pp. 51-52.

[A traverse of Pic Gaspard, including the first descent of the S.W. face, is also reported in *Alpinisme*, January, 1927. The expedition was accomplished August 31, 1926, by MM. Pierre Chevalier and Marcel Sauvage. As the only new part was accomplished in the descent, we refrain from particulars or comment.—EDITOR.]

AIGUILLE DES ARIAS (3401 m. = 11,159 ft.), BY THE N. FACE. September 19, 1926. MM. Pierre Dalloz and Robert Hardouin. From the Alpe de Pin huts above St. Christophe, through the Mariande glen to the rocks forming the right bank of the E. bay of the Mariande glacier (2 hrs. 10 mins.). The party mounted these rocks in the direction of the Bec du Canard (3270 m.), then taking to the ice, skirted round to the N. buttress of the Aiguille des Arias. This steep buttress, some 2000 ft. high, is bounded on the E. by an ice slope. The party crossing the bergschrund ($\frac{3}{4}$ hr.), cut up the ice slope for some 300 ft. They took to the rocks at the base of two great slabby steps forming prominent objects on the said buttress. These two steps are climbed either by the crest or by slabs on the E. slope (1 hr. 20 mins.). Then straight up for 100 ft. followed by a traverse across a couloir on the left. Now up an easy gully enabling them to cross over a secondary and parallel ridge abutting against an overhang. They next climbed straight up the face and attained a minor point (1 hr.) separated by a deep gap from the summit. Across this gap and along the watershed to the top (20 mins.). Descent by E. face to La Lavey ($3\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.). Times are very fast. The rocks are excellent throughout. From G. H. M. *Annuaire*, 1927, pp. 52-3.

Mont Blanc Group.

FLAMMES DE PIERRE DU DRU³ (3322 m. = 10,899 ft., *Vallot*). This is the principal tooth on the great S.W. buttress of the Aiguilles du Dru descending towards the Mer de Glace.

September 4, 1926. MM. D. Armand Dellile, J. A. Morin and H. de Ségogne. From the Charpoua Club hut, taking the route of the Petit Dru, party attained the ridge in the neighbourhood of Point 3308 m., *Vallot*; then, turning S.W., skirted a series of teeth by a diagonal descent of some 100 ft. in a chimney on the Charpoua slope. Thence a gully led them back to the ridge at the base of their tooth. The first vertical step is partly climbed and partly turned on its N. slope. Having attained a gap, a tower 90 ft. high, smooth and overhanging, now confronted them. Then by an, at

³ So named by Cav. Guido Rey. This route is merely described here as an example of the extremely thorough exploration of all points on ridges now undertaken by the 'Young French' school.

first, level, then ascending traverse, the party attained the base of a vertical and holdless chimney. This chimney lies between the tower and the true summit and brought them to the summit block which was then climbed direct (4 hrs., *excluding* halts). An easier way of turning the tower was discovered on the descent.

Following the questionable French and Italian custom of giving 'personal' names, it is proposed to call the tooth, *Pointe Michelle-Micheline*. From *La Montagne*, 1927, pp. 24-5.

AIGUILLE SANS NOM (3989 m. = 13,088 ft., B.I.K.), BY THE W. ARÊTE and traverse to AIGUILLE VERTE (4127 m. = 13,541 ft.). This magnificent expedition was accomplished September 21, 1926, by Mademoiselle G. de Longchamp with Armand Charlet and Marcel Bozon.

From the Charpoua Club hut by the route of the Grand Dru to the base of the great couloir descending from the *Brèche sans Nom*: thence the party easily crossed the bergschrund and scaled the lower rocks by two difficult chimneys; next they followed the couloir itself for some 300 ft., only narrowly avoiding a great fall of rocks which obliged them to take to the true left bank of the couloir. They then climbed a perpendicular chimney followed by another providing bad holds, then, bearing to the right, E., by easy rocks, followed by convenient ledges were able to climb diagonally back to the left, W., into the couloir itself, some 600 ft. below the *Brèche*. Up the couloir, no difficulties save a few smooth loose rocks to the *Brèche*, attained in 3 hrs. from the bergschrund.⁴

From the *Brèche*, *descend* some 30 ft. on the S. slope of the Aiguille's W. arête, whence a short overhanging chimney and a very difficult slab lead to a great platform. From the extreme edge of this platform, a very short *descent* followed by another difficult 30-ft. chimney brought the party to the top of the first step. Now, easily, by a series of rock terraces, some 100-150 ft. below the crest of the arête, to the base of a vertical wall seamed by several clefts. Bear to the right, N.E., by a traverse of some 150 ft.; turn a little rib and by a steep slab, good holds, attain a 30-ft. high and difficult chimney. Up this chimney, followed by a longer and wider one. These two chimneys are succeeded by others, all of which are climbed—one overhangs at its base—and lead eventually to a very small

⁴ This appears to be the third time that the *Brèche sans Nom* (3725 m. *Vallot*) has been attained; the first occasion being on July 28, 1890, by the Wicks-Morse-Carr party while making the first ascent of the *Pic sans Nom*, on which occasion the couloir was followed throughout, and the *Brèche* attained in 5 hrs. from the bergschrund, *A.J.* 15, 297-8; 335-40. The second occasion was on July 10, 1901 by M. Emile Fontaine with Joseph and Jean Ravanel when making the second (? and last) ascent of the *Pic sans Nom*.

terrace in the floor of a chimney. A very awkward traverse to the left, W., of some 40 ft. is next accomplished till another short and abrupt fissure leads to easy terraces. The party then attained, without difficulty, the base of a great boulder forming an outlier to the first peak or *Pointe Petigax*.⁵ Turn this boulder on the Charpoua slope and follow the narrow snow arête climbing the first and turning the second of two teeth by its N. or Nant Blanc slope, whence a difficult and glazed chimney leads back to the arête and an exposed climb of some 20 ft. finally with one's back turned to the Verte, lead to the *Pointe Petigax* (3½ hrs.).

Thence the party followed approximately the route of the first explorers⁶ to the summit; after descending the first gap by a spare rope, they kept almost entirely on the rocks of the S. slope except at one point where a traverse on the N. had to be made. The summit or *Pointe Croux*, was attained at 13.00 (2½ hrs.). The very sharp ice arête⁷ leading to the snow dôme of the *Aiguille Verte* was turned by the not easy rocks and ice of its S. slope, at the end of which a short snowy rib was climbed to the *Calotte* and the top of the *Aiguille Verte* itself, 14.00 (1 hr.). Descent by the ordinary or 'Whymper' route.

The times, including halts, are as follows:

Charpoua Club hut	. . . . .	03.00
Bergschrund	. . . . .	04.00
Brèche sans Nom	. . . . .	07.00
Pointe Petigax	. . . . .	10.30
Pointe Croux	. . . . .	13.00
Aiguille Verte	. . . . .	14.00
Bergschrund	. . . . .	19.00
Couvercle	. . . . .	20.00

From G. H. M. *Annuaire*, 1927, pp. 94-6.

Bernina (W. Wing) Group.

PIZZI GEMELLI (3259 m. = 10,693 ft., *S. map*; 3264 m., *Lurani*) N.W. NEEDLE. June 21, 1925. Herren F. Baumann and H. Rütter with Chr. Klucker made the first ascent of this needle which lies immediately to the E. of *Colle dei Gemelli*. From the col, they mounted the steep snow gully about half-way between the needle and the principal summit, then took to the rocks on the left and gained the N.W. face by means of a narrow, horizontal ledge. In the lower part of the face some steep cracks, leading straight upwards, were climbed, whereupon the rocks became nearly per-

⁵ Named by H.R.H. the Duke of the Abruzzi, as also the E. peak, or *Pointe Croux*. The portion of the climb between the *Brèche* and *Pointe Petigax* is new.

⁶ *A.J.* 19, 243.

⁷ *A.J.* 21, 261-3, 509-17.

pendicular, and in one place slightly overhanging. Some steps directly below the summit are very difficult, the rocks affording no holds worth speaking of. The climb on the face, which is exposed throughout, began at a spot about 25 ft. to the N. of the nearly perpendicular and unscalable S.W. ridge, and, a few feet below the summit, the party found itself within 3 or 4 ft. of the aforesaid ridge. On the summit you can sit nowhere without holding on with your hands. On the descent the last man roped himself down a very steep gully more to the N. Time: Colle dei Gemelli to summit, 1 hr.

Note.—The Pizzi Gemelli (Twin Peaks) were so called by the inhabitants of the Bregaglia valley, whence they appear as Twins. The needle, the ascent of which has just been described appears as the higher of the Twins as seen from the Bregaglia; the one nearer to the valley. It may be about 170 feet lower than the principal summit to the S. This latter consists, however, in a horizontal summit ridge running N.W. and S.E.

Now it is a curious fact that in alpine literature only the principal summit is called 'Gemelli,' the Twins being apparently represented by the N.W. and S.E. ends of the summit ridge (the latter not visible from the Bregaglia valley). The Gemelli Needle is completely ignored in alpine literature although it is one of the Twins which gave the group its name. To call the principal summit 'Gemelli' is quite wrong, as any mountain with a horizontal summit ridge might then be thus named. Moreover, the inhabitants of Val Bregaglia give that name to *both* peaks. It is to be hoped that future *Climbers' Guides* will correct the error.

To elucidate this matter was not the least of the reasons for the above described climb.

H. RÜTTER.

[I entirely concur with Herr Rütter's note.—*E. L. S.*]

FORCOLA DELLO SCALINO (*ca.* 3048 m. = 10,000 ft.). No height or name on *S. map*. Between Lo Scalino and Cima di Cantun. July 2, 1926. Herren F. Baumann and H. Rütter with Chr. Klucker made the first traverse of this col, which has often been reached from the easy Forno side, but never from the Albigna. The party ascended the Cantun glacier to the W. foot of the col. The task consists in climbing a very steep névé and ice wall. After crossing the bergschrund the party cut right up the face. About 60 ft. below the col some rocks pierce the ice coating. The party climbed those to the left, N., which are slabby and afford only precarious holds. Then to the right, and over névé to the col.

This ascent, which was effected in 2 hrs. 10 mins. from the base to the col, is exceedingly steep in its upper part, and must be considered as difficult. It adds to the previous expeditions from the Albigna hut a new col from the Albigna to the Forno glacier, the interesting ascent of Lo Scalino from the south, and Cima di Cantun

by the N. arête. From the col the party crossed Lo Scalino from S. to N. This traverse was rather difficult owing to much snow and ice covering the rocks.

CASTELLO (2926 m. = 9599 ft., *S. map*). July 1, 1926. Herren F. Baumann and H. Rütter made the first ascent of this the westernmost rock pinnacle of the W. arête of *Cima di Castello*. Starting from the Albigna Club hut and following the route of the Zocca pass, a short climb in a broad couloir in the S. face and to the W. of the top brought the party to a spot from where two broad ledges (the upper one more in the nature of a gully) slant upwards from W. to E. The lower ledge was followed to its end. Thence over a narrow ledge and round an awkward corner to a steep and exposed slab which was climbed with difficulty. Now easily along a grass-grown, horizontal ledge in a north-westerly direction to a steep gully which leads to the W. arête. Over this latter the top was reached without difficulty; 4 hours from Albigna Club hut. In the descent the upper ledge was followed without any difficulty. The exposed slab can thus be avoided.

H. RÜTTER.

Julian Alps.

TRIGLAV (TERGLOU), 2863 m. = 9400 ft., BY THE N. FACE, 'SLOVENE' ROUTE.⁸ August 22, 1910. Dr. H. Tuma with J. Komac.⁹

From the Aljaž Club hut the route follows the path across the Bistrica to the Prag and thence to the rocky gully at the foot of the Triglav's great N. face; path is left at a level spot near a scrub-clad buttress, by which buttress access is obtained to the face (04.30, or 1 hr. from hut). Climb up steep rocks in direction of four larches visible from the hut; bear slightly to the right and by a (sometimes non-existent) snow slope gain access to base of *first* chimney ['i']. Up this chimney, which is nearly 1000 ft. long, easy at first, then difficult. Final 8 metres very difficult and only climbed by standing on one another's shoulders. This first chimney is the longest (1 hr.) and is conspicuous by a yellow-streaked pinnacle above it ['a']. Near the larches turn right from the chimney and climb a wide grey rock face ['b'] to a nearly level ridge; to the right is the base of the *second* chimney ['ii']. Climb the chimney, to the left of which rises a second yellowish pinnacle ['c']. From top of the chimney turn to the right and scramble over its right (ascending) edge by a crack, and the main wall, seamed by the *third* (snow-filled) chimney ['iii'] rises in front of you. A waterfall ['e'] here streams down

⁸ The original, or 'Austrian' route, by Herren F. König, H. Reinl and K. Dommenig, July 9-10, 1906, is described, together with some later variations, in *Hochtourist*, iii., pp. 466-8, with a marked sketch. These lie further E. than the 'Slovene' route. The height of the face is about 6000 ft.

⁹ By the courtesy of Doctor Tuma and Mrs. Copeland.



Phot. E. Planinsek.

THE N. FACE OF THE TRIGLAV.

The three main routes are all marked alike, but they are quite easily distinguished by their position. The right-hand route, with interlacing variations, is the Austrian route; the Central Route is recognisable by the zig-zags up the ledges; the Slovene Route is the one furthest to the left, one variation of it is Dr. Pavel Kunaver's route, the comparatively straight route is Dr. Tumas's. The dotted line to the extreme left indicates routes followed at one time or another in recent expeditions up the Wall.

from the Triglav glacier. Now by the rocks to the right, or straight up by snow, to the base of this third chimney (1½ hrs.). The waterfall is now the general direction. Turn a short vertical step by a ledge and the main difficulties are finished. Mount the wall, with the waterfall always to the left, by gullies and ledges till you attain its top not far from point 2464 m.—close to a chamois pass (1 hr. 20 min.). Now up a steep snow slope and then pass on to a buttress abutting against the Veliki Triglav main N. arête. Mount this long arête, not difficult but sharp brittle rocks, direct to the summit (2 hrs. 10 mins.). Descent by ordinary route to the Aljaž Club hut, attained at 16.20.

‘A very striking climb and the best in the Julian Alps.’

(Figures and letters in text refer to marked diagram of the face).

This expedition was repeated in 1911 and again, with slight variants, on account of flowing water, by MM. Kveder, Cop, Volkur and Jug, July 23, 1922.¹⁰ Their route is, in general, slightly to the E. of Dr. Tuma's, and was accomplished in 6 hrs., including halts.

‘NOTES ON THE CENTRAL ROUTE OF THE N. FACE OF THE TRIGLAV, A VARIATION OF THE “AUSTRIAN” ROUTE.’—By M. Ivan Rožman, who has made the ascent by all three routes.

[Besides the well-defined ‘Austrian’ and ‘Slovene’ routes up the Triglav Wall—as the Slovenes call the N. face—there is a third, central one, which is generally spoken of as the ‘Central, or Alternative Austrian Route,’ because it has the same starting-point as the original ‘Austrian’ route. The following brief description of it was kindly given by M. Rožman, of Ljubljana (Laibach), one of the party which made the ascent a few years ago, the only one so far, apparently.]

Access to the ‘Central’ route is gained by the same opening in the Wall as that which leads to the ‘Austrian’ route, and for a matter of 300 m. the two routes are identical. Upon reaching the first ledge, however, the ‘Central’ route branches off to the left. You follow the ledge until you find a traverse which leads to a second ledge higher up. At the end of this there is another traverse, which leads to a third ledge—see photograph. From the end of this ledge—which of course takes you to the left again—there is an easy traverse to the ‘Slovene’ route. If you continue to follow the ‘Central’ route, you have now to scale a boulder, not difficult to negotiate, which takes you to the fourth ledge. Here you bear to the right, reaching the gully this side of the Black Boulder, which is the distinctive feature of the ‘Austrian’ route. Here you keep to the right of the pinnacle on the scree, returning to the face of the rock and proceeding upward over a succession of smooth slabs. The next stage is up by a crack—scarcely sufficiently defined to be

¹⁰ Kindly communicated by MM. Kunaver, Kveder and Mrs. Copeland.

called a chimney—access to which is difficult. Then follow about 30 ft. of perpendicular rock. Above this you come out upon the 'Kugy' ledge close to the permanent snow around the Triglav glacier. From this point onward you have the choice of several well-known routes—*either* to follow the usual route to the left over



N. FACE OF TRIGLAV WITH 'SLOVENE' ROUTE.

the glacier to the Kredarica (where stands the Triglav House, see photograph), *or* to turn to the right by the 'Kugy' ledge and so on to the Alexander [? Aljaž] House, *or* to continue straight up the W. arête of the Triglav as far as the summit. The route up this ledge is not marked on the photograph, but it offers no special difficulty to a reasonably experienced climber.

ŠPIK (2472 m. = 8100 ft.), BY THE N. FACE. The Špik is the outermost of a semicircle of peaks in the Julian Alps, reaching out from the N. crags of the Škrlatica to the valley of the Pišnica behind

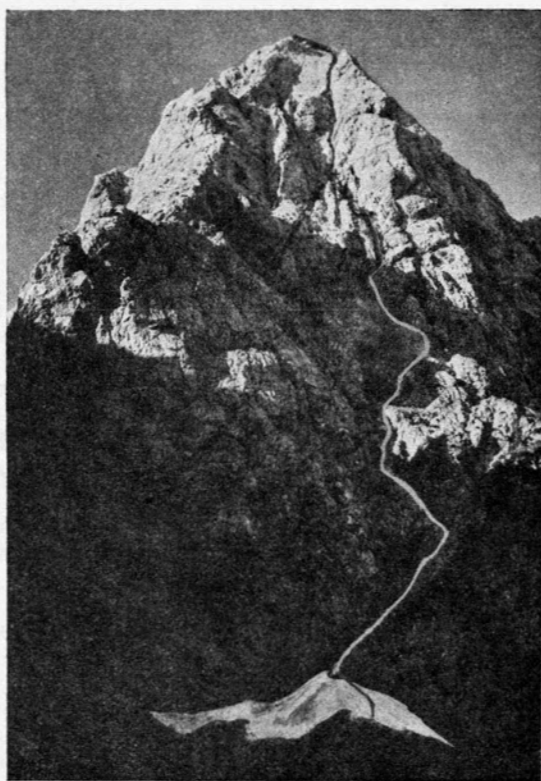


Phot. J. Ravnik.

N. SLOPE OF THE SPIK WITH THE HEAD
OF MARTULJEK (JULIAN ALPS).

Kranjska Gora. The group curves round a shallow wooded valley, which, strictly speaking, alone has the right to the name of Martuljek. But in practice the name is extended to the surrounding peaks as well, and the whole massif is referred to collectively as the Martuljek.

What with steep screes and snows, wearisome to cross and giving access to cliffs none of which are easy to scale, the Martuljek is



Photo, S. Tomiňek.]

N. FACE OF ŠPIK.

outside the orbit of the ordinary excursionist and has come to be regarded as a sort of cragman's reservation in the Julian Alps. The most remarkable of the peaks is the Špik (2472 m.) Shaped like a pyramid set on high, the mountain is at once the climax and the end of the group. Its W. shoulder joins on to the Mala Ponica (Little Pontsa); but to the S. and E. its crags sink down to the forest slopes that stretch downward to the meadows beside the Pišnica. From this side the summit is conveniently accessible, and there has been laid out one of those excellent marked paths by which

you can ascend almost any peak in the Slovene Alpine country, without greater gifts for mountaineering than good walking powers and a good head. The N.E. face is a climber's route, but not a difficult one. The W. ascent is by a ridge, and a fairly exacting climb. Towards the N. the Špik shows like a perfect pyramid with a wall, inferior in size to the great Triglav Wall, but even more forbidding. In virtue of its striking appearance and the technical difficulties besetting an ascent, it presented an attractive but baffling problem to mountaineers in the Eastern Alps, and, so far as is known, the N. face of the Špik had never been scaled before this autumn. There is no record of its having been climbed by German mountaineers before the War, and the very possibility of scaling it has been called in question. An ascent was made in the summer of 1925¹¹ by Angelo Dibona (of Ampezzo); but he left the true N. face before he reached half-way, bore to the right, and gained the summit by the comparatively easy crags further W. The best, although unsuccessful, attempt was made on August 6, 1926, by M. A. de Reggi and M. E. Držaj, two Slovene mountaineers, of Ljubljana. They got into difficulties among the overhanging rocks, and were overtaken by one of those cataclysmic downpours that have been a disastrous feature of this summer's climate in N. Yugoslavia, and the cause, directly and indirectly, of an unusually large number of fatal accidents in the mountains. Shortly afterwards the first successful ascent was made by Madame M. M. Pibernik and Dr. Stane Tomišek on September 5, 1926. Shortly after the first ascent, the Špik Wall was again climbed, this time by MM. E. Držaj and St. Hudnik. The two men took some six hours less over the climb than Madame Pibernik and her companion, but they had the experience of their predecessors as well as that of M. Držaj to go upon.

We publish the following note of the first ascent, by the courtesy of Mrs. Copeland and of Madame Pibernik herself, who *led* throughout the ascent:

Sept. 4, 1926. Party reconnoitred the route.

Sept. 5. Party followed hunter's track to the wooded height known as Pod Screm, and, by 0.800 had scaled the gully which leads to the right of the N. face or wall. From the gully up the main chimney by its true left bank to a conspicuous yellow scar or fault, whence easily to the right over a gravelly ledge under a chimney, passing a cairn probably erected by Dibona where he deflected up the N.N.W. face. From the cairn by a chimney to a great boulder conspicuous from the valley, then over awkward rocks and steps (piton) and over screes to a reddish hollow and along a great ledge to a recess. Thence to the left up a vertical cleft (piton), followed by a traverse to the right and a convenient chimney whence the top of

¹¹ October 11, 1925. According to *Der Bergsteiger*, 1927, No. 3, Dibona deflected but quite slightly—the weather being too cold for a bivouac—and his route joins that of Madame Pibernik under the summit. Herr A. Escher was Dibona's companion.

a boulder, well seen from the valley, is attained (17.00 hrs.); as above here the wall or N. face rises unbroken, bivouac accordingly till 06.00 following morning.

Now by an exposed traverse to the right (2 pitons) followed by a slab and chimney to a convenient but narrow shelf. Thence by a chimney and chockstone, the latter turned to the right—very exposed—and again by the chimney to a terrace. The wall still rises unbroken at an angle of about 85° and forms here a sort of wide recess. Up a kind of fissure in the left-hand (ascending) part of the wall—difficult—to two projecting 'shelly' flakes of rock. These are firm, and by wedging in the innermost angle of the recess, height is gained. Then a very difficult traverse to the right¹² (pitons)—the worst part—till base of another chimney is attained. Up this chimney to an overhang and over this to a U-shaped gully, and then, easily, to the summit (16.00). The party had spent 31 hrs. on the N. face. Descent by ordinary route to Kranjska Gora.

VARIOUS EXPEDITIONS.

Mont Blanc Group.

AIGUILLE DE BIONNASSAY (4066 m. = 13,341 ft. B.I.K.), BY N. FACE. Second ascent. August 17, 1926. Mr. E. G. Oliver with Adolf and Alfred Aufdenblatten. Left Tête Rousse, 03.30. Descended on to glacier and crossed. Delayed about half an hour waiting for daylight. Made for couloir to right of large mass of rocks on face of Aiguille and up this to reach a smaller mass of rocks to our right, W. (04.45). Waited on account of the indisposition of one of the party and because of ominous cracking of séracs above. Discussed returning. Finally decided to proceed. Started up couloir to left of another large mass of rocks—05.30—good snow—moved fast to point above séracs out of danger (06.45). Halt owing to renewed indisposition of one of the party. Discussed retreat, but decided to proceed (07.15). Upwards again, at first snow, then ice, to place just below bergschrund, 08.16 halt. Left 08.30 through steep séracs and over bergschrund—steps in hard ice over lip and above. Thence traverse to left, E., towards a rocky point to the W. of the summit until below another bergschrund (09.40). Started 09.50, traversing to left under rock point, until apparently below summit. Here thunderstorm came on (10.00)—took shelter in large crevasse. Started again 10.50, making straight for apparent top. Step-cutting on steep slope through powdery snow into ice. Reached Tricot (W.) arête 12.05. Top 12.15. Halt on first rocks of the Miage arête 12.30. Thunderstorm, heavy hail and snow. Wound rope round rocks. Started again 13.05, and reached foot of rocks 13.45. Rocks covered

¹² The second party avoided this spot by ascending the *right-hand* side of the recessed face.