ment there, and went on to Courmayeur—to civilisation and clean linen. We 'rested' at Courmayeur one day (*i.e.* we climbed Mont Chétif for the view), and the next, after sending our luggage round to Geneva, went up to the Col du Géant hut, where the cooking is very good, and on the third crossed to the Montenvers, where we found only two other guests.

On the morrow we fled from the Sunday crowd at Chamonix to the austere shelter of the Pierre à Bérard hotel, crossed the Buet the next day in glorious weather to Sixt, and reached Champéry the following day in torrents of rain, and so went home by way of Geneva.

We had thus traversed the ancient kingdom of Savoy, to employ 'alliteration's artful aid,' from Chambéry to Champéry, and if anyone wants a pleasant tour through an unexploited country with an unspoilt people I commend our route to his attention. My one word of advice would be to read and implicitly rely on every word in the new Ball's Guide, of which, as was said of an old statute, 'every line is worth a subsidy.'

The Gspaltenhorn, 3,442 m., from the Tschingelfirn.

By G. HASLER.

SEVERAL attempts have been made in the last ten years to reach the summit of the Gspaltenhorn either by way of the S. face or by its E. or S.W. arête, the N.W. arête having hitherto been the only way of access.

The possibility of forcing the S.W. arête (from the Gamchilücke) is extremely faint, as it is crowned with a multitude of huge gendarmes, which are not only steep but generally overhang on all sides.

A combination of the S. face with the E. arête promised more success, though I knew that we would never be able to climb *over* the two great gendarmes which block the—otherwise not difficult—arête between the Gspaltenhorn and the Tschingelspitz; it would also be quite impossible to turn these gendarmes on either side, as I had seen on previous attempts. The only thing was to mount straight up the S. face to the gap on the left-hand side, or to the W. of, the higher of the two gendarmes. A long, narrow, and almost perpendicular crack (see Illustration) extends from the level of the Tschingelfirn to the gap. Descending from the summit of the mountain I had twice before reached this gap, and had looked down the crack, only to abandon every hope at once, for when trying to go down a few steps in it the

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Photo by G. Hasler.] [*Swan Electric Engraving Co.*

THE GSPALTENHORN FROM THE LAUTERBRUNNEN BREITHORN.

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whole mountain-side seemed to give way, and stones and icicles of every size tumbled down with a horrid din to the level of the Tschingelfirn.

Still I had faint hopes. It was my fifth attempt when we started on a fine, cloudless day on Tuesday, September 2, 1902, at 3 A.M., from the little inn at the Ober Steinberg. Our party, consisting of Johann (or 'Lenihans') von Allmen, with a porter and myself, reached the foot of the great snow tongue just opposite the Tschingelhorn at 6.15. The first change from snow to rocks was extremely hard; then followed easy rocks, which led to the foot of the repulsive-looking crack, the upper end of which is the gap to the left, or immediately W., of the higher of the two gendarmes which block the E. arête of the peak. Hitherto these have defied all the previous attempts. At 7.15, shortly before reaching the crack proper, we entered the region of falling stones, which are in no way subject to the influence of the sun or anything else, as they fall at any time of the day. The rocks of the crack were the steepest and most rotten that I have ever climbed; water poured down over them, caused by the melting of the snow and ice above us, and drenched us entirely. Occasionally we took to the ice, which filled the greater part of the crack, but this was so narrow and steep that step-cutting was almost impossible. The last bit consisted of an overhanging ice-wall, which was extremely hard, but we reached the gap at last at 12.5 P.M. Its position on the Siegfried map is due S. of the '2' of the figures '3,442.' As I had been here before, I knew that we were out of danger, and in rather under an hour more the summit of the Gspaltenhorn was reached, without further difficulty, along the E., or, more strictly speaking, S.E. arête.

A few more words may be added to this account. The route, especially its lower half, was, it is true, very much exposed to falling stones; but who has not been in a similar position where retreat was, or seemed, impossible? We certainly could not have gone down our crack, considering its steepness and the rottenness of the rocks, which absolutely prevented us fixing our spare rope, without which the descent would have been a very rash thing.

Thus the right way up the S. face of the Gspaltenhorn has not yet been discovered, and the old N.W. arête is still the best line of ascent.

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