

ascent of which from the glacier below can hardly take much less than 1 hr., and should only be attempted before the sun has touched the Tête de Valpelline.

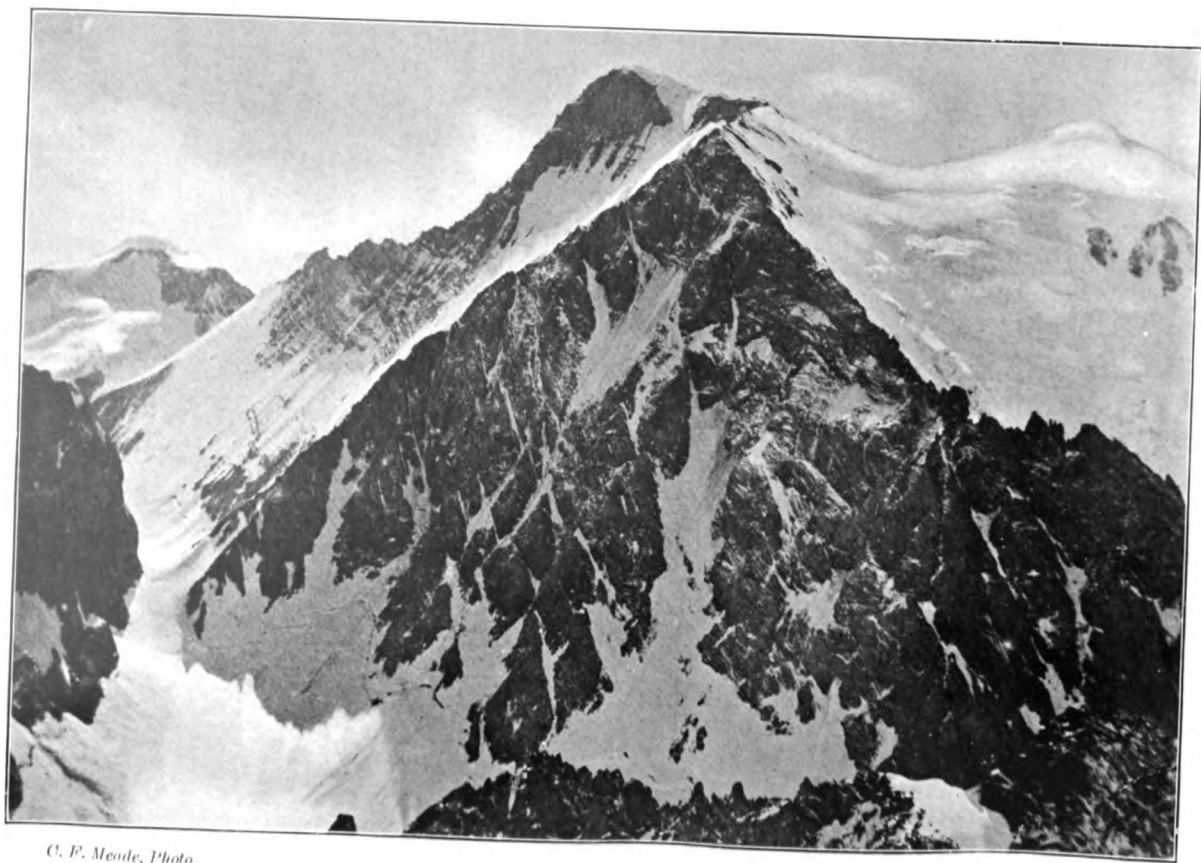
Thus it appears that a considerable saving of time is effected by the new route, and the Dent d'Hérens may be recommended as well within reach of Zermatt, or even the Riffel, provided the Staffel Alp is used as a sleeping-place. By this route, under favourable conditions, there should be no danger of any kind. It is possible that, in some seasons, the state of the icefall and the séracs on the face up which we went might be a source of danger and difficulty; at least that was Lochmatter's opinion. Also under certain conditions of the snow the last and steep portion of the snow-slope up to the W. arête would require care and attention, to avoid the risk of the snow slipping away on the face of ice beneath it; our descent of this gave us more trouble than the ascent; for the warmer air, as the day advanced, had softened the snow, and steps had to be cut through the snow into the ice beneath. If a better way can be found of dealing with the icefall of the Tiefenmatten glacier, so as to avoid the left bank, a further saving of time should be effected. To us it appeared that it might not be impossible to turn the icefall near the right bank, or to force a way through the middle of the icefall itself; and any party who would spend a day over the experiment might be rewarded by bringing the Dent d'Hérens within 7 hrs. of the Staffel Alp, or perhaps even a little less.

Our times were as follows: left Staffel Alp, 2 A.M.; arrived at the Stockje, 4 A.M.; and at the breakfast-place at the foot of the Tiefenmattenjoch, 6.10 A.M.; left, 6.30; reached W. arête, 7.35; left, 7.50; arrived at the summit, 9.35; began descent, 10.50; returned to the breakfast-place, 1.15 P.M.; left, 1.55; reached Stockje, 3.15; and Staffel Alp, 5 P.M.

NOTES ON A TOUR IN THE GRAIANS.

By C. F. MEADE.

I HAVE outlined below a tour which I venture to call comprehensive in so far as the Western and Central Graians are concerned, because we climbed one or more fairly representative peaks in almost all the principal groups. The Eastern Graians were only touched upon. My guides were Blanc 'Greffier,' of Bonneval, and his third son, Pierre, of Bonneval-sur-Arc. We started from Lanslebourg, and the



C. F. Meade, Photo.

THE GRANDE CASSE, FROM AIGUILLE DE LA GLIÈRE.

Siemens Electric Engineering Co., Ltd.

tour occupied us twenty-three days, in August 1901. Of these twenty-three days fifteen were climbing days, and only once were we so unlucky as to be detained in an hotel by bad weather.

Grand Roc Noir.

August 1.—The ascent took us 5 hrs. from Lanslebourg, and the descent to the same place 3. The weather was very bad. There is one chimney near the top, which supplies the only climbing interest. We had no view, and on the following day it poured continuously while we sat in our hotel at Lanslebourg, but on August 3 the weather allowed us to start for the Chalets de l'Arpont. We went by way of Termignon, with the Lion d'Or hotel and its garden full of strawberries. There was a bedroom in one of the chalets.

Dent Parrachée and Dôme de Chasseforêt.

August 4.—We left at 3.30 A.M., intending to sleep at the hut on the Col de la Vanoise for the ascent of the Grande Casse on the morrow. Some steep grass slopes above the hut near a waterfall proved awkward in the dark. The sacks were left on the edge of the Dent Parrachée glacier till our return. One proceeds towards the head of the glacier and then to the top of the Dent Parrachée (9 A.M.) by the ridge running up from the Col at the head of the glacier. Blanc chipped about 1,500 steps in the easy snow on the steep flanks of the ridge. The view into Dauphiné is very fine. We were glad of a square meal on returning to the sacks. It was a tiring tramp through some intricate crevasses to the top of the Dôme de Chasseforêt, a gentle eminence in the midst of vast icefields with magnificent views. From the top of the Dent Parrachée to the top of the Dôme de Chasseforêt had taken us 5½ hrs., with some long halts on the way. On the other side of the Chasseforêt the slope was even gentler, and we trudged down across continuous snowfields with one ascent of some 400 ft., till some delightful glissades took us down to the hut by 7.30 P.M. The huge white mass of the Grande Casse was flooded in the crimson of the most glorious sunset I have ever seen. At the hut we found another party, also bound for the Grande Casse.

Grande Casse.

August 5.—We started at 12.45 A.M., and soon after getting on to the glacier we put on our crampons at the foot of the great ice or snow slope which constitutes the

main feature of the ascent. We used some 400 steps, but the snow was good. We were joined on the col between the two peaks of the Grande Casse by the other party, who had started before us and had mounted by the rotten rocks to the left of the ordinary way. We followed them along the narrow ice and snow ridge to the top. We had climbed very slowly and it was 7.15 A.M. There were superb views of all the Graians, but to my mind the chief thing remarkable about the Grande Casse is the view of it from its north side from below the Col du Palet. That view is perhaps the grandest sight between Mont Blanc and Dauphiné. For the descent we returned to the Col (there is very little room on the peak) and took a rock and snow couloir running down the east face of the mountain. The snow was here very soft. On leaving the couloir we traversed southward by some crumbly rock ledges till we reached the floor of the desolate valley at Entre Deux Eaux, and put up at the rough but very comfortable chalet of Madame veuve Richard.

Grande Motte.

August 6.—At 3.30 A.M. we set off up the grand and barren Leisse valley, and eventually took to the very easy, gently sloping rocks of the Grande Motte, striking the great glacier at a point on the little eastern ridge of our mountain. Going very slowly we were at the top, with its double cornice, by 10 A.M. Mont Pourri, seen from the top with storm clouds behind it, looked magnificent. One also sees, end on, the long eastern ridge of the Grande Casse. It is all rotten rock. We could trace well our journey over the Dent Parrachée and the Chasseforêt icefields. We descended to Val d'Isère by the usual way over the Cols de la Leisse and de Fresse, and reached the Hôtel Moris, a favourite abode of mine, by 4 P.M. The following day, August 7, we were glad of a rest.

Tsanteleina and Pointe de la Traversière.

August 8.—Starting at 4 A.M. we reached the top of the Tsanteleina by 8.40 A.M. very easily, and spent two hours enjoying the marvellous view. Then down the steep northern ice slope (luckily snow-covered) to the Col de la Goletta, and up the little Pointe de la Traversière in broiling heat (1.40 P.M.). Here we waited awhile for the sun to go off the valley, and then made our way down into the dreary, bleak, viewless Val Grisanche to Fornet, where we found a rough inn and a friendly landlord with some good Asti.

Tête de Rutor.

August 9.—Being tired, we did not leave until 5 A.M., and consequently suffered from the heat. We mounted entirely by the south face with only 5 min. of what could be called climbing, and were not on the top till 11 A.M. The Becca de l'Invergnan, which we were to climb next day, showed up as a magnificent peak from here, and all the Mont Blanc chain was seen to great advantage. The Mont Pourri too was almost as fine as when seen from the Grande Sassièrè. We rushed down in 2 hrs. 10 min. to Fornet.

Becca de l'Invergnan and Grande Rousse.

August 10.—We left Fornet at 4.15 A.M. and reached our peak at 11 A.M., with a three-quarters of an hour halt on the way, ascending *via* the glacier to the Col de la Grande Rousse. Hence a rock traverse led to the peak. Between the pass and the peak we were at one moment poised above the vast precipice that plunges sheer into the Val de Rhêmes. Our way down led first over the top of the Grande Rousse and beyond it, till we could make sure of avoiding the icefall below us and descend by glissades and some rock steps into the Val de Rhêmes. Here the curé kindly put me up, while the guides stayed in the village. Next day, August 11, we spent in repose. The weather had now become rainy.

Mont Tout Blanc.

August 12.—We crossed this peak in dense mist and rain, starting at 5 A.M., reaching the top at 12, and descending by steep crumbling rocks on to the Nivolet plateau and down to the Hôtel Grivola at Pont, in Valsavaranche. On August 13 we walked up to the Victor Emmanuel hut.

Charforon.

August 14.—A day of thick mists. After Pierre had gone down to Pont to fetch more provisions Blanc and I started for the Charforon, which had appeared for a moment through the clouds. Starting at 7.15 A.M., we went up to the Col de Moncorvé, between the Tresenta and Charforon, and thence by a direct climb up the steep arête by rocks and snow patches reached the top of the Charforon by 11.15 A.M. We got back to the hut in 2 hrs.

Gran Paradiso.

August 15.—We were on the top by 6.45 A.M. (8 hrs. 25 min. from the hut) in very threatening weather. At

7.5 A.M. the cold drove us from the top down *via* the Col de Moncorvé and another pass * to Ceresole Reale (3.15 P.M.). August 16 was spent in resting at Ceresole during the morning, and in the afternoon in toiling up to the Levanna hut, where we found the straw and blankets soaked in mildew.

Central Levanna and Western Levanna, via Col Perduto.

August 17.—We started at 4.55 A.M. Some stones fell as we raced up the steep couloir leading to the pass, which we reached at 6 A.M. Hence we skirted the base of the cliffs of the Central Levanna for a short distance, in a north-westerly direction. A climb up steep rocks took us to the southern summit of the Central Levanna by 8.30 A.M. We saw clearly from the Maritime Alps to the Engadine (even to Tirol, perhaps), right down into the Lombard plains, with a lake near Ivrea and the distant Apennines, as well as Dauphiné, the Mont Blanc chain, and the Pennines. After 2 hrs. we reluctantly started to climb along the ridge leading to the Central Levanna proper. Passing over this summit we skirted the arête first on the N.E. and later on the S.W. side, till another steep climb brought us to the top of the Western Levanna at 1 P.M. After another long rest here we dawdled down to the chalet hotel at Bonneval-sur-Arc in plenty of time for dinner. August 18 I walked to Bessans and back in the afternoon.

Ciamarella.

August 19.—We left the chalet hotel at 3.30 A.M., and were on the Col Tonini by 8 A.M. We crossed the bergschrund soon after 8.30 A.M., and struck straight up on to the summit ridge. The actual top (reached at 10.30 A.M.) is not such as the beautiful form and dazzling whiteness of the Ciamarella when seen from the N.W. would lead one to suppose, being merely a heap of shale; however most imposing precipices fall away on the N. The Bessanese looked like a fine rock-climb, but the views all round were obscured with cloud. We started down at 12.20 P.M., reached the Col at 2.15 P.M., and dawdled into the chalet hotel by 6 P.M. On the following afternoon, August 20, we walked to Avérole, where we slept at a nice cottage.

Bessanese.

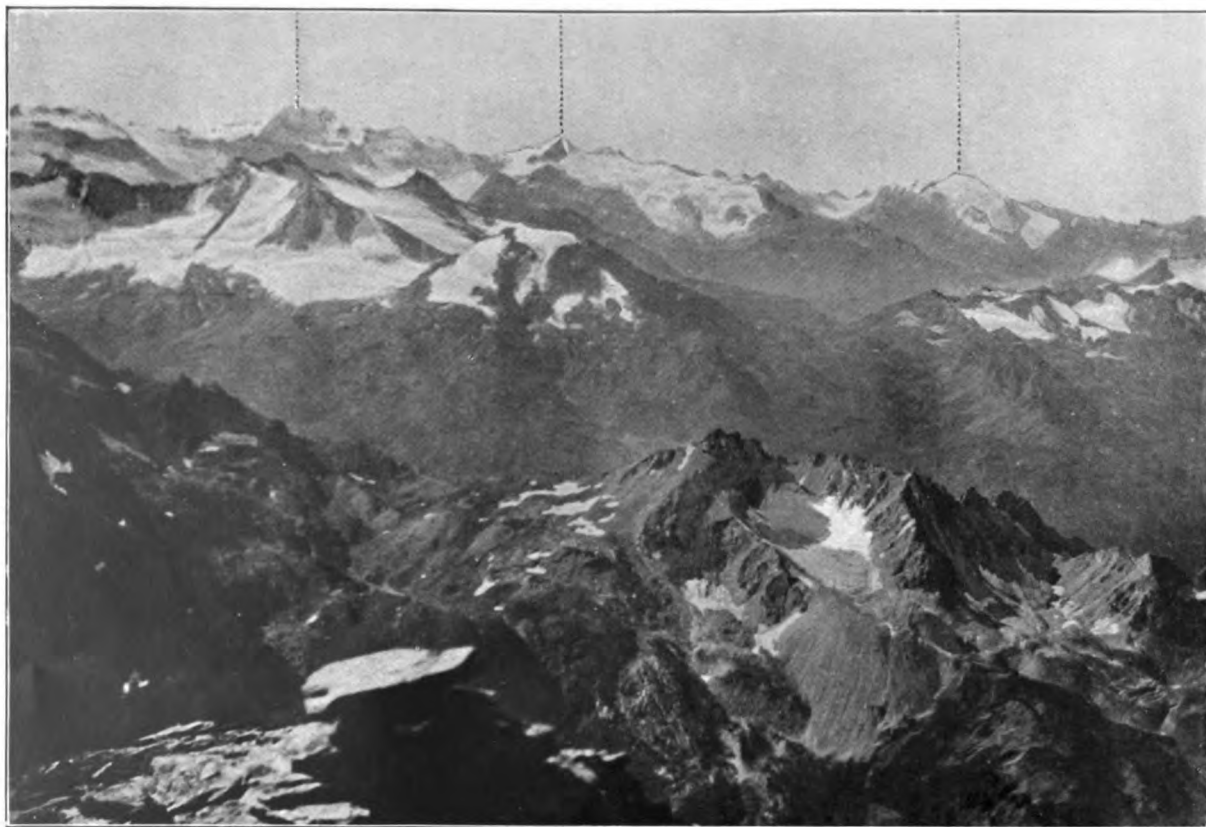
August 21.—Starting from Avérole at 4.35 A.M., we reached the Col de Collerin at 7.35 A.M. Here we took to the N.N.W.

* The Colle della Torre (10,457 ft.).—ED.

CIAMARELLA

ALBARON,

CHARBONEL



G. Goschen, Photo

Swan Electric Engraving Co., Ltd.

CIAMARELLA, ALBARON, AND CHARBONEL, FROM THE GRANDE SASSIÈRE.

arête of the Bessanese, and Blanc started by leading up some vertical but easy rocks on the W. side of the mountain. We dodged off and on the arête once or twice, and finally continued along the narrow crest of it to the top (11.15 A.M.). North was Mont Blanc and the Pennines, south Monte Viso and Dauphiné. At 12 we started down by the usual easier way, first making a short traverse across the W. face, then a short descent by rock and some glissades on the slopes W.S.W. of the ridge running up to the Bessanese from the Col d'Arnas till we got down into the Avérole valley, and were back at our cottage by 5 P.M.

Charbonel.

August 22.—Leaving Avérole at 9.30 A.M., we walked up tedious grass slopes till daylight. From the Col d'Ouille Motta we made for the final peak, which is climbed by a concealed chimney (10.15 A.M.). The summit is a crescent-shaped ridge of rocks and shale. The view was glorious in every direction. At 1.80 P.M. we hurried off down the glacier (crampons useful) towards Bonneval, where we arrived at 6 P.M., having encountered no obstacles except two short rock steps below the glacier.

*Pointe des Arses, Ouille Noire, Aiguille Pers,
Signal d'Iséran.*

August 23.—Leaving Bonneval at 5 A.M., we were on the top of Pointe des Arses by 8 A.M. The view included Mont Blanc, Gran Paradiso, and the Dauphiné. We went on to the Ouille Noire, arriving on the top about 9.30 A.M. and staying till 11.30 A.M. Here Pierre left us to return to his home at Bonneval. From the Ouille Noire an arête (always easy) led us to the top of the Aiguille Pers by 12.20 P.M. Thence we descended direct instead of continuing along the ridge, and cut across the Pissailas glacier and halted an hour on the Col Pers. Thence we proceeded to the top of the Signal d'Iséran by 3.20 P.M. From here there is a striking view of the Pourri with the valley of the Isère. At 4.15 P.M. we started to walk down to Val d'Isère, and arrived at the Hôtel Moris by 6.30 P.M. Here ended our tour.