

Interlaken on August 29. Balmer received comparatively slight injuries, but Dr. Pflaum severely injured his left leg. Help was brought to them after the lapse of two hours by members of the Interlaken Touring Club. Dr. Pflaum was carried to the Eismeer station, and attended to by a doctor who was telephoned for from Grindelwald. He was then taken to Interlaken, where, despite every care and attention, he died on August 29.

NEW EXPEDITIONS IN 1908.

Eastern Graians.

COL DE LA GRIVOLETTA (8,828 m.=10,904 ft., New Map of Grand Paradis Group) (see 'Climbers' Guide to the Mountains of Cogne,' pp. 140, 1). *September 7.*—Messrs. G. and G. G. Yeld with Sylvain Pession, of Val Tournanche, and Basile Cavaignet, of Cogne, completed the traverse of this Pass, the north side of which was reached by Mr. G. Yeld with François Pession and A. Pelissier on August 11, 1892. Having attained the summit of the Grivoletta by the W. ridge in 7 hrs. from Cogne, they descended thence to the Col de la Grivoletta in an hour and 15 min.—there being a good deal of fresh snow, which made progress slow. From the Col to the so-called Col du Pousset took 30 min. The day was perfect and the views splendid.

Mont Blanc District.

COL DES CRISTAUX, BETWEEN LES COURTES (8,855 m.=12,648 ft.) AND THE AIGUILLE MUMMERY (8,692 m.=12,118 ft.) (Barbey, Imfeld, and Kurz Map, 1896 ed.).—On Tuesday, *August 25, 1908*, Mr. J. J. Withers, with the guides Adolf Andenmatten and Andreas Anthamatten, of Saas, left the hotel at Lognan at 3 A.M., and went up the Argentière glacier by the usual way to the foot of a buttress which comes down from the ridge between Les Courtes and the Aiguille de Triolet, and is the last one which comes down completely to the glacier on the N. of the Aiguille Mummery. Moving round to the S. side of the foot of this buttress they got on to the rocks and climbed on to the crest of the buttress (6.25 A.M.). After $\frac{1}{4}$ hr.'s halt they began to follow the crest of the buttress over easy rock, and in 35 min. reached a very steep snow saddle. Crossing this they found the direct way barred by steep rocks which could be turned by some interesting climbing on the right or N. side. Hence the crest of the buttress was regained and followed over good rocks and finally snow to the main ridge between Les Courtes and the Aiguille Mummery, which was reached exactly by the side of a very noticeable gendarme, the first on the main ridge N. of the last-mentioned aiguille (9.15 A.M.). On the ascent and on the Col itself a large number of fine crystals were found, one of which was placed on the stone-man which the party built. Leaving the main ridge at 9.45 A.M.

a descent was made by a rib of rotten stones and snow, which led down from the pass towards the Glacier de Talèfre for 1 hr. When this rib failed the party bore to the left (S.), and descending by subsidiary ribs crossed a large couloir to its left bank, and after a further traverse finally reached the Glacier de Talèfre by a great snow couloir directly under the Aiguille Mummery at 11.80 A.M. No falling stones were seen. Montanvert was gained at 3.40 P.M., after 1 hr.'s halt. No part of the expedition offered any serious difficulty, and it can be recommended as an interesting route from Lognan to Montanvert.

It is suggested that this pass should be called the Col des Cristaux, from the abundance of crystals found upon it and known to be one of the characteristics of the whole ridge, the name Col des Courtes being given to the pass which Mr. Mummery reached * and which Mr. G. B. Tunstall-Moore effected on July 26, 1900, between the Aiguille Mummery and the Aiguille de Triolet.†

Saas District.

SÜDLENZSPITZE (4,800 m. = 14,108 ft.) BY S.E. FACE.—Dr. O. K. Williamson and the Rev. E. C. Kempe, with Daniel Maquignaz and Heinrich Fux, accomplished this climb.

On July 27, 1908, they camped at a comfortable bivouac (estimated height 11,400 ft.) on the rocks above an upper shelf of the Fee glacier, almost immediately beneath the point 3,810 m. (Swiss map), which is the point where the ridge of the Eggfluh joins the E. arête of the Südlenzspitze. This bivouac was reached in about 4 hrs. 40 min. actual going from Saas Fee by passing beneath the Unter Fall glacier (Dübi's map), ascending the ridge of the Eggfluh, and then traversing the steep slope on the S.W. side of this.

Seen from the Gletscher Alp, there is a well-defined rib which runs up the S.E. face of the Südlenzspitze and articulates with the S.W. arête at the base of a prominent needle. To the right (E.) of this rib are two similar ones which run up nearly to the S.W. arête. It was the most easterly of these which was followed on the ascent.

On July 28, starting at 4.5 A.M., the party descended to the above-mentioned upper shelf of the glacier. Passing beneath a wide snow-couloir which descends from the E. arête, and proceeding beneath the rocks to the W. thereof, they ascended the névé to the rocks at the true left of the next couloir to the W. of the last-mentioned one. From this point they ascended directly towards the summit. Loose rocks resembling those on the S.E. face of the Grivola were climbed. To the right of what appeared like a frozen waterfall was seen the commencement of the rib, and this was followed throughout. The slope at the level of the commencement of this rib steepened considerably. Loose rocks were followed by an enjoyable slab. Halted 6.27-7.5 A.M. (Height probably about 1,000 ft. below summit.) Another exhilarating

* *My Climbs in the Alps and Caucasus*, 2nd ed., p. 239 *et seq.*

† See 'Alpine Notes' in the present number.

climb up a thoroughly sound slab followed, and the angle of the slope here diminished greatly. Alternating easy rocks and snow now followed, and a snow cornice on the rib then necessitated a traverse to the left. Shortly afterwards another cornice was the cause of a somewhat sensational traverse on wet loose rocks to the right, and there was a consensus of opinion that this was the hardest part of the climb. The rib soon after became merged with the face, almost at the level of the above-mentioned prominent needle on the S.W. arête. Ascending loose and shaly but not difficult rock, a halt from 9.50 to 10.10 A.M. was indulged in, and bearing slightly to the right over similar material the S.W. arête was reached just below the top of a couloir on the W. face*—10.47 A.M. From here the S.W. arête was followed to the summit, 10.55 A.M. From the fact that the last 1,000 feet of the ascent occupied 8½ hrs. it will be gathered that this section included the hardest portion of the climb. The descent was made by the N.W. arête and W. face and Randa reached at 4.35 P.M.

The weather was fine, and the climb, under the conditions then present, a safe one. Only one or two stones were seen to fall, and these descended with 'stealthy haste' in the couloir on the true right of the rib. It is probable, however, that the safety of the climb is (like the E. face of the Dom) almost entirely dependent upon conditions of snow, and that later in the season, when the rocks are dry, it would be an undesirable route.

Bernese Oberland.

GLETSCHERHORN (8,982 m. = 18,065 ft.).—In the 'Climbers' Guide' ('Bernese Oberland'), vol. i. p. 126, 1902, there is a note to Route 2 of this peak, stating that the gap between the E. and W. summits is untraversed. No record apparently has appeared since of the climb having been completed. On August 3 of this year, in company with Melchior Kohler and Hans Winterberger, of Meiringen, I made the traverse between the two summits without encountering much difficulty. We left the Concordia Inn at 2 A.M., and reached the W. summit, *via* the Gletscherjoch, at 7.40. Though the rocks had a good deal of fresh snow upon them the crossing to the E. summit proved easy and occupied only ½ hr. We went down the S.E. arête, joined the Jungfrau track at 12, and were back at the Concordia by 2 P.M. In the ascent it is, in my opinion, far better to go straight to the Gletscherjoch, and mount by the arête itself, rather than cut up (as in the 'Climbers' Guide') 'to the crest of the W. arête, which is gained about 250 ft. below the rocks.' In the latter case it may involve a couple of hours of weary step-cutting. H. C. BOWEN.

Dolomite District.

ROTHWAND, ROSENGARTEN GROUP (9,216 ft.), BY THE W. FACE. August 11.—Messrs. E. A. Broome and H. K. Corning, with A. Verzi and A. Dibona, made this new route up the wall facing

* Conway's *Eastern Pennine Guide*, p. 108.

Bozen. Roping at 8.45, almost directly under the peak (about $2\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. above Karersee Hotel), they worked up interesting and not very difficult rocks, always bearing slightly to the right, for 1 hr. From the point where these rocks merge into the wall a long black, narrow, and difficult 'Kamin' facing N.W. was climbed, which took 55 min. When this ended the yellowish red wall itself had to be negotiated for some distance, and being shelly, rotten, and untrustworthy, was certainly unsafe, especially for the leader. From this bad piece the foot of another wide but awkward chimney, 120 ft. in height, was reached and climbed to its head (12 noon). The rest of the climb consisted of two more chimneys, not quite so difficult, the first one close to the overhanging face, and then, after a traverse to right, the second (a black, deep-cut one) took them right up to the summit ridge, which was followed in a few minutes to the top (1.15). The wall was estimated at about 1,500 ft. in vertical height, and the climb as a whole thought to be as good as any in the district, and almost as sensational as it looks from below.

OSTL. DIAMANTIDI, OR CHRISTOMANNOS THURM, LATEMAR GROUP (about 9,335 ft.). UP THE N. FACE. August 20.—The same party made this first ascent by the N. rocks. Leaving the Karersee 6.20, they roped (8.40) at the top of a tongue of scree vertically under the summit, and started first over easy rock-faces and a steep little arête to the top of a long narrow snow-field in a gully facing N.W. towards the lake. From this point the route lay up two chimneys, rather difficult and not over safe as to stones, followed by a traverse to the right, where, after one mistake (an attempt on an impossible rock-face to the right, which cost an hour or more), they went straight up by a good and varied rock-climb to a little platform (reached 12.30) on the left of the huge main 'Kamin,' just below the big jammed-stone in it, plainly visible for miles.

Above this (left 12.50)—and it should be noted that the route was *always* to the left (E.) of the big main couloir or 'Kamin'—the difficulties increased: first a wall of 90 or 100 ft., dividing the great couloir from a smaller deep-cut chimney, followed by a jump of 6 or 7 ft. across the latter (right to left) on to another little ledge, about 500 ft. or so under summit. Then came another smooth wall, about 50 ft. in height, traversed up obliquely to the left to the foot of a very long, narrow, and awkward 'Kamin' of 120 ft. Another easier and shorter one (50 ft.) followed, and then the longest, smoothest, and most complicated of all, not less than 150 ft. high. After a little more face and traverse work a last small platform was reached, about 100 ft. below the summit, whence there was, for the first time, a choice of routes, two of the party getting to the top at 6 P.M. and the other two (by a more difficult chimney) at 6.15, thus making, say, 9 hrs.' nett climbing from the scree. Back at Karersee Hotel 10 P.M. From foot to summit the rocks were estimated at 2,000 ft.; the danger, as distinct from difficulty, was not thought serious.

NORWAY.

Söndmöre.

THE EASTERN OR LESSER SMÖRSKRETTIND (about 5,100 ft.).—This peak, which lies N.E. of the great snow couloir in Habba-staddal, was ascended for the first time on *September 1* by Messrs. P. Scoones, A. W. S. Brown, and C. W. Patchell. From the foot of the couloir steep slopes of grass and scree were followed towards the base of the final rocks. The steep little glacier was crossed—a good many steps having to be cut—and the broad band of snow beyond it to the N.E. ridge, whose upper portion is a most beautifully curving, narrow, and steep snow arête, the passage of which took a short half-hour. The actual summit is rock, and seemed but little lower than the double-topped Smörskrettind opposite (5,270 ft.). The rocks to the west of the small glacier and also the ridge leading from the top down to the head of the great couloir both look as if they would give good climbing. Time from Oie, 5 hrs. up and 3 down, halts not included.

NEVEDALSTIND.—This little peak, which, with the horn on its E. side, is a conspicuous feature in the view from Oie between Miendalstind and the Blaaitind-Grötdalstind group, was ascended from Kolaas for the first time on *August 8* by Messrs. C. W. Patchell and A. W. S. Brown. Nevedal is not named on the 'Amtskart.' It is the side-valley immediately E. of Kalvedal. Its W. side is formed by the double peak of Blaaitind. Nevedalstind lies almost at its head. A slope of steep old snow led to a gully which ran up to the left and ended between the peak and its little E. horn. A short steep chimney and easy rocks took us to the top in about $4\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. from Kolaas. The ridge was followed, or turned—mostly on the Bondal side—over two other tops, one of which bore a small wrecked cairn, and the descent into Kalvedal was made by the skar, W. of Blaaitind. The whole expedition took about $10\frac{1}{2}$ hrs., including halts.

DE TRE SÖSTRE.*—The exploration of this group was completed by the ascent of the third and lowest of the three peaks by the same party on *August 15*. The early steamer from Öie enabled us to leave Lille Standal at 8 A.M. A sæter path on the left bank of the river, succeeded by good goat-tracks and by a short but disagreeable traverse over slabs and through wet birch-wood and ferns, brought us into a wide gully with a watercourse in the middle of it, which ran steeply up to the rocks of the ridge. These were interesting, though nowhere difficult. The best bit was a 50-ft. chimney topped by a large flat table-stone, under which the exit had to be made, and which resembled that on the 'Shamrock' on the Pillar. The descent was made by the ridge as far as the head of the gully, which was then followed lower down until it was crossed by a good cow-track. It would have been easy to return to Lille Standal, but, as there

* See *Alpine Journal*, vol. xxii. p. 328.

are absolutely no quarters there, we had to make for Kolaas, which entailed a long walk, and the crossing of the high Rømedalskar. The ascent from Lille Standal took 5 hrs., and the descent to Kolaas 8½ hrs., halts not included. C. W. PATCHELL.

Horungtinder.

KJØRRINGA FROM THE MARADALS GAP.—Amongst the many fine new rock-climbs which of late years have been made in the Horungtinder group there is none better than that which was so brilliantly ascended this summer by Herr Schjelderup and his two guides. Schjelderup and his friend Rubenson, with a few other kindred spirits, formed recently the 'Norske Tinder Klub,' an Alpine Club which has at least as high a mountaineering qualification as the A. C.

Like the Coolin hills in Skye the Horungtinder consist of weird spires of gabbro, rising out of narrow ridges which overshadow deep and narrow corries. In each case ridge-wandering, where possible, is obviously a most delightful sport, and there are links in the chain which are not easy to forge.

Two huge square-cut obelisks, carved by Nature in her boldest mood, form a fitting termination to what is probably the grandest ridge in the Horungtinder. On the one side they rise straight out of a magnificent glacier, and on the other from a deep ice-polished corrie. Collectively they are named the Maradalstinder; individually, Manden and Kjørringa. Manden, the end obelisk, was first climbed in 1883 by Dr. Claude Wilson's party.*

The following description by Herr Schjelderup gives details of the conquest of the last great obstacle of the Maradals ridge. At the moment of their victory Herr Rubenson, Robin Baker, Ola Berge, and I were on the neighbouring Skagastölstind and each party jödelled to the other. WM. CECIL SLINGSBY.

'KJØRRINGA, FROM THE MARADALS GAP.—After Mr. Slingsby had climbed the V-gap on the Skagastöls ridge in the year 1900 there was only one ridge left in the Horungtinder which had not yet been traversed—the Maradals ridge.

'The whole ridge was difficult, but the gap between the two eastern peaks—Manden and Kjørringa—was by far the worst place. In 1903 a party succeeded in descending into the gap from the top of Manden, a very hard climb, but Kjørringa withstood several assaults during that and the following years (by Mr. Raeburn, Mr. Ling, Mr. Priestman, Mr. John Proctor, and especially Mr. Erik Ullen, who has done much good work on that ridge).

'On August 14 this year I tried, together with Knud and Arne Fortun, from Fortunsdal, the first of whom had taken part in almost all the previous attempts, but we were beaten after 3 hours' struggle in the gap.

'On the 18th we repeated our attempt, and this day we

* See *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiii. p. 153.

succeeded in gaining the top of Kjørringa, after 8 hours' work from the bottom of the gap. The first part of the way consists of small ledges covered with grass. They are situated in the right side of the wall—over the Maradals glacier—and the passages between them were often difficult and not too safe. Then the most risky part of our climb followed—a 10 yards high steep gully, in which most of the handholds were loose. We had no anchorage here. After having passed straight upwards over some ledges we had at last an extremely difficult but quite safe passage over to a few broad ledges more to the left. Here we found two cairns, built by the parties, which had made their attempts from the top of the mountain. The last part of the climb was reasonable.

'From Kjørringa we followed the ridge northwards and descended to the Slingsby Glacier. FERDINAND SCHJELDERUP, N.T.K.'

THE GRAVDAL'S SKAR. August 16.—The Horungtinder range is pierced by five deep gaps or gashes, ice-paved portals, which form glacier passes connecting five northern with four southern mountain glens. The Gjertvas Skar, on the E., forms the connecting link between two of the northern with one of the southern glens. It has very rarely been crossed, and, except early in the summer, it is a pass of exceptional severity. The next pass W., directly under Skagastölstind, though very grand, is easy. Further again W. the Riingsdal is headed by two gaps, the Riing's Skar and the Gravidal's Skar, which connect this northern valley by fine glacier passes with the Stöls Maradal and the Gravidal, as well as with a short subsidiary glen between these two valleys on the S. Westward again is the Ravn Skar, or Raven's pass, which connects Berdal and its glacier with Gravidal.

To return to the Gravidals Skar: Many mountaineers have been on the top of this pass; some too have connected it with the Ravn Skar, others with the Viking's Skar; but, oddly enough, there was no tradition that any one had ever crossed from the Gravidal itself to Riingsdal by this pass or *vice versa*, and, unless it was used by Mr. Willink when he made the first ascent of the Central Riingstind, it is extremely probable that it was never completely crossed until last summer.

Now, however, the first recorded crossing of this most beautiful pass will live in Norse mountain history. The party was originally intended to consist of six members, but its size grew unexpectedly to a round dozen. Speaking of this band of adventurers Herr C. W. Rubenson says, 'It consisted of five fathers of families, each of whom was accompanied by one of his offspring, myself, and a dog.' Let us go one step further, and name the party—

Erik O. Moen, a farmer, aged 78, and his daughter, Ingeborg.

Geo. P. Baker and his son, Robin P. Baker.

Jorgen Vetti the owner of Vetti and its waterfall, and his daughter, Malina.

Knud Fortun the guide, and a delicate son.

Wm. Cecil Slingsby and his son, Henry Laurence Slingsby.

C. W. Rubenson, and Moen's dog, Reng.

After innumerable delays we left Vetti at the late hour of 8.15. In broiling sunshine we climbed the wooded wall of Brøndestigen, and, in my case especially, an excuse was often made for a halt in order to turn round to admire the thousand-foot waterfall—the Vetti's fos—across the Utlå gorge. At 10.50 we gained the sæter path, running along the brink of the cliffs. A grand walk it was, with superb views of Morka Koldedal. We crossed the subsidiary glen into the long, broad, flattish Gravdal, and at 1.15 had our first view of the noble mountain Austabottind. At 6.10 we reached the glacier of Gravdal, and after 50 minutes' walk over ice we gained the one weak place in the armour at the head of a remarkable *cirque*, where interesting but easy rocks bounded one side of a steep snow gully. Above the rocks, we reached the upper glacier, and soon the Gravdals Skar. Here three ropes were brought into use. The septuagenarian was decidedly the most sporting member of the party, as I was the brake. It was Moen's first glacier experience. When we came to a wide bergschrund, partly filled with snow, his delight knew no bounds, and he jumped wildly down into the snow, which fortunately held him. The Riingsbræ, ascended the previous day by Rubenson when crossing the Riings Skar, was too much crevassed to encourage our variety troupe to descend the icefall in the centre, so a *détour* was made over to easy rocks, a lateral moraine, and an avalanche snow slope. This latter gave us plenty of fun, step-cutting and glissading, with the usual falls. At 11 o'clock, in darkness, we left the glacier, and for nearly 8 hrs. had a constant struggle, mostly amongst peat hags, junipers, and dwarf willows, finally arriving at Turtegrö at 2.30 a.m.

The scenery throughout was magnificent and the weather perfect; but the way was too long to be undertaken so late in the day. If we had descended the Utlå gorge from Vetti to the Afdal farm, and had then ascended the whole valley of Gravdal, at least 2 hrs. would have been saved, but we should have then missed the bird's-eye views down into the Utlå gorge. The grandeur of the view of the western Horungtinder from about half a mile below the snout of the Gravdal glacier was a surprise to us all.

I will leave my friend Mr. Willink to decide whether this expedition was a new glacier pass or not, and, should he be tempted to write a paper on the first ascent of the Central Riingstind, I need hardly remind him that he has at least one *sepia* illustration, 'A Norway Crack.' What a dreadful adjective!

WM. CECIL SLINGSBY.