

We could not reach the top, but in the second and last attempt reached an altitude of 7,450–7,500 metres, about 24,500 feet: the exact altitude attained is not yet known. Bad weather only prevented us reaching the summit.'

DR. LONGSTAFF'S EXPEDITION TO THE KARAKORAM HIMALAYA.—Telegrams and letters received from Dr. T. G. Longstaff in July and August made it evident that his expedition to the Karakoram range had been attended by results of great geographical interest in the neighbourhood of the Saltoro Glacier. A further telegram received from the explorer on his return to Leh shows that the later stages of the expedition have resulted in another interesting discovery in the neighbourhood of the Saichar Glacier. Details are still awaited, but in all probability Dr. Longstaff has made a discovery, the effect of which is to extend northwards the watershed of the Mustagh range. This discovery will add materially to the value of the full narrative of the expedition which is expected on Dr. Longstaff's return to this country. It will be remembered that this year Dr. Longstaff set out to explore the little known region between the Mustagh and Karakoram Passes. Part of the way through Northern India he travelled with the Duke of the Abruzzi, his field of work lying a little to the east of Mount Godwin Austen, which the Duke had selected for attack. Lieutenant A. M. Slingsby (of the Frontier Force) has been with Dr. Longstaff throughout the Expedition, and during part of the time Dr. Arthur Neve was also with him.

(This note is taken from the 'Field' of October 9 and 23, 1909.)

VARIOUS EXPEDITIONS.

Dauphiné.

S. FACE OF THE MEIJE—ZSIGMONDY'S ROUTE.—During the month of August 1909 a determined effort was made by Monsieur Casella of the C.A.F. to complete Zsigmondy's route up the S. face of the Meije. Monsieur Casella proposed to descend if necessary by ropes from the Brèche Zsigmondy to where Zsigmondy fell, and several days were spent in careful exploration, but finally the attempt was abandoned.

Graian Alps.

TRAVERSE OF THE GRIVOLA (3,969 m. = 13,020 ft.), ASCENT BY THE N. FACE—On August 13 the Misses Ina Brodigan and Lina Perazzi, with the guides Jean Baptiste Pélissier of Val Tournanche, and G. Gérard of Cogne left the Noumenon chalets at 3.15 A.M. and reached the glacier at 6.15 A.M. They found the snow on the great N. arête good at first, but later had to cut many steps in ice as far as the Col near the summit. The top was reached at noon, and the descent effected by the E. face to Cogne in 4½ hours.

Mont Blanc Group.

AIGUILLE DE ROCHFORT (4,003 m.=13,130 ft.); DÔME DE ROCHFORT (4,112 m.=13,159 ft.); MONT MALLET (3,988 m.=13,080 ft.); AIGUILLE DU GÉANT (4,014 m.=13,166 ft.).—On July 25, 1909, Dr. Ernst Pühn of Munich, with the guide Ciprian Savoie and the porter Laurent Croux, of Courmayeur, left the *Col du Géant inn* at 2.30 A.M., reached the summit of the *Aig. de Rochefort* at 6.30 A.M., and the *Dôme de Rochefort* at 8 A.M. Leaving there at 9.15, they were on the top of *Mont Mallet* at 10.15, back on the top of the *Aig. de Rochefort* at 11.15, and at the *foot of the Aig. du Géant* at 1 P.M. Leaving there at 2, they reached the summit of the *Aig. du Géant* at 3, and were back at the inn by 6. Total time, 15½ hours.

This is apparently the first time that all four summits have been ascended on the same day. By starting from the Jorasses Hut (which was Dr. Pühn's original intention) and first ascending the Dôme de Rochefort this expedition is improved, as very little of the route is then retraversed. The expedition is one of the very finest in the Mont Blanc group; it would indeed be difficult to find a more magnificent ridge walk. No specially great technical difficulties are encountered, but a party starting from the Jorasses Hut ought to allow 12 to 13 hours' actual going to the Géant inn, taking in the Dôme and Aig. de Rochefort and the Mont Mallet, and correspondingly longer if the Aig. du Géant be also ascended. A very strong party might include the *traverse* of the Aig. du Géant, but as its N. face is only practicable when it is dry, which would mean that the Rochefort arête would then carry considerable ice and require consequently more time, we may have to wait for this super-tour.

Dr. Pühn has ascended every summit in the Alps of 4,000 m. and upwards save three, and is said to have climbed over a thousand peaks during his Alpine career.

AIG. BLANCHE DE PEUTERET (4,109 m.=13,480 ft.), BY THE BRENTA FACE.—On July 30, 1909, the same party left Courmayeur at 1.30 A.M., reached the foot of the Dames Anglaises at 8.15 A.M., and a bivouac at 3 P.M. This bivouac was considerably higher than that used by Güssfeldt in 1893, its altitude being about 3,450 m.

Leaving this bivouac at 5 A.M. on July 31, the summit of the Aig. Blanche de Peuteret was reached at 7.45 A.M., and the bivouac regained in 2 hours at 10.30. The party was forced to wait here until about 2.30 P.M., when the 'colossal stonefalls' gradually ceased, as the E. face of the mountain got slowly into the shade.

The bivouac was finally left at 4.30 P.M. and Courmayeur regained at 10.45 P.M.

This is the second *descent* on this side. Dr. Blodig and our own member Mr. E. T. Compton, the great painter of Alpine subjects, having made the first, as recorded by the latter in a very interesting paper in the 'Alpine Journal,' vol. xxiii. p. 115 *seq.*

The safe descent of this dangerous face calls for a fine exhibition of mountain craft and shows what can be done by knowledge and patience. The expedition, however, involves no serious technical difficulties, as, indeed, the times indicate, and cannot for a moment be compared with the magnificent combined traverse of the Aig. Blanche and of the Mont Blanc de Courmayeur performed by the three parties which preceded Dr. Blodig and Mr. Compton, and by one of those which followed them.

It may be as well to record all the expeditions on this Brenva face so far as they are known.

I. *August 14-17, 1893.*—Dr. Paul Güssfeldt with Emile Rey, Chr. Klucker, César Ollier (porter).—This party spent the night of the 14th on the rocks at the foot of the Aig. Blanche at a height of about 3,200 m., left their bivouac at 4.30 A.M. on the 15th, reached the summit of the Aig. Blanche shortly before 11, descended to the Col de Peuteret and followed the great ridge leading up to the Mont Blanc de Courmayeur to a height of about 4,250 m., where they bivouacked a second time, 5 P.M.

They left this bivouac at about 6 A.M. on the 16th, reached the summit of the Mont Blanc de Courmayeur at 12.55 P.M., and spent the night at the Rochers Rouges Hut, finally regaining Courmayeur by the Corridor, the Dôme du Goûter, and the Glacier du Dôme the following evening.

Dr. Güssfeldt terms this expedition the greatest he has done in the Alps.*

II. *August 26-28, 1893.*—J. P. Farrar with Daniel Maquignaz and Bapt. Maquignaz.—This party bivouacked at the foot of the Dames Anglaises (about 2,800 m.). Left this at 4.40 A.M. August 27, and reached the summit of the Aig. Blanche at 9.51 A.M. The Col de Peuteret was gained at 1.15 P.M. Güssfeldt's second bivouac, under a big rock on the Fresnay side of the main arête, was passed at 3.33 P.M. Steep ice arêtes followed, involving endless cutting by the leader, Daniel Maquignaz, and rendered doubly difficult by terrible down blasts of the strong N. wind blowing overhead. Finally the summit of the Blanc de Courmayeur was reached by moonlight at 12.5 midnight, and here the wind, which had become a hurricane, compelled the party to remain for 5 hours for fear of being blown bodily away. They gained the Rochers Rouges hut over the summit of Mont Blanc about 6 next morning; but the second guide eventually lost all his toes from frostbite, although he subsequently entirely recovered and resumed guiding. (*Communicated.*)

III. *July 21-23, 1900.*—Thomas Maischberger, Dr. H. Pfannl, Franz Zimmer.—This party camped on the rocks of the Aig. Blanche at a height of about 3,700 m. Left this bivouac at about 1.30 A.M. on July 22, and reached the summit of the Aig. Blanche at 5.30 A.M.; descended to the Col de Peuteret and finally reached the summit of the Mont Blanc de Courmayeur at 5.30 P.M., after some hours'

* Cf. Güssfeldt, *Der Mont Blanc*, p. 255 seq.

work in hard ice. The party spent the night at the Cabane Vallot and descended next day to Chamonix. Dr. Pfannl calls the expedition, 'die herrlichste Tour unseres Lebens.'*

IV. *July 20-22, 1905.*—Dr. Karl Blodig, E. T. Compton.—This party left Courmayeur at midnight of the 19-20th and reached the bivouac of the 1900 party at 8 P.M., having frequently to halt until the face of the Aig. Blanche got into the shade and the stonefalls ceased.

Leaving this bivouac at 4.15 A.M. on the 21st, they reached the summit of the Aig. Blanche at 8.15, admirably served by their crampons and only cutting about 10 steps. They descended the same way and spent that night on the grass on the left bank of the Brenva Glacier. They reached Courmayeur next morning.

Dr. Blodig describes the difficulties as relatively small owing to the splendid snow conditions, but goes on to state that the constant danger of stones made on them both the most lasting impression they ever remember.†

V. *August 12-15, 1905.*—H. Pfann, J. Itlinger.—This party left the Brenva Alp at 11.5 P.M. on August 12, and reached the summit of the Aig. Blanche at 4.15 P.M. on August 13. They bivouacked at 6 P.M. just above the Col de Peuteret. They quitted their bivouac, having spent 'an agreeable night,' at 6.45 A.M. on August 14, and after many hours' step-cutting in hard ice reached the summit of the Mont Blanc de Courmayeur at 7 P.M. and spent the night in the hut on the summit of Mont Blanc. They descended next day to Chamonix by the Aig. du Gôûter and the Col de Voza.

Herr Pfann terms this expedition one of the 'grossartigsten und gewaltigsten' which he had ever done, only excelled by the traverse of Uschba. He does not consider that the dangers of falling stones and ice are serious enough to forbid any repetition of the expedition.‡

VI. 1909.—Dr. Pühn, with Ciprian Savoie and Laurent Croux (porter), as mentioned above.

It will be seen from the above abstracts that this expedition, more especially when continued to the Mont Blanc de Courmayeur, demands several days of unquestionably good weather and a thoroughly experienced and well-trained party, which must include some good and quick step-cutters. It is obvious too that the parties in July found the mountain in considerably better condition than those in August, when the great arête leading to the Mont Blanc de Courmayeur is often, for long stretches, hard ice; probably the best time will be found to be about the middle of July, if possible, when there is a moon. Crampons should certainly be taken, but the great arête is fearfully sharp and exposed, and is not the best place to learn their use. No one with any claim to the name of mountaineer will ever try this great expedition except under such a combination of conditions as has been here indicated.

* Cf. *Ö.A.Z.* 1900, p. 208 and p. 257.

† Cf. *ibid.* 1906, p. 211 and *A.J.* vol. xxiii. p. 115 *seq.*

‡ Cf. *ibid.* 1906, pp. 188-9.

For details of the ascents by the Fresnay face see 'New Expeditions.'

Pennines.

TRAVERSE OF THE DUFOUR SPITZE (4,638 m.=15,217 ft.) FROM MACUGNAGA.—On August 13, 1909, Mr. W. N. Ling and I left the Marinelli Hut at 12.25 A.M. The first part of the route had been prospected the previous afternoon and steps kicked across the Marinelli couloir to the edge of the great avalanche furrow, which saved some time in the morning. There was some ice on the rocks before reaching the couloir. The couloir was crossed without difficulty, the great furrow detaining us not more than 5 minutes, and the Imseng Rücken was climbed by starlight, there being no moon. Lantern not used. We found the séracs rather difficult, requiring a good deal of cutting here and there. The Bergschrund, double in places, was easy, but the final ice-slope leading up to the rocks of the Grenz Gipfel was in bad condition, thinly covered with snow, getting soft and treacherous, and cost a great deal of time and heavy labour. This ice-slope, measured by the clinometer, varied from 49° to 51°, too steep to dispense with cutting, even with crampons. Nor did we use crampons at any time on the ascent, as, on the whole, they would not have been of much service.

The rocks of the Grenz Gipfel were badly iced, and in the lower part they are steep and difficult. Early in the season and before the sun is much up one could avoid these lower rocks by walking up the steep snow-slopes in crampons on the N.E. side.

The summit of the Grenz Gipfel was reached at 3 P.M., and the Riffelhaus by the ordinary route at 8.50 P.M.

The times were as follows, short halts not included :—

	h.	m.
Hut to Marinelli couloir	40	
Crossing couloir	13	
To top of Imseng Rücken	2	22
To foot of rocks of the Grenz Gipfel	6	15
To summit of Grenz Gipfel	4	20
To summit of Dufour Spitze	15	

14 5

This is a very fine expedition, but one which may easily become very dangerous; and there must be absolutely no doubt about the weather. Our day was the finest of the very few fine days of our 1909 season. The real danger of this climb, in my opinion, is not the crossing of the Marinelli couloir, which involves less danger than the passage of the Nantillons Glacier, and is short and easy. On the afternoon of the 12th I watched the couloir for over 2 hours, during which time nothing fell. Indeed, all day of the 13th, nothing fell on our route, save some small fragments of ice from the rocks of the Grenz Gipfel. The great risk is of getting caught in bad weather on the snow- or ice-slopes above the

Bergschrund and before reaching the rocks of the Grenz Gipfel. The unfortunate experience of Dr. L. Becker with Moritz Zurbrücken and Louis Ruppen is a case in point. This party only reached these rocks with the utmost difficulty, and were compelled to spend 16 hours there in a snowstorm.* Given a moon the best time to start would be about 2 hours after sunset. On the whole I consider this climb will always be hard, though not necessarily dangerous. If the rocks are in good order then the slopes will probably be bad, and *vice versa*. Late in a good season it will probably be impossible owing to the enormous amount of cutting required and the probably gigantic Bergschrund.†

HAROLD RAE BURN.

DUFOUR SPITZE (4,638 m.=15,217 ft.), FROM THE GRENZ SATTEL.—On August 22 Mr. R. W. Lloyd with Joseph Pollinger, from the Bétemps hut, struck up the Grenz Glacier and so reached the Grenz Sattel at 8.5, or 35 min. from where one turns off for the S. or rock route up the Dufour Spitze. The snow slopes below the Bergschrund were in the worst possible state, so that the travellers had literally to lie on them and push themselves up; whilst the Bergschrund itself was only crossed with considerable difficulty. The summit of the Dufour Spitze was reached at 9.12. Descent in bad weather by the ordinary route.

BARRHORN (S. PEAK) (3,587 m.=12,765 ft.).—Mr. H. Symons, with Franz Lochmatter, descended from this peak on July 22, 1909, by a route said to be known only to one or two local hunters. Following at first a rock buttress that runs E. from the summit, they traversed to the left down and across a broad couloir of very steep snow, and then across several ribs of rock separated by narrower couloirs till they reached the broad ridge of shale near the Distelberg. From here a glissade of fully 1,000 ft. (which might have been increased by some hundreds of feet if the snow had been harder) brought them on to the Stelli Glacier, and thence to their camp at the point called Ferrich (2,428 m.) in considerably under 2 hours' actual going from the top. The route requires minute local knowledge to hit off the points at which to traverse the rock ribs. In some places a slight feascant must be made, and if these points are missed it is impossible to get across. The S. Barrhorn (from which the higher summit can be reached by an easy walk over scree) not only provides better climbing but is more favourably situated for a view.

Bregaglia Group.

AGO DI SCIORA (3,200 m. *circa*=10,496 ft.).—This rock needle, about 450 ft. high, was first climbed from the Scharte in the ridge

* *S.A.C. Jahrbuch*, 1903, page 63, *seq.*

† The *Deutsche Alpenzeitung* for October 1909 contains a splendid description by Dr. G. Freiherr von Saar of the ascent of the Macugnaga face of the Dufour Spitze, a reference to which is contained in *A. J.* xxiv. p. 523. The article is finely illustrated by photographs taken by Herr Hans Pfann, one of the party.

on its south side on June 4, 1893, by Herr A. von Rydzewsky with Christian Klucker and Emile Rey.* His route to the Scharte appears to have taken a fairly direct line from the S.W. corner of the Ago Glacier below the east face of the peak.

In 1901 Signor G. Gugelloni, with B. Sertori, of Cattaeggio, arrived at the Scharte after a sensational traverse of the east face from a little below the Forcola di Sciora, reached by a snow couloir from the N.W. corner of the Ago Glacier. His route has been generally followed by Italian climbers.

Another route, commencing to the north of but afterwards crossing Herr von Rydzewsky's, was made by Signori Casiraghi and Rossini with B. Sertori on June 30, 1906.† Taking at first a slightly southerly course, these gentlemen were ultimately forced rather a long way round in this direction, and on part of their ascent were evidently in some danger for want of holds; for in the account of their expedition Signor Rossini refers to the rope as their means of support, and attributes their safety to Sertori's 'piedi nudi.' His reference to Signor Gugelloni's route is the only record extant of the latter.

What is probably the first English ascent was made on August 13 last by Mr. G. L. Stewart, with Ferdinand Summermatter and Alphonse Simond, who started from about the same point as Signori Casiraghi and Rossini, but worked to the right instead of to the left, as they did, and more or less followed Herr von Rydzewsky's route. Acting on Dr. Claude Wilson's advice,‡ they spent the previous night in the Capanna Allievi. Starting at 5.25 A.M., they crossed the Zocca Pass at 6.14, and a few minutes later went down snow slopes to the upper end of the Albigna Glacier, and thence mounted the snow-covered Ago Glacier to (at 7.39) a point at the foot of the rock wall above and some 50 yards from the S.W. corner of the glacier. Twenty minutes later, bearing to the right, they climbed about 30 ft. to the foot of a steep chimney, estimated at 150 ft. Two-thirds of the way up this inclines to the left (S.) and is here shallow, less steep, and marked by a black seam, down which a thin stream of water was flowing. The holds were sound enough, but in the upper portion small and smooth. Having climbed this chimney ($\frac{1}{2}$ hr.), the party traversed to the right (N.) by a short descent across slabs of slight gradient, and round a projecting corner into an easy chimney about 12 ft. high. This is on what appears to be a fault extending upwards in a direct line by a series of easy small chimneys and ledges, which were followed to the Scharte, reached at 9.2. The Ago has been climbed by only one route, viz. from a depression full of snow on the east side of and just below the Scharte by cracks and chimneys of no special difficulty, which extend up its S. face and, taking a N.W. direction, bring the climber to the top of a buttress projecting from the west

* *Jahrbuch S.A.C.* xxxi. pp. 58-69.

† *Rivista Mensile*, 1906, p. 465.

‡ *Alpine Journal*, vol. xxvi. p. 391.

face at the foot of a 50-ft. face climb to the summit ridge. This ridge, which runs approximately N.W. and S.E., and is here knife-edged, is followed for a few yards, and then abandoned for a traverse of some 20 ft. by small but sufficiently numerous holds across the exposed west face, and round an awkward corner below a big block on the arête, immediately after which the summit is gained without further trouble.

The ascent of the Ago occupied 39 min., and its descent 25 min. Its rocks are thoroughly good. No snow or ice was met with. The route up from the Ago Glacier was followed down (52 min.), except that there being after midday a considerable increase in the water flowing down the upper portion of the chimney a deviation a little to the south of it was made. Here the party descended steep and difficult rocks for about 40 ft., bearing to the right, and then over big blocks to the S.W. corner of the glacier below. They returned to the Allievi hut, having had an expedition of 9 hrs. 12 min., including halts of 2 hrs. 37 min.

ALPINE NOTES.

'THE ALPINE GUIDE.'—Copies of Vol. I. of the new edition of this work, price 12s. net, and of 'Hints and Notes, Practical and Scientific, for Travellers in the Alps' (being a new edition of the General Introduction), price 3s., can be obtained from all booksellers, or from Messrs. Stanford, 12 Long Acre, W.C.

'THE ALPINE GUIDE,' THE CENTRAL ALPS. PART I.—A new edition of this portion of the 'Alpine Guide,' by the late John Ball, F.R.S., President of the Alpine Club, reconstructed and revised on behalf of the Alpine Club under the general editorship of A. V. Valentine-Richards, Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge, is now ready, and can be obtained from all booksellers, or from Messrs. Stanford, 12 Long Acre, W.C. It includes those portions of Switzerland to the north of the Rhône and Rhine valleys.

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY.—L. S. Calvert (1895), H. Pasteur (1873), F. A. Satow (1897).

CONCOURS INTERNATIONAL DE SKI.—The fourth annual meeting, organised by the Club Alpin Français, will be held January 22–30, 1910, at Eaux Bonnes and Caunterets, Pyrenees. Particulars may be obtained from the secretary of the C.A.F., 4 Rue du Bac, Paris.

THE ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA.—The fourth annual camp of the Alpine Club of Canada was held from August 2 to 9 at Lake O'Hara, in the main range of the Rocky Mountains, 6,664 ft. above the sea. It was a notable gathering of about 200 people. The object of the camp is to enable members to meet in the mountains of Canada, and graduating members to receive the assistance of the Club in qualifying for active membership. Lake O'Hara is a lovely spot, surrounded by some very fine peaks. Near by and in view of the camp are Mounts Huber, 11,041 ft.; Victoria, 11,355 ft.; Lefroy, 11,220 ft.; Hungabee, 11,447 ft.; Biddle, 10,876 ft.; Deltaform,