

O. K. Williamson, photo. *Swan Electric Engraving Co., Ltd.*

THE GLETSCHERJOCH, FROM ROTHTHAL HUT.

The first passage was made on 8th August, 1911, by Dr. O. K. Williamson, as described in A. J. xxv., pp. 741-2.

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Schneefernerkopf : *D.u. Oe. A.-V. Bayerland.*
Ski : under Clubs.
—— Bertani, F., Vademecum.
—— Cleaver, R., Winter-sport book.
—— Fulton, J. H. W., Ski in Norway.
—— Luther, C. J., Moderne Wintersport.
—— Richardson, E. C., Ski-runner.
—— Rickmers, W. R., Listen.
—— Sessely-Richardson, J., Attaches.
Ski : Turismo e Sports.
Steineralpen : Deutsch. Alpenz.
Table Mountain : Cape of Good Hope.
Tamer : *C.A.I. Rivista.*
Täschhorn : Deutsche Alpenz.
Torrione Carducci : *C.A.I. Rivista.*
Trobio : Ricci, L., Ghiacciai.
Vajolettürme : *D.u.Oe. A.- V. Berlin.*
Viù, Valle di : Dr. A. Ferrari.
Vogelkarsp. : *Akad. A.-V. München.*

ALPINE ACCIDENTS IN 1911.

THE fatal accident on the **Aiguille du Plan** was recorded 'A.J.' xxvi. 77. 'La Montagne,' 1911, pp. 571–81, gives a full account from the pen of Dr. Th. Thomas, of the heroic enterprise of his guide, the late Auguste Blanc, to which was due the recovery of the body of M. Caillet from the difficult and dangerous ice couloir where it had lodged, frozen into the ice. It was only after many hours of extremely dangerous work that success crowned the efforts of Dr. Thomas and his two guides. A photograph of that face of the mountain accompanies the description, on which the lines of usual ascent are marked and the places of the twofold accident are to be seen. 'La Montagne,' pp. 592–98, gives a full account by Dr. Thomas of the lamentable accident by which a few days later Auguste Blanc lost his own life.

On August 18 Drs. Guillemard and Régnier, with the guide Antonin Claret-Tournier and the porter **Pierre Casoli,** reached the observatory on the **summit of Mont Blanc.** On the 21st about midday, during a violent thunderstorm, lightning struck the hut, knocking Casoli senseless and setting his clothes on fire, resulting in severe burns. He received every possible attention at the hands of the two scientists and of M. Vallot, but succumbed to his injuries a few hours after reaching Chamonix.

NEW EXPEDITIONS IN 1911 (AND 1894).

Graian Alps.

ALBARON (3662 m. = 12,015 ft.), STRAIGHT UP THE E.N.E. FACE AND POINTE REGAUD BY THE E.N.E. FACE.—On August 6, 1911, Mr. C. F. Meade with Pierre Blanc left the Chalet des Evettes at 3.10 A.M. and arrived at the bergschrund E.N.E. of the top of the Albaron and directly under it about 5.50. The bergschrund appeared to be practicable at one point only. Above it a fairly steep slope of good snow led to shale and loose but very easy rocks by which the

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summit was gained in 63 mins. from the bergschrund. It is only when these rocks are dry that this way up the Albaron can be safe. It is the most direct way from the Chalet des Evettes, and without hurrying only 3 hrs. 43 mins. were employed between the chalet and the top.

At 9.20 A.M. on the same day the same party left the Albaron track below the Pointe Regaud and mounted to the shoulder of this little peak. From the shoulder they traversed southwards across the E.N.E. face to the foot of a difficult chimney where the rope was put on. The chimney (well seen from the Chalet des Evettes) straggles southwards and upwards across the E.N.E. face. Its ascent occupied three-quarters of an hour. The rock is green and very slippery and *Kletterschuhe* were useful. The chimney ends close to the top of the peak, which was reached at 11.35 A.M. With much dawdling the party returned by the ordinary route to the Chalet des Evettes by 2 P.M.

Mont Blanc Group.

AIGUILLE DE TRÉLATÊTE, E. PEAK (3885 m. = 12,750 ft., *Barbey map*). BY THE E. ARÊTE REACHED FROM THE N. Herr Hans Pfann, Dr. Kostitcheff, and Count Ugo di Vallepiana, August 3–5, 1911. (Cf. 'R. M.,' 1912, pp. 39–41.)

From the Miage glacier the party mounted the second couloir to the N. of the Petit Mont Blanc, 3431 m., for some 250 ft., then abandoning it turned to the right, W., and by rotten rocks and an easy slab reached a small platform conspicuous from below, where they camped at a height of about 350 ft. above the Miage glacier. Leaving at 4.30 A.M. on August 4, they turned at once to the right, W., and climbed on to a rock rib. Straight up these rocks, then into a couloir to the right, W., safe at this hour, then up this latter, snow good; easy rocks to the left, E., attained at 5.45 A.M. Now up these rocks for a bit, then, always bearing to the left, to a broad and convenient ledge which leads diagonally upwards to a snow gully very visible from below. Ledge far more suitable for camping than the lower bivouac. From the said ledge to the right, E., by rocks apparently much exposed to stone fall; rocks soon abandoned for the trough of gully; party roped. Up this gully or the steep slabs of its true right bank till a slice of dangerous hanging glacier attained, then by the rocks to the left, E., and so to the upper shoulder of mountain, where the ordinary route falls in, 10.10 A.M. Party unwilling to *strictly* follow said route, which, passing over the upper plateau of the left branch of the Glacier du Petit Mont Blanc, leads by the E. arête to the summit, accordingly mounted the crest of said arête for some 180 ft. Now a traverse on to N. slope of arête, till it was judged that a point below summit was attained, then straight up to the top, 12.45 P.M.

Descent by S.W. arête and bivouac at 9 P.M. on rocks above the last ice fall of the Glacier de l'Allée Blanche. Courmayeur regained next day, August 5.

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Pennines.

AIGUILLES ROUGES D'AROLLA, N. PEAK (about 3600 m. = 11,811 ft.).—On August 11, 1911, the N. peak of the Aiguilles Rouges was climbed up the centre of the Arolla face. This is a short, steep, open climb up slabs which offer small sound holds and few belays. Discrimination is needed in choosing the precise line. The party, J. M. Archer Thomson and W. P. Haskett-Smith, took two hours, which included an interval for lunch.

DENTS DES BOUQUETINS, N. PEAK (3783 m. = 12,412 ft.).—On August 14, 1911, a wide variation of the usual route was made up the N. peak of the Dent des Bouquetins from the E. A short distance above the bergschrund, the snow-incline, which gives the ordinary route up to the gap between the central and N. peak, was left and the rocks of the face were climbed by pleasant prominent ribs. Several couloirs were crossed from left to right; and in some places the traverses were very difficult and awkward. The summit ridge was struck at the penultimate gendarme. This variant takes at least an hour more than the normal ascent. The party consisted of J. M. Archer Thomson, G. L. Collins, and G. K. Edwards.

Bernina Group.

PIZ BERNINA (4055 m. = 13,304 ft.), BY THE N.E. FACE, i.e. the precipitous portion of the *final* summit which is recessed between the N. (or 'Berninascharte') and E. arêtes.*—Herr Julius Frohmann with Niklaus Kohler of Meiringen, Christian Zippert and Caspar Grass of Pontresina, July 24, 1911. The party having gained the 'Sass del Pos' (3208 m., *S. map*) *via* the Labyrinth, more or less followed the ordinary route in a S.W. direction to the upper slopes of the great inclined snow plateau N.E. of the summit (2 hrs. 10 min.). Thence leaving the commencement of the E. arête to the left (S.) they cut up the icy slope, the angle of which varies from 50° to 64°, immediately below the rocks of the N.E. face. Having surmounted this slope, which, owing to a thin layer of snow being firmly frozen on to the ice, was in admirable condition, the party attained a kind of rock rib leading slantways up towards the summit (3 hrs.). They scrambled up this rib, badly iced at first, over broken loose rocks, gradually giving place to great equally treacherous slabs, till they reached a yellowish crevice furrowing the final red rocks of the peak. The crevice was scaled with much difficulty, but from its upper extremity far easier rocks brought the party to the top (2¾ hrs., or, including all halts and several nocturnal deviations, 11¼ hrs. from the Boval Club hut.)

[The face is extremely exposed to falling stones and ice, and its

* Kindly communicated by Professor A. Corti: cf. *R. M.* 1911, pp. 310–311, 364.

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ascent would barely be possible save under 1911 conditions. It will be remembered that the late Mr. L. Norman Neruda with Christian Klucker, July 18, 1890, reached the inclined snow plateau *direct* from the lower surface of the Morteratsch glacier by the precipitous and excessively dangerous gully known as the 'Gurgel' (Herr Frohmann's party found the bergschrund unassailable), thence with great difficulty the party contrived to reach the Berninascharte, which is only a short distance to the N.W. of the N.E. face. A great storm then compelled the party to abandon the expedition and entailed a terrible descent of the N. arête and its lower W. slopes to the Tschierva glacier.*

No one has so far repeated the ascent of the 'Gurgel.']

E. L. S.

Crast Agüzza (3872 m.=12,704 ft.) by the S.W. face.—The 'Alpi Retiche Occidentali,' Part iv. Regione Bernina, edited by Dr. A. Corti, gives on pp. 425–6 an account with a marked sketch of the above route which was done in 1906 by Dr. Corti and Signor Valesini, as they thought for the first time. This ascent was, however, made on July 21, 1894, by the guide Chr. Klucker and myself with a porter. We left the Marinelli Hut at 4.25, struck across the glacier and up the hard snow of the couloir on the W. of the peak to the foot of the rocks of the S.W. face (6.45 a.m.). This face is a great rock slope broken up into steps. Up a flat gully, iced rocks, under lee of the wall we reached a snowfield (7.10). Traverse this to the right, to where it forms a small arête and cross, exposed to stones from a couloir more to the left, this arête to the foot of another shallow couloir (slabs). Go up left of this protected by the wall (7.20). This couloir is a watercourse and was hard frozen, hence forced at once to traverse it and take to rocks on its right bank (ascending), getting round a ledge on their lower edge. Follow these rocks till they flatten out to snowfield. Traverse again away to right to outcropping rocks over snowfield (exposed to icicles from ridge on left). Halt 8.5 to 8.35. Traverse over rocks and snow to S.E. (right) till reach ridge running S.W. and overlooking Scerscen and S.W. precipices (9 a.m.). Sun here struck us. Follow ridge on or near till it becomes precipitous and broadens out into a wall. Here you climb a short wall and reach foot of main wall just between two small towers forming gateposts. Climb a chimney in wall about 10 ft. from its left edge. Chimney all ice, very bad, 40 ft. long (took about 20 m. for the three of us). 10 a.m. Traverse to left and follow main W. arête to top—junction of ridges 10.20, summit 10.30. Among other cards that of Dr. Paul Güssfeldt: 'Landete 19 Aug. 1875, 11.18 a.m. in Liverpool von Aequator. Afrika kommend und traf 19. Sept. 1875 um dieselbe Stunde d.h. nach 31 Mal 24 St auf der Crast' Agüzza ein. Viva Hans Grass.'

* *Alpine Journal*, xv. 314–5, 468–71.

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I went over to Sils last July to look up my old friend Klucker and discussed the above ascent with him. Subsequently on September 3 he repeated the ascent with two acquaintances, but owing to stones falling he was forced on the upper portion more to the left, so that he gained the main W. arête rather lower down than when leading me. He took with him a photograph kindly marked by Dr. Corti, but thinks that about the middle of the face Dr. Corti's route is marked too much to the right, as there the rocks are precipitous and impossible. He considers that our unpublished route of 1894 is in the main identical with the published route of 1906.

J. P. Farrar.

Eastern Alps.

New Ascents in 1910.—The 'Mittheilungen des D.u.Ö.A.V.,' 1912, pp. 19–20 and 34–37, contain a very careful summary, prepared by Dr. Franz Hörtnagl of Innsbruck, of the principal new routes in the Eastern Alps which were opened in 1910. The summary is divided into groups and gives the necessary references to published accounts of the various expeditions.

Zillerthal.

Zsigmondyspitze, formerly called Feld Kopf. (3085 m.= 10,119 ft.). By the E.N.E. arête from the Floite. In 'A.J.' xxv. p. 664, the direct ascent of this mountain from the Floite, a much discussed problem, was recorded.

The same party, viz. the guide Hans Fiechtl and the guide-candidate Hans Hotter (spelt Kotter in the previous account) have now opened another route from the Floite. The slabby ridge is followed to the foot of the first slabby precipice. An upward traverse to the right leads to a grass-covered projection. Then a 100 m. well-marked narrow crack. Then on the right flank of the arête, very difficult, to a projection on the arête covered with loose stones. Stoneman built. Follow the ridge to the next great step. Then traverse upward to the left and follow exposed and difficult grass ledge to good stand. From here, 30 m., extremely difficult and exposed traverse close under the overhang to the left up to a gap. Then to the left up very smooth wall (fixed 3 pitons) and finally rejoin last year's route on the arête. Follow this till close under the summit tower, then bear to left and gain the summit by a very difficult crack which seams the final tower. Time from foot of rocks, 4½ hrs. The climb is described as one of the finest as well as most difficult in Fiechtl's experience. (Cf. 'Mittheilungen,' 1912, p. 85.)

Fiechtl also made two new routes up the same peak, viz. (1) by the W.S.W. arête and (2) along the whole ridge from the Feldkopf-scharte.

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