

route and reached the Forcola della Speranza (Bocchetta Pioda) at 9 A.M. Mounting the narrow and heavily corniced N.W. arête, Arrigo Truffi, the leader, suddenly heard a loud crash behind him. He at once threw himself over on to the S.E. slope of the ridge, but the remainder of the party, together with an immense piece of cornice, were precipitated down the nearly perpendicular N. slope. Truffi held firm, but the rope broke between the third and the last man, **Ettore Levis**, and the latter fell with only one or two bounds straight on to the Disgrazia glacier, a fall of quite 3000 ft. One of the fallen students had kept his ice-axe, and by this means and Truffi's assistance, the survivors managed to regain the ridge. Truffi's skill and presence of mind had undoubtedly prevented a still worse disaster. The party at once descended to the hut.

A search party was immediately organised by the Valtelline section of the C.A.I. Thirteen persons set out for Chiareggio on the evening of the 9th, and after perilous adventures, in which several of them nearly lost their lives on the steep and always dangerously crevassed Disgrazia glacier, gallantly recovered and brought down the body on the evening of the 10th. Death had, of course, been instantaneous.

This is said to be the first accident that has ever occurred on Monte Disgrazia.

From the Journal 'La Valtellina.'

On March 22 three young men from Zürich, Herren **Dusailler**, **Gerson**, and **Wingerling**, when attempting the ascent on skis of **Piz Misaun**, probably trod an avalanche loose when about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. above the Boval Hut. Only one body has been recovered.

NEW EXPEDITIONS IN 1912 AND OTHER YEARS.

Mont Blanc Group.

MONT BLANC (4810 m. = 15,782 ft.) from the Glacier du Mont Blanc. August 1905. Herren Eduard Franzelin and J. Hechenbleikner, 'Ö.A.Z.' 1913, p. 61.

The party left the Sella hut at 4 A.M., at first in the direction of Mont Blanc through the first icefall immediately N.E. of the hut, then bore in a curve to the right (E.) across the highest glacier to the foot of the couloir Emile Rey. New snow, however, caused them to take to the rib which lies W. of Picco Luigi Amedeo and runs nearly parallel to its S.W. arête (foot of the rib between curve 3500 and 3550, the upper end in the name Mt. Blanc de Courmayeur on the map). This rib was followed with varying difficulty (ice

and rock) until it ended in a high ice-cliff, or hanging glacier (Eisabbruch), climbing which was exceedingly difficult. The conditions here, however, vary probably each year according to the state of the glacier. To the upper edge of the ice-cliff they took 8 hours. After an hour's rest they continued the ascent and reached in 3 hours without any difficulty, direct, the summit of Mont Blanc. They slept in the Vallot hut and next day traversed the Aig. de Bionnassay to the Col de Miage, and so regained Courmayeur.

[This ascent is apparently considered 'new,' but the route is, if not identical with, at least very close to, one or other of the routes that have been made up this face (*cf.* Mondini-Gugliermi-Canzio; 'Monte Bianco' Boll. XXXV.; Panorama 'Il lato Sud-ovest del Monte Bianco (Bacino del Miage).']

AIGUILLE DU MIDI (3843 m. = 12,605 ft.) BY THE N.W. FACE (*cf.* 'La Montagne,' 1912, pp. 561-562, with photograph showing line of ascent).

August 25, 1912, Mdle. Renée Eugster with the guide Alfred Simond and the porters Robert Claret and Michel Claret-Tournier.

The party left the Pierre Pointue in doubtful and cold weather at 4 A.M. and took to the N.W. arête, where it forms a little spur on the Gl. des Pèlerins. After crossing some disagreeable screees they ascended a chimney rendered difficult by snow and verglas. Thereupon they ascended a second chimney more to the right, difficult but excellent rocks. There followed two hours of fairly easy climbing, always bearing to the right to turn impossible slabs. After a fruitless attempt to pass above these slabs they gained the bank of the great snow couloir and there breakfasted. Weather very indifferent—very cold—a tempestuous wind at intervals and snowing slightly, which rendered the rocks wet and iced.

They then took to the couloir itself, finding, fortunately, the snow excellent, as the slope, especially after passing a sort of funnel formed by the narrow part of the couloir, became much steeper. Higher up the snow swept by the wind was not so good. The arête was now far behind them, and they gained the foot of the first summit in view of the Bergschrund when suddenly the weather got worse. The icy wind and the snowstorm increased to such an extent that upon Simond's advice the descent was decided on. The couloir was followed, descending face to the slope, for three hours, and the glacier finally regained at nightfall.

Pennines.

WANDELUH (3595 m. = 11,792 ft.) BY THE E. FACE.—July 15, 1912. Herren Guido and Max Mayer with the guides Angelo Dibona of Cortina and Luigi Rizzi of Campitello.

The climb was commenced near point 2772 to the left of the more southerly of the two snow couloirs which seam the face, and

which are interrupted by big black overhangs. A very intricate and difficult climb led to the edge of the couloir (at a small cavern) which was swept by avalanches. Mounting in zigzag and crossing a small ice-couloir the party gained a platform and continued up a very difficult slabby couloir and by the arête itself, or its N. flank. On attaining the fork of the couloir they followed its left branch up rocks covered with verglas and buried in masses of fresh snow. They finally ascended about 20 mètres in the great couloir itself, then quitted it for its left edge, and then gained the principal arête, which they followed for about 80 mètres, and after a short time reached the snow-covered summit. The ascent is described as very difficult and very dangerous by reason of falls of stones and ice. The height of the face is about 800 mètres.

Times :

From Schönbühl hut to foot of rocks	..	30 min.
Ascent of face, including 2 hours' rest	..	11 hours.
Descent to the hut		2½ hours.

(*'La Montagne,'* 1912, pp. 526-527.)

Trift District (Uri).

FÜNFINGERSTOCK No. 4; (about 2977m.=9755ft.) ascent by the S. face and E. arête, descent by the W. arête and N. face. (See the Rev. A. V. Valentine-Richards's article and the accompanying photos, &c., *'A.J.'* xx. pp. 116 et seq.)—On August 3, 1911, Captain H. Bone, R.N., W. Audley Bowdler, Roger E. Richards, and H. Scott Tucker started from Stein at 6.45 A.M. and went up the W. Oberthal glacier (where they left three axes and most of their spare clothes and food) to the most easterly snow couloir on the S. side of the mountain. This was impracticable. They therefore took to a pyramid buttress on its W. (10.30 A.M.) (this buttress is almost directly below the dotted line indicating No. 3 peak—*'A.J.'* xx. photo p. 116) and climbed always to the left, sometimes on the face and sometimes by gullies (partly stone-filled) to a little snow col overlooking the Wenden glacier and the N. fingers.

Thence over broken rocks and by a chimney to the ridge just E. of the junction of the W. and S. arêtes. The first peak was reached with ease at 1.15 P.M. Following the arête to the W. they descended rather loose rocks and a little chimney towards the gap between peaks 1 and 2, which was gained by climbing some detached blocks and making an easy traverse on the N. side immediately below the summit, reached a few moments later. A 10-ft. chimney, or slab and crack with a good handhold, led to the gap between peaks 2 and 3. An ascent, steep for the first 20 ft., to peak No. 3 followed. Then came a traverse down a rotten freshly shattered chimney, a good ledge, and a 5-ft. pull up a corner to a second ledge. From here they crossed the arête to the S. side; 12 ft. below they found good rock leading to the top of a gendarme in the gap. A difficult descent of about 18 ft. led towards peak 4—a flat

summit ledge ending in an almost perpendicular wall descending to the low broad gap between Nos. 4 and 5. Peak 4 is apparently the second to the left of the white-dotted line marked 'No. 4' in Mr. Valentine-Richards's *unbekannt* photograph ('A.J.' xx. 116.).

A storm which had been gathering in the W. began to approach, and, as progress along the ridge seemed impossible and no means of turning the difficulty could be found, it was decided to descend the N. face to the Wenden glacier. The descent began at the gap between Nos. 4 and 3, and was continued slightly W. of a large and recent rockfall, first by the face, next by a stone-filled gully, again by the extremely steep face, which was broken by a series of very narrow ledges and slabs which led down to a scree platform. Thence a difficult descent straight over a buttress, afterwards a sharp traverse over sound smooth rocks to a snow couloir. At times a dense mist hid the leader of the caravan from the last man. During the later part of the descent the moon dispersed the mist and gave the party superb views of the Western Alps. At 10 P.M. the foot of the couloir was reached and the fitful light of the moon showed the climbers a wide bergschrund yawning beneath. A night out seemed inevitable. This was spent on a sloping rock above the schrund between the W. rock-wall of the couloir and the snow which filled it. The only axe was driven into the snow, everybody made fast, and the night spent as comfortably as possible. At 1 A.M. a large meteor fell. At 4 A.M. the party restarted, found an easy way along the rocks to the W., crossed the schrund to the glacier, climbed to the W. Oberthaljoch, recovered their baggage, and walked to the hotel in bright sunlight, meeting a rescue party of its cook and two cowherds bringing rum and madeira cake. Their services were recorded in each of the four bills as 'Trinkgeld für Suchen am Fünffinger 7.50f.'

FÜNFFINGERSTOCK (square or truncated sugarloaf rock peak, unnamed, next to and S. of Finger No. 2 (cf. photo 'A.J.' xx. opp. p. 116).—On July 29, 1911, Messrs. Roger E. Richards and H. Scott Tucker left their sacks and axes at the Thurmjoch and crossed the snowfield roughly from W. to E. to a snow couloir immediately to the left of a little nameless col (at the letter 'l' in 'Sustenlochspitz' on the map in the Urner Alpen Führer Band, II. p. 199). Reaching the rocks at its top they climbed, by a shallow rock and grass chimney slanting to the right, to the arête, turned two gendarmes on the right and climbed two others. They were then face to face with a wall of rock about 200 ft. high, up the centre of which ran a long narrow and apparently unclimbable crack, shown in Mr. Valentine-Richards's photo. To the right appeared a leaf of rock and a shadow suggesting a possible route. Between this wall and the climbers was a breach about 75 ft. deep. They reached its foot by broken rocks and crossed a snow couloir—bordered by white granitic rock—rising from the Kl. Sustlifirn.

Scrambling inside the overhanging leaf, they found themselves in an almost closed chimney about 150 ft. high and 2 ft. wide. Its centre was filled by a stream of hard ice; its sides were formed of loose rock and stone. The chimney cuts off about a quarter of the peak from the main body. The split seemed of comparatively recent origin from a geological standpoint. The presence of the ice and the absence of an axe made back and knee work necessary. At times it was impossible to move without starting showers of stones, some of large size. Fortunately the second man was partially sheltered. For the greater part of the chimney the climbers were shut in by its high walls and were within, rather than upon, the mountain.

After leaving the chimney they climbed a stone-filled gully to the top of the N.-W. arête (looking towards the Thurmjoch) and reached the foot of the twin summits of the peak on their S.S.E. They turned the more southerly peak by a short descent (doubled rope) which led to the gap between them and climbed that point over difficult rock. Next they climbed its twin by the S.-E. corner and descended by the crack splitting it into halves. Thence stony ledges separated by steep and difficult rocks (doubled rope) led to the Oberthal glacier. (Estimated time from top of first snow couloir to Oberthal glacier, 5 hours.)

Bregaglia Group.

MONTE DI ZOCCA (3179 m. = 10,430 ft., *S. map*; 3174 m. = 10,414 ft., *Lurani map*). By the N.E. arête. Signori E. Fasana and P. Mariani, August 1, 1910.¹ From the Allievi Club hut the party attained the Zocca Pass. Thence straight up to the Monte di Zocca's serrated N.E. arête (*cf.* the late Count Lurani's admirable photograph in 'A.J.' xxiv. facing p. 381). At first below the crest on the N. slope by ledges and snow, then to the arête itself by hard rocks, thus attaining top of first tooth. Then over the following teeth, turning again later on to N. slope by insecure slabs; said slope is followed till crest can be regained close to an enormous tower, which from hut resembles an upturned hand. Tower is turned by narrow ledge on its S. slope, and crest again followed till just *short* of the very conspicuous 'Anticima' or false summit. (All previous parties have been compelled to retreat after reaching *top* of 'Anticima.'—E. L. S.) Next a traverse follows on the S.E. slope of 'Anticima' over slabs and a small, very steep ice-patch, whence difficult rocks are scaled to the summit (9 hrs.).

[*Cf.* 'A.J.' xxiv. p. 392, where read N.E. arête for W.; 'R. M.' 1911, pp. 125-6; 'Le Prealpi' xii. No. 1, 1912; 'Guida Alpi Retiche Occidentali,' iii. p. 196; 'Climbers' Guide,' p. 122. Conditions are said to have been very bad, which makes the apparently simple circumvention of the formidable 'Anticima' all the more remarkable.]

¹ Kindly communicated by Professor Corti.

Central Caucasus.

A full report of the 1912 expedition of Dr. Walter Fischer, Dr. Hermann Renner, and Dr. Oscar Schuster is contained in 'Ö.A.Z.' 1912, pp. 322-323. See 'A.J.' xxv. 462-4 for the report of their 1910 expedition, and 'A.J.' xxvii. 92-95 for the report of their 1911 expedition.

The party left Dresden on July 6 and reached Wladikawkas, *via* Kohlfurth, Kalisch, Snamenka and Rostow, on July 10.

(Through carriages run from Kalisch as far as Beslan.)

July 11, drove, *via* Archonskaja, to a little village on the Mamison Road, 9 versts S. of Alagir, which was left away on the right.

July 12, drove to Unter-Saramag. Moderate accommodation in an inn, 'Krepost.'

July 13, to the last bivouac, of the 1911 expedition (5 to 7 August; cf. 'A.J.' xxvii. 95) at the foot of the Lagau-Choch.

July 14, to the N.E. Khubag Glacier and from here by means of a great rock-spur from the S. to the summit of **Lagau-Choch (first ascent)**, Pt. 13,331 ft. = 4066 m. of Freshfield's map in 'A.J.' xvi. 31. Time of ascent $4\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. (A photo of Lagau-Choch from the N.W. accompanies Dr. Schuster's article.) Returned to Saramag.

July 15 and 16. Rest and wet.

July 17.—Up the Srug Valley. Pitched tent at about 2300 m. S. of the Birachtikaw.

July 18.—Up the S. arête or close to it, easy but very tiring, to the summit of Sikara-Tau in $3\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. (3829 m. = 12,559 ft.).

July 19.—During the night heavy storms. As the valley path was flooded returned over the Srug Pass (2787 m. = 9141 ft.) with an Ossetian hunter to Tib on the Mamison Road. Srug Valley to Pass, $1\frac{1}{2}$ hrs., thence to Tib 2 hrs., thence to Saramag $1\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

July 21.—Returned to Lagau bivouac. Cf. July 13.

July 22.—On to the Central Khubag Glacier (cf. Freshfield's map, 'A.J.' xvi. 31), over its left bounding arm to the snowfields which descend from the Kaltber ridge direct S. to the upper Saramag Valley. Up these snowfields to the dividing ridge in the direction of Zeja, which was reached between two prominent rock towers in the deepest gap between Lagau and Kaltber. As a descent to the Kaltber Glacier from this point would mean much difficulty; they followed the ridge for a short bit to the W. until they gained the point attained by Fischer and Schuster in 1910 when ascending Kaltber (4409 m.) (called locally Adai-Choch). They descended by the 1910 route to the Zeja stream, which they reached opposite the inn 'Lednik,' but as it could not be crossed there they descended the right bank for $\frac{1}{2}$ hr., when they crossed a bridge to the path leading to Rekom. They followed this path to St. Nikolai. Quarters in the engineers' house. Times from the Lagau camp to the ridge about 3 hrs., thence to the bridge 4 hrs.

July 23.—Returned to Saramag by road.

July 24.—Went down the high road to the junction of and up the Ilsai Valley (Freshfield's map = Elssa Valley) W. of Pt. 1521 of Merzbacher's map.

Fine bivouac at about 1900 m. among luxuriant vegetation.

July 25.—With an Ossetian hunter named David Chaidmasa, very arduous, to the S. wall of the Kalper (cf. 'Jahrbuch of the Russian Mountain Club,' 1903, pp. 115 *seq.*). The peak is not named in Merzbacher's map, but is marked 12,467 ft. in Freshfield's map, 'A.J.' xvi. The S. wall was climbed to the summit (2 hrs.), which had probably been previously gained by local hunters. The rocks remind one of the Aig. du Moine. The hunter subsequently followed the party to the summit. They descended by his line of ascent by steep bouquetin paths along (or across) the ridge which divides the upper end of the Ilsai Valley, and so got back to the stream in S. valley basin E. of Pt. 9051 (Freshfield).

July 26.—Returned to Saramag.

July 27–29.—Bad weather.

July 30.—Up the Nardon Valley to a bivouac at 2570 m. on the (orogr.) right side (5 hrs.).

July 31.—**First Ascent of Merzbacher's Pt. 3777 m.** (4 hrs. from bivouac). Gained the ridge between m. 3631 and 3777, then by the W. flank and the upper part of the W. arête to the S. summit. Crossed to the N., probably higher, summit in $\frac{1}{2}$ hr.; very bad snow.

Returned, with some variations, by same way.

August 1.—Heavy thunderstorm in night. Ascended in 2 hrs. to the lowest depression between Pt. 3777 and the Tepli-massif, which they named Tepli Pass (3300 m.). Descended to N. Tepli Glacier and traversed E. to the glacier N. of the Tepli precipices. Grandiose ice-cirque. Descended to the glacier tongue, but a storm, swollen torrents, uncertain weather, and difficult orientation made them abandon a further descent. Returned to the pass in driving snow (4 hrs. from the end of the glacier). On the way back to Saramag much delayed by floods, which swept away the bridge at Nar.

August 2.—Down the Mamison road to Misur.

August 3.—Drove to Alagir.

August 4.—To Darg-Koch Station.

The weather during the expedition was mostly unfavourable, indeed on some days abnormally bad; consequently much trouble was experienced with the torrents. For the whole journey they employed a Grusinian, with his horse, from Sion, on the Grusinian Road, and they were at times accompanied by the hunter of Saramag named above.

It will be noted that the Winkler Expedition ('A.J.' xxvii. pp. 95–98), which started early in August, had quite good weather.

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