

but died from cold and exhaustion—the other bodies being blown over the rocks on to the glacier below. No trace of them, no doubt due to the heavy snowfall, could be found.

Many other accidents are reported, but where the details are not known, or where they offer no mountaineering interest or instruction, they are not here repeated.

NEW EXPEDITIONS IN 1913.

Graian Alps.

POINTE DU POUSSET (3046 m. = 9994 ft.), FROM THE TRAJO ICE-FALL, August 11.—Mr. G. Yeld, with Benjamin Pession of Val Tournanche and Pierre Gerard of Cogne, having reached the Colle Nera, 3480 m. = 11,417 ft., from the King's Camp at Lauzon, descended the Trajo Glacier to the top of the séracs, but found it impossible to discover a way down to Epinel as they had intended to do. They therefore went up to the Pousset ridge (well over 10,000 ft.) and then proceeded to the Pointe du Pousset itself. 'This very long route up the Pousset is hardly likely to be repeated, but it gave us very fine ice-scenery and splendid views.'—G.Y.

BECCA DENTAVU (2593 m. = 8507 ft.), August 15.—The same party, without Pierre Gerard, ascended this point, the last (most E.) in the long ridge of the Punta Rom or Punta Trajo, all the other points in which were climbed by the same party in 1910.

They went down to Epinel and then practically walked straight up to the top, in part through forest. The climb, which was very pleasant, presented no difficulty. The view from the summit rivals, if it does not surpass, that from the Pousset. The party, having so lately ascended the Pousset (August 11), were in a position to compare the two. On both occasions the weather was perfect. The most striking feature of the view was the Grivola, standing between and above its satellites, the Grivoletta (11,569 ft.) and the Punta Crevasse (10,850 ft.). The ascent took four hours from Cogne. The descent (not altogether easy) was made to Trajo, and Cogne was regained through the forest and the bridge near Cretaz in three hours. 'The view of the Grivola from the summit is exceptionally impressive.'—G. Y.

COGNE TO LOCANA BY THE VAL SOERA. THE PUNTA DI VAL SOERA (3191 m. = 10,469 ft.). THE COLLE DEI RONCHI (over 10,000 ft.), August 17.—The same party made this long but very interesting expedition. They left Cogne by moonlight at 2.40 A.M. (the traveller riding a mule, for about three hours, nearly to the end of the King's hunting path in the Valeille) and reached Locana, also by moonlight, at 10.30 P.M.

They crossed the Valeille Glacier to the S. Colle di Sengie



E. Piaget, photo.

Swan Electric Engraving Co., Ltd.

DÔME DE NEIGE DES ÉCRINS.
(N.W. FACE.)

(3206 m. = 10,519 ft.), then descended to the Ciardoney Glacier and mounted the Colle delle Uje (3161 m. = 10,371 ft.). Then they crossed the little snowfield in the eastern basin of the Val Soera to the rocks to the S. of the Punta di Val Soera.

They went up these steep rocks to the pass between the Punta di Val Soera and the next point to the S., and afterwards climbed the Punta di Val Soera, first ascended from the N. by Messrs. Irving and Tyndale in 1912 ('A.J.' xxvi. 461), then returned to the pass, and, after a careful examination of the rocks on the W. side of it, decided to attempt the descent to the W. basin of the Val Soera. The descent was not easy and took considerable time, as it was necessary to keep close to a sort of overhang which ran in a S. direction, obliquely across the face of the mountain, in order to be able to obtain shelter in case stones should fall. None fell while the party were on this part of the mountain. The last part was over a wilderness of big blocks. Thus they accomplished a new pass and a new descent of the Punta di Val Soera at the same time, and visited both the E. and W. branches of the Val Soera. After a meal by the stream in the bottom of the valley the party continued their journey past the Lakes of Val Soera and Bubna through very wild, desolate, but impressive scenery. Below the Val Soera Lake the flora was attractive. They descended into the Val Piantonetto at S. Giacomo, and so, striking the Val d'Orco at Perebecche, reached Locana by moonlight at 10.30 P.M. after a long but exceptionally interesting day.

Dauphiné.

DÔME DE NEIGE DES ECRINS (3980 m. = 13,058 ft.), BY THE N.W. FACE.*

July 14, 1913, Dr. Guido Mayer, of Vienna, with Angelo Dibona of Cortina.

'The summit ridge of the Ecrins carries three named points, the highest or E. peak, the central peak (Pic Lory), and the W. peak (Dôme de Neige). Two great walls give the mountain its bold shape: the S. face of the highest peak, climbed in 1893 by A. Reynier with Maximin Gaspard and Joseph Turc (cf. Coolidge, "The Central Alps of the Dauphiny," p. 108), and the N.W. face of the W. peak. The latter, owing to the alarming appearance of its extremely steep and 1100 m. high slabby armour, in which a 70° ice couloir ending in vertical walls is cut, had so far defied all attacks. The route of Messrs. Jones, Todhunter, and Young, with the guides L. Croux, H. Brocherel, and J. Knubel, however, approaches, in the S. rocks of the W. arête, the neighbourhood of the N.W. face. (Cl. "A. J." xxv. 736.)

'Leaving La Bérarde at midnight the foot of the great couloir about 2900 m.) was gained at 3 A.M., when the porters, Pierre

* The fine illustration has been kindly supplied by M. Emile Piaget of Lyons, the well-known mountain photographer, through M. Fouilland, editor of *La Revue Alpine*, to both of whom thanks are tendered.

Turc and Roderon, were sent back. Started at 3.30 A.M., day-break. The general line of ascent is up the rocks of the N. half of the wall, and reaches the summit ridge up vertical impassable-looking walls 30 m. to the N. of the summit. (See illustration.)

'Cross the bergschrund to the left by means of avalanche snow, with difficulty, to the edge of the rocks. Keep along the edge of these up very steep névé and crossing a few slabby ribs to the beginning of the narrowest part of the great couloir, the ice-bed of which, here hardly 10 m. wide, ascends almost vertically. Continue for about 60 m., very dangerous, and as soon as possible bear left up 60° slabs to the top of the great rock-wave. Up very steep névé to a little rock island and straight through a chimney of bare black ice (avalanche run) to passable rocks. Here oblique to the left and in wide curve to an overhanging iced rock-girdle, above which a system of steep gullies, bounded on either side by jagged rotten ridges, leads upward for about 500 m. Then with varying difficulty (some places very difficult), in terrain very exposed to stones, for about 300 m. to the rotten rib which, starting at the great couloir, mounts like a tower or steeple. On the flank of this a violent storm delayed us for an hour, and gave way later to changeable weather with occasional hailstorms and blizzards of snow. Continuing in direct line for the summit, one aims for a little rocky bay at the height of the upper edge of the great ice couloir, and gains up very difficult iced rocks a well-marked ledge (first resting-place). Then to the right up a short overhanging wall (the leader on the other's shoulders), and along the right flank of a kind of rocky jutting-out rounded top right up to yellow overhanging walls, near which on the left a depression in the wall shows itself, which runs out above in a big shallow gully. Then an extremely difficult and dangerous traverse on a vertical ice-wall, with overhangs above, about 30 m. to the left, and mount in very rotten cracks obliquely to the N. until close to the next rib of the arête. Here bear away right-handed into the bed of the gully, by the side of which soon appears a sharply-inclined ridge with many gendarmes which, as a very sharp crest (N.N.W. arête), merges into the ice slopes 30 m. to the N. of the summit. Follow the S.W. flank of this ridge to the little gap separating two vertical pitches. Gain the gap by an overhanging narrow iced crack (extremely difficult) crossing a series of notches and many iced places. Then along the crest with great difficulty about 30 m. to a deep gash in the arête, on the N. side of which descend about 5 m. on to broad snow and éboulis fields to the left of the crest (second resting-place) and cross obliquely some iced rock slopes to the summit cornice. Over this, with great difficulty, about 35-40 m. to the summit (3.30 P.M.). Descent to the Brèche Lory and down the N. ice slopes of the main peak (glissading over the great bergschrund!) to the Col des Ecrins (5 to 5.30 P.M.) and over steep snow and the Glacier de la Bonne Pierre to La Bérarde (8.30 P.M.).

'The expedition here described is one of the most important and

daring in Dauphiné, and demanded in the wet summer of 1913 20 hours of almost continuous work.

‘Even with favourable conditions this time will probably not be much reduced. Kletterschuhe were worn during the greater part of the ascent.’

(Translated verbatim from Dr. Guido Mayer’s MS.)*

AILEFROIDE (W. peak 3959 m. = 12,989 ft.; Central peak c. 3925 m. = 12,878 ft.; E. peak 3854 m. = 12,645 ft.). ASCENT OF THE CENTRAL PEAK BY THE N. ARÊTE.†—July 1 and 2, 1913, Dr. Guido Mayer, with Angelo Dibona, of Cortina.

‘The massif of the Ailefroide, with its 3 kilometre long summit-ridge of over 3800 m. in height, is one of the greatest of the French mountains. At its central peak the N.-S. watershed (Meije-Barre des Ecrins-Ailefroide) and the E.-W. main arête (Pelvoux-Ailefroide) of the group meet. The Duhamel map appears to be quite incorrect, as the main summit of the Ailefroide stands really at the point marked on the map *Pointe des Frères Chamois*, or about 1 k. more to the W. than marked.

‘The central peak, connected to its neighbours on the E. and W. by indescribably savage arêtes, lies exactly S. of the Col de la Coste Rouge, which is the deepest depression between the Vénéon valley and the Glacier Noir. From this col a much-gendarmed arête leads to the central summit 600 m. above. All previous ascents of the Ailefroide (including the route by the W. arête) have been made from the S. by way of the Ailefroide glacier, which is about 2 k. wide. Professor Bonney in 1860, in the classic work “Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers,” p. 211, declared the ascent from the N. to be hopeless. Of the attempts by the guide Emile Rey, and later by the guide Supersaxo of Saas, little can be gleaned. Further attempts were made by L. Purtscheller, G. Leser, and P. Engelbach on August 6, 1886; by J. Maitre with guides, July 23, 1888; by Beeching and Pryor with R. Imboden and H. Rodier on July 20, 1896; by F. L. Littledale with C. and E. Turc in 1898; by H. W. Dollar with C. Turc père et fils in September, 1907, &c., &c. Cf. also W. A. B. Coolidge’s monograph in the “Revue des Alpes Dauphinoises,” i. 232-3.

‘Left La Bérarde on June 30, 10 A.M., with the porters Roderon and Pierre Rodier, for the Col de la Coste Rouge. Followed the S.

* The magnificent expeditions in the Dauphiné and in the Mont Blanc chain carried out by Dr. Mayer testify to the splendid powers of his leader, the Dolomite guide, Angelo Dibona, and to his own abilities and endurance. The notes were received through the kind interest of Mr. H. J. Mothersill. I have since had an extended correspondence with Dr. Mayer on various points, and he has added immensely to the value of his notes by marking his approximate routes on the accompanying illustrations. This is certain to be appreciated by any non-readers of the ALPINE JOURNAL. J. P. F.

† The illustration is from one of Cav. V. Sella’s splendid series kindly placed at the disposal of the ALPINE JOURNAL. Dr. Mayer points out that the upper hanging glacier is now much smaller.

edge of the Glacier de la Coste Rouge and gained the Col in 7 hours. Bivouac on the S. edge of the glacier near the Col at about 3150 m. from 9.30 P.M. until 4 A.M. (very cold).

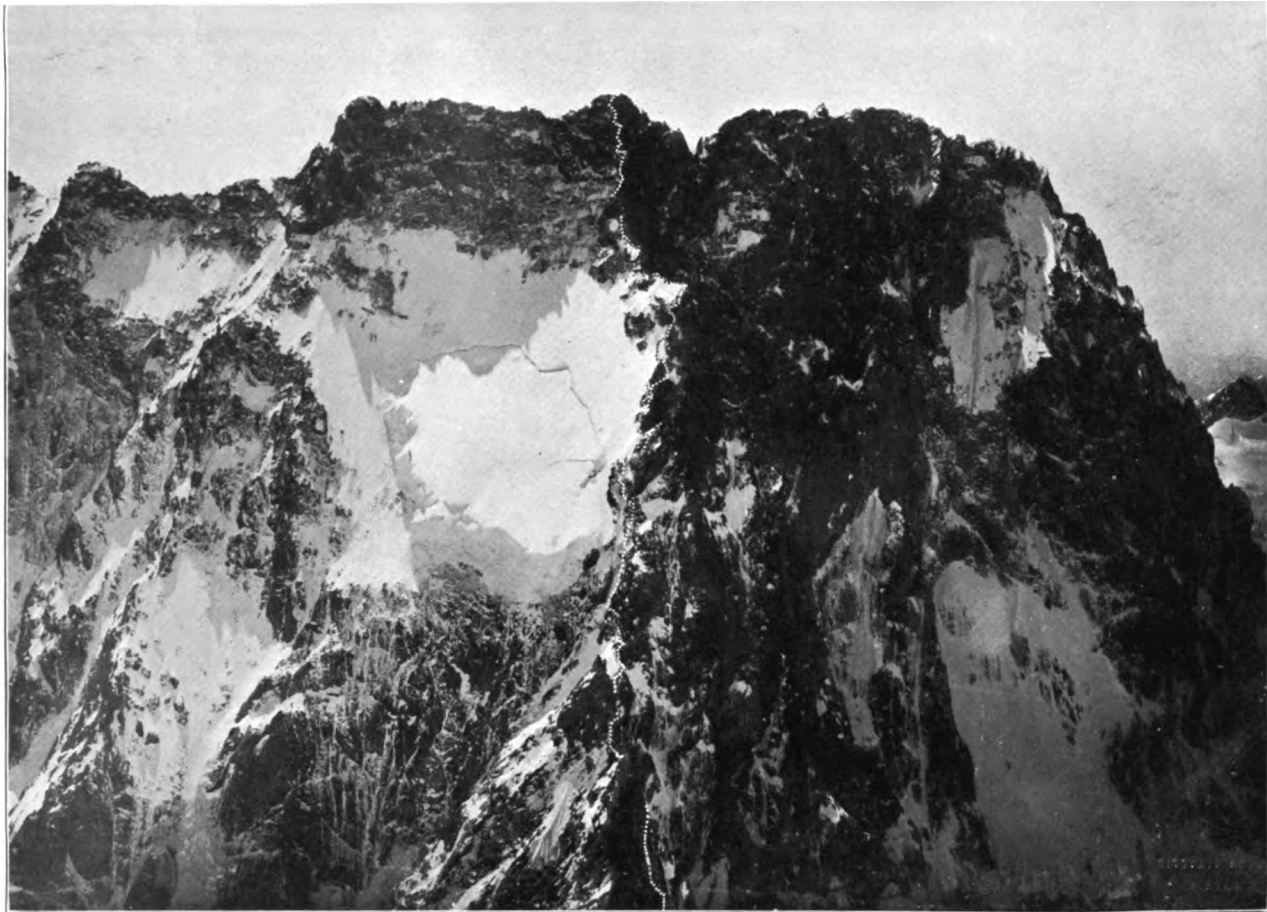
'On July 1 the porters were sent back and the climb commenced at 4.30 A.M. The N. edge of the mountain may be divided into five sections: the lowest bit of arête, divided from the second series of gendarmes by a very sharp gap; the great buttress-like giant tower which forms the third rise; the fourth great gendarme and the final precipice, which are connected by a horizontal, very sharp arête.

'The climb starts W. of the Col de la Coste Rouge and left of a fairly big couloir (not to be confounded with the great couloir of Hippolyte Rodier). Climb then slightly to the right to a rock-rib and in the same direction along narrow ledges (at this point Kletter-schuhe were put on) and over a pitch to a series of very difficult cracks which, in very rotten rock and interrupted by little ledges and overhanging pitches, permit progress. Higher up to the right into the savage gap behind the first bit of arête. The next rise had to be turned on the W.: 60-80 m. in very rotten rock to the right (exposed and risky, and extremely difficult) into the gap behind the great gendarmes. In face of the now following, about 300 m. high, rock tower, which on every side exhibits red rocks and overhanging gullies, traverse into a great couloir of the flank, in which mount for about 60 m. At the end of this bear to the left to a shoulder whence are visible above, to the left, the magnificent séracs of the great hanging glacier of the E. half of the face (very steep, rotten and, at times, iced rocks). Then up snow-covered low pitches into the next gap.

'The then following 150 m. high rise is climbed by its E. flank, whereby one finally reaches direct up very hard iced rocks the top of the buttress. Here we saw facing us an uncommonly sharp and serrated arête which led to the still distant summit-wall. The difficulties are turned partly on the iced and snow-covered E. flank, but mainly on the extremely exposed W. side. Then one reaches a club-shaped tower which is seen from the Glacier de la Pilatte to stand on the final part of the arête. This splendid needle is climbed on the W. side up apparently inaccessible rocks—very exposed.

'From the gap behind it—difficult to reach—with the 1000-1200 m. deep precipice on the W. absolutely exposed, one gains the foot of the formidable final wall which, above a little shoulder or pulpit, appears impossible. Then with difficulty to this little shoulder and almost direct up the main arête by means of the red block-shaped rotten rocks of gaps, little overhangs and vertical walls to the summit of the central peak. Very venturesome climb. (4.30 P.M., 12 hours from the start, including halts.)

'For the descent both the German and English editions of the Dauphiné guide failed completely, as the descriptions for almost all routes of the Ailefroide appear of little



V. Sella, photo.

Swan Electric Engraving Co., Ltd.

THE N. FACE OF THE AILEFROIDE, FROM PIC COOLIDGE.

use.* We descended from the central peak with some difficulty direct S. to a great glacier tongue, which, however, was cut off from the valley on all sides by savage ice-falls. We therefore crossed the S. flanks of the Ailefroide over steep rock and snow slopes, so as to reach a route of the highest or W. peak, and were finally compelled to bivouac a second time near a little hanging glacier in very broken rocks (from 9.30 P.M. to 3 A.M. about 3700 m.).

1 ↓ 2 ↓



L'Ailefroide from Col du Sélé.

.... Dr. Mayer's descent.

o C. Dr. Mayer's bivouac, close to which the hanging glacier breaks away in a vertical iced wall.

+++ Best line of descent, as the party eventually saw.

Dr. Mayer desires to say that he is not perfectly certain about the exact line followed on the upper 100 metres of the descent, and that Dibona thinks it was the point marked 2 which was actually gained by the party.

The photo is one of Mr. Alfred Holmes's series, kindly placed at the disposal of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

'JULY 2.—We retraced our steps for a bit and gained up a high vertical wall a peculiar scree terrace which, bounded by overhangs, ran horizontally for several hundred metres to the Glacier de l'Ailefroide. Got off the rocks 5.30 A.M. and ascended to the Col du Sélé (8 A.M.), reaching La Bérarde at 11.30 A.M. after three days' work.

'We had thus carried out one of the most important expeditions in the district which had been tried almost yearly. The beauties of the tour, so far as the views are concerned, are not equalled by those of any other ascent with which I am acquainted.'

(Translated verbatim from Dr. Guido Mayer's MS.)

* It is notoriously always difficult to make out a *descent* from the description of an *ascent*. The accuracy of the climbers' guides, more particularly in cases where the author had himself made the expedition, is proverbial.—J.P.F.

COL DU FLAMBEAU (about 3150 m. = 10,332 ft. aneroid). First passage.

June 24, 1913. Dr. Guido Mayer and Herr Max Mayer, with Angelo Dibona of Cortina.

'The pass leads from the Vallée de la Bonne Pierre to the Vera Pervoz glacier, and lies between the Flambeau des Écrins (3523 m. = 11,559 ft.) and the Pointe de Pié Bérarde (3188 m. = 10,460 ft.). The height (3045 m.) given for the col in the German edition of the Coolidge guide issued by the Ö.A.C. is too low.

'The pass was crossed by us when reconnoitring for a route up the N.W. face of the Écrins. From La Bérarde reach in 3 hours the plateau of the Glacier de la Bonne Pierre (c. 2750 m.) and then bear direct to the foot of the wall of the Flambeau des Écrins. Now sharp right-handed up steep névé (two bergschrunds) to the edge of the rocks, which ascend until a high chimney becomes visible in the smooth wall. Ascend this chimney with great difficulty and bear away to the right over small snow-covered terraces and steep steps to the upper, very steep, névé slopes. Now, somewhat exposed to avalanches, slightly to the left to a little rock-rib which emerges from the snow and to the sharp gap in the savage main arête (about 2 hours from the glacier). Descent to the S. Either round the W. gendarme on the S. side (exposed) or, rather better, on the N. side and down a steep chimney about 30 m. to a ledge in the S. face. Then to the W. down a steep rotten gully and, 60 m. lower, down a steep snow couloir by which the Gl. de la Vera Pervoz is gained. Down the E. bank of the deep cutting to the Vénéon valley and to La Bérarde (about 3 hours from the col).

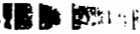
'A very interesting expedition, interfered with by bad weather.'
(Translated verbatim from Dr. Guido Mayer's MS.)

Mont Blanc Group.

MONTS ROUGES DE TRIOLET. TRAVERSE FROM THE HIGHER (3311 m. = 10,889 ft.) TO THE LOWER SUMMIT (3274 m. = 10,742 ft.).

July 29, 1913, Mr. R. Todhunter with Josef Knubel.

'We descended from the higher peak, slightly on the E. or Pré de Bar side of the face, and climbed over the big gendarme shown in H. O. Jones's photo, 'A.J.' xxv. 514.'

For particulars of the ascent of the two peaks by the late H. O. Jones with Laurent Croux and Henri Brocherel respectively cf. 'A.J.' xxv. 357-8 and 512-15. 

MONT GRUETTA (3686 m. = 12,090 ft.). TRAVERSE FROM MONT ROUGE DE GRUETTA (3457 m. = 11,408 ft.).

August 2, 1913, Mr. R. Todhunter with Josef Knubel.

'We traversed Gruetta by way of Mt. Rouge de Gruetta, thus joining up Dr. Claude Wilson's route up Mt. Rouge ('A.J.' xxv. 357 and 506-8) with mine up Gruetta ('A.J.' xxv. 741). The only absolutely new part of this expedition is the descent from Mt. Rouge

to the col between it and Gruetta, but it has the merit of making a sound route which could be followed under any reasonable conditions—eliminating the risk of stones and avalanche in the couloir leading to the col. We also found a much better way down the Frébouzie glacier—Henri Brocherel and I took 8 hours from the top of Gruetta to La Vachey in 1911—by going some way along the arête towards the Aig. de Leschaux and descending rocks in the middle of the glacier, but I do not suppose there is anything new in this.

‘The traverse of Gruetta by our route of this year is, I think, the most attractive expedition within easy reach of Courmayeur. We took 2½ hours from La Vachey to foot of Gruetta glacier, 3 hours (including breakfast) up the glacier and couloir to the col on right of Mt. Rouge, and 3 hours more (all on good rock) to the top of Gruetta, 2 hours 5 minutes from the top to foot of Frébouzie glacier.’

AIGUILLE DU PLAN (3673 m. = 12,047 ft.) BY THE S.E. ARÊTE.
August 18, 1913. Dr. Guido Mayer with Angelo Dibona of Cortina.

‘The Aiguille forms the junction of four arêtes: the S.W. arête connecting it to the Aig. du Midi, the N.E. arête to the Blaitière, the N.W. arête, which carries the little known points called the Aig. des deux Aigles, des Pèlerins, du Peigne, &c., and the S.E. arête, leading to the celebrated Dent du Requin. The Col du Requin separates the Plan from the Requin, and the connecting arête was one of the great remaining problems and had already been the subject of determined attacks (cf. “Mont Blanc Führer des Ö.A.C.,” route 231) [and ‘A.J.’ xxiv. 477. “From the Aiguille du Plan on the S.E. and almost at right angles descends an impracticable ridge to the buttress of the Requin overhanging the Mer de Glace”].

‘From the Dent du Requin the savagely torn arête descends in a gentle curve to a deep gap, the Col du Requin (3304 m., Vallot), in which stands a wild-looking gendarme. Beyond the gap the arête rises in steep slabs to a savage needle, the “Grand Gendarme” (3520 m.).

‘The arête was gained below this rise. We then followed the S. flank a few metres below the crest of the extremely wild and torn arête fairly horizontally to the next gap (c. 3470 m.), from where a steep wall was climbed direct to the top of the “Pain de Sucre” (highest point of the arête, 3607 m.). From here we made a steep descent to the snowy summit ridge of the Aig. du Plan.

‘The details are as follows: After long-continuing snowfall we left Courmayeur on August 17 for the Col du Géant. Starting from here at 4.30 A.M. on August 18 we gained by the usual route the snow-saddle above the Petit Rognon and, following the S. edge of the Glacier d’Envers du Plan, gained through the séracs the upper plateau.

' We crossed this in the direction of the great rise in the S.E. arête near the Col du Requin. We crossed the bergschrund in a little couloir which leads towards the S.E. arête W. of the Col du Requin, but soon runs out in vertical snow-covered rocks. Then up snow and rock-ribs to the steep rock-wall, and at first straight up, then by a shelf, a slab, and a smooth very difficult crack to the arête, attained to the left of a great cornice. Now, contrary to expectation, without great difficulty, up the almost vertical step in the arête ("Grat-abbruch"), which offered, however, good holds, to close to a needle about 10 m. broad and 40 m. high. This we turned on the left on stepped snow-covered rocks, and gained by a dangerous traverse, a little under the serrated crest, a little couloir. Immediately below the head of this bear upwards to the left to the overhanging wall of the last tooth, and descend from the crest of the rib thus reached (very dangerous on account of the fresh snow) into a completely snow-filled gully. This was crossed below the crest of the arête on the S. side (dangerous). Following the crest was rendered impossible, on the easier portions, by cornices. We then climbed in the direction of the step in the arête below the "Pain de Sucre." Up increasingly steep rocks to an almost holdless step in the main arête, which was climbed direct with extreme difficulty. A horizontal bit of arête led to the next step, which was climbed by means of smooth cracks on the N. side. Now, very exposed, to the third step and with extreme difficulty up a steep wall to the less inclined slabs of the E. arête of the "Pain de Sucre" and up this in fine style to its sharp summit (midday—4 hours from the "Einstieg"). As the summit was too sharp for a rest we went back to the last little gap.

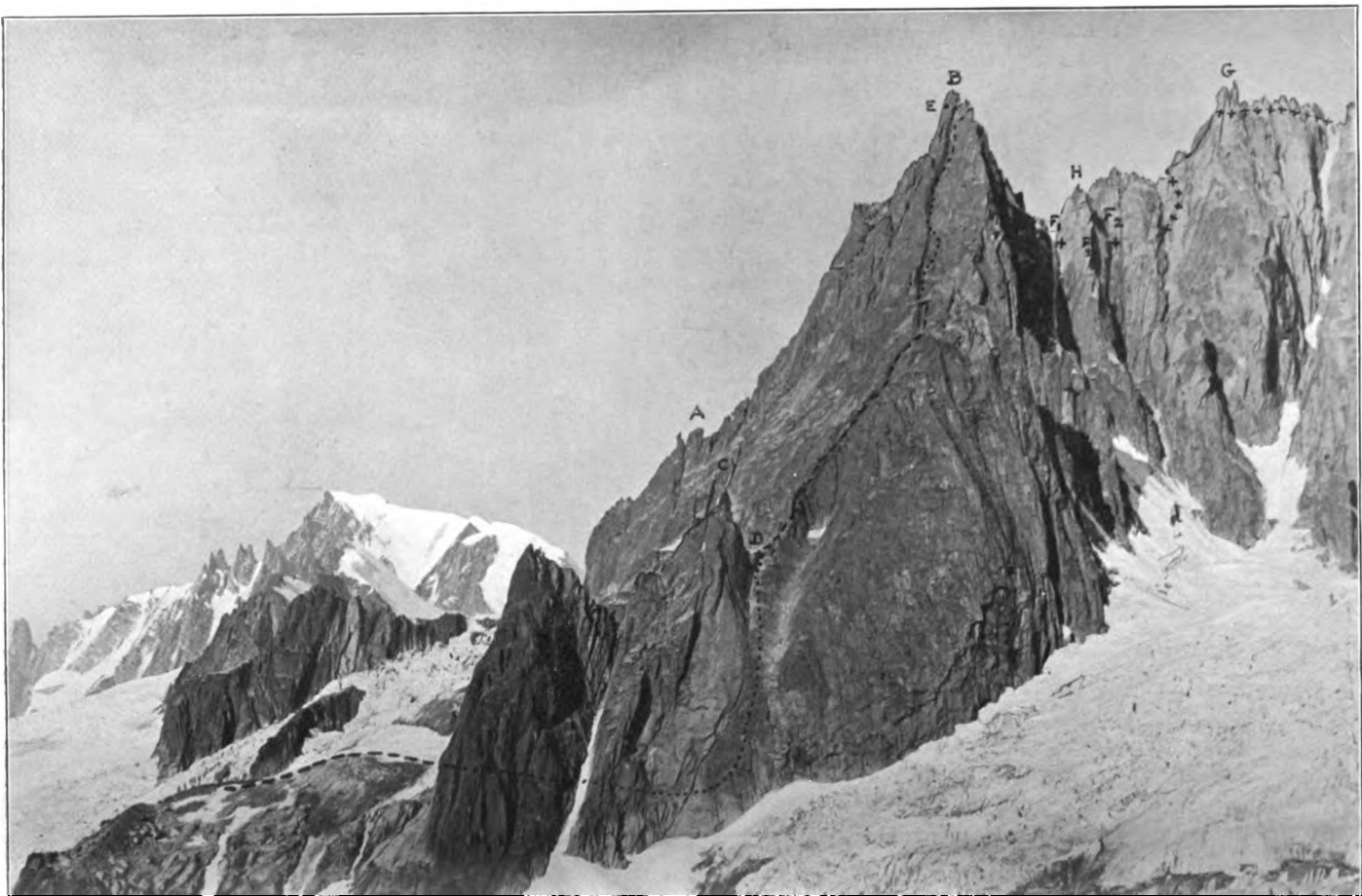
'Descent into the gap between the "Pain de Sucre" and the Aig. du Plan: over steep slabs about 30 m. into a little gap between the peak climbed and the next teeth on the arête. From here S. down an overhanging deep chimney, until the flanks of the teeth appeared passable. Now out to the W. and gain by an easy traverse the snow col before the Aig. du Plan. The then following connecting ridge, consisting of a 40 to 50 m. long snow-crest, joins the S.W. arête of the ordinary route below the summit. As the problem was now solved we descended by the ordinary way ("Mont Blanc Führer," route 223) without proceeding to the summit of the Plan in view of the deep snow on the glacier which we still had to cross, and the séracs of which gave us the greatest trouble.

'(Left the summit ridge 1 P.M. Col du Géant 5 P.M. Courmayeur 8 P.M.)

'Particularly fine and extremely difficult rock climb, rendered more difficult by masses of snow.'

(Translated from Dr. Guido Mayer's MS.)

[The lower part of the route is seen in the fine picture of the Requin.]





Donald McLeish, copyright photo.

Swan Electric Engraving Co., Ltd.

DENT DU REQUIN, FROM GLACIER DU GÉANT.

DENT DU REQUIN (3419 m. = 11,124 ft.) BY THE E.N.E. ARÊTE.*
August 22, 1913. Dr. Guido Mayer, of Vienna, with the Cortina guide, Angelo Dibona.

'The Dent du Requin, well known for its great difficulties, forms the imposing S. pier of the S.E. ridge of the Aig. du Plan, which ridge was ascended four days earlier by the same climbers, as detailed elsewhere.

'At the Dent du Requin the arête forks and forms the narrow S. arête, which hardly emerges out of the 300-400 m. high S. precipices, and the extremely sharp and savage E.N.E. arête which, with apparently inaccessible walls and towers, bears to the N.E., but at the so-called Capucin du Requin (3047 m., Vallot) suddenly bears S.E. and only dips to the valley level when above the Mer de Glace. In the flanks on either side of the S. arête, over the shoulder of which, 30 m. below the summit, the old and present routes lie, two ascents were made up 300 m. high walls under the respective guidance of Blanc le Grefrier of Bonneval and of Simond of Montanvert. (Reports of local guides.) Nearer to the N.E. arête lies the line of descent over the S.E. face of the party of 1907, which was only rendered possible by repeated roping down. ("D.A.Z.," 1907-8, ii. p. 62, and cf. the new Ö.A.C., Mont Blanc guide, routes 236-239.)

'Our route started from the small glacier lying to the E. of the summit and bounded by the first great gendarme (Pt. 2784, Vallot), led up the great, often overhanging, couloir to the gap close to the "Capucin," then at first along the arête itself as far as the yellow towers, and turned the vertical pitches at first on the E. and later on the N. flank.

'Left Courmayeur August 21 for the Col du Géant inn. Left inn 3 A.M. August 22. Descended the Glacier du Géant as far as the lower part of the séracs, about 200 m. below the base of the Petit

* The accompanying copyright picture of the Dent du Requin has been placed at the disposal of the ALPINE JOURNAL by Mr. Donald McLeish of 63 Marquess Road, Canonbury, N., the well-known professional Alpine photographer, to whom the best thanks are due. Dr. Mayer has kindly marked his routes. The following is an explanation of the marks:

A. The three gendarmes to the E. of the descent down the S.E. face made in 1907.

B. Summit of the Dent du Requin.

C. Capucin du Requin.

D. Gap where Dr. Mayer gained the E. arête (this gap was gained from the other side).

E. _{oo}. The finish of the ordinary route which lies up the other side.

F₁, F₂. Col du Requin divided by the great tower H.

G. The great gendarme (3520 m., Vallot) on the S.E. arête of the Aig. du Plan.

--- Visible portion of the ascent of the Requin.

..... Invisible portion of the ascent of the Requin, i.e. the route lies on the S. side up a couloir behind the Capucin.

— Visible portion of the ascent of the S.E. arête of the Plan.

++ + Invisible portion of the same, i.e. the route lay on the other side of the arête.

Rognon, then worked horizontally through the maze of crevasses on to the great névé lying between Pt. 2977 and 2784, which, sweeping past the S. edge of the mountain, joins the Glacier d'Envers du Plan.

'From the N. edge of the little glacier up the great couloir, the ice lining of which is interrupted by three great and several small pitches. Cut up to the first pitch, which turn by its right (proper) wall (extremely difficult). The second pitch is overcome by means of a difficult, shallow, horizontally projecting crack. In front of the third pitch is an overhanging ice-wall which we turned by the right (proper) wall. The pitch was turned on the same flank. Up to here quite exceptionally difficult. Above this the couloir gets wider. It allowed us to follow it towards the W. until below the gap in the N.E. arête, then in firm good rock along broad ledges close to the crest of the main arête as far as the first overhanging pitch. The first great gendarme was turned, somewhat exposed though without particular difficulty, notwithstanding the impassable-looking rocks. Then up the couloir between the first and second tower until about 5 m. below the gap (very exposed), and climb the vertical wall of the second gendarme by means of a narrow crack bearing slightly to the left. Seen from the valley this crack looks like a fine line.

'From the Kanzel or pulpit below the top of this work horizontally to the left to an overhanging cleft, and (always very exposed and extremely difficult, impracticable-looking terrain) diagonally to the left over yellow walls parallel to the crest of the arête. Very narrow oblique cracks, together with vertical, hardly hand's-breadth fissures, permit the advance. Finally, a larger couloir which leads to the gap between the third and fourth towers was attained. Mount with great difficulty and soon bear left into another couloir between the fourth and fifth towers. As the arête above the fourth tower rises up precipitously, the point gained is about 60 m. below the gap. A vertical, in places almost smooth, cleft leads to this gap, from which a difficult traverse to the left leads to the next and last gap in the arête.

'Continue along the N. side of the sharp crest or *à cheval* along the crest itself (iced rocks) to the final tower of the Dent du Requin, where the ordinary route is joined. Now over much easier but dangerously-iced rocks 20 m. to the summit.

'Back by the great chimney and the ordinary way to Courmayeur.

'Exceptionally fine and extremely difficult rock-climb in very firm, apparently impassable, rock. Height of arête 600 to 700 m. About 10 m. before reaching the ordinary route we came across a piton.

'Times:—Started the ascent to the N.E. arête 6 A.M. Summit 2 to 2.30 P.M. At bergschrund 3.30 to 5 P.M. Col du Géant 8.30 to 9 P.M. Mont Fréty 10 P.M.'

(Translated from Dr. Guido Mayer's MS.)

PETITES JORASSES (3658 m. = 11,998 ft.) FROM THE S.W.
August 26, 1913. Dr. Guido Mayer, of Vienna, with the Cortina guide, Angelo Dibona. Left La Vachey 3 A.M. and ascended in the dark the lower part of the Frébouzie glacier, then to the left up the middle, very much crevassed, arm of the glacier (the W. arm leads to the Col des Hirondelles, the E. arm to the Aig. de Leschaux). From the further end of the ice plateau thus reached, sharp right to a very steep slope of névé, about 300 m. high and swept by stones, which was then ascended, six or eight bergschrunds being encountered (very dangerous). Take to the rocks on the right as soon as possible and gain the S. arête of the mountain up a steep wall—about 300 m. rock climbing. The highest point could not be actually ascended owing to an enormous cornice of snow hanging over on the S. face ready to fall. Descent by the same way. Time of ascent about 8 hours. Descent 5 hours. An arduous and dangerous expedition, of no great importance, however.

(Translated from Dr. Guido Mayer's MS.)

Pennines.

COMBINED TRAVERSE OF THE GRAN BECCA DI BLANCIEN (3680 m.) AND SOUTH SUMMIT OF LA SENGLA (3690 m. circa).—On July 30, 1913, Mr. A. Stuart Jenkins, with the guides Jean Gaudin and Jean Rieder, of Evolène, left Prarayé at 1.10 A.M.; ascended the Col di Sassa from the Combe d'Oren (danger of stone-fall!) and thence reached the summit of the Gran Becca di Blancien over loose but fairly easy rock (7.30 A.M.).

The main ridge leading to the Sengla, not especially difficult but thoroughly unsound, was followed, much care being required in climbing numerous shattered gendarmes, or turning them on either the Swiss or Italian sides. The arête, in all probability, had been unclimbed. It is very deceptive, much longer than expected, and compels very slow progress.

On the southern summit of the Sengla (10.30 A.M.), the party renounced to proceed to the Col de la Reuse d'Arolla as had hitherto been its intention. The conditions of the mountain were good, the day quite young, but considering that the so far travelled distance represented barely a half of the total ridge, the now uncertain weather made the risk of a night on the rocks too great.

After an hour's rest, some fairly difficult climbing on the E. face brought us to the arête descending to the Combe d'Oren, climbed for the first time in 1898 by SS. E. Canzio, F. Mondini, and N. Vigna. This route offered no especial difficulty, and leaving it about half-way down to our left we gained the Combe d'Oren by a broad snow couloir (3.30 P.M.).

[The Blancien-Sengla arête is well shown in the illustrations 'Boll. C.A.I.' xxxii. pp. 121 and 131, which also contains the admirable monograph 'In Valpellina' together with the best large-scale (1 : 50,000) map of the district.]

Bregaglia Group.

PIZZO DEL FERRO CENTRALE (Cima della Bondasca), 3293 m. = 10,804 ft., *S. map*; 3390 m., *I. map*; 3290 m., *Lurani*. By the E. arête, reached from the N., Captain E. L. Strutt, with Josef Pollinger, of St. Niklaus, June 11, 1913.—Party left Albigna Club hut at 3.25 A.M., then straight up Albigna glacier to S.W. recesses of said glacier; bergschrund attained 5.40 (25 min. halt). Crossed bergschrund 6.5, easy; exceedingly steep snow couloir, 55°–65°, rises now directly in front, leading to well-marked gap in frontier ridge between Ferro Centrale, E. peak, and Torrione del Ferro [*Guida* = Ferro Orientale, 'Climbers' Guide']. Up this couloir, bearing ever very slightly left to right, N.E. to S.W., exposed to falling stones going high over party's heads from Torrione del Ferro, and falling ice—very serious—from Ferro Centrale, E. peak. Couloir about 1000 ft. high, last 150 ft. of extraordinary steepness; snow admirable gap attained 7.20, two stones superimposed; descent towards S. *appears* impossible. E. arête of Ferro Centrale, E. peak, rises hence like a cliff. Small diagonal crack, firm rock, seams edge of cliff from left to right, S.E. to N.W.; up this crack, excessively difficult, about 80 ft. high, to minute ledge only attained by leader (J. P.) jamming axe repeatedly in crack and then climbing over it—the 'ice-axe grip' (!)—ledge slightly on N. slope of arête then attained. Absolutely smooth and unbroken slabs now lead upwards; first a traverse of 5–6 ft. to right, N.W., to narrow patch of snow and ice doubtfully adhering to slabs [not safe], then straight up this snow for about 150 ft. to broken rocks above—*without* snow ascent of slabs probably impossible—then easy traverse to left, S., to crest of arête. Over narrow and interesting crest, quite easy, to top of E. peak [c. 3270 m., *Guida*], attained 8.55, thence over easy snow gap to summit of W. peak, 9.0 A.M. Descent by ordinary route over Bondasca glacier to Promontogno. Weather and conditions ideal, but base of couloir should be attained at *dawn*.

VARIOUS EXPEDITIONS IN 1913.

Mont Blanc Group.

AIGUILLE DU PLAN (3673 m. = 12,047 ft.). TRAVERSE FROM THE HEAD OF THE GLACIER DES PÈLERINS.—This fine expedition, which has never been described in English, deserves to be better known.

The Chamonix face of the Aiguille du Plan is divided by a N.W. ridge into a W. face rising from the Glacier des Pèlerins and N.E. face rising from the Glacier de Blaitière. The N.E. face was the