HIMALAYAN NOTES.

DR. F. DE'FILIPPI'S HIMALAYAN EXPEDITION.—The following is taken by permission from the 'Geographical Journal' for June:

'Winter in Skardu has been on the whole less severe than might have been expected. Towards the end of December there was a short period of cold days when the thermometer registered + 1·9° Fahr. In January the temperature only fell to + 8·6° Fahr. The air was always absolutely still; snow fell at short intervals, but always in small quantity. The sky, especially in January, was mostly overcast, and the mountain crests were covered with mist and clouds. . . .

'The mild winter, the small amount of snow, and the absence of storms allowed Prof. Dainelli to make extensive geological excursions. During November he explored the basin of Skardu; in December he went up the Shigar valley and its two main branches, the Braldoh and the Basha valleys, and inspected the terminal portions of the Biafo, the Baltoro and the Chogo Lungma glaciers. Finally, in January, he went up the Shyok valley from its termination in the Indus valley to Biandong (Ladakh), and on his way back ascended the Saltoro and the Nubra valleys up to the glaciers. These explorations, and those made later on in Ladakh, will lead to a general discussion and to the modification of some of the prevailing theories about the geology of this district. . . .

'Among other things, these excursions of Dainelli proved how easy it is to travel in these valleys during winter, and encouraged the expedition to make an early start from Skardu. . . . On the 16th, the expedition left Skardu, and, retracing its steps up the Indus valley, arrived on the 22nd at Kargil, situated in the Suru Valley, 8790 feet above sea-level.

'Four stages above Skardu, at Kharmang, the Indus was entirely frozen, and the ice was thick enough to allow horses and men to cross. These natural bridges occur more and more frequently higher up, and they make easy communications between villages of the opposite banks which are entirely isolated in every other season. Dainelli took advantage of this facility to explore a portion of the Indus valley between the confluence of the Suru-Dras and the confluence of the Hanu, which has been rarely, if ever, visited by travellers. . . .

'A halt of ten days was made at Kargil for the usual observations in gravity, magnetism, meteorology and aerology, and for another series of wireless transmission of time-signals. Here the lowest temperature was recorded on February 25 of 4° Fahr., and the heaviest snowfalls were observed, due no doubt to the neighbourhood of the Himalayan range. On March 5 the expedition left Kargil during a heavy snowfall, and after crossing the Nawika La (13,000 feet) and the Fobu La (13,435 feet), arrived on the third day at Lamayuru (Ladakh). Here from the 8th to the 18th another set of geophysical observations and of wireless experiments was made. . . .

'The whole expedition was again collected together at Leh (11,280 feet) on March 22. Dr. De'Filippi had arrived here twenty days in advance, to make the arrangements for transport. The supplies needed to feed men and animals from Leh onwards, and during the summer months in the Karakoram, had been collected in the preceding months. They amount to over fifty tons in weight, to which are to be added the provisions for the Europeans, the scientific equipment and camp baggage.

'It is very fortunate for the present expedition that the old route from Leh to the Karakoram Pass, by the Khardong La, the Nubra valley and the Sasir Pass, which was hardly suited for loaded animals, and was only opened to caravans in July, has now been replaced by a new road, which crosses the Kilas range by the Chang La and then follows the upper Shyok valley to the foot of the Depsang plateau, where it joins the old track. The Chang La, although 18,366 feet high, is very easily crossed during the summer. At present, however, it is covered with deep snow, and a track had to be beaten through it by a large number of yaks and coolies, over which the transport caravans have begun to cross the pass. This is only possible thanks to the very exceptional endurance both of men and of animals. . . . .

'The second group of members of the expedition is expected to reach Leh by the end of April. It is composed of Major H Wood, of the I.T.S., accompanied by two Indian surveyors; Professors Marinelli, geologist and Alessandri, meteorologist, and Mr. J. A. Spranger, topographer. Prof. Alessandri, the Director of the meteorological observatory of Monte Rosa and of the meteorological station of the "Magistrato alle acque" of Venice, has replaced in the expedition Prof. Amerio, who was first enlisted, and has been unable to leave Italy.

'It is hoped that all arrangements will be ready to allow the whole expedition to leave Leh early in March.'

The Bilaphond Pass and the name Saltoro.—Reverting to the note in 'A. J.' xxvii. 107, Mrs. F. Bullock Workman writes as follows: 'In the discussion following my paper on the Siachen or Rose Glacier in the February 1914 number of the "Geographical Journal" on p. 144 Dr. Longstaff says "the name Saltoro Pass has already been accepted by the Survey of India," in support of his application of the name Saltoro to the Bilaphond Pass. In this connection I would add a note by the superintendent of the Trigonometrical Survey sent me in May 1914, by Colonel Burrard, R.E., C.S.I., Surveyor-General of India, which expresses the opinion of the Survey of India on this subject.'

Note on the name Saltoro.—'The name Saltoro is frequently used by Montgomerie and others as the name of a river, and on Indian Atlas Sheet 44A S.W. (1868) and on a map in the "Geographical Journal" of 1864 it is used as the name of a district or tract of country.

It was first applied to a pass by Younghusband. He had been told that there was a pass from the Oprang valley into Baltistan, and, as he thought that it would give access to the Saltoro basin, he decided to call it by this name. It will be remembered that he was baffled in his attempt to cross the pass and so did not discover that he was mistaken in this idea, and that the Siachen Glacier, the main source of the Nubra River, lies between the basins of the Saltoro and the Oprang. From Sir F. E. Younghusband's remarks in the discussion which followed Mrs. Bullock Workman's paper on her visit to the Siachen Glacier ("Geographical Journal," February 1914) he admitted that he called the pass Saltoro because it was the best name that occurred to him. It is clear therefore that if he had known the true lie of the land he would not have used this name.

'In the Survey of India map, published in 1890, to illustrate Sir F. E. Younghusband's explorations, the name Saltoro is given to a pass which is shewn as connecting one of the glaciers of the Saltoro basin with the Oprang Valley, no name is given to the glacier. This part of the map is based on Sir F. E. Younghusband's account, and naturally shows the same imperfect knowledge of the geography. In chart No. XX. of the Sketch of Himalayan Geography and Geology the name Saltoro Pass occurs, but this chart is derived from the above-mentioned map, so that the use of the name in it is not fresh evidence.

'It seems to be clear therefore that the use of this name for a pass depends wholly on Sir F. E. Younghusband's guess. In the Atlas sheet already mentioned (44A S.W.) the several glaciers of the Saltoro basin are named, one of them is called the Bilaphond. When that sheet was drawn it was not known what lay beyond and the topographical detail ceases at the watershed. We now know that at the top of the Bilaphond Glacier there is a pass which gives access to the Siachen. For this pass the name Bilaphond La is proposed by Mrs. Bullock Workman and as the name Bilaphond seems well established, it is quite appropriate that the pass should be called after it.

'The pass which Sir F. E. Younghusband attempted to cross must be on the other side of the Siachen Glacier and must lead over the main watershed, which separates the Nubra from the Oprang—India from Turkistan.

'Henceforward it would seem advisable to discontinue the use of the name Saltoro for a pass, and use it for the river only; to adopt the name Bilaphond La for the pass connecting the glacier of that name with one of the branches of the Siachen; and to await the definite discovery of a pass from the Siachen to the Oprang before considering what to call it.

G. P. Lenox Conyngham.'

[The identical note appears in the 'Geographical Journal' for June which adds that it 'has been forwarded to us by Colonel Burrard who expresses his concurrence with the views therein expressed.']

CLIMBING IN THE KANGRA DISTRICT, HIMALAYA. The following climbs have been carried out, besides others of lesser interest, by Lieut. H. D. Minchinton, 1st (K.G.O.) Goorkha Rifles, stationed at Dharmsala, Punjab.

'The district I call the Kangra Himalaya, of which Major Bruce's "Twenty Years in the Himalaya" gives an excellent description in the Dharmsala chapter. The district is like Major Bruce's Kaghan Valley, but only a one-sided valley, so to speak—the great Kangra wall, the S. side being the Kangra Valley. As a training ground it is splendid, but there is no glacier work close at hand. The snow work in May and June (the before-rains climbing period) requires much care.'

1908.

SLAB PEAK. First ascent. June 14.—About 15,600 ft. Bivouac at 10,000 ft. An easy snow climb, *via* Andrea Pass (15,200); descent of face by rock-ribs and snow couloirs in good condition; very good rock, moderate difficulty. Alone.

NEW PASS. First ascent and crossing. September 24.—About 15,450 ft.; with Riflemen Rabia Thapa and Goria Gurung. Bivouac 11,000 ft.; easy rocks, except a few slabs here and there; ascent from S. descent on N. side; one hard slab, then névé; return *via* Andrea Pass.

TWO GUN PEAK, E. SUMMIT. First ascent. October 25.—About 16,000 ft., with Riflemen Rabia and Goria. Bivouac 12,000 ft. before climb, 11,000 after climb. A fine peak resembling Aiguille de la Za, but face an impossible precipice of some 6000 ft. almost sheer. *Via* Andrea Pass to rock-rib running N. from peak to névé behind peak; up this, unroped, to summit, by a steep slanting gallery below crest of rib; not difficult; descent, roped, required much care.

ZWISCHENJOCHGRAT. First ascent. November 22.—A rock-rib, about 15,200 ft., separating the Andrea Pass into two little passes; crossed W. pass to névé behind, to strike bottom of rib; bivouac 11,000 ft., very cold, with Lieut. G. S. W. St. George. The hardest rock climb I have ever led up, only about 400 ft., but took us two hours. One traverse defeated second man, and I had to climb a difficult iced chimney and make a dangerous descent in order to extricate him. We suffered from cold and verglas, owing to lateness of season. Benighted half-way between pass and bivouac, but got in at 1 A.M.

1909.

THE MON. First ascent. May 8.—About 16,200 ft. The main and highest summit of the climb mentioned in Major Bruce's 'Twenty Years in the Himalaya,' p. 74. Bivouac 11,000 ft., with Riflemen Rabia Thapa, Juthia Thapa, and Harkalal Limbu. A long snow ascent, first half over easy avalanche débris, second half steep, bad snow on old snow, or rock slabs, which, with snow on them for last two hours of ascent, was very nasty. Descended to

névé on N. slopes, cut over a new gap in ridge (Juthia Pass) slightly E. of Andrea Pass. Just before getting to it last man slipped on very steep traverse in bad snow and pulled third man down, but Juthia and self managed to hold. 3000 ft. glissade down steep couloir nearly to bivouac.

SLAB PEAK by E. arête, descent by S.W. arête and face. First traverse. May 30.—Bivouac 11,000 ft., with same three Riflemen. To Andrea Pass, whence E. arête of peak was followed to its summit; a good climb, with one very difficult pitch. Rabia had to change places with me on a steep slab and then lead (bootless) up a steep but short face—then up a chimney (still bootless, though it had ice on it) where he could make himself firm to assist rest of party. As last man on descent I used doubled rope on three occasions, though it would have been unnecessary for a good rock-climber.

1910.

TWO GUN PEAK, W. SUMMIT. First ascent. May 29.—16,000 ft. Bivouac 11,000 ft. with Hastbir Rana and Goria Gurung. Same route as for E. summit; from this into gap and a scramble off second man's head on to W. summit, a huge block poised impressively over the tremendous face precipice. On reaching névé behind peak again, we crossed a new gap (Goria Pass) W. of New Pass, equal height, and glissaded for 2000 ft. Difficult exit from couloir *via* waterfall and unstable snow bridge.

THE MON, S. SUMMIT. First ascent. June 12.—About 15,000 ft., by S.E. ridge; descent by S.W. ridge and face. Bivouac 11,000 ft. with Hastbir. Began by 1000 foot descent and up an equal distance to strike foot of ridge. Last 2000 ft. very good rock climb, often difficult when Hastbir took lead. Had to traverse some 200 ft. up ridge connecting this and main summit before we could start down S.W. face by bad snow on ice and on slabs. After 1000 ft. got on to a good ridge and thence into a good couloir, and so down.

1911.

TWO GUN PEAK, BOTH SUMMITS. Bivouac 11,000 ft. with Captain Holderness, Hastbir and Rabia; *via* Andrea Pass to base of rock-rib, then up its crest, instead of by gallery as in two previous ascents, to summit. Return by gallery route to névé and Andrea Pass. No difficulty. Gallery required usual care.

1913.

HASTBIR HUMP. First traverse. May 11.—First ascent by me in October 1910. 15,500 ft. With Harkalal Limbu and Jaising Gurung. Up Andrea Pass, then E. along snow slope, rock and snow arête to summit. A short practice climb, but, as it was snowing and blowing hard, gave almost more practice than we wanted. Descended short arête to Juthia Pass and down steep couloir, first bad snow, then better, to bivouac and home; over 9000 ft. up and same down in 13½ hrs.

'S' Pass Peak. First ascent. June 3.—16,200 ft. Lies above a pass known locally as 'S' pass, from its being at head of an 'S'-shaped patch of névé. Base camp at 11,000 ft. With Jaising over Andrea Pass, and over névé, fresh snow, to ridge running E. from peak; up this to summit; little ice on gentle slabs; thence down W. ridge; some nice bits of rock work to 'S' pass. Back by névé and Andrea Pass to camp.

Dharmsala Matterhorn. First ascent. June 6.—About 16,800 ft. Five previous attempts, in two of which I took part. Two are related in Major Bruce's book, p. 76 &c. From base camp with Jaising, Hastbir, and one Gaddi. Across Andrea Pass to bivouac, 13,500 ft., behind peak (12 hours' great exertion in soft snow, heavy work owing to late start and bad weather). Next day with Jaising up peak. Storm delayed start; snow soft; final arête, of snow in bad condition, required care. Ten hours from bivouac to top and back. Third day back to base camp, 8 hours in soft snow.

NEW ZEALAND NOTES.

The Routes up Mt. Cook.—Reverting to the route marked 'Teichelmann' on the illustration opposite p. 228 in the last number, the following letter has now been received from the Rev. H. E. Newton, one of the party. This shows that his party did not follow the Linda route.

To the Editor of 'The Alpine Journal.'

Dear Sir,—With regard to the note on the photograph of Mt. Cook published in the last number of the Journal, our ascent was made in 1905, not 1906 (p. 227), and the route we followed did not touch the Linda Glacier at all. We followed Zurbriggen's route in the main, though, instead of starting at the foot of the rock ridge as he did * and following it throughout, we bore to the left and turned up below the first (small) hot plate, and after a little difficulty at the first schrund went up the snow, bearing slightly to our right, till we got on to the rocks, up the face of which we climbed till we struck the crest about the level of the 'Note on the Photograph,' p. 227, which is the lowest part of that ridge shown in the photograph facing page 228. From there we kept closely to the crest; in our descent, after a night out a little above where we joined the crest, we went straight down the snow, which was in very good condition, better than I ever saw it or recent photos show.

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* Fitzgerald, *The New Zealand Alps*, pp. 323–4. Zurbriggen is mistaken in calling this 'Green's route.' p. 325.