wish to have. Luckily I had two good orderlies to assist my wife.

This small playground has still more than sufficient virgin summits, and other routes up the climbed ones, to afford week-end scrambles for many a year to come.

NOTES ON MR. MINCHINTON'S ILLUSTRATIONS.

1. The 1913 bivouac at 13,500 feet, behind the Dharmsala Matterhorn, seen in background to right.
2. The summit of the Dharmsala Matterhorn (1913).
3. A training party above Lakha.
4. The 'Mon' from ridge of Slab Peak. The dotted line in centre is the line of ascent 1909; to left is line of descent same day, and × the place of our slip. The dotted line to the right is the line of descent, in 1910, from S. summit, reached from the other side—a difficult rock climb.
5. A training party, with Lieutenant Minchinton, Major (now Lt.-Colonel and C.I.E.) E. O. Money, and Captain Johnson—all of 1st K.G.O. Goorkha Rifles, Dharmsala, 1908.
6. 'Beer at the bivouac,' 1909, after the first ascent of the 'Mon' seen in the background. The summit (not seen in the picture) is 5000 ft. above Lakha, the bivouac place. The dotted line is the line of the 1909 ascent. The 1910 ascent was by the arête seen in profile on the right, the descent being made by the 1909 route.
7. Dhaoli Dhar range seen from Dharmsala cantonments. The summits climbed and named are marked.
8. Looking W. from about 13,000 ft. on the 'Mon' (1909).

The ascent of Slab Peak was made in 1909 by the ridge from the Andrea Pass; in 1908 from the opposite side; the descents in each case, and an attempted ascent in 1910, by various ridges on the face of the peak.

THE NORTH FACE OF PIZ QUALIVO *

BY E. L. STRUTT.

ON June 26, 1914, I left the Allievi Club hut accompanied by Josef Pollinger, of St. Niklaus. It may here be incidentally remarked that this hut is now restored to its pristine state of cleanli-

* The Pizzo del Ferro Orientale of Lurani, the *Guida*, and the Government maps; 3221 m., S. map; 3207 m., I. map; 3198 m. = 10,493 ft., Lurani—the most likely height.

ness and comfort, although the stove still justifies the sarcastic remarks in the visitors' book, dated 1905. At 4.20 A.M., the hour of departure, the morning was intensely cold, with, at first, a furious wind from the N.; we walked rapidly up to the Forcella di Zocca and attained that pass at 5.0. A very short halt was made to put on the rope and discard clothing which the now obviously perfect day would render superfluous. Our plans were chaotic, but glissading down to the surface of the Albigna glacier we bore W. till almost under the Torrione del Ferro * (3238 m., *Lurani*; 3174 m., *S. map*). Certain designs in the minds of the party were at once dissipated by one glance at that peak and its neighbours. After the dreadful weather of the preceding fortnight the quantity of snow everywhere was indeed enormous; every ridge and gully was heaped and choked with it; the Ago di Sciora was a snow needle, the Punta Pioda a miniature Dent Blanche; even the great E. precipice of the Sciora di dentro resembled nothing save the N. face of the Lyskamm in a hot late summer. All this snow, however, after two fine days, was in admirable condition, hard frozen, and of rock-like consistency. Josef at once eagerly agreed to my proposal to try Piz Qualivo direct up its virgin N. face, so, retracing our steps to the E., we embarked on the ascent immediately under its W. or highest point, just about the spot marked 2732 m. on the Siegfried map. We crossed the large bergschrund without the slightest difficulty and step-cutting commenced at once. At first the snow slope was of no great steepness, some 45°, but after surmounting perhaps 50 ft. it assumed a formidable angle. I measured it as 60°–65°, and such it must have averaged right up to the top. We were soon obliged to bear ever very slightly to the left, S.E., to avoid some small fast-moving missiles which fell from the great overhanging corniche above—perhaps a foretaste of what was to occur to one of us later in the year in France (!); this risk was, however, infinitesimal, and after a few steps ceased altogether. My companion was in his very finest form, and we advanced without check save where it was necessary to cross the deep-cut avalanche grooves. There were five or six of these altogether, and their banks were of the most extraordinary steepness, handholds being an absolute necessity. Once, much higher up, we struck a precipitous snowy rib to our left, E., but the ominous ring of the axe on solid rock slabs at a depth of two or three inches drove us back on to the face, and there we continued till right under the great gendarme forming the central point or peak of the mountain. This rocky point being obviously impregnable from where we stood, we traversed diagonally to the left, E., and got on to the aforementioned snowy rib, now very sharp, just where it abutted against the summit ridge, E. of the gendarme. The corniche or snow wall was here only some 10–12 ft. high, and Josef soon sliced off a platform in the crest; glancing

* The Ferro Orientale of the *Climbers' Guide*.

round at me for the first time, he invited me to climb on to his shoulders; the situation was a most airy one, but a severe struggle quickly landed me on the summit ridge 10 ft. to the E. of the gendarme, and my companion rapidly followed by means of the rope. It was 7.42 A.M. only [the summit is about 40 ft. higher and 10 minutes distant from this point], and as the height of the N. face is measured as 490 m. on the map, some idea may be gained of the wonderful—probably unrivalled—skill displayed by my old friend in cutting up this formidable wall in just over two hours. We were soon joined by Major Lindsell and his guides, who from the same starting-point had made the ascent by the E. arête, and while they proceeded to the summit, on which I had already set foot on two occasions, Josef and I amused ourselves by scaling the gendarme; there is, however, an easy crack to the N.W. by which the tooth can be climbed in two minutes without the formation of the human pyramid by which we reached the top.* Soon after 9 A.M., the entire party slid and glissaded down the easy S. face of the peak into the Val Ferro, by which long and steep glen, without, to my secret gratification, losing my way, we got down in sweltering heat to San Martino and thence to the ever-charming Masino Bagni.

In the conditions described above I cannot too highly recommend this ascent, and I am sure that any member of the Club led by a first-class iceman will thoroughly agree with me. It must, however, be remembered that the expedition is only feasible in a *snowy June*. Later in the year the entire N. face becomes a gaunt and icy slope of bare rock slabs of the most evil and probably impossible description.

I should also like to recommend, as short climbs suitable for seasons such as the last three, the ascents of the Punta Milano and Punta Fiorelli. The former is an enormous gendarme, perhaps 300 ft. high, situated in the Oro pass, due W. of the Baths. The pass is reached in three hours or less from Masino, and thence an interesting and exposed scramble of 30–45 minutes up the tooth's S. arête brings you to the top.† Our ascent of June 23 was the third.

The Punta Fiorelli,‡ almost S. of the Baths, is very imposing from many aspects; it is an easy scramble, airy in its upper part, of 3½ hours from Masino. The S.W. arête is so far the only route. Our ascent was only the third or fourth.

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* See *A.J.* xxv. 744.

† For a very highly gilded description of the ascent, see *Guida*, pp. 110–11, with an (incorrectly) marked photograph.

‡ For a still more coloured account, see *Guida*, pp. 126–7. This description is also topographically inaccurate. From either the Merdarola or Ligoncio glens you should attain the deep gap S.W. of the peak and thence follow the watershed to the top.