was spent ascending this face by rocks, generally good, and by snow-ice arêtes, generally bad. The face is very steep ; just below the snowcap of the summit the rock is as nearly as possible vertical for over 1000 ft., falling stones flew far over the heads of the party.

At 5 P.M. a good gîte on a well-overhung ledge was found, height just 13,000 ft. Even here the after eddy from the wind produced by the great avalanches down the couloir just ahead reached the party, almost carried away their hats, and sprinkled them with chilly snow-dust.

Leaving the gîte at 4.45 A.M. on 16th, the couloir was descended into and crossed, nothing now falling. Progress directly upwards being impossible on account of the vertical wall, the route followed led slanting to N. along its base, the nature of the climbing only permitting one man to move at a time. About 9 o'clock 14,000 ft. was reached. Here the narrow crack across the slabs vanished in the face. It was just possible to descend from here into a great ice couloir. On the far side of this could be seen the comparatively easy angled edge of the icecap of the summit, and the ice-chimneys leading up to this, though very steep, were evidently possible. The party watched, debated the matter for an hour—and then turned back. The almost incessant falls of snow, ice, and stones down the couloir rendered the risk too great. Owing to the great care required to be taken on the descent, the pace was very slow and the glacier was not regained till 7.45 P.M. The very difficult icefall was successfully descended without lanterns—a splendid moon.

The pull of 1300 ft. up to the Gulba col was not done fast, as the party were all decidedly tired. It was gained at 2.20 to 2.30 by the various units. Leaving the col at 2.35, tent was regained in twenty-five minutes at 3 A.M. on the morning of the 17th.

VARIOUS EXPEDITIONS IN 1913.

Mont Blanc Group.

L'INNOMINATA (3717 m. = 12,192 ft.), BY THE W. FACE.—On Wednesday, July 15, 1913, Messrs. S. L. Courtauld and E. G. Oliver with Adolf Aufdenblatten left the Gamba Hut at 4 A.M., following the ordinary route up the Brouillard Glacier towards the Colde Fresnay.

When almost opposite the top of the Innominata they turned to the right and crossed without much difficulty two bergschrunds, breakfasting on some rocks on the face of the peak just above the second bergschrund (3½ hrs. from the hut).

From here the ascent proceeded directly up the steep face which was at first partly rock and partly snow. Towards the top there was ice covered with loose snow and the ascent finished with about thirty steps in ice, the party arriving directly on the summit (5 hrs. from the hut, 1¼ hr. from the breakfast place).

Owing to fog and snowstorm the descent was made by the same route and occupied three hours to the hut. The times include halts.

This route is not particularly difficult, though in a fine summer there would probably be more ice and the bergschrunds might be troublesome. It is indicated in the new O.A.C. Mont Blanc Führer, page 69, route 184, but the previous ascent seems to have started from near the Col de Fresnay.

[The face is well shown in the splendid monograph 'Il versante italiano del M. Bianco' (Boll. xxxv. 184) by the brothers Gugliermina, F. Mondini and E. Canzio].

Pennines.

DENT D'HÉRENS (4180 m. = 13,715 ft.)—TRAVERSE; up W. arête, down S. face direct from summit by rock ribs and snow to Col des Grandes Murailles, descent to Glacier du Mont Tabor and Breuil. Herren V. von Leyden and R. Richter with Peter Almer of Grindelwald and Antoine Maquignaz of Val Tournanche, August 17, 1913.

'The W. arête was in fairly good condition, although we found it glazed in some places, and a party of eleven guideless Italians whom we met at the Aosta Club hut had tried it in vain the day before. The snow on the S. face was very bad, and we were very glad to make use of the spare rope at two places. We just succeeded in getting through the upper séracs of the glacier du Mont Tabor before dark. Two passages were decidedly dangerous; one a longish traverse under some séracs [rather like the one on the Nantillons glacier] and the other one [lower down] a narrow couloir between some rocks on one side and a steep ice-wall on the other, a likely place for falling stones, also threatened by some very unpleasant-looking séracs high up. We met with ice at the top of the couloir, but soon got on to snow again. The *actual* danger was not great, I believe, as the sun had gone down some time before and the night was cold. In fact we neither heard nor saw any ice or snow coming down. Almer afterwards said that it would be possible to avoid the dangerous places by keeping well to the right, W., on the upper plateau. He is probably right. We came down much further to the left, E., rather in the middle of the glacier. After passing through the upper séracs we were brought to a halt by the fact that the lower part of the glacier was cut off and dropped down in several (5) terraces with almost perpendicular walls. It was very dark by then—the moon not yet risen—and we made use of the spare rope again for the descent of each of the five walls. When re-examining the place next day on the way to the Théodule, we were unable to fix on a better place for the descent through the lower séracs, than the one chosen the day before.

'As the traverse of the Dent d'Hérens by this route appears to be very rarely accomplished, I venture to send you the above details.'

VICTOR VON LEYDEN.