

NEW EXPEDITIONS IN 1914.

Bernese Oberland.

METTENBERG (3107 m. = 10,194 ft.) **BY THE W. ARÊTE.**—On July 11, 1914, J. H. Wicks, W. A. Wills, E. H. F. Bradby, and C. Wilson, with Henri Rey, ascended the Mettenberg by the W. arête. Having first tried, and failed, to force a way up the great limestone cliff above 'Hohthurnen,' they rounded the end of the W. arête, and scrambled up the ravine on its S. side to a chamois-tracked col on its crest at the point where limestone and granite meet. Here they crossed the ridge and, ascending on its N. side, regained the arête where it turns in a southerly direction towards the summit. The descent was made by the S.E. arête and W. face. This obvious route appears to be new, and offers a pleasant traverse in either direction.

GWÄCHTEN (3169 m. = 10,397 ft.) **BY THE N. FACE.**—On July 21, 1914, J. H. Wicks, E. H. F. Bradby, and C. Wilson (having been prevented by bad weather from starting early for a longer expedition) left the Gleckstein about 9 A.M. and traversed the Gwächten to the Bäregg, ascending from the middle plateau of the Ober Grindelwald Glacier, straight up the N. face to the summit. The E. branch of the Wechsel Glacier, which forms the chief feature of the climb, is seamed by enormous crevasses which, later in the year, might prove impassable. The descent to the Schwarzegg path was made by the glen between the Gwächten and Klein Schreckhorn.

[Sir Felix Schuster's party in 1880 descended the E. branch of the Wechsel Glacier direct to the Ober Grindelwald Glacier. Cf. Mr. Coolidge's 'The Bernese Oberland,' Vol. II. p. 76 (1904).]

EIGER ROTSTOCK (2668 m. = 8754 ft.) **BY THE S. FACE and W. ARÊTE.**—On July 14, 1914, C. Wilson, with H. Rey, ascended this rock by the S. face and W. arête, reaching the arête near its western end. As no record of this route is found, it may be new. The rocks of the S. face are so steep and smooth that the rope becomes a menace rather than a security, and neither climber would care to repeat the scramble. Once on the ridge the climb is interesting, up two rather difficult pitches.

ALPINE NOTES.

'BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE.' VOL. I. THE WESTERN ALPS.—Copies of the new edition (1898) of this work can be obtained from all booksellers, or from Messrs. Stanford, 12 Long Acre, W.C. Price 12s. net.