

easy. As it was now 17.00, and only about an hour's daylight remained, although we estimated our height as only about 150 ft. below the summit, it was considered unjustifiable to proceed farther, and we reluctantly started the descent. This was effected by approximately the same route as used in the ascent by the grateful aid of a nearly full moon which shortly rose above the crags on our left. Owing to the exigencies of the steep icy slopes, the rope was not discarded until the Monk's Ravine was again reached. In this we were greeted by a hurricane of wind. After becoming involved in some thorn bushes we finally regained camp at 02.50 on the 14th inst., the expedition having lasted 18 hrs., including halts of approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ hr. From the time of leaving the Monk's Ravine during the ascent the slopes where they were not snow-covered were hard frozen, and we were subjected for a considerable part of the day to a very cold wind; apart from this the weather was very fine. Many hours of valuable time were, of course, lost in working out the best route.

We both are of the opinion that owing to the continuous care needed for many consecutive hours on the exceedingly steep slopes, especially during the descent, the expedition under the circumstances in which we undertook it must be ranked as a really difficult one. Probably the conditions were exceptionally bad; snow had fallen on the mountain two days previously. It has been suggested that the above record may be desirable, although we were unsuccessful in that we failed to reach the summit. It is certain that the climb afforded a day of magnificent mountaineering experience.

O. K. WILLIAMSON.

ALPINE NOTES.

| THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY : | Date of Election |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Howard, Eliot | 1867 |
| Mortimer, Alexander | 1867 |
| Michell, Colonel J. W. A. | 1882 |
| Spence, W. M. | 1891 |
| Fletcher, Colonel P. | 1892 |
| Barran, Alfred | 1897 |
| Minchinton, Major H. D. | 1909 |
| Bicknell, R. P. | 1911 |
| Minor, P. S. | 1911 |
| Lamb, R. | 1917 |

'BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE,' THE WESTERN ALPS.—The edition (1898) by Mr. Coolidge covers the Maritimes, Graians, Dauphiné, Mt. Blanc group, and Pennines to the Simplon. With maps of each district, 1 : 250,000, and a general map. Price 10s., or 10s. 4d. post free. Obtainable from any bookseller or the Assistant Secretary.

'BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE,' THE CENTRAL ALPS. Part I.—The edition (1907) by Rev. A. V. Valentine-Richards covers Switzerland and N. of the Rhone and the Rhine. With nine maps, 1 : 250,000, and a general map. Price 5s., or 5s. 4d. post free, or unbound 2s. 6d., or 2s. 10d. post free. Obtainable as above.

'BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE,' THE CENTRAL ALPS. Part II.—The edition (1911) by Rev. G. Broke covers the Alpine regions S. and E. of the Rhone and Rhine as far as the Adige, *i.e.* the Lepontine, Grisons, Rhaetian (including Bernina), Ortler and Adamello groups. With nine maps, 1 : 250,000, and a general map. Price 5s., or 5s. 4d. post free, or unbound 2s. 6d., or 2s. 10d. post free. Obtainable as above.

'GUIDES DES ALPES VALAISANNES.'—

Vol. I. Col Ferret to Col de Collon, by M. Kurz, 10s.

Vol. II. Col de Collon to Col Théodule, by Dr. Dübi, 9s.

Vol. III. Col Théodule to Weisstor, by Dr. Dübi, 8s.

Vol. IV. Col Simplon to Furka, by M. Kurz, 8s.

At Stanford's, Long Acre, W.C. 2.

'GUIDE VALLOT.' Vol. I. LES AIGUILLES DE CHAMONIX.—Par J. de Lépiney, E. de Gigord and Dr. A. Migot, with 39 route-marked illustrations and 2 outline maps. Paris : Fischbacher, 33 rue de Seine. 1925. 20 fr.

This admirable Climbers' Guide is a complete monograph of the Aiguilles and may be said to be a much enlarged and more elaborate 'Kurz' or 'Mont Blanc Führer.'

'GUIDE VALLOT.' Vol. II.—L'Aiguille Verte, par Henry de Ségogne, E. de Gigord, J. de Lépiney, J. A. Morin, with 34 route-marked illustrations and 5 maps. Paris : Fischbacher, 33 rue de Seine. 1926. 25 fr.

A CLIMBER'S GUIDE TO THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS OF CANADA.—By Howard Palmer and J. Monroe Thorington, published for the American A.C. by the Knickerbocker Press, N.Y., 1921. This very useful summary, with several maps, of what has been done in the Rockies to 1921, can be obtained from the Assistant Secretary, 23 Savile Row, price 7s. 6d.

THE 'CLUBFÜHRER DURCH DIE BÜNDNERALPEN.'—Vol. IV., covering the Bregaglia and the Disgrazia group, by H. Rütter, with the assistance of Christian Klucker, can be obtained from Sauerländer and Co., Aarau, Switzerland.

LES ALPES DE SAVOIE.—Vol. VI., Part I., by Commandant Emile Gaillard, M.C. (Dardel, Chambéry, 27 fr. 50 post free), covering the

groups Trélatête, Bionnassay-Goùter, M. Blanc, Brouillard-Pétéret, and Maudit-Tour Ronde, with skeleton maps of each group and several marked sketches, has just appeared. It follows generally the plan of the Kurz guide, and includes the full information of all recent climbs.

Part II., covering the groups of the Chamonix Aiguilles and the groups of the Grandes Jorasses and the Talèfre, will appear very shortly and can be subscribed for at 22 fr. 50 post free.

The full series is as follows :

- Vol. I. Le Massif entre l'Arc et l'Isère (new edition).
 Part I. N. of Col de la Vanoise, 27 fr. 50 post free.
 Part II. S. of Col de la Vanoise, 22 fr. 50 post free.
- Vol. II. La frontière entre la Seigne et le Thabor, 22 fr. 50 post free.
- Vol. III. Les Massifs entre la Savoie et le Dauphiné, 24 fr. 50 post free.
- Vol. IV. Les Massifs de Beaufortin et Les Bauges, 27 fr. 50 post free.
- Vol. V. Les Massifs entre le Lac d'Annecy et le Léman (to appear in 1927).
- Vol. VI. Le Massif du M. Blanc.
 Parts I. & II. as above.

The volume of Commandant Gaillard's 'Les Alpes du Dauphiné,' Part II., covering the Massifs of the Meije and Ecrins, is announced for 1927 and can be subscribed for later.

These guides have full sets of skeleton maps and many route-marked sketches, so that the French Alps are now very well off for guidebooks.

Commandant Gaillard will issue early in 1927 a new coloured map of the M. Blanc group, scale 1:50,000, with all the most recent nomenclature. See 'Reviews.'

THE JOURNAL OF DE SAUSSURE covering his sojourn at Chamonix in July and August 1787, with an introduction and many notes on little-known details by Commandant Gaillard and Mr. Henry F. Montagnier, and heliogravures, was published recently, with the authorization of the family. It shows his preoccupations and hopes and finally his unmixed joy at the success.

Subscriptions can be sent direct to Commandant Gaillard, M.C., Barberaz, Savoie, France. Edition de Luxe, 4to, 150 fr., ordinary 4to, 60 fr., foreign postage, 5 fr.

MONT BLANC GROUP.—A query to the effect of 'Where are les jeunes Britanniques?' was made in the May number of the JOURNAL.

The performances of several young British parties during the past and generally so universally bad summer speak for themselves. They recall the classical days of 1881-1912.

We understand that the AIGUILLE DU ROC, Mummery's 'Crag on the Grépon,' was climbed for the first time, last August, by an American lady led by Armand Charlet. The expedition was repeated, a few days later, by a French G.H.M. party together with two English ladies. In each case the ascent was from the Mer de Glace and is reported to have been very difficult.

The N.W. slope of the COL MAUDIT has also been ascended by a French party. The 'pass' does not yet appear to have been accomplished *en col*.

The monument to PIERRE GASPARD, conqueror of the Meije, was duly inaugurated at St. Christophe-en-Oisans on July 14 last. It consists of a handsome granite slab, shaped like the outline of the Meije, and a bronze model of the ice-axe carried by Gaspard on the ascent. The inscription reads as follows:—

PIERRE GASPARD, 1834-1915.

'A la Mémoire du Vainqueur de la Meije, 16 août 1877, le Club Alpin Français (Section de l'Isère) avec le concours de la Société des Touristes du Dauphiné, d'alpinistes français et de membres de l'Alpine Club.'

1927. R.I.P.

The Jubilee of the first ascent of LA MEIJE was celebrated subsequently by a banquet at La Béarde. MM. Berge, Président d'Honneur du C.A.F., Auscher, Gatine, Lory, Vallot, Blanchard, Legat and Gustave Bérenger were among the hundred or more distinguished members, ladies and gentlemen, of the C.A.F. who attended. Dévouassoud, son of Pierre Gaspard, was among the guests. The solitary representative of the A.C. at La Béarde was made a guest of honour and takes this occasion to renew his warm thanks to his kind hosts for their, almost too great, hospitality.

Later again in the day, some 50 members and guides slept in and inaugurated the new Écrins or VALLON CLUB HUT. Nearly 40 others slept in the old Carrelet (!), while some 30 spent the night in the PILATE or Gioberney Refuge. On July 15, with perfect weather, seven parties traversed the Pointe des Écrins, while the Pic Coolidge had, it is stated, some 100 persons on or about it. The W. peak of the Ailefroide was also climbed *via* the Brèche des Frères Chamois. The 'times' appear, not unnaturally, to have been exceedingly slow!

A new Chalet Hôtel has been opened at LA CHAPELLE-EN-VALGAUDEMAR. It is well spoken of and La Chapelle is now accessible (summer of 1927) by motor charabanc, three times a week, from Grenoble, in 3½ hours or less.

BREITHORN GEMELLI.—With reference to a note on these points in 'A.J.' 39, 153, we are courteously informed by Signor Ferreri, Editor of the *Rivista Mensile*, that the name occurs in the 'Bolletino' of 1886, as also in Signori Bobba's and Vaccarone's *Guida delle Alpi Occidentali*, published in 1896. I have also lately received the latest revision of the Siegfried map sheet, No. 535, on which the name *Breithornzwillinge* is given to the point 4148 m. There is consequently nothing 'new' in the name and my apologies are due to the Editor of 'R.M.' and to Signor E. Barisone, the writer of the article in question.—E. L. S.

Nothing appears to be settled as to the site for the projected Club Hut for MONT POURRI. Les Brévières and Peisey are still the nearest (decent !) starting-points for this splendid peak (8-10 hrs.).

A large S.A.C. hut, called PIERRE BORDIER, has been constructed close to the Klein Bigerhorn at a height of 2980 m. on the right bank of the Ried glacier. The hut, which is about 6 hours distant from St. Niklaus, should prove very useful for the Balfrinhorn, Ulrichshorn and all the Nadelgrat peaks. This and the Topalihütte will, it is to be hoped, enormously increase the popularity of St. Niklaus, where superior accommodation at half the prices prevalent further south is available, but where the distances to the higher peaks have, hitherto, proved almost prohibitive.

The death is announced, at the age of 80, of Father ALJAŽ, the mountaineer-musician priest, who was one of the fathers of Alpine climbing in Slovenia and the Julian Alps.

With reference to the N. face of the TRIGLAV, we are given particulars, through the courtesy of Mrs. Copeland, of an attempt, this summer, to force a new route up this face further to the E. than the original¹ 'Austrian' route. A party consisting of M. Držaj and Madame Pibernik of Špik fame ('A.J.' 39, 138-41) had reached a point about one-third of the way up the wall, when a piton gave way and M. Držaj, the leader, fell some 45 m., the rope then fortunately hitching without a break. Madame Pibernik, although much injured by the shock, contrived to lower the partly unconscious M. Držaj from ledge to ledge for some 400 m.—an extraordinary feat for a slightly built lady of twenty-two. The accident took place at 09.30 and it was not till 18.00 that the much enduring party

¹ See illustration, *A.J.* 39, 136-7,

reached the big ledge at the foot of the face whence the N. routes start. Here they were rescued by a search party of whom Mrs. Copeland was one. Madame Pibernik's great performance undoubtedly saved both their lives and the accident is a further proof of the evils of attempting to scale otherwise impossible rocks by the pernicious modern habit of driving in pitons. 'M. Držaj is, miraculously, very little the worse for his fall.'

A party of three Slovene mountaineers has succeeded in forcing the 'diagonal' climb *across* the N. face of the TRIGLAV, which has been responsible for several previous fatal accidents.

According to *Der Berg*, 6, 1927, p. 120, another variation, called 'Bayerländer Weg,' has been forced up the lower part of the TRIGLAV's N. face, September 6, 1926, by Herren G. Kuglstatter and H. Unger. The great gully was reached direct from the foot by a climb of 200 m. which took 8-10 hours. The route was composed of rotten and dangerous rocks and many pitons were used. The ascent was completed by the old 'Austrian' and 'Kugy' routes, but no 'times' are given for the ascent of the last 1450 m.

'R.M.,' xlvi, pp. 210-13, gives details of an Italian ascent of the N. face of the TRIGLAV. The mountain is called 'Il Tricorno.'

A well-informed evening paper, the *Evening Standard*, of September 8, announces that a Georgian party has made the ascent of ELBRUZ. The 'only previous ascent' is stated to have been in 1891!

Field-Marshal LORD METHUEN, G.C.B., etc. (Ordinary member, 1870-85, 1905-9), has been elected an Honorary Member of the Alpine Club. Lord Methuen made several important ascents with Christian Almer as far back as 1869, while in 1875 he took part in one of the earlier attempts on La Meije from the Rocher de l'Aigle and was in the second crossing of the Domjoch.

Mr. GEOFFREY WINTHROP YOUNG, accompanied by Mr. Claude Elliott, with Franz Lochmatter and Hans Brantschen, made the ascent of the Dufourspitze on July 24 in 9½ hours from the Bétémps hut, the descent to the Riffelalp taking some 8½ hours. Mr. Young also made the traverse of the Furggengrat and Theodulhörner as well as of the Riffelhorn. He appears to have stood the exertion—which even for him must have been excessively painful—remarkably well. He states that 'the expeditions were done largely to encourage persons like myself.'

A party of members of the C.A.F. and S.A.C., under the leadership of M. Joanides and Madame Boissonnas, left Marseilles on September 3

to ascend MOUNT OLYMPUS, visit the Valley of Tempe and the highly interesting Kalabaka monasteries among the 'Meteors' (the scene of a fight between French cavalry and Greek 'royalist' troops in 1917). The expedition, so writes Mr. Freshfield, is intended to inspire enthusiasm for mountaineering among young Greeks. The Hellenic Government is giving it every support. The expedition was to be accompanied by a cinema. It is regretted that owing to the necessary short notice neither Mr. Freshfield himself nor any members of the Alpine Club were able to join the party, which, we trust, will have been able to visit, the 'male' portion, at any rate, Mt. Athos and its wonderful monasteries. M. Bregeault, the well-known mountaineer, was to have accompanied the party. We hope that the expedition will have realized all its aims. LATER: We learn that the expedition was most successful.

We are glad to hear that Herr W. WELZENBACH, the President of the Akademischer Alpenverein, Munich, a mountaineer who has given proofs of his capacity and skill not only on his own mountains but also in great expeditions in the Pennines and Mont Blanc, has practically recovered from his recent illness. He, however, still suffers from a stiff elbow-joint, which will handicap his climbing. It is hoped that this may yield to an operation.—J. P. F.

Herr K. M. Oesterle is President of the AKADEMISCHER ALPENKLUB, Berne, for this summer, while Herr W. H. Amstutz is the *Hüttenchef*.—J. P. F.

Signor Commendatore BOBBA kindly informs us that Aimé Maquignaz will open next summer a new mountain-inn, which will probably serve as the main starting-point for the ascent of the Matterhorn from Breuil. The inn will contain 20 rooms and 40 beds. It is situated on the LE RIOUDÉ, 2804 m., promontory, on the path from Breuil to the Col du Lion. From the Breuil or Furggenjoch it is easily reached in 1 hour by skirting the S. flank of the Matterhorn (*ca.* 2 hours from the Hörnli Inn or hut). In any case, the inn will much relieve the pressure on the small Luigi Amedeo hut, where as many as 30 persons have been packed simultaneously, while in bad weather a safe return to Breuil, or even Zermatt, is assured.

Mr. D. F. Dangan is good enough to point out that the 'unnamed' col between the A. des Petites Jorasses and the A. de Leschaux referred to in 'A.J.' 39, 143, is in reality called COL DES PETITES JORASSES (3526 m., *Vallot*). See *La Montagne*, 1925, p. 211.

A RASH ASCENT OF THE AIGUILLE DE GRÉPON.—A party consisting of MM. André Roch and J. Belayeff [the same, who, with Armand Charlet, made the ascents of the Dent du Requin and Aiguille du

Plan in April, 1926], with Armand Charlet and Camille Dévouassoud, accomplished this climb, *via* 'C.P.' and the 'Cheminée Lochmatter,' on April 17, 1927. . . . 'Leaving Plan de l'Aiguille at 10.15 (late departure on account of uncertain weather earlier), we attained the Col des Nantillons, on ski, at 13.30. Excellent conditions. Thence, easily to "C.P." at 14.00. Since midday we had been nearly blinded by a violent wind, but the weather was absolutely safe. From "C.P." we reached the summit after 4 hrs. of the most intense and continuous exertion. The conditions were dreadful, rocks buried in snow or ice, progress was only foot by foot, cutting steps with the axe and finally—in the "Cheminée Lochmatter"—with a knife. Every crack and crevice choked with snow and ice; on no less than four occasions, from "C.P." upwards, were we obliged to stand on one another's shoulders. On the top, attained at 18.00, the gusts of wind were terrific. We made a very quick descent (by the "Cheminée Knubel") to the Col, Dévouassoud a masterly anchor as "last man." Picking up our ski, but not putting them on, we reached the foot of the Charmoz-Grépon couloir at nightfall, and, although very fatigued, descended as rapidly as possible to the Plan de l'Aiguille, arriving at 20.45. It was one of the hardest ascents that I have ever made, and if our party had not been a very strong one, it would certainly have been impossible to succeed under such shocking conditions. . . . I need not say how happy I am that we have succeeded.' (Letter from Armand Charlet, dated Argentière, April 19.)

We have received the following notes on an ascent of the AIGUILLE DE GRÉPON on August 3, 1927 :—'The Knubel chimney was led by Mr. G. S. Bower, the tactics being similar to those employed in the ascent of the Flake Crack on Scawfell central buttress, *i.e.* loops of rope threaded through the chockstone through which the rope is passed. The leader then brings his second up to the chockstone and ties him on to the said chockstone before leading the climb. The leader is thus well belayed. Knubel informs me that he led this chimney direct from the bottom without bringing his second up to the chockstone. This seemed to us, however, both unnecessary and unjustifiable when the chockstone offers so good a belay, and, while there is no actual stance, the second can wedge himself in very securely beneath the chockstone. Mr. Bower considers this climb harder than the Flake Crack on Scawfell. No ice-axe was used.'

F. E. SMYTHE.

Mont Blanc was climbed from the BREVA glacier on July 26 by no less than three parties: *i.e.* a Swiss party consisting of Herren von Schumacher and Amstutz, a French party composed of M. Chevalier and two other members of the G.H.M., and a German party made up of Herr Allwein and a friend of the A.A.V., Munich. The Swiss and leading party state that the conditions were excellent,

and that there was little or no step-cutting required except just towards the top; the times are given as:—

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Rifugio Torino | dep. 01.15 |
| Foot of Brenva face | 03.40–03.50 |
| End of ice ridge | 04.50–05.00 |
| Last rocks | 06.10 |
| Col de la Brenva | 07.35–07.40 |
| Mont Blanc | 08.40–08.54 |

These times are, to use the word of the greatest authority on the route, 'marvellous.' We are informed that the party (or parties?) 'had the wisdom to cut steps on the day before, so that they could make good progress in the early hours down the couloir of the Col de la Tour Ronde.' If such was the case, all the more credit to the parties for their mountaineering instinct.

The Swiss party descended *via* Mt. Maudit and Mt. Blanc du Tacul, attaining Chamonix at 19.00 hrs., while the French and Germans descended 'another way.' Herr Amstutz rightly thinks 'that von Schumacher and I hold the best times for the E. face of Monte Rosa (8¼ hrs.), Pétéret ridge and Brenva. This is for us a great satisfaction and shows what one can do with Eckenstein crampons.'²

These 'international' parties were, it is understood, followed, quite independently, on the next day, by another, *i.e.* a British 'rope,' composed of Messrs. Smythe, Ward and Brown.

It is reported that Herren Obersteiner and Schneider of Graz made the ascent of Mont Blanc by the PÉTÉRET arête, starting on July 31 from the *Gamba* Club hut. The party bivouacked before reaching the Aiguille Blanche and the summit of Mont Blanc was attained very late on August 1.³

Herr von Kehl with Fritz Amatter and Fritz Suter of Grindelwald and a Courmayeur porter repeated the same route from the same hut on August 4. Owing to Amatter's rightly considering it essential to cross the Fresnay glacier by daylight, it was arranged to bivouac *en route*. The party, accordingly, left the *Gamba* at 03.30 on August 3. The 'Col⁴ des Dames Anglaises,' between l'Isolée and the Aiguille Blanche was attained in 3 hrs., the A. Blanche was left behind by 13.30 and the Col de Pétéret reached at 15.30, where the party

² Any reader requiring an *unbiased* view on the said (or any) crampons should apply to that great mountaineer Pierre Blanc of Bonneval-sur-Arc.—*Éditeur*.

³ This appears to be the first attainment of the gap between l'Isolée and the A. Blanche from the Fresnay side.

⁴ This col was attained from the Brenva side, August 28, 1913, by Count Bonacossa, Signor Prochownick and Dr. Preuss, when making the first ascent of the A. Blanche by the S.E. arête, *A.J.* 28, 81–2.

dug a bivouac in the snow. Leaving the bivouac at 04.00 on the following morning, they arrived on the summit of Mont Blanc at 11.50 and Courmayeur *via* the Dôme route at 21.20. Amatter reports that he met with no serious difficulties. It is stated that the Courmayeur porter stipulated for and received a 2000 *lire* fee.

I. DE BRUÏN.

The best way to reach the BERTHOL CLUB HUT from Ferpèche is to follow the ordinary Col d'Hérens route from Bricolla and to contour round the upper snows of the Ferpèche and Mont Miné glaciers. The two routes given in *Guide des Alpes Valaisannes*, ii., are very round-about.

H. R. C. CARR.

Between August 6 and August 20, members of the Climbers' Club, APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB and of the Oxford Women's Mountaineering Club, met at Arolla, Bricolla and Ferpèche. The gathering numbered between 40 and 50 all told. The weather, except towards the end of the fortnight, was fairly good and most of the local peaks were climbed by various routes. On the eve of the meet the Dent Blanche was traversed by the N.E. arête by a strong American party led by Franz Biner. Some excitement was caused at Ferpèche owing to a guideless party becoming benighted on Mont Miné in a severe thunderstorm, but the incident had no serious results and provided a salutary lesson.

H. R. C. CARR.

If we are to credit Press reports, MONT BLANC DE COURMAYEUR has been rechristened *Monte Benito Mussolini*. We recollect that a similar change of nomenclature, proposed for the Adamello-Presanella peaks in 1919, was happily abandoned.

The fate of the SILS LAKE project, we are informed, is still undecided. A vigorous campaign continues to be carried on by the S.A.C., Sektion 'Bernina,' and other societies against the threatened desecration. It is stated that one very small sub-section of the S.A.C. has gone over to the enemy. It is to be hoped that they will soon see the error of their ways. It is expected that the assembly of the delegates of the S.A.C. will be practically unanimous against the project, and their vote will largely influence the action of the competent authorities.

We regret to learn that Mr. E. G. Oliver was seriously injured in the disastrous accident on the CHAMONIX-MONTENVERS railway last August. We wish him a speedy recovery.

The Alpine Club is indebted to Mr. H. W. Malkin, C.B., C.M.G., for the gift of several original letters from the Rev. THOMAS BRAND,

for some time tutor to Sir H. J. L. Graham (father of Sir Ronald Graham, H.B.M.'s Ambassador to the Quirinal), describing a tour in the Alps in 1780.

EARTH TREMORS AT PONTRESINA.—On August 14, 1927, at about 02.00, there was a very considerable earth tremor, followed during the next hour by three or four more very much less severe, and, on the morning of August 18, when we were ascending Piz Zupô, we found that a big crack in the upper névé of the Morteratsch glacier had been very much affected by this earth tremor. The crack is situated immediately below where the ordinary route to Piz Bernina turns off nearly due W., while the route to Piz Zupô goes straight on due S. The névé round the crack had completely collapsed and left a tumbled ruin of névé about 30 ft. wide. It was necessary to descend into the crack and cross by this tumbled névé to get across. It would be interesting to know if other persons have experienced the effect of earth tremors on séracs.

R. C. ASHBY.

We are very glad to learn that the S.A.C. has acquired for its library all that portion of the late Mr. COOLIDGE's collection dealing with the Alps and their history. 'The S.A.C. Library, consequently, finds itself richer by nearly 5000 volumes, many of great value.' From *Die Alpen*, October 1927.

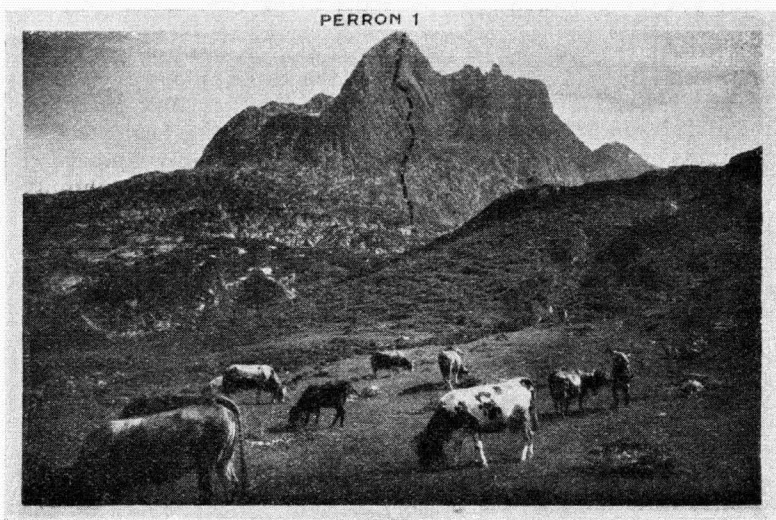
A new Club hut—CABANE EDOUARD DUFOUR—has been constructed by the S.A.C. on the left bank of the Glacier de la Neuvaz. It is situated on *Les Essettes*, at a height of 2731 m., some 5 hrs. distant from the new hotel at La Fouly in the Swiss Val Ferret.

S.A.C. Club huts are to be erected on the CAVARDIRAS Lücke, 2705 m., above Disentis; Piz LISCHANNA near Vulpera in the Lower Engadine (completed); GLATTALP in the Bisisthal (completed); TURTMANNHÜTTE, 2500 m. on the Pipialp; the BRITANNIA Club hut is to be much enlarged.

We regret to learn that the well-known guide HANS BURGNER (1852–1927), of Grindelwald, has died. He will be remembered as the genial guardian of the Gleckstein Club hut.

LE PERRON DE VALLORCINE, No. I, or Aiguille du Vent, 2573 m., was climbed by its W. face, September 21, 1927, by Monsieur E. R. Blanchet with Caspar Mooser. The ascent of this high and vertical face had previously been reputed as impossible, and from the Chalets d'Emosson has all the appearance of a Dru. The entire scramble was executed in quite indispensable *Kletterschuhen*. Rocks perfect, with minute and distant but reliable holds. In general, steer towards two rocks shaped like donkey's ears. These appear to be

at the summit but are in reality some 60 ft. below. A 60 ft. rope suffices. Many overhangs and absolutely smooth bits : ' I was more



SHOWING M. BLANCHET'S ROUTE.

pleased with this formidable scramble than with either of my ascents of the Lyskamm or Zumsteinspitze.' E. R. BLANCHET.

According to the Siegfried map there are *two* Aiguilles du Vent, the other is given the height of 2581 m. The GRAND PERRON is measured as 2677 m. ; this latter has also been climbed by its steep N.W. face by M. Blanchet.

LA REBARMA, 2489 m., was climbed by its W. and unexplored arête, while the N. face of the Clocher de la Rebarma (nameless and unmeasured on the S. map) was descended this October by M. Blanchet.

M. Blanchet also reports a sensational descent, by his party, of the RIFFELHORN. In accordance with an ancient (and excellent) custom, it would be ' indiscreet ' to publish any details.

Miss Sheila Macdonald, daughter of Mr. Claude A. Macdonald, together with Mr. W. C. West and Major O. Lennox-Browne, made the ascent of KILIMANJARO (19,710 ft.) on July 31, 1927.

Mr. C. W. JARDINE, aged sixteen, son of Mr. J. W. Jardine, made with his father on August 27, 29, and September 1, 1927, the following expeditions : Brunni Pass, Piz Corvatsch, Pizzi Palü.

In commemoration of the Prime Minister's visit to the Dominions a mountain of some 11,000 ft. in the neighbourhood of the Yellowhead Pass has been christened Mount STANLEY BALDWIN.

Through the courtesy of Colonel von Steiger, head of the Topographical Bureau, Berne, and H.E. the Swiss Minister, I have received the advance *new* sheets (1927) of the SIEGFRIED MAP, 520 'Maloja' and 523 'Castasegna,' as also a 'tentative' copy of 520 with the grassy part shaded in *green*. It would be presumptuous as well as indiscreet to 'review' these splendid sheets. They are quite indispensable for mountaineers visiting the Bregaglia and Masino district.

E. L. S.

A new 'shelter hut' has been placed by the C.A.I. some 30 m. below the summit of the TÊTE de ROËSES on the Valpellina ridge. It is accessible in 4 hrs. from Prarayé. A description of the contents, etc., of these huts is given in the *Annuario* del C.A.A.I., 1924-6, pp. 35-41.

We regret to learn that Signor PINO PRATI has been killed, together with a companion, on the Guglia di Brenta. Signor Prati was the leader on some of the most difficult routes accomplished in the Brenta Group in recent years. Although aged only twenty-four, he was the author of the excellent C.A.I. Climbers' Guide, *Dolomiti di Brenta* ('A.J.' 38, 352-3).

BRÈCHE SANS NOM.—In a footnote ('A.J.' 39, 133) it is stated that 'this appears to be the third time that the Brèche (3725 m.; *Vallot*) has been attained,' the occasion referred to being the traverse of the Aiguille sans Nom-Aiguille Verte of September 21, 1926. Sir George Morse kindly points out that the footnote should read 'this appears to be the *fourth* time,' the said Brèche having been attained for the first time by himself with Ulrich and Hans Almer during an attempt on the Pic sans Nom on July 30, 1889, as stated by Mr. Wicks ('A.J.' 15, 335, 337). On this occasion the *descent* of the long and steep couloir, all good snow, took but little over an hour.

JUNGFRAUJOCH.—With reference to Mr. Oliver's paper, 'A.J.' 39, 49-51, Mr. Claude Macdonald writes: 'In that excellent paper it is stated that after the 1873 crossing of the Jungfrauoch, Andreas Fischer crossed it in 1894 with difficulty and was of opinion that it had not been crossed "for several years." I crossed it in August 1889 with Christian Jossi and Josef Taugwalder (then a boy) as porter. The Grindelwald guides declared the pass to be then impossible owing to enormous crevasses on the left, N.E., side and a cornice on the right, S.W., side. Seiler of the Wengern Alp told

me that he could not remember when it had been crossed last. We mounted to the plateau between the two icefalls and took the right side, as the crevasses to the left appeared impossible. We reached this side of the summit ridge in $5\frac{1}{2}$ hrs., finding a huge ice wall all along the top. After spending 1 hr. trying to find a way round, we decided to try and hack our way through the wall at its W. extremity, where it appeared least formidable. After 1 hr. of hard chopping, we contrived to creep through a hole in the ice wall on to the summit on the other side and so descended to Concordia and the Eggishorn. I remember in those far-off days, the Scheidegg hailed our appearance on the summit with much firing off of cannon !

The ancient Refuge XAVIER BLANC, above Le Clot-en-Valgaudemar, has been transformed into a modern Chalet Hôtel. (Communication from M. Maurice Paillon.)

A bronze tablet was unveiled on September 11, at Valtournanche, to the memory of DANIEL MAQUIGNAZ (1856-1910). Signor Commendatore Bobba represented the Alpine Club. The handsome tablet, the erecting of which is largely due to Captain J. P. Farrar, is inscribed as follows :

DANIEL MAQUIGNAZ,
GRAND MAÎTRE DE L'ALPINISME.
HOMMAGE.

WE learn with deep regret of the sudden death, on November 6, of Dr. D. G. HOGARTH, C.M.G., President of the R.G.S., distinguished alike as a great scholar, archæologist, and man of action.

HIMALAYAN NOTES.

THE MOUNTAIN CLUB OF INDIA came into existence at Calcutta on September 23, 1927. Brig.-General the Hon. C. G. Bruce, C.B., M.V.O., has been elected President and Mr. W. Allsup, Gun and Shell Factory, Cossipore, Calcutta, is Secretary. Members are being vigorously recruited and rules framed. We wish this, the youngest, possibly some day the most important, of all the Alpine Club's numerous and prosperous offspring, every conceivable success and fortune.