

VARIOUS EXPEDITIONS.

Pennines.

STECKNADELHORN, ca. 4235 m. = 13,870 ft. (no height on *S. map*). Traverse of Hohberghorn and Dürrenhorn, September 11, 1928. Mr. C. F. Meade, with Pierre Blanc.

Starting from the Dom Hut, we crossed by the Festijoch in 3 hrs. to the right bank of the Hohberg Glacier and breakfasted. From the glacier it was very easy to ascend over rocks on the true right of a couloir leading to the Unter Stecknadeljoch in 55 mins. We then followed the ridge (turning it finally on the W.) to the Stecknadelhorn in 26 mins., then back to the Unter Stecknadeljoch in order to climb the Hohberghorn thence in 15 mins.

Clouds were now thick and threatening, and the view had vanished for the day. From the top of the Hohberghorn down to the Hohbergpass the conditions were excellent, with only a very few steps to cut where the diminutive remains of an ice corniche crowned the narrow ridge, so that we took only 50 mins. for the descent instead of the 1 hr. 20 mins. mentioned by the guide-book. It was now 08.50, and, according to the book, a climb of only a few minutes should have taken us up from the Hohbergpass where we were to our third and last peak, the Dürrenhorn. The conditions, as usual in 1928, were everywhere perfect, and we unroped for faster going up the easy rocks, but were surprised to find that it took us a good 40 mins. to reach our peak.

It was now snowing, and after half an hour for food and rest we began the long descent to Randa at 10.00. I had thought of returning to the Hohbergpass, but that route down the Hohberg Glacier looked bad in its lower course, so, if we were not to make for a descent by the Ried Glacier, it seemed best to descend along the W. ridge of the Dürrenhorn in order to join the Hohberg Glacier a long way down its course. We were ignorant as to whether there was any convenient direct route down to Herbruggen, and nothing could be seen in that direction. It would have been possible to take a short cut down across the rock face below the Dürrenhorn and by crossing many couloirs reach the foot of the Hohbergpass where the Hohberg Glacier begins, but in this phenomenal season the dry couloirs looked suggestive of stone avalanches, and the full length of the glacier evidently contained a formidable series of séracs.

Thus we preferred the W. ridge. It is long, rotten, and in parts jagged, so that we frequently turned its towers by the easy S. face, with once or twice a *mauvais pas* over the steep and rotten rocks encountered in order to rejoin the ridge. In 1½ hrs. we had descended to the glacier, and began to follow it down its right moraine until at 12.30 we found an overhanging boulder under which to shelter for a meal, the snowflakes having turned to rain.

We now thought that the problem of the descent had been solved, but the most intricate part was still before us and the mist was no thinner. Leaving the snout of the Hohberg Glacier to the S. and following an artificial watercourse for 200-300 yards northward, along the mountain-side high above the main valley where the

Mattervisp flowed buried in cloud, Pierre miraculously discovered in the long grass some faint marks branching off down towards the invisible gulf below. These led us along a small and diffident track winding its way downwards and northwards, and occasionally despairingly upwards. Everywhere the rank grass showed that no cattle came here. Presently the path executed a quite alarming traverse southward on a steeply sloping shelf poised above the clouds. At the same moment there suddenly appeared on our level in front of us a tremendous jet of water spouting a hundred feet into the air from the bed of a torrent in a massive, almost horizontal column, the most wonderful waterfall I have ever seen. The track had been hacked and blasted out of the precipice, and now led back northwards and downwards. Below us at one moment was a steep little grass bank bending over into nothing. A few minutes later we were on the comfortable little plateau containing the scattered chalets of Bergli nestling in an abundance of currants, raspberries, willow-herb, mountain ash, and other brilliant autumnal colouring.

I assumed that the programme of sensations was finished, but I was wrong, for the path reached its climax in the descent from the hamlet. It led us to the brink of an overwhelming precipice, down which it proceeded to climb in a series of breath-taking zigzags, each zigzag or tier of the path overhanging so much that it was not possible to see the tier below. There was a gate to prevent any infatuated cattle from wandering down into this death-trap. Cows existed in the hamlet, and, we were told, were sometimes carried up when portable as calves.

We heard afterwards that there is a roundabout alternative path for the less adventurous who may wish to reach Bergli. Part of the track was composed of logs pinned to the face of the precipice, and part consisted of ledges hewn out of the rock.

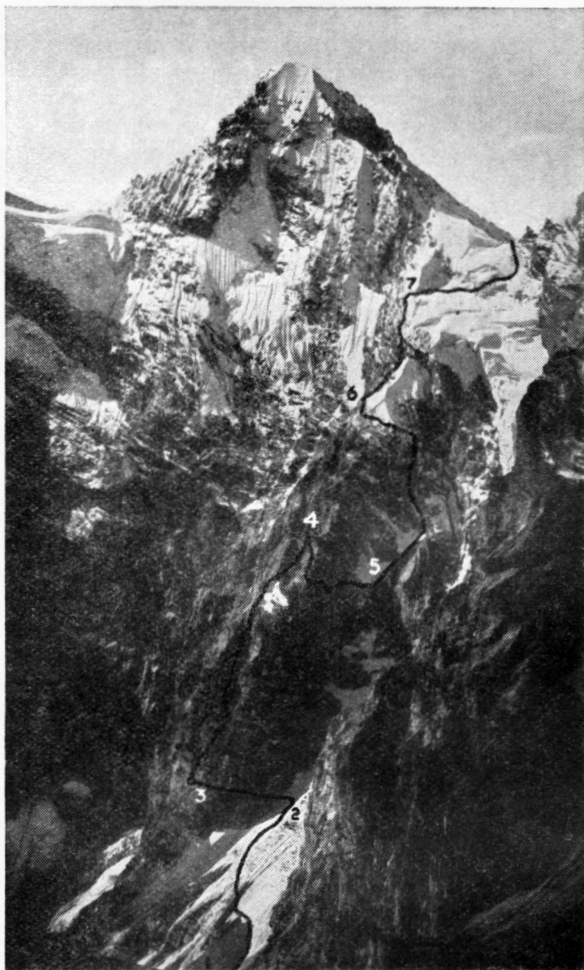
We descended carefully, and it was not until 15.25 that we struck the high road in the valley a little above Herbriggen, reaching Randa in pouring rain and wet through. 'Times' were fast owing to the rapid advance of bad weather. The astonishing summer of 1928 had come to an end at last.

02.35.	Leave Dom Hut.	
05.20.	Festijoch.	
05.30-06.10.	Halt on Hohberg Glacier.	
07.05.	Under Stecknadeljoch.	
07.25-07.30.	Stecknadelhorn.	
07.45.	Back at Unter Stecknadeljoch.	
08.00.	Hohberghorn.	
08.50.	Hohbergpass.	
09.30-10.00.	Dürrenhorn.	
11.35.	Hohberg Glacier.	
12.50-13.50.	Halt on right moraine of Hohberg Glacier.	
15.25.	Strike high road above Herbriggen.	
16.35.	Arrive at Randa.	C. F. MEADE.

[It would be very interesting to ascertain whether any other member has accomplished this remarkable descent.—*Editor*, 'A.J.']

Bernese Oberland.

BÜTTLASSENLÜCKE, *ca.* 3000 m. = 9843 ft. (no height on *S. map*), from the E. September 9, 1928. Herren W. H. Amstutz and



Photo, E. Gyger.]

GSPALTENHORN (E. FACE) AND BÜTTLASSENLÜCKE.
SHOWING 1928 ROUTE.

Gottfried Michel. From the Kilchbalm in the Sefinenthal (1) the party attained the foot of the marked rocky rib (2) in the Gspaltenhorn's E. face, for which the name *Kilchbalmgrat* is suggested. A traverse over grass and débris led to the slabby outlying portion

of the rib (3). Thence straight up over partly difficult rocks and up an overhang to a rock tooth (4). Difficult rocks now checked all progress, compelling a descent and traverse towards the Hirtli Glacier, N., thus turning the obstacle (5). The rib was then regained by an exposed climb at a snow-cap. The crest was followed and the pass attained, bearing to the right, N., over the uppermost slopes of the Hirtli Glacier.

The direct ascent of the rib (4-6) is possible with *Kletterschuhen*, of which the party was deficient. Owing to bad weather, fresh snow, and the late hour, an ascent of the Gspaltenhorn had to be given up. The direct ascent of the Gspaltenhorn over the *Kilchbalmgrat* would only be possible in a very dry summer, and would also be dangerous.

'Times': (1) Kilchbalm, floor of Sefinenthal, 06.00-06.30; at (2) First Step, 08.25-09.00; at (4), 14.00; at (6), snowy ridges, 17.30-17.50; Büttlassenlücke, 21.00.

(The figures in brackets refer to the illustration.) W. H. A.

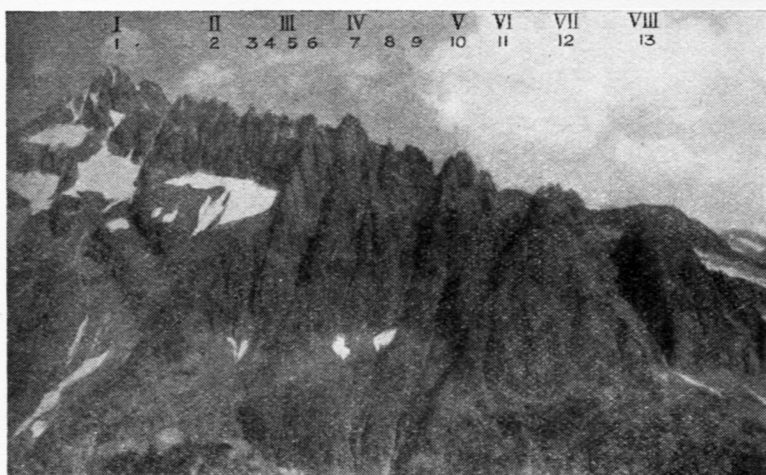
[The first crossing of the Büttlassenlücke was accomplished on July 29, 1894, by M. and Madame Paul Montandon and Herr R. Koenig; *S.A.C.J.*, xxx. 411-412, and *Climbers' Guide*.]

FUSSHÖRNER, 3268 m. = 11,903 ft. to 3106 m. = 10,191 ft. Peak No. 7. *Climbers' Guide*, vol. i. part 2, p. 209.) On July 18, 1928, Messrs. R. Fanshawe and H. Booth, with Theodor Biner of Zermatt, ascended this peak by a variation of the usual route. From the gap, reached by the route described in the *Climbers' Guide*, between Peak No. 7 and Peak No. 8, they ascended directly from the gap for about 100 ft. At this point the series of ledges that had been followed died out, and further progress was made directly upwards over rocks, which were not as difficult as they appeared at first sight, for a further 100 ft. From this point the foot of the chimney leading down between the Central and E. Summits was reached. The chimney was ascended without great difficulty to the gap between the two summits.

This point had been previously reached by Messrs. M. de Selincourt and H. Booth on July 13, 1924. They had then climbed up the ridge to the Central Summit with extreme difficulty, but had found that it was slightly lower than the W. Summit, and as they had left behind their spare rope, they had to return by the way by which they had come. The plan in 1928 was to follow this route to the summit, but on arrival at the gap between the Central and E. Summits, further progress towards the former was found to be impossible, as several large pieces of rock had broken away recently. In 1924 there had been no difficulty in the ascent at this point, the most difficult point being about 20 ft. higher up. In consequence, it became necessary to descend on the N. side of the Central Summit on to a broad sloping ledge covered with loose stones and so to get round it. This involved no special difficulty, except that the whole

mountain on the N. side appeared to be in a state of great instability. The smallest stone knocked down started enormous rock-falls into the gully recommended for the ascent of Peak No. 6 (*Climbers' Guide*, p. 208), which consequently is not at all safe from falling stones.

From this ledge a chimney about 60 ft. high led practically to the top of the W. Summit. This was climbed, the only difficulty being a number of loose holds which had to be removed, and the ordinary route joined within a few feet of the summit.



Photo, H. Booth.]

FUSSHÖRNER FROM SPARRHORN.

On the descent the route described in the *Climbers' Guide* was followed, till it was possible, by traversing to the E., to rejoin the line of ascent near the chimney leading to the gap between the Central and the E. Summit. From this point a ledge leading to the left was followed which joined a series of ledges leading back to the right to a point a little above the gap between Peak No. 7 and Peak No. 8 (see note at end).

Times: Left Belalp, 04.50; gap between Peak No. 7 and Peak No. 8, 08.45 to 09.15; Peak No. 7, 11.15 to 12.5; gap, 13.15 to 14.15; Belalp, 16.30.

GISIGHORN, 3182 m. = 10,440 ft. From Gisig Pass. On July 20, 1928, Messrs. R. Fanshaw and H. Booth, with Theodor Biner, traversed the Gisighorn from the Gisig Pass. The climbing on this ridge is of a very high order, and the time taken by an average party will be somewhat longer than the 3½ hrs. mentioned in the *Climbers' Guide* vol. i. part 2, p. 153). The crest of the ridge should be followed in the main, but at the head of the

big gully descending on the E. side of the peak, clearly seen from Belalp, the best route is to traverse on to the W. side of the mountain and ascend by some very steep and loose-looking boulders, which are quite firmly fixed, and then to regain the ridge not far from the middle and highest (?) summit. Local guides usually descend direct to the top of the gully with the aid of a doubled rope.

In July 1924, Messrs. G. C. Carlisle, R. J. Brocklehurst, and B. Harward reached a point half-way down the gully by descending the E. face of the peak. This alternative is certainly not a satisfactory one for the ascent. 6 hrs. were taken from the Gisig Pass to the highest point, including several rests and 25 mins. thence to point 3182 m.

NOTE.—Since writing the above, an excellent article on the Fusshörner has appeared in *Die Alpen*, 1929, pp. 81–99, by Dr. Oskar Hug. The peak numbered 7 in the *Climbers' Guide* is described by him as No. 12. The diagrams on pp. 90 and 91 give a good impression of the route followed to the gap between Peak No. 7 and Peak No. 8 (12 and 13), and opposite p. 96 there is a photograph giving an excellent idea of the upper part of this peak. From this photograph it would appear that the Central Peak is the highest one, which was the reason of this ascent in 1924.

H. B.

Apennines.

GRAN SASSO D'ITALIA (*Corno Occidentale*), 2921 m. = 9815 ft. Traverse. October 11, 1928. Marchese Origo, Signor M. d'Armi and C. F. Meade, with Pierre Blanc. As seen from the Rifugio Garibaldi, the right-hand skyline leading to the summit of the Gran Sasso appears as an alluring arête, but as fresh snow was everywhere round about we chose one of the last couloirs on the near side of it instead. The rock climbing was easy and the top was reached in 3 hrs. from the hut. The vast stretches of the Adriatic, the myriad gradations of mellow colour in the distance and middle distance, the magnificent Dolomite foreground, and the remarkable Caldarone Glacier (by no means a mere névé) with its cirque of towers were impressive features of the view. The descent by the ordinary way is by a track over the rocks.

CORNO PICCOLO. Traverse. October 12, 1928. Same party. The next day the party traversed the Corno Piccolo from the same hut by the Sella dei due Corni. On reaching this pass we roped and would have put on *Kletterschuhen* had the fresh snow permitted. The climbing is of the difficult Dolomite variety and *Kletterschuhen* would have been a great help. Luckily, the harder bits were sheltered from the bitter wind, as they were more on the face than on the arête. The high landscape had the appearance of a 4000 m. peak in a snowy season in the Alps. The top was reached in 5 hrs.

from the Garibaldi Hut, including 1 hr.'s halt. The descent by the ordinary way and back to the hut does not present any difficulties.

Another hut has been built, not so centrally situated for the Gran Sasso group as the Garibaldi, but possessing the advantage of not being liable to complete disappearance under winter snow.

There is a flourishing school of climbers in Aquila, and we were indebted to them for much information and advice.

C. F. MEADE.

[See in general Mr. Freshfield's interesting articles, 'A.J.' 8, 353-375, with an illustration, and 'Below the Snow Line,' pp. 95-115.]

ALPINE NOTES.

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :	Date of Election
Farrar, J. P.	1883
Stutfield, H. E. M.	1886
Quincey, E. de Quincey	1888
Carlisle, A. D.	1889
Aitken, Samuel	1891
Mathews, C. M.	1899
Arnold, H. J. L.	1904
Meares, Thomas	1908
Fynn, Val. A.	1911

ALPINE JOURNAL.—Index to Vols. 16 to 38. This Index will be ready for publication at the end of June, 1929. Copies may be ordered from The Assistant Secretary, Alpine Club, 23, Savile Row, London, W. 1. Price 10s. 0d. net, or 10s. 4d. post free.

'THE CLOSING OF THE ITALIAN ALPS.'—In the absence of any further report, we must assume that the same deplorable conditions prevail as in the last two seasons. Mountaineers cannot be too strongly advised to avoid expeditions entailing any descent on the Italian side. **LATER:** See p. 260.

Music des 80jährigen.

Glückwunschbriefe, Telegramme :
 Wusst ich, wer zurück mir rief,
 Was vor Zeiten meine Amme
 Meinte zu dem zarten Knaben
 Und von seinen künst'gen Gaben.
 Dachte wohl, ihm sollt gelingen
 Alles tüchtig zu vollbringen