Bashil Pass, *ca.* 3450 m., between Tot and Bashiltau. First crossing. August 6–7, 1929. Herren F. Bechtold, W. Merkl, W. Raechl, G. Anosow, W. Semenowski, and A. Worobioff.

August 6.—From camp on the Seri Glacier, party leaving at 12.50, mounted in N. direction over Tuiber Glacier to Zynal Glacier, of which a small portion is traversed to that glacier descending in a steep icefall from direction of Tot. Mounting or turning, to its true right, the said icefall the upper uncrevassed glacier is followed to a grassy rock buttress projecting from Tot, *ca.* 3160 m.; bivouac, 18.15.

August 7.—Bivouac left at 05.00; after short descent to glacier, the pass easily attained over gentle névé, 06.45. The descent over the Leksur Glacier is easy.

Navirianitau, *ca.* 4130 m. First ascent. August 7, (? 8), 1929. Same party as on August 6–7.

[This peak lies on the ridge leading S. from Sarikol Bashi, 13,965 ft.; this ridge is snowy on its W. slope, but the E. slope falls in rocky precipices to the southern névés of the Bashil Glacier.]

From a camp on the Leksur Glacier, *ca.* 3300 m., party started at 12.30. The icefall of the Leksur Glacier is scaled, and then progress is over the level surface to the bergschrund at the S. base of the massif, *ca.* 3700 m., 14.00. A snow couloir to the W. of the highest visible point is followed to a broad snowy saddle whence the summit first becomes visible, 14.55. The top is attained by bearing N. over a snowy hogsback, 17.00. Descent by same route.

From *Jahresbericht* des A. A. V., München, 1928–9.

For the ascent of Ushba, S. peak, see under 'Various Expeditions.'

[We would express our congratulations to the party, and can only admire their skill and determination, surpassed only by their power of resistance.—*Editor* 'A.J.']

VARIOUS EXPEDITIONS.

Mont Blanc Group.

Pic 'Moore,' *ca.* 3530 m. = 11,580 ft. No height or name on *B.I.K.* July 31, 1929. Messrs. T. Y. Kagami and T. Graham Brown, with Alexander Graven and Gottfried Perren. Party left Torino hut at 04.40 and traversed Calotte de la Brenva (summit 07.00) to Upper Brenva Glacier. Thence to foot of *Col Moore*, the ridge of which was reached at the lowest point. The extremely narrow snow and ice arête was followed S. to the first rocks of Pic 'Moore,' against the face of which it ends. A traverse to the right on small but sufficient holds led to a sharp rock arête continuing without interruption to the first point which was reached at 08.45. After 20 mins. rest the party descended the steep S. arête of the

first point to a gap, and thence traversed an intermediate point to the foot of the actual summit (09.30). The summit itself consists in a large monolith set upright and having at the top a curious projection pointing towards the Pic de la Brenva.[1] It was found possible to reach the actual summit to which a few stones were carried and a small cairn made. The party then returned to the first point, and, after a short rest, descended to the foot of *Col Moore* (10.20) and again traversed the Calotte de la Brenva (11.45), reaching the Torino hut at 13.45.

The ascent of this little peak, while short and never difficult, is continuously interesting. It is well worth a visit on account of the magnificent and uninterrupted view of the Brenva face of Mont Blanc, and of the frontier ridge. The rock is exceptionally sound. The W. side of the peak falls extremely steeply to the W. bay of the Upper Brenva Glacier, which is considerably lower in altitude than the central bay.

[This appears to be the first recorded ascent of Pic 'Moore,' and possibly the first traverse of the Calotte de la Brenva.**]**

MONT DOLENT, 3823 m. = 12,543 ft.—POINTE DE PRÉ DE BAR, 3632 m.—POINTE DU DOMINO, 3569 m.—AIGUILLE DE TRIOLET, 3876 m. = 12,717 ft. *B.I.K.* Traverse from Brèche de l'Amône. August 26–27, 1929. M. Robert Jonquière, with Marcel Bozon and Fernand Ravanel. (See the fine illustration, 'A.J.' **40,** facing p. 146.)

From Refuge d'Argentière to base of Brèche de l'Amône (2 hrs.), to col (3 hrs.), to Mont Dolent (4½ hrs.). From Mont Dolent follow the frontier ridge, passing over 4 pinnacles, to the Pointe de Pré de Bar, also scaled over the ridge. Thence, *via* a great gap, pass on to the S. slope and by an ascending traverse attain a broad ledge under Point *ca.* 3614 m., which is scaled. Descend on to Col Dolent by same ledge leading to a very steep and shattered couloir on N. slope facing Les Courtes. Descend by two *rappels* and so gain the Col Dolent (6 hrs. 40 mins.). Continue along the frontier ridge, or a ledge to the S., to the base of Point *ca.* 3600 m. By a diagonal cleft and a very difficult slab on to crest, re-attained by a chimney; and thence, very exposed, to summit of Point 3600 m., whence the gap E. of Pointe du Domino is gained by a *rappel.* Thence follow the crest or a little to its S. to base of an overhang. By a diagonal and loose ledge, followed by an awkward step leading to a very difficult chimney; chimney is climbed to a platform whence the summit of Pointe du Domino is attained. Follow the ridge more or less, then broken rocks, finally turning 3 teeth by a ledge on the S., to a well-marked gap. Now again by the steep and serrated crest to Point *ca.* 3550 m. Now by a 30-ft. *rappel* descend some 30 ft. to a platform whence you follow the ridge over 3 teeth to the base of the Aiguille de Triolet (5 hrs.). First mount the crest, then by

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[1] See illustration, *A.J.* **41,** facing p. 46.

a ledge on the S. slope leading to the base of a snow and ice gully some 140 ft. high. Go up this gully—first very steep, then nearly perpendicular—by its rocky right bank, then cross over by smooth slabs to the left bank and by these, or the snowy surface of the gully, gain its head. Bear to the right and take the left bank of a great couloir descending towards the Pré de Bar Glacier. Stones fall in the couloir from which the crest is regained and the summit attained by passing over several teeth (3¼ hrs.).

Location of bivouac not given. Cairns were found on most of the prominent teeth. From *La Montagne*, illustrated.

Pennines.

'MOMINGGRAT.'[2] August 14, 1929. Messrs. A. Zürcher and T. Graham Brown, with Joseph Knubel and Alexander Graven. Left Trift Hôtel at 00.59; Eselschuggen 03.15–03.30; Zinal Rothhorn 07.14; left 07.40 and reached 'L'Épaule' at 08.51; summit of Ober Mominghorn, 3968 m., 09.43–09.53; Momingjoch, 3793 m., 11.25–11.30; Unter Mominghorn, 3867 m., 11.57–12.20; Ober Schallijoch, 3745 m., 13.12; Schallihorn, 3978 m., 14.06. Thence a descent was made to the gap N. of the highest summit, when it was found that the snow conditions were dangerous, and the project to traverse the face of the Schallihorn to the Schallijoch had to be abandoned. The Ober Schallijoch (15.01) was again reached over the summit of the Schallihorn, and thence a descent was made to the Hohlicht Glacier, traversed under the cliffs of the E. face of the Zinal Rothhorn. Point 3672 m. on the E. ridge of the Rothhorn was ascended at 16.59. Left at 17.36 and descended the E. arête to the Rothhorn Glacier, traversed to the tracks of the ordinary route up the Rothhorn. Eselschuggen, 18.29–18.50; Trift Hôtel, 19.55–20.16; Zermatt, 21.25.

This magnificent ridge affords one of the finest climbs in the Zermatt district—long and continuously interesting.

'NADELGRAT.' July 23, 1929. Mr. T. Graham Brown, with Alexander Graven. Left Festi hut, 01.00; Festijoch, 03.16–03.25; Lenzjoch, 4167 m., 05.06–05.21; Lenzspitze, 4300 m., 06.04–06.30; Nadelhorn, 4334 m., 07.47–08.15; Stecknadelhorn, *ca.* 4235 m., 08.50–09.02; Hohberghorn, 4226 m., 09.40–09.47; Dürrenhorn, 4035 m., 12.16—the descent from the Hohberghorn having included 65 mins. of step-cutting in ice. Left Dürrenhorn, 12.27, and descended its long N. arête of exceptionally rotten rock over the Dürrenjoch and Klein-Dürrenhorn to the Galenpass, 3240 m., reached at 16.30. Thence the Galenhorn, 3360 m., was ascended at 16.58; left at 17.15, descended to the Ried Glacier, reaching St. Niklaus at 20.50. The descent of the N. arête of the Hohberghorn was difficult, as the

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[2] *Alpes Valaisannes*, 1930, p. 164; *S. map*, sheet 533.

arête consisted of hard ice and necessitated much step-cutting ; the long N. arête of the Dürrenhorn is composed of exceptionally rotten rock, and on that account cannot be called tedious. The traverse of the whole NADELGRAT makes a splendid, but rather long, expedition (*cf.* ' A.J.' **41,** 212–3).

[The party had traversed the Täschhorn-Dom on the previous day.**]**

Bernese Oberland.

RINDERHORN, 3457 m. = 11,342 ft. By the E. arête. September 18, 1929. The Hon. Neil Hogg, with Fritz Ogi. From the Schwarenbach Inn, party attained the *Zagengrat*, near the so-called Zagen Pass (3042 m., *S. map*), 3 hrs. Thence to the W. to where the E. arête of the Rinderhorn falls in a perpendicular and impossible step. By a gently rising ledge to the S. proceed to a well-marked buttress on the mountain's S. slope ; this buttress splits higher up into three ribs leading to the main or E. arête. Climb the buttress and the central rib, first over rather steep rocks, then a snowy crest leading over a notch to the snowy E. arête (1¾ hrs.). Now again traverse to the S. of the main arête over loose and difficult rocks, till this latter is regained at a spot where it becomes once more snowy above another perpendicular step. Follow the E. arête to the top (1 hr.). Descent over the icy N. arête to the depression between our peak and the Klein Rinderhorn, 3007 m. ; thence up the latter's loose and very exposed S.E. arête [3]—fine climb—to the summit, followed by a wearisome descent over the débris-strewn ordinary route to the Schwarenbach Inn. ' Times ' are very fast.

[The first expedition on this very abrupt and striking-looking ridge is said to be that accomplished in 1879 by M. Lionel Dècle, with a porter, but the very slight details (' A.J.' **9,** 493) are incomprehensible and the ' times ' absurdly short. In any case, the *descent* of the E. arête was accomplished on August 5, 1897, by Mr. H. Runge, with Abraham Müller, who took 7½ hrs. for the descent of the arête alone, experiencing considerable difficulty throughout (' A.J.' **19,** 63–4). This was in all probability the *first* traverse of this ridge (Mr. Runge had attempted previously the ascent of the ridge, but was turned back by bad weather some 15 mins. from the top), and the route taken approximates very closely—save for one deviation on the N. face—to that followed in the ascent by the 1929 party.

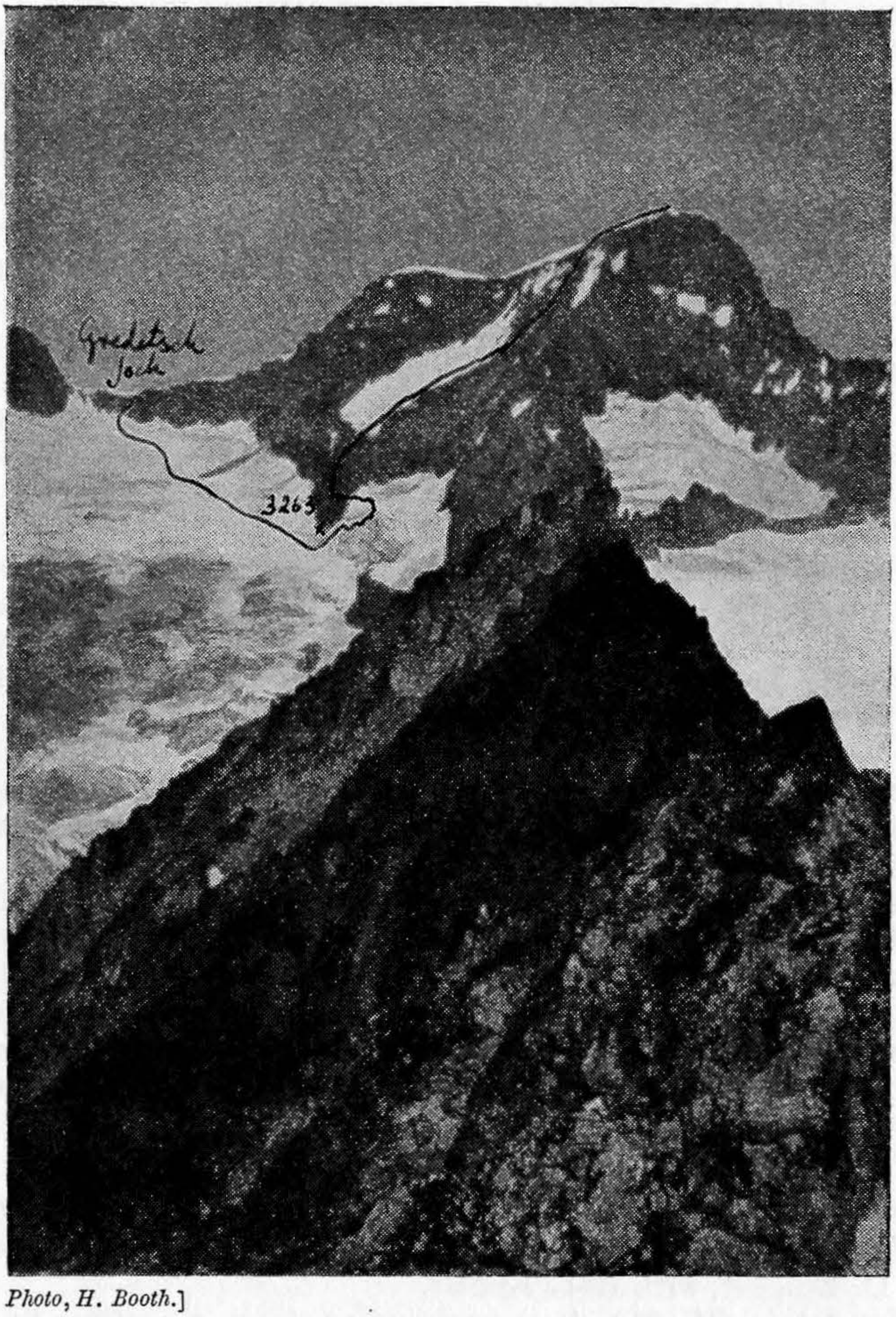
According to the local guides, Mr. Hogg's ascent is only the second or third.—*Editor.***]**

NESTHORN, 3820 m. = 12,533 ft. From the south. July 22, 1929. Mr. H. Booth, with Felix Julen. Party left Ober Aletsch hut at

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[3] According to the *Climbers' Guide*, the route was first taken by Mr. G. A. Hasler in 1902.

02.15. The ordinary route for the Nesthorn was followed to the Gredetsch Joch, attained shortly after 06.15. After a short rest steep but easy rocks somewhat to the E. of the actual pass were



Photo, H. Booth.]

NESTHORN, S. FACE.

descended to the Gredetsch Glacier. This was descended until the glacier bay between Point 3263 and the true S. ridge of the Nesthorn could be gained by ascending through some crevasses.

The route followed by Mr. G. W. Young [4] started up a snow-gully in the N.E. corner of this bay. Owing to the small quantity of

[4] By S. *arête*, August 8, 1902. *A.J.* **21,** 267.

snow on the mountain any route in this direction appeared out of the question, and consequently the rocks on the W. side, immediately above Point 3263 m., were examined. The first attempt was made by a route becoming more and more difficult, and which, in consequence, had to be abandoned. A second attempt was made a little lower down, where there was a fairly flat slab of rock on which lay a patch of snow. This slab was apparently cut off from the mountain by a vertical wall on the right, N. The slab in question can be recognized apart from the patch of snow, as it ends in a vertical wall about 6 ft. high, the base of which is just about level with the surface of the glacier. This slab was ascended, and above the patch of snow a cleft was found in the wall on the right-hand side which was also climbed without much difficulty. From this point excellent rocks were climbed to the foot of the large snowfield lying on the S.S.W. face of the Nesthorn. As the snow was in excellent condition this was ascended for some way till a rib of rock running parallel to the S. ridge was gained about midway up the face. This rib, separated from the true S. ridge by a shallow snow-gully, was followed for the rest of the ascent. It is composed in its lower part of excellent rocks, easy to climb, and in its upper part of boulders solidly jammed together. The W. ridge of the Nesthorn was attained a few yards to the W. of the actual summit at 09.30. The actual time taken for the ascent of the S. face was 1½ hrs. *plus* ¾ hr. from the Gredetsch Joch to the foot of the rocks. Considerable time was wasted looking for the right way to get on to the rocks. The S. face of the Nesthorn appears to be perfectly safe from falling stones, as there were no signs of more than an occasional one on the snow at the foot of the face.

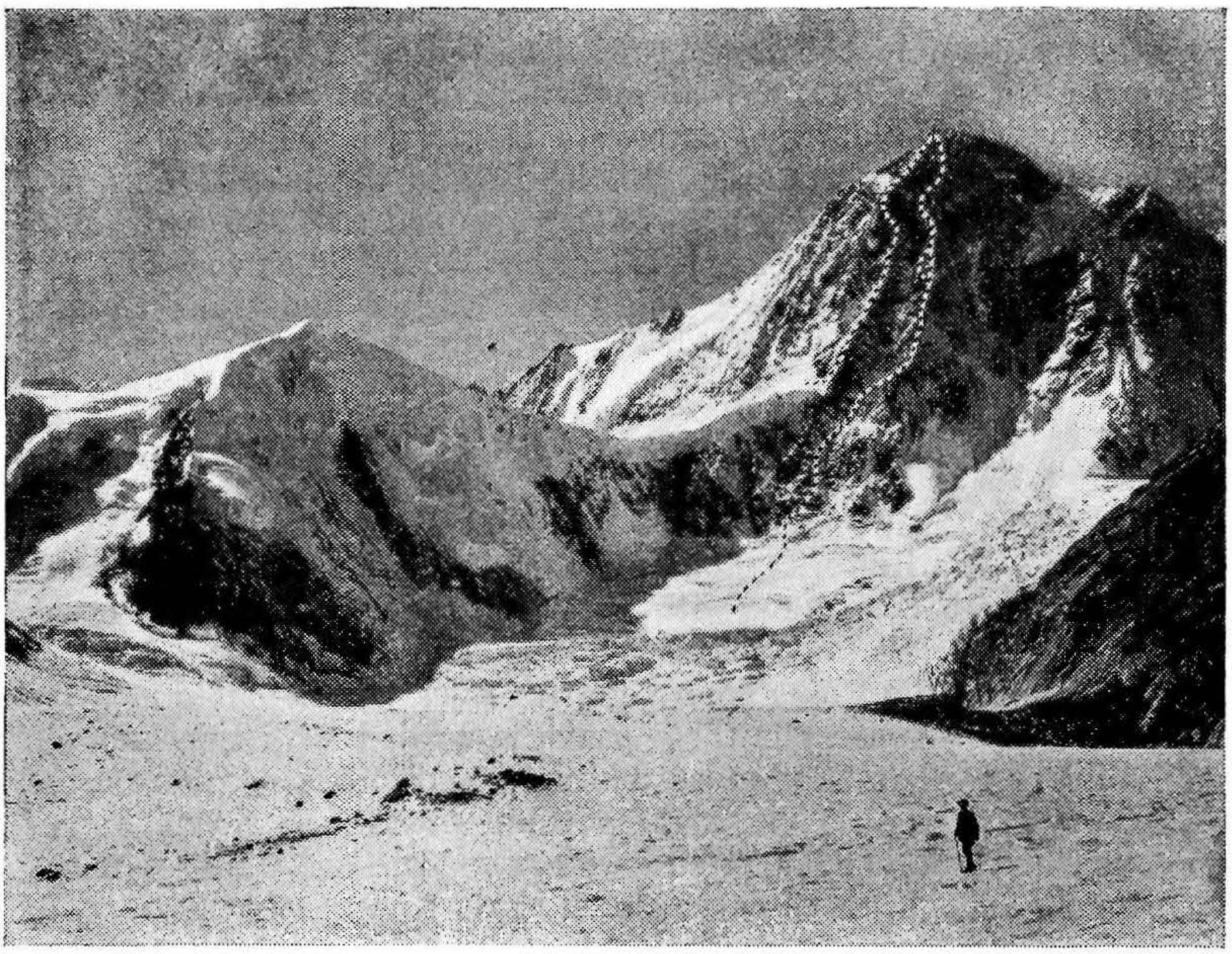
On the descent the W. ridge was followed; the W. slope of Point 3720 m. consisted of ice and practically no snow, and in consequence on the descent it was found better to leave the ridge and descend into the hollow lying on the N. side of the mountain between Point 3720 m. and the summit. After avoiding some crevasses it was possible to traverse round the N. side of Point 3720 m. by means of good but steep snow slopes and so avoid any step-cutting.

FINSTERAARHORN, 4275 m. = 14,026 ft. By the E., or *Ober-Studerjoch*, 'arête.' September 29, 1929. Herren H. Winterberger and O. Brügger, with Hans Kohler.

[See 'A.J.' **34,** 269, '. . . continuing from the (Ober-Studer) Joch is a rib which soon flattens out into the face of the mountain, which has been miscalled the "East (or E.S.E.) arête of the Finsteraarhorn." As far as I know the mountain has never been tried along that line. . . . Captain Farrar . . . describes it as "a hopeless rock face, scored by shallow gullies . . . unsafe to climb and very exposed." To the right (N.) of this mythical arête . . . lies the great wall (N.E. face) . . .'

Thus Mr. G. A. Hasler.

But, turning to *ibid.*, 379–80, '. . . The broken ridge or rib which descends from the southerly summit of the Finsteraarhorn to the Ober-Studerjoch and continues down to the Finsteraarhorn Glacier [*sic*] is, to my mind, very real indeed. There is nothing "mythical" about it. . . . The rib first runs E. of S.E. but quickly curves to the E. and continues N. of E. So massive is this ridge that it even boasts of a well-marked depression. . . . It is at least as prominent as the Bell-Fuhrer rib, which Hasler followed



N.E. Face of Finsteraarhorn.

Left, 1929 route. Right, 'Bell' rib.
(Hasler and Fynn parties.)

almost throughout his ascent. The great couloir which is such a very prominent feature of the N.E. face would be non-existent but for this eastern ridge. The eastern ridge forms its southern, Miss Bell's its northern, boundary. Whether this E. ridge can be climbed I am unable to say. The one doubtful stretch is that which lies immediately below the level of the Hugi Sattel. . . . As to Captain Farrar's remarks . . . these clearly apply to and correctly describe the N. end of the E. flank of the S.E. or "Meyer" ridge. . . .'

Thus the late Mr. Valère Fynn.

(See the Wehrli and Donkin photographs, 'A.J.' **34,** facing pp. 272 and 382; for another view of the Ober-Studerjoch, see p. 272.)

Fynn and Farrar have left us, and, as for Mr. Hasler, like another great warrior, he has retired to his tent, whence, failing a Patroclus, or sufficient provocation, all efforts to dislodge him have proved hitherto vain.

It is by this 'mythical' or 'massive' ridge that lies the route to be described.]

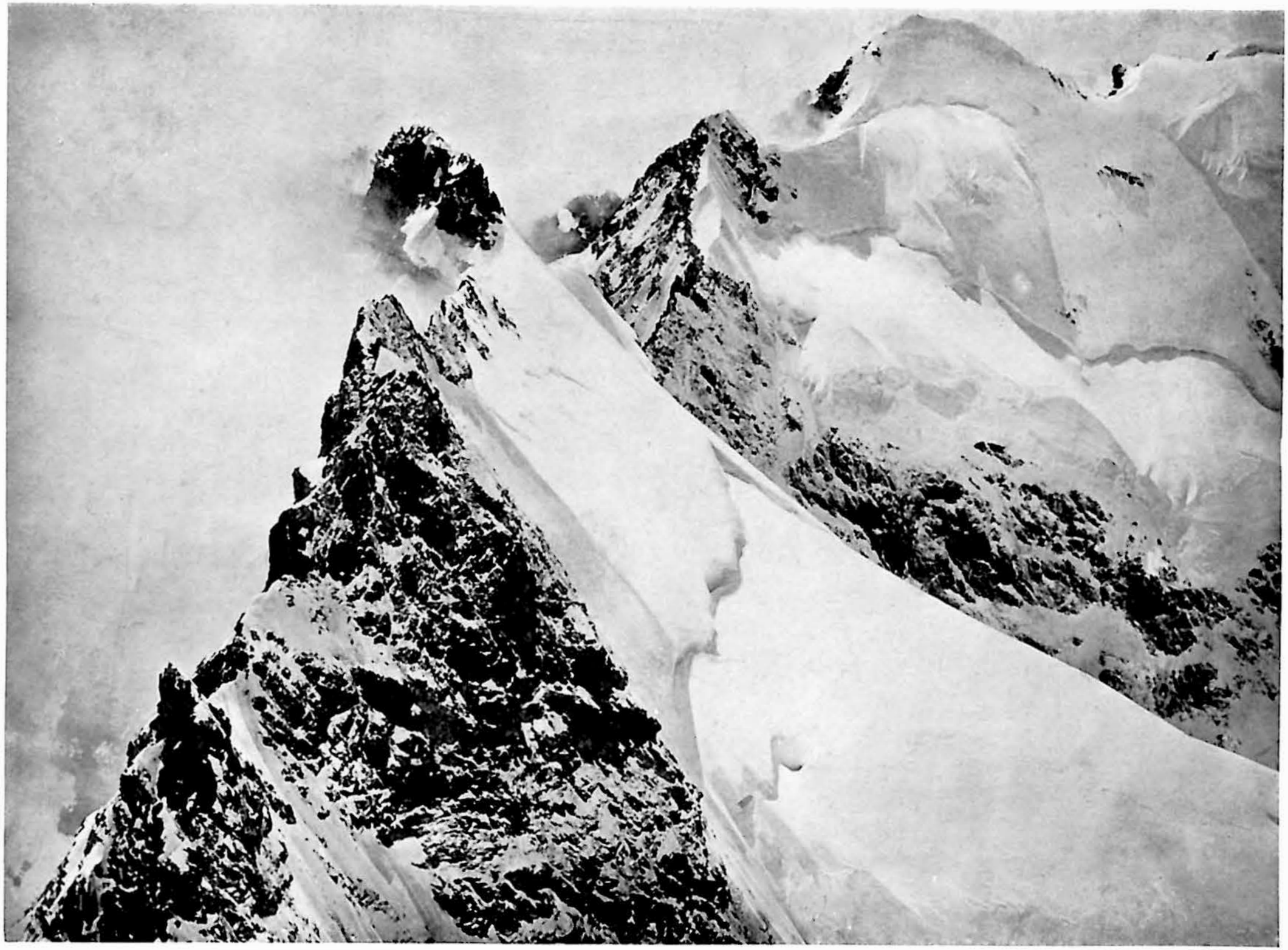
From the Oberaar Hut, left at 06.00, the first party attained the Ober-Studerjoch, crossed the bergschrund and mounted a short snowy basin to the E. (E.S.E.) 'arête,' attained near a conspicuous pinnacle. Now up this ridge or rib, very difficult in parts, keeping to the crest—only one tower turned to the right, N. In the last 'fourth' of the climb, the rib splaying out into the vertical face, party forced to cut steps across an ice-slope bearing to the left, S.W., and so to gain another rib leading to the great S.E. arête, 40–50 m. below the summit. Latter attained at 14.45, or 7½ hrs. from the Ober-Studerjoch. The climb is described as very fine and difficult. (Communications from Herr Brügger and Hans Kohler, through Dr. Lauper.)

Bernina Group.

Piz Roseg, 3942 m. = 12,933 ft.—Piz Scerscen, 3967 m. = 13,015 ft.—Piz Bernina, 4055 m. = 13,304 ft., *S. map.* Traverse.

On September 19, 1929, with my friend the guide Karl Freimann of Samaden, I left the Tschierva hut so early that we had reached the summit of Piz Roseg before dawn. Luck had favoured us: the whole basin between our three peaks was filled with thick masses of mist as we left the hut at midnight and proceeded across the Tschierva Glacier. This sea of autumn mists rose slowly higher above the dark valley. There were two drifting walls of mist; curiously enough, these never closed in on us and left the route to the Aguagliouls quite open, although the said opening was often not more than a rope's length in width. After passing the Piz Aguagliouls we rose above the mists now breaking against the dark precipices of the Bernina Group. We climbed the N.W. arête towards the summit of Piz Roseg, all sprinkled with freshly fallen snow; we went slowly so as to spare our strength for the work ahead of us, never stopping, however, even for a moment. Near the first peak, or *Schneekuppe*, of Piz Roseg, a chamois track ran right across the névé.

The first light of the rising sun on the corniched peak gave us the signal to commence the descent of the E. arête. It was probably the second descent of that ridge, and the traverse, as far as Piz Scerscen, was unknown to both of us. Short strips of ice alternate with rocks, but care is always necessary on account of the proximity of the great precipitous N.E. ice-wall. The E. peak, or *Klein Roseg*, gives from above the impression of a repulsive tower; on a nearer approach it appears, however, much less startling. Up till this spot



Photo, E. J. Garwood.

PIZ SCERSCEN and the Three Peaks of PIZ ROSEG.
From PIZ BERNINA.

everything had been easy, but now the rock climbing begins. Perpendicular little steps on the ridge with good holds became more frequent, but no specially outstanding difficulty was encountered. The main difficulty was soon before us : we were about 300 ft. above the *Güssfeldtsattel*.[5] The steepness made details very difficult to grasp. The icy rocks and fresh snow forced us more and more on to the Italian side. A direct descent seemed at first sight impossible without an undesirable *rappel*. About 100 ft. above the col we crossed, on crampons, rocks thickly coated with ice for about a rope's length towards the E. face of the Roseg. After Freimann had passed as last man over this not easy traverse, we soon stepped on to the beautifully formed ice ridge of the *Güssfeldtsattel*. We had spent most time on the last third of the ridge.

We had now been going for about 10 hrs. The first half of our project had been accomplished successfully, and we could allow ourselves a short rest. The Roseg and Scerscen main ridges fall steeply to the sharp icy col from which descends an immensely steep and unbroken ice-slope for some 250 m. to the Tschierva Glacier ; behind this appears the great N.E. ice-slope of Piz Roseg. This is surely one of the wildest spots in the Grisons Alps.

Some time elapsed before we could decide where to start. The Piz Scerscen is an all the more splendid tour, because one does not have one's pleasure spoilt by following the nail-marks of other parties. The smooth slabs leading straight up to the first tower on the ridge seemed to be passable, and these indeed we scaled, but not without expending a lot of strength owing to our nailed boots and rucksacks. We advanced always as near the crest of the ridge as possible, and invariably when forced to traverse did so on the less steep Italian slope, although there the rocks were very bad and rotten.

The ridge became steeper and steeper ; places where mutual help was possible, less and less frequent ; the big tower seemed to lean over considerably. The result of our first attempt to climb it by its N. slope was that Freimann failed to get forward over the next small overhang on account of the ice. A *direct* ascent of the gendarme which was not far above us appeared inadvisable after 12 hrs. climbing as the rock was so remarkably abrupt. We therefore retraced our steps a little, and I succeeded in traversing along the Italian side round the tower and on to a sharply pointed tooth in the notch of the ridge just in front of the snowy hump, or *Schneehaube*. We had now the hardest part of the tour behind us. The further traverse to Piz Bernina has little to offer compared to the difficulties successfully surmounted. We slung down on the rope from this gendarme, and our weight on the short rock ridge on

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[5] Fuorcla Tschierva-Scerscen ; now called Porta Roseg, 3527 m. on the latest edition of the *S. map*.

which we now set foot caused the top of it to break away. We then walked at our ease over loose rocks to the *Schneehaube* and along the snow-crest to the summit of Piz Scerscen.

Three towers on the ridge bar the way towards Piz Bernina ; each was turned on the S. by ledges or rubble-filled couloirs. We now climbed faster than we had done in the morning, but uphill this could only be managed by will power. During the entire tour we had moved slowly, but absolutely steadily ; during the 18 hrs. of climbing we only halted three times, for about three-quarters of an hour each time. The last traverse towards the rocks of the Bernina consists of a sharp ice-ridge, which on account of the steepness of the ice-slopes on the left, N., has much in common with the *Güss-feldtsattel.*[6] At the beginning we balanced along the extremely sharp edge of the ridge, the fresh snow on the N. slope peeling off under our feet and forming dust avalanches.

As the ridge was in splendid condition, we advanced almost without step-cutting and so saved a lot of time, especially as the guide already knew this part of the way from a previous ascent. On the last steep rocks leading to the ' Bernina ' ridge proper, the freshly fallen snow was a great hindrance. At 7 P.M. we emerged on the S. ridge of Piz Bernina. We hurried up to the summit along the well-worn summer track, reaching it at 7.25 P.M. Owing to the late hour we had now to abandon our project of returning *via* the N. or ' Bianco ' ridge to the Tschierva hut, as such a descent would certainly not have been safe in the dark.

During our last halt we enjoyed a marvellous view towards the icy Scerscen ridge glittering in the light of the rising moon. In such light Piz Roseg looked incredibly distant, and the little Tschierva hut, whence we had spent 17 hrs. of toil, had vanished in the gloomy and cold shadows of our peak's huge north-western precipices.

With happy hearts we stumbled down to the Marco and Rosa hut on the Crast' Agüzza Sattel, where we arrived an hour later.

Times :

To Piz Roseg . .	5¾ hrs.	Tschierva hut dep. . .	24.00
To *Güssfeldtsattel* .	4 hrs.	Piz Bernina arr. . . .	19.25
Crossing *Güssfeldtsattel*	¼ hr.	Marco and Rosa hut arr.	20.25
To Piz Scerscen . .	4 hrs.		
To Piz Bernina . .	3 hrs.		
	17 hrs.		

ULRICH CAMPELL.

[The traverse of these three peaks in a single day has never, to our knowledge, been accomplished previously.—*Editor.*]

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[6] But is at least three times as high.—*Editor.*

Tödi District.

Piz Scantschallas (*Punteglasgruppe*), *ca.* 2950 m. = 9645 ft. No name or height on *S. map*. By E. face and S. arête. August 25, 1929. Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Gates and Mr. W. M. Younger. From the gap between Piz Scantschallas and Piz Mut *descend* a short distance on the E. side, and traverse along the E. face by a broad slightly sloping ledge which is very clearly seen from the Punteglas hut; then straight up easy rocks to join the S. ridge at a distance of some 150 yds. from the highest point. This ridge gives excellent climbing, including an exposed traverse round a prominent gendarme. Shortly before the summit the route described in the *Climbers' Guide*, 'Glarner Alpen' (1920), is joined, and the summit reached by the 'steep holdless slab' there mentioned. ($2\frac{1}{4}$ hrs. from gap.)

Descent by N. ridge till just short of the steep drop into the gap between Piz Scantschallas and Piz Curtin scarvon Giacken. This was avoided by descending an exceedingly rotten chimney on the W. side, and by a short *rappel* (probably avoidable). Thence back to the hut by approximately the ordinary Piz Curtin route.

This traverse, especially if Piz Mut is included, gives an excellently varied expedition. The Siegfried map is rather inaccurate.

Brenta Group.

Cima Tosa, 3173 m. = 10,403 ft.; *D. and Œ. A. V. map*. From the N. July 21, 1929. Signor Virgilio Neri, *alone*. From the Vedretta di Crozzon steer for the great conspicuous snow or ice gully, so well seen from the upper Campiglio-Bocca di Brenta path, separating the Cima Tosa from its huge northern buttress, or Crozzon di Brenta, 3128 m. Cross the bergschrund to its left and clamber up between the rocks of the Cima Tosa and the main gully itself. You will then come to what, in 1929, constituted a great icefall of overhanging or vertical séracs; mount these as best you can, keeping close to the Crozzon rocks—many falling stones. You then attain an enormous crevasse, some 30 ft. wide and of great depth. This is crossed on insecure blocks of ice, and by the upper and steepest portion of the floor of the gully you arrive at the spot where the gully bifurcates. Take its true right branch and by rocks and snow attain the summit. ($4\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. from the base.)

From 'R. M.' xlviii, pp. 326–7, 338–9, with a much foreshortened illustration.

[The conquest of the great gully solves a long-outstanding problem and is, in any case, the first *recorded* ascent. Under good snow conditions, the ascent or descent, for a *properly constituted party*, is easy. It entails a difference of level of some 2200 ft. from the spot where the gully contracts. But the danger of falling stones

from the Crozzon di Brenta [7] is always excessive, largely because that great buttress, facing due E., receives the earliest rays of the sun. For this reason the route, although obvious and pointed out by the first pioneers of the group, has been considered, hitherto, as quite outside the pale of reasonable risk.

It is obvious that the proper time to attempt the expedition is in early June after a snowy spring and taking advantage of moonlight. But 'in any case the passage must be a long and trying one, not worth the pains.' *Cf.* 'Ball,' II, ii, p. 386.]

Caucasus.

USHBA (S. peak),[8] 15,409 ft. (4698 m., *Merzbacher*). Third ascent; from the S. by the 'schulze' route (second ascent). August 14–17, 1929. Herren F. Bechtold, W. Merkl, W. Raechl, and W. Semenowski.

August 14.—From a camp at about 2700 m. on the left lateral moraine of the Gul Glacier, party left at 04.15 and attained over the gently sloping glacier the base of the great couloir leading to a marked depression in the S. arête of Ushba's southern peak—the so-called *Mazeri Gap*, 06.00. Leaving the couloir some 350 ft. below the depression, the party inclined to the right over slabby rocks to attain the narrow and steep ice-gully starting from a point some 650 ft. above the said depression. The gully was full of ice masked by rotten snow : it is also dangerous from falling stones. At 12.45 a well-marked notch in the S. arête was attained, where, with doubtful weather coming on, the party bivouacked at about 3850 m.

August 15.—Party left bivouac at 04.00 and climbed up two rocky ribs bounding an ice-gully some 150 ft. high : this gully leads to the so-called 'Lower Snowfield,' that is to say the snowfield plainly visible from Mazeri abutting right against the perpendicular summit wall. A kind of flattish rib emerges from the steep névé leading parallel with the S. arête and forming its W. margin. Turning a portion of the névé, the party utilized this rib partly—easy rocks—and attained its head over steep but good snow, employing ice pitons (*ca.* 4100 m.), 07.00. The following rocks, *i.e.* the reddish rocks on the S.W. edge of that portion of the S. wall facing Mazeri,

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[7] On July 17, 1925, a cloudy and cold day, a cramponless party starting from the summit of the Cima Tosa quickly descended two-thirds of the couloir, *i.e.* to the top of the séracs. Finding the said séracs and lower third of the couloir ceaselessly raked by stones, the party turned back, easily regaining the summit of the Cima Tosa.

[8] For illustrations of Ushba see *A.J.* **13,** 354, 373, 514; **22,** 243, and especially 339, 341, 347; **28,** 142. See also 'Freshfield,' i and ii.

were extremely icy and required much cutting. Above begins a steep ice-slope leading up to that portion of the wall facing W.: the base of that wall was attained at 11.15. The clamber up the wall, covered with ice and fresh snow, proved extraordinarily difficult; it commences some 100 ft. to the N. of the S.W. arête, first up a step and over a ledge to the left leading to a chimney some 100 ft. high, ending in an overhang. A rope belonging to the 1903 party was still hanging here. A human pyramid conquered the chimney and 12 ft. overhang, and easier rocks follow: first straight up a cleft, then to the left where the cleft ends in a smooth overhang. More pitons fixed. Then follows a *descending* traverse to the left to a splinter in the smooth wall, some 12 ft. *lower* than the take-off. Schulze's piton is no longer available [!]. A few more steps to the left, followed by a return to the right, complete the conquest of the bulge (over which masses of water were pouring later in the evening). A rope having been fixed here, the party went into bivouac beneath the overhang at a height of some 4400 m., 19.00.

August 16.—Departure at 04.30; the traverse was completely iced up, so was the fixed rope. It took 5 hrs. to overcome the step and attain the deep-cut ice-gully marking the termination of the main difficulties. Cutting up this gully and mounting it about half-way, the party then abandoned it to the left and took the less ice-clad rocks to its side (12.30), *ca.* 4470 m. Then over the upper summit-névés and the rocky W. arête to the top, 14.25.

Descent.—Summit depart 15.00; upper ice-gully attained, 15.45; five long *rappels* down the wall, quitted at 20.00. Bivouac above the steep ice-slope facing W., *ca.* 4320 m.

August 17.—Left bivouac at 04.50; red rocks, 07.10; depression in S. arête, 11.50; descent of great couloir accomplished, 19.15; camp on Gul Glacier (2700 m.), 20.00 hrs.

[The numerous day-halts are not given here, only the *main* times —*Editor.*]

From *Jahresbericht* des A. A. V., München, 1928–9.

Mount Kenya District.

Mr. R. E. G. Russell and I made an expedition to Mount Kenya in December 1929, the chief object of which was to explore the northern faces of the peak. The weather on the 'safari' up was very bad and our progress very slow. A camp was established at the head of the Mackinder Valley at the foot of the peak, *ca.* 13,500 ft. Here I was unfortunate enough to be laid low by a severe chill which robbed us of much of our time.

When I had recovered, we set about the exploration. The weather had cleared somewhat, and we managed to accomplish quite a lot. Conditions on the peak were appalling.

This northern side is amazingly complicated and the problem

of forcing a route up any part of it is very difficult indeed. A very sharp and almost level ridge starts just below the summit of Batian [9] and runs N. for some distance; then it divides into two parts, one descending to the W., the other to the N.E. The W. ridge runs down to the col between Point Piggot and Batian and is quite continuous. It is very long and serrated and in places tremendously steep.

The N.E. ridge is not so well defined, and is broken up into a series of huge pinnacles, somewhat resembling a ridge of Chamonix Aiguilles. Two glaciers have their origin in the face enclosed by these two ridges: one is the Northey Glacier; the other has two branches named the 'César' and 'Joseph,' after Sir H. Mackinder's two guides—César Ollier and Joseph Brocherel. Between these two glaciers two detached peaks rise: one is Point Peter—a fine rock spire; the other appears to have no name—it is the higher though the less imposing. Neither has been climbed.

On the other side of the N.E. ridge are the N.E. faces of Batian and Nelion, divided by an immense couloir descending from the Gate of the Mists. It was from this side that Wyn Harris, Sommerfelt, and I made our first and unsuccessful attempt to climb the peaks in January 1929.

Conditions were now too bad to make a serious attempt on this side of the peak, so on December 16 we moved over a col (*ca.* 16,100 ft.) close under Point Lenana to the 'Curling Pond.'[10] Here we found the small cabin recently built by Mr. E. Carr.

On December 17 we made the ascent of the twin peaks by the route discovered in January 1929.[11] Conditions were fairly good, although the upper couloir of Nelion was choked with ice—much ice on the other parts of the face would render it quite unclimbable. A large corniche in the Gate of the Mists rendered its passage more intricate than before. We found our cairns on each summit intact. Our times were rendered rather slow by conditions, and we failed to get off the face before dark. A trying time on the Lewis Glacier was the result.

On December 18 we made the first ascent of POINT JOHN—a fine rock peak on the right bank of the Lewis Glacier. The ascent was made by the S. face (the only possible-looking face). The rock is sound, and the climbing (on our route) approximates to that required on the Dent du Requin.

We reached the foot of the rocks at about 9.30 A.M. and the summit at 1 P.M. The view is superb; its chief feature is the huge S. face of the mountain crowned by the Diamond Glacier, the scene of that epic bout of step-cutting in 1899.[12] The summit of Point John

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[9] The correct spelling is Batian not Bation.—*E. E. S.*

[10] This small glacier appears also under the name of the 'Skating Pond.' *A.J.* **41,** 365.—*Editor.*

[11] *A.J.* **41,** 220, 362–6.

[12] *A.J.* **20,** 109.

seems to actually overhang the Darwin Glacier, 1000 ft. below on the W. side.

On the 19th we returned to the Mackinder Valley (we could not get our porters up to the 'Curling Pond') and thence down from the mountains.

Readings of the aneroid gave the following results :

Nelion, 17,150 ft. ; Batian, 17,200 ft. ; Point John, 16,200 ft.

We took a hypsometer with us, but did not use it, as we had lost our thermometer in a crevasse.

E. E. Shipton.

ALPINE NOTES.

The Alpine Club Obituary :	Date of Election
Dent, Edward	1874
Bury, H. E.	1878
Blake, M. Locke	1882
Fry, Very Rev. T. C.	1891
Tubby, A. H.	1894
Fox, Adam	1903
Murray, D. G.	1914

Alpine Journal.—Index to Vols. 16 to 38. This Index is now ready. Copies may be ordered from the Assistant Secretary, Alpine Club, 23 Savile Row, London, W. 1. Price 10s. 0d., post free.

Index to Vols. 1 to 15, including P.P.G. Copies may still be obtained, unbound, price 2s. 6d., post free.

'The Closing of the Italian Alps.'—We are informed by the Italian State Railways' Official Agency that the following passes are now open : Col de la Seigne, Col du Géant, Théodule, and Colle San Giacomo. In other words, no mule or glacier passes are available in the Maritime, Cottian, Graian, Adula, Bernina, or Eastern Alps. The above Agency adds, naïvely, 'that the opening of the Passes for the convenience of mountaineers results in rather considerable expense in posting Customs and Passport officials.' We wonder what expense is incurred by blockading the whole of the Italian slope of the Alps [1] with armed guards and fascist militia !

After all, our Italian colleagues are the worst sufferers.

Latest news : The opening of the Colle S. Giacomo is doubtful. The Col Ferret remains closed.

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[1] To say nothing of the network of new strategical roads.