considerable influence over his fellows. His strength and reliability, his character, intelligence, and mountain sense, would have made him a good guide.

Those who have had the privilege of climbing with Chetin will regret him sorely, and cherish his memory.

H. R.

Chetin had the faults and virtues of his race to a marked degree. In 1924 when his job on Mount Everest was done and his responsibilities ended he was as wild as a hawk; a too great fondness of liquid refreshments was his recurring trouble, sometimes in every village.

On the mountain, in both 1922 and 1924, he was one of our most reliable men when there was a really nasty job of work to be done. In 1922 he distinguished himself by accompanying Finch and Geoffrey Bruce to the 25,000-ft. camp, which he reached twice from the N. Col. In 1924 he was one of the undefeatable 13 whose spirit was undismayed by the hardships of the earlier phases of that unlucky year, whom we distinguished by the name of 'the Tigers' and relied on entirely for our final attempts.

He and Nima Tundrup were selected to accompany Hingston on his expedition to Camp IV to bring me down when I was snow blind—and magnificently they did their share. In type he was small and wiry, but well knit and very strong. I can well remember the iron grip in which he held me when escorting me down some of the more difficult passages.

He had a good face—a real determined hard-bitten little fellow, and it is no surprise to me to hear that the wildness of youth was no bar to his becoming—as he did—one of the real heroes of Himalayan high climbing. May he rest in peace. 'Finis coronat opus.'

E. F. N.
J. G. B.

NEW EXPEDITIONS.

Mont Blanc Group.

Mont Blanc du Tacul, 4249 m. = 13,941 ft., *B.I.K.* By the N.E. face. September 1, **1929.** Signori F. Ravelli, P. Filipi, and P. Ghiglione.

As far back as the month of July 1921 I had been looking at the N.E. face of Mont Blanc du Tacul, and my impression was that it seemed formidable. The very big couloir which rises direct to the *calotte* of Mont Blanc du Tacul appeared, unquestionably, like the only way up the face. There remained the doubt whether it would be possible to cross the bergschrund. For several years

I left the problem aside, and always postponed it owing to the preposterous look of the said bergschrund.



Photo, F. Ravelli.]

N.E. Face of Mont Blanc du Tacul, showing 1929 Route.

Last year, on September 1, I left the Rifugio Torino at 03.30 with Signori P. Filipi and P. Ghiglione. At 05.15 we were at the bottom

of the great couloir, where, on account of the continuous fall of snow and ice, it takes the shape of a cone. Having put on our crampons, in 15 mins. we reached the bergschrund, which, owing to the good conditions, we managed to cross without great difficulty. Having reached the upper lip ('A'), we went as quickly as possible towards our left. By doing this we left to our right the middle part of the couloir where stones often fall, and went up the slope which, becoming very steep, obliged us to cut steps and handholds. We had been hoping to get hold of the rocks which form a sort of arête—and, from below, looked full of good holds—and constitute the E. bank of the couloir, but landing on them proved impossible.

It became necessary to get on to the ice by the side of the rocks, which were also covered by *verglas*. By doing this we overcame the narrowest part of the couloir ('B'), representing the most dangerous spot. From time to time, but luckily not too frequently, falls of stones and ice began to take place towards the rocks on our right.

Our work was very hard, and consequently very slow. Above the narrow part we went up a zone where small rocks projected out of the ice without offering a safe hold: first, because mostly covered with *verglas*; secondly, because the holds sloped downwards. This is the most awkward part of the climb, and takes a long time and very hard work ('C'). We finally arrived under a red wall of rocks which looked very menacing above us. To our left it appeared overhanging and quite impossible; right in front of us the rocks were covered with big icicles and *verglas*. It would have been folly to try this way. To our right, towards the middle of the couloir, the ice was black, hard, and very steep, and marks of falling stones and séracs covered it. At this spot, at 13.00, a snowstorm began. It was no use persisting in going on. We decided to retreat, and, having fixed a long iron piton in the ice to secure the rope, we began our descent; finding, however, the steps full of fresh snow, we decided to try to traverse the couloir and reach the rocks on the other side, which in their upper part did not look very dangerous.

We gave our first man more than 200 ft. of rope, and did the same with the others so as to make the traverse as safe as possible. At 14.30 we had reached the rocks on the other side ('D'), and stopped a while for the first time to have a little food.

The weather looking better, we decided to continue the ascent by that rib of rocks dividing the big couloir from a secondary one. After some quite difficult bits, we reached the small ridge from which we could look down into the secondary couloir. Higher up, this ridge which we were following ended in some sort of a big, red, impossible-looking gendarme ('E'). We tried to find a way by entering a broken crack on our right about 100 ft. high. We stopped on a small platform. Below us there was a second couloir; a steep ice-slope ('F') took us to a square rock situated at the foot of a large and smooth vertical slab. Above this it was not possible

to climb the big slab 'G.' We saw, however, that there was an horizontal crack cutting across our wall as far as the left side of it, and there a narrow and short *cheminée*, full of ice, descended from the upper arête and finished into space at our level. Filippi overcame the difficulty, and, having climbed on my shoulders and been pushed by my hands under his feet, succeeded in putting his feet on to the upper lip of the horizontal crack. From this, with the help of the axe planted in a hole, he reached the top of the glazed chimney and, cutting steps across into the couloir, disappeared up it. From above, Filipi could help us and haul up the rucksacks.

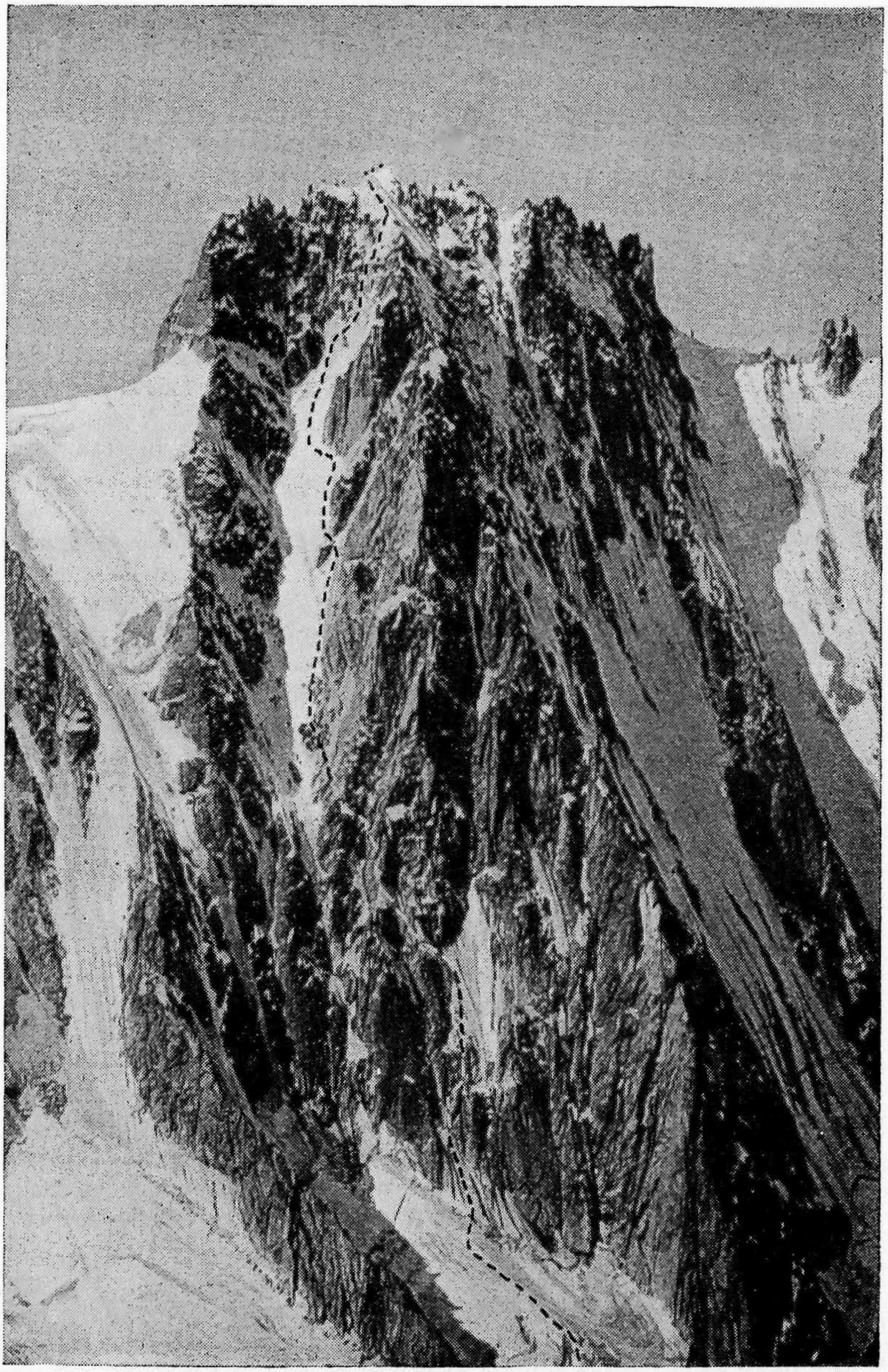
After this things improved, and following the edge of the arête, we reached the foot of another tower which prevented us from seeing what lay above. We climbed it, and from the top ('H') descended on a doubled rope to a little gap formed like a knife-edge of ice. We straddled across and over it. At this point the very difficult arête ended, and we began to free our minds of doubt as to our ultimate success.

We could see the big rocky face of our mountain supporting the white *calotte* of ice about 450 ft. above us. We could look down the secondary couloir, and towards the E. perceive the point reached in the morning. After the rocks we kept towards the left, and reached the end of the funnel widening out towards the summit. We cut through the corniche, and came out into the sun after having been so long in the shade. It was 19.00 hrs. and we could not waste time. In failing light we descended towards the Col du Midi, and attained it in the dark. At 23.00 hrs. we arrived at the Rifugio Torino, greeted by our friend Bareux, who had prepared for us a much needed supper.

F. R.

Les Droites, 4000 m. = 13,124 ft., *B.I.K.* By the N.E. face. July 31, 1930. MM. B. Arsandaux and Jacques Lagarde. Leaving the Argentière hut at 03.00, the party crossed that glacier and mounted the steep and very crevassed slope of the névé bay lying at the N.E. base of Les Droites, thus attaining the bergschrund. This was crossed at a height of about 2950 m., whence they climbed up first a snow-slope, then undercut rocks rather to the left, S.E., of point 2990 m. (*Vallot*). Scrambling up these rocks, bearing slightly to the right, W., a characteristic névé slope was attained. They climbed this névé to a point where it narrowed considerably; here they pulled out to the left, crossing in succession by a diagonal traverse, a rocky rib, a narrow couloir and a second rib. This rib was climbed for a short distance, whence a second couloir was traversed, thus leading the party to the third rock rib forming the left bank of the great couloir to the N.E. of Les Droites.

Crossing this third rib the party took to the great couloir, seeking the most sheltered line of advance. They mounted first close to its right (ascending) margin, N.W., overcoming several precipitous



Photo, J. Lagarde.]

ARGENTIÈRE FACE OF LES DROITES FROM TOUR NOIR GLACIER, SHOWING 1930 ROUTE.

steps. Higher up they took to the left margin, S.E., of the couloir, where, availing themselves of a momentarily quiet interval, they crossed the exceedingly active central avalanche furrow.

Above the couloir the party mounted by still steeper slopes and glazed rocks to the final striking and snowy arête. Following this arête they attained the summit ridge and shortly after the summit itself, 15.15 (40 mins. halts in all from hut to top—just to feed and put on or take off crampons). Party leaving the top at 15.45 descended by the ordinary route, attaining the Couvercle at 21.00 hrs.

The mountain was in fine condition on the day of the ascent. There was no black ice and but little powdery snow. The frozen slopes were composed mostly of softish ice or hard snow; rocks covered with thick ice or firm glaze. The entire ascent, save that of the lower rocks, was accomplished on crampons. The only unpleasant feature was a ceaseless hail of icicles, causing some damage to one of the party. To facilitate the labour to his injured leg, a few steps had to be cut.

The angle is very high throughout this face and halting-places are exceptionally rare, while no help whatever can be sought from the banks of the couloir. These are composed of such absolutely smooth and impossible slabs that not a step is feasible on them from base to top. Had the great couloir contained too much hard ice, the party had settled to abandon it at about 3550 m. and take to the little secondary gully rising from point 3559 m. (*Vallot*) to point 3775 m., finally mounting by the crest of the great N.E. buttress.

J. L.

[M. Lagarde informs us that this was the *seventeenth* occasion during the last 5 years that he had slept at the hut for this ascent, the previous sixteen attempts being all repelled by bad weather.]

Bernese Oberland.

Gross Fiescherhorn, 4049 m. = 13,285 ft. By the N. face. September 5, 1930. Herren W. Welzenbach and H. Tillman.[1]

[The N. face is made up of two zones of nearly equal height; the base is rocky, the upper half snowy. The *rocky* zone is seamed by a series of ribs from the base to where it ends about half-way up the face; the general inclination varies but little. The *snowy* zone rising above the rocks is, in its lower portion, composed of a uniform wall; higher up it is cut off by a series of ice-cliffs. The height of the face is about 4000 ft.]

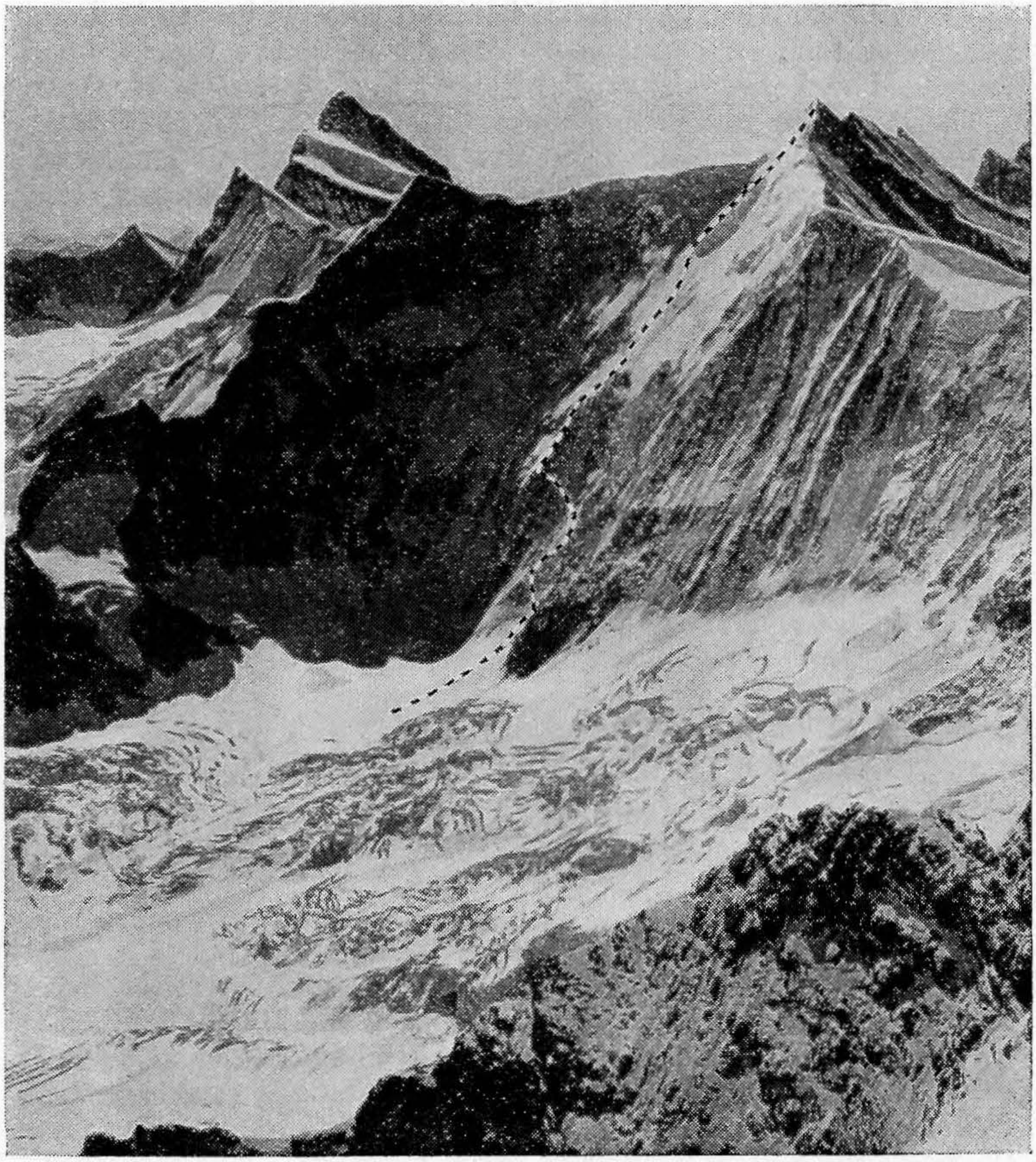
The party attacked the face at the base of the third rib from the right, W. (2 hrs. from their bivouac on the Zäsenberg); the rib taken by the Schumacher-Amstutz party up the Fiescherwand,[2]

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[1] From Dr. Welzenbach's notes communicated by Dr. Lauper.

[2] *A.J.* **38,** 215–218.

and which plunges far deeper into the Fiescherfirn, lies far to the W. Crossing a snowy gutter diagonally to the left, party took the fourth rib, which appears as seemingly split across its crest. This rib was climbed till it flattens out into a slabby zone at an angle of 70°. Bearing diagonally to the left across ice under this slabby



Photo, Ad Astra.]

N. Face of Gross Fiescherhorn, showing 1930 Route.

portion, the party climbed the fifth and gentler rib, following it over its very steep crest till it ended in extremely steep ice (5 hrs. 20 mins.). Moving diagonally to the right, they attained a narrow rock band forming the edge of the snowy wall in the upper zone. Under the ice-cliffs cutting off this slope, and rather to the left, E., of the plumb line from the summit, is a narrow, hanging névé. Mounting this ever-narrowing névé they attained the N.E. arête

of the peak about a rope's length under the summit, the latter being then reached over névé and a few rocks (3½ hrs., or 12 hrs. 20 mins. from the bergschrund to the top).

Leaving the top at 19.45 the Bergli hut was attained at 23.15 hrs., or 18 hrs. in all. Under good conditions these times could be reduced materially.

Alaska.

Mt. Bona,[3] 16,420 ft. First ascent July 2, 1930. Messrs. Allen Carpe, Terris Moore and A. M. Taylor. Party left McCarthy, June 15, 1930, and proceeded with horses to Skolai Pass, June 19, alt. about 4500 ft. Thence up Russell Glacier, with one sleigh, to base of N. ice-face of mountain, about 8700 ft., June 26. Established camp at about 10,500 ft., June 28, and a further camp at about 13,000 ft., in obvious saddle W. of the mountain, June 30. Climbed to about 15,500 ft. from this camp on July 1, but turned back because of blizzard. Reached summit 6.30 p.m., July 2, temperature 0° (F.) with good visibility to S. and S.E. only. Returned to McCarthy on foot *via* Skolai Pass and Chitistone River, July 10.

A. C.

Drakensberg, South Africa.

Intaba Endanyzana. First ascent July 1, 1930. Messrs. H. A. Liddle, A. G. Bird and C. Heron.[4] This peak stands out as a separate point on the Natal side of the main Drakensberg range, with which it is connected by a massive ridge. It overlooks to the E. the Ifidi and upper 'Mweni valleys, which at a distance of about 5 miles from it unite to form the main 'Mweni Valley. To the N.E. its slopes fall away to the Sinyati Valley. Having left the camp of the Natal Mountain Club, situated at a height of about 5000 ft. in the Sinyati Valley, the party reached the base of the N.E. face, that aspect of the peak facing the camp. A traverse was now made for a distance of half a mile in a N.W. direction at the head of the steep grassy slopes immediately below the huge rock-walls of the face. A gully —grassy, with rock interspersed—now led up to the rocky wall, which falls away from the ridge connecting the peak with the main range. From the foot of this two roughly parallel chimneys were seen to lead up the wall. The one on the true left was chosen for the ascent. A steep climb of moderate difficulty up this led in about 150 ft. above its foot to a subsidiary ridge at a point between two small pinnacles. A traverse was made just below this ridge round the base of the pinnacle on the true left. This brought the

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[3] This mountain is situated about 80 miles N.W. of the Logan-St. Elias range.

[4] A previous attempt from the Ifidi Valley in 1924 by Mr. Liddle failed through want of time.

party to a small saddle on the subsidiary ridge, which was crossed at this point into the head of an easy, grassy gully. Ascending this they shortly reached the long summit ridge. Turning now to the left, a short rocky wall of some difficulty led the party to easy, grassy slopes which led up the summit in about 5½ hrs. from camp. A cairn was built, as no traces of a previous ascent could be found. The height of the peak is estimated at approximately 9900 ft., and that of the main ' berg ' in its vicinity would appear to vary between 9000 and 11,000 ft. Owing to the position of the peak between Mont aux Sources—including the Towers and the Sentinel on the one hand, and the peaks to the S.E. on the other—it possesses a unique view in both directions, including Cathkin, Champagne Castle, the Saddle, as well as the Cathedral, the 'Mweni Needles and Rockeries, whilst beyond the main Drakensberg ridge, which falls away from the Sentinel, the higher peaks of the Maluti range are also visible. The party was confident that there was no other route of ascent. After a joyous half-hour spent on the summit the descent of the actual peak was accomplished by the route of ascent. From this point a more direct route than that taken during the ascent was followed to camp, the latter being reached at nightfall, in about 3½ hrs. from the time of leaving the summit.

O. K. W.

VARIOUS EXPEDITIONS.

Mont Blanc Group.

Dôme de Miage, 3688 m. = 12,188 ft.—Aiguilles de Trélatête, 3911 m. = 12,832 ft. *B.I.K.* Traverse. August 27, 1930. Mr. C. F. Meade, with Pierre Blanc. Party left Refuge Durier on Col de Miage at 03.30 ; after traversing the 3 peaks of Dôme de Miage, the plateau at the head of the Trélatête Glacier was attained at 06.05 and the N. peak, 3875 m., of Aiguilles de Trélatête at 08.15. From this peak the ridge was followed over the Aiguille Centrale, 3899 m., with its iced but easy rocks to the S. peak, 3911 m., the highest, 09.20 hrs.

At 09.30 the descent was begun direct from 3911 m. down the very steep snow-slopes of the E. face : these would be dangerous probably later in the day. The party then continued across the same slope under the central peak (3899 m.) till its N. base was attained. Here the route followed during the ascent was resumed over the N. peak and down to the Trélatête Glacier, arriving at the Pavillon de Trélatête at 14.30.

This variation, omitting the central peak either in the ascent or descent, enables one to make the traverse of the 3 peaks complete.

C. F. M.