

Mittellegirai of the Eiger. He also paid one visit to the Dolomites where the Becca di Mezzodi, the Croda da Lago by one of the more difficult routes, and the Punta Fiammes by the 'Spigolo,' were climbed. He was naturally quite at home with ski, on which he made several winter and spring ascents in the Bernese Oberland.

The entries in his book testify to the esteem in which he was held, and is more than emphasised by the personal statements of his various employers, with most of whom I am acquainted.

He was an expert carpenter, and a woodcarver of more than ordinary accomplishment, displaying a marked talent for original design.

Emil was unusually intelligent and refined. His enthusiasm, modest charm of manner and neatness of appearance always made a most favourable impression on everyone with whom he came in contact. His invariable good humour and willing disposition made him a most lovable companion, who will long be mourned by a grief-stricken family, by a host of sorrowing friends and, not least of all, by one who had watched his progress with an affectionate and fatherly interest. I refer to myself.

S. S.

NEW EXPEDITIONS.

Cottians.

MONTE VISO, 3841 m. = 12,603 ft. By the W.N.W. (Vallante) face. July 27, 1931. Signori V. Bramani, L. Binaghi, and Count A. Bonacossa.

From Castelponte, 1597 m. (new motor-car road as far as that hamlet) in the Varaita glen, by the Col di Vallante path, then some boulders, to the N. moraine of the Vallante Glacier, between the Visolotto and Viso, $3\frac{3}{4}$ hrs. Bivouac, with tent, at ca. 2650 m. Over a glacial slope and boulders to the rocky face (50 mins.), which was ascended by a couloir followed by a rib of sound rocks. At its end, bearing to the left over glazed rocks, they came to a vertical wall which was forced by a kind of chimney and subsequent traverse to the left. Easy rocks to the (original) place of the 'Triangle' Glacier,¹ then zigzagging a little over pleasant rocks to the S.W.

¹ See *Ball*, I, p. 62. This year the 'Triangle' Glacier, which gave so much trouble to the 1877 and 1881 parties and was far from easy last year, had partially disappeared! The party did not touch on snow, and the rocks below were much less glazed than in 1922 and 1925, when Count Bonacossa's party was defeated by thick *verglas*. Countess Esther Bonacossa took part in the 1922 and 1925 attempts.

arête—the last chimney alone was not easy—attained at a rope's length from the W. peak. Thence in 10 mins. to the summit.

Times: to the 'Triangle' Glacier, $2\frac{3}{4}$ hrs.; to the W. peak, 2 hrs. 25 mins.

Height of the wall: over 900 m. = 3000 ft.

This route has been tried since 1851 (C.A.F. *Ann.* 1877, p. 22; 1878, p. 42; 1879, p. 9). 'We descended by the ordinary route, but the Forciolline glen is terrible, no wonder Messrs. Hope and Kirkpatrick were benighted there' ('A.J.' 28, 375).

A. B.

Mont Blanc Group.

AIGUILLE NOIRE DE PÉTERET,² 3780 m. = 12,402 ft. By the S. arête. August 26–27, 1930. Herren Karl Brendel and Hermann Schaller.³

From the Fauteuil des Allemands hut, 04.00, over débris and hard snow to the foot of *Pic Gamba*, ca. 3050 m., attained at 05.00. *Kletterschuhe* put on and nailed boots packed in the sack. Party roped up at about 140 ft. interval. Over smooth rocks, shattered cracks and crannies, to a spot some 500 ft. above the start, where a stone-swept snow and ice-couloir was taken leading to the deep gap between the first (*Pic Gamba*) and second towers, 07.45. The work now grew continuously harder, up a series of vertical chimneys, passing an ancient and rusty piton, to a small notch, reached by a traverse to the right, immediately under the third tower. Thence along the sharp crest till obliged to traverse on the E. slope by a narrow and exposed ledge, thence a difficult chimney led to the top of the third tower, *Pointe Welzenbach*, 12.00.

Immediately below this point was a sheltered bivouac constructed by Italians engaged in the profanation of the ridge.⁴ The appearance of the next, fourth, tower is terrible. Hereabouts lay the high-water mark of previous real attempts. Starting from a kind of shoulder, the edge of the tower springs upwards in bare yellow overhangs some 350 ft. high. This edge must be tackled, as the Fresnay (W.) and Fauteuil (E.) faces are quite out of the question.

At 13.00 descent was made to the following notch by means of a vertical crack and smooth slab. In this notch and under a cairn lay a whole mass of ironmongery, 30–40 pitons of every conceivable size and shape.⁵ Now straight up the crest of the arête: this is only possible by means of a 100-ft. high crack splaying out above into overhangs where a short fluttering rope-length bore witness to the *farthest* steeple-jack efforts. Without extraordinary difficulty

² With the publication of the 'Mont Blanc' sheet of the new 1:20,000 map, we adopt M. Vallot's spelling of 'Péteret' *vice* the B.I.K. 'Pétéret.'

³ Herr Brendel was killed on the Predigstuhl, May 24, 1931; Herr Schaller perished on Kangchenjunga, August 9, 1931, see pp. 412–13.

⁴ *A.J.* 42, 341.

⁵ *Ibid.*

the party clambered up the crack, finding before them the great problem of the entire climb. In front, fixed in a smooth and vertical

←COL DES CHASSEURS.
 ←PIC GAMBA.
 ←2ND TOWER.
 ←POINTE WELZENBACH.
 ←4TH TOWER.
 ←5TH TOWER.
 ←S. PEAK.
 ←SUMMIT.



Photo, H. Pfann ; by courtesy of A.A.V.M.]

AIGUILLE NOIRE DE PÉTERET.

slab, were two stanchions concreted into the living rock, between which waved lugubriously the afore-mentioned rope's end. A short, barely defined crack then led up the overhangs, petering out eventually under a great projecting boss. This crack is the solution of the climb. Hard held from below, the leader drove in a piton as

high as possible,⁶ then, threading the rope through a *karabiner*, contrived to attain the boss. Hardly had the leader secured holds, when boss and all, narrowly missing the rope, thundered into the abyss. Not till the full rope's length had run out could adequate foothold be attained. Thence over lamentable but easier rocks to the fourth tower, 15.00 hrs.; cairn erected.

The further outlook became still more terrifying; the fifth and following tower rises in great yellow edges of uninterrupted vertical sweep. The ridge is impassable without a turning movement: from the cairn to a notch, thence up a crumbling crevice to a projection on the W. face, some 3 ft. distant from the crest. By a long stride on to the edge and then some 40 ft. upwards over disintegrating rocks to the base of the first overhang, where a piton could be fixed. Now, with extraordinary difficulty and exposure, some metres on to the W. slope, whence a 100-ft. smooth, knife-edged slab abuts against another overhang. By a minute crack and holdless crevices, till, just as the rope gave out, precarious foothold attained. Knocking out the pitons, the second man followed. The overhang was turned by more pitons; an interrupted ledge, still more dangerous than the edge, had then to be crept over with no cracks available for the fixing of pitons. This was at last accomplished and the crest reattained. Now over easier terrain to the top of the fifth tower, 18.00 hrs. Bivouac in an inconvenient cleft.⁷

At 06.00 on the following day the party started for the next tower, *i.e.* the S. peak of the Aiguille Noire. Progress proved very slow and difficult, necessitating the use of many pitons. Among other obstacles encountered were a damp overhanging crevice and a hand traverse of the severest description. At 08.00 the S. peak was attained mostly by the S. slope of the arête. At 09.00 the ascent was resumed over icy slabs into a deep notch to the N. and by the E. slope of the ridge the summit was achieved, 10.00. The hut was regained by the ordinary route at 16.00 hrs. (From *Der Bergsteiger*, 1931, No. 10, pp. 569-573, with a marked but rather ineffective sketch.)

[This expedition will rank as one of the most terrible accomplished.—*Editor.*]

Pennines.

MATTERHORN, 4482 m. = 14,705 ft. By the N. face, July 31–August 1, 1931. Herren Franz and Toni Schmid (of Munich). Starting at 24.00 hrs. from a bivouac at about 2400 m., and having

⁶ The party carried eight small and curved spikes, or pitons.

⁷ Not the least extraordinary feature of this desperate venture is the weight carried by the party: 40 m. of climbing rope, 40 m. of line, 8 pitons, 2 pairs of nailed boots, besides 'tent-sack,' provisions, and odds and ends.



MATTERHORN, N. FACE, SHOWING 1931 ROUTE.

+ is solitary halt. o is bivouac.



Photo, Ad Astra.]

MATTERHORN, N. FACE, TAKEN FROM 5000 M.

[To face p. 358.]



Photo, Ad Astra.]

↑
N. FACE OF MATTERHORN FROM ABOUT 4000 M., SHOWING 'GREAT, CURVED GULLY.'

[To face p. 360.]

previously reconnoitred the Matterhorn Glacier, the party attained the Hörnli Club hut at 02.00. Here the *gardien* was requested to warn guides and parties that an attempt was to be made on the N. face. Descending on to and mounting the Matterhorn Glacier, the party attained the bergschrund at 03.45, crossed it at 04.00, and attacked the ice slope of 60° leading farthest into the great wall and about 1000 ft. above them. On crampons they climbed the slope, no steps being cut—however desirable these might appear—as they wished to preserve their strength. The leader drove in a piton at the end of each rope's length to secure his follower. At the termination of the ice slope lay a kind of great curved and shallow gully—previously scanned from the bivouac. This gully,⁸ streaming with water and raked by stones and icicles, leads diagonally upwards to the right, splaying out into the 1700 ft. of the final face. The attainment of its base was extremely dangerous, especially as the party found the rocks highly glazed. No means of securing themselves could be found. Climbing upwards, the party discovered a solitary *standing* place some 300 ft. higher up. Here they were able to take a short rest. By crumbling, almost vertical ribs and crannies, leading alternately and with extreme caution, they continued slowly to gain height—ice still hindering them much. The level of the Solvay hut (*ca.* 4000 m.) was attained as darkness came on—shouts were here exchanged with parties on the 'shoulder.' About 20.30 the party discovered a diminutive boss, a few yards to their left, projecting from the face (*ca.* 4150 m., aneroid). All around lay the blank abyss. Fixing pitons in the boss—some 2 ft. square—they lashed themselves on and stood throughout the night.

At 07.00 on the following day they partially thawed in the sun, and, in threatening weather, renewed the struggle. Contrary to expectations, two ropes' lengths farther up came the greatest of all the difficulties. The vertical slabs were completely iced up, preventing the use of pitons, and only the discovery of a *thicker* ice-coating on yellow rocks somewhat to the right, S.W., enabled the obstacle to be turned. After traverses of the most hazardous nature, the leader attained snow-filled and seemingly endless threads leading towards the summit. In spite of their danger, these minute cracks seemed almost easy by comparison and at 14.00 hrs. the Italian summit was attained.

The weather was now growing very bad, lightning playing all about the cross on the summit. Abandoning their axes, the party huddled in their sack rather below the summit ridge. Later, the weather improving somewhat, they hurried over the Swiss summit (4482 m.) and commenced the descent. At the fixed ropes, a fresh storm overtaking them, shelter had to be sought again. Heavy

⁸ The gully is well shown on the Italian 1 : 20,000 map, 'Conca del Breil.'—*Editor*.

snow fell and small avalanches swept over the party. Descending once again, the party in $3\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. more attained the Solvay hut. The snow continued all *August 1* and the *following day*. On *August 3*, the descent was recommenced at 07.00 and, after $6\frac{1}{2}$ -hrs.' work of the worst description in knee-deep, fresh snow, the Hörnli hut was attained.

The ascent of the N. face had taken 34 hrs.; its height is about 4000 ft. The party carried two ropes, each of 40 m. in length, crampons, numerous ice- and rock-pitons, *karabiner*, and a rubber tent-sack. Very little food was taken.

(From notes courteously communicated by Herren Franz and Toni Schmid.)

[Contrary to what has been stated in the Press, only *two* serious attempts had been made previously on this face. In September 1928 the guides Kaspar Mooser and Viktor Imboden explored the N. face by a rib situated far to the W. of the 1931 route and close to the Z'mutt arête. This rib was perhaps safe from stonefall, but the approach was not; high up, the rib was cut off by an overhang. The guides spent all night beneath the overhang ('A.J.' 40, 404; 41, 72, 73). M. Blanchet, with Mooser and Lärjen, reconnoitred a short part of the N. face in 1930—this proved most dangerous ('A.J.' 42, 345). In 1923 two Austrians reached the 'shoulder' by the N. slope of the usual (N.E.) arête, also, as only to be expected, highly dangerous and difficult ('A.J.' 36, 156).

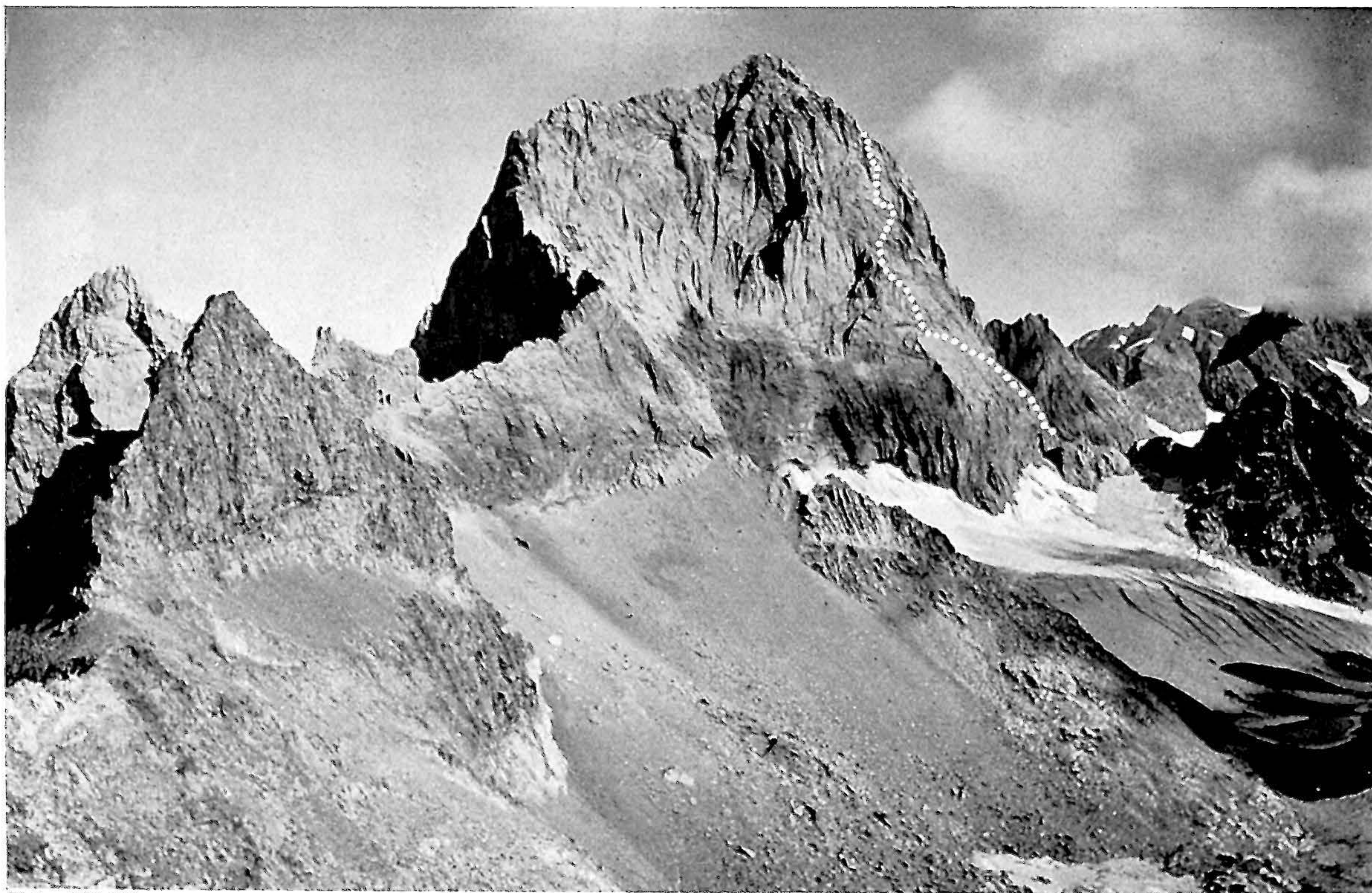
Danger and *not* difficulty has proved the deterrent to attempts on the N. face.

Confronted with such a performance, criticism or praise must perforce maintain silence.—*Editor.*]

Tödi Group.

GROSSE WINDGÄLLE, 3192 m. = 10,473 ft. By the S. face. June 21, 1931. Herren W. Weckherdt and W. Rickenbach.

From the Windgällen hut party proceeded to the Oberes Furkele (*S. map*). Thence straight up in a direct line towards the summit over low rock steps and cracks—very rotten rocks. Some 600 ft. up, they abutted against the base of the true perpendicular wall. They bore away to the left, W., over steep slabs intersected by débris-covered ledges for some 200 ft., thus attaining the foot of the great gully seaming nearly the whole of the face. Leaving this to the left, they clambered up a crack bearing always slightly to the right, E., then over slabby steps broken by outwards-sloping ledges, to the base of a nearly vertical stratum of slabs. Up an 80-ft. rock rib, holds running the wrong way, till this fades away in a vertical step (pitons). Traversing upwards and slightly to the left to a crack and up this latter, they attained a great boulder imbedded in the face, whence, bearing to the right, they reached an exposed and almost holdless slab some 100 ft. high. Here the party found



Photo, Wehrli.]

GROSSE WINDGÄLLE, S. FACE, SHOWING 1931 ROUTE.

the last pitons of previous attempts, at the base of the great sweep of slabs ending in an overhang. With extraordinary difficulty the party forced a way to the right over a perpendicular step some 50 ft. high, of which the holds sloped outwards. Thence clambering up first to the right and then to the left, the party attained a conspicuous crack. Up this crack to a smooth recess, whence another crack rather to the right furrows the vertical face; this also was climbed. At its end—extremely hard and exposed—by a 12-ft. hand traverse to another vertical step about 100 ft. high, affording a minute foothold at its termination. Now up the *edge* of a smooth crack for about 100 ft.—climbing of the utmost severity. By a diagonal traverse to the right over shattered steps, followed by a 30-ft. chimney, party attained a notch in the S. arête to the left of a small tooth—cairn erected. Thence over the S. arête to the W. peak, some 400 ft. distant (no times).

From the commencement of 'the true perpendicular wall' right up to the notch in the summit ridge, there is not one single place where it is possible to discard and lay down the rucksack. The wall is dangerous from stonefall and is terribly exposed throughout.—*Communication* from Dr. LAUPER.

[This route had been attempted previously by Dr. Miescher's party, by Herren Max Liniger and Neumeyer, as also by MM. A. Roch and F. L'Orsa. Its accomplishment without accident was due to extraordinary luck, especially as the weather was very bad.—*Editor.*]

Carnic Alps.

CRESTA BRICA, 2038 m. From the N. August 13, 1929. Madame Marko Debelak ⁹ and E. Deržaj.

Start from large scree in Val Brica. Then by chimney-like gully (difficult) to the neck. Thence exposed but not difficult climbing up a chimney, and then by an edge in the face to the ridge and by that to the summit. (2 hrs.)

CIMA DELLA VALETTINA, *ca.* 2300 m. By the N. face. August 10 1930. Madame Debelak, E. Deržaj, and S. Černivec.

Start from scree in Valettina di Forni through northern ravine. Then difficult progress by edges and chimneys to the neck; thence, right, into a gully and on through the middle one of three chimneys (chockstone) to a red crag. By difficult and exposed edge a few metres up and then bear left to the rib. By narrow ledge into a narrow gully and up latter to its cap. From here very difficult progress on open rock face with an exposed traverse to roofed chimney. Straddled out from under the roof into the crack which

⁹ Better known as Madame Pibernik (of Špik fame), *A.J.* 39, 138–41.

is its continuation. Thence through a hole and by rotten edges in the face to the summit. (3½ hrs.)

Descent through the line of chimneys down the S.W. face into the Val Monfalcone.

Maps of the outlying Carnic Alps are none too reliable. When the party gained the summit they found no trace of any former ascent, neither could they find their summit indicated on the map. A detailed description of all these ascents appears in *Æ.A.Z.* liii. pp. 206-16.

F. S. C.

CIMA D'ARADE, 2503 m. By the S. face. August 12, 1930. Same party.

Easy access through chimneys in plumb line of the summit to belt of scree; then up chimney (about 60 m.) representing right extremity of 'Y,' and by good wide ledge into the left-hand chimney of Y. Straight up from a small notch to a broad grassy ledge. Climb the vertical face below the summit by a black edge into a crack and up to a small overhang. Then by the exposed and difficult rocks of the face, followed to the right by a ledge to a corner and direct up over rock steps to the notch W. of the summit. A rope's length up to a tooth on the ridge, followed by a descent of about 10 m. into a gap, and by the W. edge of the summit to a conspicuous slab. A long stride leads into a crack, whence the summit is soon attained. (3 hrs.)

PUNTA MANTRICA, 2510 m. By the S. face. August 14, 1930. Same party.

By a succession of chimneys to the left, attain the gap between the two peaks, and along the edge to the W. peak or summit. (2 hrs.)

(For detailed descriptions see *Æ.A.Z.* liii. pp. 206-16.)

Alaska.

MT. FAIRWEATHER, *ca.* 15,400 ft. First ascent, June 8, 1931. Messrs. Allen Carpe and Terris Moore.—See Mr. Carpe's narrative in the present number.

VARIOUS EXPEDITIONS.

Mont Blanc Group.

MONT BLANC, 4810 m. = 15,782 ft., *B.I.K.* By the Brenva Route. July 31, 1931. Mr. T. Graham Brown with Joseph Knubel and Alexander Graven. The party left the Torino hut at 03.28 and reached the Col Oriental de la Tour Ronde at 05.15—