

The Triglav 'N. Face' is between 700 and 800 m. high in that portion traversed by the 'Jug' route, and for the first three parts of the route it is almost sheer. Great smooth slabs, occurring in successive series, constitute the special and characteristic difficulty.

The climb occupied 16 hours in all.

F. S. C.

ALPINE NOTES.

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :	Date of Election
Allport, D. W.	1875
Colgrove, J. B.	1876
Morse, Sir George H.	1887
Holmes, Alfred	1894
Shea, C. E..	1896
Nicholson, L. D.	1902
Candler, H.	1905
Collin, T.	1907
Schofield, J. W.	1907
Drake, Canon F. W.	1908
Kidd, Canon J. H.	1921
Morshead, Lt.-Col. H. T.	1922
Painter, A. R.	1923
Wright, W. A.	1925
Peto, R. H. K.	1929

THE CLOSING OF THE ITALIAN ALPS.—If a little easier in frequented districts during the height of summer, there are no real signs of improvement in the general situation, which continues to be unsatisfactory. During the C.A.I. Congress at Botzen, the President announced that 18 passes, hitherto closed, would be open between the Stelvio and Pontebba in 1932.

The S.A.C. and letters of the REV. W. A. B. COOLIDGE.—The Librarian of the S.A.C. Central Library, Zürich, requests us to announce that, 'together with the Alpine portion of Mr. Coolidge's library, the S.A.C. has collected during the course of the year, in their library at Zürich, many letters belonging to that distinguished mountaineer. It is true that Mr. Coolidge found little time to put into order his copious correspondence.¹ Nevertheless, thanks to the zeal of Herr Adolf P. Dietschi, M.A., some sort of order has now been installed and the correspondence would be of the highest value to

¹ Mr. Coolidge, *himself*, was always able, despite the seeming disorder, to lay his hand on any letter, however obscure the subject, at a moment's notice !

anyone writing a biography of Mr. Coolidge. No Swiss is at the present moment available for this purpose, and the Central Committee of the S.A.C. wishes British admirers of Coolidge to be so informed. The material for any such biography must, of course, be viewed first at Zürich. Nevertheless, a lengthy loan of the said material could be made to a recognized British Institution.'

Dr. Hermann Escher adds: 'We should appreciate it very much, if the biography of this so well-known mountaineer were written by an Englishman.'

We offer our warm thanks to the S.A.C. Central Committee and to Dr. Escher for their great courtesy. We sincerely trust that someone willing to undertake the work may be forthcoming among our more learned members.

CLUB HUTS.—On April 4, 1931, was inaugurated at Nikkaluokta, in Swedish Lapland, the first hut of the Lapland Alpine Club, perhaps one of the farthest N. club huts in the world, 150 kilometres beyond



THE ALPINE HUT OF THE LAPLAND ALPINE CLUB AT NIKKALUOKTA, LAPLAND.

the Polar circle and 60 kilometres from the railway station of Kiruna. The hut is erected just where different paths radiate to the finest Lapland peaks in this district, where also excellent opportunities of fishing in the many lakes and rivers occur. The Club expresses the hope to receive as their guests many members of the Alpine Club.

H. S. P.

GIFTS to A.C.—Dr. Hugh Roger-Smith has presented to the Club the compass and sundial, etc., belonging to De Saussure, which the

famous scientist took with him when he ascended Mont Blanc in 1787. Our very cordial thanks are due to Dr. Roger-Smith for this most interesting gift.

Dr. Wilson has presented a piece of rock gathered on the summit of the Matterhorn, August 22, 1879, by himself. This fragment is of the highest interest, being an almost perfect replica of the shape of the mountain from base to summit.

Dr. Wilson has also presented: (1) Ulrich Lauener's *Führerbuch*; (2) a summer-dinner card of 1859; (3) an ice-axe of the 1865 period; (4) belt used by mountaineers about 1860; (5) an original 'Buckingham' (now Beale) rope of 1865; (6) a leather drinking cup (*Dampfschiff*) belonging to William Mathews. For all of which gifts the Club expresses its warm thanks.

S. S.

HIMALAYAN CLUB.—Sir Malcolm Hailey, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., Governor of the United Provinces, has been elected President for the next three years.

LA SFINGE.—The 'Sphinx,' the curiously shaped tooth—conspicuous from Masino-Bagni—to the N. of Pizzo Ligoncio, was ascended by its N. arête² on August 30, 1931, by a party led by Signor V. Bramani. The climb took 2½ hrs. and was distinctly difficult.

A. B.

HEREDITARY MOUNTAINEERS.—Miss Anne Moinet (aged 20), granddaughter of Dr. Claude Wilson, traversed the Geisterspitzen, besides making other ascents in the Ortler Group, last summer.

Miss Sylvia Longstaff (aged 18), daughter of Dr. T. G. Longstaff, climbed Hjortetakken, the 'Matterhorn' of Greenland, accompanied by her father; she also visited the Ice-Cap from Disko Bay. In the Alps, she climbed, guideless, the Ruinette and traversed the W. arête of the Douves Blanches.

Signorina Pia de Filippi (aged 17), niece of our member, made the ascents of the Aiguilles du Tour, Col du Tour, Col du Chardonnet, Fenêtre de Saleinaz, Petits Charmoz (traverse), Aiguille du Géant, Grand Flambeau—all in 1931, her first season, and with much bad weather.

ORTLER GROUP.—The malpractices of many of the local guides continue³; we ourselves, on July 9, witnessed a lady who had made the ascent of the Ortler by the *Hinterergrat*, descending by the ordinary route, *last* on the rope. In fact, over the upper plateau, lady and guide walked arm in arm with the rope trailing behind. At the steep

² Cf. *A.J.* 25, 18–19.

³ *A.J.* 9, 114–8, 162; 17, 452; 20, 292–4; 21, 285–6; 37, 122–3. *Ball* II, ii. p. 293.

and crevassed névé step above the Tschirfek, the guide proceeded to the front, leaving the lady behind sitting down in each step as she came to it! It is high time that the C.A.I. should reform an abuse which the D. & Æ. A. V., in spite of many protests, never appeared able to remedy. The practice of roping two and two on crevassed névé, guide in front at an interval of 6–10 ft. on the descent, appears to date from the Cevedale accident of 1878 ('A.J.' 9, 114–118, 162).

That excellent guide Hans Sepp Pinggera is now caretaker of the (former) Schaubach hut. The veteran Alois Pinggera is flourishing at the age of 86.

The civility of the Italian military officials on the Umbrail and Stelvio Passes leaves nothing to be desired. The same cannot be said of the bands of semi-uniformed, ill-disciplined, and worse-mannered youths who make day hideous with shout and song outside the Trafoi inns.⁴ The 'S.A.D.' char-a-bancs, plying between Botzen and Bormio, are in every way inferior to the admirable Swiss motor-posts and drivers charged with the Umbrail-Ofen Pass-Engadine services.

Passports should be carried on the person, since anyone boasting a fancy shirt and Hussar-cum-Cossack head-dress appears to possess the right of stopping and questioning visitors. The natives are charming, as ever.

Among recent notable events in this group we regret to report the ascent in June of what the C.A.I. *Guida* names the 'N.N.E. gully' of the Ortler. This precipitous ice couloir is described as follows by Count Bonacossa: 'Between the *Marltgrat* and the N. face, descending to the S. branch of the small Marlt Glacier, lies an enormous ice couloir situated between threatening rocky banks and under the constant menace of the immense overhanging sérac-bastion of the Upper Ortler Glacier. Only those persons desirous of uselessly exposing their lives would dream of an ascent by this funnel, swept continuously by stone and ice avalanches' (*loc. cit.*, p. 122). We purposely omit the names and nationality of these desperadoes—as well as any details of their insanity.⁵

Walter Risch of Campfèr had a narrow escape from death while ascending the Ortler by the notorious *Marltgrat* (N.E. arête).⁶ A great fall of rocks swept the ridge, and he sustained a broken arm and other injuries. Thanks to the skill of his 'Herr,' the ascent was completed successfully, the descent being considered as too risky. Risch, we are glad to say, is recovering rapidly. He returned to his Engadine home *on his motor bicycle* 5 days after the accident!

⁴ A distinguished mountaineer, and there could be no abler judge, described to us the 'sabre-rattling' at Botzen in 1931 as far surpassing that in a certain country in July 1914.

⁵ Full information will be found in *Æ.A.Z.* liii. pp. 225–6.

⁶ *A.J.* 42, 7 and footnote 5.

S.A.C. HUTS in 1930.—The total number of visitors amounts to 64,857, as against 64,229 in 1929, to the 109 Club huts. The percentage of members of the S.A.C. works out as 33·3 against 34·7 in 1929. The Boval hut, as usual, proved the most popular, with 3113, while the Bergli, with only 50 visitors, holds the wooden spoon. From *Die Alpen*.

C.A.F.—Monsieur Jean Escarra has been elected President. M. Escarra is a well-known mountaineer and prominent member of the G.H.M.; General Dosse is one of the new Vice-Presidents. Extremely friendly letters have been exchanged between the new President and the President, A.C.

Young members of the C.A.F. have been granted facilities for doing their term of military service in the Alpine troops.

FRAU ALEXANDER SEILER.—We much regret to report the death of the widow of our old friend, Alexander Seiler, which occurred at Brigue on June 29. Frau Seiler was *née* Fräulein Emmeline Willmann. The Alpine Club desires to express its sympathy with all the relatives.

HERR JOSEF ESCHER.—The Club has lost a very old friend by the death of Herr Josef Escher, the proprietor and landlord of the Hôtel Trois Couronnes et Poste at Brigue. Herr Escher came of a long line of the best type of old Swiss Hôteliers who, for certainly four generations, have lived on their property in Brigue. He was a great friend to all British travellers, but among them all he had a very soft place in his heart for members of the Alpine Club, nor was there any more sincere friend of the Entente in Switzerland during the trying time of the Great War. He is succeeded by his son Anton, already well experienced as landlord of the Trois Couronnes et Poste. His other two sons are also established in hotels in Switzerland; one, Joseph, in Sion, and Raoul, his second son, is on the point of opening a large hotel at Morgins.

C. G. B.

PIZ D'AELE.—This interesting peak, the most famous of the three 'Bergün Dolomites,' has been conquered at last by its S. face during the summer. The party consisted of Herr and Frau Wenzel, W. Weckerdt and P. Ettinger, and the ascent took $7\frac{3}{4}$ hours. The difficulties of the climb—mostly up a conspicuous gully—are said 'to approximate to those of the N. face of Piz Badile, but Piz d'Aela is far less exposed.' The S. face had been tried on numerous previous occasions, notably by Herren Purtscheller and Blodig. The peak has now as many routes up it as a Lakes' boulder or Chamonix Aiguille. From *Sport*, Zürich.

PIZ PALÜ, N. face.—This snowy and resplendent face is one of the conspicuous and certainly most photographed objects in the Bernina

Group.⁷ As everyone knows, Piz Palü consists of three peaks, of which the central is the most lofty. From each of these three peaks a precipitous rock and ice buttress, or ridge, plunges northward into the névé of the Pers Glacier. Each peak has been attained on several occasions by its own particular buttress, the climb in each instance being of great beauty and interest, but devoid of any very serious difficulty or objective dangers. These latter—save under exceptional circumstances—may be described as *nil*. In 1930 a Swiss guided party under particularly favourable conditions and weather, cold and deep, firm snow, mounted the steep icy corridor or gully situated between the buttresses of the Central and W. peaks, thus attaining the former, or summit of the mountain. The height of the N. face exceeds 3000 ft.

The chronological order of these various ascents is as follows :

A. CENTRAL PEAK, *Piz Palü*, 3912 m. = 12,834 ft. (1) September 1, 1887, Herr Hans Bumiller,⁸ with Martin Schocher, J. Gross and Christian Schnitzler.

(2) July 29, 1909, Herr Julius Frohmann, with Niklaus Kohler and Christian Zippert.

(3) July 18–19, 1912, Herr Möllmann (of Hamburg, who perished in the *Labyrinth* of the Morteratsch Glacier, August 1, 1912.—‘A.J.’ **26**, 452), with Franz and Severin Fuchs of St. Niklaus. This party, finding access to the ice wall impossible, executed the weird and dangerous traverse to the W., joining the ‘Piz Spigna’ buttress! (Communicated by Franz Lochmatter.)

(4) August 15, 1925, Herren U. Wieland and B. Lendorff. This party followed the very difficult crest of the buttress and stormed the ice wall direct in 12½ hrs. from the Diavolezza inn. (Private information from Herr Wieland.)

(5) August 5, 1931, MM. H. de Ségogne, R. Tézenas du Montcel, and Marcel Kurz in 10½ hrs. from the Diavolezza.

B. W. PEAK, *Piz Spigna*, 3825 m. (1) July 31, 1899, Mr. J. T. Burton Alexander, with Zippert and Florian Grass.

(2) August 9, 1901, Mrs. Roberts-Thomson, with Zippert and Schnitzler.

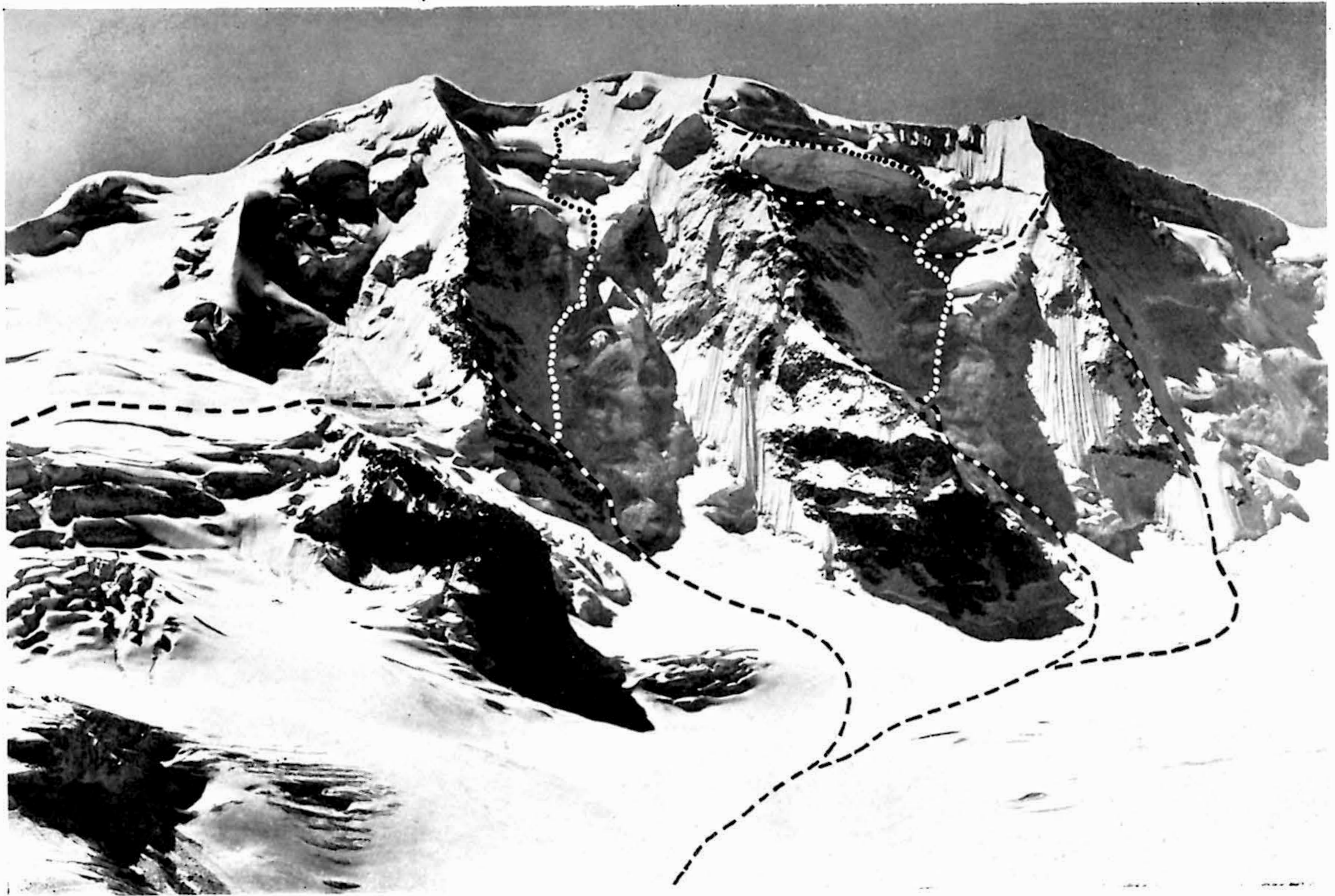
⁷ It has been desecrated by being the subject of at least two films.

⁸ The name is as above. Herr von Freriks kindly informs us that Herr Bumiller (of Mannheim) was an officer in the Guards’ Cuirassier Regiment of the German Army. The above expedition appears to have been accomplished for a bet and, with the exception of an early descent of Piz Scerscen *via* the S. slope of the Fuorcla Scerscen-Bernina, Herr Bumiller seems to have done little else in the Alps. He died, serving with the Red Cross, during the Balkan wars of 1912–13.

3889 M.
⋮

3912 M.
⋮

3825 M.
⋮



Photo, Wehrli.]

PIZ PALÜ, N. FACE, SHOWING THE VARIOUS ROUTES.

[To face p. 386.]

C. E. PEAK, *Muot da Palü*, 3889 m. (1) August 22, 1899, Herr Moritz von Kuffner, with Schocher and Alexander Burgener.

(2) July 28, 1911, Herr Hans Frick, with Zippert and Hans Kasper. ('R.M.' 1911, p. 364.)

(3) August 15, 1925, Herren Guido Miescher and Rudolph Staub.

Y. 'Corridor' between *Piz Palü* and *Piz Spigna*, September 2, 1930, Herr Franz Devantay, with Simon Rähmi and J. Götte ('A.J.' 42, 333-5).

Z. 'Icefall' between *Piz Palü* and *Muot da Palü*. May 15, 1931, Herren W. Dobiasch and O. Feutl (*Allgemeine Bergsteiger Zeitung*).

Of these three routes and two variants, the buttress leading to the summit (*Bumillergrat*) is certainly the finest and hardest, the others appear comparatively easy.

Now, in 1931, heralded as 'the solving of one of the few remaining problems of the Western Alps' (!), comes the last (above, Z) and grotesque variant:—The *Allgemeine Bergsteiger Zeitung* announces that two young scramblers forced their way up the narrow and precipitous icefall contained between the N. buttresses of the E. and Central peaks. In other words, disdaining the difficult (but safe) crests of the buttresses, the party preferred to run every conceivable risk of falling séracs for a route which they (or their press agent) have the effrontery to declare as the 'conquest of the N. face of Piz Palü': a route within 50 m., right and left, of what was accomplished safely in 1887 and 1899 respectively and repeated on several occasions since.

And yet a disaster occurring on May 15, 1931, would have been described as an 'accident.'

M. K.
E. L. S.

PIZ SCERSCEN, another 'new' route!—The same periodical (September 4) recounts that the same imaginative scramblers accomplished the 'first' ascent, August 17, of the 'W. face' of the peak.⁹ There is NO 'W. face,' but there exists a western angle to the bulging N. face, and it was precisely up this angle that the Klucker-Norman Neruda party of July 9, 1890, forced their way and, for some years, the route gave the easiest access to the peak from the Swiss side. This is the 'new' route now inaugurated in 1931!¹⁰—see the party's marked photograph, *loc. cit.*

⁹ The Marco and Rosa hut on the *Sella Crast' Agüzza* is given as the starting point. This would be about equivalent to using the Vallot hut as a point of departure for the Grandes Jorasses. The 1931 party, like Güssfeldt in 1887, descended by the 'ice-nose' to the Tschierva hut—presumably their starting point.

¹⁰ And of which long descriptions are given in the *Climbers' Guide* and C.A.I. *Guida*, to say nothing of 'Studer,' iii (1899), pp. 127-8.

Moreover, the said route, owing to the alteration of the upper séracs, has become thoroughly unjustifiable.

NOTABLE ASCENTS IN 1931.—MONTE ROSA, *Dufourspitze*, was attained, *via* its E. face, in $6\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. from the Marinelli hut, by a guided party, during the early summer.

The NORDEND was climbed by its E. face, 'Brioschi' route,¹¹ on July 23, by two parties, M. L. Brincard with Kaspar Mooser; MM. J. Lagarde and L. Devies.

BREITHORN, *Klein Triftjegrat*.—The mountain was ascended by this ridge from and to the Gandegg—the descent being accomplished by the ordinary route—in $10\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

PIZ BERNINA.—Two students left Munich on a motor cycle on June 27, attaining the Boval hut the same evening. On the following day they accomplished a variation (!) of the much enduring N.E. face¹² of the mountain, regaining Munich the *same* evening. The major portion of credit is due to the motor cycle.

PIZ MORTERATSCH-PIZ PRIEVLUS traverse.—This was accomplished by a party of three from N. to S. last August. Great difficulties were encountered and the traverse required $20\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. from and to the Tschierva hut. The expedition is, of course, far more interesting in the reverse direction, where most of the difficulties occur in the *ascent*.

GRAN PARADISO, N.W. face.—Count Aldo Bonacossa and Signor V. Bramani, June 28, 1930, reached the N. arête by the N.W. face a few rope's lengths to the left, N., of the point attained by the Chabod party of a fortnight later.¹³

CÉSAR OLLIER.—A monument was unveiled to the memory of this distinguished guide and explorer at Courmayeur, on August 30. Signor Don R. Cajrati-Crivelli was, we regret to say, prevented at the last moment from representing the Alpine Club.

CANADIAN ROCKIES.—The reviewer of Christian Klucker's *Errinerungen* in the May JOURNAL may care to know that various

¹¹ The 'right-hand' of the two routes. Cf. Captain Farrar's masterly monograph, *A.J.* **26**, 422–8.

¹² Reported in foreign periodicals as the 'N.' face—which does not exist. The final, precipitous summit of Piz Bernina is recessed in the angle between the E. and N. arêtes; the lower portion is a great bulging névé field starting above the *Sass del Pos*, 3208 m. The face in the angle which *may* be described as the 'N.E. face,' was climbed direct to the summit on July 24, 1911 (*A.J.* **26**, 197–8), by a route possessing no value whatever. In 1890 the Neruda-Klucker party reached the *Berninascharte* direct from the bulging névé field (*A.J.* **15**, 314–5).

¹³ *A.J.* **43**, 170–2.

references to the literature on Whympers Canadian expedition are fully set forth in the *Climbers' Guide*. Whympers, himself, wrote a paper for *Scribners Magazine* for June 1908. His companion, Outram, wrote of their climbs in *Appalachia*, x, as well as in his book *In the Heart of the Canadian Rockies*. Whympers also wrote a report for the Canadian Pacific Railway, which is mentioned in his obituary, 'C.A.J.' iv, 182.

J. M. T.

HIMACHAL.—'He who thinks on Himachal¹⁴ (the Himalayan snows) though he should not behold him, is greater than he who performs all worship in Kashi (Benares). And he who thinks of Himachal shall have pardon for all sins. And all things that die on Himachal, and all things that in dying think of his snows are freed from sin. In a hundred ages of the Gods I could not tell thee of the glories of Himachal, where Siva lived and where the Ganges falls from the foot of Vishnu like the slender thread of a lotus flower.'—From the unpublished Himalayan Diary of Mr. C. F. Meade.

FLAMMES DE PIERRE DU DRU.—With reference to the note, pp. 174-5, at the request of M. Robert Jonquière, we have pleasure in stating that there was no question of his perfect good faith in the original claim to which we were obliged to take exception. M. Jonquière states that the claim to a 'first ascent' was made without his concurrence in *La Montagne*. M. Jonquière's route¹⁵ was to the left, E., of the original 'Pasteur' route and precisely by that gully avoided carefully by Mr. Pasteur on account of dangerous stonefall. Dr. Claude Wilson informs us that his party failed in the same climb owing to the *excessive* danger.

MOUNTAINEERING FILMS.—There is no improvement in the production entitled *Song of the Alps*, apparently a joint German-Italian effort. As a story it is among the film-world's most discreditable attempts. The photography is moderately good. Of mountaineering proper there is little or nothing, but of ski-ing, as *not* practised, there is a great deal. Three strong and fortunately silent guides appear at frequent intervals—sometimes in cabarets. One of these stuns the villain in a Club hut, binds his limbs together with the climbing rope or cable, and then on ski proceeds to tow the said villain (on his back) from the lower Matterhorn hut to somewhere near the hamlet of Z'mutt. This haulage effort quite fails to reduce materially the speed of the guide. Having attained a spot in the vicinity of the Riffelberg, the hero-guide is met by the heroine, an extremely attractive personage, whose (very) inferior ski-ing powers quite won our heart. She takes the guide in tow

¹⁴ See p. 186 and the justice of the remarks thereon.

¹⁵ *La Montagne*, 1931, pp. 129-35.

with a motor bicycle, while the somewhat careworn villain undergoes further mauling from officious onlookers. Heroine and guide, tug and tow, then proceed across the Lake of Sils at so great a speed that they arrive in time for the guide to lead the Swiss team to victory in a ski race which, starting under the Breithorn, across the W. slopes of Monte Rosa, ends in a locality which we failed to identify for certain as Suvretta.

We may add, for the benefit of those with tender hearing, that there is little talking and only one noise mistakable for a 'Song.' The inevitable hunt on ski for bodies in a bergschrund, lit up by Roman candles, duly takes place, however.

Shown as a 'Micky Mouse,' the film might prove entertaining; as a serious effort it is merely contemptible.

Avalanche, announced as 'a drama of staggering magnitude,' must be reviewed as a farce of bewildering imbecility. The film, by Fanck,¹⁶ is inferior even to 'Piz Palü.' Story there is none, photography is often poor—altogether a lamentable contrast to German films, in general the best in the world. The scene, so far as mountaineering may be concerned, is laid between the Grands Mulets, the Vallot hut and what does duty as the summit of Mont Blanc. We may briefly describe the ascent as accomplished by hero and heroine of this epic feat: starting from the Vallot hut, the route leads over the Grands Mulets rocks, known, we believe, as the *Pointe du Président Wilson* (after the late President of the U.S.A., we trust); it then ascends to the 'Jonction' and the most crevassed portions of the Tacconnaz Glacier icefall, thence over the Bosses du Dromadaire by cutting down an ice slope of 70°. Having accomplished and discovered this *voie nouvelle*, the party reaches the summit by a route somewhat resembling the upper edges of the Calotte.

We hasten to reassure all budding mountaineers. If tourists, in summer, hamper themselves on Mont Blanc with ski, they discard such encumbrances on the approach of difficulties; it has proved hitherto unnecessary to descend into crevasses 300 ft. deep, even less to reascend, on the same side, by means of magical *rappels* manipulated by invisible elevators. Ladders are also superfluous on the Grand Plateau. Likewise we can assure parents that, their offspring having attained the summit, there is no danger of the glacier 'beginning to crack' (*sic*—as recounted in the 'talkie'), i.e. opening out into impassable crevasses, behind the party. If Mark Twain's glacier failed in this endeavour, Fanck's succeeds! The actors speak 'English': one cockney voice does duty for *all* the males. A monoplane, cardboard and expanding wings, figures largely. It visits St. Moritz-Bad and the Engadine lakes during its flight over Mont Blanc from Chamonix. The hero, shirtless but clad in a blanket, follows the worst traditions of the guideless, for, descending from the Vallot—a chalet hotel fitted up with wireless and gramo-

¹⁶ *A.J.*, 40, 186-7; 41, 255-6; 42, 121-2.

phones—he leaves the door open. Punishment follows the crime: the wind lifts the door off its hinges, the latter swiftly descends, causing an avalanche, which together with the much maltreated door and other paraphernalia, overtake and smother the rascal somewhere on the Tacconnaz. Still talking, he emerges, alas, from the ‘snowy’ débris—curds and whey, this time, *vice* the flour and sugar of ‘Piz Palü.’ In one solitary respect the film is accurate: the interior of the Vallot, on removal of the door, speedily assumes the normal appearance of the ‘highest pig-sty in Europe.’

In conclusion: the Bernina Railway snow-plough is not often employed in an ascent of Mont Blanc. Skiers, like clouds, seldom approach a velocity of 400 m.p.h. Frostbite should not be warmed over a fire, while Mont Blanc remains invisible from Berlin, however, *kolossal* the telescope. As a skier the hero out-points the Kandahar-Arlberg school.¹⁷

Dr. Thorington kindly points out with reference to authentic ‘high mountaineering’ films, p. 187, the existence of ‘the exceedingly good film made by Mr. Allen Carpe on Mt. Logan. Since then he has made films on Mts. Fairweather and Bona.’ Our remarks referred, of course, to films shown to the public in Europe.

Excelsior. This title has been adopted for the English version of the Kangchenjunga film¹⁸ made during Dr. Dyhrenfurth’s International Expedition, of which a private view was given last spring to Mr. Smythe, Colonel Strutt, and myself. The film has been rearranged; a large portion of the preliminary journey to Darjeeling and the faked representation of the ascent of the Jonsong Peak have been cut out—much to the advantage of the whole film, which is now a very interesting production. An excellent descriptive talk by the Rt. Hon. L. S. Amery accompanies the film, and adds immensely to its attractiveness. Everyone should see it—if only for the sake of the astounding picture of a great ice avalanche.—S. S.

EAST AFRICAN MOUNTAIN CLUB.—We welcome the foundation of this Club. Its objects are as follows:

- (1) To encourage and assist persons desirous of climbing the mountains of Kibo, Mawenzi and Meru.
- (2) To arrange for the provision of capable guides and porters, and to regulate their wages.
- (3) To take over and repair the present buildings of Bismarck, Pieters and Johannes huts in the Kilimanjaro range.
- (4) To build a new hut near the caves, at *ca.* 15,000 ft., that better accommodation be available for mountaineers in their final assault on Kibo.

¹⁷ In justice to the producer, we should add that reviews in the *Evening Standard*, *Sketch*, and other mountaineering authorities are invariably favourable.

¹⁸ Pp. 186–7.

(5) To affiliate with recognized mountain clubs in Europe and S. Africa.

The Honorary Secretary is Mr. P. Ungerer, P.O. Box 5, Moshi, Tanganyika Territory.
O. K. W.

GENERAL JACQUEMOT.—We much regret to report the death of this distinguished French officer on September 5. He was struck by lightning while watching manœuvres in the Col de Pelouse area and died at Barcelonnette. General Jacquemot (1869–1931) commanded the 9th Bn. of *Chasseurs à pied* in 1914, and was appointed Chief of the Staff to the late General Sarrail at Salonika in 1915. On the formation of the *Armée Française d'Orient*, he left the Q.G.A.A. and took up similar duties with the Army Commander, General Cordonnier, and, on the latter's highly justified removal, continued in the same capacity with General Leblois. The operations culminated with the capture of Monastir in November 1916. Jacquemot was promoted General and took over the command of the 57th Division in May 1917. That Division was suffering from the mutinies prevalent in the French Army at the time, but Jacquemot speedily and with an iron hand restored discipline. He led the Division brilliantly in the independent Pogradec operations on the extreme left of the Allied Armies—his H.Q. being for some time in the monastery of Sveti Naum in the S.E. corner of Lake Ochrida.¹⁹ Had Jacquemot been backed up by the Allied troops in Albania (*not* under Sarrail's command), there is little doubt that his operations would have resulted in the capture of Elbasan and Struga, together with the severance of the enemy's lateral communications. As it was, the French made great progress in the Devoli and Shkumbri valleys and the very 'difficult' Albanian mountains. Still under the A.F.O., Jacquemot continued to command the same Division till early in 1918, when he returned to France on promotion to the command of an Army Corps. He was awarded the C.B. by the British Government in 1916.

Subsequent to the war, General Jacquemot held several high commands, notably Nancy and the Rhine Army. He was a member of the *Conseil supérieur de la Guerre* at the time of his death.

As an *ex-Chasseur Alpin*, Jacquemot was regarded justly as a leading expert in mountain-warfare. Tall and aesthetic-looking, his appearance belied the strength he possessed: onlookers in Macedonia were struck with his great 'mountain-sense,' and we have little doubt that his sudden death occurring during Alpine manœuvres was a fitting climax to a life devoted entirely to duty and country. A very stern soldier, not universally beloved by his subordinates, he will be remembered with respect and affection by one who had the honour of serving, both under and with him, in the period 1916–1918.

E. L. S.

¹⁹ *A.J.* 42, 57 and footnote 5.

MATTERHORN, 'Penhall' Couloir.—Signori A. Crétier and Pession, towards the end of July, ascending by this couloir, attained the Z'mutt arête teeth. Caught by bad weather they attempted to *return* by the Italian, S.W., ridge [!]; after bivouacking on the Tiefenmatten face, the party contrived to attain the Luigi Amedeo hut late on the second day.

J. L.

MONT BLANC HUTS.—*Alpinisme* reports the construction of another superfluous edifice in the Cirque d'envers de Blaitière at the base of the S. ridge of the S. peak of the Aiguille de Blaitière—it may prove useful *pour les casses-cou*.

'Chamonix tourists and *gardiens* seem to have an extraordinary gift—as stated recently in the JOURNAL—for turning even the best huts into pig-styes in the shortest possible time. Even the Requin hut, which was at least well-built and roomy, is now dirty, insanitary and inefficiently run. Mercifully, I was not forced to visit the Vallot again this year.'

J. L. L.

COL DE PÉTERET.—M. Lagarde informs us that this depression has again lost several metres in height during the year. Looked at from the Col Eccles, where M. Lagarde bivouacked, the ice ridge connecting the Aiguille Blanche with the Col de Péteret has vanished; it is replaced by a distinct break forming an evil-looking ice slope. The N.W. arête of the A. Blanche is consequently decidedly more difficult.

We understand that two German students made the ascent of Mont Blanc by the 'Péteret ridge' about August 10, but details are lacking.

DIABOLEZZA PASS.—We understand that a funicular or 'téléférique' is to be constructed from the Bernina Houses to the inn on the above pass, with a view to exploiting ski-ing. The unattractive scenery—despite the splendid distant view—is unlikely to suffer much, but the funicular is a further concession to the incompetence of the average skier up-hill.²⁰

CHAMONIX and PIERRE POINTUE.—'We went up *via* the Plan des Aiguilles and Glacier des Pèlerins to the *Gare des Glaciers*, the téléférique station, and found the Chamonix path in such bad condition that it took us 3 hrs. to descend there—only 1400 m. The inn at Pierre Pointue is closed and falling to pieces. The path is heavily overgrown, parts are washed away, all sign-boards are missing. Trees have fallen across it and have neither been cut nor pushed aside; it is very apparent that nothing has been done for years to keep it in good condition . . . in my opinion the

²⁰ *A.J.* 39, 383.

"téléférique" is behind all this, and is doing its best to prevent climbers using the path . . . I feel that the Pierre Pointue path, be it only from an historical and sentimental point of view, should be preserved and kept in good condition. If you share my feelings, perhaps you will say a word about it in the "A.J." I. DE B.

[We are in complete agreement with our member's opinions.—E. L. S.]

CIMA CANTONE, N.E. arête.—Captain E. Gueterbock sends the following note of an ascent:—'From the Forno hut cross the Forno Glacier and ascend the small glacier lying N. of the E. ridge of *Lo Scalino*.²¹ Cross this ridge or spur by the lowest, E., gap. Thence, *either* proceed to the Forcola di Scalino²² and follow N.E. arête of Cima Cantone to the summit, *or* turn the more difficult rocks between that depression and a minor top, by keeping for some distance on the glacier to S.E. of our peak's N.E. arête' (5 hrs.). Captain Gueterbock considers the descriptions in the *Climbers' Guide* and S.A.C. *Clubführer* to be inaccurate and confusing.

DACHL, N. face.—This, one of the 'problems' of the Gesäuse, was accomplished with extreme difficulty by Herren K. Moldan, H. Rössner, and S. Schintelmeister, *June 28–July 1, 1931*. (See *Der Bergsteiger*, 1931, No. 12, with hair-raising illustrations of modern 'steeplejacking.') Within a fortnight three tourists had to be rescued from the same face! Many salvage parties took part, including those amateurs responsible for the first ascent. The difficulties were extraordinary; the manœuvres took 19 hrs., many of the rescuers nearly perished from wet and cold, while the rescued were 'out' for nearly three days and nights. The peak is well below the summer snow-line.

NORTHERN LABRADOR.—Mr. Odell writes:—'I returned recently . . . from a very interesting expedition in N. Labrador. We mapped, partly from the air, the northern peninsula where are situated the chief mountain ranges of the country. Earlier reports had suggested that peaks of the Torngat Range might be as high as 7000–8000 ft., or more, and the highest summits in E. America. As far as our computations have gone at present, we can say that few if any summits reach 5000 ft. Of a good many peaks that I climbed, the highest by aneroid was about 4700 ft.'

²¹ Lo Scalino is the nameless point measured (?) 3164 m. on the *Siegfried map*, whose E. ridge is conspicuous from the Forno hut. The name is objectionable on account of the proximity of the well-known Pizzo Scalino, 3322 m., in the Central Bernina Group.

²² S.A.C. *Clubführer*, p. 63; the rocky depression in commencement of N.E. arête of Cima Cantone.

'Both the Torngat and Kaumajet Ranges, near Cape Mugford, have bold, rugged peaks of Coolin, Norwegian, or even Lofoten aspect, and there is some excellent rock climbing. There are a few remnants of glaciers left from the Pleistocene.

'In S. Labrador, just S. of Hamilton Inlet, our airmen, in flying northward up the coast, reported seeing a high range some thirty miles or more inland. This they considered to bear peaks possibly as high as 6000-7000 ft. Reports as to what they saw when they were returning S. are not yet to hand: they were delayed by engine trouble on a détour to the Grand Falls.'

SUVRETTA HOUSE, ST. MORITZ.—Several well-known mountaineers of all nationalities were the guests of Colonel Hans Bon during the last summer. One and all expressed their warm appreciation of their host's kindness and proverbial hospitality.

PERRONS DE VALLORCINE, traverse.—The first traverse of these peaks in one day was accomplished on September 28, 1931, by M. E. R. Blanchet, with Kaspar Mooser. The climb from the Grand Perron to the Aiguille de l'Ifala is extremely interesting. 'Times' are as follows:—

Emosson, dep.	05.35
Aiguille devant Nord, Perron I	07.50
„ „ Sud, „ II	08.17
Pointe d'envers des Perrons	08.52
Grand Perron	09.35
Pointe Vouilloz	11.10-11.40
Pain de Sucre	12.10
Aiguille de l'Ifala	14.00
Emosson, arr.	16.00

E. R. B.

LADIES' MOUNTAINEERING.—Miss Miriam O'Brien accomplished 'manless' ascents of the Jungfrau, Mönch by S.W. arête, Alphubel by *Rotengrat*, besides four unsuccessful attempts on the Matterhorn—during the course of a season of very bad weather.

PYRENEES.—The French Refuge de Touquerouye above Gavarnie is apparently no longer used. It is left open, but the straw is partly damp inside and the roof leaks in places. The so-called 'Spanish Canteen' on the shores of the Lac Glacé is a canteen in name only. It is a very primitive hut, inhabited during the summer by two men who regulate the water supply from the lake to the electricity works down the valley. Fuel is obtainable from them, but no food. The supply of blankets is very meagre, and the sleeping accommodation is miserable.

The Republic of Andorra can be reached nowadays by motor 'bus from either N. or S. There are two 'buses a day on the Spanish side from Puigcerda, via Seo d' Urgel, running to Andorra la Viella

(the capital), Las Escaldas, and Encamp. A mail 'bus runs once a day to Soldeu from La Tour de Carol, on the French side. A driving road is now in process of construction between Encamp and Soldeu, and should be ready either next summer or the year after.

MONTSERRAT.—This remarkable group of pinnacles, rising some 4000 feet from the low country behind Barcelona, deserves more attention from British rock-climbers. In addition to the famous monastery, which receives visitors, there are several comfortable hotels; and the district is being exploited by means of rack-and-pinion railways, *téléfériques*, and the like. In spite of all this a visit to the district is strongly recommended to any mountaineer who may be in the vicinity; for the smooth and sometimes overhanging walls of rock, the weird-looking pinnacles which rise on every hand, the combination of bare rock and rich vegetation, and the magnificent views over the plains, make up a region which is probably quite unique.

PICOS DE EUROPA.—A return visit to this wonderful region during the past summer has only confirmed my impression that it is one of the most attractive mountain regions in Europe. Intending visitors may be glad of the following information:—

There are now pleasant little inns to be found at Arenas, at Potes, at Espinama, and elsewhere, whilst another is approaching completion at Posada de Valdeon. Motor 'buses run daily on most of the roads; thus there is a fairly good service from Unquera to Arenas on the one hand, and through the Hermida gorge and Potes to Espinama on the other. Covadonga may be reached from Cangas de Onis by either train or 'bus; and from the latter place there is a daily service of 'buses to and from Riaño.

At Aliva a very sumptuous Refuge Hut has been erected, where provisions may be obtained. It is in reality a small hotel. It is conveniently situated for the ascent of the Peña Vieja, one of the best view points in the district. The only other Refuge Hut, so far as I am aware, is that in the Canal de Camburero; but ruined huts could be used for shelter at Liordes and elsewhere.

Don Manuele Bustamente, shopkeeper at Potes, is very willing to give information to climbers, so far as information is available. But better maps and more adequate guide-books are urgently required. The *terrain* is most extraordinarily difficult and confusing; and were I to return to the district I should certainly depart from my ordinary custom, and engage the services of a local man who has some intimate knowledge of the ground.

Bad weather cutting short our expeditions amongst the high summits, we walked from Espinama by a series of passes which bound the district to the S.—a route which I can thoroughly recommend in such circumstances. Our way took us through Posada to the Casa de Ponton, where rough meals and accommodation may be had; and thence by motor 'bus down the Sella gorge,

surely one of the longest and most beautiful gorges in the whole of Europe.

The Camping Club of Great Britain has established a centre at Espinama in the Picos; and we found that the new Aliva Refuge visitors' book contained as a result some seventy British names—more than the total number from all other countries.

W. T. E.

THE KANGCHENJUNGA EXPEDITION, 1931.—From a dispatch to *The Times*, dated 'Camp VI, September 28,' we learn with much regret that retreat has become inevitable. On September 17 the highest point of the great N.E. spur, something over 26,000 ft. in height and some 4 hours distant from Camp XI, was attained. The crest of the spur, which from certain photographs, *e.g.* 'A.J.' 42, facing 185, appear to bend to the left, S.W., before joining the main N. arête, in reality bears to the *right*, N.W. It then sinks abruptly some 200 ft. and merges into a snowy plateau abutting against the slope of the N. arête. This formation appears to be shown on the 'Sella' photograph in Mr. Freshfield's *Round Kangchenjunga*, facing p. 114.²³ The said slope forms an enormously steep ice-wall, plastered this year with masses of incoherent snow of a most dangerous nature.

With the porters exhausted and demoralized as a consequence of continuous exertion and the fatal accident, with several of the party suffering from high altitude and one from heart attacks, retreat was obviously the only reasonable solution of a highly critical situation. This resolve, trying as it must have been at the time, will be reckoned as a further proof of the skill and good judgment displayed both by the leader and the party throughout in a terribly arduous undertaking.

The expedition was leaving Camp VI on September 29, homeward bound.

MATTERHORN, S. face.—On October 15 Signor E. Benedetti, with Louis Carrel and Maurice Bich, reached the summit by the S. face which was attacked perpendicularly below the Furggen shoulder.

R. C.-C.

NEW ZEALAND NOTES.

THE season has been very bad, but some few high climbs have been done.

Miss Kate Gardiner and guides, Peter Graham and Frank Allack, did Mt. Sefton from the W. side. This is the second ascent by a lady, Miss Du Faur being the only other. Miss Gardiner also climbed a small, hitherto unnamed point which might almost be called a third

²³ See also the illustration in *A.J.* 22, facing 123.