

for 14 hours, and the moment we reached dry ground we threw down the tent and lay upon it to try and rest. As his head touched the ground, Couttet, who had borne the chief burden of the day, dropped asleep, but Watson and I only dozed. On one side of us rushed the fast-flowing Franklin River, now grown to formidable proportions near its mouth, and, on the other, apparently an impenetrable rock wall. Must we retrace our steps through the tangled forest in an attempt to find a new route to the sea, when through the trees, only a quarter of a mile distant, Knight Inlet, our goal, gleamed in the moonlight?

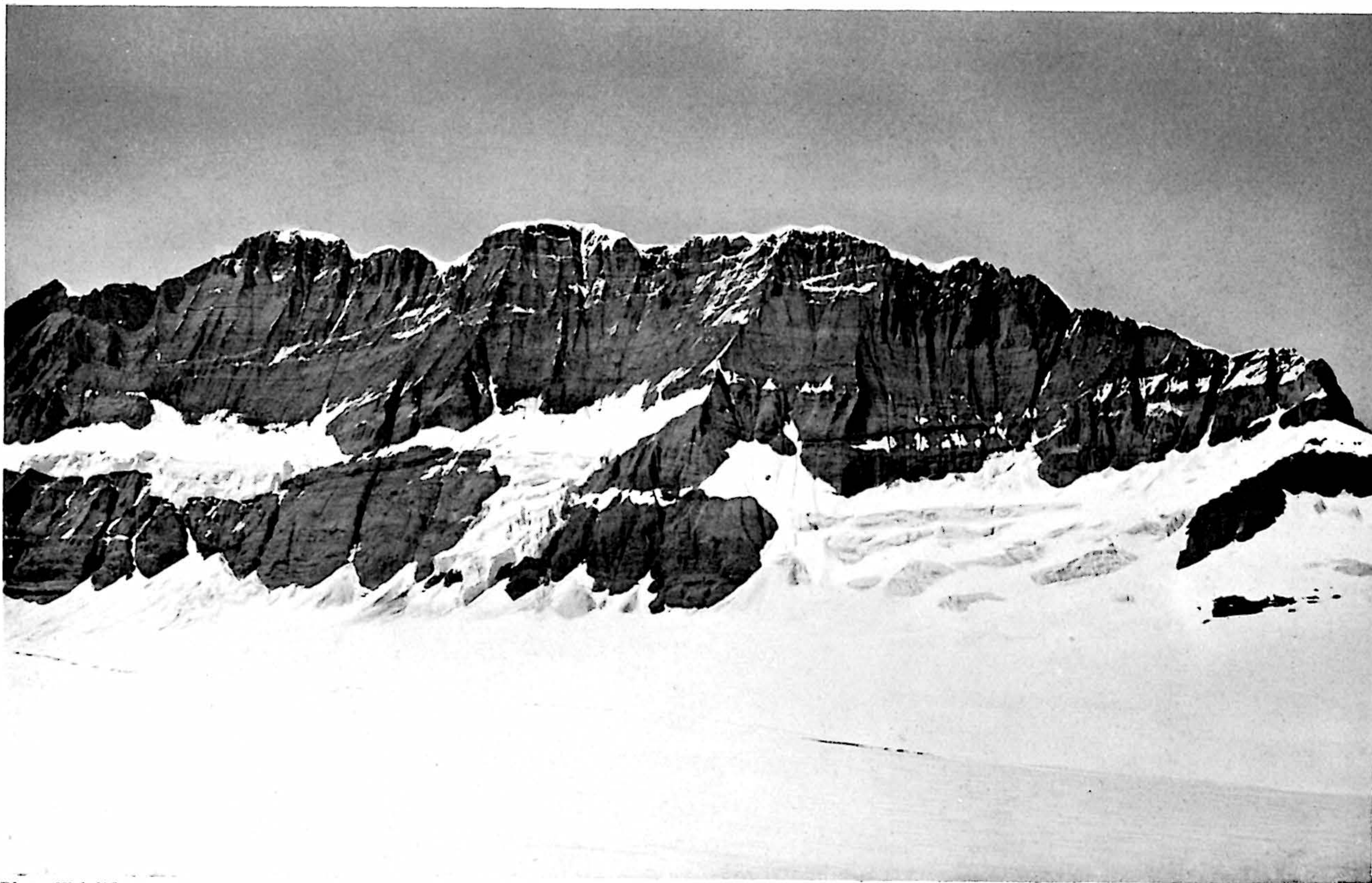
But next morning the mountains seemed to have tired of their jest and, by keeping in the wood close to the river, we were able to force a way through the last 400 yards in an hour and a half. As we left the last of the trees, a marvellous sight met our eyes. The calm blue waters of the Inlet mirrored the snowy mountains and green forests, whilst from its surface thousands of great white gulls rose screaming at our approach. But, more wonderful still, a motor boat lay at anchor a short way out. We had arrived. Couttet blew shrilly on his whistle, while Watson and I waved and shouted. Then, to our delight, over the still waters an Indian came paddling in his canoe. Quickly we crowded into this frail craft. On reaching the motor boat we awakened a sleepy Norwegian, who showed no surprise at seeing us, although he had been waiting 5 days. He said that he had not been at all anxious, as he had orders to wait until our arrival, so he was sure that in the end we should come.

As the little boat chugged its way placidly down the great Inlet, we turned to take one last farewell of our Valley of Adventure. While we gazed, the great trees guarding its entrance seemed to press more closely together, and once more Mount Mystery was left to brood in peace over its wild ice kingdom, inhabited only by wolves and bears.

THE SOUTH FACE OF THE BLÜMLISALP.

By HANS LAUPER.

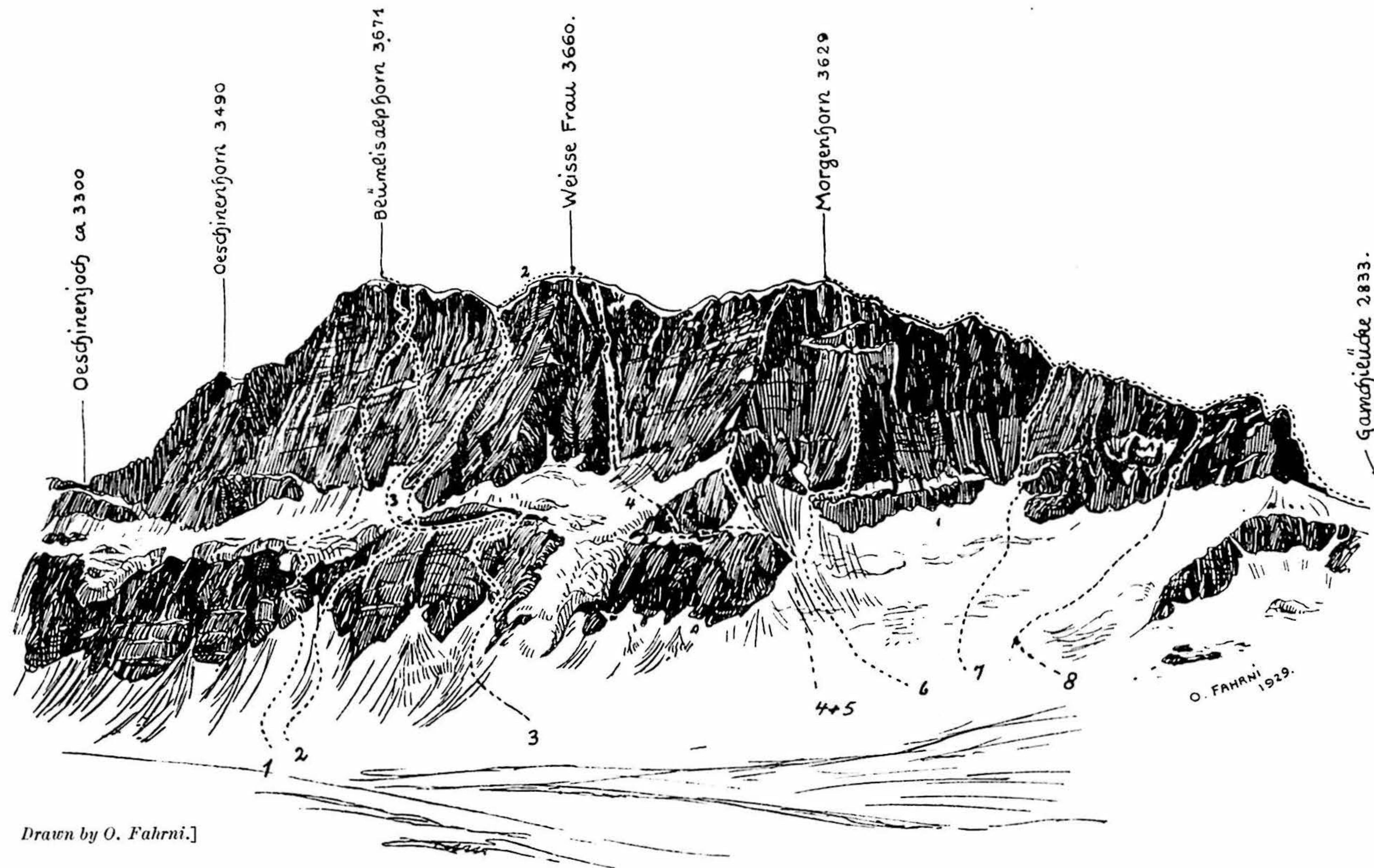
THE Blümlisalp is one of the most beautiful mountain groups of the Bernese Oberland. 'Seen from the Lake of Thun or the terrace at Berne, it displays a noble curtain of glaciers pouring down from three summits of nearly equal height.' Leslie



Photo, Wehrli.]

BLÜMLISALP FROM THE PETERSGRAT.

[To face p. 86.



Drawn by O. Fahrni.]

BLÜMLISALP FROM THE S.

Stephen has written about its N. face in the first volume of the *ALPINE JOURNAL*.

The S. face of the Blümlisalp as seen from the Petersgrat is not half so picturesque as the N. face above described. Towards the S., the Blümlisalp from the Oeschinenhorn (3490 m. = 11,450 ft.) to the Blümlisalphorn (3671 m. = 12,044 ft.), the Weisse Frau (3660 m. = 12,008 ft.), to the Morgenhorn (3629 m. = 11,906 ft.), drops down to the Kanderfirn in one sheer fall of nearly a thousand metres of black rock interrupted only by a narrow strip of hanging glacier. This wall looks very compact from afar, but as a matter of fact is broken up by all sorts of more or less deep-cut gullies and couloirs. The climber, therefore, engaged in ascending this face, enjoys savage rather than beautiful scenery. But of course the view out over the hogsback of the Petersgrat to the pyramid of the Bietschhorn or over to the giants of the Pennine Alps is very fine.

The S. face of the Blümlisalp has to the best of my knowledge been climbed about a dozen times only. The first mountaineers to approach this S. face were the brothers J. W. and F. C. Hartley. With their guides Peter Rubi and Rudolf Kaufmann, they bivouacked in the rocks of the Gamchilücke. On July 20, 1874, they started at 4.30 A.M., descended the Kanderfirn 'as far as the second bay formed by the spurs of the Blümlisalp running out on to the glacier. From this point a band of easy rocks runs up to a small *sattel* (to the E. of the final peak), which was reached at 8 and the top at 9 A.M.' ('A.J.' 7, 325).

There were for some time doubts as to which summit of the Blümlisalp was reached by the Messrs. Hartley. But the original account states clearly that the party reached a col E. of the final peak, and in his letter to Mr. W. A. B. Coolidge of June 7, 1909, Mr. J. W. Hartley wrote that he and his companions after reaching that col from the S. went to their *left*. This statement again indicates that the summit ascended was the Blümlisalphorn. The exact line of ascent is uncertain, as it is hard to tell which is meant by 'the second bay.'

The same saddle or a gap close to it was reached on August 21, 1881, by Messrs. H. G. Gotch, G. H. Savage and F. Taylor without guides and by a route different from that followed by Messrs. Hartley in 1874 ('A.J.' 10, 360). This party crossed the Kanderfirn immediately above the icefall at its western end (Alpetligl. of the Siegfried map) and gained the strip of horizontal hanging glacier which extends along the face of the mountain by the lower rocks of the Fründenhorn.

For three-quarters of an hour this hanging glacier was followed to the E., and two and a half hours after leaving the Kanderfirn the party took to the upper rocks. 'The ascent of these to a gap a little E. of the Blümlisalphorn took three hours' hard work, the last part of the climb presenting serious difficulties, though little ice

was met with. As it was now 4 P.M. further ascent was abandoned.' The party bivouacked on the col, but their further adventures do not interest us at the present moment, except for the fact that they descended over the S. face.

In 1892 this col was again reached by a party bound for the Weisse Frau. I shall return to this climb when dealing with the Weisse Frau.

But there were two other expeditions both of which climbed the Blümlisalhorn over its S. face by routes different from those already related.

On August 3, 1907, Mr. F. W. Bourdillon with Adolf Müller and Hans Stoller left the Mutthornhütte at 2.15 A.M. and descended to the foot of the Blümlisalhorn. The rocks below the hanging glacier were negotiated with some difficulty owing to the darkness. Then arriving almost directly below the Blümlisalhorn, they ascended without any serious difficulties. The last part of the way consisted of a narrow long couloir, excessively steep, but still filled with snow in which to cut steps and leading direct to the snow col on the ridge slightly below and to the E. of the top. The saddle was gained at 9.20 and the top 45 minutes later ('A.J.' 24, 176).

This seems to be the best route so far taken from the south. Adolf Müller was good enough to mark the approximate line of ascent for me. What puzzles me is the fact that no mention is made in the original account of the surmounting of the hanging glacier. At the spot marked on the photograph the passage looks anything but easy, but of course it is possible that on the day of ascent the conditions were exceptionally favourable.

In 1909 Dr. Th. Thomas and M. Jacques Susse with Auguste Blanc gained the summit on August 2 by a still more direct ascent over the S. face ('A.J.' 25, 170) without touching the col between Blümlisalhorn and Weisse Frau. Auguste Blanc attacked the rocks to the left (W.) of the séracs beneath the Weisse Frau at an approximate height of 2750 m. These rocks were climbed in zigzag, then a traverse to the left (W.) was made below the horizontal snow band which connects the hanging glacier beneath the Weisse Frau to that situated beneath the Blümlisalhorn. They ascended the latter glacier diagonally, keeping to the rocks on the right hand; there followed then an oblique ascent to the long gully that is nearest to and to the right of the top of the peak, a number of gullies being traversed that seam this S. face of the mountain. The details of this interesting route with a marked photograph are published in 'A.J.' 25, 170-71. 'Owing to the very bad weather which forced the party to make many halts, it is difficult to say how long this ascent should take. But one might probably estimate the length of the climb from the foot of the rock wall to the top of the long gully at from 4½ to 5 hours.

'In the lower third of the ascent, the rocks were not difficult and only moderately steep, but required great attention as they slope

towards the precipice like the tiles of a roof, and are covered with débris much inclined to slip off them.

‘ In the middle third the rocks were of much the same character, but much steeper, while the gullies were defended by little rock steps hard to climb.

‘ In the upper third of the face the rocks were extremely steep, and it is absolutely necessary to climb them by means of the cracks in them.’

Two different routes lead up from the S. to the summit of the Weisse Frau (3660 m.).

The one made by Messrs. E. F. M. Benecke, H. A. Cohen and H. V. Reade with Abraham Müller, sen., and Joh. Ogi-Müller, on August 13, 1892 (‘ A.J.’ 16, 269), has already been alluded to. The rock wall was approached at a point directly S. of the top of the Weisse Frau, that is, still more to the W. of Dr. Thomas’ point of attack. They surmounted the débris of an ice fall and ascended the rocks, always keeping to the right (N.E.) until the eastern end of the hanging glacier was reached which lies below the Blümlisalphorn. This was crossed and the rocks ascended: these are very steep but firm. For some time a ridge was followed between two smooth parts of the face. A rock tower was crossed, then a slight traverse towards the left (W.) made, until a direct ascent over rocks and patches of snow brought the party to the lowest gap between the Weisse Frau and the Blümlisalphorn. From here, cutting steps up the S.W. ridge, they gained in one hour the top of the Weisse Frau, the whole ascent from the level of the Kanderfirn having taken 6½ hours. The rocks were reported to be free from falling stones.

The second route over the S. face, inaugurated in 1933 only, does not seem to be any improvement upon the one just described. It leads over the eastern part of the S. face of the Weisse Frau. On August 10, 1933, Herren A. Müller and H. Schneider (A.A.C.B.) *descended* from the top, using a well-pronounced rock rib. But at places the rocks were impracticable and the direct line had to be abandoned. Once the doubled rope came into use for 25 m. and afterwards the party had to traverse to the right (W.) over a little shelf. Then again a direct descent was possible, leading over steep but good rocks. In the last 50 metres ‘ abseilen ’ was again twice necessary in order to reach the hanging glacier between the Weisse Frau and the Morgenhorn. This was crossed towards the left (E.). A ledge covered with scree led around the spur descending from the Morgenhorn. Thus the party was brought to the broad glacier-tongue giving access to the Kanderfirn. The route is not only difficult, but also exposed to falling stones. It is not to be recommended and should *not* be repeated.

Two quite interesting routes were found over the S. face of the Morgenhorn (3629 m.); one was made as early as 1895, the other not

before 1933, although some of us had had it on our programmes for quite a long time.

On September 1, 1895, Herr A. Aegerter with Joh. Ogi-Müller descended from the top of the Morgenhorn in a S.E. direction straight down to the Kanderfirn. A series of wild and steep gullies led to smooth rocks. After this again some gullies were descended, followed by a perpendicular chimney whence the strip of ice was gained over which that branch of the glacier could be reached which, from point 2749 m., *Siegfried*, stretches in a northern direction to the rocks of the Morgenhorn. The descent from the top to the glacier took about 5 hours (S.A.C. *Jahrbuch*, xxxviii, pp. 375–376).

The other route over the S. face of the Morgenhorn was made by Herren W. Gerber and A. Müller (A.A.C.B.) on September 8, 1933. This route can be recommended as a very interesting way of moderate difficulty and without undue risk of falling stones.

From the Kanderfirn the above-mentioned glacier tongue or branch is ascended on its western border until it is possible to turn towards the left (W.) and thus get out of reach of stones falling possibly from the S. face. The foot of a well-defined spur or ridge is reached which runs down from the tip of the Morgenhorn towards the S.E. The crest of this spur is gained in about half an hour and then ascended to the top. Once only is the crest left to turn a perpendicular step or tower by a couloir on its left-hand (W.) side. This route offers the best and shortest ascent from the S. and should prove useful for parties starting from the Mutthorn hut.

This summary of the different ways up the S. face of the Blümlisalp would be incomplete without mention of two routes leading over the southern flank of the E. arête of the Morgenhorn.

The first ascent by the E. arête (by the way, a first-class expedition) was made by Mr. G. Hasler and Mlle. Hélène Kuntze with Johann von Allmen (Lenihans) on August 31, 1903 ('A.J.' 21, 560). This party reached the ridge by a couloir a little S.W. of the Tschingelpass, and on the E. slope of a rocky spur well marked on the Siegfried map. Unfortunately, there was considerable danger of falling stones.

On July 18, 1906, Mr. and Mrs. Hasler with Fritz Kaufmann left the Tschingelpass and the 1903 couloir to their right, till they reached another conspicuous couloir descending on the W. side of the above-mentioned rock spur. After cutting steps up the steep snow of this, they climbed up the very steep rocks of a gully, reaching the E. ridge close to the spot which the 1903 party had gained from the E. The rocks of the gully are sound and no stones fell during the ascent of the couloir ('A.J.' 23, 332).¹

¹ The E. arête of the Morgenhorn, from end to end, starting from the Gamchilücke itself, was climbed only in July 1925 by E. Bürki and E. Krall. This was repeated by an 'Alleingänger,' Herr O. Im-obersteg, on September 30, 1934, in 9¾ hours from the Gspaltenhorn hut to the top.—H. L.

My own personal acquaintance with the S. flank of the E. ridge was rather unintentional. On August 2, 1918, with Dr. Weydmann, I had rushed up to the top of the Morgenhorn in uncertain meteorological conditions. But, induced by what later on proved to be only a short improvement of the weather, we had decided at 7 A.M. to descend by the E. arête. The ridge began with an ice arête which, with precipices on either side, we found as sensational as could be desired. Owing to the corniches we could not follow the actual crest, but had to cut steps on the very steep slopes on the N. side. While we were working down very cautiously the weather gradually became worse. Three rocky steps afforded very interesting and at times quite difficult climbing. Fog came on and it began to snow. At 10 A.M. we reached a place where the crest at last ran horizontally, or at least as far as we could see. I was just cutting steps again towards some rocks looming black out of the dense fog when my companion called my attention to a rope ring a little down on the wall of an unusually deep-cut couloir plunging down over the S. face to the Kanderfirn. Could we be already at the point where the ridge had to be left? We both doubted this, but still could not help thinking that that would be a good way to get down quickly to the Kanderfirn, as staying on the ridge with the fog growing dense and snow falling heavily had lost a good deal of its charm. We had some difficulty in entering the couloir, the access being blocked by a big corniche. The rocks we found to be quite difficult but firm, although covered with slushy snow; they demanded careful climbing. The lower we descended the more we began to fear possible falling rocks. The danger could not be denied, and indeed one stone, as a matter of fact the only one we saw or heard while descending the couloir, did hit my shoe just at the edge of my sole, falling out of the grey fog without any warning.

So we preferred to climb out of the gully on to an ill-defined crest. There the rocks were firm but smooth, with but very few holds available. Still we made good progress. Finally we arrived above an overhanging step and had to enter the gully once more whether we liked it or not. The first man was able to descend quickly, relying on the rope. When the latter was paid out he managed to find an overhanging cliff, where he was in perfect security. I joined him there soon after, but the fog lifting at this moment, I stepped down a few yards and all at once perceived that only an overhanging step of 3-4 metres separated us from a steep snow-slope and the Kanderfirn. Just as I was leaning over to inspect the possibilities of a descent there came the well-known noise and rattle of falling stones above us. Before I could run back to cover, the stones fell out of the fog, and all I could do was to try to avoid being hit. Luckily I succeeded in this, but now I paid no more heed to my companion's remonstrances about the cliff being too high to jump. Jump I did, and my friend, watching me land safely on my back, followed with little hesitation. Down we ran over the snow-

slope and only stopped when far out on the level glacier. Here in spite of drizzling rain we sat down on our rucksacks for a rest, the first for 10 hours, and looked back at the S. face. We were half pleased by the successful issue of our expedition and half disgusted by the fact that we had let ourselves be misled by an old rope ring! For now we could see the gully through which Mr. Hasler must have ascended in 1906 and which lay to the E. of our route. Later on I found out that Herren W. Klingler and A. Mottet (A.A.C.B.) had left that seductive rope ring when making this descent in 1913 under quite similar conditions.

We are once again indebted to Herr O. Fahrni for his admirable sketch. The routes marked thereon are as follows:—

1. Mr. F. W. Bourdillon with Adolf Müller and A. Stoller, Aug. 3, 1907.
2. Messrs. H. A. Cohen, E. F. M. Benecke and H. V. Reade with A. Müller, sen., and Joh. Ogi-Müller, Aug. 13, 1892.
3. Dr. Th. Thomas and M. J. Susse with A. Blanc, Aug. 2, 1909.
4. Messrs. A. Müller and H. Schneider, Aug. 10, 1933.
5. Messrs. W. Gerber and A. Müller, Sept. 8, 1933.
6. Mr. A. Aegerter with Joh. Ogi-Müller, Sept. 1, 1895.
7. Messrs. W. Klingler and A. Mottet, 1913.
8. Mr. and Mrs. G. Hasler with Fr. Kaufmann, July 18, 1906.

THE GERMAN ASSAULT ON NANGA PARBAT (1934).

BY ERWIN SCHNEIDER.

(*Translated.*)

NANGA PARBAT, the western corner-stone of the Himalaya and probably the tenth highest peak of the world, has a comparatively ancient history. In 1895 Mummery's party,¹ composed of some of the best and most active mountaineers of the time, made the first attempt—an attack worthy of the party's reputation. Mummery, coming from the Rupal Nullah over the Mazeno Pass to the Diamirai Glacier with two Gurkhas, attained a height of over 20,000 ft. on the W. flank of the mountain. But passing over the Dima Pass to the N. face of the mountain, he disappeared there with his two companions.²

Willy Welzenbach first, then Willy Merkl, began preparations for another assault many years later. In 1932 Merkl led a party of prominent German mountaineers to the peak.³ He tried to find

¹ Messrs. J. N. Collie, G. Hastings and Captain the Hon. C. G. Bruce.—*Editor.*

² *A.J.* 18, 18–32.

³ *Ibid.* 44, 192–200.