

ALPINE NOTES

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY:		Year of Election.
Conway of Allington, The Lord	(Hon. Mem. 1934)	1877
James, C. Ashworth	.	1891
Petherick, W. J.	.	1895
Blackden, Brig.-General L. S.	.	1896
Heim, Dr. Albert	(Hon. Member)	1897
Mothersill, H. J.	.	1898
Squance, F. C.	.	1900
Workman, W. Hunter	.	1901
Hinton, H. A.	.	1912
Wien, Karl	.	1935

ALPINE JOURNAL.—On completion of this volume Mr. H. E. G. Tyndale will assume the Editorship. In relinquishing the JOURNAL to his care, I feel that its future is secure. I desire to express my grateful thanks to all those who have contributed or assisted me. Notably, to Mr. R. W. Hanson, Director of Messrs. Spottiswoode, Ballantyne & Co., Mr. J. H. Fisher and Mr. R. L. Randall of that firm, whose care, courtesy and attention have been unceasing. I would add the same thanks to the blockmakers, even to those unseen 'readers,' who have never failed to query my most brilliant efforts—usually for the best of reasons.

In the past Mr. Douglas Freshfield and Dr. Hans Lauper could always be depended on for help. In the past as in the present, Messrs. Claude Wilson, C. F. Meade, T. Graham Brown, E. H. Stevens, J. Monroe Thorington, Reginald Schomberg, W. R. Rickmers, E. R. Blanchet, Paul Montandon, Othmar Gurtner and Paul Bauer have been invaluable. Lastly, to Herr Ing. Rolf Werner of *Æ.A.Z.*, General Manaresi of *Rivista Mensile*, Mm. Pierre Dalloz and Lucien Devies of *La Montagne* and *Alpinisme* respectively, Dr. E. Jenny and Professor A. Roussy of *Die Alpen*, Professor Alfredo Corti of *Alpinismo*, I would proffer my thanks for frequent and generous favours. In addition to these gentlemen I could mention many others, too numerous to be named individually, who have assisted in maintaining what I am proud to consider has been the high standard of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

E. L. STRUTT.

ALPINE CLUB.—Mr. William Williams (elected 1882), by virtue of his great services to mountaineering and his position as senior American member of the Club, has been elected an Honorary Member.

H.I.H. Prince Chichibu has graciously presented his signed and framed portrait to the Club. Professor H. K. Corning has presented an interesting and admirably executed etching of 23 Savile Row, now demolished. The Club is most grateful for both these gifts.

MEMORIAL TO SIR FELIX SCHUSTER.—A brass tablet affixed to the north wall of the English Church at Riffelalp was dedicated on Sunday, August 8, 1937. The inscription is as follows :

In affectionate memory of
Sir FELIX SCHUSTER, Bart.,
who died on May 13th, 1936
in his 83rd year.
Erected by a few of his old
friends in the Alpine Club,
of which he had been a
member since 1877.

Sir Felix's daughter, Miss Schuster, was present, and about twenty Swiss friends and guides came in for the short service after Morning Prayer. An interesting point was that the organist (Sir William Ellis), the Lector (Professor Wilberforce) and the Chaplain (Rev. R. Bulstrode) were all members of the Alpine Club.

WITHOUT COMMENT.—'A party of British climbers is this summer [1937] to attack peaks of the Tyrolean and Salzburg Alps, never yet conquered by man. It is stated here [Vienna] that they will include Mr. G. Marsh and Major Edgar Kirdley.

'Though situated amid populated districts and appearing easy of approach, the Tyrolean and Salzburg Alps boast a number of peaks above 10,000 ft. which have never been scaled by human beings. They are said to be as difficult as any mountains in the world.'—From *Sunday Times*, April 18, 1937.

It appears that a Los Angeles party is visiting the Amne Machin range [*sic*], 'from which no white man has ever returned,' with the intention of climbing 'a peak 2000 ft. higher than Mt. Everest.'—*Vide Daily Press*.

'PATRIOTISM.'—The following appears in a widely circulating but unofficial monthly, dealing solely with Alpine matters: 'Yet again the first half of September announces an interminable series of "first" ascents accomplished in all parts of the Alps.' On reading the list of so-called novelties, we find that all the ascents are confined to members of one nationality, that none is of any importance; finally, that not one single scramble is defined sufficiently to constitute even a 'first variant.'

HIMALAYAN EXPEDITIONS, 1938.—The seventh Mt. Everest Expedition, under the leadership of Mr. H. W. Tilman, will leave Great Britain early in the year.

An expedition under the auspices of the American Alpine Club will proceed to the Karakoram.

REMARKABLE EXPEDITIONS.¹—The following were accomplished in the Bernese Oberland by Mlle. Lucie Durand and Herr Hans Haidegger:

¹ Through the courtesy of Dr. O. Hug.

BALMHORN, 3711 m., July 25, 1937. By the E. face from the Gasterntal; leaving the Gfällalp, 1840 m., at 05.00, the small névé at the base of the face at 06.30, and going thence gently they attained the summit at 13.30. Difficult and dangerous from stonefall.

GR. SCHRECKHORN, 4080 m. By the S.W. arête attained from the N. July 4-5, 1937. Leaving the Schwarzegg hut at 03.00 the N. slope of the S.W. arête was attained at 10.00, much ice having been encountered. A precipitous gully leading to the arête was attempted vainly till 12.00, finally by the face itself the crest of the arête was reached, not far from the top, at 19.00. The summit itself was attained at 20.15. The N.W. (*Anderson*) arête was then descended till 22.00, when the party bivouacked, completing the remainder of the descent on the following day. Extremely difficult.

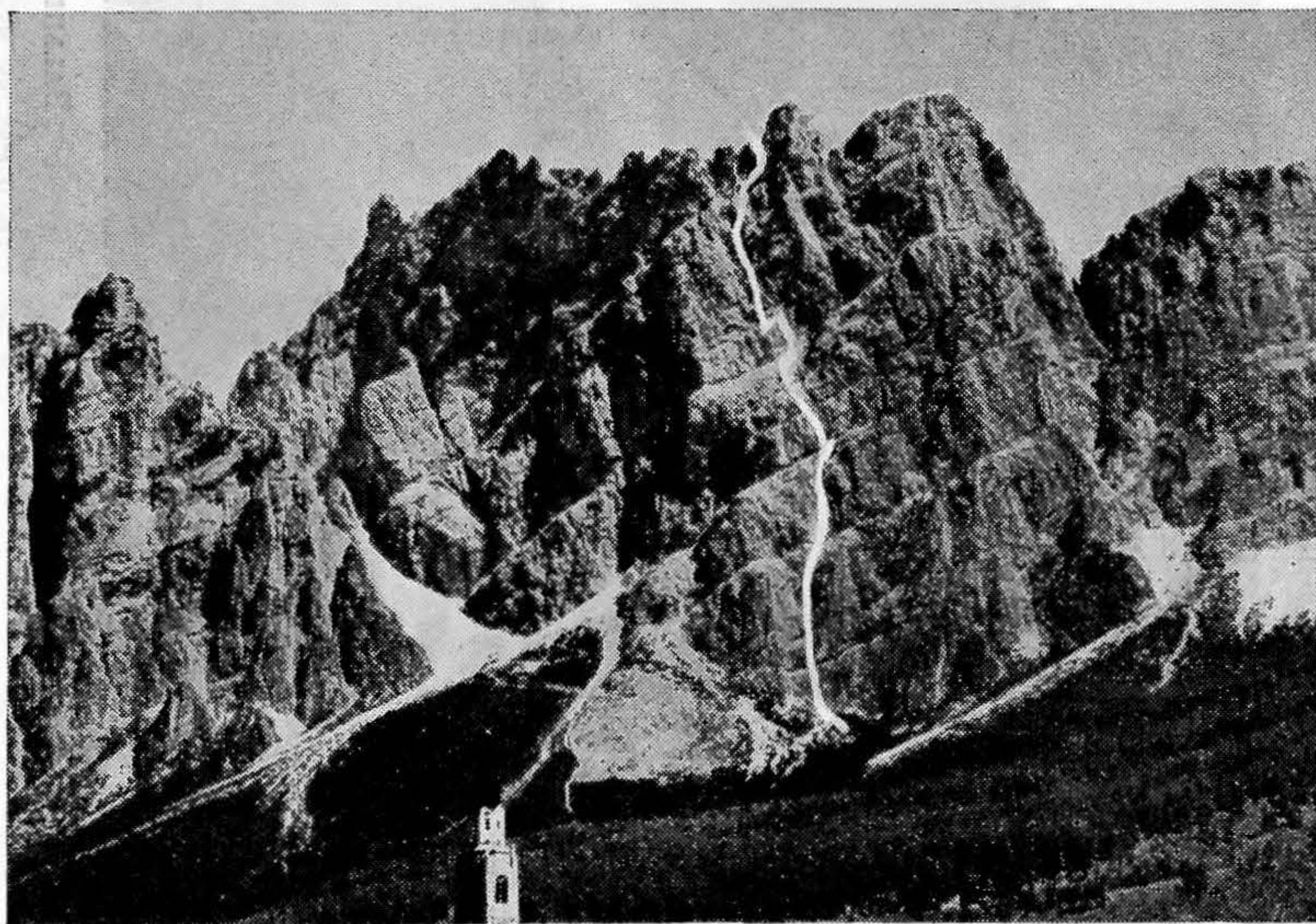
This route up the W. slope of the mountain lies to the S.W. of that accomplished in 1935 (*A. J.* 47. 365-6, illustration facing 366).

EIGER, 3974 m. By the N.E. (*Mittellegi*) arête attained from the N. August 5-6, 1937. Leaving Alpighen at 01.00, the bergschrund [*sic*] at 04.00, the party bivouacked at 20.00. They started again next day at 05.00, reached the right of the rampart [*sic*] at 08.00, the great gendarme on Mittellegi ridge at 15.00 and the summit at 18.00. Extremely difficult.

This route as far as the N.E. arête corresponds approximately with the Macdonald-Jossi route of 1894 (*A. J.* 40. 329-30, with illustration), but strikes the said ridge higher up.

Details of these expeditions fail.

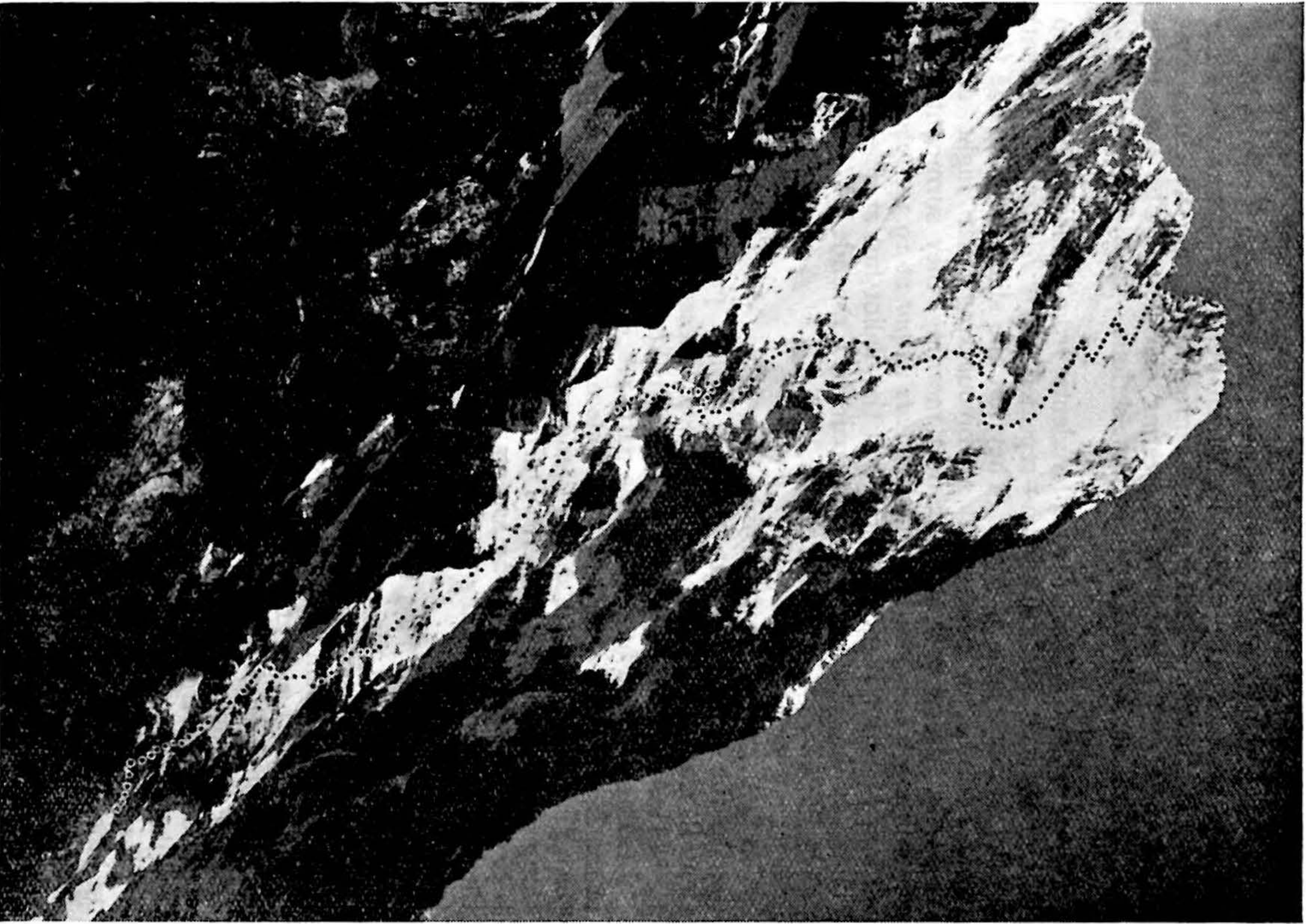
POMAGAGNON.—One of the most popular expeditions is the ascent of the S. faces of this series of peaks from Cortina. On September



POMAGAGNON, S. FACE, WITH 1937 ROUTE.



BALMHORN, E. FACE, WITH 1937 ROUTE.



EIGER, N.E. FACE AND ARÊTE, WITH 1937 ROUTE AND BIVOUCAC.

21, 1937, Miss Hermione Blandy with Angelo Dibona, *père*, and his son Ignazio made a *direct* route to the summit of the *Costa di Bartoldo*, 2428 m. = 7968 ft., by the *ca.* 700 m. high S. face. The start was made at the base of the rocky face some 150 ft. to the W. of the line taken by the Phillimore-Dimai-Verzi party, who made the first ascent in 1899.² Except for a great overhang, the climb consisted mostly of a series of interesting chimneys. The time taken was 5½ hrs., while the difficulties were serious.—E. B. B.

MONT BLANC.—Two Italian students from Milan—Gian Paolo Guidobono and Paolo Gazzana—repeated *Route Major* (3rd ascent) on September 2 and 3, 1937. They left the shelter hut on the Col de la Fourche on September 2, bivouacking that night at *La Sentinelle*. Leaving it at 05.15 next morning, they surmounted the ice-cliff above the final buttress of *Route Major* at 19.30, reached the summit of Mont Blanc at 21.00, and the Vallot hut at about 22.00.³ About 14 days before, the same pair had ascended L'Innominata arête.—T. G. B.

CAUCASUS, 1937.—For the first time since Mr. Raeburn's expedition to the Adai Khokh in 1914,⁴ a British party has visited the Central Caucasus. The climbers were Messrs. R. L. Beaumont, R. A. Hodgkin, M. S. Taylor and J. R. Jenkins.

Leaving London on July 10 the party reached Tegenekli (Adyl-su), in the Baksan valley, on July 16. The next three days were spent in conveying 10 days' food and equipment up the Adyr valley to a high camp on the Junon Glacier. During a spell of excellent weather, between July 20 and July 27 ascents were made of the eight PEAKS in the Jailik group, including the first ascent of JAILIK-BASHI (14,868 ft.)⁵ itself by the S. face. Adyr-su Bashi (14,673 ft.) was first traversed from the Urubashi Pass to the main Adyr valley by its great rocky N.E. ridge. Two virgin SUMMITS on the ridge between Kichkidar and Junonkara were climbed, and the first, a granite Aiguille, was named the 'Trident,' and the second, a snow dome, 'Kupolatau.'

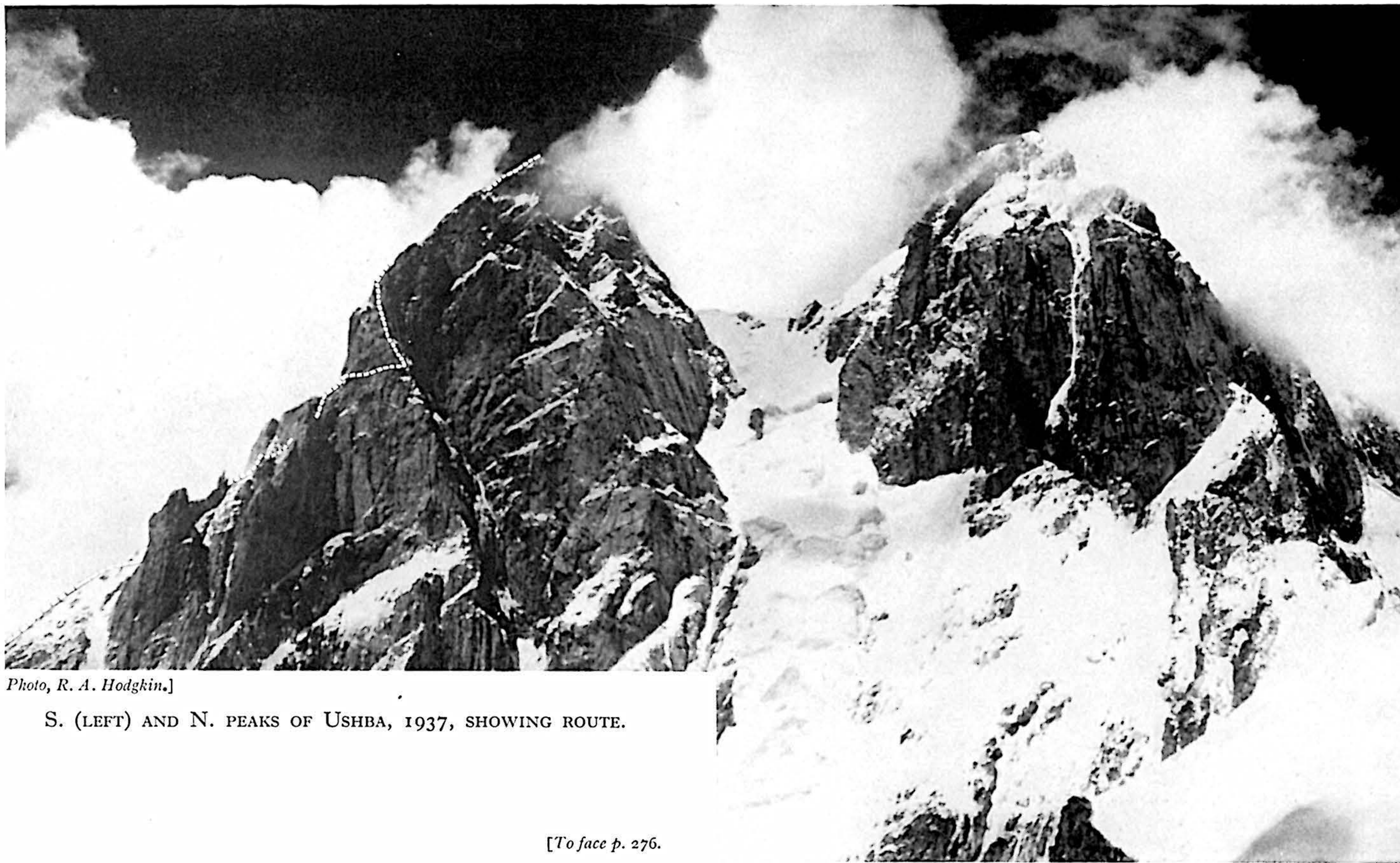
After a short stay at Tegenekli, the party crossed the Betsho Pass into Suanetia on August 3, and three days later camped a little above the site of Rickmers's old bivouac in the Gul valley below Ushba. Next day they traversed GULBA (12,500 ft.) from E. to W., obtaining excellent views of the S. peak of USHBA. It was decided to attempt the ascent of the S. ridge direct, and thus obviate the necessity of making the long *détour* *via* the 'Red Corner.' On the first attempt they bivouacked on the S. ridge below the Red Wall at a height of about 14,000 ft., but a thunderstorm in the night followed by snow

² *A. J.* 19. 601. During the years 1900–1910, Antonio Dimai was wont to make the ascents more interesting by climbing a fir-tree and thence stepping off on to the face itself! The fir-tree perished during the war.—*Editor*.

³ *A. J.* 40. 372–6; 45. 365–8.

⁴ *A. J.* 29. 142 *sqq.*

⁵ *Freshfield*, ii, p. 253. 'A very formidable but fascinating peak.'



Photo, R. A. Hodgkin.

S. (LEFT) AND N. PEAKS OF USHBA, 1937, SHOWING ROUTE.

[To face p. 276.]



Photo, R. A. Hodgkin.]

USHBA: RED WALL TOWARDS 'RED CORNER,' FROM S. ARÊTE, 1937.

[To face p. 277.]

forced them to descend. Two days later they went up again, and after a more comfortable night in the same place, they succeeded, under Hodgkin's leadership, in climbing the Red Wall by a delicate traverse on to the precipitous E. face, whence steep and difficult rocks led to the upper snowfield and the summit. They returned by the same route, descending the difficult rocks by a series of *rappels*, and after a second night in the bivouac, came down.

An excursion was next made through Suanetia and the Mulakh river followed, through Mestia, to a camp on the true left bank of the lower Zanner Glacier. Thence the E. Zanner Glacier was followed and a bivouac made on a snow platform at 13,000 ft. on the N. face of TETNULD (15,918 ft.). Next day, under perfect snow and weather conditions, this face yielded an exhilarating climb and a descent was made, not without difficulty, down the heavily crevassed and steep E. face. The descent from the col between Gestola and Tetnuld presented further difficulties late in the day, and they were lucky to reach base camp just before dark that night.

The expedition concluded with the crossing of the N. Zanner Pass and a descent to the famous Missesskosh in the Bezingi valley, which they reached on August 20.

J. R. J.

FREAK EXPEDITIONS.—A great number of these—many from the southern slopes of the Alps—are reported during 1937. The most remarkable and ridiculous performance was, however, the nailing of the E. (Bäregg) face of point 2706 m. of the Eigerhörnli,⁶ after 4 months' drilling, divided equally between the midsummers of 1936 and 1937.

COL D'ISERAN.—The road was opened officially last summer. It is said to constitute the highest carriage—or rather motor—road in Europe, 2769 m. = 9085 ft., and connects Bonneval-sur-Arc with Val d'Isère.

SUSTENPASS.—A first-class military and strategic road is surveyed and already commenced between Innertkirchen-Gadmen-Steingletscher-Sustenpass (2262 m. = 7421 ft.) and Wassen on the St. Gotthard railway. It is unlikely to be open for civilian or tourist traffic for eight years.

EDOUARD SAUVAGE.—We regret to announce the death, on August 27, at Warcq of this distinguished mountaineer, formerly President of the C.A.F. and a good friend to this country.

ANNIVERSARY.—The year 1937 marks the passing of fifty years since the crossing of the Muztagh and Aghil Passes in the Karakoram by Sir Francis Younghusband in 1887.

We believe that the crossing of the Aghil had not been repeated until this year.

⁶ A.J. 48. 362-3.



Photo R. Schwarzgruber]

TETNULD, N. FACE, SHOWING 1937 ROUTE.

[To face p. 271.

S.A.C. HUTS in 1936.—The total number of visitors to 116 huts amounted to 75,510, a decrease of 10,062 compared to 1935. The Britannia hut with 3020 has again proved the most popular, whilst the excellent Topali attracted but 95 visitors. The percentage of S.A.C. members works out as 37, compared with 35.4 in 1935.—From *Die Alpen*.

BRENTA GROUP.—A new high-level path is under construction from the Bocca di Brenta to the base of the Guglia di Brenta. From the Bocca di Brenta it runs N.W. along the entire W. face of the Brenta Alta to the little gap under the Guglia, rendering the climb up the pinnacle accessible in $\frac{1}{2}$ hr. from the Tosa hut! Thence it is to be continued along the great ledges of the Campanile Alto to the upper and lower gaps of the S'Fulmini to the Vedretta dei Brentei (D. u. C.A.-V. map, 1908), whence it will connect with the old high-level path to the Bocca di Tuckett and the Club hut of that name.—From *Der Bergsteiger*.

COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHY.—I have obtained excellent results in the Alps from 'Dufaycolor' film used in a quarter-plate 'Etui' camera. Most people agree, after seeing these coloured transparencies, that the black-and-white film is doomed to early extinction so far as Alpine subjects are concerned.

The depth of colour produced in the film depends on the length of exposure, under-exposure giving colours which are too vivid, and over-exposure an unnatural paleness. In the absence of any reliable information from the manufacturers, I worked out the following exposure table by trial and error, which may be taken as a rough guide during the summer months when the sun is out:

Below the snowline

Early morning and late evening	1/50	F	5.6
Remainder of the day	1/50	F	8

Above the snowline

Sunrise and sunset (peaks tinged red)	1/25	F	4.5
Early morning and late evening	1/50	F	8
Remainder of the day	1/50	F	11

If there is any doubt about the exposure it is best to err on the short side, as Alpine colours can rarely be depicted too vividly; but pale, over-exposed films are disappointing. Photos should be taken only with the light shining directly on the subject; those taken against the sun exhibit poor colour values.

Photos above the snowline are more life-like than those of meadows and forests, as green is not reproduced quite so faithfully as the other colours. But the red-brown rocks, white snowfields and blue sky are reproduced with astonishing fidelity. Mountaineers will welcome

a process which preserves the transient glory of the peaks rose-tinted in the rising sun—a sight so easily forgotten when the snowfields are left behind at the end of the season.

A. M. R.

LESLIE STEPHEN AND THE BIETSCHHORN.—In his account of the first ascent of the Bietschhorn (*A. J.* 1. 358), Stephen says: 'Not a glimpse of the distance was vouchsafed to us, and at last we turned reluctantly to retreat, with a vow on my part to return some day for better luck.' It is perhaps not generally known that he carried out this intention thirteen years later. In 1859 he had found accommodation of sorts with the Pfarrer (Lener) of Kippel, but expressed the hope that 'some enterprising innkeeper may, before long, offer better hospitality to those who visit the Lötschenthal.' It was presumably shortly after this that the Hotel Nesthorn at Ried was opened. Its *Fremdenbuch* goes back to 1866, and includes entries by many of the pioneers of the heroic and sub-heroic age, most of whom speak warmly of the comfort of the inn and the obliging hospitality of the landlord. In this book, under date August 20, 1872, I found this entry:

' Leslie Stephen, F. Morshead, C. E. Mathews	}	Bietschhorn, with Melchior and Peter Anderegg.'
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This was the fourth ascent, von Fellenberg having made the second in 1867, and Coolidge and Miss Brevoort the third (duly recorded in the *Fremdenbuch*) on September 20, 1871.

There is no mention in Maitland's *Life* of any climbs by Stephen in 1872, but this ascent is included by Mumm both under Leslie Stephen and C. E. Mathews (but not under F. Morshead), and is doubtless the one of which Mathews spoke when he said, 'I knew Leslie Stephen for 44 years, and accompanied him in a memorable ascent of the Bietschhorn' (*A. J.* 22. 165). What a pity that there is no account of this 'memorable ascent'! I may add that this was not C. E. Mathews' first visit, for under date August 23, 1869, is the entry:

' Reilly, A. A. Mathews, C. E.	}	on Aug. 20 ascended Aletschhorn from the Belle [<i>sic</i>] Alp. 22 Finsteraarhorn. 23 Mönch, and by Lötschen Leucke [<i>sic</i> !] to here with Melchior Anderegg and Michel Du Croz.'
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Internal evidence, as well as the order of the names, shows that the entry was made by Mathews.

E. H. STEVENS.

THE LATE HENRI BRULLE.—A memorial tablet will be placed in position near the, shortly to be erected, new Vallot Club hut on Mont Blanc.

On August 15, 1937, M. Robert Ollivier with three Pau mountaineers roped down the Couloir de Gaube of the Vignemale (*A. J.* 20, 250 *sqq.*,



MEMORIAL TABLET TO BE ERECTED NEAR THE NEW VALLOT HUT.

with illustration) and affixed a similar tablet to the rocks at the base of the famous and precipitous ice gully of which Brulle made the first and only direct ascent in 1889.—R. D'E.

FESTI GLACIER.—During the night of September 3-4, 1937, this supposedly quiescent glacier broke away at a considerable distance above its snout and descended in a great ice avalanche from about the level of 2700 m. The distance of the fall extended to $2\frac{1}{2}$ kilometres below the rupture, the débris halting at the 1400 m. level, just 300 ft. above the Visp-Zermatt railway. The width of the avalanche was 140 m., while the débris' depth varied between 20 and 40 *metres*! Damage was comparatively slight, while no loss of life of any kind is reported. The fall is attributed to strong *Föhn* without rainfall. In the memory of man no such behaviour of the Festi has been experienced. Randa lies close to and just S. of the avalanche.—From *Die Alpen*.

JUNGFRAU.—A great rock-fall is stated to have occurred on October 6, from the first, counting from below, great gendarme on the N.E. arête.

GIOVANNI BOBBA.—A large bronze memorial tablet to our late member was unveiled at Valtournanche on July 12. The ceremony was attended by a great concourse of Italian mountaineers.

DR. RIGELE.—We regret to learn of the death of this well-known Austrian-born mountaineer in the Berchtesgaden Alps. It was the result of what would, in the vast majority of cases, have been a mere stumble over rocks on a path. Dr. Rigele, who was aged about sixty years, was undergoing a period of reserve training with his regiment when the unfortunate accident occurred. He was a brother-in-law of General Goering and a great friend of the late Dr. W. Welzenbach. With the latter, Rigele made in 1924 the first ascent of the Gr. Wiesbachhorn in the Tauern from the N., a climb notable for what is said to have been the first employment of ice pitons in the Alps.⁷ During the war Dr. Rigele distinguished himself greatly in the arduous fighting in the Ortler group.

‘EXPEDITIONS.’—Much difficulty is being experienced in obtaining any notes for the JOURNAL. Members are urgently requested to send details of interesting or unusual climbs carried out in the Alps, especially in the less exploited districts, *regardless* of any claim to novelty, now practically non-existent.—E. L. S.

⁷ It will be recollected that misuse of these untrustworthy weapons resulted in the death of Toni Schmid on this very face in 1932. *A.J.* 45. 348–9, illustrated.