

NEARING THE SUMMIT OF PICACHO.

[*To face p.* 220

EXPEDITIONS

CAMBRIDGE COLOMBIAN EXPEDITION, 1959. This expedition was based in the Sierra Nevada del Cocuy for seven weeks in July and August, 1959. Three of its eight members carried out a programme of glaciological work and climbed some of the peaks in the range.

The mountains are up to 18,000 ft., in height and small glaciers, which provided an interesting study, descend to 15,000 ft. The party concentrated on one particular glacier, the San Pablín, mapped it, studied its surface velocity, ablation and accumulation, and made meteorological observations.

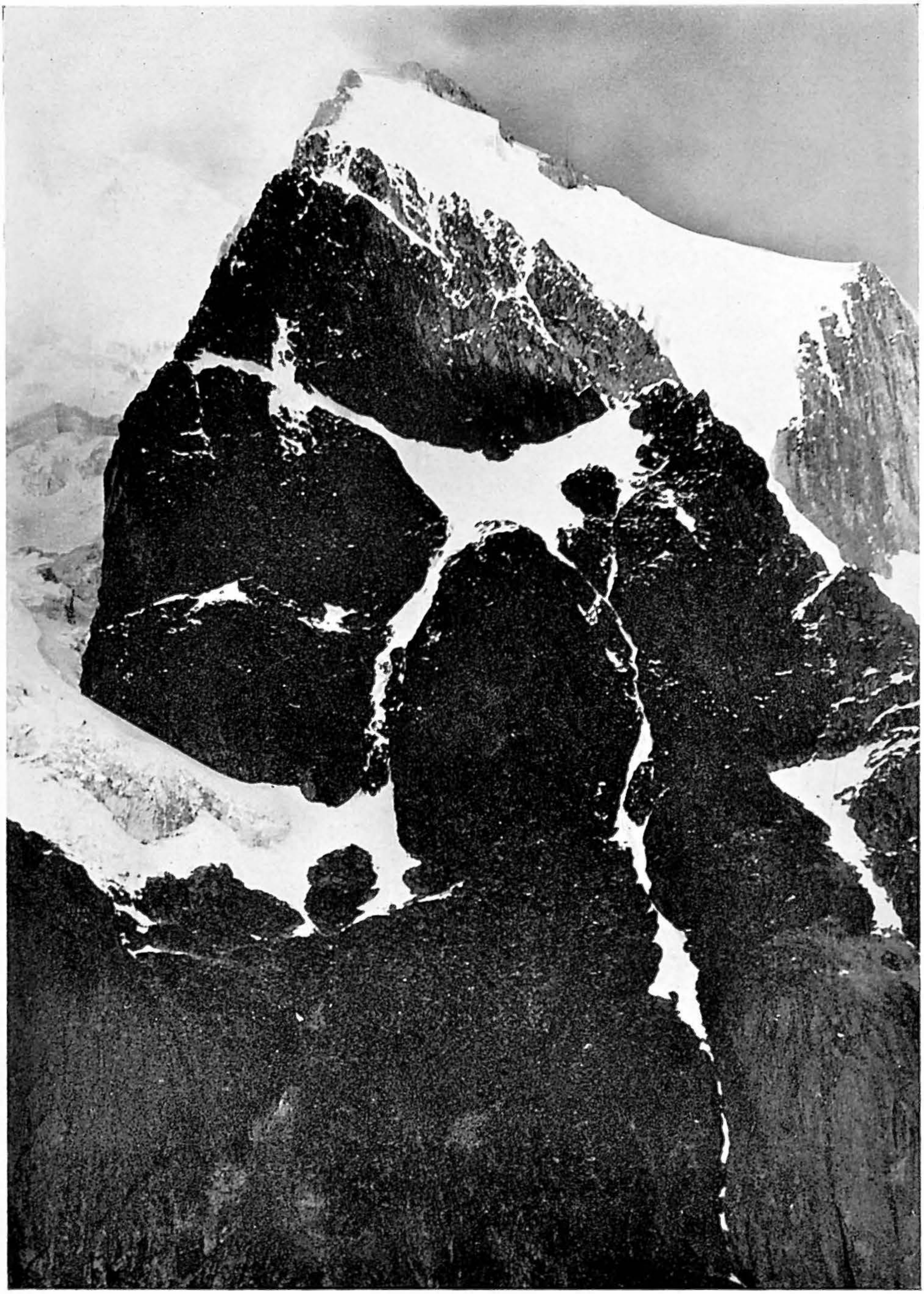
The party traversed other glaciers and ascended Toti (5,070 m.) and Picacho (5,222 m.). Mountaineering in the region, however, cannot be recommended, apart from the fact that all the major summits in the range have already been reached. The weather is bad, except during the brief dry season, December–February. The sedimentary rocks are also of poor quality.

C. R. SMYTHE.

CORDILLERA BLANCA OF PERU. An American climbing party composed of David Dingman, Joseph Ganci, Leigh Ortenberger and Kermith Ross made six ascents in the Cordillera Blanca of Peru this past summer (1959).

On June 26, Ross and I started up Quebrada Honda with burros and porters, Eliseo Vargas and Macario Angeles, to establish base camp. We made the second ascent of Nevado Tocliaraju, 6,032 m., on June 30 via the north ridge from a high camp in the subsidiary Quebrada Cancahua. We then moved base camp to the head of the *quebrada*, just below Pucaranra-kocha. After establishing a high camp at 5,300 m. on the North-east ridge of Palcaraju, we made two attempts to reach the summit, 6,274 m., on July 6 and July 8. On the latter attempt we were very much slowed by the deep powder snow, and by the time we had reached a point only a hundred metres below the summit at 3 p.m., we were too exhausted to continue.

After returning to base camp we made a series of camps ending with Camp III at 5,550 m. on the saddle between Nevado Chinchey, 6,222 m., and Nevado Pucaranra, 6,147 m. The climb of Nevado Chinchey from the saddle on July 14 did not prove to be very difficult. On July 17 we made a new route on Pucaranra, the East or North-east



WEST FACE OF ALEXANDRA. THE ROUTE WENT UP THE RIGHT-HAND ICE COULOIR, THEN DIAGONALLY UP TO THE LEFT TO THE TOP ICE SLOPES.

ridge. This route proved to be rather difficult and we were twenty-four hours on the climb, using moonlight and headlights for the descent during the night. This ridge required climbing on rock, snow and ice; it was our last climb in the Quebrada Honda.

We then transferred our activities to the Quebrada Alpamayo in the north end of the Cordillera Blanca. By July 29 we had established, with David Dingman and Joseph Ganci, our new base camp at the head of the Quebrada Alpamayo. On August 1 all four of us occupied Camp II at the base of the South-west ridge of Alpamayo. On August 2, while Ross and Ganci made the second ascent of Nevado Loyachirca, *ca.* 5,600 m., Dingman and I chopped steps up the first part of the South-west ridge of Alpamayo. The steepness and powder snow made the progress very slow. On the 3rd, Ross and I reached a point about halfway up the ridge and installed some fixed ropes on our descent. On the 4th, Ross and Dingman reclimbed the route and cut another hundred feet up the ridge. On the 6th, Dingman and I returned and after a very difficult climb reached a point about 30 m. below the summit, when Dingman suggested descent. This was done.

On August 8, Dingman, Ganci and I climbed Nevado Quitaraju, *ca.* 6,050 m. It proved to be the easiest peak of the summer. On the 14th, the same party made the second ascent of Nevado Santa Cruz, 6,259 m. This was a very fine climb on an excellent mountain, the highest in the north end of the Cordillera Blanca. It should be mentioned that from the summit of Quitaraju observations were made which indicated that the elevation of Nevado Alpamayo is actually less than 6,000 m., probably about 5,980 m. LEIGH ORTENBERGER.

YERUPAJA, CORDILLERA DE HUAYHUASH. August 4, 1958. MM. Vasalla and Vitale, of the Argentine Expedition, made the second ascent of this 6,634 m. summit. Unfortunately, like the American party who made the first ascent in 1950, they suffered from frostbite.

RUWENZORI. Alexandra Peak, West face, via direttissima. January 25, 1960. Piero Ghiglione, Bruno Ferrario, Carlo Mauri.

After a four-day journey through the jungle we pitched camp at 4,350 m. on the little saddle between Alexandra glacier and the West Stanley glacier. On January 25 we succeeded, in spite of bad weather (snow and ice) and great difficulties in making the direct ascent of the virgin West wall of Alexandra Peak (5,098 m.), the second in height of the Ruwenzori group, by a *via direttissima* up a vertical ice couloir in the lower (rocky) part of the mountain and then by steep ice slopes. Left Base Camp at about 8 a.m. and reached the summit at 1 p.m. We descended the rocky part on a double rope, leaving four pitons in the wall. Reached Base Camp at 5 p.m. PIERO GHIGLIONE.

MOUNT MCKINLEY. Four Japanese climbers reached the summit, May 6, 1960.

TROLLRYGGEN, ANDALSNES. August 11–13, 1959. K. Gottmann and M. Obst. Second ascent.[1] This party used 150 pitons.

AIGUILLE DU GOUTER, North face. May 9, 1960. J. P. Chatelet and Y. Mollier. Third ascent. Steel helmets worn against heavy stone-fall.

AIGUILLE DU MIDI, West ridge of North summit. June 12, 1960. J. P. Chatelet and Y. Mollier. First ascent.

BERNESE OBERLAND. During the summer of 1958, two Dutch climbers, G. C. van der Leek and J. L. Wansink, achieved the third ascent of the North face of the Studerhorn (July 11), and the third ascent of the North face of the Nesthorn (July 15). Mr. van der Leek and P. C. van Lookeren Campagne also made the tenth ascent of the North-east face of the Eiger (August 31– September 1, 1959).

BRÈCHE DE TRIOLET, North face. R. Desmaison, Y. Pollet-Villard. June 19, 1960. First ascent. $11\frac{1}{4}$ hours from bergschrund to Brèche, 400 m. of step-cutting in the couloir. The North couloir is very steep, very difficult and exposed to stone-fall. The party returned over the Aiguille de Triolet and the Petites Aiguilles de Triolet.

CIMA DI JAZZI, South face, direct. June 28–29, 1959. M. Bisaccia and N. Bertolini with P. Jachini. First ascent. Pitches of V and VI.

L'OLAN, North-west face, Devies-Gervasutti spur. March 17–20, 1960. R. Desmaison, F. Audibert, G. Payot, Jean Puiseux. First winter ascent. Account by René Desmaison in *La Montagne* June, 1960. In prevailing conditions of cold, snow and verglas, the climb proved much harder than that of the West face of the Dru in March, 1957.

ALPINE CLUB MEET, Isle of Skye, Whitsun, 1960. Ten members of the Club were in Skye at various times over Whitsun, including those accompanying the visiting Soviet Mountaineers. This latter party stayed at the new J.M.C.S. Hut situated above Loch Scavaig, 200 yards west of the outlet from Loch Coruisk, and the rest of the parties were based either on Sligachan Hotel or on Glenbrittle. The weather was

[1] *A.J.* 64. 183.

mixed, but parties were out most days on the Cuillins. The following expeditions, amongst others, were carried out:

The circuit of the Coir' am Bhasteir, including Naismith's Climb on Tooth and the West ridge of Sgurr nan Gillean.
Pinnacle ridge of Sgurr nan Gillean.
Traverse of Blaven and Clach Glas.
Blaven by the North-east Buttress.
Sron na Ciche Amphitheatre Arête (Collie's Climb).
The Cioch.
Sgurr Thuilm, Sgurr a' Mhadaidh, Main Ridge to Bruach na Frithe.