

NEW EXPEDITIONS IN 1899 (*continued*).*Mont Blanc District.*

AIGUILLE D'ARGENTIÈRE.—On August 12, 1899, Mr. E. L. Stewart, with Johann and Ferdinand Summermatter of Randa, made an ascent of the Aiguille d'Argentière from Lognan. Following the Col du Tour Noir route up the Argentière and Améthystes glaciers until they came into sight of the rock ridge at the head of the latter, they then turned to their left, and climbed the rocks on the right of a deep gully in the ridge running in a S.W. direction, from the S. summit of the mountain. Gaining the crest of this ridge they followed it, turning difficulties mostly on the S.E. side, to within a short distance of the summit, and descended on the N.W. side to the snow saddle between it and the highest point. Having completed the ascent they traversed the S.W. slope of the summit ridge to the cairn on the N.W. rock point and returned by the usual route over the Chardonnet glacier. Time from Lognan to the top, including a halt of 20 min., 8½ hrs.

Bernese Oberland.

FUSSHÖRNER.—The last peak but one from the S.—ill-defined from Bel Alp, but from E., W. and N. a conspicuous entity. Dr. Tempest Anderson's photo, 'A. J.' vol. xix. p. 316, gives an excellent picture of the peak, and of the route followed. On July 8, Messrs. G. W. Young and A. M. Mackay, with Clemenz Ruppen, leaving Bel Alp at 6 A.M., reached the foot of the great couloir—so evident from the hotel—which descends on the S. of the peak, at 8.10. The glazed rocks in the centre, and subsequently the steep ice of the couloir itself, were followed to a point some 50 ft. below the col, where the unpromising appearance of the S. arête advised a traverse across snow-covered slabs on to the S.W. face (less straightforward, possibly, later in the season). A broken subsidiary ridge, descending obliquely S.W. from the summit, gave access to the broad 'rake' at the foot of the formidable final wall. At its eastern end an ill-defined crack made an interesting finish on to the ridge, just N. of the precarious summit-tower. This was singly and cautiously surmounted at 9.45 (8¾ hrs.). The summit was left at 11, and Bel Alp reached at 1.50.

FUSSHÖRNER (THE SOUTH PEAK) (S. 8,106 m.).—This is the lowest, but by no means the least, of the Fusshörner. Three noticeable depressions furrow its western face, of which the southernmost alone, separating the peak from a still lower subsidiary point, offers a possible ascent. On July 10, the same party, leaving the hotel at 8 A.M., reached the foot of this couloir at 10, but rejecting it after brief examination, traversed round to the S. of the ridge until almost on to the sharp-cut eastern face. From here, by some pleasant scrambling up the sky-line, the subsidiary point was reached at 11.20. Descending thence into the top of the

couloir before examined, steps were cut down some two hundred feet to the mouth of an easy, slanting chimney ascending diagonally across the western face. This was followed over a shoulder into the second couloir, and, keeping the same diagonal, another shoulder rapidly crossed, and the third depression entered. By this the actual arête was rejoined, and the table-summit reached at 12.80 (4½ hrs.), and Bel Alp regained in 8¾ hrs. by practically the same route.

LONZAHÖRNER (8,544 m. and 8,598 m. S.).—The ridge of rocky peaks, which separates the Lötschenthal Breithorn from the Beichgrat. Presenting a precipitous face to the Lötschenthal, on the E. two long ridges curve down N.E. towards the Beich-firn, enclosing a small steep glacier. On July 23, Messrs. Young and Mackay left the Ober-Aletsch hut at 8.10 A.M., and passing the foot of the southern of the two ridges at 4.30, ascended over smooth slabs, below the séracs, on to the sharp northern arête. This, abrupt but firm, gave excellent scrambling, and the first peak was reached at 7.20 (4¼ hrs.). From here, after 40 minutes' halt, a traverse along a peculiarly shattered ridge, blocked by several insecure pinnacles, led to the twin highest points at 9.5 (6¼ hrs.). An attempt was then made to descend into the deep gap, which cuts off the last (S.W.) peak, ascended previously by some Swiss climbers. Soon, however, a series of thin, vertical plates, whose perpendicular edges offered the only means of advance, induced a retreat. On the descent the southern of the two great ridges was followed. Broken at first, the slabs became steadily more difficult, and some two hours were spent on the last few hundred feet of descent to the small glacier (2.30 P.M.). The continuance of the ridge, here a mere rim to the ice, was kept to until the point (S. 2,991 m.) where rocks and ice plunge together towards the Beich-firn. It then became necessary to force a path across the séracs back to the foot of the northern ridge, from which the firn was reached at 4.35, and Bel Alp at 6.40.

Titlis District.

THE GWÄCHTENHORN OR STEINBERG (8,428 m.) BY N.E. ARÊTE. August 1, 1899.—Messrs. R. P. Hope and W. T. Kirkpatrick, without guides, started from Stein Inn and ascended to the upper level of the Stein Glacier by the Bockberg (the Thierbergli would have been the direct route, but they had not decided before starting which peak to climb). They then made for the N. face of the arête, crossing the bergschrund at the point where the rocks immediately above it give place to a snow slope. Reached the arête by rock and snow slopes, and having struck it about 800 ft. below the summit, followed it to the top. They came down by snow slopes on the E. towards the Susten Limmi, and back by the Thierbergli to Stein.

THE HIGHEST OF THE FÜNFFINGERSTÖCKE (8,036 m.) FROM THE N. August 8, 1899.—The same party, starting from Stein,

went up the E. branch of the Oberthal Glacier to the col, and descending a short way kept round to their right under the N.W. corner of the peak. They then traversed ice and snow slopes to a couloir which faces about N.N.E., and ascended by it and the rocks on its E. side to the top. The rocks were very rotten.

DESCENT OF THIERBERG (8,446 m.) BY E. FACE TO KEHLEN GLACIER. August 11, 1899.—The same party, with the addition of H. H. Jennings, having ascended the peak from the Trift hut, came down for some way by the rocks on the E. face. They then got into a branch of the large couloir which starts from a gap S. of the peak, and completed the descent by it and the rocks on its left side. The bergschrund was crossed at the point where it meets the rock, but the rocks were only possible in one place, and some years it might be necessary to go right into the large couloir and down the avalanche trough. The branch couloir and the lower part of the main one can be seen from the Goeschener Alp.

NORWAY.

Justedalsbrae.

NIGAARDBRAE AND TUNSBERGDALSBRAE.—These two magnificent glaciers were combined in one expedition by Mr. C. W. Patchell and Johannes Vidgal on August 6. Owing to the exceptional snowfall this year the Norwegian glaciers were everywhere easier than usual. The whole expedition from Sperle, in Justedal, to Tvaerdalsaeter, where the night was spent, occupied 18 hrs., exclusive of halts.

RÖIKEDALSFJELD.—This little known corner of the Justedalsbrae was explored on August 8 by Mr. C. W. Patchell, with Johannes Vidgal. From Vasdalsaeter (2 hrs. from Sperle) the valley was followed almost to its head, and the snow-field reached by the steep N. side. A N.W. course was then steered until the snow began to slope away to Bakkedal, which was found to continue as a deep and narrow snow valley right through to Tunsbergdal, and to run almost parallel to Röikedal. This continuation is not shown on any map. Time from Sperle and back, 8 hrs., excluding halts.

Söndmöre.

SMÖRSKREDTIND.—Messrs. A. B. S. Todd and C. W. Patchell on August 20 made an ascent of this mountain by a new route. Starting from Habbastaddal, they reached the skar on the N.E. of the mountain partly by the rocks on the left (N.) side, partly by the snow in the couloir. A steep and difficult climb of 1½ hr. led to the first cairn. The work at two or three points was distinctly sensational, but the rocks are generally sound. The usual descent was made by the gullies on the S. face to the snow, which was followed back to the skar. Thence Habbastaddal and Øie were quickly reached. Time from Øie, exclusive of halts, 8 hrs. 10 min.

HANSENTIND (FIRST ASCENT).—On August 9 Messrs. E. L. Strutt,

C. V. Rawlence, and L. C. Rawlence left Holmebugt at 10.30 A.M. to ascend this small but sharply pointed peak, which lies high up on the left side of the Holmebugt Glacier. The party reached the summit at 3.30 P.M. by way of the Holmebugt Glacier to above the first icefall, and then up a very steep snow slope to the final peak. The descent was commenced at 3.45 P.M., and Holmebugt reached at 7 P.M.

LAXELUSKAR (FIRST PASSAGE).—On August 20 the same party left Holmebugt at 10.30 A.M., and went up the right bank of the Andersdalselv to a point just below the first ice lake, where, striking off at right angles, the party crossed the stream; they then ascended scree and old moraines to the glacier, which comes down to within a few hundred feet of the valley. Continuing up its left side for two hours they reached a large bergschrund at 4 P.M. (which gave some trouble). The summit of the pass, which lies between the Store Laxelvtind and the peak to its N.W., was reached at 5.30 P.M. The descent was commenced at 7 P.M. by the couloir on the S.W. side, Holmebugt being reached at 12.30 A.M.

STORE LAXELVTIND (FIRST ASCENT).—On August 23 Messrs. C.V. Rawlence and L. C. Rawlence left Holmebugt at 11 A.M., and reached Tomasskar at 6 P.M. by way of the couloir ascended by Mrs. Main on July 16. From the pass they ascended the narrow and rather steep couloir on the S.E. side of the peak to its termination, thence over a hundred feet of good rocks to the summit, which was reached at 7.25 P.M. The descent was commenced at 7.30 P.M., Holmebugt being reached at 1 A.M.

SOMMERBUGTTIND (FIRST ASCENT).—On August 16 Mr. Claud Rawlence, with the two Imbodens, made the first ascent of this peak, which is visible from Holmebugt, and is to the west of the Sörfjord. Having quitted Holmebugt at 8 P.M., they arrived on the summit at 1.30 A.M. by the E. ridge. Descending in a N.W. direction they reached a glacier lake at 3 A.M. Thence, ascending over easy rocks and traversing an upper glacier, they gained at 5 A.M. the top of

LALABAKTIND (FIRST ASCENT), which is the highest summit of the group. Thence, passing along a long arête and over another but less well defined summit, they traversed a narrow and interesting ridge, and arrived on the top of the

SKJURSNOESTIND (FIRST ASCENT) at 8 A.M. The descent to Sörfjordens Kirke was made by narrow snow couloirs down the east face, the fjord being reached at 11 A.M. The weather during the morning was fine.

ALPINE NOTES.

'THE ALPINE GUIDE.'—Copies of Vol. I. of the new edition of this work, price 12s. net, and of 'Hints and Notes, Practical and Scientific, for Travellers in the Alps' (being a new edition of the General Introduction), price 3s., can be obtained from all booksellers, or from Messrs. Stanford, Charing Cross.