

of the Jumeaux de Valtournanche (1st ascent, 'A.J.' ix. 3-5), Matterhorn (traverse); 1879, Sorapiss, Monte Cristallo; 1880, Wildspitze, Wiesbachhorn, &c.; 1884, Zimbaspitze Fluchthorn, Wetterhorn, &c.; 1885, Weisskugel, &c.; 1886, Patteriol, Königsspitze, Ortler, &c.; 1887, Kuchenspitze, Dachstein, &c.; 1888, Zuckerhütl, Schrankogel, &c.; 1891, Diablerets, Grandes Charmoz, Aiguille Verte, Cima Tosa, Presanella, Carè Alto, Adamello, Cima di Brenta; 1894, Birkkarspitze, &c.; 1895, Nordend, Dom, Meije, Täscherhorn, Ober Gabelhorn, Dent Blanche, &c.; 1896, Mönch, Laquinhorn, Fletschhorn, Trifhorn, &c.; 1897, Grande and Petite Dents de Morcles, Pierre Cabotz and Tête à Pierre Grept, Aiguilles Rouges d'Arolla, Dents des Bouquetins, Aiguille du Tacul, Grépon, Mominghorn, &c.; 1898, Cima and Campanile di Val di Roda, Cima della Madonna, Sass Maor, Pala di San Martino, Cimone della Pala, Winklerthurm, Fünffingerpitze, Delagothurm, Piz Popena, Kleine Zinne (N. face), &c.; 1899, Figlio della Rosetta, &c., Sass Maor (traverse N. to S.), Rosetta (W. face), Camp. di Castrozza, Delagothurm (2nd and 3rd times); 1901, Corno Schmitt, Torre Felicità, Rosetta (W. face—descent to Forcella Cusiglio), Dente della Pala, Pala di S. Martino (traverse), Delagothurm (4th time).

THE ENVIRONS OF THE POLSET HUT IN THE TARANTAISE.

THE excellent Polset hut, or rather Alpine inn, built in 1913, facilitates climbing in a rarely visited glacier group. The hut can be reached in about 3½ hours from Pralognan. The fact that it is about 5 hours from Modane gives this hut a claim to be the most accessible Alpine climbing centre for English people. (The Turin expresses from Paris stop at Modane.)

Provided the month chosen be not August, a mountaineer who is not too ambitious can spend ten days very pleasantly at the Polset hut. The existence of a virgin peak of some 11,000 ft. unconquered till 1913 and of another summit of about 10,000 ft. apparently still virgin is proof that exploration has not been so intensive here as elsewhere in the Alps.

The following are some of the expeditions which may be made from the hut and back to it:

The traverse of the three Polset peaks, the Pic du Bouchet, the Pointe Renod, and the point marked 3325 m., 14 hours. In either ascending or descending any of the Polset peaks the

immense détour up the Glacier Blanc (a route hallowed by local custom) should be avoided and the obviously direct way should be taken.

The traverse of the three Pecllet peaks, 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours. It is best to include the Aiguille du Polset to save step-cutting.

Aiguille Doran by North ridge and Râteau d'Aussois, 18 hours.
Traverse of the Pointe de l'Echelle, 9 hours.

Western and Central Pointes de la Partie, 9 hours.

The last three expeditions appear to provide the most interesting climbing in the district. The gap in the N. ridge of the Doran can be reached direct by climbing the rock gully leading up to it (in about 15 minutes). The ascent from the gap to the peak takes another 45 minutes.

I believe that the complete traverse of the whole ridge connecting the Pointe de l'Echelle with the western Pointe de la Partie has never been done. Part of it I accomplished with Pierre Blanc in July 1920. After climbing the Echelle we followed the ridge southward for about 100 yards, and leaving it before it began to dip we descended by smooth slabs with sparse holds to the head of the couloir that plunged south from the gap between the Echelle and the eastern Pointe de la Partie, a rock spike well seen from the hut.

Caution was necessary in glissading down the couloir, as at the foot of it there was a bergschrund which had to be jumped. This route up the Pointe de l'Echelle was first taken by MM. Ern, Begey, and Grotanelli in 1912. From the top of the mountain to the hut took us 3 hours.

Yet another portion of this uncompleted traverse we accomplished a few days later when we ascended the highest or central Pointe de la Partie, reaching it from the top of the western peak.

Our hope that our ascent might be the first was not fulfilled, for we found in a diminutive cairn the names of Signori Ouaglia, Pizzotti Sitia, and Novarese who had preceded us in 1913. The peak has a slender and forbidding appearance, but the rocks are steep without being formidable, and if this ascent secures the popularity it deserves, the holds would soon become fairly sound.

A remaining portion of the ridge is as far as I know untouched. It extends from the summit of the central Pointe de la Partie to the gap between the eastern Pointe de la Partie and the Pointe de l'Echelle. It thus includes the eastern Pointe de la Partie (the rock spike previously mentioned), which is apparently a virgin peak.

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