

edges of rotten granular ice and soft snow bridges. However, we got opposite the Defiance before it was really too dark and struck the hut soon after nine, having gone nearly nineteen hours. We found there a couple of guides sent up from Waiho, who lighted a flare to let Waiho know, and had also prepared a good supper. So to bed and slept very comfortably, not feeling really done up. Undoubtedly, though the climbs are long, the fact that the maximum height was only just over 10,000 ft. makes a difference. I was much more tired on the Bernina after a week's training last year.

December 10. Got up after eight and walked with Harper along the edge of the moraine to where the Unser Fritz waterfall comes down 1200 ft. and there bathed in a natural armchair of rock, with lovely cold water sluicing over one's shoulders. It was so good that when I had got out and got dried in the sun I had to go and have another and very nearly a third. Then breakfast, followed by a scramble up 1000 ft. or so through bush to the 'Garden' full of Mt. Cook lilies, oricias, white fennel, etc., and a few buttercups, otherwise no coloured flowers, and got a good view of the whole of our route down the day before. Then down to lunch, and so across the glacier and up through the bush path down to Waiho, a wonderful walk through natural fernery, wild fuchsia trees, 'rata' unfortunately not yet in blossom, and alongside us the great white mass of the glacier, which ends most beautifully and neatly, much better than any glacier I know.

GRANDE CASSE—GRAND MOTTE TRAVERSE.

M. HENRI METTRIER kindly draws attention to an unfortunate error in the obituary notice of the late Maximin Gaspard, 'A.J.' **39**, 308. The [above] expedition was repeated, August 8, 1901—three weeks after the Maximin Gaspard party—by M. Mettrier, with the guides Séraphin and Joseph Gromier, as related in *Revue Alpine*, 1902, pp. 48-50.

A short note on the history of the startling ridge connecting the Grande Casse with the Grande Motte may be of interest. The 'Grande Casse' portion of it, or E. arête, is the only difficulty; the W. arête of the Grande Motte is more the broken edge of a face than an arête. On September 23, 1900, Signor A. Ferrari, with E. Sibille and P. Damé, from a chalet between Entre-deux-Eaux and the Col de la Leisse, climbed the Grande Motte (4 hrs. 50 mins.), descended its rocky W. arête to the 'Col de Rosolin,'¹ the lowest depression between the two mountains (1 hr. 20 mins.), then mounted the E. arête of the Grande Casse, keeping throughout almost entirely

¹ Col de Pramoy of the French, 1 : 50,000, map; de Prémou of Gaillard, 3320m.; or Col de la Grande Motte.

on its S. slope—the account is not very clear—and reached the summit in 5 hrs. 15 mins. more ('R.M.', 1900, p. 390).

On July 19, 1901, Messrs. H. J. Mothersill and A. M. Bartleet, with Maximin Gaspard and Adolf and Josef Schaller, descended the E. arête of the Grande Casse. Their route appears to differ somewhat from that of Signor Ferrari, since they wisely clung as near as possible to the crest; their descent to near the Col de Pramoy, where they turned down a gully leading to the Val de la Leisse, took nearly 9 hours ('A.J.' 20, 536-7).

This expedition was almost exactly repeated by M. Mettrier as related above. He states in his account that he went along the arête 'about 1 hr.' farther than the British party before also turning down into the Val de la Leisse; he took from the summit of the Grande Casse to easy ground no less than 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ hrs.

The Blanc family have been at various times on portions of the great jagged E. arête when chamois shooting, and a few parties have had a look at the extremely uninviting prospect before turning back to the summit of the Grande Casse. Signor Ferrari makes no comments on the character of the climb; M. Mettrier is still more emphatic than Mr. Mothersill in condemning the evil character of the ridge, and states that Maximin Gaspard declared that he would prefer to do the Meije traverse twice in one day than renew the climb.

Both Mr. Mothersill and M. Mettrier concur in stating that for many hours it would be impossible to escape from the arête except for comparatively very short distances.

M. Mettrier adds that he has heard of no traverse in either direction since his expedition of August 8, 1901.

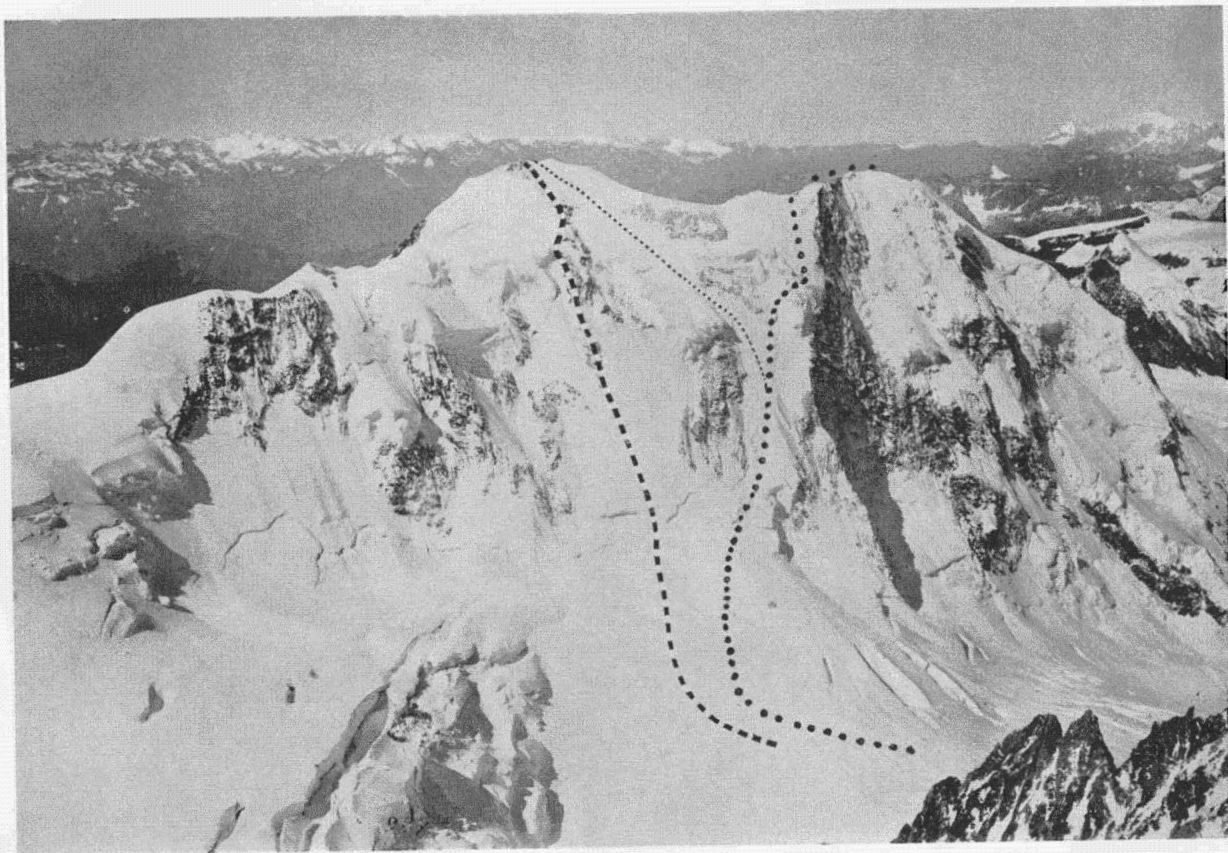
E. L. S.

THE N.E. FACE OF THE LYSKAMM.

WITH reference to a note in 'A.J.' 39, 314-5, Monsieur E. R. Blanchet kindly points out that the E. summit of the mountain (4538 m., 14,890 ft.) appears to have been scaled on four (possibly five, see *later*) occasions, direct from the Grenz Glacier, the original 'Norman-Neruda-Klucker' route being more or less adhered to. The parties were as follows:—

August 8, 1925. Herren W. Welzenbach and R. Wolter. They kept to the left, E. of the 'Klucker' rib, stated to be badly iced [when is it *not* iced?] and attained the summit in 3 hrs. 50 mins. from the bergschrund.

July 22, 1927. Herr W. von Kehl, with Fritz Amatter and Fritz Suter, followed the rib throughout till close below the summit when they climbed out to the E.; 5 hrs. 5 mins., including halts, from bergschrund to summit.



Phot. Wehrli.

N.E. FACE OF LYSKAMM.
(On left, 1890 route; on right, 1927 route.)
In centre is intended "Burgener" route.

August 30, 1927. An unknown party of two, seen by M. Blanchet from the Zumsteinspitze. [I have since ascertained that this party consisted of Herren H. Hoerlin and E. Schneider; their time was 3 hrs. 20 mins. from bergschrund to summit.—E. L. S.]

As there appeared to be some doubt as to the direction of the original 'Klucker' route, a photograph of the face was sent to Christian Klucker, and that great mountaineer replied at once as follows:

'I have marked the "Norman-Neruda" route of August 9, 1890, as accurately as possible. With reference to our 1890 route and to the N.E. face in general, I venture to make a few remarks:

'(1) Our route up the Lyskamm, which I had studied *before* 1890, is the only one, leading from the Grenz Glacier *via* the N.E. face, which is practically safe from ice avalanches. The entire N.E. slope is cleft nearly throughout with overhanging séracs. To the left and right of our rock rib, and, still more on the upper part of the slope where the other route leading to the W. summit is dotted in on the photograph,¹ are these séracs noticeable.

'(2) Zermatt guides had told me that the N.E. face had already been unsuccessfully attempted before 1890. The attempt was made by the Viennese mountaineer, von Kuffner, with Alexander Burgener and the two brothers Kalbermatten of Saas-Balen, and, curiously enough, their line of ascent lay where the other dotted line is shown,¹ but their intention was where the great rock bastion surmounted by an icefall emerges from the slope (at some $\frac{2}{3}$ of the height of the face), to bear to the *left* and make for the E. or highest summit. (I have faintly marked this route on the photograph.) The two Kalbermatten, while cutting steps on the slope in preparation for the attempt, were caught, just a short way above the bergschrund, by a small avalanche and carried, without damage, back again on to the surface of the glacier. This *memento mori* caused Herr von Kuffner to abandon the attempt. I regret that I have not got the date of this attempt.

'(3) I wanted a second good professional for our attempt, but it was difficult (without indiscretion) to obtain one in Zermatt. On August 8 Mr. Norman-Neruda informed me that the Tyrolese, Josef Reinstadler, wished to accompany us on this expedition. Reinstadler suited me, because I knew that he was very good on snow and ice, although less than mediocre on rocks.²

'On the morning of August 9 as we were going up the Grenz Glacier, I had, strangely enough, a warning that our good Tyrolese was taking the Kuffner-Burgener route as the right one. I heard

¹ The 'Blanchet-Mooser' route of 1927 to the W. summit.

² I was for two seasons, 1894 and 1895, with Reinstadler, and this description exactly corresponds with his powers. He perished miserably, throttled by the rope, if nothing worse, on the Col de la Vuignette, Arolla, August 28, 1899, *A.J.* 19, 590.—E. L. S.

behind me, before reaching the height of the contour 3600 m. of the map, Reinstadler saying to Mr. Norman-Neruda: "Klucker should now bear to the right." I flatly refused and proceeded. At the spot where the routes bifurcate we halted for breakfast and our Reinstadler set to work to explain our route. The steep rock-rib did not appeal to him and he kept shaking his head whenever he looked at it!

'In the *Œ.A.Z.* of that year, Mr. Norman-Neruda has inaccurately described the episodes of our ascent: he describes me as leading over the bergschlund up to the rib. This is not correct as Reinstadler did all the step-cutting on the snow slope. Thenceforward, over the entire rib up to the summit, I led and the Tyrolese came up last. It seemed to him preferable that Mr. Norman-Neruda should be in front, as he, Mr. Neruda, unquestionably went better, sack and all, over the steep rib.

(4) 'Before ending, I should like to add the following: the second ascent of our 1890 route was made by the famous British mountaineer Mr. G. W. Young with Josef Knubel.³ Unfortunately, I am ignorant of dates or details. As third ascent of the E. Lyskamm from the Grenz Glacier, I would mention the expedition of Herren W. Welzenbach of Munich and R. Wolter of Berlin, August 8, 1925. Their⁴ route is parallel (to the left) to ours; it does not touch the rock-rib, and for $\frac{2}{3}$ of the way is exposed to the most imminent danger of ice-avalanches. That is what I call irresponsible record-breaking!

' (Signed) CHRISTIAN KLUCKER.

'FEX, February 12, 1928.'

The route referred to in *R.A.*, 1911, p. 307 (Obituary of the late Auguste Blanc), is a repetition of the (1902) Klucker-Mrs. Roberts-Thomson expedition to the *W. summit* ('*A.J.*' 21, 266-7 and illustrations, *Ibid.* 33, facing 429; communication from Pierre Blanc). Another expedition said to have been led by a Gressoney guide, about 1910-11, appears to be purely visionary.

³ There is some mystery here. Mr. Young writes: 'I have no recollection of this ascent and do not believe that I ever made it.' M. Blanchet declares, on the authority of Knubel, that Mr. Young made the second ascent. M. Marcel Kurz states that Knubel now lays no claim to have been on any part of the N.E. face. Other persons still persist in declaring that they saw Mr. Young and Knubel on the face! Can it have been the astral bodies of this unsurpassed party which accomplished the feat? Or did Knubel accompany some other British mountaineer—both in their earthly forms? It would be interesting to know.—*Editor.*

⁴ The route marked in the illustration *A.J.* 39, 314, is, in reality, that of the 1925 German party and *not*, as stated, that of the 'Klucker' party.—*Editor.*

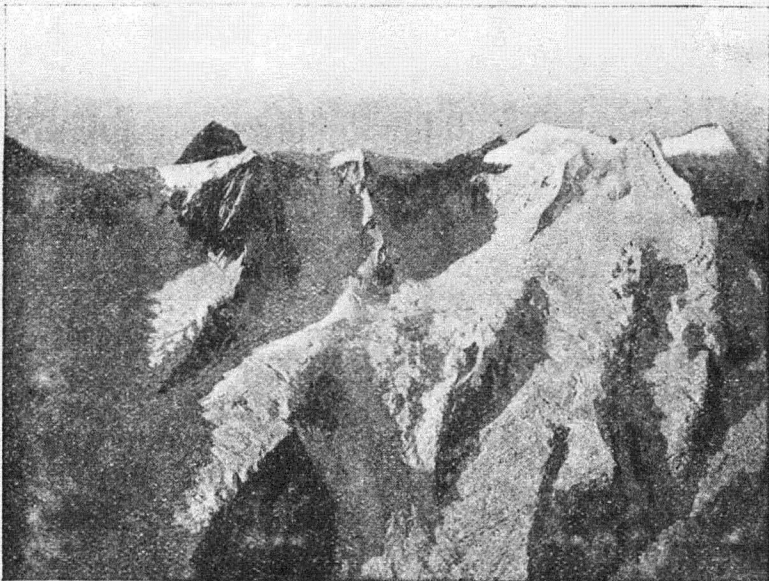
THE OCHS, OR KLEIN FIESCHERHORN.

[This note should be read in conjunction with Captain Farrar's instructive paper under the above title, 'A.J.' 38, 223-30. Mr. Bowyear's descent of the E. face of the mountain, July 16, 1890, the party consisting of the Rev. T. H. Philpott and Mr. H. T. Bowyear, with Christian Almer, senior, and Rudolf Almer, is described in 'A.J.' 15, 309-10. The following letter from Mr. Bowyear supplies additional details.—*Editor* 'A.J.']

'In Captain Farrar's analysis of the Ochsenhorn the following sentence occurs: ". . . though Bowyear with old Almer came down a bit of the E. face . . . and, in their lower route, may have followed Fellenberg's ascent."

'Old Christian Almer was really Philpott's guide and Rudolf was mine; any credit for the expedition belongs to Philpott rather than to me. Christian certainly thought the expedition was new, and it certainly *was* new to all of us; we were quite unaware of Foster's ascent.

'The photograph was taken five years later from the top of the Strahlegghorn, and on it I have marked as well as I can the route



Photo, H. T. Bowyear.

THE FIESCHERHÖRNER FROM THE STRAHLEGGHORN, 1895.

ollowed. We certainly came down the whole of the E. face. I clearly recollect Christian cutting down very steeply but slightly diagonally to the right [S.S.E.] and then slightly diagonally to the left [N.E.], reaching the foot of the steep face near to the base of the N.N.E. ridge. There was a quantity of new snow, and, in the condition it then was, I should certainly have declined to go down that face if any one else but Christian had proposed it. But he knew all there was to know of snow-craft and loved it, and where he and Philpott were willing to go, I was content to follow.

‘My note made at the time, as my custom was, reads “almost straight from the top,” and I think that we must have left the ridge somewhat nearer the top than the point at which Foster seems to have reached it on his ascent. When we reached the foot of the steep part we continued to descend the E. face, leaving point 3570 m. on our left, till we reached a point where Christian thought that, with the snow in the condition it then was, the glacier might not “go.” I pointed to the rocks on our right and said “Why not try those?” but Christian shook his head and said that the glacier above them threatened falls of ice or snow. Then came the thunder-storm and when it had cleared Christian tried the glacier somewhat to the left of where we had stopped; but after several attempts he said that it was no good. The snow was very bad. We must have been somewhere near to the Ochsenjoch, by which, I understand, Fellenberg ascended, but there was at that time a good deal of cloud, and I cannot be sure of the spot.

‘At any rate, Christian returned to the place where we had stopped and said that we must try the rocks. This we did and descended rapidly and without much difficulty, so far as I can remember after a lapse of 38 years. No ice or snow fell. We kept as much as possible to the rocks in order to avoid bad snow.

‘We had left the Bergli at 02.50, reached the Fiescherhorn at 08.20, left at 09.00, and got to the top of the Ochsenhorn about 11.15. We must have left about 11.20, as the threatening weather forbade our lingering anywhere. It was about 14.00 when the storm came on, and it must have been nearly or quite 14.45 when we started for the rocks. We reached the Bäregg at 17.45.

‘The upper part of the E. face was so steep that Philpott found it easier to go down backwards for a considerable part of the way.

‘I think that it is clear from what I have said that we came down the whole of the E. face, and, in our lower route, did *not* follow Fellenberg’s line of ascent. When I took the photograph in 1895, Rudolf Almer and I tried to trace our route, and we agreed that it was approximately as shown by my dotted line, and I think it is not far from accurate, for from the time I commenced climbing I have always tried to understand and remember the routes by which my guides led me.

‘HENRY BOWYEAR.’