

EVEREST, 1933.

EXTRACTS FROM THE EVEREST DIARY (1933) OF C. G. CRAWFORD.

THE first party, Crawford, McLean, Harris, Wager, Brocklebank and Shipton, leave Kalimpong on March 5 and arrive at Pedong.

March 6. PHAKYONG.—Left Pedong 08.20, after seeing the mules loaded. Down a winding track to the Rangpo Chu. Then up the reverse slope to Phakyong—arrived 13.25. Distance about 12 miles.

March 7. GANGTOK.—Left Phakyong at 08.15. Williamson is away and the Maharajah ill in bed, so saw neither. Passports have come through. Reports of a great deal of snow at Changu and other places.

March 8. KARPONANG.—Some delay in getting 10 extra mules. Left Gangtok 10.00 and reached Karponang 14.00, by an easily graded path (which has been mounted by an Austin 7). Some snow on the path and at the bungalow.

Saw the Tibetan passport; it is only signed by a Cabinet minister and not by the Dalai Lama. Instructed orderlies in the names of sahibs. 10 miles.

March 9. TSOMGO.—Left Karponang 07.50. The path is quite impressive, being picked out in snow against the steep hill sides. Most of it was too icy to allow our ponies to be ridden. Passed Changu lake, which was three parts iced over, and reached Changu 11.50. Distance, 11 miles. Most of the party were slightly affected by the height (12,600 ft.).

March 10. TSOMGO.—A fair night. Several complained of cold. A little snow in the night, but a beautifully fine morning. Left the bungalow for the ridge to the N. of it with Da Tsering at 08.15. On the ridge got a fine view of Kangchenjunga. Was joined by the others and went on to a point about 14,000 ft., where I stopped, having shorts and no stockings. The others went on to another peak. Returned to bungalow about 11.15. Most of the party had slight headaches.

March 11. TSOMGO.—Left at 08.50 for a walk along the ridge S.E. of the lake with Brocklebank and McLean. Very broken walking to first summit. Highest summit was reached about mid-day *via* quite an amusing little chimney. The porter, Narbu Sonam, climbed this well, the other two porters failing. I had been climbing in shorts without stockings, but put on putties for the descent, which was terrible through deep powder snow with a crust on it and rhododendron. Took nearly 1½ hrs. to valley. Back in camp 14.10. The others made arrangements for their attempt on Chumanko.

March 12. TSOMGO.—The Chumanko party left at 06.30. (The second party under Rutledge left Kalimpong.)

March 13. TSOMGO.—Wager, Harris, Longland and Shipton climbed Chumanko by E. face. Left camp 07.00 with Brocklebank and McLean and Nima Dorji for peak, climbed by the others on the 10th. Reached top in 2¼ hrs. and traversed down to col. Ridge on descent was quite interesting—mostly snow. Snow bad as usual. We only had 3 axes between the four. At the col, McLean and N. Dorji descended, Tom Brocklebank and I climbing the next peak, ¾ hr. from the col. Height of the two peaks about 14,900 and 14,700 ft. respectively. Descended face and tried to find McLean's tracks up N. face of ridge. Failed, and went up straight through rhododendron and soft snow 3–6 ft. deep. Got up in an hour—not so bad as on the previous occasion, as I was not wearing shorts to-day. Weather fairly cold, saw Chomolhari. At top of ridge traversed along to see if we could find McLean and eventually saw his tracks. Back at 15.45. A good day. McLean had spent two hours getting up the snow and rhododendron slope, starting rather further down the valley. Brocklebank and I had slight headaches, but not at all tired. Snow immediately after getting in. Night temperature, 6°–7° of frost.

March 14. CHANGU.—A very clear morning—some snow in the night and wind. Went up ridge N. of bungalow and saw Chumanko party in valley below. Continued up ridge to E. and reached highest peak about 14,200 ft.

Returned and met Chumanko party, who had been successful. They had had a very bad time with snow and rhododendron.

March 15. CHUMBITHANG.—Left Changu this morning at 08.00. Was quite sorry to leave. It was a magnificent morning and we had good views of Kangchenjunga, Siniolchum, etc. Country up to the Natu La was very striking. Some 1000 ft. below the pass (14,400 ft.) a path branches off to the Jelap La. Had thought of climbing one of the peaks on either side of the Natu La, but the wind was too cold. There was a fair amount of snow on the Tibetan side of the La. Had a magnificent view of Chomolhari and Kung Pu, a rugged square peak behind Chomolhari. From the Natu La the ascent of Chomolhari looks quite feasible by the S.E. ridge, which is pure snow.

The track soon began to wind through pines—most attractive after the barrenness, save for the loathsome rhododendron of Changu. Reached Chumbithang bungalow just before 13.00. Quite a nice bungalow, about 13,300 ft. high, among pines, but with a wonderful supply of horse flies. Sick parade in afternoon—very few blisters among the porters, though their boots are in almost every case 3 or 4 sizes too large for them.

Chumbithang seems very warm compared with Changu—almost relaxing—though it is many hundreds of feet higher. The Chumbi valley lies in clouds below. The distance from Changu was about 13 miles. Tenchedda, who is a most excellent camp cook, served us up the usual good lunch. Distance, 13 miles.

March 16. YATANG (SHASIMA).—Left about 08.00, after a cold night. I certainly need a mattress for my bed. Path downwards was not very good; but we had a splendid view of the Jelap and Natu La simultaneously. The Jelap looks much the higher. Reached the Kaju Gompa.

Got in about 13.00. Arranged to go over and see Russell¹ in the afternoon. Had tea with Russell and Dr. Tennant,—both Scotch, and stayed night with them.

March 17. YATANG.—Halted at Yatang. Russell very helpful. Heavy rain and thunder came on after lunch.

March 18. GAOTSA.—A cold night—hard frost everywhere, but a brilliant morning. A late start. Past old Tibetan fort, destroyed in 1904, to Lingmathang plain, thence stony track into Gaotsa, which has changed since I was here in 1922, many of the trees have been cut down and a number of buildings put up. There are only two rooms in the rest house—a tight fit for 7. Distance, 12 miles. Height, 12,300 ft.

March 19. GAOTSA.—A good night—a little cold. At 10.30 left with Longland to do some rock-climbing on the ridge N.W. of Gaotsa, which did not materialize. We eventually struck a path leading into an attractive hanging valley, from which we wandered up easy slopes to a peak about 15,400 ft., on which we built a cairn. This peak was higher than the 'Moel Siabod' [*sic*] seen up the valley from the camp, and higher than most of the points in the near vicinity. We could see the path to Phari and the beginning of the Phari plain. We got up in 2 hrs. 25 minutes, going fairly steadily. Had a little snow on the way up, and this gradually increased on the way down. Near the outlet of the valley we met Shipton, Harris, and Brocklebank, who had just put up two small bivouac tents in which they are camping for two days.

Got back to bungalow about 15.00—snowing hard. Had a good lunch, but a bit of an altitude head, partly due to the exertion of carrying up rocks to build a large cairn on our peak. No head on the way up.

March 20. GAOTSA.—Beautifully fine morning. The main body arrives to-morrow.

March 21. GAOTSA.—Birnie arrived at 04.00. Rutledge and the remainder

¹ Captain Russell, the British trade agent.

of the 2nd party at 14.00,² and the mess tent was erected. There is a slight re-arrangement in the party, Shebbeare coming on in the place of Brocklebank.

March 22. PHARI.—A fine morning but a late start, about 09.00. The hills closing the valley on the Tibetan side are quite attractive—snow-streaked downs. Went up to the frozen waterfall at Dotag, and then into the Phari plain—a valley gradually opening out between rounded hills. The weather had been gradually deteriorating and Chomolhari was not visible; snow began to fall gently. I was wearing shorts and no stockings, so began to get cold about the legs. Eventually arrived about 14.00 to find a nice wood fire going in the Phari Rest House. Phari (really 'Phagri') is unattractive as ever, and a steady fall of snow does not improve it much.

Had a slight head all afternoon, but a most excellent appetite.

March 23. PHARI.—Halted at Phari. Went into the 'town' in the morning. It is as filthy as ever. A lunatic boy pestered us all day. Put up 10 tents before the rear party came in. We cleared out of the bungalow to make room for Russell, the B.T.A., who came in soon after 17.00. Mess tent was erected in the compound. Just before dinner there was an alarm of fire, and I rushed out to find my tent burning. The candle lantern had fallen down, setting fire to a pillow. There was a large hole burnt in the tent; my suit-case was ruined, and the edge of my flea-bag also burnt and my pyjama coat. My two new Hudson Bays (blankets) were also burnt rather badly. Moved into the bungalow for the night. It was all my orderly's fault.

March 25. SHABRA SHUBRA.—Quite a good night—rather too warm. 21° of frost. Weather a little threatening—a few flakes falling. Wind gradually got up and most of us were wearing wind-proof. Cross Tang La (ca. 15,000 ft.) and walked down the further side. Chomolhari gradually cleared, showing its magnificent W. arête rising 9000 ft. above the plain. Got into camp stated to be called Shabra Shubra (ca. 15,300 ft.). A very dusty camp, with wind and driving snow. The tents were pitched quickly but anyhow. Length of march about 11 miles. Got in about 13.00. Cold in the afternoon—never below freezing. About 15.00 6° of frost and a howling wind till 22.00.

March 26. LUNGYE BU.—An excellent night with a fair amount of sleep. Got up feeling very strong. Temperature last night was -4° (F.), 36° of frost, one of the coldest nights I have had in Tibet. A lovely morning. Left camp at 07.25. Depth of snow gradually increased, and soon after 08.00 a fierce W. wind sprang up, blowing the snow off the ground. Got ahead of all the transport and waited in the shelter of a sunny bank for nearly an hour till Shebbeare appeared. Then on to a crest that was corniced, where Jack and I found 3 mules in trouble, one on its back in the snow and the other up to its drum. At Lungye La (ca. 15,800 ft.). Got the mules off loaded and went on slowly on broken ground with good views. Reached camp 13.05. Distance I should estimate 14 miles. As we were ahead of all the porters, fell to and put up tent and mess tent. The wind had gone down a good deal, so the weather was quite pleasant. Cook-house not functioning very smoothly.

March 27. LIMBU.—Left Lungye La Camp at 07.05. The night seemed cold, my tent being covered with ice inside and my boots frozen, although they were under my bed, yet the thermometer only recorded 17° of frost. Think it must have been wrong.

Started off riding, but walked part of the way as far as the Donka La (16,750 ft.). From there passed a curious ice mound some 30 yds. across, made by a spring to the Chago La (16,875 ft.). Walked half a mile or so, to the top of the pass and down the other side, contouring round the side of a hill above the plain till we came to a corner from which we could see the mess tent pitched below us about a mile away. From there walked into camp Limbu, about 16,100 ft. Very warm in the mess tent. A strong wind in the afternoon. A good view up the valley of Chomiomo. A slight head in the late afternoon—all right after tea.

March 28. TATSANG GOMPA (15,500 ft.).—A very cold night, though the thermometer only registered 1°–31° of frost. Slept fairly well, but was not

² Rutledge, Boustead, Birnie, Smythe, Longland, Wood-Johnson, Shebbeare; Thompson and Smijth-Windham.

feeling fit this morning. Fairly soon we struck the long valley leading to the Tatsang Nunnery that I remembered well in 1922. About half-way, halted for an hour and sheltered from the wind behind some rocks. The wind is again early this morning, and very cold. Was wearing two pairs of trousers to-day, 'Grenfells' outside. Got in about mid-day, distance about 12 miles. After an unappreciated lunch, went up the hill behind the Nunnery, about 16,600 ft. I stopped here while others went on to a more distant and slightly higher summit. On the way down climbed a very easy rock pinnacle. My pullover crackled again—sometimes it emits large blue electric sparks. Great views to-day of Chomolhari, Kangchenjao and Chomiomo. Kangchenjunga also appeared.

March 29. KAMPA DZONG.—A cold night, the thermometer registering 0°. I found ice on my pillow during the night and my boots were frozen as usual. The Nuns came down to see us have breakfast. Left soon after 07.00 and went up a long valley towards the Kilepla pass. Rode with Raymond Greene. We halted in shelter of rock for an hour and discussed ammonium chloride and Mathew respirators. Then we went on to the pass, about 17,000 ft., and I climbed the peak to the S. of it, which is just on 18,000 ft. I found myself going very satisfactorily, at the rate of 1500 ft. per hour without halts. A wonderful panorama from the top, including a high snow peak to the N.E.; Kangchenjunga very fine. Stayed on top $\frac{3}{4}$ hr., and reached Kampa Dzong about 15.10. Distance, 18 miles. The day was magnificent, wind not too cold and no cloud.

March 30. HALT. KAMPA DZONG.—A comparatively warm night. Temp. 18°. A good night. Thompson the wireless man was suffering slightly from altitude yesterday—otherwise none seemed the worse for going up to 18,000 ft. The wireless people tried to get in contact, without much success.

March 31. HALT. KAMPA DZONG.—Temp. 14° F. A lot of wind during the night, which blew dust into my tent and inclined one to a cold. Most of the party and nearly all the porters are suffering from throats. So far I have been lucky enough to avoid one. A very violent wind—almost a dust storm in the afternoon.

April 1. HALT. KAMPA DZONG.—Temp. 13° F. Went to Kellas' grave. Came down to camp, only to go up again to the cairn above the shelf, practising Shipton's 'slow march.' Went up at about 400 ft. per hr. Pulse at top about 66.

On return to camp tried Mathew respirator—was not very impressed. Then six of us, including Rutledge, did another slow march to a peak 16,200 ft. above the Jong. Came back *via* Kellas' grave. The wireless people have been trying to get into touch with England. The best they have been able to do is to listen in to a wireless conversation between Copenhagen and Berlin in Danish. The Jongpen's assistant came to tea this afternoon.

April 2. LINGGA.—17° of frost during the night. Had a very good night; after trying the Mathew respirator for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour, or so, found it no good. Not a very early start, there being a little trouble with the number of yak loads. On the whole the Kampa Jongpen's assistant and his men have done us very well.

Across the plain to Mende, and thence to the ford, where we halted. I put up some duck, whose species I did not know. Watched the yaks fording the stream—four boxes were put into the water by one yak. Then on to Gang Grang, a village at the entrance of the big plain, and thence to Lingga. The mess tent was visible quite 3 miles away. There is a pond near Lingga on which I counted 70 bar-headed geese, besides a tufted pochard and some Brahmini. A few drops of rain fell during the march. 18 miles.

April 3. TENGI-DZONG (15,800 ft.).—A most excellent night, over 8 hours' sleep, though it was fairly cold, 26° of frost. Most of the porters had hired ponies at 12 tonkas apiece, with the result that the plain looked like that over which the Light Brigade charged. Ulu Kitar fell off twice. It was the warmest day we had had. Tengki lake has dried up a great deal since 1922, and there were not many duck—some pintail and a few Brahmini. After lunch went round the other side of the Jong and rounded up a few bar-head. In afternoon football, and Rutledge instructed porters in boxing. The Jongpen here seems to be a particularly amiable sort of person. A much warmer evening.

April 4. HALT. TENGKI.—16° of frost at night, but it did not seem cold. In morning helped with stores and got out crampons. After lunch more Tengki games. The porters started by kicking a football about, in which the small Tibetan boys, and even eventually girls, joined. Then Longland did some pole vaulting, and then there was boxing, the Tibetan small boys, some not more than 5 years old, giving great exhibition of pluck and determination. Temperature in the Mess Tent at lunch was 78°, in spite of wind and dust outside. All the transport got off, the charge being Rs. 8 per animal for the 6 marches to Shekar.

April 5. KHENGA (13,600 ft.).—Temp. 18°. A beautiful morning. Left about 09.00, after watching the transport animals being loaded for some time. From Tengki through the upper village (where there were 14 bar-heads on a pond), up a stony path to the Bamon Dopte La (*ca.* 15,000 ft.). Then down to a plain from which the big lake N. of Tengki can be seen. It looked attractive. Then up to a second pass, Bamon Dopte (?), about 16,000 ft. The descent on the other side was steep. The scenery all to-day was very bare and ugly. A long sloping descent took us down to a valley with a wide dried-up watercourse. Turning W. from there we reached Khenga, camped near a willow garden.

Got in about 15.15. Distance, 17 miles. The transport was splayed out considerably, and in the evening we had a scratch dinner. The dinner itself was good considering. 'Policey' (Tibetan mastiff), the Nursang's one-eyed bitch, bit another Tibetan to-day. Greene had already treated 4 cases, but she won't bite a European now. Transport still arriving at 20.00.

April 6. CHIBLUNG (13,500 ft.).—23° (F.). Very warm, and I had a very bad night, perhaps due to indigestion. Woke with something of a cold and a cough for the first time. All the transport had arrived, and we had an early breakfast and got off by 07.00. The wind started at 07.30 and continued all day (18.30) without abating. Result, a day to be remembered for its unpleasantness. A very short march—9 miles. After an early lunch, set out with Smythe up the hill behind, rising some 1600 ft. above the camp. The wind even at that height blew dust off the plain into our faces. Sangkarri, the competitive mountain of 1922,³ showed up very clearly from here, but strangely enough there was no trace of snow on it, though there was a good deal in 1922.

While we were away Lobsang the Postman, who had had a fall from his horse in the morning and had broken a collar-bone, had it set under an anæsthetic. His heart stopped beating for several minutes, but the doctors succeeded in getting it going again.

April 7. JIKYOP (13,400 ft.).—A temperature of 16° F. A headache during the night, but did not sleep too badly in spite of it. After breakfast waited behind to see the change of transport—the new animals are mostly from Gyankar Nampa. Got off about 08.45 and rode to the ford about 3 miles away and watched a good many of the animals come across. Was feeling slightly below par, so rode nearly all the way. At 10.15 the wind got up with the violence of yesterday, and blew for the rest of the day. Crossed the Chiblung Chu again by a curious winding stone bridge at Jikyop and got into camp about noon. Distance, 9 miles. The camp was situated in a hollow formed by river cliffs and apparently protected from the W. wind, but all that happened was the wind seemed to blow round in a circle from every quarter at once. Some people climbed the hill about 2200 ft. above the camp. After dinner we discussed climbing plans. Felt much better in the evening, but had a slight cough.

April 8. TRANGSO CHUMBAB (14,000 ft.).—A very good night, but still a slight cough. Left early to-day—before 07.00, and crossed a ford into the main Yaru Tsangpo valley. Splendid views of the N. Nyönno Ri range, and especially of Shangkar Ri. Got into camp shortly before 13.00. It had been a pleasant march, the wind, the insane wind, only getting up after 14.00. Distance about 18 miles. This valley is fairly thickly inhabited, and pleasanter than most Tibetan valleys. The Bhong Chu river in the direction of Tsogo is very broad.

³ Parties led by Finch and Mallory attempted it vainly owing to lack of time.—*Editor.*

Four out of our twelve bottles of champagne have been stolen. The wind is terrible again this evening.

April 9. KYTSHONG (14,100 ft.).—Temp. 21°. The way for the most part lay near the Bhong Chu river, and we passed a number of villages on the way. Got in about 12.45. Distance about 17 miles.

The mess tent has been put up very close to the village. The wind got up at 09.15 this morning, and is as strong and dust-laden as ever. After lunch started off with Longland up the hill behind. Longland undoubtedly tends to go too fast for my perfect comfort, though my cough may have something to do with it. We did between 1200 and 1300 ft. in the first hour, and were then joined by Brocklebank. The others went ahead, and I reached the top 1600–1700 ft. above the camp and about the height of Mt. Blanc in 1 hr. 25 mins. Undoubtedly this perpetual wind tends to get on the nerves of the party.

April 10. SHEKAR (14,300 ft.).—Temp. 14°. An easy march to-day. Wind did not get up much before we got into camp. Some confusion over camp site, which was supposed to be 3 miles out of Shekar but ended up by being near the centre of the town. Soon after arrival Lewa started beating a mule driver, and it soon became apparent that 10 pairs of porters' H.A. boots had been stolen. Further inspection revealed more pilfering—21 porters' 'Grenfell' smocks being the most serious. Some of our H.A. and glacier rations were missing—a preference being shown for rum, Kendal mint and sugar. Efforts were made to get the Jongpen to bring pressure to bear.

The camp site is very dusty and my cough still continues to worry me. Spent the afternoon in the checking of stores. Further losses were discovered, but none so serious as the boots and smocks.

April 11. SHEKAR.—Temp. 14°. A good night, though I took no dope for my cough. It started again, however, in the morning. Before breakfast helped to put up one of the Arctic tents, and put up another after breakfast. Had a bath; baths seem to have the effect of giving me chapped legs.

After lunch went with six others to Jongpen's house. The Jongpen is a very Mongolian-looking man, with an attractive, completely impassive face.

None of the muleteers confessed. They are to be sent back to Tengki to stand their trial. The porters were scornful, saying they did not do such things in Nepal.

April 12. SHEKAR (halt).—Temp. 14° F. In the morning some instruction in the primus from Wager combined with Nima Dorji. Later on assisted at a kit inspection. None of the porters have sold any of their kit, though a few have lost gloves. The morning was overcast and it was obviously snowing to the S. After lunch most of the party went up to see the Gompa. The afternoon turned out cold.

The party brought back a number of Tibetan bargains from the Gompa, including Tankas (banners) at Rs. 4 or 5 each. My cough doesn't seem to improve much. Rutledge is enthusiastic about the friendly and helpful attitude of the Shekar Dzongpen.

April 13. PANG LA (14,200 ft.).—Temp. 20° F. A heavily overcast morning. The night had been disturbed by various porters who had got drunk and come into camp. In the morning there were plenty of Tibetans selling curios, but no transport animals. I went for a short walk to the N. of the Dzong to a point from which one got quite a different view. Transport animals were little more in evidence when we came back, but eventually some of our private kit got loaded up and some people started. I left about 11.00.

The first part of the way was weird in the extreme—twisted strata and jagged pinnacles of a hopelessly crumbling material, half earth, half rock. After a false col, the scenery resembled Cumberland for a while. Towards the end of the march it began to snow slightly. The camp was in an excellent site, and the march the pleasantest we have had to date. After lunch it began to snow quite hard, and some of us went up the hill behind the camp and followed the ridges to its highest point, about 15,500 ft. The clouds began to clear, and we had marvellous views towards Tingri. Came down through a small wood with trees 15 ft. high—the tallest I have seen in Tibet. Temperature pleasant all day. No dust. The transport eventually got off at 12.30.

April 14. TASHIDZOM (14,100 ft.).—Minimum temp. 14° F. in my tent. Got up early and made an early start in the hope of seeing Everest; but the weather was very threatening. Reached the top of the Pang La (ca. 17,200 ft.) at 08.45. We walked up the hill to the E., being afterwards joined by Wager. From this hill we went to another higher one still further E. I reached the top at 10.30 (ca. 18,700 ft.), finding the last 500 ft. heavy going. Smythe and Wager went better than I did.

Found a slight weakness in the legs. Weather overcast—no distant view and wind very cold. On getting down to the valley went through a fine gorge ending with two rock slabs on either side resembling gates. Reached camp 13.30, not feeling very good. After lunch had a severe attack of mountain-sickness, headache and vomiting. Veramon and aspirin no good. At tea time took some ammonium chloride—this coincided with but was not due to an improvement. Camp is in a pleasant site in a garden. Disappointed to find my altitude 'ceiling' has not yet risen above 18,000 ft. Quite fit in the evening. Weather very threatening—snow down to 16,000 ft. March about 11 miles. I find meals improved by lemon squash ration.

April 15. CHÖDZONG (15,000 ft.).—Temp. 10° F.; 16° in my tent. A fine morning, so we started fairly early in the hope of seeing Everest from the vicinity of the Dingchu. Waited about for a couple of hours without ever seeing the mountain properly. Reached camp about noon. Distance, 12 miles. [15 miles, Norton.] Several people went up the mountain N. of the camp and got a good view of the mountain. My cough still bad.

April 16. RONGBUK MONASTERY (16,400 ft.).—A fine morning. Temp. 14° in my tent. After an early breakfast went up to shelf N. of camp with telescope to look at Everest; but there was cloud and the light was not favourable. My pony has a bad cough—like master. The end of the valley looked very fine—light brown peaks almost covered with snow.

The march up the Rongbuk valley is long and wearisome, and to-day was very cold. There was a great deal of snow lying in patches—quite different to 1922. Camp was being pitched near the monastery when I arrived; we had to help to put up the mess tent. After lunch a splendid view of Everest through telescope. Soon everyone was arguing as to the right way up. Distance of march about 13 miles. Arrived noon. The wind dropped in the afternoon, and it was pleasant but very cold. Had a slight headache, partly due, I think, to cough and cold. We are to be blessed to-morrow. Temp. 19° F. in my tent as I write.

April 17. BASE CAMP (16,800 ft.).—It was a cold night—minimum 1° F. in my tent. Got a fair amount of broken sleep, what with a bad cold, and cough, I waked up at times with a feeling of suffocation. Late breakfast, 07.15, after which we went to the monastery to be blessed. Each porter was given Rs. 1—to present, but many doubled this from their own funds. Shebbeare and I were presented to the Abbot separately, on account of having been on previous expeditions. We were blessed by being touched on the head with a prayer wheel. The Abbot sat in a small sort of greenhouse. One of the 1924 oxygen cylinders could be seen on the roof. Had to repeat 'Om Mani' after the Abbot. Some particularly devout porters prostrated themselves three or four times. Kusang Pagala did so without his boots on the ice cold stone floor.

After the blessing, left for Base Camp. Reached Base Camp about noon. The 1924 memorial is down—I cannot help thinking that the Tibetans have taken it down on purpose. After lunch was sent to bed by Greene on account of my cold. Have had a slight altitude (?) headache.

April 18. BASE CAMP.—Temp. 10° F. Was kept in bed all to-day by Greene. Had a slight temperature in the morning. Wyn Harris is also in bed with a bad chill and temperature, and Thompson is also suffering severely from altitude effects and is in bed too. Wager also was unwell during the night, so far our blessing does not seem to have done us a great deal of good. The sanitary area is 120–150 yds. away, and one has to cross part of a frozen lake to get there—not so good when one has fever. The morning was beautifully warm and still and the non-invalids devoted it to sorting stores. Smythe went

up to Camp I and reported ample space there for a base; but also a lot of snow. In the afternoon a burrhel appeared just over the camp.

Wind again in the evening, and some wind. Read a good deal during the day. Smijth-Windham has rigged up a windmill generator.

April 19. BASE CAMP.—Temp. 8° in my tent. Another day in bed after a bad night with little sleep. Very disappointing, as the previous day had felt much better, and had come to the conclusion I was getting rid of this infernal cough. To-day as bad as ever, with same slight temperature. Had my bed put out in the sun, which was very hot. The sun temperature went up to something like 90°.

Most of the expedition went up to Camp I and back to-day. McLean is ill to-day instead of Wager—stomach and sickness.

April 20.—A marvellously fine morning, but the day was not so warm as yesterday and got progressively colder. Temp. in my tent 12° F. Practically all the porters went to I.

Had lunch in the mess tent to-day, and soon after lunch a mail arrived. Rutledge very annoyed with some of the articles in the *D.T.*, alleged incorrectly to be written by him. Wyn Harris not quite so well to-day, and Ongdi threatens to have pneumonia. As it got progressively windier (a S. wind from Everest) and colder, I went to bed again. My cough is worse again this evening—very disappointing. Wager not very well.

April 21. RONGBUK MONASTERY.—Temp. 15° F. in my tent. Soon after breakfast had a combined visit from Rutledge and Greene announcing the unpleasant news that I was to be sent down the Kharta Valley—(a) to cure my chest complaint; (b) to accompany Ongdi, who is struggling with pneumonia. There is little chance, to my mind, of his surviving. Made preparations during the morning. Harris is better to-day, being subnormal. Collected stores, etc., in the morning. McLean accompanies me as far as Rongbuk Monastery, as I am afraid Ongdi may die on my hands. Got a pony down after lunch and caught up McLean and Ongdi. One side of the stretcher had broken, and later on the other side broke too. Eventually both sides were spliced with ice axes, though McLean had to do a bit of carrying first. I rode on ahead to try and get Narsang, who is acting as my sirdar, to send back help, but I couldn't find him at the Gompa. The wind eventually got very cold, and after having been four days in bed I was glad when my tent went up. Ongdi bore up well to-day.

April 22. CHÖDZONG.—A gale during the night, which blew my tent down on top of me at 02.30. In the morning a thunderstorm with snow followed—it snowed hard till mid-day. McLean saw the sick man off and then left for Base Camp. The supply of oxygen is exhausted.

[Mr. Crawford was away in the Kharta Valley until April 30, when he returned to the Base camp in better health. Ongdi made a miraculous recovery and rejoined for duty on the mountain exactly four weeks after going down with pneumonia.—'A.J.' 45, 219.—*Editor.*]

(From Mr. Shipton's diary.)

April 22.—Bad weather, nothing accomplished.

April 23.—Greene, Brocklebank, Rutledge to Camp I.

April 24.—Wood-Johnson and Shipton climb a rock point above Camp I; Smythe, Boustead and Birnie go up E. Rongbuk Glacier (deep snow).

April 25.—Smythe, Greene, Wood-Johnson, Brocklebank, Shipton to Camp II site and back.

April 26.—Wood-Johnson, Boustead, Smythe, Shipton establish Camp II.

April 27.—Longland, Rutledge, Greene, Brocklebank to Camp II.

April 28.—Smythe, Boustead, Wood-Johnson explore route to 'Trough.' Rutledge and Shipton climb 1500 ft. above Camp II for view of upper glacier.

April 29.—Greene, Longland, Shipton, Birnie work up glacier, two last attaining the corner below Camp III site.

April 30.—Smythe, Boustead, Wood-Johnson to corner.

May 1.—Harris and Wager arrive at Camp II.

May 2.—Birnie, Boustead, Wood-Johnson, Longland, Smythe and Shipton establish and occupy Camp III.

May 3.—Bad weather.

May 4.—Boustead, Smythe, Shipton climb one-third of N. col slopes.

May 5.—Ruttledge, Brocklebank, Greene arrive Camp III. Weather too bad for work on col.

May 6.—Vile day, wind and driving snow.

[We resume the diary of Mr. Crawford, who left Camp I on this day after his return from Kharta.]

May 7. CAMP II.—A good night. Min. temp. 9° F. Woken at 05.00 by a Tibetan singing. Left at 09.30. Wore a respirator, but found myself going well. About half-way met a chit from Ruttledge, who apparently thinks I am at the last gasp, suggesting that I should take over from Shebbeare. This spurred me on, and I reached II in 2 hrs. 35 mins., 25 mins. less than McLean took to go down. Felt quite fit and ate a good lunch. Wood-Johnson came in at lunch—he has been sent down to help re-organize the transport. A way is being made up to the N. Col to-day by the III party. A beautifully warm day—the best I've experienced so far. A very slight headache in the afternoon. Assisted at the compilation of loads. Sun left the camp at 16.25 and within a quarter of an hour the thermometer had fallen from 31° to 10° F. The camp situation among the séracs is very fine.

May 8. CAMP II.—A cold night. Min.—15° F., the lowest I've met so far on this expedition. Feet too hot at first, afterwards too cold. Slept quite well. Sun struck the tent before 07.00, and I got up and helped Wood-Johnson with the porters—28 left with loads for III. By breakfast time it had started to cloud over, and the weather looks threatening. After lunch, Pasang Kikule, the first of the porters, arrived with the news that Brocklebank was coming down from III. He arrived an hour or so later. He had not been able to acclimatize and had eaten nothing for the last two days, and was sick several times on the way down.

It appears that a camp has been established at the foot of the N. Col wall, and they are to take it in turns to cut a staircase. Started to snow in the late afternoon.

May 9. CAMP II.—Temp. 2° F. Snowed in night, and when I woke in morning was snowing hard. The snow had worn into a rib of ice under my sheep-skin and was uncomfortable. Brocklebank is still feeling the altitude. It was decided not to send the porters off on account of the snow. About 11.30 it started to clear a little and the sun came through for a short while; but in half an hour's time down came the snow again and continued for the rest of the afternoon. It is difficult to say how many inches have fallen—at least 6—probably 9.

Had some fresh vegetables—turnips and carrots—for lunch, but they were only half boiled. It is too high to boil that sort of thing properly.

May 10. CAMP II.—Min. temp. 1° F. (in tent). Snow till midnight. I am not much in love with these flea-bags, but had enough sleep. A very fine morning. Arranged to accompany the porters part of the way to III, and to help in stamping out a track in the masses of new snow.

Shebbeare left first. Brocklebank and I followed at 08.10, and caught Shebbeare up before he had reached the trough. By this time Shebbeare was very cooked and soon afterwards turned back. Brocklebank led as far as the trough—after that I took a turn. The top end of the trough was very exhausting, and at his suggestion I halted about $\frac{1}{4}$ hr. from the top, while he went on. After all the porters had passed, I went on a little way and met Brocklebank coming down. We turned back at 11.15 and got back about 13.00. Brocklebank went very well going up—he was better than me, but I picked up a little

on him on the way back. Had a good lunch, though I was rather tired. New snow at 20,000 ft. is no joke. A *communiqué* came up from the Base, saying that Crawford and Turnbull had won the hard-court doubles! Porters got in very late, the first arriving at 16.15.

May 11. CAMP II.—A bitterly cold night— 21° F. I think this is the coldest temp. registered at II. A beautiful morning—the sun was on my tent by 06.00. Porters went off to III under the Havildar. Very little wind till the afternoon. Then news arrived from the Base. Tenzing had died yesterday, and Sola Khombu men were rumoured to be on their way. The porters returned from III, one carrying an icicle 5 ft. long, which he erected between the tents. Ink is freezing in my pen.

May 12. CAMP III.—Min.— 16° F. A splendid night. Slept excellently, as I got an extra flea-bag to use as a mattress. This made all the difference. Brocklebank and I started after Wood-Johnson at about 08.10 for III. We went much better than on the previous occasion and passed most of the porters. All the same one did not seem to find time to admire the séracs in the trough. After the end of the trough the route lies up the open glacier at an easy angle. We did not have to wear crampons owing to the new snow. Just before reaching III we came in sight of the advance party working on the N. Col route. It appeared to me exactly the same as the route of 1922, only it is said to be steeper. It seems to me just as liable to avalanches. To-day Smythe and Shipton reached a shelf some 300 or 400 ft. below the col, which is proposed as the site of Camp IV. Got into III at 11.30—3 hrs. 20 mins.

A slight headache, but was able to eat quite a good lunch. Found Rutledge (with a bad throat) and Greene in the Arctic tent; this is a great innovation and very warm. Birnie is suffering from the effects of altitude.

May 13. CAMP II.—The sun strikes III very early. Got up fairly soon and went into the Arctic tent. Greene examined me carefully and pronounced me quite fit again. Longland is said to be overdoing it at IIIa. Saw him, Harris and Wager at work on the N. Col again. It seems to me dangerous, as it snowed all yesterday afternoon. Smythe and Shipton came down before lunch with tales of the terrible steepness of the N. Col; latter has lost his voice entirely. After a hasty lunch Rutledge and I left for II. Went fairly fast and I soon developed a headache. Am very sick of the trough after 4 times up and down it. Reached II in 2 hrs. 12 mins. to find McLean had arrived 2 hrs. before.

After supper Nima Dorji arrived with 46 men from Sola Khombu. Things are looking up, especially as it is a fine evening.

May 14. CAMP III.—Temp. 4° F. Left camp early, 07.30 on a fine morning, accompanied by Shebbeare as far as the trough. Went quite well as far as the end of the trough—after that the walk was trying in the extreme, especially the last half-hour, when a strong gusty wind was beating down the glacier and blowing the snow into my face. I had to rest every few minutes and barked one shin in a crevasse. One of the séracs in the trough had collapsed and fallen right across the track.

Found the camp. Rested all the afternoon, in the course of which Wager and Harris arrived and on being pressed, stayed the night. Four of us slept in the Arctic tent, which was very hot and stuffy in consequence until after midnight. None of us had a very good night. There was a great deal of wind as well.

May 15. CAMP III.—Temp. 1° F. A warm night. Got up rather late, but Harris left early, being afraid what those at IIIa would say. Wager left just after a huge contingent of Sola Khombu men arrived from II, including Narbu Tishay,⁴ the great man of 1924, who complained of altitude. Not long after Greene and Longland arrived from IIIa and had lunch. Everyone seems confident that the route up the N. Col is safe enough, but I am not so sure. In any case, as there is no feasible alternative, it is not worth worrying about.

In the afternoon Brocklebank came back from near III with stomach trouble, which upset him pretty badly. During the night Policey kept us awake.

⁴ The 'old soldier,' see *A.J.* 44, illustration facing 118.—*Editor.*

May 16. CAMP IIIa (22,000 ft.).—A warm night, 4° F. A good deal of gusty wind. Got a fair night's sleep. In the morning helped with the stores and felt very exhausted. Just about lunch time Rutledge arrived with Smijth-Windham, who was standing up to the altitude well. Left III with Brocklebank soon after lunch and came up to IIIa quite well—1 hr. 7 mins. and not feeling the altitude. IIIa is a terrible camp—racked by a howling wind all day and all night. In an Arctic tent it is, of course, not so bad, but I don't relish staying here without one.

May 17. IIIa.—A shocking day, with snow in the morning and, after a short break, in the afternoon as well. To all intents and purposes we were confined to the Arctic tent. It was hopeless to think of going up to the col. Four men arrived from III and had to stay the night.

May 18. IIIa.—A terrible night. Woke about 02.00. The wind broke down a portion of the Arctic tent. We struggled into our windproofs, and Greene and Wager went out to secure the tent rope guys, which had come adrift. We worked at the tent until about 03.00. Got to sleep again about 04.00. The morning broke very gusty and windy. There were snowdrifts 2–3 ft. deep outside the tent. After a late breakfast, went out and looked at the porters. Most of them were in good heart, but three or four were very depressed. Wind continued all morning, and Longland went down to III at lunch time. After lunch we got up and struggled with the Arctic. One of the struts had been broken and most of the screws had fallen off. The tent had been getting in a worse condition during the morning. After considerable efforts we succeeded in getting the tent re-erected. Just about that time porters arrived from III. After fixing the tent, endeavoured to arrange stores; but all except those that had arrived to-day were deeply buried in snow. The continuous snow had practically filled the tent.

May 19. IIIa.—A very windy night, but the tent held up all right. Temp. quite high, 8° F. The day was better; went the round of the porters in the morning. Kami had slightly frost-bitten feet. Got out loads for IV—the porters disliked very much carrying bedding and tents; but I eventually got them off at about 11.30. Meanwhile the others were having an early lunch. I had intended to follow them, but found my boots full of ice and snow; so waited for the up relay of porters—42 loads arrived. Got them pretty well arranged in colours.

Greene came in early with Nima, who was suffering from altitude. It continued gusty and very cold all day, but improved towards the late afternoon.

May 20. IIIa.—Temp. 12° F. Spent the morning fixing up stores for IV. Longland, Greene and Wager left soon after 11.00 with all porters except 4. Brocklebank and I stayed behind for the Arctic tent from III, which was due to arrive at 11.00. It arrived at 13.35, and we started off at once for IV. Kusang went very badly at the start and complained bitterly of his condition. The crevasse is a nice place and we had a long halt there. Then Brocklebank went on with the two fit porters while I brought up the other two. Immediately after leaving the crevasse they went very well. The 'Punch Bowl' is a dangerous place. Indeed, in my opinion, every party that goes to IV runs a risk. The moment a warm current arrives the slopes of the N. Col will be a death-trap. Longland and Smythe were at the ladder. I went part way up and guided the loads up. It was a tricky job, as if one of the loads had worked loose I should have been swept off the ladder.

The ascent of the ladder is a strenuous business. The lower 10 ft. overhang and are all right, but the upper part slopes away slightly, so that it is not possible to get one's feet into the rungs. The steps cut in the ice behind have got worn away and one is obliged to grasp the ladder with the back of one's hands against the ice. The ice wall is perhaps 40 ft. high. Above the ladder, the ice is very steep and the steps worn. Then the slope eases off and Camp IV is reached in about $\frac{1}{4}$ hour.

We found that Birnie, Boustead and Harris had gone out to establish V. Most of the porters were back, in excellent spirits and not tired. They told me they had established V. Shortly afterwards Wyn Harris came in. It appears that the others had stopped at the top of the snow slope, which is only 24,500 ft.

instead of at 25,500 ft. and that in that locality platforms were very inadequate. It was perhaps the first nearly perfect day we have had on the mountain. Harris had been doing about 700 ft. an hour and the porters had been keeping up with him; he regretted that they had failed to establish V on a fine day, and had come down ahead to so inform us. We saw the others coming down, just before the rest were about to organise a search party.

Birnie and Boustead must have come in nearly an hour after the last of the porters. Brocklebank and I started down in the cold at about 16.50. Flurries of snow and small bits of falling ice were very unpleasant on the ladder; but we made fairly good time and reached IIIa in about 35 mins. to find Ruttledge arrived, and the telephone installed. Unfortunately Wood-Johnson is prostrated with stomach trouble at III, and has been so for a couple of days. It is unfortunate, seeing that he will certainly be required to replace failures above. Was a little tired on entering; but was far better than I had been in 1922 on my first visit to IV. Greene said I was fit to stay up at IV.

May 21. IIIa.—Temp. -2° F. A coldish night. Did not sleep till 02.00 or so. Shebbeare turned up from III fairly early on—his idea is still to get to the N. Col. After breakfast prepared loads—about 25 went to-day—including 5 ‘personals.’ We started about 12.35, Brocklebank leading to start with. All the steps had to be rekicked as they were blown full of snow, and in places even the axe had to be used. Took over the lead from Brocklebank (it is hard work ‘passing’ 25 porters) about half-way to the crevasse and led up to there. My cough troubled me, and the effect was that I vomited. From the crevasse we led alternately to the foot of the ladder. We shouted, but no one came from IV. Birnie’s porters came down and helped. I had a very cold hour slinging up loads. A piece of rope (probably of 1922) can be seen sticking out of the middle of the ice wall on the left—somehow the effect of this is very grim.

After getting very cold went down into the sun, Brocklebank taking over the slinging of the loads. Got back to camp a little before 16.00, cold but fresher than yesterday. Brocklebank arrived 15 minutes later. At 18.30 the temperature was -8° F.

May 22.—Min. -11° F. (probably lower—thermometer slipped). Shebbeare and Smijth-Windham turned up fairly early. Shebbeare and I left for the everlasting N. Col at 10.30. My third time up on consecutive days and Brocklebank’s fourth. Shebbeare went fairly well considering. Policy, the dog, came up as far as the crevasse. At the wall I climbed the ladder and then had to cut out all the steps above it, a very exhausting business. Shouted for someone to come and give a hand, but no one turned up till I was 15 ft. from the camp—the rope on the ladder had been taken away and the piton half-way up had drawn.

At IV found Ruttledge, Shipton, Smythe and Longland, and the latter three at once volunteered to bring the porters up—a long cold job. A reconnaissance party of Wyn Harris, Birnie, Greene and Boustead had gone out to pitch V and VI and make a reconnaissance. Longland came back with a sick man, Ula Kitar. He had started up with Wager and the rest of the party. Camp V was established at about 25,400 ft.—a very satisfactory effort, if it is not spoilt to-morrow. After a general consultation as to monsoon plans, left with Brocklebank, Smijth-Windham and 10 porters. Latter had wanted to bring a phone up to IV, but (owing to altitude) had made a miscalculation and left the end of the phone at the foot of the ladder.

Had a cold time roping the porters down the ladder, and eventually got back to IIIa a little before 17.00.

May 23. CAMP IV.—Temp. -13° F. Snow during the night—about 1–2 ins. lying. Made an early start from camp with our kit for IV. Was not too happy about the new snow on the slopes, but this turned out to be all right. Brocklebank went on ahead with the telephone and succeeded in fixing it up all right. Stood at the bottom of the ladder when Longland and Ruttledge came to meet us, and got a large lump of ice on my head, which made it sing. Got up to IV and had a very good lunch. Greene was there with a dilated heart, which he had got on his way up to V.

Feeling rather cold, and having a slight head, went to bed, when a small

avalanche started above the shelf and fell on my tent. It was followed at intervals by several other small avalanches. One did not know whether to get out of bed or not. These small avalanches made a roar just like a big one at a distance. There is an ice cliff above the camp, above which again are very steep snow slopes for perhaps 200 ft. The theory is that the slopes are too steep to hold any considerable amount of snow, but I am not convinced and believe this camp is in considerable danger from avalanches. Harris and Wager turned up at 15.45, having come down from V, the reconnaissance having been abandoned. They expect to go up to-morrow. Snow all the afternoon. Prospects unpleasing.

May 24. CAMP IV.—A very warm night and an ugly-looking, cloudy morning. Woke early. It soon began to snow. Spent the morning sitting round and discussing. It is curious how one's mind runs naturally on Everest—one thinks of any other subject almost with an effort.

It was decided that Harris and Wager should stay down to-day as the weather looks so threatening, and that to-morrow they, together with Longland, should go up to V, with Ruttledge and myself accompanying them part of the way to encourage the porters.

In the afternoon, Wager and I went out to examine the avalanche situation, with special reference to avalanches that may fall on IV. There was a lot of new snow—9 ins. to a foot deep, but mostly yesterday's precipitation. To-day it showed no tendency to slide, so that for to-day at any rate we are safe. The slopes, too, directly above the camp hold rather less snow than I anticipated—the camp might escape total destruction even if a fairly big avalanche fell. Returned slightly relieved. To-morrow will be a test day, as the N. Col slopes are to be ascended and descended both above and below the camp.

May 25. CAMP IV.—Temp. 14° F. A rather restless night, with a good deal of breathlessness. Brocklebank suffered from this as well. The morning for a change was fine and clear, but with some wind. Started up to N. Col soon after 07.00 with Wyn, Wager, Longland and Ruttledge and about 6 porters. One starts from IV shelf up a very steep snow corner; then a flat bit follows to a splayed-out ice chimney, from which the way goes vertically upwards for 150–200 ft. to the col. I was frankly afraid of the slopes, there being 6 to 8 inches of new snow. However, it showed no tendency to avalanche. From the ridge there is a descent of perhaps 70–80 ft. to the true col. From there I took over the lead up the edge of the long snow slope that runs up the N. face of Everest. I found the going extremely laborious, aggravated by my cough. The wind grew stronger and stronger, and two toes and two fingers got very cold. Ruttledge was a long way behind, so at the end of my hour's lead I fell to the rear, where Longland was going very slowly.

At about 24,000 ft. I stopped and waited for Ruttledge, and very soon Smythe came down and met us. They had been driven out of V by conditions and a fierce gale this morning. All the porters who came down from V got frost-bitten in their left hands or feet. Smythe and I returned rapidly down the snow slope; even descending was hard work, while the rise to the col was most exhausting. From there I returned quickly to camp. Before long all of us were collected in one Arctic tent. Ruttledge had obviously felt the height, while Brocklebank's condition had not improved. Sat about all the afternoon. It is suggested that I go up with Harris and Wager to V, but it is about a 3000 ft. rise, and I don't feel properly acclimatized. At night 6 of us jammed into one of the Arctic tents, the other 5 in the other.

May 26. CAMP IV.—A bad night—a great deal of panting. With 6 in the tent one was far too hot. Heard 3 avalanches during the night and snow fell heavily—in the morning 9–12 inches of new snow and a very hot sun. Avalanches—big ones—had fallen on either side of the shelf. It is obvious to everyone now that we are in a very dangerous position. All the slopes to-day are liable to avalanches. Snow is starting to fall again.

In the afternoon it was decided to abandon Camp IV altogether, Shipton, Smythe, Wager, Harris, Birnie and Longland going up to a new camp on the North Col, while the unfortunate remainder are to go down to III. After some delay we started down in light snow for III, taking 3 frost-bitten porters with

us. Had a particularly uncomfortable time getting them and the rest down the ladder. Had tea at IIIa and got into camp after dark, Greene's heart holding up well. Pasang slipped at the top of the crevasse and went 150 ft. or so, walking out along a lower crevasse.

May 27. CAMP III.—Temp. -10° (F.). Did not sleep a wink all night, but had to be up in the morning to escort porters with matches, Tommy cooks and food up to IV. Prospects of the slopes after last night's snow and avalanches not too good. Impressed McLean to come with me. Started 08.30 and did not reach IV till 13.30 owing to ladder work. The slopes were not in too bad condition considering, and we had no mishaps. Got a list of stores made and was just leaving when Smythe and Shipton turned up from IVa. Got back to III soon after 18.00 surprisingly fresh, though my cough had given me trouble.

May 28. CAMP III.—Temp. -9° (F.). Had very little sleep again last night through cold, rolling off my sheepskins. Boustead and Greene left for II. Felt very weak all day. I have been going 6 days out of 7. Lazed all day, cough and cold giving me a lot of trouble. It looks as if I shall have to go up to-morrow in support. Frankly I am not anxious to. So far 7 or 8 porters are down with frost-bite, Greene with heart trouble and Boustead has a couple of frost-bitten toes.

May 29.—Temp. -9° (F.). Got up rather unwillingly after a fair night in the Arctic tent. Left with McLean at 08.00. Very slow to IIIa, where we met two porters coming down from IV. Slowly again up the wall. Hammered in a new piton for a belay at the ladder. At the shelf the weather deteriorated and along the ridge one could hardly see at all on account of snow. Reached IVa at 14.30. The tents were tightly laced up. Between 18.00 and 18.30 Longland, Datsering and 5 other porters came down after having established VI at about 27,200–27,300 ft. They had encountered a blizzard on the way down, with the result that their left sides and faces were covered in ice. Birnie had remained at V with Shipton and Smythe.

May 30.—Temp. -4° (F.). Got a fair amount of sleep, though I was afflicted by diarrhoea, as I have been for the last day or two. A wonderful morning, quite windless. At 07.00 saw Harris and Wager through the telescope nearing the first step. They had made a good deal of lateral distance, but not much vertical height. At 09.30 had a good look again for the climbers, but we were unable to spot them. Telephoned at about 11.10. The 'phone is 100 yards away, on an exposed bit of ridge. The peak then clouded over with a little snow down here till 14.00, when there was a clearing, but again we couldn't spot them. Saw two axes outside VI, showing that Smythe and Shipton had gone up there. No news during the rest of the day. Fine periods during the evening, but no one came down. We kept a light burning till 02.00.

May 31.—Temp. -8° (F.). A bad night—had to get up three times—the bacteriophage McLean gave me didn't seem to work. At one time it was snowing hard. At 03.00 beautifully still and clear with not a cloud on the mountain. Snow gradually came on, and it fell heavily most of the morning—so much so that I am in doubt as to the safety of the North Col slopes. We discussed the question of desires—about the only one one has left is the desire to drink. One suffers a great deal from desiccation up here, and we all three have bad coughs. Kipa, one of the 'tigers,' continues to be sick, but we can't send him down alone. Still no news from above at 12.30. At 15.00 Harris came in with the news that they had failed to reach the summit. They had been more or less forced on to Norton's traverse and crossed his couloir. They turned back at 12.30, intending to inspect the second step, but they had not been able to do so. They stopped the night at V and came down late the next day. The difficulties of the mountain are technical rather than primarily those of altitude. The second step especially seems very difficult. Harris found a Willisch ice axe about half-way between Camp VI and the first step, and about 20 yards below the ridge. This must certainly have belonged to Mallory or Irvine, and in all probability was found on the scene of the accident.⁵

⁵ This axe is now in the Alpine Club.—*Editor.*

Wager had a temperature, and both were tired men. We made supper for them. After that Longland and I went out to 'phone to III. It was quite a severe mountaineering problem to get to the 'phone. The ridge was a knife-edge of powder snow, 1 ft. deep, most of which had to be swept away. We had a very cold talk with III.

June 1. CAMP IVa.—A very uncomfortable night, hot at first. Was kept awake by dysentery. It blew and snowed very hard all night. Only got to sleep at 04.30. Five in an Arctic tent is not a comfortable number. After lunch Harris and Wager started off with Kipa. They tied him on with a puttee, as he was sick. I had to dress Kipa by force, ramming his wind-proof over his head. Then he made himself sick on purpose by drinking Ovaltine! I had intended to go down in the afternoon, but a blizzard set in, so I put it off. One of the struts of the Arctic tent has come loose again. Much snow has fallen.

June 2. CAMP III.—A very windy night, but the tent held up. Started about 09.00 with 2 porters for III. Had a good many steps to cut, and by the time I had finished those above the ladder, where I had to cut mostly with one hand, the left, I was very tired. Just before reaching IIIa, met Shebbeare and Brocklebank coming up. They turned back with me and decided to go on to-morrow. Wandered slowly down to III, arriving with a headache. Late in the afternoon news came through that Shipton and Smythe had failed to reach the summit, getting about as far as Harris and Wager.

June 3. CAMP III.—Temp. 7° (F.). Had an idle day. In the morning watched the evacuation of IV—one figure, going very slowly and badly. Shipton and Smythe at last arrived. The former was suffering from aphasia. Smythe doesn't think Norton's route will go—he wants to apply 'siege tactics' to the second step. They had a lot of snow to contend with on Norton's route. Longland and Harris want to try again as soon as possible. I think with a view to producing a 'face saver' rather than with any hope of success. My own idea inclines to a week in the Kharta.

McLean finally arrived about 18.00, apparently completely exhausted, supported—practically carried—by a porter on either side of him. He took 8 hrs. down from IV. His complete collapse is curious.

June 4. CAMP I.—Temp. 10° (F.). Another bad night—not more than 1½ hours' sleep. I suggested to Rutledge that Brocklebank and I should go on ahead, getting out of the way of the people who had had a battering on the mountain; so we left about 10.00 for II. The route had been changed by Lachman Sing and much improved. There is much less of the trough included. We took about 2 hrs. to reach Camp II, which was extraordinarily changed. The snow under the tents had melted, and the lake, which was only just frozen, had increased enormously, almost reaching the cooking tent. Similarly in the middle of the trough there was quite a long lake. After lunch we went on down to I, an uncomfortable march, as all the snow has melted off the moraines, making it quite difficult to follow the track. Outside I, the glacier stream proved quite a formidable obstacle—we had to cross by the snow bridge at its source. Camp I proved very comfortable. Nima Dorji cooked for us.

June 5. BASE CAMP.—Had a very good night on the whole—my first real sleep for a week or so. Lazed in the sun after breakfast and then set out for the Base Camp, which we reached in 1 hr. 50 mins. The Base Camp was, of course, entirely changed—the snow melted and a 'bathing pool' constructed just beside the mess tent.

The decreased altitude gave one an extraordinary feeling of comfort and well-being. Had an excellent lunch with salad, and afterwards a bath. Greene examined me and found me quite sound. Have probably had slight frost-bite in both big toes. Wood-Johnson very much under the weather with gastric ulcer. Greene seems to be getting on well with his dilated heart.

In the late afternoon Smythe, Longland, Harris and Wager came in. Smythe is said to have arrived in 1½ hrs. from I—phenomenally fast time. There is no doubt that he is an extraordinarily good altitude subject. It is remarkable how one's legs and arms have wasted away—my legs are much smaller than they were. Longland and Harris, the former especially, have very muscular

legs—were complaining bitterly that their legs are like matches.⁶ We also have spots on our bodies—another result of our long stay up high.

June 6.—Quite a good night, though I was a little too hot. Base Camp is at present a veritable Capua. The food is good, and there are still some vegetables left over from the last consignment from Kalimpong.

The difference in temperature between the present time and the end of April is most marked. The 'Weisshorn' ice ridge has completely disappeared, leaving nothing but a brown mound. (This was a mistake.) Shipton, Birnie and Shebbeare came down in the afternoon, Birnie being carried by four porters alternately.

June 7. BASE CAMP.—Rather a bad night, but a beautiful morning. After lunch Rutledge and McLean came down, having taken 5 hrs. from Camp I, the latter having to be helped down all the way. Did nothing much during the rest of the day.

June 8. BASE CAMP.—Temp. 27° (F.)—much the warmest at night we've had. It hailed and snowed a little in the night—a cloudy morning.

June 9. BASE CAMP.—A lot of new snow on Everest this morning—more than we have had so far. In the afternoon it snowed again, and in the evening Everest was pure white. The new attack starts the day after to-morrow, when Brocklebank and I start up the glacier, followed at intervals by Longland and Shipton, Harris and Smythe; Rutledge, Greene and Shebbeare to remain at III. Wager's heart won't allow him to go up again, lucky dog. McLean still has a temperature.

June 10.—A lovely morning, with the snow gradually coming off Everest. Wood-Johnson, Birnie and McLean are to go off together back to Darjeeling to-morrow or the day after. The afternoon deteriorated. More snow on Everest.

June 11. CAMP I.—Spent the morning in being photographed and in preparations to go up the glacier. Left after lunch and had a very comfortable walk up to I, which we did in 2 hrs. 20 mins., with one halt of 5 mins. It was a warm muggy evening.

June 12. CAMP II.—Very hot during the night, but got a fair amount of sleep. The morning too was very warm—one could go about in shirt sleeves, even though it was snowing. Waited for porters till nearly 11.00. I had asked Shebbeare the previous evening to send them up. They did not appear, so our porters had to carry extra loads. Thompson left $\frac{3}{4}$ hr. before us, but we soon caught him up and passed him, as he was obviously beginning to feel the altitude. We reached II in a little over 3 hrs.—2 hrs. 25 mins. actual going. The halts we took were not necessary. Thompson got in in 4 hrs. 20 mins., but seemed to revive with food. The lake at II has increased still more in size. Stones from the moraine are continually falling into it. In the afternoon it started to snow, a wet monsoon snow. The weather looks desperate.

June 13.—A fair night, but some snow fell, the stones outside were covered in the morning and the lake was frozen over. Started out at 08.35 with Brocklebank. There were no tracks at all, and the bridge of boxes near the trough was unusable. We crossed higher up, but when we got into the trough the lake had swollen to an enormous size and was uncrossable. We took to the séracs on our right, and eventually got out at the corner near another lake. From here the way lay across bad snow intersected by small crevasses into which we fell every now and then—once I fell half thigh-deep in water and got soaked.

From here we got on to a moraine again and then crossed the séracs on our left, losing Nursang *en route*. Almost as soon as we got on to the flat glacier it began to snow, and it was snowing hard when we got in. Arrived at 12.55—4 hrs. 20 mins. Was feeling quite fit, but the altitude had got Brocklebank down again. Heard several avalanches fall as we lay in the tent. Got my cheeks a good deal sun-burnt.

June 14. CAMP III.—A moderate night. Some panting. Got up in the night, and in returning to the tent brought in some snow on my clothes,

⁶ Similar experiences occurred in 1922 and 1924.—*Editor.*

which made my flea-bag wet. It stopped snowing in the night, but started again in the morning. Everything is damp. At 12.30 avalanches started again and continued till 15.50. Thompson got in about 14.35, having taken a little over 6 hrs. from II. He had luck in not getting sunk in a crevasse. It snowed all day.

June 15. IIIa.—A very cold night and a fine morning. Got up at 05.00 and went to look at the col. The ladder has become a continuous snow slope, owing to a big avalanche having fallen to the right (N.) of the shelf. After listening to the weather report on the wireless, left at 09.35 for IIIa. Went slowly—a lot of new snow on the glacier concealing the crevasses. Got to IIIa in about 1½ hrs. The sun was baking on our arrival and we were glad to get into the Whymper tent. There was a little light snow in the afternoon, but no avalanches.

At 16.25 Brocklebank and I started off to test the North Col slopes. Once the ascent started the snow got rapidly deeper—an axe would go in up to its head. We were certainly in some danger from avalanches, but the stuff, very variable in its texture, held. By a stroke of luck, we hit on the fixed rope, buried about a foot deep, but had the misfortune to uproot one of the wooden pitons and couldn't get it in again. About two-thirds of the way to the crevasse we stopped. We had been over an hour and our feet were getting cold. The top piton was buried quite 1½ ft. deep in new powder snow. The descent was uneventful—got back about 18.00.

June 16.—Very warm in the earlier part of the night, with a little snow. The thermometer registered 0°, but I think this must have been wrong. Decided to go down to III this morning to consult. Met Ruttledge, who agreed that we were right in coming down. It started to snow again at mid-day and Ruttledge decided that we should not go back to IIIa; so we sent for our tents, kit, etc.

June 17. CAMP III.—Had a most excellent night—slept for 10 hrs., but I'm afraid this was thanks to some dope Brocklebank gave me. A fine morning and I mooted the question of an excursion to the Rapiu La, but it soon clouded over, so we gave up the idea. A discussion as to future plans soon started. Longland, Wyn Harris and Ruttledge were rather in favour of waiting up here to the end of the month (or a little later) in the hope of another shot. Smythe, Shipton, Brocklebank and I were in favour of going to the Base Camp and Kharta, leaving two climbers at III, to watch the mountain and have a crack if the weather cleared, these climbers to be relieved in three weeks' or a month's time. It was decided to wire to the Meteorological Department in Calcutta, to ask what chances there were of a longish break in the rains in August, and also to Williamson to ask what hope there was of leave from the Tibetans next year or the year after. Future plans wait on these replies.

June 18. CAMP III.—Temp. 18° (F.). Was woken at 06.00 after a fair night. At 07.30 Shipton, Brocklebank and I started for the Rapiu La. The going was easy, though the snow got soft after a time, and we reached the pass in just over an hour. We went down about 150 yards on the Kama valley side to within a few yards of an ice-cliff. The view was perhaps the most wonderful I have ever seen, including the fluted ice-cliffs of the S.E. face of Everest, Lhotse, Pethangtse, Makalu, Chomo Lönzo, and in the far distance over a sea of cloud, Kangchenjunga, and Jannu. It was very hot in the sun, but the snow was not bad, though a little soft—far better than the snow on the North Col. Came back easily and got to camp by 11.30.

June 19. CAMP III.—Temp. 23° (F.). A very warm night. Was woken by Brocklebank at 04.00. Rather cloudy, and we were in two minds as to whether to start for the Rapiu La [? Peak]. However, eventually we did so—five of us, that is, Ruttledge, Shipton, Smythe, Brocklebank and self. It was cloudy over the pass, but we made good time, reaching there soon after 06.00. After some photography we started up the snow peak (22,340 ft. on the map) to the E. of the pass. The snow was very soft with a fair crust, gradually getting deeper, till eventually it was knee-deep. We all took 20 mins.' spells at leading, which lightened the job. We only had one short length of Alpine line, which was used by the two leaders. In places the snow was steep, but

nowhere dangerous from avalanches. The summit was a flat ridge, from which we had wonderful views of Everest, Makalu and the Kama and Kharta valleys. We also saw a very fine pyramidical peak in Nepal. Ice flutings on all southern faces were conspicuous. Brocklebank and Shipton both had cold feet on the summit and I gave them a rub. We reached the summit in 2 hrs. 40 mins. from the Rapiu La. The descent to the Rapiu [pass] took only just over $\frac{1}{2}$ hr., and the return from there to III less than 40 mins. The distance as shown on the map is about 2 miles from the Rapiu to III. Got in by 11.00 and spent the rest of the day sunning ourselves. Greene examined us for pyorrhœa: we all had it except Brocklebank. The latest suggestion of latter, advocated by Shipton, is that two should stop behind to observe the meteorological conditions, while the rest of the party go home. The idea does not appeal to me much.

June 20. CAMP III.—Heavy snow all night accompanied by avalanches in the middle of the night. Temp. 30° (F.). It snowed till the afternoon, so we stayed in the Arctic all day and argued. Avalanches in the late afternoon and evening.

June 21. BASE CAMP.—A fine morning. Decided to go down to Base Camp with Brocklebank and Shipton. Started at 08.30 a little behind the others and failed to catch them. Had a look at Chomo Lönzo and Makalu appearing over the Rapiu La. The route to II had altered again. Reached II at 10.10—1 hr. 40 mins., to find the others had gone on. After 10 mins.' opening boxes went on myself and reached I in 1 hr. 25 mins., to see the others disappearing over the horizon. Left I at 11.56, and going as fast as I could reached Base Camp at 13.15, 1 hr. 19 mins.

<i>Times</i>	III-II,	1 hr. 40 mins.
	„ II-I,	1 hr. 25 mins.
	„ I-B.C.,	1 hr. 19 mins.

Total time without halts—4 hrs. 30 mins.

All the time we were at III the weather was mild, even when snowing, with practically no wind. A fine afternoon at Base Camp.

June 22. BASE CAMP.—Temp. 27° (F.). Slept very well, though I was a little cold, not having enough underneath me. The mountain still continues to be covered in snow.

June 23. BASE CAMP.—Temp. 27° (F.). A message from McLean at Tashidzom, demanding more oxygen. It was decided to-day that the Expedition should return, leaving Shipton, Wager and the wireless people to make meteorological observations.

June 25. BASE CAMP.—Shebbeare and Wager left to evacuate stores from camps. Heavy snow in the afternoon.

June 26. BASE CAMP.—A wireless message was deciphered about 22.00; it turned out to be one from Williamson to the effect that it was unlikely that we should get permission for another expedition. It was decided forthwith that we must stop on until September—the Everest committee meeting is fixed for to-morrow and an additional telegram is to be sent.

June 27.—The cable was sent, also a message to Shebbeare and Wager to hold hard. The morning I spent preparing a new list of stores. Listened in to an account of a tennis match in the evening.

June 28. BASE CAMP.—A decayed inside this morning. The weather was very fine—just as much snow on Everest as ever. After breakfast a cable came through from the Committee, saying the whole Expedition was to come home owing to lack of funds. (?) I can't help feeling annoyed that we can't have one more shot as there are five of us still fit.

June 29. BASE CAMP.—Brocklebank and Shipton went off this morning to try and climb the 23,000 ft. peak above Camp I. They wanted me to come with them, but I did not fancy sleeping three in a Meade tent for two nights. Stores were rearranged in bulk boxes this morning. Another very fine day, but though a little snow has come off the steepest rocks, practically none seems to have come off the slabs. There is a question whether the Tashidzom people will go back with us or not.



Photo, L. R. Wager.]

NYÖNNO RI RANGE FROM THE EAST.

[To face p. 128.]



Photo, L. R. Wager.]

‘KELLAS’ AND JONSONG PEAKS FROM THE W.

June 30. BASE CAMP.—Brocklebank and Shipton returned to-day, having climbed a peak of 22,200 ft. The day was fine again, but little snow seems to have come off the mountain.

July 1. BASE CAMP.—Helped Harris to bargain with the Jongpen's assistant.

July 2. RONGBUK.—Went down to Rongbuk with Rutledge and Greene.

(The return journey is omitted for lack of incident and space.)

July 26. DARJEELING.—With Shebbeare to Riang, where I caught a few small fish. Returned to the Teesta Bridge and went up the hill to Darjeeling. We fortunately arrived after dark, so that most of the crowds had dispersed after waiting for us for a couple of hours; but enough remained to be embarrassing.

'LASHAR PLAIN.'

BY E. E. SHIPTON.

WHEN it became known that we were to abandon further attempts to climb Mt. Everest last year, an attractive suggestion was put forward and discussed a great deal, that a party should make a journey to the S. of the usual route, cross a bit of country marked on the map 'Lashar Plain,' and thence try to force a pass into Northern Sikkim.¹ The main difficulty appeared to be to provide food for a party travelling light such as the crossing of the pass would necessitate.

Some two marches W. of Tenkye a final decision had to be made. Wager and I left the main expedition on the morning of July 13, and headed almost due S. The hills in front of us were deep in new snow and our hopes of finding possible conditions in and E. of the so-called Lashar Plain were not bright.

We had with us ten porters with Sonam in charge, as well as Passang, who was to look after our ponies when we reached the point where we could no longer use them. Pack animals carried our baggage, so that the porters might conserve their energy for heavy work later on.

We made a long march on the first day along the eastern flanks of Sangkar Ri, and, crossing a small pass, reached Phuru in the evening. The hospitality of the Dzongpen was so lavish and his 'chang' so powerful that our 3 A.M. breakfast on the 14th was more than usually unpleasant.

To start an ascent by cantering across dimly lit plains on horseback to the foot of one's climb was a novel experience. Passang accompanied us on a pony until we dismounted, and then returned to Phuru with our mounts.

We were bound for a peak in the Nyönno Ri range. There was a good deal of cloud about, but during the morning we got extensive

¹ See *Preliminary map*, 1921, Sheet i, scale $\frac{1}{4}$ in.