

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 Riag, 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.

views of the complicated ranges to the S.E. The beautiful Ama Drime group to the S. claimed most attention.

The summit of our peak (20,000 odd ft.) was reached at about 12.30. An amusing summit ridge relieved an otherwise rather dull climb. From the shoulder, good views of Sangkar Ri to the N. and of Nyönno Ri showed the range to be more extensive than we had supposed. We returned to Phuru at 5 P.M.

On the 15th we marched due E. and camped with a company of Sikkimese nomads who were on their way to the circuit of Kailas Parbat.² A sharp thunderstorm deposited snow about us. The next day we passed Changmo, and, turning S. again, camped by a monastery about six miles further on.

Changmo is an interesting village built in a cliff of honeycombed rocks. We had more snow that evening, and, though it was nothing much, I became rather worried about the conditions on the range we were hoping to cross. Passang left us on his way to rejoin the main expedition, taking the ponies with him. We had also to abandon animal transport here. A great deal sooner than we had expected from the map we came to the valley leading to the Lashar Plain, and on the 17th were able to push quite a long way up it, camping in a delightful alp at the junction of the main and a lesser valley coming in from the S.E.

Such views as we got, then and later, of the country to the S. of the Lashar Plain gave an impression of an immense tangle of high peaks, many in the region of 24,000 ft. Attempts we made to fit any of it in with the country indicated on the map were in vain. Of course we had neither the time nor the opportunity to do much, but we could see that problems of great topographical interest are awaiting solution in the region to the S. and S.W. of the Lashar Plain.

On the 18th we worked our way up a big glacier coming down from the Jonsong, 'Kellas'³ and Lhonak Peaks, camping at about 18,000 ft. on its right bank. The day ended with cold winds and light snowfalls. The morning of the 19th was fine and we made an early start. Pushing on up the northern branch of the glacier, Wager at this spot went off to explore a col N. of the Lhonak Peak. Aila, one of the porters, and I ascended the Lhonak Peak from the S. We had grand and interesting views to the S. and E.

We reassembled and camped on the col between the Lhonak Peak and the mountain known to the International Kangchenjunga Expedition as 'Kellas Peak.'⁴ The height of the col must be just over 20,000 ft.

We had intended to attempt the Kellas Peak on the following day, but heavy snow fell that night, causing us to abandon the project. Indeed we were not a little anxious about the conditions

² *A.J.* 40, 23-8, illustrated.

³ *A.J.* 42, 218.

⁴ *H.J.*, 1932, pp. 123-34, the peak 6450 m. of the *Kurz* map.

on the E. side of our pass as we started to descend into Sikkim early on the morning of the 20th. The descent proved more than troublesome. We discarded some snow-covered rocks on the left in favour of an icefall; but here our way was barred by a huge crevasse system and we had to go back again. Our eventual success in reaching the Lhonak Glacier by way of the rocks was due to a fine bit of route-finding by Aila.

After this we were in known country, and we sped down the Lhonak Glen, reaching Tangu in the Lachen Valley by way of the beautiful Lungnak La on July 22.

Wager went N. to obtain one more glimpse of his beloved Tibet from the Dongkya La, while I double-marched down the Lachen Valley to the comforts and worries of civilization.

THE BAR AND DAIN TAR GLACIERS, 1933.

BY REGINALD SCHOMBERG.

The Bar Glacier.

THIRTY-TWO miles from Gilgit on the main route to Hunza and Nagir lies Chalt, a village of some size which has always played rather a prominent part in local history. It has been a bone of contention and the adjoining valley of Chaprot has in particular been much coveted. Chalt is well irrigated not only by the Chaprot stream, but chiefly by the Chalt river that flows into the right bank of the Hunza, a mile above the village. This stream flows from the N., from the great snow peaks lying between the Gilgit and Hunza rivers.

It is somewhat remarkable that there is no evidence of any European having visited the main glaciers at the head of the stream.

Leaving Chalt, we turned away from the main valley and up the Chalt river, and crossed by a rope bridge to Budelas, a village built high above the stream. After passing a hot spring the main valley divided. On the right from the N.W. the Daintar nala came in. This has been visited several times, and a short description of it will be given later. Turning N.E. we continued up the main affluent of the Chalt river, the Garamsai or Tutu-uns, and soon entered the village of Bar.

This we found to be a very prosperous village, inhabited by Shins, that curious race which, despite conversion to Mahomedanism, has preserved an aversion to all products of the cow, a legacy from the old days of Hinduism. There was a good deal of cultivation and with greater energy there might even have been more; but the people said they had more land than they knew what to do with, and so did not trouble.