

Jumrukčal.

JUMRUKČAL (7917 ft.) is in the Stara Planina group of the Balkan Range in Bulgaria. This range stretches E. and W. across the country with the Danube some 70 miles to the N. and the Maritza, the ancient Hebrus, some 40 miles to the S. It is the highest summit of the range and can be approached from either Tirnovo to the N.E. or Philippopolis (Plovdiv) nearly due S. of it. The mountain is also called Ferdinandov.

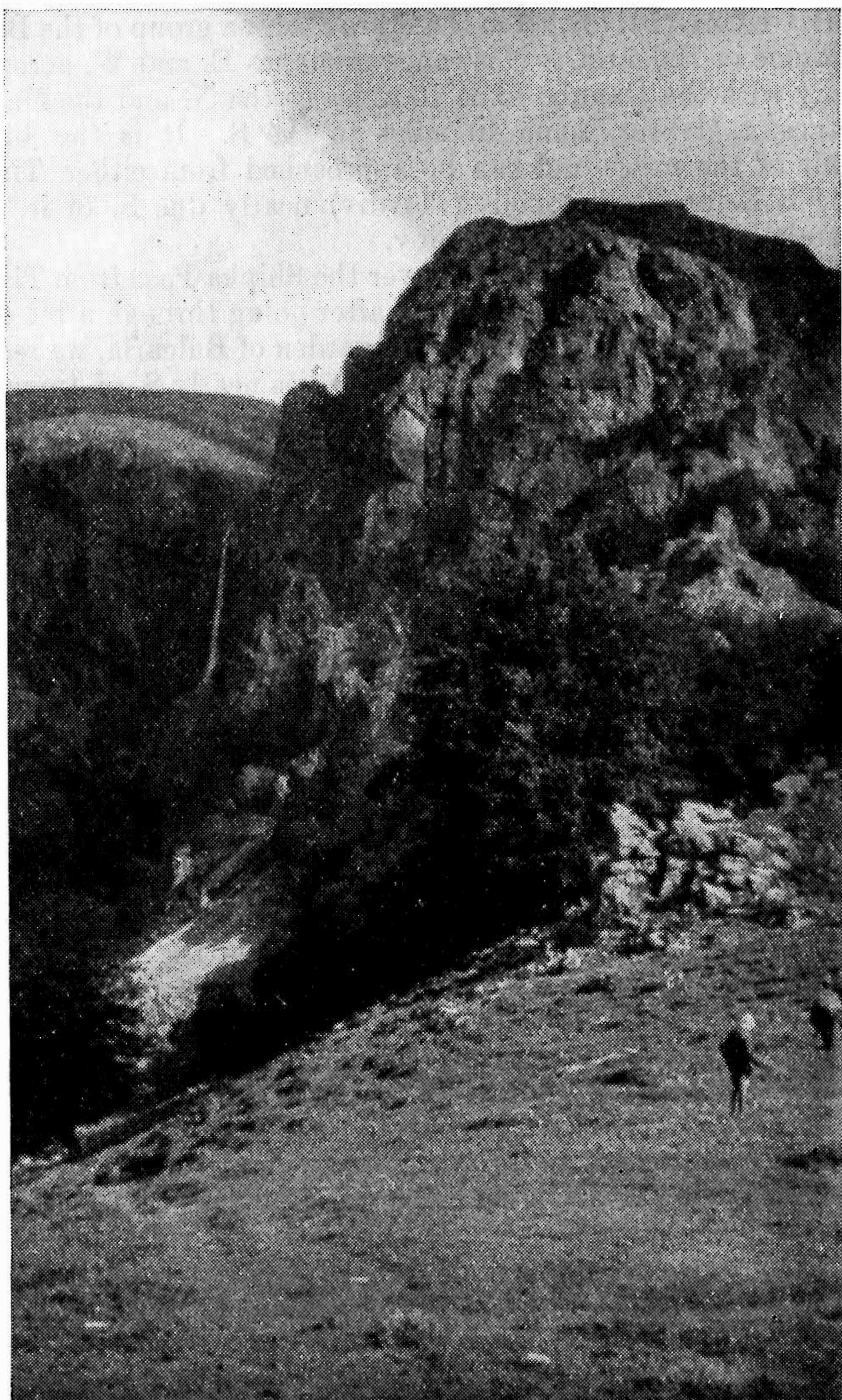
On August 7, 1933, we crossed over the Shipka Pass from Tirnovo and Gabrovo, and in the afternoon, after going through a bit of the country which forms the famous rose-garden of Bulgaria, we reached the small village of Kalofer. This place lies nearly S. of Jumrukčal and is between 7 and 8 miles from it. We spent the night in a small inn with the simplest kind of accommodation.

On the morning of August 8 we set off at about 4 A.M. for the mountain, accompanied by a Bulgar peasant from the village. We had arranged the previous evening to take a mule part of the way as it seemed probable that we might have to camp a night on the mountain; but the animal failed to materialize in the morning, so we had to be satisfied with its driver only.

Our way lay in a N.W. direction from the village along a rough uphill road and across field-paths to the top of a low rise of foothills. We got to the top of these hills at 6 A.M., and were then in a position to make a slight descent into a deep wooded gorge which descends the S. flanks of Jumrukčal. The Monastery of Bodgorica lies in this gorge, and we could see its roofs far below and behind us in the valley bottom. Our cut over the hills had saved us a tedious ascent up the lower parts of the gorge. From the point attained we had a fine view of Jumrukčal, a small patch of snow marking a point rather beneath the summit. Above the level of the trees rose steep limestone precipices encircling the head of the gorge. At one point on the W. side a fine waterfall descended these rocks, and the general direction of our route led towards this fall. We first made a slight descent into the gorge and, at the place where we crossed its main stream, stopped for a meal. Then we ascended steeply through the woods and at 8 o'clock reached an open grass ridge from which we got a fine view of the waterfall facing us. Steep limestone crags still rose between us and the easier summit slopes. We had to traverse around these crags on the gorge side; and, progressing by rough scrambling, we reached a subsidiary gorge on our left-hand side. The watercourse of this gorge was too steep to climb direct, but we were able to get up its left-hand side by means of convenient ledges. We were at the top of this subsidiary gorge at 9.30 A.M., and from there onwards gentle grass slopes led to the top of the mountain, which we reached at 10.50.

There are no doubt easier ways of reaching the top than the way

we had come. A longer and roundabout way would appear to be over the slopes of Zagrađenica, the neighbouring hill to the E.



Photo, C. M. Sleeman.]

VIEW TO THE N.W. ON THE ASCENT OF JUMRUKČAL.

The summit is big and broad and two wooden signals have been erected on it. We stayed up there a considerable time sitting in

the hot sun. Hills of similar character to the one we were on stretched W. and E. of us; while to the S.W. we could see the fine range of the Rhodope mountains crowned by the conspicuous summit of Musalla (9747 ft.).¹ This was an old friend, as we had climbed it in the summer of 1926. It lies 33 miles S.S.E. of Sofia and is the highest mountain in the whole Balkan Peninsula. The next highest is the Mitka summit of Olympus (9726 ft.), and after this comes the central peak of Korab (9213 ft.) on the Albanian-Jugoslav frontier.

We descended by much the same way as we had come up; but, as we had plenty of time, we followed the main gorge right down to the Monastery of Bodgorica which we were anxious to visit. We got back to Kalofer at 6.30 P.M.

Useful maps for travel in this district are: the sheets Pleven (42°, 43°) and Tirnovo (43°, 44°), 1 : 200,000, of the *Kartographisches früher Militärgeographisches Institut* in Vienna, and the sheet No. 83 of Freytag and Berndt's *Autostrassenkarten*, 1 : 300,000.

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JUNGFRAU BY THE N.E. ARÊTE ATTAINED FROM THE NORTH.

FOR the writer the summer season of 1933, in 20 years' experience, stands pre-eminent in satisfaction and enjoyment. This was chiefly due to the excellence of the weather. In a strenuous month we were not turned back on a single expedition; and for me this was unprecedented. On the worst day we had, two members of the party traversed the Mönch from the Jungfraujoch. One member of the party, D. Lewers, succeeded with Adolf Rubi in accomplishing two difficult routes on the Jungfrau and Wetterhorn, although it was his first season in the Alps. These climbs are recorded elsewhere in the JOURNAL.² Among other things the season included the *Andersongrat* of the Schreckhorn, the Rottal ascent of the Jungfrau, the traverse of the Eiger by the Eigerjoch and the crossing of the Aletschhorn from Concordia to Belalp. But I think the most enjoyable trip of a very interesting series was this ascent of the Jungfrau from the Eigergletscher *via* the Guggi hut and N.E. arête. I had listened to Dr. Lauper's very entertaining paper (delivered so admirably in English to the Club) and was particularly attracted by this route up the Jungfrau.³ We had also met him and his party once or twice during the 1932 season and heard of their prowess.

¹ *A.J.* 39, 86.

² *Loc. cit.*, 45, 384-5; 46, 203-4.

³ *A.J.* 45, 44-62, illustration facing 48. See also 44, 325-7, illustration facing 325.