

of easy snow or easy rocks, and from the summit the head of the couloir (S.A.C. *Climbers' Guide*, 2nd edition, iii, Route 140) employed to ascend the Unterbaechhorn, can be reached without difficulty. The ridge from the head of this couloir to the Unterbaechhorn provides more difficult climbing. The last piece of the ridge, on which the rock is loose and difficult, can be easily turned by a traverse on the N. side to a point immediately below point 3554 (*new map*) which can then be reached up snow, or easy but loose rocks.

H. BOOTH.

D. W. F. ON THE DEATH OF FRANÇOIS DÉVOUASSOUD (July 20, 1905) :

Knight-errant of the glacier-cleaving blade,
Whose homestead lies hard by the narrow way,
Trodden in summer by the world at play—
The world that hurries back to ply its trade :

Then left to silence in the double shade
Of winter and Mont Blanc, where no warm ray
Breaks the white darkness of the shortest day,
And rope and ice-axe on the shelf are laid.

Let the frosts bite : they cannot chill the glow
Lit from the memories of other years ;
Embers in which shines the far Syrian snow
Or Caucasus its conquered peaks uprears ;

Smoke-wreaths that frame old friends, young faces too,
For every age finds guide and friend in you !

From the original pencil MS. in the possession of Mr. Willink.

JULIAN ALPS, *Corrigenda*.—With reference to the titles of illustrations, 'A.J.' 45, 389 and 394, the name 'Martuljek' should be deleted. The party of August 5, 1932 (p. 392), is the same as that of July 11 (p. 387), and *not* as that of September 9 (p. 390).—F. S. C.

CAUCASUS NOTES.

*The French Expedition, 1933.*¹

LEAVING Naltshik on August 8 at 21.00, the party attained the hamlets of (?) Koshtantau and Mukhol, then, crossing the Dumala Pass (*ca.* 10,000 ft.), entered the Dumala glen watered by the Ullauz Glacier torrent, which they followed to the foot of the glacier.

¹ The party consisted of MM. J. Lagarde, R. Tézenas du Montcel, R. Gaché and L. Valluet.

They took $3\frac{1}{2}$ days to accomplish this owing to bad weather and pack-donkeys' troubles. Camp was established at about 8000 ft. near the left lateral moraine of the Ulluaux Glacier.

The following days were devoted to exploration of the glacier and to an attempt towards the Gortü Pass (*sic*; ? Mr. Freshfield's uncrossed Tiutiun Gap], stopped at about 12,800 ft. by bad weather after overcoming several difficult ice-walls. All this while waiting for favourable conditions.

TIUTIUNTAU, 15,113 ft., *Freshfield*. Traverse to the *Breithorn* of Ulluaux. August 18-19. MM. Gaché, Lagarde, Tézenas du Montcel and Valluet. The party first mounted the left lateral moraine of the Ulluaux Glacier—some $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles long—then the steep grassy slopes of the left bank of the glacier, thus turning the great lower icefall. They took to the ice as soon as practicable and, attaining the first terrace, steered in a S. direction towards the Ulluaux Pass. Crossing the plateau at the base of the wild buttress of Koshtantau, they mounted the torn séracs cutting off access to the pass for a height of some 1300 ft. The watershed was attained slightly above and to the S.E. of the Ulluaux Pass, 14,300 ft. (10.30).

Thence the party followed the broad hogsback leading towards the summit, by climbing little ice gullies separated by firm, rocky ribs. The summit of Tiutiuntau—first ascent—was attained at 14.00.

From the top the party followed in a N.E. direction the arête, some 1200 yds. long, connecting with the peak called Balkartau. Several rocky teeth were scaled or turned, usually by their N.W. slopes. The summit of Balkartau ² (*ca.* 14,500 ft.) was attained at 18.00, in $5\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. First ascent. Without halting, the party followed the crest in the same direction. After 2 hrs.' climb and an awkward descent into a deep rocky gap, a bivouac became necessary. The night was spent on a fair platform near the gap at a height of some 14,000 ft. on the Tiutiun Glacier slope of the ridge. Resuming their climb as soon as they had thawed out on the following morning (19th) the abrupt summit of Gortübashi was reached (*ca.* 14,500 ft.) in 3 hrs.' actual march from the preceding summit—another first ascent. Although the continuation of the arête, some 800 ft. in height only, appeared easy enough, the crenelated crest connecting the top with the Gortü Pass [? Tiutiun Gap] proved troublesome owing to bad rocks and much snow. The steep little couloirs, chimneys and serrated edge caused the descent to prove unexpectedly lengthy. Several long *rappels* had to be engineered and 5 hrs. were expended before the above-mentioned 'col' could be attained (*ca.* 13,100 ft.). Thence in 20 mins. through deep snow, the *Breithorn* (4246m., *Merzbacher*) was attained, a further first ascent. The

² This very obviously distinct peak is not shown on the Merzbacher map.



Photo, French Expedition.]

ULLUAUZ 'BREITHORN' AND TIUTIUNTAU.

position, shape and difficulties of this mountain conform so well with the appearance of the well-known Pennine peak, that the nickname comes quite naturally. Its ascent by the S.W. slope would be simple—in the upper part at any rate. From the *Breithorn*, the party descended by the W. slopes of the Gortü Pass to the upper terrace of the Ulluaux Glacier, several times roping-down through the séracs. Thence, by the line of ascent and left bank of the glacier, camp was regained towards nightfall at 20.00.

KOSHTANTAU, 16,880 ft. Attempt by the N. arête. August 22–23. MM. Lagarde and Tézenas du Montcel. After hesitating in the choice of the several routes—all accomplished previously—the party took the N. arête conquered in 1929 by a German party.³ The French party chose this line notwithstanding the evil appearance of the square, ‘great rocky tower’⁴ defending access to the ridge.

Leaving camp at 00.00 the party followed the former route to the first terrace of the Ulluaux Glacier, 5 hrs. Thence they mounted to the little névé cirque forming the W. branch of the glacier, by steep and very crevassed terrain, so attaining the base of the great couloir, intersected by séracs, leading to the Mishirgi Pass (13,630 ft.). The very steep couloir, some 1200 ft. high and largely of ice, was mounted for three-quarters of its length on crampons, while the séracs were scrambled over to the right, N.W. The upper portion—black ice—was circumvented by the good rocks of the left bank, and the party, scrambling over the great corniche, attained the pass; this is stated as being the second time the col has been reached from the N.⁵ Thence the W. slope of the great tower appeared less formidable than what they had remarked from below. After a short halt they attacked the tower by its edge, but were soon driven on to its W. slope composed of abrupt, granite steps furrowed by chimneys, separated from each other by little icy slopes. The rocks compared well with the best in the Alps, while holds were numerous. After some hours of steep, interesting and not too difficult climbing, the top of the tower was attained at 11.00, 4881 m., *Merzbacher*. They then followed the everlasting great N. arête, difficulties never being serious. Having roped down a little pinnacle, the party resumed progress for some 180 ft. on the ridge. In crossing the flank of a low snowy gendarme, the second man suddenly lost his footing, falling some 80 ft. over an ice slope. No serious damage was done, but he himself having sprained his ankle, while the leader had cut his hand through rope-friction, the party found itself obliged to

³ *A.J.* 42, 102–4.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 103.

⁵ See *Freshfield*, ii, p. 261. Messrs. Donkin and Fox crossed this pass from the N. and descended several hundred feet on the S. side where they bivouacked with the intention of attacking Koshtantau—August 30, 1888. *A.J.* 14, 432; 15, 28.—*Editor*.



Photo, French Expedition.]

KOSHTANTAU, N. ARÊTE. FROM 'GREAT ROCKY TOWER.'

[To face p. 221.]



Photo, French Expedition.]

KOSHTANTAU, N.E. FACE AND E. ARÊTE.

It was on this ridge that the Donkin-Fox party disappeared in 1888.

[To face p. 224.]

renounce attempting further difficulties that might have proved insuperable under the circumstances.

The party accordingly retreated, experiencing severe trouble in the ascent of the tooth previously roped down; an ice 'step' of about 100 ft.—the sole possibility—was especially hard. The remainder of the route was accomplished by the line of ascent. Camp was regained at 02.00 on August 23.

KILMETBASHI, 3965 m., *Merzbacher*. August 22. MM. Gaché and Valluet accompanied by the interpreter G. Marietsky.

The summit, a remarkable one, forms the last to the N.E. of the *Breithorn* massif.

Starting at 04.00 the party mounted the glacier moraine for some 1100 yds., followed by the glacier. Soon crossing the latter they steered towards the shoulder lying N.E. of their peak. Thence by ice and rocks, steep at times, they attained the shoulder. Thence following the rocky ridge without serious difficulty—a few obstacles being turned—they attained the twin summits (7 hrs.). Descent by the same route in 5 hrs.

Owing to the injuries sustained by two of the party, the homeward journey was begun on August 26, *via* Bezingi, Naltshik being attained on the 29th.

J. L.

REVIEWS.

Buddhists and Glaciers of Western Tibet. By Giotto Dainelli. Translated from the Italian by Angus Davidson. With 32 plates and maps; $9\frac{1}{2} \times 6$ inches. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., Ltd., 1933. Price 18s.

HIS Excellency Professor Giotto Dainelli is one of the greatest authorities on the geology and physiography of the Karakorum, from the earliest epochs up to the recent past. He was a member of de Filippi's great expedition of 1913–15, during which he covered almost the whole of Baltistan and Ladakh on side journeys, often in winter, besides taking part in the exploration of the Rimu Glacier and the sources of the Yarkand river. In addition he is an ethnologist and has made a particular study of the various elements in the populations of both Baltistan and Ladakh. The present volume describes what was essentially a one-man journey to the same country in 1930, initiated and carried through entirely by the author, but with the particular objective of forcing a way up the Siachen Glacier and seeking a passage thence up the Teram Shehr to the head of the Rimu Glacier, a route declared by the Workmans to be impassable. The book is written subjectively almost throughout; but it will do Britons no harm to see the admiration evoked in an