

The hut had stood the winter very satisfactorily. The section Tödi having, in the year 1863, erected a roomy hut on the Grünhorn on the route followed in ascents of the Tödi, and received from the central fund 946 francs in three instalments, and having now applied for assistance in the construction of a refuge in the Steinhäli at the foot of the Ruchen Glärnisch, at an estimated cost of 400 francs, the committee resolved to grant a subvention of 200 francs. The section Bern desired to erect near the hut in the Trift district—for which 150 francs were contributed by the Club in 1864—a new stone one at an estimated expense of 867 francs, and received from the committee a promise of 500 francs. The old hut, if it withstands the effects of the winter, will probably be devoted in future to the use of guides and as a storehouse. Lastly, the section Pilatus has had a model of that mountain constructed in relief at a cost of about 300 francs, towards which the committee have granted 150, on the understanding that it shall be freely accessible to members of the Club.

To the same category belong two private undertakings of which the committee cordially approve. Herr Statthalter Studer, of Berne, has in hand a list of the first ascents of mountains of 12,000 ft. (Swiss) and upwards in height, and Herr Direktor Szadowsky, of Chur, has been authorised by the central committee to prepare an alphabetical list of Romansch and Ladinisch names of places and mountains, with their signification and correct orthography. Both of these catalogues, according to the dimensions they assume, will appear either independently or as contributions to the Jahrbuch.

With this preliminary general sketch, we propose to close the present notice, but hope in our next number to lay before our readers an analysis of the very interesting series of papers contained in the new volume of the Jahrbuch.

F. F. T.

SUMMARY OF NEW EXPEDITIONS DURING THE SUMMER OF 1868.

Bernese Oberland.

June 17.—Mr. Malkin and Mr. F. Martineau, with Melchior Anderegg, made a new route from Kippel direct to Schwarenbach. 'We followed the Löttsch-pass (to Kandersteg) for more than two hours, as far as a group of chalets called Kummén. There turned south by compass up a valley, name unknown, divided into three successive basins. There seems to be a small glacier in it, for I am nearly sure we saw ice; but the whole was full of snow, old and new, there having been a

heavy recent fall. The col is called Milderstein, and a remarkable rock at the top (visible from Leuk and the Gemmi route) is called the Milderstein height, probably about 9,000 feet—Cooke's Aneroid, 22'20". This is a pass known, but little used, from Kippel to Leukerbad, there being an easier beside the Torrent-horn. Steep descent over snow-beds into the Dalathal, to the foot of the Flue Glacier, probably for 2,000 feet. Ascent on the other side for as much or more, skirting the hillside over steep grass and shale, to a col west of the Rinderhorn, between it and a pinnacle of rock called Plattenhorn. Some stiffish rock-work at the top. No difficulty on the other side, which descends rapidly and easily to the N. end of the Dauben-see, in little more than an hour. Time from Kippel to Schwärenbach about eight to nine hours, for average mountaineers, actual walking.

There is another col between the Altels and Rinderhorn, which would be shorter; but it is higher, and probably more difficult, and Melchior thought it would be unsafe for us, from recent snow. He had been to the top of both passes from Schwärenbach; but never over, and was very anxious to make out the route,—no doubt, as considering a through route to the Bell Alp or Äggischhorn a valuable discovery for the Schwärenbach inn. This may excuse my giving greater prominence to this notice than the difficulty of the pass would warrant. But the Lötsch-thal is too little known, and the whole route from Schwärenbach, whether to the Bell Alp by the Beichgrat, or to the Äggischhorn by the Lötsch-sattel, or to Lauterbrunnen by the Petersgrat, is of the grandest order. We christened our col (provisionally) the *ANDEREGG JOCH*.—A.T.M.

June 27.—Mr. Morshead, with Christian Almer and his son, took a new route up the *WETTERHORN*. On turning out of the Scheideck path, instead of going along the Enge, they struck straight up the north face of the mountain, making for a notch in the ridge overhanging the Scheideck. Passing through this, they struck into the ordinary route about an hour above the Gleckstein. Time from Grindelwald to the summit 6h. 5m., fast going. This route saves two or three hours at least, thus rendering the expedition one of moderate length for a single day; but the grass is too steep to descend easily or safely, though no mountaineer would find any difficulty about ascending with ordinary care.

OLD STRAHLECK.—*July 1.*—Messrs. George and Morshead, with Christian Almer and Hans Baumann, crossed this pass for the first time, as is believed, within living memory. 'We had slept at the Kastenstein with another purpose, which was frustrated by the weather, and adopted this as a new route to the Grimsel. The pass lies over a gap in the Mittelgrat (the ridge running from the Schreckhorn towards the Finsteraarhorn), about a third of the way down it. It is not the most obvious gap, but one about 200 yards to the right of it. The descent is by a couloir extremely like the ordinary Strahleck, but certainly steeper. We descended partly by the rocks, as is often done on the Strahleck, but found them considerably more difficult than those of the Strahleck wall, so that the descent in all occupied about 1½ hour. This pass is rather lower than the Strahleck, is much the same in character on the Grindelwald side, and more difficult on the Grimsel

side, and does not command nearly so fine a view. It cannot, therefore, be recommended except as a change for those who know the Strahleck and Finsteraar Joch. But our expedition may be said to have set finally at rest the long disputed question as to the exact situation of the Old Strahleck, and to have established by experiment the truth of the view which Christian Almer held when we explored the Finsteraar Joch together in 1862.—H. B. G.

Expeditions made by Mr. G. E. Foster.—July 21.—With Hans Baumann and a porter from Grindelwald, I left the chalet beside the lower Grindelwald Glacier about 3.30, and crossed the cirque of the Viescherhörner, between the lower Viescherhorn and a point called the Pfarrerhorn, then bearing to the left over snow slopes, ascended some steep rocks which are much swept by avalanches, and reached the col to the left of the Ochsenhorn at 4.15 P.M., the last slope having taken over six hours to cut steps up. Ascended the Ochsenhorn in fifteen minutes from the col, returning to which we descended to the Viësch Glacier by some awkward broken rocks, and reached the Rothhorn cave at 8.45. The pass I propose to call the OCHSENJOCH.

July 23.—We crossed the Lauteraar Joch in about thirteen hours from the Grimsel, descending from the top of the pass straight down the Upper Grindelwald Glacier to below the Gleckstein, a route which saves three or four hours, and I believe has not been taken before.

July 28.—The same party with Peter Bernet, instead of the porter, left the Kastenstein at 5, reached the top of the Finsteraar Joch at 7.45, and the Agassiz Joch at 11, and striking up the arête from there reached the summit of the Finsteraarhorn at 1.50. The rocks of the Agassiz Joch and the lower part of the arête are much disintegrated and unpleasant climbing. We descended to the Faulberg by 6.30.

UNTERAAR JOCH.—Aug. 1.—Mr. A. Giles Puller, with Alexandre Mënnich from the Äggischhorn as guide, and Andreas Jaun of Meyringen as porter, made a new pass between the Studerhorn and Finsteraarhorn, which it is proposed to call the Unteraar Joch. They quitted the Pavillon on the Unteraar Glacier at half-past 3 A.M., and halted at 5.30 A.M. for thirty minutes, just where the route of the Studer Joch quits the Finsteraar Glacier. The route thence lies between two ridges of rocks, of which that on the right, facing south, is entirely denuded of snow, that on the left hand, facing north, is below partially, and higher up entirely, covered with snow. After two hours of glacier work, they took to the continuation of the right-hand ridge, the rocks of which are very feasible; and from thence a steep snow-slope leads to the summit of the pass, which is somewhat higher than the true col or depression between the Studerhorn and the Finsteraarhorn, which was reached at 9.30 A.M.: descending by a *cheminée* to the head of the Studer Firn, they ascended very slightly to the col which separates the Rothhorn from the Finsteraarhorn. Descending by a snow-slope to the Walliser Viescher Firn, they ascended a third time, and crossed the Grünhorn Lücke at 3 P.M.; the Faulberg was reached soon after 4 P.M., and after an hour's rest, the Äggischhorn hotel at 8.30 P.M.

DREIECKHORN.—Aug. 26.—T. L. Murray Browne, with Peter

Bohren and P. Schlegel of Grindelwald, left the *Æggischhorn* at 3. Passing the Marjelen See, they crossed the Great Aletsch Glacier to the southern side of the ridge of rocks, called on the Federal map, Beim 2. Turning to the left, they mounted, partly by moraine, but principally by the glacier, till they arrived at a long snow shoulder, which lies above Beim 2, 3, and 4. They followed this shoulder right on to the angle of the chain, above Beim 4, whence they could look down on the glacier leading to the Löttschen Lücke. They then turned sharp to the left, up towards the peak, and crossed a large bergschrund. Time, 8.10. A steep slope of hard ice was then encountered, which required care and step-cutting. This led to the rocks, constituting the north-eastern arête of the mountain. These were easy, and were followed to the apparent summit. There is however another point, a few yards nearer the Aletschhorn, which is a little higher. Both were mounted. The top was reached at 10. The view was good, especially of the 'Place de la Concorde,' which lies immediately at the foot of the mountain, while the Aletschhorn itself constituted a most magnificent object. Leaving the summit at 11.15, the party crossed the bergschrund at 12.15, and reached the Faulberg at 2.20. The above times must be taken as approximate. The expedition has the advantage of being one of the few ascents which can conveniently be effected in one day from the *Æggischhorn*.

EBNEFLUH (13,000 ft.)—*Aug. 27.*—The same party as above left the Faulberg at 5.30. They made, at first, pretty straight for the peak, expecting to get up somewhere on the side of the Gletscherhorn. On a nearer view, however, Peter Bohren pronounced this difficult; and a long détour was therefore made in the direction of the Löttschen Lücke. The party passed completely round the ridge which runs down from the peak in the direction of the Aletschhorn; and then turning to the right, made for a time in the direction of the Mittaghorn. They then bent to the right again, up the western side of the ridge aforesaid, and picked their way along the snow slopes, till they reached the southern arête of the mountain, a few hundred yards from the peak, which was attained at 10.50. View good. Nothing could be easier than the whole ascent, which was entirely along snow slopes, nowhere very steep. The party quitted the summit at 11.15, and reached the *Æggischhorn* at 5.

Expeditions by Mr. F. Pollock.—BERGLISTOCK.—*Aug. 26.*—I crossed the Lauteraar Joch from the Pavillon Dollfus, with Peter Rubi and Peter Baumann of Grindelwald, ascending the Berglistock on the way in two hours' climbing from the Lauteraarsattel. From the summit we came down in an hour to the high plateau of névé on the Grindelwald side, and reached Grindelwald in about $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours more of clear walking. The view we gained amply repaid the détour, as the Berglistock is admirably placed for the sight of the Wetterhörner and Schreckhörner, and commands the whole expanse of the Gauli Glacier. Our ascent was the third as yet made; the first is described by Dr. Aeby in 'Das Hochgebirge von Grindelwald.' He calls the rocks by sundry hard names which I think they scarcely deserve; they are much broken, but afford good hold everywhere, and present no serious difficulty.

Sept. 4.—With the same guides and Johann Bischof of Lauter-

brunnen, I reached the point on the northern ridge of the Gspaltenhorn, already attained by Messrs. Hornby and George. Rubi and Baumann reconnoitred some way in advance, descending with some trouble to a snow-slope, by which they mounted to the rocks at the base of the final peak—the spot which, as seen from Mürren, seems to constitute the chief difficulty. Baumann got beyond this, and reported that the remaining part of the ascent was straightforward: but there was much fresh snow in very bad condition, and the stones were frozen hard together beneath it, so that, if we had succeeded in reaching the top, the descent would have been extremely dangerous. We therefore had to abandon the attempt for the present. The Gspaltenhorn is probably practicable during only a few weeks in the year, about the end of July or beginning of August.

KLEIN-SCHRECKHORN.—*Sept. 7.*—I went up the Little Schreckhorn with Peter Rubi, this being the third ascent. It is a very interesting day's excursion from Grindelwald, and deserves to become more frequent; the only difficulty is in avoiding the path of falling ice-blocks from an overhanging cliff of the Kaastenstein Glacier. The best course is to mount by the moraine and rocks beyond the couloir, and traverse the glacier above the ice-cliff. In ascending, we took a more direct but difficult way up the main buttress of rock south-west of the peak. The aspect of the Great Schreckhorn from the tributary summit is unique, and would alone repay the expedition: it presents itself as a beautiful symmetrical pyramid, the central object of a group worthy to form a setting to it. We left Grindelwald at 4.30, reached the summit at 12.30, and were back at 7.

Pennine Alps.

GRANDES JORASSES.—Mr. Horace Walker, with Melchior Anderegg and Johann Jaun, of Meyringen, as guides, and Julien Grange, of Courmayeur, as porter, ascended the highest peak of the Grandes Jorasses on June 30. They passed the previous night on some rocks about $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours from Courmayeur. Next morning they followed for some distance the route taken by Mr. Whympers and Mr. George, and then, after crossing the ridge which leads up to the peak ascended by them, struck over the glacier where it is nearly level to another rocky ridge which runs almost up to the highest peak. This they ascended without difficulty, and were then only separated from the summit by a short snow-slope. The ascent occupied $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours from the gate, and the descent to the same place $2\frac{1}{2}$, excluding stoppages. The snow was in excellent order, and there would have been no difficulty in passing from one peak to the other.

NEW ROUTE UP MONTE ROSA. *Made by Messrs. K. E. Digby and R. B. Heathcote.*—We left the Riffel at 3.30, and followed the route of the Lys Joch, up to a small patch of rocks visible from the Riffelberg side of the Gorner Glacier, immediately to the left of the icefall of the Grenz Glacier, where we halted for breakfast at 7.35. Left at 8.5, and continued in the route of the Lys Joch for another half-hour. At 8.35 we turned to the left amongst the séracs of that branch of the glacier which lies in the hollow between the ridges running from the Hôchate Spitze. We made our way without difficulty, by means of convenient snow

bridges, to the foot of a wide and steep slope of ice and snow lying between the rocks which form the western buttress of Monte Rosa and those below the Höchste Spitze. This slope runs without interruption up to the well-known 'Sattel.' The snow being in good condition, we ascended by it, instead of taking to the rocks on the left, which were quite practicable, though perhaps more difficult than those higher up. After ascending the slope, having to cut steps in the ice for the greater part of it, for about a third of the distance between the bottom and the arête, we took to the rocks, which are not difficult, and reached the Sattel at 10.5. From this we followed the ordinary route to the summit, which we reached at 11.20. We had everything in our favour: the snow in excellent order, the weather fine, good bridges in crossing the séracs, and Melchior Anderegg to lead. Under similar circumstances we can recommend the route as far finer and more interesting, though of course more difficult, than the ordinary way. It leads past the fine icefall of the Grenz Glacier into the heart of the valley between the Lyskamm and Monte Rosa. In point of time we reached the Sattel about half an hour later than a party which moved fast from where we had separated, at the point where the Monte Rosa and Lys Joch routes diverge. Guides: Melchior Anderegg, Moritz Andermatten, Franz Biener.—K.E.D.

THE MATTERHORN.—M. Seiler has, with great spirit, at his own expense, built a hut on the Zermatt arête of the Matterhorn. It stands on the arête itself at a height of about 12,000 ft., and is well sheltered from falling stones by a huge buttress of rock. It is somewhat smaller than that at the Faulberg, and is well provided with straw and rugs, but does not boast of any stove, which is rather a drawback at such an elevation. At a pinch it can contain ten persons, but four or five is enough for comfort. On this side no chains have been fixed, and they are, indeed, quite unnecessary.

The Matterhorn has been ascended several times this year. On July 27, Mr. Elliott, with Knübel of Zermatt and one of the Lochmatters, slept at the chalet, and next day made the first ascent from Zermatt since the accident. They reached the summit in about 4½ hours from the chalet, and descended again in rather less time. The summit is quite altered this year, and they found no traces of any previous party.

The next day Professor Tyndall, with Carrel and other Breuil guides, ascended from Breuil, finding the ascent quite easy from a new route, which avoids 'the Corridor,' and from the chains placed at all difficult places. They descended to Zermatt, and the Professor speaks of the descent as extremely difficult. Probably he did not take the route now adopted by the Zermatt men. On August 2, M. Thioly and another gentleman from Geneva, with Carrel (?) and other guides, slept at the hut on the Zermatt ridge, and the next day reached the summit in about 5½ hours from the hut. They descended on the Breuil side to avoid the difficulties of the descent to Zermatt.

On August 3, Mr. G. Edward Foster slept at the Zermatt hut, and made the ascent on the following day, descending again to Zermatt. We have received the following remarks from him:—

'On Monday, August 3, with my guides, Hans Baumann and Peter

Bernet, both of Grindelwald, I started for the ascent. At the last moment, they persuaded me to take also Knübel of Zermatt, as neither of them had seen the mountain before, but, as I expected, the addition was quite unnecessary. We reached the hut without any difficulty in about $8\frac{1}{2}$ hours from Zermatt, but it could easily be done in six, as we halted more than two hours to avoid the showers of stones which fall in the heat of the day, and present the most serious danger in the ascent. The next morning, we started at 4, as soon as it was light enough, and fearing the wind, which showed signs of rising, climbed unusually fast, and about 5 reached "the elbow." Here we halted about ten minutes to put on the ropes, which allowed about forty feet between each of us. We then crossed on to the northern face of the mountain for about 200 feet, and again climbed straight up, soon striking the arête again. The rocks here are as precipitous as is possible to climb, but give good hold, and present no serious difficulty in ascending. The upper slope of the mountain was covered deep with powdery snow, and we ran up to the summit, which we reached at half-past 6, $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours after leaving the cabin. The wind was blowing with great violence, and we were unable to stop more than ten minutes at the summit. Except on the Italian side, it was perfectly clear, and the view was one of unusual magnificence. The descent demanded most unusual care, as it would have been, I believe, quite impossible to have arrested any serious slip, and the snow-slope was in a most dangerous condition. It was far worse to descend the rocks to "the elbow" than it had been to ascend them, but there was no more serious difficulty than I have met elsewhere in the Alps, and with care to avoid the slightest slip, an accident was impossible. On reaching "the elbow," we saw some twenty feet of rope hanging on the rocks on the face some distance above us, which had probably broken off poor Lord F. Douglas in his fall. We could probably have reached it, but the furious wind which was raging forbade the attempt, and one of my hands was already slightly frost-bitten. In about three hours' actual walking, $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours altogether, we arrived at the hut, and after resting there, returned easily to Zermatt by half-past 3. I may add that I do not think the rocks more difficult than those of the Schreckhorn, but the descent to "the elbow" demands more care, as it would be almost impossible to arrest a slip. I have little doubt that the ascent might be made in one very long day from Zermatt, and believe, under favourable circumstances, nine or ten hours would suffice to reach the summit, and about eight more to descend.'

Two or three other ascents have been made since Mr. Foster's, one of them by three Englishmen together. It would seem that the line of ascent adopted by the Zermatt guides, who have now traversed it several times, is slightly different from that taken on the first ascent, the northern face of the mountain being crossed at a rather lower level. But though it has thus been demonstrated that the Matterhorn is not a mountain entirely *sui generis*, though other peaks that have been ascended are certainly more difficult, it is obviously very far from being an easy mountain, and it is strongly to be hoped that ambitious novices will not be tempted to begin there the acquisition of Alpine experience.