

the precipice below the monastery known as the Salto della Bell' Alda. After an hour's climb they came to a path, and Signor Fiorio proposed that they should abandon the rocks and follow it. Signor Andreis, however, begged to be allowed 'a little more gymnastics,' and they proceeded to scramble upward. After about half the remaining distance had been achieved Signor Andreis, while prospecting ahead up a difficult chimney, lost his hold and fell in several bounds to the wood below, being killed instantly. He was close upon forty years of age.

The 'Echo' of August 21 recorded the death of a French officer, who 'fell from a height of 1,500 feet whilst ascending one of the ridges of Mount Chambeyron, which has an altitude of 12,000 feet and . . . has always been considered inaccessible;' but no intelligence of this disaster seems as yet to have reached the 'Rivista' or any other organ of Alpine information. Both Chambeyron peaks were ascended by Mr. Coolidge in 1879. The highest is 11,155 feet.

We may congratulate ourselves that in the present year not only no member of the Club but no Englishman has lost his life in the mountains. We can read the diatribes of well-informed writers on 'the alarums and excursions of Alpine climbers, their perilous jealousies, their lamentable record of deaths and casualties,' 'the spirit of competition which has made mountain-climbing a thing to be enjoyed in proportion to the risk run,' 'the *quorum pars fui* vainglory, which plays a very significant part in the endeavours of those who risk their lives in climbing such peaks as the Jungfrau or Mont Blanc,' 'the perversity of mountain-climbers,' and so on, and feel that this year, at any rate, their fables are not narrated of us.

NEW EXPEDITIONS IN 1891.

[It is thought that the time has arrived when the fact that an expedition is 'new' hardly confers sufficient importance on it to make its classification under a separate heading necessary. Of course so long as any points from which the ground falls on all sides remain untrdden, and the depressions between them untraversed, it will always be possible to find 'peaks' and 'passes' to which the term 'virgin' may be applied, and which may very well serve as goals for the enterprising climber. But it can hardly be said that the relation of his success in attacking them will add more to our knowledge of the Alps, or convey any more generally valuable information than the accounts of many another expedition, which does not profess to have been done for the first time. In future, therefore, reverting to a former practice, one section will be devoted to 'Alpine Notes and New Expeditions.']

Dauphiné.

S. PIC DU SAYS (3,409 m.=11,180 ft.). July 6.—Mr. J. H. Gibson, with Ulrich Almer and Fritz Boss, starting from La Bérarde, climbed this peak from the Petit Glacier du Chardon by the long couloir that descends to it from the arête running between the N. and S. Pics du SAYS. From the top of the couloir the arête was followed to the summit. The ascent took 8 hours, nearly 4 being spent in the

couloir, where stones fell frequently. The descent was made by the western face by the rocks almost immediately below the top, and occupied 4 hours.

THE MOST WESTERLY OF THE FOUR AIGUILLES DU SOREILLER (being that immediately to the E. of the Col de Burlan). *July 8.*—The same party, starting from La Bérarde, made the first ascent of this peak, marked 'vierge' in Mr. Coolidge's 'Guide-Supplément.' The route to the Col de Burlan was followed until the party reached the snow-field lying at the base of the Aiguille du Plat, the Col du Burlan, and the peak in question. Here they kept to the right, so as to strike the bottom of the midmost of three diminutive couloirs that hang from the S.E. face. Keeping up this couloir for a few yards, they took to the rocks on the left, and then bending to the right, so as to make for a steep chimney quite conspicuous from below, they struck the arête some distance to the right of the highest pinnacle. The ascent took 6 hours, and is not difficult except in the chimney referred to, but the rocks are loose in many places on the face. No signs of any previous ascent could be seen.

PIC CENTRAL OF THE MEIJE FROM THE GRAND PIC. *July 13.*—The same party, starting from the Refuge Chatelleret, climbed the Grand Pic of the Meije by the ordinary route, and, after descending to the eastern arête, passed along it to the Pic Central, which was reached in 4 hours after leaving the Grand Pic. The descent from the Grand Pic to the first gap was distinctly difficult; the rocks slope the wrong way, are loose in many places, and give little hold, and in addition at the date of this expedition were coated with ice and snow, which had to be cleared away as the party descended. A spare rope of 150 ft. was in constant requisition. From the top of the most westerly of the four great teeth a fragment of the rope left by Messrs. Zsigmondy and Purtscheller in 1885 was seen hanging. It was impossible, however, to ascend as they descended, as the rocks overhang; the party succeeded, however, in ascending by a crack that, starting from the bottom of the pinnacle, bends round on to the La Grave side of the tooth. This was much the most serious part of the expedition, but it is quite short. Once on the top of this tooth all real difficulty ended. The snow was in excellent order, and the route followed by Messrs. Zsigmondy was reversed. La Grave was reached at 5.30 P.M., the whole expedition from the Refuge Chatelleret occupying 15 hours, including halts. [This route, though practically the reversal of that followed by the Zsigmondys and Herr Purtscheller in 1885, and described in 'Im Hochgebirge,' p. 337 *sqq.*, has not before been taken in any direction by an English party, nor indeed by any party since the first. Moreover in the case of a peak like the Meije it requires to be proved that a route which has been followed in one direction is practicable in another; so that Mr. Gibson's expedition has as fair a claim to be called 'new' as most.]

St. Bernard District.

MONT FOURCHONS (2,909 m.=9,554 ft., I. map; 2,900 m.=9,514 ft., S. map; see Conway, 'Pennine Guide,' p. 5). *July 18.*—Mr. and

Mrs. Alfred G. Topham and Mr. H. H. Winterbottom, without guides, made the first ascent of this point. Having ascended the Pain de Sucre, they descended by the N.E. face into a col separating it from the Fourchons, and ascended by an easy ridge of snow and rock in one hour from the Pain de Sucre (4 hours from the St. Bernard Hospice). They erected a small cairn on the top, and descended by N.E. face. The Fourchons could also be easily reached by a long undulating ridge from the Col de Fenêtre. The position of the Fourchons is clearly and accurately denoted on the I. map, the S. map having the name written considerably to the S.W. Mr. Topham adds: 'The Pain de Sucre is really the only *peak* seen in the S. view from the Hospice. Ball mentions it, but on looking through the "Journal" I can find no mention of an ascent, though it is said to be a well-known point for tourists.' It would seem, indeed, to have been so long before this Journal came into existence.

Val de Bagnes and Combin District.

MONT DE LA GOUILLE (3,223 m. = 10,574 ft.). July 18.—Messrs. G. W. Prothero and Walter Leaf, with Clemenz Zurbriggen, of Saas, ascended this peak by the N.W. buttress and arête, and descended by the E. face to the Glacier de Valsorey. The whole expedition was perfectly easy. Times, very slow; ascent from Bourg St. Pierre, 5 hrs.; descent, 3 hrs.

This appears to be the first recorded ascent; but the peak is a favourite resort of chamois, and is said, doubtless with truth, to have been frequently reached by hunters.

LE RITORD (3,568 m. = 11,705 ft.). July 21.—The same party made the first ascent of this peak, which is a prominent object in the view from the Val d'Entremont, near Liddes. Mounting by a path through the woods at the back of St. Pierre, they reached the Alp of Challand d'Amont in 1½ hr., and the top of a huge moraine, which here skirts the range of the Maisons Blanches, in 3 hrs. Crossing a nearly level snowfield for half an hour, they reached a couloir running up to the ridge to the S.E. of the peak. Up this they mounted for 55 min., then took to the rocks below the summit, which was gained in 1¼ hr. more—5 hrs. 40 min. from St. Pierre. The descent was by the N.W. arête and a steep snow couloir, back to the large moraine. Time to St. Pierre, 2 hrs. 25 min.

LE MOINE (3,574 m. = 11,725 ft.). July 23.—Mr. Prothero, with Clemenz Zurbriggen, made the first ascent of this peak. The route of the Col des Maisons Blanches was followed from St. Pierre to the hut on the Grande Penna. The prominent couloir to the W. of the peak was ascended in 1 hr. 50 min., and the summit gained by the N.W. arête in 35 min. more. Descent by the same route. Total times: 5 hrs. 20 min. up, 2 hrs. 35 min. down.

(The point ascended is called Le Moine in the Siegfried map, but locally that name is given to a comparatively insignificant tooth at the head of the large couloir on the other (N.) side of the Aiguille des Maisons Blanches.)

COL DES CHAMOIS and MONTE CORDINA. *July 25.*—Messrs. G. W. Prothero and Walter Leaf, with Clemenz Zurbriggen and Auguste Ballay, of Bourg St. Pierre, crossed the Col de Valsorey, descended about 1,000 feet on the S. side, and bore to the S.W. across slopes of *débris* till they got near the foot of the long couloir which descends from the Col des Chamois. Finding this impracticable on account of frequent stone avalanches, they ascended by the rocks to the N.E. These presented considerable difficulties, but ultimately brought them to the ridge at a point between the actual col and the summit of Monte Cordina. The latter point was reached in a few minutes. Returning to the col, they crossed the glacier without difficulty, and joined the ordinary route from the Vélán.

(By Monte Cordina is meant the point S.W. of the Col de Valsorey, and by Col des Chamois the well-marked notch beyond it. The name Mont Capucin,* according to Ballay, belongs, not to this point, to which Mr. Conway attributes it, but to the point 3,467 further S.W., which is supposed to resemble a monk at his prayers. The height of M. Cordina is probably about 11,200 feet, the col some 200 feet lower.)

BEC DE LA LIAZ (3,454 m. = 11,332 ft.). *August 14.*—This name is given in Ball's 'Alpine Guide' ('Western Alps,' p. 270) to the meeting-point of the ridges enclosing the Glacier de Botzeresse. It is proposed to retain it, the peak being the highest point of the ridge running N.E., and called locally Les Mulets de la Liaz,† a name which in the Siegfried map has been transferred to a ridge lying farther to the S., and quite unconnected with the Alpe de la Liaz, the position of which is immediately under the former ridge. Mr. and Mrs. F. Baker-Gabb, with Clemenz Zurbriggen (Saas) and his son, starting from the Hôtel Giétroz, Mauvoisin, followed the route taken by the first party to the summit of the Aiguille de Botzeresse. They then descended to the gap on the W. of the Aiguille, and followed the ridge connecting it with the highest point, which was reached in 50 min. from the Aiguille. No trace of a previous ascent was found. The peak commanded a particularly fine view of the Grand Combin. The descent was made by the S. face, bearing always to the left.

POINTE DE LA GRANDE LYRE (3,348 m. = 10,984 ft.). *August 17.*—Mr. F. Baker-Gabb, with the same guides, left the hut at Chanrion at 4.35, and, ascending the Glacier de Breney, reached the foot of a snow couloir between the point now known as the Pointe des Portons‡ and the point ascended. This couloir was mounted to the ridge overlooking the Glacier of Les Portons, and the ridge was then followed to the summit, which was reached at 8.40. From there the ridge was followed with occasional deviations on to the face to the summit of the Pic d'Otemma, 2 hours from the Pointe.

GRAND COMBIN BY S.E. ARÊTE.—On September 10 Messrs. C. G. Monro and O. G. Jones, with Antoine Bovier and Pierre Gaspoz, of Evolène, left the Châlets de By, in Val d'Ollomont, at 4 A.M., and reached the W. Col de By in about two hours. Thence they traversed

* See p. 258.

† See p. 299.

‡ See p. 473.

the Glacier du Mont-Durand, keeping at first up to the left towards the Col du Sonadon and then making a sweep round to the right. Having thus avoided the most crevassed part of the glacier, they reached the foot of the S.E. ridge, which descends from the Aiguille du Croissant to the Glacier du Mont-Durand. It consists chiefly of loose, shaly rocks, with occasional beds of snow, and is, on the whole, of no great steepness. The going was very slow, owing to the illness of Mr. Monro, who had to be left behind at a height of about 13,500 ft., the others going on. They cut up a slope of hard snow and along the left-hand side of a sharp snow ridge that led directly to the foot of the great rock which forms the chief difficulty of the ascent. As this side of it looked very formidable they traversed 40 ft. to the left and found themselves at the base of a chimney about 15 ft. high. This was ascended, and then a somewhat similar chimney above it. There was a little trouble from loose rocks. From here the route was evident—first to the right along the edge of a sloping face of rock till a cleft in the topmost ridge could be reached and the narrow ridge climbed. Then came a little step-cutting to the left of a very pretty cornice, and then easy snow-slopes led to the summit. The difficult part of the rock-climb is about 60 ft. high; the ascent of the rock took 40 min., its descent, 20 min.

In the descent the same route was followed, and By was reached about 5 P.M. Under ordinary circumstances the summit could easily be reached from By in about 7 hrs.

TÊTE DE CORDON* (3,406 m. = 11,166 ft.); TÊTE D'ARIONDET (3,550 m. ?).—On September 8 the same party left By at 5.20 A.M. and went, in 2 hrs. 40 min., to the Col de Valsorey; here they turned left and followed the top of the ridge which runs west from the pass. Having crossed Mont Capucin and passed over the Tête de Cordon by easy snow-slopes, they made the ascent of the next point to the W., to which the name of Tête d'Ariondet has been given. It is a sharp ridge, the N. and S. faces of which are very steep. The party went up the steep eastern ridge, and, as the snow was very hard, a good deal of step-cutting was required. The summit, which was gained at 11.45, consists of a very sharp, nearly level snow ridge, with two little snow points of about equal height at its W. end. The next point to the W. is that from which the S. ridge of the Vélan starts. Clouds so obscured the view that the party were unable to see the great couloir by which Mr. Conway descended,† and which probably starts from the gap between the Tête d'Ariondet and the point to the W. of it.

The descent was effected by the same route.

Arollo District, Val d'Hérens, and Val d'Anniviers.

DENT PERROC (3,680 m. = 12,074 ft.) BY POINTE DES GÉNEVOIS (3,679 m. = 12,070 ft.). July 27.—Mr. Alfred G. Topham, with

* Compare Mr. Leaf's account of Col des Chamois and Mte Cordina (p. 544). It must be noted that Mr. Leaf's 'Mte Cordina' is Mr. Monro's 'Mt Capucin,' while Mr. Monro's Tête de Cordon is on the other side of the Col des Chamois.

† See p. 301.

Jean Maître and Pierre Maurice, left Arolla at 1.30 A.M. and reached the summit of the Pointe des Gênevois by the S. ridge at 7.30. The ridge between here and the Dent Perroc is very sharp and jagged, the most serious obstacle being a deep cleft about half-way across. A descent was made into this by means of a reserve cord. From here a means of avoiding this descent was seen and tried—viz. by descending the E. face diagonally, traversing below the 'gendarme,' and so gaining the cleft. This was invisible from the ridge owing to overhanging rocks, and would be useful to anyone going in the reverse direction. The other gendarmes presented no serious difficulties, and the Dent Perroc was gained in $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours from the Pointe des Gênevois. The ridge between these two is very strongly recommended, and should be followed by anyone ascending the Perroc or the Gênevois, the whole expedition affording most interesting rock-climbing.

GRANDE DENT DE VEISIVI BY E. ARÊTE. *Sept. 3.*—Messrs. C. G. Monro and O. G. Jones left Ferpèche at 4.20 A.M., and, crossing the bridge below the hotel, turned left and mounted to the left bank of the Glacier du Mont-Miné. They followed the moraine till a point about $\frac{3}{4}$ hr. distant from the hotel was reached, where a passage was with some little difficulty found up the rocks to the right, to the steep grass slopes above. They went straight up these slopes to the foot of the eastern arête, which was reached at 7.40, and followed to the top in 3 hrs., including a halt for breakfast, not far below the summit. The rocks are good and afford a very pleasant scramble. In the descent the usual route to Arolla by the Col de Zarmine was followed.

DENT DES ROSSES (3,620 m. See 'Ferpèche group' in 'Pennine Guide'). *Sept. 2.*—The same party, plus Mr. W. D. Monro, with Ant. Bovier and Pierre Gaspoz, of Evolèna, as guides, and Bovier, junior, as porter, left the hotel at Ferpèche at 3.45 A.M. They followed the path to Bricolla for 35 min., and then, turning left, followed a path which mounts steeply to the Alpe des Rosses. From hence they inclined to the right, crossed the rt. moraine of the little glacier which descends from the W. face of the Dent des Rosses, and got on to the ice at the point where the glacier begins to slope more steeply upwards. The glacier was followed to its head, from which a conspicuous couloir runs to the right, up to the gap in the ridge immediately S. of Dent des Rosses. This couloir was ascended for about three-quarters of its height, and then, as the snow gave place to ice, the party went straight up the rocks on the left, which are good, though difficult in places, and thus attained the S. ridge of the mountain, consisting of easy snow-slopes. These were followed to the summit, which was reached at 11.15. In the descent the party followed the S. arête to the top of the above-mentioned couloir, and, keeping to the left along the highest névé on the W. side of the Moiry Glacier below the ridge leading to the Pte de Bricolla, reached the Col de la Pte de Bricolla, by which they descended to Ferpèche.

LO BESSO (3,675 m. = 12,057 ft.), FROM LE BLANC. *July 31.*—Messrs. G. W. Prothero and Walter Leaf, with C. Zurbriggen, made an expedition which is possibly not new, but appears not to have been

recorded. It is well worth notice as a most interesting climb for a short day.

Leaving the Mountet hut at 8.20, they mounted in 1 hr. 55 min. to the highest point in Le Blanc, at the articulation of the main ridge with that which runs S.W. behind the Mountet. Hence they followed the N. ridge all the way to the summit of Lo Besso. The descent to the col immediately S. of Lo Besso was difficult, and the whole route afforded capital climbing. Time from Le Blanc to summit, 2 hrs. 10 min. Return to hut by ordinary route, 2 hrs. 40 min.

It appears from a note in the visitors' book at Zinal that in July, 1877, M. Javelle, with two friends, boys of 10 and 14, and without guides, ascended Lo Besso by the S. arête, having gained the col at its foot by a difficult climb direct from the Glacier du Besso. Messrs. Prothero and Leaf found the whole difficulty of the expedition to consist in the descent to this col from the S., the ascent of the actual peak by the S. arête being a good climb, but not particularly hard.

Bernese Oberland.

RITZLI PASS (about 3,050 m., or 10,000 ft.). *August 14.*—Messrs. Legh S. Powell and Frank Gare crossed a gap in the rocky ridge immediately south of the Ritzlihorn, from the chalets of Matten, in the Urbachthal, to Handegg, and they propose the above name as a suitable one for the pass. The chalets were left at 8 A.M., and the alp behind was ascended in the direction of the Steinlauiuen Glacier as far as the spot marked 2,805 on the Federal map, which was reached at 11 A.M. The rocks to the left were then ascended, and the ridge was struck at 1 P.M. at a place considerably higher than the col, and not far from point 3,132. After a halt of 50 min., a descent, occupying 40 min., was made to the col over very interesting rocks. The col is marked by a remarkably slender and sharp pinnacle of light-coloured rock. A shorter and better way would have been to have attacked the rocks immediately below the col and nearer to the Ritzlihorn. On the east side the Aeren Glacier meets the gap on a level. As it was considered probable that difficulty would be met with at the cliffs below the glacier if an easterly direction were pursued, it was decided to take the more prudent but longer course of skirting round the valley to the south as far as the Gruben Glacier, and thence by the moraine to the lower part of the valley. From this point it was noticed that the cliffs referred to were in many places covered with grass, and apparently quite practicable. No difficulty whatever was encountered in the route taken, but the moraine was extremely long and trying. Handegg was reached at 6.30 P.M. The times given include several considerable halts.

HANDEGG TO THE FURKA BY THE GELMERHÖRNER. *August 15.*—The same party crossed the ridge of the Gelmerhörner by a gap, marked 3,089 (= 10,129 ft.) in the Federal map, which lies at the head of a small nameless glacier situated to the south of the adjoining Alpi glacier. The route as far as the gap lay by the Gelmersee, the Gelmernalp, a long moraine, and an easy snow-slope. The drop to the

Rhône Glacier, fully 800 feet, was exceedingly precipitous. However, a rock couloir near to point 3,166 m., was attempted, and it proved practicable, but required considerable care. The latter part of the route was by the Rhône Glacier.

It was subsequently discovered that two more direct and much easier passages are known to the south of the above gap, one of which is probably at the point marked 3,101 m. on the map.

This and the preceding pass may be highly recommended to anyone, proceeding from Rosenlauri, or even Meiringen, to the Furka, who prefers mountain solitudes to the crowd of the Grimsel.

Uri Alps.

GLETSCHJOCH (about 3,150 m. or 10,330 ft.). *August 20.*—The same party, without guides, crossed from the Göschenenthal to the Tiefengletscher inn, on the Furka road, by a pass which lies between the Gletschhorn and the Winterstock. The pass, which it is proposed to call Gletschjoch, is a very direct route between the two places. The ascent, exclusive of halts, occupied 6 hrs.; but a quantity of fresh snow rendered the ascent of the steep rocks on the side of the Göschenenthal very laborious. It is estimated that under favourable conditions it could easily be made in 5 hrs. The descent was effected in 2½ hrs. to the Tiefengletscher inn. The pass, although hardly coming within the definition of easy passes, cannot be called difficult or dangerous; such difficulty as does exist will always be greater on the north than on the south side, owing to the steepness of the snow and the large slabs of rock.

The route taken lay by a path leading to the moraine on the right bank of the Wintergletscher. The moraine was followed as far as the great snow gully which descends from the Winterlücke. This was ascended for a short distance, then a traverse was made in an upward direction across a ridge of rock and grass to a second snow gully descending from the summit of the Winterstock. This was crossed, and the stony face of the mountain traversed upwards until the steep N.N.E. ridge of the Winterstock was reached. This was at first quite easy, but became steadily steeper, and consisted of rocks interspersed with patches of snow and occasionally a little ice. It was ascended for a couple of hours or so to a spot somewhat higher than the level of the col, and not far from the summit of the Winterstock. This course was rendered necessary on the day in question in order to avoid crossing the very steep snow-slope which lies directly under the pass on the north side, the snow being in a very uncertain condition. A short traverse to the right, over snow less steeply inclined, soon led to the watershed, whence the col was readily gained by a short descent.

The route to be taken in descending on the south side of the pass starts close to the east of the pinnacle which is at the head of the steep snow-slope on the north side of the pass. A long and pretty steep rock-gully, partly filled with snow, descends diagonally in a westerly direction right down to the Tiefengletscher. This gully is descended for about 300 ft.; the east side of it must then be

climbed, whereby an easy slope, partly stones, partly snow, is gained. Descending the slope in an easterly direction, some large smooth granite slabs are soon reached. By keeping well to the left a fairly easy but tortuous passage may be effected down these slabs to a snow cirque which lies at the base of the Winterstock. This is traversed, on a level, to the opposite ridge, which is covered with large boulders. By following the ridge, which falls away very abruptly on every side, to its end some steep grass patches are hit upon, affording a practicable descent to the alp and rock which form the northern boundary of the lower end of the Tiefengletscher. Hence to the inn the route is so obvious as to need no further description. With the exception of the short bit in the gully (about $\frac{1}{2}$ hr.) and a few minutes' work over the granite slabs, no kind of difficulty was experienced in the descent, though it is quite possible that in some seasons the snow cirque might be icy and require step-cutting. A small cairn, containing a bottle and record, was built on the pass at the head of the rock gully. It may be added that when, a few days previously, the same party reconnoitred the route on the south side, the col was reached in 4 hrs. easy going from the Tiefengletscher inn.

It should be mentioned that Herr Seelig, with two other Swiss mountaineers, gained the same col by a somewhat similar route to the one described from the Göschenenalp on June 2, 1888, and attempted a descent on the south side, but in the end they were forced to retrace their steps.* In 1887 Herr Seelig crossed the summit of the Winterstock from the Göschenenalp to the Tiefengletscher. The difficult descent appears, however, to have been effected directly down the face of the mountain, and the route from the col was joined at the snow cirque.†

Mr. Jacomb also crossed the chain in 1864 from the Göschenenalp by an apparently very difficult route, but it would appear to have been at some spot between the Gletschhorn and the Tiefenstock.‡

PEAKS NEAR THE THIERBERG, marked 3,446 m. (11,306 ft.) and 3,440 m. (11,286 ft.) in the Federal map. August 29.—The same party ascended these peaks from the Trift hut. The summits are the highest in the Dammastock range north of the Eggstock, and they exceed by upwards of 300 feet the well-known neighbouring Thierberg. The route taken in the ascent was by the Thälstock ridge, leading due east from the hut. No difficulty of any kind was encountered in reaching the northern snow-point, the time occupied being $3\frac{1}{2}$ hrs., including halts. The more interesting and apparently higher peak to the south was gained in 35 min. more. An extremely grand and commanding view was obtained. The descent was made by the steep rocks to the south-west, and they afforded a very exciting scramble, lasting about 2 hrs. No stoneman or other record of previous ascents having been discovered, two small piles of stones were erected.

This short expedition is to be recommended pre-eminently for the sake of the view.

* See p. 87. † *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiv. p. 258. ‡ *Ibid.* vol. i. p. 435.

Lepontine Alps.

HÜLLEHORN OR PUNTA MOTTISCIA* (3,186 m. = 10,451 ft.). July 8.—Mr. D. W. Stable and the Rev. G. Broke, with Adolf and Basil Andenmatten, made the second ascent of this peak, and the first from Bérissal. Leaving the hotel at 2.30, they went up the Steinenthal, and reached the col between the Gibelhorn and Hüllehorn at 6. Thence they ascended the broad snow-shoulder in a S.E. direction, waiting for half an hour at 7 o'clock for the weather to improve. Getting a brief glimpse of their peak, they kept on by compass up the snow to the watershed just to the S.W. of the final peak, which might perhaps have been scaled directly from this point, but the rocks were all covered with fresh snow, and they therefore went right round the peak on the snow, and finally scrambled on to the N.W. ridge from the E. at about 100 yards from the actual summit, which they reached along the arête at 8 o'clock. The top consists of two points of apparently the same height, and on the northern and more difficult one a bottle was found containing the names of Alexander Seiler, jun., and Aloys Supersax, of Fee, who made the first ascent of the mountain on September 30, 1890. In the descent the E. foot of the peak was reached in half an hour, an hour more brought them back to the col, and another hour and a half to Bérissal. The peak is well seen from a point on the Simplon road about a mile and a half above Bérissal.

Monte Rosa District.

SENG PASS (3,615 m. = 11,860 ft.). July 10.—Mr. D. W. Stable and the Rev. G. Broke, with Adolf and Basil Andenmatten, made the first crossing of this pass, which lies between the Rossbodenhorn and the point 3,625, which might be called Sengkuppe. Leaving Simpeln at 2.0, they passed the Rossbodenalp at 3.30, and at 4.30 halted for half-an-hour at the point 2,361 on the left moraine of the Rossboden Glacier. The icefall of this glacier seemed practicable, but it was thought quicker to turn it by the easy rocks on the N. They went up these, chiefly on the N.W. side, till they were above the icefall, occasionally going on to the upper snows of the Griesseren Glacier, and then crossed the rocks to the Rossboden Glacier, and roped at 6.15. They ascended the glacier for an hour, and then, as the amount of new snow made the rocks immediately below the pass appear impracticable, they got on to the rocks well to the right, but got off again almost directly, and tried a little more to the left at 7.30. After mounting a short distance they met with serious 'platten,' and had to traverse back to the right to the crest of the buttress. After breakfast—8.40—9.15—they kept straight up very steep smooth rocks, unable to go to the left till 10.30, when they worked across the heads of two or three couloirs, and finally reached the ridge at 11.30.

* From a note on p. 301 of the *Rivista Mensile* for September, it would appear that in strictness these names belong to two different peaks, the Punta Mottiscia being the point where the ridge in which stands the Hüllehorn forms an angle with the frontier ridge. The Hüllehorn, the summit of which is entirely in Swiss territory, is the higher by about 100 feet.

60 yards to the N. of the true pass. After three-quarters of an hour on the col the Gruben Glacier was descended without any difficulty, and the rope taken off at 1 o'clock. Later in the year the pass would probably be much easier, but would always be difficult from Saas, and if taken from that side it might be better to pass along the ridge to the Sengkuppe and descend straight down its N.E. arête without touching the Rossboden Glacier. In any case it would be easier to round the rocks on the left to the Griesseren Glacier, as it would be possible to glissade for a very great distance along its southern edge.

STRAHLHORN, by the S.W. ridge * (4,191 m. = 13,750 ft.). July 18.—The Rev. C. H. Gould and the Rev. G. Broke, with Adolf Andenmatten and Aloys Burgener, left the Fluh Alp at 2.45, and went up the centre of the Findelen Glacier till they had passed the point 3,208. Then they slanted up to the left over snowbeds and *débris*, halting 20 minutes for breakfast, till at 5.30 they were exactly under the peak 3,993 (Adlerhorn). From this peak three or four small couloirs descend, with a very large one beyond them to the E. Taking to the easy, but rather rotten rocks on the W. side of the big couloir, they ascended for 35 minutes to a point at which the couloir divides, and then crossed both branches in 15 minutes to a rock rib beyond, up which they climbed till it faded away just below the top. Thirty feet of step-cutting and the destruction of a small cornice placed them on the ridge a little to the E. of the Adlerhorn at 7.20. Hence it took 8 minutes to the lowest point of the depression between the Adlerhorn and Strahlhorn, and 40 minutes more along a wide easy snow ridge to the top of the latter. The descent was made by the Adler Pass.

ALPHUBEL BY THE N.E. FACE. August 25.—Mr. A. F. de Fonblanque, with Xaver Imseug and Isidor Buman, left Saas Fee at 2 A.M., and followed the Mischabeljoch route for 4½ hours to a point immediately below the apparent summit of the Alphubel as seen from Fee. They then struck straight up the face for 2 hours over steep and heavy snow-slopes, and, after crossing a rather troublesome bergschrund, came to the foot of a wall of hard ice of extreme steepness which stretched right across the face. An hour and a half was occupied in cutting up this wall. The way then lay over more steep snow and through some easy *séracs* to the summit ridge (which was struck almost exactly at its centre), and thence over the plateau to the true summit, which was reached at 11. The main difficulty of this route is the ice-wall, which is at most points quite impracticable, and is nowhere easy. A rope of 60 feet was found inconveniently short, and any future party should take 100 feet or more.

The descent was made by way of the Alphubeljoch in 3¾ hours. Having regard to Mr. Conway's note ('Eastern Pennine Guide, p. 97), it may be useful to mention that this route offered no difficulty whatever, the snow being in splendid condition, and not a single scrap of ice being met with all the way.

* See *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiii. p. 173, and *Pennine Guide*, part ii. p. 81.