

## THE ACCIDENT ON THE OBER-GABELHORN.

PROFESSOR DR. ERNST DEMELIUS and a very capable though still young guide, Josef Tembl, of Sulden (Tirol), have fallen victims to one of those dangers of the mountains which cannot be guarded against even by the greatest care and experience. Dr. Demelius was struck by a very heavy rock which he detached while pulling himself up by it, and was hurled into the depths below. The guide, Tembl, who was in front and roped to Dr. Demelius, was dragged down with him. Dr. Demelius and his guide, together with the well-known brothers Cenzi and Heinrich von Ficker, with the guide Dangel junior, of Sulden, as well as Herr Th. Mayr, passed the night at the Trift Hut, above Zermatt. On July 28 the whole party set out to climb the Ober-Gabelhorn (4,095 m.). Dr. Demelius and his guide were near the summit, and the party were only fifty mètres below the absolute peak, when the terrible catastrophe occurred. The Ober-Gabelhorn is, in consequence of the rotten character of the rock, a treacherous peak. In the Swiss newspapers it was reported that the party had deviated slightly from the usual route, but this, even if it were the fact, is of small importance. Herr von Ficker hurried down to Zermatt to convey the sad news. The body of the Rector was found on the Trift Glacier, and he must therefore have fallen a considerable distance. The body of the unfortunate guide was caught in the rocks about 500 mètres below the peak. Both bodies were taken to Zermatt. Dr. Demelius was a careful and experienced mountaineer, and his death was deeply and universally lamented. His brave guide, in spite of his youth (he was only thirty years of age), was one of the best of the Sulden guides, and besides the Eastern Alps had already climbed most of the more difficult Swiss peaks. Tembl had but the day before the catastrophe by which he lost his life assisted two persons who had got into difficulties upon the Matterhorn. He had been married for but six months, and intended soon to relinquish the occupation of a guide in order to attend to his inn.\*

## NEW EXPEDITIONS IN 1904.

*Mont Blanc District.*

AIGUILLE DE TRIOLET BY S. ARÊTE.—On July 9 Messrs. J. H. Wicks, E. H. F. Bradby, and C. Wilson, with Henri Rey, ascended this peak by the S. arête, descending to the Montanvert. Leaving the Triolet hut at 3.30 A.M., and breakfasting (6.10-6.35) below the bergschrund on the Col de Triolet route, they turned sharply to the right and ascended by a steep couloir (snow and ice) and by the

\* This account is condensed from that given in the *Mittheilungen* of the D. & Oe. A. V.

rocks on its S. bank to a gap in the S. arête, slightly S. of the point where the ridge rises sharply towards the summit (8.45). Some rock towers were turned on the Pré de Bar side, and the foot of the steep rise reached, 9.30–10.10. From this point the rocks on the E. (Pré de Bar) side were chiefly made use of, the true ridge being followed for a short distance only, when about halfway up. The summit was reached 1–1.30, the depression between the Triolet and Petits Triolets 2.15, the Col de Triolet 4.5, the Couvercle 6.30–6.50, and the Montanvert 8.50. The ascent by the sky line of the S. arête will be, if feasible, a magnificent rock-climb. Considerations of time prevented the party from attempting it.

**AIGUILLE DE TALÈFRE BY W. ARÊTE.**—The same party (without Rey) on July 17 reached the col between the Talèfre and the Petites Talèfres from the Pierre Joseph glacier, and thence climbed by the W. arête to the summit, descending by the S.W. face. The rocks of the ridge offered good climbing, and, unless quite free from ice, would be, in places, very difficult. Montanvert 3.5.; bergschrund, 9; col on arête, 11.15; summit, 12.45–1.30; bergschrund 5; Montanvert, 9.15.

**AIGUILLE DE LA BRENVA FROM N.W.**—The same party, on July 26, made this ascent, descending by the S. arête and W. face. Starting from the Col du Géant at 6 A.M., the col between the Tour Ronde and the Aiguille de la Brenva was reached at 9.10. An hour and a half was spent exploring the N. arête, which was found impracticable, and the ascent was made by rocks on the Brenva side of the ridge. The summit was reached 1–1.50 and Courmayeur 8 P.M.

**AIGUILLE VERTE\*** (4,127 m. = 13,541 ft.). **FIRST ASCENT FROM THE GLACIER OF NANT BLANC AND TRAVERSE.** *July 29, 30.*—SS. E. Canzio, G. F. and G. B. Gugliermi, and G. Lampugnani, without guides or porters, effected this ascent after two attempts, one in July 1903 and the other on July 27 of the present year. Leaving Chamonix on July 28, they bivouacked on the Nant Blanc Glacier. On July 29 they reached a second bivouac at about 3,900 m., on the rocky wall of the mountain. On the 30th, after reaching at noon 'la calotta terminale dell' Aiguille nel punto donde si origina la cresta Ovest,' they attained the summit at 6.30 P.M. The descent was made during the night by the usual way down the E. face.

*Grand Combin District.*

**GRAND COMBIN** (4,317 m. = 14,163 ft.) **FROM THE N.E.**—On August 29, Messrs. J. J. Withers and R. J. G. Mayor, with the guides Adolf Andenmatten and Andreas Anthamatten, both of Saas, left a bivouac on the Zessetta Alp at 3.30 A.M., and went down into the miniature valley which lies between the moraine of the Zessetta glacier and the slopes to the N. Following this round N.W. they reached the moraine on the left bank of the nameless glacier which lies S. of the S.E. arête of the Tournelon Blanc.

\* *Rivista Mensile C. A. I.*, August 1904, p. 268.

This moraine they followed to its head, and then proceeded in the same direction up stone slopes to the base of a barrier of rock (5.15 A.M.). These rocks were climbed in 10 min., and the party found themselves on the nameless glacier above mentioned, which afforded at first easy going, but which steepened by degrees, and finally gave great trouble with a formidable bergschrund. Having passed this after some delay the party bore round to their left and over easy snowslopes reached the col between the Tournelon Blanc and point 3,622 m. of the Mulets de la Liaz (a descent from this col can be made by the route given on p. 16 of Conway's 'Pennine Guide' for the Mulets de la Liaz, and an easy pass can be so made from the Chanrion hut to the upper névé of the Corbassière glacier). In 10 min. the party reached point 3,622 m., above mentioned, and they then descended S. into the depression between that point and point 3,695 m. (7 A.M.) From this point, and at more or less the same level, the party proceeded to traverse round S.W. across the great N. face of the Grand Combin under a series of ice cliffs and icefalls, until they were close to the usual route by the 'Corridor.' This, however, it was impossible to reach at the same level, as it was cut off by a barrier of broken ice and rock. Accordingly the party turned S. and proceeded to cut up some steep snow and ice slopes till they were stopped by a line of great séracs which at first seemed impassable. At length a fissure was discovered which, after considerable trouble, enabled the séracs to be surmounted, and a short turn to the right over easier slopes brought the party on to the usual 'Corridor' route just at the top of the passage where there is so much danger of falling ice (10 A.M.). The 'Corridor' route was followed to the summit (12 noon), and on the return to the Panossière hut (4 P.M.), and Fionnay, after many halts, was reached the same evening.

#### *Valpelline District.*

CRESTA DI VAUFREDE.\*—SS. U. de Amicis and G. Rey, with the guides Angelo and Amato Macquignaz and the porters B. Macquignaz and G. Pession, made the first traverse of the fine ridge between the Torre di Créton and the Punta Budden (the Tour and Bec de Créton of Ball).

#### *Zermatt District.*

EDELSPITZE † (GABELHORN OF ST. NICHOLAS) (3,135 m.) *August 13.*—The highest point of this peak was ascended for the first time by MM. Monod and E. Kern with the guide F. Furrer of Eytén. They gave it the name of Edelspitze, to distinguish it from the other two Gabelhorns in the Zermatt valley.

#### *Bernese Oberland.*

ROSENHORN (3,691 m. = 12,110 ft.) FROM THE EAST. *May 16, 1904.*—Mr. G. Hasler and Chr. Jossi, sen., descended in 1½ hr. direct from the summit over rocks to the foot of the peak.

\* *Rivista Mensile C. A. I.*, October 1904, p. 374.

† *Ibid.* p. 371.

**NÄSSIHORN** (3,784 m. = 12,414 ft.) FROM THE EAST. *May 31.*—The same party, after having descended by the N.W. arête of the Gross Schreckhorn to the summit of the peak, descended in an almost straight eastern line over the crevassed upper part of the Lauteraarfirn, thus gaining the Lauteraar glacier at the foot of the Ewigschneehorn in 2 hrs. from the Nässihorn.

**MÖNCH** (4,105 m. = 13,468 ft.) BY THE N.E. FACE. *June 20.*—The same party, after having mounted from the Eiger glacier to the South Eigerjoch, thence went in 1 hr. to the bergschrund and cut up steps in the middle of the snow and ice wall straight to the summit, which was reached in 3½ hrs. from the bergschrund.

**EBNEFLUH** (3,964 m. = 12,804 ft.) BY THE N.W. FACE.\* *June 23.*—Whereas the first party gained the summit ridge by a circuitous way, partly over difficult and iced rocks, the same party as above from the bergschrund (3½ hrs. from the Roththal Hut) cut steps straight up the face of the mountain, always to the right of the rocks and Mr. Macdonald's route, in 6½ hrs. to the west arête of the summit, which was reached in ½ hr. more.

**HUGISATTEL** (4,089 m. = 13,416 ft.) FROM THE N.E. *July 8.*—Mr. G. Hasler and Fritz Amatter, descending from the Finsteraarjoch in a south-easterly direction for ¼ hr., followed the ridge to the right, at first consisting of snow and then of rocks, which get very hard high up, leading straight up to the Hugisattel, which was reached in 8¾ hrs. from the Finsteraarjoch. The ridge often merges into the face of the mountain and is not safe from falling stones. The summit of the Finsteraarhorn was reached in ½ hr. more.

**FINSTERAARHORN** (4,275 m. = 14,026 ft.) BY THE N.E. BUTTRESS. *July 16.*—The same party, after leaving the Pavillon Dollfus at 3.30 P.M. on the 15th, bivouacked at 9.30 P.M. on the lowest rocks of the very steep rocky rib which comes straight down from the summit. This rib forks at its lowest point, exactly south of the second naught of the figures 3,800 of the Siegfried map. They took to the left, south-easterly part of the fork and began to climb its rocks at 3.30 A.M. of the 16th. At 7.30 the height of the Studerhorn, 3,687 m., was attained, and now the rocks began to get difficult. It is not possible to follow the crest of the rib, which mostly rises in perpendicular walls, but one has to traverse on to either side, where progress is made by smooth and difficult gullies. At 2.40 P.M. they had reached about the height of the Hugisattel, 4,089 m., and shortly before had come upon two ropes which the 1902 party † had left behind, when bad weather obliged them to turn back. Here any further progress seems at first impossible, as a smooth grey rock tower bars the way. By a spare rope, left behind, they descended about 100 feet to the left, and had surmounted the tower by an iced gully at 3.15. Very difficult rocks now gave access to the south-

\* Variation of Mr. Macdonald's 1895 route, *A. J.* vol. xviii. p. 45.

† Miss G. L. Bell, with Ulrich and Heinrich Fuhrer, July 31. See the *Bund*, No. 218, August 6-7, 1902.

easterly first summit of the Finsteraarhorn, which was reached at 6.20 P.M., and in 5 min. more the highest summit was attained. The descent was taken by the Grünhornlücke to the Concordia, where the party arrived shortly before 11 P.M.

THIEREGGHORN (S. 3,086 m.=10,125 ft.).—The highest point in the ridge leading south from the Bietschhorn to the Rhône valley. A bold-looking rock summit, forming the junction of three steep and very sharp ridges, from N., S., or E.; the W. face is steep, broken, and traversed by smooth slabs. On August 13 Mr. G. Winthrop Young and Mr. Robert Mayor, with a porter, left the Nest hut below the Bietschjoch at 5 A.M., and reached the ridge of the pass at 6. The descent of the curves of the Bietsch glacier called for some step-cutting in the cold of dawn, followed by a wearisome passage of an hour or more across the interminable séracs of *Im Râmi*. Striking a gully in the centre of the most northerly of the arms, curving westward from the Thieregghorn ridge, its rugged edge was followed comfortably to the tip of a small peak just north of the Thieregghorn itself, whose N. arête from here looks sufficiently formidable. Time, 9.10. Crossing the little notch of separation, the arête itself was attacked, and gave magnificent scrambling—granite, firm as iron, and so sharp that 50 ft. below its crest the rock often seemed but a few feet thick. The first difficulty, a large tower, might be turned on the right. The leader crept off to do so, but was driven back by reproaches from behind, only after a second attempt successfully negotiating the rugosities on its precipitous face. The ridge then took matters into its own hands, and its uncompromisingly smooth walls left no further gentle alternatives. The sharp summit came unexpectedly and all too soon at 10.15 (5½ hrs. with halt). In the fierce sun-glare the crags of the Bietschhorn looked most imposing, and the distant Doldenhorn almost transparent on the blue sky. After the customary rites and an inspection of the E. ridge, which should give a stiff climb from the Baltschiederthal, the summit was left at 11.30 by the S. ridge. If anything sharper and steeper than the N., progress was made at first either astride of its comb or on the hands. Turning over on to the W. face about the first big tower, easy chimneys and a gradual traverse northwards down the broken face, probably on the line taken by M. Gallet on his descent from the Alpelhorn ('Climbers' Guide,' i. p. 78), led at last, after some little search for the final chimney, on to the glacier (1 P.M.). A swift glissade down the hard snow of the little Augtskumme glacier and the party divided, Mr. Young descending in 1¾ hr. to Raron, Mr. Mayor returning with the porter across the W. ridge, long moraines, and the Bietschjoch to the hut, which he reached at 5 o'clock. In all 12 hrs.

STRAHLGRAT.—Point 3,380 m., S.=10,926 ft., and the next point to the N. towards the Klein Wannehorn. With the intention of visiting either the Strahlgrat or the Distelgrat, as distance might dictate, Messrs. Winthrop and Hubert Young, with Joseph Lochmatter and Clemenz Ruppen, left the Eggishorn Hotel at

5.45 A.M. on August 3. The thought of the Distelgrat at this late hour was soon abandoned, and indeed a traverse of its colossal prickles were best attempted from a camp somewhere *in den Disteln*. Avoiding the lower peaks of the Strahlgrat, which look somewhat dull and verdant, a long trudge up grass slopes and gentle glacier brought the party to an easy chimney in the S. wall of the ridge descending S.E. from point 3,330 m. By this ridge and some fairly steep crags on the actual peak the summit was reached at 9.40 (4 hrs.). Some conspicuous ochre-coloured pinnacles on the final ridge suggested to some of the party the name of *Sensspitze*. Between this and the Klein Wannehorn are two striking-looking rock horns, with an inclination towards one another, as seen from the S., somewhat like a lobster's claw. The idea had been to descend from here on to the little glacier on the E., following the route by which Mr. Withers's party crossed the ridge in 1893 ('Climbers' Guide,' ii. p. 26), and to attempt the E. wall of the peak, but the heat, the loose rock, and above all the length advised keeping to the actual arête. This proved very long, very rotten, and interests had to be invented. The final rocks of the peak introduced some variety, winding up with several big slabs with not overmuch hold, leading to a smooth and sporting crack of some 25 ft. on to the minute summit (12.30 P.M.—6½ hrs.). The point was at once christened *Die Klaue*. Time prevented a further advance on to the other claw or the apparently easy S. face of the Wannehorn. Descent was made by the snow-covered glacier on the W. to the Aletsch glacier, and some delicious headers into the icy and winelike waters of the upper Märjelen See ended a day of unbroken sunshine.

ESCHERHORN (S. 3,080 m.=10,105 ft.).—The upstanding rock-peak, a conspicuous object from the Grimsel, which marks the junction of the Unteraar and Finsteraar glaciers. There is apparently some confusion about the name. In the 'Climbers' Guide' (ii. p. 51) Mr. Coolidge bestows it on the next point southward in the chain (S. 3,101 m.), but by the Siegfried map and by local tradition it is attached to point 3,080 m., the more probable choice because the more noticeable and considerable peak. Further, from the summit it becomes apparent that point 3,080 m. is higher than any point within a considerably greater radius than one which would include point 3,101 m., as placed in Siegfried, and that the Eschergrat (see ii. p. 50) ridge connecting it with the supposed position of point 3,101 m. is not, as represented there, a snow arête, but a deeply cut rock ridge. Either the condition of the ridge has very materially altered or there is an error in the map, which has not unnaturally led the 'Climbers' Guide' to attribute the name of point 3,080 m. to a supposed higher but possibly misplaced peak, 3,101 m. Under any name point 3,080 m. is one of the finest small rock-climbs in the district. On August 6 Mr. G. Winthrop Young and Joseph Lochmatter, with the addition of Mr. Hubert Young and Clemenz Ruppen, left the Pavillon Dollfus at about 5 A.M. on an unpromising morning, and crossing the glacier

turned the end of the E. ridge of the peak by easy slopes and a large loose gully, which celebrated the passage by emptying its contents 4 min. later on to the glacier. The lower rocks are as dull and rotten as on the rest of this range, but the peak suddenly pulls itself together and throws up some fine walls of firm red granite. The E. ridge sharpens into an edge, broken by a cliff that defies all efforts. Bearing round to the left along the S. face of this final fortress, just above the Thierberg glacier, several rather hopeless-looking rifts were rejected before the slightly more promising face to the W. of the deepest of them, rather E. of the summit, invited attack. 'Here we have almost Chamonix' was Lochmatter's view of the climb. Crack, and corner, and knob, with fair anchorages but little hold. In one polished corner the leader used the skull of the second man, spread-eagled on small ledges, as an extended basis of operations; the rest used the rope alone. The gully was entered and crossed by a traverse at about two-thirds of the height. Probably it would have been better to follow it throughout. The top must have been reached about 10 to 10.30, but the only watch was broken. At first the S. ridge, leading to a deep notch and a slightly lower peak, was followed on the descent. This soon proved impossible, and turning over on to its W. face a varied but fairly short descent led to the hanging glacier, which the Siegfried map represents as overflowing this ridge. On one awkward shoot the whole available rope was used, doubled round a convenient excrescence. The Finster- and Unteraar glaciers were followed to the Hospice about 4.30 p.m. The peak would seem to offer no easy route, unless the big couloir in its N. face prove more practicable. A climb from the notch in the S. ridge looked very problematical. The W. face is composed of slabs. The E. ridge is cut off and the S. face is certainly difficult.

TYNDALLHORN.—Point 3,107 m.=10,194 ft., on the ridge parting the Ober- from the Unteraar glacier. The name has been suggested to harmonise with the names of other early glacier explorers also commemorated in this range. Leaving the Grimsel Hospice at 4 a.m. on August 5, Mr. Winthrop Young with Joseph Lochmatter reached the little glacier N.E. of the peak at 6.30. Skirting the ice and slabs on the west, they soon struck up the broken rocks of the north arête and reached the first conspicuous summit (point 2,806 m., S.) at 7. The climbing here became interesting. The next big tower, or rather step, was turned on the right, the third on the left; other smaller ones were taken direct. Two-thirds of the way up came the great difficulty, one apparent also from below, a huge almost sheer rise in the ridge, unassailable direct. An attempt was first made to traverse up and round it on the right (W.). This had to be abandoned, not from any great difficulty but from the dangerously rotten nature of the rock. The whole outer skin, as it were, is disintegrated to a depth of many feet and remains delicately poised against the hard core. The leader traversing gingerly out on three different levels was each time sent hurriedly back by a 'ruk, ruk' from far above and below him on the face. Finally the less

inviting left flank was preferred. A hundred feet of polished but fortunately cracked slab, at a fairly high angle, abutted on a sheer face, cleft by one unpromising-looking sixty-foot chimney. To secure anchorage the second man had to fix his axe into the crack between the upper edge of the slab and the face, and with one knee hooked round it, like the pommel of a side-saddle, pay out the rope. The chimney was not easy. The summit was gained by the comparatively simple crags on its N.W. face (9 A.M., 5 hrs.). The panorama from here is magnificent. Leaving the newly erected cairn at 10.30, and travelling fast, the whole ridge was followed eastwards to the Hinter Zinkenstock (3,042 m.)—broken but not uninteresting going—reached at 11.25. Mist and rain commencing, this point was left at 11.40, and the ridge followed, descending N.E., in order to reach the *Desorstock* (2,872 m.). Several possible points were crossed, but in the mist it was impossible to judge of their respective heights. Return was made by circling round the head of the small glacier on the crest, and crossing the next ridge back to the glacier of the morning. With the help of glissades the Unteraar glacier was reached at 2.45, and the superfluous half-hour of ascent to the Dollfus Pavillon finished in a downpour (4.10 P.M., 12½ hrs.).

SCHWEINBERG \* (3,550 m.=11,647 ft.).—On August 19 Messrs. J. J. Withers and R. J. G. Mayor, with the guides Adolf Andenmatten and Andreas Anthamatten, both of Saas, left the Eggishorn Hotel at 3.50 A.M., and reaching the Aletsch glacier by the ordinary path crossed it to its right bank to a point immediately E. of the Olmenhorn (6.30 A.M.). After a ¼-hr. wait they mounted a broad snowy couloir coming down from the Olmenhorn for about 150 ft., and then turned N., mounting grass and stone slopes, gradually bearing round the buttress which comes down N.E. Passing under the S. branch of the glacier lying N. of the Olmenhorn, where falling stones were numerous, they reached a ridge between the N. and S. branches of the glacier last mentioned at 7.30 A.M. Leaving this point at 8 A.M. they climbed the same ridge to its top in 20 min., and crossed snow to the foot of a great gully well shown on the Siegfried map S. of point 3,550 m. The rocks on the N. side of this couloir were climbed without difficulty to a depression on the main ridge at the head of the couloir (11 A.M.). Here the party found Mr. Yeld's note showing he crossed the ridge on August 18, 1899, at this point. The party then climbed the small peak climbed by Mr. Yeld immediately to the N., and saw in front of them further along the ridge point 3,550 m., a very sharp rocky peak which looked particularly smooth and difficult. After leaving Mr. Yeld's peak the arête was followed, and soon changed from loose stones to good but exceedingly steep rock. Obstacles were turned on the W. side, and after a short but very interesting climb the summit was reached at 12.10 P.M. The top was left at

\* *The Bernese Oberland*, G. Hasler, vol. i., 'no information save a mention in S. A. C. J. xxxiii. p. 183.'

12.45 P.M., and Mr. Yeld's pass reached at 1.45 P.M. Substantially the same route as that used in the ascent was followed, and the Eggishorn reached after many halts at 6.45 P.M. The Bernese Oberland 'Climbers' Guide' (vol. i. p. 110) places Mr. Yeld's pass above mentioned, which he named the Dreieckjoch, between the Klein Dreieckhorn (3,648 m.) and the Schweinberg. It will be seen from the above that this is a mistake, as Mr. Yeld's pass is S. of the Schweinberg (though Mr. Yeld took it to be N.).

## NORWAY.

*Justedalsbræ.*

SPERLE TO TVÆRDALSÆTER. *August 7.*—The party consisted of Messrs. E. V. Slater and C. W. Patchell, with Johannes Vigdal of Solvorn as guide. From Sperle to Bakkedalseter takes about 2¾ hrs. easy walking. Bakkedal, W. of the Sæter, had been visited by two of the party in 1899.\* To the N., between Bakkedal and Krondal, is another high-lying snow valley, from which the waters descend in a series of cascades on the N.E. of the Sæter. On the present occasion the snow of Røikedalsfjeld was reached by the broad rib or shoulder which forms the N. side of Bakkedal proper. The col between Bakkedal and Tunsbergdal was reached from the Sæter in about 4 hrs., including halts, and a descent made in 1 hr. more to the small and partially ice-bound tarn shown on the Amtskart, which discharges its waters down the high rock wall bounding the great Tunsbergdalsbræ on the E. After some search a route was discovered leading down a break in the containing cliffs to the S. of the waterfall, and the dry ice of the glacier was followed to Tverdalsseter in 4½ hrs., including halts. The whole expedition took some 12½ hrs.

TVÆRDALSÆTER TO SPERLE, VIA VASDAL.—The same party returned on August 8 by the above route. They left the Sæter at 8.45, and crossed the snout of Tunsbergdalsbræ to its E. side. A tedious scramble up moraine-covered slabs and through scrub led to a high valley, rich in grass, but without any traces of cattle or goats. At its head were two or three small ice-bound lakes. The slopes of the Vasdalsbræ are gentle, but there were many crevasses. An attempt to get down too soon into Vasdal failed, and the party had to reascend and follow the snow on the S. side of the valley until they were right above the Sæter, to which it was then easy to descend from the S.W. (7½ hrs. from Tverdalsseter). About 2 hrs. more were spent in walking down the beautiful Vasdal to Sperle, which was reached at 6.30 P.M.

Tunsbergdalsbræ, the longest glacier in Norway, deserves to be better known. Tverdalsseter is quite clean, and either of the above routes makes a far more interesting approach to it from Justedal than the long walk up the Leirdal from Alsmo.

NÆSDAL TO JUSTEDAL, VIA HAUGENAASE. *August 12.*—There was nothing new about this crossing except the descent, but it is

\* A. J. vol. xx. p. 47.

worth noting that for a party pressed for time or driven off the Bræ by bad weather it is perfectly simple to come down the long buttress of Haugenaase direct to Haugenaase Sæter. From here a good path leads to the road in Krondal, just above its junction with the main valley. Time from Næsdal to Sperle, ascending the Tyveskar and descending over Haugenaase, about 14 hrs. actual walking. There is now no sleeping accommodation at the 'Restaurant' in Næsdal, but clean beds are to be had at the house of Anders Næsdal, the most southern of the farms. If a little money could be spent in cutting the trees and making a track in the lower portion of the Tyveskar, this would give an excellent approach to the Justedalsbræ from Nordtjord. The views during the ascent are most magnificent, far surpassing those in the adjacent Kvandal and Bodal.

*Söndmöre.*

DE TRE SÖSTRE (about 4,200 ft.).—The two highest of these peaks, which lie S. of the Jönshorn and form such a conspicuous feature in the scenery of the Hjørundfjord from Lille Standal, were ascended from Kolaas on September 5 by Messrs. E. V. Slater and C. W. Patchell. Leaving Kolaas at 6, they crossed the high southern Romedalskar between Kolaastind and Romedalshorn to the highest sæter in Lille Standal. From there they went up steep but easy ground on the N. side of Lille Standal, and crossing a broad gully reached a conspicuous gap in the ridge immediately under and to the W. of the lowest of the three peaks. The second (or central) peak presents a most extraordinary appearance from this point, and the rock scenery generally is equal to anything in Söndmöre. A traverse over snow and easy rocks led round the double-headed gully dividing the central from the third and highest 'sister' to a point on the arête of the former from which it was easy by another shorter traverse to the left to gain the glacier under the central peak. The final rocks were unexpectedly simple, though in places the arête was very narrow, and the central top was reached at 12.30. The glacier again provided a plain route to the highest and most northerly point, which was reached, after a halt of 35 min., at 1.45. The descent was made by nearly the same route, but time was saved in Lille Standal by contouring round the head of the valley under the rocks of the Romedalshorn and joining the morning's route close below the tarn under Romedalskar. The whole expedition from Kolaas took 18½ hrs., of which 2½ were spent in halts. The easiest way of getting at this most fantastic mountain is undoubtedly from the farm in Lille Standal, which can be reached by boat or steamer, but where no accommodation is to be had. The route from Kolaas is long and laborious, owing to the distance, the height and steepness of Romedalskar, and the détour necessary in order to get at the accessible N.E. side of the mountain. From the Hjørundfjord, on the other hand, the three ridges, with their corresponding valleys,

will be found to provide direct and practicable routes to each of the three summits.

**SÆTRETINDERNE.**\*—The easy and obvious way to the highest point of this mountain from the glacier in Fladdal was found by the same party on September 6. Favoured by fine weather they were able to avoid all the difficulties caused by fog to Mr. Raeburn's party, who made the first ascent in 1908, and thus reached the top from Kolaas in something under 4 hrs.' actual going. The view, especially of the whole glacier basin of Kolaastind, exactly opposite, flanked by its wild arêtes and crowned by its tower-like summit, is full of interest and beauty.

### LOFOTEN, ARCTIC NORWAY.

The party consisted of Professor J. N. Collie, Dr. J. Collier, Messrs. H. Woolley, E. C. C. Baly, W. C., W. E., and A. M. Slingsby.

**THE HIGHEST LANGSTRANDTIND.** *July 29.*—Messrs. Collie, Collier, Woolley, and W. C. Slingsby started with the intention of exploring the recesses of the wild, deep, narrow, and hitherto nameless glacier-filled gorge above their camp at Reknæs, which they venture to call the Trangedal, then to make their way, if possible, up a steep gully on to a high-lying glacier, out of which spring several sharp peaks; to take their pick of these, to cross a high glacier pass, and to descend to well-known ground on the Kjændalsbræ, and from thence through Kjændal to camp.

This was satisfactorily accomplished, and it proved to be an exceptionally interesting and beautiful expedition. The portal through which the Trangedal is entered is very grand. On each side it is guarded by an all but perpendicular mountain, and the tongue of the glacier terminates at the head of a wild gorge, a mighty Piers Ghyll. Resisting with difficulty the temptation to climb up a steep ribbon of snow to a narrow and deep gap in the mountain wall, and through it to make a most sporting glacier pass, the party made their way to a high corner of the glacier, out of which a steep and broad gully led to higher regions. A sharply tilted snow bridge, which a few weeks later entirely disappeared, formed the only available route over a deep bergschrund. A pleasant climb, partly on rock, partly on snow, led them up to the top of one of the Langstrandtinder, where Collie and Woolley recognised a cairn which they had erected a few years previously.

The views of Rulten, the Hegraftinder, and of scores of pointed and still unclimbed peaks of Lofoten, the beautiful fjords, the wide Arctic Ocean, and the far distant black peaks and snow domes on the mainland of Norway and Sweden were indescribably grand, and no doubt the cameras did their duty well and nobly.

A second peak was climbed very pleasantly, and, to the surprise of the builders, a cairn was discovered on its rugged summit. A

\* A. J. vol. xxii. p. 72; N. T. F. *Aarbog*, 1904, p. 103.

little further N.E. a magnificent but terribly forbidding aiguille rose precipitously out of the snows. Little hope of being able to climb this was either felt or expressed, as three of the party well knew its wholly inaccessible N.E. face, that which is well seen from Digermulkollen. A steep descent was then made down a gully, where stones were loose and troublesome, to a little glacier visible from the camp. Here the party made their way merrily towards a broad *skar* and the Kjændalsbræ. Suddenly the leader gave a chuckle, put a pretty curve on the rope, and pointed upwards. Nature, as usual, was kind; a most convenient snow gully, tucked nicely away in a corner, was revealed and promised a feasible route far up into the heart of the mountain. The gully led to the base of a mountain wall, at each end of which was a high crag. One of them was the top. Which? There was no time for both. Fortunately the northern one was chosen. After 200 ft. of difficult rock a snow wreath was reached. This led easily to the summit, the highest and undoubtedly the grandest of the Langstrandtinder. A large stone was dropped over the edge. After a fall of over 1,000 ft. it struck the Kjændalsbræ at least 30 ft. beyond its guardian bergschrund. The views, if possible, were more beautiful than ever. After carefully descending to the snow a glissade was taken almost to the pass, and a merry descent was made by the Kjændalsbræ and the grand gorge below, and in the early morning the party was welcomed by the two ladies who honoured the camp with their company as well as by the ever trusty Kristian, who soon supplied a well-earned meal. This was a royal day.

KJÆNDALS NÆBBE. August 5.—J. N. Collie, E. C. C. Baly, and W. C. and A. M. Slingsby. This remarkably fine aiguille, which so often plays hide and seek among the scudding clouds, beckoned the party both last year and this so persistently that its invitation could no longer be ignored.

Up through the glen of Kjændal, away over its ice to the pure snows, and after a steep ascent up hard névé, a deep gap was reached on the N.W. side of the peak. A direct ascent being impracticable, the party climbed a little way down a chimney leading with horrible pitches towards the Trangedal. Then a traverse was made on the S.S.W. side. The climbing was of the very best Chamouni aiguille type—up, down, through, over, under, and along all sorts of awkward places. The last 150 or 200 ft. were terrible to look up at, and as to climbing them, it was clearly out of the question. A few small cairns were built here and there, merely to record a failure. Mightily crestfallen the party slowly wormed their way back by the ledges, chimneys, letter boxes, and edges to the gap. The steep snow was carefully descended, and when the thoughts of most of the party dwelt on loaves and fishes below, Collie proposed that an attempt should be made on the E. side.

The glacier was soon traversed and rocks were reached. For 150 ft. all went well; then came the usual walls. Wriggling like an eel the leader got up the corner of a steeply tilted 100-ft. slab and a rock wall, and then drew the rest up. Good but easy climbing

ensued for a short time. Then came a series of horrid slabs, like books on an untidy bookshelf. Here was much shoving up and a corresponding pulling. A brilliant piece of work was done by Morris Slingsby up the edge of a huge slab. On the top of this was a ledge about a foot square. Above the ledge was a bulging rounded rock, the top of which was some 9 ft. or 10 ft. above the ledge. Over this rock was the way, or nowhere else. Collie stood on the ledge; two others, wedged more or less insecurely, held him in. Morris then climbed on to Collie's shoulders, and, thanks to much recent practice in gymnastics, he managed to get over the obstacle. Little pitches and steep snow led to the top. Few mountains have such a summit as Kjendals Næbbe. It is the northern portal of the Trangedal, out of which it springs with a superb precipice. The rock upon which the cairn was erected overhangs this precipice, and it was a gruesome place to stand upon and to look over. On the descent, by means of some clever engineering, hitches were made with the rope, which enabled the last man to come down with relative ease. It was again early morn when the party got down to camp, and were reproved by the would-be sleepers for what was thought to be an unseemly manifestation of exuberant animal spirits.

Both the east and the west Rulten peaks were reascended by some of the party, with but slight alterations from the routes taken in 1903. The glacier in Eiderraaddal was revisited. Attempts were made on two fine mountains, but all in vain, as the bad weather would not permit of success, and finally the party were driven south to lovely Moskenæsö.

OLSTIND. August 17.—Messrs. Collie, Woolley, Baly, and W. C., W. E., and A. M. Slingsby. On the arrival of the party at Reine, this fine peak had been pointed out by Herr Harald Sverdrup, who said that on several occasions its summit had been proved to be inaccessible. This strong recommendation naturally made the party wish to try the ascent. Herr Sverdrup, who is an excellent sportsman, was invited to join in the expedition, but, much though he would have liked to do so, he was prevented by other engagements.

The party rowed in Woolley's beautiful boat from their camp at Engelsnæs—Angel's Promontory—across the mouth of the Kirke fjord to the foot of the mountain. The south face consists principally of one gigantic slab of rock, capped by grass-flecked crags. Across this slab is one ledge, steep in some parts, but inclining only gently upwards in others, towards the east. It may be continuous, or possibly it is broken off in two places. A steep chimney, in which are at least two bad pitches, descends from the western end of this ledge. Clearly this sporting route was the one to be tried. After mounting steep slopes, where the Norse haymakers were busy at work with their sickles, the party reached what seemed to be the most hopeful place to climb up the crags and into the chimney, the bottom of the latter apparently being guarded by an unclimbable slab. On these thirsty crags 5½ hrs.

were spent, the climbing becoming more difficult as height was made. The fact that the haymakers far down below were constantly looking up was anything but reassuring. Well do the party remember an old rowan tree in a gully, and the corner above it, nor do they forget the two great slabs where the leader was shoved up by a man who himself was supported by two others. All to no purpose. A retreat was ordered. When halfway down, a traverse was made towards the chimney above the great slab, and, though the chimney itself seemed to offer no road upwards, to the surprise of all an easy way down at the edge of the slab was discovered to the grass slopes. After lunch the party turned towards the mouth of a great central corrie. At the bottom of this was a huge impracticable pitch 200 ft. in height. This was turned by climbing up a grass- and birch-covered slope, from which a steep strip of grass between slabs of rock led to a flattish ledge, which dwindled to a sensational narrowness, and a sharp corner round which was the floor of the corrie. Interesting climbing succeeded; a great ghyll was ascended, and without further difficulty the top was reached. In addition to building a cairn a fire was made of the peat which, oddly enough, was found on the summit.

**KLOKKETIND. TWO LOWER PEAKS.** *August 19.*—Messrs. Collie, Woolley, Baly, and W. C., W. E., and A. M. Slingsby. This mountain was attempted from the north. By traversing along two wide ledges a great gully was reached. This mostly consisted of steep hard snow, and it led the party to a narrow gap visible from Reine. They then turned up the eastern ridge, and were pulled up by a horrid-looking slab and crag above. One of the two youngsters climbed this brilliantly, and even with the rope above them the others did not find it easy. A second difficulty occurred on the top of the first crag, a slab without holds, sloping two ways, steeply upwards, and also slightly down from the crag on the face of which it lay. It was a horrid place, but was safely climbed. Interesting rather than difficult climbing led to a little peak, then to a second. Beyond this was a square 'cut-off,' and the highest peak stood up across this rubicon, and very untempting it appeared. It will hardly do to say that it could not be climbed from here, but prudence would not allow an attempt to be made on this occasion.

The descent needed great care and considerable engineering skill.

**HERMANSTIND AND THE WESTERN PEAK OF HERMANDALTIND.** *August 21.*—The same party climbed the Hermansdaltind, which had been ascended by three of them in 1903. On a visit to the remote and romantic Hermansdal the owner of the valley pointed out a grand peak as being the highest in the island—in fact, the Hermansdaltind. This, however, was not the case, as the top of that noble mountain is not visible from the valley after which it takes its name. Clearly, then, the peak overshadowing Hermansdal should be called the Hermanstind, and to make the name doubly appropriate it was ascended by Hermann Woolley and the present writer, an easy matter when ascending the great peak. The western

peak of the Hermansdaltind, which consists of magnificent crags, was later climbed by A. M. and W. C. Slingsby.

THE MITRE. BISKOPS HUE. August 22.—Messrs. Collie, Baly, and W. C., W. E., and A. M. Slingsby. Across the Bunæs Fjord, from the camp on the promontory, rose a remarkable couple of aiguilles, which usually were spoken of as the Dru and the Little Dru, to which, indeed, they bear a striking resemblance. Though they possessed no Norsk names, the higher one especially invited a closer acquaintance. Kristian ferried the party over the fjord, and a most beautiful cattle and goat track led to the back of the peak. The climb began at the very top of a pass leading over to Hermansdal, and it proved to be a most excellent rock-climb, of ledge and face character, where there were many interesting pitches, and where much combined climbing was necessary. A delightful uncertainty as to the result was kept up to the very last, and there was not a dull yard to be found on the mountain. The inhabitants of the farms below, who were cutting grass on the mountain-sides, responded heartily to the jödels which were indulged in when the top was reached. Some of the party considered this to be the best expedition which was undertaken this summer in Lofoten.

#### THE CANADIAN ROCKIES.

Miss Gertrude E. Benham writes as follows from Glacier House, Glacier, British Columbia, September 28, 1904:—

‘On July 18 I left Lake Louise Chalet and walked over to Moraine Lake, in the Valley of the Ten Peaks, with Christian Kaufmann, intending to camp there for some days, and, if possible, make the ascent of some of the ten peaks which had not yet been climbed. The next morning we started about 5 for Hiji, or No. 1, the ten peaks being named after the Indian numerals 1 to 10. In this country, where nearly all the peaks are named after persons, it is a relief to find a few with other names, but the quaint name of Hiji has since been changed to Mount Fay, although there was a smaller peak already named after Professor Fay. We scrambled through bushes and muskeg to the moraine of the glacier, and then turned to the left over snow slopes to the foot of a steep gully between Nos. 3 and 4, up which we climbed, partly on snow and partly on the rocks at the left. Having reached the top of the pass, we made a short halt for breakfast, and then continued our way over a vast snowfield surrounded by peaks except where it sloped down to Prospectors Valley. We soon climbed up on to the slope of one of the peaks on our left, but after traversing the slope for a short time we crossed a ridge, and then saw that the peak we took to be Hiji, and our intended goal, was far across the snow field. Accordingly we scrambled down some rather steep rocks and snow till we regained the level, and trudged on towards a snow slope on the peak, where ascent seemed possible, but which we found extremely unpleasant, as the snow was soft, and towards the top were many loose stones, which rolled down at the least touch. The

view from the ridge was very interesting. We could see into Consolation Valley and into a valley beyond where there was a beautiful lake, similar to Lake Louise, but with a curious-looking dam of stones and rocks across one end. We hurried as fast as we could along the ridge and back, as we feared night might come before we had descended the steep gully on our homeward way. As we passed by Mr. Wilcox's camp, just before reaching our own, we described to him where we had been. I then found that we had not been up Hiji, but on a nameless peak, and not one of the ten. The next morning we again started to attempt Hiji. We climbed again up the steep gully, and tramped over the snow field, but this time kept more to the left, and succeeded in getting up the right peak. The weather was perfect and the view magnificent. After staying some little time on the summit, while Christian made a 'stone-man,' we descended to the snow field, and then, as it was still early in the day, we thought we would try No. 2, which had never yet been ascended, as well. This peak was mostly rock-climbing, while No. 1 was snow, and while halting for lunch I found some little plants of saxifrage growing in the clefts of rock, which turned out to be a new variety, unknown to any of the botanists of these parts, and which has, I believe, been named after me. We reached the summit, and then descended the other side, over steep rocks and snow, down to near the pass at the head of our gully, and so back to camp. Two days after we again climbed this now familiar route, on the way to No. 6, also unascended. This time we turned to the right after reaching the top of the pass, and skirted along the base of Nos. 4 and 5 till we reached No. 6. But we found the mountain was impossible from this side, so we had to traverse over loose stones and snow till we reached the further side. The ascent was steep and near the top the rocks were so rotten that we feared they might fall at any moment. The summit is a long narrow ridge of rocks, so insecurely balanced that one scarcely dared to touch them. As we were descending we saw smoke in the valley, and feared our camp was on fire, but we found it was the forest, about ten minutes' walk from the camp, and fortunately the wind was blowing away from it; but I was afraid to sleep much that night, with the fire so near, and it was some weeks before it was finally extinguished. Another peak which I climbed by a new route was Mount Stephen. I left Lake Louise at midnight with Hans and Christian, crossed Abbott Pass down to Lake O'Hara, then skirted round Mount Odaray into Cataract Valley and up a snow slope leading to a ridge of Mount Stephen, which had not previously been ascended. This was mostly of rock of the usual rotten nature which one finds in these mountains, and we were not sure whether we might not find some impossible wall or somewhat to bar further progress. However we worked our way along slowly, and arrived at the summit about 7.30 P.M. We then hastened down by the usual route, and after taking a short sleep and rest when we got down to the level we continued our descent by lantern light, arriving at Field at 9 A.M. While camping in the

Yoho Valley I made the ascents of Mounts Gordon, Balfour, and Collie by what I believe to be new routes, as I think they had only been climbed previously from the Bow Lake side, from the accounts and maps that I have seen.

## ALPINE NOTES.

'THE ALPINE GUIDE.'—Copies of Vol. I. of the new edition of this work, price 12s. net, and of Hints and Notes, Practical and Scientific, for Travellers in the Alps' (being a new edition of the General Introduction), price 3s., can be obtained from all book-sellers, or from Messrs. Stanford, Charing Cross.

THE LIBRARY CATALOGUE is now printed, and may be obtained, bound in cloth, on application to the Assistant Secretary, 23 Savile Row. Price 3s.; postage, 4d.

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY.—W. G. Clay (1903), L. K. Meryon (1904).

TWO CORRECTIONS.—In 'A. J.,' vol. ix. p. 112, line 5, for Geo. S. Foster read G. E. Foster. In 'A. J.,' vol. xxii. p. 219, line 22, for E. G. Foster read G. E. Foster.

TO SKI-RUNNERS.—Mr. W. R. Rickmers will be in Adelboden from January 1, 1905, to February 1, and hopes that many members or their friends (also ladies) will take advantage of his offer to teach them ski-ing. Terms, none; conditions, enthusiasm and discipline.

From February 10 to 29 Mr. Rickmers will be found at Igls, above Innsbruck, and during the latter part of April on the Feldberg, Black Forest.

Please address: W. R. Rickmers, Radolfzell, Baden, Germany.

PROJECTED RAILWAY FROM TURIN TO MARTIGNY.—We take the following from the 'Geographical Journal' of October 1904:—'The "Tour du Monde" of June 11 last sketches this new railway project, which it considers likely to be put into execution before long. The line would have a total length of 157 kilometres (97½ English miles), with a maximum gradient of one in twenty, while the traction would be electric, power for this purpose being supplied by waterfalls. Breaking off from the line connecting Modane with Turin, the new line would cross the plains of the Canavese to Pont, entering the valley of the Orco and passing by a tunnel under the Paradis *massif*; then, mounting halfway up the left flank of the Aosta valley, it would pass Morgex and Courmayeur, whence, by tunnel under the Col de Ferret, it would run in Swiss territory along the Dranse to Martigny. The new line, it is pointed out, would have the advantage over the Mont Cenis, St. Gothard, and Simplon lines as the shortest route between North-Western Italy and the countries of Central Europe.'

THE WETTERHORN SUSPENDED RAILWAY.—We are indebted to the 'Railway Magazine' of October 1904 for the following notice:—'The new "Wetterhorn Railway" may be said to differ from