

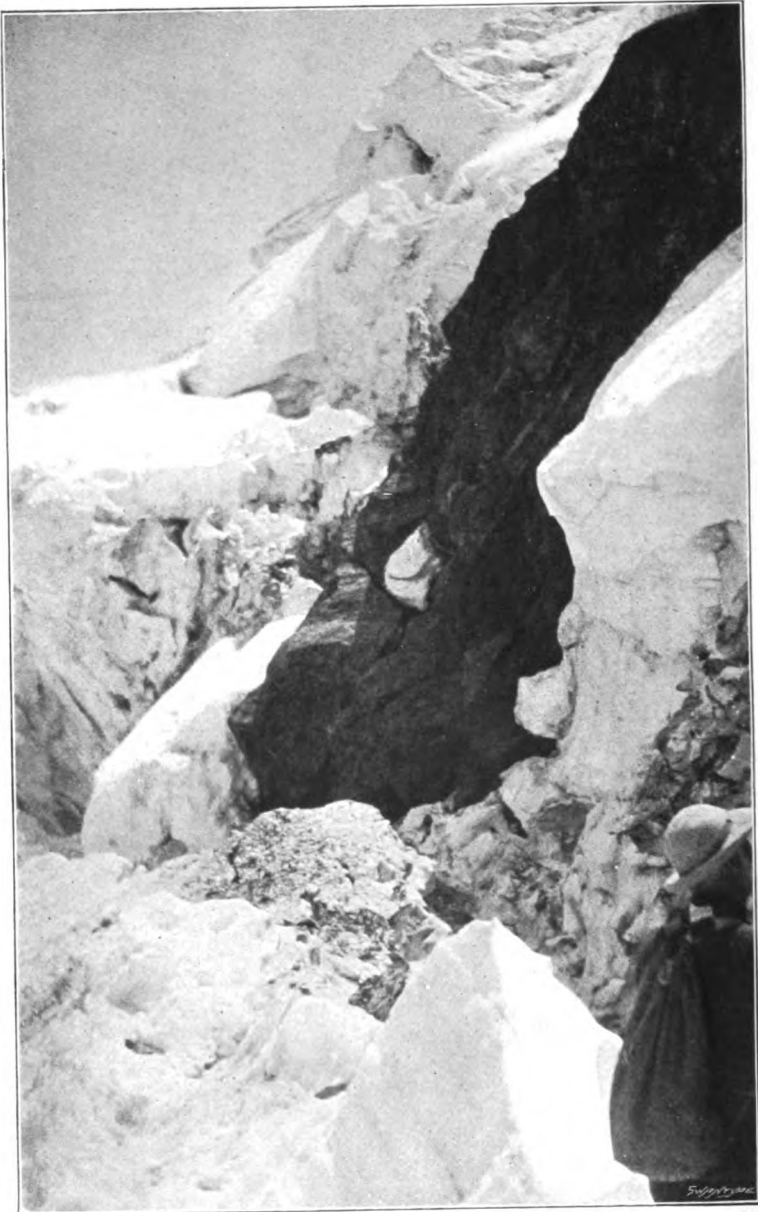
without warning, a spot of light shone on the darksea horizon, grew to an arch, and in a few moments the sun's orb was floating in the sky. To the sailors on the *Ægean* it had not yet risen, and it was some minutes before a path of light flashed across the waters to Eubœa. Then the long backbone of the great island stood out with all its heights and hollows blue against the golden east, throwing its clear-cut shadow on the strait that divides it from the mainland. The plains of Bœotia next took the day; the mists rose from its lakes, and the rivers flashed out as silver threads across its broad fields. On the northern horizon, beyond the Gulf of Volo, Pelion, Olympus, and even distant Athos took shape as grey phantoms. Still the shores of the Gulf of Corinth were slow to awaken. Night hung reluctantly over the Adriatic long after Attica was in broad day. But at last the veil of twilight was lifted everywhere; hills and valleys, cities and harbours stood out clear and distinct in local detail and colour. I shall not attempt a catalogue of the famous sites in view. I had had that rare enjoyment a most successful sunrise, worth a night in the open, and worthy of the Poets' Mountain.

SOME PASSES FROM THE GÖSCHENER ALP AND FROM THE
WINDEGG HUT.

By LEGH S. POWELL.

IN this article I propose to give some of my experiences, first, in crossing the Winterberg range to the N. of the Triftlimmi; secondly, in traversing by the direct route of the Untere Gletschjoch from the Göschener Alp to the upper part of the Furka road; lastly, in making the passage of the Gwächtenlimmi from the Windegg Club hut to Handegg.

For many years past I have been attracted by the fascinating mountain ranges which bound the Göschenenthal on the W. and S., and little by little, as opportunity offered, I have increased my familiarity with them. My interest has gradually deepened into a wish to ascertain experimentally which of the somewhat formidable mountain routes from the Göschener Alp to the Triftthal (and to Meiringen) was, on the whole, the quickest, safest, and generally most serviceable. The reply to this query is not a little difficult to state in brief, precise terms. Much depends on the condition of the mountains, on the weather, and on the party making the expedition. Besides a safe and easy way is not always the quickest. Without doubt the safest and easiest mountain



Frank Gare, photo.

Swan Electric Engraving Co.

FOOT OF THE MAASPLANKJOCH.

route out of the valley to Meiringen is by the indirect way of the Sustenlimmi to Stein, and thence down the Gadmenthal, but it is a question if at all times it would be the quickest.

Of direct passes to the Triftthal the Federal map indicates but one, the Maasplankjoch, and this, according to Herr Seelig's experience* and my own, is marked in the wrong position. The pass, which is seen in the illustration opposite p. 425, lies much nearer to the Maasplankstock than is gathered from an inspection of the map. It was my intention to cross this pass last summer, and accordingly on July 20 I set out from the Göschener Alp with Messrs. Frank Gare and R. Todhunter to prospect the way, with a view to making the passage at a later date. On approaching the couloir which Herr Seelig clearly specifies in his account in the 'Jahrbuch' we were faced by a cliff, some 15 or 20 ft. in height, which it was not in our power to scale.† Above the cliff the rocks of the couloir appeared practicable enough. It seemed to us probable that what has occurred in so many other parts has taken place, viz. a considerable fall in the level of the glacier of late years, leaving bare fresh surfaces of rock, which are often difficult or impossible to climb. We were dissuaded from attempting to scale the cliff not only by its forbidding aspect but by a shower of stones from the couloir immediately above our heads, which necessitated our speedily shifting our position, whilst we were still discussing what steps it was possible to take in order to reach the col. On the S. side of the couloir (Herr Seelig climbed it on the N. side) was a bergschrund which, no doubt, might have been surmounted with a good deal of step-cutting, whilst above the steep snow the rocks appeared comparatively easy. Had it been necessary a way might doubtless have been forced at this point. Clearly, however, the pass did not, under the conditions in which we found it, afford a convenient passage to the Trift glacier, especially for those weighted with rucksacks, and the intention to reach the Triftthal by this route was therefore abandoned.

To the S. of the Maasplankjoch the range does not show signs of affording an easy passage. The climb up the rocks as far as the nameless point 3,357 m., would, at any spot chosen, be longer and steeper than that which we attempted, whilst an excursion made still further to the S. on another

* *S.A.-C. Jahrbuch*, vol. xxiii. 1887-8.

† For the photographs used to illustrate this article I am indebted to Mr. Frank Gare.



Frank Gare, photo.

Swan Electric Engraving Co.

THE NORTH MAASPLANKJOCH
FROM THE MAASPLANK FIRN.

occasion did not result in the disclosure of a practicable route to the ridge.

To the N. of the Maasplankstock (3,403 m.), however, is a well-defined depression, access to which is gained by a steep snow couloir, clearly seen in the annexed illustration. This pass, which I crossed in 1901 from the Trift hut to the Göschener Alp, with Heinrich Zurfluh, has been appropriately named the North Maasplankjoch.* The inclination of the slope here is without question considerable, and the couloir is long. The pass should certainly not be attempted except in fine weather and with the snow in good order. But, given favourable conditions, it has some unique points in its favour compared with other passages to the Triftthal. It is a very direct route from the Göschener Alp to the Trift hut, and, as the approach to the couloir on either side is exceptionally easy, it follows that the time required to cross the pass is short. In this respect the route is not likely to be beaten by any other. On the occasion when I crossed it the time occupied from the hut to the Hotel Dammagletscher, on the Göschener Alp, was just under 6 hrs., inclusive of a few short halts. Moreover the couloir, being broad, is especially free from falling stones, and the usual crevasse difficulty at the foot is not likely to be serious, as the supply of snow above is ample. The pass is one that may be safely crossed by the steady, reliable mountaineer, but it is certainly not to be recommended to the inexperienced tourist.

North of the pass just noticed comes the Thierberggrat, leading to the two highest summits of the Hinter Thierberge. I have climbed to the crest of this ridge, with Zurfluh, from the Triftthal, and followed it almost the whole way from near the North Maasplankjoch to the foot of point 3,440 m. of the Hinter Thierberge, the object being to see, by a close inspection, if there is a convenient way down the rocks on the side of the Göschenenthal. It happens that at this part of the range the rocks are less high than at almost any other. They are, however, no less steep on the E. side, and although a descent to the Kehlen glacier might doubtless have been effected at more points than one, had it been necessary, still no obviously satisfactory route, such as I was seeking, could we discover.

Between the points 3,440 m. and 3,446 m. of the Hinter Thierberge descents have been forced down the rocks to the Göschenenthal at two places to my knowledge. One of the

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xx. p. 539.

passages has been recorded by Messrs. Hope and Kirkpatrick.* Their route lay for the most part by the couloir between these two summits. The other passage is unrecorded. It was effected in the summer of 1892 by a party of English climbers, who, starting from the Trift hut, made their way to point 8,446 m., intending to follow the ridge towards the N. to point 8,419 m., and thence down to the Kehlenjoch, and thus to reach the Göschener Alp. The ridge connecting these points, however, proved too rough, and a somewhat adventurous descent was accordingly made straight down the rocks to the Kehlen glacier. The first of these passages is doubtless the easier, but neither, I presume, comes within the definition of a recommendable pass.

It is to the Thierberglimmi, locally known as the Kehlenjoch, that we must direct our steps in order to most easily reach the crest of the range separating the Göschenenthal from the Trifftal. There is no need to say more than a word or two about the way to the pass from the former valley, since it is a not unfrequently traversed 'Baedeker passage' to Stein, and has been described elsewhere. It is as well to point out, however, that the steep head of the Kehlen glacier may at times present considerable ice difficulty, which, late in the season, may easily render the passage impracticable. On the occasion of my crossing it from the Windegg hut on August 22, 1902, with Mr. Walter Larden there was no way of getting across a crevasse, which cut the glacier from side to side, but by a flying leap to the further snowy edge, which lay several feet below. Last summer (July 25), when I again crossed the pass to the Windegg hut with Messrs. Gare and Todhunter, the glacier had a completely altered appearance at apparently the same spot. There was now a huge chasm which stretched right across the glacier. Fortunately for us at the narrower end (W.), where the distance was about 15 ft., there was a connecting strip of ice, which was so sharp that some of us, for prudence sake, took it saddlewise.

Arrived at the summit of the Kehlenjoch, two practicable courses are open for reaching the Trifftal. One is by a rather circuitous route over the Stein glacier to the pass of the Zwischen Thierbergen and thence down the N. section of the Thierberg glacier.

This route has been followed three times to my knowledge, the first time by Herr A. Hoffman Burkhardt in 1864,† the

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xx. p. 47.

† *S.A.-C. Jahrbuch*, vol. ii. pp. 81 and 59-60.

second by Dr. Otto Lindt in 1865 * (who took 3 hrs. from the Kehlenjoch to the Windegg), the third by Dr. Oskar Schar, of Basel, who with others made the transit from the Göschener Alp to the Windegg hut on August 5, 1903. Dr. Schar has kindly sent me some interesting particulars of his expedition, from which I append the following: It had been the intention of the party to climb point 3,419 m. of the Hinter Thierberge, and thence to proceed along the ridge to point 3,446 m., and thus to reach the Trift hut. The former summit was duly reached, but the passage along the ridge not promising to be practicable the party returned by the way they had come and followed the ridge to point 3,343 m. From this position it was hoped that a descent might be effected directly to the N.E. to the Zwischen Thierbergen, but after a descent of 50 to 100 m. in this direction the way proved impracticable by reason of the steepness of the ice and it became necessary to make a very considerable circuit over the Stein glacier to join the ordinary route from the Stein Alp to the Zwischen Thierbergen. Thence to the summit of this pass was an ascent estimated at 150 to 200 m.

When taken the best way, *i.e.* by descending the Stein glacier directly from the Kehlenjoch to join the way from Stein to the Zwischen Thierbergen, this route to the Windegg is probably rather shorter and easier than that about to be noticed, but it entails a considerable descent with subsequent ascent.

The other route, † which I have twice followed, involves an easy ascent over snow of about half an hour from the Kehlenjoch to the upper end of the arête, which, starting a little to the N. of the Hinter Thierberg summit, 3,419 m., descends to the W. and divides the Thierberg glacier into its N. and S. sections. This arête, the upper part of which is snow, succeeded by a ridge of rocks, affords safe but rather tedious means of reaching the N. section of the glacier near its junction with the southern section. In ascending the arête in 1902 Larden and I followed the snowy portion, which was in good condition, the whole way along the edge; but in descending that part last summer with Gare and Todhunter we preferred, as the snow was inclined to be icy, to take the safer way by the irregular line of rocks lying a little way below the snow ridge on the S. side. This finally led us back to the upper end of the rocky portion of the arête. From

* *S.A.-C. Jahrbuch*, vol. iii. pp. 143, 145.

† *Alpine Journal*, vol. xxi. p. 273.

the spot where the Thierberg glacier is reached to the Trift glacier the way is plain and free from difficulty. Time, however, may be saved, and much discomfort from loose stones avoided, by keeping out of the bed of the valley and following the grass on the N. slope, the final descent of the cliffs overlooking the Trift glacier by grass terraces being quite a simple matter.

There is no question that this route affords, under normal conditions, a safe and serviceable mountain way for the average tourist (with a guide) who wishes to cross from the Göschener Alp to the Haslithal. The most difficult feature of the expedition would usually be the higher part of the Kehlen glacier, but the upper portion of the arête giving access to the Trift glacier must also be taken with care. In point of time the transit between the Göschener Alp and Imhof might be made in a long day by a smart walker, but, as the ascent to the arête cannot be conveniently made in less than 5½ hrs., and the descent to the Windegg hut takes not less than 4 hrs., exclusive of time for halts, mistakes, and delays, it is recommended that advantage be taken of the tolerably comfortable Club hut, where an ample supply of wood is always to be found, in which to spend the night.

The Untere Gletschjoch * (height about 3,150 m. = 10,330 ft.).—Most of the passages to the Urserenthal from the Göschenenthal are simple expeditions in comparison with those we have been considering. The Alpligenlücke and the Winterlücke are both frequently crossed every summer by tourists. Neither of these passes, however, leads directly to the upper part of the Urserenthal, but they descend naturally, by the Lochbergthal, to Realp; and when it is desired to go to the Furka by either of them a circuitous course is necessary, either along the Ochsen Alp to the Tiefengletscher hotel or by ascending the tributary stony glen of the Lochbergthal, which gives access to one of the tongues of the Tiefengletscher, and thence to the Furka road. Both routes involve considerable incidental ascents and descents, and there is thus room for a good and more direct mountain passage W. of the Winterstock to the Furka. Such a route is afforded by the so far unfrequented pass of the Untere Gletschjoch, which lies between the Winterstock and the Gletschhorn, and it has the advantage of being at once safe, easy, and interesting.

Before proceeding to relate my experiences in crossing the range at this part it should be mentioned that passages to the

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xv. p. 458.



VIEW OF THE WINTERBERG RANGE
FROM THE KEHLEN GLACIER.



Frank Garc. photo.

Swan Electric Engraving Co.

SUMMIT OF THE UNTERE GLETSCHJOCH
LOOKING WEST.

Tiefengletscher have been made by parties at several places to the W. of the Gletschhorn.* These, which may collectively be termed variations of the Obere Gletschjoch, lead to the upper part of the Tiefengletscher, and must not be confounded with the pass about to be described.

The first to record † an ascent of the ridge connecting the Winterstock with the Gletschhorn was Herr Carl Seelig, who in an exciting expedition with Herren A. Näf and E. Huber on June 2, 1888, reached it from the Göschenenthal apparently by ascending the N.E. arête of the Winterstock and traversing the very steep snow slope immediately below the pass. Their attempt to descend to the Tiefengletscher was foiled by their coming upon an impassable precipice, which necessitated their return to the Göschenenthal by the way they had come.

In the summer of 1891 Mr. Frank Gare and I started from the Tiefengletscher Inn, on the Furka road, to see if we could not circumvent the precipice which had stopped the Swiss party, and discover a practicable route to the pass on the S. side. We succeeded in reaching the ridge, at the lowest part, without any difficulty to speak of, in 4 hrs. Our route, after reaching the Tiefengletscher, lay along the slopes of the Winterstock, above the glacier, to a bay of steep snow, which lies at the foot of the precipitous rocks below the summits of the Winterstock. The bay of snow was then crossed to its N.W. angle, where are situated some smooth granite slabs, a few hundred feet below the pass. By a rather tortuous way over these slabs, which occupied but a few minutes, we landed on the easy sloping shelf beyond. This shelf, the lower part of which is stony, the upper snow-covered, leads up to a spot on a rocky edge overlooking a long and somewhat steep gully, which starts from the pass and descends in a slanting direction to the Tiefen glacier. The climb over this edge into the gully and the subsequent ascent of some 300 ft. of rock couloir, which brought us to the crest of the ridge, though the most difficult part of the route, were operations free from anything like real difficulty or danger.

It was not our plan on this occasion to cross the pass, but on a subsequent date we made our way to the Göschener Alp, *via* the Alpligenlücke, and on August 20, 1891, we started, after a fall of snow, to traverse it in the reverse direction.

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. i. p. 435, vol. ii. p. 92, vol. xvii. p. 442.

† *S.A.-C. Jahrbuch*, vol. xxiv. 1898-9, and *Alpine Journal*, vol. xv. p. 89.

We followed what seemed to us the best route, which I believe to be substantially the same as that taken by Herr Seelig's party above referred to. We, however, avoided the steep snow slope below the pass, which caused them so much anxiety, and followed the N.E. arête of the Winterstock to a point above the lowest part of the ridge, finally traversing less steep snow to the ridge and descending the latter to the pass. The route throughout was safe enough, but the latter part of the ascent was certainly very steep and laborious. What with the exhausting character of the rocks, the powdery snow, and heavy sacks we were no less than $7\frac{1}{4}$ hrs. in reaching the pass, or 6 hrs. without halts. On the S. side we were not troubled with fresh snow or cold, and being familiar with every inch of the way, the descent to the Tiefengletscher Inn took us but $2\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

In the summer of 1903 I again crossed the pass in the same direction, this time in company with Messrs. Walter Larden, Frank Gare, and H. W. Walker. I will not record our experiences further than to say that, taking much the same route as before, we did not find, as I had hoped, with the mountain in better condition, the climb to the ridge any less laborious than on the previous occasion. To avoid getting on to snow, which was hard and icy, we had to ascend the steep rocky slope on the E. of the snow that lies on the N. side of the col to a still greater height than before in order to reach the ridge, and the descent of the latter, now a series of small gendarmes, to the col was also a tedious affair, owing to the considerable subsidence of the snow, along which it was now impossible to walk. The time we took to reach the col from the hotel was 6 hrs. 40 min., of which about 40 min. is accounted for by halts. In our descent to the Furka road we were also unfortunate in not accomplishing the journey in reasonable time. Arrived at the tract of smooth granite slabs (see above) we were unable to discover, at or near the spot we had previously passed, a way to reach the snow beyond, owing to the level having sunk many feet since our last visit. As we were perched on a rocky bluff (which may be seen in the illustration) a good deal of time was consumed in discussing the several projects which commended themselves to the members of the party for getting out of our predicament before we finally agreed to try a long, precipitous couloir advocated by our principal cragsman, Walker. This lay towards the end of the bluff of rock on which we stood and led to the snow some 150 to 200 ft. below. The time and labour spent over this couloir and the arduous nature of the ascent

on the N. side, thwarted for the time my project of demonstrating that the Untere Gletschjoch was a useful, as distinguished from a sporting, pass for tourists bound for the Furka from the Göschener Alp, or *vice versa*.

Last summer, as a result of further examination of both the N. and S. approaches to this pass, considerable improvements in the route were disclosed. On July 23, 1904, Messrs. Gare, Todhunter, and I set out from the Göschener Alp to ascertain if the pass could not be more conveniently gained by traversing the rocks below the steep snow (or, as we then found it, ice sheet), and by climbing the rocks to the W. of this slope instead of those to its E., as on previous occasions. The rocks proved easy throughout, and at no part of the ascent was the rope needed. The time we took to strike the ridge (close to the col) was a little less than 5 hrs.' actual going. This 'time' includes fully $\frac{1}{2}$ hr. consumed in a *détour* at the outset to the bridge over the river on the plateau of the Göschener Alp, owing to that over the Damma torrent, near the hotel, having been destroyed. Without this *détour* it is safe to say that the col may be comfortably reached from the hotel in a short $4\frac{1}{2}$ hrs., excluding halts.

On the S. side of the pass, to which I made my way from the Tiefengletscher Inn some days later, I practically rediscovered the way over the smooth granite slabs between the bay of snow and the perched stone and snow-slope that Gare and I had originally found, and which we failed to find in 1903, owing to its altered appearance and to our not heeding Larden's advice to investigate the slabs at a higher level. As this point forms the key, so to speak, by which the pass may be easily reached from the S. it is worth while to indicate the route at this place in some little detail. To strike the way from above from the stone-strewn shelf it is necessary to climb a little distance up the rocks to the left (*i.e.* towards the Winterstock), and then to descend the short chimney which is continued by a long inclined crack with hardly any handhold, where, however, the latter is scarcely needed. The crack leads to slabs of rock offering no difficulty, and from these the snow at the extreme N.W. part of the bay of steep névé is readily reached. The passage from the perched shelf to the snow beneath may, by this way, be accomplished in 5 or 6 min., and it needs but a little ordinary care.

To summarise, it may be stated that this pass forms a thoroughly interesting direct route, scarce needing the use of the rope at any point, from the Göschener Alp to the Furka, and the passage may be accomplished in 8 to 9 hrs., exclusive

of halts, under normal conditions. For the information of future travellers it may be remarked that the Federal map shows the detail of the route in a very imperfect manner.

An interesting feature in the expedition is the frequent occurrence of quartz crystals along the route. In reference to crystals I may mention that on the occasion of a recent scramble in the vicinity of the S. side of the pass I lit upon an apparently unvisited mine of crystals, situated at the extreme lower end of the S.E. arête of the Gletschhorn. Here I was able in a short time to collect a pound or two of fine, well-shaped specimens, mostly of the dark variety, several of which were of two, three, or more ounces in weight. The spot is a very little distance from the shortest route across the Tiefen glacier, in proceeding from the foot of the Untere Gletschjoch to the Furka.

The Gwächtenlimmi (3,184 m.=10,447 ft.).—This is an unfrequented pass which connects Handegg, *via* the Diechthenthal, with the Triftthal. The pass has been occasionally crossed* from the Haslithal to the Trift Club hut by a circuitous route involving, first, the traversing of the main ridge to the upper part of the Sackthäli glacier, and the subsequent crossing of a gap in the rock rib connecting the Triftstöckli with the main ridge. Access is thus gained to the upper part of the Trift glacier. So far as I am aware there is no record of a passage having been effected down the Sackthäli glacier direct to the Windegg Club hut, the more natural starting point for the pass on the E. side. In 1865† Herren G. Studer and Albert Hoffmann-Burckhardt traversed the pass from Handegg and descended the Sackthäli glacier on its right, *i.e.* E., side, with the intention of crossing the Trift glacier above the great icefall to the Trift Club hut. This latter was found to be impracticable, and the party, after spending the night in the open, retraced their steps next morning to the gap above referred to, and thus reached the upper part of the Trift glacier.

In order to ascertain if there were any special difficulties in reaching the Gwächtenlimmi from the Windegg hut Gare, Todhunter and I set out on July 27 last to prospect the country. We followed the Trift glacier to a little beyond the point where the Tellenbach descends to the glacier from the Furtwang glen, and then struck up easy turf and rock slopes to our right. These led us to a ridge close to and W. of point 2,617 m. on the Federal map. A little below the crest

* *S.A.-C. Jahrbuch*, vols. iii. and v.

† *Ibid.* vol. iii.

lay a considerable plateau of open glacier (the Sackthäli glacier), fed by the extensive snows of the Steinhaushorn and the Gwächtenhorn. On the further side of this plateau, the S. arm of the glacier rises steeply to some formidable crevasses which stretch from side to side. The E. side of the glacier, *i.e.* that bounded by the Triftstöckli, appeared the most promising direction, and it was accordingly approached and ascended to an impassable crevasse. The rocks bounding the glacier at this point were, however, readily gained, and by their means the glacier was again attained above the crevasses. Hence to the col there appeared no serious obstacle.

Two days later we crossed the Gwächtenlimmi to Handegg by the route just indicated. The 'times' taken to reach the pass, exclusive of halts, were as follows:—Windegg hut to the Tellenbach, 35 min.; hence to the crest of rocks, 1 hr. 30 min.; from this point to the rocks above the crevasse, 1 hr. 25 min.; and finally to the col, 1 hr. 20 min., thus making a total of just under 5 hrs. The two last 'times' were slow going, the former owing to steps having to be cut most of the way up the steep incline of hard snow, the latter on account of the heat of the day and the tedious nature of the final snow slopes.

The view from this part of the chain of summits overlooking the Haslithal is very striking and extensive. The Finsteraarhorn appears to singular advantage, whilst nearer at hand the points of the Thierberge are an effective feature. On the side of the Haslithal the descent is very abrupt, but there are two or three feasible couloirs leading down to stony slopes and to the névé of the Diechter glacier. The broad and not very steep couloir, lined with clean granite rocks, that we selected (a few hundred feet S. of the Gwächtenhorn), gave us no particular trouble, and it is doubtless the one utilised by some previous parties. The Diechterthal is an exceptionally wild and desolate valley, possessing a number of somewhat unusual features. The sharp rocky points which line the valley on the W. rise at a very steep angle from the stream and give the appearance of a series of huge monoliths a thousand feet and over in height. Cliff-climbers in search of maiden summits will, without doubt, find several here of an exciting nature, though some of them have been scaled.* Of animal life we saw none besides chamois and a few sheep until we reached the Gelmer Alp. There is scarcely a vestige

* *S.A.-C. Jahrbuch*, vol. xxxviii. pp. 83 ff.

of a track until the lower of the two principal falls of the Diechterbach is reached; and where these falls occur the way is rather difficult to find in descending, especially at the upper one. Here we found it necessary, in order to descend to the plateau below, to traverse the E. slope at a considerable height above the stream, which flows over the abyss from a wide expanse of smooth rock surface in an unbroken sheet of clear water. Before finally emerging on to the Gelmer Alp it is necessary to pass through a tract of literally gigantic boulders. The traveller here proceeds in faith, for he can often see nothing around but the surfaces of huge rocks towering up beside him as he follows as best he can the faint track which leads him first in this direction, then in another, until at length more usual conditions again prevail.

To the wild and desolate scenes of the Diechterthal the Gelmer Alp and See appear in striking and lovely contrast. To me the spot is one of great charm and interest. It presents a scene of peculiar peace and isolation from the world of tourists, and although the lake and surrounding prospect cannot be compared with the beauty of the Oeschinen See or the Engstlen See it still possesses a multiplicity of savage rocks, snows, and unfrequented routes in its vicinity, which are attractive to some natures.

In descending to Handegg from the lake it is now necessary to avoid the direct way known as the Katzenweg, as the bridge over the Aar, which formerly existed near the hotel, was destroyed when the Grimsel post road was constructed a few years ago. We were caused much inconvenience and delay, at the end of a pretty long day, through not being aware of this fact. The proper way lies on the S. side of the Gelmer torrent.

THE VATNA JÖKULL TRAVERSED FROM N.E. TO S.W.

By J. H. WIGNER.

(Read before the Alpine Club, April 4, 1905.)

NO claim of originality can be advanced for the idea of the journey which my friend Mr. T. S. Muir and myself made in Iceland last summer. As far back as 1875 there occurs in this 'Journal' an article by Mr. Bryce upon the mountains of Iceland, and in it a sentence inferring that the party which in that year made the first crossing of the Vatna Jökull had originally contemplated making the much longer