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ALPINE ACCIDENTS IN 1905.

THERE has been once again a regrettable number of fatal accidents among the mountains during the past season, but not more than might have been anticipated from the increasing number of those who visit them, and from the very unfavourable character of the weather during a considerable part of the summer. The newspapers have been, as usual, full of accidents to gatherers of edelweiss, to 'week-enders,' and to the ever-increasing number of those who through ignorance, inexperience, or foolhardiness venture into places which, while they involve no risk to the mountaineer, are distinctly dangerous to those who have no knowledge of mountains. We are glad to say that no member of our Club has been lost to us, though several Englishmen have met with fatal accidents. The Rev. Walter Haslehurst slipped, from having insufficient nails in his boots, on a wet grass slope on the Arvirat, Melchthal, on July 28, and was killed; and Mr. William Winter whilst in company with the Rev. W. G. Edwards, A. C., slipped on an icy rock in going from the Dossenhütte to Rosenlauri on August 27, with fatal results.

THE ACCIDENT ON THE FÖLZSTEIN (HOCHSCHWAB).

An accident involving a grievous loss to Austrian and German mountaineers happened on May 7. Dr. Victor Wolf von Glanvell, Dr. L. Petritsch, and G. Stopper fell from the rocks of the Fölzstein (1,956 mètres), in the Hochschwab group, in Styria. The bodies

were found by a search party on the following day. All the three were practised and skilful climbers, especially Dr. von Glanvell. The cause of the accident is said to have been most probably a fall of stones, caused either by chamois or by the condition of the upper part of the mountain wall at the time. The Fölzstein is much resorted to by the Alpinists of Gratz for practice in rock-climbing. We heartily sympathise with our Austrian and German colleagues in the loss of so distinguished a climber as Dr. von Glanvell.*

THE ACCIDENT ON THE JUMEAUX (VALTOURNANCHE).

On July 14, at 2.30 A.M., S. Giacomo Dumontel, with his sister, the guide Cesare Meynet and the porter Luigi Maquignaz (both of Valtournanche), left the chalets of Baiettes, above Breuil, to traverse the Jumeaux. It was their intention to follow the route taken previously by S. Schintz with the same guide (C. Meynet), and if possible to descend the couloir between the Jumeaux to Prarayé. They reached the Punta Sella at 11.20. There they stayed an hour, and then went on to the Punta Giordano. Briefly, their attempt to descend the couloir between the two points failed, after costing them much time. When they regained the Punta Sella it was 5 P.M. They went on quickly by the crest that stretches towards the Becca di Guin. At the point where it is usual to turn off the ridge to descend to the Valtournanche they halted a moment, but, as the guides did not know the route to be taken, they went on. As the traverse of the Becca di Guin in the then state of the snow seemed likely to cost much time Meynet suggested to Maquignaz to examine the descent to Prarayé. It appeared not only possible but easy. They descended at first by good snow-slopes, and then, keeping obliquely to the left, by easy rocks and patches of snow and ice, along the edge of a large couloir which falls from the N. ridge of the Becca di Guin to the Za de Zan glacier. They did not see any stones fall down this couloir. At the end of the rocks a steep slope of black ice, of about 100 mètres, separated them from the bergschrund. Meynet went to the front to cut the necessary steps, while Maquignaz took the place of last man. The passage seemed likely to be difficult, if not impossible. Meynet led towards the centre of the couloir, where the bergschrund appeared to be filled with avalanche snow. Only a few steps remained to be taken to reach the edge of the crevasse, when Maquignaz was struck on the head by a large stone and killed. S. Dumontel and his sister were hurt slightly and Meynet had his thigh badly bruised. The survivors hastily moved out of range of the stones, and drew the body of Maquignaz to the level of the glacier, where they left it.

They then went leftwards towards the Tête de Roese. It was 7.15 P.M.; the accident had happened at about 7. At 8, the guide being unable to continue the descent, S. Dumontel and his sister

* *Rivista Mensile*, June 1905, p. 203.

dug a hole in the snow, and having made Meynet as comfortable as possible they waited for day.

At 5 A.M. on the 15th they continued the descent, Meynet walking very fairly well, and at noon reached Prarayé. Their sufferings from the cold had been severe. The body of Maquignaz was carried to Valtournanche on the 17th. (This account is abridged from Signor Dumontel's narrative in the 'Rivista Mensile C.A.I.' for July 1905, pp. 227-8.)

ACCIDENT ON THE BLÜMLISALP.

Three young men, named Nil, Isler, and Muralt, started from Kandersteg for the Blümlisalhorn (12,044 ft.) on July 22. When they reached the Rothornsattel Muralt declared that he did not feel well and could not go on. His two comrades at once offered to accompany him in the descent, but Muralt firmly refused the offer and thought he would rather wait until they had completed their excursion. So the two climbed to the top of the peak, and came back again after a very short rest. But Muralt, whom they had conveyed to a safe place, had vanished. They immediately searched for him all round the wild spot where they had left him, but in vain.

At length they were obliged to descend, and they made their way to the Kienthal and set on foot two search expeditions. One of these discovered the body of the missing man next day. He had fallen down a sheer 400 m. He had obviously intended to accomplish the descent alone. The recovery of the body proved difficult in the extreme.*

ACCIDENT ON THE JUNGFRAU.

Karl Hermann and Karl Geldner, both thirty-three years of age, and natives of Basel, set out on Friday, August 4, from Grindelwald to the Guggi hut (2,897 m.) for the purpose of crossing the Jungfrau to the Concordia hut on the Saturday.

They left the Guggi hut at midnight, and were observed, by means of the telescope which is placed on the Little Scheideck, at 10 o'clock on the Little Silberhorn. Then mist came on, and the change of weather, indications of which had been given early in the morning by a strong S.W. wind, followed; the storm was accompanied by a tremendous fall in the temperature. Snow fell as low as 1,600 m. and local thunderstorms continued until the Sunday evening. As no news was heard of the two tourists as late as Tuesday evening, at which time they had intended to be back in Basel again without fail, the necessary measures were taken for a search for the travellers. A rescue party, consisting of guides, friends, and relatives of the missing couple, who had set out on Thursday, were able to be recalled again soon, for at noon on that day a party who were engaged in the ascent of the Jungfrau from the N. side found, above the Silbergrat and near the Silberlücke, the

* From the *Mitteilungen des D. und Ö. Alpenvereins*, No. 15, p. 183.

pick, and 5 hours further down the body of Geldner on the Guggi Plateau, at the foot of the Schneehorn rocks. They brought the sad news to the Scheideck at 8 o'clock in the evening. Next day it snowed without ceasing, so that it was only on Saturday morning at 8 o'clock that the rescue party could set out to fetch Geldner's body (with fourteen guides and five tourists). Under very great difficulties the body was conveyed to the Scheideck on Saturday evening. Geldner bore no wounds of any kind; he was frozen to death. In his knapsack was found a supply of provisions; near him lay the axe of his comrade Hermann. The silk rope was lying about a yard from his body, torn away. No trace was to be found anywhere of Hermann himself. Owing to the large quantity of new snow it was not until Tuesday, August 15, that a second expedition could set out in search of Hermann's body. Five guides and four tourists (including the writer) left the Guggi hut at 1 o'clock in the morning, and reached the place near the Silberlücke where Geldner's pickaxe was found, at 10.30. The fine powdery snow, which was more than 3 ft. in depth, made the search practically impossible, and after descending by the same route the party returned to the Scheideck from their fruitless errand at 8 o'clock in the evening.

The two tourists undoubtedly fell victims to the weather. They were thoroughly experienced and capable Alpine climbers. Two years ago Hermann obtained with great distinction the Swiss guides' certificate (as an amateur guide). Both the lost climbers were officers in the Swiss army and members of the Basel section of the Swiss Alpine Club.

The above account is taken from the narrative by Dr. P. Mähly, of Basel—who is a member both of the Swiss and of the German and Austrian Alpine Clubs—in the 'Mitteilungen des Deutschen und Österreichischen Alpenvereins,' No. 17, September 15, 1905.

ACCIDENT ON THE BIONNASSAY GLACIER.

We take the following from 'La Montagne (Revue Mensuelle du C.A.F.)' for September 1905: Five young Germans left Geneva on August 15, 1905, to make the ascent of Mont Blanc by the Aiguille du Goûter. Overtaken by bad weather at the Pavillon de Bellevue, they spent the night there, and decided in the morning, their designs on Mont Blanc being out of the question, to search for crystals on the Bionnassay glacier. Either through ignorance of the mountains or led on by their search for crystals, they imprudently passed under the cornices of the Aiguille de Bionnassay. They were suddenly exposed to a fall of séracs. Müller and Nicolas Fuchs, who were at the head of the party, were struck and swallowed up. Two of the climbers, who were left, remained near the scene of the accident and endeavoured to lend assistance, whilst the third hurried to the Pavillon de Bellevue. Frédéric Payot, the well-known guide, who is the tenant of the Pavillon, started at once (about 11.30 A.M.), in company with three other guides. An hour later they

were joined by a fifth guide. 'It was not till after three and a half or four hours' stubborn work,' says Frédéric Payot in his report, 'that, aided by the three surviving tourists, we succeeded in dis-interring from the avalanche, from under an enormous number of ice blocks, the bodies of MM. Müller and Nicolas Fuchs.'

THE ACCIDENT NEAR THE LYSJOCH.

We take the following account of this sad accident from the narrative by Signor Alberto Ganna (certified to be exact by the companions of the lost guide) in the 'Rivista Mensile' of the Italian Alpine Club for September 1905. We have somewhat abridged the story.

On September 11, 1905, Valentino Laurent, a guide, aged fifty-nine, his son Carlo, his nephew Martino Vincent, and Francesco Favre, a porter, all of Gressoney, left their native village to pass the night at the Capanna Gnifetti. They were weather-bound at the Capanna during the 12th, and left for the Lyskamm on the morning of the 13th. They reached the summit of the Lyskamm at 11 o'clock.

There they rested about half an hour, during which time the weather was fine and calm, and then began the descent. After 2 hrs.' rather slow descent a fog assailed them. Somewhat disconcerted, but always keeping the right direction, they reached the plateau of the Lysjoch about 4 o'clock. The fog was now thicker, and they were not unanimous as to the route to be taken.

After much wandering backwards and forwards to no purpose they decided to stay where they were and to spend the night in a hole which they made in the snow. Nothing, in fact, remained for them but to stay crouching where they were, with the hope of finding the path of return on the morrow.

On the morning of the 14th the fog was still very thick and the weather bad; nevertheless they made a start. They wandered all day without knowing where they were. Towards evening, whilst it commenced to grow dark, a sudden gust of wind showed them a wall of rock, and Vincent and Favre recognised the Zumstein Spitze and the 'Crestone Rey' of the Dufour Spitze. Encouraged by this after so many hours of toil and uncertainty, Favre and Vincent decided to make for the Capanna Gnifetti to claim the help of its caretakers in rescuing Laurent père, who, exhausted with weakness and paralysed by the cold, was quite incapable of movement.

After having dug a second hole to serve the two Laurents for the night, Vincent and Favre, though they were in sorry case themselves, reached the Capanna Gnifetti at 10.30 P.M. Favre on his arrival took to his bed, suffering from exhaustion and frozen feet, and Vincent, being in no condition to start at once, took 2 hrs.' rest.

At 2 o'clock A.M. on the 15th Vincent, with Gilardi, of Campertogno, the caretaker of the Capanna Gnifetti, started with food and restoratives, hoping to carry effectual help to the two poor men in the hole on the snow-field. Favre was unable to accompany them, as he could

not put his shoes on, owing to his feet being swollen from the cold which he had suffered. Vincent and Gilardi reached the hole in the snow at 4.20 (it was above 100 mètres distant from the Entdeckungsfels). On their arrival Valentino Laurent, though still showing some signs of life, was evidently very near death's door, and notwithstanding all the efforts of his rescuers died about 5 P.M. in the arms of Vincent. The intense cold of so many hours on the ice, the sufferings of two days without proper food, and two nights of mortal anxiety had done their work.

Vincent then volunteered to stay behind in charge of the body while Gilardi conducted Carlo Laurent, who was suffering greatly from the effects of the cold, to the Capanna Gnifetti, which was reached in 2½ hours. Gilardi at once went down to the Colle d'Olen, and a rescue party, consisting of Signor Alberto Ganna, the guides Angelo and Antonio Maquignaz, and four volunteers, with a sledge, set out for the Capanna. Carlo Laurent recovered. We may express our agreement with Signor Ganna when he says that, considering the sufferings endured by the party, it is a matter for thankfulness that no more lives were lost.

OTHER ACCIDENTS.

Two young and inexperienced workmen resident at Grindelwald, though not Grindelwalders, lost their lives on the Jungfrau on July 29. On September 1 Lieutenant Pache, a member of the Kangchenjunga expedition, was killed by an avalanche.

NEW EXPEDITIONS IN 1905.

Mont Blanc District.

MONT ROUGE DE PEUTERET (2,948 m.).—On July 26 Messrs. J. H. Wicks, E. H. F. Bradby, and C. Wilson ascended this—the S.W. sentinel of the Peuteret group. No record could be traced of any previous ascent, and no cairn was found. The ascent was made by the S. arête, and probably no other route exists, as the peak seems cut off by slabs from the Fauteuil des Allemands, and is apparently unclimbable from the Frésnay side or by the jagged northern ridge. The climb was steep and long, but not difficult. Leaving Courmayeur at 8.45 A.M., the S. buttress was rounded on the Frésnay side, the steep rocks of the peak being reached at 9 o'clock and the top at 2.10. The Val Veni was not regained till 8.45, and Courmayeur was reached two hours later.

Arolla District.

DENTS DES BOUQUETINS, S. PEAK (3,690 m.). DESCENT FROM S. ARÊTE BY E. FACE.—On July 31 Dr. O. K. Williamson and Mr. H. Symons, with Jean Maître and Pierre Maurys, having bivouacked under the rocks of the peaks near the point 3,097 m., ascended that