

mountaineer. One of the best of Swiss guides said of him 'Mr. Pope could not fall on difficult rock or ice,' and his ascent, with two friends, of the Dent Blanche by a new ridge from the W., this season, must take rank with the few great guideless first ascents made in the Alps. Only an unaccountable combination of circumstances could have caused his fall on a passage where, with a companion of anything like equal skill and caution, no rope would have been used. He knew the risk and the charm of solitary wandering, and wrote of it with singular felicity. In the case of few men could the dangerous practice be considered less blameworthy. The presence of a friend as witness of the unexplained accident that brought about his death could only have hastened by a few days the gathering of friends and contemporaries who brought him to rest at Orthez, within sight of the mountains. Mountaineering has lost by his premature death the man most signally qualified by an ideal combination of qualities to carry on and exalt its highest traditions in the coming years.

G. W. Y.

NEW EXPEDITIONS IN 1911 AND 1912.

Graian Alps.

PUNTA FENILIA (3054 m. = 10,020 ft.).—August 10, 1912. Mr. G. Yeld with Benjamin and Augustin Pession of Val Tournanche ascended this peak from the Valnontey by the Grangetta glen in 5 hours from Cogné. The ascent is steep but not difficult. The view of the Cogné basin from the summit is very fine. The party did not ascend wholly by the W. arête which is so conspicuous from the Cogné meadows, though they climbed portions of it. The N.W. face consists mainly of great slabs. They descended on the Valeille side and kept to the E. of the P. di Vigiusa of the new map, and then turning W. eventually struck a path above Silvenoire. Cogné was reached in 3 hrs. 25 mins., halts included.

PUNTA NERA (of the Eaux Rouges Valley) (3064 m. = 10,053 ft.).—August 12, 1912. The same party climbed this peak, which is very conspicuous from the road between Cretaz and Cogné, in about 4 hrs. 30 mins. from the Chavanis pastures by a rather roundabout route. There are four very conspicuous gendarmes on the W. side of the peak which make a brave show from Cogné. The most westerly of these (which seemed to the party to be the highest, though the new map gives that pre-eminence to one of the others)

was first climbed. The party then proceeded along the ridge towards the peak, but the last gendarme, which very much resembles a teacaddy in appearance, was found to be undercut, so the party had to descend and traverse one or two gullies to reach the apparent col at the foot of the actual peak. They then ascended over the big red rock, which rises immediately above the col, to the summit by the N. ridge. The view is exceptionally fine. The descent was made first by the easy S. face and then by the S.W. ridge and the big band of snow which was one of the chief features of the mountain this year when seen from Cogne. A good glissade was here enjoyed. The King's path in the Eaux Rouges valley was then gained (in 42 mins. from the summit) and followed till it eventually joined the track from the Bardoney chalets. Cogne was reached in 4 hrs. 4 mins. from the top, halts included. The only previous ascent recorded was made by S. Cloza on July 19, 1880, by the E. face and N. ridge. (See Dr. Agostino Ferrari's 'Statistica delle Prime Ascensioni,' in 'Boll. C.A.I.' vol. 39, pp. 136-7.)

PICCOLA UJA DI CIARDONEY (3312 m. = 10,866 ft.).—August 14, 1912. The same party having reached the Colle di Ciardoney from Cogne by way of the S. Colle di Sengie and the Ciardoney glacier ascended this peak by the W. arête, the route followed by Mr. F. W. Oliver on September 4, 1895.* On their way back the party left the W. arête when some distance from the summit and went down direct to the Ciardoney glacier. The view from the summit was very extensive and included the Viso and the Maritime Alps, whilst the travellers looked down into both parts of the little known Val Soera, which are separated by the ridge running south from the Piccola Uja. This ridge has for its highest point the Punta di Val Soera, first ascended by Messrs. Irving and Tyndale on August 14, 1912.

The party returned to Cogne by the S. Colle di Sengie and the Valeille.

PUNTA DI VALETTA, North Peak (3318 m. = 10,886 ft.).—August 16, 1912. The same party ascended this peak *viâ* the Valetta Alp and the Comba della Valetta. They traversed the Valetta glacier which was very white and clean to the foot of the peak, and reached the top by the rocks and snow of the W. face. The times taken were unnecessarily long. Probably most parties would make the ascent in about 5½ hrs. The descent was made by the same route. It should be said that the whole way from the Valnontey to the glacier is very steep.

PUNTA DEL TUF (3392 m. = 11,129 ft.).—August 18, 1912. The same party ascended this peak from the King's Camp at Lauzon

* *A. J.* xvii. p. 575.

in about 3 hrs. 40 mins. walking. They varied their route of last year by taking the E. ridge the whole way. There was much fresh snow. They descended the N. ridge almost in its entirety to the S. Passo del Tuf and thence went straight down to Lauzon.

RIDGE FROM PTA. SCALETTA (3004 m. = 9853 ft.) TO PTA. NERA (3064 m. = 10,050 ft.).—R. L. G. Irving and H. E. G. Tyndale, August 10, 1912. Leaving a camp near the Brouillot huts (3 hrs. from Cogne), we ascended the Bassa di Peratza. After halting there while a heavy snowstorm expended its first fury, we went over the Cima di Peratza to the Testa di Nouva. The direct descent to the Col de l'Arietta was too risky, but we found a rather unsatisfactory way down the N.W. face and made a short traverse to the col, the local name for which is not Arietta but Nouva. From there an easy climb over a nameless peak led to the base of the Scaletta. This gave us an interesting ascent, easier than it had looked from a distance. The descent by the S. face was easy, but the ridge we followed to the Col Miserin had several sensational little bits on it. From the Col Miserin we ascended a peak which might be called the Cima del Lago di Miserin (? 3020 m.) from the summit of which the ridge branches off towards the Lavina. We followed the N. ridge which has several small towers on it to the gap to the S. of Pta. Nera. An easy descent from the gap took us down to the Lago di Miserin. Most of the ridge from the Testa di Nouva seems to be new, excepting of course the Scaletta.

We took about 5 hours for the whole ridge; the climbing is interesting and the views into the upper Val Campiglia and the Combe containing the Lago di Miserin are exceptionally fine.

PTA. LAVINETTA (2983 m. = 9784 ft.) AND TORRE DI LAVINA (3308 m. = 10,850 ft.) BY THE S.W. RIDGE. The same party.—August 11, 1912, we ascended the Bardoney Glen to the final hollow below the Col Bardoney. Instead of going to the actual col we went up a snow gully to an obvious jag in the ridge, a short distance N.E. of the col and slightly higher. The ridge was found to bear many towers. It took only half an hour to reach the Lavinetta, but another 4 hours from there to the S. summit of the Lavina. Generally we traversed when necessary on the N.W. side of the ridge, but in one place, about an hour from the summit, we got on to a grassy ledge running across the S.E. wall, and had a hard climb up a steep crack before regaining the ridge. There is more than a mile of ridge, and no considerable stretch of it is easy. We were glad to find no difficulties on the descent by the N. ridge and the ridge that leads from it to the Col des Eaux Rouges.

TOUR DE GRAUSON (3237 m. = 10,617 ft.). TRAVERSE OF 3 PEAKS. The same party.—August 16, 1912. The highest (E.) peak, first climbed by Mr. Yeld in 1909, was reached by a good

route up the N. face. The ridge descending towards the central peak is formed by a great dyke of dark rock. The descent of this resembles that of the E. ridge of the inaccessible pinnacle in Skye, but the edge is smoother. From the gap between the E. and central peaks we reached the base of a tooth which completely baffled us. We had to descend some way on the S. side before we could climb back to the ridge, close to the top of the central peak. The lowest (W.) peak is easily reached from the latter. The descent on the W. side is made down a steep short gully full of loose rocks to a great hollow, the rim of which we crossed to the S.E. face of the Pta. Garin and reached its summit from this point without any difficulty at all.

PTA. DI VALSOERA (3191 m. = 10,466 ft.). The same party.—August 13, 1912. Reached from Cogne *via* the Valeille, the S. Colle des Sengie, the Colle delle Uje, a small glacier, and the N.W. ridge. The ascent is short but quite of the Chamonix Aiguille type. The S.E. ridge affords a simple descent.

If combined with the ascent of the Gr. Uja di Ciardoney it provides a most interesting but long day from Cogne. Those who are fortunate enough to be on the Glacier di Ciardoney on a sunny morning will not regret a very early start.

PTA. DI FORZO (3303 m. = 10,834 ft.) BY THE W. RIDGE. The same party with G. H. Bullock.—August 8, 1912. The Valeille was ascended to the Valeille huts. [You can trust the map for the existence of these huts, which are all but invisible from the king's path. They can be tracked down among the surrounding boulders by following one of several converging lines of filth.] It is best to avoid a small track on the E. side of the Valeille stream and follow the king's path to the second of two branch paths which descend to a bridge near the huts.

A broad steep shoulder next to the great W. buttress of the Forzo was ascended in a south-easterly direction to the hollow below the S. end of the Arolla glacier. Above this a short rock wall, steep shale, and one or two large smooth slabs were climbed close to the steep end of the glacier and the W. ridge of the Forzo struck near point 3063 m. in the $\sigma\sigma.\delta\delta\delta$ map.

The route along the ridge gave good climbing, free from serious difficulty in spite of heavy rain and snow. We descended to the Po. Muraille Rouge, the height of which should probably be nearer 3200 m. than 3105 m. We went round the base of the Arolla peaks, breaking through an excessively sodden snow bridge on the way, to the N. end of the glacier. The proper Cle. di Arolla is about a quarter of a mile further N., but we went to a well-marked notch and descended from it to the Val Bardoney. The first 30 feet on the other side was on steep sloping ledges and the notch is evidently a bad alternative to the Cle. di Arolla which has a king's path descending from it.

Dauphiné.

THE E. ARÊTE OF THE MELJE REACHED BETWEEN THE FIRST AND SECOND TOWERS—FROM THE ETANÇONS VALLEY.—On July 28, 1912, Herren Guido and Max Mayer with the Dolomite guides Angelo Dibona and Luigi Rizzi, completed this often-mooted ascent. It will be remembered that Dr. Emil Zsigmondy lost his life in 1885 in an attempt to climb this wall, and a further fatal accident was reported in 'A.J.' xxvi. p. 77 to M. de Rufz. These attempts were made from the great snowband which divides the face longitudinally into two portions. The present party climbed the whole face. The lower part was overcome by gaining the great snow gully in the line of the Grand Pic and then traversing to the right into the great couloir descending from the Brèche Zsigmondy. This was quitted about 200 metres up on its E. side, and then up a sort of staircase of snow fields and terraces the W. or highest end of the great snowband was reached. From here the upper part of the face was climbed nearly in a direct line, the summit ridge being gained between the first and second tower. A detailed note of the expedition is given in 'Mittheilungen,' 1912, p. 246. The actual time taken in the ascent was 12 hours. The descent to the Rocher de l'Aigle down the icy N. face was done in the dark. The lower part of the S. wall is stated to offer, with few exceptions, no great technical rock-difficulties, but requires considerable work in ice. The upper portion, however, will bear favourable comparison with the most difficult Dolomite climbs, and of course the much greater altitude is an important factor.

Pennines.

DENT BLANCHE (4364 m. = 14,318 ft.). ASCENT BY THE W. FACE AND TRAVERSE.—August 17, 1912, G. Mallory, H. E. L. Porter and H. R. Pope. The W. face of the Dent Blanche in its lower part may be conceived as forming two sections. Firstly (from S. to N.) a flat face, and secondly a shallow basin. The dividing line is a dark bluff of rocks, so that the basin lies between the dark bluff and the W. arête. This basin is the delta of a big couloir, the dark bluff being the containing wall of the delta.

This dark bluff was our objective. The narrow glacier which approaches it presented no considerable difficulty. Our course (lantern) started near the N. and continually approached the S. bank. At 5 A.M., something less than 3½ hrs. after leaving Alpe Bricolla, we were near the foot of the rocks, and halted half an hour for the light. We proceeded up the dark bluff, which turned out to be red, and continued roughly in a straight line till we joined the S. arête, 10 minutes below the summit (10.30 A.M.). The lower rocks were very steep, but a series of chimneys somewhat upon the left-hand side took us up in the most delectable fashion without

any serious difficulty (Pope leading). After this lower section we kept to a definite though not prominent rib; it was in no wise difficult to climb.

The conditions in general were not good; the mountain had not been climbed for nearly three weeks, and a Zermatt party which we observed on the S. arête turned back at the first gendarme. They were, however, for this climb, excellent. The steep lower rocks were entirely free of ice and snow, and higher up the snow was very good. Nothing fell in the shallow couloirs on either side of us. In descending we doubled 160 ft. of spare rope to avoid the big gendarme, and then traversed back to the arête without difficulty.

G. MALLORY.

Bernese Oberland.

TRAVERSE of Strahlhörner and Strahlgrat to point 3330 on Federal map.—On August 6, 1912, Miss Maye Bruce and Canon A. Sloman with Johann Elsig, guide, left the Eggishorn Hotel 5 A.M. diverging from the path near the eastern extremity of the Märjelen Sea 6 A.M. They mounted diagonally at first N.W. and then N., reaching the first summit, 3030 on map, at 8.10 A.M. They then traversed successively the points marked 3053, 3080, 3061, 3104, 3279, arriving at the highest point, marked 3330, about 9.30 A.M. It is possible to keep on the arête the whole way, and the rocks are good. There is no sensational difficulty, but it is an interesting scramble. A snow-storm, which caught the party on the ridge, near the last summit, made it unsafe in the guide's opinion to descend directly on to the small snowfield which lies immediately to the S. of point 3330, so they returned by the same route, regaining the hotel at 3 P.M.

For a short expedition it can be recommended.

A. SLOMAN.

METTENBERG (3017 m.=9895 ft.) BY THE N. ARÊTE.—August 19, 1912. Dr. Rudolf Beck and Dr. Alfred Leuchtag, with the guides Emil Steuri of Grindelwald and Josef Maria Biner of St. Niklaus, left the top of the Milchbachloch at 7 A.M. Seen from here the N. end gendarme of the N. arête looks like a sharp slender tower, whereas seen from the E. from the Unter Wechsel it looks broad and massive. It is crowned by a big cairn built by the guides Emil and Fritz Steuri a few years ago.

From the Unter Wechsel they followed a slightly marked goat track and took to the rocks on the E. face below the above-mentioned tower, about 1900 m. Up steep, and in places difficult, rocks they reached the crest of the N. arête in the gap a few minutes S. of the tower, the ascent so far having been in the N.E. flank. They ascended the tower, and at 11 began the ascent of the arête. The

arête was followed without excessive difficulty to the gap S. of Point 2419, but was dangerous through very rotten rock. The rocks—previously Kalk, now changed to crystalline primitive rock. There followed magnificent climbing up the arête. At 3.25 they reached the point where the arête turns E., from where, up snow-slopes, they reached the summit at 4.12. Time required from Grindelwald, about 12 hours—route much more interesting than the ordinary one ('Alpina,' 1912, p. 175).

Bregaglia Group.

PIZ BADILE (3311 m. = 10,863 ft., *S. map*; 3307 m. *Lurani and I. maps*). By the N. face (*sic*), Signori Gaetano Scotti, Angelo and Romano Calegari, July 30–31, August 3, 1911.*

[The N. face of Piz Badile—as seen from Soglio—is really composed of two distinct faces, N.E. and N.W., separated from each other by the N. or Sassfura buttress. The route described below commences on the N.E. or Bondasca face, but soon takes to the buttress, up which, with frequent short digressions to the W. and occasional ones to the E. face, it proceeds to the summit.]

July 29.—Party explored route from a bivouac near the Sassfura huts.

July 30.—5.15 A.M. left bivouac; by débris to the small Cengalo glacier, up this quickly to the first rocks of the mountain, where boots, axes, and all superfluous luggage deposited. *Kletterschuhe* put on (6.30 A.M.). Up the repulsively smooth and at first rotten rocks of the N.E. face between the precipitous N. ice couloir of the Colle del Cengalo and the mountain's immense N. buttress, then W. by tiny ledges ('pitons' fixed) towards a notch in said buttress, attained finally by perilous and delicate gymnastics. Then up the buttress till forced on to its W. slope, whence a disintegrated crevice leads back to the knife-edged crest. Along this till *too* steep, then a short descent again on W. side over smooth, holdless slabs (pitons). Now up a vertical crack, avoiding conspicuous gully of black ice, till a most difficult slab gives access to narrow gravelly ledge. (Halt 11–11.30 A.M.) Further progress appears hopeless, nevertheless attempt is made; rocks smooth as glass, exposure indescribable, party crawls upwards by minute irregularities. Nowhere can the leader secure himself or his followers. Small gap in crest attained only to be forced back at once on to W. slope, whence (rope and piton) crevice is reached by most difficult traverses. Up this crevice, rather easier, but rotten rocks, to 'little platform.' Next vertical and perfectly smooth step is scaled by a human pyramid, aided by pitons and fixed ropes; exertion and difficulties intense. Following bit overhangs, but is turned immediately

* Courteously communicated by the late Dr. R. Balabio.

below 'overhang' by more pitons; crest then regained. Further ascent apparently quite impossible, weather getting bad, descent commenced. Party nearly overwhelmed by loose boulders while descending aforementioned crevice, last man holds firm; weather and conditions become so bad that all give themselves up for lost. Appalling thunderstorm, yet more pitons, spare ropes, and 'little platform' overhanging abyss safely attained (7 P.M.). 11 hours' halt, rain, snow; finally icy gale and weather clearing.

July 31.—Weather fine, 6 A.M., left platform, descent recommenced; rope rings, pitons, sometimes *three* spare ropes employed, but work always appears overwhelmingly hard. Axes regained, 1.15 P.M. Left Promontogno for Chiavenna, 6 P.M.

August 3.—Party left Badile Club hut, 5 A.M. Summit of Piz Badile attained by ordinary S. route, 7.30 A.M. Descent of N. face commenced 8 A.M., close to *true* top of mountain. Great tooth here turned by safe ledge; party then embarked once more on N. buttress. Weather perfect, clouds hang thinly on N. face; view below fearfully impressive. Axes, boots, etc., discarded, descent of buttress commenced with utmost care and slowness. Crest followed till interrupted by perpendicular tooth, this is turned by microscopic ledge on its W. slope; work of the most difficult and exposed character. Ledge dies away in the face, but crack barely wide enough for the toe leads back to crest. Weather getting colder, hands of party partly flayed. Narrow ice-filled slit in the E. slope now visible; down this slit, rocks dangerously brittle, till another crevice running parallel with the buttress can be reached; down this till it splays out abruptly, then back on to crest over excessively hard boss. Down the gigantic slabs of the buttress, till, turning on to N.W. slope, familiar terrain traversed on July 30 becomes visible below (3 P.M.). One of the party is boldly lowered till the previously untraversed bit is completed—the entire N. buttress had then been accomplished (3.50 P.M.). Now immediately up again towards the summit, difficulties immense, enthusiasm spurs on party, top regained, 6.50 P.M. Descent by S. route, Badile Club hut attained, 9 P.M.

E. L. S.

[The methods employed in this truly extraordinary expedition recall Cav. Guido Rey's exploits on the Furggen ridge of the Matterhorn. The N. face of Piz Badile will always rank among the most terrible and forbidding objects in the Alps; one glance at its 4000 ft. of 'awful precipice' will confirm the desperate nature of the work undertaken; one can only marvel at its safe accomplishment; Fortune must indeed have befriended the undaunted Italians.

See the remarkable article in 'R.M.' 1912, pp. 195–202, with a photograph on which the route is outlined.

Christian Klucker *alone* once ventured for some 500–600 ft. on this face, but no previous serious attempt has ever been made.]

CIMA DI CANTUN (3360 m. = 11,023 ft. ; *S. map*), BY THE N. FACE Herren C. Godet and H. Rütter, August 18, 1912.* From the Albigna Club hut straight to the face of the very steep snow and ice wall constituting the N. face. Bergschrund easily crossed, then heavy step-cutting till N.W. arête attained at a small depression just W. of the summit, which was then easily attained (3 hrs. 20 mins. for the ascent of the *face* alone).

Arctic Norway.

STRANDAATIND (862 m.) 'The headland which divides the North and South Folden fjords may vie with the Aiguilles of Mont Blanc in the fantastic singularity of its forms. I have nowhere seen summits more perfectly acuminated.'

This description, and a somewhat flamboyant but unexaggerated sketch, by Prof. Forbes, p. 58, in his mountain classic, *Norway and its Glaciers*, of a grand mountain rising with a beautiful sweep straight out of the blue waves of the Vest Fjord, ought to have attracted many mountaineers to attempt its ascent. A few men have responded to the call, but the only man who met with much success was our late Danish fellow member, Hr. Carl Hall, who climbed the lower summit of Strandaatind, and the Troltdind, a grand peak visible from the pier at Kjærringö.

STRANDAATIND. July 30, 1912.—C. W. Rubenson, Ferdinand Schjelderup, Harald Jentoft and W. C. Slingsby, set off to attempt the ascent of the highest peak by traversing the lower. Slingsby, fearing that the expedition by this route would be too severe a training walk for him, left the party at a gap on the first summit. The others went on, and found Hall's cairns on the lower peak and on the gap between the two peaks. Here the route was blocked by a 60-ft. slab. This exceptionally difficult place, which had defeated Hall's excellent guides, was conquered by Rubenson—the most difficult place that this remarkably good rock-climber had ever attempted. Other stiff places were dealt with successfully, the summit was reached, and the party returned from their 'training walk' after an absence of 26 hrs.

STRANDAATIND, BY THE N.W. ARÊTE. August 10, 1912.—The same party. This expedition was made principally for the sake of the writer, who contested that this was the true and natural line of ascent. The route, though shorter than the other, proved to be an exceedingly difficult one which tested to the utmost degree the grand climbing powers of the three Norskmen. Suffice it to say that it was of the best aiguille character, and that the one Englishman of the party was indeed a proud man when he took a photograph of his companions on the summit. Further description must be left for the present.

* *Alpina*, 1912, p. 176.

OSANTIND (1115 m.) August 3, 1912.—The same party of four, starting from their camp at Sjunkfjord followed a pretty forest valley and then climbed up roches moutonnées to the pass of Droguvasskar. Here they turned N. over the naked gneiss rocks, which are a predominating feature of South Folden, and then had an interesting climb up a steep and narrow ridge to a sharp and jagged summit which overhung a glacier some 1500 ft. below.

The view of snowy Swedish mountains, E.; the huge glaciers of Svartisen, S.; the grand array of gabbro pinnacles in Lofoten, 80 miles in length, W.; the grim monoliths of Skeistind, Husbyviktind and other monsters rising straight out of the blue fjords, N.—Ah! go and see them!

SKEISTIND (975 m.) August 5, 1912.—The same party, after a two hours' row, landed at the only place for several miles where it was possible to force a way through brushwood and up to the long buttress of naked gneiss to the actual foot of the truncated pyramid itself. Schjelderup led grandly up the one gully which furrows the W. side, but after two hours' climbing this route was wisely abandoned, as being too risky on account of the loose schistose nature of the rock. Unexpectedly, a ledge, invisible from below, was found which led to the N. Here, Jentoft, using rubber shoes, led the party up an exceedingly difficult ridge and face climb to the very top. Though report said that a native had climbed the peak before, and quite alone, no cairn or other traces were found. The descent was very difficult and in two places recourse was had to the abseilen process.

A storm of wind coming suddenly upon the party in the middle of the fjord made a direct return to camp impossible. Hereby hangs a tale to be told another time. Schjelderup recently received a letter from Thor Normann, the reputed first ascender of the mountain, in which he says: 'With respect to my expedition up on Sjeistinden, I will tell you about it. It was in the summer of 1898. We were a party of five who attempted it. We began from the S.W., but we could not come up there. I tried it alone from the W., and came up there. The reason why I did not build a cairn on the top was because I was afraid of the descent, as I was alone.'

It is clear that he succeeded where we turned back. Indeed, on such loose rocks it would be safer for one man than for four. All honour to the bold Norskman, who is so well-named Thor Normann.

HUSBYVIKTIND (806 m.) August 7, 1912.—No ascent. The same party started from Rörstad to prove, if possible, that this bold peak is accessible or, as they expected, the reverse. They had a long and an exceptionally interesting day with a considerable amount of really difficult climbing, and in the end proved conclusively, and indeed were almost glad to prove it, that there is in Norway one grand peak which is absolutely unassailable and

invincible. Surely no Swiss mountain railway engineers will tackle it, nor yet an æroplanist?

This grand and very long expedition deserves a more minute description.

WM. CECIL SLINGSBY.

Northern Selkirks, Canada.

MT. SIR SANDFORD (11,634 ft.), which has successfully resisted several assaults and is the highest peak in the Selkirks, was at last ascended on June 24, 1912, by Mr. Howard Palmer and Professor E. W. D. Holway, with the guides Rudolf Aemmer and E. Feuz, junr. Following their old route up the N. face they succeeded in finding a fairly easy but not altogether safe passage through the ice-cliffs to the upper snow-slopes. They struck the summit ridge to the W. of and about 200 ft. below the highest point. From there the work was very sensational owing to double-cornices in bad condition, complicated by a right-angle twist in the ridge where a huge cornice was encountered. With considerable difficulty and not without risk they eventually forced their way to the summit, a success thoroughly deserved by their previous seasons of arduous pioneer work.

The same party afterwards climbed Mt. Adamant (10,980 ft.), which turned out to be a very long and continuously difficult ascent.

T. G. L.

Natal.

ASCENT OF CATHKIN PEAK IN THE DRAKENSBURG, NATAL.—The ascent of Cathkin Peak (otherwise called Champagne Castle), said to be hitherto unscaled, has been successfully accomplished by a mountaineering party consisting of Mr. W. C. West, Hon. Secretary of the Mountain Club, Mr. G. T. Amphlett, the Rev. Father Kelly (of Bloemfontein), and Mr. T. Casement (of Witzieshoek). The route taken was by the first gully E. of Cathkin Peak, on the S. side of the peak. The ascent and descent from the camp in Monk's Ravine, on the S. of Cathkin Peak, took twelve hours, the party arriving in camp at 8 P.M. The altitude given on various maps at 12,000 ft. is stated to be incorrect, as an aneroid reading showed 10,500 ft. Much snow and ice was encountered in the gully. The expedition was arranged under the auspices of Mr. J. P. S. Woods, of Hartsease, Gourton, Natal.

As Cathkin Peak is believed to be the highest peak of the Drakensberg, the inference is that the heights of Mont aux Sources and Giant's Castle are also over-estimated. Cf. also 'A.J.' xxii. 362 seq. 'Notes on the section of the Drakensberg Mountains from Giant's Castle to Cathkin Peak,' by Stewart Gore Browne, R.F.A.