

Bregaglia Group.

PIZZO DEL FERRO CENTRALE (Cima della Bondasca), 3293 m. = 10,804 ft., *S. map*; 3300 m., *I. map*; 3290 m., *Lurani*. By the E. arête, reached from the N., Captain E. L. Strutt, with Josef Pollinger, of St. Niklaus, June 11, 1913.—Party left Albigna Club hut at 3.25 A.M., then straight up Albigna glacier to S.W. recesses of said glacier; bergschrund attained 5.40 (25 min. halt). Crossed bergschrund 6.5, easy; exceedingly steep snow couloir, 55°–65°, rises now directly in front, leading to well-marked gap in frontier ridge between Ferro Centrale, E. peak, and Torrione del Ferro [*Guida* = Ferro Orientale, 'Climbers' Guide']. Up this couloir, bearing ever very slightly left to right, N.E. to S.W., exposed to falling stones going high over party's heads from Torrione del Ferro, and falling ice—very serious—from Ferro Centrale, E. peak. Couloir about 1000 ft. high, last 150 ft. of extraordinary steepness; snow admirable gap attained 7.20, two stones superimposed; descent towards S. *appears* impossible. E. arête of Ferro Centrale, E. peak, rises hence like a cliff. Small diagonal crack, firm rock, seams edge of cliff from left to right, S.E. to N.W.; up this crack, excessively difficult, about 80 ft. high, to minute ledge only attained by leader (J. P.) jamming axe repeatedly in crack and then climbing over it—the 'ice-axe grip' (!)—ledge slightly on N. slope of arête then attained. Absolutely smooth and unbroken slabs now lead upwards; first a traverse of 5–6 ft. to right, N.W., to narrow patch of snow and ice doubtfully adhering to slabs [not safe], then straight up this snow for about 150 ft. to broken rocks above—*without* snow ascent of slabs probably impossible—then easy traverse to left, S., to crest of arête. Over narrow and interesting crest, quite easy, to top of E. peak [c. 3270 m., *Guida*], attained 8.55, thence over easy snow gap to summit of W. peak, 9.0 A.M. Descent by ordinary route over Bondasca glacier to Promontogno. Weather and conditions ideal, but base of couloir should be attained at *dawn*.

VARIOUS EXPEDITIONS IN 1913.

Mont Blanc Group.

AIGUILLE DU PLAN (3673 m. = 12,047 ft.). TRAVERSE FROM THE HEAD OF THE GLACIER DES PÈLERINS.—This fine expedition, which has never been described in English, deserves to be better known.

The Chamonix face of the Aiguille du Plan is divided by a N.W. ridge into a W. face rising from the Glacier des Pèlerins and N.E. face rising from the Glacier de Blaitière. The N.E. face was the

scene of the early attempts of Baumann in 1880 * and Mummery in 1893. † In 1894 Collie, Hastings, Mummery and Slingsby made a successful ascent by climbing from the right bank of the Glacier des Pèlerins to a col on the N.W. ridge, just above a great rock tower (since named the Aiguille des deux Aigles), and then up the ridge to the top. ‡ The expedition which is the subject of the present note was first made by Mons. E. Fontaine, with Joseph and Jules Simond, in 1898.

The head of the Glacier des Pèlerins is enclosed by a great rock face, the top of which is the ridge connecting the Aiguille du Midi and the Aiguille du Plan. In this ridge there are two principal gaps. The lower, perversely named Col du Plan, connects the Glacier des Pèlerins and the Vallée Blanche, and lies between the Aiguille du Midi and a nameless rock point, which is the top of the Petit Rognon ridge. The higher, which has perforce been distinguished as Col Supérieur du Plan, is further to the N.E. at the head of the Glacier du Plan, and lies between the nameless point and the Aiguille du Plan. At the extreme head of the Glacier des Pèlerins a conspicuous snow bay runs up into the rocks of the face directly below the Col Supérieur. Mons. Fontaine's route starts about half-way up the N.E. side of this bay and goes in as direct a line as possible to a point on the main ridge slightly to the N.E. of the Col Supérieur, where the usual route from the Glacier du Plan is joined.

At Chamonix and the Montanvert exaggerated ideas seem to prevail as to the difficulties and dangers of the face. This is probably in some part due to the two fatal accidents which occurred there in 1911.

On August 1, 1913, Harold Porter and I went right to the head of the Glacier des Pèlerins to examine the route and remained there for several hours till the sun was full on the face. During that time we neither saw nor heard anything fall on the route to the Col Supérieur, though the face further to the S.W., below the Col du Plan, was several times swept by falls of ice and stones. The next morning we left the inn on the Plan de l'Aiguille at 1.15, walked up the crest of the right lateral moraine of the glacier, then up the glacier close under the cliff which bounds its right bank, crossed the bergschrund at its head and got on to the rocks half-way up the snow bay at 4 o'clock. After a rest of ten minutes we went on, and, climbing quickly and without any further halt, reached the Col Supérieur at 9.30, before the sun had touched the face. The rocks, which were in excellent condition, being nearly free from snow and only occasionally glazed, offered no great difficulties except in one place which could have been avoided. The intervening ice patches, which are much more extensive than

* *A.J.* x. 443.

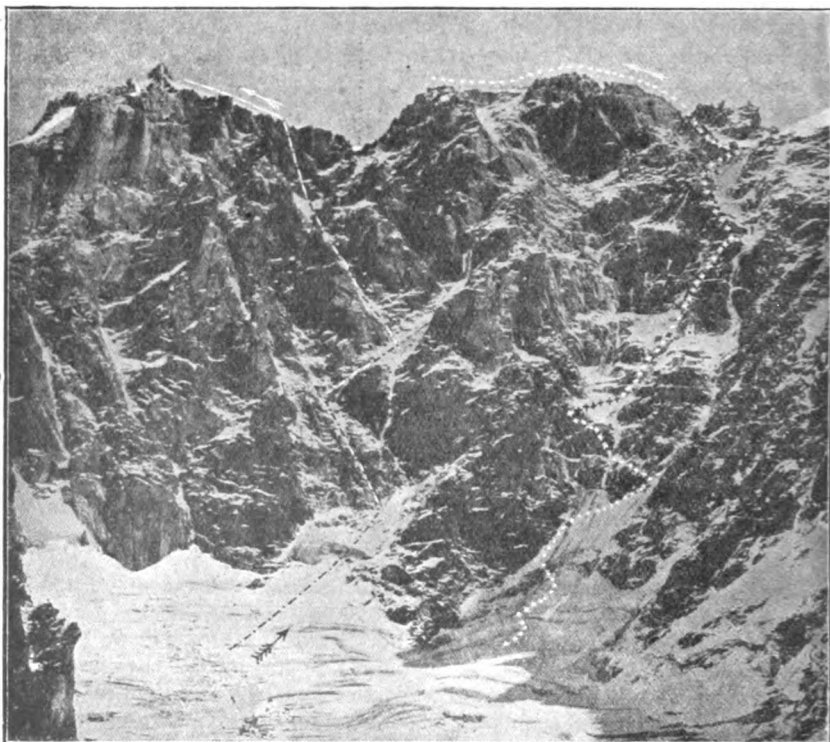
† *A.J.* xvi. 422.

‡ *My Climbs in the Alps and Caucasus*, chap. viii.

might be imagined from below, were for the most part covered with excellent snow, on which rapid progress could be made by kicking or light step-cutting. Nothing fell on the line of ascent, with the exception of one small stone, which we heard pass high

Le Crocodile Aiguille du Plan
3640 m. 3673 m

Col supérieur du Plan
3535 m. T. et 3537 m.



Cliché E. Fontaine.

Muraille de l'Aiguille du Plan (3673 m.), versant Ouest.

+ + + Itinéraire A. Brun.

— — — Itinéraire E. Fontaine.

over our heads; and we saw nothing to make us think that the climb is a dangerous one, if it is made under favourable conditions by a party who can find the way and go fast enough to complete it in the early morning.

The photograph, reproduced by the kind permission of the Editor

of 'l'Écho des Alpes,' shows to the left Mons. Fontaine's line of ascent. We followed this line closely till within a few hundred feet of the ridge, at which point we thought that we saved both time and difficulty by turning right and going to the Col Supérieur instead of climbing the rock wall in front of us. The line on the photograph further to the right is that followed by Mons. Brun in 1904. Our observations of this part of the face made us think that it is better left alone, but in any case the ascent is to the wrong side of the nameless point and is a devious way of reaching the Aiguille du Plan.

After a prolonged rest a leisurely progress was made up the very easy snow ridge and final rock tower, the top being reached in about $\frac{3}{4}$ hr. from the col. We descended by the ordinary route down the right side of the Glacier du Plan, then crossing to the right and going over easy snow slopes at first above and then down to the S. of the Petit Rognon, joining the Glacier du Géant well above its ice-fall. Kurz's Guide recommends a route on the opposite or N. side of the Petit Rognon, but after seeing, both from above and below, the ice-fall which lies there, we thought that the route which we had taken was much easier and quicker.

R. BICKNELL.

COL DU MIDI (3555 m. = 11,660 ft.) (variation).—On July 17, 1913, the Rev. W. E. Durham, with Christian Jossi (Sohn), left the Pierre Pointue at 3.20 A.M. They crossed the foot of the Glacier Rond and went up its proper left side, and then, after some trouble with the bergschrund, gained a buttress or rib of rocks, mostly rotten, which led to a kind of col on the S. arête of the Aig. du Midi, whence they could see the Cabane 400 to 500 ft. below them on the right.

Pennines.

VISIT TO THE MATTERHORN GLACIER.—July 21, 1913, Mr. R. W. Lloyd, with Josef Pollinger and Franz Lechmatter.

'I had long wished to visit the Matterhorn glacier, but a suitable opportunity did not present itself until July of this year, when I found myself at Zermatt in weather not sufficiently settled for any attempt of the more ambitious *ager da* which were on my programme. We were not quite agreed as to the best way to get on to the glacier. I wished to go up the face and through the crevasses, while Josef preferred to try by the rocks from the Matterhorn, and after some discussion we decided to try this way first.

'We passed the Matterhorn Hut, and continuing up the arête above we proceeded to traverse along the side of the Matterhorn, intending to cross the big couloir to the upper plateau of the glacier.

'We very soon found ourselves in bad slippery snow with ice

underneath and on the rocks. After a little time, Josef, who was leading, declared the line ahead to be very bad, the rocks being badly iced, and that if we got over at all it would take hours, and we should be for a long time exposed to stones in the couloir.

‘Accordingly we turned and descended to what I may call the middle plateau between the upper and lower ice-fall. This we easily reached, but found the ice-wall above us for a long way quite impassable. After going more than halfway round the face and making our way with much difficulty under and through the ice-fall, we came to a succession of huge crevasses with immense snow bridges, quite exciting to cross. Then we got stopped by a big crevasse, which, however, was partly filled with snow and ice. After a careful look round, Josef descended into this, and fortunately found quite good, firm footing, where the lip had fallen in. On the far side, a narrow arête of snow reached to within about 6 ft. of the upper edge of the crevasse. We worked our way carefully up this to the highest point, when Josef mounted on my shoulders and scrambled out of the crevasse.

‘We soon reached the upper plateau of the glacier, whence we had a fine view of the Matterhorn.

‘We descended by the same way without any great difficulty, and, having good snow, made our way down the very steep side of the lower ice-fall at the Hörnli end to the Staffel Alp.

‘The expedition is a very fine one and most interesting. The crevasses are the most formidable I have ever met with, and the interest is sustained during the whole of the expedition.

‘So far as I am aware, since the expedition to recover the bodies of Mr. Whymper’s unfortunate companions in 1865, the upper plateau of this glacier has only been visited twice: first by our President, Sir Edward Davidson, who, in August 1896, accompanied by Christian Klucker and the late Cæsar Knubel, crossed from the Lower Matterhorn Hut to the Tiefenmatten Gletscher over the Z’mutt Grat; and on the second occasion by Mr. Moore’s party, who repeated the expedition in 1908 (see “*Jahrbuch des S.A.C.*” (1910) xlv. 283.)’

TRAVERSE OF BOTH SUMMITS OF LA MAYA (AROLLA) (3047 m. = 9994 ft.).—On July 21, Messrs. J. L. Pitcher, A. W. Bartlett, and myself left Hôtel Mont Collon, Arolla, and followed the ‘Za’ route to the terminal moraine of the Glacier de la Za. Then, turning to the right, we mounted by steep snow to a well-marked col separating La Maya from the western arête of the Doves Blanches. The ascent of the La Maya arête from this col is practically perpendicular, but the rock is firm and the handholds good. Keeping always on the arête we traversed the main summit, and descended to another small col between the higher and lower peaks. The arête confronting you here is very peculiar, resembling a broken stone wall. Looked at in profile, as one could do

later on when we had got off the mountain, the end of the arête on the western side of the col appears slightly to overhang, but by taking it by its southern angle we ascended about half-way and then made a traverse by a rather sketchy crack, as we doubted whether the rock could be trusted. We soon regained the arête and found no further serious difficulty, though it was not altogether easy to find a way off the lower rocks. We finally rejoined our route up and reached the hotel after an interesting expedition of 9 hours, including an hour's halts.—A. SLOMAN.

TRAVERSE OF THE STELLIHORN (3445 m. = 11,299 ft.).—With Heinrich Supersaxo as guide, I left Saas-Fee at 2 A.M. on August 2. At the Mattmark Hotel we turned up the slopes on the left, at first straight up, then bearing S. and S.E., finally due E. up the Ofenthal. We then made for the arête to the N., on gaining which we bore along it to our left (*i.e.* N.W. by W.) and reached the summit of the Stellihorn about 9.30 A.M. Only then did we discover where we were. We had started for the Jazzihorn, a smaller adjacent peak, but as Heinrich was entirely unacquainted with either mountain from the Ofenthal side we had to trust entirely to a map, with the above result. We descended over the Nollen glacier to the Antrona pass path, getting back to Saas-Fee at 2.30 P.M. There is good climbing on this south-eastern arête of the Stellihorn, and the rock is for the most part firm.—A. SLOMAN.

Bernina Group.

TRAVERSE OF PEAKS OF PIZZI DI PALÜ (3912 m., 12,835 ft.); BELLAVISTA (3927 m., 12,884 ft.); AND PIZ ZUPÔ (4002 m., 13,131 ft.).—July 30, 1913. With the guide Johann Gross and his brother Dominic as porter I left the Diavolezza Inn at 3.30 A.M. We ascended to the N.E. arête of the E. summit of the Pizzi di Palü by practically the route of the Fuorcla Pers Palü as described in the 'Climbers' Guide.' Having halted altogether for 35 min. we ascended the N.E. arête (snow) to the E. summit (7.28 A.M.—7.55 A.M.). Halted on central summit, 8.13–8.16 A.M. Went along ridge (snow and a little rock), which was in places narrow and sharp, over the W. peak and by the pleasant rock ridge to the Fuorcla Bellavista (8.57–9.20 A.M.). By the broad easy rock ridge reached the first summit of the Bellavista, thence by a broad and easy snow ridge over the second and third summits. The ridge became narrow (snow and a little rock) before reaching top of S.W. peak (10.53–11.17 A.M.). We descended the pleasant rock arête to the Zupô pass (about 11.45 A.M.), thence ascended the N. arête of Piz Zupô (rock at first loose, but not difficult, then snow). Top 12.30–12.55 P.M. Descended by W. face and so reached the Bernina route. After a further halt of 18 min. the Morteratsch Restaurant was reached at about 4.55 P.M. The snow, after about 10 A.M.,

was somewhat avalanchy on the southern slopes, but in good order on those facing northwards. I was fortunate in striking the most brilliant day of the few really fine ones met with during the month when I was in the mountains.

Time of actual going, 10 hrs. 52 min.; halts, 2 hrs. 33 min.; total, 13 hrs. 25 min.

The expedition is an interesting one and affords magnificent views.

OLIVER K. WILLIAMSON.

Bregaglia Group.

MONTE ZOCCA (3179 m. = 10,430 ft., *S. map*; 3190 m., *I. map*; 3174 m., *Lurani*).—By the entire S.W. arête, attained from the N. June 16, 1913, Captain E. L. Strutt with Josef Pollinger, of St. Niklaus. Left Albigna Club hut at 4.30 A.M., up Albigna glacier to bergschrund at base of frontier ridge, between Monte Zocca and Pizzo di Zocca ['Climbers' Guide' = point 3081 m., *I. map*], i.e. at N. foot of 'Bocchetto di Zocca' (*Guida*, c. 3050 m.), 6.30 A.M. Left 6.40, straight up easy snow couloir to Bocchetto, attained 7.10—first ascent from N. Thence by easy E. arête to Pizzo di Zocca, 3081 m., attained 7.20—first ascent by this route. Left 7.21, by same route back to Bocchetto, thence N.E. by S.W. arête of Monte Zocca, big tooth turned by a descent and traverse to the S. over steep and very insecure rocks [far better climb straight over tooth, as did the first and only previous party, 'A.J.' xxv. 458]; crest regained at a marked depression; over crest to W. and lower top. Down steep snow to deep gap where ordinary route from N. falls in, then up and over easy S.W. arête to the summit, 8.35 A.M. Descent by ordinary N. route, down upper Albigna glacier, then up over N. Cacciabella pass to Val Bondasca and so to Promontogno. Weather and conditions perfect.

ALPINE NOTES.

'BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE.' VOL. I. 'THE WESTERN ALPS.'—Copies of the new edition (1898) of this work, price 12s. net, can be obtained from all booksellers, or from Messrs. Stanford, 12 Long Acre, W.C.

'BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE,' THE CENTRAL ALPS. PART I.—A new edition (1907) of this portion of 'The Alpine Guide,' by the late John Ball, F.R.S., President of the Alpine Club, reconstructed and revised on behalf of the Alpine Club under the general editorship of A. V. Valentine-Richards, Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge, is now