

and, revelling in the keenly human observation of the master, live again great days of the past.

Weilenmann and Pöll were another pair like Whymper and Croz, Tyndall and Bennen, Freshfield and Dévouassoud, Coolidge and Almer, and many another Alpine partnership that has gone to make history.

The Fluchthorn fell at the first assault. Other ascents followed, such as, in 1864, the ascent of the N.W. or lower point of Piz Roseg, which had only once been ascended. Pöll urged his Herr to come again to conquer the highest point, declaring that but for the distance he would come by himself to do it, and in fact he did return the same autumn with J. A. Specht, but got no further than before. The following year Weilenmann and Specht joined forces and, led by Pöll and Jakob Pfitscher 'der Passeirer,' returned again to the same district, but flew at higher game, making the first ascent of the Crast' Agüzza by the W. arête. Another success was the first ascent of Piz Buin, and on a visit to the Ortler group a serious accident was only averted by Pöll's energy and skill when descending the Königsspitze. In 1871 Weilenmann happened to be at the highest hut in the Jamthal when a huge 'Gejauchze' from two men on the other side of the torrent attracted his attention. One of the men was Pöll. Weilenmann ran down to the edge, but the noise of the waters was too great for them to hear each other, and they parted with great waving of hats. It was to be their last meeting. Born in the same year as Pöll, Weilenmann died eighteen years ago.

When I was in Paznaun in 1881 and 1882 Pöll had a great name, having made several other notable ascents in the district, and in 1904, when well over 80, we read that he was still vigorous and keen to talk over old times with passing travellers. Up to fairly recently a favourite feat of his was to spring backwards from the floor on to a table.

He was in receipt of his soldier's pension and of an allowance from the D. u. Oe. A.-V., so that the wants of his old age were provided for.

And so the name of the *Schäfer* of Larain will go down to the ages, set in the pages of the brilliant writer in whose service, as elsewhere, he never failed to play the man.

J. P. F.

MONT BLANC BY THE BROUILLARD RIDGE.

THE 'Rivista' of the 'C.A.I.' 1914, 53-4, contains an interesting note by Signori G. F. and G. B. Gugliermi, of the gist of which the following is a translation:—

'The S.S.W. buttress of Mont Blanc, or Brouillard ridge, starts at the summit of Mont Blanc de Courmayeur and descends to the surface of the moraines of the Miage glacier. It has attracted

the attention of mountaineers for many years. In 1870 came its first exploration by the Marchese A. Durazzo with two guides, who made the ascent of Mont Rouge du Brouillard, the lowest point of the said buttress. In 1880 Professor Martino Baretta accomplished a somewhat higher point, i.e. the one measured 3966 m., and this ascent was repeated on August 17, 1898, by Signor Giovanni Bobba.* These ascents were made from the side of the Miage glacier by the W. slope of the ridge, with the evident intention of trying to find a new route to the summit of Mont Blanc.

Other parties had also tried the opposite slope from the Brouillard glacier, but always preferred to turn their attention to the Fresnay-Peuteret spur.

The first successful attempt was made by the writers with Signor Natale Schiavi and a porter; our party succeeded in 1899 in attaining [from the Fresnay side] the ridge at the depression, 4907 m., between the points 4053 m. and 4472 m., but considered the crest rising from the depression to this latter point was impassable; we therefore descended by the opposite slope, Mont Blanc glacier side, thus effecting the first crossing of the Col Emile Rey.

On July 20, 1901, our party, accompanied by Joseph Brocherel, then a porter, managed to attain, by its W. slope, the upper Brouillard watershed at a spot between the Col Emile Rey and the point 4472 m., which was thence attained in 15 minutes and christened Picco Luigi Amedeo.† Thence we continued throughout by the ridge to the summit of Mont Blanc, thus accomplishing its first ascent by the Brouillard buttress. The ascent was quite sufficiently prolonged by the difficulties of the lower slopes of the buttress and the bad condition of the mountain, which from a height of 3900 m. onwards was covered with snow.

The description of the Brouillard ridge, as well as the story of the explorations and the first conquest of Mont Blanc by the said buttress, were fully described in the monograph, "Il versante italiano del Monte Bianco," by Ettore Canzio, Felice Mondini, and ourselves, published in "Boll." xxxv. No. 68, 1902.

The Col Emile Rey has not again been crossed, but was attained

* See *Bollettino*, 1902, pp. 190, 227-8. Bobba had already attempted Mont Brouillard on July 23, 1894, from the Miage side with the guides Casimiro Thérisod, Pietro Re Fiorentin, and a porter, the party attaining a depression of the S. arête at an altitude of c. 3450 m.

† Dr. Blodig, in his account, does not consider the point 4472 m. worthy of special mention. We beg, however, to differ from him, for the following reason. In all the ridge from Mont Blanc de Courmayeur to the Col Emile Rey, this is the one point which the surveyors have considered worthy of measurement, as this is the most accentuated and defined peak on the said ridge; in fact it is conspicuous from all the adjacent glens. We therefore are agreed that owing to its height and imposingly enormous construction a name should certainly be applied to it, on the same principle that the name Pic Tyndall has been applied to the S.W. shoulder of the Matterhorn, and Punta Giordani to the S.E. shoulder of the Vincent's Pyramide—to take only two classical examples.

from the Mont Blanc glacier, by the same route as our descent of 1899, by Dr. Blodig in 1906, then by Mr. Jones in 1907 when exploring the possibility of attaining the Picco Luigi Amedeo direct from the said pass, thus completing the exploration of this still untraversed portion of the ridge. It was on this occasion that Dr. Blodig made the first ascent of the point 4053 m. from the Col Emile Rey; our party in 1899 had not attempted it, thinking that Baretta had climbed it in 1880.

'The second ascent of the Picco Luigi Amedeo and of Mont Blanc by this buttress was only accomplished ten years after ours, on August 9, 1911, by Messrs. Blodig, Young and Jones, with the guide Josef Knubel. This party, from the Col Emile Rey, with one digression on to the Brouillard slope, attained the crest of the ridge at about the same spot as we did, i.e. about 15 minutes from the summit of the Picco Luigi Amedeo.

'After due consideration of this route from the Col Emile Rey and appreciation of it as accomplished for the first time by Dr. Blodig's party (subsequently repeated by Herr H. Pfann and Count Ugo di Vallepiana, † also by the Pühn-Adolphe Rey party)—after, we say, duly recognising its importance, as we have done—it is nevertheless necessary to give natural precedence (already duly recorded by us in our publications) to the fact that the first ascent of Mont Blanc by the Brouillard ridge is, and as such must remain, that of the Italian party of 1901; the route followed by the 1911 party over the said ridge is only the first ascent of the Picco Luigi Amedeo from the Col Emile Rey, constituting altogether but a "variation" of our route.

'This fact has been duly acknowledged by Herr Pfann in his article on Mont Blanc in the "Zeitschrift des D. u. Ö.A.V.," 1912, and privately by the letters of Mr. H. O. Jones which we have in our possession.'

ACCOUNT OF THE CONGRESS AND BANQUET HELD ON THE OCCASION OF THE JUBILEE OF THE ITALIAN ALPINE CLUB.

In August 1913 Mr. Withers and I were requested by the President of the Alpine Club to represent the A.C. at the Jubilee Congress and Banquet of the Italian Alpine Club, to be held at Turin on September 7. Mr. Withers was unable to go, so I agreed to assume the responsibility alone, though I realised with horror that the undertaking would involve my making a speech before some of the

* See the reminiscence published by Dr. Blodig in *Ö.A.Z.*, January 1907.

† This party, after following from the Col Emile Rey the same route in its lower portion as Blodig's expedition, turned to the left and attained the crest about 100 metres above the pass, then by the crest, traversing of course the point reached by the two previous parties, attained the Picco Luigi Amedeo.