

to the Cantine de Vissaille, where we remained the night. The weather had cleared, but a terrible storm raged on the summits above. We left the cantine on Good Friday at 4 A.M. and followed the glacier de Miage to the Dôme hut. 13 P.M. It was difficult to find the hut, snow totally covering it on the west side. Departure Saturday morning 1.30, crossed and ascended the Dôme Glacier to the Aig. Grises ridge. A frightful storm obliged us to return immediately; at midday we were back in the Dôme hut. On Easter morning, 0.30, we left the hut again, reaching the Aig. Grises near the Col de Bionnassay at 4 o'clock. We had to carry the skis from here to the Col du Dôme. The storm raged and we had great difficulty to get on. There was no use for the cord. The ridge was covered with ice; we had to be very careful because the wind got hold of the skis. On the Col du Dôme we had to take them off, and climbed up to the Vallot hut which was full of ice. 8 A.M. At 10.30 we reached the summit of Mt. Blanc, but it was impossible to remain there for the storm raged in all its fury. We raced down to a place sheltered from the storm. Below the Col du Dôme we put on the skis and raced down to the Grd. Mulets. It was the most beautiful run, and at 16.00 we reached the Junction where we roped for the first time. We tried to descend by the Montagne de la Côte, but failed, so we had to bivouac. Next day we descended by the Pierre Pointue and reached Chamonix at midday.

NEW EXPEDITIONS.

Mont Blanc Group.

GRANDES JORASSES (4205 m. = 13,797 ft.), BY THE S. ARÊTE AND THE TRONCHEY FACE. July 23-24, 1923. MM. F. Ravelli and G. Rivetti, with E. Croux.—The party left the Tronchey chalets early on the 23rd, and gained up steep grass slopes the great rocky spur which separates the glaciers Pra Sec and de Tronchey. This was followed to the summit of the most southerly of the three aiguilles, well visible and still unclimbed, which crown the above rocky spur just at the point where it loses itself in the great face at about 3600 m. They suggest the name Aiguilles de Pra Sec. From the summit of the S. Aiguille they descended to the col between it and the Central Aiguille, turned the latter on the W. side, and so gained the W. face of the N. Aiguille. They climbed with much difficulty

about 30 m. up this face and bivouacked on a little platform at about 3600 m. Leaving next morning at 4, they gained the crest of the arête not far from the summit of the N. Aiguille. A short descent led to the next gap whence they bore slightly to the right—east—up the face above the great drop commanding the Tronchey glacier. They then ascended a first steep couloir until pulled up by impracticable escarpments. They then ascended to the right by other couloirs and by ice slopes, cutting many steps. Climbing some rock ribs covered with ice they finally gained the great couloir which descends directly from the Pointe Walker. They made the very steep and exposed ascent by the right bank of this couloir (rocks mixed with ice) and so gained the summit at 14.30. The descent was made by the ordinary way, but by reason of the dense clouds surrounding them, they only reached the hut next morning after a further bivouac at 4000 m. accompanied by much snow.

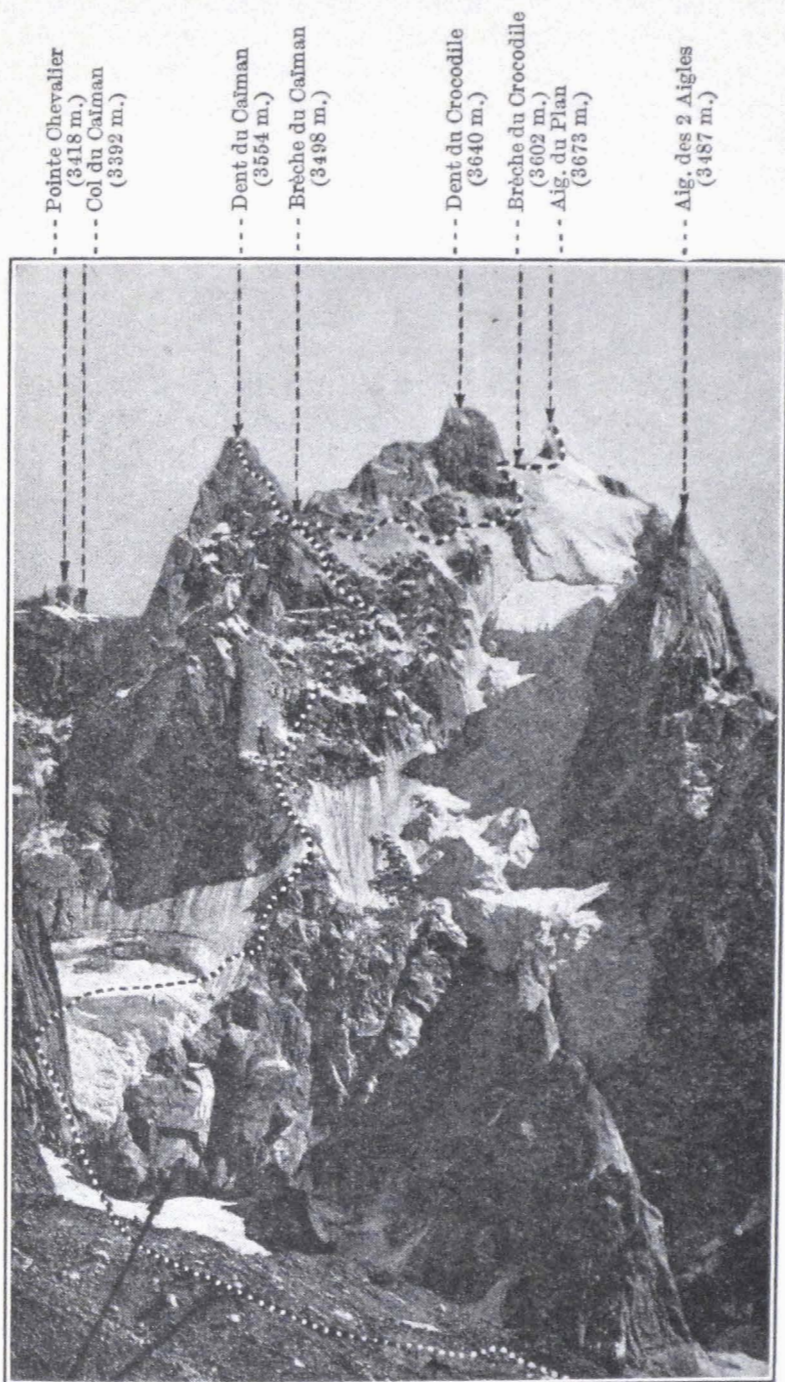
This climb offers difficulties all the way, and on certain points is not safe from falling stones.—*Rivista Mensile*, 1923, p. 265.

AIG. DU PLAN (3673 m. = 12,051 ft.) by the N. face. August 11-12, 1924. MM. Jacques Lagarde, Jacques de Lépiney, and Henry de Ségogne. The party left Plan de l'Aiguille at 3 A.M. and gained the Blaitière glacier. They ascended then by the rocks which form the base of the Aig. de Blaitière so as to attain the forehead of the hanging glacier. They then put on crampons, and, after climbing rather difficult chimneys between ice and rock, reached the little plateau of névé immediately below the Col de Blaitière. They then traversed to the right on a fairly steep ice-slope to gain the ill-defined arête which separates the glaciers of Blaitière and du Plan. They climbed the convenient rocks of this arête to its end—that is to say, to the base of the great iced wall dominated by the Caïman. This wall offered generally serious difficulties, the rocks carrying much snow, and frequently they were covered with ice, necessitating long work with the axe. The first bit was one of the hardest; the leader, J. de Lépiney, after having vainly tried to force an iced chimney, found more to the right a chimney in dry rock, very smooth, facing the Aig. des 2 Aigles, which opened the way for the party. A short slope of ice, extremely steep, followed, and easier ground then led to the foot of the great triangular wall, fissured and splashed with yellow, so visible from Chamonix. Rounding this wall by the right the party gained at last the Brèche du Caïman (3498 m. Vallot) between the Crocodile and the Caïman.

5 P.M. The place and weather conditions were considered proper for a bivouac.

An attempt was made to climb the Caïman. This proved very difficult, and could only succeed with the aid of the rope, or at least the axe. As they had not brought this, they did not attain their objective, and at 8 P.M. were back again in the Brèche.

The bivouac was comfortable, but at 11 P.M. the appearance of dark clouds and lightning made a start advisable (midnight). The



This moraine and these rocks hide the lower part of the Blaitière glacier, which is behind. The Glacier du Plan is the one on the face of the Plan.

Cliché Charnaux frères et Cie., phot., Genève.

AIGUILLE DU PLAN (N. FACE).

summit of the Plan was gained by taking again to the N. face and traversing very low down below the Crocodile. This part of the

expedition was by much the most serious, and exceptionally delicate in complete darkness.

The way led across extremely steep ice-slopes. It was only at the commencement that a covering of good snow was found. The absence of one axe forced Henry de Ségogne to anchor himself in the ice with his knife. Crampons were of the greatest service. At 5 A.M. on August 12 the summit of the Plan was gained actually before the storm broke.

The descent was made by the ordinary way, and Montanvert reached at 10.30 A.M.

(Description by J. de Lépiney and H. de Ségogne.)

[M. de Lépiney has been good enough to mark the route on the photograph attached. He remarks that this view is taken from very low down, and accordingly makes the terrain from the Brèche du Caïman to below the Crocodile look flat, whereas in effect it ascends at an angle of 25° to 30°. He tells me that M. le Dr. Migot, who has studied the question, thinks that Baumann ('A.J.' x. 443 *seq.*) reached the main arête not far from the Brèche du Caïman. Baumann's admirable paper would have been much clearer had it been accompanied by a marked picture. This is promised in the new Vallot guide on the point of appearing.

Our splendid young French comrades are to be warmly congratulated on completing this technically very difficult ascent. For us it has the further interest of recalling once more a most stirring paper in 'A.J.' xvi. 422 *seq.*, 'Two Days on an Ice-Slope,' wherein Ellis Carr described the adventures in 1892 of Mummery, Slingsby, and himself in an attempt on the face which has now—thirty-two years later—succumbed. Mr Carr's paper is so well illustrated that one can follow the route minutely. His pictures should be compared with those now given. It would appear that in Baumann's time (1880) 'the smooth glacier-worn rocks which form the base of the Plan' ('A.J.' x. 445) were as they are nowadays, whereas by 1892 they were all under ice and gave the party of that year very much trouble. These rocks appeared to Baumann impossible, and his view is shared by M. de Lépiney, hence they have to be turned.

Mr. Ellis Carr was naturally much interested in the present expedition, and writes :

'I have carefully studied M. de Lépiney's account of his ascent of the N. face of the mountain and must heartily congratulate him and the other members of his party on their success in carrying out what I feel sure must always be a difficult and trying expedition. What first strikes me, on comparing the conditions as shown on the photo with those prevailing at the time of our attempt so many years ago, is the remarkable diminution in the amount of ice on the mountain generally, and especially on the lower part of the face. The ice couloir, which cost us so much work with the axe, seems to have disappeared entirely, leaving a bare face of precipitous



Photo: Charnaux frères, Geneva

L'AIGUILLE DU PLAN

North face. From Les Praz near Chamonix.

rock which may well be found to be quite unclimbable, and I think it is likely that on future occasions there may be found no way of gaining access to the face but by the Blaitière rocks, a route rejected by us owing to the then palpably dangerous state of the snow.'

The present expedition will rank as a masterpiece of planning and execution, and it is a satisfaction that it, like the attempt of 1892, has been carried out by an eminently qualified guideless party.

J. P. F.]

AIGUILLE VERTE BY THE N.E. FACE (4127 m. = 13,541 ft.).
August 6-7, 1924. MM. Tom de Lépiney, Jacques Lagarde, and Henry de Ségogne.

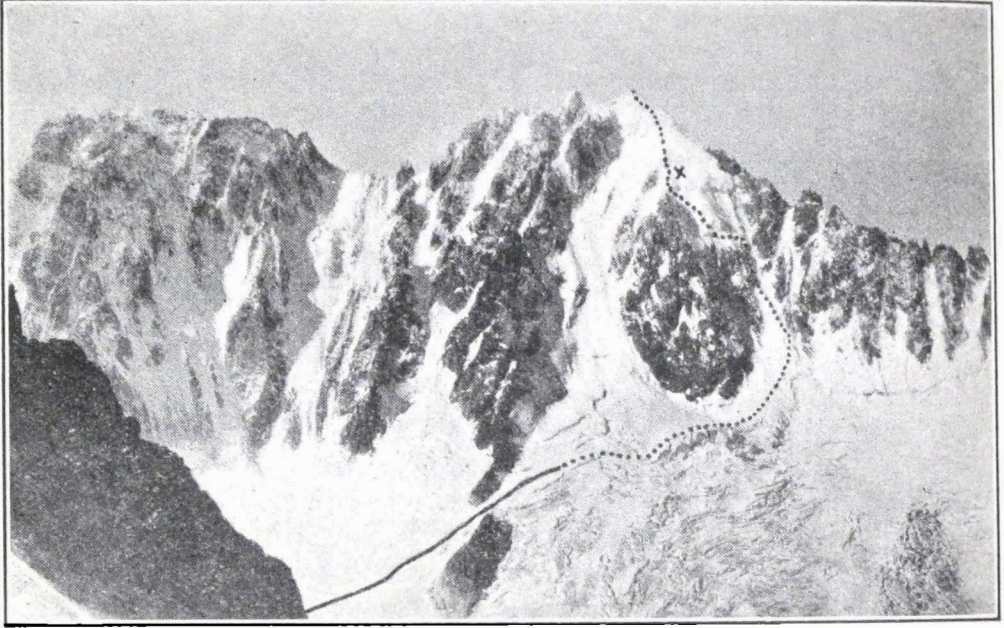
After waiting several days in the new Jardin d'Argentière hut, in consequence of very uncertain and even bad weather, the party left at 23.05 on August 6 and (30 m. halt en route) crossed at 1.50 on August 7 the easy rimaye of the great couloir by which on July 31, 1876, MM. Cordier, Maund, and Middlemore, with the guides Hans Jaun, Jakob Anderegg, and Andreas Maurer, made the ascent. 'Despite the early hour stones fell from time to time quite close on our right. Accordingly we judged it advisable to quit the couloir where it narrows considerably (about 3.15) and to climb the rocks covered with verglas and snow, exceedingly difficult, of its right proper bank. It was not until 6.30 to 7.00 that we managed to arrive under the barrier of séracs, which fortunately were not continuous. We thereupon carried out a great traverse on snow and occasionally ice, somewhat exposed to ice and particularly stone-fall. The snow arête which forms the upper prolongation of the great rock buttress of the Argentière face was gained at 8.35, after overcoming a steep ice-wall. Shortly after we stopped (9 to 9.35) at X. for lunch, no suitable place having been passed since leaving the rimaye. The summit of the Verte was reached at 11.25 and the Couvercle not until 22.00. The extraordinary amount of snow on the Moine arête forced us to descend by a secondary couloir into the main couloir of the W. face. A violent thunder-storm broke over us at about 3900 m. and did not cease until long after our reaching the hut.'

M. de Lépiney remarks that crampons were found of great service, and that had the conditions permitted of their adhering with reasonable safety to the couloir itself (as was their original intention), and not compelled them to take, as stated, to the difficult rocks of its right back, they would have saved upwards of 3 hours.

[This great expedition, upon which these valiant young mountaineers of the Groupe Haute Montagne are to be warmly congratulated lies to the left of the Cordier-Maund-Middlemore route referred to above. Mr. Maund's topography ('A.J.' viii. 289 *seq.*) is not at all clear in the absence of any diagram. The diagram in the 'Ö.A.C. Guide' is too sketchy to convey any very reliable information; that in 'Kurz' Guide' gives rather more detail

and may be accepted as an approximation to the 1876 route. Lord Wentworth's party, some time after 1876, attempted to ascend this face. They only succeeded in retracing their steps with great difficulty and after an impromptu bivouac (*ibid.* 294).

The great rock arête on the left, at the foot of which is a rock island in the glacier, is that attempted by Capt. Farrar, led by Daniel



This Photograph was taken 2 days after their ascent.

Maquignaz in 1898 ('A.J.' xxxiii. 383), and again by Mr. Odell's party in 1920 (*ibid.* 382, with photograph). It will afford some work.

The Fynn-Goudet route of 1895 is again more to the left ('Ö.A.C. Guide,' par. 499), and has never been repeated.]

POINT (3572 m. = 11,716 ft., Vallot) BETWEEN THE TOUR NOIRE AND THE AIG. ROUGES DU DOLENT OPPOSITE LA MOUCHE. August 1924. MM. Tom de Lépiney, Pierre Dalloz, Jacques Lagarde, and Henry de Ségogne.—This ascent was made from the Brèche 3509 (Vallot).

Pennines.

AIG. DE CRÊTE SÈCHE (2807 m. = 9207 ft.) (*vide* 'Guide des Alpes Valaisannes,' vol. i. pp. 174 and 177). August 23, 1924. Rev. C. G. Monro and Miss Monro, with Pierre Blanc and his son Alphonse.

From the comfortable inn at Oyace the party gained, *viâ* the Combe de Faudery, the Col Duc, whence the N. arête was mainly followed, a remarkable rock-tower just above the col being circumvented. Rocks in places loose; climb generally interesting.

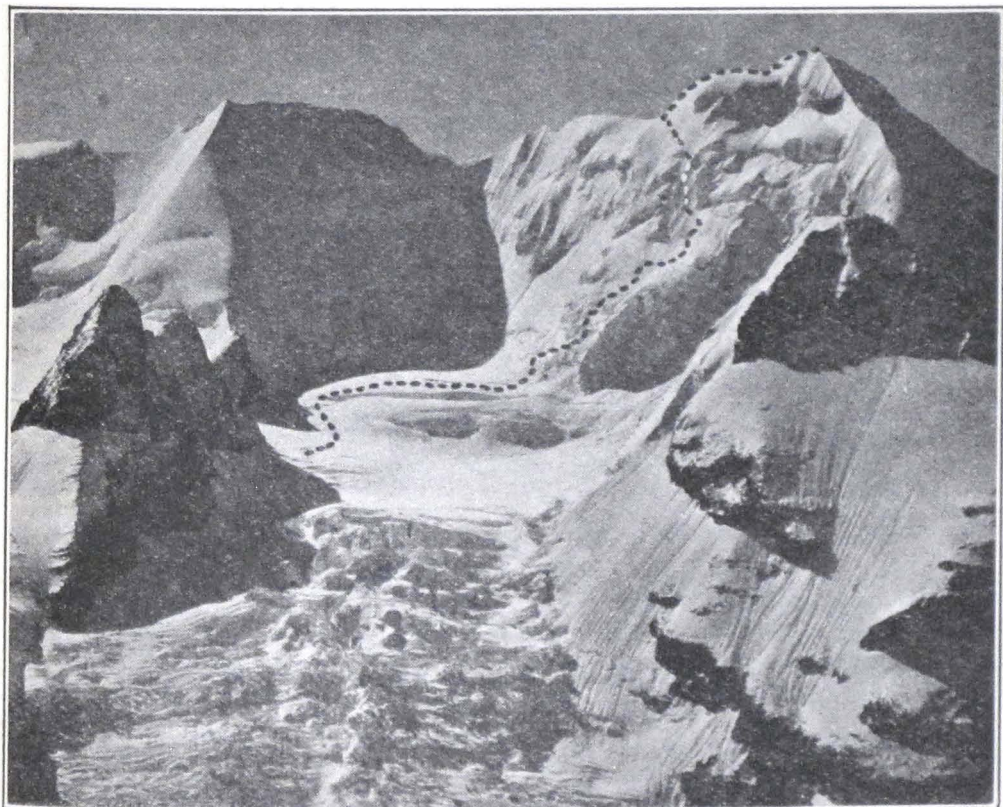
Time from col about 1 hour. The descent was effected by grassy gullies and ridges on the S. face, and, bearing steadily to their right, the party regained their sacks in the Combe de Faudery without touching the Col du Freiti.

WEISSMIES (4031 m. = 13,226 ft.), BY THE BUTTRESS BOUNDING ON THE E. 'THÄLLI' (SIEGFRIED). September 6, 1924, Squadron-Leader E. B. Beauman, with Othmar Supersaxo. The foot of this buttress is a bit to the left of 2758 (Siegfried). The buttress joins the Trifthorn-Weissmies arête at about 3780 m., and does not seem to have been previously ascended. Beyond this junction the route is not new ('Guide des Alpes Valaisannes,' iii. 337). The climb is described 'as a good three hours' pleasant rock scrambling in the middle of most delightful views.'

Times.—Almagellalp inn to foot of arête, 2 hrs.; to junction of Trifthorn-Weissmies arête, 3½ hours; to summit of Weissmies, 1½ hours.

Bernese Oberland.

BLÜMLISALPHORN (3671 m. = 12,044 ft.) BY THE N. FACE. June 1, 1924. H. Salvisberg, W. Amstutz, and W. Richardet, A.A.C. Berne.



[Photo, E. Gyger.]

Taken from Dündenhorn.

'Left Hohtürli hut 4 A.M. Followed the regular route to the glacier bay between Weisse Frau and Blümlisalphorn. The N. face was attacked at the spot where its séracs project the furthest into this glacier bay. (About in the straight line with the summit of Blümlisalphorn.) 6 A.M. Cutting up icefalls, steep ice- and névé slopes, we reached at 9.20 the N.E. arête and followed it to the summit, 10.35. The arête to the Weisse Frau was then followed, whence the descent to the Hohtürli hut was made. Magnificent ice expedition.'

W. RICHARDET, A.A.C.B.

LAUTERBRUNNEN BREITHORN (3779 m. = 12,399 ft.) BY THE N. FACE. August 12, 1924. Dr. D. Chervet and W. Richardet, A.A.C. Berne.

'We left the Obersteinberg inn at 1 A.M. and followed the Breithornjoch route (Dübi II. 49) *viâ* the Oberhornsee and the Breithorn glacier to near Pt. 2316. Up the W. branch of this glacier we gained the striking gap S. of the "Wermuthorn," local name for the well-marked rock-summit S. of Pt. 2316. From the gap we followed the rock arête until it ends in the "Ober Schmadri glacier" (small Stoneman). We now left the Breithornjoch route and followed the last-named glacier in a S.W. direction to the foot of the N. face of Breithorn (7 A.M.). We were now pretty exactly in the straight line (*Germ.* Fallinie) with the E. summit. We crossed the Bergschrund and cut up a steep ice slope to the right to a striking triangular rock-patch [marked 1 in photo], 8.30. Now began the climbing up the very steep face. We kept always to the right (E) flank of a rib which descends from the E. summit, and of which only the upper third becomes well defined. By midday we had, with difficult work, overcome the "Great Precipice" (*Germ.* Grosser Abbruch), a steep iced step with tile-like stratification. It was only now possible to follow the well-defined rib which, up steep rocks and ice, led direct to the E. summit, 14.10. Descent by the W. arête to the Mutthorn hut.

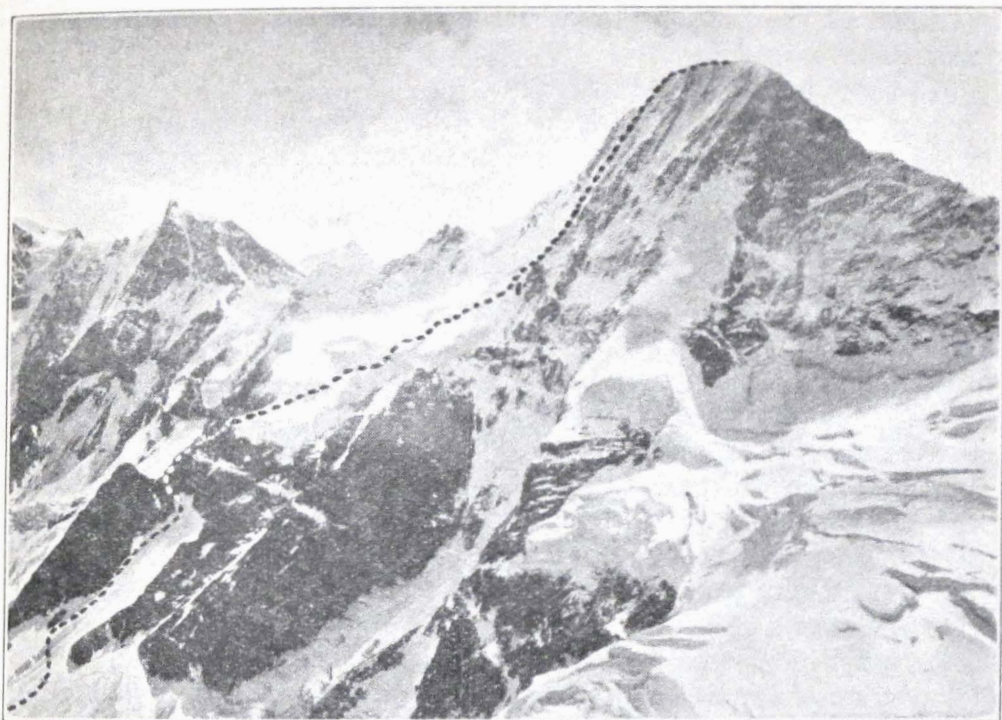
'Total time, Obersteinberg to summit, 13h. 10m., including 1¼ hr. halts.'

W. RICHARDET, A.A.C.B.

The rock is described as good.

[This magnificent climb up a face that hitherto has been recognized as offering great difficulties, is a great testimony to the powers and skill of the two young Swiss University mountaineers. MM. Hans Lauper and P. von Schuhmacher on August 19, 1923, were driven back by bad weather at the foot of the face. With the other two ascents reported in the present JOURNAL, the new ascents from the Rottal appear to be exhausted.

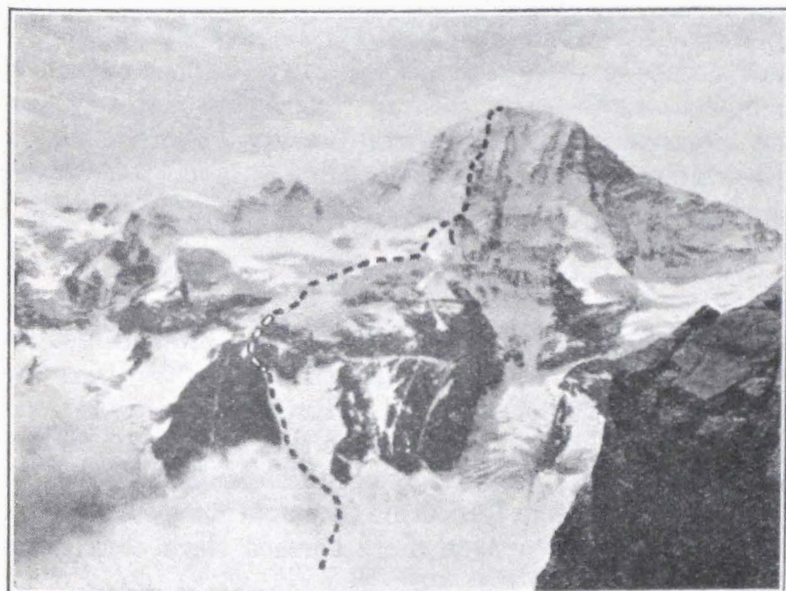
Reference should be made to my 'The Roththal face of the Jungfrau,' with a marked plate in 'A.J.' xxxi. 210-217.



[Photo, Dr. O. A. Hug.

Taken from the Lauterbrunnen Breithorn.

This Photograph shows clearly the approach.



[Photo, Dr. O. A. Hug.

Taken from the Tschingelgrat.

This Photograph shows the face better and the line followed on the critical upper part.

A list of the passages made out of the Rottal is given in 'A.J.' xxx. 246.

To these must now be added :

- 3A. Ascent of Ebnefluh by N. arête. See present JOURNAL.
- 4A. The Roteflüh arête. See 'A.J.' xxxv. 286.
- 7A. Grossjoch. See present JOURNAL.
- 7B. Ascent of Grosshorn. See 'A.J.' xxxiv. 168.
- 9A. Ascent of Breithorn. See present JOURNAL.

J. P. F.]

EBNEFLUH (3964 m. = 13,006 ft.), BY THE N. ARÊTE.¹ July 16, 1924. Miss F. R. Wills, with P. Almer (father and son); Capt. J. P. Farrar, with Fritz Boss.

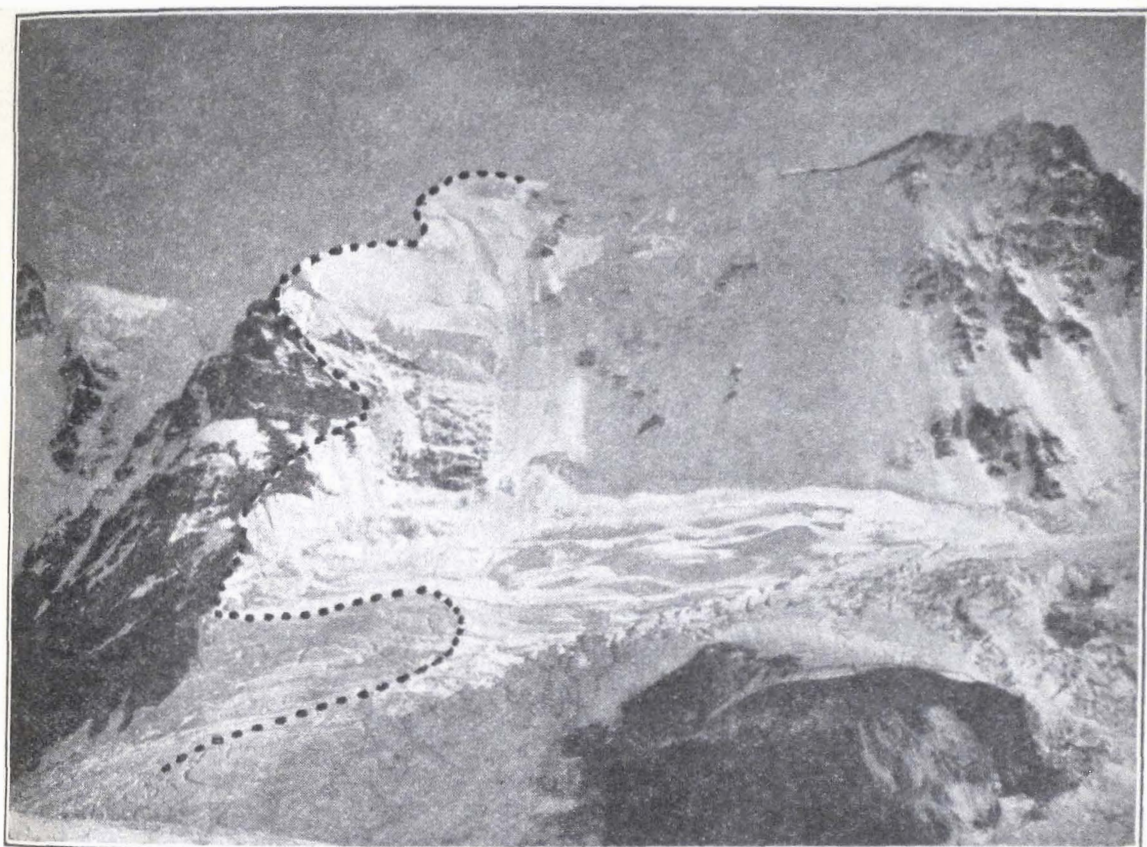
We left the Rottal hut at 4 A.M., crossed the glacier and ascended the ice-slope as shown on sketch. We then took to the rocks which, though steep and loose—foothold only—were not particularly difficult. We traversed to the right across some iced couloirs so as to gain the right-hand end of the steep rock wall. We were at the top of the rocks which formed a convenient headland at the foot of the upper ice portion of the ascent by 7.30, and spent $\frac{3}{4}$ hr. in eating and idleness—the weather looking all right. There followed a steep ice arête and then a broader ice ridge—very steep indeed for a bit—much step-cutting. We then reached easier slopes and bore to the left to gain the final outcrop of rocks beyond which was the snow summit, 11.5.

I was under the impression there was an easy way to the Jungfrau-joch. Peter père did not demur, so we descended to the broad opening of O. K. Williamson's Gletscherjoch—then ascended a great snow dome—traversed the whole ridge of the Gletscherhorn²—by no means easy—to its summit, 3.50. On the way down we got into a tremendous thunderstorm—as vivid lightning as I have seen, with a deluge of hail that, in addition, showered down on us from the slopes above in small avalanches—just when we were on

¹ I am quite at a loss to explain why this very obvious route—the first *direct* ascent of the mountain from the Rottal—had not been made before. I noted it from the Rottal hut in 1923 and could hardly believe it was new. I learn since that it had not escaped the eagle eyes of the young University climbers in Berne, and had Mr. Lauper not been absent in California it would no doubt have fallen to him, which would have been more correct than to my strongly guided party.

² Siegfried does not show the arête correctly. The precipice on the Rottal side is stupendous and there are several huge towers all traversed except the last which we turned by descending a short way in a couloir on the right.

a long ice traverse. Two minor storms followed and the mist was so thick that it took all old Peter's skill, aided by a momentary lift



NORTH FACE OF EBNEFLUH.

in the clouds, to extricate us. We reached the inn on the Jungfrauoch at 10 P.M.!

J. P. F.

GROSSJOCH¹ (ca. 3700 m. = 12,146 ft.). August 11, 1924. Miss F. R. Wills and Capt. J. P. Farrar with Peter Almer père et fils. We left the Obersteinberg upper inn at 4.2 A.M. and reached the grass plot described 'A.J.' xxxv. 254. Breakfast, 6.30-7. Young Almer then cut up steep icy slopes to a first bergschrund (there are *two* below the one visible in picture), which we crossed on the left under two huge and somewhat threatening séracs. We turned sharp right and hurried across, to get out of range, to a second easy bergschrund. Crossing this, Almer cut straight up very steep, hard snow to the lip of the big bergschrund visible in picture. We bore away, under the lip, horizontally to the left, to gain good steep rocks which

¹ This name is subject to the approval of the Topog. Bureau, Berne.

form an island. This appeared the first place where access to the rocks can be gained. Our hope had been to take to them much earlier so as to avoid crossing under the big séracs. The splendid weather beguiled us into spending from 10.15 to 11.20 eating and idling. We followed the island to its head and then cut across a snow-slope to the main rock massif (11.45). Good stepped rocks, mainly gneiss, were then ascended at a good rate with the great ice-slope—prodigiously steep²—close on our right. The rocks got steeper as we progressed but, while needing great care, were at no point very difficult, nor were we at any time in danger from ice or stones. Arrived at the end of the rocks young Almer had quite an hour's work cutting in hardish ice before we reached the main arête at 3.30. We left at 4, descended very steep snow-slopes and snow gullies to the Anenfirn, passed close to our Jägilücke of last year, and hit the path 'in der Anen,' making Fafleralp at 9.5 soon after dark. Weather perfect all day.

The two Almers carried out our plans with an energy and a mastery of their profession that deserve every recognition. They complement each other admirably.

Our intention had been to cross the Mittagjoch, and our massif appeared to lead to the lowest point in the ridge somewhere about where we imagined the Mittagjoch to be.

Mr. Irving's party (August 3, 1908, 'A.J.' xxiv. 360-1) ascended the Mittaghorn from the Rottal by what I take to be the massif of rock to the left of our massif. Towards the top they bore to the right and reached the main watershed arête to the S.W. of the Mittaghorn, which they gained in 1 hour by following its S.W. arête. Dr. Dübi ('S.A.C.J.' xlv. 327) remarks that his own 1880 route from this side to the Mittagjoch coincided with Mr. Irving's to a certain point, but bore towards the end more to the right. Dr. Dübi's Mittagjoch would appear to be at A in the picture. A little later Mr. Irving (August 24, 1908, 'A.J.' *ibid.*) descended the N.E. arête of Grosshorn 'to a snow-saddle, this being considerably the lowest depression between the Mittaghorn and the Grosshorn,' whence they descended to the Anenfirn. He adds: 'It would have been shorter to have continued on the ridge over a small gendarme to the Mittagjoch of the Siegfried map.' This would appear to be at B in the picture (there are two gendarmes—not one—and they are not very small). This is practically our Col, but it is not Dr. Dübi's.

The terrain on the Rottal side of the range, from the Breithorn to the Ebnefluh, does not appear to me to be accurately delineated in the Siegfried map, or to agree with the photographs, and personally I do not know at what point the Siegfried map actually places the Mittagjoch. The côte 3704, presumably intended for

² Up this led Macdonald's ascent of 1895 and Hasler's of 1904, the leader in each case being Christian Jossi.



Photo: Wehrli A.G.

MITTAGHORN,

GROSSJOCH,

GROSSHORN,

SCHMADRIJOCH,

from Obersteinberg.

A—MITTAGJOCH.

B—MR. IRVING'S COL (not crossed).

the Joch, is some distance away from the name, and approximates more nearly to our Col.

We seem thus to have made a new route across the range to which the name of Grossjoch might be given.

My friend Graham Irving has read my interpretation of his route and confirms my conclusion.

J. P. F.

THE SOUTHERN ALPS OF NEW ZEALAND.¹

Two Thumb Range.

MT. ALMA (8204 ft.).—First ascent, H. C. Chambers, H. E. L. Porter, C. S. Barker. Up the Rangitata valley to the musterers' hut at the foot of Black Mountain. Thence up Alma creek, turning the impasse by climbing over the bluff on the true right, and taking the left branch, where the creek forks above, to a bivouac in the highest patch of trees (3 hours). From here easily up bed of creek to a snowfield well short and to right of col at foot of S. ridge. Up this snowfield diagonally, and by easy rock-ribs and snow to the top (4½ hours). December 18, 1923.

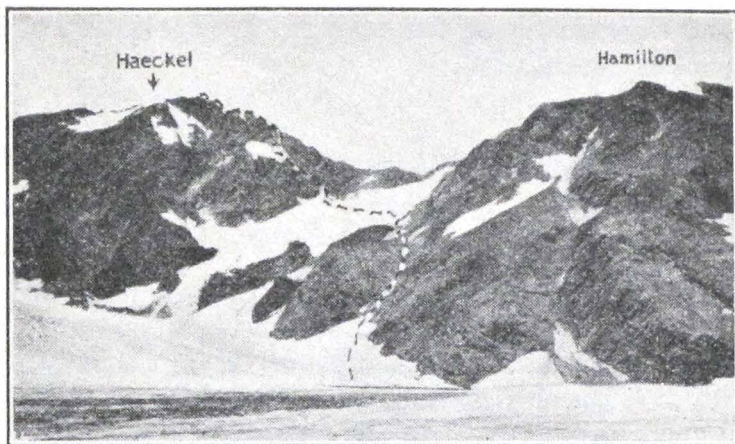
THE TWO THUMBS (8338 ft.).—First ascent, same party. From Mesopotamia in the Rangitata valley over the top of Mt. Brabazon (5879 ft.) to shack in Black Birch creek (6 hours). Thence up lateral creek on left to foot of E. face (3 hours). Then for 400–500 ft. up prominent couloir leading to S. ridge before it rises steeply. The couloir was then crossed to its true left bank, and ascent to the S. ridge made by steepish rocks and snow. By ridge easily to summit (2 hours 45 minutes). December 22, 1923.

Malte Brun Range.

MT. HAECKEL (9649 ft.).—H. E. L. Porter, C. S. Barker. First ascended in 1912 by Captain Head with Clarke and Murphy, who went from the Darwin glacier up the tributary Bonney and over the spurs of Mt. Hamilton to the col between it and Haeckel, thence climbing the S.W. arête to the top. Their route was repeated with a variation below in 1914 by Mr. H. O. Frind with Conrad Kain. Both parties reported the ridge to be very rotten. A new route was made last January. From the Darwin glacier an obvious 500-ft. couloir, well beyond the entrance of the Bonney and leading up towards Hamilton, was ascended to near the top, and a traverse made by a scree-laden shelf on to the upper Darwin glacier and across to the rock-rib in the centre of it (3 hours). This was ascended, till an easy way on to the glacier beyond was seen, and the glacier then

¹ See map, *A.J.* xxix. 104. There is a set of 1-in. Government maps in the Library, procured by Mr. Harper (cf. *A.J.* xxxv. 52).

crossed to a schrund, which divides its N. bank from a large snow-field above. Up the snow to the rocks below a big black patch on the S.W. ridge, which can be seen from a long way off (2 hours



FROM LOWER DARWIN GLACIER.

- - - Line of ascent.

15 minutes). Thence to the summit in 30 minutes. This part of the ridge is reasonably sound. The descent was by the same route, except that an unexpected passage through the ice-fall from the upper to the lower glacier presented itself. January 21, 1924.

Banks Range.

UNICORN (8394 ft.).—First ascent, H. E. L. Porter with Frank Milne. The Banks Range diverges from the main divide in a S.W. direction at Mt. Beatrice. The first peak on it is Dilemma (8592 ft.), ascended by Kain and Fyfe in 1914, and the second is Unicorn. From the Hooker hut the rock-rib beyond that used for the Copland Pass was mounted till it merged in a steep wall. A horizontal traverse and a short descent led to the glacial shelf above the Hooker valley. This was crossed and the main divide reached a few minutes S. of Mt. Beatrice (4 hours 40 minutes). The two peaks of Dilemma were traversed, the big gendarme between the two being climbed by a crack up its centre (65 minutes). From Dilemma a series of slabs about 400 ft. in height, which proved much easier than they looked, lead to a col, whence the moderate rocks of the N.E. ridge are climbed to the top (50 minutes). January 28, 1924.

Liebig Range.

MT. BLACKBURN (7835 ft.).—First traverse by the two main ridges; same party. The ascent was made from Gorilla creek by the S.W. ridge, the route of the first ascent in 1903, to the top in $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours. The descent was by the unclimbed N.E. ridge. This has

two prominent steps: the one close to the top was turned on the W. face, and a very difficult wall descended into the couloir falling from its base. The ridge was regained and followed to the next step, which was also turned on the west. The scree-chute at its foot was utilised till it ceased, and descent continued by the scrubby hillside back into Gorilla creek and so to the hut (4 hours). February 10, 1924.

Main Divide.

MT. BURNS (8984 ft.).—H. E. L. Porter with Frank Milne and C. Williams. First ascended by Mr. S. Turner and Peter Graham in 1914. They climbed from the Müller glacier to the N.E. ridge at a point W. of Bernard Pass and by ridge to top. The same route was taken this year ($5\frac{1}{2}$ hours), and the traverse completed by the first descent of the W. side of the mountain. From the top a snow-edge running N.W. was followed till lodgment could be effected on the Spence glacier. This glacier in its upper regions nowhere reaches the Landsborough, to which it is tributary, except in fragments over a steep rock-cliff of varying height. Farther down this cliff lies back here and there in slabby ribs. One of these was descended, and the cliff itself evaded by an avalanche-chute ($5\frac{1}{4}$ hours). Return up the Landsborough to the foot of Fyfe's Pass, and by the slabs on its true left, traversing to the left at every obstacle, to the ridge of Mt. Montgomery, 150 ft. above the pass ($2\frac{1}{4}$ hours). From Fyfe's Pass to the Müller hut (2 hours 20 minutes). February 17, 1924.

GREY PEAK (9800 ft.).—First ascent, H. E. L. Porter with Frank Milne and K. Ritchie. From Haast hut up Glacier Dome and round by Grand Plateau to the Haast ridge. This was followed for about an hour till descent was possible on to the névé of the Haast glacier above the ice-fall. Thence by crossing the schrund at its head—which would not be possible late in the season—to Pioneer Pass ($4\frac{1}{2}$ hours), and northwards along the ridge to Grey Peak, which is a 70-ft. rock pinnacle slightly W. of the ridge itself (40 minutes). February 20, 1924.

ROCKY MOUNTAINS OF CANADA.

THE CARIBOO RANGE.—These mountains, which form one of the important subdivisions of the Interior ranges of British Columbia, were visited during the past summer by a party consisting of Mr. Allen Carpe and Professor Rollin T. Chamberlin, accompanied by A. L. Withers of Jasper and two local packers. Between June 28 and July 9, eight summits over 10,000 ft. in height were climbed, seven of which were first ascents, including the highest peak of the range. This peak, which it is proposed to name 'Mt. Titan,' was found to be substantially in excess of 11,500 ft. in altitude, and is

probably the highest summit in any of the Interior ranges, surpassing Mt. Sir Sandford in the northern Selkirks. The entire range is heavily glaciated and the valley levels are low, the party's base camp at the tongue of the Sand Creek glacier being 4440 ft. The topographical work of the expedition included the location of the glacial sources of the North Thompson, Canoe, McLennan, and Shuswap (Raushwap) rivers and of Kiwa and Sand creeks. Data were obtained for a topographic outline map of the range. Further particulars will appear later.

ALBRED A PK. (MT. MILTON).—On July 18, 1924, the same party made the first ascent of this peak, situated in the northern Gold Range about seven miles S.E. of Clemina station, C.N.R., British Columbia. The peak is conspicuous by reason of a large glacier on its N.W. face which is in view from the railway. The altitude was found to be approximately 10,050 ft., or 7300 ft. above the valley. Progress was made with some difficulty through the heavily timbered lower valleys to a camp on the N.E. side of the mountain, whence the ascent was made, in bad weather, by way of the N. glacier and E. ridge. Further particulars will appear later.

ALLEN CARPE.

VARIOUS EXPEDITIONS.

Mont Blanc Group.

AIG. BLANCHE DE PEUTERET—PEUTERET ARÊTE—M. BLANC (4810 m. = 15,782 ft.). July 28 to August 2, 1923. Herr Alfred Horeschowsky, accompanied by Franz Piekieleko. July 28, left Courmayeur noon. Bivouac on glacier at about 3000 m. below the Dames Anglaises. July 29, bad weather—remained in bivouac. July 30, 1 A.M., left by moonlight and ascended the steep névé—mainly ice—of the Dames Anglaises. Through an ice-fall to the terrace. Crossing many deep, hard-frozen avalanche gullies we followed the terrace to the N.E. arête of the Aig. Blanche 4109 m., 6.30 A.M. Then over partly iced rocks to the summit 4190 m., 9.30—rested till 11.30. Descended to Col de Peuteret. The ice arête descends finally to the Col by a steep ice-wall requiring long and careful step-cutting 3950 m., 5.30 P.M. On the other side of the Col another ice-wall led to the rocks of the Peuteret arête. We recognised that these altered conditions were the result of the great stone avalanche [*v.* 'A.J.' xxxiii. 433], the névé arête connecting the Col with the rocks, together with the hanging glacier leading to the Brenva glacier, having completely broken away. The new ice-wall needed hard step-cutting. Then up iced rocks to the summit of the corner bastion (= Eckpfeiler) 4381 m., 7.30 P.M., where we