

The expedition is described as one of the finest in the Mont Blanc Group. From G. H. M. *Annuaire*, 1927, pp. 85-8; 120. See also *Guide Vallot*, ii. which gives very full details of the Aiguille Verte 'Ridge.'

Pennine Alps.

ALPHUBEL (4207 m. = 13,803 ft.), BY THE W.S.W. ARÊTE (*Rothen-grat*) AND S. FACE. July 27, 1926. Messrs. E. B. Beauman and W. B. Farrington with Johann Brantschen and Karl Pollinger. From the Täschalp 2 hrs. walking brought the party to an easy snow and rock arête which is followed for 2 hrs. to the foot of the S. face of the Alphubel proper. Now climb interesting rocks (20 mins.), till it becomes necessary to traverse to the right, E., across a steep slab for some 40-50 ft. This slab can be called a wall and is crossed by an indeterminate crack sloping downwards and affording but slight footholds; handholds are also very deficient and there are no good anchorages available. Thence climb interesting rocks more or less straight up the face to the summit (2½ hrs.).

The climb is stated to be one of the most interesting in the Zermatt district and although practically unknown, was repeated by another party on the same day. The 'times'—some 7 hrs. from the Täschalp—are quick.

ALPINE NOTES.

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :	Date of Election
Johnson, A.	1870
Leaf, W.	1871
Maitre, J.	1888
Borghese, Prince Scipio	1898
Raeburn, H.	1904

'BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE,' THE WESTERN ALPS.—The edition (1898) by Mr. Coollidge covers the Maritimes, Graians, Dauphiné, Mt. Blanc group, and Pennines to the Simplon. With maps of each district, 1 : 250,000, and a general map. Price 10s., or 10s. 4d. post free. Obtainable from any bookseller or the Assistant Secretary.

'BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE,' THE CENTRAL ALPS. PART I.—The edition (1907), by Rev. A. A. Valentine-Richards, covers Switzerland and N. of the Rhone and the Rhine. With nine maps, 1 : 250,000, and a general map. Price 5s., or 5s. 4d. post free, or unbound 2s. 6d., or 2s. 10d. post free. Obtainable as above.



Phot. Gustav Sommer.

The Coaz Club Hut (S.A.C.) and the Sella Group.

'BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE,' THE CENTRAL ALPS. PART II.—The edition (1911), by Rev. G. Broke, covers the Alpine regions S. and E. of the Rhone and Rhine as far as the Adige, *i.e.* the Lepontine, Grisons, Rhaetian (including Bernina), Ortler and Adamello groups. With nine maps, 1:250,000, and a general map. Price 5s., or 5s. 4d. post free, or unbound 2s. 6d., or 2s. 10d. post free. Obtainable as above.

'GUIDES DES ALPES VALAISANNES.'—

- Vol. I. Col Ferret to Col de Collon, by M. Kurz, 10s.
- Vol. II. Col de Collon to Col Théodule, by Dr. Dübi, 9s.
- Vol. III. Col Théodule to Weisstor, by Dr. Dübi, 8s.
- Vol. IV. Col Simplon to Furka, by M. Kurz, 8s.

At Stanford's, Long Acre, W.C. 2.

'GUIDE VALLOT.' Vol. I. LES AIGUILLES DE CHAMONIX.—Par J. de Lépiney, E. de Gigord and Dr. A. Migot, with 39 route-marked illustrations and 2 outline maps. Paris: Fischbacher, 33 rue de Seine. 1925.

This admirable Climbers' Guide is a complete monograph of the Aiguilles and may be said to be a much enlarged and more elaborate 'Kurz' or 'Mont Blanc Führer.'

'GUIDE VALLOT.' Vol. II.—L'AIGUILLE VERTE, par Henry de Ségogne, E. de Gigord, J. de Lépiney, J. A. Morin, with 34 route-marked illustrations and 5 maps. Paris: Fischbacher, 33 rue de Seine. 1926.

A CLIMBER'S GUIDE TO THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS OF CANADA.—By Howard Palmer and J. Monroe Thorington, published for the American A.C. by the Knickerbocker Press, N.Y., 1921. This very useful summary, with several maps, of what has been done in the Rockies to 1921, can be obtained from the Assistant Secretary, 23 Savile Row, price 7s. 6d.

LES ALPES DE SAVOIE.—Vol. VI., Part I., by Commandant Emile Gaillard, M.C. (Dardel, Chambéry, 27 fr. 50 post free), covering the groups Trélatête, Bionnassay-Goùter, M. Blanc, Brouillard-Pétéret, and Maudit-Tour Ronde, with skeleton maps of each group and several marked sketches, has just appeared. It follows generally the plan of the Kurz guide, and includes the full information of all recent climbs.

Part II., covering the groups of the Chamonix Aiguilles and the groups of the Grandes Jorasses and the Talèfre, will appear very shortly.

The full series is as follows :

- Vol. I. Le Massif entre l'Arc et l'Isère (new edition).
Part I. N. of Col de la Vanoise, 27 fr. 50 post free.
Part II. S. of Col de la Vanoise, 22 fr. 50 post free.
- Vol. II. La frontière entre la Seigne et le Thabor, 22 fr. 50 post free.
- Vol. III. Les Massifs entre la Savoie et le Dauphiné, 24 fr. 50 post free.
- Vol. IV. Les Massifs de Beaufortin et Les Bauges, 27 fr. 50 post free.
- Vol. V. Les Massifs entre le Lac d'Annecy et le Léman (to appear in 1927).
- Vol. VI. Le Massif du M. Blanc.
Parts I. & II. as above.

The volume of Commandant Gaillard's 'Les Alpes du Dauphiné,' Part II., covering the Massifs of the Meije and Ecrins, is announced for 1927 and can be subscribed for later.

These guides have full sets of skeleton maps and many route-marked sketches, so that the French Alps are now very well off for guidebooks.

Commandant Gaillard will issue early in 1927 a new coloured map of the M. Blanc group, scale 1 : 50,000, with all the most recent nomenclature.

THE JOURNAL OF DE SAUSSURE covering his sojourn at Chamonix in July and August 1787, with an introduction and many notes on little known details by Commandant Gaillard and Mr. Henry F. Montagnier, and heliogravures, was published recently, with the authorisation of the family. It shows his preoccupations and hopes and finally his unmixed joy at the success.

Subscriptions can be sent direct to Commandant Gaillard, M.C., Barberaz, Savoie, France. Edition de Luxe, 4to, 150 fr., ordinary 4to, 60 fr., foreign postage, 5 fr.

SECRETS OF THE EDITOR'S BOX.—On January 1, 1927, this venerable relict, in a state of perfect preservation, was handed over to the present Editor by Mr. Yeld. It contains several interesting pamphlets and letters. Perhaps, however, the most valuable document of all is a script inscribed 'Alpine Journal Notes.' It is by Mr. Coolidge on relinquishing the Editorship and is intended for the guidance of his successors. It consists of ten closely written sheets of foolscap, all of which merit the closest attention. The gem of the contents, however, is a list at the end, entitled 'Con-

tributors who require tender handling.' There follow the names of nine mountaineers, mostly of the heroic age, all of whom, alas, save one, have now left us. In the fullness of time, the next Editor duly handed over his care of the JOURNAL together with the Editorial Box. He had added one name to the illustrious Nine and this name is labelled 'For VERY tender handling.' It is that of his famous predecessor himself!

OXFORD UNIVERSITY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB (Summer, 1926).—Busk (the Hon. Secretary) with Lloyd of the Cambridge Club and Heinrich and Simon Burgener arrived at Grindelwald on July 20. For the next three weeks continuous bad weather was experienced, but the Wetterhorn and Mönch were climbed and the Fletschhorn, Laquinhorn, Egginergrat and Nadelhorn as well.

During part of this period the combined Oxford and Climbers' Club Meet had been in progress at Fionnay. Here too the weather was unpromising, but much was accomplished by the more resolute members of the party. Among the more important peaks climbed were the Grand Combin (second ascent of the season). Ruinette, Combin de Corbassière, Dent des Rosses, Petit Combin and Pointe d'Otemma. The Meet then began to split up. One party followed the High Level Route to Zermatt, doing on the way the Mont Collon and Dent Blanche (first ascent of the season). Much of the climbing was guideless.

Part of the Meet migrated to Chamonix, where they picked up the Hon. Secretary. During the wonderful weather of August much was accomplished. The Nonne was traversed guideless and the traverse of the Grands Charmoz and the ascent of the Blaitière done with Armand Charlet. An attempt was made on Mont Blanc from the Torino Club hut, which failed owing to the illness of one member of the party, however the Mont Maudit was reached. The Drus (first ascent of the season) and the Grépon were both traversed, guided. Some scrambling was done on the Aiguilles Rouges and on the Petits Charmoz.

Another party of two proceeded from Fionnay to Tirol, picking up the President (A. J. Haselfoot) on the way. They traversed the main chain of the Tirolese Alps from the Brenner to the Glockner. *En route* they climbed the Olperer, Mösele, Schönbichlerhorn, Mörchner, Schwarzenstein, Zsigmondyspitze, Richterspitze, Gross Venediger and Gross Glockner. The party found the huts of the D. & Oe. A.V. equipped with undreamt of luxury, and were received with the utmost cordiality by German and Austrian climbers.

The party now split, and two members proceeded to the Dolomites. They climbed the Zwölferkofel on the first day and returned to Sexten, where Waterston was picked up. They then went to Cortina and worked westwards, climbing on the way the Croda da Lago, Cinque Torri, Tofana, Marmolata, Fünffingerspitze and

Langkofel by the S.W. ridge. The Meet ended with an unsuccessful attempt on the Grohmannspitze, defeated by rain and lack of time.

All the climbing done in Tirol and the Dolomites was guideless.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB (Summer, 1926).—A Meet was held from July 24 to August 5, at the Refuge des Evettes, above Bonneval-sur-Arc in the Central Graians. The Club has been there once before, in L. A. Ellwood's Presidency, and indeed it is almost an ideal centre for this type of 'communal' guideless climbing, as the expeditions to be made from the Refuge are mostly neither long nor very difficult. Twelve members attended, assembling at Les Evettes on the 24th, some coming direct from England, while one party arrived after a week in the Vanoise, in the course of which they had secured the Aiguilles de Polset, de la Vanoise and [*? Pointe*] de la Glière. In five days most of the Evettes peaks had been climbed, the President's party traversing the Pointe de Bonneval and the Ciamarella, and climbing one of the Mulinet peaks: the Treasurer's party traversed the Pic Regaud, the Pointe de Chalanson, and the Picco Tonini, and climbed the Albaron, while other ropes were also successful on the Pic Regaud and the Albaron. Then, with several people leaving for home, we were able to redivide into two parties of four. Wager took his rope over a series of cols to the Victor Emmanuel, and climbed the Grand Paradis and the Becca di Monciair, while Longland's party crossed to the Col de la Vanoise, climbed the Grande Casse and the Aiguille de la Vanoise, and then went on to the Val d'Isère, from where on August 4 they traversed the Aiguilles Rousses in a snowstorm to the new hut below the Col du Carro. Two hours after they arrived Wager's party came in too, after a very long day's march in bad weather from the Victor Emmanuel. Next day, the weather being still unsettled, we all went down the valley, and a very enjoyable Meet broke at Modane. The weather had been fairly good, and the unusual quantity of snow had not much affected climbing conditions.

After the Meet, one party went up to the Saint Michel-de-Maurienne valley to the Commandraut huts, on the east side of the Aiguilles d'Arves, and then climbed the Central Aiguille, while on the same day a second party walked from Saint Jean-de-Maurienne and attacked the Southern peak from the Rieu Blanc Châlets on the West; both arrived at their respective summits almost simultaneously, and caught glimpses of each other through the mist. Afterwards the first party finished up by walking through the Bauges district, and the other party went to Dauphiné, where, in the course of a fortnight, the Grande Ruine and the Montagne des Agneaux were traversed, and Les Bans and the Tête de la Gandolière climbed. Other Cambridge parties were in Switzerland, and quite a lot was done in the Chamonix and Zermatt districts.

There is a valuable monograph, in G. H. M. *Annuaire*, 1927, pp. 7-37, on LES PÉRIADES, *i.e.* from Mt. Mallet to the Aiguille du Tacul. Every tooth and depression on this long arête appear to be classified and measured. A great number of 'peaklets' are also named, mostly after famous Chamonix professionals. The first recorded ascents and variations are described at great length and detail. The writers, MM. Bruhl, Bernard and d'Aubigné state, quite frankly, that doubtless many of these points had been scaled previously but not 'recorded.' Mr. G. W. Young appears to have been one of the principal culprits ('On High Hills,' p. 253), but it must be remembered that some of these 'summits' barely emerge from the névé of the Glacier du Mont Mallet.

An interesting article on the CORNO STELLA also appears in the G. H. M. *Annuaire*, 1927, together with one on the routes up the S. peak of the PUNTA DELL' ARGENTERA from the Argentera glen. Both articles are by M. Jean Vernet, a great authority on the Maritime Alps and one of the members of the superb expedition up Les Ecrins from the Glacier Noir ('A.J.' 38, 304-7).

The G. H. M. *Annuaire*, 1927, also reports a thrilling attempt, August 3-5, on the AIGUILLE DES GRANDS CHARMOZ by the N.E. or Montenvers face. Caught in a storm, with only one surviving axe and with absolutely no food for the last 24 hours, the party were more than lucky to escape with their lives.

We understand that *no* attempt was made on the N. face of the GRANDES JORASSES during 1926, the last serious one being by an Italian party in 1923.

Two successful ascents of the extremely difficult DENT DU CAÏMAN (first ascent, July 20, 1905, by M. Emile Fontaine with Jean Ravanel and L. Tournier) are recorded last summer. No party had reached the summit since the first ascent. The route taken in the case of both parties was, of course, *over* the Dent du Crocodile; 4-5½ hours were the 'times' of the parties for the comparatively short bit between the Crocodile and Caïman summits.¹ See *Die Alpen*, 1927, pp. 74-7 with illustrations, and G. H. M. *Annuaire*, 1927, pp. 92-4, with a striking photograph, p. 124.

An attempt on the S. arête of the AIGUILLE NOIRE DE PÉTÉRET was made by Herren W. Welzenbach and E. Allwein on July 24, 1926. They, however, only attained the 3rd tower on the ridge. This tower is cut off from the 4th tower of the Aiguille by a great

¹ The Fontaine party took 3¾ hrs., and a total expedition of 19 hrs. 20 mins. from and back to the Montenvers.

gap some 300 ft. or more in depth. The descent is considered very problematical even with many 'rappels' and the further ascent even more so. The difficulties throughout are extreme. Another attempt by an Italian party, Signori G. Albertini, S. Matteoda and P. Zanetti, August 3-6, 1926, on the same arête is chronicled. This party also turned back at the 3rd tower (3420 m., *aneroid*). The weather was bad on both occasions, and the Italians found 4 inches of snow on the Fauteuil des Allemands on their return. It may be noted that the first tower on the arête or PICCO GAMBA (? 3050 m.) was climbed on July 26, 1913, by the late Dr. Preuss and Count Ugo di Vallepiana; 8 hrs. were expended in a climb of (?) 750 m. and the difficulties were extreme. The two above-mentioned parties, of course, passed *over* the Picco Gamba in their attempts on the Aiguille Noire, which in view of the weather, the time spent on the arête and the terrain, appear to have been of the most desperate nature.

As related in 'A.J.' 38, 275, MONT BLANC was climbed by the Pétérét arête by Signori Albertini, Matteoda, and Zanetti, on August 15-18 (!), 1926. The weather was, from the first, very doubtful and they were much delayed as far as Point 4341 m. where, on the morning of August 17, they were caught in the same storm which so nearly proved disastrous to the de Lépiney-Bregeault-Migot party on the Brouillard arête. The Italian party passed a dreadful day, lightning striking the rocks all around them, and it was only on the 18th that the summit of Mont Blanc was attained.

Mont Blanc was climbed by the Brouillard arête, a day or two later, by Signori Barisone, Balestreri and Piantanida. One bivouac was made *en route*.

On September 1, 1926, Signori Albertini and Matteoda climbed the AIGUILLE DE GRÉPON from the Mer de Glace and reached the summit via the 'Knubel' crack. [The first 'guideless' ascent of the Knubel crack was by the Signori G. and A. Polvara and V. Ponti in 1924.] On the descent by the original 'Mummery' line of ascent, the 'Grand Gendarme' was turned, on the Mer de Glace slope, without any extraneous aid, first by a descent of some 40 ft., next a difficult traverse followed by a still harder reascent, by means of a crack, to the *Râteau de Chèvre*.

On the Courmayeur side, the DÔME DE ROCHEFORT was climbed for the first time by its S. face by Signori G. and A. Polvara, August 1925. The PUNTA CASTELNUOVO, or highest tooth, of the Dames Anglaises has been climbed three times since the first ascent in 1907; viz. in 1922, by Signori G. Polvara, V. Ponti and A. Rossi from the gap between l'Isolée and the Punta Casati (the most northerly of the 'three fantastic sisters' ²), this being the first ascent from the gap to the Punta Casati, the start having been made from the Fresnay side. In 1925 the Punta Castelnovo was climbed by

² Punta Casati, Castelnovo, and Jolanda.



Old Print from Collection of R. W. Lloyd.



Joseph Pollinger.

Adolph Pollinger.

R. W. Lloyd.

Signori Albertini, Matteoda and Zanetti from the Brenva side, and in 1926 the ascent was repeated by Signori Gallo and Derege.

In 1925 the AIGUILLE BLANCHE DE PÉTÉRET was climbed from the Brenva side by Signori Bergera and Ghizetti, the descent on to the Fresnay being made approximately by the 'Jones-Croux' route. (All these 'Mont Blanc' notes kindly communicated by Count Aldo Bonacossa.)

These expeditions clearly show that the G. H. M. does not possess a monopoly in the Mont Blanc Group; but where are 'les jeunes Britanniques'?

The MITTLERE WETTERSPIITZE, height given as 2750 m. = 9002 ft. (? 2450 m.), in the Bavarian Alps, was climbed for the first time by its N. face, the 'Wetterwand,' by Herren W. Welzenbach and J. Dreher on August 22, 1926. The height of the wall is stated to be 950 m. It was scaled in 6 hrs.; the difficulties are great and the rocks often treacherous ('C.E.A.Z.' xlix., p. 16).

The accommodation provided by the BRITANNIA CLUB HUT above Saas Fee is stated to have been frequently overtaxed during the last summer. On numerous occasions, 20 persons at least, were unable to lie down *inside*!

A good new hotel, Grand Hôtel du Val Ferret, has been erected at LA FOULY in the Swiss Val Ferret. The Châlet du Val Ferret also provides accommodation.

The ridge from the PIZZO CAMEROZZO (*Bernina*, W. Wing) to the N. summit (*Punta Bertani*) of Monte Scione was followed throughout, September 18, 1926, by Signori V. Bramani and M. Castiglione. It is a partially new route, very interesting, and being at a low elevation (9000 ft. or less), is suitable for doubtful weather. (*Le Prealpi*, January 1927).

Dr. Dukietz, the botanist, of Upsala University, Sweden, who is studying the alpine flora of New Zealand, declares that some of the lichens he has found there were known previously only in Arctic regions. New Zealand, he declares, is one of the most important countries in the world from the point of view of botanists. From *The Times*, February 1, 1927.

MR. ALLSTON BURR represented the Alpine Club at the Jubilee Dinner of the Appalachian Mountain Club held at Boston, U.S.A., on February 6, 1926.

THE jubilee of the *Centre Excursionista de Catalunya*, whose headquarters are at Barcelona, was celebrated on November 26, 1926. The Alpine Club wishes this, the senior mountain club of Spain, every success and prosperity.

THE twenty-fifth anniversary of the foundation of the *Nederlandsche Alpen-Vereeniging* was celebrated on March 19 at The Hague. Lt.-Colonel E. L. Strutt represented the Alpine Club, and conveyed the cordial good wishes of its President and members.

With reference to a note in 'A.J.' 36, 418, on INNS AND HUTS IN THE EASTERN GRAIANS, the 'Grivola' at Cogne is *not* as there stated, but the new 'Bellevue' is excellent and is well away from the high road where day (and night) is made hideous, as everywhere in Italy, by the open exhausts of cars and lorries. The Herbetet Hut is locked and the key must be obtained from the head keeper at Cogne. It provides sleeping (bunk) accommodation for *two* only. The Vittorio Sella Club hut, formerly the King's extensive shooting-box in the Val di Lauson and the nearest starting-point for the Grivola, was completely looted early last summer, but is now doubtless restored. The keepers throughout the region are most hospitable. Bouquetins and chamois swarm. With all shooting stopped, there appears little doubt that disease will break out. Feeding already seems to be very short.

SIGNOR COMMENDATORE BOBBA, Hon. Mem. A.C., is asking for subscriptions to erect a monument at Courmayeur to the memory of the late JOSEPH PETIGAX. The name of this great mountaineer is inseparably linked with H.R.H. the Duke of the Abruzzi's great expeditions to Alaska, Ruwenzori, the Himalaya and the North Pole. Subscriptions may be sent to the CONSORZIO GUIDE E PORTATORI DELLE ALPI OCCIDENTALI, C.A.I., via Monte di Pietà, 28, Turin.

THE new C.A.I. hut at about a height of 2320 m. on the S. side of the Drei Zinnen, called RIFUGIO PRINCIPE UMBERTO is well spoken of, and is suitable for a stay of several days. The caretaker is the well-known guide, Sepp Krautgasser, of Innichen (San Candido).

THE *Bulletin* of the Section de Genève, S.A.C., announces a lamentable skiing disaster to several young novices of the GRAND ST. BERNARD MONASTERY, on November 7 last. The monks were practising at the time in view of their dangerous and humane winter duties. Two of the party were rescued unhurt, but the other three, although equally quickly disinterred by the dogs, were already dead. The use of these splendid St. Bernard dogs, on the utility of which under modern conditions doubt in some quarters had been whispered, is thus nobly vindicated.

THE death is reported of DR. THOMAS THOMAS (1861-1926) of Paris, in an unfortunate automobile accident near Chamonix last autumn. The deceased, under the leadership of the late Auguste Blanc and his brother Pierre, became remarkable for some very

difficult and enterprising climbs in all parts of the Alps. Among these may especially be noted the first ascent of the Blümlisalphorn by the S. face, a notable variation to the S.E. arête of the Finsteraarhorn, an interesting and rarely possible route from the S. arête of the Dent Blanche to the Col du Grand Cornier, a route up the N. face of the Aiguille du Plan, etc. Dr. Thomas was always a most courageous climber.

A RELIC OF MONT BLANC. The ice-axe of Dr. J. B. Bean, who perished with ten others in the terrible disaster³ of September 5-7, 1870, has been found at the foot of the Glacier des Bossons. The axe, which was broken, was plainly marked with Dr. Bean's name. It had taken 57 years to descend the 2900 m. difference of level. It will be recollected that on Dr. Bean's body, which was one of the five recovered at the time, was found a diary, recording in touching and tragic words what must have been the last hours of the party. From *La Montagne*, 1927, pp. 60-1.

WE regret to announce the death at Chamonix of the guide FRÉDÉRIC PAYOT (1839-1927). Less well known than his brothers, Michel and Alphonse, he was nevertheless one of the best professionals of his time. He endeared himself to all mountaineers by his conduct during the search for the bodies of the victims of the Matterhorn⁴ tragedy of 1865.

La Montagne is asking for subscriptions to erect a monument over PIERRE GASPARD's grave at St. Christophe-en-Oisans. He was, of course, the first conqueror of the Meije.

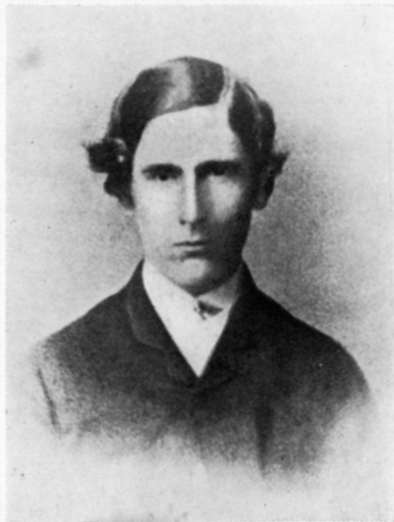
A CLUB hut, to be named the 'E. T. COMPTON HÜTTE,' is being built by the *Kärntner Oberland* and *Austria* sections of the D. & C.E.A.V. The hut is on the Reisskofel (2369 m. = 7770 ft.), not far from Villach, Carinthia. It is built in memory of the well-known British painter and mountaineer, E. T. Compton (1849-1921), who was one of the greatest authorities on the Eastern Alps. The hut will be available this summer, but will not be officially inaugurated until 1928, when it is hoped that Great Britain will be represented.

A portrait of Mr. Compton and a sympathetically written article by Irene von Schellander will be found in the *Kärntner Kalender*, 1927.

The modern French and Italian craze for naming all points or prominent objects on ridges is sometimes carried to grotesque lengths. In 'R. M.' 1927, there is an admirable photograph of the BREITHORN (Pennines) as a frontispiece and equally excellent

³ See *Le Mont Blanc*, C. Durier, pp. 384-93; *A.J.* 5, 188-90, 193-7.

⁴ *Scrambles*, 2nd edition, p. 402.

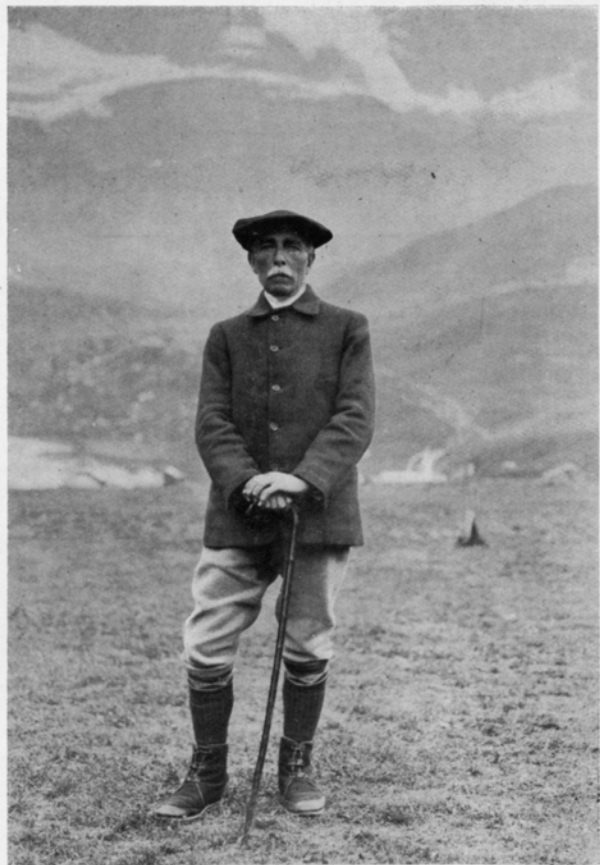


DOUGLAS HADOW
(1846-1865.)

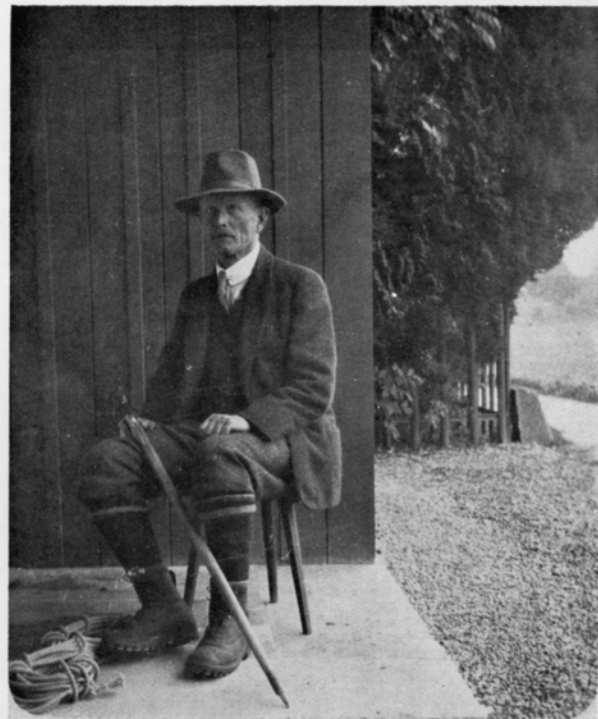


PETER TAUGWALDER, Junior
(about 1865).

A reminiscence of the Matterhorn disaster of July 14, 1865.
(from the collection of Paul Montandon).



CAV. GUIDO REY.



M. PAUL MONTANDON.

TWO GREAT MOUNTAINEERS.

ones facing pp. 32 and 33. On pp. 21-3 will be found an account of an ascent of the mountain by the E. arête. Both in the text and in the illustrations, the second point on that arête (4148 m., *S. map*, or 4154 m., *I. map*), W. of the Schwarzhorn is called 'Gemelli'; further, in the text, this point 4148 m. is called *Gemello Centrale*. Nothing less resembling a pair of 'Gemelli' than this point can well be conceived. But this is not the worst; Castor and Pollux, immediately to the E., are named *ZWILLINGE* on the earliest editions of the Dufour, and the name is repeated in large type on the latest Siegfried map. When a point is named the nominator incurs certain responsibilities besides the hope that the name will prove acceptable and be adopted eventually by the official surveyors. Can anyone seriously expect that the Siegfried map—and who would use any other—will start a fresh pair of Twins within 2 kilometres of the former? And, moreover, not 12 kilometres further to the W., almost on the same ridge, are the Jumeaux de Valtournanche; thus *three* separate sets of Twins all within short range and view of the Théodule! We are not aware when, where, or how this misbegotten nomenclature arose, but the sooner these Breithorn points sink into nameless oblivion the better.

Der Bergsteiger (1927, No. 11) reports a 'new route' on the MÖNCH! An Austrian party, August 9, 1924, descended the E. and S.E. arêtes for some distance and then took to the latter's S.E. slope. This is, of course, a mere variation to the ordinary route and is frequently taken when the conditions are good—as they were on this occasion.

DÔME DE NEIGE DES ECRINS.—The 1911 route of Messrs. Young, Jones and Todhunter, with the guides Knubel, Brocherel and Croux,⁵ was repeated last summer, according to the *Revue Alpine*, by a French party. They describe the rocks of the 'obvious snow couloir' as being very rotten and the danger of stonefall great. The couloir is misnamed 'le couloir *Jung*' throughout the narrative. If this deplorable form of nomenclature is to exist, it would be as well if the nominators were to study previously their Alpine literature and revise their phonetic spelling.

AIGUILLE DE GRÉPON: *Pointe Balfour*.—This tooth, as is well known, was climbed on July 19, 1881, by Messrs. Francis and Gerald Balfour with the guides J. Petrus and P. Knubel.⁶ The climb was accomplished during an attempt on the main summit. The *Pointe Balfour* was subsequently attained, under similar circumstances to the above (August 25, 1885), by Monsieur H. Dunod with his guides.⁷ Later again (August 1, 1890), Messrs. Wicks, Carr and

⁵ *A.J.* 25, 736; 26, 251.

⁶ *A.J.* 10, 397-400.

⁷ *C.A.F. Annuaire*, 1885, p. 95.

Sir G. Morse attained the point, also when attempting the main summit. The statement made in 'A.J.' **38**, 265, rests, consequently, on no foundation whatever. It is a remarkable fact that even the third and fourth ascents of insignificant boulders continue to be recorded. This fashion, if justifiable for 'Saxon Switzerland' or the Lakes, is hardly so for the Alps.

Mr. Geoffrey Winthrop Young has been elected an Honorary Member of the G.H.M.

MR. IAN HEPBURN, aged seventeen, son of Dr. Malcolm M. Hepburn, made with his father and a guide the ascent of the Aiguille de la Za by the N. Col de Bertol and the traverse of the Petite Dent de Veisivi from the Col de Zarmine—August 1926.

M. PAUL MONTANDON, the distinguished Swiss mountaineer whose portrait appears in this number, has over 40 'first ascents' to his credit. We wish him as many more. He was one of the first Swiss to dispense systematically with guides.

COL DU LION.—In Mr. Oliver's 'The Col du Lion' in 'A.J.' **36**, 372, I interpolated a passage of the col by MM. Spoerry and Simon based on *Le Guide des Alpes Valaisannes*, ii. 255, but on comparing the climbers' own report in 'S.A.C.J.' xliii., I find that they only *looked down* the Swiss slope of the fateful Couloir du Lion after a traverse of the Matterhorn!

I also credited the late Mr. Wicks with a passage of the col. This was based on an incomplete recollection of an old conversation. Dr. Wilson confirms that Wicks did set out with this intention.

Wicks's short note is in 'A.J.' **10**, 405. His guides were Ambrose Supersax and Theodor Andenmatten. They started from Stockje on August 7, 1881, but after cutting up an ice-wall in the Couloir du Lion, exposed to falling stones, they took to the rocks on the left proper side of the couloir—i.e. Tête du Lion side—and finally struck the main arête about 100 yards W. of the tête. Mr. Wicks very properly calls his expedition an ascent of the Tête du Lion from the N.

My apologies are due to Mr. Oliver.—J. P. F.

M. PIERRE DALLOZ, the well-known mountaineer and authority on the mountains of the Dauphiné, has been appointed 'Directeur du Syndicat d'Initiative de Grenoble et du Dauphiné,' with headquarters at Grenoble. This appointment is a great advantage to mountaineers, and we feel sure that M. Dalloz will be found a willing and very capable adviser to any of our members passing through Grenoble—indeed he writes that the door of his office 'will be open *à deux battants* for any member of the A.C. who calls on him,' and that he will be much pleased to answer any inquiries.

The C.A.F. has built a new Club hut, REFUGE DE CHAMBEYRON, situated at a height of 2640 m. above the Lac Premier and easily accessible from Fouillouse (St. Paul d'Ubaye). The hut will much facilitate the ascents of the Aiguille and Brec de Chambeyron. From *La Montagne*, 1927, p. 103.

AIGUILLES DU DIABLE.—M. E. R. Blanchet writes: "A.J." 38, 309, speaks of a 60 m. chimney on the [upper part of] *Aiguille Médiane* (4097 m., *Vallot*). This should be reduced to a 45–50 m. chimney. August 26, 1926.—M. J. Chaubert and myself with Alfred Bozon succeeded in climbing the W. face of the *Pointe Carmen* [4109 m., *Vallot*; No. 2 of the Aiguilles du Diable]. Armand Charlet, having attained the summit by the "de Lépiney" route (N. face), threw down two ropes to the first mentioned. By these means they were able to climb the long practically vertical, almost holdless, and in one part overhanging, chimney which is the key to the ascent. A 40 m. rope "en rappel" is essential for the descent. This route is shorter, less glazed and altogether better than the "de Lépiney" one for the descent. As a means of ascent it is, of course, impossible without a rope, and even then requires an extraordinary and sustained effort.

'From the gap between *l'Isolée* [4114 m., *Vallot*] to the foot of the great chimney in the W. face, there are no serious difficulties.'

SATTELHORN (3745 m. = 12,287 ft.).—'We ascended by a large snow couloir, descending to the S. of the Sattellücke. As it was icy we climbed very rotten rocks on the S. side till the couloir narrowed, then crossed on to the N. side on to more rotten rocks; after climbing some difficult slabs where the rocks were sound, we reached the snowy part of the S.W. arête not far below the summit. On the descent we followed scree slopes on the N. slope of the S.W. arête till close to the Sattellücke—we were, however, far too much on the Lötschenthal side; accordingly, a series of traverses leading easily down to the Sattellücke, were only attained by a very awkward traverse over rotten rocks. The time of 55 mins., from the Sattellücke to the Sattelhorn, given in the "Climbers' Guide" appears very fast.'

GISIGHORN (3182 m. = 10,440 ft.).—'The point marked 3182 m. (S. map) is not the highest point, this being a point midway between point 3182 m. and the Gisigpass. The description in the "Climbers' Guide" (Bernese Oberland, i. part 2, p. 152) appeared to us at the time to apply to the ascent of point 3182 m., and not to the higher summit. Having reached point 3182 m. in 1½ hrs. from the foot of the peak, 40 mins. strenuous exertion on the narrow ridge were required before attaining the summit.'

HOBSTOCK (3175 m. = 10,417 ft.).—'Route 1 (and also 2b) provides interesting climbing on the S.E. arête, while the direct ascent from the S. up the central buttress ("Climbers' Guide," route 2,

p. 158) is comparatively easy—rather in contravention of the “Climbers’ Guide.” [See ‘A.J.’ 17, 596–7.]

‘Start in the case of the Sattelhorn was from the Ober Aletsch Club hut; from Belalp in the other two cases. September 2, 4, and 6, 1926, Messrs. R. G. Smith, J. W. and H. Booth.’

H. BOOTH.

PIZZI PALÜ (3912 m. = 12,835 ft.), traverse to PIZ BERNINA (4055 m. = 13,304 ft.). This very unusual combination was carried out on August 31, 1925, by Mr. H. Booth with Theodor Biner and Johann Gross. The very fast times were as follows:—Diavolezza, dep. 01.30; Piz Palü (Central Summit), 05.45; Piz Bernina, 08.15–09.00; foot of ‘Labyrinth,’ 10.45–11.15; Morteratsch Restaurant, 12.45. The original intention was to descend by the N. arête, but this appeared to be impracticable.—H. BOOTH.

The new and excellent COAZ CLUB HUT has taken the place of the old Mortel hut in the Rosegthal, the latter having now been pulled down. The Coaz hut is the property of the Sektion ‘Rhaetia’ of the S.A.C., of which section the late Herr J. Coaz was the founder, president, and also honorary member. The hut affords accommodation for 30–35 persons. In conformity with the decree of the S.A.C. that the object of these huts being to provide shelter for serious mountaineers only, any suggestion of *new* Club huts being run as ‘Inns’ has been strictly vetoed. The Coaz hut will, of course, be inspected periodically.

THE SILS LAKE PROJECT.—We understand that the scheme has, unhappily, not yet been shelved. The Cantonal authorities are stated to be unfavourable to it, as are all the Upper Engadine hotel-keepers. The Sektion ‘Bernina,’ S.A.C., with other societies, is conducting a vigorous struggle to prevent the threatened desecration of this the most beautiful part of the Upper Engadine. The veteran Christian Klucker has actually protested before the Federal Council, Berne, on the subject in what, we have heard, was a great oration. There are now hopes that the lake will be declared a ‘national sanctuary’ and that the communes owning the lake (Sils and Stampa, Bregaglia) will be compensated for any loss arising from the abandonment of the scheme.

We understand that the project was to provide power for *Italy*, that the sum of 50,000,000 (Swiss) francs was promised, and that the level of the lake would be reduced by no less than 40 ft. Moreover, the entire Bregaglia slope of the Maloja Pass is bound to suffer from the picturesque point of view from the presence of pipes leading down from the sluices at the head of the lake.

The Hôtel Waldhaus, Sils Maria, has been partially destroyed by fire. It will be rebuilt before the coming summer season.

A permanent 'shelter hut' is to be placed, as soon as possible, on the COLLE KENNEDY (between the point 3286 m., I. map, *Punta Kennedy*, and the N. arête, proper, of Monte Disgrazia). This may⁸ facilitate ascents of Monte Disgrazia from Val Malenco by the original 'Pilkington' route, 'A.J.' 11, 245-53. The dimensions of these 'shelter huts' are described in 'A.J.' 38, 136.

Owing to the frequent overcrowding of the MARINELLI Inn (which has virtually taken the place of the ancient C.A.I. Club hut), Bernina Group, a new inn is to be opened this summer on the BOCCETTA delle FORBICI, 2662 m. = 8734 ft., situated on the way from Chiesa to the Marinelli and about 1½ hr. distant from the latter. The Marinelli is the best situated centre for expeditions in the Bernina Group. Other new or restored C.A.I. Club huts, all run as inns, are to be found on the PASSO DI CORNAROSSA, c. 2850 m., and on the ALPE AIRALE, 2078 m. Thus, *three* Club huts now exist on the S. slopes of Monte Disgrazia, and Chiesa becomes, as stated by Melchior Anderegg in 1862 ('A.J.' 1, 5), the best starting-point for that mountain.

INNS IN THE WESTERN GRAIANS.—A small but excellent hotel has been opened at Champagny-le-Bas. The Hôtel de la Grande Sassièrè at Tignes is said to be comfortable and the prices reasonable.

We understand that the late Mr. Coolidge's valuable library has been bought by a Swiss syndicate for public and private libraries in Switzerland.

The Erzherzog Johann's Hütte on the GROSS GLOCKNER is to be rebuilt, and subscriptions are being asked for. These should be sent to Herr J. A. Weiss, Beatrixgasse 32, Vienna, iii.

The well-known guides Enrico Gaspari of Cortina and Théophile (son of the late Louis) Theytaz of Zinal visited Great Britain this spring. They are reported to be climbing, respectively, in Arran and Skye and the Lake District. Alphonse (son of Pierre) Blanc is in Wales.

MM. de Ségogne and Chevalier visited the Welsh hills at Easter, while MM. Cordier and Morin (all of the G.H.M. of the C.A.F.) were in the Lakes. M. Cordier, unfortunately, met with a severe accident while climbing: he is reported to be doing well.

S.A.C. HUTS.—The number of visitors to the various Club huts during 1926 is given as 46,076, as against 43,855 in 1926. The Boval

⁸ The trouble will be to reach this hut through the séracs of the Ventina Glacier during the *afternoon*. A more suitable spot would have been above the Ventina Châlets.

Hut, with 3145 visitors, as usual, holds the palm for popularity, while the Balmhorn Hut, with 65, has displaced the Sciora as the least frequented. In the 97 huts, the percentage of S.A.C. members to all visitors works out as 36·5. From *Die Alpen*.

I learn with much regret that Mr. W. H. White, the manager of Messrs. Spottiswoode's Printing Works at Colchester, passed away on February 11. I had many opportunities, during my 18 years' connexion with the ALPINE JOURNAL, of appreciating Mr. White's sterling character, his keen sense of humour and his versatile interests. I was much indebted to him for ever willing assistance.

Mr. L. G. Jenkinson, who, for some years, had acted as his deputy, has been appointed his successor.

J. P. F.

I desire fully to associate myself with Captain Farrar's remarks.

E. L. S.

A COPY of the first volume of *Bourrit's Nouvelle Description des Glacieres*, 1787, has been placed in the A.C. library. This volume has the bookplate of C. Davy; and a leaf has been inserted at the end upon which the following appears in, apparently, Bourrit's handwriting:

'De Salenche à chide [? Chedde] une heure $\frac{1}{2}$. Là vous irez à l'extrémité du lac de chede⁹ pour y admirer l'aspect du Sixte. Arrivé dans la vallée de Chamouni à une lieuë en deça du Bourg du Prieuré à l'endroit nommé Monquart là vous demanderé pour vous conduire au Bosson l'un des fils Simon—le Vieux—

'le lendemain vous irez au Montanvert et sur la mer de glace le soir à l'arveron.

'A Monquart le pere Simon, ou son fils le rond—

'à Chamouni Jaques Balmat Marie Coutet × × Michel Paccard × ou son neveu le Grand Jorasse.'

At the foot of the sheet is the following:

'N.B.—Directions given to me by Mon^r. Bourrit on } July 1788.
my leaving Geneva for Chamouni.—C. D. }

Mr. Montagnier writes to Captain Farrar: 'C. Davy was evidently the man who translated into English Bourrit's little 1773 book. There is a copy of the translation in the A.C.L. in which you will find the list of subscribers. The latter is worth examining as it contains the names of a lot of celebrated people. It is interesting to find that the author and the translator actually met in Geneva in 1788.

'Copies of Bourrit's book with MS. instructions in his hand-

⁹ See frontispiece to the present number.

writing at the end are pretty common. I found one a few years ago. For nearly 50 years old Bourrit was a recognised authority on the Chamonix valley, and every summer dozens of English visitors used to call on him at his home in Geneva to ask his advice. If they bought a copy of his book on the glaciers of Savoy he almost invariably wrote at the end a page or two of instructions for their benefit.'

A full account of the life of Charles Davy, 1722-1797, who translated Bourrit's book jointly with his brother Frederick, will be found in the 'Dict. of Nat. Biography.' The real name of Le Grand Jorasse or Joras was Lombard Meunier (see 'Annals of Mt. Blanc,' p. 40).

WINTER ASCENTS.—We learn that the Central (3970 m.) and Eastern (3911 m.) summits of the MEIJE were climbed on February 13 of this year by MM. P. Dalloz, A. Arnaud and F. Scheibli. Leaving the Refuge de l'Aigle at 09.00, they attained the Central summit at 12.30, thence descending to the Tabuchet Glacier, the reascent to the Eastern summit was commenced at 16.00, and the top attained at 18.00. Profiting by the brilliant moonlight, the Refuge was regained at 20.30. The party are reported to have experienced a violent wind on the mountains and considerable danger from 'slab' avalanches in the descent from the Refuge to La Grave. M. Dalloz, it will be remembered, made the first winter ascent of the Western summit (3987 m.) on March 16-17, 1926, ski being worn as far as the foot of the Promontoire, which has caused the expedition to have been described as 'a ski ascent of the Meije'!

GRANDE CASSE (3861 m. = 12,668 ft.), December 31, 1926.—Under severe but good conditions, a French party consisting of six persons, three amateurs and three guides, attained this summit by the ordinary or Glacier des Grands Couloirs route. Less than 4½ hrs. were required from the Refuge Félix Faure to the summit. Ski were *not* employed. This is stated to be only the second winter ascent of the mountain, the first having taken place in 1899. From *La Montagne*, 1927, p. 116.

TOUR OF PIZ BERNINA.—March 6-7, 1926: Miss Margaret Ward (aged 21) with the guides Platz and Hauser of Pontresina: Left Roseg Restaurant, 08.30, up Roseg Glacier, and over Sella Pass; down Upper Scerscen Glacier to Marinelli Club hut, 14.45 (6¼ hours). Weather fine at first, then snowstorm from midway up Roseg Glacier to hut. *March 7*: Marinelli Hut, dep. 07.30; over Lower Fellaria Glacier, up Sasso Rosso 'Pass,' thence down Palü Glacier to Alp Grüm, arriving foot of glacier 12.45, and Alp Grüm (Bernina Railway) 13.50 (6 hours 20 mins.). Fine weather, favourable snow conditions. The 'times' are exceedingly fast, and show what young British mountaineers are capable of.