

on its S. slope—the account is not very clear—and reached the summit in 5 hrs. 15 mins. more ('R.M.', 1900, p. 390).

On July 19, 1901, Messrs. H. J. Mothersill and A. M. Bartleet, with Maximin Gaspard and Adolf and Josef Schaller, descended the E. arête of the Grande Casse. Their route appears to differ somewhat from that of Signor Ferrari, since they wisely clung as near as possible to the crest; their descent to near the Col de Pramoy, where they turned down a gully leading to the Val de la Leisse, took nearly 9 hours ('A.J.' 20, 536-7).

This expedition was almost exactly repeated by M. Mettrier as related above. He states in his account that he went along the arête 'about 1 hr.' farther than the British party before also turning down into the Val de la Leisse; he took from the summit of the Grande Casse to easy ground no less than 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ hrs.

The Blanc family have been at various times on portions of the great jagged E. arête when chamois shooting, and a few parties have had a look at the extremely uninviting prospect before turning back to the summit of the Grande Casse. Signor Ferrari makes no comments on the character of the climb; M. Mettrier is still more emphatic than Mr. Mothersill in condemning the evil character of the ridge, and states that Maximin Gaspard declared that he would prefer to do the Meije traverse twice in one day than renew the climb.

Both Mr. Mothersill and M. Mettrier concur in stating that for many hours it would be impossible to escape from the arête except for comparatively very short distances.

M. Mettrier adds that he has heard of no traverse in either direction since his expedition of August 8, 1901.

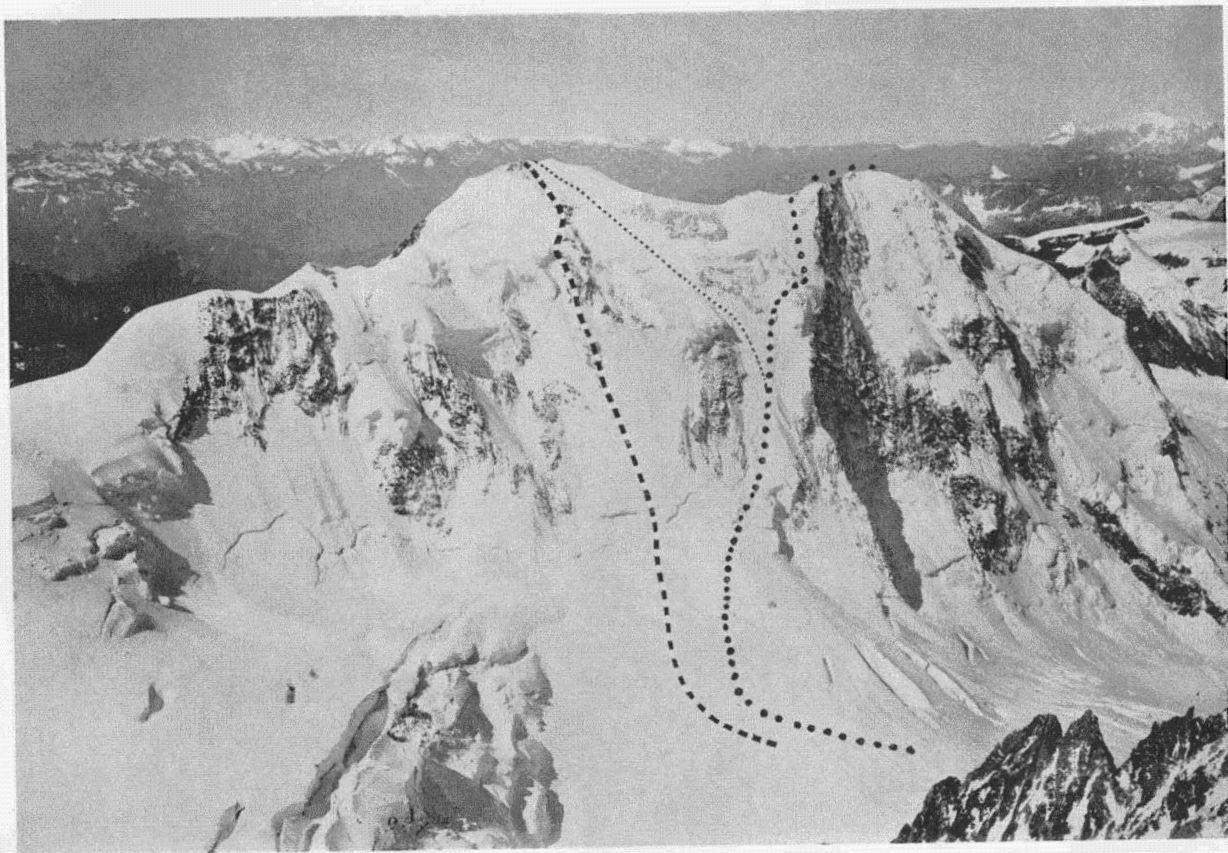
E. L. S.

THE N.E. FACE OF THE LYSKAMM.

WITH reference to a note in 'A.J.' 39, 314-5, Monsieur E. R. Blanchet kindly points out that the E. summit of the mountain (4538 m., 14,890 ft.) appears to have been scaled on four (possibly five, see *later*) occasions, direct from the Grenz Glacier, the original 'Norman-Neruda-Klucker' route being more or less adhered to. The parties were as follows:—

August 8, 1925. Herren W. Welzenbach and R. Wolter. They kept to the left, E. of the 'Klucker' rib, stated to be badly iced [when is it *not* iced?] and attained the summit in 3 hrs. 50 mins. from the bergschrund.

July 22, 1927. Herr W. von Kehl, with Fritz Amatter and Fritz Suter, followed the rib throughout till close below the summit when they climbed out to the E.; 5 hrs. 5 mins., including halts, from bergschrund to summit.



Phot. Wehrli.

N.E. FACE OF LYSKAMM.
(On left, 1890 route; on right, 1927 route.)
In centre is intended "Burgener" route.

August 30, 1927. An unknown party of two, seen by M. Blanchet from the Zumsteinspitze. [I have since ascertained that this party consisted of Herren H. Hoerlin and E. Schneider; their time was 3 hrs. 20 mins. from bergschrund to summit.—E. L. S.]

As there appeared to be some doubt as to the direction of the original 'Klucker' route, a photograph of the face was sent to Christian Klucker, and that great mountaineer replied at once as follows:

'I have marked the "Norman-Neruda" route of August 9, 1890, as accurately as possible. With reference to our 1890 route and to the N.E. face in general, I venture to make a few remarks:

'(1) Our route up the Lyskamm, which I had studied *before* 1890, is the only one, leading from the Grenz Glacier *via* the N.E. face, which is practically safe from ice avalanches. The entire N.E. slope is cleft nearly throughout with overhanging séracs. To the left and right of our rock rib, and, still more on the upper part of the slope where the other route leading to the W. summit is dotted in on the photograph,¹ are these séracs noticeable.

'(2) Zermatt guides had told me that the N.E. face had already been unsuccessfully attempted before 1890. The attempt was made by the Viennese mountaineer, von Kuffner, with Alexander Burgener and the two brothers Kalbermatten of Saas-Balen, and, curiously enough, their line of ascent lay where the other dotted line is shown,¹ but their intention was where the great rock bastion surmounted by an icefall emerges from the slope (at some $\frac{2}{3}$ of the height of the face), to bear to the *left* and make for the E. or highest summit. (I have faintly marked this route on the photograph.) The two Kalbermatten, while cutting steps on the slope in preparation for the attempt, were caught, just a short way above the bergschrund, by a small avalanche and carried, without damage, back again on to the surface of the glacier. This *memento mori* caused Herr von Kuffner to abandon the attempt. I regret that I have not got the date of this attempt.

'(3) I wanted a second good professional for our attempt, but it was difficult (without indiscretion) to obtain one in Zermatt. On August 8 Mr. Norman-Neruda informed me that the Tyrolese, Josef Reinstadler, wished to accompany us on this expedition. Reinstadler suited me, because I knew that he was very good on snow and ice, although less than mediocre on rocks.²

'On the morning of August 9 as we were going up the Grenz Glacier, I had, strangely enough, a warning that our good Tyrolese was taking the Kuffner-Burgener route as the right one. I heard

¹ The 'Blanchet-Mooser' route of 1927 to the W. summit.

² I was for two seasons, 1894 and 1895, with Reinstadler, and this description exactly corresponds with his powers. He perished miserably, throttled by the rope, if nothing worse, on the Col de la Vuignette, Arolla, August 28, 1899, *A.J.* 19, 590.—E. L. S.

behind me, before reaching the height of the contour 3600 m. of the map, Reinstadler saying to Mr. Norman-Neruda: "Klucker should now bear to the right." I flatly refused and proceeded. At the spot where the routes bifurcate we halted for breakfast and our Reinstadler set to work to explain our route. The steep rock-rib did not appeal to him and he kept shaking his head whenever he looked at it!

'In the *Œ.A.Z.* of that year, Mr. Norman-Neruda has inaccurately described the episodes of our ascent: he describes me as leading over the bergschlund up to the rib. This is not correct as Reinstadler did all the step-cutting on the snow slope. Thenceforward, over the entire rib up to the summit, I led and the Tyrolese came up last. It seemed to him preferable that Mr. Norman-Neruda should be in front, as he, Mr. Neruda, unquestionably went better, sack and all, over the steep rib.

(4) 'Before ending, I should like to add the following: the second ascent of our 1890 route was made by the famous British mountaineer Mr. G. W. Young with Josef Knubel.³ Unfortunately, I am ignorant of dates or details. As third ascent of the E. Lyskamm from the Grenz Glacier, I would mention the expedition of Herren W. Welzenbach of Munich and R. Wolter of Berlin, August 8, 1925. Their⁴ route is parallel (to the left) to ours; it does not touch the rock-rib, and for $\frac{2}{3}$ of the way is exposed to the most imminent danger of ice-avalanches. That is what I call irresponsible record-breaking!

' (Signed) CHRISTIAN KLUCKER.

'FEX, February 12, 1928.'

The route referred to in *R.A.*, 1911, p. 307 (Obituary of the late Auguste Blanc), is a repetition of the (1902) Klucker-Mrs. Roberts-Thomson expedition to the *W. summit* ('*A.J.*' 21, 266-7 and illustrations, *Ibid.* 33, facing 429; communication from Pierre Blanc). Another expedition said to have been led by a Gressoney guide, about 1910-11, appears to be purely visionary.

³ There is some mystery here. Mr. Young writes: 'I have no recollection of this ascent and do not believe that I ever made it.' M. Blanchet declares, on the authority of Knubel, that Mr. Young made the second ascent. M. Marcel Kurz states that Knubel now lays no claim to have been on any part of the N.E. face. Other persons still persist in declaring that they saw Mr. Young and Knubel on the face! Can it have been the astral bodies of this unsurpassed party which accomplished the feat? Or did Knubel accompany some other British mountaineer—both in their earthly forms? It would be interesting to know.—*Editor.*

⁴ The route marked in the illustration *A.J.* 39, 314, is, in reality, that of the 1925 German party and *not*, as stated, that of the 'Klucker' party.—*Editor.*