

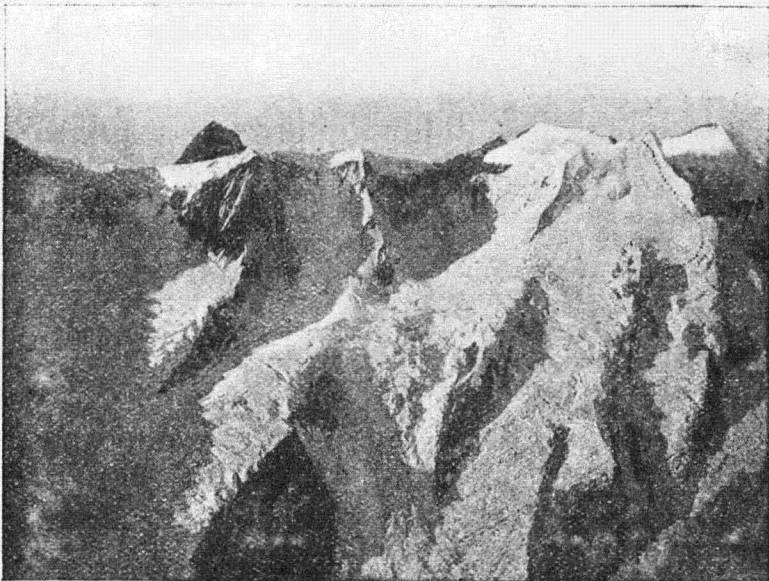
## THE OCHS, OR KLEIN FIESCHERHORN.

[This note should be read in conjunction with Captain Farrar's instructive paper under the above title, 'A.J.' 38, 223-30. Mr. Bowyear's descent of the E. face of the mountain, July 16, 1890, the party consisting of the Rev. T. H. Philpott and Mr. H. T. Bowyear, with Christian Almer, senior, and Rudolf Almer, is described in 'A.J.' 15, 309-10. The following letter from Mr. Bowyear supplies additional details.—*Editor* 'A.J.']

'In Captain Farrar's analysis of the Ochsenhorn the following sentence occurs: ". . . though Bowyear with old Almer came down a bit of the E. face . . . and, in their lower route, may have followed Fellenberg's ascent."

'Old Christian Almer was really Philpott's guide and Rudolf was mine; any credit for the expedition belongs to Philpott rather than to me. Christian certainly thought the expedition was new, and it certainly *was* new to all of us; we were quite unaware of Foster's ascent.

'The photograph was taken five years later from the top of the Strahlegghorn, and on it I have marked as well as I can the route



*Photo, H. T. Bowyear.*

THE FIESCHERHÖRNER FROM THE STRAHLEGGHORN, 1895.

ollowed. We certainly came down the whole of the E. face. I clearly recollect Christian cutting down very steeply but slightly diagonally to the right [S.S.E.] and then slightly diagonally to the left [N.E.], reaching the foot of the steep face near to the base of the N.N.E. ridge. There was a quantity of new snow, and, in the condition it then was, I should certainly have declined to go down that face if any one else but Christian had proposed it. But he knew all there was to know of snow-craft and loved it, and where he and Philpott were willing to go, I was content to follow.

‘My note made at the time, as my custom was, reads “almost straight from the top,” and I think that we must have left the ridge somewhat nearer the top than the point at which Foster seems to have reached it on his ascent. When we reached the foot of the steep part we continued to descend the E. face, leaving point 3570 m. on our left, till we reached a point where Christian thought that, with the snow in the condition it then was, the glacier might not “go.” I pointed to the rocks on our right and said “Why not try those?” but Christian shook his head and said that the glacier above them threatened falls of ice or snow. Then came the thunder-storm and when it had cleared Christian tried the glacier somewhat to the left of where we had stopped; but after several attempts he said that it was no good. The snow was very bad. We must have been somewhere near to the Ochsenjoch, by which, I understand, Fellenberg ascended, but there was at that time a good deal of cloud, and I cannot be sure of the spot.

‘At any rate, Christian returned to the place where we had stopped and said that we must try the rocks. This we did and descended rapidly and without much difficulty, so far as I can remember after a lapse of 38 years. No ice or snow fell. We kept as much as possible to the rocks in order to avoid bad snow.

‘We had left the Bergli at 02.50, reached the Fiescherhorn at 08.20, left at 09.00, and got to the top of the Ochsenhorn about 11.15. We must have left about 11.20, as the threatening weather forbade our lingering anywhere. It was about 14.00 when the storm came on, and it must have been nearly or quite 14.45 when we started for the rocks. We reached the Bäregg at 17.45.

‘The upper part of the E. face was so steep that Philpott found it easier to go down backwards for a considerable part of the way.

‘I think that it is clear from what I have said that we came down the whole of the E. face, and, in our lower route, did *not* follow Fellenberg’s line of ascent. When I took the photograph in 1895, Rudolf Almer and I tried to trace our route, and we agreed that it was approximately as shown by my dotted line, and I think it is not far from accurate, for from the time I commenced climbing I have always tried to understand and remember the routes by which my guides led me.

‘HENRY BOWYEAR.’