

mountain is more intricately dissected than distant views suggest—very much more so. Last year we got into the district more easily, but at best it is a slow process getting supplies up the glacier.

‘The following names have been approved by the Geographic Board: Mts. Bell, Chris Spencer, Geddes, Waddington, Tiedemann, and Munday. Approximate heights: Bell, 12,000 ft.; Spencer, 11,000 ft.; Geddes, 11,500 ft.; Tiedemann, 12,800 ft.; Munday, 11,000 ft.

‘If this note has grown to undue length, please make allowance for the natural enthusiasm of one whose privilege it has been to be the first to make known a great new Alpine area. Few of the pioneer climbers on this continent have penetrated areas about which so little was known before they came. We have not achieved much from the point of view of summits attained, but the exploration has been a wonderful experience.

‘W. A. DON MUNDAY.’

[For another illustration of ‘Mystery Mountain,’ see ‘A.J.’ 40, 100.]

#### A BAVARIAN (1928) EXPEDITION TO THE CAUCASUS.

**A**N expedition, organised and partly financed by the Munich A.V.’s section ‘Hochland’ and the Rhine-Westphalian sections, left Munich on July 4, 1928, with the object of visiting the Caucasus. It consisted of the following mountaineers: Herren Paul Bauer, Ernst Beigel and Hans Niesner of the ‘Hochland’ section and of Heinz Tillmann of the ‘Duisburg’ section and Munich A.A.V.

The party proceeded *via* Berlin and Warsaw to Moscow, where they got into touch with members of Russian mountaineering circles, and their journey onwards was facilitated by the assistance of the German Embassy. After a long journey *via* Voronesh and Rostof, they arrived on July 15 at Naltshik at the N. foot of the Caucasus. A two days’ ride then brought them to Bezingi, the highest village in the valley of the Western Cherek. A day’s march with two pack animals for the carriage of the combined kits and food led to a ‘Karaulka’ (military post) on the right lateral moraine of the Bezingi Glacier at a height of some 2380 m. Here the tent was permanently pitched as a standing camp for 18 days.



Photo. H. Niesner.

SHKARA and BEZINGI Glacier from TSCHUMURTSCHERAN TAU.

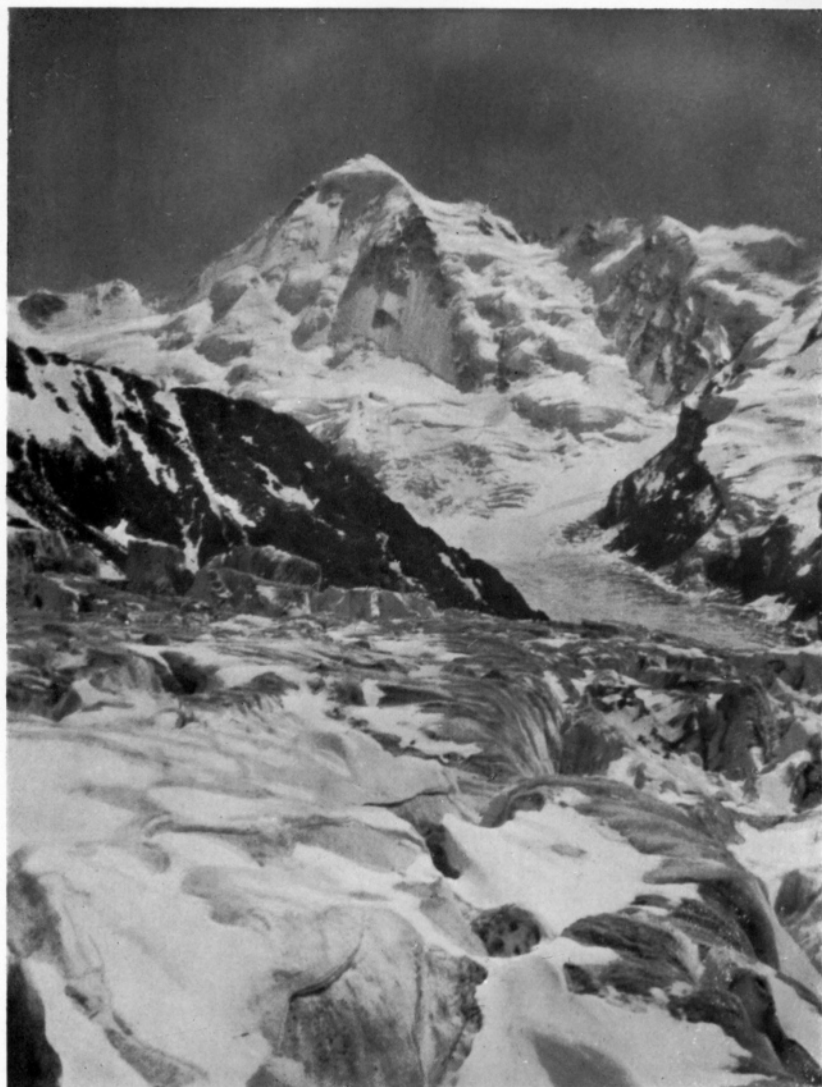


Photo. H. Niesner.

TETNULD from central ZANNER Glacier.

On July 19 the highest peak of Tschumurtscheran Tau, 4304 m., of the hitherto unexplored Kargashili Tau chain, was climbed for the first time. On July 21 a start was made for Dychtau, 5198 m., the second highest mountain in the Caucasus. With two bivouacs, at about 3800 m. and 5050 m., the rocky S. arête was traversed for the first time up to a height of about 5160 m. Here, however, at 18.00 hrs., owing to the approach of darkness, snow and a thunderstorm, the party had to return within a rope's length of the summit. After a second bivouac at 5050 m. the expedition had to be given up, and in deep snow, verglas, snowstorms and blizzard the ridge had to be descended. The party arrived at Karaulka on July 25, at 02.00 hrs.

Between July 27-29 took place what is described as the ascent of Katuin Tau, 4900 m. by the N. buttress, the traverse of Adish Tau, 4968 m., of Gestola, 4960 m., and of Lyalver, 4350 m., with descent by the N. arête to the Lower Zanner Pass. During these expeditions two bivouacs at about 4300 m. and 3900 m., in ice caves, proved necessary.

Between July 31 and August 3, the second ascent of Shkara, the third highest peak in the Caucasus, by a partly new route, was effected. From the Dychsu-Aush Pass, 3877 m., the N. peak, *ca.* 5050 m., and the E. peak, 5184 m., were attained over the steep N. arête. The descent was made over the N. arête and its W. slope to the Upper Bezingi Glacier. Two bivouacs were made in scooped-out ice caverns at 4380 m. and 4770 m.

On August 6 a start was made for the Upper Zanner Pass, about 4100 m., the entire kits—about 70 lbs. a man—being moved. Fresh snow, technical difficulties and pathless forests made up a long and weary march and two bivouacs proved necessary. From Mestia, the largest village in Suanetia, a start was made for Ushba. For 4 days and 3 nights, in ceaseless snow and cloud, a camp was made at a height of some 3200 m. on the Gul Glacier in the hope of better weather, but on August 16, owing to lack of provisions, a descent in pouring rain to Betsho became obligatory.

Between August 17-19 the party proceeded *via* Mestia and Shabesh, one of the scattered hamlets constituting Mujal, to the Tuiber valley. Two pack horses were used for part of the journey. A camp was pitched for two nights by a tarn in the medial moraine, at 2800 m., at the foot of Tot Tau. After a reconnaissance on the previous day, Tot Tau, *ca.* 4140 m., of the Svetgar chain, was climbed for the first time by a steep couloir and a sharp rocky ridge. An attempted first ascent of Skala Bodorku had to be abandoned 150 m.

below the top owing to clouds and a snowstorm. The crossing of the 3600 m. Tuiber Pass necessitated another bivouac, in storm and hail, on the Zynel Glacier at 3075 m. Chegem was attained, late on August 22, through the Gara-Auz glen and Chegem valley. Thence in two days, with two carriages, down the Chegem valley and out over the steppes, the expedition ended at Naltshik.

Munich was reached on September 4, *via* Moscow and Berlin. The expedition was much handicapped throughout by bad weather and continual fresh snow.

The members met with every assistance from the Russian officials and a warm welcome from the local inhabitants. It may be added that the expedition was provided with small kits and but little money.

HANS NIESNER.

Mr. Freshfield sends the following note :—

The Bavarian mountaineers deserve warm congratulations on the large measure of success that attended them in their keen struggle with the giants of the Central Caucasus, a struggle intensified by much ill luck in the weather. The most noteworthy feature in their story is the hardihood by which, in a series of unprotected bivouacs at great heights, they countered the length which has proved a frequent hindrance to success in Caucasian climbs; only under Ushba did they make use of a tent! In their other expeditions they were content to dig holes in the hard *névé* slopes and make use of such coverings as were at hand.<sup>1</sup>

I add a few words as to nomenclature: Katuin Tau, Gestola, Tetnuld and Lyalver are all names in local use. The 'Saddle Peak' is the name given to Katuin Tau by British climbers. The Adish Peak is a name I gave to a rocky spur of the Saddle Peak standing out on the E. side of the icefall of the Adish Glacier. I do not think the Bavarians touched this summit. As far as I can gather their route lay up the N. face of the lower Saddle Peak, over the higher summit and along the fairly level ridge to Gestola and then over both that peak and Lyalver to the lower Zanner Pass. This would probably amount to a combination and extension of Dent's and Holder's routes (see 'The Exploration of the Caucasus'). The

---

<sup>1</sup> Herr Niesner states that they employed a 'four-men' *Zdarsky* tent-sack and two light silk rugs.—*Editor*.

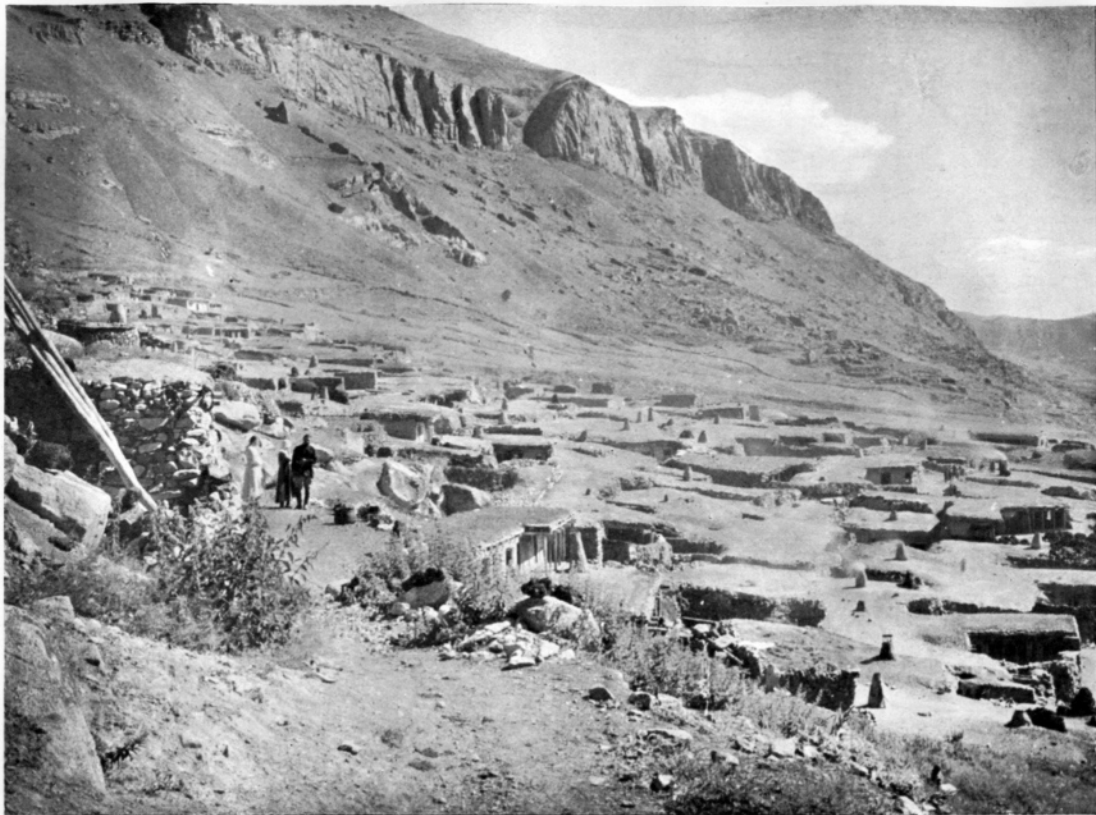


Photo. H. Niesner.

BEZINGI.

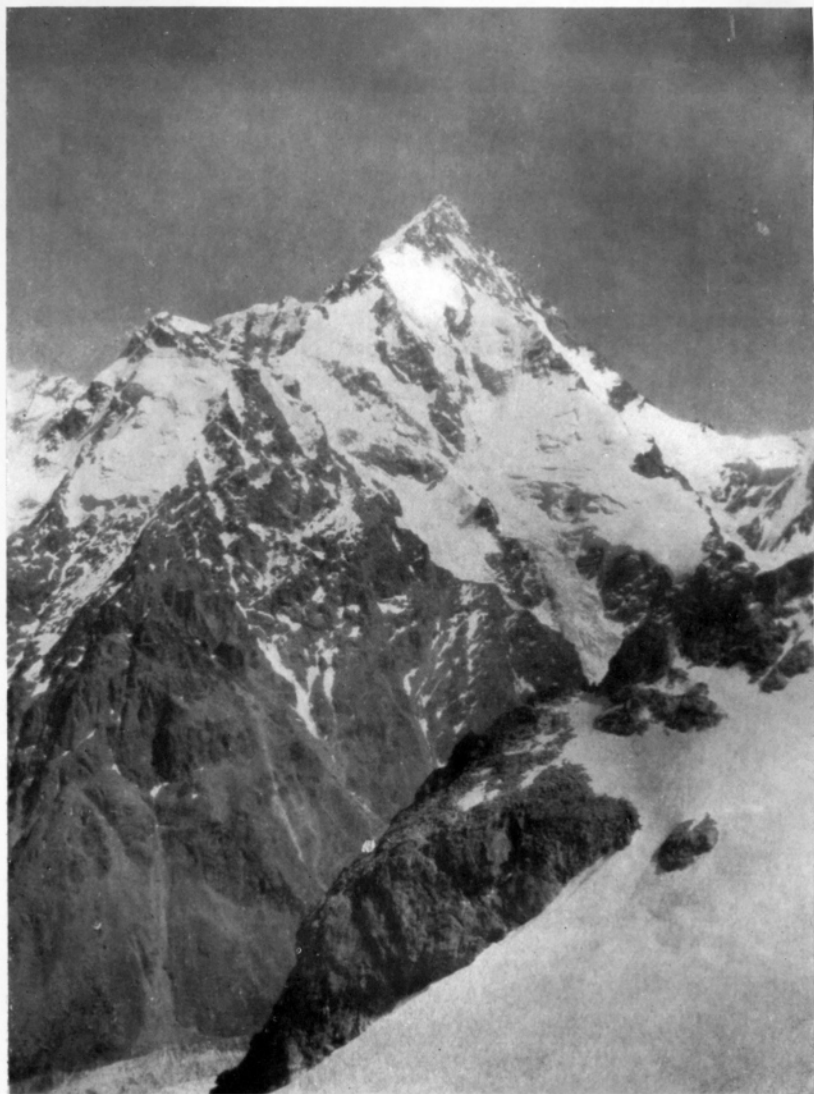


Photo. H. Niesner.

DYCH TAU from TSCHUMURTSCHERAN TAU (from the W.).

skyline between the Saddle Peak and Gestola as seen from the N. is fully shown in the illustrations (vol. ii. pp. 36 and 39) to my book.

As to Kargashili Tau, see the same work ; map and vol. ii. p. 254. I mention a peak Shorast Kirtaran, 14,160 ft., which appears to be identical with the Bavarians' Tschumurtscheran Tau ; the heights given practically correspond.

The table of first ascents given in 'A.J.' 26, 96-7, and 30, 194-6, will be found very useful for reference when the Caucasus is once more opened to British mountaineers. I have altered the spelling of local names in the above narrative in accordance with the system adopted by the Royal Geographical Society and in 'The Exploration of the Caucasus,' as it is that likely to be most familiar to British readers. Germans, on the contrary, will naturally follow their own system as found in the map in Merzbacher's 'Kaukasus.'

---

THE ALPINE CLUB PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION, 1928.

THE exhibition was fully up to its usual standard and totalled 148 exhibits. These varied largely. Some were of purely topographical interest whilst others were distinctly artistic ; one or two combined both these qualities. There were also some prints that were frankly bad from a technical standpoint, being over enlarged, over or under exposed, or even seriously disfigured with blemishes, but on the whole the technical quality of the majority of the photographs was excellent. It is this latter point that encourages a few remarks.

A photographer, once he has mastered the technical side of photography, should turn his attention to the composition of his pictures. Composition means much more than an artistic arrangement of details. It is the art of condensing the essential beauty or grandeur of a view within the narrow confines of a film or plate. The most happy-go-lucky mountaineer who ever clicked a shutter will want to record his impressions of what he saw, and obtain a picture which will serve to remind him of the magnificent scenes that have delighted him. The small amount of trouble, the few extra seconds involved in arranging the details in the view-finder will be more than compensated by the results. True, there are some people incapable of arranging a picture, but even