

ROTHLAIUHORN, 3155 m. = 10,352 ft., S. arête; and SCHILTHORN, 3126 m. = 10,256 ft., N. arête.

These two peaks, on the ridge dividing the Baltschiederthal from the Gredetschthal, are difficult to reach; no previous record of a traverse of the ridge connecting them seems to exist.

On August 9, 1929, Messrs. R. L. G. Irving, G. S. P. Heywood, and F. G. Irving left the Baltschieder hut at 7.30, descended to the Baltschieder Glacier, crossed its eastern moraine and traversed into the grassy Galkikumme hollow. From there they went up to the [?] *Galkenkrinne*, a hunter's pass N. of the Rothlaihorn, and climbed in a short hour the pleasant rocky ridge leading to that peak, which was reached at 13.30. The S. ridge is nearly all good rock with no really difficult places on the *simplest* route. It took 1 hr. to reach the lowest point between the two peaks, about 500 ft. below the Rothlaihorn. The N. ridge of the Schilthorn is similar, but there are a couple of towers, and, at a steep corner overlooking the Gredetschthal, the rock is unpleasantly loose. It took another hour.

It would have been easy to descend W. to the Baltschiederthal, but the extra 2000 ft. of re-ascent incurred was more than the party could face. Consequently they retraced their steps to the Rothlaihorn, taking 1 hr. down and 1 hr. up as before. It was nearly dark when the moraine of the glacier was crossed at about 2200 m. and the hut was reached at 21.30. The weather was warm, wet and cloudy all day, and the time taken in the morning to reach the Galkenkrinne was prolonged by halts and a lazy pace.

ALPINE NOTES.

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :	Date of Election
Slingsby, W. Cecil	1880
Stable, D. W.	1890
Reade, H. V.	1897
Norton, R. F.	1898

ALPINE JOURNAL.—Index to Vols. 16 to 38. This Index is now ready. Copies may be ordered from the Assistant Secretary, Alpine Club, 23, Savile Row, London, W. 1. Price 10s. 0d., post free.

Index to Vols. 1 to 15, including P.P.G. Copies may still be obtained, unbound, price 2s. 6d., post free.

‘THE CLOSING OF THE ITALIAN ALPS.’—Despite hopes and assertions to the contrary the situation remains unchanged. In fact, if one is to believe British and foreign press reports, conditions are, if anything, worse. Nevertheless, several instances of courtesy

displayed by frontier guards have been communicated to us by members of the Alpine Club. We can only trust that it may dawn eventually on the Italian Authorities that malefactors seeking to enter their country are not accustomed to make use of mountains or glacier passes. The said miscreants invade Italy by *trains de luxe* or expensive cars, and for such there are no hindrances or restrictions.

Height of MOUNT EVEREST.—A note on this subject appears in the General Report of the Survey of India, 1927-28. The value of 29,002 ft. was computed in 1852 from observations taken in 1849-50. The last figure is retained, not on account of its probable accuracy, but in order to avoid the suggestion of an estimate in round figures. In 1907 Sir Sidney Burrard calculated the height to be 29,141 ft. Dr. de Graaf Hunter, applying improved refraction corrections to results from different observation stations, gets a height of 29,149 ft., which has a probable error of less than 5 ft. and a possible error of less than 15 ft. This, however, is more than the true geoidal height. When the correction is applied, Mt. Everest has a probable height of 29,075 ft., with a possible correction of 25 ft. either way. It is impossible at present to give the height of Mt. Everest with greater accuracy.—From *Nature*.

During the 1921 and 1922 expeditions, Major (now Lt.-Colonel) H. T. Morshead, R.E., from careful observations worked out the height of Mt. Everest as 29,146 ft. = 8888 m. This height is practically in exact concordance with Sir Sidney Burrard's and Dr. de Graaf Hunter's calculations.

SWEDISH MOUNTAINEERING CLUBS.—There are now two Swedish mountaineering clubs, each of which has, in 1929, published its first journal.

The Lappländska Fjällkarlarnas Klubb ('The Lapland Alpine Club' is their own official translation of the name) is a very exclusive body, the number of ordinary members being limited to twenty and that of honorary members to three. The qualification is exacting and demands a high standard of ability and experience in climbing and in winter expeditions on ski. The club was founded in 1920, and the little Årskrift *Ultima Thule* published in 1929 is to be followed by others, though at irregular intervals. A copy, kindly given to the writer by Captain H. N. Pallin, the Secretary of the Club, is now in the Alpine Club Library. Among other items it contains a Swedish translation of the chapter in M. Charles Rabot's 'Au Cap Nord' in which the author describes the first ascent of Kebnekaise made by him in 1883.

It is noteworthy that a summary of the contents of *Ultima Thule* is given in English and the titles of the papers appear in English as well as in Swedish.

The Svenska Fjällklubb, founded in 1927, is a less exclusive body

and has about 200 members. The Secretary, Herr Erik Drougge, who has been good enough to write for me an interesting account of the objects and activities of the Club, says that it is intended to 'unite all those who in some form or other practise mountain sport and who possess sufficient experience to be fully competent for what they undertake. Visits to the mountains for three or four seasons are to be regarded as a minimum requirement.'

The well-illustrated Årsbok 'Till Fjälls,' issued in 1929, is also in the Alpine Club Library.

We wish these northern mountaineering clubs a long and prosperous life.

The Svenska Turistförening is primarily a tourist and not a mountaineering club. But mountaineers in Sweden owe a great debt to the Club for what has been done by it for them, and I am glad to be able to acknowledge here the help received from it by me at various times.

H. L. JOSELAND.

The Dent du Midi LANDSLIDES.—The excitement caused in 1926 and 1927 has quite died away. We went, however, to visit the scene of the great fall on the Cime de l'Est so as to ascertain its present condition, since the fall of part of the ridge was the primary cause of the 1926 disaster. With the excellent guide Philippe Allamand, we left St. Maurice on September 23 and climbed *via* the Mex plateau to Foillet, where the St. Barthélemy torrent had dug out an immense gorge at the time of the landslides, forming a regular ravine. It is, however, possible with care to cross this great trench and then reach the Fontaine-Froide path. Crossing the Col de Jorat and thence attaining the Salaufe plateau, we took the path leading to the Plan-Névé Glacier. Thence, leaving the path and turning to the right, we walked up the steep grass and débris slopes leading to the gap, 2639 m. The view hence into the gorges of St. Barthélemy is extraordinarily savage. Formerly it was quite possible to traverse diagonally, by a ledge, the slopes leading from the Cime de l'Est towards the Dent Mote; now, however, a great part of this route appears very ticklish since the rock-slides have passed right over the ledge. It is a mass of shattered and slippery blocks showing traces of lightning-action. Without much risk, however, we contrived to follow the ledge towards its centre, whence the tongue of the Plan-Névé Glacier is visible. There with an effort we succeeded in examining the very alarming breaks, and were able to make sure that since the great falls of 1926 no other gendarme—on the ridge above the Dent Mote—has collapsed and the breaks are all old. The slopes of the arête are smooth, a fact pointing to a measure of security, although stones will certainly fall at times. The Borloz couloir, a black cleft leading towards the Cime de l'Est, appears to be in good condition, showing no signs of disintegration.

Finally, the arête of the Cime de l'Est and all the upper part of the St. Barthélemy gorges appear stable. For the *present*, unless exceptionally heavy rains occur, there appears to be little danger. The great works planned, construction of groynes, etc., are still in their infancy, but a road is being constructed towards the Mex plateau for the transport of the necessary *matériel*.

JULIEN GALLET.

Compulsory insurance in the VALAIS.—Since the complete destruction by fire of the villages of Lourtier and Torgon, steps are being taken to compel the inhabitants of Valais to insure themselves and their houses. It is also suggested that the fire brigades and engines should be brought up to date. The engine of Lourtier dated from 1824.¹ From the *Gazette de Lausanne*.

Height of FUJI-YAMA.—A Tokyo report states that the 'Holy Mountain' has been remeasured as only the sixth in height of the Japanese Mountains, instead of the highest. Its new altitude is given as 3767 m., while Nii-taka-yama attains 4013 m. From *Die Alpen*.

A PERIL OF THE ALPS.—Two elderly members of the Alpine Club—one of the highest distinction—together with a youthful guide, are spending the night in a secluded Club hut. To them there enters at 9.30 P.M. a remarkable Phenomenon. Brandishing an enormous stable-lantern in their faces, it reveals the countenance of a youth of some 18 years. In incomprehensible patois it demands where it may rest. Consigned to perpetual if restless slumbers, it retires. The party starts about dawn for its intended peak. Soon hurrying and stumbling footsteps are heard as the Phenomenon springs upwards and past our party. The foot of the rocks is reached, a route is chosen, and the party proceeds. Suddenly and far below reappears that Phenomenon. Like a marmot it had lain *perdu* among the moraines until the true route had thus, fortuitously, been disclosed. It hurried up, reckless of stones and an imminent fall, and established itself on the heels of the party. It did more; it offered to assist the most experienced member. Oaths and curses unrepressed had no effect. It halted when the party did, advanced and approached the top as they did, until, on the easy summit ridge, hurrying to the front, leading unsafely, triumphant and alone, it stormed the last 10 feet! Roughly commanded, it descended close on the party; showering stones, its clumsiness like boots and axe excessive: revealing every intention of impinging heavily as a falling sérac on its innocent victims, it reached the base in safety. Since the scorning of its proffered help, it had uttered no word. Now on the moraine, it turned to the youthful guide—bearer of a

¹ In the great fire of Salonika, August 1917, the *only* local engine bore the inscription 'Sun Fire Office, 1710'!

classical and honoured name—and offered to pay the price of his night's lodging in the hut. Laughter pursued that Alpine Nuisance as it bounded over boulders in headlong descent to civilization. The party saw it no more, save as a distant, melancholy, and *fully clothed* figure bathing in a mountain tarn, but it met some mountaineers proceeding to the hut, to whom it explained and to all whom it may concern, that It, a *führerloser Alleingänger*, had conquered with ease that terrible peak.

Did it perish, crushed under a six-wheeled yellow diligence, an end too good for it? The driver's skill precludes the probability. Or does it still lie lurking behind rocks or concealed under palliasses, awaiting fate or other luckless parties? Excluding Italy, the Alps are free to all and Switzerland owns much of them; this Peril and Nuisance comes—or came—from no alien race. To Herisau redounds the honour. As for its name, is it not written for all the Alpine world to see in the book of the Linard Club hut of the S.A.C., under the date of July 21-22, 1929?

DAUPHINÉ CLUB HUTS.—A new hut has been opened, Refuge du Pas d'Olan, in Valgaudemar, for the Pic d'Olan. It is situated at a height of 2680 m. in a gap in the ridge forming the S. buttress of the Pic d'Olan. Providing that the building is sufficiently substantial to remain standing for more than one summer, it will fill a long-felt want and will materially benefit mountaineers visiting this most attractive valley.—From *La Vie Alpine*.

Death of Major W. H. BULPETT.—We regret deeply to report the death of this well-known pioneer of winter mountaineering and sports at the age of 74. He was the inventor and builder of the famous 'Cresta' toboggan run, St. Moritz, and in his younger days an admirable and untiring mountaineer. He will be much missed by numerous friends.

LADY MOUNTAINEERS.—Miss Miriam O'Brien and Madame Damesme traversed the Aiguille de Grépon by the 'Mummery' route, last summer, without guides.² Miss O'Brien and Miss Marples accomplished, guideless, the ascent of the Aiguille du Peigne. On August 30 Miss O'Brien, with the guides Adolf Rubi and Hermann Steuri, repeated the ascent of the Wetterhorn by the S.W. arête ('A.J.' 40, 380-2); the expedition is described as one of the most difficult in the Bernese Oberland. With the same guides Miss O'Brien climbed the Schreckhorn by the S.W. arête in 6 hrs., crossed over to the Lauteraarhorn in 3¾ hrs., descending to the Strahlegg Pass by an unusual and

² Miss O'Brien had led up the Grépon previously, although professionals were present (*A.J.* 40, 403). We will *not* quote Mummery's worn-out jibe.

difficult route in 5 hrs. ; a total of just over 14 hrs. Miss O'Brien is also reported as having, on September 9, made the ascent of the Jungfrau from the Jungfraujoch by the (?) N.E. arête, descended to the Silberlücke-Silberhorn, whence the party attained the *Trümleten Thal* (!) by a descent between the Lamm and Giessen ravines.

FOOLISH 'MOUNTAINEERING.'—The *Allgemeine Bergsteiger Zeitung* reports that the 'Pallavicinirinne' of the Gross Glockner was climbed by two young fellows in 1 hr. 40 mins., who started on the expedition at 4 P.M. We agree thoroughly with the Editor's caustic remarks and warning. The *Morning Post* in an article on 'Lady Mountaineers'—save the mark!—reports the first night traverse, and a cloudy one to boot, of the three principal Vajolet Towers (Delago, Stabeler, and Winklerthürme) by some ladies whose names, as given, are reminiscent of cinema 'stars.' This insane performance has not even the disgrace of being the first, as it was accomplished many years ago—true, it was a starry night—by the 'guide' G. P. Piaz with an American lady.³ Next we shall hear of the 'first night traverse, without guides, of the said Towers in a snow-storm,' and we fail to understand why Alpine accidents are so rare.

An accident on the MATTERHORN and its sequel.—Mountaineers will recollect the lamentable disaster in 1928, when an inexperienced schoolboy, while proceeding unroped, slipped and was killed. The tutors responsible for taking the boy up the mountain were arrested and brought before the Berlin-Schöneberg court, where the senior, an individual named Behm, was condemned to 6 months' imprisonment, on May 1.—From D. & C. A. V. *Mitteilungen*.

The HÖRNLIGRAT ('A.J.' 39, 324-7, illustrated) is stated, we regret to report, to have been made accessible throughout by the placing of a 65 m. leather (*sic*) rope over the great cleft crossed by the Japanese party in 1927.—From *Echo von Grindelwald*.

A VALUABLE BOOK.—An exceedingly rare copy of the late Mr. Samuel Aitken's work 'Among the Alps,' a narrative of personal experiences, has been presented to the Alpine Club by Mrs. Samuel Aitken.—The copy is inscribed as follows :

'Presented by the family of the late Joseph Bennett to Mrs. Samuel Aitken, who now gives it with much pleasure to the Library of the Alpine Club, London, in memory of her husband (Samuel Aitken was a member of the A.C. from 1891 down to his death at Mullion, Cornwall, February 19, 1929,⁴ at the age of 85).

'Gloucester, September 16, 1929.'

³ See Cav. Guido Rey's *Alpinismo Acrobatico*, p. 170.

⁴ Mr. Aitken died on the same day as Captain Farrar.

In the author's preface it is stated that 'the book is not for sale . . . and is a plain unvarnished record of my own ascents and adventures. . . . My old and dear friend, Mr. Joseph Bennett,⁵ has in the kindest way possible, looked through my MS. and made many invaluable suggestions.

'SAMUEL AITKEN.

'Christmas 1900.'

The book is superbly illustrated by Cav. Vittorio Sella.

The Alpine Club appreciates highly Mrs. Aitken's valuable gift.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY AWARDS.—His Majesty the King has approved the award of the *Back Grant* to Mr. P. C. Visser for his explorations of the Hunza-Karakoram glaciers.

Monument to the late Lieut.-Colonel F. REGAUD.—In the unavoidable absence of the President A.C., M. le Baron Gabet, Président du C.A.F., Hon. Member A.C., represented the Alpine Club at the inauguration of the said monument at Bonneval-sur-Arc on August 25, 1929.

We regret to have to announce the deaths of several distinguished Foreign Mountaineers :

Herr H. PFANNL, President of the Austrian Alpine Club, died on May 1 last. A very brilliant mountaineer, his name will be remembered always for his guideless first ascent of the Dent du Géant by the N. face, a feat which, at the time, caused a great sensation in Alpine circles. Other famous ascents of his were the first guideless traverse of Mont Blanc *via* the Pétéret ridge, the first ascent of the startling N. face of the Hochtor, as also of the N. face of the Reichenstein in the Gesäuse. He was joint author of the Austrian *Mont Blanc Führer*.

Dr. KARL SCHULZ (1844-1929), Member of A.C. 1882-91, was also very well known for his extensive climbs in all parts of the Alps. At one time he was a kind of stormy petrel in Alpine history, having become involved in disputes with Dr. Güssfeldt (whose grossly exaggerated account of the terrors of the 'Bernina Scharte' he exposed to the world), and with the famous critic and mountaineer, Dr. Lammer, 'who attacked him with extraordinary bitterness in a pamphlet entitled *Ein Alpiner Ritter von der traurigen Gestalt*.'⁶ In all these controversies the Alpine Club, needless to say, took no part, and Schulz's relations with us were always of the most cordial. He was the companion of Ludwig Purtscheller and Emil Zsigmondy, and, together with Otto Zsigmondy, was present on

⁵ Whose copy is the one now presented to the Club.

⁶ This remarkable effort is in the A.C. Library.

the occasion of Emil's lamentable accident on La Meije in 1885. The list of his most remarkable new exploits will be found in 'Mumm,' iii. pp. 254-60; they comprise, in the Western Alps, the Dent Blanche by the W. arête (with Mrs. E. P. Jackson), and the Bietschhorn from the S. He was the author of many Alpine articles, signed and anonymous, contributing also largely to the *Erschliessung der Ostalpen*.

Monsieur AUGUSTE REYNIER's (1849-1929) death is also reported. His name is associated chiefly with Dauphiné exploration. His best known new ascents comprise the S.E. face of Les Écrins and the traverse of the Coup de Sabre, Col du Glacier Noir, and Brèche Joseph Turc.

Lieut.-General THEODOR VON WUNDT, whose death at Stuttgart was announced recently, will be remembered chiefly for his climbs with his wife, an Englishwoman; these were responsible for many works from his pen on the Alps, written and illustrated in a popular form ensuring a very large sale. The most successful of these were 'Das Matterhorn' and 'Engadin, Ortler, Dolomiten.' The illustrations, although in some cases now out of date, were, at the time published, among the best we have seen. General von Wundt recently wrote some Alpine novels which were, however, less successful. We have no record of his career in the German army, in which he attained high rank.

Dr. HANS MEYER, the conqueror of Kilimanjaro in 1889, has also died recently.

Professor LUIGI BRASCA died last July. He was the great authority on the Valle San Giacomo (Splügen) peaks and editor of several of the C.A.I. *Guides*. A very charming man, his loss will be felt deeply by our friends of the Italian Alpine Club.

The deaths of MM. AUGUSTE MOTTET and V. DE BEAUCLAIR, in the accidents on the Doldenhorn and Matterhorn respectively, are a sad loss to Swiss mountaineers in general. The Swiss 'Academicals,' perhaps the foremost group of latter-day mountaineers, have indeed suffered severely in the last ten years.

The Alpine Club desires to express its sympathy to the relatives and friends of all the above deceased.

CLIMBERS' GUIDES.—Commandant Emile Gaillard has just published volume II, part I, of his *Alpes du Dauphiné*,⁷ comprising La Meije and Les Écrins. The Guide is well up to the usual high standard of the author and has even more diagrams, sketches, and maps than usual. Our only complaint is the continued and almost

⁷ M. Dardel, Chambéry, price 30 *frs.*

total absence of the names and dates of the first parties to accomplish the various expeditions. If these were included hardly more than a couple of pages would be added to the book and the interest would be increased greatly. We are inclined to concur with the almost total absence of bibliography; nevertheless, the reference to the *principal* account of the route under discussion should be given—if only to avoid the possible charge of plagiarism.⁸ The infinitely small increased bulk could be reduced again by the abolition of accounts of countless futile ‘variations.’

BERCHTESGADEN and KAISERGEIRGE Guides.—Herr W. von Freriks writes: ‘In his last letter to me, dated December 20, 1928, Captain Farrar asked me about the performances of the young Berchtesgaden guide, Joseph Kurz, adding that as far as he knew there were no competent guides in the Kaisergebirge in Tyrol. I think that I am not mistaken in assuming that the answers to Captain Farrar’s questions would be more or less interesting to some members of the Alpine Club. I therefore avail myself of the opportunity of transmitting to you some notes on Joseph Kurz and the Kaisergebirge guides:

‘JOSEPH KURZ, Berchtesgaden (Bavaria), born 1904.

‘(1) First ascents: Klein Watzmann, direct up W. face, extremely difficult. Gross Watzmann, direct up E. face, extremely difficult. Hoher Göll, W. face, extremely difficult.

‘(2) Many exceedingly difficult rock climbs in the Berchtesgaden and Kaiser Alps, *e.g.* Fleischbank, E. face; also in the Dolomites, *e.g.* Delagothurm, S.W. edge, up and down.

‘(3) Several (snow) peaks in the Glockner group.

‘(4) Monte Rosa, Matterhorn (as far only as “Swiss” shoulder owing to bad weather).

‘He is a first-rate rock climber. Little experience on snow. Full of dash and would probably be an excellent companion to an experienced mountaineer. He is willing to do the Fleischbank-Ostwand for 80 marks. For a Swiss engagement he asks 20 marks a day. I can give further references from my address: Friesenhof, Berchtesgaden, Bavaria.

‘In the Kaisergebirge are:

‘(a) FRANZ PLONER (Kienbichl, Kufstein, Tyrol).

‘(b) ERNST EGGER (Gaudeamus Hütte, Elman, Tyrol).

‘Both of them are very experienced cragsmen. They have done the most difficult climbs in the Kaisergebirge, *e.g.* Totenkirchl by W. face, Predigstuhl, N. peak, by W. face; Fleischbank by E. face; Kleine Halt by N.W. face, “Dülferweg,” etc.

⁸ As has happened, ridiculously enough, to a *Climbers’ Guide* published by a foreign Club.

'I have noticed that both Egger and Ploner have been mentioned rather unfavourably in "A.J." 37.⁹ They have improved.'

We are much indebted to Herr von Freriks for his valuable note.

E. L. S.

NOMENCLATURE in the French Alps.—The further 'personal' naming of yet more points and boulders in the Chamonix Aiguilles is the subject of a biting but justifiable protest from M. Emile Fontaine. We may add that the names given by M. Fontaine himself were, almost without exception, quite admirable.

An Adventure near OBERAMMERGAU.—A British tourist while making the ascent of the Kofel, 1343 m., slipped and fell, remaining, however, suspended through his coat pocket catching on a rock. Being ignorant of German, he could only shout 'Juchhe' (*sic*); other tourists in the vicinity responded gaily with cries of 'Juhu.' As, however, the victim's yells continued unabated, a search was made and the unfortunate Briton was discovered and rescued from his uncomfortable position. His relief was great, so it is reported. From *Allgemeine Bergsteiger Zeitung*.

JOHANN GRILL II, der 'Köderbacher' of Ramsau.—Members of the Alpine Club will recollect Captain Farrar's eloquent tribute to his old guide and friend Johann Grill I in 'A.J.' 31, 262-9. Herr von Freriks, the well-known mountaineer, has published a charming little pamphlet, now in the A.C. Library, describing the climbs achieved by those great guides, the two Johann Grill, father and son. From private communications from Herren von Freriks and Paul Montandon, it appears that Grill II (the son) has fallen on evil times; it is unhappily the case that '... he has with his wife, three daughters and a son 14 years of age, the family farm in the Ramsau and a *Gastwirthschaft* which hardly suffice to help them through. Grill suffers from an incurable stomachic complaint which cannot be operated on, while his wife is a victim to arthritis in the hands, so that she is unable to work. There is a 4000 marks mortgage on the farm at 10 per cent. interest, and, in addition, the family owes 3000 marks. Freriks is doing his best to collect 2000 marks in order to pay off at least half of that onerous mortgage; so far he has collected about 1100.

'Now do you know any gentlemen who have employed Grill¹⁰ and do you think anything could be done in England for the poor

⁹ *Loc. cit.*, 279-300; Ploner was praised, but the criticism of Egger appears unduly severe.

¹⁰ Captain Farrar, 1892, 1897, 1898, 1901; Mrs. Blackburn, 1893; W. E. Kendrick, 1892, 1893; William and Edith Hoyle and L. E. Massey, 1895; three members of the Rendall family, 1890.—*P. M.*

man in order, at least, to better his financial position and make the last period of his life less bitter? If only Farrar were alive, he would surely have taken the thing in hand, as he was a great admirer of that thoroughly respectable family. . . . It should not be too difficult to collect the 2000 marks if everybody were to help a little.

‘PAUL MONTANDON.’

This appears to be a case thoroughly deserving of charity. The two Grill, father and son, were unquestionably by far the best guides of *German* nationality who have yet appeared; their record and integrity speak for themselves. Captain Farrar has described their principal characteristic as their *Unerschrockenheit*. None of us, serving opposite them, in the period 1914–1918, will deny that virtue to the gallant Bavarian Divisions, their countrymen. It would be a graceful and sporting act if some sum, however small, could be sent from members of the Alpine Club to Johann Grill II in his need. The Editor ‘A.J.’ or the Honorary Secretary will be pleased to transmit any donations to the ‘Köderbacher’ family, in particular for the education of the boy. Herr von Freriks, writing on October 9, states that Grill is sinking gradually, a fact making the lot of the family a still harder one.

S.A.C. HUTS.—*Die Alpen* gives the number of visitors as 68,325 in 1928 as against 51,815 in 1927. In the 105 Club huts, the percentage of S.A.C. members to the total works out as 33·6. The Boval hut with 3282 visitors is once more a winner by over 1500, while the Baltschiederklause and Oberaletsch, with 55 and 88 respectively, oust the wooden spoon from the Sciora hut.

ASCENT OF UMANAK, N. Greenland.—Herren Ernst Sorge and F. Georgi, members of the Wegener Greenland Expedition, write: ‘It may be of interest to readers of the ALPINE JOURNAL that on July 14 [1929], we have succeeded in climbing the famous rock of Umanak [or Umenak], attempted by Whymp¹¹ about half a century ago, but never reached till now. The route led up at first over rock and grass, then through a steep snow rim [*sic*] of the N.E. side. From a gap at its upper end, about 870 m., we reached the highest (N.) summit, 1230 m., over a very steep and difficult rock wall of which 200 m. or more have a mean inclination of about 80°. From the highest point, the S. summit, visible from the colony (of Umanak) was reached without serious difficulty. Times:

¹¹ Although Mr. Whymp^{er} writes in 1873 that ‘the peak appears to be inaccessible,’ he does not state that he ever attempted to climb it. See *A.J.* 6, 217; illustration facing 161.

from the colony to the N. summit, 12 hrs. ; from N. to S. peak, $\frac{3}{4}$ hr. ; from S. peak to sea level, 7 hrs.'

We thank these gentlemen for their note and congratulate them on their success, a fresh proof of the extraordinary activity now prevailing in German and Austrian mountaineering circles.

E. L. S.

MT. AMERY.—Mr. L. C. Amery has done the right thing ; he is reported to have climbed this mountain, *ca.* 10,940 ft., situated in Alberta and named after himself by the Geographic Board. The ascent is stated to have been difficult and to have taken 13 hours. It remains for the ex-Prime Minister to climb Mt. Baldwin.

Later : Mr. Amery writes : ' . . . I climbed Mt. Amery (first ascent) on August 20, with Bryan Meredith and Eduard Feuz, and the following climbs with Feuz only : Mt. Castleguard, August 24 ; Mt. Bryce, August 27 ; Mt. Saskatchewan, second ascent on August 30 ; unnamed peak *ca.* 10,200 ft., W. of Lake Maligne, first ascent on September 6 ; Mt. Leah, E. of Lake Maligne, on September 10. . . . Bryce has only been climbed once by Sir J. Outram with Christian Kaufmann by the terrifically long northern ridge. I explored round to the S. of the mountain and found a shorter route, but turned back less than 200 ft. from the top, as time did not allow the very slow job of cutting steps through a lot of loose snow. A day or two later we might have done it in 20 minutes. Anyhow this was the most interesting bit of climbing and route finding that we did. Saskatchewan is quite easy and Castleguard and Leah are really nothing more than snow and scree walks respectively.

' The new peak W. of Maligne is a fine one to look at and offers some quite amusing rock climbing. . . . '

THE SHAKSGAM VALLEY.—The Italian expedition led by H.R.H. the Duke of Spoleto has carried out a notable piece of exploration in the Karakoram Himalaya. They have made a scientific survey of the Shaksgam valley and filled up the small gap left between my exploration in 1889 and Mason's exploration of the sources of the river in 1926. They crossed the Mustagh Pass into the Shaksgam valley and ascended it as far as the glacier which stopped Mason. They then returned by the Mustagh Pass, the height of which they determined to be 19,030 ft.—my own rough estimate of its height being 19,000 ft. They believe they have discovered a feasible way of reaching the Shaksgam valley from the head of the Baltoro Glacier. And we may hope that next year they will explore the route and complete the round of K₂.

FRANCIS YOUNGHUSBAND.

NEW OR UNUSUAL ROUTES in 1929. Several important expeditions have been accomplished of which we give a short summary.

Dauphiné.

AILEFROIDE (Central Summit).—By N. arête, attained from N.W., Coste Rouge Glacier (variation of Mayer-Dibona route). July 1929, MM. J. and G. Vernet.

PIC D'OLAN.—By S.E. arête, first *ascent* (descent by Littledale in 1897). July 1929, MM. (?) Pruset and Marcel Legrand, starting from Col des Sellettes.

Mont Blanc Group.

DÔME DU GOÛTER.—By the W. face through the séracs of the Glacier de Bionnassay français. July 20, 1929, MM. Migot, Azéma and Rey.

PETITES JORASSES.—By the N.W. face from the Glacier de Leschaux. From Petites Jorasses traverse to AIGUILLE DE LESCHAUX, thence descent by N.W. face (Ward's 1927 route). July 16-17, 1929, MM. Migot and O. C. Schaub with Armand Charlet.¹²

AIGUILLE VERTE.—By the N. face from the Argentière Glacier. (?Variation of Middlemore-Maund-Cordier, 1876, and de Lépiney routes.) September 2, 1929, Mr. Bradford Washburn with Georges Charlet, Alfred Couttet and André Dévouassoud. Times: 6 hrs. 20 mins. from Refuge d'Argentière to summit (!) Excessively dangerous—as might be expected in September—from falling stones.

BRÈCHE DE L'AMÔNE—MONT DOLENT—AIGUILLE DU TRIOLET, passing over Pointes *de Pré de Bar, Langlois, Le Bec, du Domino, Guibert*—several teeth previously unscald. August 27-28, 1929, M. Jonquières with Marcel Bozon and Alfred Ravanel. We understand that a disaster was just avoided.

MONT BLANC. (?) Several ascents by the Pétéret and Brouillard ridges.

Pennines.

DENT D'HÉRENS—MATTERHORN.—We understand that Mr. T. Y. Kagami, with Gottfried Perren, followed the watershed from summit to summit (!).

H. DE S.

During some ten days spent at the MONTENVERS in July, Johann Perren took Miss Mabel Carey and myself up the PETITS CHARMOZ, a day of 11 hours. The only hitch in a sunny traverse was the

¹² Who appears to have recovered completely, we are glad to say.—*Editor.*

irresponsible ascending and descending of the couloir which it shares with the Aiguille de l'M, by more than thirty young people, at all hours. Some were still ascending the Nantillons Glacier, for the climb, at 2.30 P.M. During these few days the bodies of three separate victims of this terrible neglect of elementary rules—growing everywhere more apparent—were brought down to the hotel. Later: Hans Brantschen and Johann Perren took me over the DENT DU REQUIN. The sultry trudge to the Requin Hut was laborious. We left about 1 A.M. The other parties all passed us on the soft snows of the glacier-fall. We overtook them again on the pleasant rock-traverses, below the 'Colonnes,' which the guides of recent years have 'thrown in' to make more of an affair of the traverse. The descent was complicated by a hinge of the new duralumin 'peg' going out of action, and the whole 'peg' out of use, till it was hammered with a rock. One-legged glissading down the fall, arm-locked with Hans, carried us proudly past a party returning from the Plan. After a halt at the Hut, the Mer de Glace showed itself once again in its most slithery, cross-hummocked and thigh-splitting condition. Some 17½ hours in all. J. L. Longland and George L. Trevelyan having come over from more important climbing expressly to push me up an Aiguille, with Hans Brantschen we left for the Plan des Aiguilles, in uncertain weather. A night of black storm brought back much of an old-time joy, in the moral winding-up process necessary for an unchancey start. The two or three hours in the dark, going all-out over moraine and glacier-seepings, were the severest effort since the war. The day relented gorgeously. Two ropes solved the Mummery Crack, dividing the effort economically between three of us. The magnificent ridge of the AIGUILLE DE GRÉPON looked, and felt, all the colours of fire in the sun. On the summit—to which we gratifyingly out-paced two ropes headed by young Alfred Couttet—the eighteen years since the 'last time'—were not! An absurdly artificial free *Abseilung*, to the flake at the foot of the 'Knubel' Crack, now practised by the Chamoniards, rediscovered a few grey hairs. A wet-freezing descent of the fresh snows on the Nantillons fall, as a hauled or embraced package, pulped any remaining senile satisfaction: and the Rognon rocks, when taken unroped and chilled, seemed a horror. But a leisurely dot-and-go-one back to the Montenvers, under a late sun that scorched Hans's sack too hot to hold on by, restored the balance of Alpine pleasure. Eighteen and a half hours, altogether. The short season ended on the discipline of Oberland tracks; with the Great Aletsch Glacier, from Eggishorn to Concordia, and Concordia to bad weather, providing its usual wider digressions into the unrealised hope.

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