

Missess-Kosh, and had been missing since July 26. A sleeping-sack was the solitary find at an altitude of about 3800 m.; no other traces were discovered.

The Austrians made the difficult first ascent of the N. face of Missesstau on August 8, bivouacking on the summit. Lialver (4350 m.) was next climbed by the N.E. arête, and on the following day, *via* points 4360 m. and 4530 m., the summit of Gestola, 15,932 ft., was attained. On the descent they bivouacked on the ridge connecting with Tetnuld. On August 13 they traversed Tetnuld, 15,918 ft., by the S.E. flank and W. face, descending by the latter's hanging glacier which drains into the Zanner Glacier, and bivouacking in snow and rain at 3200 m.; they returned over the Zanner Pass to the Missess-Kosh.

On August 18, after bivouacking in an ice cave at *ca.* 4420 m., they ascended Katuintau, 16,296 ft., by its N. buttress, again bivouacking in a storm near the summit. In a high wind and storm Adishtau, 5020 m., was next climbed and its S.W. arête descended, followed by the traverse of Gestola-Lialver-Zanner Pass to the Missess-Kosh.

On August 22 the W. arête of Dychtau, 17,054 ft., was attempted vainly. Then followed, August 23-28, the main undertaking (with 6 ice-cave bivouacs!), the complete traverse of Shkara, 17,038 ft., W. to E., in which the points 5017 m., 5010 m., 5130 m. were, it is claimed, climbed for the first time. Janga, E. peak, 5038 m., and W. peak, 5051 m., were traversed to Katuintau, and finally the party crossed Gestola and Lialver to the Zanner Pass, thus completing the traverse of the Bezingi Horseshoe.

From *Der Bergsteiger*, October 1931, pp. [15-16].

[The heights in *feet* are from Mr. Freshfield's map; the others are from Merzbacher's, presumably. In 'A.J.' 42, 347, will be found a note on a *previous* traverse of all the Shkara peaks.—*Editor.*]

ACCIDENTS IN 1931.

MOUNTAINEERING, or the modern equivalent thereof, is developing yearly; so are its risks and disasters. Yet the increase of accidents, terrible though it be, is less perhaps than might be expected. A wave of recklessness and folly is spreading throughout the Alps. The irrational desire and competition for new routes has degenerated into a mad striving for notoriety by forcing a passage where none exists, a few yards to right or left of well-known itineraries. The foolhardiness of inexperienced¹ and often in-

¹ Frequently also of *experienced*. As an example of the former, take the case of five young Strasbourgeois climbing together. One perished on the Aiguille du Goûter through the rope breaking, a

capable young climbers in prosecuting their attempts, despite all risks of mountain and weather, has brought the craft of mountaineering, as opposed to piton-driving acrobaticism, into contempt. The new 'Alpinist's' ambition is to incur the maximum of danger while he strains the limits of difficulty. Of rational pleasure, or interest, there is no question. It is a gamble with unadulterated danger, first to last. The modern gymnast of certain foreign Alpine periodicals brazenly proclaims his desire 'to live dangerously'; if he should persist and perish, an early victim to his own insanity, of what avail are all the principles of mountaineering inculcated by pioneers, and repeated wearily by unheeded editors, in the pages of this JOURNAL?

And yet it may be objected that, like Freshfield and Coolidge, Purtscheller and Schmitt, Mummery and Fontaine, Guido Rey and Sella, Montandon and Geoffrey Young, we have accomplished no 'modern' feats. But were these ancients less fitted than feckless, desperate moderns 'to storm the ghastly precipices of the Brenva Péteret' or the stone and ice-swept overhangs of the Chamonix Aiguilles, of the Alleghe-Civetta, of the Gesäuse—in fact, of every spot throughout the Alps where danger appears sufficiently excessive? And what of the mighty band of past and present professional leaders, whose skill far transcends the modern amateur's, the Almer-Anderegg, the Pollinger-Lochmatter, the Carrel-Rey, the Dévouassoud-Blanc, the Klucker-Schocher, or Dimai-Grill schools? Is the teaching, the example, the avoidance of unnecessary danger as taught by our pioneers, to be neglected by the rising youth? It seems so.

We quote the words of a distinguished foreign mountaineer: . . . 'For him who undertakes true "modern" climbs there are but two alternatives, success or complete annihilation. . . . In two cases [sc. Rosskuppenkante and Rosskuppen, N. face, in the Gesäuse and below the summer snow-line] it proved possible under extraordinary difficulties,² and without loss of life to the salvage party, to rescue two parties crag-bound [and injured] on the rocks. Can such a result be expected always on modern tours? I fear not. Rescue parties will pay with their own lives for their disinterested self-sacrifice. With a view to mitigating resulting disasters, let every modern scrambler consider carefully that although he *may* be rescued from such a fate, it by no means follows that he will. . . .'³

In direct contradiction to what has been accepted as a universal

second fell into a torrent and was drowned, while a third, left behind exhausted, died from cold.—D. & Æ.A.V. *Mitt.*; but *La Montagne*, 1931, p. 327, states that the third man survived.

² 350 m. of rope, 70 *Karabiner*, 80 pitons and 3 days required. The rescue party had to be lowered from the summit on each occasion.

³ *Der Bergsteiger*, 1931, No. 11, p. 674.

rule of mountaineering, we feel tempted to agree that, in certain cases, it may become necessary to forbid the employment of search parties. For why should valuable lives be endangered to save those individuals who, before starting, have made already the sacrifice of their own? ⁴ 'It would be deplorable,' as the most experienced survivor of the Golden Age points out to us, 'that the lives of good men, guides or amateurs, had to be risked to save novices or madmen from the consequences of their *bétises*—the foreign word fits best many of the exploits that make up the column of Records.'

What can be said of a climber who, having seen a short time before a companion perish beneath his eyes, proceeds to make the ascent of Les Écrins from the Glacier Noir, and the traverse of the Col des Avalanches—untouched since the early days of Coolidge—entirely alone? His folly, like his nerve and daring, are alike beyond criticism.

With the forcing of the N. face of the Matterhorn, with the Mont Mallet Glacier face of the Grandes Jorasses profaned with spikes but still unconquered, infinite possibilities of notoriety or disaster lie open.

[The following letter which we have received may be appropriately inserted here, since it bears on the same subject as our editorial note.]

‘*Recorders*’ and the *Alpine Death-Roll*.

SIR,—The following catalogue—I fear an imperfect one—of the lives lost in the High Alps during the past summer can hardly fail to raise serious reflections in the minds of Alpine Clubmen, and particularly of the few who are old enough to remember what the term *Mountaineering* implied to the founders of our craft, the climbers of the nineteenth century, the men who conquered the Alps and founded the Club.

To us it represented the methods by which we had achieved this conquest, the methods which had enabled us to subdue to our uses—practical, intellectual, and emotional—the great peaks and passes.

Regarded from a different angle this craft was also a sport; and like most other sports it had certain widely recognized, if not formally expressed, rules and principles. The mountains, it was held, must be approached in a *sportsmanlike* spirit: they must be given fair play. They must not be turned into playgrounds for

⁴ What *Rettungsstation* would dare call on rescue parties for climbers in distress on the N. face of the Matterhorn, a face pre-eminently suitable for the compilation of future ‘new’ routes and Records?

the recreation of ski parties, who venture into the winter snow world without any adequate acquaintance with its risks; the Matterhorn and its neighbours must not be adapted for base uses by being turned by mechanical devices into promenades for that branch of the proletariat who travel under the conduct of tourist agencies.

That this crowd, which frequents, summer and winter alike, the High Alps, should furnish occasional victims is doubtless inevitable. But there has been lately a development of a new branch of Alpine sport, which must be held largely responsible for the increase in the lists of fatal accidents. I refer to the pursuit of *Records*. Fifty years ago 'New Expeditions' furnished the ALPINE JOURNAL with many interesting pages. At that date to find the right way up a virgin peak was a more or less rational adventure. It involved some mountain-sense, persistence, and technical skill. To-day the new school of Diehard Alpinists seek excitement, not in following out the right way up a peak, or through an icefall, but in inventing wrong ways. They spend perilous hours in gullies raked by deadly stonefalls. Should they escape the cruel cannonade they set out afresh armed with a bag full of picks and spikes, instruments by which they hope to render passable crags which Nature meant to be impassable. When acrobaticism fails they have recourse to mechanical means. The mountain may be conquered, but it is not conquered in fair fight! Still they have achieved a *Record*.

And what is the object of this foolhardiness?

The recent illustrations in this, or any other, Alpine periodical will furnish an answer. To force a new route a few yards to the right or left of one discovered years before by some climber not wholly devoid of mountain-sense, and possessed of a reasonable regard for the lives of himself and his companions. And then, Sir, to call on you to play the part of the Recording Angel!

Is it not time that the ALPINE JOURNAL took a firm stand in this matter? It can hardly afford to view without a protest the degradation of a noble sport by the freaks of a relatively small band of gymnasts who, in the last resource, will assail the mountains with the instruments of road-breakers. I am, Yours faithfully,

JAM RUDE DONATUS.

The summer of 1931, so far as August and September are concerned, was one of the worst recorded. June was fine, and July contained a certain number of perfect days occurring at regular intervals; between these fine days the weather, however, was of the stormiest description and quite unsuited for high mountaineering. But nowadays, as has been pointed out in the pages of the JOURNAL, the weather has little or no influence on 'modern' mountaineering. Consequently *more* accidents occur during bad seasons than during good. This is in direct opposition to the events of a few years back. During June and July, according to press reports, some 70 persons lost their lives in the 'High' Alps, while 200 others were

stated to be *missing*. The death-roll of August was possibly higher still.

Besides those accidents to be described, disasters took place on the following mountains,⁵ among others: Grand Pic de Belledonne, Pic Coolidge, Les Écrins, Les Bans, Mont Blanc (3), Aiguille du Peigne, Drus, Grépon, Dent du Midi Group, Pigne d'Arolla, Finster-aarhorn, Wilde Frau. In addition to these, weekly or bi-weekly accidents took place in the Wilde Kaiser. An enormous number occurred in the Eastern Alps, but the Mont Blanc Group proved a close competitor. Two Swiss were killed on Missesstau in the Caucasus—which owing to local troubles is virtually closed again to foreign mountaineers.

Several Britons have lost their lives in the High Alps, and we have to deplore the death of a popular and enterprising member.⁶

The Accident on La Meije.

HERR JOLLES, a Dutch mountaineer, together with the well-known *Munich* guide, Emil Solleder (see 'A.J.' 38, 134), traversed La Meije by the usual route on July 27. Having attained the Pic Central, they decided to include also the ascent of the Pic Oriental. They reached the gap between the two peaks, Brèche Joseph Turc, in a severe snow-storm, and determined in consequence to descend at once. Instead of following the comparatively easy N. route, they attempted the descent by the very difficult, rocky S. slope, in spite of the lateness of the hour. Arrived at a 30-ft. overhang, Jolles unroped—they had two ropes in their possession—and hitching the spare rope round a boulder, descended *en rappel*. When some 10 ft. distant from the landing-place, the boulder broke out, Jolles fell and sliding about 100 ft. beyond the platform, pulled himself up quite uninjured. He shouted to Solleder that he was unhurt, but the latter had disappeared. It seems likely that Solleder had, either in trying to secure the boulder, or in an attempt to seize the spare rope, overbalanced himself and fallen. Jolles perceived nothing except many falling stones. He spent the night in heavy snow on the spot where he had landed, and descended on the following day to La Grave.

Solleder's body was found on the Étançons Glacier; he had fallen well over 2000 ft.

Communicated.

[Foreign Alpine periodicals find some parallel between this accident and the Zsigmondy disaster of August 6, 1885, which however took place below and rather to the E. of the so-called *Brèche Zsigmondy*, between the Grand Pic and Pic Central.]

⁵ It is impossible to give anything approaching a complete list.

⁶ By the end of September, a total of 212 lives lost in the Alps and Pyrenees is recorded in the Press.

The Accident on Mont Blanc.

ON July 19, in fine but windy weather, a party consisting of Herren F. Diessl, W. Daum, and J. Tschippan of Vienna, left the Torino hut for Mont Blanc *via* the Mont Blanc du Tacul-Mont Maudit ridge. Accompanying them was a party composed of two Villach climbers. The two parties, of whom the Villach one had already failed on Mont Blanc owing to bad weather, had arranged to share the work. The departure from the hut took place at 01.00, and tracks were available as far as the old and wrecked *Midi cabane*. Both parties reached Mont Blanc du Tacul with some labour, finding the wind very high and the cold great; on Col Maudit they halted in their tents [*sic*—Zdarsky?] in increasing cold. The Villach party led from the awkward bergschrund on Mont Maudit and onwards, the others gradually falling to the rear. On the Col de la Brenva thick clouds came up, causing Diessl's party to lose the tracks. About the Mur de la Côte the rearmost party encountered hard ice, resulting in great loss of time. The storm had developed into a hurricane, and the summit of Mont Blanc was reached only at nightfall. The leading party had vanished.

All sense of direction was lost in the now driving snow and darkness; the Viennese party bivouacked, huddled together, their tent in the storm proving useless. It was impossible even to eat. By morning ⁷ all three were much exhausted and Diessl suffered in particular. In clear weather the party left the summit at 06.00, but if anything the wind and cold had further increased. Diessl could hardly stand, while the feet of all had lost sensation. The former kept falling as soon as the Bosses ridge grew narrow, and could only advance on hands and knees. At the Tournette rocks, Diessl appeared to lose consciousness, and his companions were unable to bring him farther. These considered the only course open to be an attempt to descend the Bosses ridge to the Vallot hut, there to seek help from the Villach party or any others storm-bound in the hut. Daum and Tschippan were, however, in ignorance that the Carinthian party had also been forced to bivouac on the summit and in close proximity to themselves. The Carinthians had descended previously to the Vallot, attaining it in a state of frost-bite and complete prostration. In the hut were also two parties of Austrians, six persons in all, including a lady. These had attained the hut with great difficulty the night before. Informed of the situation above by the Villach amateurs, the hut parties were able by telescope to observe the final attempts to move Diessl; accordingly, provided with blankets and led by Herr Hans Richter, they set out at 08.00 to help.

These salvage manœuvres passed unheeded by Daum and Tschippan in their attempt to descend. Tying the delirious Diessl

⁷ July 20; a day of storms and snow throughout the High Alps.

up in the tent and securing the latter with the spare rope to a driven-in ice axe, they proceeded down the ridge. Below the Bosses, Daum slipped and fell, but Tschippan in front, springing to the other side of the ridge, contrived to hold him. Shortly after they were met by the rescue party. One of these latter, suffering from mountain-sickness, escorted the frost-bitten Daum to the hut, while the others, accompanied by Tschippan, hurried up the ridge to Diessl's help. The latter was reached in $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours, and his condition was unchanged. Swathed in blankets and covered with the tent, he was lowered and carried, after 4 hours' dangerous and exhausting labour, to the hut, 13.45. During the first 3 hours, Diessl showed signs of life; his body was still warm when brought to the hut, and for 3 hours more every effort was made to revive him, but all in vain.

In storm and snow, Richter led all the parties to the Grands Mulets on the following day (6 hrs.). On the 22nd they descended to Chamonix, where most of their members passed under medical care. Dr. Diessl was buried at Chamonix.

From *Æ.A.Z.* and *D. & Æ.A.V. Mitt.*

[Inconceivable levity, or complete ignorance of 'high' mountaineering, appear to be the causes of a lamentable disaster that should have cost the loss of at least *five* lives.—*Editor.*]

The Accident on the Grandes Jorasses.

DURING most of the month of July several parties were bivouacking in the neighbourhood of the new Leschaux hut. Their members were engaged in the extremely unsportsmanlike proceeding of fixing pitons in the N. face of the Grandes Jorasses.

Since August 8, Herren L. Rittler and Hans Brehm, *both* well known for many reckless climbs and the former totally inexperienced on granite *or* ice, had been trying the face. Two other climbers⁸ had been similarly engaged until forced to desist by bad weather. When an improvement took place these latter returned to the mountain and found, on August 12, the still roped bodies of Brehm and Rittler lying at the base of the face. Both were wearing crampons. The accident is supposed to have taken place about August 8-11; it is conjectured that the victims had actually *bivouacked* some 1200 ft. up the face during the bad weather and, at the time of the fall, were attempting to descend. Their comparatively slight injuries, however, appear to preclude the supposition as to the attainment of any great height. A damaged tent-sack was in their possession. Another very significant fact was the

⁸ Herren A. Heckmair and G. Kröner, who are credited with having repeated the 'Welzenbach' route of 1931 on the Grands Charmoz (p. 371, footnote 3).

finding of a piton hanging loose in the doubled climbing-rope, thus possibly proving the attainment by the party of the great, slabby rock wall, as well as the folly of trusting to artificial aids on such a face.

Dr. Welzenbach, whose opinion must be considered weighty in such matters, informs us that the victims' gloves were in their pockets, and considers in consequence the accident occurred *before* the advent of bad weather.

Herren Brehm and Rittler⁹ were buried at Chamonix.

From *Münchner Neueste Nachrichten* and communicated.

The Accident on the Aiguille Verte.

MM. E. STOFER, T. Jonquière and B. Arsandaux, in the order named, were making the ascent of the Aiguille Verte by the very difficult N.W. (Grands Montets) arête, on July 13. Arrived just below the summit of the Aiguille Carrée (3708 m., *B.I.K.*), they attempted a traverse to the left, N., on the Argentière side; recognizing their error, Stofer returned and passing the other two, proceeded over the Nant Blanc slope. The leader and Jonquière accomplished a slightly descending traverse and were assisting Arsandaux in rear across the same passage; the latter, out of sight of his companions, was concealed by a rocky boss: suddenly he fell a short distance, the *doubled* rope snapped, and Arsandaux plunged nearly 3000 ft. on to the Argentière Glacier. The body was recovered by his companions.

The rope was completely rotten.

The Accident on the Aiguille d'Argentière.

THREE SWISS, attempting the ascent in August, were forced to bivouac at the top of the 'Couloir Barbey' at a height of about 3500 m. One of them, Herr Gobat, died of cold during the night. Another, Herr Wettstein, on the following day, during the descent, fell and was killed. The solitary survivor regained the valley.

From *Der Bergsteiger*.

The Accident on the Grand Perron.

ON September 20 Miss Aline Burnett, a daughter of Brigadier-General C. K. Burnett, and Captain W. J. Ellison of the League of Nations Staff, were climbing the Grand Perron. They are supposed to have missed the ordinary route, or perhaps avoided it purposely. At all events, a boulder is reported to have given way and both climbers fell a considerable distance. Miss Burnett was killed on the spot, while Ellison sustained a triple fracture of the

⁹ Herr Rittler is stated to have been qualified as a guide-candidate.

thigh, besides other injuries. He contrived to unrope himself and to crawl along a ledge, an inch at a time, attaining a safer spot, some 12 yards distant, nearly 24 hours later. The accident took place at 9 A.M. on the 20th and he was not found, despite several search parties, till nearly 7 P.M. on the 21st.

M. Blanchet writes: 'They fell at the first rocks of the Perron at about one hour from Emosson. I passed at 07.00, on the 21st, within a few metres of Ellison without seeing him. He heard our steps but had not the strength to call out. Four hours later we again passed by without perceiving anything; previously, MM. de Rham's party (of Lausanne) had also passed within a few yards. We continued our search along the W. slopes of the Perrons till below the Pointe Vouilloz; during this period the Châtelard gendarme found Ellison. He was transported, as soon as possible, by motor ambulance to Geneva. The night he spent out was the only one that was warm.

'I am exceedingly sorry that we searched so *far* for him—Miss Burnett was, of course, killed on the spot—after passing so close. My wife was of the party and Mooser [Kaspar Mooser of Taesch, the well-known guide] was most devoted and worked his hardest, but it was quite natural that our search should have been *below* the difficult parts of the Perrons traverse (from the Aiguille devant to the Pointe Vouilloz), and not, in the beginning at any rate, well in front of the first Perron. The two had announced their intention of making the traverse. On Sunday night [September 20] we had already gone up, shouted and made signals, but the darkness was profound, and we noted nothing at the base of the Perrons. . . .'

Captain Ellison died of his injuries on September 28. He was about 40 years of age and, we believe, a capable and experienced mountaineer. Although not a member of the Alpine Club, he had contributed an interesting note on an international expedition to Olympus in the JOURNAL, Vol. 40, 104-8.

[We hasten to express the sympathy of the Club with the relatives and friends of the victims of this most sad disaster.—*Editor.*]

The Accident on the Lauterbrunnen-Breithorn.

A VERY peculiar accident occurred to a large party on this peak during its descent on July 19. The leading guide, Fritz Ogi of Kandersteg, tripped over a rock and fell, being held, however, by the remainder of the party. He severely injured his head in the fall. The guide, Oskar Ogi (who was either leader of another party or last man of the former), brother of the injured man, detached himself from the party and proceeded quickly to his brother's help. As Fritz Ogi was losing much blood, Oskar, with another member of the party, proceeded to fix a bandage over the wound. Oskar, however, overcome at the sight, fainted, and being unroped, fell about 1000 ft., sustaining very grave injuries. His companions,

perceiving too late what was happening, were powerless to help. Oskar Ogi died in the hospital at Frutigen on July 20.

Ogi is stated to have been a capable guide, but this failing of his was well known. The accident occurred at an easy place.

Communication from M. PAUL MONTANDON.

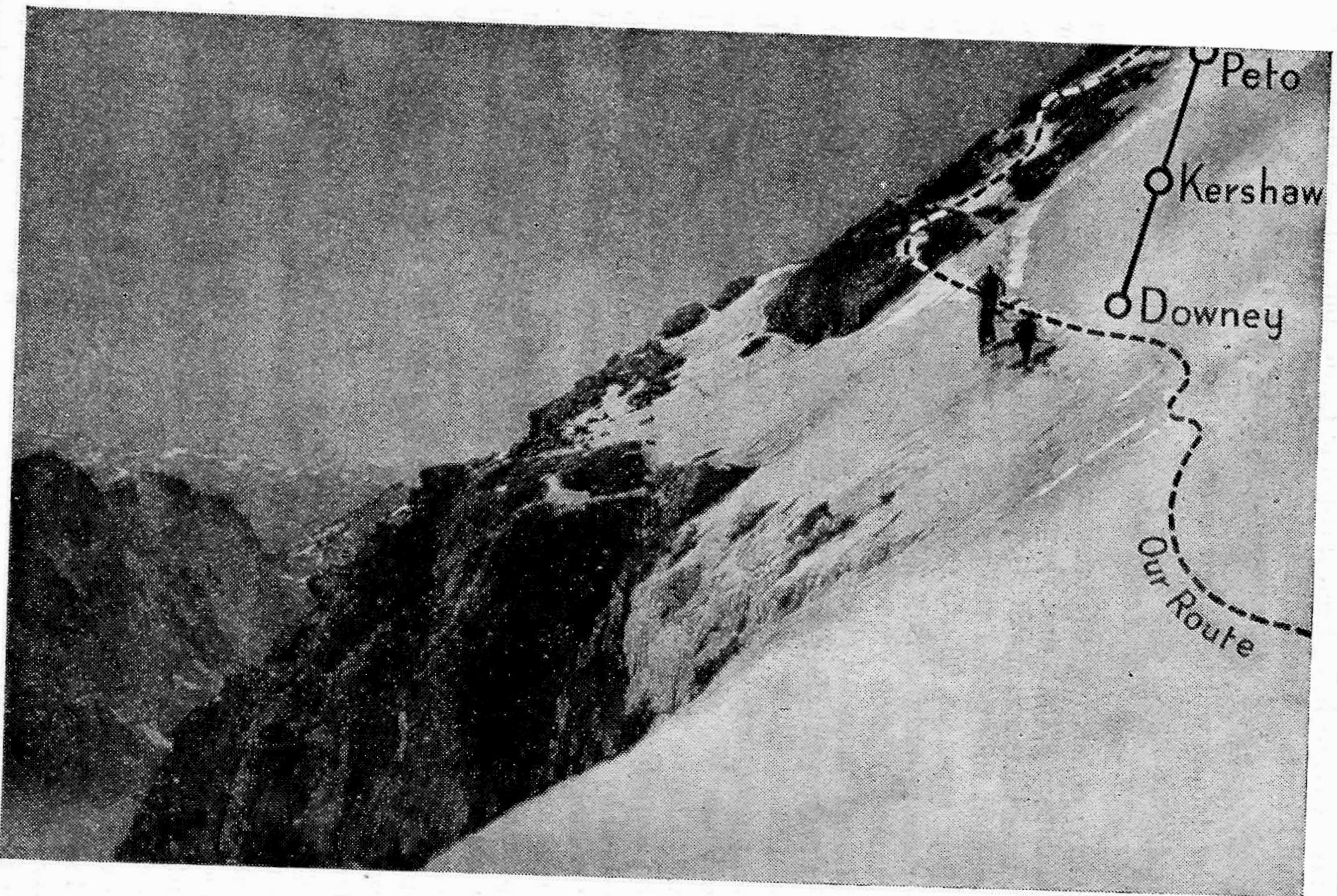
Fuller details will be found in *Die Alpen*, 1931 [pp. 281-2].

The Accident on the Jungfrau.

A PARTY consisting of ten members of the Imperial College Mountaineering Club and their guests had been climbing together for fourteen days in the St. Gotthard and Bernese Oberland Ranges. Throughout this period the general division of the party had been into four ropes as follows: Finch, Durden, Sutton minor; Ford, Robertson; Jenkins, Sutton major; Peto, Kershaw, Downey, the first named in each group being the group leader. Finch's party led throughout on all climbs, and Peto's rope came last.

The parties left the Jungfraujoch at about 7.30 A.M. on August 19, about 1 to 1½ hours after three other parties who could then be seen approaching the Rottalsattel. The weather was fine, with a moderate W. wind blowing. The preceding three parties were about to leave the summit when the four I.C.M.C. parties arrived in the Rottalsattel. In order to avoid all danger from falling stones dislodged by the parties above, who were descending by the rock rib overlooking the Rottal (the usual summer route), Finch led straight up from the *Sattel*, thus following the normal winter route. Step-cutting was required practically throughout, for the most part in excellent but hard snow. Near the top of the slope an upward traverse calling for about thirty steps in ice had to be made. The summit was reached at about 10.30 A.M. On the descent, there being no danger of falling stones, the parties, maintaining the same order as on the ascent, but with their respective rope leaders now bringing up the rear, followed the well-trodden track leading down the rock rib to the Rottalsattel. The conditions on the rib were excellent. The first two parties had already reached a point, the agreed-upon *rendezvous*, just below (30 ft.) the Rottalsattel. The third party was just preparing to descend through the cornice on the *Sattel*. This party (Jenkins and Sutton), before embarking on the well-known traverse from the foot of the rock rib to the *Sattel*, had seen the fourth party leave the rock rib at a point about 120 ft. above the traverse and start to take a descending traverse towards the Rottalsattel. There were no tracks along this course, and the surface consisted of a thin layer of poor snow on ice. All members of all four parties wore crampons. It was seen by the third party that Downey, later followed by Kershaw, proceeded down the slope without cutting steps; Peto was not seen to leave his secure stance on the rock rib. At this moment, though out of sight from them, Peto was heard by the first party, who had just arrived at the

rendezvous below the *Sattel*, giving directions to his companions. A few seconds later Jenkins, who was paying out Sutton through



SHOWING POSITION OF PETO'S PARTY IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE SLIP.

the cornice, happened to turn round and saw the fourth party sliding down towards the edge of the Rottal cliffs, over which they disappeared. The cause of the actual slip, which was not seen, is entirely unknown. The three men, when seen sliding, were one above the other, the rope taut between them, and they were

endeavouring to stop themselves with their axes. As they slid down they made no sound. Jenkins immediately told the parties at the *rendezvous* what had happened and descended to the full extent of his rope down the Rottal side. It was at once clear that no hope could be entertained of the fall of the fourth party having been arrested. The accident occurred at 11.30 A.M.

One of the three other parties of climbers who were about to descend from the *rendezvous* was given a note addressed to the manager of the Jungfrauoch hotel. The latter reported immediately on receipt of this note to the *Rettungsstation*, Lauterbrunnen, which at once organized a search party. This party, consisting of three guides and a porter, left Lauterbrunnen at 2 P.M. and were in the Rottal hut that night. On August 20 bad weather interfered with their search, and they were unable to find any trace of the lost climbers beyond a rucksack and a crampon, which they retrieved from the surface of a fresh avalanche just below the bergschrund at the foot of the Rottal couloir. On August 21 they were forced to return to Lauterbrunnen by continued bad weather. On August 22 a second search party, consisting of the guides Peter von Allmen, Fritz Wyss, Fritz Huggler and Christian Gertsch, together with Herr Urfer (Chief of the *Rettungsstation*, Lauterbrunnen), Messrs. Smith Barry, Lauper, Robertson, Durden, Ford and Finch, proceeded to the Rottal hut. At daybreak on the 23rd the bergschrund at the foot of the Rottal cliffs was searched. It was snowing. The search in the bergschrund was soon rendered impracticable by avalanches which fell and choked it up. A systematic search by means of iron sounding rods was then made of the avalanche below the bergschrund. During this work two men were detailed off to give warning of avalanches. The body of W. E. Downey was located at 8 A.M.; those of R. H. K. Peto and R. Kershaw at 11 A.M. The rope between Downey and Kershaw had broken. The bodies were in an avalanche, which in its turn had been covered by another and larger one. The bodies were brought to a safe place near the moraine and covered with fresh snow, whereupon an advance party went down to Stechelberg to arrange for transport. The porters left Stechelberg shortly after 2 P.M.

On Monday, August 24, the bodies arrived in Lauterbrunnen, Peto and Downey were buried in the village on August 25. Kershaw's remains were sent to England and interred at Brighouse, Yorks, on the 30th.

To the above brief account I wish to add the following:—

The work of the *Rettungsstation*, Lauterbrunnen, was splendid. The actual recovery of the bodies was attended by considerable danger, and under these circumstances special mention should be made of the fine work effected by Herr Urfer and the guides named above. We are also deeply indebted to Herr Direktor Liechti (Director of the Jungfrau Railway), Herr Stahel, Herr Direktor Sommer (Manager of Jungfrauoch Hôtel), the Führer—Obmann of

Lauterbrunnen, and Herr and Frau v. Allmen of the Staubbach Hôtel.—G. I. F.

[We must express the Club's condolence with the relatives and friends of the mountaineers lost in this deplorable catastrophe.—*Editor.*]

The Accident on Piz Linard.

Two German ladies of the name of Kirschner made the ascent of the peak from the Linard hut above Lavin on July 27. Both are stated to have been competent mountaineers. In the descent Fräulein Charlotte Kirschner left her sister in order 'to seek a new route.' She failed to rejoin her companion and the latter becoming alarmed began to search. Fräulein Charlotte was eventually found semi-conscious and gravely injured at 'the foot of a precipice.' Her sister, the weather being now very bad, bound up Fräulein Charlotte and tied her to the rocks with the rope. She then descended alone to Lavin, losing much time owing to the falling snow. Nevertheless, the uninjured sister appears to have arrived about 14.00 hrs.¹⁰ A search party set out about 18.00, but Fräulein Kirschner was unable, through exhaustion, to accompany it. The party searched all night, but the body of Fräulein Charlotte was not found until the 29th.¹⁰ She appears to have untied herself and to have attempted to descend alone, but exhausted from loss of blood and her serious injuries, perished in the storm.—From *Engadine Express*.

A similar accident occurred the week before on PIZ TREMOGGIA. On this occasion, two ladies¹¹ were descending alone. One of them fell into a crevasse and was either killed on the spot or died of strangulation; the other, having fixed the rope, reached the Fexthal in a state of complete exhaustion. A search party through various causes had great difficulty in finding and recovering the body.

The primary causes in both these disasters appear to have been the same—light-heartedness, combined with an absence of all elementary precautions. Another reason can be found in the monstrously high Engadine guides'-tariff for simple expeditions such as the above. Few ladies, even in these days, are capable of mountaineering unaccompanied.

The Accident on Kangchenjunga.

ON August 9 a large party was assembled to inaugurate Camp VIII¹² on the crest of the great N.E. spur. The ridge falls here with terrible steepness to either flank. On this occasion the party, unlike the proceedings in 1929, was making its way for some 130 ft. along the (?) S. slope, and then for a rope's length through an ice

¹⁰ There appear to be discrepancies of time in a rather confused account.

¹¹ One account says a lady and a man.

¹² See *A.J.* 42, 192-3 and illustrations facing.

couloir. Having scaled the couloir they attained a broad rib, leading in a few minutes without much difficulty to the camp platform. Herren Hartmann and Wien clambered over a by no means hard place; Herr Schaller was about to follow, while Herr Bauer and his 'rope' (Herr Pirchner and a porter) were watching Schaller's progress with a view to following. Schaller proceeded carefully, while his second man, the elderly and extremely steady Passang,¹³ followed at some 2 m. interval. The third man, another porter, Tsain Narboo, was standing on a rock at the edge of the couloir safeguarding the others. Suddenly Passang shot down the couloir, pulling off Schaller at once, who flew over Passang in a great curve. Under the double strain the rope broke immediately, and Schaller and Passang plunged down the fearfully steep gully . . . 'we all felt the wish to follow them.' . . . Bauer secured his porter to the rocks and joined Tsain Narboo, who was still clinging to a boulder with the remains of the rope twice flung over him. The survivors, calling back Hartmann and Wien, proceeded to Camp VIII [?—*sic*]. Thence they all descended; six remained all night on a metre-wide ice ledge on the margin of the fatal couloir. During the following days almost every one assembled on the upper slopes of the Zemu Glacier. On August 11 the bodies of Schaller and Passang were found on the lower slopes of the couloir: they had been killed instantaneously. The couloir plunges downwards for many hundreds of feet from a height of about 20,720 ft.¹⁴ The victims were buried on a rock island in the midst of the glacier at a height of about 5400 m. A great cairn marks the spot.

Another porter, Babu Lall, who had distinguished himself much on the 1929 expedition, died of fever near Camp III on August 3.

From a *communication* from HERR BAUER.

[The Alpine Club expresses its deepest sympathy with the relatives and friends of Herr Hermann Schaller (1906–1931), while the names of Passang and his friend will not be forgotten in the annals of exploration in the Himalaya.—*Editor*, 'A.J.']

REVIEWS.

MOUNTAINS AND MEN.

La Littérature Alpestre en France et en Angleterre aux XVIII^e et XIX^e Siècles. By Claire Eliane Engel. Pp. xi + 285. Chambéry: Librairie Dardel. 1930.

AN enquiry into the character and extent of the impressions left by mountain scenery on human consciousness has of late years been carried on in many quarters by competent critics, both men

¹³ See *A.J.* 42, 196, 198–9.

¹⁴ Camp VIII = 20,737 ft.—*A.J.* 42, 193.