side to that by which we ascended, but lost half an hour trying to find the correct way off. We were assisted ultimately by shouts from our porter who was bringing our boots round and who had climbed well up, anticipating some such trouble. The descent was easy ; a thunderstorm came on with torrents of rain, and we all clattered down as fast as we could safely do. The result was that we reached the foot of the rocks $7\frac{1}{4}$ hours after starting the climb, the actual ascent having taken 5 hours. Helped by a race down the scree towards the Sellajochhaus we re-entered this just $9\frac{1}{4}$ hours after leaving it.

This mountaineering holiday, coming at the end of a season which had opened so badly, was one of the most fortunate I have ever had or heard of. Sixty-three years of age, I had started it totally untrained and in a mood of despondency. The unexpected success in completing every item of an ambitious programme, the delightfully efficient character of the leading, and the pleasant companionship with the different guides acted as perfect restoratives. These causes alone will make this holiday—in which was completed an Alpine programme ten years in progress—stand out as perhaps my best.

Ruwenzori from the West.

By XAVIER DE GRUNNE.

(Read before the Alpine Club, May 2, 1933.)

[The *Mission Scientifique Belge au Ruwenzori*, 1932, was composed of twelve members. On the scientific side were MM. Lucien Hauman, botanist ; Louis Burgeon, zoologist ; Paul Michot and Jean de la Vallée-Poussin, geologists ; Paul Marlier, topographer. The mountaineering detachment consisted of Count Xavier de Grunne, leader ; Henri de Schryver, Walter J. Ganshof van der Meersch, Pierre Solvay (A.C.), James Thiriar, Dr. Pergher, and Joseph Georges, *le Skieur*, the well-known Evolena guide.

M. Louis Solvay, nephew of M. Ernest Solvay the founder of the Matterhorn hut, was the original sponsor of the expedition.

The expenses came to 888,000 frs. (Belgian), a deficit of 58,000 frs., most of which has now been written off by press and other agencies.

The mountains ascended were : Moebius, 4925 m., June 4,

Photo, Belgian Scientific Expedition.]

OUTLINE OF THE THREE CHIEF SNOWY CRESTS, SUNRISE FROM BENI.

Telephoto, distance 45 kilometres.

[*To face p.* 275

1932 ; Margherita, 5119 m., July 13 ; Kraepelin, 4792 m., July 23 (first ascent) ; Albert, 5094 m., July 28 (first ascent) ; Helena, 4982 m., August 1 ; Albert and Margherita, August 2 ; Speke, the six watershed peaks, including Victor Emmanuel, 4901 m., August 3.

Commencing at Beni on May 21, the expedition ended on August 12.]

IN the account of the famous Italian expedition to the Mountains of the Moon in 1906, given by Cav. Filippo De Filippi, we find on p. 185 of the French edition: 'The atmosphere laden with mist, and visibility was so poor that even on fine days His Royal Highness was unable to make out clearly the direction and distribution of the valleys west of the range.'

As a confirmation of this statement, the sources of rivers are marked on the Italian map, A, B, C, D ; but no relation is established between them and the valleys down in the plain of the Semliki. Consequently, the map published by the Uganda-Congo Commission of 1906–8 shows a blank surface covering the N. and N.W. parts of the range. This surface was described as an 'inaccessible region covered with dense forests.' And yet several explorers, usually botanists, had gone up some valleys in the N.W. district. Apart from the Butahu, none of these valleys could be located on the map. An important expedition conducted in 1914 by a Belgian naturalist, Dr. Bequaert, now a professor at Harvard University, is reported to have ascended the river named Lanuri, but no trace of such a river has been found and it is impossible to apply the author's sketch to the actual ground. Consequently, many botanical discoveries cannot be located, and the value they might have had for establishing bio-geographical discoveries is lost.

The remarkable work carried out in 1906 by the Duke of the Abruzzi has made technical observations possible for the eastern slopes of the mountain. The first aim of the Belgian expedition in 1932 was to complete this as regards the western side of the range. In order to carry this out a survey officer was appointed. The occasion was seized to send out at the same time four naturalists—two geologists, one botanist and one zoologist. Together they formed the Belgian Mission for Scientific Exploration of Ruwenzori.

Among these five specialists there was not one experienced mountaineer ; that is why four members of the Belgian Alpine

(5) Savoia →
(5005 m.).

(4) Helena →
(4984 m.).

(3) Moebius →
(4925 m.).

(2) Alexandra peak →
(5098 m.).

(1) Albert peak →
(5094 m.).

Photo, Belgian Scientific Expedition.]

PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE STANLEY PEAKS.

[To face p. 270

Photo, Belgian Scientific Expedition.]

MARGHERITA FROM POINTE ALBERT.

Club were asked to lead the party and bring them over the difficult ground on the heights of Ruwenzori, between 10,000 and 15,000 ft.

Such being the origins of the enterprise, it will be understood that mountaineering was not the real object of our expedition, which was intended primarily to make prolonged scientific work possible for the specialists previously mentioned. For this reason a number of large camps, comfortable and well supplied with food and fuel, had to be organised, especially between 12,000 and 14,000 ft. It was obvious, however, that a group of mountaineers could not possibly live in the immediate vicinity of snow peaks without attempting to climb them. A mountaineering programme was therefore drawn up, and the object of this paper is to describe how it was carried out.

After so many expeditions to the Mountains of the Moon, where one meets with few serious technical difficulties on ice and snow, such a programme might seem lacking in interest, especially when one considers the achievements of Dr. Humphreys in 1926 and 1932, and those of Mr. E. E. Shipton in 1932, whose papers have been read and published in the JOURNAL. Such a conjecture would certainly have proved true if all the previous successful expeditions had not worked on the eastern side of the range, starting from the Uganda Protectorate.

Strange to say, it was from the Congo side that the snows of Ruwenzori were first clearly seen by European eyes, while the western slopes were the first to be attacked.

From Stanley's account in his book 'In Darkest Africa,' we know that this happened on May 24, 1888. Attempts to scale the mountain soon followed, beginning with Stairs, Stanley's lieutenant, in 1889, who did not get higher than 3254 m. Then came Dr. Stuhlmann, who in 1892 reached a point some 4050 m. high in the basin of the Butahu. In 1895 Scott-Elliott followed in their footsteps, but without even getting as far as Stuhlmann.

In that year, however, the same Scott-Elliott, pursuing his exploration of the range, opened up the route along the Mobuku River on the eastern side. From that moment began all serious attempts, commencing with that of C. S. Moore in 1900, up to the famous Italian expedition, led by the Duke of the Abruzzi, in 1906—all, with one exception, were made from Uganda. This was the visit of a Swiss explorer, Dr. G. David, who is supposed to have gone up the Butahu and climbed to a snowy pass at a

height of 5000 m. Further progress was out of the question, the explorer being alone and confronted with a glacier. But David's descriptions are of such a nature that it is impossible to make out the point reached by him. No pass, even at 4850 m., could have been gained without first crossing a glacier. We may perhaps take it that he reached a gap in the crest of Stanley, S. of Savoia.

Since then many explorers, generally naturalists, less often mountaineers, have returned to the Mountains of the Moon. But while, in 1926, Dr. Humphreys, and lately in January 1932, Mr. Shipton, attained the highest peaks, coming from Uganda, no one coming from the Congo has ever touched a snowy peak.

Practically all visitors have followed the tracks of Dr. Stuhlmann up to that same crest about 4050 m. high, but could get no further, except the American botanist, M. Chapin, in 1926. At a second attempt he managed to push from the crest on to the base of the western Stanley glaciers, and from there up to a height of 4500 m. on the moraine, where our Camp VI was pitched. An attempt made in 1912 by a Belgian big-game hunter, Monsieur Pilette, on the north-western slopes brought him only to the foot of Mount Kraepelin (about 4100 m.). As for Dr. Bequaert, he did not get beyond 4000 m.

Thus it was that at the beginning of 1932 no high peaks of Ruwenzori had been reached from the Belgian Congo side. On the other hand, to all explorers, the western slopes of Mount Stanley appeared remarkably steep. Mr. Shipton, in his account, says :

'At sunset that evening the mists cleared, and we looked straight down into the Congo. Never have I seen anything to rival that scene. A sheer precipice of broken glacier, from which angry clouds strove to detach themselves, was in the foreground. Beyond, like a hazy map beneath us, stretched the Congo, with the Semliki River coiling like a silver snake.'[1]

Dr. Humphreys, in 1926, speaks also of the greater potential interest of the ridges running N.E. and N.W. from Margherita. Bad weather prevented him from making those ascents. Our party, being more thoroughly organised, hoped to complete these climbs entirely from the western side. Further, among the snowy heights located by the Duke of the Abruzzi, one peak, Kraepelin, 4793 m., remained virgin.

Last but not least, part of the north-western slopes, identified

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[1] *A.J.* **44**, 91.

on the map by a white spot, had never been crossed by any human being. We hoped, as Dr. Humphreys had done already for the N. side, to give the lie to its title of 'inaccessible.'

Such were the mountaineering and partly geographical aims of our expedition in 1932.

At the end of the winter everything was ready and the advance party started from Marseilles on April 15, arriving one month later at Beni, a Belgian territorial station on the main road leading from Irumu to Lake Kivu, and separated from the range by the plain of the Semliki, some 25 miles wide.

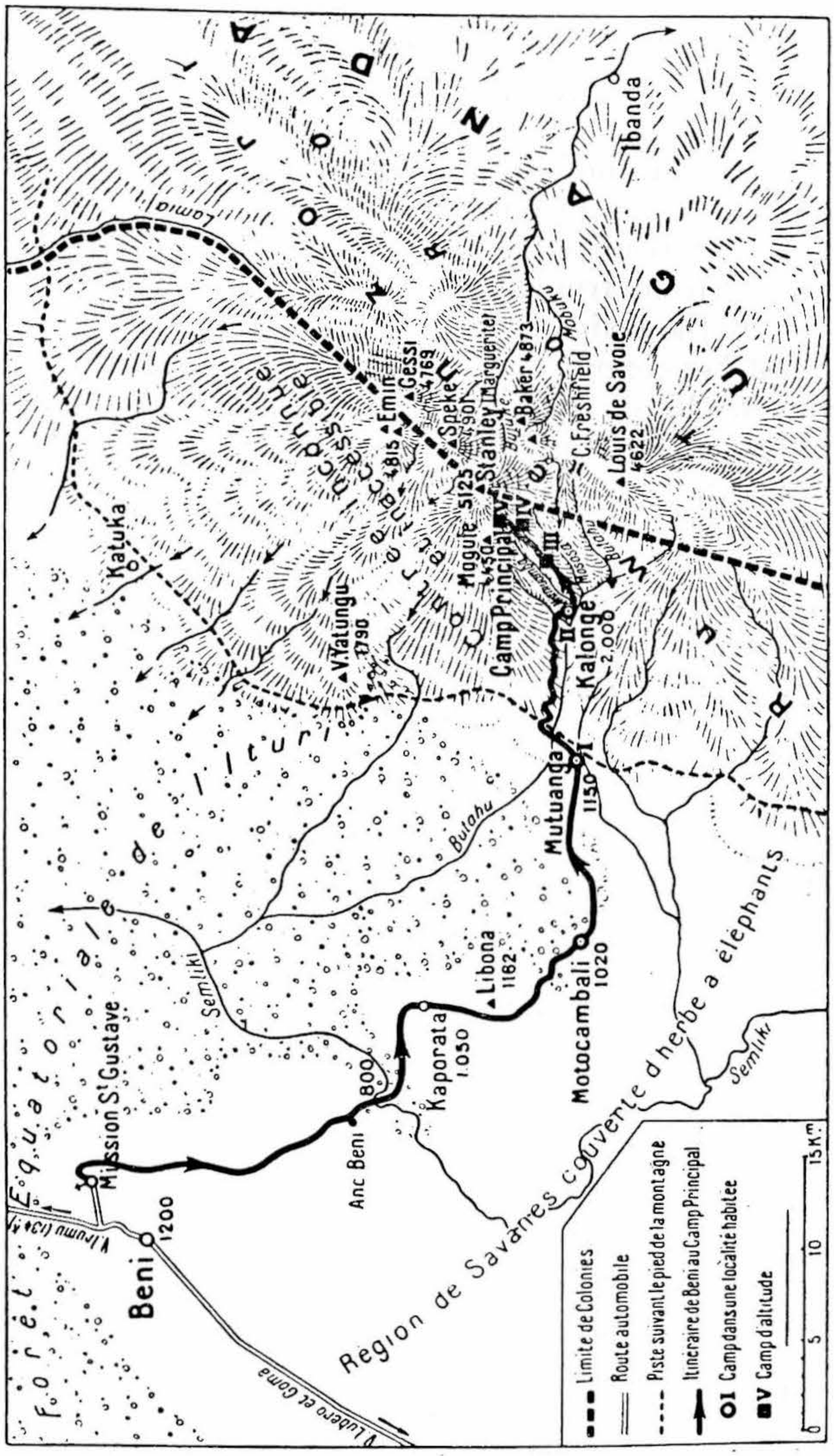
We must here express our gratitude, first of all to the Coast Government Officer at Mombasa, who made all arrangements easy for bringing our luggage through the British East African Protectorate; and secondly to Major E. L. Scott, Acting Governor of Uganda, who kindly put us up at Government House, Entebbe, while we were waiting for the steamer which crosses Lake Albert.

A few hours before leaving Uganda we were lucky enough to meet Dr. Humphreys, who showed us his splendid collection of 200 photographs taken from the aeroplane which accomplished the *first flight* over the snowy summits of Ruwenzori. Among these, half a dozen prints, showing detail of the western slopes of Stanley and Emin, were generously handed over to me by Dr. Humphreys and helped us much in drawing up our plans.

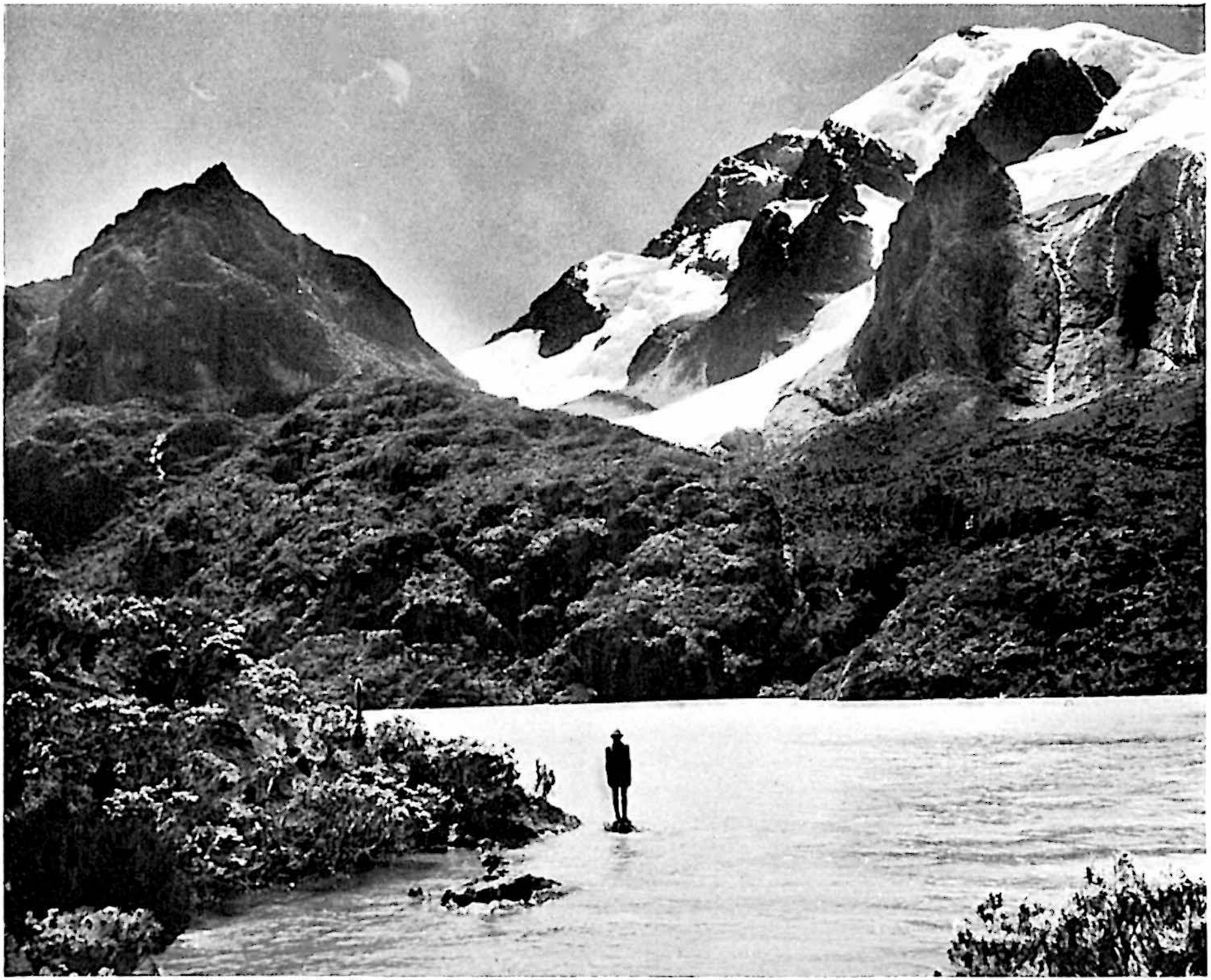
On May 22 the advance party, composed of Lieut. P. Marlier, survey officer, J. de la Vallée-Poussin, geologist, and myself, started from Beni with 200 porters. On the 24th a base camp was organised at the foot of the hills, about one mile S. of the river Butahu, near the village of Mutuanga (1150 m.). Two days later the caravan reached Kalonge, about 2000 m. high, the last inhabited place in the mountains, where a good hut had been prepared for us by the territorial authorities.

At this place porters from the plain tribes had to be sent back, as only natives coming from the mountains are able to stand the climate at high altitudes and to carry loads through the entanglement of vegetation on the steep slopes of the hills. Many of these natives, having accompanied previous expeditions, proved excellent, morally as well as physically. But they are scarce and, for our hundred loads, 30 men only were then available. In a few weeks we could dispose of twice this number; so that for new expeditions, future explorers will be able to reckon upon 60 natives ready to carry out their duty up to the snow-line.

A month later 12 were trained for real mountaineering; with their feet protected by strong nailed shoes and provided



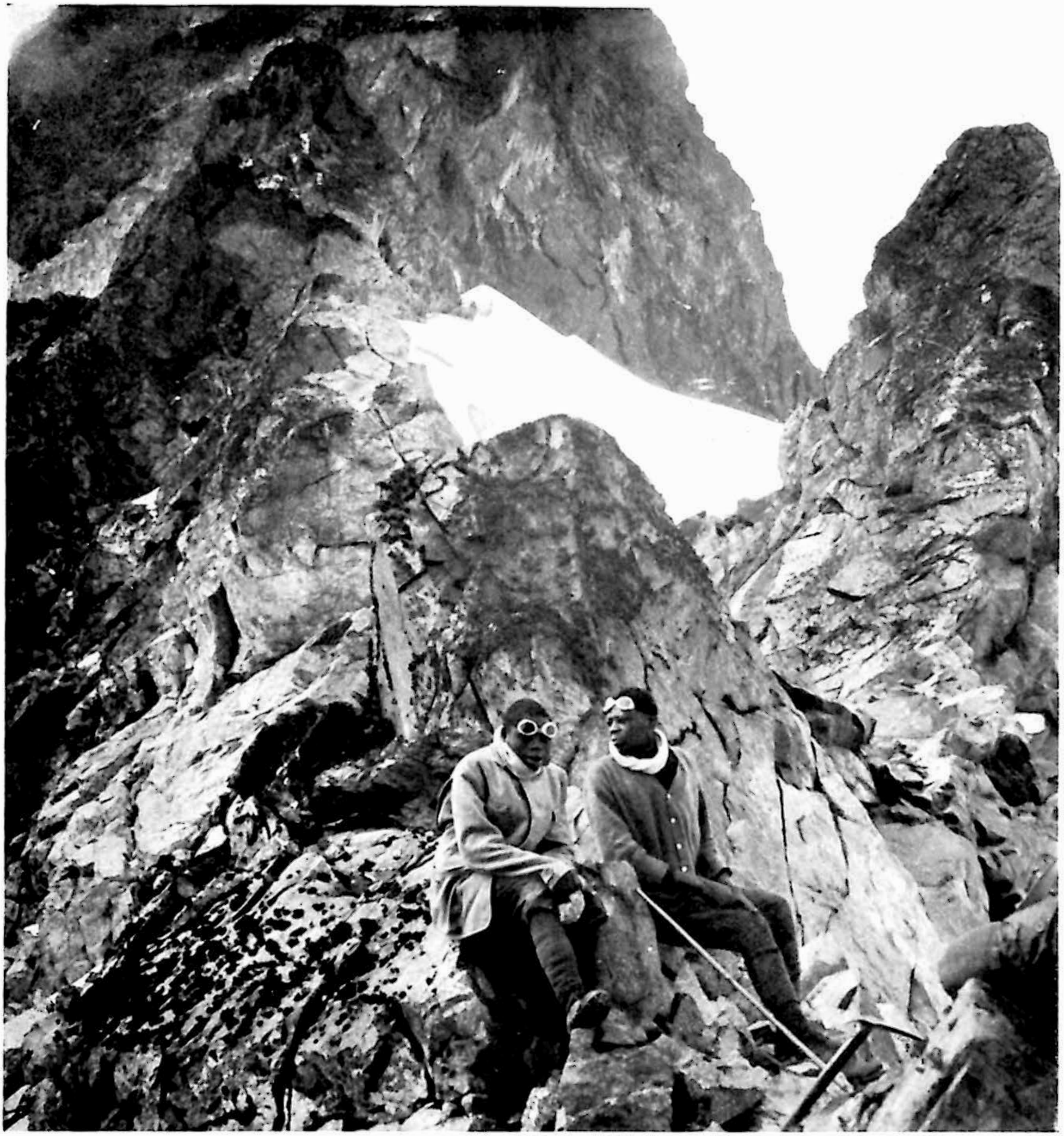
with ice axes, they passed over the summits, crossing glaciers and scaling rocks without complaint. Of this result we are justly proud, as well as thankful to the geologist, J. de la Vallée-Poussin, whose remarkable knowledge of the dialect as



Photo, Belgian Scientific Expedition.]

GREEN LAKE (LAC VERT) (4150 M.) WITH ALEXANDRA (5098 M.) IN THE BACKGROUND ON THE RIGHT.

[*To face p.* 280



Photo, Belgian Scientific Expedition.]

TWO NATIVES TRAINED FOR MOUNTAINEERING AND RESTING AT THE SHOULDER (4700 M.) AFTER CROSSING THE GLACIER.

well as of the psychology of the natives made everything easy.

Our new caravan being ready and equipped, the real ascent began on May 28, bringing us first through the remains of bamboo forests and afterwards through deep moss and giant heather to a height of about 3300 m. The following day the Wusuwameso crest (4050 m.), a term of the Stuhlmann expedition in 1932, was reached and Camp IV pitched some 500 ft. lower, in such a swampy place that it was definitely named Camp of Potopoto, which means in Swahili, 'squash, mud, dirt'!

A remarkable difference between the western and eastern approaches lies in the fact that, from Uganda, the path follows the floor of the valleys (Mobuku and Bujuku), while from the Congo the natives have chosen up to Kalonge a route half-way along the slopes and, from there to the end, the continuous crest-line between the Naimnamba and the Mososa. The latter method produces a better path, although between the altitudes of 3000 and 3700 m. progress through the entanglements of giant heather and deep moss appeared at times a desperate business.

This advantage is, unhappily, lessened by the lack of rock shelters and the absence of other water than that produced by rain. Tents must be pitched at each halting-place, while the ground for such an operation is the worst imaginable. Last of all, the crest chosen for the approach march leads to Wusuwameso (4550 m. at its highest point), which is independent of the snow peaks, the ranges being separated from the Stanley peaks, first by the deep hollow of the Kietsi lakes and further on by fierce-looking rocky precipices. Consequently all our predecessors, after reaching Wusuwameso, obtained a good view of the high summits but no proper shelter for the porters, who, insufficiently protected, refused to remain in the cold of the high altitudes. Forced to retreat, most explorers have left their names written on a card thrust into a bottle: for this reason the place was named Bottle Camp (Camp des Bouteilles, *Campi ya Tshupa*).

May 30 was a decisive date for our expedition. After much rainfall on the previous days, the sun rose in a perfect blue sky, and up to 8 A.M. we had a magnificent view of all the Stanley peaks from Alexandra, 5094 m., to Savoia, 5005 m., including Moebius, 4925 m., and Helena, 4984 m.

Our object was to find a way of getting to the foot of the glaciers falling from Stanley, but without going down to Lac

Noir, 800 ft. below us. So I started on a reconnaissance the same day with three natives, who gave much more trouble than help. My object was to find the means of overcoming the rocky slopes of Wusuwameso towards Lac Vert at an altitude of 4170 m. After much searching, my efforts finally met with success. Two steep crags only barred the way, but were easily climbed with ropes by the heavily loaded porters. Five weeks later Georges built a real bridge there, constructed of groundsel trunks, making the passage quite comfortable for everybody.

At the same time I discovered, W. of Wusuwameso, a good place for a large number of tents. There, at the height of 4200 m., on a sort of saddle covered with *alchemillae* and near a spring, was organised the main camp (No. V), where the whole party would have to live for several weeks so as to be able to make all necessary observations for the scientific work. A real village—composed of twelve large Whymper tents for the members of the expedition ; three large tents for the kitchen, dining- and working-rooms, and a great number of small tents for 10 soldiers and 30 to 40 natives—had to be prepared. This organisation took the whole of June.

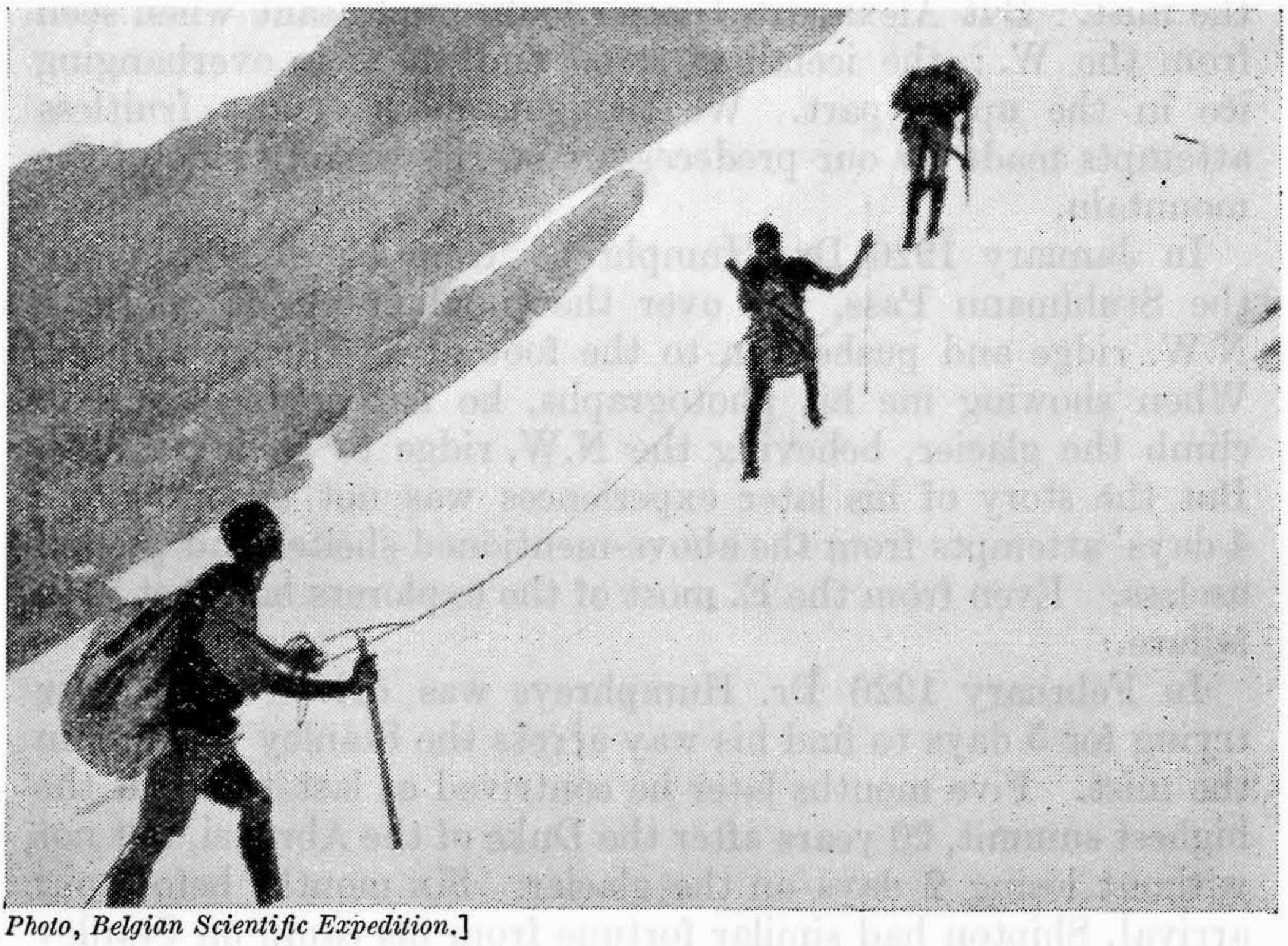
Meanwhile, with Vallée-Poussin and Marlier, we had our first experience of mountaineering, choosing Mount Moebius, 4925 m., as our objective. The attempt met with success, although mist and clouds surrounded us the whole day. However, a good view of the western slopes of Stanley had been obtained at sunset two days before from Wusuwameso, giving us an accurate knowledge of the terrain and making it possible to trust afterwards to memory alone as guide.

After a bad bivouac under a stone between Lac Vert and Lac Gris, 4300 m., we climbed on June 4 the western Stanley Glacier, reaching the Stanley Plateau (4850 m.) about 4 hours after leaving Lac Gris. In clear weather, or with previous knowledge of the ground, this should not take more than 2 hours. A few minutes later our party stood on the summit of Moebius, where we hoisted the national flag with some pride at the thought that after 40 years' attempts this was the first snow peak reached by Europeans from the Congo side.

During the following days we were particularly busy searching for practical routes to the N. part of the range, along the mountain slopes above the line of giant heather covering the ground up to 4000 m. But deep gorges with enormous precipices quickly showed us the impossibility of such a scheme. It soon appeared that the only practical way of progressing

northwards was to pass over a shoulder on the N.W. ridge of Margherita and from there descend to Stuhlmann Pass, 4192 m. But this method compelled us to traverse part of the Alexandra Glacier, a thing our natives had never dreamed of before. But, as has been said above, the training of natives in mountaineering had proved quite successful, thanks to the skill of our friend Vallée-Poussin.

The first experiment was made on June 15 with two porters who cheerfully followed their European leaders. Having



Photo, Belgian Scientific Expedition.]

PORTERS ON GLACIER.

reached the shoulder (4700 m.) and after 1 hour's march on the glacier, they became so enthusiastic that nothing was easier than to form our team of native mountaineers, who later on, without illness, overcame the snowstorms and other hardships of the highest regions.

At the end of June all preparations were completed and we went down to meet the main body of the expedition, which had left Marseilles on May 27 and was due at Beni. Owing to the small number of native 'mountain' porters, it took nearly 2 weeks to bring up all the members to Camp V.

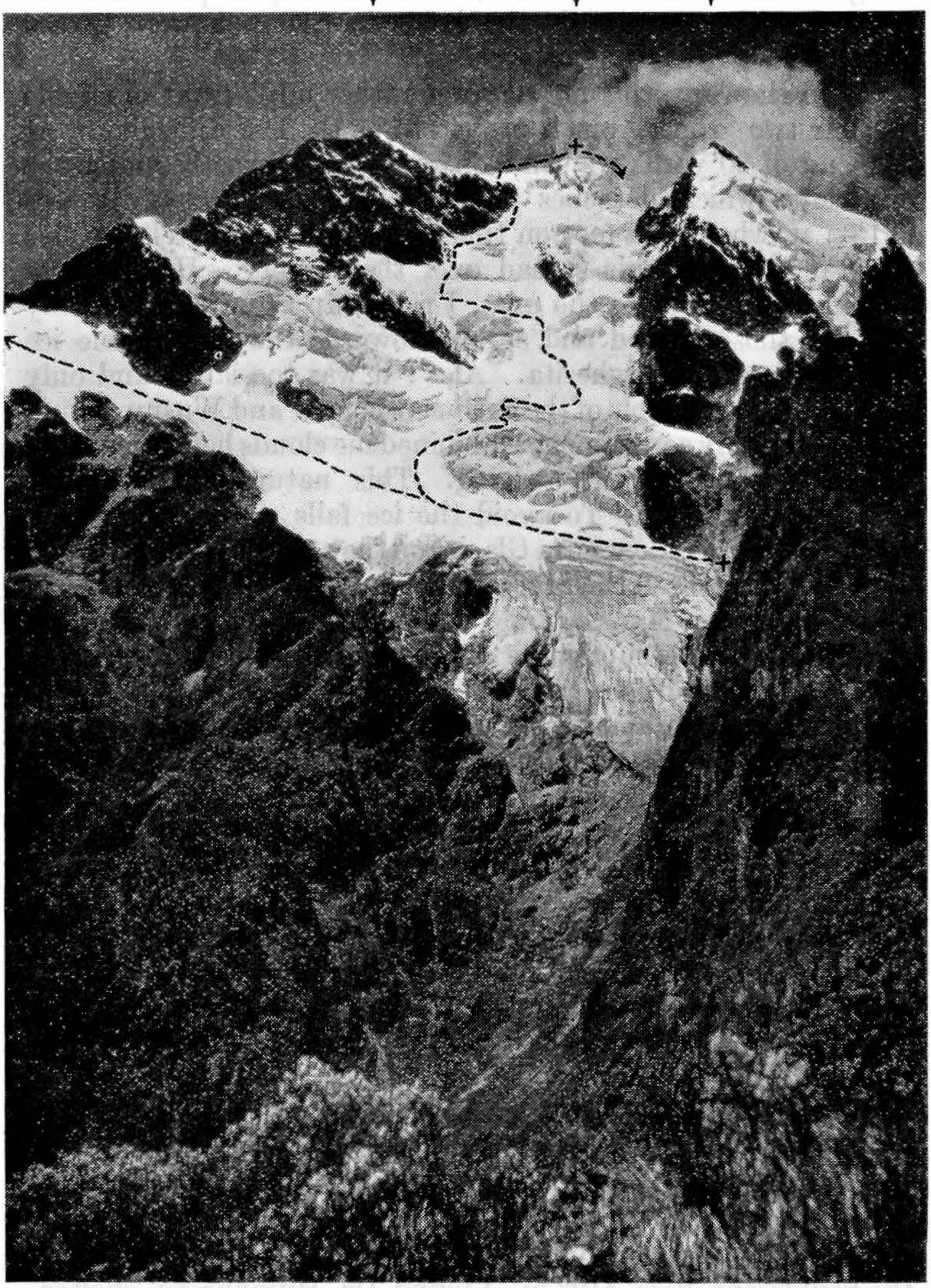
On July 12 at last, with the mountaineering members of the

expedition, MM. Ganshof van der Meersch, H. de Schryver, P. Solvay and the excellent Joseph Georges of Evolena, we started for Moraine Camp (No. VI), established just on the moraine separating the western Stanley and Alexandra Glaciers, at an altitude of 4550 m., the height of Margherita being 5119 m. The choice of this position reduced the climb to its smallest proportions, or 2000 ft. only. Yet that evening, while preparing our meal under a bit of tent, we could not help feeling a certain anxiety. The conquest of Moebius had proved quite easy and the summit had been reached without hesitation in spite of the mist. But Alexandra Glacier looks unpleasant when seen from the W.: the icefall is steep and there is overhanging ice in the upper part. We thought of the many fruitless attempts made by our predecessors on the western side of the mountain.

In January 1926 Dr. Humphreys, from his shelter W. of the Stuhlmann Pass, got over the shoulder of Margherita's N.W. ridge and pushed on to the foot of Alexandra Glacier. When showing me his photographs, he had advised me to climb the glacier, believing the N.W. ridge to be impossible. But the story of his later experiences was not encouraging: 4 days' attempts from the above-mentioned shelter had proved useless. Even from the E. most of the explorers had met with failure.

In February 1926 Dr. Humphreys was driven back after trying for 5 days to find his way across the Stanley Plateau in the mist. Five months later he contrived at last to reach the highest summit, 20 years after the Duke of the Abruzzi, but not without losing 2 days on the glacier. Six months before our arrival, Shipton had similar fortune from his camp on Stanley Plateau. It took him 2 days to reach the summit of Alexandra and another 2 days to get to the top of Margherita. Now that our friends had joined us, I wanted at all costs to avoid such loss of time.

The skies were favourable to us on the morning of July 13. It was freezing hard, and the inevitable clouds would probably not spread over the summit before 8 A.M. We decided to take the glacier as the route for our ascent, the snow being excellent and crampons biting well. This approach would even be quite advisable if one had not to take for about 10 minutes to an ice gully, the outlet of avalanches from above. During these critical moments, want of breath due to the altitude compelled us to slow down far more than we should have liked to. Towards the end the slopes steepened,



Photo, Belgian Scientific Expedition.]

THE ALEXANDRA GLACIER, SHOWING THE ROUTE FOLLOWED ON JULY 13 CLIMBING THE MARGHERITA.

On the left is the way towards the North.

and one encountered places where it became necessary to cut steps. This led one at last under overwhelming masses of ice where the dripping stalactites so characteristic of the Equator are in evidence. We had the luck to find a narrow ledge in the wall on the left ; unfortunately it proved to be choked with snow, while the holds in the rock were glazed with ice.

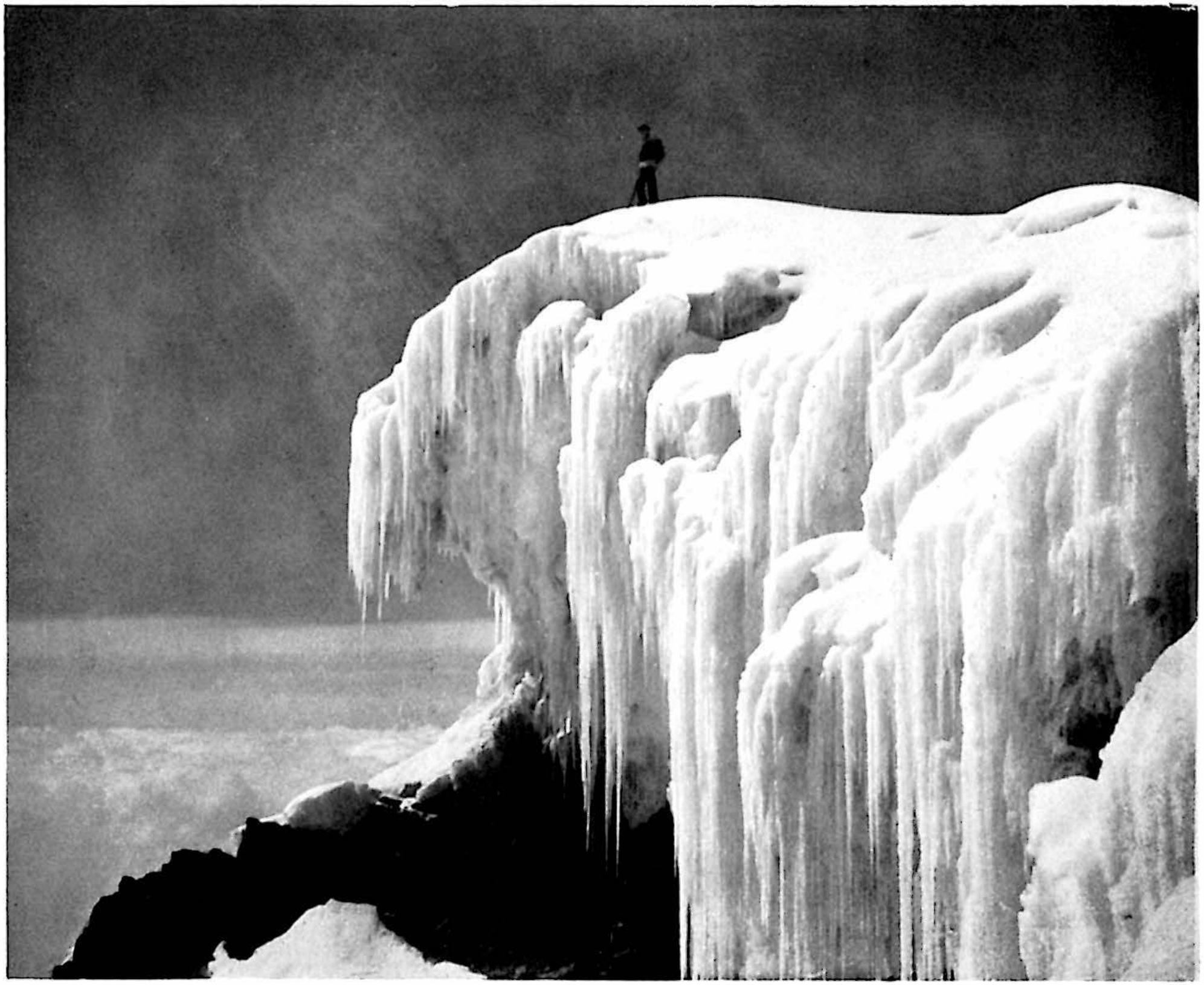
As in the Alps, this meant some rather unpleasant moments for our two ' ropes,' but it proved to be the last difficulty. At the end of 30 yards we came on snow again exactly under the ice ridge which detaches itself N. of Margherita. It was 8.15 A.M. when I set foot on this ridge. Unfortunately, at this very moment, clouds spread over the scenery. Hurrying to attain the top before the mist, I rolled up the rope round my axe for those behind and sprang towards the remarkable ice ' hat ' crowning Margherita. Alas ! it was too late ; and only a glimpse was possible of the outlines of Speke and Wusuwameso. By the time my companions had joined me clouds had descended, smothering us up till evening. This naturally cooled our enthusiasm a little. To avoid the ice falls we determined to keep clear of the Alexandra Glacier on the return. Accordingly, we decided to reach the Stanley Plateau by Shipton's itinerary, the S.E. ridge of Margherita. To find the route in a thick mist preventing one seeing more than 30 or 40 yards ahead was a somewhat hazardous problem. During the first 2 hours we could only grope about. Everywhere one met those curious overhanging ice formations which crown all the ridges, while the last obstacle entailed gigantic leaps.

Towards 11 A.M. we arrived at the pass between Moebius and Alexandra, and two hours later attained the base of the western Stanley Glacier.

The day awaited for so many months, with so much impatience, perhaps also with some anxiety, had already become a thing of the past, and we felt a kind of disappointment at its lack of adventure.

The next objective of our mountaineering programme was Kraepelin, 4792 m., the second summit of the Emin group and the last unclimbed snow peak of those mentioned by the Duke of the Abruzzi.

The attempt was favoured by the nature of the ground : at the Stuhlmann Pass, 4193 m., I found Dr. Humphreys' shelter, as also traces of his stay. A little farther on was yet another even more favourable *gîte*, which became our Camp VII. The



Photo, Belgian Scientific Expedition.]

A CORNICHE, SUMMIT OF MARGHERITA.

[*To face p.* 286

Photo, Belgian Scientific Expedition.]

NEAR LAKE SPEKE (4300 m.).

crest of the spur, detached from Speke towards the W., was crossed without difficulty at a col of about 4400 m., the 'Georges' Pass, named after our guide and friend who was the first to cross it. Later, at the foot of Emin, we found a fresh natural bivouac at about 3900 m. It became Camp VIII, whence we started for the ascent of which the chief characteristic proved to be the obstructions caused by vegetation. On July 21, whilst Georges went back to Camp VII to bring along the rest of the caravan, I had to cut hard with my ice axe during four hours to blaze a track in the *helichrysum*. After that I spent several more hours trying to find a way among the rock needles crowning the ridge W. of Kraepelin. The solution once found, progress offered no difficulties, and the final ascent, on July 23, proved colourless.

Times: Camp VII dep. 06.00, summit 12.00; Camp VII arr. 18.30. The party consisted of X. de Grunne, J. de la Vallée-Poussin, W. Ganshof, P. Marlier, P. Solvay with J. Georges.

A strange surprise awaited us on the top: on a secondary peak we perceived a small cairn; as we found out later, it was the work of our friend Dr. Humphreys, whom I had invited, when we met at Masindi, to come and meet us on the slopes of Kraepelin, where we had first intended to pitch our main camp. Having himself arrived at the Rocati Pass during the first days of July, he naturally had awaited us in vain and ended by hoping to come upon our traces near the summit, of which he did not climb the actual top, as he had promised not to touch it before our arrival. Knowing nothing of these details, the mystery was only cleared up 7 days later when Dr. Humphreys, having descended into the plain of the Semliki and passing through Mutuanga, found us at last at the main camp.

Meanwhile we had noticed, looking at Margherita from the W., that the highest summit of Ruwenzori consists of three quite distinct peaks. The central and the one to the S. were christened respectively by the Duke of the Abruzzi after the Queens of Italy and of England, Margherita and Alexandra. Why has the third peak remained nameless? In the Duke's book it is stated that he considered it a 'shoulder.' This undoubtedly is an error, but one understands perfectly why an observer, coming from the *E.*, should have committed it. However, for an observer looking at it from the W. it is quite evident that the peak to the N. of Margherita should be named as well as Alexandra. Two ridges break away from

the said peak: one towards the N.E., and the other to the N.W., divided by two gaps, which make it look inaccessible.

Nothing could have been easier than to ascend Margherita by the Alexandra Glacier and thence reach the 'nameless peak.' But for this new ascent we wanted to find an original and at the same time a sound route. That is why we decided to try our luck on the N.W. ridge of the said nameless peak which looked so threatening. Unfortunately, the weather had become worse than ever and, clambering back to Moraine Camp, we gazed sadly at the rocks covered with snow.

On July 28 we set off without hope in falling snow. At daybreak, however, although the clouds cleared off, we were surrounded by thick mist while attacking the rocks of the ridge. The nature of the ground showed us soon that we had been right to persevere. In front of each of these formidable gaps an easy ledge made it possible to turn the obstacle, the first time on the left, the second time on the right. At last, as our watches showed 8.15 A.M., the aneroids marked 5094 m.; though we could see nothing around us, we knew that the summit was reached. We had the right to name it, all the more as the whole of it stands in Congo territory. It was therefore decided on the spot to give it the name of that one who among all the sovereigns of Europe knows best how to promote and understand the beauties of mountaineering. Henceforward the third peak of Ruwenzori will appear on the map under the name of *Pic Albert*. On the return we passed over Margherita, leaving it by the same S.E. ridge followed on July 13. Before attaining the western Stanley Glacier we paid a visit to Alexandra, where we found the card left by Shipton and Tilman six months before.

All these ascents were carried out by our compatriots under their own leadership. The guide accompanied us only as a friend, his presence being especially justified by his capacity to replace the leader in case of accident.

Now that the principal objectives had been attained, some of our friends wished to take advantage of the presence of our excellent Georges to make some climb that could be described as 'difficult.' The Helena peak, 4982 m., proved useful for this purpose. The Duke of the Abruzzi had scaled it on June 20, 1906, not without difficulty, by a kind of couloir seaming the N.E. face. For the return journey the climbers had preferred to pass over the summit, descend southwards over Savoia (5005 m.), and thence descend directly to their camp.

On August 1, Ganshof and de Schryver, with Georges, left Moraine Camp before daybreak, arriving on the Stanley Plateau at the foot of the E. face of Helena at 8.30 A.M. Here the peak rises some 800 ft. above the glacier. After $2\frac{3}{4}$ hours of great and almost continuous difficulty the party succeeded in setting foot on the crest near the summit. For the descent they followed the route used by the Duke of the Abruzzi in the ascent. During this last expedition our friends much admired the marvellous skill of Georges, the same man who had forced the N. ridge of the Dent Blanche.[2] At the end of the expedition the latter declared that this day had been one of the most delightful of his whole career.

Such, generally, were the chief mountaineering feats accomplished by the *Mission Belge* of 1932 to Ruwenzori.

The time to break up had come, but, before once again descending to the plains, two notable events had yet to take place. On August 2 I had the pleasure of doing the honours of Albert and Margherita to Dr. Humphreys, who had come to pay us a visit at the main camp. We ascended the first by the N.W. ridge and descended from the latter by the Alexandra Glacier. Splendid and quite unusual weather favoured us, enabling me to obtain numerous negatives of the snowy summits.

Finally, on August 4, Ganshof, Vallée-Poussin, with Georges and four porters, left Camp VIII, traversing from end to end the zone called 'inaccessible.' In 5 days they descended a valley discovered subsequently to be the Tungula. This experience was perhaps the hardest of all. The caravan had to force its way through vegetation, the thickness of which could not possibly have been suspected, and on the third day they worked 11 hours on end to descend 900 ft. only, breaking through gigantic brambles and nettles. At last, on August 12, all the members of the mission reassembled again at the base camp in the village of Mutuanga.

The collaboration of scientific and physical energy had once more proved remarkably efficient. As for the C.A.B.—it was with deep satisfaction that we reflected on what our countrymen were able to achieve in mountaineering, an art hitherto much neglected by the inhabitants of flat and peaceful Belgium.

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[2] *A.J.* **40,** 376–7 ; **43,** 276–83.