

NEW EXPEDITIONS.

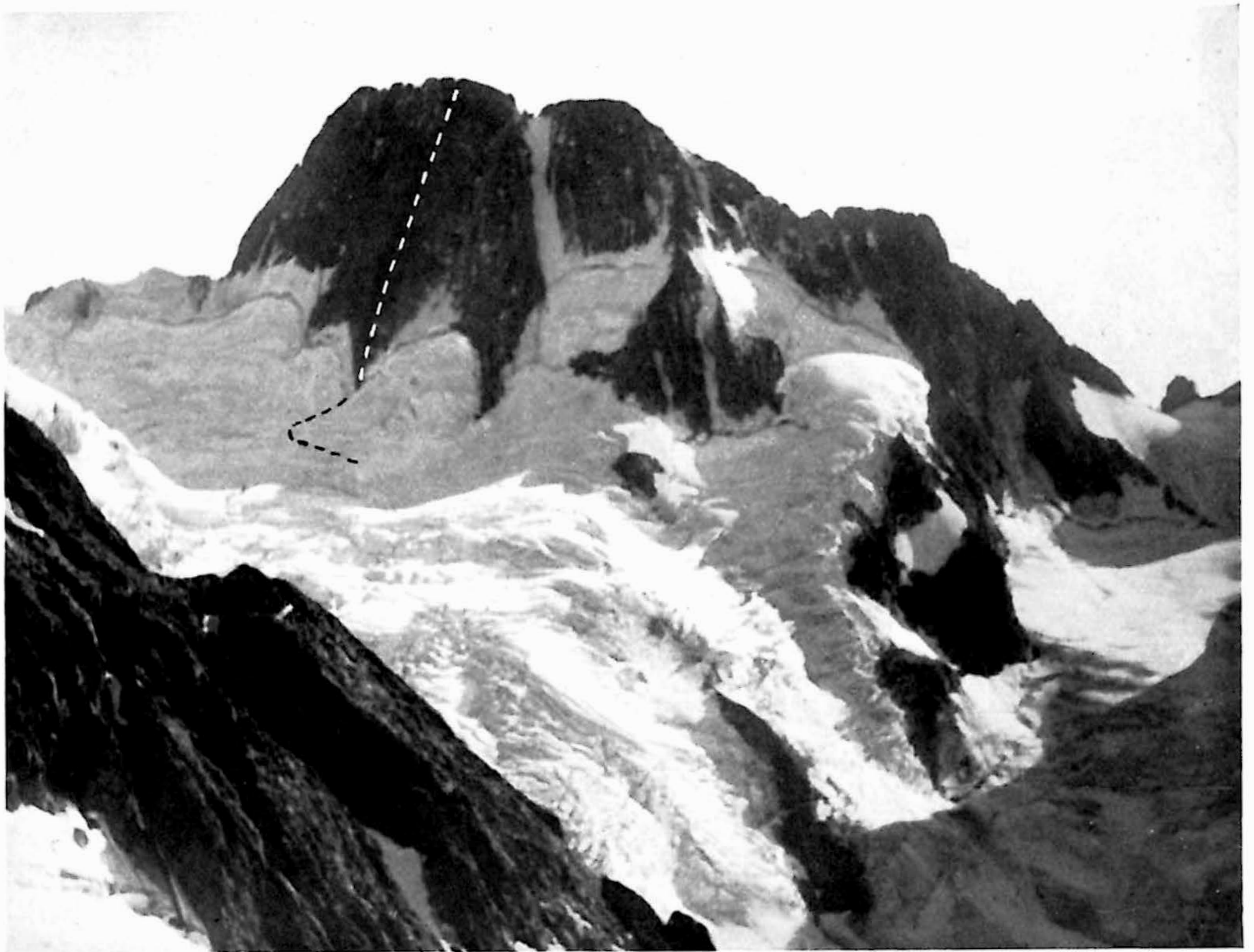
Dauphiné.

LES BANS, 3651 m. = 11,979 ft. By the N. face. September 1, 1933. Messrs. B. R. Goodfellow and T. Graham Brown, with Alexander Graven and Casimir Rodier.

[The N. face of Les Bans exhibits three ribs or buttresses. That on the left, E., ascends steeply to the point on the right, N.W., end of the almost horizontal summit ridge; the central rib ends above near the top of the W. arête of the mountain, just to the E. of a prominent snow couloir; and the right-hand, W., rib (a common route of ascent) ends lower on the W. arête. The central rib was ascended, on July 21, 1926, by Ch. Dumoulin and Maurice Petitpierre. The more direct and steeper buttress to the E. had not been ascended until attempted by the present party.]

The Refuge de la Pilatte (or Gioberney hut) was left at 04.11, and the foot of the rocks of the rib in question was reached at 06.17, with a halt of 10 mins. on the way. Slabs, which quickly increased in steepness and became difficult, led directly upwards, and the line of ascent on the crest or on its E. side and close to it, was thereafter a 'forced' one. Hard climbing led straight up steep slabs and grooves. A chimney was surmounted at 07.30; and an overhanging gendarme was avoided by going up on its E. side, the ridge above being reached at 07.37. A very difficult section of the buttress—steep slabs and indentures, and a steep face—was surmounted at 08.06, the two ropes having here taken slightly different lines of ascent. Another gap was reached at 08.19, and this was followed by a very steep wall on the crest of the buttress, the top of which was reached at 08.42. Easier climbing then led to the summit ridge at its W. end, reached at 08.59. The party left the main (S.E.) summit at 10.14, and descended by the ordinary route down the E. arête, reaching the Refuge again at 12.46, or in 2 hrs. 18 mins., excluding halts, from the summit. La Bélarde was reached at 15.12, the whole expedition, excluding halts, having occupied 9 hrs. 18 mins.

This route gives an exceptionally fine ascent up rock which is sound and firm throughout. The climbing is almost continuously very difficult, occasionally extremely so. The 'leads,' finely executed by Graven, often run out to 70 ft. or more before a stance is reached, and the whole ascent is a very steep and exposed one, from base to top. The rib rises through an elevation of about 1250 ft., at an average angle considerably greater than that of the Grand Pic de La Meije from the Promontoire hut. The climbing is almost continuously more difficult than any on the traverse of La Meije from the Brèche.



Photo, T. Graham Brown.]

LES BANS FROM W. SLOPE BELOW BRÈCHE DES FRÈRES CHAMOIS (ABOUT 30 FT. BELOW BRÈCHE ON THE DESCENT).

1933 route of ascent is marked.

[To face p. 364



Photo, T. Graham Brown.]

'AIGUILLE DE LA BELLE ÉTOILE' FROM ABOVE.
(Frontier ridge below.)



Photo, T. Graham Brown.]

'PUNTA ULTIMA.'

Mont Blanc Group.

'PIC MOORE,' *ca.* 3550 m. = 11,620 ft. By the S.E. arête. July 24, 1933. Messrs. Michael Vyvyan and T. Graham Brown, with Alexander Graven and Alfred Aufdenblatten.

[The S.W. slope of *Col Moore* falls steeply to the W. bay of the Brenva Glacier, through a vertical height of about 825 ft. The long S.E. arête of *Pic Moore* rises through a vertical height of about 1100 ft. from the level of the W. bay. The height given for *Pic Moore* in 'A.J.' 42, 105, is probably too low, as may also be the above estimate.]

Leaving the Torino hut at 07.10, the party reached *Col Moore* in 1 hr. 50 mins., actual walking. The steep descent (first crossing of the 'Col') to the W. bay of the Brenva Glacier occupied about $\frac{1}{2}$ hr. After a halt of that length there, the party reached the foot of the S.E. arête of *Pic Moore* at about 11.00, and the ascent of the ridge to the summit of *Pic Moore* occupied about 2 hrs. Descent was made by the ridge (ascended in 1929) to *Col Moore*, where the track made earlier in the day was rejoined and followed back to the Torino hut.

The expedition is a very good one, and the S.E. arête of *Pic Moore* is one of continuous interest. Fine rock alternates with narrow snow crests. The rock is often difficult, and a very hard chimney has to be ascended in one place. A long and extremely narrow summit ridge of snow leads to the highest summit. The whole ridge is interesting, and the views are splendid.

'COL MAJOR,' *ca.* 4740 m. = 15,550 ft. Between Mont Blanc and Mont Blanc de Courmayeur; from the Brenva Glacier to the Glacier du Mont Blanc. July 26, 1933. Mr. T. Graham Brown, with Alexander Graven and Alfred Aufdenblatten.

[The idea of making a pass over the crest between Mont Blanc and Mont Blanc de Courmayeur was first suggested by Mr. E. G. Oliver. The route selected by the present party for the ascent of the Brenva face on the N.E. slope of the pass was that first climbed in 1928. This route, which is the natural line for the pass, was suggested by the writer to Mr. E. S. Herbert in 1927, when it was examined, but bad weather prevented an attempt. It was first climbed in 1928¹ by Mr. F. S. Smythe and the writer and has not since been repeated, although it is a route of exceptional grandeur. One of the objects of the present party was to repeat that route directly from the Torino hut *without* bivouac.

¹ *A.J.* 40, 372-6, illustration facing 375; 41, 39-47.

The name 'Col Major' is suggested for the new pass, in order to revive an ancient name which has now no habitation, and to serve to commemorate the services of the late Mr. H. F. Montagnier to mountain literature. See 'A.J.' **33**, 323-40; **34**, 347-79. The name 'Col du Mont Blanc' has been used for *Col Eccles*, and to use it again for the new pass might lead to confusion.]

The party left the Torino hut at 00.56, and reached *Col Moore* at 03.50, with 40-min. halts on the way, and going slowly with intention. In anticipation of an attempt on the new route (eventually climbed on August 5), a low traverse was made along the top of, and then across, the rocks immediately above the W. bay of the Brenva Glacier on its N. side. This took the party more or less horizontally to the foot of the rocks below the 'Sentinelle Rouge,' at the edge of the snow slope below the Brenva face, and near to the main termination of the Great Couloir, which lay between this place and the foot of the '1928' buttress (reached at 04.50). As the couloir here was broad and of hard ice, its passage directly to the foot of the '1928' buttress was found to be unjustifiable, and a direct ascent was made up the rocks, and then up a snow slope to the base of the 'Sentinelle Rouge'—reached, at 05.34, in 34 mins., very fast climbing from the foot of the rocks.

The exploration of this low traverse was later to prove useful, but it probably added a little less than half-an-hour to the time taken thus far. The edge of the Great Couloir was reached at 05.50, at the point from which it was crossed in 1928, but the couloir (115 ft. across at that point) was there bare ice, and ascent was made to a higher level, reached at 06.03, where the couloir (although broader than below = 230 ft.) was mainly of snow. A rapid traverse, ice being met in the centre of the couloir, led to the far side in 12 mins., and the crest of the '1928' buttress was gained at 06.25, at the top of the step avoided in 1928. Here a rest was taken, and it was seen that the step may be climbed direct up a steep rock couloir. This place was left again at 06.57, and the arête as ascended up rock of moderate difficulty to the outer end of the first snow arête, reached at 07.25. This, as in 1928, proved to be very narrow, and almost an exact replica of the ice arête on the Brenva route, but of only about half the length. Leaving again at 07.33, Aufdenblatten led the first and thinnest part of the snow arête *à cheval*, and the far end was reached at 07.46. Difficult rocks now led upwards, at first up slabs to the right, then a traverse to the left, then up steep, ice-filled chimneys. The exact line taken in 1928 was followed, and Graven took the lead on the slabs. The top of this rocky step, which must be described as difficult, was reached at 08.20, at the resting-place of 1928. Leaving again at 08.40, a series of long snow arêtes led to a small outcrop of rock on the arête. The condition of these arêtes was almost exactly similar to that met in 1928, save that the curious low blade of ice set on the broader back of the arête was absent;

the arêtes are long, but not steep, save close to the outcrop of rock, where a little ice was again met. The rocky outcrop was ascended in a few minutes, the top being reached at 09.18, and left again at 09.21.

A last very long snow arête of easy angle (ice again at the top) led to the foot of the final buttress on the arête at 10.30, and its snow platform was reached at 10.40, when a halt was made. This place was left at 11.15, and the corner which stopped the party in 1928 was reached. The surface of the snow slope below it was here at least 3 ft. higher than it then was, and the corner, although very difficult, was surmountable. It was ascended at 11.30, and the couloir on the far side was reached across the tongue of rock, at the root of which is the corner—thus obviating the long and difficult ice traverse of about 110 ft. made round the tongue in 1928. The ascent of the couloir led, at 11.45, to the foot of the short chimney climbed in 1928. This, although only about 9 or 10 ft. high, proved again to be very difficult. The rock couloir above was gained at 12.25 by the traverse of a shelf to the left, and ascended for a short distance, when it was quitted to the right at 12.30. Snow, rocks, and snow again, led to the final rocks of the buttress, about 12 ft. high. These were surmounted, by a less exposed line slightly more to the left than the couloir used in 1928, at 12.50. The sérac wall had looked to be easy on inspection from the Torino hut, but it was deceptively difficult. Ascent had to be made up a thin leaf of ice, which took Graven 20 mins. of cutting. Ascent was made up the final snow slopes to a rest place, reached at 13.25 and quitted at 13.58, when a long trudge brought the party to the crest between Mont Blanc and Mont Blanc de Courmayeur at 14.44, in 10 hrs. 40 mins. actual climbing from the Torino hut, or in 6 hrs. 54 mins. from the 'Sentinelle Rouge.'

Leaving again at 14.54, the party descended the snow slope of the S.W. face of Mont Blanc in the line of Kesteven and Marshall's route.² At 15.25 the state of the snow had become doubtful, and mist was encountered. The traverse across to the rocks of Kennedy's ('Rochers') route was unjustifiable, on account of the state of the snow, and the decision was made to reach it over Mont Blanc. The party returned in its tracks, reaching the summit ridge again at 17.05, where a short halt was taken until 17.18. Mont Blanc was then reached at 17.30, left at 17.32, and the top of Kennedy's³ route was attained at 17.40. This was then descended (with halts amounting to 40 mins. on the way) until the Glacier du Mont Blanc was reached at 21.30. Proceeding by lantern at 21.33, the party crossed the glacier to the snow shoulder S. of the Rocher du Mont Blanc, reached at 21.50, and went on down towards the Sella hut. At 22.10, when about $\frac{1}{4}$ hr. above the hut, dangerous snow was encoun-

² August 16, 1893. *A.J.* 16, 509.

³ July 2, 1872. *A.J.* 6, 90-1.

tered, and the party returned to the shoulder, reached at 22.40, and bivouacked on snow. The *second* descent, excluding halts and also the descent from, and re-ascent to, the snow shoulder, had occupied 3 hrs. 35 mins. from Mont Blanc, while the *whole* expedition, excluding halts, had occupied 17 hrs. 23 mins. from the Torino hut. The Sella hut was reached next morning in 35 mins. from the bivouac.

The passage of 'Col Major' (if that name be allowed) offers a difficult problem. The 'natural' route of descent on the S.W. side is that ascended by Kesteven and Marshall in 1893, although the 'classical' route on this face is that made by Kennedy in 1872. The former route, however, necessitates the descent of snow slopes, which must necessarily be encountered late in the day, when dangerously softened by the sun. These slopes were in bad condition also on August 5, as early as 13.00, and it would be difficult to ascend the Brenva face before midday, direct from the Torino hut at any rate. Kennedy's 'classical' route avoids the snow, and is at the same time a finer and more interesting route to descend. The present party considered the possibility of sleeping at the Vallot hut, re-ascending next day, and descending by the 'natural' line *in the morning*. But this seemed a less natural procedure than the descent to the Glacier du Mont Blanc by Kennedy's route on the same day as the ascent by the Brenva face. The two combined in this manner make a splendid expedition, perhaps as grand as any that can be found in the Alps. The hope may be expressed that this combination will become recognized as the proper and finest way in which to make the pass.

The route taken up the Brenva face, now followed for the second time, makes an even greater impression on repetition. It is comparable in interest and difficulty with the new route made this year immediately S.E. of it. Although its technical difficulties are perhaps not so great as those of the new route, the scenery is grander, and the route itself offers as varied and as interesting climbing—especially at the intricate lower part of the final buttress. The 'Sentinelle' route cannot be placed in the same class with these two routes, fine although it be. The 'Sentinelle' bivouac is *not* necessary for any route.

MONT BLANC DE COURMAYEUR, 4753 m. = 15,595 ft., B.I.K.
Direct from the Brenva Glacier. August 5, 1933. Same party.

[Note on the Brenva face routes: of the three routes on the Brenva face of Mont Blanc and Mont Blanc de Courmayeur, that described below lies most to the left, S.E. The 'Route de la Sentinelle' of 1927⁴ lies most to the right, N.; while the route taken to Mont Blanc de Courmayeur in 1928 (and then described as

⁴ *A.J.* 39, 308-11; 40, 68-76.

a direct route to that summit) lies between the two. The 'Sentinelle' route is a direct route to *Mont Blanc*. Either *Mont Blanc de Courmayeur* or *Mont Blanc* may be reached from the upper parts of the '1928' route, or the route now described. The new route is, however, the obvious direct route to *Mont Blanc de Courmayeur* from the Brenva Glacier; and it is suggested that the route climbed in 1928 should be regarded as the proper route up the E. side of the col between *Mont Blanc de Courmayeur* and *Mont Blanc*. In order to distinguish the three routes, the suggestion is made that the present route should be named the *Via della Pera*, on account of the shape of the great rock which forms its chief obstacle. The name *Route du 'Col Major'* or *Route 'Major'* may be suggested for that climbed in 1928⁵; and the *Route de la Sentinelle* already has an accepted name.

The idea of climbing the present route occurred to the writer in the winter of 1927–1928. The first ascent of *Pic Moore* in 1929 was made with the object of examining the route, but bad weather prevented closer contact with it that year, and also in 1931 and 1932, when further close examinations were made and the great pear-shaped buttress, which came to be known familiarly to the party as 'the Pear,' was realized to be the chief difficulty, and of doubtful practicability. The possibility of the route had also occurred independently to Italian climbers, and in 1930 Signori Zanetti and Albertini made two unsuccessful attempts upon it from the Brenva bivouac. The route to the base of 'the Pear' was explored by the present party on July 26, 1933, and found to be practicable. On July 30, 1933, an attempt by Signori Zanetti and Gervasutti was stopped by bad weather.]

The present party left the Torino hut at 00.17 by moonlight and reached *Col Moore* (going intentionally slowly) at 03.10 (with 24 mins.' halts on the way). The far edge of the couloir on the other side of the 'col' was reached at 03.35, and the route traversed on July 26 was followed until 04.15, when the edge of the steep snow and ice slope under the Brenva face was attained above the upper of the two great bergschrunds. This slope (about 500 ft. across) was traversed very rapidly on a horizontal or slightly ascending line to the rocks which descend from the base of 'the Pear' buttress. These were reached at 04.37, and ascended to a snow point, reached at 04.58—about 20 mins. before sunrise. Left again, 05.10, when a snow arête led to some steeper rocks, which afforded interesting climbing and increased in angle to the base of 'the Pear' buttress, reached at 05.32—the climbing having been rapid so far. The outer or E. face of 'the Pear' buttress was ascended up slabs, and then by ledges and cracks between two shallow and steep rock couloirs which descend from either end of a prominent higher snow

⁵ *A.J.* 40, 372–6, note illustration facing 375; 41, 39–47.

patch. At 05.58 a ledge large enough for a resting-place was met, and here the party halted. Going on again at 06.21, the line still led up in the same general direction until a traverse (a little below the snow patch) was forced on to the extremely steep N. face of the buttress. An ascending traverse on ledges to the right was followed by very difficult slabs, whereafter an ascending traverse on ledges to the left was again followed by the ascent of as difficult slabs. Another ascending traverse to the right led to the foot of a chimney, and a second ice-filled chimney brought the party to the top of 'the Pear' at 08.25—the whole ascent of the buttress having been extremely exposed, and sometimes extremely difficult. Halted, 08.35 to 09.02; ascended a snow arête; crossed the top of an ice couloir and thus reached rocks again at 09.16. Ascended these and came up another ice couloir to the base of a small Aiguille, which was ascended at 9.59. (It may be suggested that the name *Aiguille de la Belle Étoile*, the older name for the Aiguille Blanche de Péteret, 'A.J.' 11, 90, should be revived for this point.) A cairn was built there, and then the summit of a second Aiguille⁶ (for which the name *Punta Ultima* is suggested) was reached along a connecting ridge at 10.17. The passage of a broad ice couloir then led to the base of the final rocks, which were ascended until 11.07, when the foot of the ice cliff above them was reached. This was turned up an ice couloir at the S.E. end of the ice wall, and the final snow slopes above the ice cliff were reached at 11.35. (The traverse of this couloir to rocks, and the ascent of these to the summit, was judged to be dangerous.) A long halt was made from 11.55 to 12.32; the summit ridge was reached at 13.02 ($\frac{1}{4}$ hr. from the summit); and Mont Blanc de Courmayeur summit at 13.21—in $10\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. from the Torino hut, if halts be excluded.

The Péteret arête was then *descended* until, meeting ice, the party realized that persistence in the attempt to descend would necessitate a high bivouac. Return was therefore made to Mont Blanc de Courmayeur, and Mont Blanc was reached at 15.06, in $\frac{1}{2}$ hr. from the former summit. Left again, 15.07; halted at Vallot hut, 15.45 to 16.55; reached Dôme hut, 19.30 (with 1 hr. 24 mins. of halts from Mont Blanc). Left again, 20.20, and reached Courmayeur at 01.59 on August 6, the whole expedition having occupied $25\frac{3}{4}$ hrs., or 19 hrs. 23 mins., excluding halts.

This route is undoubtedly the most difficult of the three routes up the Brenva face, and is a very fine and interesting one. The technical difficulties are concentrated mostly in the buttress called 'the Pear' above. This is extremely steep and exposed, while the upper part of its N. face offers no alternative to the route which we took—and that at times seemed to be only just possible. Graven's

⁶ Both these Aiguilles, being well over 4200 m. and having received names, are suggested to the attention of persons intending to climb *all* the 'four-thousanders'!—*Editor*.



Photo, T. Graham Brown.]

BRENVA FACE OF MONT BLANC.

Upper part of 'Sentinelle Route' and ice-cliff above it. Final Buttress of 1928 route to Mont Blanc de Courmayeur and ice-cliff S. of it (on extreme L.). From a point on Péteret arête W. of *Eckpfeiler* (p. 4381 m.).

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Photo, T. Graham Brown.]

MONT BLANC, BRENVA FACE, FROM S.E. ARÊTE OF TOUR RONDE.

lead here was very fine, as it was elsewhere on the route. The conditions for the climb were carefully selected. Three *must* be observed for safety: there must be *no* unstable corniche on Mont Blanc de Courmayeur, N.W. of the summit; the ice cliff immediately N. of 'the Pear' buttress, and the ice cliffs above the final rocks on the route *must* be stable; and the party *must* reach the rocks below the base of 'the Pear' at or *before* sunrise. The Brenva face 'wakes up' about $\frac{1}{2}$ hr. after sunrise, and fragments of ice and small stones may fall during about half-an-hour, after which such falls cease or are very rare. The falls are not numerous, but a party should reach the ridge at the foot of ANY of the three routes *before* sunrise, for perfect safety. These conditions were observed by the present party, and the objective dangers of the route were certainly considerably *less* than those met on the passage of the Nantillons Glacier to Charmoz or Grépon, and in the ascent of the Charmoz-Grépon couloir. Under other conditions this route might be dangerous. As it proved, objective danger *was* absent, and the route must be considered as one of the finest in the Alps.

[*Explanation of Illustration 'Mont Blanc, Brenva Face.'* From S.E. arête of Tour Ronde, August 6, 1928.

- 'Via della Pera,' 1933.
 — . — . — 'Col Major,' route followed in 1933.
 Traverse to Sentinelle (1927, 1928), and route to '1928' arête used that year.
 — — — — 'Route de la Sentinelle,' 1927.

- A. Mont Blanc de Courmayeur.
 B. 'Col Major.'
 C. Mont Blanc.
 D. 'Sentinelle Rouge.'
 E. *Pic Moore*.
 F. Foot of S.E. arête of *Pic Moore*.
 1. *Col Moore*.
 2. N.W. end of crest of *Col Moore*.
 3. Edge of snow slope under Brenva Face.
 4. Foot of the 'Pear' buttress.
 5. Top of the 'Pear' buttress.
 6. 'Aig. de la Belle Étoile.'
 7. Top of sérac wall on 'Via della Pera.'
 8. 'Route Major': Lowest snow arête.
 9. 'Route Major': Rocks between middle and upper series of snow arêtes.
 10. 'Route Major': Final buttress.
 11. Lower part of great couloir.
 12. 'Sentinelle' route: Twisting rib.
 13. Branch couloir.
 14. Ice arête on Brenva route.]

Pennines.

NORD END, 4612 m. = 15,132 ft. By the N. (strictly N.N.W.) face. July 14, 1933. Mr. T. Graham Brown, with Alexander Graven and Alfred Aufdenblatten.

[A large snow field terminates in ice cliffs above the steep and high rock and ice slopes which form the N. face of Nord End. This face is bounded on the E. by the N.E. ridge of Nord End which descends to the Jägerjoch, and on the N.W. by the rock buttress which falls steeply from point 3986 m. (*S. map*) to the Gorner Glacier. The ice cliffs show no gap save near the latter point, and the present ascent was made up a rock face close to, and a little S.E. from, point 3986 m.]

The party left the Bétemps hut at 02.10, and reached the foot of the route at 05.25 (with 27 mins.' halts on the way). A short snow and ice slope led to the foot of the rocks at 05.35. The ascent then afforded excellent, and sometimes difficult, climbing on firm and good rock, the route being very exposed throughout. The top of the rocks was reached at 06.55, when the direct passage through the ice cliffs was judged inadvisable, and a long but safe traverse (of about 310 ft.) was made to the right, N.W., on very steep slopes under the ice cliffs, point 3986 m. being reached at 08.19. Left again, 08.45, and reached summit of Nord End at 10.45, or in $7\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. from the Bétemps hut, if halts be excluded. A change in the weather then forced the party to alter its plans and descend by the ordinary way to the Bétemps hut, which was reached at 14.14 in another 2 hrs. 38 mins. of actual climbing, the whole expedition having occupied 10 hrs. 6 mins., excluding halts.

The route makes a first-class expedition, affording continuously interesting and sometimes difficult climbing as far as point 3986 m. The ice cliff above the route was firm and solid, and in these conditions the route is a safe one. There is no objective danger from stone fall.

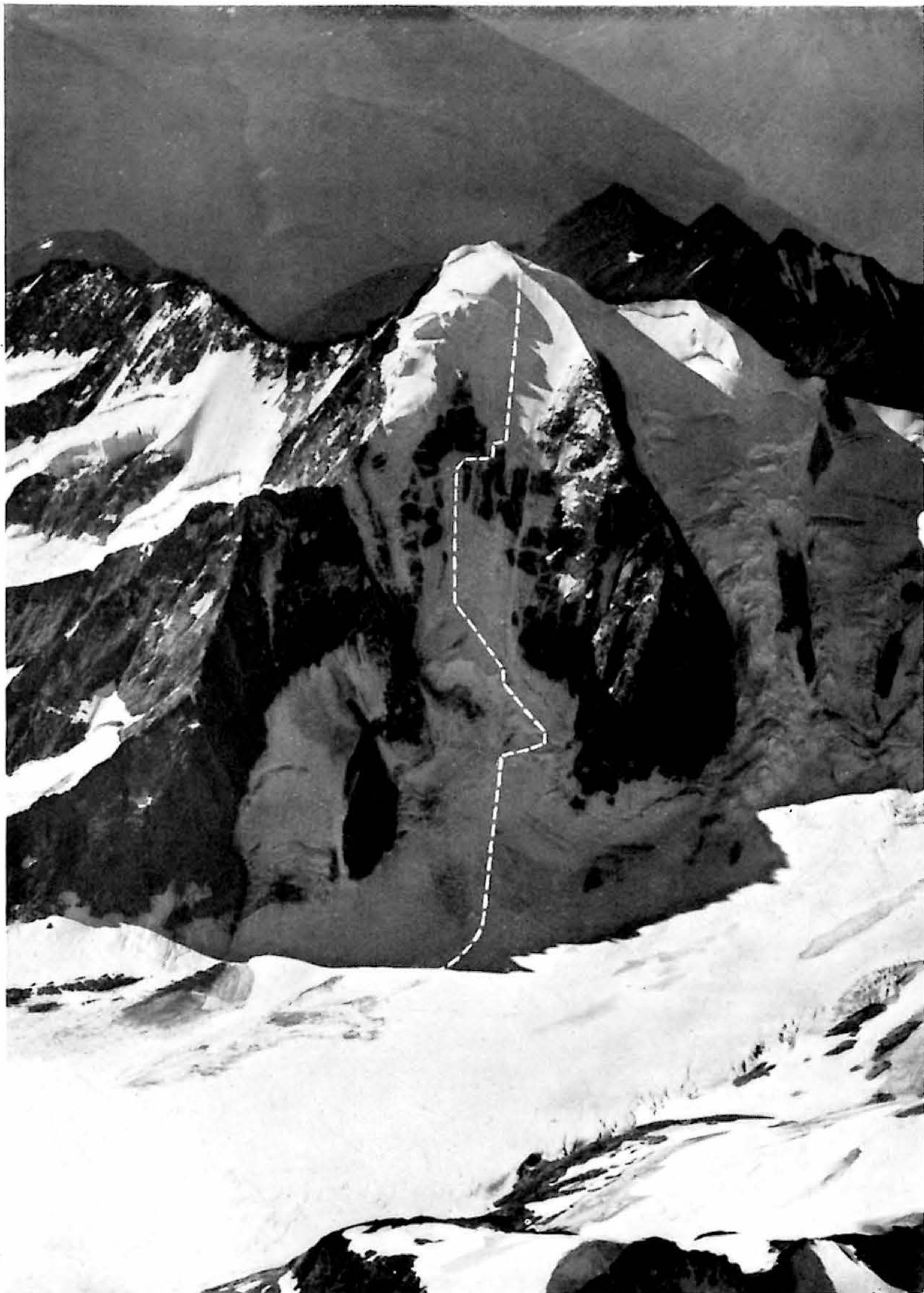
T. G. B.

[There is a somewhat vague reference (*Pioneers*, 2nd edition, p. 168) as to a previous ascent of the Nord End by this face by Lord Conway, with Ferdinand Imseng, somewhere in the late 'seventies. Lord Conway appears to have repeated the same route with Gurkhas in 1894. But these ascents seem to lie to the S. of the N.W. 'rock buttress.'—*Editor.*]

Bernese Oberland.

NESTHORN, 3820 m. = 12,533 ft. By the N. face. July 25, 1933. Herren A. Drexel, E. Schulze and W. Welzenbach.

[The N. face of the Nesthorn, some 3300 ft. high, is constructed like an isosceles triangle. A long recess or gully furrows the face in the plumb-line of the summit; great bounding buttresses form its flanks. In the lower part of the face lies a small hanging glacier, extending in a wall of overhanging séracs as far as the bergschrund, and reaching with increasing steepness to a slab-like zone some three-fifths of the height of the face. Above the slabby zone is a



Photo, Ad Astra.]

NESTHORN, N. FACE (SHOWING 1933 ROUTE).

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snow slope, mounting at a similar gradient to the summit. The route of ascent is approximately that of the plumb-line of the summit.]

From the Oberaletsch hut follow the Oberaletsch Glacier to its bifurcation, and thence the Beichfirn in a W. direction to the foot of the face, which is then mounted over a great avalanche shoot to the bergschrund. The ice wall of the hanging glacier is tackled at its lowest part, to the right, W., whence the route leads diagonally upwards to the left—having overcome various smaller séracs—to the last schrund at the base of the ice wall. This latter is scaled on its left side in the vicinity of a projecting rock rib. At this spot the ice reaches its furthest point in the rocky zone, and finally ends under vertical and impossible slabs. Now proceed by a long and hazardous traverse to the right over steep and partly snowy granitic rock, till easier slopes facilitate access to the snowy summit-wall. From the end of the rocky zone the summit was attained by mounting névé slopes to the top (14½ hrs., including halts).

Descent by W. arête.

	<i>Times.</i>
Oberaletsch hut dep.	02.30
Base of face	04.45
Last schrund	06.00
Commencement of rocky zone	11.45
End of same	14.30
Summit	17.00–18.00
Hut arr.	22.30

The conquest of the rocky zone was rendered possible solely because the thin covering of snow, frozen on to the rough granite, was of sufficient consistency to ensure its ascent on crampons. With dry rocks this portion of the climb might provide extraordinary difficulties.

W. W.

Dolomites.

GROSSE ZINNE, 3003 m. = 9850 ft. By the N.⁷ face. August 13–14, 1933. The guides Angelo and Joseph Dimai⁸ and Emile Comici.

[After many attempts by different parties, amateur and professional, extending over several years, the guide Comici had by the end of 1932 attained a point in the great precipice which left only 350 ft. more of 'vertical' to be overcome.

⁷ The D. & Œ.A.V. *Mitt.* (*loc. cit.*, 1933, p. 236) tersely and aptly describes the performance as: '1. Durchnagelung der Nordwand'!

⁸ Sons of the famous Antonio.

By August 11, 1933, different guides had reduced this to little more than 160 ft.

By August 12 the guides had further reduced this to about 100 ft., containing, however, a 'terrible overhang.']

On August 13, as darkness came on, J. Dimai in 'one last desperate effort' stormed the overhang. The party then attained that portion of the N. face no longer *quite* vertical but still terribly steep. Bivouac. On the following morning over easier terrain, the summit was attained at 09.30 (3 hrs.).

From *Lo Scarpone* and *Allgemeine Bergsteiger Zeitung*.

To any one who has viewed it, the great N. face of the peak is one of the most forbidding and impossibly smooth *precipices* in the Alps; it has now obtained, deservedly, the much polluted title of 'the most difficult ascent in the Dolomites.' Needless to say, conquest was only effected by the means employed by steeple-jacks when dealing with factory chimneys. 'The difficulties approach' [but are not stated, like so often in modern amateurs' accounts, as *surpassing*] 'the limits of human possibility.'

Remarkable as is the guides' feat, it is one of those achievements that serve merely to bring discredit on present-day 'mountaineering.' Moreover when, as stated in 'D.A.Z.', 800 ft. of ordinary rope (to which were added another 500 ft. on August 13), 500 ft. of light rope, at least 90 pitons and 50 *Karabiner*, were employed in the ascent, the expedition is reduced to the piteous level of a repulsive farce.

On September 12-14, in *bad* weather, two young acrobats from Kufstein—the brothers Peter and Paul Aschenbrenner, stated to be qualified as 'guides'—arriving on motor-bicycles at the base, proceeded to repeat the ascent. They spent one night in slings on the face, and the second on the summit.⁹ But such a performance will be considered praiseworthy, doubtless, in certain circles.

With the completion of this volume we bring the chapter of *New Expeditions* in the Alps to an end. The reasons are obvious. Henceforward, 'New' and 'Various' expeditions will be amalgamated into one chapter, entitled *Expeditions*.—EDITOR, 'A.J.'

⁹ One of the brothers, Peter, took part in the Nanga Parbat expedition of 1932—*A.J.* 44, 192-200.