

THE  
CLIMBERS' CLUB JOURNAL.

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Edited by ARTHUR WESTLAKE ANDREWS.

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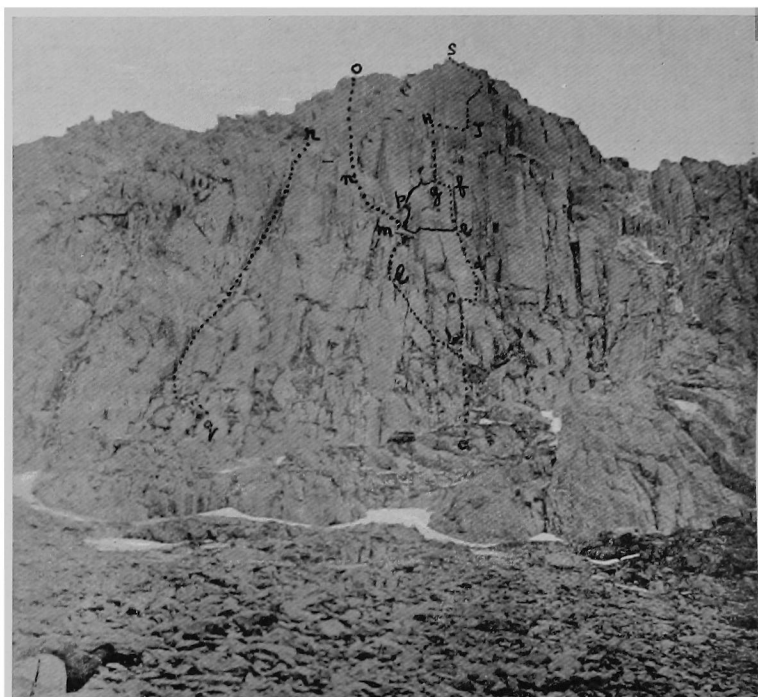
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**The North Buttress of Glyder Fach.**

*s* is the summit of the North Buttress ; it also marks the beginning of the North Ridge. The North Ridge is a part of the Easy Buttress of Messrs. Abrahams' diagram.

- |            |                        |   |
|------------|------------------------|---|
| <i>a</i>   | The capstan.           |   |
| <i>b</i>   | 1st belay.             |   |
| <i>c</i>   | 1st hand traverse.     |   |
| <i>d</i>   | The gunnel.            |   |
| <i>e</i>   | The helm.              | <i>e m</i> The toe and finger traverse.                     |
| <i>e f</i> | The 40 ft. chimney.    | <i>p g</i> The upper hand traverse.                         |
| <i>h j</i> | The verandah traverse. |   |
| <i>j k</i> | The cracks.            |   |
| <i>b l</i> | The slab.              | <i>m</i> The arch. <i>n o</i> Final buttress of slab route. |
|            |                        | <i>q r</i> The oblique gully.                               |



T H E

# CLIMBERS' CLUB JOURNAL.

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## SOME CLIMBS ON THE NORTH BUTTRESS OF GLYDER FACH.

*(April 22nd, 23rd, 1908.)*

By K. M. WARD.

DURING a pause in the ascent of the Hawk's Nest Buttress with Messrs. M. E. Marples and H. B. Gibson, provided for a fruitless endeavour to connect our version of the Hawk's Nest Buttress with Messrs. Abrahams' account of its original ascent, we were struck with the serrated crest line of the ridge that forms the left wall of the upper part of the Eastern Gully. I was particularly attracted by the buttress that depends from this ridge, sheer to the screes below; both in its height and steepness and the rough-hewn relief of its huge basaltic columns it seemed a princely rival of the cliff we had just conquered.

### THE SLAB ROUTE.

The following morning, sleet and snow unfortunately confined Mr. Gibson and myself to that portion of our tent that the winds had allowed to remain with us, and it was not until late in the afternoon that incipient meteorological improvements seemed to call for a hurried breakfast. Five p.m.

found us foregathered at the foot of our buttress, for which we would suggest the name of North Buttress, and North Ridge for the ridge above it.

On the left the crags are jagged, grassy and indefinite. An oblique gully, that terminates some 40 ft. to the left of the summit, is the first feature of note; passing still to the right the crags mount steeper and higher upwards: the scale of architecture is augmented, blocks are replaced by monoliths, slabs by supporting buttresses, and columns grow to the dimensions of a tower. Solid walls and majestic heights spring up from a basement of broken and chaotic piles.

At the foot of the cliffs, some 80 ft. from the extreme right, is a poised boulder, which we named the Capstan. We hoped that a direct climb might be made from this point, but leaving the exploration of this for the morrow, Mr. Gibson led me somewhat to the left up a series of grass ledges. 60 ft. up, we reached a pleasing spiky belay; to the left of this, at a steep unvarying angle, rose a narrow slab some 40 ft. in height, which savoured of a stomach traverse where it abutted on the skyline.

The jagged nature of the outer edge offers abundant foothold, but on the present occasion a boulder delicately balanced at the top of the slab added features of uncertainty to the situation. It was too loose to be touched, too heavy to be removed, and in case of the acquirement of accidental motion, it was doubtful whether Mr. Gibson or myself would be the victims of its onslaught, or whether the double achievement might not be executed by the one stone.

Not desirous of testing this matter (he is not a scientist), Mr. Gibson carefully and with difficulty skirted round the obstacle, and it was not long before I was myself in a position to "see how loose it was." I saw how heavy it was chiefly: it will not trouble future climbers, it lies far off by the shores of the Llyn.

We now stood on a grassy platform, with a belay on either hand; the one on the left, being the more convenient of the two, was slightly loose, so I held the rope over the right hand

belay, whilst the leader scaled the right wall, and built a baby cairn on its summit.

The way now leads up an easy stretch of rock to a rudimentary arch of the Early English School of Architecture; passing behind this we crossed a rocky terrace to the ridge on the left sky-line. Here a diminutive cairn marks the position of a conspicuous belay, and the leader, utilising the firm finger-holds on the buttress, is soon involved in the lesser difficulties of the North Ridge.

#### THE OBLIQUE GULLY.

On the present occasion we descended the Oblique Gully, which lies immediately to the left of the final ridge of the above route; I shall, however, describe the pitches from below.

A cairn marks the commencement, and two ways present themselves by which to enter the gully. The one on the left is a sloping chimney, with a slightly overhanging chockstone, just within reach.

A grassy terrace leads back to the next pitch, which may be taken in three ways, of which a vertical chimney repleted with jammed stones is the easiest. A short chimney on the right supplies the next item of employment; from thence a slanting staircase of green sandstone leads easily to the top of the gully.

#### THE DIRECT ASCENT.

The morning succeeding found us struggling up to Llyn Bochlwyd in a seething snow-storm, with but small hopes of accomplishing the direct ascent, but, as we neared the crags, the veil was rent, the curtains lifted; tattered wisps of cloud soared aloft on the driving wind and stately bastions took form before our eyes; they hung for a moment in misty drapery, smoking wreaths entwined black pinnacles, torn streamers clung round them; then these, too, were dashed aside, and the sun, so long concealed from view, blazed suddenly forth and cast its lustrous beams on new-fallen snow. What could have been more prophetic? What change of fortune more enspiriting?

We rested for a while beneath the *Capstan* whilst the snow rapidly melted, then I led up 60 ft. of indefinite grassy ledges, and, when my 2nd had reached the spiky belay, continued straight up a chimney or vertical corner, which obliterated itself in a spike on the left skyline, but gave promise of a traverse to the right.

The chimney surmounted, I found that the spike in question marked the beginning of a *hand traverse* a few feet in length. A species of cave-pitch constituted the main difficulty of the next bout, and presently had we secreted our material configurations behind a protecting wall, which we likened to the *gunnel* of a ship.

Three routes now presented themselves, of which the central one seemed to be the neatest, the key to its ascent taking the form of a narrow mantle-shelf crossing the face of a steep slab.

I now reached a tall sheet of rock of curious contour, split off from the face of the cliff, which Mr. Gibson took to be a *helm*.

Above this point there rises a shallow chimney some 40 ft. in height. The first 20 ft. I took partly by back and knee, and partly as a face-climb; I was then beneath a smooth-edged crack by the left wall of the bed of the chimney, so overhung that the walls protruded but a very short distance beyond. Being unable to back and knee any further, I attempted to effect a lodgement in the crack, but eventually descended after half-an-hour's vain efforts.

From a point a few feet below the helm, however, I was enabled to effect a *variation route* whereby the chimney can be avoided.

We traversed the buttress on the left, and passing round the corner of the rock we found ourselves on the top of the arch (the *toe and finger traverse*).

Attempting to return to the direct route, we scaled a platform directly above the arch. A shoulder may be given for the next pitch, but a comfortable hand traverse that is

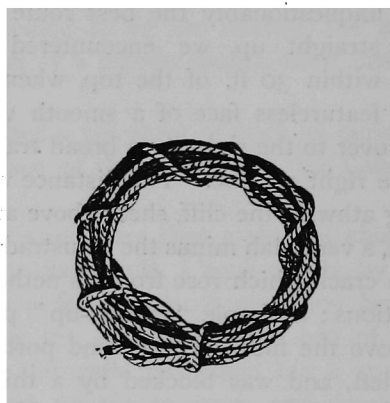
within reach from the left corner of the platform is the more satisfactory method.

We were now above the chimney that had defied my attacks, and I let Mr. Gibson down it on the rope. He considered the crack on the left side barely possible, but he climbed back again by a peculiar back and foot process, which the shallowness of the chimney seemed to demand. Difficulties also arise in this portion from the inconvenient stretch from wall to wall, which throws a great strain on the legs, and the minuteness of the holds, which seem to belong to that order of infinitesimals which reduces the climber to friction to maintain the unstable equilibrium of the body. We subsequently reascended this chimney from below, Mr. Gibson leading. It is unquestionably the best route to take.

Continuing straight up, we encountered no particular obstacles until within 30 ft. of the top, when we were confronted by the featureless face of a smooth vertical wall. I elected to pass over to the right by a broad traverse to a clean cut crack on the right skyline. The distance was about 25 ft. The track hung athwart the cliff, sheer above and sheer below, bold and aerial, a verandah minus the balustrade (the *verandah traverse*). The crack which rose from its nether end was split into three portions; a simple "muscle-up" placed me on a small ledge above the first. The second portion began some inches to the left, and was blocked by a thin slice of rock jutting out of it. It was loose, but I could neither hurl it down nor effect a lodgement in the crack without placing my weight on it.

I carefully jammed my left hand high up in the crack and swung round—crack! I swung quickly back to the ledge. A wild upheaval of powdery snow marked the destination of nine-tenths of that slice on the screes below. The remaining tenth still kept diggings in the crack. I used it as a foothold, then wedged in the right hand and knee; a few quick convulsive wriggles, aided by leverage from the left hand, drew me over the corner to the third portion, which slopes inwards and can offer no great embarrassment to him who has sur-

mounted the second pitch, though on the present occasion traces of ice in its interstices compelled some share of respect for its "hoary locks." We built a substantial cairn above this point, which marks the summit of the buttress and the beginning of the North Ridge.



## NORTHERN DINNER.

THE fourth Northern Dinner was held at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, on Saturday, May 2nd.

It had been intended that Mr. J. Archer-Thomson, one of the Vice-Presidents, should take the chair, but illness prevented him from doing so. Several other members and their friends, to the number of 36, gathered together, and a very pleasant evening was spent.

The guest of the evening was Sir E. R. Russell, who responded to the toast of "The Visitors."

The loyal toast having been honoured,

Mr. Godfrey A. Solly (Vice-President of the Scottish Mountaineering Club), proposed "The Climbers' Club." On behalf of Mr. Gilbert Thompson, the President of the Scottish Mountaineering Club, he conveyed his sincere regrets that he was unable to be present, and his own and the Club's hearty expressions of goodwill. He (Mr. Solly) although a member of the Climbers' Club, represented that night a club from over the border with which he had been closely associated in recent years. He thought the more their clubs knew each other the better they would understand each other's ideals. The more that men went over from this side of the border to the other the more would they appreciate the grandeur of the Scottish hills. But they have in their climbing across the border one limitation. During the last few weeks the King had given them, as the Scottish Mountaineering Club, permission, in its widest sense, to go over every part of his forests in and near Balmoral, and other noblemen in that district had followed his example, the only condition being that they, loving their own sport, should in

no way injure sport of others. (Hear, hear.) He asked the Climbers' Club to study the Scottish Club's literature. They had a most valuable journal, and it seemed to him that if that were carefully studied they would not have their Scottish hills and ridges rechristened. (Laughter.) Regarding the Climbers' Club, it was started, he believed, very largely by their chairman of that evening. (Applause.) It was to unite in a friendly brotherhood men from all parts of Great Britain who did not go much to the Alps. No higher aims from a climbing point of view could have been aspired to, but since that day there had been a sort of division. Clubs had been multiplied, until now he thought there was one for every card in the suit. The ace represented the Alpine Club (A.C.), and since December there could be no doubt as to the Queen, but he was not prepared to allocate the remaining cards to the different clubs. They must try to unite that pack a little more together, either through their journals or their dinners. (Hear, hear.) In an assembly of climbers it was a little difficult to know what to say, but he would like to point out how the spirit of climbing, which was largely set in motion in Great Britain through this club, had now permeated all phases of thought and all one's acts in life. They had it in art, in journalism, in theology. Artists like G. F. Watts, T. S. Cooper or Segantini, and others had put most beautiful backgrounds of mountains into their greatest pictures. Then they had it in another form when one of their greatest theologians took for a title to one of his books "The Ascent of Man." (Laughter.) He wished prosperity to the Climbers' Club, whether it lived in its present form, or, as he hoped it would do, in some associated form with other clubs. He liked the spirit which drew mountaineers together; it gave them a bond of union in whatever part of the globe they might be. So they wished prosperity to the club and to the ideals which it embodied. (Applause.)

The Chairman responded to the toast, and said his first duty was to announce telegrams of apology from members of the club who were unable to be present. They included Mr.



Bryant, Mr. Robson, and Mr. Farmer. But the principal loss they had sustained that night was due to the absence of Mr. J. Archer-Thomson, one of the Vice-Presidents, and one of the most distinguished active climbers of their club who had intended to preside that evening, but was unfortunately too ill to come to Liverpool. In thanking Mr. Solly for the neighbourly and kindly manner in which he had proposed the toast, the Chairman said he represented a club whose aim was the same as their own, and whose territory adjoined what they were pleased to consider part of their territory. He was sure they would agree with him in hoping that the bonds between the Scottish Mountaineering Club and the Climbers' Club would from time to time be drawn closer and closer. (Applause.) Although the Climbers' Club really originated some twenty-five years ago, when a body of men, who ultimately became the Climbers' Club, began to meet together regularly year after year at Pen-y-Gwryd, they could only claim about 11 years as the period of their properly constituted existence. He regretted to say that his connection with the Club and with home climbing during the Club's existence had not been so active as it might have been if the Club had been started earlier; but he had had the good fortune during the last ten years, owing to the kindness of Mr. Thompson, to have taken part in two or three really good expeditions. Although he (the speaker) had not done much actual climbing lately, he still retained his love for the mountains, and he was very pleased the Club had prospered as it had done during the ten years of its existence. They had now nearly 300 members, and financially the Club was on a very sound basis. (Hear, hear.) He thought there was no sport like mountaineering. (Hear, hear.) He thought there was no sport that to the same extent encouraged the qualities of courage, endurance and self-reliance as mountaineering did, and he was quite prepared to say there was no other sport which encouraged to the same extent the quality of mutual reliance. Climbers sometimes found themselves in places where they must rely upon one another, where accidents

must not be allowed to happen, where the safety of each was the safety of all. Another element which he thought entitled climbing to a high place among the sports was that in climbing they fought their battles not against one another but against natural difficulties. (Hear, hear.) In climbing, one's victory did not spell another man's defeat. (Hear, hear.) But climbing was, after all, a relaxation. He thought perhaps the tendency of the times was to take sports and games somewhat too seriously, but he thought they should regard it simply as an amusement. He gave it a very high place as an amusement and a game, because it was a game that was essentially health giving, and it was a game that was played in the noblest playground in the world. (Applause.) Taking for himself the responsibility of the Chairman, though he was merely a stop-gap, he would like to utter one word of caution. The joys of climbing, he thought, were admitted, but he suggested that, by the exercise of forethought and care, the dangers of climbing might be reduced almost to nothing. Some little danger no doubt there must be in climbing, as in all other sports, but he thought that that danger might be made very small, and he would urge upon them, more especially the younger members of the Club, that when the danger became obvious, the proper course was to retrace one's steps. (Applause.) Discretion did not always imply the absence of valour; caution was not always akin to cowardice. They should approach the hills with enthusiasm, but also with respect, and if they did that he was quite sure the recollections of their climbing days would be very pleasant ones. The memories of his climbing days were amongst the most cherished possessions of his life, and the friendships of his climbing acquaintances were amongst his most valuable friendships, and he thought that to increase the number of their climbing memories and friendships they should go again, and yet again, to the mountains. If that Club had done anything to kindle or to keep alive the spirit which moved them to climb, he thought it had done something to justify its existence, and to deserve in some measure the kind greetings

which Mr. Solly had brought to them from across the border. (Applause.)

Professor Wilberforce, in a witty speech, proposed "The Visitors." He related that on one occasion he had the privilege of climbing with a very good lady climber, a lecturer at one of the universities, who had three grievances. The first was that her country would not give her a vote; the second, that her university would not give her a degree; and the third that the Alpine Club would not make her a member. The third of these grievances, he said, had been removed, and possibly the others would also be remedied soon. (Hear, hear.)

Sir Edward Russell, responding to the toast, said he had been much struck by two observations made by the Chairman. He remarked that one of the qualities of Alpine climbing was that of finish. He thought that was a word which suggested a comparison; it came into almost every capacity of pursuit, for sport and for skill in this world. They had a vision of a man climbing, and another man climbing beside him, and they saw one did it not only with a capacity for skill and assurance, but also with a kind of grace and definiteness of action, and was at once a suggestion, showing how this great pursuit, like many others, brought into its scope many subjects for consideration. Another of the same sort of suggestion was made when the Chairman said that one charm of climbing was that it was a constant contention against natural difficulties. Why, what else was life? They had to contest their own natural difficulties, difficulties centred in themselves, and which resulted from temperament or education—or the lack of it—or from environment—all these difficulties had to be contended with; and then in contending with others in the race of life they had to calculate upon the natural qualities of the men against whom they had to contend. In the pursuit of climbing there was much in it that corresponded with great necessities in the actual experience of life. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. George Seatree gave the toast of "Kindred Clubs,"

and said it was very gratifying to Alpine climbers to have such a representative gathering present that evening. There were members there of the Alpine Club, the Yorkshire Ramblers, the Scottish Mountaineering Club, the Rucksack Club in Manchester, the Fell and Rock Club of the Lake District, and last but not least, the Wayfarers' Club in Liverpool. The latter had been formed in order that local climbers might be brought together, that they might encourage each other, and take their little trips and spend their week ends together. The local climbing clubs of the country were very useful indeed as feeders to the higher kind of climbing. He hoped they would not be regarded as in any way overlapping, because there was room for them all. (Hear, hear.)

Dr. Hill, in replying, said as regarded the Alpine Club, it was one of those venerable institutions of the British Empire to which they looked up to like the House of Lords, and hoped it would not soon be abolished. (Laughter.) Of the Scottish Mountaineering Club he could not speak with any knowledge, but he could of the Yorkshire Ramblers, who, instead of copying the example of the Climbers' Club in climbing upwards, delved down into the regions below. There was present that evening a well-known member of their club, who acted as President of the Yorkshire Ramblers for many years, and his advice always was "Don't climb." (Laughter.) He took his advice, and went in for cave exploring, in which one got all sorts of climbs, from the easiest to the most difficult. The Wayfarers' Club, in the foundation of which he had a share, had, he was pleased to say, after about a year's existence, between 50 and 60 members, but he would like to see that number doubled in the near future. (Hear, hear.)

The formal proceedings concluded with the honouring of the Chairman's health, on the proposition of Sir Edward Russell, but, at the request of several members, Mr. Earl afterwards gave an interesting account of his climbing expeditions in New Zealand and the Rocky Mountains.

## DERBYSHIRE PENNINE CLUB NOTES.

THE afternoon walk over the moors, from Chinley to Edale, *via* South Head, on March 21st, was very attractive, owing to the bracing air and crisp snow. Singularly enough, none of the members had previously done this walk in its entirety; and we were much pleased with the scenery, which was rougher than we had been led to expect. The novel views of the Downfall end of the Scout were a great feature of the walk. A "new and difficult" ascent, of something under 10,000 feet, was accomplished immediately above the Edale rifle-range. As firing was not in progress at the time, the only mishaps were those due to the lodging in various parts of our anatomy of spells from the "climb."

On March 28th, a visit was paid to a spa and lead mine at Monsal Dale. April 11th was a very busy day for the Club, for not only were explorations conducted in the Peak cavern, but an entertainment was given in Castleton, of which particulars follow. In recognition of many pleasant visits to the caverns, etc., of the village, the Club's members, by means of voluntary subscriptions, defrayed the expenses of the entertainment.

Cavern-exploration and entertainment-giving are two occupations having nothing in common, but an event which took place in Castleton on Saturday evening last leaves no room for doubt that the members of the Derbyshire Pennine Club, at any rate, are quite equal to the double role. The event was a musical, lantern, and cinematograph entertainment given by the club, the net proceeds of which are being presented to the North Derbyshire Wesleyan Mission.

The members of the club emerged from the recesses of the Peak cavern, and adjourned to the Castleton restaurant, where the interest of a large audience was sustained for two hours by the efforts of Messrs. Edwin B. Unwin, J. W. Puttrell (president), Henry Bishop, A.L.C.M. (hon. secretary), W. Elliott Amies, and P. Pearson.

Mr. W. Young, of Hope, presided, and Mr. Unwin's songs were "The Deathless Army" (Trotter) and "The Longshoreman" (Gresham), Mr. Amies contributed "Like Stars Above" (Squire), and "Roses" (S. Adams), whilst Mr. Bishop, who also fulfilled the duties of accompanist, rendered Nollett's "Tarantelle" on the pianoforte. Messrs. Amies and Unwin also gave Benedict's duet, "The Moon hath raised her Lamp."

A short illustrated chat on Switzerland by Mr. Puttrell, and an exhibition of humorous and other films on the cinematograph by Mr. Pearson, completed the programme.

In amplification of the above report, it may interest readers to know that (1) the Club changed its clothes before going to the concert; (2) £5 3s. was realised and presented to the Fund; (3) at the conclusion of the concert, members returned to the cavern for another spell of work.

On May 9th, Carl's Wark Cavern, near Eyam, was explored.

When a certain famous writer discoursed so eloquently on the joys of communion with Nature, the subtle influence of moorland, mountain and stream, it is scarcely to be wondered at that he did not go farther and include some reference to the subtle thrall of the underground world as it is known to the speleologist. The pedestrian takes his pleasure under the stimulus of a bountiful supply of light and air, whilst he who would explore caverns must follow his sport where the atmosphere is often deficient in oxygen, and where the sun's rays never penetrate. The mountaineer and

the cragsman can also count on enjoying abundance of light and air; but the thorough-going cavesman must be prepared to climb under conditions which his out-door brother would declare execrable. Difficult rock-work demands, under the best conditions, all the attention and skill of the climber. In a cavern, however, it is often done to the unsavoury accompaniment of slime and mud, and by the light of a tallow dip, which must be carried in the hand, and which serves but to render darkness visible. Water is encountered, through which it may be necessary to wade waist-deep; passages must be crawled along, so small that the explorer cannot raise his head for fear of encountering the roof. And yet, with all its disadvantages, your ardent cave-man will tell you that his sport can compare with any in the world for excitement, interest and profit.

The Derbyshire or Sheffield speleologist's Mecca is Castleton. Thither journeyed recently a strong party of members of the Derbyshire Pennine Club, the object of whose visit was to investigate a remarkable passage or chimney, which, starting from Cave Dale, leads almost vertically downwards for over 100 feet, ending in the recesses of Peak Cavern, near the platform known as the Orchestra. As it had never been climbed, two members entered the cavern about an hour before the nominal time for commencing the investigations, in order to see whether the place might be ascended by ordinary crag-climbing methods. They roped up, and after considerable trouble with the candles, due to the water which came down the chimney, reached a height of 60 feet by climbing the jammed stones which occupy one corner of the aperture. But here progress was most effectually barred by the total lack of hand and footholds, whilst, for many feet above, the water-streaming walls widened out so that it was impossible to wedge

between them by friction. Therefore they had to descend, and that quickly, as any stones dislodged by the men now due in Cave Dale might have meant broken craniums.

During some excavations in another passage of the cavern, we had noticed a decided air-current, and had, by burning sundry smoke-producing materials, succeeded in showing the existence of a connection with the above mentioned chimney by noticing that the fumes of our fire came out at its upper exit.

Dislodging the dangerous fragments of stone, the slimmest member of the party now tied himself on to the extremity of a length of Alpine rope, and was cautiously lowered down the chimney, which, he opined in his downward passage, would be climbable but for the wide middle section described above. But our object was to investigate any channels which might lead to the point at which our fire had been lit ; and, as this could not be satisfactorily done whilst suspended by a rope round one's chest, an attempt was now made to draw up our rope-ladder, which had been carried to the chimney's foot. This proved abortive, owing to the rings catching on a projecting nose of rock ; so the ladder was carried round to the upper exit, and it was from thence lowered in twenty minutes. Secured by a life-line, another member now descended, and, resting on the ladder, was able to make an exhaustive inspection of the streaming walls, the candles which he planted at intervals disclosing to those below a magnificent spectacle. The only aperture he could discover, however, was one on the level to which the first mentioned pair had climbed. A short wooden ladder was now hoisted to this point, and, being held horizontally, enabled two climbers to reach the aperture. It was found to lead nowhither in particular, and was formed by a jammed mass of stones, with a space between it and the roof. We



came to the conclusion that our smoke had somehow worked back into the main cavern, and then, impelled by a current of air, had passed behind and over the jammed mass and thence up the chimney to its exit in Cave Dale.

Although Castleton is famed for its caverns, the village has no monopoly of these underground passages; and, shortly after the occurrences related above, we found ourselves at Stoney Middleton, with Carl's Wark Cavern (called also The Wonders) as our objective. Any previous remarks as to the conditions under which the cave-man pursues his folly apply with added force to Carl's Wark; but "the unkindest cut of all" is the result of the Stoney Middleton city fathers' action in establishing at its entrance—a *rubbish-tip*! The enthusiast, as previously hinted, scorns not water, neither shirks he good, honest cave-mud—but a slide down a rubbish-heap on one's stomach! Still, we speedily found ourselves inside.

The uninitiated would probably fail to locate the cavern's entrance, as it is formed by a slit little more than twelve inches in height and twenty-four in length, at the very foot of the stupendous limestone crags which line the dale on one side. If we again pay it a visit we shall probably have to dig a way through the dumped material. But let us to a lighter subject! Work began almost immediately, we had gained the interior; for, after progressing some feet, it became necessary to wade along a narrow channel whose swollen waters reached almost to our waists. A few minutes saw us at its farther end, and we emerged at a point where, whilst the passage apparently continued forward, an incipient chimney could be seen on our right, and somewhere in which was situated the "Needle's Eye," as the key to the upper range of passages is termed. The party here divided, one section to prospect the continuation of the lower

passage, whilst the other contingent, after the slim man had been up to investigate, ascended the chimney, and, crawling on a short water-worn passage, arrived in a favourable position for reaching the top storey. They were in a narrow, crack-like place, which was climbed until a decent ledge was attained from which the "Needle's Eye" could be seen forming the narrow commencement of a horizontal passage at the top of the crack. To reach and enter this was the crux of the problem; hand and footholds being almost nil, we were compelled to hold ourselves in the place with back on one wall and knees on the other, working up by sheer strength. The walls were very damp, and the difficulty was correspondingly increased. Once past the "eye," a crawl amongst detached blocks led us to the upper pipe, which we followed to its extremity. The last hundred feet of this has probably never before been explored, as it is guarded by a roof which approaches to about nine inches above the floor-level. As it was, only the slim member managed to negotiate the place, crawling through on his stomach.

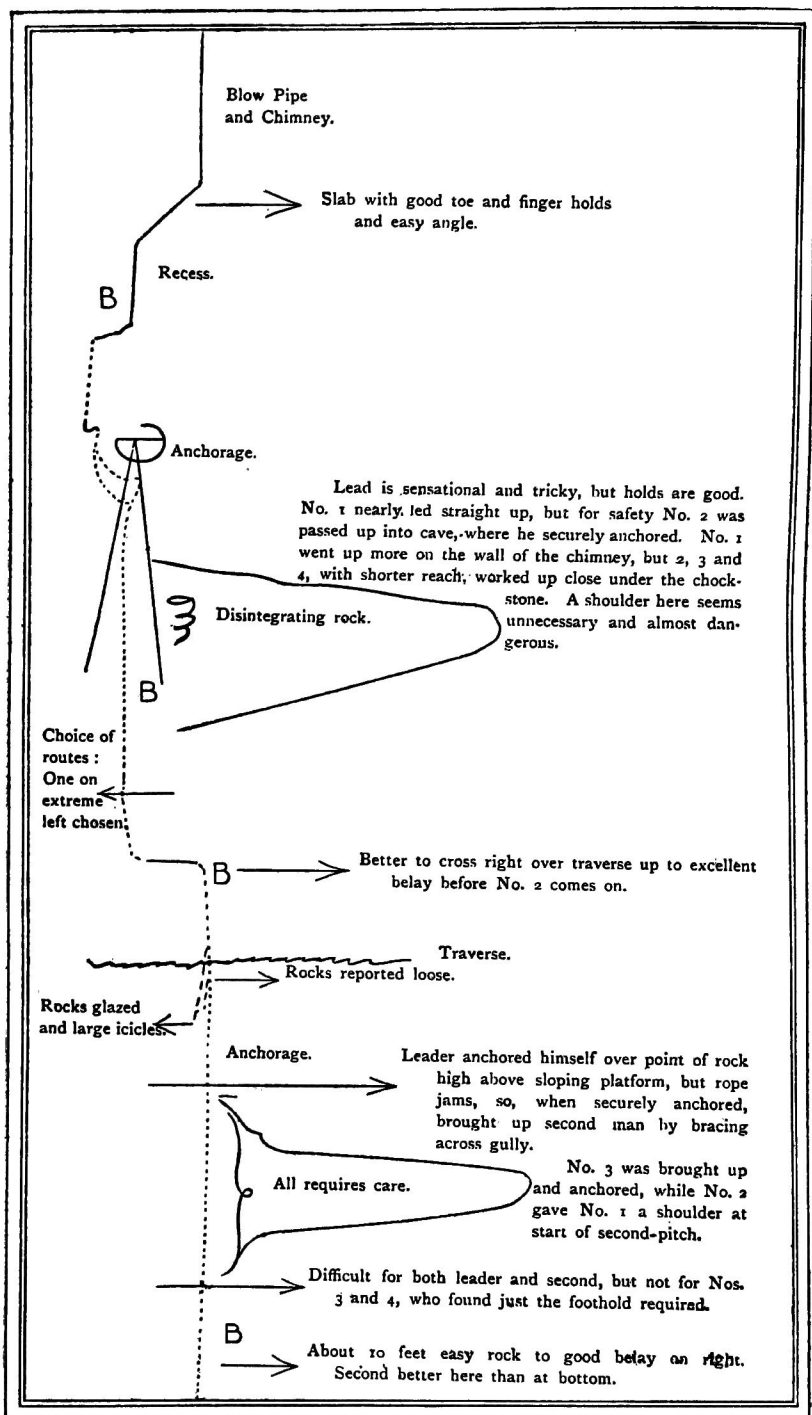
We returned the same way, being much struck by the great number of immense "bee-hive" stalagmitic formations in the passage, and which we thought to be the finest in Derbyshire. The descent from the "Needle's Eye" was much less difficult than the upward climb had been, as gravitation told in our favour.

The other contingent report having reached a pool of water some five feet deep, through which they made their way into a long passage. It will thus be seen that Carl's Wark Cavern provides sport of a high order:—we had been at work in it, practically without halting, for nearly three-and-a-half hours!

## NOTES ON CLIMBS.

DEVIL'S KITCHEN.—Mr. W. L. Collinson writes: In view of the accident in the Devil's Staircase following on your published account, perhaps it may interest you to know that we climbed it "clean" this Easter, and we think the account is thoroughly justifiable. The lower portion is, in our opinion, the hardest, and agree that there is nothing in the upper portion to justify its inclusion in the "fancy" list.

We climbed in a party of four, and the leader and second man found the beginning of the first pitch very difficult. On the other hand, our third and fourth men found some good footholds which we had missed, and climbing it differently came up much quicker and with comparative ease. None of us noticed any particular difficulty above the standing-place in the first pitch. The second pitch is a wet pitch in summer, but on this occasion the rocks were badly glazed and hung with icicles. The leader took a shoulder here, and was well secured by an excellent belay over a high point of rock that could just be reached from the platform on the right. While the leader took a shoulder the third man made both safe from here. This brought us to the top of the second pitch and on to the grass terrace, thus completing the lower part. We found nothing loose here, no doubt on account of the binding power of the ice. Then follows an easy bit of scrambling for about 10 feet, and above that we went up on the extreme left to the foot of the Chimney Pitch. This is not difficult, and can be made quite safe by passing the second man well up into the cave, wedging him there as an anchor. We saw some disintegrating rock on the right-hand side of this chimney. With the second man properly placed, the left wall can be



climbed with quite reasonably good toe and fingerholds, and this seems preferable to any attempt to give a shoulder which is not really necessary, and to us, it seemed, would be dangerous.

The next bit, which has been likened to the climb on to the Tennis Court Ledge, we found to be rock at quite an easy angle with good finger and toeholds, while we were woefully disappointed in the Blow Pipe. Perhaps we had expected a dark enclosed tunnel, whereas we found a nearly perpendicular chimney, narrow, certainly, but not extraordinarily enclosed. There was some loose "smalls" at the bottom, but nothing more than ordinary care was needed to avoid sending them down. Four of us took four hours, so that it is about an hour's climb.

All the same, a party of three seemed to do it comfortably in two hours in good weather. We experienced considerable delay owing to cold rocks and the bad condition of the second pitch. Taking the climb as a whole it is most interesting.

It is well defined, there is climbing all the way, and the difficulties have to be met without easy variety routes on either hand. The climbing is interesting and varied, consisting of the lower part which is an open chimney, in which the "backing up" position can be but rarely assumed, while the higher part has a short chimney with a cave pitch and another chimney for "backing up." The belays are conveniently placed, and with proper care there seems no reason why the climb should not be made quite safe and become popular.

We cordially agree that "the climb is to be recommended," but we think the caution should be *not after rain*. Last Easter it was very dry when it was climbed, and this Easter, though cold, it was quite fine and dry.

CRIB GOCH BUTTRESS.—On the 17th April, 1908, W. R. Reade and Geoffrey Bartrum made the direct ascent of the Arête which bounds the Crazy Pinnacle Gully on the east.

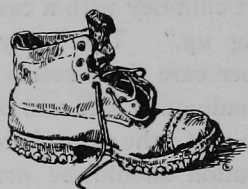
The climbing for 150 feet is easy, and the first difficulty consists of about 8 feet of overhanging rock. Good holds

took us over this obstacle, and climbing up a few feet we were able to creep behind a detached leaf of rock directly on the Arête.

We then squirmed up behind this leaf, which is about 10 feet high, and by taking an awkward step to the right were able to reach a narrow crack, which took us up a further 20 feet to the top of a small pinnacle where there is good anchorage. Continuing upwards for 50 feet, and gradually working to the right, we reached a point a few yards west of the cairn marking the finish of the buttress climb, described in Abrahams' *Rock Climbing in North Wales*, pages 302 to 313.

We found the climbing difficult, but the anchorages are so good and conveniently placed that the leader can go ahead with perfect confidence.

The same climbers then descended to Cwm Glas by the buttress climb.



## REVIEWS.

SCOTTISH MOUNTAINEERING CLUB JOURNAL. No. 55.  
January, 1908.

VOL. 10 of this excellent publication starts with a good average number. There are four articles—one by Mr. Ling on An Teallach, etc., a second by Mr. Raeburn on a good rock climb he discovered at Loch Avon, a third by a worthy K. C., entitled, "A Skye Highway"; he presumably describes his route as a highway from the amount of road metal he struggled over, ready for any enterprising road contractor to cart away. The fourth article, "Some Mechanics of the Rope and Axe," is by Mr. Gilbert Thomson, the President of the Club. Among the etceteras which make up the number a song entitled "Verses at Rosthwaite" is worthy of note. There is a verve and go about it which climbers will appreciate, and we believe we are correct in thinking that the feminine initials S. S. (-ess) conceal the identity of a lady climber.

SCOTTISH MOUNTAINEERING CLUB JOURNAL. No. 56.  
May, 1908.

A LARGE portion of this number is taken up by an account of how a party of three spent a day and a night on the Tower Ridge of Ben Nevis at the Club's 1908 New Year Meet. Like Browning's "Ring and the Book," the tale is told from three standpoints (1) the second man on the rope, (2) the third man, and (3) the search party. It was fortunate that weather conditions were more favourable on that particular night than is often the case at that time of year. The S. M. C. Guide

Book article in this number is concerned with Arran, and Mr. H. Macrobert gives a capital account of the climbing and scrambles to be had on that delightful island. The article is capitally illustrated.

CAIRNGORM CLUB JOURNAL. No. 30. January, 1908.

THIS number contains several interesting articles. The only one we would specially mention is that by Mr. Wm. C. Walsh, entitled "Camping on the Cairngorms." This describes the adventures of a party of three, who with a portable tent did battle royal with the contending elements. The huge distances in the Cairngorms, the lack of a suitable centre and the uncertainty of the weather make a portable tent in that district a great convenience. Might we suggest to the Cairngorm Club that the expenditure of a few pounds would make the famous Shelter Stone wind and water tight, to the great comfort of the devotees of solitude. Must a special Act of Parliament be passed for this purpose, or could the scheme be worked in under a new "Access to Mountains" Bill?

CAIRNGORM CLUB JOURNAL. No. 31. July, 1908.

FROM the Pennine Alps to Torridon we are led by a devious track, under the guidance of two clerics, two M.A.'s, an F.R.G.S., not to mention one or two ordinary mortals who rejoice in no letters. A number of general interest both to the climber and the layman.



## COMMITTEE NOTES.

AT a meeting on 19th June the Committee unanimously elected Mr. C. Myles Mathews, B.A., L.L.B., as Joint Honorary Secretary for the present year.

\* \* \* \*

AT the last Committee Meeting, the two ex-Presidents, viz :—Mr. W. P. Haskett-Smith and Mr. Wm. Cecil Slingsby, were re-elected extra members of the Committee. The following three gentlemen were elected members of the Club :—

Edward Evans, Esq., Dodder Vale Cottage, Orwell Road, Rathgar, Dublin.

Page L. Dickinson, Esq., 13 South Frederick Street, Dublin.

L. J. M. Coates, Esq., 25 Highbury Quadrant, London, N.

\* \* \* \*

AN ambulance has now been placed at Mr. Jones' cottage, on Ogwen Lake, near Bethesda, North Wales, similar in character to those at Wastdale Head Hotel, and at Gorphwysfa, Llanberis Pass, for use in case of accidents. Improvements in the stretcher arrangements have been made, giving greater security in carrying.



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