



Photo. by P. A. THOMPSON.

On the Eastern Buttress of Lliwedd.

T H E

CLIMBERS' CLUB JOURNAL.

VOL. XI.]

JUNE, 1909.

[No. 44.

NOTES FROM CAPEL CURIG.

By P. A. THOMPSON.

AT Easter the Royal Hotel at Capel Curig formed the headquarters of a party representing the Alpine and Climbers' Clubs, with several unattached members in addition. Good Friday was devoted to the Amphitheatre Buttress, Craig yr Ysfa, and the party feel confident that their time for this climb will long stand as a record. As, however, they do not wish to provoke any unhealthy rivalry in this direction, they have refrained from leaving any actual record of the time taken.

Possibly owing to the varied composition of the party the management of the rope followed no well recognised lines. At one pitch it was noticed that those in the middle reached the top first, whilst the leader made a good race up it with the last man. At an early point a photographer detached himself and wandered about taking photographs, to the great discomfort of the remainder, while the youngest member of the party caused some annoyance to the leader by drawing a distinction between anecdotes which were true and those which he was in the habit of telling.

On the following day two bicycles and a motor car brought the party to Y Gorphwysfa. Here the cyclists dis-

mounted, but, acting on the principle that no true mountaineer will walk when he can ride, the motorists proceeded along the cart track, which, taken in this way, ought certainly to come in the exceptionally severe class. On reaching Llyn Llydaw the car was abandoned and the party walked to the foot of the Slanting Gully Buttress.

With seven climbers on one long joined rope it was hoped that the leader would reach the summit before the last man was obliged to leave the *firma loca* on the screes, but this was not found possible. Lunch was taken above those rocks which an imaginative writer has likened to dinner plates. Most of the party deplored their failure to see the resemblance, but some of the least scrupulous maintained that they recognised it at once. During lunch the party was entertained by hearing how one of their number had fed himself and his men for many weeks in Tierra del Fuego on stolen sheep. As it had been observed on the previous day that the *raconteur* had utilised the natural advantages of the Amphitheatre Buttress to suspend himself in mid air, it was evident that occasional twinges of conscience prompted him to pay the extreme penalty for his misdeeds.

Above the lunch place the buttress merges in the face. Through not traversing sufficiently far to the right the ordinary route was not followed, and after the leader had climbed up a steep grassy corner for about 70 feet, the finish of the Needle Traverse Arête was joined. On arriving at the top it was reported to the leader that there was dissension at the tail end of the rope. He therefore prudently unroped and retired to a safe position from which to watch the remainder finish the climb.

On Easter Sunday the arrival of two other members of the party and the co-option of one more from the hotel, brought the number to a point at which it became necessary to divide. Two cars were now available, and with their aid Y Gorphwysfa was quickly reached. From here a descent by the road for a mile, and then a divergence to the left over rough grass and tottering stone walls, led to the foot of Dinas.

Môt, the huge rocky buttress which terminates the North Ridge of Crib Goch.

Two sections of the party reached the North Ridge by way of the Jammed Stone Gully, while R. Hudson, L. S. Salt, P. A. Thompson and Miss Hudson made the direct ascent by way of the West Gully, and Buttress continuation. This was the eighth anniversary of the first ascent of the buttress, for which the same leader was responsible. From the absence of nail-marks it was judged that the climb had seldom been repeated. Possibly the early place assigned to it in the classified list of climbs may have something to do with this neglect, but the party was unanimous in considering the climb more difficult than either of those that they had done on the two preceding days. As it is the easiest of any to reach from Pen y Pass, and of great value to those who wish to combine some climbing with an ascent of the Crib, a few details may not be out of place.

The top of the Nose is reached by the West Gully, a rectangular trough with steep slabby bed. The gully is somewhat difficult to enter as it starts with an overhanging crack, which may be turned by smooth slabs on the right. The corresponding gully on the East is not recommended as it consists largely of earth and loose rock.

Half way up the gully the ornithologist of the party was unable to resist the temptation to climb a small tree, presumably in search of his favourite buzzards. Above the sloping grass which forms the top of the Nose an almost sheer face rises for about 250 feet. The climb continues up the rib which bounds the grass on the East, really a continuation of the right-hand wall of the gully. This soon becomes difficult to follow, and a traverse to the right is made over a steep heather-covered slope. Good anchorage is found above this on a broad ledge. A slab with small holds has now to be crossed on the left. This looks more formidable than it proves in reality, and a ledge with a good belay for the rope is reached at the foot of an open chimney. Forty feet above is another ledge, and then a crack leads to a platform 15 feet

higher, on which the whole party can assemble. Here a magnificent belay ensures the safety of the remainder whatever may happen to the leader on the next and most difficult pitch. On the left of the platform steep shelving ledges bring the leader to a rather sensational position from which a stiff pull up over a corner lands him in a recess. Still inclining to the left he crosses a slab with two curious deep holes in it. He must exercise care in using these or he will find that when his feet are safely across the slab he is unable to extricate his hand and is forced to return. Above this slab a cave, from which he could not well be dislodged, allows him to rest after running out about 60 feet of rope in a diagonal direction. From the cave the gully which bisects the face can be reached by walking a few feet along a ledge, but it is more interesting to continue straight up on the buttress itself. The good hitches for the rope which will be found at the beginning of each difficult bit render the climb an eminently suitable one for fairly strong parties.

On Easter Monday bad weather prevented anything from being attempted till the afternoon, when a visit was paid to Twll Du. On Tuesday the conditions were even worse, and serious climbing was really out of the question. Two who had been foremost in prophesying rain took the next train home, leaving the rest filled with indignation at their pusillanimous behaviour. Three others made a heroic ascent of the North Buttress of Tryfaen, while the remainder, styling themselves experts, talked loudly of doing a deed on Lliwedd, but came back after nothing more desperate than a walk round Llyn Llydaw.

Though rain sadly interfered with the programme the holiday was most enjoyable. It is impossible to speak too highly of the management of the Royal Hotel, dinner being produced without a murmur at whatever hour the weary climbers chose to appear. The short remainders of the evenings were passed, not altogether without mutual recriminations, but on the whole pleasantly enough, in the subtle delights of Poker Patience played in consultation.

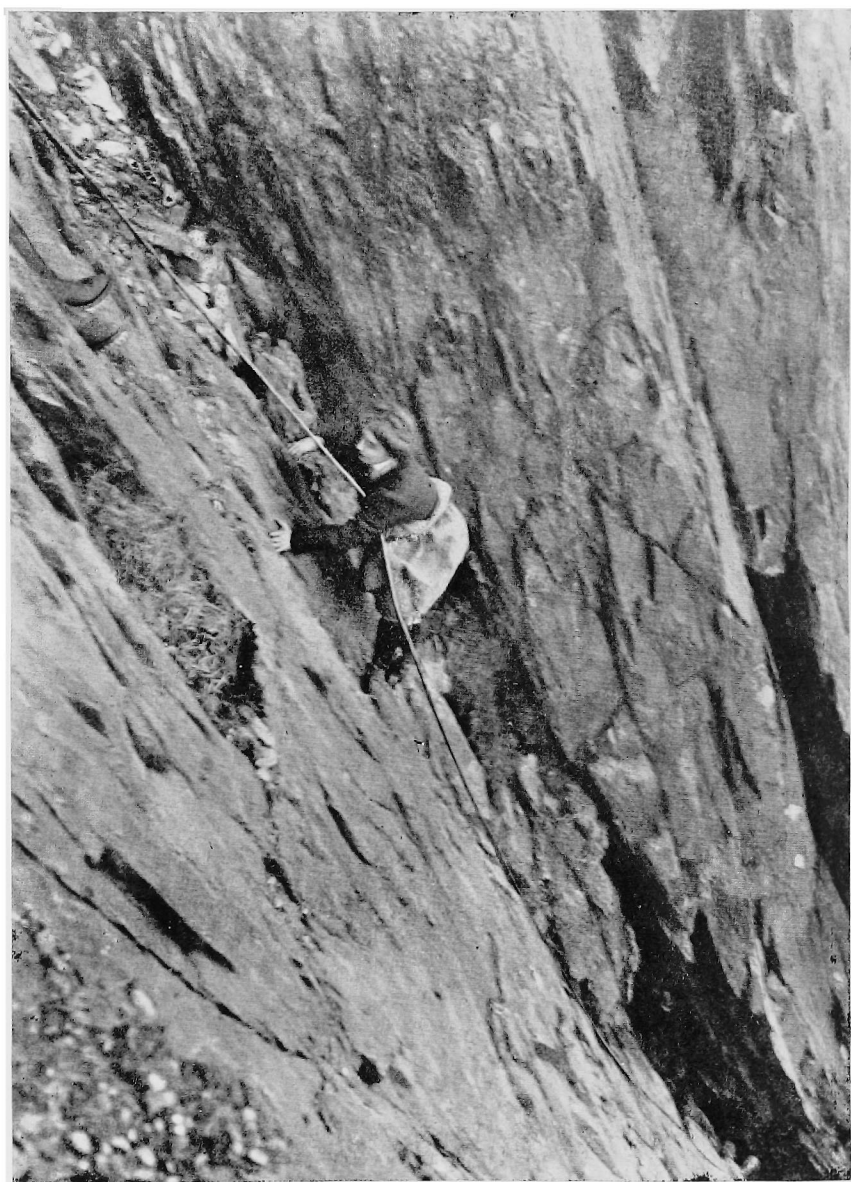


Photo. by P. A. THOMPSON.

The Slanting Gully Slab.

At Whitsuntide most of the party reassembled at Capel Curig. Great preparations had been made to defeat the mountains, and the equipment of the party was more than surprising. Switzerland and Itlay had been ransacked for the newest and lightest patterns of rope. The leader's boots bristled with a brave *ferrage* of U. H. U. nails, and some were provided with *scarpetti*, "indispensible for difficult ascensions." No self-respecting Geneva paper would have hesitated to describe them as "*Alpinists enragés*."

On Whitsunday the Slanting Gully was climbed by R. Hudson, H. A. Millington, L. S. Salt, P. A. Thompson and Miss Hudson. The tedium of the lower part of the gully was relieved by another party, who hurled down a large rock, with the usual sulphurous effect upon the atmosphere. The middle route on the slab was chosen, the second man joining the leader at the hitch in the chimney, which was touched at this point only. It may be noted that this was the exact route followed on the second ascent of the gully, Easter 1901, and not, as stated in *Rock Climbing in North Wales*, p. 263, the chimney route of the first ascent. The upper part of the gully was wet and greasy, and only the most enthusiastic gardeners would have felt really at home in it. It forms a disappointing finish after the exhilaration of the slab.

Miss Hudson climbed the slab without assistance of any kind. It is believed that this was the first ascent of the gully by a lady.

The party was kept indoors on the morning of Whit Monday, but about mid-day an expedition was made to Bettws y Coed on the car, to replenish the stock of inner tubes, severely depleted on the way up. That afternoon the whole party motored over to Ogwen and watched a party of three make the ascent of the Monolith Crack. Encouraged by their success the leader managed to struggle up the crack, which was thus climbed twice within an hour. His groans were audible far down the valley, and he was destroyed for all useful purposes for the remainder of the day.

Tuesday was a perfect day for climbing. R. Hudson, L. S.

Salt, P. A. Thompson and Mrs. Millington ascended the East Buttress of Lliwedd by Route II., which must certainly rank as one of the finest buttress climbs in England or Wales. After the Quartz Babe had been duly admired, the difficult slab was reached. Here the curious manœuvring to reach a small foot-hold on the right, described by all the authorities as the key to the situation, seemed to unnecessarily complicate the pitch. It is simpler in every way to proceed directly upwards from a shelving foot-hold which can be reached without the necessity of a shoulder but where the leader will feel safer if his foot is held by the second man.

After following the quartz ledge above the steep chimneys to the right, the party did not take the orthodox finish on the West of the Shallow Gully, as the Terminal Arête appeared a more fitting ending to the climb. On this easier ground certain members of the party expressed grave dissatisfaction at the amount of rope they were expected to carry, and criticised the methods of those responsible for this state of affairs as "sloppy." The lady of the party climbed throughout at a pace only kept within reasonable bounds by a lavish use of the cameras with which the rest had thoughtfully provided themselves.

Before a start could be made on the next day it was, as usual, first necessary to motor up to Y Gorphwysfa to recover property left there the day before. On this occasion it was the leader's boots which had to be retrieved. Nearly all the party then climbed the Pig Track Crack, a stiff boulder problem within 100 yards of the hotel. Then returning to Capel Curig the party broke up.

As showing the fascination of the sport it is reported that the leader was unable to stay away from North Wales for many weeks, and was seen to return there alone. The practice of solitary climbing cannot be too strongly condemned, and he is very reticent as to his most recent exploits, but it is believed that he only consented to revisit the district on the pressing invitation of a local Justice of the Peace.

TRAVERSE OF THE EAST FACE OF TRYFAEN.

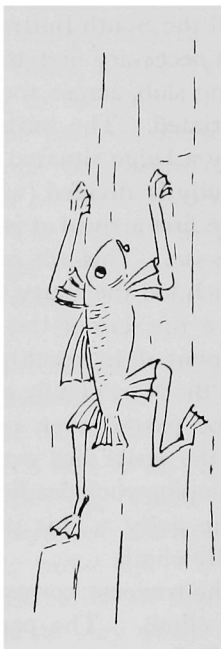
M. G. BRADLEY, S. Marples and Wm. James, starting from Bwlch Tryfaen, commenced the traverse from the ledge immediately above where the wall terminates at the south end of the mountain. They passed along its east face, making an ascending traverse until the South Buttress was reached. This was crossed, but it was necessary first to ascend directly for a short distance, as a long slab, across the direct route, was too wet to be safely negotiated. The buttress was left and the South Gully reached by a ledge situated on its right wall.

At this level the gully is divided (when looking up) by a marked rib of rock; the first arrived at is the true South Gully, the second is a cul-de-sac. This rib of rock was ascended, and a ledge gained which led the party to the small platform which is situated above the slab of the Central Buttress. A corner has to be negotiated to reach this. From here the traverse continues until the North Gully is reached: Numerous ribs of rock have to be passed over, one of these requiring some care; in places the route lies over steep heather; the gully is reached by a sloping rock leading to a small platform on the right wall of the gully. This point is above the last pitch of the North Gully climb.

The next part of the traverse corresponds to a large part of the North Buttress climb. The party ascended, did the traverse, and reached bellevue terrace, but instead of continuing directly upwards to the North Tower, continued the traverse by some easy scrambling to the notch and to the top of the Western Gully. After leaving bellevue terrace there is a short slab requiring a little care.

The day was wet, and, on this account, the climb may have

appeared a little less easy than it is in reality, but it is certainly of sufficient interest to give enjoyment to any party. It commences from the Bwlch, and so saves the descent to the terrace, and also includes the best part of the North Buttress climb.



REGARDING SOME "OGWEN" CLIMBS.

By HENRY BISHOP.

As the idea of noting some points on climbs in the Llyn Ogwen district occurred to me after an ascent of the Hanging Gardens gully, a reference to this climb may perhaps come first. The comparative absence of nail-marks is evidence that the climb is not done as frequently as its interesting character warrants. Loose spikes, etc., are, therefore, met with in the five or six little pitches forming its lower portion. Above what I take to be the "hanging gardens," the small cave-like pitch with chockstone, though of no great difficulty, needs care, and leads one to the final (80 ft.) chimney, the upper portion of which, however, partakes more of the nature of a crack than a chimney. Some distance above the foot of this, there is now a hole through which the rope may be threaded, and from here the leader has to run out about 50 feet of rope in order to be safe at top of the pitch. The holds, not too plentiful in places, are almost entirely absent just at the exit; and I would not be at all surprised should a leader, accustomed only to "moderate" climbs, be unable to finish the pitch. As a matter of fact, I was told of one such, who, having spent some time at the exit, felt able to finish only after passing his rope behind some earthy obstruction present in the crack. I am not alone in thinking that this climb should be regarded as of greater difficulty than is implied by its position in Messrs. Abraham's classified list.

At first sight, "Little Tryfaen" would hardly appear capable of furnishing even an amusing scramble. (Geographically speaking, the name should perhaps refer to the small crag between the bristly ridge of Glyder Fach and the south peak of Tryfaen; but the "Little Tryfaen" of the present narrative

is situate in the extensive back-yard of Gwern-gof-Ucha, the foot of the "peak" being but a few minutes' walk from the main road). However, there is on it a really nice scramble. Having reached its foot, we are enchanted to perceive a magnificent cairn, spiky as to the apex. The climb is not up this, as might be supposed by the uninitiated; it simply indicates the stiffest way of reaching the ridge—an overhanging narrow corner. A few feet nearer Tryfaen is a moderate way up the face, thence along slabs to left; still farther along we have the infants' route. All roads meet above the corner, whence we keep strictly to the ridge, forty feet of free rope being convenient in one place. The interest may be said to end at the point where a grassy channel leads down to the right. Do this and the Milestone buttress as a "first day."

Three climbs on the Central buttress of Tryfaen have been recorded in print:—the Right route, the Middle route, and that described in "Rock-climbing in North Wales," which may be termed the Left route. I am at present concerned only with the Left and Middle routes; and those unacquainted with the latter may be interested to have details (an article, by the way, on the subject, by J. W. Puttrell, appeared in the *Manchester Guardian* of Sept. 24th, 1906), which will serve to elucidate what follows:—

Leader, J. A. Stoop. Start at cairn 20 yards to right of Messrs. Abrahams' climb, up 90 feet rock-ribbed chimney, projecting boulder at top. Up steepest part of succeeding ridge for 80 feet. Then up another 50 feet of ridge. Continue up ridge, etc., practically in straight line, then few bilberry bushes to steepest part of buttress, up which go for 50 feet, then slightly left, to another steep ridge, equally high, divided into two parts, upper of which nearly vertical, and stiffest part of climb. (Slab of Abraham's route level with this vertical part, and some 30 feet to left.) Then scrambling to foot of final chimney which is identical in both climbs.

On the occasion of the first ascent, we found the upper part of the "steep ridge, divided into two parts," in a somewhat disintegrating condition; but, going over the climb with two friends, last Easter, I found on investigation that disintegration had so far advanced that the ridge at this point was really unsafe; and, going just behind, on right, climbed up two stiff corners, breaking out (left) of the second one and so gaining top of flaky part.

Although, after the start, Messrs. Abrahams' route, up to the "prominent detached pinnacle," is rather indefinite (*vide* "Rock-climbing"), the succeeding portion, commencing at the slab behind this pinnacle, is much superior to the corresponding stretch (second part of arête, etc.), on the Middle route. The slab itself (which, like the top block of Napes Needle, and for the same reason, is becoming more difficult with every ascent), may, in wet weather, be regarded as a really stiff pitch. On the other hand, the Middle route, up to the level of that "prominent pinnacle," has the merit of directness, and the climbing on it is very much better than on the corresponding section of Messrs. Abrahams' route. Undoubtedly the best way is to combine the climbs, *i.e.*, Middle route to level of pinnacle, thence 30 feet left, to foot of slab on Left route, and so to finish.

My re-visit to the Middle route revealed, by the way, a curious confusion of climbs. I hoped to introduce my friends to a climb entirely new to them; and all went well until we had almost finished the initial 90 feet chimney. Then my companions began to think they recognised their surroundings. As we progressed, their "intelligent anticipation" of the points rather flabbergasted me—suspicion changed to certainty; and it eventually transpired that they had twice, during the last year or so, done the Middle route up to the level of the pinnacle, *under the impression that they were doing the lower portion of Messrs. Abrahams' route*. Of course, they had at that level traversed off to do the slab. They informed me that they had all the time wondered in what respect the route was "rather indefinite!"

NEW CLIMBS ON GLYDER FAWR.

CENTRAL BUTTRESS (*i.e.*, between the East and Central Gullies).

In September, 1907, Messrs. G. Barlow, H. B. Buckle, and A. H. Doughty climbed this buttress by starting at a convenient opening in the rocks a few yards up the scree on the east of the lowest point of the buttress. The climbing was easy at first; then after gaining a quartz ledge that stretches across the buttress a complicated zig-zag route was taken over the steep rocks above. There are doubtless several interesting ways of overcoming the difficulties of this section. A prominent spike of rock was now seen on the skyline, and by making up directly towards it a steep and rather shattered arête gave a pleasant finish to the climb.

WESTERN BUTTRESS (*i.e.*, between the Central and Western Gullies).

Although shorter than its eastern neighbour, this buttress gives a more difficult and definite climb. In making an ascent last Whitsuntide, Messrs. G. Barlow and H. B. Buckle started up an ill-defined shallow trough which leads up on the immediate left of the actual ridge-line of the buttress. After climbing for about 150 feet they passed beneath a slender splinter of rock pointing obliquely to the left, and 15 feet higher they gained the true ridge by an easy pull up on the right. The way on was now evident: a very narrow toothed arête of splendid rock gave a delightful scramble, terminating only too soon on the scree slopes above the gullies.

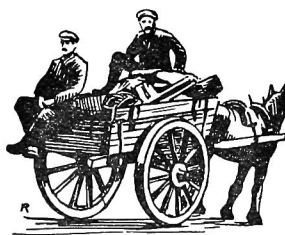
These two climbs are probably not more difficult than the Milestone Buttress of Tryfaen, but they require greater care.

THE PILLAR CHIMNEY—CLOGWEN DU.

After the climb last described, the same party traversed into the so-called Nameless Cwm (well known to many as Cwm Gribin), and made what appears to be a new climb on Clogwen Du.

This route is to the left of the well-known gully, and the first section consists of a curious ledge, or rake, which cuts obliquely across the face from left to right. This ledge contains a couple of small and rather grassy pitches, and leads one directly to the foot of the "grass crowned pillar" mentioned by Messrs. Abraham in "*Rock Climbing in North Wales*," p. 150. This remarkable pillar is severed from the main rock by a very narrow and deep crack. The 50 ft. chimney so formed is the feature of the climb, and it was found to offer an interesting route to the top of the pillar. The climbers were surprised to find no cairn on the summit, a deficiency which may perhaps be attributed to the scarcity of loose rocks in the vicinity. A small cairn having been constructed, the pillar was left by a short traverse into the amphitheatre on the north, from which the top of the crag was gained by a scramble up the slabs in the left-hand corner.

In point of difficulty this climb might be classed with the Clogwen Du Gully (right branch).



KNOTS WITH THE LAY.

By OSCAR ECKENSTEIN.

GREAT advances have been made in some branches of mountain craft of late, but there are others in which there has been little or no progress; authors have a tendency to repeat, without investigation, the statements of other authors, no matter whether correct or not. It may even sometimes happen than an author, writing with an air of authority, repeats a statement when it is tolerably evident that he does not understand it. Sometimes also a new error makes its appearance, and then takes root, one author after another copying it with the greatest fidelity.

As a minor, but not unimportant, branch of the art in which this has occurred, I would mention the tying of knots.

Now, I do not propose to consider, in this note, which knot is the most suitable one for a given purpose; that is a debatable point, and opinions differ. But there can be no doubt that the knot adopted should be tied correctly, *should be tied with the lay*; and that is my present subject.

There is no reference to this point in the earliest report on Alpine ropes (*); the first reference I can find to it in (English) Alpine literature is in the 1892 report (†), page 7. In Badminton (‡), C. T. Dent states quite correctly: "Knots

* "Report of the Special Committee on Ropes, Axes, and Alpenstocks." *Alpine Journal*, Vol. I., September, 1864, p. 321; also issued as a separate report.

† Alpine Club. Report of the Special Committee on Equipment for Mountaineers, 1892. (A separate report, but generally bound in with Vol. XV. of the *Alpine Journal*.)

‡ The Badminton Library. Mountaineering by C. T. Dent. Longmans, Green and Co., 1892.

should always be tied 'with the lay' of the rope" (1st edition, 1892, p. 101; 3rd edition, 1900, p. 107). In the All-England book (*), Claude Wilson remarks (p. 93): "It is not only important to select the best knots, but these should be tied 'with the lay'." In "British Mountaineering" (†) C. E. Benson remarks (p. 144), with reference to the beginner: "He will, at any rate, have mastered all those simple knots given on pp. 34, 35, so that he can tie and untie them all with ease. He will have learned, too, to tie them with the lay of the rope."

Neither of the above authors, however, explains what is meant by the *lay* of the rope, how a knot tied "with the lay" differs from one tied "against the lay." And if the beginner desirous of learning the correct way of tying knots, uses as a guide the figures shown, he will, in a number of cases, be woefully misled. It may therefore be useful to him if I point out the instances in which the knots shown are tied correctly, and those in which they are wrong. I will only consider English authors, for obvious reasons; but I may incidentally remark that foreign authors seem to be just as careless, or just as ignorant.

1864 Report: No. 1. One half the knot is tied with the lay and the other half against. No. 2. One half the knot is tied with the lay and the other half against. No. 3. The knot is tied against the lay. No. 4. The knot is tied against the lay.

1865. H. B. George (‡): part of the rope shown has a right-hand lay, and part has a left-hand lay. It would be difficult to imagine anything more absurd.

1892 Report, pp. 4, 5: all the knots shown are tied correctly.

1892. C. T. Dent, 1st edition, pp. 100, 101; 3rd edition, pp. 106, 107, all the knots shown are tied correctly.

* The All-England Series. Mountaineering. By Claude Wilson. George Bell & Sons. 1893.

† British Mountaineering. By C. E. Benson. Routledge & Co. 1909.

‡ *Alpine Journal*, Vol. II., June, 1865, p. 96.

1893. *Claude Wilson*, pp. 93 to 97: the double overhand knot shown on p. 93 is correct; so are the double figure of eight knot shown on p. 96 and the clove hitch shown on p. 97. The fishermen's bends shown on p. 94 are all wrong. As regards the bowline shown on p. 96, I. and III. are correct, while II. is quite wrong and gives a variety of fancy knot, which I believe is only used in heraldry. In the middleman loop shown on p. 95, a wrong way of making this knot is shown, resulting in a bastard knot partly with the lay and partly against.

1907. *G. D. Abraham's* (*), plate facing p. 33, also shows a wrong way of making the "middleman noose" (†), resulting in a bastard knot partly with the lay and partly against.

1909. *C. E. Benson*, pp. 34, 35, shows figures which appear to be printed from the same blocks as those used by Wilson, and accordingly contain the same mistakes.

Now, what is meant by the phrase "tying knots with the lay?"

The standard Alpine-Club rope consists of 3 strands twisted together. Each strand thus forms a helix, just like an ordinary corkscrew or the thread of an ordinary screw; these always have a right-hand thread. The strands are "laid" together to form the rope, and the way in which they are laid together is called the "lay." Now, if we begin to tie a knot, we similarly "lay" together two ropes, and each rope then forms a portion of a helix. The general rule is this: if the strands of the rope used form right-hand helices (as is the case with Alpine-Club rope), then in that part of the knot, which is subjected to the greatest strain (‡), the two ropes must each form a left-hand helix.

For if not, then the strands do not bear on each other

* *The Complete Mountaineer*, by George D. Abraham. Methuen & Co. This book has the fault of bearing no date; but I believe it was issued in 1907.

† Any technical reader who understands knots will fully appreciate the humour of calling this the "middleman noose."

‡ I use the word "strain" in its popular sense.

properly, the knot will not hold so well and the strands will cut each other more readily. In other words, the knot becomes less secure and is also materially weaker.

Conversely, if we use a rope the strands of which form left-hand helices, then in that part of the knot which is subjected to the greatest strain, the two ropes must each form a right-hand helix. I have only seen one ordinary-size Alpine rope which was made in this way; but I have often seen thinner ropes and cords, with such a lay, used on mountains as an extra rope or for such purposes as "*abseilen*," and it is to be noted that the thinner the rope, the more important the additional weakening produced by tying a knot against the lay.

It is just as much, or as little, trouble to tie a knot with the lay, as to tie it against the lay, provided you know how to do it. It is just as easy, or as difficult, to learn to tie a knot correctly, as it is to learn to tie it incorrectly. *A knot tied with the lay is from 5 to 30 per cent. stronger than a knot tied against the lay.* Why then waste part of the strength of your rope by tying knots against the lay?



DERBYSHIRE PENNINE CLUB NOTES.

MAY, 1909.

DURING the three months previous to the date when these notes go to press, the members of the Derbyshire Pennine Club have allowed the opportunities for outside scrambling to outweigh their inclination for cavern exploration. A certain amount of work has been done, but it has been more the individual efforts of members than the result of organized meets of the Club. Two meets have, however, been held, the first being on April 9th, when W. Smithard and party made some interesting excavations on the site of a Roman Camp at Conegrey, near Wingfield.

On May 8th a meet was held at Wharnccliffe Rocks, when Bishop introduced a good many members to the millstone grit. Owing to the absence from Derbyshire of many members at Easter, the meet arranged for excavating at Deep Dale was postponed. Several parties spent the vacation at Wastdale and Ogwen Cottage. As regards the ascent of the High Tor Gully at Matlock by Bishop's party in Nov., 1908 (and referred to in these notes as a second ascent), it has since transpired (vide *Rucksack Club Journal*, No. 3), that the gully was climbed by Messrs. Hoessly and Forbes Boyd in August, 1908. This, of course, must be regarded as the second ascent.

Midway between Hulme End and Waterhouses (the termini of the Leek and Manifold Light Railway) is Beeston Tor, a wonderful limestone cliff rising over two hundred feet above the bed of the river Manifold, which in wet weather flows round its base. It is in the inner depths of this great rock that a fissure cave penetrates, and which members of the Derbyshire

Pennine Club have during recent years paid considerable attention to. The entrance is soon negotiated, and the first chamber is readily reached, from the opening of which there is a splendid view of the surrounding hills.

The cave was first examined in July, 1907, by the writer (F. A. Holmes of Buxton) and the Rev. G. H. Wilson of Lincoln, who spent considerable time in examining some of its many chambers and passages.

No attempt was made at digging on this particular occasion, but good work was done in endeavouring to tabulate the extent of the interior. They came to the conclusion after little research that it had been at one time inhabited, and that also at one period it was a rendezvous of wild beasts and other animals. It was also certain that the river bed in former times was considerably higher than it is now, inasmuch as in nearly all the passages were to be found mixed in with the cave-earth pebbles of various sizes, and comprising an immense variety of specimens which at one time formed part of the bed of the river Manifold. How long ago it would be difficult to say, seeing that the difference between the bed of the river and the main floor of the cavern is approximately seventeen feet.

It is likewise certain that the present floor of the cave is considerably higher now than it was ages ago, from the fact that a lot of soil, stones and other matter had been washed in when the river was in flood, having the effect of filling up the various cavities.

In August, 1908, other visits were made to Beeston Tor by the original explorers, together with Mr. P. Pearson of Sheffield, when further bones and pieces of pottery were found, and photographs taken of the interior for the first time.

On this occasion Pearson gave particular attention to a narrow passage in the floor, leading as was supposed

to another chamber, but time did not allow of complete investigation.

The latest and most complete search was made early in the present year, when Messrs. Puttrell, Winder, and the writer entered into a thorough examination of the interior and entrance to the cavern.

The weather was frightfully bad—there had been a heavy snowstorm, and the river Manifold was swollen to an unusual degree, overflowing the banks, and making access to the cave difficult.

The explorers on this visit managed to do a considerable amount of spadework in the cave on systematic lines, all the deposits being carefully noted. The trenches again yielded further finds of bones in a bewildering variety.

Pendant stalactites, which had been detached from the roof in past ages, were to be found in varying layers, and a stalagmitic crust about 1 inch thick was discovered at a depth of 14 inches in one part of the cave, but was not general in other areas examined.

One of the days Puttrell and Winder devoted to a thorough examination of the roof and passages in the far interior. The fissured walls are quite narrow in places, and allow of good back and foot work in climbing, whilst the roof in one part extends to a considerable height, and may lead out to a point high up in the face of the cliff, as an air current was discernible, which became stronger the higher the climbers got.

There is very little percolation of water into the interior of the cavern at the present time, and there are few stalactites of any size.

The bones and other articles have been submitted by the writer to Professor Boyd Dawkins, who has very courteously classified them. He expressed himself as much interested in the work of excavation carried on by the Club.

The bones he identified as follows:—*Bos longifrons*, sheep or goat, badger, dog, rabbit, horse, hog, horned sheep, wild cat, stag.

The bones of the stag consist of the lower jaw, with the teeth in an excellent state of preservation. This was found at a depth of about 13 inches under the stalagmitic formation previously referred to.

Two bones which the Professor kept for further investigation he thought were human remains. The pottery that was unearthed proved to be interesting specimens. Professor Boyd Dawkins tabulated them as follows:—

- (1) Fragments of hand-made pottery, one piece black with burning, also showing on the back fluting or attempts at fancy work. This specimen might have belonged to mediæval times.
- (2) Example of pottery, with hard paste burnt red inside, and showing finger marks.

The two coins found near the surface have been put before an expert, who thus reports:—

“They are apparently silver pennies of the reign of *BURGRED*, King of Mercia, from 853 to 874 A.D., and bear inscription as noted—

BURGRED REX

That is—King Burgred.
Coin, size about 6d. piece.

DIGA MONETA

That is—Diga, the name of
the coin maker.”

F. A. HOLMES.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE Editor regrets that the account of the Annual Dinner of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club was accidentally placed under the heading Rucksack Club in the last number.

* * * *

MR. C. E. Benson, who is now editing Baddeley's "Thorough Guide to the English Lake District," will be grateful to members for any corrections and suggestions.

* * * *

THE Editor will be glad to receive notes of any climbs done by members during the summer.

COMMITTEE NOTES.

THE following gentlemen were elected members of the Club, at a Committee Meeting held on 21st May :—

Micah Gedling Bradley, Jr., West Lodge, Mansfield,
Notts.

Alfred Denis Godley, Magdalen Cottage, Oxford.

Marcus Beresford Heywood, 5, Belgrave Terrace,
Newcastle-on-Tyne.

John Hirst, Siemen's Dynamo Works, Stafford.

Capt. John Perry Farrar, D.S.O., Brayfield House,
Newport Pagnell, Bucks.

George Herbert Leigh Mallory, Pythagoras House,
Cambridge.

William Warwick James, F.R.C.S., 2, Park Crescent,
Portland Place, W.

* * * *

MEMBERS are requested to note that the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. C. B. Moss, has changed his address to c/o Wm. Finke and Co., 27 Clements Lane, E.C.

* * * *

MR. Moss will be glad to receive a note of the present address of Mr. A. Gibson Cheney, Mr. H. S. Thompson and Mr. Mark Pole, in order to forward copies of the *Journal*.

REVIEW.

THE CLIMBS ON LLIWEDD. By J. M. ARCHER THOMSON and A. W. ANDREWS, members of the Alpine Club. With Illustrations and Diagrams. Issued by the Climbers' Club. London: Edward Arnold & Co. 1909. Price 5/-.

WHEN it was rumoured some years ago that the Climbers' Club was contemplating the official issue of a series of guide books to the mountain climbs in these islands, speculation became not unnaturally rife as to what form the project would assume when its incarnation had been accomplished.

The first volume has now appeared, and the names of J. M. A. Thomson and A. W. Andrews on the title-page are a guarantee of the excellent character of the first offspring of the scheme. The volume deals with a cliff that is second to none in Great Britain.

To some of us it seems but a few years ago since Lliwedd was invested with the mysterious and awful sanctity that is ever apt to enshroud the unknown. But as the veil has been gradually drawn aside, as crag after crag lost its reputation for impregnability, the feeling of superstitious reverence has given way to a more rational one of admiration and the precipice itself has become resolved into a number of geographical problems, none the less interesting because many of them are hard to define. The elusiveness of the mountain remains, only our own attitude has undergone a change. Lliwedd can never sink to the commonplace—it will ever retain its charm for the lover of mountains, and will hardly lose its impressiveness even for the mere capricornic gymnast. It abounds in spots where the "Romantic environment

conveys to the mind an impression of isolation at a great height" (p. 35), while the "super-excellent" climbing on many of the East Peak routes will probably continue to inspire respect, even after dinner, and in the smoking-room.

The guide book, as befits its subject, is no mere finger post to indicate with verbal red paint where the climbs are, and how they may be ascended. Lliwedd does not lend itself to this kind of treatment, for many of the most interesting routes are by no means entirely obvious. Thus, even with the book in hand, and aided by the excellent plans and diagrams it contains, a party may not always find themselves at or on the route they desire. Of course the naturally well-marked climbs are easily recognised, but it is hardly possible—perhaps it is quite impossible with a complex face like that of the great Snowdon cliff—so to indicate every route that he who reads may easily run. This is not said by way of disparagement of the book—far from it—but it is a tribute to the character of the mountain itself, and it may serve as an indication to those who have its acquaintance still to make, of the interest which there awaits them.

We think the authors are to be congratulated on the way in which they have discharged their difficult task. They have steered a course which clears them alike from the charge of dullness and of unnecessary verbosity. The descriptive notes of the several routes are valuable, and ought to enable any party to judge how far any particular climb is for them a safe or prudent one to attempt. At times, perhaps, there is a tendency to expand into something like journalism, and we may not at all times precisely agree with the estimations given of the relative difficulty of some of what we might term the advanced climbs. But taking the descriptions as a whole, and judging them from the standpoint of a personal acquaintance with most of the routes, they are very well and carefully rendered as far as the difficulties and other qualities of the climbs that are of real importance are concerned.

Sometimes, however, we think additional details might well have been given. Thus no mention is made, in the short

account of the Crack and Slanting Wall climb, of the two chimneys which lie immediately above the Crack, both interesting and neither easy. But it must be remembered that some of the routes have been very seldom climbed, and details which subsequently become well known easily escape observation during the excitement of a first ascent.

The book is admirably illustrated by plans and photographs, whilst the less serious parts of the text find their analogies in drawings, some good and others amusing. In our judgment, however, the work would have been better for the omission, at anyrate, of two of them (facing pp. 22 and 54), which appear to be more suitable for a monthly magazine than for a serious book on climbing.

The book is attractively got up and nicely bound, but experience must show whether the artistic brown cover will stand the ordeal of a wet gully as well as a more waterproof if less elegant, one would do.

J. B. F.



T H E

CLIMBS ON LLIWEDD.



By J. J. M. ARTHUR THOMSON
and A. W. ANDREWS . . .

Issued by the Climbers' Club. With Numerous Diagrams
and Illustrations. Edward Arnold, London.

THE first of a series of Climbers' Guides undertaken by the
Climbers' Club. Lliwedd is unequalled in the variety of
climbing which it offers to experienced mountaineers. The
Guide describes an almost entirely new field, and should be
welcomed by all who take an interest in British climbs.

Price 5/- ; Post Free, 5/4.

To Members of the Climbers' Club, 3/6 ; Post Free, 3/10.

GORPHWYSFA,

PEN Y PASS, LLANBERIS, NORTH WALES.

Mrs. OWEN.

Admirably situated at the summit of the Pass. Special advantages given to climbers. Moderate and comfortable.

