

THE
CLIMBERS' CLUB
JOURNAL

1967

THE CLIMBERS' CLUB JOURNAL

Edited by
NIGEL ROGERS

1967
THE CLIMBERS' CLUB, LONDON

This is the ninety-second issue of the
CLIMBERS CLUB JOURNAL, Vol. XV,
No. 2 (New Series) edited by Nigel
Rogers.

Business Manager :

D. N. BALDOCK, 52 West Cromwell
Road, London, S.W.5.

Copies of the Journal may be obtained
from Mrs. M. F. Walker, 22 Asmons
Hill, London, N.W.11, price TWELVE
SHILLINGS and SIXPENCE. Cheques, etc.,
should be made payable to the
Climbers' Club and sent to D. N.
Baldock, address above.

Published by the Climbers' Club in
1967, printed by the MAYOH PRESS
LTD., Carnforth, Lancashire.

© The Climbers' Club, 1967.

THE CLIMBERS' CLUB JOURNAL

Vol. XV. No. 2 (*New Series*) No. 92

1967

C O N T E N T S

	<i>Page</i>
Eighteen Months in the U.S.A. ... F. A. WEDGWOOD	133
The Shawangunks M. H. WESTMACOTT	141
Traverse of the Gods PETER GILLMAN	147
A New Route Year A. J. J. MOULAM	163
The Last Days of Summer M. BAKER	170
Climbing in Turkey J. G. R. HARDING	176
The Other One, by Himself F. FITZGERALD	182
A Short Siesta on the Upper Slopes	186
Icy Wasters A. WRIGHT	190
A Report on the Meetings of the C.P.B.S.R.C. R. JAMES	193
Out of Season Climbing in India H. SALES	199
New Climbs and Notes	204
Editorial	268
Correspondence	270
Obituary : R. A. Mallet	271
C. B. C. Handley	271
Reviews	273
Officers of the Club	296



EIGHTEEN MONTHS IN THE U.S.A.

F. A. WEDGWOOD

IN LATE 1963 I started a job at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston. At first, New England did not seem very promising from the climbing angle ; the literature was scanty, with brief mention in the British Journals of the Shawangunks and White Mountain cliffs. The language of mountaineering seemed to be subtly altered, and consist of many phrases such as 'bush-whacking,' 'back-packing,' and other unbelievable things. Of course there was the legendary Yosemite, where engineers climbed bolt ladders, and Alaska, where people snow-shoed up snow domes, and recently some natives had even got up Everest — but the image of American mountaineering that had been firmly grafted in my mind was based on a paragraph in the Sierra Club Journal : participants of future meets were asked to state the flavour of ice-cream they would like for each air drop. With these preconceptions it was somewhat depressing on my introduction to the M.I.T. Outing Club to be greeted with amazement that anyone in Britain climbed flat ?

Before climbing with the club on their local crags, I was told about the various grades of climber and the relevant qualifications : Novice, Belay, Leader and A.R.C. Leader (Advanced Rock Climbing). Practical tests and exams were needed for each advancement, and penalties existed for acting above one's status. I became unpopular for suggesting that this theoretically admirable system was similar to that adopted by the Russians. Surprisingly, this rather cramped attitude towards climbing had produced some very good rock climbers. I was lucky to share a flat with Phil Nelson, one of the best of them, and he was able to steer me through the technicalities of becoming a leader. I suspect that he, an A.R.C.

leader himself, was a slight rebel against the regime and I have seen him commit such sins as failing to wear *two* gloves when belaying, and drinking in camp. After buying a nine-seater Plymouth 'Ranch Waggon,' which made weekend climbing possible within a 400 mile radius of Boston, we climbed during most weekends.

Two hundred miles away towards New York are the Shawangunks, a long escarpment of cliffs mentioned elsewhere in this journal. We came here regularly, and here I passed my Leader's test. I also met John Reppy and Sam Streibert with whom I had climbed in Wales ; they were now doing the very hardest routes on the Gunks.

Nearer Boston and to the North are the White Mountains, reaching 6,000 feet and containing several granite cliffs. Whitehorse consists of gentle holdless slabs covered with confidence-routes. Nearby Cathedral Ledge is much steeper and more impressive, with several excellent routes of which the hardest were put up by John Turner while he lived in Canada. Cannon Mountain is the largest cliff in the White Mountains : 1,000 feet high and half a mile long. Being further from the road and having a reputation for looseness, it had not been much climbed. It turned out that it was no looser than to be expected with an unexplored cliff ; the climbing being similar to Yosemite in all respects but weather. 200 miles North West of the White Mountains are the Adirondaks which have several more large outcrops of granite : Poke-o-Moonshine, Chapel Pond and Wallface. I had only one weekend there and never saw Wallface, which is reputed to be large, steep and six hours from the road. The other two were similar to Cathedral Ledge and Whitehorse, again with the hard routes put up by John Turner from nearby Montreal.

We made many visits to Cannon, since Eastern climbers were just beginning to take an interest in it and one climber, Earle Whipple, was proposing to write an article on it, describing the routes. My first visit was in mid-winter with John Reppy, before I believed in the White Mountains' reputation for extreme weather, or realised that John was an extreme climber. He wanted to do a winter

ascent of the longest and hardest route on the face : Conn Course. We approached in a snow storm and were avalanched off the first pitch. Having lost an ice-axe and several other bits of equipment, we retreated on snow shoes in a gathering blizzard, wearing every scrap of clothing including face masks. At least we had learnt how to get to the foot of the cliff ; the New England woods are unpleasantly tangled, and off the track they are impenetrable. I did Conn Course later in the spring with two people from M. I. T. It is a splendid 1,000 foot route with about two V.S. pitches. We also did the Whitney-Gilman route, a classical 600 foot razor arête. Between these two routes stretches the main part of the face : 600 feet of overlapping slabs, then a band of overhangs and finally 400 feet of less steep slabs. It was obvious that there were several excellent possibilities for new routes, and at least two impossibilities : peg and bolt routes. A week later, Phil and I climbed one of the obvious routes which went surprisingly easily — about 800 feet of mild V.S. This gave us a good chance to look at the two much more direct lines which filled us with awe. We returned next week-end with Sam Streibert and several pegs to find the place swarming. The Outing Club, having made an early start, was at the foot of Whitney-Gilman ; Earle Whipple was exploring way over to the left, and there at the foot of the big routes was John Reppy. With him were Williams and McCarthy, hardmen of the Vulgarians, Creag Dhu of Eastern U.S.A. That was a great day : the Outing Club spent all day saying their climbing catechisms and getting benighted ; John spent the day in slings while McCarthy pegged up the huge overhanging arch which started their route ; Earle put up a short new route which seemed to involve the world's biggest boulder trundle. We gave up our original plans and attacked a more trivial line, hoping to attain a magnificent cracked slab high up on the face. We reached it with bongs at the ready only to find that it needed knife blades, and looked horrid anyway, so we climbed round and up to complete a somewhat wandering new route. In the morning it rained, and we set off late while everyone else licked their wounds. Of the two big lines on the cliff, the Vulgarians had been trying the right hand one. This was the more

impressive and obviously artificial. The left hand one looked reasonable except for a completely blank patch at 500 feet. This looked as if it would require bolting. We set off after lunch in a light-hearted way, hoping to get a closer look at the blankness. A vague buttress started the route, and Sam did a hard lead up the left hand corner to the top of it. To the right, the Vulgarians' route arched away across huge exfoliation slabs. We traversed left and Sam did another hard lead up some awkward mantleshelves, and we joined him at a very exposed ledge. Surprisingly, faults led straight up and, after a long pitch, I could see the blank section: there was a climber's dream. A wrinkle, invisible from below, led up it, giving Phil an easy but unprotected lead past this apparent crux. We were now half way up the cliff and it was getting dark. Instead of roping down we tried a traverse which we had noticed earlier. After 200 feet this joined our earlier route, and we rushed down this in evening drizzle, abseiling the last 100 feet. Sam was married next week, so we called the route Sam's Swan Song. A fortnight later, Phil and I returned with the Westmacotts, repeated the first half and found a way up the upper half. This must have been the longest high standard route in New England until last year, when Chouinard and Williams finished the Vulgarians' route in a day and a half.

Winter in New England is less rewarding than the summer. Although there can be heavy snowfall, it is usually so cold that it remains as powder until late spring. About the only winter climbing area is Huntington Ravine on Mt. Washington. This is somewhat similar to the Comb area of Ben Nevis, but with trees nearly up to the foot of the gullies. There are several excellent gullies which fill with very thick green ice owing to the excessive wetness of the area. Pinnacle Gully in particular is a continuous 400 foot strip of water ice, while Odell's Gully is more like a glacier than a gully. Harvard Mountaineering Club, who are the ice experts, have a cabin at the foot of Huntington Ravine and invited several of us there for the winter weekends. Another person at M.I.T. who was keen to try the Huntington climbs was John Bowsman, who had done a lot of climbing in Alaska. Although the climbing is

similar to that in Scotland, conditions can be very different. Weather and avalanches are hazards. Climbs are usually done in full gear : overboots, windsuits, etc., and one has to use snow shoes to the foot of the climbs as skis are useless in the woods. The worst time is often had at the top of a climb when one emerges on to the summit plateau ; windspeeds of up to 250 m.p.h. have been recorded on the summit of Washington. We were lucky, but although we never had bad weather it was always cold, with 35 degrees of frost on one occasion. Pinnacle Gully was our most enjoyable climb ; hard work due to continuous step cutting, but nowhere very difficult. On one pitch, John's stepcutting tapped a source of high pressure water ; a fountain soaked him, turning his windproofs into a suit of armour and rubbing out all his steps. This apparently is a fairly common hazard. Belays relied heavily on ice screws, but these were discredited by a fatal accident in the gully that winter. It seems that the ice is too brittle for really good ice belays.

200 miles further north, in the wilds of Maine, is Mt. Kathadin which is much steeper and more mountainous than Washington and would give good winter climbing if it were not so inaccessible. We reached it by an eight hour drive followed by an eight hour walk. Unfortunately we found time for only one visit, during which we climbed what looked the easiest way up the main face by a ridge, rather like Tower Ridge without the gap. The icy slabs on either side promise long hard routes, and I believe that one or two parties have looked at them.

As British climbers look to the Alps for real mountains, so Eastern Americans look West. The distances are large : Rockies, 2,000 miles ; Yosemite, 3,000 miles ; Alaska, 4,000 miles. However, in a good big car people can sleep comfortably and you can average 1,000 miles per day. Phil and I did two such journeys in our summer holidays, to the Tetons and the Colorado Rockies in 1964 and to California the next year. Our trip to the Tetons was unfortunately short. These peaks are much less glaciated than the Alps, but the climbs seem longer owing to the lack of high huts. We only found time for easier routes up Grand and South Teton, and also did one harder climb, Irene's Arête, on Disappointment

Peak ; this was superbly steep and reminiscent of the Yellow Edge in the Dolomites. Before returning to Boston, we moved 500 miles south to Phil's home at Boulder, where we festered awhile. Boulder, where Leyton Kor lives, is a rock climber's paradise with crags only 10 minutes from the town centre and 14,000 foot peaks not much further away. We only did one climb, the Maiden, which is climbed mainly for the photogenic 100 foot abseil from its overhanging summit.

Yosemite seemed to be as much a mystery to Eastern climbers as it was to the British a few years ago. Vulgarian hard men had visited it and returned with fearsome tales of smooth slabs, convulging chimneys and failure to get off the ground. Phil and I arranged to meet Sam and John Reppy there for a fortnight in June, 1965 — too late, the pundits told us, because by then the sun would fry us even if we did get off the ground. We arrived in the valley late one evening after three days and nights of driving. Camp IV is the traditional camp for rock climbers, and I was reminded of the Biolet in Chamonix where a barrier of grot insulates climbers from the rest of humanity. It is an impressive spot, however, looking across the valley to the great face of Sentinel Rock and surrounded by impossible boulder problems. There were usually a few of the experts around so camp life could be very entertaining. Chuck Pratt and Layton Kor were preparing for an attempt on Dihedral Wall and the great mental strain of a climb of this size was evident. This attempt failed on the first day when one of their supply rucksacks burst. Later Chouinard and Herbert turned up and started up a new route on El Capitan. We didn't see them again until our last evening, eight days later, when they came back triumphant. We quickly realised that we would not do any multi-day routes with such a short time in the valley : the physical and mental training required would take too long. Apart from the heat, and this could be avoided by judicious timing, the climbing was excellent. Our best route was the East Buttress of El Capitan which is Grade IV, 5.8 and A2 in the Yosemite formula : i.e. about 12 hours climbing and hard V.S. The climb has great atmosphere as it goes steeply up the side of El Capitan, giving tremendous

views of the Nose and North American Wall where the great routes go. In 2,000 feet of climbing there were only two artificial pitches. Even these have been climbed free, although this involves such extremely hard moves that it probably saves no time. This freeing of artificial pitches is a pet perversion of some American climbers: we watched one man spend a whole morning trying to get up an A1 climb of 100 feet free. He had a good peg in 20 feet from the ground and was taking regular falls on it from a little above. He assured us that the pitch would be 'at least 5.10' when led. However, one could argue that continuous falling on a peg is using it for more violent aid than simply pulling up on it. He has since climbed the West Face of the Albert free in less than 24 hours, so presumably practice makes perfect. But I pity his seconds. Fired by his example we determined to climb Yosemite Point Buttress free (IV, 5.8, A2). This is a fairly long climb and we were caught by the sun. Just after Phil had led the real crux of the climb, I was involved in an A2 pitch which I had been assured went free: half way up I was exhausted and fell off. Purism evaporated and I learnt again how delightfully relaxing easy artificial climbing is.

At the base of the big cliffs are many relatively short practice routes. We climbed a lot of these through lack of moral fibre to do bigger routes. The hardest technical standards we achieved were 5.9 and A4, 5.9 cracks were certainly hard V.S. and the slabs were desperate; A4, provided that you are not in a hurry, is delightful. You can spend hours chipping away at tiny bottoming cracks and tying off bundles of pegs, usually comfortably in balance as Yosemite climbs are seldom more than vertical. I think we miss a lot in this country where artificial climbing consists to a large extent of clipping in to other peoples' pegs, praying and pulling up. Perhaps we now sublimate our engineering instincts with the subtleties of jammed nut technique.

I was due to fly to England in 10 days time, and still had some work to finish in Boston, so we had to leave. Anyway it was getting late in the year and the locals — who work in the winter and climb all summer — were moving on to the Tetons and other

higher grounds. The drive home was varied by visits to Mr. Whitney, Death Valley and Las Vegas where a lucky throw paid for most of the trip and prevented these last days from being an anti-climax. My next job in the U.S.A. will be in the West !





THE SHAWANGUNKS

M. H. WESTMACOTT

Rock-climbing-wise, the New Yorker is much better off than we are in London. He is not allowed to climb on the Palisades, visible on the west bank of the Hudson, in case he should fall off and his family sue the State of New Jersey for a million dollars. But they were rotten, anyway and the Gunks are only 75 miles away. For ten dollars, and his signature relieving the owners of any responsibility, he can climb there all year. It's very good value.

Our first visit was not in the best of conditions. It was a January weekend just after we had arrived in the States, and rather cold, when John Wharton and Al Alvarez fetched us from our New York hotel. We drove along the meaningless network of motorways leading out of Manhattan, picked up the New York State Thruway, and went north to New Paltz. Here we could see a great escarpment some miles long, five miles to the west and facing us. The cliffs rise to 300 feet above the trees, and unlike most crags seem to get steeper as you get closer to them. Dry powder snow lay thickly on the ground, but there was little on the rock – too steep. We were impressed.

John and Al are two Shawangunk experts, and John is about seven feet tall, so when they had finished with us we were even more impressed. I can't now quite remember in what order we climbed, but they introduced us to a desperate climb known variously as Adam's Preamble, Glypnod, or Suspenders, which involved an enormous overhang with a very poor escape into a holdless crack. 'Probably about five-point-nine,' said John. I took him at his word and called for a very tight rope. For light relief we did Beginner's Delight, not at all a beginner's climb since like most Gunk climbs it is very exposed, but not too hard; on a

summer's day and with the pitons in place it is no more than V. Diff at any point (5.2). There's a pleasant slab, which makes you think, and an easy overhang at the top. On this occasion Sally was struck smartly on the head by an icicle dislodged by the sun from the overhangs above; this was before the days when we began to use crash hats. As we drove back to New York, we were even more nostalgic about North Wales. At least when you don't like the look of a climb you can go for a good traditional mountain walk.

After this experience we never went back in the winter. Not that the conditions are normally at all rigorous on a sunny winter's morning, but we were concentrating on learning to ski, and had no weekends to spare. The Gunking season proper begins around Easter, lasts until June, when most people find it too hot for climbing, and is resumed in the fall, except when New York State closes the woods because of fire danger. Another danger in the fall is from 'hunters' – shooting syndicates – but as far as I know there is no recorded instance of a climber being winged. When the spring came, we started to make regular visits, to find our bearings and get to know the small band of New York climbers. We made many friends and began a love affair with the Gunks. Sally no longer yearned after North Wales every weekend, but acquired a list of ambitions to be worked out in New York State. The regular routine was to arrive on Saturday morning, climb and watch others climbing – these are sociable cliffs – perhaps swim and sunbathe beside a rock pool one or two miles away, sup with the boys at Charlie's or Emil's, and sleep out at a chosen spot in the woods. We always had a tent, but never had to use it except as protection against insects; the only necessary precautions were to avoid poison ivy and to keep food in the car, safe from marauding raccoons.

The Gunks were made to be climbed. The rock is said to be 'quartz conglomerate,' a very hard kind of sandstone incorporating quartz gravel, with characteristics quite different from grit or the soft Harrison's type. There are few good vertical cracks, but the

rock is strongly layered horizontally ; consequently there are virtually no spike belays and very few threads, but a lot of tailor-made piton cracks. On the most popular section of the cliffs (the Trapps) many of the climbs start with a hard boulder problem just to get off the ground, and an open steep slab for 150 feet or so ; the last 100 foot section is broken by lines of overhangs, and the routes snake up, round, between and over them. The overhangs are the most delightful surprise. They are not all easy, but they are all easier than they would be on any other type of rock I've met. No one would dream of tackling a substantial overhang without a peg right by it, so on climb after climb you can safely enjoy the sensation of leaning well out, reaching up for one of those marvellous horizontal holds, using the feet in that clever way that comes naturally when there's a good handhold, and in a few moves stepping up to an airy stance on the edge of space. You then find of course that the hardest move is still to come and there aren't any piton cracks above the overhang.

Pitons are part of the way of life. The lack of natural belays and the strong lead given by the German and Austrian climbers, Fritz Wiessner and Hans Kraus, in the early exploration of the cliffs, make this inevitable. Add to this the American devotion to technology and high regard for safety, and it is not surprising that many of the climbs are grossly ever-pegged. There has recently been a reaction to this, and climbs have been stripped by some jealous individuals with the idea of making it harder for second-rate climbers to go up first-rate climbs to taking advantage of pitons already in place. Chromolly pegs, developed originally for Yosemite granite, were just coming to Eastern climbing when we arrived, and these expensive and easily removable pitons are not often left behind.

There is a very strict convention which makes it a positive offence against decency to touch a piton, other than when using it strictly for protection, on any climb normally done free ; even trees are out of bounds to the puritans. The convention was strange to me. Brought up only to put in a peg when things are getting a bit

desperate, I don't have much compunction in holding on to the karabiner once it is available. At the Gunks, however, people tend to take and use a lot of iron even for an easy 200 foot climb, so the convention is reasonable. Of course one comes across a few climbers with much more equipment than sense, but this phenomenon is not confined to the States. Sally and I were definitely under-equipped when we arrived, the only things we had to show the technologists being nuts, which were very seldom of use at the Gunks, and P.A's., which were no good at all. However, we soon appreciated the advantages of American techniques in American conditions, and I learnt more about pitons than in sixteen years elsewhere. Not for the American expert the fumbling for a suitable peg that so often tires the old-fashioned British climber on a hard pitch, the struggle with a stiff karabiner or the twist in the rope that pulls the leader back. Great attention is paid to the best methods of carrying equipment, and to such important details as the correct placement of karabiners in pitons.

The organized parties at the Gunks are also very keen on practical training in the use of belays, and some clubs will not allow anyone even to second a climb until he has experience of holding a man-size weight falling from above, still less to lead. This has its ludicrous side to the slap-happy British (it is a shock to be solemnly asked if you are a Qualified Second), but there is a lot to be said for it. Falling at the Gunks must in fact be as safe as falling anywhere ; the general angle is so steep that you are very unlikely to hit anything on the way down, and you need seldom be much more than 15 feet from a runner. The old-fashioned Welsh V. Diff is horribly dangerous by comparison. Naturally some of the younger leaders tend to accept falling off as a normal event. This is a thing I have never got into the habit of doing, and my one fall at the Gunks was the straightforward result of over-confidence. I was so pleased with myself at getting up a 5.8 known as Pas de Deux just after my fortieth birthday that I repeated the climb a few weeks later, surmounted the crux, rushed at the next section which was still a good V.S. and fell head first twenty feet. No damage, except to pride.

Pas de Deux is a slab climb, a good one, but not in the same class as the longer routes that lead up into the great overhanging roofs (ceilings, in American parlance) of the upper part of the cliffs. One of the best is Hans' Puss (5.7, a hard-ish V.S.). The usual starting slab leads to a steep corner, which is climbed out of balance but with good handholds to a spectacular traversing ledge. This crosses right in the middle of an overhanging section of the cliff, and gets steadily more exciting until it is possible to step round a corner to a small belay stance on the extreme edge. The ambience is such that practically everyone feels impelled to put in at least two pegs. When the delicate job of changing over has been done, there is a steep and apparently holdless slab to cross ; after one has teetered around for a bit, holds of a kind do appear and one moves fearfully across to a line of weakness and a belay. The third pitch consists of a series of exhilarating little bulges or overhangs, and leads without excessive difficulty to an enormous ledge. Here the climb proper ends, but if you are feeling strong you can walk to the left and finish up the main pitch of the Arrow (5.8). The interesting part here is a slab with gritstone-type problem in the middle – 300 feet above ground, and only made possible for most leaders by the fact that a bolt has been inserted for a runner just when things become really dicey. A one-handed mantleshef is called for, on a steep little wall, with two fingers of the other hand finding at the last moment a notch that gives little help.

There must be about twenty climbs of the standard and calibre of Hans' Puss on the main cliffs of the Gunks, and many other fine climbs, both easier and harder ; not many worthwhile routes below V. Diff, however. One of our favourites was a Hard Severe, Shockley's Ceiling (5.5), originally put up by a Nobel Prize-winner. This has two very good pitches, the first an extremely steep cracked wall, with excellent holds, and the second starting with the most daunting of overhangs ; the exposure is tremendous, one leans right out and back to reach the high handholds, and the move up is quite hard ; definitely a pitch to do on the bottom end before leading it.

We were not very adventurous during our two seasons, con-

centrating on the known routes listed in Art Gran's 'Climbers Guide to the Shawangunks' and taking part in only two new ascents. New climbs on the Trapps, the best and most easily accessible cliff, are now rather hard to find, but there is a lot of unclimbed rock elsewhere. We could have done with at least one more season in which to knock off a few more of the existing climbs of a reasonable standard and to break some new ground. Back in Wales, we talk nostalgically of the Gunks, and would go there next weekend if there was half a chance. There may not be any mountain walking near New York, but who wants to walk when there's such wonderful climbing?

TRAVERSE OF THE GODS

PETER GILLMAN

THE GREAT ADVANTAGE OF SWANAGE is that it is 135 miles from London and thus just within reach for a day's climbing. To the east of Swanage the cliffs are chalk but for four miles to the west they are steep limestone, mostly between 40 and 130 feet high. Unlike the sandstone outcrops nearer London they have a definite feeling of the wild. Most of the cliffs in their broad westward sweep are visible from Swanage and on a clear day you can see boats far out in the English Channel. On a rough day in winter spray bursts over the top of the cliff and climbing is out of the question. When climbing you must take tides into account and storms can blow up quickly. Two climbers were drowned in January when a big wave dragged them into the sea. Access is difficult and escape in some places impossible. But often the weather over Swanage is fine although it may be raining ten miles inland. On a good day the sea and the sky give the climbing here a feeling of spaciousness and freedom.

The cliffs have been unevenly developed. The most popular area is just west of Durlston Lighthouse, known as Subturmoral Ledge. Here much of the loose rock has been cleared away – elsewhere new climbs tend to finish up in substantial rubble or even holdless earth. For that reason traversing climbs are popular and sensible, particularly as the cliffs are mostly overhanging and traverse lines are well protected from falling rocks.

There are a number of good routes east of the Lighthouse. Until recently climbing was forbidden here, but new access agreements have been worked out. The physical access to the climbs can be difficult. Last summer Layton Kor, Bev Clark and I had a mad scramble among boulders dodging waves to reach the foot of a climb. We remained dry until the last dash of all, when to the

others' delight I was stranded yards from safety with a wave bearing down on me. It was so big that I crouched behind the nearest boulder instead of on top of it so that I wouldn't be taken out to sea when the wave bounced back off the cliff. Fortunately the day was hot and I steamed dry during the climb.

In between these two areas, and directly below the lighthouse, is a 1,500 foot stretch of cliff with only one route up it, and that can only be reached by climbing down it first. From the sea there is an obvious traverse line that is just at the point reached by a high, high tide. The ledge has been scoured out of the cliff by the sea and is extensively overhung. The cliff itself is pierced by zawns and swings in and out dramatically.

In 1963, John Cleare, Rustie Baillie and Ian Martin came home from the Alps where Rustie had just made the second British ascent of the Eiger Nordwand with Dougal Haston. The cliff below the lighthouse was then totally unknown ground – no-one had even made a reconnaissance by boat. The three reached sea level east of the lighthouse, climbed westwards for seven hours, and were finally stopped by a wide zawn which they called the Black Zawn from the colour of the rock. Fortunately it was no later in the year than September so Rustie took his clothes off, tied on a 150 foot rope, and swam across, landing near the easy way down to Subliminal Ledge. They rigged up a rope pulley and hauled their gear across, John following in the sea. Ian Martin had left the climb at the one possible escape route halfway along, a chimney now known as Scotsman's Retreat. John and Rustie named the climb "Traverse of the Gods," partly in Rustie's honour and partly because John said "it was a hell of a traverse." They reckoned it had 3,000 feet of climbing and was X.S. and A2. Since then it has been climbed perhaps eight of nine times, and has been downgraded to 2,000 feet, H.V.S. – the vertical artificial pitch can be avoided by a very thin traverse.

I became a journalist in August 1964 and started climbing in May 1965. As I enjoyed climbing I naturally enjoyed writing about it. In November John Cleare and I went to Switzerland to do a "back-

ground" feature for the coming attempt on the Eiger Nordwand Direct. In February and March I reported the climb for the Daily Telegraph. "Now that you're writing about climbing we'd better get you up some climbs" said John when I came home. "We'll start with Traverse of the Gods. It's the longest serious climb in Southern England." John has always taken an avuncular interest in my climbing, and his eyes lit up as he described the pendule, the tyrolean traverse, the irreversable bridging move across a zawn, and finally the swimming pitch. To add to the enticements he declared he would photograph every inch of the climb.

It was to be another Cleare climbing extravaganza, with death-defying ropework and using all conceivable items of modern American equipment, for the sake of some passing glory in the C.C.J.

We were to spend the whole summer on the climb, finally completing it on December 12th, and ending with what can only be described as an epic, due largely to my own inexperience.

In the summer Dougal Haston, Mick Burke and Layton Kor all said they wanted to do the climb. The first party actually to arrive on the cliff top comprised John, myself, Royal Robbins and Tom Patey. Tom was nursing the hand he had impaled on an iceaxe in the Alps and was to provide musical accompaniment only. But as we walked past the way down Subluminal Ledge a girl ran up to us and said: "There's someone shouting down there." At sea level we found a boy unconscious, half in the water. His partner was supporting his head. He had been climbing a difficult crack with no protection and had fallen thirty feet. It was the end of our day's climbing. We eventually evacuated him by rubber dinghy and then the Swanage lifeboat. By the time we got back to the cliff it was too late to start the climb.

We came down again a month later. This time John and I had with us Roy Smith, just home from the British Andes Expedition, and Dave Condict, who climbed Rondoy with the 1963 L.S.E. Andes expedition. Roy had with him Barry Cliff, but Barry didn't

think he would climb as he was still nursing the back he broke in a flying accident in 1964.

We arrived at the eastern end of the cliff at one o'clock. John looked like an overdecorated Christmas tree, laden with his hardware and cameras. The London Sub-Aqua Club were sunning themselves on the rocks and seeing us uncoil our ropes, some came across. "Rescued a climber from the sea here two weeks ago" said one. "More dead than alive when we got him out." We thanked him for his kind thoughts.

The first obstacle was a vertical wall undercut by the sea. Half-way along the wall was a nose which jutted out above a zawn. Roy who was leading, had to climb free to the nose, fix a rope there, and then continue to a wide ledge on the far side. The rest of us were to pendule across the zawn.

Roy, climbing in a vest, white trousers which looked like long johns, and boots, appeared contemptuous of the problem. The traverse line followed very thin cracks high on the wall and climbing delicately he reached the nose quickly, and then continued to the ledge. Dave said he would prefer to climb free too but John instructed us to pendule for the sake of the photographs.

The traverse line to the hanging rope was just above the waves. Dave never really had much chance. John told him to tie a loop in the rope for a foot and to attach a hero loop with a prussik knot to the rope for a hand. Dave did so and swung. But with his foot in the loop he could not jump for the ledge and went straight into the water up to his waist to cheers from the skin-divers. He untangled himself from the rope and ignominiously climbed on the ledge. He found a place in the sun and took off his masters and socks to dry them out.

John went next, using only the hero loop for his hand and just caught the ledge with his feet at full stretch. "OK Pete, you come next" John shouted. I was annoyed already because before even trying the first of John's rope manoeuvres I had been soaked by a large wave as I stood innocently on the first stance.

I advanced along the base of the wall. The situation was like a whirlpool, drawing you further and further into its clutches so that any retreat became more and more impossible. At the edge of the zawn you had to lean out and clutch the rope. From that moment you were committed. The holds were precarious, forcing you to turn to the greater insecurity of the rope itself. I stopped thinking about the problem, grabbed for the rope, and swung. For a moment, as the ledge came near, I thought I had made it. But my flailing foot just failed to get a hold. Roy on the ledge held me firm on the climbing rope, pulled me in the necessary couple of inches, and I grounded gratefully. Barry decided not to follow on account of his back.

Chuckling happily, John continued ahead with Roy, climbing unroped. The ledge now ran round the back of two cavernous zawns – “the sort of place you expect to find a dead sailor washed up, lashed to a spar” said John. Water dripped from the roof and the rock was black and wet. Dave and I roped up and I led round the first cave on to the nose separating it from the next. Dave followed and I led again into the back of the second cave and out again. The handholds on the ledge were good and there were usually good footholds below it, although they were sometimes wet. There followed a third cave. We came out into sunlight on a wide ledge at the back of which was an overhanging crack.

The traverse line petered out here and we had to go up the crack and strike along higher up. A fine bridging move on small holds took you off the ground and then by placing your left foot up near your ear you were on top of a large block – a mild V.S. move that gave a peculiarly strong feeling of achievement after the continual sideways scuttling of the traversing thus far.

Having gained height, we now had to lose it again. We walked along a ledge for several yards and then traversed gently down a slab to below the original line we were on and perched on a nose. Roy now had to lead up a crack in a corner, hand traverse along the top of the left-hand side of the corner, and slide on to yet another nose, offering a very constricted stance which to compound our

difficulties was covered with guano.

Roy climbed the pitch successfully and ensconced himself away from the mess with his legs dangling over the edge. I followed. The crack offered narrow finger jams but I followed a natural tendency to back up the left-hand wall of the corner. At the top I found out why this was the wrong thing to do : I now had my back to the holds I was to use next. I turned round precariously and launched myself off on the hand traverse. When I arrived at the stance I found that there was only two feet of space between it and the roof that overhang it.

"You've got to sort of back in head first" said Roy." "There are some holds on the roof." I did as I was told and slithered onto the stance through the biggest and most nauseous pool on the ledge. "Smells a bit, doesn't it, Pete?" said Roy. I sat in that pool for the next two hours.

There was no room for anyone else on the ledge, or so we thought, and Roy set off on the next pitch. The obstacle was another zawn about 20 feet across, with wave-swept rocks at the bottom. The idea was that Roy should perform a diagonal abseil on to a block halfway down the back of the zawn, do an unpleasant stomach traverse along a guano ledge running along the opposite wall, and thus gain a substantial ledge on the far side.

There were two ropes to manage – the climbing rope and the abseil rope – as well as the one I had climbed on. Roy set off on the abseil but came back after a long time saying that the rope was jamming. He thought he would try a hand traverse along the continuation of the ledge we were on and climb down the back of the zawn on to the block. Eventually he came back from that line too. "You'll have to do it, John" he called.

John came round and joined us on the stance, a heap of tangled ropes and bodies. I moved away from the scene of action while John and Roy sorted things out. Roy muttered to John : "I thought I was going to come off then." "What was that Roy?" I asked. "Nothing, Pete," said Roy.

It was nearly half an hour before John was ready to set off. He did the abseil and remained on the block while Roy followed him and led through. John wanted to be in a good position to photograph the next piece of circus tomfoolery.

Roy had by now reached the far nose and was securing the end of the rope he had climbed on. Dave and I, squashed on to our stance, passed the other end through a rusty ring piton, coiled it, and threw it across the zawn to Roy. "OK Pete, that's it, across you come." "You're joking" I told him. "On what?" I refused to contemplate a tyrolean traverse – whatever it eventually turned out to be – until the rope was fixed to a newer-looking piton. Everything had to be undone and Dave fixed the rope to another piton round the corner of the nose.

"Right Pete, it's quite easy. Just hang on to the rope with your hands and hang your feet round it as well." John gave his instructions from the block at the back of the zawn, his vantage point for taking pictures of terrified climbers silhouetted against the sky. Dave belayed me and I set off.

At first it was easy – the rope sloped downwards towards Roy's ledge. But as I passed the halfway mark the rope sagged more and more, and so the last few feet were uphill. To make things more difficult for myself I had wrapped my feet too tightly round the rope and this counteracted the pull of my hands. Roy strained a hand out, I managed to hunch myself forward into a semi-sitting position and grabbed his hand, and he pulled me in.

John wound his film on happily. "You . . . rotten swine" I yelled at him. "You " "Great action shot, Pete" said John.

Dave, on the wrong side of the zawn, admitted he wasn't looking forward to the acrobatics, but came across nonetheless. Roy and I had managed to tighten the rope and gaining the ledge was rather easier for him.

We now tried to pull the rope across. It had, of course, stuck.

It was six o'clock and it would be dark in under an hour. There were still three to four hours climbing and Dave and I had to return to London that night. John and Roy were staying overnight and John said they would come back for the rope the next morning. We were now just below Scotsman's Pinnacle. Two escape routes lay on either side of this – one, Scotsman's Retreat, on the far end of a hard severe pitch, the other, Rhodesian's Retreat, on our side of the pitch. The two routes meet halfway up the cliff. We took Rhodesian's Retreat.

The Swanage rock lived up to its reputation. John hurled down a few boulders as he went up and Dave, who came last, was narrowly missed by one which the rope dislodged. It was half past six when we were all up. It had remained perfectly fine all day and there was a red sunset.

The months passed. We made plans to return to complete the climb on several occasions, but they were always thwarted by pressures of work or bad weather forecasts. "We can't let it run into next year" said John. At the end of the first week in December the forecasts were still consistently bad. But on Saturday, December 10th a partial clearing was forecast and we arranged to meet at Swanage the next morning.

I travelled down with Dave, and John brought Ian Howell, fit and enthusiastic from the Andes and Yosemite, and his friend Adrian Lang. We went down Scotsman's Retreat at eleven o'clock. The sea was calm but the sky in the west was dark. By coming down the wrong chimney we had missed out a pitch so Ian led across it followed by myself and Dave and we then climbed it back again. It was a pitch typical of Swanage – a deep recess for your hands and a sloping ledge for your feet. John said that on the first ascent Rustie had so disliked the look of it that he had climbed down on to the ledge below it, run across dodging the waves, and climbed up at the other end. He had been put off by a formidable bulge halfway along but as it turned out it was reasonably easy to balance past this. John stood below us on Rustie's ledge to take his pictures. Since our last visit he had got married and his wife

had kicked £800 worth of Nikon cameras over an 800 foot cliff in Sutherland. He now had the latest waterproof Nikon, designed – unlike our crabs, pegs, and peg hammers – to withstand the corrosive action of salt.

We now approached what John said was the hardest pitch on the whole climb – the one that he and Rustie had avoided at first with an artificial pitch of A2. The barrier, as usual, was a zawn. Ian climbed down to a block at the back of the zawn followed by Adrian and myself – the principle being to pack as many people on to the stances as we could to provide front and back belays wherever possible. John looked into the back of the zawn and laughed : we were crushed together like rush-hour passengers on the London Underground.

The hard pitch followed. As usual, there was a recess for hand-jams but this time literally nothing for your feet. Two thirds of the way along the pitch was a corner which would provide rest. Ian climbed up out of the back of the zawn to the traverse line and placed a runner high up. He stuffed his arm into the recess, pulled his legs up to almost the same level, and monkeyed his way leftwards, pausing in the corner and then pushing on to the nose that formed the next stance. Once again its height was severely limited by an overhang. Adrian went next, tackling the pitch differently : he jammed as far out along the crack as he could and then pendulummed on his arms, just reaching the first foothold.

John arrived in the back of the zawn, told me to wait until he had his camera ready, and then sent me off. “It’s easy for the first move” he said, with his usual bonhomie. I had to bridge across the corner to unclip from the runner. Adrian’s method seemed to be the better one. The jams were poor and the rugosities all sloped the wrong way. But brooding on the problem only wasted strength and I swung. My left foot hooked on to the first foothold and I gained enough purchase to bring my arms across. Another move and I was into the corner. It wasn’t very restful as there were no footholds there either. “You’ve done it once, you’re in the corner” lied John. The overhang above the stance prevented me from

pulling straight over and I had to move out round to the point of the nose. Ian looked blandly at my hands as they scrabbled for a hold among the coils of rope and his feet. I failed to find one, sank back, and then heaved over the edge.

Dave chuntered round next, finding the same difficult in finishing while Ian and Adrian continued ahead. The next pitch was a wider zawn which looked easier than it actually was. The holds were good but awkwardly spaced and the shelving ledge that provided footholds was wet from the water trickling down the cliff wall. The pitch was probably just V.S.

It ended on yet another nose, after which came a longer pitch of some sixty feet. When I arrived Ian and Adrian were already at the far end and I waited as Dave and John came round. The pitch consisted of three typical recesses and should have been much easier climbing than I made of it. You can practically walk into the first recess but I mistakenly traversed with my hands where my feet should have been. I baulked the last move long enough for John to tell one of his interminable jokes about the Pope. I decided to go just as he came to the punchline, which I missed, thus inflicting the whole joke on the party again at the other end of the pitch.

The end was in sight from the next stance. An easy ledge led to a narrow zawn just beyond which was a rope hanging down the cliff face. It had been drizzling earlier but we had been sheltered by the overhangs. Although it was dry now the sky was darkening. The tide was coming in. Fortunately I did not realise it would be another four hours before I was at the top of the cliff.

John explained that we had now come to the irreversible move. "Alvarez had to be hauled across but he's short. Ha ha!" he said. The zawn was about five feet wide. "You just fall over until your hands can reach the opposite wall, then you bridge across, move your hands down and jam them into the crack, bring your back foot over, monkey round into balance, and then hand traverse to the end" he said proudly. "It's very simple" he added, with the confidence of a man who knew he was big enough to make the

initial move.

I only arrived in time to see Ian flexing his drained hand muscles at the far end of the pitch. Adrian fell across the gap, found he had his feet wrong, came back, and then bridged across at full stretch. He pulled across successfully, extended himself on the hand traverse, and then flexed his muscles too.

Now my turn. I didn't so much fall across to the opposite wall as make a reluctant flop. I found myself staring at the waves that were tumbling into the back of the zawn 20 feet below. I brought my foot across. It was a good twelve inches short of the foothold just below the crack where I was to jam my hands. I came back. "It won't reach, John" I said. "Step a bit lower down this side" said John. I did, and strained across, thigh muscles aching. "Put the back of your heel on that nick just below where your foot is now" said John. I did so, an act of utter faith. Poised above the sea, my stomach level with my chin, my left foot pawed for the hold. One lunge, two, and then it touched. "I've got it, John" I shouted. "I've got it."

My moment of glory lasted perhaps half a second. There was a baffling hiatus and I found myself five feet below the traverse line suspended above the sea by the ropes. "For God's sake don't pull me back" I thought. But Ian and Adrian won the tug of war and I got hold on the rock on the other side of the zawn. I climbed up to the traverse line, did the hand traverse, and pulled over on to the ledge. "I hope you got that" I shouted back to John. "I was too busy hanging on to you" John shouted. "Perhaps it's just as well" I said. Dave arrived next. "I thought if Gillman can reach it I'll be all right" he said - he is four inches taller than me. "But it was full stretch." John, last across, was delighted with the way things had gone.

It was 3-30 and we had come to the end of the climb. In summer you follow a ledge system for about 25 feet until it arrives at water level, strip down to your masters, and then swim across the Black Zawn. The first man takes a rope to haul everybody's gear

across. The way up the other side is easy.

But this was December. Ian said he'd do the swims so that John could take a picture but we managed to talk him out of it. "The way out," as Dougal Haston says in *Eiger Direct*, "was up."

John produced from his rucksack his pair of magic Jumars, souvenir of the Red Wall television extravaganza. Only Ian had used them before. I had never used Hiebelers or prusik loops before either. I assumed it was like standing in slings – all right once you got used to it.

The rope hung down from an overhang above us. John went first, steadily but rather slowly. It was about seventy feet to the top of the cliff. The rope was laid, not as easy for jumaring on as perlon, and the clamps did not appear to slide up the rope very easily. John rested a number of times and negotiated the overhang by reaching up over it, clipping a hiebler on to the rope, and pulling up on that. He disappeared.

By now it was half light and had begun to rain. The wind was blowing up and waves were sweeping powerfully into the Black Zawn to our left. Ian gave me a lesson in the essentials of jumaring – weight on one sling while you push up on the other clamp. I had the usual total confidence that anything an experienced climber told me to do would work.

I made progress at first, although it was very slow and I was obviously using too much arm strength. The rope swung about and the clamps seemed very hard to push up. Then my foot came out of one of the slings and it was difficult to tie it on again. The rain was heavy now and the rocks glistened in the light of the head-orch shone from below. The waves were lashing against the cliff. I had swung away from our ledge and was now dangling free above the irreversible zawn.

It would be tedious to detail the way I gradually lost control of the situation. My feet started to splay outwards and I danced on the rope as if it was being shaken violently from above. I got a

foothold on the rock face and stood there only just in balance. I had a sling between the top jummar and my waist which was meant to allow me to rest but it was too loose. I knew I had to get off the rock face and in trying to get back into position on the rope I flipped upside down.

I had only shouted "Help" twice before in my life, both times when I thought I was drowning. Once was in heavy seas during a regatta off the Isle of Wight, the other when I got mixed up with the breakers at Sunset Beach in Hawaii. I knew the moment I shouted it this time that it was a pointless thing to say, as I was the only person who could get myself out of trouble.

There should now follow the story of how I fought with myself, forcing myself to balance upright in the slings, painfully relearning the technique of jumaring, and pushing myself inexorably up the rope to safety. I pulled myself upright and looked up. The top 25 feet of the cliff were smooth, with no holds for rests anywhere. I knew that once I had left the ledge I was now on I was deeply committed. I had used up a great deal of strength already.

The others on the ledge below were yelling encouragement, whatever they may have been thinking. John was invisible above. I did a simple sum in my head. Surely four of them could pull me up? And that is why the story that should follow does not. I shouted up to John: "Let me down on the safety rope." The three below shouted "If you come down you'll only have to get back up again." I didn't tell them what I had decided. "I'll swim" I shouted back. "You can't" they shouted, and they were quite right. The waves were now pouring in like tanks.

John did not seem to have heard me. "Let me down on the safety rope" I yelled into the wind. His voice drifted back: "I have."

I found that I was still clipped into a jummar with a sling. I hauled myself up on it three times before I got enough weight off it to release the crab. I had just time to think "This shouldn't be happening" as I plummeted down, and then I felt the beautiful

deceleration of the rope. I was dangling over the irreversible zawn – John must have paid out the safety rope in response to my demands until there were twenty feet of slack. The others pulled me on to the ledge with the back rope and I sprawled there apologising.

Ian at once took control. He climbed up to where I had left the Jumars – I had thought of bringing them down with me but decided not to in case I dropped them. Ian came back down with them and sent Adrian off. He made very good progress. As he climbed I asked Ian : “Do you think four of you would be able to pull me up ?” “I don’t know, Pete” he said, rather disconcertingly. I looked at the white-streaked waves pounding at the cliff below us. “We should have a couple of hours before the tide reaches us, shouldn’t we ?” “I don’t know” said Ian again. I wished he wouldn’t keep saying that.

As Adrian reached the top he gave a thumbs-up sign in the light of the headtorch we were shining from below. Now it was Dave’s turn. He received his instructions and set off. He had a chest harness for safety and an abseil sling to sit in, whereas I had tried to stand up in both slings. He went very slowly at first and then came back to sort out his slings and start again. He set off and this time his progress was slow but steady. He took long pauses in between pulls but eventually disappeared over the top.

Ian told me that if they were going to try to pull me up they would take the climbing rope in slowly and give several yells. I was to try to help them by climbing on the jumar rope. I told Ian I would be able to climb on the cliff until those last 25 feet. “Good luck” he said as he set off. “Good luck to you” I replied, though aware I was not in a strong position for saying it. I shone the torch on him, sometimes swinging it down to look at the sea. Occasional waves were now throwing spray up on to the ledge where I stood.

Ian disappeared over the edge of the cliff and I was alone. I started thinking about my children and told myself to stop being morbid. I kept looking at the rope to see if it was being pulled





in. At least six times I decided to give up climbing.

After about twenty minutes the rope started to snake upwards. I made sure the two ropes were free from each other. There was a tug at my waist and I started off up the wall facing me. I had made only three moves when the pull of the rope swung me off the holds and round over the zawn again, where I dangled free. But the steady pulls from above continued and I managed to kick up on holds on the wall.

About two thirds of the way up the pulling stopped and I managed to stand precariously on a ledge, the rope tugging so hard at my waist that my head began to swim. I made a little height and yelled: "I won't be able to help you much above here. Pull when you're ready." I gripped the rope and tried to walk up the wall. But in no time I was over the top, gasping for breath like a stranded fish. Facing me were John, Dave and Ian who were pulling on the rope. Further up the cliff Adrian was acting as brake man.

I didn't know whether to make jokes or appear contrite. There was a fierce wind and driving rain but the others seemed cheerful enough. "Thank you very much" I said. "That's OK" said John. Ian said he had enjoyed himself, as he had never been on an epic in England before. Soddan, we stumbled to the cars. To complete our day, both had to be pushed out of the mud.

The first moral is, with hindsight, banal: a stormy December night at Swanage is no place to learn how to prussik. The second is more general: simply that Swanage is a serious place, and the following recommendations may be useful.

The first party along the traverse used both the pendule and the tyrolean traverse. The pendule avoids a very difficult free pitch for everyone except the leader, and probably saves time. The tyrolean can be avoided by a diagonal abseil and a stomach traverse, but again saves time for a party of more than three.

The escape rope should be fixed to the post forming the south-west corner of the grounds of the lighthouse, and needs to be 300

feet long. For peace of mind it is good to have someone on top of the cliff to see than no-one tampers with the rope : Swanage is popular among tourists, particularly in summer, and their habits have been known to include hurling rocks over the edge of the cliff without looking to see if there was anyone below. For that reason, and because of the general looseness of the rock, hard hats are advisable – rocks came down when we left the climb both times.

An alternative to prussiking off the climb is to swim the Black Zawn, but only when it is calm. Even then it is best to swim on a rope (150 feet) because of the undertow, which could pull you out into the strong current just offshore. Once across the zawn you can then use the rope for hauling your equipment over clear of the water. It should also be possible to climb out instead of prussiking ; the first part is about severe, but the last 25 feet would need pegging, and are probably A2. There is another possible escape route just *before* the irreversible zawn, though it has not been tried. The irreversible zawn really is what it says, and once past it your escape possibilities are limited to the three given above.

In the case of accidents, evacuation is very difficult. If there are no other climbers around it is hard to make shouts heard at the top of the cliff, always assuming there is someone up there who would know what to do. The lifeboatmen we spoke to said that they were probably the best people to take an injured person off, though in rough seas this would not be possible.

Finally, salt water corrodes your equipment quickly. It's best to soak hardware in an oil bath as soon as possible after you get home.

There is a route description by John Cleare in the current Climbers' Club Bulletin and in the new Southampton University Dorset guide.

A NEW ROUTE YEAR

A. J. J. MOULAM

THE DAY TRIP HAD SEEMED AN OUTLANDISH THING until one early sunny morning saw us on nearly car-free roads through Chester and the long high Cerrig straights. We followed swiftly the sinuous sweep down to Bettws, then on past slumbering Helyg devotees to a deserted car park in Gerlan. A gentle walk, laden with gear, along the Afon Llafar and our beetling objective was in view.

At Easter, a few weeks earlier, I had climbed Wit, a fine little route on Llech Ddu, and I had noted an inviting yet uninviting crack in the right wall of Elliw's groove. I was still putting finishing touches to the guidebook, so it was easy to persuade Pete Hatton and Trevor Jones that here was a line that just had to be drawn on the diagram. We scrambled up the frightening grass to its foot, and belays. Now out of the sun the chill struck through our clothes. Trevor moved out on the scarp well to the foot of the crack and started to dig out a chockstone. Grease, mud and rotten rock could not prevail and slowly he struggled up, a few more feet, to a spike runner. On a foot and more loose chockstones were excavated. The crux, almost achieved, and the critical hold . . . broke. A slither and a snatch and Trevor swung six feet below his high point looking disconsolately down to the scree, still disturbed by the tumbling stone. It was time to change so back he came and it was Pete's turn.

Pete is a fine climber and determined leader, as he was about to show. With excellently tested runners above he made short work of the approach. A bold move up the slippery crack, a sling replaced the lacking hold, and the angle eased. The crack closed and curved over towards an overlap. Pete stopped, moved up . . . and down. A hard try on shaking flakes and down again. Solemn selection of a Charlet peg to fit a convenient crack, and hammer

blows echoed from the great groove's walls. Sudden silence, a sound of effort and he was up, arms buried in ill-anchored grass in the still vertical chimney-groove. A toe-tip bridge, more large loose rocks and we waited cheerful whilst the nut and thread belays were arranged.

So much easier now we followed, cleaning up the pitch, and join supported by the belay, the steepening groove. Almost a cave. Bridged out, scuffling of rubbers against the sky and Trevor was back on the 'stance.' Another go, and this is it, up steep swing round left and out of sight. A long slow pause and again the ropes inch out. Easy now but shelving slippery grass up to a large belay and blessed sun.

Moments before, shivering in the shade I regretted my one pull-over but now it's my pitch. A little step of difficult delicacy, then jugs. It's steep and hot. Sweat runs from my forehead and specs steam up, it makes it hard but a cunning runner eases all and soon onto the top terrace we step and sit above Commuter's Crack.

The next trip was not so nice. As we arrived in the hills the overcast that had threatened the drive opened and we were treated to rain. This time only Trevor and I, abandoned our aim (Llech Ddu again) and decided to make do with somewhat sterile Tremadoc exercise. By Gwynant the rain had ceased, or nearly – now only Welsh mist – and the cracks highlighted in Cleare's book called to us. Their sirens' voice was hushed as were our spirits depressed by the streaks of grease from beneath their roofs. We went for Peachpla, but spotted a fine and hitherto unnoticed groove, so thought to try it.

A steep entry to an easy area brought us to a surprisingly perpendicular crack, cleaned and nutted up very quickly by Trevor. He then, in greater haste, retreated and left it to me. I would never have thought that such a well defined crack could be so unreceptive to fingers or fists, with such unsatisfying holds. But a poised moment with straining muscles, a decision and a loose spike and I was standing on a grass ledge hoping not to slide off, as it was very wet. A breath or two later I was sufficiently gathered to

discard the upward line and poke a tentative foot to the groove's left edge. Bravely round and up to the easy 'Meadow' to a burnt up tree.

When Trevor joined me he sneered at my belay as he rushed past and mightily hammered at a harmless peg until it was bent and buried to its neck in a not too receptive crack. The prospect upward was not good. The groove was wet and muddy, and smooth walled. Pulling and tearing at the grass, flinging sods gleefully onto an in-offensive second, Trevor fought up several gallant feet. Spikes and nuts elegantly placed adorned the revealed and rampant crack, and at ten feet a sling was used. My go, and I didn't enjoy bridging on skew and sliding holds, but my effort doubled our progress, to an excellent nut runner. I'd done my bit, and anyway it was Trevor's idea – so he should go. Down me, up him and up again to stride the mud stained groove, to the ridge, followed easily to the top.

These one day forays make the best of time. Satisfyingly filled with effort and enjoyment, from the forgotten pleasure of driving on uncluttered roads to the knowledge that your climb starts earlier than if you stay in Wales. The sluggardly rise from bunk, breakfast and indecisive talk steal time from crags. And evening snack and hour snatched in pub are doubly yours, before the night drive home.

My introduction to the Secret Crag* was on a weekend when creature comforts were for me provided by the P-y-G. After a leisured breakfast a call for Claude Davis, and we set off with our families to the sea ; left them on the beach and came to the foot of the crag, in gentle mist and drizzle. An awe inspiring line, steep, open and none too sound was written off for another day (and another party) and we set about a gentle looking chimney break. Overshadowed by the flaking pillars overhangs we misjudged and expected facility but instead found insecurity, and concentration a necessity. Claude led to a sort of cave, by sloping ledges, and encouraged me to go out, by the crack under the roof, into the rain.

*Craig Gyfrinach : See "*New Climbs*," 1967. — *Ed.*

It steepened above the cave, and even more above, so at the second step I stood and thought.

The rocks were slippery and loose. Above they overhung but away on my right a groove ran out of sight, but the angle seemed to ease. Sounds of impatience from below ; should I descend ? Not, because my runners were too far below. A quick look through my slings – this might fit here (at last it balances on the flat topped spike and gives an impression of security, visual at least). A wide, breeches-splitting step, an awkward pull and I reached the ledge half full of deserted raven's nest. A peg belay and up came Claude.

The exit crack is steep, but lies back soon to loose and lightly embedded rocks, overhangs of heather and dusty grit. This much done we found the final tier steep with good holds but an odd awkward move to keep the interest up. The rain reinforced, we left the crag top to look over the Cwm's edge to yet another cliff. We then ran down (to meet our families) and returned to our respective lodgings.

Claude's caravan has a fine view of Clogwyn y Bustach but on the Sunday it gave a grandstand for the sweeping curtains or rain. We sat and watched it, drinking tea until a dash out in a clearing enabled us to snatch a climb without getting too wet. Then early home.

The trouble is it always seems to rain. That is far more than in memories of years ago. I can hardly remember getting wet in the '40's and yet now it seems to happen once in twice. So instead of laid plans for Llech Ddu or 'Cloggy' we set off once again, on the first day of a week's holiday, on the motor road. Down beyond Nantlle towards the sea ; but a beckoning break in the clouds diverted us to Cwm Dulyn. Even here it was wet, and our line a watercourse but with fine climbing on washed clean holds. Until a bulge at 80 feet repulsed me, so down and off elsewhere. A dreadful fight ensued through heather, bracken, moss, to reach the upper cliff. The groove was steep, still wet and frightfully long,

so to the next one. Some progress here but our enthusiasm evaporated beneath an immense poised block. Back to the vegetation, not as Nebuchanezzar but upright until a hole accepted unwary foot, then body and we were lost from view. By now we were down to trifles and climbed a flaking ridge – even this quite hard on rough grey rock. But the mood was black so we named it Ebon Ridge and returned to the mountains.

One evening in the week Geoff Roberts and I went to Tryfan. A line I had spied might go, now I was strong and fit. But it is so steep, round the overhang to an awkward place beneath its upper curve. The crack is not so good, it won't take nuts so up, strenuous and insecure to thread desperately a luckily existing chock. Drop back now, protected, for a rest. Then up and down, and up again. A pull, a cunning foot far out right and then my knee is planted in the niche. It's not done yet, an awkward balance and a drag at too wide hand jam in the back. And now I'm there, for rest.

Another move, steeply till the crack positively welcomes, just like grit. Beautiful jams lead straight on up the tier. Geoff's turn with home repaired P.A's. Placed on the rock the foot strained sideways and burst the stitching with a plop. So down, he changed back into his boots, perhaps not ideal footwear for this climb. But up, pull, up, stood in the niche and surged to me. So there's Boot Crack. For twilight's sake we did Soapgut, dry and easy for the book.

Once more to the Secret Crag, this time after a drive round most of Wales to avoid the rain. Our object a straight and pink walled crack that had, in rain, repulsed Claude. He was extendedly in the Alps and so I felt free to try to steal his climb. At least to try with a friend of former days recently returned from short term emigration to Australia. We struggled up in dolorous heavy air to the crack's sudden sharp edged foot and found the wall leaned out straight away. A few moments sufficed to prepare the slings, then a muscle-trying pull onto a wide grass ledge up to the right. Impendent wall still meant that standing is a strain on hands. Excavation led to revelation of lodgement for unsteady nuts, a

steep move up to bridge the groove, more cleaning needed above. This is Claude's last stop. I stay long here, waiting, trying, weighing up ; until holds appear and on I go until the crack closed and the groove grinned over, overhung.

What now ? More waiting and the right edge began to look inviting. The block over there seemed well perched. So stepped out to it, venturesome ; and back. But this is the way and further round I find a sloping ledge shared with the block. Far from my runner and out of sight of my second's anxious face, picking at the grass and moss – and there's a rotten minute flake to adorn with my last sling. The holds slope, but a bold stand and a sidle back led to the groove above. Steep steps followed, dry as dust, and then relief. At just 100 feet a ledge. Commodious, of compact rock, it offered no belay but a poor floor crack took a brutally beaten peg and made nearly credible security.

The wall above looked improbable, so in time honoured way I looked round the corner. On the left overhung, and undercut below rock falls to the gully bed. Not possible, at least for me, straight up. So down and right I gained a groove. Then up and stepped right into another. Climbed, now exposed but easy to the crowning roof. Impasse, is this where we fail ? But surprisingly now a traverse left brought blocks to hand, and then the top.

Quickly now onto the finale of the year. A day with Joe Brown, on South Stack, fierce tales of which I'd heard. With some relief I found the 300 foot abseil to the zawn not steep, nor hard. The surging sea below gave atmosphere to the scrambling traverse to the rock, and then I was left alone belayed to a crevassed stance. Joe descended beyond into the creaking groove of rippled rock, white and yellow in the sun. But soon came blankness and down and round Joe went. Lines tried galore until twinned pegs solved the leaning wall and aided reach to spikes again. Moved over right to an uncomfortable ledge, sloping steeply but designated stance by virtue of two well embedded pegs.

I watched the straddled balaclava-topped figure move inexorably

up although seemingly part of the rock. Neck muscles ache with strained position, head heavy and sweat poured from under helmet in the burning sun. So unlikely a line but as Joe went on rocks fluttered past to fall in the restless sea far below. The pitch grew long and complex. Steep rock succeeded by steeper still as from a wavy edged groove a wall pillar is embarked upon. The pitch ended in a traverse left and in my turn I wished it wasn't so. My holds all break but miraculously I remain attached and gasping thankfully reach Joe.

A smooth walled groove led shortly to a better ledge, with relics of the T.V. show. And then up appalling rock we make an exit onto the welcome top. Joe coiled the ropes and I donned boots (blessed relief of P.A. foot) and then descended to retrieve the abseil ropes. Coiled them and put by for next year.

THE LAST DAYS OF SUMMER

M. BAKER

MACKENZIE, OR MAYBE IT WAS DUNN, once refused to acknowledge the rain on Slav Route and as a result of this excellent fiction had a fine day on Nevis. David Baldock was rather chary about applying the same principle to the Alps last year. He says now that it was bad weather that caused us to take eight hours on our first hut-bash of the season – to the Moiry hut from the Valais resort of Zinal. Whatever the rights and wrongs of that our first few days were productive and we ended up well-trained, having traversed the Aiguilles de la Lè and served a short North Face apprenticeship on the Pointes de Meurti. The following day was spent at Zinal ; variously disgusted and elated at our indulgence we removed ourselves early for the Tracuit hut and, relying on a gloomy forecast of bad weather, climbed the peaks of the Diablons that same afternoon. The morrow was spent dispelling the inferiority complex that long absence from the four thousand metre set is apt to bring on aspirant English Alpinists. We made a dull and bitterly cold ascent of the Bishorn and a quick descent to the village.

Six days of our holiday had gone and David was already suffering an onset of the High Mountain Urge ; so with new *couronnes de monde* in mind we set off to the Mountet Hut which we reached in the early evening of a very hot Sunday. Almost as soon as we arrived a party of Swiss whom we had previously met at the Moiry hut came down from the Obergabelhorn, loud in praise of its North Face. Our attentions, which had centred round the North East face of the Grand Cornier as much because we had some good photographs of it as for any other reason, turned quickly to the Obergabelhorn. Soon we had collected all the necessary information and drawn all the likely inferences from the party's late return and the female element in its constitution.

We left the hut at five past two the following morning, our insides stiffened with the customary warm porage melange. From the hut to the foot of the mountain it was only an hour. We descended some screes, casting long shadows in the moonlight, and slowly wound our way across the glacier to the couloir that would lead us to the face proper. Our boots left hardly a print on the hard-packed snow and the stars shone in the jet sky like pinpricks through paper. At a convenient upthrust of ice-blocks we donned crampons and gazed up at what the moon revealed of our route. Our couloir was really the dribble from the western corner of a great ice cliff which sat like a grinning mouth in the middle of the mountain. Above the cliff was a vast bowl of steep ice enclosing the Obergabelhorn and the Wellenkuppe. Impressed by the need for speed we cracked up the gully together on perfect snow. There was little anchorage below but a firm top-crust made it possible to rely fully on crampons. As we drew higher the way steepened and only the front four points were effective. Concentrating fully upon the task in hand the band of rock at the top of the gully was upon us almost before we realised, forcing us left rather melodramatically into the jaws of the mountain. The route-finding here was a little tricky but by the time the first streaks of morning were spreading across the horizon we were over the lip and in a huge bowl which was virtually hidden from the hut. A second breakfast of mint-cake and fresh-frozen orange were consumed in an eyrie below the soaring flutes of ice that swept up to the summit. The route itself does not bear pitch by pitch description but once the bergschrund had fallen there was little of technical difficulty, just steep and delicate front-point work all the way. Only when we stopped for rests did we feel the size of the thing. The sight of a party at the foot of the Grande Gendarme on the North-East ridge made us realise how small we two must look. At six-thirty David broke out of this shadowy face onto the North-West ridge where a bergschrund broke the all-enclosing cornice. He sank down stolidly into a crevasse and I came to him. Above there was only a couple of hundred feet of steep snow on ice. Above that, mantelled with wisps of blown snow and leaning against the wind, was the summit.

This we reached at five past seven, exactly five hours after leaving the hut. By elevenses time we were supping tea outside the hut after an eventful, even memorable, descent down the North West Ridge.

The next day was spent in exploring the Rothorn but disinclination (could it really have been the weather?) scotched our efforts just below the shoulder so we fled to Zermatt and the unstinted hospitality of Paula Biner's Bahnhof Hotel. A week in Zermatt yielded little of merit. We collected the North West face of the Dent d'Herens which under the conditions was the *voie normale* and a very pleasant day. But we took down from there a hearty grudge against the perfidious guardian of the Schönbühl who refused us places in his empty hut. For the next few days of bad weather David, the literary bachelor, retired into Anna Karenina and Jude the Obscure while I, having disposed of an old James Bond turned myself to less intellectual relaxation in the patisseries of Zermatt.

Eventually with the coming again of the sun we stirred ourselves sufficiently to reach a bivouac on the Triftjì for the Younggrat on the Breithorn. After a rack and pinion journey to Rotenboden we arrived at the bivouac site at about seven-thirty on a perfect evening. We took full advantage of a stockpile of wood left at the site, presumably by the Swiss militia, and settled down to a classical night spent mostly in gazing at shooting-stars. We woke, if indeed we slept, cold-kneed, stiff and foul-mouthed, and set off for the climb crossing the Breithorn Glacier to the Triftjì Sattel in ominously deep powder snow. The first few hundred yards on the ridge were perfect, the wind having blown the loose powder away, but higher up, where the ridge becomes a more integral part of the face, the snow lay very thick. Such were the conditions that we found only two proper rock pitches on the whole climb, and the second of these was a variation on the classical finish. David was on form, and, once we had reached the top of the Grande Gendarme he came into his own. After this Gendarme the ridge twists and bends up and down for a short way gathering its skirts for a very steep leap

to the summit rocks ; sometimes on one side of the ridge and sometimes precariously balanced on the other David struggled for a way through the accumulated snow. For a while he was actually à cheval burrowing between his knees for something solid ; and then gradually the going became more steep and the snow gave way to ice. When finally the rock rampart at the top barred our passage the steep ice in the couloir which one normally crosses to reach easy rocks leading to the top was black and the consistency of hard toffee. It would obviously have made a long and unprotected pitch. Instead we preferred the upper snow-plastered rocks, and broke through the cornice onto the main ridge after twelve extremely exhilarating but laborious hours of climbing.

This route was Baldock's breakthrough. For myself I retired for a day or two with some infection ; but David, with his holiday drawing speedily to a close went up to the Belvedere Hotel the next day and subsequently made the season's second ascent of the Zmutt ridge on the Matterhorn. Our ways then parted. David left for London, and I, with a week left, took an early train to Chamonix to meet Colin Taylor.

As befits a man on the Committee of the Alpine Club, Colin flew out from England. He arrived spotless at the station, his appearance only marred by a briefcase which bulged deceitfully with iron-mongery in defiance of the weight restrictions. Four hours later we were camped at the Lac Bleu by the Plan de l'Aiguille téléphonique station and Colin was poring over the Guide Vallot growling tigerish thoughts. First, however, he needed a route on which to get fit. The Papillons Ridge and Chamonix Face of the Aiguille du Peigne served this purpose well. Apart from escorting down a mildly distressed young lady after a forty-foot peel – for reasons of sensibility she shall remain anonymous – this day went without a hitch.

From our particular position the weather was not as impossible as elsewhere. Across from Montenvers there were two Germans getting into difficulties on the Dru and people were beginning to get worried about a Japanese party on the Walker Spur but at the

Lac Bleu we were high enough to get an objective and realistic view of the weather. Each night as dusk fell the lake would perceptibly acquire a skin of ice and we would retire to our small Jamet tent with steaming mugs of Gluwein to listen to a neighbouring group of Japanese give rather Oriental renderings of such old favourites as, we believed, *The Road to the Isles* and *Old Macdonald*. My own holiday drew speedily to a close and it was eventually decided after an easy day on the Couzy route on the Aiguille de l'M to do the Charmoz-Grepon traverse. In circumstances too complex to record we accordingly found ourselves behind two Germans at eleven o'clock the next morning at the foot of the Rébuffat Route on the South Face of the Aiguille du Midi.

This was intended to be a pleasant reminiscent sort of route with a glass of ale at the téléphérique station on the top and no descent problems. The first pitch led up to a long snaky overhang with a belay on a slab below it. Getting onto the slab struck us both us technically the hardest part of the route. Then with a grunt and a tinkle of karabiners Colin edged along and round the overhang until all that indicated his presence were a couple of periodically twitching ropes. Below on the glacier there were large centipedes of climbers; further round the Midi a group was partaking of an early lunch, and far overhead a cable car winged across to the Central Station. All seemed well with the world.

Suddenly, however, the air was rent with a fearsome oath. Something had displeased Colin, and I, he swore was to come round immediately. Round the corner when I went there was an impressive slab, smooth and seemingly holdless but criss-crossed with piton-ridden cracks. Colin's rope had snagged around one of the many superfluous pitons and had brought him to an abrupt and uncomfortable halt. He was belayed in étriers awaiting extrication. I bought myself similarly to a place of repose, except that my possession of but one étrier rendered the plural inappropriate, and gave the rope a flick. On we went. But for this incident we made good time until we reached what appeared to be the top. Here we met an impasse.

Legends have it that thirsty climbers on arrival at the summit of the Midi merely vault over the rail of the Téléphérique station and down the free beer provided by admiring excursionists. Our top proved, however, not to be the right top and there was no beer for us. Instead there was a choice between two death-defying abseils and retreat. Colin tried one of the abseils ending up without crampons on some extremely steep and hard ice. After ascending again he retired exhausted. It then began to snow in large wet flakes – really rather hard. By mutual consent we joined up with the Germans who had remained all the way just ahead of us, and retreated two hundred feet or so until we were certain we had returned to the correct route. The more heroic of the Germans then led a long and very unpleasant pitch consisting mainly of a snow-filled dièdre and we all crept slowly and bloodily after him making a rope of four. It was the top but not the end of the climb. Fifty feet away a white-coated Frenchman was gesticulating that the last téléphérique of the day was about to depart and that we would assuredly miss it if we did not hasten. We swopped tokens with the Germans (a dried prune from them and a wet portion of mint-cake from us) before abseiling and hacking steps like men possessed across to the tunnel entrance in the now driving snow. We reached the impatient cable car after a helter skelter sprint through the passageways and scrambled in still roped up ; at which moment it seems fair to acknowledge that the 1966 Alpine weather had finally broken.

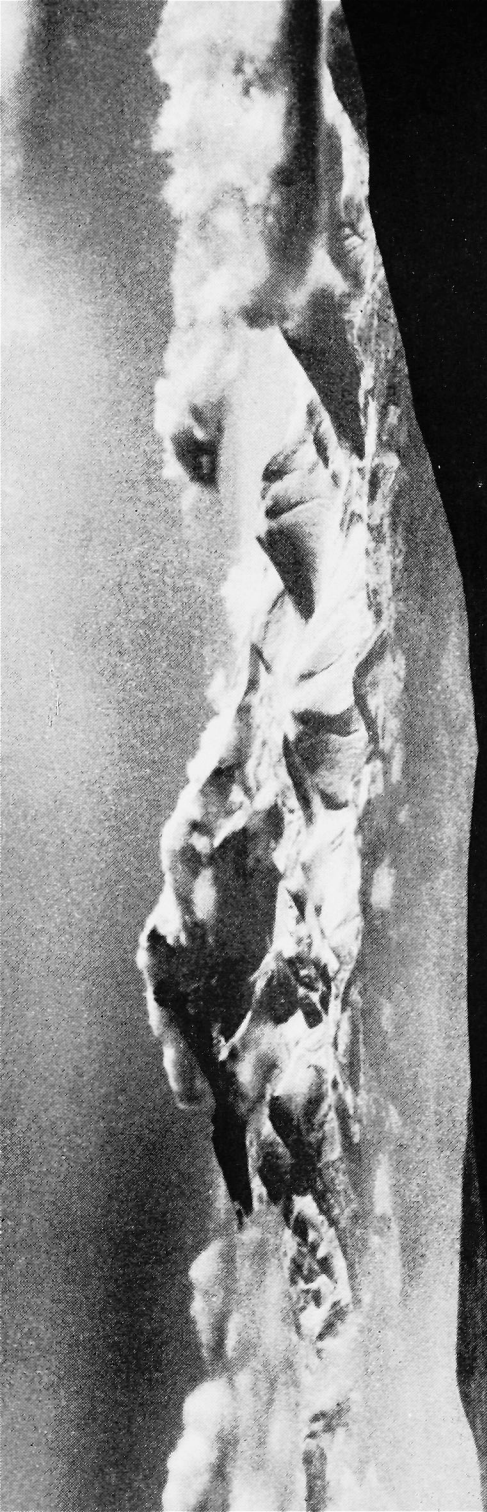
CLIMBING IN TURKEY

J. G. R. HARDING

TURKEY HAS RECENTLY BECOME SO POPULAR with British climbers that there is no longer any need to sell it as a mountaineering area. Fortunately, the country is big enough (three times the size of Britain) to soak up the Turkish Government's tourist demand yet still allow others the illusion of pioneering in remoter parts.

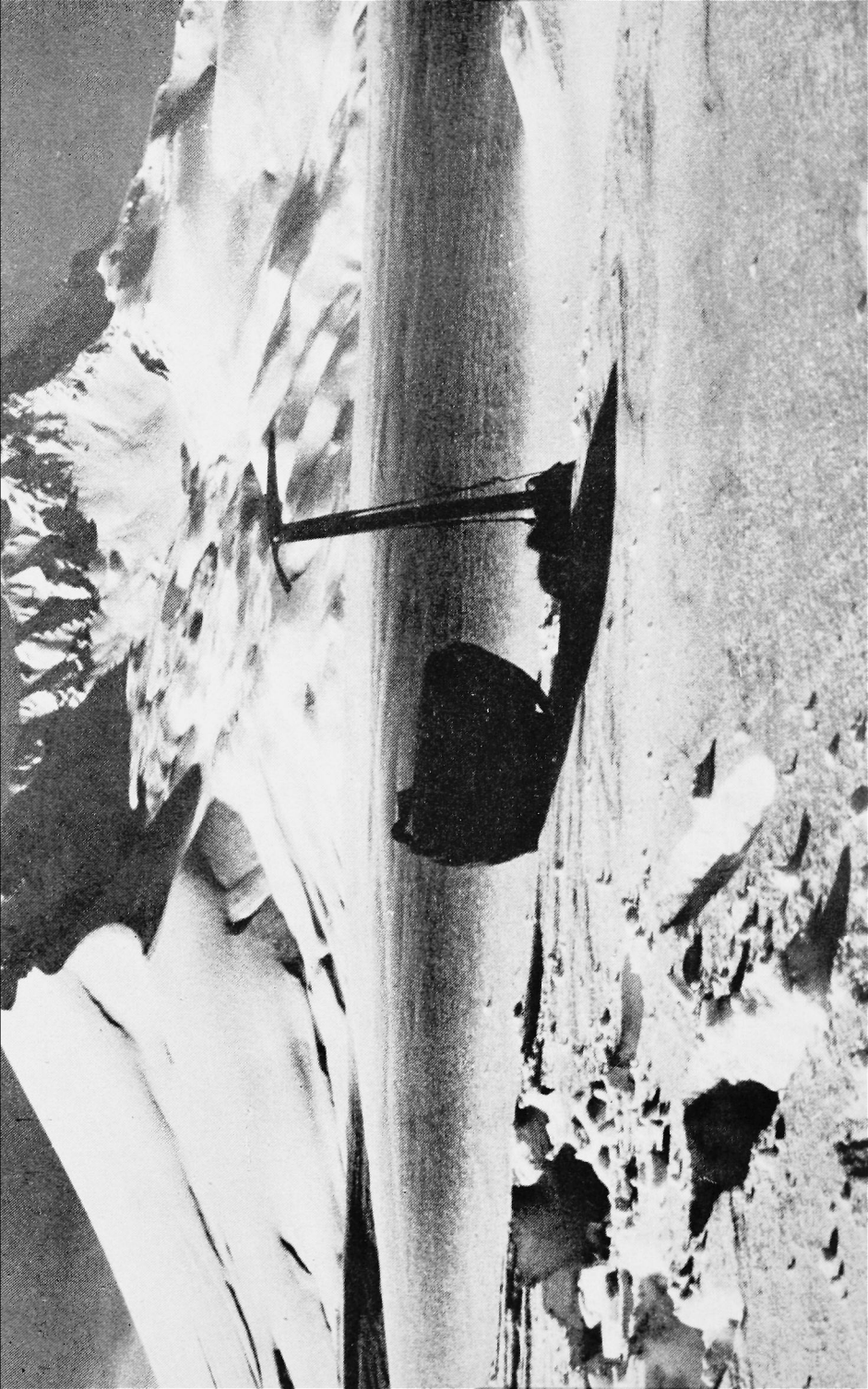
Turkey's past neglect by the British stems more from politics than difficulties of access although, before Turkey's recent road building programme, the latter were formidable enough to deter anything but a full scale expedition. Ottoman Turkey was xenophobic towards western travellers and although the irrepressible Victorians managed to get around most of the country – including Kurdistan – detailed mountain exploration was not attempted. After the First World War and the Turkish War of Independence the British were not encouraged in Turkey and the mountaineering field was left open to a series of German and Austrian expeditions as was appropriate to Turkey's erstwhile allies. In the inter-war years the Germans opened up the Taurus, Kalkar Dag, Ala Dag and Hakkiari ranges and the odd Britons who followed (Peck, Hodgkin in the Ala Dag 1941/42 ; Weir and Scott in the Hakkiari in 1957) found that most of the prizes had already gone. Over the last five years restrictions on travel in Turkey have eased with the result that several areas and the Ala Dag in particular have been visited by British parties.

Turkey's numerous mountain ranges rise from the Anatolian Plateau which is 3,000 ft. or so in the west rising to over 6,000 ft. in the east. Containing the rim of the Plateau are the Taurus to the south and the Pontic Alps in the north. Outstanding in the Taurus is Ala Dag dominated by Demirkazek, "the Iron Stake" and Kaldi Dag. Other climbing in the range is on limestone peaks



ERCIYAS DAG ; NORTH FACE

J. G. R. Harding



in the Bulgar Dag (11,000 ft.) near the Cilician Gates and in the Akdag (10,000 ft.) near Antalya. The culmination of the Pontic Alps is the mysterious Kackar Dag (12,917 ft.). Here, in the half forgotten land of the Lazes, one of the few tribes in Turkey to have resisted Ataturk's modernisation, a range of rocky peaks rises above giant forests with snowfields fed by Black Sea mists. Eastern Turkey has a complex of high bleak ranges but with the notable exceptions of Cilo and Sat Dag in Hakkari Province these are of limited interest to the mountaineer.

Stretching across Turkey from west to east is a line of extinct volcanoes – Hasan, Erciyas, Nimrud, Süphan and Ararat. Ararat – Agri Dag to the Turks – at 16,946 ft. is Turkey's most famous mountain. Covering 457 square miles and rising over 12,000 ft. from the Bayazit Plain, its hugeness, by comparison with its surroundings, overwhelms. Cornerstone of Russia, Turkey and Iran it has given rise to a host of legends including the Ark myth which it shares with several other mountains in the Middle East. The origin of the Ark tradition on Ararat probably derives from the fabulous tales of European monks who passed this way to the Mongol Court in the 14th century and from a simple misreading of Genesis 8:4. Whatever one's interpretation of the Flood the true "Mountains of Ararat" – or Chaldea – are those which ring northern Iraq. However, this has in no way deterred a host of ark seekers who still scour the slopes of Ararat. The mountain was first climbed in 1829 by Von Parrot, of Parrotspitze fame on Monte Rosa, after three attempts. The feat was ridiculed at the time because Ararat was belived inaccessible by Turk, Armenian and European alike. To the climber there are, apparently, no technical difficulties though the climb needs three days and the top 1,500 ft. is glaciated.

My own acquaintance with Turkey began in 1956 while passing through en route to the Elburz Mountains. I returned in December, 1961 as a guest of Sidney and Hilary Nowill, long resident in the country and widely travelled in its mountains. The party was completed by Nigella Blandy and our objects modest. First on the

list was the Ulu Dag, the nearest range to Istanbul rising to 8,343 ft. above Bursa, first capital of the Ottoman Turks. A good way to Bursa is by steamer from Istanbul to Yalova (2/- in 1961) and thence by shared taxis to Bursa. Skiing on the Ulu Dag is now popular but in 1961 mountaineering was still a preserve of Nowill's parties. From a friendly hut run by Mehmet Beceren, (1,905 metres) the climbs assume Scottish proportions. The mountain consists of several rolling summits rising out of wooded lower slopes. There is moderate rock climbing on the south-west face of Kusakli Kaya and on the northern cliffs of Zirve, a smaller replica of the Nevis Cirque. In winter snow and ice give the place atmosphere and outstanding in memory was the cloud sea which billowed up from the Aegean across the Plain of Bursa as we descended Kusakli in the twilight. The snows of Ulu Dag provided the Sultans of Istanbul with ice for their sherbet. Another local attraction is the sulphur springs in Bursa's vaulted Turkish baths famous throughout the land whence this institution originated.

From Bursa we drove to Ankara and thence to Kayseri in central Anatolia for a stab at Erciyas Dag. The Angara/Kayseri highway follows the same line as the Susa/Sardis Royal road of the Persians built 2,500 years ago. Here in Anatolia you leave behind the comforting influences of the Mediterranean and enter the heartland of the Turkish nation: space and steppe and nothing to obstruct the view but the thin line of a distant range. Erciyas burst upon us as a white pyramid thrusting out of the snow streaked plain. The Greeks called it Argos Oros, the Silver Mountain from which its modern name is a corruption. Close on 13,000 ft. and rising 10,000 ft. from its base it covers an area as large as Ararat and is one of the great sights of Turkey. This mountain too has an Ark tradition and many others besides. Hamilton in 1837 appears to have been the first European to climb it.

Erciyas is a popular climb by all sorts of conditions in summer but short days and extreme cold make winter expeditions more serious undertakings. On this occasion, Nigella Blandy and I had three days to climb the mountain and be back in Kayseri. The easy

route is up the east face using the solid Tekir Refuge at 2,170 metres as a base. We left our roadhead at 3-45 p.m. with 10 miles to go and little left of the day to do it in. Avoiding a brush with a couple of Anatolian sheep dogs – bred from wolves to protect flocks and additionally armed with iron-spike collars – we then ran into a full scale blizzard and waist deep snow. We had a compass but no map because in 1961 the circulation of detailed maps of Turkey in Turkey was prohibited. The path to the hut had long since been obliterated by driving snow but by threading our way along a line of poles barely visible one between the other, we hoped to hit off the hut. Four hours later we heard the ringing of a ghostly bell Lutine-like in the storm. We had timed our arrival to coincide with a pre-bedtime bottom-warming session of the Turkish National Ski Team who, in undisputed possession, had draped themselves over the hut's solitary stove. In their various states of undress Nigella's appearance was not wholly propitious to those good Moslems amongst them.

The storm continued all next day but at 6 a.m. on the day after, December 14th, we shrugged off the comfort of the hut all set to force the so-called Devil's Gully to the eastern summit. Snow was falling thick and fast ; visibility down to a few hundred yards and the wind bitter. After floundering up to our waists for five hours in soft snow we called it a day at 3,150 metres. Inevitably, on the following morning there was not a cloud in the sky but as we had to be back in Kayseri that evening there was no question of making a second attempt. Erciyas in those conditions would have needed a good day. For that morning we were happy to settle for nearby Cuc Dag to enjoy the panorama of Anatolia under new snow and a bird's eye view of our next objective, the Ala Dag, visible in every detail 60 miles away to the south east. It was a perfect mountain day and, traditionally, we began the 20 mile return march to Kayseri much too late. The outcome was a bad-tempered trudge through thick snow mercifully terminated by a passing jeep just outside the town. "Al Hamd' Allah" for good Turkish cooking and the Tourist Hotel, Kayseri upon which we lighted late that night.

The rest of that Anatolian venture is short in telling. We rejoined Sidney next morning at Nigde with four days in hand. The first of these went in forcing the snow-blocked road to Camayardi road head for the Ala Dag. A four hour "short-cut" convinced me that the Demirkazek was hopelessly out of condition, so with heavy hearts we dismissed Ibrahim, Sidney's faithful muleteer, and beat a retreat. In recompense we toured the Troglodyte Valley at Urgup and then drove down Alexander's Path through the Cilician Gates and on to the south coast to drown our sorrows in the Aegean.

I returned to the Erciyas in 1965 ; again with Sidney Nowill and his wife Hilary. We were driving back from the Hakkari Range in Kurdistan and had a day in hand before pushing on to Istanbul. It was a brilliant summer's day, June 30th, when we reached Kayseri. With a blue sky framing the twin snow peaks of Erciyas the opportunity of settling an old score was too good to miss. Sidney drove me to the village of Hajicar on the north side of the mountain and hired a muleteer and mule. By 3-30 p.m. the muleteer, mule and I were rattling along at a brisk pace for a bivouac high up the mountain. Progress was halted three hours later at a nomadic encampment whose hospitality it was impossible to avoid. Here the muleteer announced his intention of not going a step further so I left our kind hosts to push on and camp at 8,500 ft. some 4,500 ft. below the summit.

The northwest face of the Erciyas is a snow and ice climb in part over a small glacier. Over a dozen parties have climbed it and it no doubt rates a low grade if you have the right size crampons. My own had been mislaid on the High Seas and Sidney's were two sizes too small. Sadly, it is a measure of this "face nord" that such a handicap did not really deter me. I was up at 3-30 a.m. to a brilliant day and on the summit $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours later. From a thousand Anatolian homesteads — clutches of tiny specks on the face of the plateau — wisps of smoke curled upwards to merge into the morning haze. By lunchtime I was back with the Nowills celebrating in the Tourist Hotel, Kayseri : a fairytale 24 hours.

Turkey's best climbing is in Hakkari province. (see Notes in

1966 C.C. Journal). Here, in the wild peaks of Cilo and Sat there are 22 small glaciers and innumerable snow fields set like diamonds amidst a tangle of faces and ridges. The British were the first pioneers in this area though most of the big climbs went to Dr. Hans Bobek's Austrian expeditions in 1934 and 1937. There is still scope for new routes in Hakkiari. With its backcloth of Turkish tribes driving their flocks to the summer pastures as the snows retreat it is a mountain land of special flavour seen best in early June when crocuses make riot of the High valleys. Hakkiari is a throwback to the Alps before the Golden Age. Go there before it is too late !

THE OTHER ONE, BY HIMSELF

F. FITZGERALD

BEING A CLIMBER WITH THE NAME FITZGERALD gives one a number of social distinctions. For example, I am often button-holed by charming ladies who tell me how much they enjoyed my latest talk on "Woman's Hour," or ask me to let some character or other survive my next novel. It's not all beer and skittles however. After the tenth time in a weekend one tends to be crotchety about it and I confess to being down-right nettled when on Stanage's Black Hawk Slit I overheard the languid comment from below, "He's a sick man, Fitzgerald." The time had come, I decided, to put the record straight.

I was born and brought up in the West Riding and first climbed in the many gritstone quarries there. Eventually I went up to Sheffield University and joined the S.U.M.C. The motor car had not at that time brought about the emancipation of the masses, but with climbable rock a four-penny bus ride from the city centre and moves afoot for a new series of gritstone guide books, the Sheffield area was a strong focal point for all activities. Dick Brown, Don Wooller and I formed a climbing team and we did many gritstone routes and first ascents together. Two come quickly to mind, Croton Oil on the S. Face of Rivelin Needle and Black Hawk Bastion on Stanage, both climbed in 1953. The memory of the latter route is particularly vivid ; Brown addressed the rock in full evening dress and black plimsolls ! In both cases the crux was the placing of a peg and after the ascents the pegs were left in position. That on the needle remained for about ten years, presumably until its removal by Alan Wright and Peter Crew on their clean ascent in 1963. That on the Bastion disappeared after a few days though Jeff Allison needed one when he climbed the route ten years later. I believe that at that time the use of pegs was justified but repeated hamfisted removal and re-insertion over the

years rapidly wore away the grit and the present scarred state of Croton Oil, so unnecessary, (now, as it is climbed clean and then, once the key had been inserted) makes me both annoyed and sad.

Stanage, Froggatt and Gardoms were our favourite edges and I also had a great liking, not shared by the others, for Kinder Great Buttress and Nether Tor in Grindsbrook, where there are fine climbs with a strong mountaineering flavour, e.g. The Girdle Traverse and the Money-lender's Crack. Funnily enough we hardly touched limestone where most of today's big routes are found. We did however wander down the Lathkill in 1954/55, climbing on odd buttresses and made trips to the Brassington area (only once on Brown's 1926 B.S.A. !) for the International Route among others. Whilst returning from one of these trips we saw the Matlock High Tor and made an attempt on the Original Route in 1953. When nearing the top of the second pitch we saw a man pointing up at us from the road below. We had been there all day unnoticed but in about fifteen minutes a huge crowd and a full-scale traffic jam blocked the A.6 road. The police were not slow to arrive and we abseiled off into the arms of a waiting constable and the cheers of the crowd. Before we returned again the route was completed by a Leicester party containing P. Biven.

The acquisition of Ruthwaite Lodge in Grisedale by the S.U.M.C. in 1953/54 moved the centre of activities to the Lakes. For months, Wooller and I did nothing but race each other up the one mile of track and five hundred feet of altitude from the head of the Patterdale road to the hut. We carried bags of cement, wood, paint and sheets of corrugated iron. Unfortunately, just as the hut was repaired, both Wooller and Brown became inactive, the team split up and neither took part in the Eastern Crag explorations. It was in Grisedale that I made my own routes. One which was particularly satisfying was the Dollywaggon Great Chimney on Falcon Crag at the head of the valley. It was climbed with J. M. Beeley in 1957. The day before, four of us had seen the route and decided to climb it there and then although it was late. We were benighted in thick mist and rain at the top of the first pitch from where we abseiled

leaving the rope and most of the equipment on the cliff and the screes. I remembered the first pitch as loose, grassy and damp, but not quite so loose, grassy and damp as Mike Ball and I found it last March. The upper pitches are interesting but short and I think that Mike has no great love of the place. But it is none the less a noble cleft, clearly seen all the way up the valley as a curving gash cutting over the main cliff to join the vertical slice of Chock Gully.

The far eastern crags are not generally appreciated. Neither Moulam nor Austin (C.C.J. 1957, page 21 ; 1961, page 145) had space in their recent articles to point out the entertaining climbing of all types in this area. In Grisedale the crags are generally broken but the situations are good and there is a wide variety of climbs. In secluded Deepdale, the next valley south-east, there is the massive Hutaple Crag boasting a number of approximately five-hundred foot climbs, along with many shorter, all with definite mountaineering character. At the head of Deepdale, in Link Cove is Scrubby Crag. Although only two-hundred feet or so high it gives good, steep and exposed climbing. The next valley south is Dove-dale with the impressive overhangs of the three-hundred feet Dove Crag at its head, so graphically described by Mortlock in his description of Entity (later called Extol). Always the hard man will be attracted by severity (c.f. Moulam, in A.J. 1965, 1966) but Dove-dale on its smaller crags has attractions for the moderate performer and Westmoreland's Route on the south corner of the main crag is a good climb.

For me, much of the charm of this area is the almost complete absence of other parties. In many months of climbing I have only once failed to have the crag to myself and my companion and that was when Stan Moore and I dropped down to Dove Crag to find Whillans with Mortlock on Extol. The conversation was not at all as Mortlock has recorded it. Whillans was standing in slings on the lip of the overhang whilst Mortlock was some way up. He appeared to have untied his belay to give Don more rope. It looked both impressive and insecure and Mortlock is forgiven for

not having concentrated on the repartee. We climbed Westmoreland's and carried on over Hart Crag to Grisedale Tarn and Patterdale.

Although this article describes the past, there is a present and the future holds just as good times. However, space does not permit a more recent conclusion and anyway I feel that I may already have done enough. It is now just possible that some callow youth may approach our famous member, Kevin, and say how much he enjoyed that route of his up there in the north and what a jolly little article it was that first brought it to his notice !

A SHORT SIESTA ON THE UPPER SLOPES

'What do we do now?'
called Ulf the Unwashed.

Njal's Saga.

A REPORT ON THE KEELE 1965 Peruvian Andean Expedition in the previous issue of the Journal* included reference to 'a new route on Chichiccapac made by B. Chase, A. Tomlinson and G. Bonney,' adding 'the latter took a short siesta on the upper slopes while the other two pressed on to the summit.' Such reports are liable to give false impressions, and I feel it my duty to record the facts in fairness to Bonney, who is, alas, still with us.

It is no longer possible to discover with certainty who first suggested that he should join the expedition. Attempts to recall the days when we were selecting personnel produce instant violence and recriminations :

'So you thought he could carry the kit?'

'He could if he didn't eat so much.'

'I always said a woman would have been more use.'

Each insists that he was the first to devise the schemes to get rid of Bonney (known by the code-name GROB). It is not that he is unusually revolting, but when it comes to organising an expedition he is the very antithesis of Major Pingle. I shall say no more.

It is most probable that GROB was initiated by Bonny himself. when we were still unpacking deliveries, he announced that he would not go unless we took an adequate supply of Dr. Gritte's *Muesli*. Almost simultaneously Webster and Gallagher leapt out of their crates to suggest that he should go to Germany to negotiate directly

*C.C.J. 1966, page 106.

with the *Deutsche Muesli Gesellschaft*. He left the following afternoon and we found to our surprise that although he hadn't actually done anything while he was present everything was much easier in his absence.

So we progressed rapidly during the winter of 1964, and the months passed without news from Germany. Then, without warning, a letter arrived in which he not only claimed to be gainfully employed, but proposed that one of us should join him for a ski-ing holiday in Austria. This was a disappointment, but we decided to send Tomlinson to see what could be done, with instructions to survive the Alpine Tragedy himself. He did a good job. He met Bonney at Landeck and helped him to hire a pair of ski-boots. They then drove into the Otztaler. After a few days Tomlinson arranged a hard day's skiing which took them, towards nightfall, to the top of the shortest, steepest and most twisted descent in the district. When Tomlinson was about half-way down he heard a howl of agony above him, and was overtaken by a pair of skis carrying only the soles of the pair of boots. He then returned to England.

Our programme for the expedition work in Peru was comprehensive. Not content merely to climb our mountains, we were to make a map to find them with, and then to transport lumps of them complete with adhering vegetation, back to England. When finally assembled, the equipment weighed about three tons and it became clear that the five of us could no longer rely upon wearing it all at the airport baggage check. To this problem was added the return of Bonney, which made poor Webster quite ill for some time. The solution, however, was simple. Baggage and Bonney were taken to Liverpool and put on the next cargo boat to Lima. We told the First Mate that if he could induce Bonney to leap overboard in the course of a game of deck quoits, he would not go unrewarded. As a failsafe we included among his personal luggage an ex-army bazooka which we told him was a range finder. We were confident that this would ensure his prompt arrest and execution on arrival in Lima.

The rest of us flew out in June, and immediately set about

finding the equipment. We found, instead, Bonney, living on a roof in the suburbs, still clutching the bazooka. Our difficulties of living in and leaving Lima are recorded elsewhere*, but we eventually became incorporated in the load of a lorry bound for Arequipa.

At Arequipa we caught a train which hauled us slowly up onto the *altiplano*, and we became intrigued by the spectacle of odd Indians dismounting at unlikely spots, and walking slowly off towards the distant horizon. The idea made an immediate appeal, and at the next stop, we told Bonney that we had arranged for him to meet here a man called Gonzales Gonzales who was to accompany us to our base camp. Without question (not even "Where is the base camp?") he climbed down and standing like an uncomfortable cactus, watched the train grind slowly out of sight.

We were sitting in the back room of an inconspicuous cafe in Juliaca eating *Guisco de pansa* (stewed paunch) when his dishevelled figure appeared in the doorway surrounded by small children. We retreated to the station waiting room to spend the night, though poor Webster, distraught at Bonney's ubiquity, spent it being sick on the platform, to the utter delight of the small children.

At Tirapata we dropped him again, but despite being savaged by a *plano-wolf*, he caught us up at Ayaviri and stuck with us all the way to Base Camp. It was clear that we should have to stage an Andean Tragedy.

We actually staged two. Neither was successful, but it might be worth relating them for the benefit of others (other expeditions to the Carabaya have taken one llama too many).

The first was planned with great care and executed without a

**Procedimiento de Ministerio de Justicia Peruana*, 1965 : *Alcoholismo*, Vol. XXV, p. 11, 653. *Extradicción de Expediciones Extranjeras*, Vol. xii, p. 581.

hitch. We climbed Huayaccapac (5,500 metres)*, by a gully on the N.E. face, arranging things so that Bonney was the last to arrive (not difficult). The summit was a steep pointed snow pyramid, and as he climbed the last ten feet we placed an opened sardine tin on the slope above. The tin slid off down the slope with gathering momentum, and passed him at speed. Then, with a blush of fulfilment, the kamakaze sardines, still in perfect order, disappeared over the edge. We had by then untied his rope, and cannot understand to this day why he did not jump after them.

We paid dearly for our miscalculation. Back in Base Camp he built an automatic coffee grinder with two tins, an ice-peg and a twenty pound boulder, which got out of control and plunged into the egg powder. Then he made a bath, and Floyd was nearly carried off by a condor while bathing naked. Then he built a raft with our air-tight packing drums, sailed it to the far end of a lake and ran it aground. Finally, he set fire to his sleeping-bag in the middle of the night and Chase, five inches longer than his tent, straightened out in alarm.

Tomlinson spoke for all of us :

"Let's face it, as a human being you are a complete write-off. There is no point in taking you home. We have decided that you should be exposed on the mountain." We very nearly lost him in the camp below Chichiccapac when he became trapped under two inflated air-beds in a two-man tent. We managed to coax him to the upper slopes however, and we abandoned him while he was admiring the view. Let's not waste words on euphemisms.

Anyway, he caught us up at Miami as we were settling down for the night on the airport roof.

*There seems to be some misunderstanding here. Huayaccapac is actually the name of another mountain of the same name, which has two peaks each named after the one mentioned in the text. Huaynaccapac was an Inca prince. — *Ed.* — *Not me.* — *Ed.*

ICY WASTERS

A. WRIGHT

....., MUST BE A FOUR MINUTE WARNING. By repeated strokes of ill luck it always fell to my lot to be partner to the alarm ; to be the one to be violently disturbed from sleep to decide whether the distant puff of cloud will produce a storm before the day is over. It always seems so easy to yield to the temptation of leaving the other half of the team to continue its pig-like sleeping noises and claim not to have heard the alarm. The mental conflict ended at the thought of being thrown out of the A.C.G.

I eagerly awakened Gerry Rogan, my companion on the rope. It was 3-30 a.m. We hoped to be in the Gran Paradiso at first light but there was still a chance that we wouldn't have to climb because we had skilfully used up most of our petrol the night before and hadn't enough in the tank to drive there.

At the time it seemed a good idea to empty the water bottle and refill it with cool and clean water from the camp tap. After pouring away all the stale and warm water I found that the guardian of the camp elected to turn off the water supply at night which meant we had to depart without a brew.

Driving south from Courmayeur, chance, playing a further part in the proceedings, produced for us a live petrol pump and enabled us to continue the hazardous journey to our chosen mountains. Nigel Rogers had told us, in a specially cultivated casual sort of way (we detected later), that the road deteriorated a bit after leaving the Turin highway. O.K., so Minis can drive up 1 in 3 potholes, but we were in a Morris 1000.

The North face of the Ciarforon is not perhaps the most serious or difficult route in Italy but then 1966 wasn't the season to attempt these. Apparently the rock routes in the Gran Paradiso are com-

parable to Mam Tor but routes such as the North faces of the Gran Paradiso and the Ciarforon can provide good snow and ice routes which can be climbed on odd good days in unsettled weather, without the fears associated with Courmayeur, of being faced with long descents in bad weather. We descended from the Ciarforon in about an hour to the glacier moraine.

Driving up the valley we were able to see our route up the impressive concave face, glistening greenly in the early morning sun, to warn us that Nature had transformed the gentler snows to something more like a sheet of glass.

After carrying bivouac gear to near the hut we decided that in case of a forced bivouac we would be much more comfortable by the little stream than on the face, so we left our sacks there and continued across the glacier with a minimum of gear.

Our selected line took us initially up a steepening snow basin, which we soloed, to reach the rocks of the North ridge after a few hundred feet with little to note other than a rather unfriendly crevasse fairly low down. Roping up in the ridge we contoured round onto the face and ascended diagonally leftwards for several rope lengths on hard and fairly steep ice towards a narrow icy neck at the left end of a line of cliff which split the middle of the face.

It only appeared to be a couple of pitches to cross the slope and two pitches later the objective looked about the same distance away. Our progress was more laboured than we would have liked. Gerry was cussing the blunt points of his crampons and I was handicapped by the experimental quick release straps which I was trying out. They proved very efficient and had to be tightened up at regular intervals.

Having set out initially on a fairly easy snow route we had brought three ice screws just in case we wanted to belay some place. We did want to and with a screw for each end of the pitch it didn't lead to a great deal of protection for each 150 feet of climbing.

After having got a bit of a sweat up chopping steps for a pitch, it was something of a Chinese torture to have to stand on a belay ; at first, glad of the break as Gerry began to follow my crumbling steps, but before his 300 feet stint was completed my body temperature seemed to be about that of the frozen wastes underfoot. Being cheered by the sight of bright sunshine everywhere else I took a few photographs from my icy tomb to enable us to remember our sufferings, remembering the warning that Nigel had given me to take care and hold the camera straight, otherwise people would be given a false impression of the angle of the slope.

The neck of the ice we had been aiming for proved a bit dodgy. Snow melting on the upper slope had run down the narrow passage and frozen at night leaving a vertical hollow shell of water ice ; the type of thing I've walked miles for in Derbyshire and the Lakes. Any well-known French film star/climber would have borrowed his mate's five ice axes and climbed the pitch by hooking them together. I used all my two ice screws and ice dagger for the section, knowing that there would be a rock belay at the end of the pitch !

The 'easy snow plod' of the upper section to the rocks on the summit ridge required the use of ice screws for the whole of the way up the endless armour-plated slope. Above the rocks and very much in contrast to the lower slopes we cramponned up the summit ridge through knee-deep slush and I think, by some error of route-finding, actually went to the top of the mountain.

A Report of the Meetings of the Council for the Preservation of British Style Rock Climbing

R. JAMES

THIS COUNCIL WAS SET UP IN 1966 in an attempt to assess the danger to the future of British style rock climbing by the increased use of nuts, pitons and other foreign bodies on British rocks.

Initially, the Council surveyed the history of "trickery," then considered the type of item used, then the uses to which this aid was put; the Council next considered descriptions of first and subsequent ascents, and finally produced the set of basic rules laid down in the final section.

HISTORICAL SURVEY

Evidence brought before the Council ranged over a note by W. Haskett-Smith on the clean ascent of Napes Needle "without the use of rope and other such artificial aids," comments concerning the unfair ascent of Central Buttress on Scafell, a query about the ice axe carried by Botterill on the ascent of his slab on the same face, a broomstick used on the first ascent of the East Buttress of Cloggy and a set of climbing shell-fish from the Channel Islands reputed to be used as portable slab holds. The coal hammer used by J. M. Archer-Thompson on the original ascent of the Devil's Kitchen was also examined, but a further sixty years of coal hammering had rendered its evidence inadmissible. Members of the Council examined personally the piton in situ on Kipling Groove, pronouncing it indispensable at the time. A picture of the super-directissima on the Cima Grande was glanced at briefly.

THE RANGE OF PROTECTION AND AID

The following groups were considered natural :—

- Class 1.** Rope or ropes.
 Waist lines and screw karabiners.
 Slings and karabiners.
 Wires and button hooks for threading slings.
 Natural chock-stones, flakes and spikes of rock and
 natural holes.

The Council decided that the use of these was permissible on routes of all types except public footpaths in summer.

- Class 2.** Imported chockstones.
 Jammed karabiners.
 Nuts threaded onto slings. (Those examined ranged
 from $\frac{1}{4}$ inch Meccano to 6 inch water main).
 Gas piping, spuds and other metal objects threaded
 onto slings.

These were decided to be permissible solely for protection, provided they were not hampered in, and provided their frequency was not more than one per foot vertical height or one every three feet on traverses. On climbs including an artificial move or moves, it was decided that they should be considerably slightly more meritable than the items in Class 3. As a rough guide, 2.2 imported chocks equal 1.12 nuts equal 1.3 pitons equal 1 bolt.

- Class 3.** Pitons.
 Wedges.
 Expansion bolts (including rawl plugs etc).

The use of these for protection was considered permissible only at such places where they had been used on a first ascent and where their use had become usual. In all these cases it was suggested that they should be placed in such a position as to be useless as aid.

It was felt that on routes where these had been used for artificial aid, subsequent leaders should at all times endeavour to cut down the numbers used or substitute a less objectionable aid. Many of the Council members expressed concern at the damage which continual pitonage was causing to our crags, whilst the use of bolts was felt to be generally alien to our mountains.

Class 4. Lassooing.

Top roping.

Using fishing rods to put runners on above cruxes.

Lassoos up to five feet were considered permissible. Above that, and in both other cases, the route was considered "not led."

Class 5. Chipping spikes.

Chipping holds.

Both these techniques were considered to be inadmissible except in the case of belay spikes on official stances.

Class 6. Shoulders.

These were to be allowed entirely at the second's discretion.

USES TO WHICH AIDS MAY BE PUT

Group A. Belaying on approved stances.

Anything to be allowed provided stances are at least twenty feet apart.

Group B. Pure running belays.

The Council found that pure running belays serve a variety of uses besides the obvious one of shortening or partially breaking a leader's fall. Obviously, they give a purely psychological help and also, break up a pitch into sections, each one starting and finishing with a haven of comparative safety. Finally, they allow a "safe" retreat to be made from difficult situations. In these respects, their use was to be encouraged at all times, and hence, items in Class 1 and 2 would be admissible for these purposes.

However, the distinction was made between safe rests and retreats with the climbing rope not held tight, either by the second or by the leader himself, and that use of runners which entailed tension being applied through the runners. This latter class of aid is definitely outside the category of Group B usage.

Group C. Running belays for static aid.

This implied the using of aids to remain in a position once it be attained. This can be done in a variety of ways. Either, by a direct clipping of the runner karabiner to waist lines (the best way), or, by direct tension (static) by the second attempting to pull the leader through the karabiner, or, by simply hanging from the sling. It was felt that all these methods, although widely used, were not quite "fair," but that their detection was rather difficult; in fact, members of the Council were not sure themselves when they hung from slings. (One member suggested that it was the only way to get the rope clipped in).

Group D. Running belays for negative dynamic aid.

In this group, the runner is used to give a tension retreat to a harassed leader; sometimes he is just lowered. Examples were quoted where a tension of about ten pounds weight through a boot lace runner was sufficient to allow a leader to reverse down to a badly belayed second after much of his finger strength had been expended. This usage was agreed to be sensible, provided the direction and force were not later reversed thus allowing the leader to regain his previous position. If this occurs, then aid would count as Group E or F.

Group E. Running belays for Pseudo-dynamic Aid.

This group involves the use of runners to pull up on or to stand in. Although at times it is difficult to differentiate between Group C and Group E usage, the Council decided that a Group E usage had taken place if a leader's centre of gravity moved upwards at all whilst the foot or hand were in contact with the sling, or if he moved sideways more than six inches. Also, use for changes of feet or a change of handholds were agreed to be in Group E. It was felt that

there is often little difference between a sling, a tape, and an etrier in these circumstances. However, all agreed that this kind of usage was to be discouraged, except where permissible by the guide book, the first ascender, or common usage.

Group F. Running belays for Dynamic aid.

Here, extra external force is transmitted to the leader by tension from the second and so definitely produces a form of artificial climbing. Much mis-usage of runners in this way takes place, and many leaders were reported to use the universal give-way sentence "Take in as I move up, please."

SUMMING UP.

Five basic factors seem apparent in producing a set of rules in order to protect British style climbing. These are as follows:—

1. That the safety of the rest of the party is of first importance.
2. That accidents to leaders must be avoided at all costs (including pride).
3. That, if British free climbing is to continue to develop, then the usage of less and less aid of Classes 3, 4, 5 and 6 in Groups C, D, E and F should be encouraged.
4. That our rocks, already getting worn and damaged, should be preserved at their best condition for our sport for as long as possible.
5. That leaders of first and subsequent ascents of routes should, if they write about them at all, produce accurate and honest accounts.

Amongst ideas discussed to encourage these aims, the most popular was to add to the new lists of pitch by pitch numerical gradings which Pete Crew and others are adding to our verbal standards, a method of ascent code as well. For example, Cenataph Corner ascended using an extra peg plus a couple of nuts in which to stand could be written up as: Cenataph Corner, extremely severe, 5A ascended in Group D manner with Class 3 aid, or

abbreviated, "C.C." E.S. 5A. D3*. Surely a much easier report to make in Pen y Gwryd Bar than the present long series of evasions and excuses. !

Finally, a decision on methods of scoring for ascents (the above would obviously count as about a 74.31% ascent) was deferred until someone were found willing to take the position of The Grand Ajudicator.

*Something a bit like this is already with us. See page 283 of this Journal.

— *Ed.*

OUT OF SEASON CLIMBING IN INDIA

H. SALES

THIS ARTICLE IS NOT GRIPPING : it is not even funny. It is merely helpful. To show you what I mean, here is a tip to start with. The air fare to Delhi is over £260 but you can get to Amritsar, in the Punjab and nearer to the only part of the Himalayas you are likely to get to these days, for £165 return. Book through Patra Travel of 43 Dover Street, W.1. They do not seem to want your custom and will tell you all the snags – it's only a D.C. 6 which goes only on Sundays and takes 20 hours but it apparently gets you there, via Kabul.

We were going to Delhi for our usual compromise holiday, but on a grander scale than ever before. The compromise worked against the climbing part for once though. It was no use visiting our friends in June : clearly February was the right time for that, but equally clearly it was too early for the hills. So there we were in Delhi in February, 1967. Delhi, however, is not devoid of climbers. To begin with there is Lt. General Sir Harold Williams. He doesn't climb any more himself but he'll fix you up if anyone can. He feels it is his mission in life to help odd people like me who turn up in India for a bit of climbing but without a tent or a companion. Then, of course, there is the Himalayan Club which meets every fortnight and welcomes visitors. The local secretary is Suman Dubey. (I can give addresses for all the people I mention). There are climbing clubs at St. Stephen's College and at the Indian Institute of Technology.

But believe it or not there are also rocks to climb near Delhi. Tower Rock, a steep sandstone island surmounted by a prominent phallic symbol, is half a mile beyond the Qutb Minar, 7 or 8 miles out of Delhi. Colin Pritchard, of the I.I.T. Club, has written a

guide to it showing 17 routes, but he and I managed to squeeze a new one between Kiddies Crack and Crotty Gully. Besides the main block which is 50 ft. high there is monolith with some short hard routes. You can do a tyrolean traverse from the monolith to the tower on the main block. I will photostat the guide for anyone who wants it. One tip: the Tower Rock Traverse starts with a deep low horizontal crack which gives beautiful hand holds, but something moves inside. It may only be a lizard, but it is a powerful encouragement to progress.

Next Ajmer, further south and surrounded by semi-desert. Here climbing is encouraged by Jack Gibson, the Headmaster of Mayo College. He is shortly to retire and will live in a derelict but potentially beautiful house he has bought near the College. You will find him charging about the place in a jeep. I climbed with S. N. Ganju, one of his housemasters and a member of one of the Indian Everest teams, Ramesh Mathur, another master, and one of the pupils. We went to the Nagpahar ridge N.W. of Ajmer and climbed Black Slab, which is to the right of a prominent white buttress above the village of Hathikera. The buttress itself would offer the hard boys everything — rotten rocks and a big overhang, with huge nests of fierce bees plastered on to the overhang. The black slab is only 3 pitches of about 65 ft. each on a convex slope. A piton is needed for a belay on the first pitch, but otherwise one is never short of holds, which suits me. One is welcomed at the top by a colony of monkeys. There are other climbs to be had in Happy Valley, over the next ridge to the south. They are mostly only 30 to 40 feet, and are used for training by Mayo College. There also seem to be possibilities on the ridges running parallel to the road from Delhi to Jaipur. For example, at the 176th mile post from Delhi the ridge on the right seems to offer distinct possibilities.

Lastly, the Himalayas themselves. The Garhwal was my objective. Gurdial Singh of the Doon School, Dehra Dun, had suggested a trek from Baijnath to Josimath and I hoped to do some of the smaller peaks near Nanda Devi. I read all the Shipton, Tilman

and Noyce on the subject that I could lay my hands on. But it was not to be : I met all the right (for this purpose) people in Delhi but this did not get me a pass. The story always seems to be "we know you are not a Chinese spy but if we gave one to you we might have to give one to somebody who was." This attitude infuriates non-Indian climbers in India. There is probably very little spying left to be done in some of these areas : after all they are full of Tibetan refugees who would make much better spy material than English climbers. So H. C. Sarin, Director of the Indian Mountaineering Foundation, suggested the Kulu Valley, which is pretty well the only area you can get to without a pass, and even there you have to pass a military check-point beyond Manali, where you may be in trouble with a camera. Talking about difficulties, you won't get any maps either, unless you are lucky. Production of all maps, except those showing the whole of India on one sheet, is forbidden. Again, I may be able to help a little and there is a sketch map in Robert Pettigrew's article on the Kulu Valley in the 1964 Himalayan Club Journal. There are articles on the Kulu area by Pettigrew in Vol. XXV of the Himalayan Journal on pages 169, 113 and 178 and in Vol. XXVI on page 144.

I had a fortnight free and planned to stay the first week at the Solang Hut (Himalayan Mountain Institute*) above Manali. Then Colin Pritchard would join me and we would move to the higher Dundhi hut for the second week, taking a tent so as to be able to climb one or two of the innumerable unclimbed and mostly unnamed peaks between 15,000 and 20,000 around here.

So much for the plan. When I was dumped in Manali by my wife and friends there was an unexpected 6 inches of snow on the ground and an overcast sky. The higher I got the deeper the snow and it was all hopelessly soft. So I decided to stay on at John Banon's establishment in Malali for another night or two and get as high as I could each day. In the meantime I met Dr. Peter

*The Principal of the Western H.M.I. establishment in Manali, Harnam Singh, can supply keys to the huts.

Snell, the missionary doctor at the Hospital in Manali. He takes every Thursday off for the hills, and so on the Wednesday evening we set off in his Land Rover for the Solang hut, but we could not drive beyond the village of Pulcham so we dumped the Land Rover there and hired a young porter to carry my food supply up to the hut. The chawkidor came with us too and opened up. The snow was thick enough when we got there, but another 18 inches fell during the night and then the hut looked more or less buried.

It was virtually impossible to go uphill and hard enough to go downhill so we decided to retreat to Manali, where I stayed for a week at Peter's house and did my regulation two or three thousand feet of climbing in various directions every day, going through different and delightful Kulu villages on the way up each time. But the tops of even the lower peaks which are accessible from Manali itself, such as Khanpori Tibba, Gahi Dhor and Rohan-I-Dbar, were quite impossible in these conditions. Always the snow got well above the knees by 9,000 feet. I telegraphed Colin Pritchard and stopped him coming because the snow was too bad for the sort of thing we had planned. But I enjoyed myself thoroughly on my own: there was any amount of glorious scenery, some fierce sunshine and each day had its own excitement such as a close view of the Himalayan Golden Eagle and three large members of the cat tribe and I usually had the company of the odd vulture. Now and again I remembered to shout, as advised by Peter, to let the bears know I was coming. They were all safely asleep though at this time of year.

Peter and I decided on a final fling the following Thursday, an attempt to get up The Rothang Pass, the way to Lahoul and a mere 13,400 feet, but even this was doomed to failure. We got the Land Rover up to the rest house at Koti the night before; a hair-raising journey in thick mud and snow, and early next morning started the trudge up. At about 9,500 feet we came upon a large party of Lahoul people who were trying to make their right way back from the Kulu Valley to their own area but had been beaten by the snow. They had settled down in a shallow cave and were prepared to

spend a few nights there in case things got better. There were any number of cliffs in this area which would give the hard boys something to think about : they are mostly absolutely vertical and up to 1,000 feet in height. We pushed on to 11,000 feet but had then had enough.

Back to Manali again. The bus down goes at 5 a.m. Delhi is 400 miles to the south and the bus fare is 25 shillings. The bus is liable to break down though – ours did and we waited six hours in the foothills for a relief.

March is obviously not the time to visit the Kulu. But I enjoyed myself thoroughly and hope to go some other year in July or later.

NEW CLIMBS & NOTES

I. SNOWDONIA

A. Carneddau*

LLECH DDU

Venom 200 feet Extremely Severe

The climb takes the line of the roofed grooves immediately left of the Great Corner. Most of the loose rock and vegetation have been removed, but some care is necessary, particularly on the first pitch. No direct aids, other than the peg, are to be used.

Start by a small tree on the terrace left of the Great Corner.

- (1) 100 feet. Climb the shallow groove to a grass ledge below the sloping overhang. Go up left over shattered rock to a spike on an arête. Climb the steep wall above until it is possible to move right, ledge and peg belay. (Immediately below the finish to Gt. Corner.)
- (2) 100 feet. Climb the obvious groove on the left. Go up past a small overhang, continue up the groove to a peg (in situ). With aid from the peg gain the rib on the right and continue to beneath the roof. Go over the roof and up the crack in the steep wall above to finish on the left.

First ascent: 30th August, 1966. L. E. Holliwell and L. R. Holliwell.

Iota 260 feet Very Severe

Start on the buttress immediately below a very prominent pointed overhanging arête high on the left hand end of the cliff.

- (1) 60 feet. Climb a shallow groove on the right, move left beneath a small overhang, continue up to a grass ledge on the left, good spike belay.
- (2) 60 feet. Move back right on loose flakes and climb up, bearing left to ledge and large spike belay.
- (3) 140 feet. Climb up tending left to a grass ledge, continue in the same line to gain the obvious groove to the left of the overhang. Up the groove keeping right where it forks, to a crack which is followed to the top. Large chock belay well back.

First ascent: 3rd September, 1966. L. E. Holliwell and L. R. Holliwell.

*Several other new routes have been done in this area, principally in the course of work on the new guidebook, publication of which is imminent.

Considerable "gardening" has been carried out on the route, but it could profit from further attention.

It should also be mentioned that a stray piton was found in the early part of the top groove, but there were no other signs of previous attempts at the route, successful or otherwise.

Commuters' Crack 260 feet Hard Very Severe

On the right-hand side of the crag is a complex system of cracks, grooves and chimneys. There is a large grass terrace running horizontally in from the right-hand scree-gully. There is the obvious Y-chimney with the cracks of Humour to its left with the big, shallow diedre of Elliw just to its right. This route climbs a prominent, steep crack in the right-hand bounding wall of this diedre.

- (1) 100 feet. Traverse steeply up right up a flaky wall to the foot of the crack. Turn the overhang on the right and step into the crack and use a sling for aid 10 feet above the overhang and traverse onto the left wall and up into a groove and good thread belay with poor grass stance.
- (2) 60 feet. Bridge up the blank groove to the left of the big, jammed flake.
- (3) 40 feet. Scramble up a grassy groove.
- (4) 60 feet. Go up the pleasant slab on the left by its middle point.

First ascent: 30th April, 1966. C. T. Jones, M. P. Hatton and A. J. J. Moulam. Alt. leads.

CLOGWYN YR ERYR—CRAFNANT

Storm 340 feet Hard Very Severe and A2

A low girdle of the cliff, fine situations and intricate route-finding. Stances often in etriers.

Start at the left end of the cliff beneath a prominent groove leading to a roof (Phoenix—though not named in the guide).

- (1) 80 feet. Climb the groove (nuts, wedges, etc.) to the roof, then free to the arête on the right.
- (2) 85 feet. A few feet up the groove on the right and move up to a peg on the arête. Use a sling for aid to reach a sling on Clonus, then a rope move down to the right and step round the corner to a peg on the lip of an overhang. Use this and another peg for aid, then another sling to gain a large corner groove (Connie's Crack). Continue free and then out right beneath a roof to etrier stance on the next arête.
- (3) 50 feet. Go right into Astoroth, cross it and climb good holds to an arête. Continue across slabs (peg for protection) to the square-cut sloping ledge (stance of Beelzebub).

- (4) 30 feet. Diagonally right to a large block and jungle (as for Beelzebub).
- (5) 70 feet. (Daisy Chain). Down through the trees and take the best line across the overhanging wall to the arête. Round it and go up to a tree.
- (6) 40 feet. Go right and climb the big corner to the top (Sobad).

B. Cwm Idwal

CLOGWYN Y TARW

Great Wall 130 feet Hard Very Severe

The wall to the left of Yob route. Start up a crack to the left of the prominent groove leading to the triple block overhang.

- (1) 40 feet. Go up the crack to a thread belay at the overhang. Stance at a tree on the left.
- (2) 90 feet. From the thread, follow some shallow grooves on the right to a peg. Make a few hard moves up on the left to gain a recess at the base of twin cracks. Follow these to the top.
First ascent: 1965. R. Evans and T. Hurley.

IDWAL SLABS

Sinner's Corner 120 feet Very Severe

On the West wall of Idwal Slabs, between Rowan Tree Slabs and Faith West Finish, there is an open corner, high up on the wall, with a triangular overhang. The corner can be reached in two ways.

- (1) 30 feet. From the top of Rowan Tree Slabs walk left and make an awkward step round the corner, across the top of an open unclimbed groove. A few moves upward lead to the foot of the corner proper.
- (1a) 45 feet. Alternatively, from halfway up the third pitch of Sub-Wall climb, just past the foot of the unclimbed corner mentioned above, it is possible to move diagonally right up a steep wall, on good holds to the foot of the corner.
- (2) 45 feet. Climb the corner by bridging the bulge, then move rightwards to easier ground above.
First ascent: Summer, 1961. R. James and others.

Tower Line 205 feet Very Severe (Hard)

This climbs the part of the steep tower which culminates in the block finishing Tennis Shoe, mentioned in the Guidebook.
Start as for Ash Tree Wall.

- (1) 120 feet. Climb Ash Tree Wall for about 20 feet, when it is possible to traverse rightwards and move through the bubbly-rock over-

hang to the holds used by the girdle. Continue directly for a few feet then, moving gradually rightwards, pass two good spikes to the arête of Rake End Chimney. Step round this to reach a stance just above the overhang.

- (2) 40 feet. Move up and back onto the arête which soon merges into the face. Two vertical cracks provide aid (peg and 2 slings) until good holds can be reached on the right leading to a small grassy stance and (sitting) belay.
- (3) 45 feet. Climb up a few feet to the left of the arête until it is possible to make a difficult move onto the slab. Follow this for five feet (as for Tennis Shoe) to a large, knife-edged flake. Move up onto this and continue to the perched block.

First ascent: 13th May, 1966. R. James and K. C. G.....

Devil's Delight 195 feet Very Severe

Short but very worthwhile.

Start just left of the Gash up a shattered pinnacle.

- (1) 85 feet. Climb the front of the pinnacle on the right hand side. Step off the top of the pinnacle and climb leftwards for 30 feet to the bottom of a steep ramp rising to the right. Up this to a large shattered flake. Peg belay.
- (2) 120 feet. Climb up behind the belay then right under an overhang and continue until just past a large pointed block. Ascend to the left to reach the bottom of a 40 ft. slab. Climb onto this and continue, keeping left, to the top. A surprising pitch.

First ascent: 1st July, 1966. R. Edwards and E. G. Penman (alternate leads).

KITCHEN, NORTH CLIFF

Easy Slab 100 feet Very Difficult

The triangle of slab left of Easy (East in the guide) Gully. Up directly to a crack line rising right and on to the top.

First ascent: 3rd September, 1966. A. J. J. Moulam.

C. Tryfan and Glyder Fach*

GALLT YR OGOF

Black Maria 180 feet Extremely Severe

The obvious overhanging groove 30 feet left of Maria.

*A new route (Boot Crack, H.V.S.) has been found on the Milestone Buttress. This is included in the new edition of the Guidebook, now available.

- (1) 120 feet. Climb the groove with difficulty to a rickety flake. Continue until the crack closes. Gain the arête on the right (peg for protection). Climb the arête for a few feet then back into the groove to reach a good ledge and belay.
- (2) 60 feet. Climb the leftward-slanting crack above the stance for 60 feet then heather to the top.
First ascent: 25th April, 1965. J. M. A. Boysen, A. Williams and D. Little.

D. Llanberis North

DINAS Y CROMLECH

Joshua's Traverse 120 Feet Hard Very Severe

A good finish to Jericho Wall, making 365 feet of climbing, but much harder than anything on that route.

- (1) 60 feet. From the block belay in the Valley, at the top of Jericho Wall, descend rightwards to below a steep wall. With nuts for protection in crack on left, climb by hard layaway moves up holds near the outer edge. A hard mantelshelf and long reach bring a ledge within reach (runner). Move round corner onto ledge and go rightwards along it to spike belay below impending crack.
- (2) 60 feet. Continue the traverse below overhangs to the bottom of for the final overhanging chimney of Horseman's, which is taken to the top.
First ascent: 23rd October, 1965. S. Wroe and A. Howard (alt. leads).

The Crucifix 230 feet Extremely Severe

The climb takes the wall between Cemetery Gates and Ivy Sepulchre, following a system of grooves. Steep and strenuous climbing, with some friable rock.

Start as for Ivy Sepulchre.

- (1) 80 feet. The first pitch of Ivy Sepulchre to the belay below the corner proper.
- (2) 150 feet. Traverse left across the wall and ascend to a flake runner (strenuous). Move up 10 feet to a resting place and climb leftwards into a shallow groove, passing an ancient piton at foot level. Up the groove with difficulty in to a shattered niche (junction with the girdle traverse). Climb up to a small overhang, move left and up the wall to the 'thank God' holds of Cemetery Gates. Follow this climb to the top.
First ascent: 17th May, 1966. L. T. Brown and E. Jones.

CARREG WASTAD**Quasimodo** 120 feet Hard Very Severe

- (1) 120 feet. Start in the trees of Trilon. Climb the crack a few feet to the right of, and parallel to that of Trilon, to the niche in the big overhangs. Swing through the overhangs with difficulty to a small ledge. Step right and climb the corner crack on bad jams. First ascent: 1964. R. James and Miss A. Earnshaw.

CLOGWYN Y GROCHAN**Corruption** 180 feet Extremely Severe

Start in the Sentry box, as for Brant and Surplomb.

- (1) 40 feet. Bridge up the sentry box to a nut/wire sling (in place). Using this for aid gain the crack above. Climb this, past the tree to an overlap, where a small nut for aid brings good quartz holds into reach to the right. Up the short wall to a grassy bay. Belay on tree.
- (2) 80 feet. Climb the corner crack on good finger jams to the bulge (nut protection). With aid from a nut surmount the bulge and continue more easily for a few moves to the Surplomb belay (peg).
- (3) 60 feet. Continue up the shattered crack of Surplomb. Belay. Continue as for Slape.

First ascent: 29th April, 1966. J. Costello and D. J. Southall.

Perygl 300 feet Extremely Severe

Finds a way through the shattered overhangs right of Broad Walk.

- (1) 95 feet. First pitch of Broad Walk.
- (2) 30 feet. Walk right along a ledge to the Gardens.
- (3) 120 feet. Climb the wall above to the small overhang and into an overhanging groove. Surmount this with three pegs for aid in the left wall of the groove. (N.B. the right wall is very unstable.) Move right from the top of the groove, into a good crack. Climb this and exit right on good holds. Continue to a large ledge and belay.
- (4) 60 feet. Move round the corner on the left and climb easy rock to the top.

First ascent: 7th October, 1965. R. Edwards, D. Mellor.

Hangover Direct Start 80 feet Extremely Severe

From a small group of pinnacles to the right of the normal start ascend to the groove for about 20 feet to a small overlap which runs horizon-

tally into the groove: standing in a sling on a nut make a long reach for a side-pull jug, obvious from below. Swing up to down-sloping holds and place a thread runner on the edge of the groove, using this for a tension move up until good holds above the overhang can be reached. From the spike above move up and tension left across the slab to Hangover stance. (2 pegs for aid: probably possible with 1.)

First ascent: 13th September, 1965. G. Homer and J. M. P. Jones.

CRAIG DDU

Fever 135 feet Very Severe

- (1) 35 feet. As for Petite Fleur.
- (2) 40 feet. Traverse left under the overhang to the foot of the groove. Climb this, using a peg at the top (in place). Step right along a flake to the edge, and climb the slab to a ledge behind a holly.
- (3) 60 feet. Make a rising traverse left to a perched block at the foot of a crack. Climb this and traverse left from a holly to the top.

First ascent: 16th July, 1966. D. Yates, K. McLoughlin and P. Donnelly.

E. Llanberis South

DINAS MOT

Groper 250 feet Very Severe (Hard)

Takes the slab on the left side of Black Cleft. Start below the groove on the left of the undercut base.

- (1) 70 feet. Follow the groove until it splits, then using a peg high in the right groove and one on the wall, traverse right to a hard move onto the slab. Go diagonally across to a peg belay and stance in slings in the middle of the slab.
- (2) 80 feet. Go up right to a shallow scoop, past a bulge; then up a crack past a bulge. Up a crack past a hidden spike and horizontal fault to a ledge on the arête. Left, and straight up to a stance and large belay.
- (3) 50 feet. Follow the rib to a sloping ledge and peg belay.
- (4) 50 feet. From the right-hand edge of the ledge go up a crack to the level of the overhang on the right. Hand traverse left to a layback crack which ends beneath an overhang. Move right and up to a good stance. Scrambling remains.

First ascent: 1965. R. Evans and T. Hurley.

Nexus Direct Finish 50 feet

- (1) 50 feet. Climb the groove until the angle eases, 4 pegs (1st native,

2nd and 3rd American—difficult to position). When the angle eases traverse left for 6 feet onto a ledge then continue to the top.

First ascent: 26th August, 1966. P. Crew and D. Alcock.

Gandalf 300 feet Hard Very Severe

To the right of the start of Gollum and at approximately the same level there is a large overhang. Start below this and scramble up to a belay stance on the right.

- (1) 120 feet. Climb into the back of the overhang and onto the large protruding block, move right on large holds and over the overhang. (This would be much harder when wet.) Continue up a crack, moving left at the top to a large grass bay and tree belay in a cave (as for Gollum).
- (2) 130 feet. Move right up a small rib and go left up the wall to a large horizontal crack. Mantleshelf onto the crack at a cave and go straight up, heading for the twin block overhangs above, to an obvious traverse line. Move right a few feet to where the overhangs on the right fade out and climb the slab above the overhang until it is possible to move left to the small wall between the two overhangs. Move left and go up the arête a short way to a small stance and poor belay.
- (3) 50 feet. Continue up the groove in the arête, as for Gollum to the top. A peg was used in the long pitch in an attempt to belay, but is probably not necessary now.

First ascent: 24th August, 1966. R. Evans and J. R. Esplin.

The Grinder 350 feet Hard Very Severe

Start 20 feet right of Sexus arête.

- (1) 100 feet. Climb leftward-slanting flakes to gain a shallow groove. Move up this to a stance in a grass bay. Peg belay.
- (2) 100 feet. Traverse right 6 feet; move up to a thin vertical crack on an arête. Climb the crack using one sling for aid. Continue up the arête to join Plexus: belay (peg) under roof.
- (3) 30 feet. Climb the roof on poor pegs (A3, 5 pegs). Belay in sentry box stance.
- (4) 120 feet. Hand-traverse right for a few feet and climb delicately to the second roof, to a prow under the roof. Stand on prow (peg) and surmount the roof to the groove above. Climb directly to the top.

100 feet of scrambling.

First ascent: August, 1966. M. Boysen. W. Birch, J. Jordan.

F. Clogwyn Du'r Arddu

(Unnamed) 200 feet. Hard Very Severe

About 50 feet right of Mostest Direct Start an obvious curving crack cuts the lower half of the buttress. Start directly below this at the foot of easy slabs.

- (1) 150 feet. Climb up into the foot of the crack and directly up it to a good resting place in a short chimney at about 80 feet. Peg for protection. Climb the chimney and move left to climb the overhang with aid from a sling and peg to a good ledge on the left. Move left again under a sharp rib and climb a short arête into the final chimney. Up this to a good stance and peg belay on the right.
- (2) 50 feet. Step down to the right and climb the obvious cracked chimney to easy ground.
Scrambling leads to the foot of Sceptre.

First ascent: 29th May, 1966. P. Crew and G. Birtles.

East Gully Wall Direct 100 feet Extremely Severe

A very strenuous climb.

Start. 30 feet right of East Gully start is a large pinnacle capped by a large overhang.

- (1) 100 feet. Climb the pinnacle and move right, round the overhang (peg for aid) and into a big groove. Ascend the groove to an overhang containing a jammed block. Surmount the overhang with the aid of a sling threaded round the block. Climb straight up the corner crack to the stance of East Gully Wall beneath its final crack.
- (2) Follow either East Gully Wall, or better, Moseleys variation to the top.

First ascent: 9th May, 1966. R. Edwards, R. Rejous.

Arête Finish 115 feet Hard Very Severe

To the right of Continuation Chimney is a steep arête overlooking the Great Wall. The climb takes this arête on the east wall.

- (1) 115 feet. Traverse right from the foot of Continuation Chimney, on good holds and up to a loose spike (peg instead of). Continue straight up and into a crack to finish.

First ascent: 29th May, 1966. A. G. Cramm and P. Scott.

Moonshine, Direct Finish

Gives a harder finish, more in keeping with the rest of the climb. The

pegs previously used on pitch (2) are not necessary—good protection can be arranged with chockstone and nut runners.

- (2a) 150 feet. Follow the original pitch (2) to the traverse left under the last overhang. Climb the overhang with a high peg for aid and continue up the widening crack on good jams to a ledge and spike belay on the right.

First ascent: 20th August, 1966. R. Edwards and J. Costello.

Spartacus 350 feet Extremely Severe

A direct and very serious route between Slanting Slab and Gael.

Start. 40 feet left of Slanting entry the overhang is 12 feet across. Underneath a prominent crack is a slight fault across the roof.

- (1) 130 feet Climb a shattered wall and traverse the roof using 5 or 6 very doubtful pegs. From the lip of the overhang climb the prominent crack until it starts to trend right. At this point traverse left to an arête. Climb up to Slanting Slab and follow it for 20 feet then move right for 20 feet to a large grass ledge.
- (2) 70 feet. Climb the shallow groove behind the belay for 40 feet to the top. Climb right then left into the belay on a grass ledge, as for Gael. A delightful pitch.
- (3) 150 feet. The wall behind the belay then continue up grass ledges to the top of the cliff.

First ascent: 30th May, 1966. R. Edwards, A. Harris.

Mynnedd (Patience) 450 feet Extremely Severe

Takes an intricate line between Great Slab and Slanting Slab.

Start. 60 feet right of Great Slab to the right and above the first large overhang over the Western Terrace. A 2ft. pointed flake can be seen close against the rock in a small niche at the bottom of a 20ft. slab.

The flake is about 25ft. above the Western Terrace.

- (1) 150 feet. Using patience, skill, and the rope lasso the flake, and then prusick up to it. The flake is solid for a downward pull but doubtful if the pull is outwards. It is best to place two protection pegs as soon as one joins rock about 6ft. below the flake. From the flake climb left to a peg, then cross the slab on the right and climb a short wall to an overhang. Hand jam under the overhang to the left to a peg and using this, step onto the arête and into a shallower groove. Climb the groove until forced left onto steeper rock. Traverse left into another weakness and follow this to an overhang. Step round on the left and cross a short wall to a grass rake. Follow this for 10 feet to stance and large flake.
- (2) 100 feet. Descend the rake for 5 feet and step onto the steep slab. Traverse right for 15 feet then climb straight up to the overhang.

Move left here onto another slab with the aid of a sling on a small spike. Climb the slab for 20 feet to a stance. Pegs.

- (3) 150 feet. Continue up the slab until it peters out. Step across a groove onto a rib which is followed to a grass ledge on the left. From the ledge ascend a short wall to a large fang of rock. Move right across overhanging rock to a spike on the arête. Continue past the spike, descending slightly under another overhang and cross slanting slab to another spike, in a corner. Right again, round an arête then climb a crack to a stance. Peg.
- (4) A short slab and crack leads to easy scrambling.

First ascent: 30th May, 1966. R. Edwards, M. Eldridge, R. Evans.

Fibrinogen 310 feet Extremely Severe

Takes the Slanting Slab entry and continues to join Bloody Slab.

Start: As for Slanting Slab.

- (1) 50 feet. Ascend the overhang with 3 pegs. Move up and then left to a grass ledge. Belay on nut and peg.
- (2) 140 feet. Climb up to an overhang, move right under a groove and up to the next slab. (peg for aid). Straight up the slab for 20 feet to a spike on the right overlap. Using this swing across onto a small ledge and crack. Follow the crack until it is possible to move over onto a small slab on the left under a small overhang. Climb the overhang on its right then go over grass to a belay.
- (3) 120 feet. Step right, climb a rib and join Bloody Slab. Follow this to the top.

First ascent: 22nd August, 1966. R. Edwards, J. Costello.

Sheaf Direct 180 feet Hard Very Severe

Start as for Sheaf to the stance in the groove where Sheaf goes left onto White Slab.

- (1) 100 feet. Climb straight up the groove to a good resting place. Step left and up a thin crack in the slab until it peters out. Continue up the main groove with difficulty to a sloping foothold, then use holds on the right arête to reach a large spike. Continue more easily up the last few feet to the final stance of Sheaf.
- (2) 80 feet. Whillans' direct finish. Climb the groove with difficulty for 20 feet, then up a subsidiary groove in the right wall until it is possible to escape onto Narrow Slab.

First ascent: 31st May, 1966. P. Crew and D. Cook.

(Unnamed) 150 feet Hard Very Severe

Takes a thin crack up the large slab on the left of Bloody Slab. Start lower down the gully than for Bloody at a big spike belay.

- (1) 150 feet. Step left and climb the constricted groove to a large sloping hold. Peg in place. Tension left onto the lower slab and traverse left into the thin crack. Climb straight up this for about 50 feet to a good resting place. Peg runner. Continue straight up to a grass sod, step right and then traverse horizontally left to reach the large grass ledges below the second pitch of Bloody. Grass climbing as for Bloody to the top.

First ascent: 30th May, 1966. P. Crew and Miss J. Baldock.

New Girdle; West Buttress 1425 feet Extremely Severe.

A very long expedition with two short artificial pitches and a lot of new climbing.

The route ascends the Boulder, breaks out of Black Cleft, follows existing pitches to the 40 feet corner then picks an intricate line across the difficult slabs to eventually reach Dwedd Groove.

Start: As for the Boulder and Left Edge.

- (1) 45 feet. As for the Boulder.
- (2) 135 feet. Boulder pitch 2.
- (3) 50 feet. Move right into Black Cleft. Reach a peg behind a loose flake on the overhanging right wall. Use this and three goes to reach vertical rock. Climb this using one more peg to reach the arête of Longlands.
- (4) 40 feet. Descend Longlands to Ghecko Groove.
- (5) 70 feet. Abseil down Ghecko Groove to the Stance common with White Slab.
- (6) 45 feet. The lasso pitch of White to the stance common with Sheaf.
- (7) 90 feet. As for pitch 6 of Sheaf and existing Girdle.
- (8) (9) (10) (11) Follow the Old Girdle to the 40 feet Corner on Great Slab.
- (12) 100 feet. Descend the grass ledges, then traverse right across a small slab to reach a corner. Descend a further 10 feet to a belay, common with Mynnedd.
- (13) 80 feet. The Link. Climb down for a few feet and step onto the steep slab on the right. Climb up towards the overhang until it is possible to traverse to a flake in the middle of the slab. Continue by a difficult ascending traverse to join Slanting Slab at a grass ledge. Descend Slanting to a belay.
- (14) 50 feet. Continue the descent of Slanting Slab and reverse its traverse to a grass ledge.
- (15) 140 feet. Climb up to the overhang and move right under groove. Climb onto the next slab with aid from a peg (in place) Ascend the slab for 20 feet to a spike on the right overlap. Use the spike to swing onto a small ledge and crack. Follow the crack to a grassy groove, climb up this and then onto a small slab on the

left. Traverse the slab and climb up to an overhang. Ascend this on the right on good holds. Go left to grass ledges.

- (16) 40 feet. Move right and reverse the top traverse of Bloody Slab to a belay in a corner on pegs.
- (17) 25 feet. Descend slightly and go round the corner on the right to a slab. Go right to a bulge and ascend this on flat holds to the pegs on Haemoglobin.
- (18) 60 feet. Move right and climb the overhanging wall with 5 pegs for aid (in place) Pull onto grass ledges and then follow a grassy crack to a belay on a large spike.
- (19) 70 feet. Descend the grass for 20 feet then traverse across a slab into Diwedd Groove. Descend this to a belay.
- (20) 150 feet. Make a wide bridge and climb out of Diwedd Groove onto the next overlap, then descend grooves until under an overhang and on a weakness leading right. Follow this over a small overhang, then go right again to a groove. Follow the groove to grass ledges. Go right to the end of the crag. A very loose pitch.

First ascent: 14th October, 1966. R. Edwards, J. Costello, E. G. Penman.

Variations: It is possible to avoid the bolt pitch out of Black Cleft, by continuing up the Boulder, traversing to the crevasse stance on Longlands and then making a long abseil down White Slab to the stance common with Sheaf.

- (3a) 40 feet. Pitch 3 of Boulder.
- (4a) 50 feet. Traverse to the grassy groove on the right, descend this to a weakness going right into Longlands. Follow this to the Cravasse Stance.
- (5a) 150 feet. Abseil off a large block, down White Slab to join Sheaf. The route can be shortened considerably by starting from the 40 feet corner on Great Slab.

G. Snowdon South

CRAIG Y CASTELL

Tarantula 190 feet Very Severe (Hard)

Takes the right hand edge of the Great Slab of Tantalus and the groove above.

Start below the overhang at the bottom right of the slab.

- (1) 90 feet. The rib to a small foot-ledge below the overhang. Step up and right; then up and right over the overlap, to the edge. Up this to a grass ledge. Protection poor.

- (2) 70 feet. Climb the crack and groove leading to a triangular overhang above and to the right. Climb the inset rib on its left, stepping right at the top. Peg belay on the left.

First ascent: 14th May, 1966. D. Yates, I. C. Lowe and Miss F. L. Crawford.

Direct start to Iolyn 50 feet Hard Very Severe

Start. To the right of the start or Salix is a slab capped by an overhang and flanked on the right by a groove.

- (1a) Up the slab to the roof then right and up the groove to grass ledges. Step left onto the slab and round the corner as for Salix to join Iolyn.

First ascent: 10th April, 1966. R. Edwards, C. Boulton.

High Girdle 360 feet Extremely Severe

- (1) 100 feet. As for Tantalus to the Grass Ledges.
- (2) 50 feet. On the left is an overhanging slab (above the Tensor Traverse). At its lowest corner is a niche. Climb up this onto the slab. Traverse across and round the corner into Tensor. Belay in a small pocket with peg (not in place) high up.
- (3) 40 feet. Crux. Using combined tactics reach a peg under the roof. Use this to start a thin traverse across the middle of the slab on the left to join Pelagra. Follow Pelagra to the roof. Nut belay high up and stance in small pockets.
- (4) 70 feet. Climb across to the Wasp and descend this to the traverse line of Sisiphus. Follow this round the arête on the left to the stance on Creag Ddu Wall.
- (5) 40 feet. Climb down a little then across to trees.
- (6) 60 feet. Move left to the direct finish of Iolyn and follow this to the top.

First ascent: 9th February, 1966. R. Edwards, C. Boulton.

CRAIG PANT IFAN

Orodruin 130 feet. Hard Very Severe

Start as for Olympic Slab.

- (1) 60 feet. Traverse right for 20 feet variously along ledges. Climb up over two overhangs and then up on slabs to the left, to a stance in trees.

- (2) 70 feet. Climb up above the trees to a large flake from which a groove to the right may be reached. Climb this to a large ledge. A delicate move left brings one onto a slab which is climbed to an overhang. Move over this into the corner above, using a peg for aid. Exit left at the top of the corner onto slabs, to the top.
Foden and A. Swinnerton, 2nd September, 1965.
First ascent: 5th March, 1966. F. E. R. Cannings and M. A. Toole.

Erebus 100 feet Hard Very Severe

Finds a line up the impressive buttress between the tops of Strapiombo and Borchgrevinck.

Start. Follow Strapiombo to the final chimney. Tree Belay.

- 100 feet. Traverse a crack in the steep right wall (peg for aid) to gain the arête. Continue round the corner and place another peg. Climb up to a roof (peg in place). Move right onto a slab, and climb this, trending left at first, to the top.

First ascent: 9th April, 1966. R. Edwards, D. Blyth.

Stromboli—variation to last pitch 90 feet Hard Very Severe

From the stance in the trees at the bottom of Stromboli, Pitch 3, traverse diagonally left up the smooth slab—very delicate—to gain a large ledge. Step right and move up onto the left-hand side of the slab of Stromboli, using a peg for aid. Continue up this side of the slab, then step right and over the final overhang as for Stromboli.

First ascent: 5th March, 1966. M. A. Toole and F. E. R. Cannings.

Itch 200 feet Hard Very Severe

- (1) 90 feet. Climb up to a short groove, step right and up to bulging rock. Move back left awkwardly to place a peg above the bulge. Use the peg to surmount the bulge, continue straight up and through vegetation to free belay.
- (2) 110 feet. Start 10 feet right of Scratch Corner, immediately left of the ivy, climb the slab trending right to below the corner formed by the left-hand edge of the overhang. Go up the corner to intersect Scratch. Move left and go straight up over a bulge to finish by a small overlap high on the steep part of the wall.

First ascent: 31st July, 1966. L. E. Holliwell and L. R. Holliwell.

Whistling Rufus 295 feet Very Severe (Hard)

- (1) 70 feet. As for Lucretia—from the middle of the slab climb an obvious stepped groove trending right, then back left to a good

ledge and thread belay.

- (2) 45 feet. Move left and ascend broken rocks to a ledge on the edge of the buttress. (Loose block belay.)
- (3) 60 feet. Crux—climb the obvious groove leaving the ledge on the right for twenty five feet, step left onto the steep slab to a piton (in place) and with the aid of this make a long stride down left to a sloping foothold, then continue along a very thin traverse line leading to the arête. Climb the arête via another groove to reach a large flake belay. (No handholds between the piton and the arête.)
- (4) 120 feet. Straight up above the flake to the slab above and climb this by its right hand side.

First ascent: 31st July, 1966. T. Gannon and K. McCallum

Valerian 290 feet Hard Very Severe

- (1) (2) (3) As for Agrippa.
- (4) 20 feet. Traverse 20 feet left to peg belay at top of Pitch 3 of Ravens' Nest Wall.
- (5) 20 feet. Traverse 20 feet left to an obvious nose with peg belay (Harder.)
- (6) 110 feet. Traverse 15 feet left to an obvious ledge and resting place at the foot of the final crack. Ascend the crack, easily at first. A sling was used for aid at about 30 feet up the crack, from where difficulties are continuous.
Nowhere are pitons necessary.

First ascent: 27th December, 1965. H. Smith and I. Sanderson.

The first ascensionists point out a confusion in the present guide book of Agrippa with Ravens' Nest Wall.

Gwrtheryn 155 feet Very Severe

Start as for W.O.B.

- (1) 80 feet. As for W.O.B. for 70 feet until a move right leads to an obvious ledge on the arête. Peg belay low down.
- (2) 45 feet. With the aid of a peg at 10 feet climb the groove on the left up to the junction with Hogmanay Hangover.
- (3) 30 feet. Traverse left across the slab and climb the obvious corner.

First ascent: 20th June, 1966. M. Lewis and H. G. Davies.

Psyche 190 feet Very Severe

Start at the foot of a recess near the end of the cliff.

- (1) 80 feet. Climb up to an overhang which is surmounted on good holds and climb the groove above to a stride right leading to a good

ledge. (Piton belay recommended.)

- (2) 50 feet. Climb awkwardly into the recess above and step left onto an edge. Climb this direct to beneath an overhang and traverse right towards the edge of the cliff. Ascend a short wall and trend left to a stance at a perched block below the final groove of Hogmanay Hangover.
- (3) 60 feet. Climb the wall forming the arête on the right of the diedre direct to the top. (A nice piece of climbing.)

First ascent: 6th November, 1966. K. McCallum and J. S. Martin.

CRAIG Y GESAIL

The Chateau 170 feet Very Severe

A direct approach to the crux of The Castle.

- (1) 100 feet. Start directly below the Castle and climb vegetated rocks to a shattered overhang and hence to a good stance.
- (2) 70 feet. From the stance move right until it is possible to make a difficult move into a scoop in the overhanging wall. Swing out rightwards on good holds onto the arête and climb this direct to join the Castle at its crux. Follow this to the top.

First ascent: Easter, 1966. R. James and J. Wilkinson.

Astonall 140 feet Very Severe

A good short climb with contrasting pitches.

Start: Scramble up the gully on the right of The Castle, to a tree belay.

- (1) 40 feet. Broken rocks lead to an ivy-covered pulpit up on the right.
- (2) 60 feet. Straight above, steepening, until a move left and back right can be made to a crack. This leads to a ledge and thread belay.
- (3) 40 feet. The steep crack above is surprisingly difficult and awkward to finish.

First ascent: 24th April, 1966. C. T. Jones, A. J. J. Moulam, N. A. J. Rogers and Mrs. N. A. J. Rogers.

Plumblin 130 feet Very Severe

Follows the steep wall between Sheerline and Clutch. Enjoyable, exposed climbing.

Scramble up to a tree belay below and to the left of an obvious sentry box.

- (1) 30 feet. Climb the short wall and traverse left to a good stance at the foot of the sentry box. Flake belay a few feet higher.
- (2) 100 feet. Climb the sentry box, exiting left, difficult. Continue up the

steep wall moving slightly right at first and keeping left at the top, to join the last few feet of Clutch.

First ascent: 7th April, 1965. C. E. Davies and G. Holmes.

Touché 120 feet Hard Very Severe

On Midas Buttress: the route takes a direct line up the centre of the face, eliminating the traverse of Touch and Go, but finishing at the same point. Steep wall climbing.

Start as for Touch and Go.

- (1) 20 feet. As for Touch and Go.
- (2) 100 feet. Climb the chimney to the overhang. Step left to a good foothold below a very narrow crack line. Follow this until it is possible to swing left strenuously into a niche. Continue up the crack to reach the top of a pinnacle and mantleshelf out left as for Touch and Go.

Note: a piton was already in position on the step out from Touch and Go. This is not necessary, but it should be noted that protection is poor above, although some gardening may help.

CRAIG Y CARLWM

This small crag is situated some 400 yards east of Craig y Gesail. There is some very loose rock hereabouts, but parts of the crag are quite solid and, once the brambles have been overcome, give good climbing.

The cliff is in two sections, the left-hand consisting of three buttresses separated by two corners, Carlwm Corner and Heather Groove. The right-hand section (lower) is a block wall, wrinkled with overhangs and usually wet.

The Fox 130 feet Very Difficult

There are three buttresses on the left-hand section of the crag.

Start below the central buttress at the foot of a rib. Care with rock needed on first pitch.

- (1) 70 feet. Up the rib. Belay at the foot of the overhanging corner.
- (2) 60 feet. Traverse left round the corner and go up past a tree to regain the rib. Follow this on good holds to the top.

First ascent: 9th February, 1964. J. Harwood and R. A. High; alternate leads.

Carlwm Corner 110 feet Very Severe

Below the left-hand section of the cliff about five yards left of the obvious easy-angled Heather Groove. A steep corner splits the upper part of the face.

- (1) 70 feet. Up the wall and rib to the foot of the corner (pitch 1 of The Fox).
- (2) 40 feet. Climb the corner directly over three slight bulges.

First ascent: 11th June, 1966. R. F. Burns and J. Harwood.

Biolet 130 feet Severe

Takes a line up the arête on the right-hand buttress on the left-hand part of the cliff.

Start at the foot of the rib.

- (1) 45 feet. Up the right-hand side of the face to a step right onto the arête. Stance and belay.
- (2) 45 feet. Step back left onto the face and up this to a large stance.
- (3) 40 feet. Continue in the same line to the top.

First ascent: 10th September, 1964. J. Harwood and S. Janvrin; alternate leads.

The Fly 120 feet Very Difficult

Towards the right-hand end of the cliff is an area of black rock. Start at the left edge of the area, left of the overhangs, at an indefinite leftward-slanting groove directly above the farm.

- (1) 90 feet. Go straight up the face to a large dead tree.
- (2) 30 feet. Go left to the corner, round the rib and so to the top.

First ascent: 18th July, 1964. D. E. Burgess and J. Harwood; alternate leads.

CRAIG BWLCH Y MOCH

G String 140 feet. Very Severe

This climbs the buttress between Striptease and Triangulum.

- (1) 90 feet. Start up, the corner of Triangulum but continue to the top and then make a difficult move left to the abseil piton of the girdle traverse. Using this for aid, move up over the overhang to a ledge, then continue more easily to a stance on Hail Bebe.
- (2) 50 feet. Climb the steep wall above. (Some of this pitch has been done before.)

First ascent: 1963 or 1964. R. James and C. Goody.

Burlesque 180 feet Very Severe

Start 15 feet to the right and 15 feet higher than the start of Striptease, under the overhang.

- (1) 60 feet. Up to the overhang, and move left across loose blocks onto the slab. Move up the slab (peg) and into the overhanging groove on the right. Up this to a peg stance on the slabs right of

Striptease.

- (2) 60 feet. Make a rising traverse right for 35 feet to a short groove, up this to grass ledges and move left to a block belay.
- (3) 60 feet. Move up right onto the last pitch of Triangulum and take a slightly more direct line up this to the top.

First ascent: 12th April, 1966. R. Newcombe and A. Campbell.

Via Nimbus Hard Very Severe—A2

- (1) 60 feet. Start as for One Step in the Clouds, but climb directly up the groove above until a traverse can be made to the right, the first stance of Vector.
- (2) 35 feet. Step up for four feet, then traverse left for 20 feet and climb to the oak tree and stance. This is the beginning of Nimbus.
- (3) 30 feet. As for pitch 3 of Nimbus to the cave in the gully.
- (4) 40 feet. As for pitch 4 of Nimbus to the cave in the gully.
- (5) A.2. (9 pegs). Climb the overhanging corner of the cave with the aid of nuts to a wooden wedge at the roof. Peg up the cracks above until it is possible to traverse left to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 17th August, 1966. G. Farnsworth, C. McDonald and Miss G. Pemberton. (The first pitch was climbed by the same party in April, 1964.)

Tiros 160 feet Hard Very Severe

Take the gully to the right of Vector Buttress, and then the wall above Nimbus.

- (1) 100 feet. Climb the gully until it is possible to break through the overhangs to the stance of Nimbus.
- (2) 60 feet. Move left across the wall for 10 feet to a shallow groove. Climb this with a piton to a good foothold. Using a sling and two pitons continue up the wall above with difficulty, until a move left leads to better holds and a large ledge.

First ascent: Pitch 1 mostly climbed by D. Yates, 1964, and by R. James and M. S. de Petrovsky to reach Meshach. Pitch 2, R. James and D. H. James, Autumn, 1964.

Geineagle 155 feet Hard Very Severe

Good climbing on steep sound rock.

- (1) 25 feet. Follow Merlin to the first tree.
- (2) 110 feet. Climb the ramp on the right to a peg. Use this for aid to reach small finger holds which aid a pull onto a small ledge. (A stance can be made here.) Move left along the ledge then up and left and with a long reach gain the arête. Climb an overlap

to reach a slab and climb this to the last stance on Merlin.

- (3) 20 feet. As for Merlin.

First ascent: 27th February, 1966. R. Edwards, J. Edwards.

CRAIG Y LLYN

Terra Nova 230 feet Hard Very Severe

An excellent climb based on the 'Meadow', the broad gangway slanting left up the cliff's main wall, with grass and broom.

Start on the left, below The Sanctuary, is a tree and behind it a groove, not reaching the ground.

- (1) 80 feet. Into the groove by the little wall on the right. A short crack proves difficult, then one can exit left and go up to the Meadow. Belay on a very dead tree, a loose block, or better still (a few feet higher) with a peg at the foot of the fine groove. (This pitch can be split by traversing 20 feet right before the difficult crack, but not very satisfactorily.)
- (2) 85 feet. Straight up the groove with one sling for aid at about 10 feet. A magnificent (if muddy) pitch.
- (3) 65 feet. Scramble up the ridge of Honeysuckle Wall.

First ascent: 14th April, 1966. A. J. J. Moulam and C. T. Jones. (Alternate leads.)

Scuffer 210 feet (Not graded)

Climbs the right-hand side of the square-cut gully to the right of Aquilla. Start just to the right of Aquilla.

- (1) 80 feet. Climb the left-hand side of a slab and move right to a large ledge.
- (2) 60 feet. Climb the corner above to an obvious traverse left to a large flake crack. Climb this (peg used for gardening), moving right at the top across a slab to a belay.
- (3) 70 feet. Climb the corner above the belay (sling to start) and continue to the top.

First ascent: 13th May, 1966. G. Rogan and B. Ingle. Alternate leads.

H. Snowdon East

CARREG HYLL-DREM

The Burner 200 feet Hard Very Severe

Start in the centre of the crag to the right of the three ribs and below the crux of the Girdle Traverse.

- (1) 60 feet. Climb straight up, taking the right-hand of two grooves to join the Girdle Traverse. Follow this leftwards to stance and peg belay.
- (2) 70 feet. Climb the rib on the left to a small platform. Move left across the overhanging wall until it is possible to go straight up to a niche with good spike runner on the left, climb into the niche and move round the arête on the left to a grass ledge. Move up to the stance.
- (3) 70 feet. Continue straight up to finish. (No pegs needed for aid or protection).

First ascent: 21st August, 1966. R. Evans and J. R. Esplin.

The Spook 200 feet Hard Very Severe

- (1) 50 feet. As for Hardd.
- (2) 70 feet. Go up the wall in a direct line to the right of an obvious corner high up on the cliff. Traverse right to the foot of a corner. Peg belay.
- (3) 80 feet. Climb the left-hand groove with the aid of a peg in the corner. Traverse right across the slab onto a muddy ledge, then layback onto another short slab and traverse back left again. Mantleshelf up the last wall to the top.

First ascent: June, 1966. S. Tattersall and R. Dixon; alternate leads.

Poker 130 feet Hard Very Severe

Start at the top of the first pitch of Hardd.

- (1) 70 feet. Climb to the broken overhanging groove directly above and climb it to a peg runner. Move right and continue straight up to an overhung corner. Peg belay as for Spook.
- (2) 60 feet. Up the groove for a few feet moving left to an obvious spike runner. Continue awkwardly (all as for Spook) but move slightly right then back left round a bulge. A diagonal left traverse up a steep little wall leads to slabs and the top.

First ascent: 10th September, 1966. L. E. Holliwell and L. R. Holliwell.

GIANTS' HEAD

The cliff is marked on the 1" O.S. map, 2 miles out of Bettws y Coed on the Dolwyddellan road, just above the railway track. A pleasant crag about 150 feet high.

Cyclops 140 feet Hard Severe

The start is at the right-hand end of the crag, left of a pile of loose

blocks and right of a fir tree.

- (1) 30 feet. Climb a steep wall into a niche, chockstone runner: continue up the narrow crack to a grassy bay.
- (2) 30 feet. The corner on the left, followed by a traverse left to a tree beneath the overhang. Continue left onto a grass ledge below a corner.
- (3) 80 feet. Climb the slabs right of the corner on the nose. Continue to the top: exposed.

First ascent: 22nd April, 1962. B. P. Wright and C. E. Davies.

Titan 150 feet Very Severe

Starts about 100 feet left of Cyclops and at a slightly higher level in a grassy bay below an overhanging wall. The first groove left of the overhanging mass.

- (1) 100 feet. Swing left to the bottom of a groove leading up to the roof. Step left into another groove and climb this with difficulty to a small grass ledge. Continue up the slabs ahead to a stance below an overhung corner. Piton belay.
- (2) 50 feet. Climb up the corner to the overhang, step right and continue to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 22nd April, 1962. C. E. Davies, B. D. Wright and D. Alcock. Alt. leads.

Thor 150 feet Just Very Severe

Starts at the corner left of Titan.

- (1) 50 feet. The corner to a stance on a grass ledge.
- (2) 100 feet. The crack line to the right of Titan is followed, gradually steepening to the top of the crag, finishing up a short corner. A pleasant pitch.

First ascent: 3rd April, 1966. C. E. Davies and A. J. J. Moulam.

The slab just to the left of Titan was also climbed, following a rightward-slanting groove.

CARREG Y FRAN

(See C.C. Journal, 1958 for earlier routes mentioned)

Nazgul 120 feet Mild Very Severe

A fine pitch. 200 feet left of Twr the crag is split by a wide obvious gully with a very steep right wall. The climb follows the arête and then the edge of the wall.

Start a few feet right of the arête, which overhangs at the bottom, at the foot of an obvious red wall.

- (1) 60 feet. Move up onto the top of a large block then left into a dirty groove. Up this, exit left onto a grass terrace then climb the short grey wall on the left to a stance on the arête.
- (2) 60 feet. Up the arête until it is possible to step into a shallow groove on the left. Climb this until it peters out into a steep wall. Continue in the same line to the top. (120 feet of rope needed in all to reach a belay).

First ascent: 19th March, 1966. D. T. Roscoe and B. D. Wright.

Sting 150 feet Very Difficult

Start at a break 60 feet to the right of the red wall of Nazgul.

- (1) 80 feet. Up easily to a large grassy bay. Thread belay.
- (2) 70 feet. Climb the arête on the right (Orc) to a small holly tree then traverse diagonally right to a corner and up to the top.

First ascent: 19th March, 1966. D. T. Roscoe and B. D. Wright.

Orc 135 feet Severe

A very pleasant climb, well sustained. Midway between Nazgul and Twr is an obvious arête bounded by grassy bays.

Start: 40 feet right of Sting at the foot of the arête, where it overhangs least; cairn.

- (1) 75 feet. Climb the arête, steep and difficult at first, to a large block. Thread belay.
- (2) 60 feet. Continue up the arête until it is possible to traverse left on good holds to a crack in the centre of the steep wall. Up this to the top.

First ascent: 19th March, 1966. D. T. Roscoe and B. D. Wright.

Strider 135 feet Very Severe

A natural and imposing line. Between Chamber of Horrors and South Slab is an overhanging groove slanting to the left and bounded on the left by grassy slabs.

Start at the foot of the groove; cairn.

- (1) 110 feet. Up easily to the overhang, then layback round to a niche. A peg was put in the niche to protect the next few moves. Continue round the overhang and up the groove to a large grass ledge and block belay. Although quite feasible to carry on to the top in one run-out it is better to belay here as there is no belay on top.
- (2) 25 feet. Pleasantly up the steep grey wall left of the belay.

First ascent: 19th March, 1966. D. T. Roscoe and B. D. Wright.

CLIFF ABOVE CRAIG YR WRYSGAN (MOELWYNS)**Dentist's Debut** 165 feet Severe

At the bottom of the central gully, on the left. The first break is a thin overhanging bilberry-filled crack. An easy ledge crosses to its top.

- (1) 15 feet. The easy crack to a monster flake belay.
- (2) 30 feet. The flake crack.
- (3) 35 feet. Up the slab 10 feet right to a little overhang on the left. Transfer to the crack on the right and go steeply up to a rotten rowan on the gully edge. Jammed nut belay.
- (4) 30 feet. Awkwardly gain the gangway and follow it to a recess in the wall above. Nut belay and a horizontal one 10 feet further on and a way off.
- (5) 55 feet. Straight up the recess, steep but soon easing to slabs with good holds.

First ascent: 7th July, 1966. A. J. J. Moulam and P. F. H. O'Donoghue.

Ash Tree Slab 200 feet Very Difficult

Just right of the blasted overhanging chimney (on the left edge) is a short wall below a grass ledge.

- (1) 20 feet. Up the corner on the right of the wall to the ledge (or walk on). No belay.
- (2) 50 feet. Straight up the slab on good pocket holds, to the tree. Continue up a sort of groove to a stance and contrived belay beneath the overhangs.
- (3) 20 feet. Round on the left and up, on grass, to a chockstone in a crack.
- (4) 50 feet. Up the slab on the right, and the crack above, to grass, a way off and a chockstone.
- (5) 60 feet. Up the grass for 15 feet then take to the wall on the right. Good holds lead to a metal spike at the top.

First ascent: 24th July, 1966. A. J. J. Moulam and R. J. Holroyd.

CARREG ALLTREM*

*There has been considerable activity on this crag, and much overlapping and superimposition of routes. The situation will be clarified in the guidebook, now in preparation, but the routes listed appear to be well worth recording. Two alternative starts to Lavaredo were done some years ago by H. Banner, and have been "discovered" by several parties since. They are neither as good as the original start. The rock to the right of Lavaredo, and the right upper-crag yielded worthwhile routes.

THE WINKING CRACK. CRAIG GOGARTH
GEOFF CRAM CLIMBING
K. J. Wilson





Moulam's Route 140 feet Just Very Difficult

To the right of Penamnen Groove and Lavaredo Wall the crag falls back in its upper two-thirds into a long 50°—60° slab. The first 40 feet to the foot of this slab are quite steep, with a tree 20 feet up.

Start below and to the left of the tree just round the corner of the lowest point of the crag, below the steep corner rib.

- (1) 40 feet. Make a 25-foot ascending traverse to the left via two small grass ledges, until a direct ascent can be made to a miniature crevasse behind large poised blocks, below the overhanging section of the crag, about 15 feet right of Penamnen Groove.
- (2) 20 feet. Traverse up and to the right into a short corner crack; climb this onto the spacious grass ledge below the big slab.
- (3) 80 feet. Pleasant easy climbing, slightly right of centre, via two stances and belays to the top.

Variation start: harder. Go straight to the holly tree, then to the large grass ledge.

First ascent: 12th December, 1953. A. J. J. Moulam and G. J. Sutton.

Variation start: G. W. S. Pigott and J. M. Barr. Probably climbed by F. H. Jacob and R. Elfyn Hughes during the 1939-45 war. The line has been "rediscovered" by several parties since.

Civetta 115 feet Hard Very Severe

This route climbs the overhanging wall between Penamnen Groove and Lavaredo. The hardest route on the crag.

- (1) 50 feet. 20 feet to the right of the start of Penamnen Groove is a steep layback crack. Climb this to blocks above and continue to a stance amongst fine pinnacles below the wall.
- (2) 65 feet. Climb up to a minute niche, and from here use slings to reach an uncomfortable ledge below the large overhang. Use a piton to move right onto the steep face above. Climb strenuous finger cracks to the top.

First ascent: 1964. J. V. Antoine and R. James (varied leads).

A later attempt on this line avoided the issue by bearing right below the crux and crossing Lavaredo at the stance; then right up the cracked slab. (The Dodger, 150 feet, Just Very Severe; 19th June, 1966, K. McCallum, J. Irvine).

(Unnamed) 120 feet Severe

Start: about 70 feet to the right of Lavaredo is a broken rib. Make a painful start from a clump of gorse.

- (1) 70 feet. Start on the right hand side of the rib, but after 10 feet,

GENUFLEX, NORTH STACK**1st ASCENT**

K. J. Wilson

move out left to the edge. Climb upon either side to a ledge with many flakes. Moves 5 feet left round the corner to a belay.

- (2) 50 feet. Move left along the ledge to where the yellow wall meets the cracked slab. Make an exposed move up the slab and scramble to the path.

First ascent: 19th June, 1966. S. C. Turney, C. Osborne and R. Cole.

(Unnamed) 130 feet Hard Severe

Start below a small hollybush in a corner, 30 feet to the right of Lavaredo.

- (1) 50 feet. Climb up the wall by the hollybush to a block belay.
 (2) 80 feet. Traverse horizontally across the slab and climb over two bulges on the right-hand end of the Lavaredo wall. Jam up a crack surmounted by a large block, and finish up a wide crack behind the block.

First ascent: O. J. Ludlow and R. H. Fritton.

I. Snowdon West

CWM SILYN, CRAIG YR OGOF*

Brutus 500 feet Extremely Severe

Takes a line up the large area of steep rock to the left of Ogof Direct. Start by scrambling up Black Gully to a steep crack in the right wall.

- (1) 100 feet. Step right into the crack and up to a bulge. Climb this with two slings for aid and continue to a small grassy bay.
 (2) 50 feet. Climb the groove at the back of the bay, then go right on grass to a large flake leaning against the foot of a shallow groove.
 (3) 80 feet. Start up the groove, then swing right onto the steep arête. Climb this with a peg for aid at the top; poor peg belay.
 (4) 120 feet. Climb up behind the belay and move right to a sloping ledge. Move right to a leaning groove and go up this to another ledge. Swing right, and then go up to the right on good holes to a large ledge.
 (5) 150 feet. As for Edwards' variation to Outside Edge.

First ascent: 30th May, 1966. B. Ingle and G. Barrow.

Eureka 430 feet Extremely Severe

A direct line up the front of the Ogof buttress. No direct aids are necessary.

*Ebon Ridge (140 feet, Very Severe) gives three pitches up the most prominent grey rib left of the main crag: Craig yr Cwm Dulyn (16th March, 1966. A. J. J. Moulam and C. T. Jones).

- (1) 50 feet. As for the Oblique Approach to the Ogof Direct, thread belay.
- (2) 90 feet. Climb up over the bulge, and tend right to the base of the perched blocks, the top of which are reached on pitch three of The Crucible. Move up and traverse left to below the weakest point in the major overhang. Continue straight up through the overhangs to gain a groove above, up this and move right into the cave, small stance and peg belay.
- (3) 90 feet. Move left into the clean groove and go up it until a short diagonal crack on the right is reached, follow this line to a ledge on the right arête. Easier climbing up the obvious groove to a grass terrace.
- (4) 200 feet. As for Edward's variation finish to the Outside Edge.

First ascent: 27th August, 1966. L. E. Holliwell and L. R. Holliwell

Aquarius 335 feet Hard Very Severe

Climbs the 'obvious water-worn groove' which bounds the Great Slab on its right, and then breaks out onto the foot of the Upper Slab and climbs this direct.

- (1) 60 feet. Up easy rock to the foot of the groove. Climb the left wall for about 15 feet until a traverse can be made into the groove. Up this using a sling for aid to reach a good spike. Surmount the bulge into a recess, move right and climb a short slab, piton runner. Move left with difficulty onto a grass ledge and stance. Piton belay.
- (2) 120 feet. Move right into the obvious groove (peg for aid, in place). Climb this to where it steepens then move left and up to a bulge; round this on its left, and move left onto the slab just to the right of an obvious crack. Easier climbing up the slab leads to grassy ledges on the right after about 40 feet. Spike belay.
- (3) 25 feet. Proceed up the grass to the 'irresolue green ledge' of Upper Slab. Belay.
- (4) 130 feet. Move up and then diagonally left across the slab. Continue straight up to underneath the line of small overhangs near the top of the slab. Move left and surmount them at their left-hand end. Easy ground to the top. An excellent, although not difficult, pitch.

First ascent: 24th September, 1966. M. P. Hatton & J. A. Maguire.

CWM SILYN, WESTERN WING

Atropos 400 feet Hard Very Severe

Start in the gully to the right of the just overhanging buttress of the Western Wing.

- (1) 160 feet. Climb the dirty gully for 50 feet until an obvious gangway with a crack at the back leads to the left. Follow this until a small pinnacle is reached.
- (2) 100 feet. Climb the steep wall above the pinnacle and gain a shallow groove (sling for aid on blunt spike). Climb the groove (peg runner) to the top and traverse to the left to reach an obvious big belay spike. Small stance.
- (3) 100 feet. Climb to the top of the spike and step awkwardly to the arête on the left. Climb the arête to the roof (peg runner under roof) then move left into a bottomless groove. Climb the groove and trend left along an obvious traverse line.
- (4) 40 feet. Up to the top trending left.

First ascent: M. Boysen, A. Williams and J. Jordan.

Eyrie 320 feet Hard Very Severe

Start directly under larger overhangs 40 feet left of the last climb, Atropos.

- (1) 160 feet. Mainly up grass to overhangs. (Hard bits on rock-grass).
- (2) 100 feet. Climb the groove to the roof, then 15 feet to a rising traverse leftwards to a crack at the left side of the overhangs. Up crack to belay
- (3) 60 feet. Upwards to the top of Pitch 3 of Atropos and so to the top of the hill.

First ascent: October, 1965. M. Boysen, A. Williams.

LLECHOG FACET

Little Rocker 130 feet Very Severe

Llechog Facet consists of several small buttresses, the central one being probably the most attractive. The route takes the centre of this buttress, starting to the immediate right of a long pinnacle.

- (1) 80 feet. Climb straight up to a slabby niche at about 30 feet. Traverse slightly right rock on steeper rock into the bottom of a small groove. Climb this and onto a flat ledge on the left. From this move up for about 5 feet, then traverse left to the shattered crack on the left. Belay.
- (2) 50 feet. Move back right for 6 feet; mantleshelf on a doubtful-looking flake. On the left is a superb hand and finger-jamming crack. Climb this to the top, making an exit on the right.

First ascent: 19th March, 1966. D. E. Alcock and K. J. Wilson.

Note: Comparable with Lavaredo Wall (?).

PENNANT VALLEY; CLOGWYN CWM TRWSGL**Helex** 360 feet Hard Very Severe

Start. In the centre of the crag there are two prominent ribs, the route follows the left one.

- (1) 40 feet. Climb a rightward slanting layback crack to reach a slab. Follow this keeping right, and step left at the top to a block belay.
- (2) 70 feet. Climb a short wall on good holds then up a small slab. Step left on to an arête, and left again either by hand or toe traverse into a corner. Follow this to a large ledge. Peg belay.
- (3) 50 feet. Climb the corner crack on the right until a hand traverse allows a further move right. Straight up to a ledge and belays.
- (4) 100 feet. Move round the corner on right and climb over a small overhang, using a peg and sling for aid, and enter the obvious groove. Climb the groove to a roof. Move left by jamming and climb up onto a slab. Follow this to a corner.
- (5) 100 feet. Climb the groove left of the belay to the top.

First ascent: 22nd August, 1966. R. Edwards, E. G. Penman.

RIVALS, CRAIG Y LLAM

The best approach is from Porth y Nant, the deserted village by the Rivals. Traverse along the beach to the old quarry buildings below the edge of the cliffs.

Fantan B 690 feet Very Severe

On the seaward face of Llithfaen Quarries. The route is well seen from the road about 1 mile N. of Nefyn. A long but interesting approach. Superb climbing up steep compact rock, getting progressively harder, with the crux at the top: the exposure is unique. A selection of blade pegs is advised as the rock is very compact and belays difficult to find. Traverse round the foot of the cliffs at sea level (wet at high tide) for about 200 feet. Climb up a short groove and continue traversing on grass into a bay immediately on the left of the main ridge. Start climbing from the back of the bay on an obvious line of ledges. Arrow marked on rock.

- (1) 150 feet. Traverse easily and horizontally through bird-nesting area to a good ledge.
- (2) 120 feet. Climb up a little and diagonally right to a line of large ledges on the arête.
- (3) 120 feet. Take the easiest line up the face above, trending right under a line of overhangs and above the lip of the cave. After about 100 feet go horizontally right past an apparently loose block to a line

of ledges above the cave.

- (4) 65 feet. Follow a diagonal rake back up to a ledge on the arête above the overhangs.
- (5) 65 feet. Go straight up the steep wall on the right to the foot of an evil-looking groove. Peg runner. Step right round the corner and traverse past a nest to a block stance in superb position.
- (6) 50 feet. Climb straight over the overhang above the stance. Climb the short slab to a second overhang, move right to an obvious thread runner on the lip of the overhang. Go straight over by the runner and left to a stance.
- (7) 120 feet. Straight up the pleasant slabs above, trending left to the arête which leads easily to the top.

First ascent: 4th April, 1966. P. Crew and I. G. McNaught-Davis.
Alt. leads.

YR EIFL No. 1 BUTTRESS

Keppel 120 feet Just Very Severe

The first buttress, low down on the seaward walk past the main cliffs.

- (1) 60 feet. Up to the obvious crack in the centre of the buttress. Follow this to a ledge. Thread belay on left.
- (2) 60 feet. Continue up to the crack above and climb it.

First ascent: 21st May, 1966. R. F. Morgan and C. H. Taylor.

No. 2 BUTTRESS

Webber 240 feet Hard Very Severe

- (1) 100 feet. Climb the groove beneath the left-hand side of the huge overhangs. Traverse right for 10 feet to where the slab breaks round the large overhangs. Climb up for a few feet and belay on a small spike.
- (2) 40 feet. Climb easily up the pillar immediately above the belay and belay just to the left of the overhang.
- (3) 80 feet. Climb up a few feet and place a piton as far right as possible on the lip of the overhang. Then with the aid of a sling effect lodgement on the small ledge above. Traverse delicately right for a few feet and continue, trending rightwards, to a belay on the edge of a rib.
- (4) 20 feet. Step down from the belay ledge and traverse right to the obvious exit.

First ascent: 15th May, 1966. D. Wiggett and R. F. Morgan.

CRAIG GYFRINACH (THE "SECRET" CRAG)

The best and least energetic approach is to drive 1 mile from Llanaelhaearn along the narrow road to the base of the small cwm. The cwm is situated on the left hand side of the road facing the sea and Trevor. The 3 crags themselves are positioned fairly high up in the cwm, a matter of 20 mins. walk away (two cigarettes for the hard men) from the parking place.

The left hand cliff

Exaustra 160 feet Very Severe

Probably the longest line on the cliff.

A fine steep crack continuously difficult. The cliff is split by a crack with pinkish walls giving the route.

- (1) 100 feet. Steeply onto the ledge on the right then straight up the crack until a move to the right can be made onto a block on the edge (70 feet). Now back left to the top of the groove and follow steep but easier rock to a large sloping ledge. Poor peg belay in floor.
- (2) 60 feet. Traverse right and step down (on grass) and climb the edge until it is possible to gain a ledge to the right of a groove on the right wall of the final tower. Up to the overhang on good holds and exit left by a perched block. Large belay a few feet higher.

First ascent: 8th July, 1966. A. J. J. Moulam and P. O'Donaghue

The middle cliff

Nith 195 feet Just Very Severe

The cliff is steep and on the left, two-tiered. It is still steep when the lower tier merges with the hillside but just beyond a steep rib the angle eases. Start here by a finger of rock.

- (1) 50 feet. Up the finger, then left up to an incipient chimney to a ledge in a sort of shallow cave.
- (2) 55 feet. Up left on the undercut crack, over the lip and follow the continuation flake. A long step right to a ledge and a groove leads to a peg belay on an awkward stance by a derelict nest.
- (3) 35 feet. The steep wall on the left leads to grass and a rounded belay.
- (4) 55 feet. Even yet not easy, bear left to the top.

First ascent: 21st May, 1966. C. E. Davies and A. J. J. Moulam (varied leads).

Right hand crag (in the small cwm)**Halcyon** 210 feet Very Severe

Very pleasant open climbing.

The left hand portion of the crag consists of a steep clean sweep of rock, with a prominent chimney starting just right of a cave, running up to an obvious roof. Halcyon takes a direct line up the steep rock to the right of the chimney line.

Start just left of where the fence meets the cliff, a gully gives easy scrambling up to the cave, or traverse in from the left.

- (1) 40 feet. Traverse right below the chimney to a steep little wall which is climbed to a stance and piton belay and to the right of a steep groove (piton left in).
- (2) 100 feet. Move left up a slab to the foot of the groove. Climb this, difficult at first, stepping right at the top to gain the foot of a slanting corner. Continue up the corner to a piton (left in) swing out right on good holds to reach an obvious traverse line leading right to a stance in a grassy recess. (Piton belay removed).
- (3) 70 feet. Move back left and up to a steep nose, climb over this and continue steeply up to a traverse line just below the top of the crag. Traverse right for 15 feet until a large block gives access to the final heathery few feet.

First ascent: 28th May, 1966. C. E. Davies and A. Cowburn.

Rivalry 200 feet Just Very Severe

Start at a cave below the chimney as for Halcyon.

- (1) 70 feet. Into the chimney and climb it and its ridge until a step can be made into a niche. Peg belay.
- (2) 35 feet. Up on the right again and traverse left to a grass ledge with several belays.
- (3) 30 feet. The steep wall above on the right to a peg belay.
- (4) 65 feet. A steep move or two up to the right leads to Halcyon, part-way up the top pitch.

or

- (4a) 40 feet. Traverse left along the Ravens ledge and a 30 feet chimney above its left edge may also be taken.
Full of heather and unpleasant climbing.

First ascent: 12th June, 1966. C. E. Davies, A. J. J. Moulam and A. Cowburn.





Right hand crag; to the right of the previous routes.

The Slanter 260 feet Extremely Severe

A very steep and strenuous climb.

The main crag consists of an overhanging mass of reddish rock split by an obvious diagonal crack line running right to left.

Start directly below the line scrambling up the grass and heather for 150 feet. This leads to a stance slightly to the left of the break.

- (1) 30 feet. Traverse right to a small stance at the bottom of the lone. Thread belay.
- (2) 150 feet. Climb the rib on the left of the slab to a small resting place below the overhanging crack. Traverse left with difficulty to gain access to the crack. Follow this, over a prominent flake to a niche. Move left using 2 slings for aid followed by a piton (in position). A difficult move left from the piton enables a steep corner to be gained. Follow this to an obvious traverse line leading to a cracked arête. Climb this to a good ledge and tree belay.
- (3) 80 feet. Traverse right into an open groove which is climbed to the top of the crag.

First ascent: J. Brown and C. E. Davies.

II. CENTRAL WALES

A. Craig Cowarch

TAP-Y-GIGFRAN (NORTH WING)

A new edition of the guide to Craig Cowarch, etc., produced by the Mountain Club, is now available. Copies may be obtained from Nick Smythe, 159a Eccleshall Road, Stafford, who is also glad to hear from people wishing to stay at the Club's hut, Bryn Hafod, under Craig Cowarch.

The following is a selection of routes which have recently been done in this area:

Wright's Route 120 feet Severe

Originally, a variation to SIFTA but worth a separate description.

Start near the L.H. side of Left Buttress is a corner formed by a large leaning tower. The route starts at the base of the corner.

DIOCESE, CHAIR LADDER
DAVE POTTS CLIMBING
K. J. Wilson

- (1) 100 feet. Up steeply in the corner for 10 feet, then move left below the overhang and gain the front of the tower. Move up and then back right above the overhang and follow the arête to a stance at the top of the corner. The route joints SIFTA here.
- (2) 20 feet. Easy slabs lead to the top (Pitch 2 of SIFTA).
First ascent: 3rd July, 1965. B. Wright and J. Hunt.

NORTH BUTTRESS

Trend 400 feet Probably Hard VS.

Start below and to the right of Stygian Wall, at the foot of the crag. As it stands at present this route is merely a hard way of reaching a point which can be reached more easily by scrambling up to the foot of the White Slab (start of Stygian Wall, etc.) and then a bit further, but it was conceived as going from bottom to top of the crag as an independent route. So far, however, the finishing pitch has repelled all attempts. The description of the route has not been checked, since the line is rather artificial without a finish, but it is included for completeness.

At the foot of a rib thrown down from North Buttress, where a path reaches the rock, is a white slab. Two trees can be seen above, at the top of pitch 1. 150 feet of rope is useful.

- (1) 120 feet. Trend right, up and across the white slab to the foot of an overhanging corner. Up this for a few feet then swing out right onto the rib. Straight up this to a small and unsafe tree and continue up to a larger tree, also unreliable. Piton belay or rock knob.
- (2) 120 feet. Sustained difficulty and no protection. Climb the wall on the right of the belay, then continue up the rib to a small ledge near the top. From here move right to the white slab, using good flake holds on the edge, and up this to a piton. Runner. Mantleself onto a hold on the right and traverse to a stance below a block overhang. Several belays.
- (3) 100 feet. Climb the overhang, moving right then left, to a good thread runner above, then go up the rib and traverse left at the top to gain a huge block belay.
- (4) 60 feet. Traverse easily left for 50 feet to an overhanging corner, where a good nut runner can be fixed up on the right. Climb the corner to a grass ledge at the foot of the main mass of the crag.

First ascent: 30th August, 1964. D. W. Matthews and E. J. Perrin.

Northerner 285 feet Extremely Severe

Start at for Midlander.

- (1) 120 feet. Climb the mossy slabs of Midlander to the tree.
- (2) 30 feet. Continue more pleasantly up the open corner above and to the right of the tree. An awkward exit at the top to reach a belay block.
- (3) 75 feet. This is the crux pitch and very strenuous. From off the belay block go out left to the overhanging crack, which also leans left. Climb the crack using two pitons, one for aid, and make an exit right onto the slabs above. Traverse up right to a belay point under an overhang.
- (4) 30 feet. Surmount the overhang by stepping right and then going up a groove. Continue to a belay block below a steep overhanging corner.
- (5) 30 feet. Climb the corner using a chockstone for aid near the top, then easier ground leads to a belay on jutting rocks. From here go out left and up 200 feet to the top on grass and mossy rock.

First ascent: 19th March, 1966. D. K. Scott and R. Gillies.

NORTH FACE**Sparton 150 feet Hard Very Severe**

- (1) 60 feet. On the right of the corner move up right to a reddish wall below a square overhang. Move right to the end of the overhang and layback round and up for several moves to a resting-place. A piton can be inserted here for protection as was done on the first ascent. Then take the obvious traversing line to the right to good footholds and a flake spike belay.
- (2) 90 feet. Traverse right again then move up over the bulge and into the bottom of a chimney. Up the chimney to the top.

First ascent: 4th June, 1966. D. Cuthbertson and G. Cain (Alternate leads).

Quartz Buttress 240 feet Hard Very Severe

Start go up the wide gully as for Hopsit etc., then below the steep section of the gully, break out right and up to a grass terrace. Or reach the grass terrace by easy scrambling diagonally left from the next gully to the right. The route starts up a shallow corner near the L.H. end of the grass terrace, overlooking the gully.

- (1) 40 feet. Up the corner then diagonally right into a grassy bay. Belay.

- (2) 50 feet. Climb the left edge of the bay and continue up the wall above to a large grass ledge, left at the back by a wide crack. FIRST VISIT crosses the route here.
- (3) 100 feet. Step off the left end of the ledge and climb the crack. Move slightly above to a grass stance and piton belay.
- (4) 50 feet. Climb the corner above on the right to easy ground.
First ascent: 24th September, 1966. A. Nicholls, A. Rhodes and D. Little (shared leads).

GIST DOU — CENTRAL BUTTRESS

Grad 350 feet Severe

Start from a few yards left of the fence, scramble up vegetation trending leftward toward the start of "Devious". Before reaching this the line of a groove is reached, in line with the chimney forming part of "Devious".

- (1) 50 feet. Up the "groove" to a stance on the right.
- (2) 40 feet. Up on the right of a large block to its top, and move left into a niche.
- (3) 50 feet. Ascend to the foot of the chimney forming part of "Devious" and climb this to a stance on the left.
- (4) 15 feet. The short chimney above, also part of "Devious".
- (5) 25 feet. Continue in the same line up grass until below an overhang.
- (6) 70 feet. Step up to the right to gain a grassy slab below another overhang and take the narrow chimney to the left of this. Belay in a grassy niche at the top of the chimney.
- (7) 70 feet. Move one yard left and go straight up to reach eventually a grassy bay.
- (8) 30 feet. The angle now eases and this pitch is little more than scrambling.

First ascent: 30th August, 1964. D. J. Steele and A. B. Knox (alternate leads).

B. Rhinogs

CRAIG Y CAE

Tririri 160 feet Very Severe

(This route takes largely the same line a Nichevo, but appears to be a straightening-out and improving of it).

At the lowest point of the crag is the narrow, steep South Gully, above which is a prominent overhang. To the right of the gully is a second, smaller overhang about 90 feet up the cliff. The route takes a line directly up the left edge of the buttress containing the smaller overhang, Central Buttress.

The rock is sound and almost clear of vegetation and gives a route of character.

- (1) 50 feet. From the gully bed surmount the small bulge and move right onto the wall. Climb directly up on small, sharp holds to a chockstone belay on a grassy ledge below a steep wall.
- (2) 60 feet. Move right and climb a thin crack for a few feet. Move up left under the bulge by a series of three mantleshelves (the second is difficult) to arrive on a square-cut ledge on the edge of the gully. Belay on a tree 20 feet higher up this ledge.
- (3) 50 feet. Surmount the bulge right of the tree to gain a steep slab. Climb this directly up the line of a thin crack to a horizontal crack below a bulge. Move right and make a difficult move into the bottom of an obvious chimney. Climb the chimney to finish.

Ascended: 28th May, 1966. J. F. Murray and C. J. James.

N.B. Lichen was removed from the small holds. The crux was found to be the second mantleshelf but now these have been cleaned the step into the top of the finishing chimney may become the crux. 3 large birds' nests were found by the belay on pitch 2; the name was derived from this (Tri Eyriri).

WESTERN & SOUTHERN AREAS OF ENGLAND

III. WINTOUR'S LEAP

(Nr. Chepstow)

R. WALKER

Descending down the long scree slope from the quarry to the river there appears on the right a large wall with a prominent line of overhangs halfway up. A feature in the middle of the wall

is a shallow corner leading up to the line of overhangs. This is pitch 2 of "Technician." "Kangaroo" climbs up about 30 feet left of "Technician" taking the prominent deep gash above the overhangs and "King Kong" finishes up the big, deep corner 20 feet left again.

King Kong 230 feet Very Severe

Follows a groove and the deep corner to the top. An excellent route. Start below a triangular overhang, the name being marked on the rock below.

- (1) 30 feet. From below and right of the overhang gain a ledge on its left. Continue up a corner till a step right can be made onto a ledge. Peg belay.
- (2) 100 feet. Step back into a vegetated groove and follow it till it becomes rotten and overhanging. Traverse right and climb up on small holds to a crack which is laybacked to a tree on a large ledge.
- (3) 100 feet. From the ledge climb the corner to the overhang. Using a threaded sling overcome this on the left and continue up the corner to trees and ivy. A fine pitch.

First ascent : June, 1965, T. Taylor and C. Tanner.

Kangaroo Wall 215 feet Hard Very Severe and A2

Another good route, the upper pitches providing fine climbing. Start 15 feet right of "King Kong" below a 25 feet corner.

- (1) 65 feet. Climb the corner using 3 pegs till a step can be made out right onto the wall. Continue slightly right to reach a large, grassy ledge at the start of the clean rock.
- (2) 60 feet. Step 6 feet and make two mantleshelves up the wall to the bottom of a steep crack. Layback up this to a belay ledge.
- (3) 60 feet. Up to the line of overhangs. Place a poor peg in the roof and make a long reach to place another above (Hard). Step up and swing right into a chimney which is followed, using one peg, to a surprisingly large cave stance.
- (4) 30 feet. Bridge up the chimney and make a spectacular swing right onto a short wall. Up this to ivy and thick vegetation.

First ascent : May, 1966. F. Bennett and P. Lennard.

The Technician 230 feet A2

Takes the shallow corner leading up to the line of overhangs. Start

about 20 feet right of "Kangaroo Wall" at a small crack with a bent peg.

- (1) 80 feet. Climb up the vegetated wall to a belay ledge just below the corner.
- (2) 50 feet (A2) Peg up the corner (mostly channels) and take an etrier stance 6 feet below the overhangs.
- (3) 50 feet. (A2) Step up and traverse to a small box-shaped gap in the overhang. Peg over it moving slightly left to gain a belay ledge in a corner.
- (4) 20 feet. Climb the corner using 1 peg and traverse left to the Cave Stance on Kangaroo Wall.
- (5) 30 feet. Up the chimney, swing out right and climb the wall to ivy and vegetation.

First ascent : May, 1966. P. Lennard and F. Bennett.

IV. CHEDDAR GORGE

R. WALKER

Thor 200 feet Very Severe and A2

About 15 feet from the Start of "Knights Climb" is a ten-foot corner. The route follows the prominent groove up the wall above.

- (1) 50 feet. Climb the small corner to a peg, and use this to reach into a small vee groove. Up this using two pegs then the wall goes free to a short corner leading to a belay ledge.
- (2) 50 feet. Traverse diagonally right up the steep wall till, with aid from a peg a vegetated ledge is reached.
- (2) 100 feet. (A2) Up the corner to a steep crack. Climb this using wedges till a free move left gains a ledge. Up another wide crack — large wedge and peg — to another ledge then ascend corners to a final one where a move left is made to reach a belay.

First ascent : February, 1966. P. Lennard and M. Taylor.

Simba 85 feet Hard Very Severe

Opposite "Goughs Cave" and behind some houses is a small, compact crag split by an obvious corner. This is "Lion Rock." Simba climbs the corner.

- (1) 85 feet. Move up to the start of the corner. Place a peg in the slight bulge and use this to enter the crack. Using another peg climb the crack and continue by jamming and bridging to the top.

First ascent : G. Low, F. Bennett and D. Lloyd.

Leadbelly 55 feet A Fat Severe

About 20 feet round right of "Simba" corner is a deep, wide crack. The grade depends on one's build.

First ascent : Thin F. Bennett.

Django 110 feet Very Severe and A1

About 90 feet left from the bottom of Shoot Gully the ground rises to a barred Cave. 15 feet right of this is an obvious crack.

- (1) 30 feet. Ascend the crack to the terraced ledge.
- (2) 80 feet. A.1. Climb up by way of a small corner for 8 feet then traverse right making a long step to a peg. Using this climb up to a shallow groove with two cracks. Up the right hand crack — 3 pegs — then free to a tree.

First ascent : October, 1965. G. Low and F. Bennett.

Warlord 200 feet A.2

At the upper end of the Gorge is "Shoot Gully" with a splayed out scree slope at its foot ending near the road. Scramble up this for about 200 feet to a tree. A faint path leads out right, round the arête to the foot of a large wall. Walk down through bushes to a narrow clearing in the ivy, about 25 feet in from the arête.

- (1) 100 feet. (A2) After a couple of free moves a faint crack curving to the left is pegged for 90 feet where a 10 foot traverse left lands one on a grass ledge atop a vague pedestal.
- (2) 100 feet. (A2) Reverse the traverse. Peg to the overhang, over, and up the crack for 20 feet where another is joined. Overcome the bulge using wedges to easier ground, then free climbing to the top. A well-positioned pitch.

First ascent : November, 1965. G. Low, F. Bennett.

V. AVON GORGE

E. WARD DRUMMOND AND OTHERS

The Pink Link 245 feet Very Severe and A2

One of the best artificial routes at Avon. It climbs a line up the steep, pink wall just left of "Malpractice."

- (1) }
- (2) } 130 feet. As for "Malpractice."
- (3) 90 feet. (A2) Peg up to two golo bolts and use these to reach a small overhang. Move over to a borehole then continue up the wall to a belay ledge.
- (4) 35 feet. (A1) Traverse left and peg the wide, slanting crack to the top. A good selection of pegs and 2 wedges needed.

First ascent: April, 1965. F. Bennett and P. Lennard.

Central Eliminate 190 feet Hard Very Severe (Mild)

Although a somewhat artificial line it provides some interesting climbing on solid rock. Start as for "Central Buttress."

- (1) 90 feet. Up to the first peg on C.B. then climb diagonally up left to another peg below a small overhang. Make a difficult hand-traverse round to under the large overhang of "Great Central" and continue to a break on its left side. Pull over on sloping holds and step right into the book-shaped corner.
- (2) 100 feet. Traverse left into a shallow groove. Climb this to a peg (in place) and use it to pull over onto the broken slab of "Great Central." Up this and continue diagonally right over bulges to the easy slab above.

First ascent: June, 1966. F. Bennett and R. Walker.

Girdle Traverse of Unknown Wall 400 feet Hard Very Severe

Note: The rock on pitch 4 requires careful handling, but a competent party should not find it dangerous.

Start 60 feet to the left of Unknown Wall, where a small ash tree at 12 feet grows just below a sloping ledge.

- (1) 30 feet. IV(a) Climb past the tree, tending right across the muddy ledge to a peg belay in the corner.

- (2) 60 feet. V(b) Step down right on to the wall and move across to a slab below a prominent overhang, peg to gain the lip of the overhang. Traverse the steep wall (protection peg), continuing to shattered rock, up this, then right to the first belay of Unknown Wall.
- (3) 30 feet. Traverse easily across to tree belays in the obvious corner.
- (4) 100 feet. V(b) Climb down to the tree on the arête and round the corner onto the prominent band of doubtful yellow rock, follow this until it is possible to swing down to a loose block in a shallow cave. Go to the end of the ledge, down for a few feet, then diagonally up to a stance, protection peg (in place). Continue to the belay ledge below the iron spike.
- (5) 70 feet. V(b) Climb down, across and up to the iron spike on the grassy ledge opposite, go to the end of this then up until it is possible to traverse to the higher of two trees in the gully.
- (6) 110 feet. As for pitches 4, 5 and 6 of Unknown Gully.

First ascent : 13th November, 1966. L. E. Holliwell and L. R. Holliwell.

Girdle of the Unknown Buttress 310 feet Hard Very Severe

The climb girdles the Unknown Buttress from right to left.
It starts on the slab directly below Roozleboom.

- (1) 40 feet. Traverse the slab to its edge and descend to the large ledge below. Piton belay.
- (2) 100 feet. A.1. V(b) Move to the end of the ledge and with the aid of a peg (in place) and a jammed nut, move across to the lower of two golas on the wall. Step right from the top golo and climb the crack above. This merges into a groove which is climbed to a large vegetated ledge. Belay below two hawthorn trees at the right hand end of the ledge.
- (3) 50 feet. IVb. Traverse left along the vegetated ledge to just below an obvious gangway. Descend a few feet and step round the corner (care should be taken as the rock is rather broken). Descend again down a series of narrow steps to a ledge. Piton belay.
- (4) 60 feet. Vb. Continue along the ledge until it peters out into a wall. Step down awkwardly and traverse to the end of the wall. Move round the corner to join the start of the fourth pitch of Unknown Buttress. Piton belay on a narrow ledge.

- (5) 60 feet. Va. Abseil down the overhang immediately below the belay for about 15 feet and tension along to a flake. Climb up easily to the line of overhangs and hand traverse into Unknown Gully.

Final pitches as for Unknown Gully.

First ascent : 13th November, 1966. F. A. Quigley and D. Mossman.

The Preter 300 feet Hard Very Severe

Starts right of Malbogies : belays for the start of the second pitch are at the foot of the shattered wall on Malbogies. Malbogies is followed for a few feet until the cracked block at the end of the shattered wall is reached. The step left is made here and the previously unclimbed wall between Main Wall Eliminate and Malbogies is breached, centrally and entirely free. The top pitch is the hardest top pitch on this section of the Main Wall.

- (1) 80 feet. Piton belay in a grassy niche about 30 feet right of the start of Malbogies. Climb up to the small overhangs slightly from the left and climb it on its left-hand side. Climb the cracked wall to a horizontal overhang and a peg, then step left with difficulty to join the pegs at the foot of the shattered wall on Malbogies.
- (2) 120 feet. Climb the shattered wall as for Malbogies to a large cracked block where protection can be arranged. Step left at this level for about 8 feet, then up diagonally left on excellent holds to a protection peg. Climb down left with difficulty to a slight niche below a small overhang. Reverse mantleshelf from here, then move left on superb holds to a crack leading up to a deeply incut ledge in the centre of the wall. Peg. Over the bulge, and follow the groove directly to the main overhang. Belay on pegs.
- (3) 100 feet. The overhang is very difficult to start but relents quickly ; aid can be used. Up the obvious black slab for a few feet then follow the steep groove under small overhangs to the steep pink wall on the left ; climb this free on superb holds to the horizontal overhang. Move right (peg) and up with care on the last few feet of rock.

First ascent : 1st May, 1966. E. Ward-Drummond and W. O. R. Hill.

The White Elephant (Pink Wall Super Direct) 160 feet

Hard Very Severe (Vb)

This was considered one of the ' last great problems ' at Avon : it goes

almost directly to the lowest iron spike on Pink Wall Traverse. The route is short and hard and may well be technically the hardest route here.

- (1) 100 feet. From the Breakfast ledge climb the Lich Gates groove, traverse left to first peg. Climb directly up above this for 15 feet to a peg under a yellowish overhang on the left. Swing over and up (peg on right for aid) with difficulty to a small ledge on the right with a cracked block. Go diagonally right on thin holds to the final overhang. Two pegs. Using peg for balance layback with difficulty over the bulge. Gain peg at the end of Pink Wall Traverse. Climb up to bottom iron spike. Belay at the Aerodrome.
- (2) 60 feet. Last pitch of Pink Wall Traverse.

First ascent : 21st May, 1966. E. Ward-Drummond and W. O. R. Hill.

The Equator 1105 feet Hard Very Severe (Vb)

The longest and most exacting route in Avon Gorge. It straightens out the old girdle traverse and adds two difficult sections. Well protected : pegs are in place : no wedges or etriers needed.

- (1) 70 feet. Starts below the iron spike on Chocker, with belay on large flake below small overhangs. The overhangs are bridged until it is possible to step left to a good ledge. Climb diagonally right to peg on Chocker, which is then followed to its iron spike.
- (2) 70 feet. Move right up to the overhang by a very difficult layback ; to the peg in its roof ; using this reach another peg and climb down right, following the crack to join The Corpse : follow this to its central ledge and belay.
- (3) 50 feet. Traverse down right to the peg on Zombogies, climb over the small overhang and up and right joining and then following the Lich to its horizontal overhang. Belay in slings.
- (4) 85 feet. Go right at the level of the overhang and round the corner, descend slightly, moving rightwards to a peg under the overhang : Using this tension down for 10 feet. Join Malambo, climb up to the circled overhang, swing right and climb the bulge. Step right immediately and with difficulty to the little tree and peg on the Bon-Bogies slab, just above its overhang.
- (5) 90 feet. Climb up and right, reversing Maltravers to its overhang at the top of the 2nd pitch. The last runner on Maltravers' 2nd pitch is joined first by a semi-hand-traverse.

- (6) 70 feet. Traverse right beneath the overhang for 30 feet horizontally to a peg around the corner of the Pink Wall and on the same level. Hand-traverse along the lowest crack to the cave on Malpractice Pitch 2 : runner. As for Malpractice to the small tree at the foot of the blocks on Pitch 3.
 - (7) 150 feet. Climb horizontally right (good peg) with undercuts, as for Main Wall Eliminate to a peg at the foot of a rightwards-leaning slab. Climb this and the bulge at the top to the main overhang (peg). Follow the crack as for Pitch 5 of the old girdle traverse : belay at the top of Malbogies Pitch 1.
 - (8) 90 feet. Traverse right for 25 feet to a peg, then up to the main overhang and crack. Hand traverse right for 20 feet (peg) to easier ground. Go right and belay on the iron spike of Depravity.
 - (9) 110 feet. Climb the slab above the spike and continue up and right to a ledge and further iron spike, follow this ledge down right to the thorn tree at the top of Pitch 2 of Lich Gates.
 - (10) 150 feet. Reverse Pitch 2 of Lich Gates entirely free and join Pitch 2 of Pink Wall Direct. Belay in slings at the top of Pink Wall Direct, Pitch 2 at the foot of the slab on Piledriver. Rope drag likely.
 - (11) 100 feet. A demanding pitch. Bridge up the slab free. Insert a peg and traverse left to a downward-pointing peg. Go left past this and up (peg) to the overhang (2 pegs). Using the last peg bridge left and climb out ; climb the bulge trending right across the slab to join the ledge belay at the end of Pink Wall Traverse Pitch 1.
 - (12) 80 feet. Climb the broken groove to the foot of the Pink Wall, layback into the small niche on the overhanging wall to a good peg. Using ivy move up then left with feet in the obvious crack. The rock, after exiting left to a gorse bush, needs care.
- First ascent : 18th May, 1966. E. Ward-Drummond and W. O. R. Hill.

Indecent Exposure 240 feet Hard Very Severe

- (1) 80 feet. Start as for Pitch 3 of Slurp, about one-third of the way up the centre of Sea Walls, at the left-hand end of a prominent white-grey wall on about the third terrace and almost directly 80 feet below a large double-faced horizontal overhang at the foot of the big grey wall left of Puke. Piton belay. Climb the white wall about 6 feet from its left-hand end, directly up the first line

of weakness. Up the wall itself right of the belay and NOT the groove (of Slurp) behind the belay. Move right and up for 30 feet (peg), then back left to move left up a slab to a peg under the double horizontal overhang. Take the overhang direct and slightly right of superb holds. Pegs for belay.

- (2) 80 feet. The obvious ramp lies diagonally left and is reached by a short left traverse. Mantleshelf with difficulty onto a direct entry onto the Ramp itself. Protection. The Ramp is followed left on thin holds to the crack (2 pegs) into which the Ramp fades. Move left on the final foot-ledge (peg for aid) to reach deep flakes, directly up onto these, then right to surmount the final short wall (2 pegs for aid). Belay on pegs.
- (3) 80 feet. Climb the firm wall up its centre, traverse left at the top, exiting with care up the centre of the final rock wall, to gorse bushes. Care needed with rock.

First ascent : March, May and June, 1966. E. Ward-Drummond and W. O. R. Hill.

Troilus 150 feet Hard Very Severe

Takes the buttress between Maltravers Left and the beard of Ffoeg Nosam.

- (1) 150 feet. From the perched block belay, climb as for Ffoeg, Nosam into its groove then traverse left with difficulty under the overhangs, then left again. Up slightly right to the break in the horizontal overhang and crack (peg). Make a difficult move over the fault and up the groove to a peg. Using a peg to the left and under a small overhang swing down left to good ledges, left again, then up to join the right-hand end of the Bon-Bogies overhang. Move with difficulty into the well-defined groove exactly right of the Bon-Bogies overhang and straight up it on small holds until Maltravers can be joined on the right — the Crux. Back left into the groove and exit right at the top over the overhang (peg for aid), climb the shattered buttress to the hawthorn tree as for Ffoeg Nosam.

First ascent : 18th June, 1966. E. Ward-Drummond and W. O. R. Hill.

The Beard of Ffoeg Nosam 160 feet Hard Very Severe (Vb)

- (1) 160 feet. From the Maltravers belay climb the groove behind via the borehole for 20 feet. Peg. Up right to a ledge then back left again to a peg below the bulge after a step right, surmount the

bulge and move right then up to the first peg on Pitch 3 of Maltravers, with a very difficult mantleshelf. Move left, as for Maltravers Right to the end of the large overhang (at its left), move right to a second peg after getting above the overhang, then up and back left by a hand-traverse along the fault line to the nose of the buttress. Hawthorn belay 30 feet up and diagonally right.

First ascent: February 1966. E. Ward-Drummond and Hugh Drummond.

Drang 255 feet Hard Very Severe (Vb)

- (1) 75 feet. Start from the Breakfast Ledge as for White Elephant. Pull over the overhang directly behind the belay and move right and up slightly to a peg above a borehole. Traverse down, right and around a corner to a small overhang above which is short hold-less groove and a steep pink overhang. Move over into the groove (hard) and reach deep, undercut holds on the overhang. Move up left to a peg around the left corner of the overhang, then move up and right over the overhang to good ledges (2 pegs). Layback and bridge above these up the short steep wall to the final horizontal overhang. Using a bolt above the overhang as a handhold pull over and belay in slings as for Pink Wall Traverse.
- (2) 100 feet. Bridge right up the slab, insert a peg and then traverse left to a downward-pointing peg. Go left past this and up past another peg to the overhang (2 pegs). Using the second peg for aid bridge left and climb out, climb the bulge trending right across the slab to the ledge belay at the end of Pitch 1 of Pink Wall Traverse.
- (3) 80 feet. Climb the broken groove to the foot of the Pink Wall, layback into the small niche on the overhanging wall to a peg. Using ivy move up then left with feet on the obvious crack. Exit right past a gorse bush. Rock needs care.
First ascent: May and October, 1966. E. Ward-Drummond, W. O. R. Hill and P. Morgan.

The Earl of Perth 210 feet Hard Very Severe (Vb)

Starts 60 feet right of Suspension Bridge Arête: the route takes the large black bulge about 40 feet up and then the prominent groove.

- (1) 65 feet. Climb the white wall to a ledge below the black bulge, past the ivy. Peg. Climb the three black pockets up the bulge. Peg for

aid. Move right then up the short wall to belay on the right in slings.

- (2) 70 feet. Step left and enter the groove with difficulty. Peg. Move up to a ledge on the right, exit up on good ledges. Peg. Up the next groove with difficulty, moving right, belay at the next ledges.
- (3) 75 feet. Traverse left along the fault line and climb up below a triangular red wall to the final vegetated ledge, or reach this ledge by the groove direct at a slightly easier standard, then up the final wall and right to exit on the ramparts of the bridge. Pegs are all in place.

First ascent: 27th October, 1965. E. Ward-Drummond and H. Drummond.

Hell Gates 300 feet Hard Very Severe (Vb)

- (1) Start 80 feet right of Suspension Bridge Arête; 30 feet right of Earl of Perth. Climb the thin wall left of an ivy clump; traverse right above this for 20 feet until block-like ledges are followed to a peg. Semi-hand traverse right to a perched block on a grassy ledge. Climb above this to the prominent fault-line and follow this left via another peg to the belay in the cave (the Holy of Holies).
- (2) Exit right over the roof of the cave using a peg (in place). Up the steep groove (peg protection); move left and up right to a peg, belay on the large ledge.
- (3) 100 feet. Traverse delicately left to the nose of the cliff. Go round the corner and follow the fault line to the red triangular wall. Climb up below this to a vegetated ledge. Up the final wall, exiting right onto the bridge rampart.

First ascent: 15th May, 1965. E. Ward-Drummond and H. Drummond.

Fallas 130 feet Hard Very Severe (Vb)

Climbs the buttress to the right of Suspension Bridge Buttress itself, and is identified by a chimney, splitting its middle section.

- (1) 80 feet. The corner behind the big tree is climbed to a hawthorn. Traverse right, then back up left to the bottom of the chimney crack. Up this, exiting by a difficult move. Peg belays.
- (2) 50 feet. Traverse left onto the profile of the buttress. Move up onto the wide ledge. Up the slab and short walls to the grassy summit of the buttress. Tree belay 40 feet back.

First ascent: 5th June, 1965. E. Ward-Drummond & H. Drummond

VI. DEVON & LUNDY*

P. BIVEN & R. MOULTON

Chudleigh. This very sound limestone crag continues to attract large numbers of climbers. In consequence the development has been unusually rapid and the few remaining blank areas of rock are unlikely to remain so for long. The Garden Wall section of the North Face can be climbed at almost any position giving climbing of very severe standard. There have been few new climbs. SAMSON, Very Severe, a direct line between Thornifixion and Nimrod (Biven and McMorris) and two Eliminates (Cannings and Biven).

The South Face has not had any further development and continues to provide some of the hardest limestone climbing in the Southwest. It is deservedly popular and climbers are now driving to Cornwall via Chudleigh, Plymouth and the Tamar Bridge. The new guide book to Devon and Lundy (R.N.M.C.) is due early in the new year and gives details of the climbing available in the area.

A new cliff was discovered at Whitsun by C. Fishwick. It is at Galmpton overlooking the river Dart. It is very extensive, although lacking in natural features, which tends to make all the climbs similar. The rock is good quality Devonian Limestone and is sound despite superficial looseness. There are four routes to date. PORT TACK, Very Severe 90 feet which ascends the wall just to the right of the bramble gully on the left of Main Wall. (Biven and Fishwick) THE MAIN MAST. 90 feet. Severe. Vertically up the centre of Main Wall (Cannings Biven) THE ROPEWAY. Severe 60 feet. Follows an open scoop just above a large tree on the right of Main Wall. (Biven, Cannings) SLIPWAY. Severe 60 feet. Follows a parallel line some 20 feet further right. (Biven, Fishwick).

There is scope for many more climbs as the face is half-a-mile long, although the nature of the quarry is such that it is unlikely to be as popular as Chudleigh. However it provides a welcome addition to the Torbay limestone climbing. There are undoubtedly many riparian cliffs still awaiting discovery.

*The numbers on certain of these climbs refer to the guide book to the area, produced by the R.N.M.C. This is available (price 15 shillings, post free) from B. Peck, 16 Abbey House, London, N.W.8.

2. LUNDY***12a. Seal Slab 210 feet Mild Very Difficult**

Saint James' Stone has a similar counterpart (called by some, Saint John's Stone) on the north side of the Devil's Slide. North of this there is an inlet with a small island. North again is a semi-submerged rock and above this is an arête which divides the little inlet from a steep sided zawn. Seal Slab is the slab which comprises the landward side of the zawn. One can get to within 60 feet of the sea by descending the arête. Climbing of a Difficult standard then takes one to the foot of the slab. Follow the right-hand side of the slab with an upward traverse left about a quarter of the way up.

First ascent: 28th September, 1966. I. M. Harley-Peters, K. M. Lawder, M. G. White.

12b. Crenellation Groove 120 feet Hard Severe

Immediately above the finish of Seal Slab rises another buttress, conspicuous because of its curious summit, shaped like a battlement. Up the middle of this there is a steep, vegetated chimney. Move down right of this to an arête. Start the other side of the arête.

- (1) 60 feet. Climb up and left onto the arête, follow this and then a wide, shallow, vegetated groove, peg belay about 20 feet up the groove.
- (2) 60 feet. Climb up the groove on small holds, until a small nose of rock is reached at about 20 feet. Move right onto the arête and follow it to the summit.

First ascent: 28th September, 1966. I. M. Harley-Peters and K. M. Lawder.

Ember Wall 240 feet Hard Severe

Looking North along the coast from the Great Shutter is a huge "Pillar Rock" attached to the main face of Shutter Point. A prominent jammed boulder can be seen near the top, and at the bottom, a cave splits the pillar from the headland. The route starts to the right of this cave following the obvious rib. A start can only be made at low tide.

- (1) 50 feet. To gain the rib climb a chimney to the right for a few feet, then move out left. Continue up the rib until it steepens.
- (2) 40 feet. Slightly left and round the corner the rib continues towards the jammed boulder of pillar rock. Belay about ten feet short of

*Some short pegging routes have been done in quarries on the east side of the island.

the boulder where the rib levels.

- (3) 100 feet. From the stance, climb directly up the slightly bulging wall above which leads to the main face. Near the top move right to a stance on the upper rib (exposed).
- (4) 50 feet. Continue up steep jumbled rock and grass to the top.

First ascent: 3rd June, 1966. R. B. Quine and D. W. Limbert.

CHUDLEIGH

NORTH FACE. These new routes show that it is possible to climb virtually anywhere on the North Face, without going much above VS standard.

44a. Garden Wall Eliminate 90 feet Very Severe

The best of the three eliminates. The route takes a direct line between Plexus and Sexus. Start just right of Sexus.

- (1) 40 feet. Move up the rib to the left of Plexus to a ledge. Trend left and then back right to the stance of Plexus.
- (2) 50 feet. Move back left and take the bulge direct, strenuous. Continue straight up to another bulge, which leads to the upper common section of Sexus and Plexus.

First ascent: 26th September, 1966. F. E. R. Cannings and P. H. Biven. (alternate leads).

47a. Diana 90 feet Very Severe

Between Nexus and Thornifixion. The problem is to avoid those routes. Start just right of the start of Nexus.

- (1) 90 feet. Follow a thin layback edge to the 'hole' on Thornifixion. Move right and then up into a slabby groove, peg. Up to a small overhang which is climbed on the right-hand side, delicate and exposed. This brings one to the second 'hole' of Thornifixion. Climb the overhang, a short slab and a final bulge to the top.

First ascent: 26th September, 1966. P. H. Biven and I. McMorris.

49a. Grey Wall Eliminate 90 feet Very Severe

Between Nimrod and Scorpion. Start just left of Scorpion.

- (1) 20 feet. Move up to a ledge from the left-hand side. Step left into an open depression and on to the large ledge.
- (2) 70 feet. From the left-hand edge of the ledge move up delicately on slabs, trending slightly left. Move back right and up to a

depression, drill mark. Take the bulge above the depression, similar to Scorpion, to emerge at the top of the ramp of Nimrod. Climb straight up above and over the final tottery overhang.

First ascent: 26th September, 1966. F. E. R. Cannings and A. Powling.

4a HOOE LAKE QUARRY, RIGHT WING

11a. Noebbles Buttress 100 feet Hard Very Severe

This route goes up the face of the buttress to the right of Sunday Express.

- (1) 55 feet. Climb up the overhanging niche at the base of the buttress and pull out, with difficulty, onto the slab above. Climb diagonally right up the slab to a small ledge. Move left into a short groove which leads to a broad ledge, belay.
- (2) 45 feet. Wander up loose rock to the top.

First ascent: 9th September, 1966. J. Jones, B. Shackleton and J. Paterson.

TURNCHAPEL FACE

This is the face to the right of the Right Wing and behind Turnchapel village.

11b. Genisis 70 feet Very Severe

This is the first recorded route on Turnchapel Face. Start beneath an overhang to the right of, and below, the large slab in the centre of the face.

- (1) 70 feet. Climb the groove in the left-hand corner to a sloping ledge beneath a bulge. Surmount this bulge on the right and move delicately left across the slab beneath the large overhang to a sapling.
Continue straight up, after 20 feet make a difficult mantleshelf over a bulge and traverse 10 feet right and up to the top.

First ascent: 9th September, 1966. J. Patterson, B. Shackleton and J. Jones.

VII CORNWALL

P. BIVEN

Several new climbs have been made in the past year, mainly as a result of explorations for the guide. Perhaps the most important of these is **BEOWULF**, which follows a direct natural line for most of its length between Suicide Wall and Paragon.

BOSIGRAN FACE

Beowulf 200 feet Extreme

Start up the thin black vein immediately to the left of the rake of Nameless and just to the right of Cave Flake.

- (1) 60 feet. Climb vertically to cross the rake of Nameless. Continue up the vein on small but good holds to large bay. Piton belay in floor.
- (2) 30 feet. The steep groove at the back is climbed to finger traverse right into large blocks. Stance belay etc.
- (3) 50 feet. The Crux. Traverse left on the lip of the overhang to a bolt runner. Swing into a shallow groove with difficulty and climb vertically past a second bolt runner up to the stance of Suicide Wall.
- (4) 20 feet. Move left from the stance and make a hard pull on a small finger hold to a fine layback crack. Up to the block stance of Suicide etc.
- (5) Traverse as far left as possible from the stance to a bolt. Make a very delicate series of moves into a bay to exit on the left of a small overhang. On the first ascent the bolts on pitches 4 and 5 were used for handholds but the climb was subsequently led clean.

First ascent: 3rd June, 1966. P. H. Biven and H. T. H. Peck.

Blackamoor Very Severe and A2

This is the steep black corner to the right of Raven Wall.

- (1) 40 feet. Up the easy slab to a ledge beneath a square-cut overhang. Turn this on the right. Follow the corner above until the traverse of 'String of Pearls' is reached.
- (2) 30 feet. Above is the black corner which is climbed artificially. Break out right over the small overhang onto a sloping ledge.
- (3) 50 feet. Make an awkward move left onto the black vein of rock. Follow this very steep at first and continue up the slab above.

First ascent: 30th June, 1966. M. McDermott and I. Peters.

SEAWARD FACE BOSIGRAN**Strike** 150 feet Hard Severe

The climb follows the black seam to the right of Hopeless Slab.

Start 30 feet to the right of the start of Hopeless Slab at low tide.

- (1) 30 feet. Climb up to an open groove and then continue up to the black seam on the right wall. Follow this black seam, avoiding small overhangs by moving right to a stance.
- (2) 120 feet. Continue to follow the black seam, awkward at first, then easing and becoming more broken near the top.

First ascent: 18th September, 1966. F. Canning and J. Davies.

Boldfinger 150 feet Hard Very Severe

This climb follows the rib overlooking Hopeless Slab.

Start some 15 feet to the right of the start of Hopeless beneath a layback crack.

- (1) 75 feet. Layback up, over the smooth black slab to a sloping ledge on the right. Continue up the pocked slab to an overhang. Climb this on its left corner, using a 'boldfinger' hold high left. Climb groove to Prom Traverse.
- (2) 75 feet. Continue up lichenous slabs to the top.

First ascent: 22nd September, 1966. F. Cannings and J. Davies.

On the Main Face a Ledge Climb Eliminate was climbed last year. It is

Clob 155 feet Very Difficult

Start as for Doorway.

- (1) 55 feet. Climb vertically up past the turf of Ledge Climb lower traverse.
- (2) 30 feet. Move left slightly and then climb the pink wall above. Stance at the foot of Ledge Climb Chimney.
- (3) 40 feet. Climb the open chimney/groove just to the right of Ledge Climb.
- (4) 30 feet. Take the short wall on the right to the top.

First ascent: 3rd January, 1965. C. Fishwick and R. Woodman.

Big Top. The hard left-hand variant has now been given an independent start and has been renamed:**Trapeze** 90 feet. Hard Very Severe

Start in the open corner just left of Big Top.

- (1) Climb the wall or open corner easily to a ledge and stance.
- (2) The slightly overhanging corner is climbed on good jams to a

ledge just below the final crack. At this point it is possible to traverse horizontally right as a variant.

First ascent: 7th April, 1966. H. T. H. Peck and P. H. Biven. (The top crack had been climbed previously.)

PORTDENACK POINT, LANDS END

Veedy 80 feet Severe

Start 100 feet to the right of Wrist Climb. The starting platform is reached by stepping across a V-groove just to the right of Wrist Climb and then an easy traverse across to the platform. The cliff above is split by a crack on the left, the route follows this.

- (1) 80 feet. Step from the platform across the fissure onto the base of the cliff, move slightly left to the crack, then by means of hand jams and lay away moves climb the crack, trending right after 60 feet into the cave. Thread belay. Finish by scrambling up at the back of the cave.

First ascent: Whit, 1966. D. Wiggett and D. Devey.

CHAIR LADDER

Maureen 155 feet Hard Very Difficult

This climb goes up the wall which lies to the left of Bulging Wall. Start about 15 feet right of the enormous jammed boulder in Zawn Rinny.

- (1) 50 feet. Up the wall easily to a platform, then move right on to the steep face. Up the face on good holds to a steep little wall, climb the wall then move left until a steep grooved wall is reached. Belay at the foot of this wall.
- (2) 60 feet. Climb the grooved wall in the middle by means of ledges and cracks until a slab is reached. Continue up the slab and belay at the top of the pinnacle.
- (3) 45 feet. Descend the left hand edge of the slab for 12 feet until it is possible to step on to a steep black streaked wall. Traverse delicately left and round for 15 feet then up a wide groove to the top.

First ascent: 9th August, 1962. H. Banner, M. Banner, D. W. Bateman.

Sea-Horse 100 feet Very Severe

Descend Ash Can Gully until a flat platform is reached about 70 feet above the sea, with a greasy chimney on one side.

Start at the base of a prominent crack.

- (1) 40 feet. Up the crack easily and over bulges to the steep wall of Corporals Route, belay at a steep wall.
- (2) 50 feet. Move left on steep crack to below a vertical undercut crack. Enter the crack with difficulty facing left (thread runner) after a few feet turn and face right (awkward). Continue up crack which is extremely strenuous to the large platform at the top.

First ascent: 13th August, 1966. H. Banner, D. Bateman.

Note Quite 90 feet Hard Severe

This climb lies to the right of Nearly in Ash Can Gully.

Start as for Nearly at the top of East Chimney.

- (1) 30 feet. Move right up a slab and wall easily until a block is reached at the foot of a steep wall. Belay.
- (2) 60 feet. Up a shallow and steep crack for 15 feet and then enter a V-groove. Up this groove to the top of the cliff.

First ascent: 13th August, 1966. H. Banner, D. Bateman.

Western Arête 145 feet Very Difficult

Pitch 2 is V.S. but can be done by combined tactics, and gives a climb of V.D. grade.

The route follows the Arête between the Western Chimneys and Great Gully as nearly as possible.

Parts of it may have been done before.

Start at the foot of the gendarme at the bottom of the Arête, scramble up broken rock until it presents a steep face.

- (1) 20 feet. Traverse the gendarme on the seaward side to a stance on the main cliff side of the brèche between it and the gendarme.
- (2) 15 feet. Climb a short but difficult crack above the stance. Belay immediately.
- (3) 40 feet. Go up easily to a corner crack, climb it exiting on the left on to the nose of the buttress.
- (4) 40 feet. Straight up over two bulges to another stance on the edge of the buttress.
- (5) 30 feet. Up to and climb a crack right up the edge of the buttress to the top.

First ascent: 21st August, 1966. H. Banner, D. Bateman. (Alternate leads.)

SENNEN

Congo Crack 75 feet

Start just left of Genges Groove at the foot of a narrow crack.

Climb this and the wider crack above until it is possible to swing round awkwardly into the easier section of the crack leading up to where Congo Route comes up from the left. Up the easy crack to the top.

First ascent: 27th August, 1966. H. Banner, J. Gosling.

CARN BARRA

Birthday Route 95 feet Hard Severe and A/2

The route starts about 20 feet south of Amen Corner, in a steep corner.

Make a hard move up the left hand wall until some horizontal cracks are reached, and a small ledge. Place a peg in the left hand wall, then continue pegging up the corner crack until a sloping roof is reached.

Traverse out and up following the line of the roof until a peg can be put in where the roof ends. Move over the roof and on to a steep slab, continue up the corner until a wall is reached. The rock is friable in places for the rest of the climb.

Bridge up the wall and traverse right along a crumbly gangway to the top.

(On the first ascent 14 pegs were used in wet conditions, but the second ascent was done in the dry using only 9.)

First ascent: 6th March, 1966. D. Bateman and M. MacDermott.

PORTHGWARRA BUTTRESS

Shawangunk 120 feet Severe

Follows a line up the middle of the slab between Porthgwarra Crack and Porthgwarra Chimney.

- (1) 40 feet. Straight up the slab and over a small overhang at 15 feet. Continue up to a line of ledges. Chockstone belay on right.
- (2) 80 feet. Up a short crack in the line of the first pitch, arriving by way of a slab to a ledge. Follow the easier chimney on the right to the top. (It may be possible to make a direct finish in the original line.)

First ascent: 30th May, 1966. M. H. Westmacott, Hon. R. R. E. Chorley, Sally Westmacott.

FOX PROMONTORY

NORTH FACE

Cuboid Corner—Direct Start 25 feet Hard Severe

Takes the corner below the wedged rectangular block of pitch (2), direct.

- (1) 25 feet. Up the rather greasy crack for 10 feet before moving left

onto the wall and then more easily to the belay at the top of pitch (1) of the original start.

Reynard's Revenge 80 feet. Severe

This is the steep chimney some 25 feet to the right of the Direct Start of Cuboid Corner.

- (1) 35 feet. Up the chimney, using holds on the left wall, and climb the overhang direct. Good finishing holds lead to the ledge above. Belay high on the right wall.
- (2) 45 feet. More easily up the chimney, past a pinnacle at 15 feet, to a good belay at the top of the steep section. Scrambling leads to the top.

First ascents: 1st June, 1966. P. W. Vaughan, E. H. Herbert.

VIII. IRELAND

PADDY O'LEARY and SEAN ROTHERY

1966 WAS A VERY ACTIVE YEAR despite the fact that little new climbing was done in the largest rock climbing area – Donegal. It is most encouraging to find several new areas being opened up, and with the re-issue of the temporary guide to Luggala, Co. Wicklow, first produced in the fifties, it is hoped that climbers will be tempted away from the well worn routes of Glendalough to sample the delights of the damp and lichenized granite above Luggala Lake.

CO. CAVAN

A gritstone edge was found by Spillikin Club members about 3 miles south west of Glengavlin near the Cavan/Leitrim border. About fifteen routes from V.Diff. to V.S. were put up in the course of two visits last summer. Though the edge is nowhere more than about 45 feet in height, there is ample scope for new routes along its $\frac{3}{4}$ mile length. The rock is not so rough as that of the typical English edge, but the abundance of steep cracks should wean the granite suckled Irish climbers from their walls and slabs.

CO. ANTRIM:

Des Agnew of Larne has been patiently working on the much maligned basalt and chalk cliffs on the Antrim coast road, particu-

larly at Ballygally head. Though there is a certain amount of loose rocks and a lot of vegetation, there are extensive stretches of cliff which should become quite clean with use. The main danger is to the traffic which passes directly beneath some of the most interesting sections. Des has about a dozen severe routes at Ballygally. Further north G. Mason of Stafford put up a 70 foot V.S. "Wedding Present" on a crumbling detached pinnacle. Still further north Des Agnew and F. Devlin put up a fine 90 ft. V.S. "White Corner" and some challenging lines on nearby chalk buttresses resisted occasional half hearted attempts.

CO. DONEGAL :

This area, with Ireland's finest granite crags, has been almost entirely neglected during the past year. The most obvious lines have been worked out at Lough Barra, the intimidating cliff at Glen Veagh will yield further routes only to a determined party. and the great buttresses of the Poisoned Glen are reached only by a long slog up a sodden valley. Most Dublin climbers are, therefore unwilling to undertake the long drive to the area without the certainty which existed a few years ago of bagging a brace of new routes during the weekend. In Glen Veagh "Symbol," "Ariel" and "Sinn Fein" have all had second and third ascents, and "Symbol" is now regarded as the finest climb in Donegal outside of the Poisoned Glen. In Lough Barra "Torraigh" – another fine climb – has also been done for the second and third time. E. Goulding and P. O'Leary put up a direct variation on "Surplomb Grise" involving two severe pitches above the crux and then finishing up the last corner of "Erin-go-Bragh."

While the sea cliffs explored at Maghera, Glencolumbkille and Slieve League proved to be vegetated and scrappy, a few small climbs were done on the west of Inishowen by Belfast climbers. Lough Belshade has not been visited for some years. M. Lister and K. Price did a direct finish, V.S. to "Fiono" on Creaghnabrack, Poisoned Glen.

C. KERRY :

Above Lough Reagh, which is just to the west of Mullaghanattin there is a great cym with a huge wall to the right as the cym is entered from the end of the lake. There is a small slabby buttress in the middle of the cym. Five V.Diff. climbs were made here by I.M.C. members on the 30th October, during a meet with a newly formed local group. 100 ft. – 200 ft. long. Since this area is near the new I.M.C. hut at Glencar, there should be a lot more climbing recorded in the future.

CO. WICKLOW – Camaderry :

A direct start was made by E. Goulding on the 6th March, 1966, to the second pitch of Ifreann (the window pitch). This is up the thin crack which continues as the wider crack at the top of the original route. It is certainly harder than the "window" route. There is a new hard finish to "Leythe" up the little wall above the heather ledge which originally finished the climb.

DALKEY QUARRY :

Four new climbs here by D. Balmer and G. Jones, also W. Dick.

CONNEMARA – Ben Corr :

"Trafers Route" Hard Severe, 1,000 ft. F. Doherty, B. Walsh (Alt.). This climb goes up to the left of "Caveman's Delight."

THE MOURNES :

Each year more new climbs are found among the granite tors and cliffs of the Mournes. Glenforfanny Club members are again extremely active, and although many of the routes are short, some long and hard climbs have been done. The climbs are too numerous to mention in detail but the following seem worthy of note :—

SLIEVE BEG : "Poetic Justice" 330 ft. V.S. W. Jenkins and C. Moore, 8th July, 1966. This climb starts left of gully to left of Devil's Coach Road.

PIGEON ROCKS: "Class Distinction" 150 ft. V.S. S. Crymble, C. Moore, B. Black, F. Bullock, 23rd January, 1966. Five other routes ranging from Severe to V.S. were put up on this vegetated buttress last year and it is hoped that the climbs may be cleaned up by further ascents which may call for regrading.

BEN COM: "Deluge" 110 ft. Severe. J. Anderson and J. Irwin (Alt.), 30th July, 1966.

IX. ALPS

Mont Blanc Massif

1966

Chamonix face of the Aig. Fou., first ascent — M. Boysen
Aig. Noire; Ratti-Vitali route — W. Barker.
Sentinelle Rouge — B. & Mrs. Fuller
Old Brenva — A. McHardie
Aig. Brenva; Rebuffat route — P. Crew and D. Alcock
Tour Ronde; N. Face — N. and Mrs. Rogers and K. Meldrum; B. Fuller

1967

Mont Blanc de Tacul; Gervasutti Pillar — M. Boysen and N. Eastcourt; W. Barker
Gde. Capucin; E. Face — C. Taylor and A. Heppenstall
Geants; S. Face — C. Taylor and A. Heppenstall
Jorasses; Walker Spur — W. Barker

Zermatt

1966

Obergabelhorn; N. Face — D. Baldock and M. Baker
Breithorn; Younggrat — D. Baldock and M. Baker
Matterhorn; Zmutt Ridge — D. Baldock

Dauphine

1967

Aig. Dibona: S. Face Direct, first ascent — T. Jones and D. Wiggett

Bregaglia**1967**

Badile ; N.E. Face — K. Wilson and C. Isherwood ; C. Taylor and A. Heppenstall

Badile ; N. Ridge — R. Prager

Cengalo ; N. Ridge — P. Nunn and O. Woolcock ; W. Barker

Cantone ; N. Face — N. and Mrs. Rogers and K. Meldrum

Zocca ; Parravicini route — N. and Mrs. Rogers and K. Meldrum

Punta Allievi ; Gervasutti route — N. and Mrs. Rogers and K. Meldrum

Punta Allievi ; S. W. Pillar, first ascent — N. and Mrs. Rogers and K. Meldrum

Gran Paradiso**1966**

Gran Paradiso ; N. Face, Adami route — N. and Mrs. Rogers and K. Miller ; K. Meldrum and J. Cole

Ciarforon ; N. Face — N. and Mrs. Rogers ; K. Meldrum and J. Cole ; A. Wright and G. Rogan

Details of these new routes will be published in *Alpine Climbing*, the A.C.G. Bulletin.

X. SOLANG WEISSHORN

R. PETTIGREW

Bruce's Solang Weisshorn

In chapter five of his book 'Kulu and Lahoul,' Brig. General C. G. Bruce describes the first ascent of the mountain he named Solang Weisshorn, 19,450 ft., on the Kulu/Bara Bangahal divide, a few miles north-west of Manali. The ascent was made on June 23rd, 1912, by his Swiss guide Heinrich Fuhrer of Meiringen accompanied by a Gurkha soldier. Elsewhere he enthusiastically describes the climbing of the great Solang peak and its associates as : "A very fine climb and very fine expeditions."

The second ascent of the Solang Weisshorn, known to the paharis (hill-men) as Hanuman Tibba, which is likely to become the official name in India, was made nearly fifty-four years later, on June 3rd, 1966, by an Indo-British party organised by members of the Bombay Climbers' Club. *

The party elected to approach Hanuman Tibba from the south-east via the precipitous gorges of the Manalsu river, held by local hunters to be impassable, and attempted unsuccessfully on three previous occasions by

Pettigrew. The eventual route, a strenuous undertaking, took seven days to cover nine miles and gain 5,300 feet. In addition 520 feet of fixed rope was employed on the cliff sections as security for the Tibetan porters who though getting progressively more reluctant to rock-climb with 65 lb. loads, saw the caravan through to Base Camp, 11,500 ft.

Base Camp was established in the remote Upper Manalsu valley, three miles south of Seri on May 27th, beneath a spectacular rock wall some 3,000 feet high, and close to a spur inhabited by a herd of ibex containing some splendid heads.

Subsequent days were spent reconnoitring a route northwards and establishing Camp 1 at 14,500 feet. Beyond the camp the route soon climbed out of the Upper Manalsu valley, over its west containing wall and across the Kulu/Bara Bangahal by easy but exhausting nevés to the foot of the South face of Hanuman Tibba. Camp 2 was duly established at 16,500 on June 2nd.

From this camp on June 3rd two ropes consisting of Pettigrew and Pasang, Ang Nima and Rinzing, set off at dawn to make a summit bid by a route which weaved through the triple-tiered ice-cliffs of the South face.

Progress was encouragingly swift as far as the upper tier of the ice-cliffs some 600 feet below the summit cone. The snow condition was just beginning to perplex the party when suddenly, with a loud report, a quarter-mile wide wind-slab avalanche split off at the exact level of the leading rope and swept the two ropes helplessly down the slope for 500 feet only to discard them on the narrow terrace above the second tier of ice-cliffs. A later examination of the debris showed that the avalanche had continued for a further 1,500 feet below the second tier, and had come close to obliterating Camp 2 before it stopped.

Uninjured but bereft of an ice-axe, the party quit the South face and traversed eastwards to gain the crest of the corniced East ridge. Climbing steeply past small outcrops of vivid yellow rock, the snow summit was reached at 11-30 a.m.

After a brief session of photography and observation on top the party retired to the nearest rocks for a meal. An hour later, after depositing a thermos flask containing names on the outcrop, they began an uneventful descent to Camp 2, re-entering at 3-30 p.m.

Two virgin peaks of 17,400 ft. and 16,524 ft., were also climbed by the expedition which returned to Manali by a high level route on June 7th.

The party was : J. Nanavati ; V. Nadkarni ; E. G. Warhurst ; R. Pettigrew (leader). Sherpas : Pasang Lakhpa ; Ang Nima. Ladakhis : Rinzing ; Chering Namgyal. Seven Tibetan porters assisted the expedition to establish Base Camp.

EDITORIAL

THIS YEAR there has been only one change among the officers of the Club. John Longland has taken over the onerous duties of Secretary from Roger Chorley, to whom we are all indebted for his work over the past years. Martin Sinker is now Assistant Secretary.

Rex Nieto has taken over the Custodianship of Ynnys Ettws, replacing Roy Beard who has resigned in opposition to the Committee's experimental policy with regard to women in the hut. The new Custodian declares himself happy with the way the experiment is running.

* * * * *

This seems an appropriate place to express our congratulations to John Hunt on his life peerage, awarded for services to youth. Congratulations also to Chris Briggs, on his appointment as High Sheriff and a Deputy Lieutenant for Caernarvonshire, and to Jack Willis on his appointment as a High Court Judge.

* * * * *

Members who have died this year are R. G. Sparks and H. L. Pryce. I regret that I have been unable to obtain obituary notices of these members as yet. I would welcome correspondence from anyone who feels qualified to write on them.

* * * * *

The 1966 and 1967 seasons have again seen intense activity on British mountains. New crags continue to be discovered, and good lines to be discovered on old ones, long since thought to be worked out. This continuing spate of new routes is reflected in the greatly increased size of the 1967 New Climbs Bulletin. Unfortunately, the number of climbers wishing to buy the Bulletin does not appear to have increased, and a higher retail price may be necessary if the Club is not to make a substantial loss on this publication.

In the Alps, 1966 and 1967 were marked by bad weather, and many members had disappointing seasons. Some members were fairly successful however, some new routes and several first British ascents being recorded. In the New Climbs and Notes section of this Journal I have attempted to list the better ascents that I have knowledge of. I would like to make a

return to the practice of recording members' achievements in the Alps, and to this end I would welcome details of ascents made during the 1967 and 1968 seasons. Information should reach me by the middle of September, 1968 for inclusion in the '68 Journal.

Further afield, Pettigrew has again been active in Kulu, and a brief account of his expedition is included in this Journal. John Peacock was with a Sandhurst party in Greenland.

CORRESPONDENCE

Sir,

Abraham's Photographs

There were two inaccuracies in the obituary notice of G. D. Abraham in the 1965 *C.C.J.* It was stated there that all Abraham's old negatives were destroyed in a fire. Mr. Geoffrey Abraham (son of Ashley, and, with his wife, present-day owner of the Abraham business) has written to me to say that there were duplicates of most of the negatives, stored elsewhere and so happily not affected by the fire. Messrs. Abraham can therefore still supply prints and enlargements of the majority of the old pictures. Professor Odell points out that many of the photographs were in fact taken not by George but by Ashley.

Route Numbering in Guidebooks

John Longland in his review of *Cornwall*, vol. II, in the 1966 *C.C.J.*, suggests that the guide would be improved by numbering the routes consecutively and using these numbers on the diagrams, as in the Continental guidebooks (and also the A.C. and gritstone guides). I concur, and regard any such measures facilitating quick reference to guidebooks when one is climbing to be beneficial. But I regret that I cannot persuade the authors and artists of our guidebooks to agree with me. I was able to carry out this method of numbering in both editions of *Snowdon South* since I was part author. In *Clogwyn Du'r Arddu* the routes were numbered in this way, but by a mischance the same numbers were not used on the diagrams. I had hoped to have this put right in the second edition, but the authors were so strongly against the whole system of consecutive numbering that I reluctantly had to agree to the numbers being dropped altogether.

In the case of *Cornwall*, vol II, that dealt with by Longland, I originally asked the author and artist to arrange for the consecutive numbering system; the artist objected to it on the grounds that it was too fussy and complicated and would clutter up his diagrams too much, so once again I had to withdraw.

It would be helpful to hear the views of members and guidebook users on this subject.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN NEILL.

OBITUARY

R. A. MALLET

R. A. Harwood has written the following notes on R. A. Mallet, whose death was reported in last year's Journal :

"Dick was the elder son of the late Sir Charles Mallet. He was up at Balliol just after the 1914-'18 war; one of that mature and gifted but unsettled generation which, after seeing active service, returned to play an influential part in University life. He took a leading part in the revival of the Oxford University Motor Cycling Club, tuning and riding a 1000 c.c., twin-cylinder Zenith with considerable skill.

He had served with an infantry regiment on the Western front and gained what I am certain was a very well-deserved M.C. in the course of prolonged trench warfare. Characteristically he would never say anything about it except that it 'just arrived.' At some time during the war, he was I think, seconded to the R.F.C.

He took up climbing in his early thirties, and I was with him on some easy Welsh climbs in those days. He became very keen, developing a competent technique according to the standards of that time, and later gaining Alpine experience. He was a cheerful and humorous companion, and a good friend.

Soon after leaving Oxford he became a partner in the Normand Electrical Co., makers of small electric motors, and helped to develop it into a flourishing business.

He leaves a widow and a daughter."

CHARLES BEVERLEY CROFT HANDLEY

In 1945 there was quite a remarkable gathering of mountaineers. A course had been organised for 100 cadets, half of them from the Public Schools, and half from Grammar Schools, Secondary Schools and suchlike, and this mixing in itself was something of an innovation at that time. The course was run by the Mountain Training Cadre at Llanberis, and a number of civilian climbers were invited to join the course as voluntary instructors, and most of us who were fortunate enough to have been included in the party were members of the Climbers Club. The Officer in Charge was Bob

Handley, at that time affectionately referred to as Tommy Handley.

The great success of the course in spite of a sad fatality was in large measure due to Bob's leadership and his handling of this acute situation. A close link was forged between the army instructors and the civilians, and Bob Handley became a member of the Climbers Club.

In the ensuing years his main efforts went into ski mountaineering and into the running of the Alpine Ski Club. He was a great man in both senses of the word and the life and soul of every party or expedition he was on, intensely interested in those around him apparently to the complete exclusion of himself.

Bob Handley had only recently retired to live in the village of Hoxne in Norfolk, and in a short time he had endeared himself to all his neighbours by reason of his friendliness and public spirited way of life.

He died on the 18th April, 1966, together with his companion Peter Francis when they fell down the snow bound west flank of Sgurr Fiona on the An Teallach Ridge. He was 59, and the great gathering at the beautiful Norfolk village church for his funeral service was testimony enough of the esteem in which he was held by all his friends.

I. Waller.

REVIEWS

THE ANDES ARE PRICKLY *by Malcolm Slesser*

(Victor Gollancz Ltd., 1966, 42/-).

As an acknowledged admirer of Malcolm Slesser's earlier book 'Red Peak,' I found myself increasingly frustrated by this carefully written but at times rather colourless travelogue. The fault admittedly lies not so much in Slesser as in his stars (to leave the misquotation incomplete). This was no team of Pamir prima-donnas. On the contrary – it is difficult to forget that one is not attending a Glasgow J.M.C.S. bus meet at Lagan-garbh, and although Slesser tries bravely to inject a little colour into this happy well-knit group, it is an uphill struggle.

The gastronomic eccentricities of ex-hotelier Norman Tennant "the art of Good Living can be practised in the Andes as well as anywhere" are scant consolation. In fact food and drink find prominent mention in no less than 100 of the 250 pages of the book. As one follows the expedition's progress from meal to meal, one is reminded of Napoleon's dictum that "an army marches on its stomach." So it seems does Slesser – "hungry and salivating like some Pavlovian dog" (p. 103). Not surprisingly, stomach disorders take their inevitable toll. Also not surprisingly "they blame the water." Even Tennant succumbs.

From the strictly mountaineering viewpoint it is doubly unfortunate that the expedition failed to achieve its main objective – the East Ridge of Yerupaja – as this would have rounded off the story with the successful climax it deserves. Here too, however, is frustration for the climber, no less than for the reader.

In summary it is perhaps more as a travelogue that this book deserves to be read. Slesser's many interesting sidelights upon the problems of travel in the Peruvian Andes are both penetrating and original.

Through no fault of the author's I can only rate this as a slightly-better-than-average expedition book. "Red Peak" was a classic; its publication was a landmark in the limited field of mountaineering narrative. What we now eagerly await from Slesser is not another expedition book but a contemporary survey of Scottish mountaineers in native habitat. Slesser's full writing potential has yet to be realised. There is no more imaginative entertaining writer in the sphere of mountaineering literature.

T. W. PATEY.

EIGER DIRECT *by Peter Gillman and Dougal Haston*
(Collins).

In the early months of 1966 we were made aware through the press, radio and television of the happenings on the North Face of the Eiger. We now have, in 'Eiger Direct' a full and immensely readable account of what actually took place on and around the mountain, by two people, one on the face and the other at the base, who were able to participate and record as the climb progressed.

The selected route and the highly technical approach which was applied have been the centre of much discussion in climbing circles, but so in quite recent times were the activities on the West Face of the Dru. Methods used on the first ascent of the West Face are now commonplace and acceptable. As the authors say, "The clash is between generations."

The deeper one reads into the story the more apparent is the fierce rivalry between the two teams: rivalry blanketed during the climbing of the Central Pillar but flaming back into life when the German team reached the Fly and eventually disappearing after Harlin's tragic death.

Haston's account of the push to the summit is truly gripping even though we are well aware of the successful outcome of the expedition. These chapters should certainly quell the knockers who cry, "The mountain never had a chance." Bonnington's photographs are good. One of the Face between the Central Pillar and the Spider, showing a climber on the ice of the Spider, I particularly like, but they do no more than enhance what is already an excellent book.

Few enthusiastic mountaineers will be without this book.

B. A. FULLER.

THE MOUNTAINEER'S COMPANION *Edited by Michael Ward*
(Eyre and Spottiswoode, 50/-).

Dear Mr. Eyre and/or Mr. Spottiswoode,

You were kind enough to send a copy of 'The Mountaineer's Companion' to us for a review. I wonder if you quite realise what you have done in producing this volume? For years, defying regular prophecies of bubbles bursting, there has been an increasing output of literature about our rather peculiar form of recreation. This steady growth has had some obvious side-

effects like providing a means of getting an expedition budget to balance or creating a need for ever larger bookcases, and less obviously it has given birth to an armchair version of mountaineering. The would-be erudite climber has had to scour libraries, second-hand bookshops, and remnant sales to spend not a little money and a lot of time to discover the gems of our literature; the laconic successes, the epic sieges, heroic failures, instantaneous transitions from triumph to tragedy and moments of revelation of self or of Gentians at unprecedented heights.

I suspect that now you have changed things. Your book will become for many a substitute for all this, and if the habit of anthology catches on I add yet another prophesy of the bubble bursting. On reflection, I suppose that it is just possible that your book will whet the appetites of those who have never been able to collect and read ALL the literature of mountaineering. Then it will spur them on to greater effort and the market will boom. In this case you will have succeeded in producing a Guide Book and if so, please do try to keep it in print – as you may know, we have a lot of experience in this field and know some of the difficulties.

May I congratulate you on your choice of Editor? Especially as he is one of our members. He says in the introduction that he has chosen extracts because he has found them 'interesting or enjoyable or both.' The galaxy of old favourites that he (evidently), I (incidentally) and many others (reportedly) all number as classic pieces suggest that there is more common ground amongst mountaineers than a collection of people who tend to pride their individuality would normally admit. It would be difficult to imagine a contemporary collection that did not include Young, Noyce, Whymper, Rebuffat, Edwards and all. What is very welcome is that he has put in some words of the less titanic figures of our world. Some of them have written in this Journal so we know them well – like Kevin Fitzgerald and Tom Patey and it is splendid to see them reaching a wider readership. Others may be less familiar like John Emery's talk to the Alpine Club. Gwen Moffat on 'Wind' or James Morris doing his first ever climb in the Everest ice-fall. I'm also delighted to see that room has been found for some of that delightful book by Felice Benuzzi, surely one of the only party to climb back into a prison having first escaped and then climbed on a very big peak.

Well, Mr. E. and/or Mr. S., as I said do you know what you have done? I'm not sure that I do, but I would guess that you will make a killing at Christmas in the young nephew, 'Uncle-tell-me-all-about-climbing' market. You will sell a copy to all our climbing gamesmen (and that's not peanuts) and you may become the mandatory riposte to all those questions about 'why climb?' but do not kid yourself (selves) with visions of knarled climbers

sitting on airy ledges thumbing the pages – that's our preserve and even we have not produced a Guide Book with the weight of 598 big pages, yet.

I wish you and the Editor luck and hope you sell a lot of copies.

Yours sincerely,

AVID READER.

P.S.—I fear that we may have to return your book as almost unreviewable – and why do you want a review when most of it has been reviewed in this Journal already?

J. H. LONGLAND.

I CHOSE TO CLIMB *by Christian Bonington*

Some years ago, the guest of honour at the London dinner was the then Minister of Transport, Mr. Ernest Marples. He described how in the 1930's he was climbing the harder climbs of that era when, in his early twenties, he had to decide between spending all his spare time climbing and devoting all his business to making a success of a career in business and politics. In his book, Chris Bonington describes how he was presented with a similar choice. Who knows what might have happened to the world of margarine had Bonington not decided to live from climbing.

This is an important book because it is by a literate member of the growing number of people who climb for both pleasure and work. It is fascinating, giving as it does sidelights on first Alpine seasons on the Eiger, epics on the S.W. pillar and other great routes in the Alps, rescues on the Eiger, excursions to the Himalayas and ending with the first British ascent of the Eiger North Face which, strangely, does not read like an epic. The only slightly disappointing thing, having seen other Bonington pictures, are the photographs.

The greatest difficulty in writing such a book must be that of balancing detail for the climber against interest for the general reader. I would have thought there was too much technical detail and description for the general reader. But a non-climbing friend could not put it down.

After reading the book, one has perhaps a slight feeling of envy. But the main hope is that 'I chose to Climb More' comes out soon.

J. COLE.

HIGH PEAK *by E. Byne and G. Sutton*

The book, as the authors explain in their final words has been written . . . 'for the young climbers and walkers of the future.' A pious hope but unrealistic, I fear. At 42/- it is more likely to appeal to those who have

already contributed to the recent history of walking and climbing in the Peak District (the book's sub title). The index reads rather like a Who's Who of Climbers and if all of those mentioned were to buy copies the financial success of the book must be assured. The treatment throughout is historical, perhaps the reason why I did not find it easy to read, and covers the period of climbing from its earliest beginnings with Puttrell in 1890 to Joe Brown in 1964. The historical aspects of climbing in the Peak have already been well documented in the introductions to the rock climbing guide books to the area but they are here collected with an unusual completeness and accuracy. It is in the more recent developments that some errors occur. The Stalk (page 226) in Cheedale was first climbed by Drasdo, Wathen and myself in 1957 but far from being climbed free, as I remember, the route was entirely artificial. However in a work of this scope and where so much of the available material is hearsay it is creditable that so few errors are introduced.

The outstanding feature of the book is the description of the long distance Bog Trots. In these, with the help of appropriate journal quotations, the agonies of endurance and the sense of wild moorland desolation are captured with a vivid appreciation. No less is the spirit of determination illustrated by the long and often bloody battle for access to the Peak District culminating in the formation of the first National Park.

To the young climbers and walkers of the future it may appear that this volume sets a final seal on adventurous developments in the area but new routes on limestone are still being put up as fast as ever. 'There is no doubt that the new times will be as good as the old.' There is even less doubt that the book will find a wide and interested reading public: it forms the only reference work on this subject.

K. I. MELDRUM.

TRYFAN AND GLYDER FACH *by A. J. J. Moulam*

(Climbers' Club).

The latest edition of the Tryfan and Glyder Fach guide is in fact very similar to its predecessor with the cover pictures changed, unfortunately losing Poucher's fine shot of the East Face in the process. Usually a Moulam guide is very professional and usable and this proves to be no exception.

Views on standards are a very personal thing and in this guide are reasonably consistent, although I am disappointed that when compared with Cwm Idwal or the new Carnedd guide, Tony Moulam seems to have underestimated the difficulty of some of the more popular routes. Notable

examples are the Milestone Buttress Front routes, Soap Gut and North Buttress. Even the Editor's preface does not diminish the writer's responsibility towards novice leaders.

The descriptions generally seem to fit the way most people climb the routes, although those coming to the Milestone for the first time may find the route and stances described for Rowan and the Direct Routes unrecognisable when compared with those favoured by the regulars. Perhaps the time has come when the most popular route should be described rather than the original.

The diagrams are generally excellent, although the Glyder Fach sketch covers a lot of unnecessary ground.

Finally it is sad that First Pinnacle Rib has changed its name, although, surprisingly, the rock has remained the same.

R. JAMES.

ROCK-CLIMBING IN DEVONSHIRE. *Edited by R. D. Moulton*

(R.N. Mountaineering Club, 15/-).

A great deal of work has gone into this very exhaustive guide – the first to cover the whole county, replacing and extending the previous interim guides.

Devonshire is a wide area and embraces climbing on many types of rock: the granite of the Dewerstone and the Dartmoor Tors; the magnificent and relatively untouched sea cliffs of Lundy Island; the limestone of Chudleigh and S.E. Devon and the shale cliffs of Morwell and the North Coast, the latter being generally reserved for the masochists.

The guide is attractively produced and easy to follow; map references are given for each crag. The climbs are clearly described with a few words of recommendation for the better ones. I did feel, however, that there was some inconsistency with the diagrams, particularly as many people may not be familiar with the area.

This is a small criticism of an otherwise excellent handbook. There are over 300 routes described and room for more. Those who climb for enjoyment would do well to spend a few days in the country on quiet, warm cliffs before exposing themselves to the full blast of the Cornish sun.

M. W. BLAKE.

CLIMBS IN SOUTH-WEST ENGLAND *by John Nixon*

This is an excellent guide to the cliffs in the Avon Gorge and several, though by no means all possible, surrounding areas. Route descriptions are easy to follow though at any rate to a newcomer to some of the cliffs, diagrams suffer from the usual difficulties in such areas that the climber at the bottom of a cliff finds it difficult to locate salient features because he is necessarily close to the bottom. The guide has, as always, been overtaken by events subsequent to its publication but at least the newcomer now has a sufficient variety of routes to escape from the over-popular areas.

J. COLE.

CARNEDDAU *by A. J. J. Moulam*

(Climbers' Club, 15/6).

This guide, awaited for so long, needs to be considered from two points of view. Firstly, the contents: there are close to three hundred route descriptions, and the reader is guided through the complexities of this huge climbing area with the authority that we have come to expect from the author.

The physical form of the book is far less satisfactory. The paper is of far too heavy a grade for a volume of this size; the back is already beginning to come away from my copy, and the cover photographs are terribly badly reproduced. These are, however, faults which can readily be put right in the next edition. In the meantime this much-needed guidebook represents very good value for money.

N. R.

THE EASTERN CRAGS

(Fell and Rock Climbing Club).

This very useful volume is an interim measure in the F. & R.C.C. publishing programme. It is divided into two parts; the text of the 1959 edition, by Harold Drasdo, followed by a Supplement of nearly ninety routes compiled by N. J. Soper with the help of a small team.

A new guide to the area is planned as the last number of the Third Series, which is currently beginning to appear. In the meantime the opportunity has been taken to introduce some of the very admirable aspects of this Series. The high-quality plastic cover, clear typeface, and the useful key to the crags of this widely scattered area are among these features. Some of the diagrams seem to me to have been less well-produced than they might have been, but this is a small criticism.

In one respect, the interim nature of this guide has led to a possible source of confusion. In the Supplement, the climbs are graded according to the new F. & R.C.C. classification, which sub-divides the Very Severe and introduces the Extreme grade. In the main text of course, all climbs above Severe are merely Very Severe. When choosing routes, the newcomer to the area would do well to regard this as two, more or less separate guidebooks.

N. R.

CRAIG GOGARTH *by P. Crew. Diagrams by B. Whybrow*

The sea cliffs of Anglesey are now established as a major climbing area of great significance. Some of the story of their development, starting with eight routes in 1964 followed by over fifty in 1966, and many more since, is told elsewhere in this Journal,* but this in itself is enough to show that an immediate demand for information was created. This was met when Crew's guide appeared in July, 1966. It sold out in three weeks and a second edition, substantially the same as the first, is now on sale. Both editions give full cover to Craig Gogarth and include a few routes on the South Stack cliffs. A comprehensive guide to the whole area will appear in the winter of 1967 and an interim guide to the South Stack area in the 1967 Bulletin.

There are a number of points of technical interest in the production of this guide but to catalogue these would be to miss the main significance of it which is that it describes the biggest breakthrough in Welsh climbing for more than a decade. This little book tells a story of unprecedented climbing achievement, of shattered psychological barriers and entirely wrong assumptions about what could not be done.

The 1964 explorers set foot on Gogarth only with the utmost trepidation. They were alarmed by the huge overhanging walls and loose cracks which in places overhung the sea and deceived by the awe-inspiring atmosphere of the place. The endless pounding waves and squawking birds distracted them from the climbing difficulties and continually reminded them of what might happen if they fell off or the tide came in. They left thinking that very few more lines could reasonably be attempted. When in 1966 a few climbers, including most of the pioneers, began to return to the cliff they took with them virtually the same equipment and techniques as before but as they visited the crag more often and the unknown problems became known, their attitude changed. The difficulties were soberly evaluated for what they were, retreat was shown to be possible and protection was found

* — We hope, at some subsequent date. Ed.

to be quite good. Suddenly the barrier was down, it became clear that there were dozens of climbable lines and dozens of climbers willing to try them. The Crag Gogarth guide contains some of the routes that were done as a result. At the time of writing development is continuing unabated after a year of intense activity but the pace will inevitably slacken soon. Whatever the future holds it is certain that climbing historians will regard the opening up of Anglesey as a major milestone in Welsh climbing and they will probably be able to see the influence of Anglesey experience on achievements in the big mountains.

Crew is to be congratulated on producing almost single-handed this much needed and important information but it is a great pity that his experience of writing guides for C.C. publication has caused him to opt for private publication: however, one lesson that can be learnt is that a highly satisfactory interim guide can be produced at low cost (5/-) and in a very short time (about a month from manuscript to the shops)*

M. HOWELLS.

GREAT LANGDALE by J. A. Austin. Illustrated by W. Heaton Cooper

(F.R.C.C. 25/-).

At last it's out, and well worth waiting for. Proud, in Fell and Rock red with the white Yorkshire flash of the author it is at once striking and attractive. It feels durable and easy to use and when open an excellent layout is revealed. Particularly noteworthy is the extremely clear type face. and in this respect at least, we could be well advised to take a page out of our kindred club's book. Finally, of physical assessments, Heaton Copper's new diagrams are fresh and accurate, as far as I can judge without comparing directly with the crags, but still manage to be artistic.

Vicissitudes of production mean seventeen years have elapsed since the last edition, and in that time climbing has changed a lot. And so, to keep up with it, has the guide. The classifications have been more realistically split, and this means that it is easier to judge the standard of a climb without the compulsive reference to the invidious graded list which has been the norm hitherto. For another thing, Austin describes the merits of a route fairly and with humour. His instructions are precise.

* — Without wishing to quarrel in any way with the message of this review, it seems fair to point out that several satisfactory *Interim Guides* have been produced quickly, and at low cost by the C.C. for example, in the last two issues of the *Bulletin*, "New Climbs." Ed.

without taking away the necessity to solve the problem presented. These points, and the accuracy of classifications mean that the volume fulfils all the needs of a guidebook. One can select the climbs that are worth doing, if desired in comfort at home. At the same time a good idea of the difficulties to be expected can be obtained, and eventually, arrived at the crag, the route can be followed with the eye at least, with ease.

Now to the contents, augmented by Dolphin's great latter day routes and the spate of the moderns to whom he showed the way, the book is big. So is much of the climbing but Austin gives as much attention to the description of the easier climbs as he does to the ones that extend the expert. Perhaps his work on this guidebook is an even greater contribution to the climbing world than are thirty odd routes in it that he has pioneered.

A. J. J. MOULAM.

LLANBERIS SOUTH *by P. Crew*

(Climbers' Club, 10/-). Available direct from Camtors, Jackson & Warr Ltd. to Climbers' Club members for 10/- post free).

With all the activity that has taken place in the last four years on the south side of Llanberis Pass, it is very welcome to see this excellent guide book, produced by Peter Crew, finished. It completes a series of three guides covering the areas of Clogwyn du'r Arddu, Llanberis North and Llanberis South which were formerly contained in Harding's Llanberis Pass.

This guide will enable climbers of all standards to enjoy the fine climbs which the south side of Llanberis Pass offers. Included are descriptions of 139 climbs of which 12 are Extreme, 17 Hard V.S., 16 V.S. and 14 Severe. The remainder are made up of the lower grades. Some interesting information about winter climbing has also been included which makes it quite original. It is a pity, however, that the diagrams of the following routes have been omitted: Black Foot, Black Spring, The Intruder, Sexus, the Girdle of the Plexus Buttress, The Skull and The Prune.

All the descriptions are included with the exception of The Intruder, an increasingly popular route, which for some reason has been left out.

D. ALCOCK.

STONEY MIDDLETON DALE *by G. B. Birtles*

Since Rock Climbs on the Mountain Limestone of Derbyshire, Volume I was published in 1962 the number of routes described in the section

devoted to Stoney Middleton has more than doubled, giving a present total of approximately 140.

The increasing popularity of this accessible limestone crag has resulted in a demand for an interim guide pending the production of Volume II. This demand is adequately catered for with this publication.

Presumably of necessity the descriptions lack the previous detail and quality and hence it would be preferable for a newcomer to the crag to be armed with the original guide book with its relating diagrams.

The descriptions of the new climbs indicates that the present 'climbing techniques' utilising nuts, wedges, spuds, etc., instead of pitons, is now being practised and advocated for limestone climbing. This of course conflicts with the previous idea that the limestone of Derbyshire was useful only for practising artificial techniques, and speed in using pitons for protection, as practised in the Alps. Perhaps it would be preferable if our limestone climbing be developed along the lines as practised at LeSaussois, where the minimum of pitons required to ascend the routes are left in position enabling faster and more enjoyable climbing to be practised.

C. E. DAVIES.

EXTREMELY SEVERE IN THE AVON GORGE *by E. Ward-Drummond*

(Obtainable from the author, c/o The Mountaineering Club, The Union Building, Queen's Road, Bristol 8, Price 7/6).

The fourth guide to the Avon Gorge contains only routes of Hard V.S. and above. Of the 49 routes, 21 appeared in previous guides. Of the 28 new routes, 15 were made by the author and 12 of them have been published in the last two C.C. Bulletins. There are two photos of the Main Wall area and one of the Suspension Bridge Buttress to locate the climbs. These are unfortunately rather crudely reproduced so some of the detail is lost. This guide does not attempt to replace the fairly recent Avon Gorge Guide and will probably be out of date quite soon at the rate the author is putting up new routes. Indeed a small supplement (priced at one shilling) is to be produced when six more major lines already planned have been climbed. I think it would have been better if the bulk of the material and the photos had been published in the Bulletin. It would then have cost less and been seen by more people.

That it was not so published is a greater pity because the main object of the guide is to introduce a novel grading-system. The system applies only to pitches Hard V.S. (5b) and Extreme (6a) in standard. To each pitch is attributed 4 numbers. The first concerns technical difficulty being (an

estimate of the number of crucial moves.' The second concerns the protection at the cruxes (pegs, nuts or threads) :

- 0—wholly adequate
- 1—some questionable pegs
- 2—important pegs to be handled with care
- 3—cruxes unprotectable

The third describes the quality of the rock at cruxes, again from 0 to 3. The fourth number describes the main holds at the cruxes :

- 0—large flat holds
- 1—pinch-grips, side pulls, difficult jams
- 3—thin limiting holds, rests only at pegs.

Four examples of Welsh climbs are given :

Vector	6a	7—0—0—2	
Grasper	6a	6—0—0—2	(first pitch)
First Slip	6a	5—0—0—3	
Cemetery Gates	5b	6—0—1—1	

Ward-Drummond feels this system will 'provide a linguistic tool more capable of allowing generalised talk about the difficulties of a particular climb.' I don't think it will. There is something to be said for labelling the quality of the rock on limestone, but I don't think that, until you have done quite a few of the routes, you will get more information by looking at the other three numbers than by reading a description. The numbers convey no more than the usual descriptive clichés because they are not defined uniquely and will tend to be applied subjectively. If you want to communicate information a well-drawn and annotated topo is much more use. But how much detail do you need on a 200 ft. climb before you try it? One obvious test of the system is to see if ordering the routes according to the sum of the four numbers reproduces the graded list — this only roughly happens.

So far as the climbs are concerned, I have two comments. The author remarks that his ascent of the Direct Finish of Unknown Buttress may not have been the first. I thought this finish was done by Bonington on the 2nd ascent, it certainly was by Wedgwood when we did the 3rd or 4th. Unless something has fallen off, 6(a) seems a bit high in the context of the rest of the guide. I also think it is a pity that the artificial start to Depravity should not have been included as this gives a far better introduction than the creaking Malpractice to the Main Wall at V.S. with a few feet of A.1.

There is a lot of splendid and difficult climbing in the Gorge, but only if you climb there regularly will you want to pay 7/6 for this guide. The new grading system should provoke some comment.

C. H. TAYLOR.

POBEZHDENNYE VERSHINY : SBORNIK SOVETSKOGO ALPINIZMA
1961-1964 (Conquered Summits : Manual of Soviet Mountain-
eering 1961-1964).

Under the general Editorship of Ye D. Simonov.

(Publishing House "Thought," Moscow, 1966. 88 kopecks).

The contents are :

Expeditions

Ye.I Tamm. KHAN-TENGRI from the north.

(An expedition report).

M. E. GRUDZINSKY. TENGRI-TAG

(A general article on the range containing KHAN-TENGRI, in the TIEN SHAN).

Ye.B. GIPPENREITER, A.G. OVCHINNIKOV. Flags of two countries on the PAMIRS : Bright memories of Wilfrid and Robin.

(A full account from the Russian side of the British-Soviet PAMIRS Expedition, 1962. It is hoped to produce a complete translation of this article in due course).

S. M. GERMAN. Thunderstorm on Shan.

(SHAN is a peak east of KAZBEK, 4429m.).

S. M. SAVVON. Attack on TADZHIKISTAN Peak.

(This peak is in the PAMIRS).

Sporting Ascents

V. D. KAVUNENKO. USHBA in winter.

Yu.G. ARUTYUNOV. Vertical faces of ULLA-TAU and CHATIN.

(North faces of these Caucasian peaks).

B. STUDENIN. The north face of PIK KIRGIZSTAN.

(In the Kirgiztian ALA-TAU, an offshoot of the TIEN SHAN).

Yu.M. SMIRNOV. The first tower of KORONA from the north.

(KORONA, the Crown, is a group of peaks in the ALA-ARCHINSKY branch of the Kirgiztian ALA-TAU).

K.P. ROTOTAEV. The great KICHKINEKOL horseshoe.

(In the western part of the Caucasus).

Joseph SCHINTLEMEISTER (of Dresden). The Caucasus yesterday and today.

(Schintlemeister was a member of the Austrian party which made the first traverse of the peaks of the BEZINGI Wall in 1931).

Science and Mountaineering

K. P. ROTOTAEV. The MEDVEZH Glacier revolts.

(Abnormal behaviour of a Pamir glacier).

N. A. GVOZDETSKY. So when is ELBRUS ?

(The highest point in Europe ?)

Ye.N. SALATSINSKAYA. The reaction of the climber's system to oxygen lack.

P. S. ROTOTAEV. New toponomical list of Caucasian mountain names. (A very useful list giving names, heights, positions and first ascent details of 102 of the main Caucasian peaks. 18 of the first ascents recorded were by British parties ; but the old Soviet myths are trotted out again – e.g. of the ascent of the east peak of ELBRUS in 1829 by a native hunter).

Experiment and Practice

I. I. ANTONOVITCH. Rock-climbing – younger brother of mountaineering.

(Soviet development of pure rock-climbing and climbing competitions).

V. S. NEFEDOV. Thirty years after.

(The progress of Soviet mountaineering since 1935).

International symposium on problems of high altitudes.

A. I. POLYAKOV. International bonds of Soviet climbers.

Beyond the Borders

Ye.B. GIPPENREITER. Everest by two routes.

(The American expedition).

B. A. GARF. Conquest of JANNU.

Raymond LEININGER. French national climbing.

KURT RICHTER. Climbing in the GDR (East Germany).

F. A. KROPF, K. G. KROPF. First ascents of 8,000 and 7,000 metre peaks of the world, 1907-1965.

(14 8,000-ers, 84 7,000-ers ; a list is appended of unclimbed 7,000-ers).

F. A. KROPF, Yu.G. ARUTYUNOV, K. G. KROPF. To the highest mountains of the world.

(A summary of Himalayan expeditions, roughly covering the period 1959-1962).

Personalia

IGOR EUGENE TAMM. 70 years old : academic ice-axe.

S. BARGHERIAN. Veteran of Armenian mountaineering.

(About V. A. DARIAN).

O. D. GRINFELD : VASILY LOGINOVITS SEMENOVSKY (1884-1944).

A. G. OVCHINNIKOV : The late LEV MISHLIAYEV (1927-1963).

Reviews and Bibliography

(5 reviews).

Reference Material

(Contains lists of best sporting achievements in climbing, climbers in the grade of Master of Sport and above, records of climbs in the major Soviet ranges 1959-1961, a supplementary list of ascents of PIK LENIN and a list for KHAN-TENGRI, and a list of ascents on Soviet mountains of over 6,500m.).

J. NEILL.

NEW CLIMBS, 1966 AND 1967
(Climbers' Club).

75 NEW CLIMBS IN THE LAKE DISTRICT
(F. & R.C.C.).

NEW CLIMBS IN THE LAKE DISTRICT, 1966
(F. & R.C.C.).

Climbing, like science, is suffering an information explosion which reflects the tremendous growth of the sport. For those conscious of past development, even for those taking part in it, the results can be baffling. From any list of new climbs on paper, at Anglesey, in Cwm Cowarch, on the bits in between on the West Buttress of Clogwyn du'r Arddu, in South Wales, in Yorkshire, on Pillar, on Swanage or in the Manifold, how is one to begin to decide which might be the good climbs? There is the further problem that much is not on paper, while in an age when a young climber, when asked why he ran from climb to climb, answered, "You've got to make your name somehow," many new climbs are always appearing. Of these some are rubbish, some are contrived though passable and some are excellent. Somehow the good must be sorted out while the new route hogs keep the earth churning.

How much more baffling it must be for the beginner or the occasional climber without much knowledge from which to build. Once centres were few, now they are many, different in type of rock, atmosphere, even function. Somehow these people manage, relying as much upon hearsay as upon information which can be bought. Much of their hearsay is myth or legend.

Once the ubiquitous climber was not too unusual. He chose the better climbs in each area and usually climbed every weekend. Going out thus frequently was enough for him to keep up with new development, so long as he possessed the necessary ability and drive. For a time this class of climber grew, but with it grew the number of new routes, and this spate has made it increasingly difficult for the enthusiastic to keep up to date. The regular weekend climbers seem forced more and more into sets, going to the same area (Snowdonia, the Southern Lakes, the Northern Lakes) almost

without fail. Some seem attracted more and more by social sets, others like to feel that they are "in" in one area at least, many seem blinkered.

In the past the established Clubs have attempted to serve their members and the public by publishing guide-books. Perhaps once they were the only people qualified to undertake such a task. Usually the guides have tended to lag behind developments, but only recently has this caused anything more than minor annoyance. Interim guides, presupposing the future publication of full guides, have long been usual. They appeared in the forties for Cloggy and Quellyn and probably earlier elsewhere. These guides were stopgaps but important nevertheless. In the sixties impatience with the tardiness of the older clubs is readily expressed. It is most vehement among those who feel frustrated because they know the routes while the Senior Clubs pose as responsible without being quite sure what they are responsible for. Thus "pirate" guides have become more usual in recent years. Some of these have been avowedly interim, others have been attempted full guides. Often there has been a desire to make a bit of cash on the side, or other less noble motive than that assumed in "Senior Clubs," but scarcely less compulsive for that. Guides have appeared to Stoney Middleton, Derwent Valley (Derbyshire), Anglesey, Borrowdale and Easter Ross, to name but a few. These are the consequence of the slowness of established machinery. Get a knowledgeable specialist in one area, or perhaps two such, a few devoted typists, a good cameraman and above all a bit of literacy and enough free time within a month or two; find a printer who works rather than one who procrastinates and a guide can be out very quickly. It will tend to be particularised and a little subjective perhaps but it will tell people where the climbs go. Committee meetings only do that after a long time it seems; the interim and other guides are usually to be welcomed for this reason, and for the further reason that they prod the rusty machinery to life again.

The "Senior Clubs" have in the last few years set themselves the full task again, both South and North of the Border. They hope to produce full sets of guides within two or three years and keep these 'up to scratch' by frequent revision. They have also attempted to steal fire from the interim guide brigade by publishing bulletins and interim guides themselves*. These, appearing for the last two or three years in both the Lake

I PROTEST! I see the *Bulletin "New Climbs"* not as an attempt to steal fire from anyone, but as an attempt to present, each year, in one volume and at a reasonable price, new route information for as much of the country as possible. In addition I see it as the logical place for publication of interim guides as and when they appear to be necessary. Potential contributors in either field are free, and very welcome, to send material for publication. They do not need to be C.C. members. Ed.

District and Wales and the rest of England, have been quite valuable. They serve a definite need at a time when one can no longer hope to depend upon word of mouth and when bankruptcy could result from an attempt to buy all the relevant journals. Though these temporarily dam the tide, however, the flood grows. Both within the clubs and outside them there are those wishing for a more streamlined and logical source of information. There is particularly important for the Alps, where private enterprise has already broken in with a vengeance and to good effect. If the S.M.C., the F. & R.C.C., the C.C. and the B.M.C., each in their own areas, do not meet the challenge, others will. A private guide to Anglesey will soon sell out overnight. So too would private guides to many other areas. If the squeeze allows a few ribs to recover than a few bulletins will not stem the impatience. The present organisations, despite some complacency, are still tottering on the edge of losing their initiative in this, their most important public function, to many outside the only justification for their existence.

It is above all boldness in conception and speed of execution which are needed. Both were conspicuously lacking in the past. It is time which will determine whether or not bulletins and "Senior Clubs" guides can stave off an avalanche of private work. Long ago somebody predicted that those doing the climbs would be too young to write the guides. Something precious close to that is occurring today, but Senior Clubs prescribe a method which implies a maturing process in writing. Writers are loath to grow old with their work.

P. NUNN.

SELECTED CLIMBS IN THE MONT BLANC RANGE *Edited by R. G. Collomb and P. Crew*

(The Alpine Club : Vol. I, 35/- ; Vol. II, 28/-)

BREGAGLIA WEST

(West Col., 16/-)

GRAIANS WEST

(West Col., 25/-)

DENTS DU MIDI

West Col., 18/-)

In the ten years since the first A.C.G. guide to the Mont Blanc range appeared there has been a small population explosion in the world of British alpinism. This new guide then, very much enlarged and almost completely rewritten, meets a long-standing demand. The now standard, plastic covers and excellent cover photographs are very welcome, but the most striking single improvement on the old guide is the splendid diagrams

by Brian Evans.

The fourth guide in the A.C. series to the Dauphiné Alps, appeared a little too late to be reviewed in this Journal, but will be very welcome in planning the 1968 season.

The four guides in the series mentioned above have appeared over the past five years. In contrast we have this year's crop of West Col. editions. A dozen or so more volumes are in preparation and 'many more titles' are promised in the near future. Peter Crew has long been an advocate of more rapid guidebook production and it is a great pleasure to see people practising what they preach. Having been produced quickly, do these guides show evidence of haste? I think not. On the contrary they show evidence of careful research and great attention to detail. A particularly valuable feature, especially in the case of the more difficult climbs, is information about first British ascents. Where no British ascent has been made, this information also is given, and no doubt prospective pioneers will regard these descriptions with greater caution than normal.

There is one point I would like to see put right in later editions and further volumes in this series. The familiar G.H.M. method of grading is described in detail at the beginning of each volume, but many of the climbs are actually graded as in the original Swiss or Italian guidebook, i.e. purely numerically. This inconsistency is at the best irritating and at worst confusing. I would also quarrel with some of the numerical pitch gradings which do not seem to fit in with British rock-climbing standards. As an example, the Cassin route on the Piz Badile is described as 'sustained VI' with three pitches of VI. The proper grade for the climb would be T.D. sup., I would have thought, and there are certainly not pitches above V sup. as an English party would understand this grading.

These are quibbles, however, and the West Col. organisation is to be congratulated on its first productions in this field. We look forward to a similar blend of responsibility and enthusiasm in next year's guidebooks.

N. R.

WHITE HORIZONS by *Myrtle Simpson*
(Gollancz, 32/6)

The journalistic cover does not encourage one to go any further into this book: however, not to do so would be a mistake. Mrs. Simpson has written a highly personal and vivid account of her journey across Greenland with her husband and two other men. Unlike Nansen on his crossing, they did not rely on dogs but on manpower and sails alone, to propel their sledges, and they managed to cover the 400 miles in six weeks. They were

obviously a group of people who knew each other well enough for Mrs. Simpson to be able to look back, with commendable objectivity, on the inevitable tensions which developed on such a journey.

In the second half of the book, when the author stays with her children, encamped with the Eskimos on the west coast, while the three men undertake a long canoeing trip, the tension relaxes : her enjoyment of this natural life with one Eskimo family in particular comes over magnificently.

N. R.

THE JOURNALS

In the A.C. Journal there are the usual definitive articles on subjects varying from the history of Aconcagua to the uses of the AC archives, and the expedition reports range over the Himalaya to the Americas. Two articles I particularly enjoyed were by Rusty Baillie on the Right Hand Pillar of Brouillard and by the late John Harlin on the West Face Direct of the Dru. John Amatt writes on the Trolltind Wall and the photos show the nature of the undertaking. Wintering in the High Atlas to climb as well as to ski is also described by Hamish Brown in the May issue. In the same issue appears Graham-Brown's obituary together with an interesting note on the man and his routes on the Brenva Face by Lord Tangle. For the connoisseur, Messrs. Dangar and Blakeney accuse Sir Arnold Lunn of prejudiced comments on Wwmp. The latter replies spiritedly in the November issue. Also in the later issue Yvon Chouinard writes on modern Yosemite climbing, about the ironmongery, the ethics, and future developments. The approach to pitons is different from our own, the leader may insert them wherever possible, but if he touches a piton in any other way than by falling on it the standard of the climb comes down. All pitons are removed. The writer sees Yosemite as a training ground ; new routes here and in bigger ranges will be done and more in one multi-day push. The account of the Eigerwand Direct by Peter Gillman illustrates the other approach, that of Himalayan siege tactics. The Harlin team had no option but to follow the example of the Germans if they were to do the route in the weather. You have to want to do a route an awful lot to put up with the hardships these men did. Harlin's tragic death underlined a big drawback with a long siege, namely that fixed ropes fret thin quickly.

The American Alpine Club Journal costs 4 dollars for 244 pages and 83 really good photographs. It has impressively complete coverage of climbs and expeditions with 100 pages of short details on routes not covered by articles at the back. Most of the articles are wellworth reading but I have only room to mention two. Evans and Steck write well on the 10,000 ft., 4 mile long central South Ridge of Mount Logan.

The start lies up the Osod Couloir – the name “an indigenous word bearing the full-flavoured all-pervasive feeling of fear,” there is trouble with soft snow – “If that cornice falls don't tell me about it – I want to be surprised.” It does two hours later. Camp II is pitched behind a cornice that collapses half a day after they leave and so on.

All seven reach the top and traverse the mountain twenty days after leaving Base camp in one push. Chouinard writes more about Yosemite. He observes that the North American Wall took long enough for the climbers to become fully psychologically adjusted to their vertical environment. To see what a single push first ascent would be like with only two men he and T. M. Herbert climbed the Muir Wall on El Capitan. This is 3,000 ft. high and capped by a thirty foot roof which they reached on the seventh day with only four bolts left. The alternative here to becoming adjusted could be to go mad.

The F. & R.C.C. Journal has George Abraham's obituary ; there are some recollections of him by Colonel Westmorland and the Editor has taken the opportunity to reprint seven of the Abraham's classic photos of climbers and crags. Oliver writes on Zero Gully and Nunn on the Praying Mantis.

In the 1966 Journal of the Lancashire Caving and Climbing Club, Amatt writes again on the Trolltind Wall and describes well a horror crack Joe Brown took him up on the Roaches. In this and the 1967 issue there are quite a few large drawings, several of which are good, but one or two, taken from photos, much less so.

The Rucksack Club Journal of 1966 has a good article on some difficult Lakes climbs by George Barrow and there is a bit more on the High Atlas in winter by Roger Whewell. The highlight is a horrific, fully detailed article on being struck by lightning in the Tetons.

“Parts of my beard had melted . . .” “I noticed recently an electric burn hole in a gold filling.” “Part of the film in my camera had melted on the sprockets . . .” There is more.

I felt rather ungratefully that a few more clubs could follow the F. & R.C.C. who decided recently to publish biennially. But not the S.M.C. This year I was lucky for there were two journals and each had a contribution from Tom Patey. In the 1966 number are printed the words of his “MacInnes Mountain Patrol” (together with an edited, much diluted version of the “Alpine Club Song” or “Red Pique” – writer anonymous). and in the 1967 number he writes on the Old Man of Stoer. This is written in characteristic vein and I must resist the temptation to quote great chunks. Typical is his comment :

"I have a healthy disrespect for the rope which I regard as a link with tradition and a reasonable assurance against the leader falling alone; the stronger the rope, the better his chances of company."

The Squirrels provide several articles in different styles in both numbers. Robertson writes on Point Five and the Girdle of the Etive Slabs, Bathgate on The Giant on Creag an Dubh Loch and Yosemite, McKeith on the Bonatti and Harper on the Klauswernerweg in the Catinaccio. Haston puts down impressions of the Eiger Direct and writes on an abortive winter attempt on a Frénay Pillar in continuous prose.

In the 1966 Y.R.C. Journal there are articles on Japanese Hills and fearsome potholes. Denny Moorhouse has recorded some of his spectacular doings in the Eastern Alps during the last two seasons. Any route he does seems to take on epic qualities whether he is crawling in waist deep snow looking for a way down after doing the Herzog-Kante on the Lalidererwand in early spring, or bringing down an overhang on himself on the Torre Trieste. Some might have a shock if they believe his down-grading of the Kaiser routes.

The L.A.C. Journal has ladies visiting Turkey, the Atlas and the Himalaya. Janet Rogers writes on two North Faces in the Paradiso Group and Mme. Boulaz on her Eiger attempts. In the Pinnacle Club Journal Nancy Smith has a nice article about a lad falling twice from the Flake of C.B. and Helen Goodburn tells of the hazards of hitching to the hills.

In the two Cambridge University Journals there is a lot of hard climbing with epic bivouacs, pitches and lobs. In one photo Keates appears on the Swiss-Italian Route on the Ovest carrying one of the biggest sacks I have ever seen. Also in the 1966 number Roschnick has an amusing article on a new sport of volcano climbing advised for those "purists who find ordinary mountaineering too safe." The 1967 journal starts with a soliloquy by Maden. The best thing is a short saga by Chase on the Old Brenva which finishes with a ring of truth :

"Next day they reached Chamonix by an easy way and according to an ancient custom, boasted of their achievements throughout the town." In Oxford (O.U.M.C.J., 1966) the epics seem to take place on slightly easier routes. Woodland writes on the Andrich - Fae on the Civetta and Miller on the Route Major. The reproduction does poor justice to the photos. The Liverpool Journal very much revolves about the late John Clements. There are articles by him on the Philip-Flamm and the Great Corner on Llech Ddu, and one on climbing Deer Bield Buttress with him. The last few pages contain descriptions of the routes he put up on Castell Cidwm and in the Carneddau. Sadly the journal has his obituary and that of Osga Thorpe who was with him in Glencoe. As in the other

University Journals most of the articles in the Sheffield one are short. The longest is on the West Buttress Fliminate by Griffiths and perhaps the best is by the unfortunate young woman — Gill Cannon — he took up the Froggatt Valkyrie.

A few brief comments on Les Alps (S.A.C.), there are articles by John Harlin on the Fou South Face and the Left Pillar of Fresney with good photos, and a chilling account of an epic descent from high on the North Face of the Grands Charmoz forty years ago after losing an axe in a storm. Two reports on snow measurements over 25 years near the Rotondo Hut (Maximum on the ground in May, minimum in August) and on Swiss Glacier changes are quite interesting. We also receive a monthly bulletin and in one there is a discussion on the ethics of the Eiger Direct in which it is concluded that success was largely due to the fact that most members of the rival teams were building specialists.

In the Canadian Alpine Club Journal, 1966, several expeditions reported in the A.A.C.J. are described. There are some photos of the remarkable, still unclimbed, cylindrical S.W. summit of Mount Asgard and a useful review of available Government maps of Canadian mountains. The New Zealand Alpine Club and the Mountain Club of South Africa are 75 years old and there are articles on the past in both. In the N.Z.A.C.J. most articles are on New Zealand and the story of the bucket and the bricks comes up in a climbing guise. The Journal of the Mountain Club is the best produced: it is well bound and laid out, the photographs are good, very well reproduced, and six are in colour. The best article is not about climbing but about a desperate descent of the 750 mile Kunene River. The two canoeists are pursued by hungry crocodiles which they fight off with shotgun and revolver through 120 miles of previously unexplored gorge and across a desert to the Skeleton Coast.

Thrutch is an arresting name; after reading articles on New Guinea, Norway and Mount Buffalo, I found a clue to the origin of this journal in a letter asking whether Professor Finch has the right nationality to be the first Australian Mountaineer.

In Appalachia there are notes of routes in the lower Delaware Basin and on Cannon Mountain. Both areas were largely pioneered by two C.C. members, Robert Chambers climbed in the first area in 1957 and Alan Wedgwood in the second in 1965.

C. H. TAYLOR

The following Journals were gratefully received: —

Alpine Club Journal, 1966

American Alpine Club Journal, 1966

A.B.M.S.A.C. Journal, 1966

F. & R.C.C. Journal, 1966

Journal of the Lancashire Caving and Climbing Club, 1966, 1967
M.A.M. Journal, 1966
S.M.C. Journal, 1966, 1967
Y.R.C. Journal, 1966
L.A.C. Journal, 1967
Pinnacle Club Journal, 1965-1966.
C.U.M.C. Journal, 1966, 1967
O.U.M.C. Journal, 1966
Liverpool U.M.C. Journal, 1965-1966
Sheffield U.M.C. Journal, 1965-1966
Les Alpes, 1966
Bulletin of the Association des Alpinistes Hellènes, 1966
Canadian Alpine Club Journal, 1966
New Zealand Alpine Club Journal, 1966
Journal of the Mountain Club of South Africa, 1966
Bulletin of the Mountain Club of Kenya, 1966
Appalachia, 1966
Sierra Club Bulletin, 1966
The British Ski Year Book, 1966
Ski, 1966.
Thrutch.

OFFICERS OF THE CLUB

President :

J. E. EMLYN JONES

Vice-Presidents :

A. J. J. MOULAM

I. M. WALLER

Hon. Treasurer :

R. F. MORGAN

Hon. Secretary :

J. H. LONGLAND

Hon. Editor :

N. A. J. ROGERS

Hon Guide Book Editor :

J. NEILL

Hon. Assistant Secretary :

M. R. SINKER

Hon. Custodians :

R. H. NIETO

P. E. EVANS

C. T. JONES

G. D. ROBERTS

J. W. SMITH

Hon. Hut Booking Secretary :

H. B. SALES

Committee :

G. BARKER

B. A. CROFTS

B. INGLE

H. C. NICOL

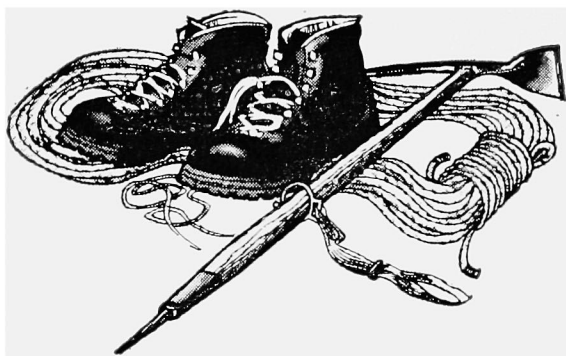
P. CREW

A. ALVAREZ

D. N. BALDOCK

H. I. BANNER

Climb the real peaks for only £21



With the Austrian Alpine Club, a 15 day holiday in the Austrian Alps can cost members as little as £21. And that includes return travel from London, and hut accommodation. There are Alpine walking and climbing tours for all grades, and rock and ice training courses led by professional guides. The Club owns over 600 huts in the Austrian Alps.

Austrian Alpine Club,
26 Old Bond Street, London, W.1.
Please send me details of club
membership and activities.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

AUSTRIAN ALPINE CLUB 

===== O.D.G. =====

DUNGEON GHYLL HOTEL

(OLD HOTEL)

LANGDALE — AMBLESIDE

Telephone : Langdale 272.

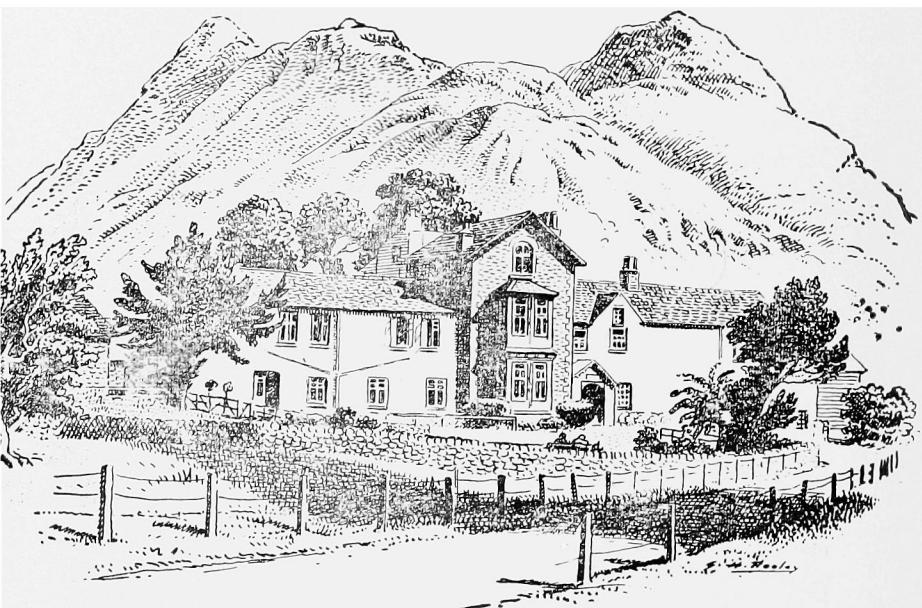
Station : Windermere, B.R.

Car by Arrangement.

Ribble Service to door.

Mr. & Mrs. S. H. CROSS

LANGDALE : The home of the Climber



HOT AND COLD WATER IN ALL BEDROOMS

SPRING INTERIOR BEDS

HOME COOKING :: FARM PRODUCE

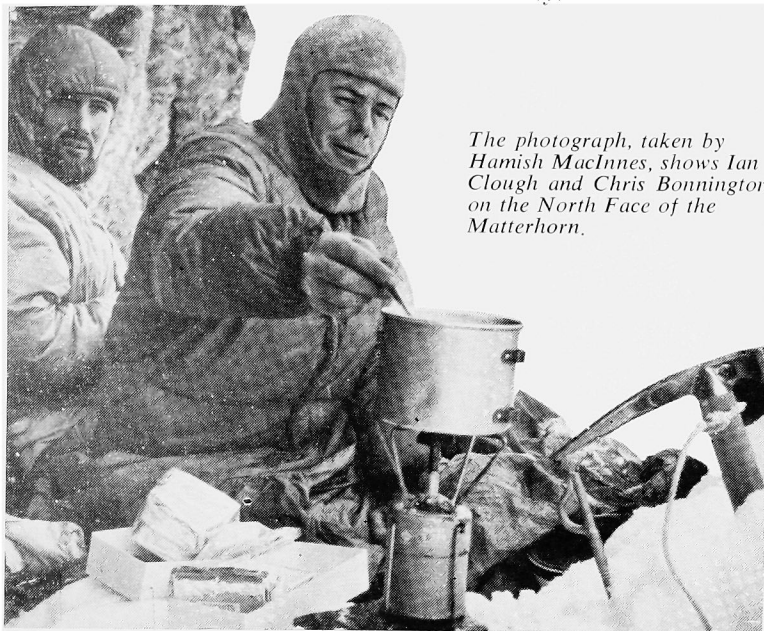
CLIMBERS AND WALKERS WELCOME

DRYING ROOM :: ELECTRIC LIGHT

FULLY LICENSED

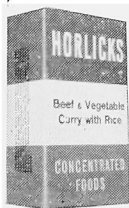
The range of **HORLICKS** Concentrated Foods

Horlicks concentrated meals are made for people in a hurry, for every situation where space and weight are at a premium. The man-sized meals are so simple to prepare — just add water, simmer and eat. Horlicks meals are really sustaining, light and compact, convenient for *every* outdoor activity.



The photograph, taken by Hamish MacInnes, shows Ian Clough and Chris Bonnington on the North Face of the Matterhorn.

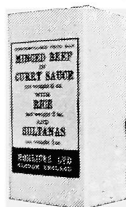
Made by HORLICKS - Pioneers in Concentrated Foods



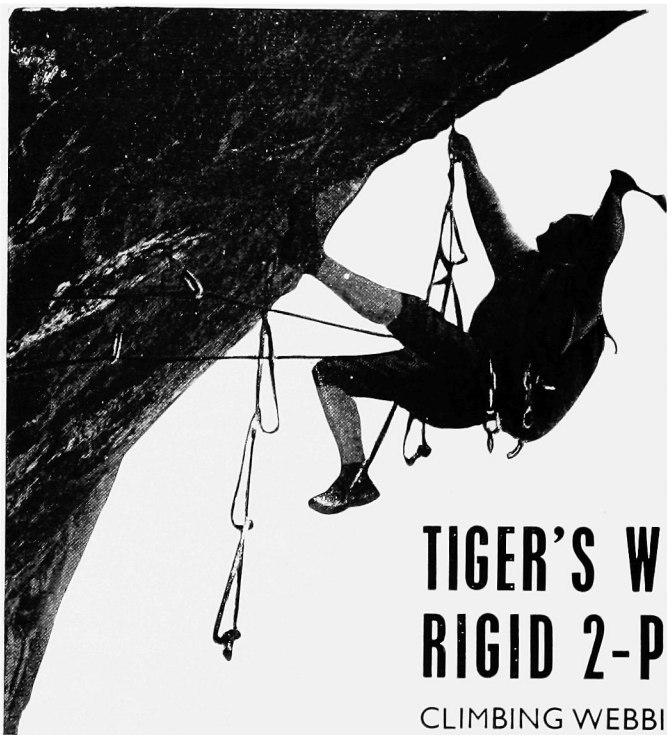
MEAL-SIZED PACKS Six tempting varieties, each weighing only 3½ oz., give nourishing one-man meals of generous proportions: 1. Vegetables with Beef Dinner. 2. Rice, Vegetables with Chicken Dinner. 3. Beef and Vegetables Curry with Rice. 4. Vegetables Curry with Rice. 5. Pasta, Chicken Dinner in Tomato Sauce. 6. Pasta, Pork Dinner in Savoury Sauce.

Only **3/-** for a man-sized meal

HEAVY-DUTY PACKS Horlicks range of heavy-duty, concentrated food packs include a 2-day ration, 3 different concentrated food bars, chocolate and rum flavoured fudge and Enerzades (glucose tablets) all packed in foil. They will keep perfectly for up to 2 years and withstand almost any rough handling.



Please write for price lists and name of nearest stockist to:
SERVICES DEPT • HORLICKS LIMITED • SLOUGH • BUCKS



TIGER'S WEB RIGID 2-PLY

CLIMBING WEBBINGS
AND ETRIER PACKS

PRICE REDUCTIONS

$\frac{1}{2}$ " reduced from 2/3 a yd. to **1/11**
a yard

1" reduced from 4/6 a yd. to **3/6**
a yard

Etrier Packs
reduced from 17/6 to **15/9**

Developed after a long period of consultation with leading British and American climbers, extensive trials in Britain and the Alps and painstaking laboratory tests. Great care is taken at all stages of manufacture to ensure a safe, reliable product

AVAILABLE FROM STOCKISTS EVERYWHERE



BLACKS OF GREENOCK

1-2 HARDWICK STREET, LONDON, E.C.1

*Distributors for the manufacturers
James Carr & Sons Ltd.*

Climbing Guides

*published by
the Climbers' Club*

RECENTLY ISSUED OR REVISED

Cwm Idwal (4th Edition 1967) <i>by A. J. J. Moulam</i>	15/6
Llanberis North (Reprint 1966) <i>by D. T. Roscoe</i>	15/6
Llanberis South (1966) <i>by P. Crew</i>	15/6
Snowdon South (2nd Edition 1966) <i>by C. T. Jones and J. Neill</i>	15/6
Lliwedd (Reprint 1966) <i>by C. W. F. Noyce and J. M. Edwards</i>	12/6
Cornwall vol. II, West and South Coasts of West Penwith (1966) <i>by V. N. Stevenson</i>	22/6
Tryfan & Glyder Fach (3rd Edition, 1966) <i>by A. J. J. Moulam</i>	15/6
Carneddau (2nd Edition, 1967) <i>by A. J. J. Moulam</i>	15/6
New Climbs, 1966, 1967 <i>Edited by N. Rogers</i>	6/-, 7/6

PRINTING

*Clogwyn Du'r Arddu (2nd Edition)
by H. I. Banner and P. Crew*
*Cornwall vol. I, North Coast of
West Penwith
by P. H. Biven and M. B. McDermott*

IN PREPARATION

*Lliwedd (2nd Edition)
by H. Drasdo*
*Snowdon West
by A. J. J. Moulam and others*
*Snowdon East
by A. J. J. Moulam, C. E. Davies & C. T. Jones*
South East England (3rd Edition)

Available through climbing shops and booksellers everywhere

“The Climbers’ Guide
to
Modern Equipment”
by
Frank Davies

Send for your free copy to

The Climbers Shop, Compston Corner

Ambleside Tel. Ambleside 2297

The Mountain Shop, 7 Colmore Circus, Snowhill Ringway

Birmingham 4 Tel. Central 6816

P. Y. G.

*The Home of
British Mountaineering*

THE PEN-Y-GWRYD HOTEL
NANTGWYNANT
CAERNARVONSHIRE



*FULLY LICENSED
CENTRAL HEATING THROUGHOUT*

A.A.

R.A.C.



LLANBERIS 211 MANAGEMENT

LLANBERIS 368 GUESTS

Rock Climbing Guides to the Lake District

published by



in print

75 New Climbs in the Lake District, 1964-5	<i>D. Miller & N. J. Soper</i>	3/6d.
New Climbs in the Lake District, 1966	<i>D. Miller & J. A. Austin</i>	5/-
Second Series Borrowdale	<i>Bentley Beetham</i>	12/6d.
Great Gable, etc.	<i>C. J. Astley Cooper, W. Peascod & A. P. Rossiter</i>	12/6d.
Second Series (revised to 1966) Eastern Craggs	<i>H. Drasdo & N. J. Soper</i>	20/-
Third Series (completely rewritten) Langdale	<i>J. A. Austin</i>	20/-

in preparation

New Climbs in the Lake District, 1967	<i>D. Miller & J. A. Austin</i>	
Third Series Scafell	<i>L. J. Griffin & G. Oliver</i> (Late 1967)	
Borrowdale	<i>P. Nunn & O. Woolcock</i> (Spring 1968)	
Pillar Rock	<i>G. Cram</i>	
Dow Crag	<i>D. Miller</i>	
Buttermere	<i>N. J. Soper</i>	
Gable, Wasdale & Eskdale	<i>P. L. Fearnough</i>	

Copies (Post Free) may be had from the Printers, The Cloister Press Ltd., Heaton Mersey, Stockport, or from any Bookseller or Sports Dealer.

ALPINE CLIMBING GUIDEBOOKS

fully illustrated with diagrams or photographs

ALPINE CLUB SERIES

- DOLOMITES** (1963) 25s.
✦ A REPRESENTATIVE SELECTION
- MONT BLANC RANGE Vol. I** (1967) 35s.
✦ SEIGNE-GEANT
- MONT BLANC RANGE Vol. II** (1967) 28s.
✦ GEANT-ARPETTE
- DAUPHINE ALPS AND VERCORS** (1967) 28s.
✦ A REPRESENTATIVE SELECTION

In preparation for publication 1968

- BERNESE ALPS** × × January 32/6d.
✦ LOTSCHENPASS TO GRIMSELPASS
- PENNINE ALPS Vol. I** × × February 35s.
✦ SAAS, ZERMATT AND ITALIAN RESORTS
- PENNINE ALPS Vol. II** × × March 28s.
✦ AROLLA AND WESTERN RANGES

WEST COL SERIES

- BREGAGLIA WEST** (1967) 16s.
✦ SCIORA, CENGALO, BADILE
- GRAIANS WEST** (1967) 25s.
✦ TARENTAISE AND MAURIENNE SELECTION
- DENTS DU MIDI REGION** (1967) 18s.
✦ MIDI, SALLIERE, RUAN, PRAZON, TENNEVERGE

In preparation for publication 1968

- ENGELHORN AND SALBITSCHIEN** approx. 25s.
✦ INCLUDES SCHEIDEGG WETTERHORN AND WELLHORN
- ORTLER ALPS** approx. 25s.
✦ SELECTION FOR CLIMBERS
- OTZTAL ALPS** approx. 25s.
✦ SELECTION FOR WALKERS AND CLIMBERS
- WETTERSTEIN, KARWENDEL & KAISERGEIRGE** approx. 25s.
-

General Editors : E. A. WRANGHAM AND P. CREW

Contributing authors: J. BRAILSFORD, R. G. COLLOMB, R. J. EVENDEN,
J. O. TALBOT, A. J. THOMPSON, O. WOOLCOCK AND OTHERS

produced and distributed by

West Col Productions, 1 Meadow Close,
Goring on Thames, Reading, Berkshire, England

COMING ! FROM ! BLACKS

HIATT CHROME STEEL PITONS

Tensile strength 85 tons - Rockwell hardness 42-43

Designed and produced in conjunction with one of the leading experts on Pitons in this country, these new HIATT Pitons are a must for all climbers. Available in 10 types and sizes, they represent a step forward in Mountain Safety at a reasonable cost which has been achieved by the combined efforts of Scientists, Climbers, Hiatts and Blacks

TYPES PN 1-7 . 8/6 each

TYPES PN 8-10 . 5/6 each

Available January - Order NOW

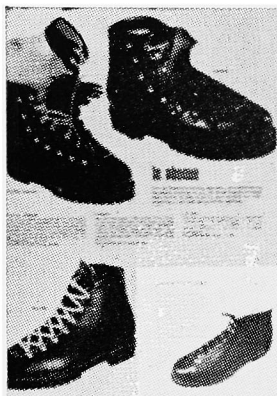
FROM YOUR LOCAL STOCKIST OR



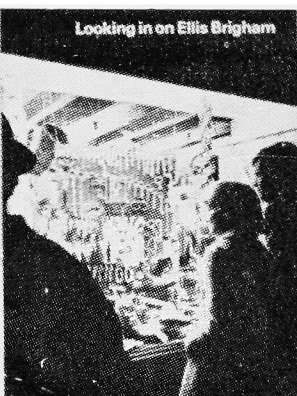
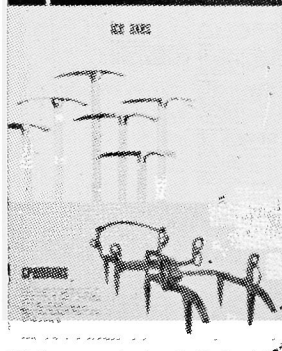
**BLACKS OF
GREENOCK**

LONDON
LONDON
BIRMINGHAM
GLASGOW
MANCHESTER
NOTTINGHAM
SHEFFIELD
STOKE-ON-TRENT
SURREY

22-24 Gray's Inn Road, W.C.1
144 Shaftsbury Avenue, W.C.2
86-87 Broad Street, Birmingham, 15
132 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, C.2
18 Lloyd Street, Albert Square, Manchester, 2
Shakespeare Street, Nottingham
18 Corporation Street, Sheffield, 3
40-42 Marsh Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent
250 High Street, Sutton, Surrey



STUBAI SUPER



Looking in on Ellis Brigham



alpine jackets



SHOP
FOR YOUR
GEAR . . .
THE EASY
WAY . . .

Our annual illustrated catalogues always contain advance information on the latest in mountaineering, rambling and rock climbing aids & clothing. Write or call for our catalogue today. It is a guide to better your enjoyment in the mountains.

ELLIS BRIGHAM

6-14 CATHEDRAL STREET

MANCHESTER 4

Telephone : BLA. 0161

and at 73 BOLD STREET

LIVERPOOL 1

Telephone : ROYAL 6912

**ALL CLIMBING
CLOTHING and EQUIPMENT**

ASK FOR CATALOGUE

Telephone : **01-723-5252**

Telegrams and Cablegrams :
Alpinist, London, W.1.

Business hours :

Mon., Tues, Wed. and Friday :
9 a.m. to 5-30 p.m.

Late closing : Thurs., 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Early closing : Sat., 9 a.m. to 12 noon

ROBERT LAWRIE LTD

ALPINE & POLAR EQUIPMENT SPECIALISTS

**54 SEYMOUR STREET, MARBLE ARCH,
LONDON, W.1.**



