

IV.

GREAT GABLE

AND

BORROWDALE.

CLIMBS ON GREAT
GABLE

BY

H. S. GROSS,

AND

ROCK CLIMBING IN
BORROWDALE

BY

A. R. THOMSON.

A CLIMBERS' GUIDE

Published by the Fell and Rock Climbing Club
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Barrow Printing Company Limited, Crown Works,
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CLIMBS ON GREAT GABLE

BY H. S. GROSS.

The task of writing the "Guide to Gable" has proved a difficult one, the work having been undertaken at a time when important changes were in progress in the life and "position" of the writer.

The material was collected during the one short fortnight of reasonably good weather which followed Whitsuntide in the remarkably wet season of 1924.

The routes described were all actually climbed and notes taken, with the exceptions noted.

The work was carried out with the sole assistance of Mrs. M. Hewson, whose pluck and unselfishness alone made things possible. I cannot express my gratitude for the help given in a trying task. Those who have assisted with the other guides will understand in a measure the work entailed.

Almost immediately on completion of the notes, I left for New Zealand, and the writing up of the guide was done far from any hope of further reference if any difficulty cropped up.

Having in view the high standard of the previous guides, therefore, the task has not been an easy one.

I am indebted to H. P. Cain for the section devoted to History, and for the list of "first ascents."* For the section on Boat How Crag I have to thank G. Basterfield.

For descriptions of individual climbs I thank those indicated therewith, especially F. Graham who has supplied notes of new climbs.

For photographs I thank Mr. W. Taylor (Gritstone Club) and others.

* This will be published when the Guide is issued separately.

APPROACHES.

The climbing on Great Gable is accessible from Wasdale and Borrowdale, and in a considerably less degree from Buttermere and Langdale.

Wasdale.—This is the usual centre for the climbing on Gable; the climbing on the Napes and Kern Knotts being probably the most easily reached of any in the district. The usual method of approaching the Napes is by following the Styhead track until the bridge over the beck which runs down between Gable and Kirkfell is crossed. The track is then quitted for a path which branches off to the left.

After passing through a small gate in a wall, a steady "grind" follows up Gavel Neese. The ascent will probably be classed as severe by those in lack of training, and is tiring at any time. When the angle of the track (known as "Moses Trod") moderates somewhat, in the neighbourhood of the screes, a conspicuous outstanding boulder is seen on the hillside above. This boulder is "Moses Finger," and forms a useful guide in misty weather. It is best to strike straight up past the finger, and some distance higher a cairned track is reached, which skirts the fellside below the Napes Ridges to the east. The track continues past the Napes, and eventually leads to Kern Knotts. In misty weather it is better to follow the track for about 300 yards, and then to strike up to the base of the Crag.

An alternative route is to keep to the Styhead track. This is followed until just short of the summit, when a scramble up grass leads via Lower Kern Knotts to Kern Knotts. The track to the Napes is then followed. By some this route is preferred to the ascent of Gavel Neese.

To reach the Ennerdale face, known as "Gable Crag," the route is continued on Moses Trod below the "Finger," and is followed until eventually the marshy hollow of Beckhead is reached, between Kirkfell and Great Gable. Here a wire fence is encountered, and followed to the point where it meets the rocks at the Western end of the Crag. The Trod itself passes below the Crag, round the shoulder of Green Gable, and over to the peat bogs of Honister.

Borrowdale.—Is almost as good as Wasdale for any of the climbing on Gable. The obvious route is via Styhead. A few yards beyond the cairn and signpost at the head of the pass, a cairned track leads off to the right to Kern Knotts. The track then continues past the Buttress to the Napes, by way of scree slopes.

Gable Crag may be reached by the Styhead track, and then striking up Aaron Slack to Wind Gap between Green and Great Gable. A short distance down the scree, skirting the rocks, brings one to the foot of the crag below the Oblique Chimney. Another route is by way of Gillercombe. The track past the famous Borrowdale Yews is taken, leading by way of the lead mines track into Gillercombe. The Buttress is across the valley on Grey Knotts, but a cairned track is followed on the western slopes of Base Brown, leading up to Green Gable, and so to Wind Gap.

Buttermere.—Gable Crag and Gillercombe are fairly accessible from Buttermere. From the track up to Scarf Gap a track goes along the slopes above Warnscale Bottom, below the Haystacks. It eventually leads through a rocky gateway to Blackbeck Tarn. Easy slopes lead up on to Brandreth, and from here Gillercombe can be easily reached. Gable Crag can be reached either by way of Green Gable and Wind Gap or by "Moses Trod" at a lower level.

Langdale.—As a centre Langdale is somewhat remote from Gable. The obvious route for Kern Knotts and the Napes is by Rossett Ghyll and Esk Hause to the top of Styhead.

TOPOGRAPHICAL.

The Great Napes lie on the South West shoulder of Gable at the head of Wasdale, and are clearly seen from the Hotel. On the westerly end of the crags the screes of Little Hell Gate divide them from the "White Napes," while at the easterly end the reddish screes of Great Hell Gate can be distinguished. Great Hell Gate forms a deep recess almost cutting off the ridges from the rest of the mountain. The rock formation is very irregular, being composed of a series of sharp ridges divided by deeply cut scree gullies.

In approaching the rocks from Gavel Neese, after crossing the screes of Little Hell Gate, the "Sphinx" or "Cat Rock" is the first item of interest, and is found upon the left. This remarkable rock has been likened to a Cat, a Bear, and an Owl, when seen from the Styhead track. Viewed from the neighbourhood of the Arrowhead Arête, it forms a "Sphinx" like face. It is situated on a broken ridge which yields a short climb.

To the East of this is the Arrowhead Gully, with the Scimitar and Arrowhead ridges to left and right respectively. The tip of the Arrow is a noticeable feature.

Next comes the Eagle's Nest Gully, a scree shoot. This is flanked by a steep buttress forming the backbone of the Napes. It is split by two chimneys, and on the right is the Eagle's Nest Arête. A roomy grass ledge known as the "Dress Circle" lies at the foot of this ridge, overhanging the Needle Gully. It is a convenient place for lunch, and a view of the Needle.

On the opposite side of the Needle Gully rises the Needle Arête, and that handsome, if overworked pinnacle from which it takes its name.

East of this, the crag becomes broken, yielding little further climbing until the Tophet Bastion is reached close to Great Hell Gate. Here the crag terminates in an abrupt and forbidding wall. This wall yields one course of great difficulty.

The gullies of the Napes are very disappointing to the climber, and are places to be avoided. Particularly is this the case with the Arrowhead Gully, which is dangerously loose and full of vegetation. The Needle Gully is a scree gully of little merit, containing two small pitches, and quantities of loose scree and vegetation. Eagle's Nest Gully is a scree walk. The ridges provide good climbing on sound rock, and offer variety from the moderate to the severe. The rock is sound and rough, except where the passing of countless bootnails has worn the surface to a state of polish.

Owing to their situation, in good weather the climber can revel in sunshine all day long, and the rocks are quickly dry after bad weather. From the top of the Napes the Westmorland Craggs afford scrambling to the summit, with a fine view

Photo by

GREAT GABLE AND GREEN GABLE.

H. S. G. 11



en route from the Westmorland Cairn. On the summit rocks is the Bronze Memorial tablet of the Club.

Gable Crag offers a complete contrast to the Napes. Facing north it is apt to be gloomy and damp. The climbing is all of the chimney variety. Starting from the Wasdale or western end of the crag, a scree gully is first encountered. This rises a short distance to the left of the wire fence. The Doctor's Chimney is situated in the left wall of this gully, some 150 feet from the foot. To the left of the gully a "sheepwalk" leads across the crag by way of grassy ledges, a considerable height above the scree.

The broken nature of the crag renders it difficult to find the routes in misty weather.

Skirting the base of the crag, the narrow crack known as Smugglers' Chimney is passed on the way to the Central Gully. The gully is easily identified, as it contains a large bridged boulder. High up to the left is a detached pinnacle which can be reached by easy climbing. The pinnacle offers little in the way of climbing, but is a useful landmark. It is on the sheepwalk. To the left of this is a formidable stretch of slabs overhanging at the top. These have not yet been climbed. The Engineer's Chimney is situated at the end of these slabs, while the Oblique Chimney is east of this, at about the same level. Between these two climbs, from near the Oblique Chimney, an easy route leads to the top of the crag. The ridge to the left of the Oblique Chimney is the Bottle-shaped Pinnacle Ridge. East of this the crag rapidly falls away, and offers little of interest to the climber.

Kern Knotts is situated on the Wasdale side of Styhead Pass. Like the Napes it has a southerly aspect, and gets the full benefit of the sun. The rock is splendid throughout. The climber will presumably approach via Styhead. If from the Wasdale side, the chimney is conspicuous, while from Borrowdale the crack is the first striking feature. From the east the buttress is seen to be formed by a huge chunk of rock split from the main mass. The split forms the Chimney on the west, and the Crack on the east. To the west is a steep wall, the only break being the West Chimney. Beyond this the crag is broken by heather

ledges. It is useful to know that by following the track which leads to the Napes, a spring will be found in a short distance, in a corner up to the right. Below the buttress a number of large blocks give some interesting problems.

Boat Howe Crags (from particulars by George Basterfield).—Boat Howe Crags stand just beneath the summit of Kirkfell, Ennerdale Face. From Wasdale they are about equal distance with the Napes.

The approach is the same as for Gable Crag as far as Beck Head. From there turn to the left round Kirkfell, rise 100 feet along the railings, and strike cairns leading to the crags.

Five climbs have already been explored and provide a pleasant day's climbing for the average party, given a fine day and dry rock. Other probable routes await final exploration, particularly one up the face of "The Boat" or central pillar. The last named route consists of a shallow twisting chimney running up the steep face of the otherwise unbroken rock. This route (of which about 20 feet remain to be explored) if and when completed, will be of the "ultra" class.

East and West of the climbs outlined below, there is much rock that seems to offer additional sport to the pioneer.

CLIMBS ON GREAT GABLE.

THE NAPES.

The climbs are described in order from left to right, commencing at the Sphinx rock. The terms left and right are used as for an ascent.

The Sphinx or Cat Rock.—A short problem of moderate difficulty. Stepping off from the tail of the "Cat" a move to the right and upwards constitutes the "climb" of 15 feet.

Sphinx Ridge.—A short ridge rising immediately behind the Sphinx. Moderate; any footgear. [This term is used throughout to denote any recognised climber's footgear.]

Easy climbing leads to a stance from which a somewhat difficult V groove is climbed to a stance and belay. In a few feet an awkward landing discloses a cairn. Easy scrambling remains.

Rainbow Ridge.—Rises some 30 yards to the right of the Sphinx, and is marked by a small cairn on a grass ledge. Severe; leader needs 70 feet of rope; rubbers.

Starting immediately to the right of the cairn and to the left of a grassy chimney, a slab is climbed by means of small holds until a movement to the left is made, and it is possible, with difficulty, to mount a small ledge 18 feet from the start of the climb. (The slab is severe, and is the most difficult portion of the climb). From the ledge the climb bears to the left and upwards on good holds, until a detached block is reached in 40 feet. The rope is threaded behind this block and the second man joins the leader on a small stance. The route now traverses to the right for 15 feet on to the arête, which is followed for 15 feet. A flake on the left is then used for a swing round, and the route then returns to the arête, which is followed more or less straight to the top, treating one or two loose blocks with circumspection. A cairn is reached 60 feet above the belay.

Scimitar Ridge (from particulars supplied by F. Graham).—Very difficult; leader needs 40 feet of rope.

This is the curving ridge that divides the Arrowhead Gully from the Branch Gully.

After an unpleasant approach through the flower beds in the lower reaches of the latter, a lodgment is made at the first opportunity on the ridge on the right. About 25 feet of steep climbing lead to a stance and belay.

The route now continues via a mantleshelf slightly to the left, and then trends to the right to another stance and belay. 35 feet.

The final pitch of 30 feet lies up the slab above, and finishes on the crest.

A very pleasant climb on steep, sound rock.

Arrowhead Gully.—An uninteresting gully abounding in loose rock and vegetation. Most distinctly a place to be avoided at all costs.

Arrowhead Ridge, Direct Route.—Difficult; suitable for any number of climbers. Leader needs 45 feet of rope. Any footgear.

Two small pitches of eight feet each may be climbed by the stickler for accuracy. The Ridge rises immediately to the right of the Arrowhead Gully.

- (1) A steep arête equipped with splendid holds leads to a stance and belay in 25 feet.
- (2) 30 feet of similar climbing lead to a second stance and belay.
- (3) In 25 feet the base of the Arrow is reached, and a rest may be taken. The Arrowhead is then climbed straight up to the tip. The holds are good, and a position is reached astride the Arrow, 40 feet from the belay.
- (4) A stride is made across the gap and a steep pitch of 15 feet is climbed. The ridge is then almost horizontal until a scrambling pitch of 15 feet is reached, followed by the "strid" and scrambling to the top of the ridge.

Arrowhead Ridge, Ordinary Route. The climb starts up a groove to the right of the arête proper, and joins the direct route at the top of the second pitch. The arête is then followed to the base of the arrow, and a traverse is made to the left into the gap. From here the route is the same as described for the direct route.

Arrowhead Ridge, S.E. Variation.—Severe. Leader needs about 60 feet of rope. Rubbers.

This variation can be reached straight from below, but the proper course runs as follows. The direct route is taken to the stance below the final slab. At this point the groove on the ordinary way is descended for about 25 feet, when a short traverse to the right leads to a good stance and belay beside the easy way. Straight ahead, above a slab, rises a short arête.

The slab is climbed to a corner, which is surmounted. Thereafter one moves straight out on to the arête, which is climbed on its left hand side, and leads direct to the tip of the Arrow.

F.G.

Arrowhead Ridge, Easy Way.—Starts well to the east of the direct route, in the Eagle's Nest Gully, below the big chockstone. A grassy walk first to the left and then to the right, by easy ledges to the level of the top of the chock. A traverse to the left and a slight descent bring one to a scrambling pitch where rock is encountered. In 12 feet the

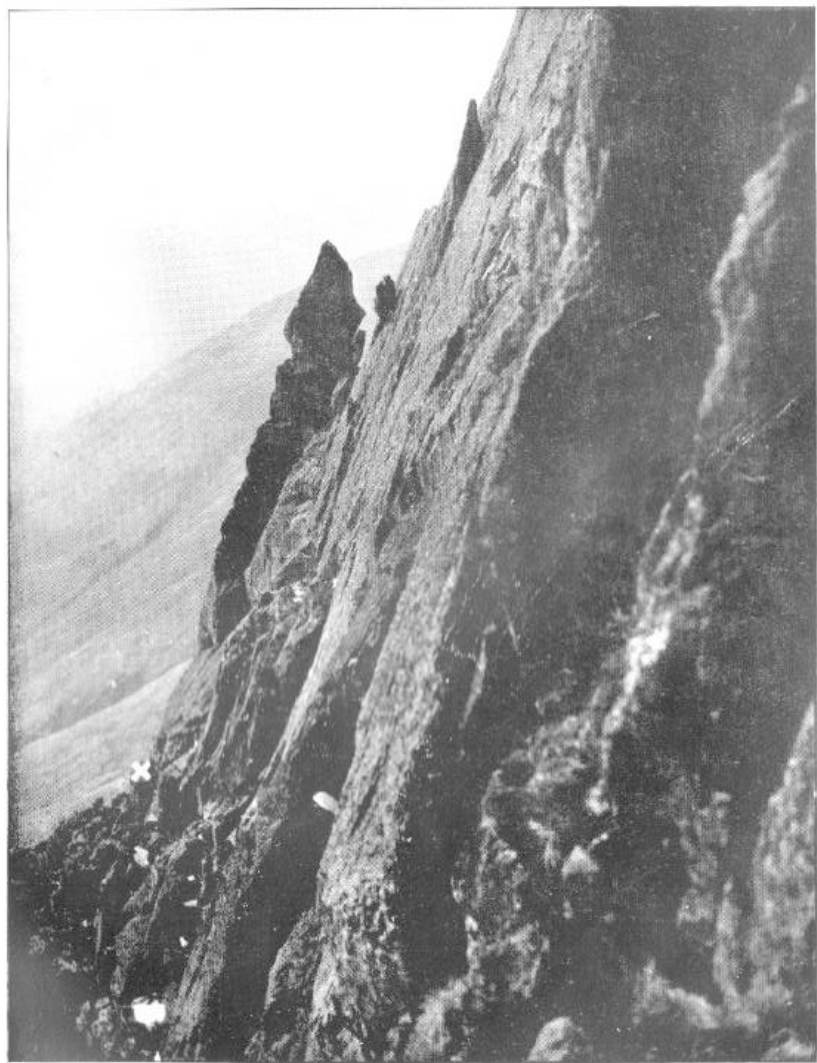


Photo by

B. R. Goodfellow,

THE ARROWHEAD FROM EAGLE'S NEST GULLY.

x marks start of S E. Variation.

base of the Arrowhead is reached. The step across the gap may be avoided by a short traverse to the right, followed by scrambling to the ridge.

Cutlass Ridge.—Very difficult. Leaders requires 100 feet of rope. Rubbers preferable.

This climb is on the east wall of the Arrowhead Ridge, and starts to the right of a grassy chimney well above the level of the gap behind the Arrowhead. A cairn will be found to the right of the grassy chimney. The climb commences with a steep little buttress slightly above and to the right of the cairn, and is done in one runout.

25 feet bring one to the foot of a small fault or crack which is followed for 25 feet, when it gives on to a steep slab. A further 25 feet on good holds leads to a stance, and in 10 feet one reaches the "strid" on the Arrowhead Arête.

Sabre Ridge.—Very difficult. Suitable for any number of climbers. Leader requires 50 feet of rope. Rubbers preferable.

This Ridge divides the Eagle's Nest Gully, well above the big chockstone.

30 feet of scrambling lead to the foot of a steep arête, which is climbed on good holds for 15 feet. A severe groove is then climbed and quitted on the left at the top. An exposed and narrow arête is climbed for 20 feet, avoiding the grass on the right. 30 feet of easy climbing lead to the top of the ridge.

Abbey Buttress.—Very difficult. Leader requires 60 feet of rope. Any footgear.

The ridge rises between the Eagle's Nest Gully and the West Chimney. It is easily distinguished by a large detached block which forms a "crevasse" at the foot of the ridge.

- (1) From behind the block 35 feet of climbing on good holds lead to a stance and a belay.
- (2) 18 feet straight ahead on good holds lead to a small rock platform, and in 5 feet to a good platform and belay. (This pitch may be climbed by an easy chimney on the right).
- (3) A further 15 feet disclose a good ledge, on which a traverse to the left is made, of 12 feet. The steep buttress is

then climbed straight up for 25 feet on good holds, and a somewhat awkward traverse of 5 feet made to the right. It is then necessary to cross a groove crowned by an overhang. A good grip will be found directly under the overhang, and a foothold for the left foot at about knee level enables the climber to stride across to a foothold on the far wall. A pull up is then made on to a ledge. 25 feet of easy rocks lead to a good stance and belay. At this point the ridge is joined by an easy chimney on the left, which leads from the Eagle's Nest Gully.

- (4) The climb now becomes easier. The left corner of the buttress ahead is climbed for 35 feet; by means of a crack in the corner, to a stance and belay.
- (5) 20 feet of difficult climbing up the left corner of the buttress to a stance and belay. A further 25 feet of easier rocks lead to another belay. 30 feet of scrambling follow to a narrow strid and an easy 10 foot pitch with a landing on to a rock platform. An easy exit can be made round the corner to the right, the climber, however, will prefer to tackle the slab above the platform. This gives a difficult problem of balance on small holds, and in 18 feet leads to easy scrambling on to the ridge.

Abbey Buttress, Variation.—Severe. Leader needs 60 feet of rope. Rubbers.

Starts to the right of the ordinary route from the foot of the West Chimney.

- (1) 30 feet of scrambling to the top of a pinnacle.
- (2) The steep slab is climbed on good holds, gradually working to the left until in 35 feet a belay and stance are reached at the right hand end of the ledge on the Abbey Buttress Ordinary Route.
- (3) The buttress is climbed straight up to the overhang from the belay, and the climb is then the same as the ordinary route.

Eagle's Nest, West Chimney.—Moderate. Leader requires 45 feet of rope. Suitable for any number of climbers. Any footgear.

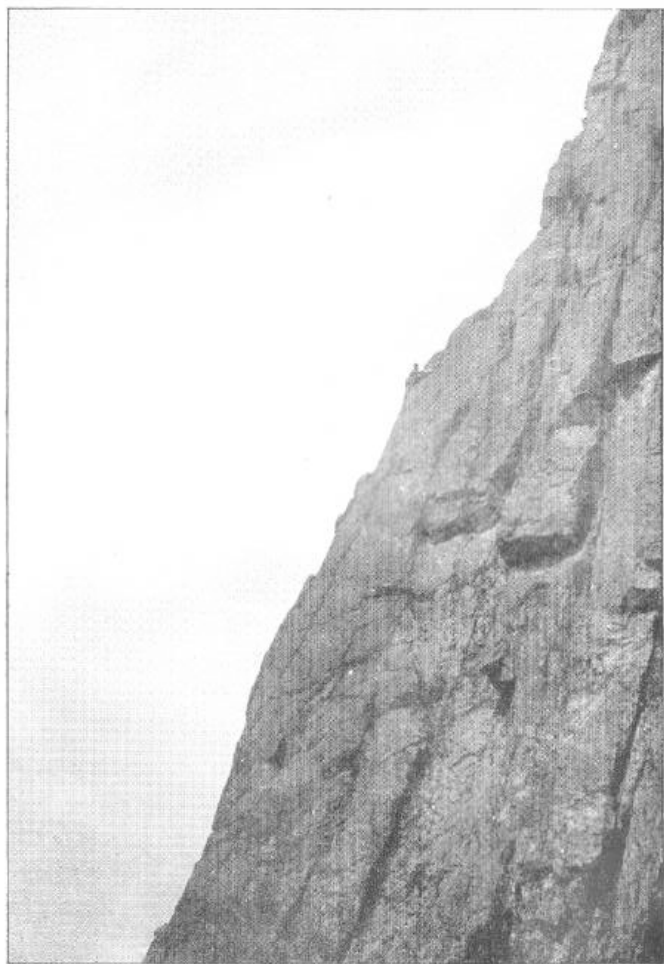


Photo by

W. Taylor.

THE EAGLE'S NEST ARÊTE.

This is the deeply cut chimney to the right of the Abbey Buttress, and west of Eagle's Nest Arête.

25 feet of scrambling lead to a belay.

- (1) Easy chimney climbing leads in 45 feet to a large block belay on the left.
- (2) A second stance and belay are reached in 25 feet.
- (3) A crack formed by a detached pinnacle on the right is climbed ;
*10 feet.
- (4) An awkward slab leads to the platform at the top of the difficult portion of the Eagle's Nest Arête.
- (5) A 25 foot chimney pitch of moderate difficulty leads to a stance and belay. A small chimney of 8 feet finishes the climb and easy scrambling leads to the summit of the Ridge.

Variation.—Difficult. ("Pope's Variation.")

From the level of the large block belay at the top of the first pitch. The chimney is quitted and a traverse made to the right on to the steep wall. 30 feet of climbing on good holds lead to the top of Ling Chimney. A steep little 15 foot crack brings one to the top of the pinnacle on the ordinary route.

Ling Chimney.—Very difficult. Leader requires 50 feet of rope. Any footgear.

The Chimney lies between the West Chimney and the Eagle's Nest Arête.

Starting immediately round the corner to the left of the Eagle's Nest Arête, 15 feet of easy climbing lead to a stance. Here two cracks split the buttress. The left one is climbed for 20 feet to a small stance and good belay, where the two cracks rejoin.

The Chimney, which is steep and grassy, is climbed, and in 25 feet narrows, and becomes difficult. A thread can be arranged here behind a small stone in a crack on the left. The chimney is then climbed with difficulty for 20 feet, facing left, and a good foothold will be found on the edge of the left wall. Exit is made on the left to a good ledge, provided with a belay. The 15 foot crack behind the pinnacle is then climbed, and leads to the West Chimney route.

Eagle's Nest Arête.—Severe. Leader requires 80 feet of rope. Rubbers preferable.

The climb starts up steep but easy rocks, gradually working to the right until a large belay (known as the Piton) is reached 45 feet from the start. The second man joins the leader here, and the next move is a traverse of 8 feet on to the nose at the level of the belay. Two narrow parallel cracks provide holds for the operation. The nose is then climbed up to a small rock platform—the "Eagle's Nest"—20 feet from the belay. This platform is quitted on small holds for a second ledge 15 feet higher. From here delicate work on slightly sloping holds, brings one in 30 feet to a large platform. Here the ordinary route is joined.

Eagle's Corner.—Severe. Leader requires 60 feet of rope. Rubbers.

The climb lies on the left wall of the Needle Gully, opposite the foot of the Needle, and commences to the right of a grassy gully. A small cairn exists. From the cairn 30 feet of scrambling lead to the foot of a small chimney on the right. This is climbed to a grass ledge at the foot of a splintered slab, 25 feet. A small chimney on the right is climbed, and in 40 feet leads to a shattered platform. A scramble of 30 feet up a steep bilberry and fern slope, and a traverse of 10 feet to the left, disclose a triangular grass stance and a good belay. The climb now becomes difficult. A traverse of 25 feet is made to the left on a bilberry tufted ledge. Handholds are scarce until a good one can be grasped at the end of the traverse. The ledge now ceases, and the traverse is continued at a slightly lower level for twelve feet until a deep, narrow chimney is entered with some difficulty. The second portion of the traverse is severe, hand hold is poor, and foothold almost non-existent. The exposure is great.

The chimney proves easier, and is climbed facing right. A platform and cairn is reached in 20 feet, and a large belay will be found in another 10 feet. A 20 foot grassy chimney is climbed to a grass stance, and a further 25 feet of climbing in a broken chimney on the right lead to the Eagle's Nest route well above the difficult position.

Variation (1).—Severe.

From the end of the bilberry traverse, the steep slab is climbed to a grass stance at 10 feet. The crack in the corner

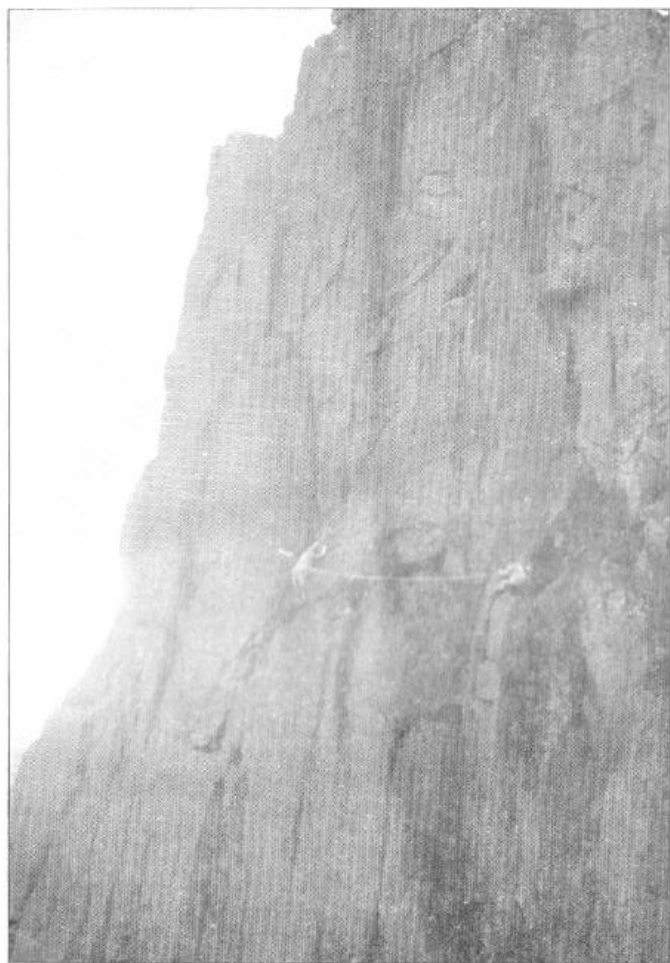


Photo by

W. Taylor.

EAGLE'S CORNER.

is then climbed, utilising the left hand edge of the crack for a "lay back." In 20 feet the cairn is reached.

Variation (2).—Very difficult.

From the end of the bilberry traverse the steep slab is climbed, and a traverse is made to the left on to the nose. A traverse can then be made into the chimney on good holds.

Tricouni Rib.—The demerit of Eagle's Corner is the grassy nature of a section of the climb. In August, 1925, a pure rock climb was shown to be possible, starting from the right hand outer edge of the Dress Circle (adorned by foxgloves!), crossing the long standing traverse of the Eagle's Corner Climb vertically, and concluding comfortably at the new land-mark on the crest, the big fallen block.

15 feet plain sailing, platform, pulpit.

6 feet plain traversing, excusable just to the corner on the right (good practice for the Central Buttress second traverse to the overhanging buttress, where the "exposure" is some fifty times deeper).

70 feet (an 80 foot rope serves) of difficult scrambling up the external angle of the rock rib. The grass gully on the right is very steep and shallow. It was crossed and almost immediately re-crossed at a point high above the pulpit, an apparently unnecessary digression. The climbing is by no means tedious, and the waiting room at the top is agreeably roomy.

20 feet, a slab.

The first ascent was made under ideal evening conditions in rubbers, sunshine, and that charming formation, "mixed doubles." [From particulars by C. D. Frankland.]

Needle Gully.—A scramble containing little climbing, an abundance of scree and loose vegetation. Unsuitable for any number of climbers.

Needle Arête.—Moderate. Suitable for any number and any footgear. Leader requires 30 feet of rope.

The ridge rises immediately behind the Needle.

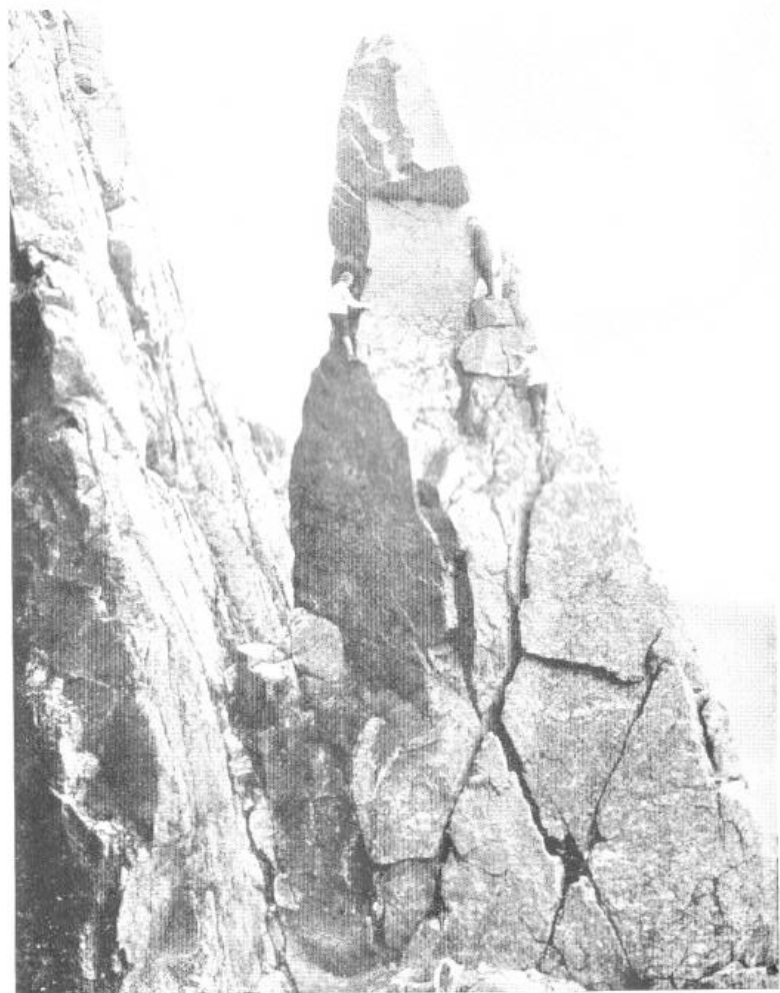
The climb is usually started from the gap, but the Arête may be tackled from the bottom, i.e. to the left and from there it is severe and should be climbed in rubbers. The first obstacle—also the most difficult—is a 12 foot slab,

provided with some small pocket holds, which prove important. The polished nature of the slab affords entertainment on a wet day. A 10 foot chimney provided with a chockstone and belay is followed by 12 feet of easy climbing to a large block, and then 15 feet of steep rock to a belay. (An alternative is a 25 foot chimney on the right). After another 15 feet of easy going comes a steep nose of 20 feet. This may be climbed either on the right, left or centre, or avoided altogether on the right. The next 15 feet is climbed by the Arête or alternatively by a small chimney on the right, which is rather more difficult. The Arête is then climbed for 25 feet up to grass ledges. A 20 foot crack to the right then leads to easy rocks and the summit of the ridge.

Needle.—Very difficult. Obverse route severe. Best number, three. Any footgear, rubbers preferable. Leader requires 40 feet of rope.

This handsome pinnacle is easily the best known climb in the Lake District. The climb is one which is becoming increasingly difficult. The holds are remarkably polished, and from much scraping of foot nails, verily "we've worn the Needle slim." For this reason rubbers are advised in the ascent. The route first taken was by the crack which faces the "Dress Circle" at the foot of the Eagle's Nest Arête. The first few feet are easy until the crack bends. At this point the left leg has a tendency to jam if the body is not kept well out of the crack. The crack requires 35 feet of rope, and a stance is then attained, the top of the crack forming a belay.

12 feet of easier rock lead to the shoulder. The next problem is to reach the "mantleshelf," a ledge 5 feet from the platform. This is usually surmounted at the right hand extremity, which is in the form of a small triangular ledge. A good handhold is found on the right of this ledge, and the left hand presses on the "mantleshelf." A small, smooth foothold for the right is found on the wall, overhanging space. By these aids the body is raised until the left knee is on the shelf. A difficult balance allows of a standing position, and the climber then sidles along the shelf. A foothold then enables the top edge of the boulder to be reached, and the body hauled into safety. Fortunately the descent is easier than



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Photo by W. H. Johnson.

GIRDLING THE NEEDLE, GREAT GABLE.

the ascent. The mantelshelf may be mounted from the left hand end.

Variation I, The Arête.—From the foot of the crack a horizontal traverse of 10 feet is made on to the Arête. This is then climbed on good holds until the previous route is joined.

Variation II.—From the end of the platform from which the two previous climbs start, a slight descent enables an easy traverse to be made to the right, leading round to the Lingmell Crack. Between the nose of the arête and the Lingmell Crack, a steep slab rises. A cairn will be found at the foot of this slab. A pleasant climb on good holds leads straight up the slab, crossing the Lingmell crack on to another slab, and so leading to the shoulder.

Variation III., The Lingmell Crack.—As its name implies, this crack is on that side of the Needle which faces Lingmell. 10 feet of easy rock are climbed to the foot of the crack proper. The bottom of the crack overhangs slightly, and is difficult to start. A stance and belay are reached in 8 feet, and the crack is then easier up to the junction with the ordinary crack.

Variation IV., The Obverse Route.—This route, which is more difficult than the others, starts to the right of the Lingmell Crack. A steep and somewhat holdless slab is the first difficulty, and a good platform is reached. The top of a large flake on the left is then reached, and the steep wall above is climbed on good holds to the shoulder. From the mantelshelf corner a traverse is made, using the mantel as handhold. The situation is exposed, and the corner nearest the Needle Arête is reached, overhanging the gap. The corner is then climbed straight up, with a "monkey on a stick" motion.

Variation V., The Girdle.—Starting from the left hand end of the mantel, it is possible to make a dropping traverse to the left, and girdle the neck below the top boulder. The traverse is fairly difficult and exposed. A finish is made by climbing up to the shoulder immediately below the right hand end of the mantelshelf. The Girdle can, of course, be reversed.

Chantry Buttress.—Very difficult. Leader requires 40 feet of rope. Rubbers preferable.

The climb starts to the right of the Needle Ridge, and is reached by descending from the Needle Gap to the East. A cairn marks the start.

A climb of 25 feet up an easy buttress leads to a grass ledge. A steep slab provided with good holds leads to a crack in a corner, and on to a detached pinnacle, providing a stance and belay at 25 feet. A traverse of 5 feet is made around a corner to the left, where there is a stance. A broken scoop is then climbed for 15 feet. It is then necessary to make an awkward and exposed traverse to the right below a nose of rock. The holds are good, and a belay is reached in 25 feet at the top of the climb.

An interesting addition to this climb may be found by proceeding across a steep grass slope for several feet to the foot of some steep slabs.

Buzzard Wall.—A cairn marks the start of the climb, which lies on the right hand portion of the slabs. The route starts diagonally to the right to a conspicuous recess and belay. This is quitted on the right, up a steep slab with good holds, to a rock ledge and a belay. The climb continues for 15 feet up rough slabs on small holds to a grass ledge at the end of the climb.

Zeta Climb.—Very difficult. Leader needs 60 feet of rope. Rubbers preferable.

A start is made from an embedded rock to the left of the cairn on the Buzzard Wall. For a few feet the route goes straight up beside a grassy groove till a resting place is reached on the right. Further above and to the right is a grassy niche with a splendid belay in the floor.

A slightly rising traverse of about 30 feet to the left now leads to a platform with a small belay. So far the climbing has presented little difficulty.

From the left hand end of the platform a ledge is surmounted, and a short crack followed to a good ledge partly occupied by a large block. Here an easy exit can be made to the right, but the route goes up the short face on the left, and finishes by an obvious corner after a runout of about 50 feet.

The climb is rather artificial, but quite enjoyable, and the rock is pretty sound, though it looks far otherwise. F.G.

Belfry Crack.—Severe. Short runouts. Rubbers.

Above the Buzzard Wall there is a small knott of clean, steep rock, more or less in the middle of which rises a thin crack, slightly overhanging a few feet up.

From a cairn to the right of the crack a short traverse lands one on a platform. The left wall of the crack here projects and enables the climber to back up till he can gain a ledge on the left.

The leader can now bring his second to a good stance and belay a few feet to the left, and then return to the attack well safeguarded. The crack steepens, and the next pitch of about 25 feet is awkward. Above it a remarkable platform is reached, and the final short pitch negotiated without difficulty.

The crack forms an interesting final spasm to the Chantry Buttress—Buzzard Wall (or Zeta Climb) combination, and the whole expedition gives nearly 300 feet of actual climbing.

F.G.

Tophet Bastion.—Difficult ; severe if Groove Pitch is done. Leader requires 50 feet of rope. Any footgear.

Lies on the East of the Napes, 30 yards from the corner of Great Hell Gate. A grassy gully divides the climb from steep rocks on the left, and slabs rise on the right. A cairn marks the foot of the climb, which starts from a grass ledge up a moderately steep arête to a grass corner at 45 feet. A small but good belay will be found on the left at the foot of a chimney.

Avoiding the chimney, take to the steep corner on the right. 25 feet on good holds bring one to a rock ledge with a small belay on the wall to the right.

A steep slab is then climbed, keeping to the left side for 30 feet, when grassy ledges are reached, and a stance with a small belay on the right. A move is then made round a corner to the left, to a grass stance and a big belay. A steep arête then leads in 25 feet to a small crevasse and a belay.

A stride is then made to the right, and in 28 feet the bottom of a scoop is reached. From the foot of this groove a move is made to the left and up a short crack to a stance and belay at the top of the groove. A spike belay is found on the wall above a grass stance. The pitch is 40 feet.

70 feet of easy rocks lead to a cairn. The steep ridge (known as the Shark's Fin) above can be climbed, and is more difficult than the lower portion. The ridge is 75 feet, and the leader needs 50 feet of rope.

A traverse is made on to the steep arête, 10 feet from the bottom of the ridge. Difficult climbing leads to a small stance and belay 25 feet from the bottom. The Arête is then followed until a steep crack is reached. From this crack the arête is again attacked and climbed to the top on the left of the crack—50 feet from the belay.

Lucifer Crack.—Severe. Leader needs 60 feet of rope. Rubbers.

This is the crack that winds up the steep wall on the left of Tophet Bastion.

The short first section has not been done direct, and the route starts up a grassy gangway slanting up to the left. The crack is soon reached, and begins with a hoist into a niche. The walls soon close again, and one lands on a terrace with a belay 50 feet from the start.

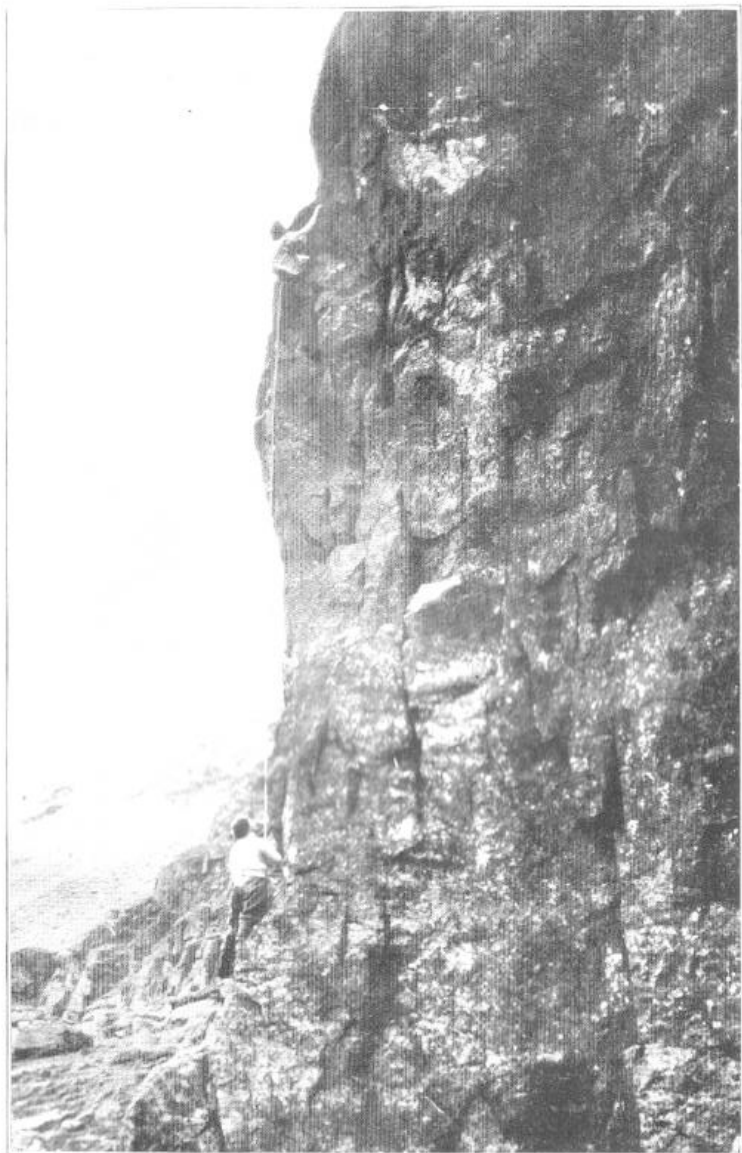
The crack now continues on the right, and at first some easy ledges are climbed till it is necessary to effect a lodgment on a long chockstone. Above this a rather awkward landing is made on a ledge, and the short, steep wall straight ahead climbed to a stance. The finish lies in the corner, and is short but fairly strenuous. There is a good belay at the top, 50 feet from the terrace.

The holds are mostly good, but sometimes awkwardly placed. For the final pull one should avoid using a loose flake hold for the left hand.

F.G.

Tophet Wall.—Severe; steep and exposed. Leader requires 70 feet of rope. Rubbers.

The climb lies on the wall forming the western boundary of Great Hell Gate. Some distance up the screes of Hell Gate, the rocks at the foot of the wall are somewhat broken up. The climb starts from a cairn on a grass ledge some 50 feet up. From the cairn a traverse is made up and to the left, 20 feet on a grassy ledge, to the foot of a steep 15 foot wall. There is no belay, and the wall is climbed on small holds to a narrow ledge. A traverse is made to the left to a grass ledge and a



Photo

W. B. Brunskill,

KERN KNOTTS, WEST BUTTRESS.

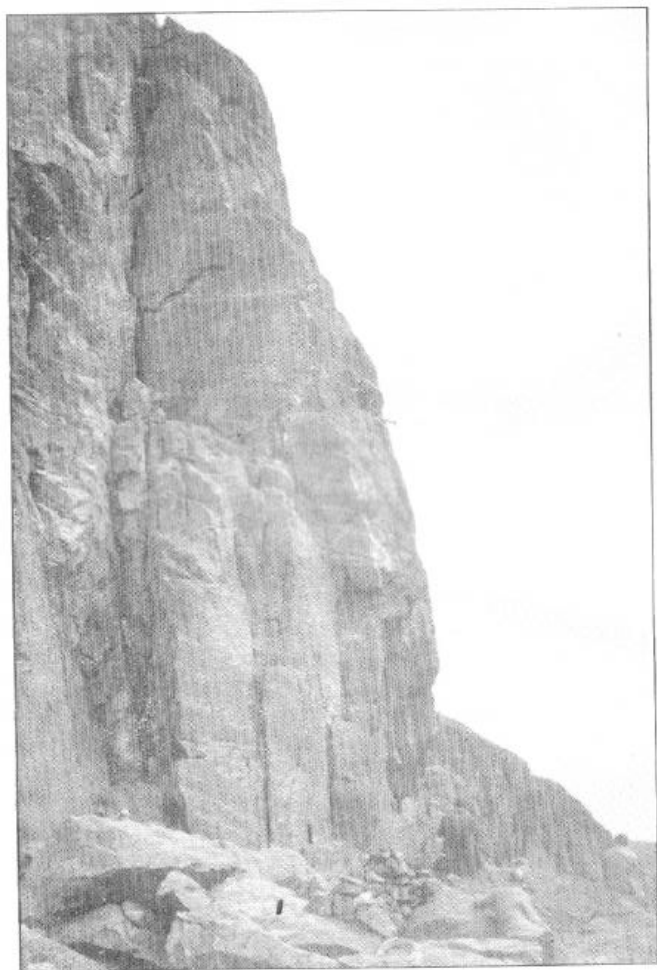


Photo by

A. E. Pollard.

KERN KNOTTS, THE BUTRESS.

doubtful belay, 50 feet from the start. The next move is up a mossy groove or slab to a grass stance and a good belay at 35 feet. The buttress overhangs at this point, and a traverse is made to the right on good holds. A doubtful looking flake en route proves quite safe in use. The traverse proceeds for 40 feet, and it is then possible to climb up for 25 feet, passing a recess paved with loose stones, and swinging over a detached block to a stance and belay. A belay is also found on the right. A crack which is formed by a detached pinnacle rises in the corner. It is best to climb on to the edge of the pinnacle whence the crack is reached by a long stride to the left on good holds. The crack is climbed for 12 feet on good holds to a stance 35 feet from the belay. A belay can be arranged here, but it is better to proceed 25 feet on easy rocks to a cairn and a good stance. 50 feet of easy climbing remains, on a shattered ridge, or a traverse can be made to the right, and a descent to Hell Gate.

Direct Start.—On a grass ledge several feet below the start of the original route there is a second cairn. From it a short wall is climbed till a step is made into a crack on the left. This is ascended for 5 feet till one pulls out on to a ledge on the left about 30 feet up.

An obvious line now leads diagonally to the right to the bottom of the 15 foot wall.

This adds about 90 feet to the climb.

F.G.

Variation.—The last pitch may be varied by traversing 20 feet to the right across a wall to a good belay, and the corner ahead is climbed to a junction with the ordinary route.

KERN KNOTTS.

Flake Climb, West Face.—110 feet; severe. Leader requires 80 feet of rope. Rubbers.

This climb, which is very severe on the arms, is practically one pitch. It lies on the steep wall to the west of West Chimney, on the most westerly face of Kern Knotts.

A cairn marks the start, and 25 feet of steep rocks lead to two cracks. A small cairn is at the foot of the right hand crack. This crack is climbed for 25 feet on good flake holds until a ledge is reached sloping up to the left. This ledge is

the "Catwalk." Balance is awkward, and the strain on the arms is heavy for 50 feet, when a bilberry patch at the foot of a small chimney is reached. The landing is awkward, and apt to be greasy, but a good hold high up on the right wall proves useful. The chimney is now climbed facing in. There are good holds at the top, and for the feet on the wall to the right. In 10 feet the top of the climb is reached. An easy line of descent is found somewhat west of this point.

West Chimney.—Very difficult. Leader needs 45 feet of rope. Any footgear.

The climb is on the western face of Kern Knotts, and is about 40 yards from K.K. Chimney. A cairn marks the start. Steep rounded rocks provided with good holds lead in 40 feet to a small rock platform at the foot of the chimney. A belay will be found on the left corner. The chimney, which is steep, is then entered. A good hold will be found inside on the right wall. The start is difficult and is best made facing left; after a few feet it is better to face into the chimney. Good handholds will be found mostly on the right wall, and small footholds on either side the crack. Careful use of the feet makes matters easier. A small rock platform and a belay are reached in 30 feet. The crack in the corner is then climbed, facing in on good holds, and another platform is reached in 20 feet. This pitch may be avoided by easy rocks on the right.

West Buttress.—Severe; 120 feet. Leader requires 40 feet of rope. Rubbers.

The climb is up the corner of the buttress to the right of the West Chimney.

From a cairn, 30 feet of climbing up steep rocks lead to a flake, and an awkward landing. The second man may join the leader here, using the flake as a belay. From the flake a V groove above and to the left is entered. This is quitted with great difficulty on the left, necessitating a swing round to the left, until a foothold can be reached on the wall round the corner. A ledge above is then attained, and a good stance is secured. The climb finishes on easier rocks and ledges to the left.

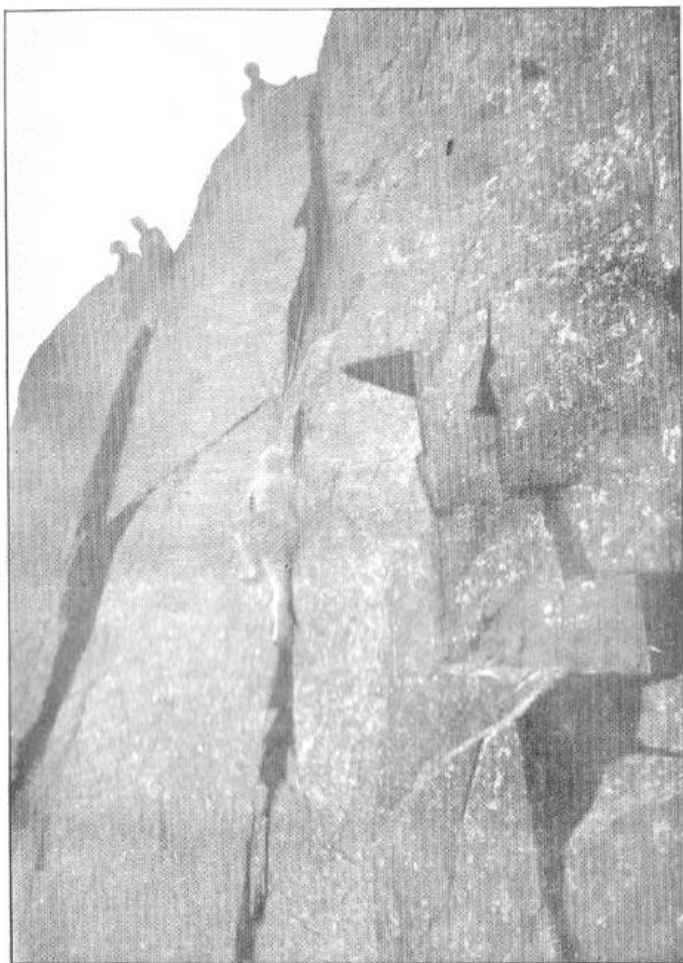


Photo by

THE INNOMINATE CRACK.

J. Wray.

Central Climb, South Face.—Severe. Leader needs 40 feet of rope. Rubbers.

The climb starts a few feet to the left of the chimney.

From the cairn steep grassy rocks lead up to the right from 35 feet to a pinnacle, and a small ash tree. From the top of the pinnacle a traverse runs upwards and to the left on mossy rocks. The holds are good, but hidden by moss. 35 feet leads to a rocky platform with an apology for a belay on the right. The leader then returns for 12 feet, and attacks a steep scoop which is difficult and exposed, until a flake of rock at the roots of a bilberry tuft offers a splendid grip for a pull up. The scoop is 15 feet, and above this 15 feet of steep rock lead to a cairn.

Kern Knotts Chimney.—Difficult. Leader needs 40 feet of rope. Any footgear.

The chimney is climbed for 30 feet to a platform and belay.

The next pitch of 40 feet is started facing left up to the chockstone. The footholds are much polished, and the situation is precarious until the top of the chock is grasped. The remaining portion is climbed on good ledges on the right wall. A cave formed by a bridged boulder is then entered. From the top of the boulder a steep slab is climbed. Here again the polished nature of the holds makes for difficulty at the start, and the knees will render good service. The difficulty soon moderates, and a good belay is reached in 25 feet. From here scrambling remains. The slab may be avoided on the left, but the variation is not recommended.

Kern Knotts Buttress.—Very severe. Leader requires 50 feet of rope. Rubbers and strong fingers.

The climb is on the buttress to the right of the chimney. Around the corner from the foot of the chimney a cairn will be found. A steep crack runs up the face of the wall.

15 feet of climbing up the crack, on good holds, lead to a small rock stance and belay. The crack in the corner proves steep and difficult, a hold for the foot on the left wall proving useful. In 20 feet the big platform on the chimney route is reached. The wall of the buttress extends about five feet beyond the edge of the platform. A small nick on the skyline provides the only handhold for a swing round the corner to a

high foothold on the front of the buttress. A move is then made to the right and up a small vertical crack to a small stance where a rest may be taken. In 15 feet a good ledge is reached, but no belay. A move is made to the right up the nose of the buttress, finishing at a tiny juniper bush between the chimney and the crack on the top platform.

Kern Knotts Crack.—Severe. Leader needs 80 feet of rope. Rubbers preferable.

The climb commences with a rising traverse on small holds, into the "Niche" or "Sentry Box." The polished interior of the niche is of an awkward V shape, and will absorb much energy ere the climber grasps a chockstone which is well back in the crack above the top of the niche. Tall climbers may preferably climb this portion on the wall to the right. Working up on small holds until the body can be swung into the top of the niche—using unsatisfactory small holds—when the chockstone can be reached and a lodgment effected in the crack. The crack then becomes easier. It is best climbed facing in, keeping the body outside as much as possible, and using holds on either side the crack.

K.K. Crack is sometimes climbed from the bottom instead of by the initial traverse.

Innominate Crack.—Very severe; 80 feet in one pitch. Rubbers and strong fingers essential.

This crack rises a few feet to the right of the K.K. Crack.

The first few feet up to a jammed stone are easy. Some use may be made of a parallel crack on the left, and a second jammed block is reached at 45 feet. This block moves, but is safe at present. An uncomfortable rest may be taken here. A good hold will be found above on the right wall, and in 20 feet a triangular niche is entered. A rock grip will be found for the left hand, and the right is used for a press up on the grass ledge. Climbing up the back of the Niche leads in 12 feet to the junction of the Crack and Chimney.

The East Buttress.—Severe. Leader needs 50 feet of rope. Rubbers.

40 yards to the right of the Crack is another and apparently little used climb. This neglect is surprising, as the climb,

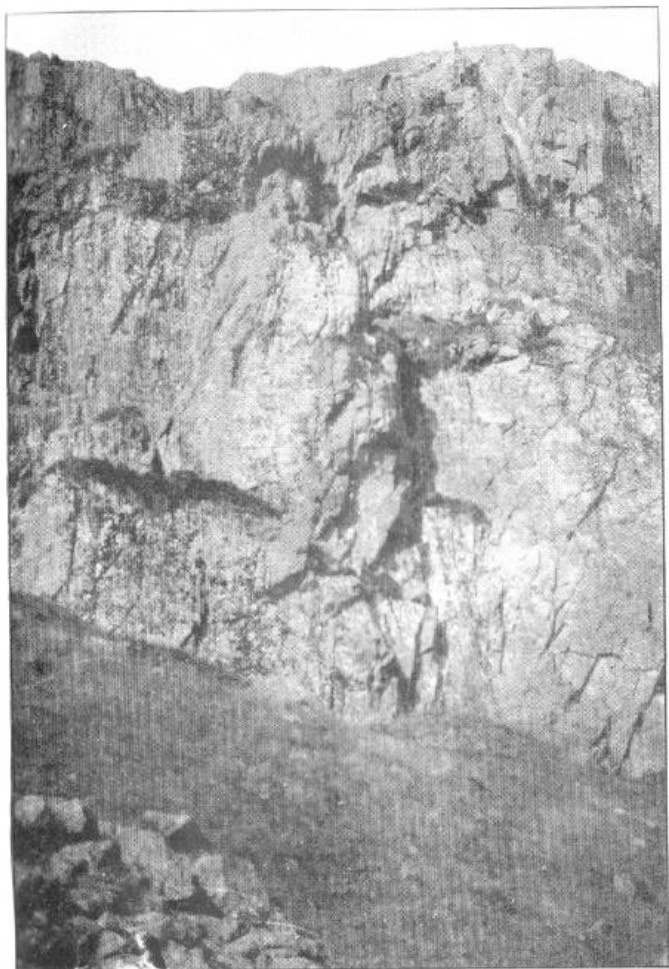


Photo by

Mrs. Hewson

LOWER KERN KNOTTS (WEST BUTTRESS).

though perhaps a trifle artificial, is one of the best, and certainly the longest on Kern Knotts. In the absence of any known name, I have christened it the East Buttress.

Two cairns will be found, one at the foot of a shallow crack, and one a few feet to the right at the foot of a vertical wall. The wall is the more pleasant of the two routes. 40 feet of climbing on good but small holds lead to a stance, and in 5 feet to a small belay. A grass patch is traversed to the left for 12 feet, and a steep wall of light grey rock is then climbed. The holds slope to the climber's disadvantage, but in 25 feet a good rock ledge is reached, and a belay can be arranged here. The overhanging buttress is then attacked, holds are scanty and footholds sloping. A series of awkward balances bring one in 30 feet to the top of the ridge on the right of a small chimney. Here is a stance and belay. Three alternatives now present themselves—(1) a steep corner on the right of the chimney on good holds, 25 feet; (2) the chimney and chockstone; (3) the corner to the left of the chimney, 35 feet.

The Variation at the commencement of the climb is severe. The shallow crack is climbed, proving very awkward and strenuous for 20 feet. One can then take to the buttress, or up easy ledges to the grass at the foot of the second pitch.

LOWER KERN KNOTTS.

This small buttress is situated halfway between Kern Knotts and the Styhead track.

The Crack.—This climb consists of two pitches of 12 feet. The start is awkward, and the climb, though short, provides an interesting problem.

The Slab Climb lies to the right of the crack, and is very severe. The wall is climbed up to the overhang which is passed on the right; one then pulls up on to the overhang, a matter of some difficulty. A good left handhold then proves comforting, and a finish is made straight ahead.

The Buttress to the left of the crack yields a short and easier climb.

Lower Kern Knotts, West Route (from description by H. M. Kelly).

The climb starts at the lowest point to the left of the crack. Steep rocks lead to a ledge. Traverse to the left of the ledge, then go straight up to a short crack, following which get on to the slabs above by a long stride to the right. The route keeps to the left of Lower K.K. Buttress climb.

Numerous boulders at the foot of Kern Knotts provide a quantity of boulder problems of varying difficulty for an "off" day.

LOWER KERN KNOTTS WEST.

This is a somewhat broken buttress, 80 feet high, and lies some 40 yards to the west of Lower Kern Knotts.

The Buttress.—Severe; 85 feet in two pitches. Rubbers.

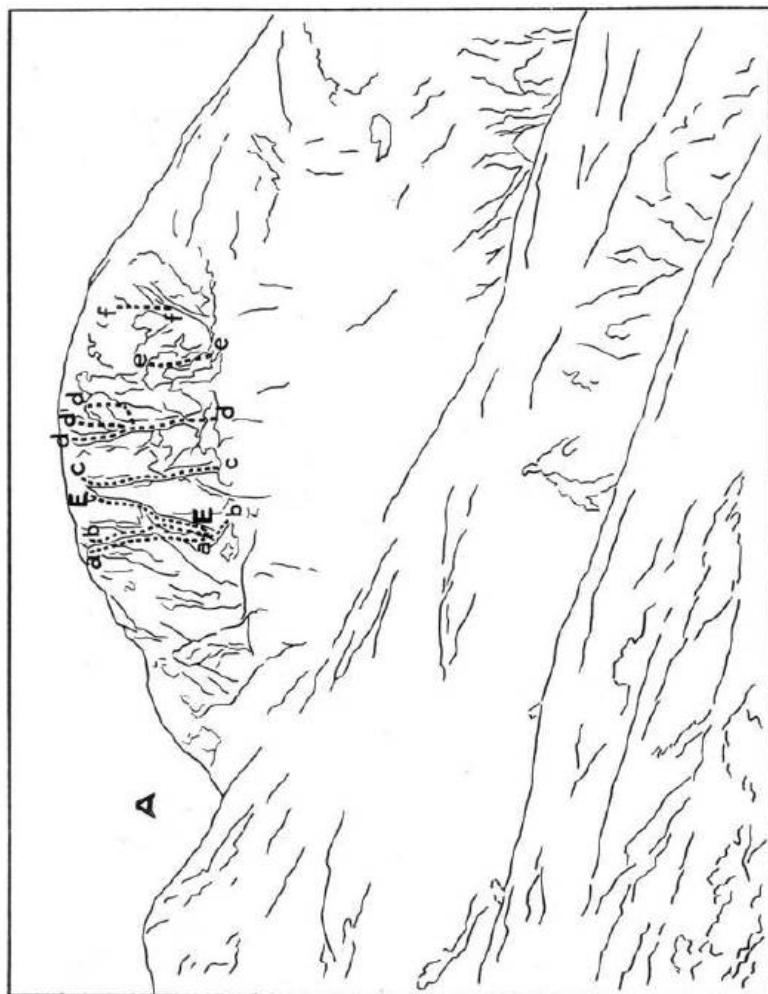
The climb starts up a steep slab in the middle of the buttress. A cairn marks the start, and the climb can be identified by a peculiar projecting block on the skyline above. It finishes at this pinnacle. The steep slab is climbed for 15 feet, working to the right, and using a thin crack for the fingers, until a small stance—or rather foothold—is reached. From this one rises for 3 feet on very small holds, and then a stride is made to the left. The route is then straight up the slab on good holds to a grass and juniper ledge at 40 feet. Belay on right. (The first portion of the climb can be avoided on the left). On reaching the ledge, traverse 5 feet to the left, and then climb straight up the wall to a small rock platform in 12 feet. Leave the platform by climbing the steep groove directly above, finishing at the jutting rock 85 feet from the start.

Slab and Chimney Route.—Difficult. Leader needs 30 feet of rope. Any footgear.

The climb lies to the right of the previous route, and is marked by a cairn. A steep slab is climbed to a bilberry terrace. A narrow chimney is then climbed for 20 feet to a stance. Another short pitch completes the climb.

Raven Crag.—Above Kern Knotts and really forming the upper portion of that outcrop, lies Raven Crag, a familiar name in this district. It contains several short chimneys which will be found interesting by novices. In particular a bifurcated chimney with smooth chockstone furnishes quite good sport





A—Wind Gap. a - - - a Bottle-shaped Pinnacle Ridge. b - - - b Oblique Chimney.
 c - - - c Engineer's Chimney. E - - - E Easy Sheep Walk. d - - - d Central Gully.
 d† Direct Finish. e - - - e Smuggler's Chimney. f - - - f Doctor's Chimney.

Further up towards the summit of Gable, Tom Blue Crag will be found, but there does not appear to be anything of interest there.

GABLE CRAG (ENNERDALE FACE).

Doctor's Chimney.—75 feet; difficult. Leader needs 35 feet of rope. Any footgear.

On approach from Wasdale via Moses Trod, the wire fence at Beckhead will be reached. This is followed almost to the point where it meets the crag. A little beyond this a scree gully rises; this is ascended for 150 feet, passing a large and recent rockfall. The Doctor's Chimney is then visible in the left wall of the gully.

The first pitch is easy, up to a jutting block at 25 feet. In another 5 feet a pinnacle is reached on the right wall, and can be used as a belay. The chimney then narrows. Keeping the body as far out of the crack as possible, a narrow stance and belay are reached 45 feet from the start. The climb is continued for 15 feet, facing left at first, and later facing in to the crack up to a small stance and belay. 15 feet of easier climbing remain, and a stance and belay will be found 20 feet higher on the left.

Smuggler's Chimney.—Very difficult. Leader needs 40 feet of rope. Any footgear. The climb is very strenuous. The chimney lies 60 yards to the left of the gully, which contains the Doctor's Chimney.

The climb starts up a little crack with an awkward landing on to a grass ledge on the left. A short wall with good holds at the top, lands one at the foot of the chimney. A belay exists.

The Chimney is very narrow and difficult to start. A good hold will be found at the bottom of a mossy chockstone in the back of the crack. It is best to face in up to the chockstone, and then face left, using holds for the feet on each side of the crack. In 35 feet a cave provided with a belay is reached. Facing left a struggle is made up to a chockstone. Another chock and belay are reached on a landing in 18 feet. The route lies more at the back of the cave, and an exit is made

through a restricted window pitch in 10 feet, on to a grass terrace.

The Central Gully.—40 yards to the left of Smuggler's Chimney is the Central Gully, easily distinguishable by a large boulder which bridges the gully.

The climb is artificial for a Lake District gully, as after the initial difficulty all the pitches can be turned on the left by variants which require little if any climbing, and, as in wet weather the various pitches are apt to be water-falls, even strong parties have been known to shirk the duty of taking a shower bath by this means.

The first short pitch lies under the bridge stone. 15 feet.

The second pitch, but little higher up, is formed by a big boulder jammed in the bed of the gully. By using the left wall a few feet are gained which enables a stride to be made on to the holds higher up in the right wall from which the top of the boulder is reached without difficulty. 20 feet.

The third pitch some distance higher up consists of a narrow crack which requires considerable expenditure of energy. It is often avoided by an easy staircase route to the left. To the right an exit may be made by grass ledges past the alleged remains of the smuggler's hut.

A shorter but rather similar crack furnishes the fourth pitch and will be found somewhat higher up to the left, after which the summit is reached by a scree gully.

The Direct Finish.—A much more sporting finish is provided by taking a short chimney to the right front which brings one to an overhanging corner. This is surmounted by a short traverse to the right and back again. The chockstone above is very steep and holdless, providing much the best pitch in the climb. A foot or two must be gained by using the left wall after which a good handhold will be found at the back of the chock, the use of which brings an end to all difficulty.

Immediately to the left of the gully, some distance up, is a pinnacle which gives an easy scramble. A stretch of very steep slabs then rises, at the left hand end of which is the Engineer's Chimney, 40 yards from the Central Gully.

Engineer's Chimney.—Very severe. Leader needs 40 feet of rope. Any footgear. The most difficult portion of the climb is usually wet.

The chimney is divided by a steep rib of rock a few feet above the start. The left branch is entered after 15 feet of easy climbing, and a stance at the top of a rib is reached with rather more difficulty at 35 feet from the start. The rope can be threaded round a small chockstone as a belay.

The severe portion now commences.

The chimney becomes difficult in 5 feet, and is climbed facing in until a bulge on the rib on the right is reached. Some use is made of a thin crack on the left for the feet. It is then best to face right. Small poor holds for the fingers are on the front of the rib, and two small holds a foot apart will be found in the moss of the left wall at the back of the chimney.

The left leg is jammed in the crack. The crack is always wet, and progress is very exhausting. A good flake hold will be reached in the bed of the crack. A little higher are holds on the rib, and a crack well back in the right wall of the chimney, very hard to reach. It is very strenuous for 8 feet, then difficulties moderate, and a chockstone is reached 35 feet from the thread belay. From the chock, backing up is indulged in with the feet on the right wall, until a good pointed hold in a crack on the left wall can be grasped. It is then possible to step into the crack on the left wall. The holds are good, and bridging with the feet is resorted to. The top is reached in 25 feet on a series of grass ledges. A belay will be found a few feet higher. This pitch is sensational, but is easy after the previous pitch.

Variation Route.—Severe.

From the top of the first pitch, one steps out on to the left wall from the thread belay. A traverse is made on small holds to a doubtful looking flake. This should be treated carefully, the climb going up the corner to a stance, and small belay at 35 feet. The climb then rejoins the chimney. This avoids the severe pitch of the chimney, and is a somewhat easier route.

Oblique Chimney.—Difficult. Any footgear. Leader needs 40 feet of rope.

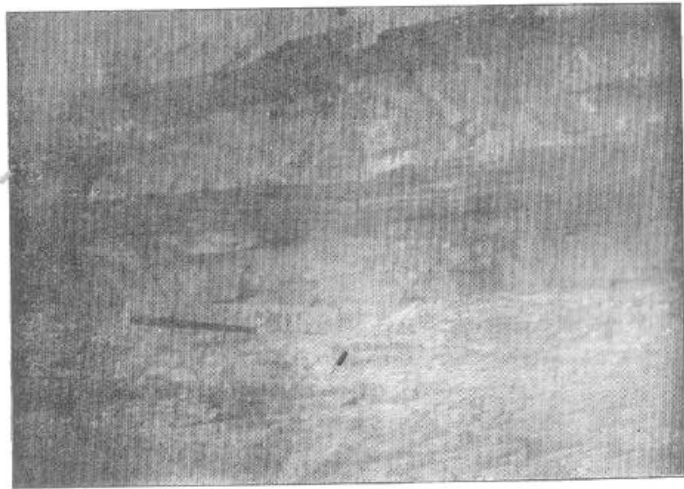


Photo by H. S. Gross.
ENGINEERS CHIMNEY, GABLE CRAG.
NOTE.—The "flake" of the Variation Route
can be seen at the top left centre.

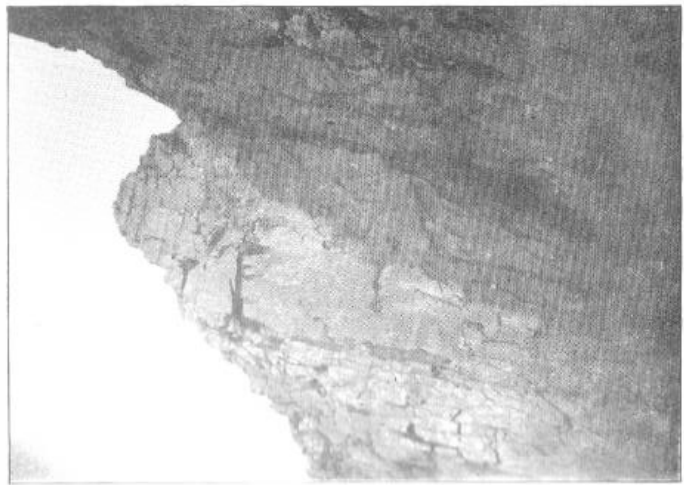


Photo by Mrs. M. Hewson.
OBLIQUE CHIMNEY.

The climb lies at the same level as Engineer's Chimney, and is about 30 yards east.

The climb commences with a cave pitch of 20 feet, and leads to a small cave and poor belay. A second and easier pitch of 25 feet follows up to another small cave and belay. 15 feet discloses another small cave, and in 35 feet the climb finishes up a series of boulders. The landing is on to loose scree, which demands care.

Bottle Shaped Pinnacle Ridge.—A scrambling climb of moderate difficulty, up the buttress forming the retaining wall of the Oblique Chimney.

Mallory's Climbs (taken from the Wasdale Book). Described as to the left of the Bottle Shaped Pinnacle Ridge, reached from the scree gully at the easterly end of the crag, by "traversing up from the fork to a large overhanging crag." The climbs are the nearest routes to the right and left of the overhanging crag.

(1) Starts to the left of the crag on a leaf of rock which leads to a ledge 40 feet up, and to the right. A crack goes to the right from the ledge to a bad spot, but by getting over a corner to the left a route can be found up slabs. The climb is finished by a traverse to the right and a pull over a rectangular block. The climb is not very difficult, and is 150 feet.

(2) A steep crack runs up to the right of the overhanging crag. For the first 80 feet are small pitches and no belay. The crack then widens out, and is easy, or a traverse can be made over the buttress, 180 feet.

BOAT HOW CRAGS.

(From particulars by George Basterfield.)

This fine crag is split into three buttresses, of which the central one is a pillar, connected to the Fell by a narrow ridge against which the East and West Gullies converge. Between each of these gullies and the pillar is a chimney.

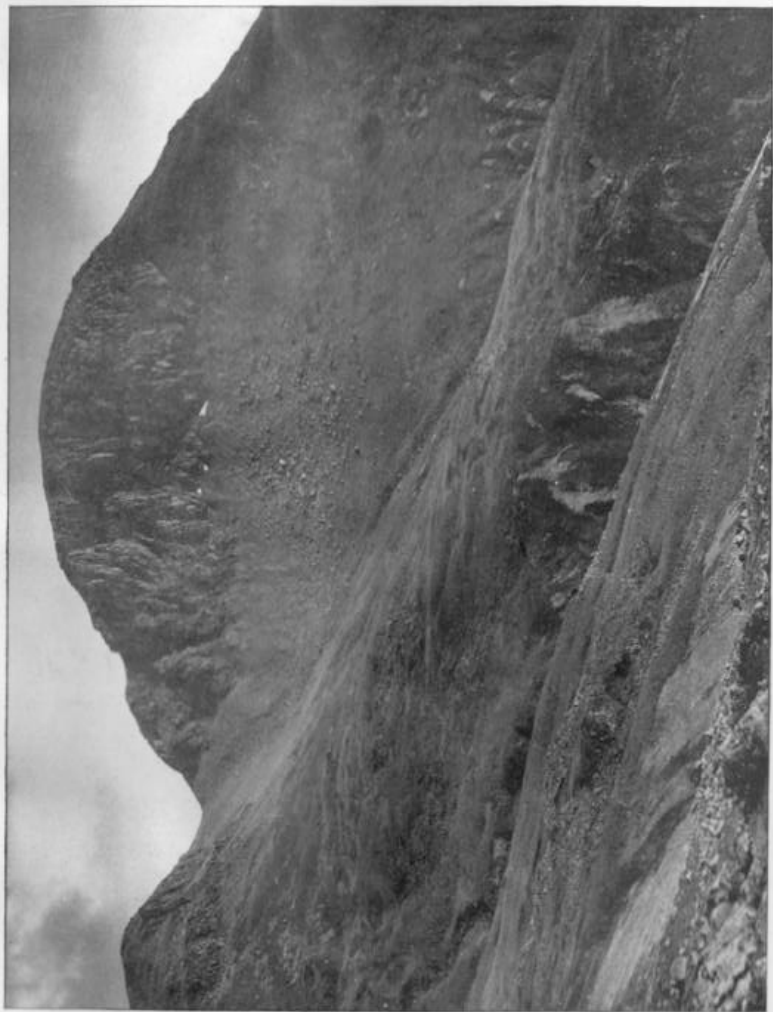
The West Chimney (Starboard Chimney) consists of 2 pitches. It is about 100-120 feet. It may be classed well down the difficulties (but was climbed under bad conditions). The upper pitch is about 50-55 feet, and the finish of this pitch needs careful handling on account of loose rock.

East Buttress Arête (Sea-wall Arête).—This climb proceeds up near the right-hand edge of the East Buttress. The start is marked by a small cairn at the foot. The climb goes up direct to a vertical rock with a crack up its centre. Take this direct and continue for about 30 feet up the arête into a broken groove. Just above, go to the right round a corner, and then up slabby rock to a cave (good anchorage). Climb up and out on the left wall. Traverse a little to the left, and proceed to the summit on broken slabs. The finish is marked by a cairn. In all about 250 feet of interesting climbing. The climb may be described as difficult. Both these climbs may be climbed in boots.

Hatchway and Rigging Climb.—Consists of East Chimney, of Central Pillar (20 foot chockstone pitch, taken on right) Just above top of chimney ascend right wall direct to obvious spike belay at 20 feet. Thence short traverse (6 feet) to foot of obvious vertical crack. This is climbed direct to top of flat pinnacle (20 feet) where climb finishes. Short but difficult, climbed in boots, rocks wet.

Larboard Arête (East Arête of Central Pillar).—Starts at small cairn at east corner, and proceeds direct to summit, overlooking Hatchway climb. About 120 feet. Climbed in boots. Severe, upper half.

Breakwater Slabs and Lighthouse.—The slabs lie immediately to the left of East Gully. The climb commences at a cairn near the left corner of the slabs. Thence traverse to right immediately to centre of slab, where a narrow crack leads directly up. (The climb may be started at the foot of the crack.) The traverse is 15-20 feet. Climb crack direct, and continue more or less direct to top of slabs (about 80 feet). The slab ends on a large glass platform on which is a large detached boulder. The second pitch continues directly up commencing with slabs at easy incline. Take to extreme right-hand edge, and climb to finish, the last 20 feet are vertical, but the holds are good. (Second pitch, perhaps 70 feet). Rubbers; estimate slabs as severe; top pitch (which may be avoided) as difficult.



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ENNERDALE CRAG—GREAT GABLE.

G. P. Abraham, Ltd.



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THE RIGGING.

C. Wood.

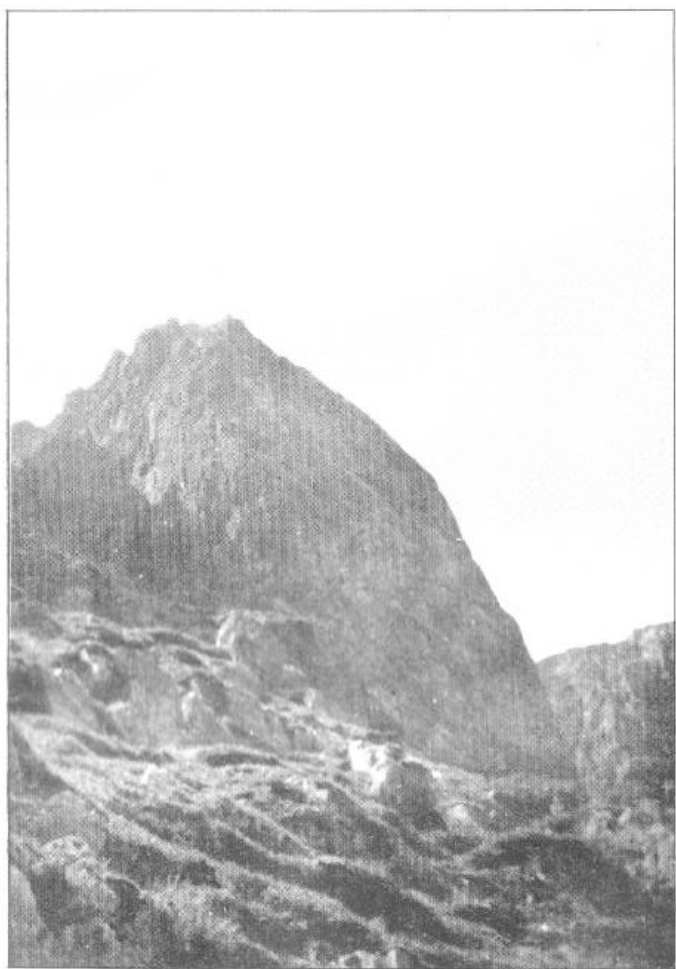


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BOAT HOW CRAG.

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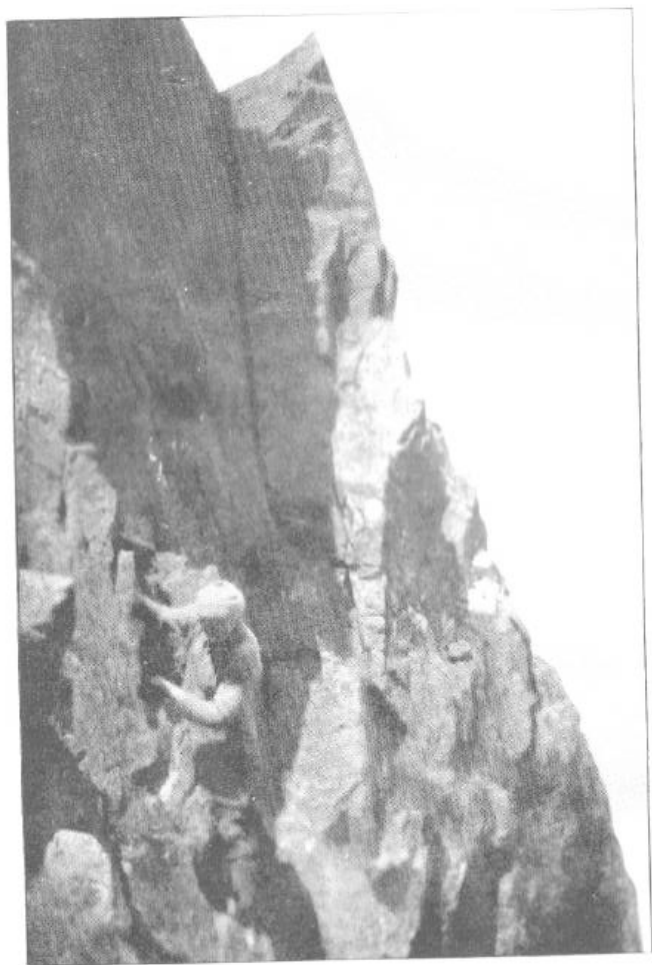


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CLASSIFIED LIST OF CLIMBS.

Moderate—	Page.
Needle Gully	17
Bottle Shaped Pinnacle Ridge	32
Arrowhead Ridge (easy way)	12
Central Gully, Gable Crag (ordinary route)	30
Lower K.K. Buttress (to left of crack)	27
Sphinx Rock	10
Difficult—	
Sphinx Ridge....	10
Lower Kern Knotts West, Slab and Chimney Climb	28
Eagle's Nest, West Chimney	14
Needle Ridge	17
Arrowhead Ridge (ordinary route)	12
Lower Kern Knotts Crack	27
Sea-wall Arête	33
Central Gully, Gable Crag (direct finish)	30
Kern Knotts Chimney	25
Oblique Chimney	31
Hatchway and Rigging Climb	33
Starboard Chimney	33
Doctor's Chimney	29
Eagle's Nest, West Chimney (by variation on right)	14
Arrowhead Ridge (direct)	12
Kern Knotts, West Chimney	24
Needle (ordinary routes)	18
Tophet Bastion (with ridge above, omitting Groove Pitch)	21
Buzzard Wall	20
Cutlass Ridge	13
Abbey Ridge (ordinary route)	13
Ling Chimney	15
Scimitar Ridge	11
Zeta Climb	20
Severe—	
Larboard Arête	33
Breakwater Slabs and Lighthouse	33
Tophet Bastion (including Groove Pitch)	21
Sabre Ridge	13

	Page.
Smuggler's Chimney	29
Chantry Buttress	19
Arrowhead S.E. Variation	12
Lower Kern Knotts, West Buttress	28
Needle (Obverse Route)	19
Abbey Ridge (variation route)	15
Rainbow Ridge	11
Engineer's Chimney (by variation)	31
Kern Knotts Crack	26
Belfry Crack	21
Eagle's Nest Arête	15
Kern Knotts, East Buttress....	26
Lower Kern Knotts, Slab Climb....	27
Eagle's Corner	16
Tricouni Rib	17
Tophet Wall	22
Kern Knotts, Central Face Climb	25
Very Severe—	
Kern Knotts, Flake Climb, West Face	23
" West Buttress	24
Lucifer Crack....	22
Engineer's Chimney (direct)	31
Innominate Crack, Kern Knotts....	26
Kern Knotts Buttress	25

LIST OF FIRST ASCENTS.

By H. P. CAIN.

- 1884/1886, Sept.—The Needle Ridge W. P. Haskett-Smith.
Jan. 2nd, 1911—From the lowest point: A. G. Woodhead, S. F. Jett-coat, and J. Laycock.
- 1886, June 27th or 30th—The Napes Needle W. P. Haskett-Smith.
- 1910, 11th July—By the left hand end of the Mantelshelf L. B. Smith.
W. B. Brunskill,
J. Mallinson, and
T. C. Pattinson.
NOTE.—This was probably done earlier by G. B. Gibbs (see Journal Vol. II, pp. 266 and 267). On this date, also, T. C. Pattinson walked through the crack from West to East.
- 1894, 17th Sept.—Variation I., the Arête. W. H. Fowler.
On Jan. 21st, 1904, the crack to the right of and parallel with the Western Crack leading up to the Arête was climbed by W. Cecil Slingsby.
- 1893, 28th Aug.—Variation II. E. A. Crowley.
- 1892, 23rd April—Variation III.: The Lingmell Crack. O. G. Jones,
Mrs. Commeline, and
J. N. Collie (the last-named led up to the shoulder).
- 1912, 26th Aug.—Variation IV. S. W. Herford and
W. B. Brunskill.
- 1889, March Bear or Cat Rock W. P. Haskett-Smith.

- 1892, April 15th—Eagle's Nest Arête.... Godfrey A. Solly,
 April 17th, 1892—Eagle's Nest, West
 Chimney: Godfrey A. Solly and M.
 Schintz. W. Cecil Slingsby,
 G. P. Baker, and
 Oct. 15th, 1899—Ling Chimney :
 W. N. Ling and G. T. Glover. W. A. Brigg.
 Sept. 11th, 1910—Pope's Variation :
 H. R. Pope and E. T. W. Addyman.
 June 19th, 1924—Eagle's Corner :
 C. D. Frankland and Bentley Beeth-
 am.
 June, 1925—Eagle's Corner, Varia-
 tions I. and II. : H. S. Gross and
 M. H. Hewson.
 Aug. 19th, 1925—Tricouni Rib : C.
 D. Frankland and M. M. Barker.
- 1892, April 17th—Arrowhead Ridge (to W. Cecil Slingsby,
 the recess behind the Arrow)² Horace Walker,
 Mar. 31st, 1893—The same, but R. W. Brant,
 finishing along the Ridge : Godfrey G. P. Baker, and
 A. Solly, M. Schintz, R. W. Brant and H. C. Bowen. W. A. Brigg.
 Mar. 14th, 1896—Direct Route over
 the top of the Arrow : A. G. Topham,
 Horace Walker, and W. Cecil Slings-
 by.
 Oct. 8th, 1925—S.E. Variation : Fer-
 gus Graham.
- 1892, Dec. 31st—Oblique Chimney I. Collier,
 April 3rd, 1896—Variation by Right B. Goodfellow,
 Wall and Traverse : Charles and E. Talbot,
 Alfred Hopkinson, and H. Campbell. E. J. Woolley,
 Sept. 28th, 1903—Chimney on left S. B. Winsor.
 of Oblique leading to Bottle Shaped
 Pinnacle Ridge : H. V. Reade and
 Gerald Arbuthnot.
- 1893, Dec. 26th—Kern Knotts Chimney O. G. Jones,
 April 28th, 1894—Variation on left W. H. Fowler, and
 of slab : F. O. Wethered, Claud Schus- J. W. Robinson.
 ter, and H. Kempson.
- 1894, May 8th—Arrowhead Gully E. A. Crowley.
 Dec. 31st, 1895—Arrowhead Branch
 Gully : E. A. Crowley and M. W.
 Travers.
- 1896, April 7th—Gable Crag, Central F. Leach,
 Gully (direct finish). V. Blake, and
 Sept. 28th, 1903—Chimney between T. S. Booth.
 Direct Finish and Easy Exit : H. V.
 Reade and Gerald Arbuthnot.

- 1896, April 25th—Doctor's Chimney C. W. Patchell.
(So named from its discoverer, Dr. John Simpson.)
- 1897, April 27th—Kern Knotts West Chimney. O. G. Jones and C. W. Patchell.
- 1897, April 28th—Kern Knotts Crack O. G. Jones and H. C. Bowen.
(On April 23rd, 1896, O. G. Jones climbed this with the moral support of a rope "for the last part of the ascent.")
July, 1898. Lower part of Crack direct. W. R. Reade and W. L. McCulloch.
- 1899, July 30th—Engineer's Chimney G. T. Glover and
June 20th, 1924—Variation Route: W. N. Ling.
H. S. Gross and M. H. Hewson.
- 1908, Sept.—Mallory's Climbs G. H. I. Mallory and G. I. Keynes.
- 1909, April 7th—Abbey Buttress F. Botterill and J. de V. Hazard.
The same party, on the same day, also did this climb by the grassy gully on the left of the direct route.
Sept. 7th, 1913—Mallory's Variation of the upper portion: G. H. I. Mallory.
June 17th, 1924—Variation: H. S. Gross and M. H. Hewson.
- 1909, April 9th—Smuggler's Chimney J. S. Sloane,
M. Gimson,
A. Gimson, and
J. G. Henderson.
- 1912, April 12th—Kern Knotts, West Buttress G. S. Sansom and S. W. Herford.
- 1919, July—Scimitar Ridge.... C. F. Holland.
- 1919, Aug. 5th—Kern Knotts Buttress H. M. Kelly and R. E. W. Pritchard.

- 1919, June 13th—Tophet Bastion H. M. Kelly,
E. S. Pryor,
A. R. Thomson,
Mrs. Kelly, and
C. G. Crawford.
- 1919, Aug. 7th—Kern Knotts, Central
Climb, South Face. H. M. Kelly,
R. E. W. Pritchard,
and A. P. Wilson.
- 1919, Aug. 7th—Kern Knotts, West
Face, Flake Climb. H. M. Kelly,
R. E. W. Pritchard,
A. P. Wilson, and
G. H. Jackson.
- 1920, May 30th—Lower Kern Knotts,
Slab Climb. H. M. Kelly and
G. S. Bower.
- 1920, Aug. 30th—Sabre Ridge H. M. Kelly and
R. E. W. Pritchard.
- 1921, April 9th—Innominate Crack G. S. Bower,
B. Beetham, and
J. B. Wilton.
- 1921, Nov. 10th—Lower Kern Knotts,
West Buttress. Fergus Graham.
- 1921, Nov. 11th—Chantry Buttress Fergus Graham.
- 1922, June 5th—Buzzard Wall Fergus Graham and
Morley Wood.
- 1922, July 27th—Cutlass Ridge Fergus Graham.
- 1922, July 27th—Rainbow Ridge Fergus Graham.
- 1923, July 14th—Tophet Wall H. M. Kelly and
Aug. 15th, 1925—Direct Start: M. de R. E. W. Pritchard.
Selincourt.

- 1924, April 20th—Lower Kern Knotts, H. M. Kelly and
West Route. R. E. W. Pritchard.
- 1924, June 16th—Kern Knotts East H. S. Gross.
Buttress.
- 1924, Sept. 25th—Zeta Climb Fergus Graham.
Oct. 8th, 1925—Improved Route :
Fergus Graham.
- 1925, April 19th—Boat Howe : Star- Geo. Basterfield and
board Chimney. T. Graham Brown.
- 1925, April 19th—Boat Howe : Sea Geo. Basterfield and
Wall Arête. T. Graham Brown.
- 1925, May 30th—Boat Howe : Hatch- L. C. Letts and
way and Rigging Climb. T. Graham Brown.
- 1925, May 31st—Boat Howe : Break- G. Basterfield and
water Slabs and Lighthouse T. Graham Brown.
- 1925, June 7th—Boat Howe : Lar- Geo. Basterfield and
board Arête. K. B. Milne.
- 1925, Sept. 8th—Belfry Crack Fergus Graham, and
G. M. Wellburn.
- 1925, Oct. 16th—Lucifer Crack Fergus Graham.

ROCK CLIMBING IN BORROWDALE.

BY A. R. THOMSON.

INTRODUCTION.

The climbs in Borrowdale are few and far between. It is hardly necessary to call the attention of members of the Fell and Rock Climbing Club to Sergeant Crag Gully, to Raven Crag Gully on Glaramara, and to Gillercombe Buttress, with its variations and its gully. Mouse Ghyll, and Bridge Gully on Maiden Moor are an interesting day's work. The fine buttress on Black Crag, called by its discoverers Troutdale Pinnacle Climb, and the Pinnacle above the Bowder Stone are not too far from one another, and are well worth a visit. Walla Crag Gully, too, proves of interest, and can be combined with the short gully on the left hand side of this crag, well seen from the road, or with the numerous and very difficult short problems on Castle Head, a mile nearer Keswick. An exploration of the rocks above and round Lodore has yielded no climb of sustained interest, but numerous short climbs can be found on the heathery uplands above High Lodore farm and on the rocks to the left of the road leading from Keswick to Watendlath and nearly a mile from that village. The right branch of Ashness Ghyll gives a climb of over 100 feet of slabs, followed by two other short pitches. It is well worth visiting in the autumn for its wonderful scenery alone.

Gate Crag, on the right hand side of the valley, almost opposite the Bowder Stone, will attract climbers, although four or five visits of exploration have resulted only in the discovery of short problems. A small peak between Maiden Moor and Gate Crag just to the right of the stream descending from the uplands, gives a good climb up its centre, just to the left of a cleft, the bottom of which is repellent from its excessive amount of vegetation.

80 feet of rope for three climbers will be sufficient for all the climbs described, with the exception of those on Gillercombe Buttress, Black Crag, Mouse Ghyll, and perhaps Raven Crag Gully. For these 100 feet will be required.

So much for the general possibilities of Borrowdale :—

Castle Head.—Proceeding from Keswick along the Borrowdale road for about five minutes, a gate is reached, steps are ascended, and a footpath is followed. The topmost crags soon come into view on the right. A divergence is made, and after a scramble for 25 feet up grass and rock, a 30 foot crack can be seen right ahead. It is steep throughout, but holds are good until near the top, when a right hand hold is reached with difficulty. Descending slightly and passing a small chockstone pitch (to the left of which there is an awkward climb), a corner is rounded and an open V chimney attracts attention. It is exceedingly steep and smooth, and its upper portion almost overhangs. To overcome this, it is usual to "back up" facing the right wall. A considerable descent is now made, and in the centre of the wood will be found a curious pulpit shaped rock. It contains five climbs :

- (1) On its left, a short overhanging chimney.
- (2) An arête to the right of this reached by a sloping shelf about 7 feet up.
- (3) A crack in the centre, past an ash tree sapling.
- (4) A short crack to the right of this.
- (5) A traverse across the face of the rock, starting from the crack just mentioned.

With the exception of the short crack all these climbs can be called severe. Just to the left of this rock is a steep overhanging face. A good hand hold about 8 feet up, the use of another and higher handhold on the right, combined with a skilful use of the feet, are the necessary elements for the solution of this problem. Above the pulpit rock is a buttress about 30 feet high. Three curious sloping steps commence the climb, to pass from one to the other requires skilful balance. Bearing upwards and to the right, heather ledges are reached and the climb is finished by them. Passing round the base of this buttress a ledge or terrace is reached, with broken rocks below and very steep rocks—at least 30 feet

high—above. A way can be made up these nearly vertical rocks for 15 feet, bearing a little to the right. It is then necessary to traverse slightly to the left, and after overcoming a short overhang, the branches of a small tree are within reach, by means of which the climb is completed. Following the ledge round it is necessary to descend a few feet by a small chimney. A very alarming crack is then just overhead. It is quite 30 feet high, and even more severe than the previous climb. Immediately to the right of this climb is a short wall of rock about 15 feet high. Above this is a comfortable terrace, whence a very steep right angled corner can be attacked on its right wall.

There are numerous other climbs of varying difficulty which are left undescribed. Their scratched condition will attest their popularity. The arête climb, the crack climb on the pulpit rock, the V chimney, the climb through the tree and the chimney and crack on its right should not be attempted without the moral support of the rope.

Walla Crag.—Walla Crag is best approached from the public path which passes along its base in the direction of the Ambleside road. The entrance to the path is from the Borrowdale road, a mile from Castle Head. The crags are in private grounds, and objections may be raised to visits by climbers. On the way thither from Castle Head, three small gullies will be noticed to the left of the summit. The first one contains two pitches, the bottom one, though short, being difficult. The second gully only provides scrambling. The third has four pitches. The first pitch, a very short one, is best avoided on the right. The second, which is nearly 50 feet high, after starting easily for 20 feet, becomes very stiff owing to loose rock and paucity of holds. There are two easy pitches above. The place is altogether unpleasant, and does not deserve a visit. It will be noticed that Walla Crag is divided into two sections by a wide gully that forks at the top. This is the "Ladies' Rake," by which Lady Derwentwater escaped, or is said to have escaped, from Lord's Island during Jacobite troubles. To the right of this gully, which contains no climbing, is a buttress covered with trees, but fringed with rocks at its base. Up the centre

of this band runs the well known Walla Crag Gully. This is reached from the road by bearing to the right almost immediately, and making for the centre of the rocks above. The gully is just on the south side of a very conspicuous rock face. A steep ascent up grass and rock for 50 feet leads to the first pitch, where a tree root renders valuable, if uncertain assistance. A gully-chimney follows, about 25 feet high, and of no great difficulty. Then comes another chimney with down sloping holds. Its ascent is a little precarious in wet weather. Here, at a holly tree, the real climbing in the gully may be said to end, but it is usual to make a traverse across a rather sensational slab on the right, and then, after progressing upwards—still a little to the right—a steep chimney will be seen ahead. This can be reached by an awkward little pitch easily avoidable on the right. The chimney itself is deep cut and almost overhangs. It is 25 feet high, holds are good, but the exit cannot be described as easy.

Falcon Crag.—Falcon Crag, unlike Walla Crag, presents a bare and steep face to the Borrowdale road. No route has been discovered, or is likely to be discovered, up the centre of this face, but on the right side, starting from the gully on the right, is a route of sorts. It begins with 30 feet of rock and heather, then an easy and rotten traverse is made to the left. Afterwards there is an unpleasant climb up grass and rock of no difficulty till near the top, when 60 feet of good rock completes the climb, which is somewhat dangerous. The gully to the immediate right of the start of this climb contains five short pitches of no particular difficulty. There is much loose rock about, which makes the climb dusty and unattractive.

Ashness Ghyll.—About a mile from Lodore on the Keswick side, will be noticed the road leading to Watendlath. This can be followed for half a mile over Ashness Bridge, and then the course of the beck is followed to where it divides. The left branch contains only one short but disagreeable pitch. The right branch can be followed till it disappears in the fell side. A start is made for at least 100 feet up easy slabs to the right of the stream bed. Towards the top these steepen and require care, and afterwards a traverse can be made

to the left, and a short pitch in the stream course easily surmounted. Two short pitches remain to finish the climb.

Black Crag.— $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Keswick and immediately behind the Borrowdale-Hotel is the little valley of Troutdale, and at its head can be seen the small peak called Black Crag, which is reached by ten minutes walk along the beckside, followed by twenty minutes steep ascent up bracken and boulders. The crag contains two climbs.

- (1) The gully which is almost up the centre of the crag and afterwards bears to the left.
- (2) The buttress on the right of this gully.

Black Crag Gully.—A description of the Gully climb is to be found in the Climbers' Club Journal for 1903, by the late A. Goodall.

1st Pitch. A slab is ascended for 25 feet, this terminates in a short and awkward wall of rock.

2nd Pitch is 25 feet in height. A chimney with good holds.

3rd Pitch is less steep but very rotten, grass holds have to be used.

4th Pitch is a chimney which is climbed half way, and then an exit made on the left.

5th Pitch is a smooth slab. The climb looks very rotten, and is best avoided.

Black Crag Buttress.—This is in the corner to the right of the Gully, and can be climbed direct from the bottom and the original climb entered at the top of the 2nd pitch. This start, however, is unattractive, and it is best to make one's way up steep screes for 50 feet, when a cairn on the left marks the start of the original climb. This begins (1) with a traverse. After a few feet a couple of awkward steps lead to a recess. Above this and a little to the left is (2) a steep pitch rather devoid of holds, succeeded by (3) 20 or 30 feet of easy slabs to a yew tree. (4) Above the yew tree is another somewhat difficult pitch. It is necessary to work over a slab to the right. Afterwards a corner is ascended on the left, with the assistance of a small oak tree. (5) A groove is then climbed, first vertically, then horizontally, making from right to left. (6) Afterwards comes a descent for 15 feet, and a traverse across some smooth slabs on to a grass terrace. (7) From the

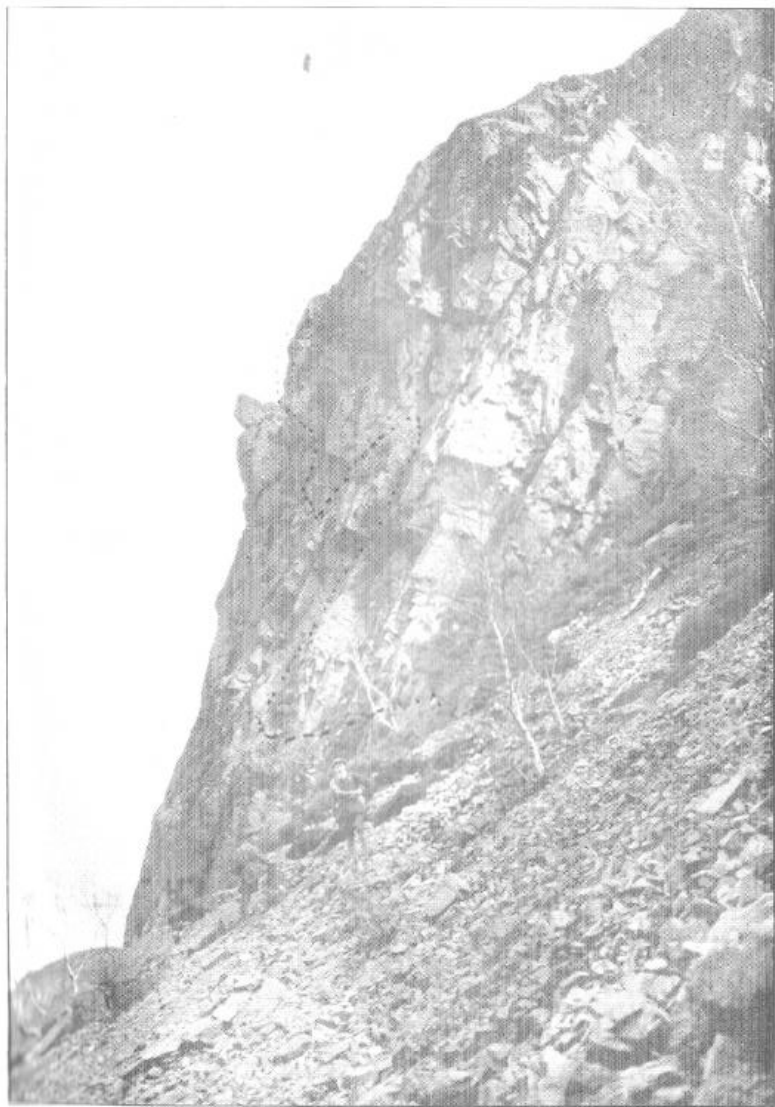


Photo by

Ralph Mayson.

HEAVY CRAG BUTTRESS (OR TROUTDALE PINNACLE) CLIMB.

Route Marked - - - - -

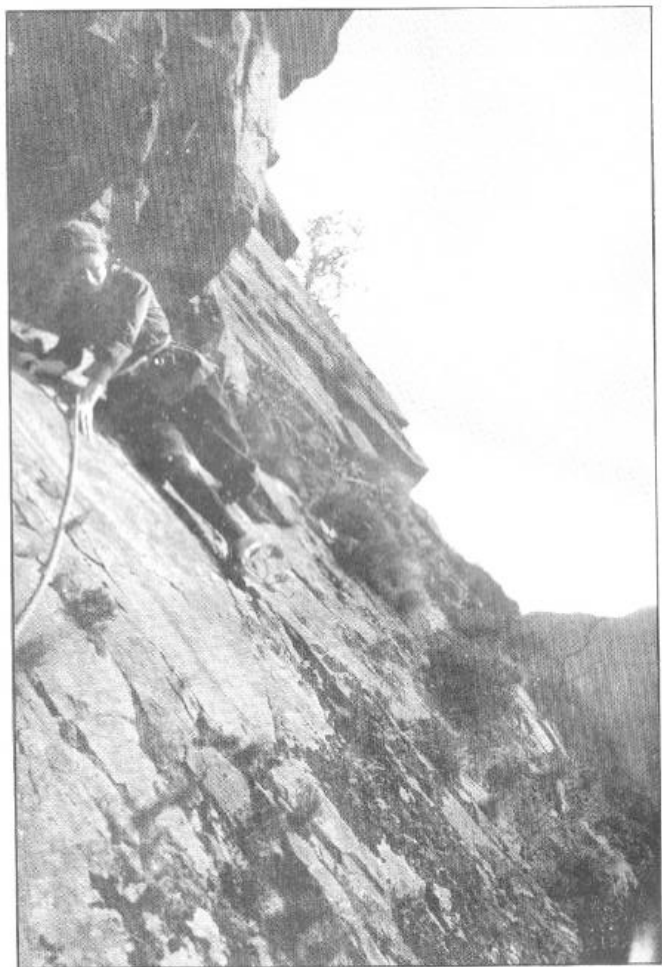


Photo by

Ralph Mayson.

THE SLABS TRAVERSE, BLACK CRAG.

left side of this a gully is reached by means of a slightly overhanging corner, which is awkward to surmount. (8) Easy climbing ensues till the top of a wedge is reached, on which the climber can sit astride and contemplate the steep and sensational finish. (9) Taking off from a loose boulder which connects the wedge with the rocks above a very steep ascent is made for at least 20 feet until a recess on the left is reached. From here 12 or 15 feet of easy climbing leads to heather, whence to the summit cairn is practically a walk.

Gully to Right of Black Crag.—Five minutes' walk across screes from the start of the last-mentioned climb brings one to a deeply cut gully. It contains four short pitches, of which the first two are somewhat awkward. This climb is hardly worth doing, as it is wet and inclined to be rotten.

Bowder Stone Pinnacle.—This short climb is situated immediately above the Bowder Stone. Its base is reached by a toilsome scramble up boulders. The summit may be attained from the mountain behind. A circuitous route involving no climbing is made to the right. Then follows a passage along the top of the rocks to the left till immediately behind the pinnacle. A steep descent is made to a gap where grows a yew tree. A traverse along a wedge shaped block and a long stride brings one to the summit of the pinnacle.* The stride may be omitted by climbing down the wedge previously described on its right side, and traversing across into the gap across which the stride is made. The yew tree may be reached from below by a grassy gully on the immediate right of the pinnacle. This contains two or three rotten and steep pitches, and is rather dangerous. A better and more sporting ascent may be made a few feet to the left of this gully. A wall perhaps 18 feet high is climbed with the aid of a convenient tree and a gully entered. After a few feet of scree scrambling, a route is made on to its left wall by a long stride. Here the leader generally has a shoulder. A short traverse leads to the chimney which separates the pinnacle from the wedge previously mentioned. The chimney is climbed up to the gap, and the ascent concluded after a step or two of somewhat difficult climbing.

* A photograph of this place appeared in Vol. 3 of the Journal wrongly described as Troutdale Pinnacle.

On the way from the Bowder Stone in the direction of Keswick, by the road which comes out at the Quarry, some slabs may be noticed. These, at the Bowder Stone end, are apparently too smooth to admit of ascent, but a little further on a block can be observed with a chimney behind it. This can be used for the ascent of the block, and from its top a long stride made across to easier ground. The block may also be reached from its left hand side up a smooth and steep slab. The ascent can be continued to the summit on the right by loose and unsatisfactory rocks, or a descent made by easy grass. The slabs to the left of this climb give a difficult problem where some traversing is necessary.

The North West corner of the Bowder Stone for the first 12 feet is very difficult until the North East route, which is a mere scramble, is joined.

Eagle Crag.—The climbs on Eagle Crag and Sergeant Crag are reached by turning off the Seatoller road to the left just after passing Rosthwaite. Half a mile further on the road ends at Stonethwaite Village. If the objective be Sergeant Crag, keep straight on through the village and over fields for about a mile and a half, and where the old cart track bends to the right, follow it on. After passing through a gate, a foot bridge on the left must be crossed. The rocks of Eagle Crag which face down Langstrath are immediately above one. A mile further on, and on the left, is seen Sergeant Crag Gully, a most conspicuous cleft. The square topped rock close by the footpath is the well-known Gash Rock. Mention should be made of the splendid bathing pool close by. To reach the gullies situate on the other side of Eagle Crag it is best to turn to the left in Stonethwaite village. A bridge is crossed and the Greenup track leading to Grasmere is followed for two miles. A rock face will be seen high up on the fell side on the right, seamed by the four gullies, of which the following description appeared in the Journal of the Fell and Rock Climbing Club, Vol. 2, page 127:—

A GULLY.—The first reached is approached by a stiff scramble up the fell side, occupying perhaps 20 minutes. Hands must be used here and there just before attaining the gully. (1st pitch) Starting up the centre a sloping ledge

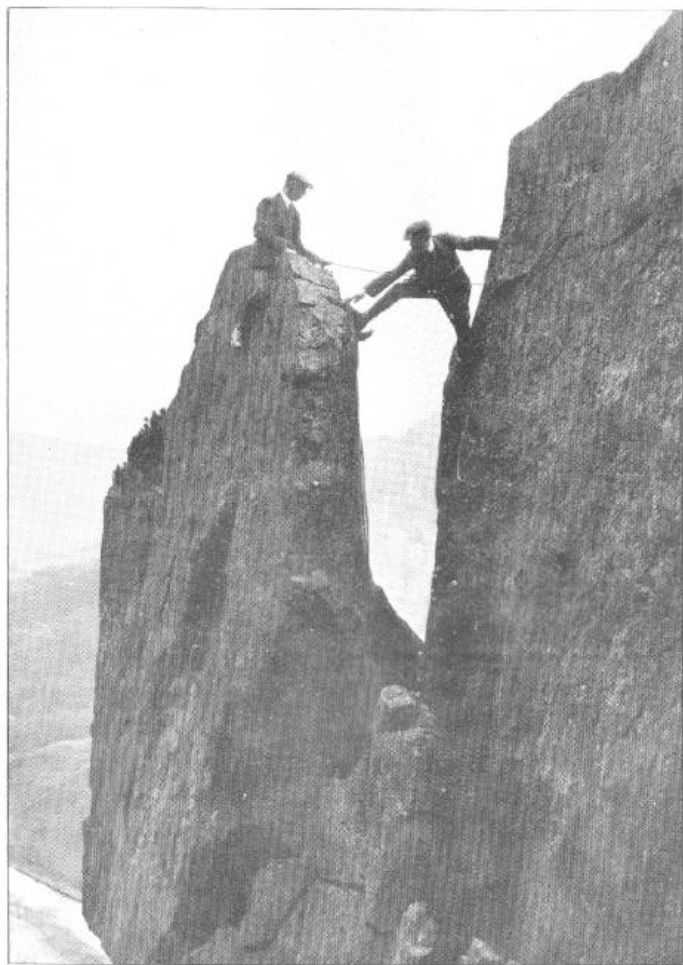


Photo by

BOWDER PINNACLE.

Ralph Mayson.

is reached requiring care in wet weather. 30 feet up steep grass follows, and then the second pitch is climbed by a deep cut chimney, perhaps 18 feet high. (3rd pitch) A dangerous looking fringe of stones must be passed on the left, using a rib of rock high up on the left. (4th pitch) A real problem is afforded by a little chimney on the right. The leader should not attempt this until the second man is in the recess. There is a right hand hold on the buttress, and a ledge on the chockstone may be used higher up. (5th pitch) Is short, with unsatisfactory holds at the top.

B GULLY.—Proceed along the terrace, at the foot of the crags, for 30 yards to the left. Then a deeply cut gully can be seen, after climbing a steep grass slope. Some wedged blocks can be passed on the left, and a narrow chimney entered from a good ledge on the right. The large stone at the foot of the chimney should be used with caution. Grass ledges complete the climb.

C GULLY.—Is well seen from the Grasmere track, and is to be identified by its overhanging roof. An attempt to climb it failed.

D GULLY.—To the left of the last-mentioned. The main wall of Eagle Crag forms the left wall of the gully at the start. (1st pitch) A narrow vertical chimney proves easy until about 15 feet up, when both feet may be brought out to a sloping edge. Some vigorous wriggling leads to a rough shelf a few feet higher. (2nd pitch) The next pitch consists of a group of stones almost covered with vegetation. (3rd pitch) 40 feet higher a fine slanting chimney is entered. Starting well in the chimney, the climber may gradually work out to the left until level with the chockstone. Then it is advisable to turn to the right. A short vertical pitch, before the chimney slopes back at an easy angle, provides a delightful finish. Possibilities of further climbing are also suggested. The gullies on this face must be treated with great caution. Mr. A. W. Wilson lost his life in A Gully while climbing alone, June, 1923.

Eagle Crag (Langstrath Face).—Just after entering Langstrath by the route already referred to, the steep face of Eagle Crag attracts attention. The lower rocks are not worth a

visit, but an ascent in the direction of the "col" which separates Eagle Crag from Sergeant Crag, by somewhat steep grass slopes, will reveal other possibilities. This side of Eagle Crag, which faces nearly south west, is extremely steep at its base. At the height of 80 feet or so it is crossed by a broad ledge or terrace, above which the rocks rise at a less uncompromising angle. A short gully high up on the right can be climbed without any difficulty, and an upward traverse made to the left until this terrace is reached. From here a zig-zag route was made to the summit, which proved of interest, though difficult to describe. In conjunction with the ascent of Sergeant Crag Gully, near by, these rocks will probably give a satisfactory day's work.

Sergeant Crag Gully.—Proceeding for a short distance along Langstrath a slanting course through the bracken will enable the foot of Sergeant Crag to be reached in about half an hour. The first pitch of its gully can be avoided on the left by a grass terrace, and its ascent is often omitted, but is worth doing on a dry day. Steep scrambling ensues till the second pitch 15 feet or so in height and crowned by a chockstone, is reached. It can be easily climbed on its left wall. The 3rd pitch is not more than 9 feet in height; the walls of the gully are not far apart, and good holds can be found for the pull up. (4th pitch) Boulders form a block about 15 feet high; the right hand of the gully is ascended to this block, which is passed over on its left. (5th pitch) This pitch, which has hitherto been called the 4th pitch, owing to the previous omission of the real 1st pitch, is by far the hardest in the gully. It can be avoided by making a short traverse in the right wall immediately above the pitch last described. An easily climbed gully is then ascended, and at its top a traverse to the left leads into the main gully without any difficulty. If the 5th pitch is to be climbed direct, a few feet of screes must be ascended. Holds on the left wall must first be used and eventually a recess reached. From here an awkward pull up through thick vegetation can be effected. The 6th pitch is easy, and much grass does not interfere with its ascent. The 7th pitch consists of wedged stones, and is steep and strenuous rather than difficult. It is of no great height. (8th pitch) A few

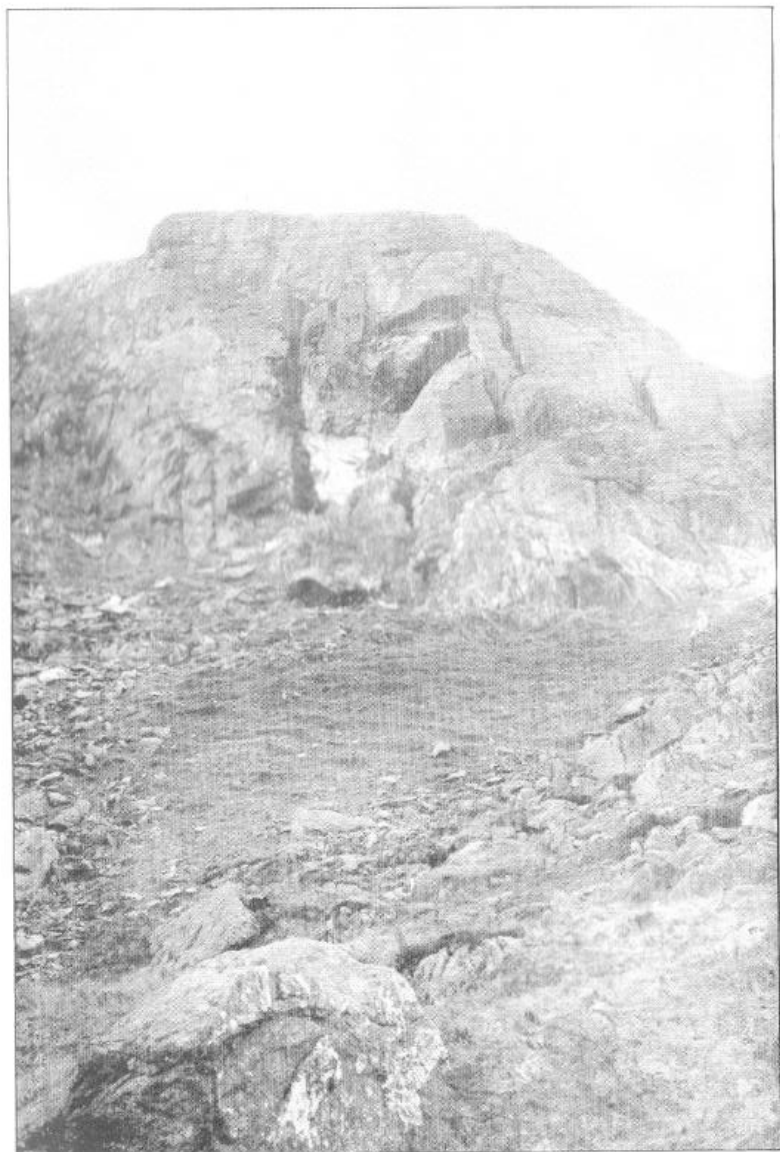
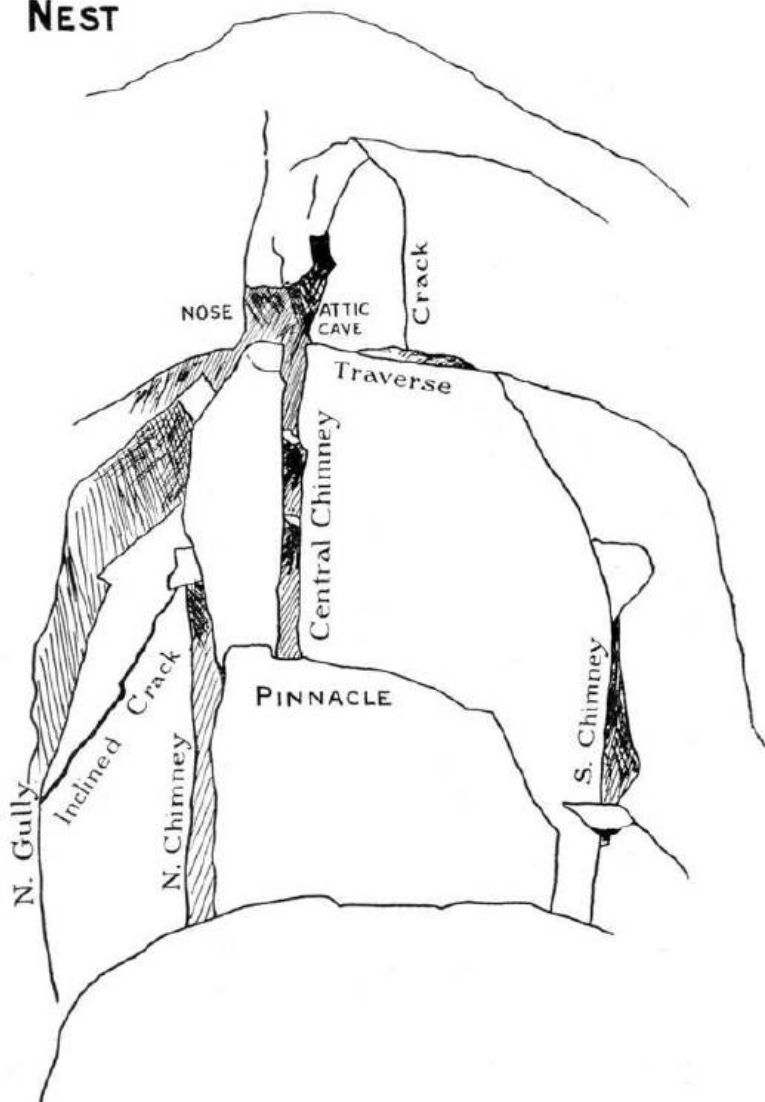


Photo by

DOVES' NEST FROM BELOW.

Ralph Mayson.

DOVE NEST



feet higher up, the gully is left on the right. The step on to a slab, rather smooth and devoid of holds, requires care. After the ascent of this slab the climb is practically over.

The rocks on the opposite side of the valley have been explored. In their lower section they are extremely steep, but can be climbed by a kind of sloping terrace consisting chiefly of grass and heather. Their upper portion is more interesting, and an arête was ascended to the summit, which gave amusing climbing of only moderate difficulty.

Gash Rock.—The Gash Rock, about 20 feet high, and close to the stream which drains the Langstrath valley, gives two problems. The north west side of approach is steep, but for the first 8 feet or so there is no lack of holds for hands or feet; the rest of the ascent is not difficult. On the other side, boulders are used until the summit is not far distant. The final pull up is, for most people, not easy.

Doves' Nest Caves, etc.—At "Mountain View" cottages about a quarter of a mile on the Keswick side of Seatoller, a turn to the left is made through a gate. Keeping to the left a green cart track is followed until it vanishes in marshy land above. By keeping to the left side of this and a little up the fell side, wet feet can be avoided. After threequarters of an hour the crags of Doves' Nest will be just above one to the left. Raven Crag, with its many pitched gully, is on the right. The climbing portion of Combe Ghyll lies straight ahead. Before the marshy ground is reached, some rocks will be noticed on the left, about 300 feet up the fell side. Several interesting little climbs can be made on these. Further on an outcrop 80 or 100 feet high can be climbed on its left. A cairn marks the start. This climb is only of moderate difficulty, but it is steep, and care is necessary on account of loose holds. Further on at a high level, a deep cut gully will be seen. It contains one pitch of considerable difficulty.

Doves' Nest.—A pretty complete account of this has been given in the *Journal of the Fell and Rock Climbing Club* (Vol. 3, No. 2, p. 78). It contains many short problems. The face is divided some distance up by three chimneys. The North and Cen-

tral Chimneys terminate in a deep recess called the Attic Cave. About half way up a mass of rock stands out, separated from the rocks behind by a deep cleft. On the right is the South Chimney, from near the bottom of which an entrance can be made to the underground passage by which an ascent can be made to the Attic Cave. Approaching the rocks from below a slab 40 feet high is climbed by its left side, without difficulty, to a grass plot, whence an ascent of 20 feet on the right brings one to the base of the pinnacle. The South Chimney is then reached by a walk of a few steps. From this point also an ascent up a corner of 15 or 20 feet brings one to the summit of the pinnacle. Thence, by a short descent and a long stride across the gap already mentioned, the Central Chimney is reached. This forms an easy means of reaching the Attic Cave. Progressing outwards to its balcony and making a short traverse on the left wall, a crack is reached and climbed with difficulty for about 20 feet. At the top, a movement to the left and round a steep corner brings one to easy rocks and, eventually, to the summit of the crag. The North Chimney is easily entered from the base of the pinnacle, and is on its left. A scramble leads to an archway whose summit can be attained by strenuous "backing up" from outside, or, more easily and with much less effort, from inside. A traverse on the left brings one into the North Gully, which is of little interest, and by a pull up through a hole, the Attic Cave is attained. The South Chimney on the other side is really difficult, smooth, almost vertical, about 25 feet high, and covered with a dirty green deposit. Its ascent is best avoided.

Before commencing its ascent a hole will be noticed on the left hand wall, which is scratched with an arrow. This is the through route. Candles and care are now necessary if the passage, upwards or downwards is to be explored. An excellent ledge on the right wall can be traversed for 15 or 20 feet, and an easy descent made into the basement by means of convenient boulders. The depth is at most 20 feet. In order to ascend to the Attic Cave a traverse on the right wall is to be made with care. Then a climb of 20 feet by a species of gully brings one to a good stance. A step or two

to the right and a narrow chimney is reached which can be climbed without any great difficulty. A pull up after a short traverse brings one to the Attic Cave.

Combe Ghyll.—Combe Ghyll has only two pitches worthy of mention—

- (1) A chimney nearly 30 feet high, down which, even in dry weather, falls a considerable stream of water. This can be avoided more or less by a skilful use of both walls, till a movement can be made on the right and the chimney finished on that side.
- (2) The second pitch is a little shorter than the first, nearly vertical, and is composed of very rotten rock. It is likewise wet. It can be climbed direct, but the easy route on the right hand side will attract most people. These two pitches are preceded, divided, and followed by interesting scrambling.

Raven Crag Gully.—Is a conspicuous cleft facing "Dove's Nest" on the opposite side of the valley. It was first climbed in 1893, and a very full and extremely interesting account is given in Jones' "Rock Climbing in the English Lake District." As will appear from that account, from which the writer has borrowed, the route selected will depend to a great extent on the amount of water present in the gully, which is always wet. The climb starts with a pitch 40 feet high if taken from the bottom; it is easily avoided by grassy rocks on the left. The second pitch, about 80 feet in height, is usually done on the right by a species of shelf which is exposed, but not particularly steep or difficult. A traverse is made at the top into the gully, and this requires care. The third pitch is nearly as high as the second. The gully here is very narrow, and ledges on either side of it can be used. After a pull up, a crack on the right is reached and the boulders crowning the pitch ascended from thence. The fourth pitch appears to be, and is very difficult. An ascent is first made into a cave 40 or 50 feet up. There is a rib of rock on the right hand side of the pitch. This may be ascended, or use may be made of the gully or chimney on its right. In either case there is considerable difficulty owing to lack of holds. From the cave the jammed boulders dominating the pitch have to be surmounted. The

first of these can be reached by the right wall of the gully, whence there is no great difficulty in overcoming the second.

A large amphitheatre is now reached, and the formidable last pitch, 100 feet or so in height appears on the right. The ascent direct is generally avoided. The first part is simple, up to a stone which is wedged in the gully, and above which there is room for two. Above this a large block of rock prevents an ascent on the right of the chimney which is overhead, and which looks possible in its upper portion. A crack between the rock and some slabs on its right can be used with assistance from behind, and a niche gained by the right foot. In the crack above, an angular stone is jammed, behind which the rope can be passed. This stone is used as a hand hold and the knee jammed in the crack. From here the ascent into the cave above presents less difficulty. The cave itself has room for two. A traverse for 6 feet on the left is now made, and the final pitch surmounted by a crack on the left. It is usual to leave this direct finish. From the first block about 20 feet up a way is made on the right to a belaying pin about 30 feet from the summit. From here it is possible to traverse back into the cave to just below the final difficulty. A more satisfactory and safer ascent is direct up the buttress above the belaying pin. This alternative to the direct climb is very sensational and the holds small. The climbing, however, is not particularly difficult. It may be mentioned that a way has been made up the buttress to the left of the gully. There are two really difficult pitches, but the climb contains too much heather and grass to be satisfactory.

Hind Crag Buttress (Glaramara).—About a quarter of an hour's walk from Seathwaite, and just before reaching Stockley Bridge, a crag will be seen on the left called Hind Crag. It is reached by a laborious trudge up screes and grass for about 500 feet. The crag itself contains much grass and heather. It is between 200 and 300 feet in height. Its right side is extremely steep, but on the left the rocks rise at an easier angle. About the centre a start was made (cairn) on slabs which, at the outset, were not difficult. After 30 feet or so of climbing, which became harder with every step, progress was arrested by a steep and smooth slab about 15 feet high, and

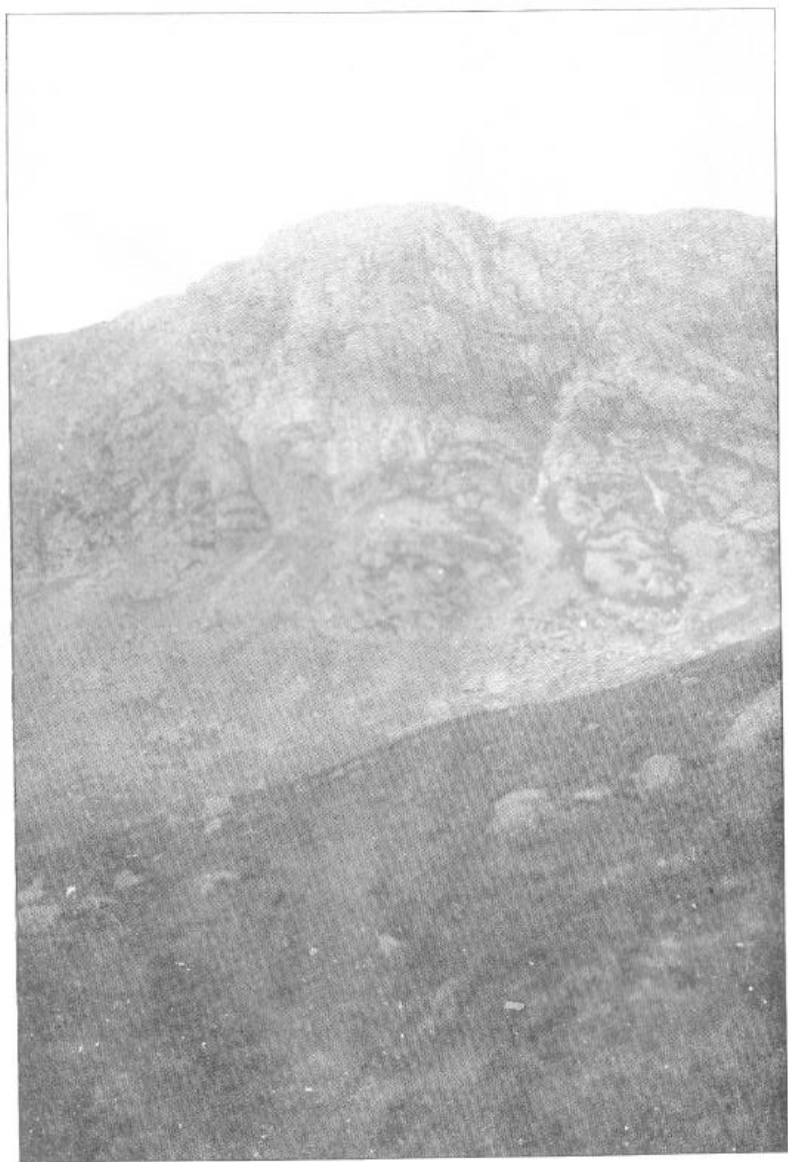


Photo by

GILLERCOMBE BUTTRESS.

Mrs. M. Hewson.

covered with ice. It might just be made to "go" under favourable conditions. A traverse was made to the right, and easy slabs, forming the left wall of a gully, were followed for 30 feet. Then the gully was ascended by a zig-zag route for another 30 feet. The climbing was not difficult, but loose grass holds made great caution necessary. As the angle was becoming steeper the low wall on the left was climbed, and a few feet of simple work brought us to easy ground. A traverse was made to the left, and an arête followed to the summit. This gave 100 feet of climbing on very good rock. Some variation was possible, and the difficulties, such as they were, were short.

GILLERCOMBE BUTTRESS.

(From description by H. S. Gross.)

Gillercombe Buttress is on the South West face of Grey Knotts, and overlooks the head of Borrowdale above Sourmilk Ghyll. It is some 600 feet in height. To reach Gillercombe a start is made through the farm buildings at Seathwaite, and the bridge over the stream crossed. One can then take a slanting course up the fell side to the left of Sour Milk Ghyll. After passing some slabs, which give amusing climbing suitable for an "off" day, a track is struck which conducts one through a gateway on to the very wet ground above. An alternative track takes the right hand side of the beck. Higher up on this side, a small crag gives on its left a steep ascent up a little chimney which is well scratched with boot nails. Whichever way is taken, the Buttress lies straight ahead and is reached in about an hour. Towards its left hand side a gully will be noticed which forks some distance up. The smaller buttress to the left gives no continuous climb. To the right is the main buttress. It is of good sound rock, but is somewhat broken by broad heather ledges. Further over this is even more the case. At the end of the crag is a deep corner containing the remains of ravens' nests. This in itself may almost be taken as an indication that there is

nothing here for the climber. On the right a scree shoot forms a convenient line of descent.

The Butress.—Severe. Any footgear. Leader needs 55 feet of rope.

The climb lies on the corner to the right of the gully, and the start is from a cairn immediately above an ash tree, which grows a few yards down the scree.

The first pitch starts straight up the corner on the side of the gully. The rocks are steep and canted at an awkward angle. A stance and belay are reached in 40 feet. From here leave to the left of the belay up shelving rocks for 20 feet, then make an upward traverse to the right on a slab covered with black moss. This leads at 45 feet to a stance and a rusty iron "piton"—a belay which is unique in the Lake District. A difficult 20 foot traverse to the left now follows, with an awkward balance on a mantelshelf up to a large heather terrace.

A traverse of 50 feet to the left on heather leads to the corner of the gully at the foot of a chimney. The chimney is 30 feet high, and of moderate difficulty. It is followed by grass ledges to a stance and detached block belay at 45 feet. A better route is, instead of traversing the heather, go straight up heather for 70 feet to the foot of a steep wall. Difficult rocks are climbed straight ahead for 40 feet to a sloping rock landing. (From here a traverse round corner to the left leads to the top of the chimney). A further 15 feet lead to the stance and detached block belay.

A steep awkward little pitch of ten feet leads to a large ledge and cairn. A good belay will be found 20 feet from the edge. From here a number of routes are available. The original route here goes to the left up 80 feet of scrambling until a steep wall is reached, where an arrow is scratched on the rock close to a detached flake of rock, which leans against the face. The route then lies to the right for 25 feet, and then up and out to the right for 35 feet. A traverse of 40 feet is made to the edge of a fern filled chimney. 50 feet straight up on mossy rocks lead to a stance at the foot of a mossy chimney with a belay on the right. The chimney of 35 feet is difficult, and

gives on to ledges. 40 feet of scrambling lead to the cairn at the summit.

Variation Finish (I).—From the arrow scratched on the wall. This arrow is at a point almost on the edge of the gully. From the flake of rock, step out to the left slightly, and climbing on good small holds a belay on the left of a ledge is reached in 30 feet. The route now lies straight up the slabs ahead for 50 feet to the foot of a mossy little chimney containing bilberry, etc. A good belay will be found in a detached block 8 feet to the right of the chimney. A further 30 feet of slabs lead to a small cairn at the end of all difficulty.

Variation Finish (II).—The route is the same as above for 30 feet. The route then bears somewhat to the left for 55 feet to a block belay. A chimney formed by a large detached block is avoided by climbing a steep wall to the right for 40 feet to a small cairn. Scrambling only remains.

The climbing on this portion of the buttress can be varied a good deal, as the rock consists of a large stretch of good slabs of sound rock.

The Gully.—Very difficult. Any footgear. Leader needs 65 feet of rope.

A grassy walk up the gully leads to a wet mossy pitch of 25 feet. This gives on to a steep grass landing. A walk follows up 50 feet of the grassy gully, to a point where it branches. A dirty looking chimney goes up to the left, and there is nothing to interest the climber in that branch.

The right branch provides a good pitch. A crack in the corner leading up steep and mossy slabs to a belay at the top in 60 feet. A grass promenade follows.

A 15 foot chimney with a chock on the right forms the next pitch, and another 25 feet of grassy chimney leads to a small holly tree and stance. A rather stiffer chimney of 40 feet now follows, with a bad landing and a loose hold on the right at the top. A belay will be found on the right. A loose grassy chimney of 50 feet follows with scrambling to the top of the crag.

Gillorcombe Chimneys.—Severe. Rubbers preferable. Leader needs 60 feet of rope.

The climb starts at a cairn 20 yards to the left of the point where the wire fence joins the buttress. It is somewhat artificial.

A 25 foot slab is climbed in a corner to a heather ledge. The steep mossy wall above can be climbed and a difficult traverse made to the right to the foot of a chimney. This portion is easily avoided by a ledge leading to the right. The chimney is then climbed, and is easy until it becomes necessary to leave it on the left. An awkward move is entailed. A small hold will be found on the right, and a good one high up in front for the left, a knee balance lands one on a stance, with a belay on the right at 40 feet. The climb goes straight up mossy rocks for 55 feet to a grass ledge. 20 feet upwards to the right a second chimney rises from a large bilberry ledge. The chimney is climbed for 20 feet, and is then quitted on the left up 10 feet of difficult rock to a grass stance. 50 feet of scrambling follow on rock and heather ledges, until a chimney containing an outstanding chockstone is reached. The chimney of 40 feet is easier than the previous chimneys. A belay and stance are found at the top. 40 feet more of scrambling straight ahead lead to a juniper bush and a good belay. A traverse is made up and to the left for 20 feet. 35 feet straight ahead land one at the end of the traverse on the ordinary route. A few feet to the left along the traverse will be found a broken block. To the left of this a very difficult green mossy chimney leads to the end of the climb. Scrambling remains to the summit.

High Seawdel Gully.—A very difficult little gully will be noticed on the right, when going from Seatoller to Honister Pass. To reach it, turn off just where the new and old roads join above the steep first portion of the ascent. Two conspicuous black holes can be seen, and they constitute the only two difficult pitches. Except in very dry weather the place is not worth a visit. Amusing scrambling up the stream bed leads to the first pitch, which is not more than 15 feet high, but wet, slimy and awkward. A short and easy slab leads to the second pitch. Here the right wall is ascended with difficulty for 8 or 10 feet. A movement is then made round the stone which roofs in the pitch, and an ascent made on its

right. Above, two pitches of no particular interest complete the climb.

Gate Crag.—The collection of rocks facing the Bowder Stone, but on the opposite side of the stream, is perhaps worth a visit. There are three more or less defined ridges, on which routes—which consist chiefly of scrambles up steep heather—can be made. A stiff bit of rock can be found here and there, and there is a small pinnacle about the centre of the crags, standing out from the main mass. It can be approached by an easy traverse from the right, and climbed from behind by good ledges. An ascent into this gap from the left hand side was not attempted.

Knitting How.—When near the Bowder Stone a little peak will be noticed on the other side of the Derwent. It is high up on the fell side, between Gate Crag and the shoulder of Maiden Moor. On the left side of its pointed summit will be noticed rocks, very steep at their base, and divided from the upper portion of the crag by a terrace. They can be reached by the road which passes through the village of Grange, in the direction of Castle Crag. A way is made through the wood and up the fell side, past numerous outcrops of rock which give interesting problems. Keeping towards the stream on the left, and along the base of the crags, a sloping slab (cairn at bottom) is ascended just to the left of a gully full of vegetation. After 30 feet of moderate difficulty, a ledge is reached, and a traverse made behind a holly bush. 15 feet of much steeper ascent follow, and the gully is then at hand on the right. An ascent for 40 feet or so is made along the arête of its left wall, then when its summit is almost reached, the gully may be crossed. An easy traverse for 15 feet from left to right, and an ascent for another 15 feet or so, of no particular difficulty, bring one to the terrace already mentioned. Here this little climb may be said to end, but it may be prolonged, either by the ascent of a steep little chimney almost straight ahead, or by another climb starting lower down the terrace (cairn). A short vertical chimney about 20 feet high, with a tree near its base, is climbed by good holds. One then proceeds up rotten heather and rocks, which require care, and finally by slabs on the left for

40 feet or so right up to the summit. A descent can be made by a good track on the North side, passing along the rocks to the foot of Maiden Moor Buttress.

MAIDEN MOOR.

Maiden Moor is for the most part an unattractive mixture of heather and rock. It will, however, be noticed that there are three conspicuous gullies. That on the left contains a dark cleft, its big pitch, and is called "Mouse Ghyll." It is by far the best climb on this side of Borrowdale. To the right of this a gully slants from right to left, called the "Bridge Gully." The gully to the right again appears to end about 100 feet up the face, and has attracted little attention, perhaps owing to its severity and the lack of a defined start.

Mouse Ghyll.—Difficult; Abraham's variation severe.

At the start there is a steep little pitch not more than 15 feet high. It can be easily avoided on the left, but is worth doing. The next pitch begins with about 40 feet of easy staircase work up to a kind of cave formed by the lower of two jammed boulders. From here a short and awkward traverse is made to the left, and an ascent between the left wall and the boulder, to its summit. The upper boulder has then to be climbed. This can be done with considerable difficulty on its left side, or by an easy scramble on its right. The ascent on the left, though not high, calls for an expert leader. The climb can be finished direct by two short pitches of moderate difficulty. An easy exit may be made on the right by a chimney. On the left an ascent was made many years ago by Messrs. G. and A. Abraham, who gave the following account of it:—"After scrambling up a fairly easy pitch, we found ourselves at the foot of a very steep and almost holdless crack. An attempt or two directly up the crack convinced us that it was hopeless, so an ascent was made up the right hand wall, and the crack joined about 12 or 15 feet higher. This was kept to for about a yard, and then a traverse was effected into a small groove on the right hand wall, and this was followed until it terminated at the top of a little splintered pinnacle. A shoulder was here given,

and a traverse made back to the left into the crack above its difficulties."

Bridge Gully.—Bridge Gully on the right of Mouse Ghyll, begins with a very formidable first pitch. It is usual, if not necessary, to ascend by a slab on the right, some 25 feet high. This, although not steep, is singularly devoid of good holds. After this for a few feet further a traverse is made to the right without much difficulty, and an easy path to the left is followed to the top of the pitch. Easy scrambling follows for some distance till a rock face is seen ahead, split by a chimney in which, 20 feet up, stones are jammed. Passing under these stones their top is easily reached from inside. From here the ascent of the final 15 feet is hard. Skilful bridging or laborious backing up bring a hold on the right within reach, a movement can then be made to the left, and the chockstone surmounted with difficulty. A number of little pitches of the "South East Gully, Great End" type complete the climb.

Gully to Right.—Reference to climbing literature leads one to believe that this gully has been ascended, but an attempt on it direct by a very expert leader failed at the top of the first definite pitch. The bottom of the gully is best reached by a short and amusing little chimney. A traverse is then made to the right, and screes ascended for a few feet. A 40 foot pitch is then ahead. The lower sections were climbed without difficulty, but the final section was so wet and hold-less that the attempt was abandoned. Well on the right an ascent could probably be made without great difficulty, and after reaching the level of the top of the pitch, a traverse can readily be made into the bed of the gully. The two or three short pitches above appear to present no great difficulty. They were not attempted owing to excess of water.

Buttress to Right of Gully.—The wall on the right of this gully was climbed along its arête for 40 feet. A steep ascent up grass for 15 feet or so, followed, and then a traverse along an unstable turfy ledge to the right. Then followed another steep and awkward ascent for more than 20 feet up an arête. After this a traverse was made into the gully above its real pitches. A few feet of easy scrambling and an arête on the right was again followed to its summit, whence easy walking

brought us to the top of the fell. The climb was interesting, but a good deal of loose grass made it somewhat unsatisfactory in certain sections, and much care is needed.

CLASSIFICATION OF MORE IMPORTANT CLIMBS.

	Page
Easy—	
Falcon Crag Gully	39
Moderate—	
Ashness Gully	39
Hind Crag Buttress (Seathwaite)	48
Knitting How Buttress	52
Difficult—	
Walla Crag Gully	38
Sergeant Crag Gully (on right)	44
Mouse Ghyll (usual way)	54
Bowder Stone Pinnacle (by gully on right)	41
Very Difficult—	
High Scawdel Gully	52
Black Crag Buttress	40
Gillercombe Gully.....	51
Mouse Ghyll (finishing big pitch on left)	54
Sergeant Crag Gully (direct)	44
Raven Crag Gully	47
Severe—	
Bowder Stone Pinnacle (by face to left of gully)	41
Black Crag Gully	40
Gillercombe Chimneys	51
Gillercombe Buttress (with variations)	50
Mouse Ghyll (Abraham's finish)	54

LIST OF FIRST ASCENTS.

By H. P. CAIN.

-
- 1893, Sept. 6th—Sergeant Crag Gully O. G. Jones and
J. W. Robinson.
- 1893, Sept. 1st—Raven Crag Gully W. A. Wilson and
April 28th, 1897—Top Pitch direct : J. W. Robinson.
O. G. Jones, C. W. Patchell, and
H. C. Bowen.
- 1897, Sept. 27th—Mouse Ghyll W. Cecil Slingsby and
Oct. 1st, 1897—Left Hand Exit : A. G. Topham.
G. D. Abraham, A. P. Abraham, and
W. Philipson.
- 1912, May 28th—Gillercombe Buttress H. B. Lyon and
May 17th, 1921—First Variation W. A. Woodsend.
Finish : J. Wray, H. Harland, G. A.
Solly, and Graham Wilson.
May 18th—Second Variation ; R. S.
T. Chorley, E. O. Harland, and
J. C. Appleyard.
June, 1922—Chimneys Climb : H.
S. Gross, J. Wray, E. O. Harland,
H. Harland, E. F. Harland.
- 1913, Sept.—Gillercombe Gully H. B. Lyon and
A. S. Walker.
-

INDEX.

- A**
- Abbey Buttress 11, 12
 Approaches (Gable) 4
 Arrowhead Gully 9
 Arrowhead Ridge 9, 10
 Ashness Ghyll 43
 Attic Cave 50
- B**
- Beckhead 4
 Belfry Crack 19
 Black Crag 44
 Black Crag Buttress 44
 Black Crag Gully 44
 Boat Howe Crag ... S, 30-1, 34
 Borrowdale... .. 5, 40
 Borrowdale Yews 5
 Bottle Shaped Pinnacle Ridge 30
 Bowderstone Pinnacle 45
 Breakwater Slabs 31
 Bridge Gully 59
 Buzzard Wall 18
- C**
- Castle Head 41
 Cat Rock 6, 8, 33
 Cat Walk 22
 Central Climb (Kern Knotts) 23
 Central Gully 28
 Chinty Buttress 17
 Classified Lists 32, 60
 Collier, Dr. 34
 Combe Ghyll 51
 Cutlass Ridge 11
- D**
- Doctor's Chimney 27
 Dove's Nest Caves 49
 Dress Circle... .. 6
- E**
- Eagle's Corner 14
 Eagle Crag 47-8
 Eagle's Nest (West Chimney) 12
 Eagle's Nest (Direct) ... 13, 34
 East Buttress (Kern Knotts) 24
 Engineer's Chimney 29
 Eskhause 5
- F**
- Falcon Crag 43
 Flake Climb (Kern Knotts) 21
 Frankland, C. D. 34
 Gash Rock 49
 Gate Crag 57
 Gavelneese 4
 Gillercombe Buttress 34, 53-6
 Gillercombe Chimneys ... 55
 Girdle Climb (Needle) ... 17
 Graham, F. 34
 Great Hell Gate 5
 Green Gable 5
- H**
- Haskett-Smith, W. P. ... 33-4
 Hatchway and Rigging Climb 31
 High Scawdel Gully 56
 Hind Crag Buttress 52
- I**
- Innominate Crack (Kern Knotts) 24
- J**
- Jones, O. G. 34
- K**
- Kelly, H. M. 34
 Kern Knotts 7, 21, 34
 Kern Knotts Buttress ... 23
 Kern Knotts Central Climb 23
 Kern Knotts Chimney ... 23
 Kern Knotts Crack 24
 Kern Knotts East Buttress 24
 Kern Knotts Flake Climb ... 21
 Kern Knotts West Buttress 22
 Kern Knotts West Chimney 22
 Knitting How 57
- L**
- Ladies' Rake 42
 Langdale 5
 Lardon Arête 31
 Lighthouse 31
 Ling Chimney 13
 Lingmell Crack 17
 Little Hell Gate 5
 Lower Kern Knotts 25-6
 Lucifer Crack 20
 Lyon, H. B. 34
- M**
- Maiden Moor 58
 Mallory's Climb (Gable Crag) 30
 Memorial Tablet 7
 Moses Finger 4
 Moses Trod... .. 4
 Mouse Ghyll 58
- N**
- Napes 8
 Needle (Napes) 16, 33
 Needle Arête 15
 Needle Gully 15
 Niche, The 24
- O**
- Oblique Chimney 29
 Obverse Route (Needle) ... 17
- R**
- Rainbow Ridge 9
 Raven's Crag 26
 Raven Crag Gully 51
 Robinson, J. W. 33
 Rosset Ghyll 35

INDEX—*continued.*

S			
Sabre Ridge ... ..	...	...	11
Scimitar Ridge ... ..	...	...	9
Seawall Arête ... ..	...	...	31
Sergeant Crag ... ..	...	...	46
Sergeant Crag Gully ... ..	...	...	48
Shark's Fin... ..	...	...	20
Smugglers' Chimney... ..	...	...	27
Solly, G. A.... ..	...	...	34
Sphinx, The ... ..	...	...	6, 8
Sphinx Ridge ... ..	...	...	8
Starboard Chimney ... ..	...	...	30
Styhead ... ..	...	...	4, 5
T			
Tophet Bastion ... ..	...	...	19
Tophet Wall ... ..	...	...	20
Tricouni Rib ... ..	...	...	15
W			
Walla Crag ... ..	...	...	41
Walla Crag Gully ... ..	...	...	42
Wasdale ... ..	...	...	4
Westmorland Crag ... ..	...	...	6
West Buttress (Kern Knotts)	...	...	22
West Chimney (Kern Knotts)	22
White Napes	5
Wilson, A. W.	47
Wind Gap	5
Z			
Zeta Climb	18

NOTES.

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