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A FORTNIGHT AT OGWEN COTTAGE.

A PARTY of variable size and constitution, though as a rule led by Mr. George Abraham or Mr. Glynne Jones, spent the latter half of the month of April in the neighbourhood of Ogwen. As some of their expeditions were new, and others only slightly known, it is hoped that these notes of their doings may prove interesting. A continuance of evil weather debarred any exhaustive examination in that short period of the climbs on the Glyders and Tryfan; but with the exception of an hour or two spent on the lower crags of Braich Du, the end buttress of Carnedd Dafydd, the attention of the party was given entirely to these two familiar mountains.

Of the two popular gullies on the south side of Tryfan nothing need be said, excepting perhaps that the pinnacle at the divide in the North Gully has a summit large enough for a lunching party of five, the displacement due to lunch not exceeding six cubic inches for each member present. The buttress to the right (looking upwards) of the North Gully offers magnificent scrambling, if it be taken directly up the central line of rocks to the foot of the overhanging green chimney. There it seems desirable to work round to the left for a few yards, and make for the "Low Man," now marked by a small cairn, by some steep wall-climbing high up above the North Gully. The scrambling above the Low Man is less difficult, but a beautiful crack of twenty feet gives an excellent finish to the whole. The other buttresses on this face of Tryfan appear to be easier, and to justify Mr. Haskett Smith's complaint of the superabundance of holds hereabouts. A subsidiary buttress on the lake side of Tryfan starts from about the 1100 feet level close to the milestone. The first three hundred feet are delightful, and if the same general direction be followed after the buttress has merged into the mountain side, slabs and cracks and pinnacles in plenty will attract attention and extort both time and tissue. One pinnacle in particular has a difficult chimney on its north side that is well worth visiting. How sad it is that the events which took place in the chimney should have so much impressed themselves in the minds of the ardent pair who led up, and yet have obliterated from their memory all recollection of the pinnacle itself, and the way to find it!

Besides the two great gullies on Glyder Fawr, of which the party all thought the western the more difficult, two others to the east were ascended without trouble. The one is distinctly on the same face as the great gullies; it is identified by the two projecting blocks at the top and a diminutive cairn marks the finish. The

other marks the eastern boundary of the face, and is only interesting when snow is about.

Continuing upwards in the same direction from the head of this easy gully, we enter the great Cwm contained by the Glyder Fawr ridge and Cribyn. In the highest eastern buttress of the former, a short but difficult gully is to be found.

This was climbed twice by its right branch, the left being impossible on the first occasion on account of the drapery of ice, while on the second the great mass of falling water compelled the party to choose the easier way.

It was found that the big pitch in the left branch could be turned by a rather awkward traverse from the right, and that the climb could be varied by digressing considerably to the left towards a remarkable slab pinnacle, scarcely distinguishable from the main mass of the mountain excepting when viewed in profile. The doings of the party when first investigating this gully are scarcely fit reading for earnest climbers. There were thirteen present of whom four were ladies, and the majority novices. The snow and ice were really difficult, the rope was lamentably insufficient. A pocket knife was the nearest approach to an ice axe that they possessed, and their garments were better adapted for a sultry grind up the southern slopes of the Glyders on a summer's day, rather than for the dreary sunless waiting beneath an incessant fall of ice-chips and snow-balls that characterised the greater part of the four hours that they spent in the gully.

An ascent of the Devil's Kitchen was made by Messrs. Abraham, Jones, Hill and Puttrell. The crack leading to the upper grass patch will always be difficult; but it is believed that in future the second man may ascend to the grass patch without fearing that any slight mistake of his will bring down the leader. For the leader can now belay himself firmly by looping a rope through a hole recently unearthed beside the grass patch, and as a double security, specially useful when he comes to starting along the traverse, he can steady himself by a rope passing behind the little rocky projection that marks the beginning of this traverse. While this projection holds on, the Devil's Kitchen climb is feasible, but a close examination shows that its base is weathering away, and it is to be hoped that climbers will deal with it gently as they pass by.

The splendid wall of rock that runs northward from the Kitchen towards y Garn is probably unsurpassed for steepness in the whole district. A boulder rolled over the edge, a few yards from the Kitchen, fell for 5 seconds before striking, indicating a

clear drop of about 400 feet. Corresponding to the easy walk over scree up to the top of the cliff, by the left (or south) side of the Kitchen, there is a similarly easy walk along a ledge by the right side. From a distance these two form a symmetrical bow-shaped ledge, concave upwards, terminating each extremity at the skyline, and enclosing three well-marked gullies. The greatest of these is the Devil's Kitchen itself. A short distance to the right may be identified a long black vertical crack dividing near the top into two branches; this we propose to call the Devil's Staircase, disregarding the owner when pressed for space. Still more to the right a similar formation occurs, looking a trifle easier at the bottom, but with a branching top as before. This was labelled the Hanging Garden; rare plants are there in profusion, but one has to hang, almost overhang, before picking them.

To start the Staircase from the very base of the cliff probably requires a dry day, which our party never got. But by traversing along an interestingly narrow grass ledge from the Kitchen, Messrs. Abraham and Jones entered the gully above the first pitch, and had a magnificent scramble to the top. A great obstacle, about 200 feet up, required combined tactics to overcome. Then a vertical wall followed, like the Moss Ghyll wall below the Tennis Court, and the right hand branch of the gully led them far into the interior of the mountain, up a veritable chimney, and out near the top of the crags.

The Hanging Garden was climbed by the same pair directly from the foot. It is not so difficult, but towards the finish considerable care had to be exercised in ascending the thin crack that represents the right branch. The crack is vertical, and too thin to be entered. The holds are on the right wall, and are not to be trusted implicitly. It is in the central portion that botanical specimens abound, providently placed by nature just between the two hardest pitches in the gully.

Off-days at Ogwen may be profitably spent on the lower crags of Braich Du. There are many little ridges and walls of rock worth visiting, a few hundred yards on the north side of the pass. Also, it may be added, that the lowest portion of the Glyder Cribyn is composed of excellent rock, and that one crack in particular offers sport of a rather advanced order. It faces the cottage, and is rather grassy for the first half. Then it dwindles almost to invisibility just below a broad ledge (on which a cairn now marks the resting-place of a Whitsuntide party). Above the ledge there are two or three cracks by which the scramble may be terminated, perhaps the best being a fifteen feet problem round on the Idwal side of the cliff.