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THE NORTH ARÊTE OF CYFRWY.

By T. K. R.

CYFRWY has probably been climbed more often than any other cliff on Cader Idris. Within easy reach of Dolgelley, attractive in appearance, and full in view of every wayfarer who proceeds up or down the Foxes' Path, it cannot have escaped the observation of the most transitory visitor to the district. However, there seem to be still one or two climbs on it destitute of recorded ascents, and it is said by Haskett Smith in his book that one of these, the North Arête, "has probably not been ascended." On September 3rd, F. W. Rose and I tried the route and found it pleasant and interesting.

Starting from Llyn y Gader, we struck across the screes to the arête and found ourselves conducted naturally to a scree ledge with some rocks below, which remained for future investigation. The broad straight scree gully mentioned by Haskett Smith lay only a few yards to our right, and a shallow depression hardly to be called a gully (not marked in his sketch "elevation" of the cliff), and apparently offering an easy route upwards, was a little to our left. The way lies straight up for the first 130 feet, and the last pitch, 10 feet high, in this part of the climb may be turned on the right by working up a loose pile of rocks hanging over the gully.

From this point the arête is much sharper and more defined. It turns to the left, the grass slopes to the right being avoided. For the next 100 feet the scrambling is safe and easy, but entertaining to those who are fond of Cuchullin ridges—and who is not? Large loose rocks were abundant, and some were necessarily sent down. Passing the top of the flat gully on the left already mentioned, the arête turns again

and leads straight upwards, affording fine views of the impregnable slabs to the east, and at 300 feet from the foot of the climb the summit of the pinnacle is reached. The gully leading up from the left to this point appears from above to offer an interesting climb, but on the ridge the descent from the pinnacle to the mountain side is only about 10 feet.

The next 50 feet presents the only serious difficulty in the climb, and after inspecting it, the counsels of laziness and prudence prevailed, and we turned, it by an easy route to the right, immediately returning to the ridge at the top of the pitch. Finally, at 100 feet above the top of the pinnacle, and 200 feet below the summit of Cyfrwy, the climb ceases and becomes a promenade. Speaking generally, the arête hardly fulfils the promise its appearance seems to make. It resembles the east arête, and, with the elements of uncertainty of an unknown climb removed, it would perhaps be pronounced easier.