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TWO GULLIES ON TWR DU, CADER IDRIS.

*(Climbed on 28th and 29th August, 1902, by S. Ridsdale,
J. Phillips, and H. L. Jupp.)*

EAST GULLY.

THIS gully appears as a long narrow crack on the left side of the middle buttress of Twr Du. The first 100 feet or so is a V-shaped staircase, the rock being good and the going easy, except at one place. The first difficulty, which is the usual jammed rock, is soon reached, and may be passed on the right. The second is the "pièce de résistance" of the whole gully. The left side is quite vertical and covered with wet moss, with a small ledge half way up. The right wall impinges on this and overhangs a steep crack, also very wet and mossy, with the holds—where evident—the wrong way. This pitch was turned on the left and the gully entered again near the top, the upper part being easier. The third pitch is a chimney about 4 feet wide and 25 feet high, with the upper part narrowed by a big block. The fourth continues as a smaller chimney crowned with a heart-shaped rock, which is clearly visible from the scree below. The fifth is in two parts and offers no difficulty, and the gully may be finished by an arête—to the left of the direct route—giving a splendid little ridge finish to the climb.

WEST GULLY.

This gully starts with fairly easy scrambling, until an interesting crack is reached. This, the first pitch, is just wide enough for a small man to get into, but may also be taken



TWR DU, CADER IDRIS.

[Shewing the East and West Gullies.]

outside the overhanging leaf of rock which forms the beginning. The footholds will be found conveniently placed. At the top of this crack the gully opens out considerably, and may be followed straight up or on the right by easy rocks. Two rather narrow ledges are then reached, and pitch No. 2 is in sight. This is a very steep mossy crack, with rather smooth rock on the right and overhanging rock on the left forming the crack. This was found to be decidedly risky on account of the wet moss, so an alternative route was found, well to the right, consisting of a short ridge of black-looking rock, very difficult at the start to reach, and continuing difficult until half way up. The middle man negotiated this difficulty. A traverse can then be made back into the gully to the top of this pitch. At the 3rd pitch the crack continues at once, becoming very narrow but offering no special difficulty. The 4th is a chock-stone somewhat awkward to overcome. In the 5th the gully divides, so that the upper part can be reached only by starting up to the right and stepping across to the left into a crack, where the climbing is not specially difficult until a large overhanging leaf of rock is reached under which it is necessary to climb. Great care is required, as it is filled with grass and small loose stones. The crack can be followed to the top, with sufficient rope, and a traverse made over some smooth slabs to the right finishes the climb.

The second pitch mentioned above would probably "go" on further investigation, and should prove preferable to the alternative, which is very difficult.

There appears to be no record that these gullies have ever been climbed before, and the climbing, which in both gullies is continuous and at a very steep angle nearly all the way, would in all probability be sufficiently "interesting" to all, and under winter conditions may be impossible. The weather on the above occasion was very good, but there had been a lot of rain previously. A 100 feet rope was not found any too long for a party of three.

H. L. J.