



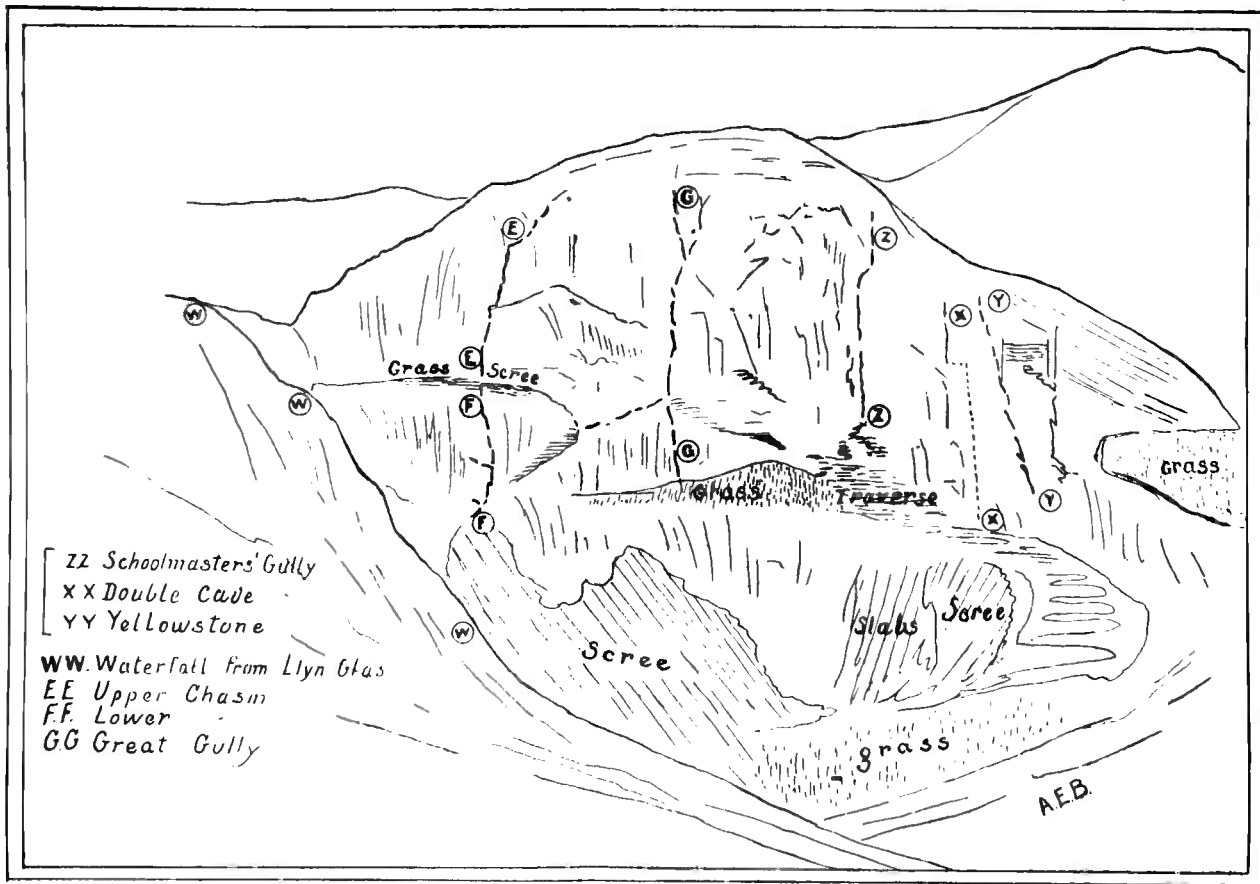
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CYRN LÂS FROM HALF WAY UP CWM GLAS MAWR.

## THREE NEW CLIMBS ON CYRN LÂS, SNOWDON.

AUGUST, 1906.

By GEORGE T. ATCHISON.

WE were a party of four—A. E. Barker, H. Mitchell, W. J. Drew and G. T. Atchison—on the first visit we had paid to North Wales for the purpose of climbing.

### THE YELLOWSTONE GULLY.

On August 6th, without any idea of finding new climbs, we first went to Cynr Lâs. Our intention was to attack the Lower and Upper Chasms. We passed the small lake below the Parson's Nose in Cwm Glas, and, without exactly knowing where we were, went along the grass and scree platform between the two Chasms. We then scrambled down to the well-marked grass traverse at the foot of the crag, and went right along this until we reached the foot of the gully, which we afterwards named the Yellowstone Gully. The first pitch looked attractive, so we roped up and set to work. About thirty feet above us was a large chock stone with its rough razor edge coming down almost in the centre of the gully. The leader, A. E. Barker, at first tried to pass this direct on the left hand side, but when he was immediately below the obstacle several flakes of the rough edge showed an inclination to become detached. After bombarding his long-suffering followers for a considerable time, the leader descended and attacked the nearly vertical wall on the left hand side. Holds were at first good and plentiful, until a small and somewhat rickety platform was reached about twenty feet up. Here the

second man joined the leader, who proceeded to traverse across to the top of the chock stone. The holds for this manœuvre were neither good nor plentiful, but it was safely accomplished. The second and third took the same route, but, after the leader had moved on, the last man climbed the pitch direct, thus proving that the doubtful stones were perfectly secure. Several short pitches followed, the most interesting being one up a narrow scoop between two rough faces of rock. Cairns were built at the foot and top of this climb, as well as a couple *en route*. We named this the Yellowstone Gully, on account of the colour of some of the loose stones and scree about two-thirds of the way up, which can fairly easily be seen from the Cwm below. [Climbed by A. E. B., G. T. A., W. J. D. and H. M.]

#### THE DOUBLE CAVE GULLY.

August 9th saw us again at Cynr Lâs, intending to devote our attention to further exploration. A gully, which appears shallow and ill-defined when seen from a distance, starts about thirty yards to the left of our Yellowstone Gully. An attempt was made to climb the first part of this direct, but it was soon abandoned. It involved dependence upon steep grass holds, which, after the rain, showed more than an inclination to come away. The leader, H. Mitchell, accordingly turned his attention to the sloping rock face on the right-hand side of the gully. Thirty feet of good firm rock with abundant holds was followed by at least a hundred feet of mixed scrambling and climbing until the gully was re-entered a short distance below a delightful cave. This cave consisted of two stories, one twelve feet above the other, with a jammed stone far out on a level with the upper floor. In the upper story, which was beautifully decorated with beech-ferns, we built a cairn. The cave was left by a good climb of about forty feet up the smooth sloping slab on the right-hand wall, where the holds were few and small, but perfectly sound.

Although indicated by dotted lines in the diagram, this gully is practically invisible from a distance, and its two

delightful top pitches come as a pleasant surprise and reward after a course of somewhat unsatisfactory scrambling. We are inclined to think that it would be by no means difficult to ascend the first few pitches of the Yellowstone Gully, traverse to the left and finally join the Double Cave Gully below the pitch from which we named it. We did not have time to test this surmise, but if such a route were practicable one could combine into one climb the really interesting features of both gullies. [Climbed by H. M., G. T. A., A. E. B. and W. J. D.]

#### THE SCHOOLMASTERS' GULLY.

While returning down Cwm Glas Mawr on the occasion of our second visit we were struck with the appearance of a conspicuous dark chimney on the face of the crag, rather to the left of our two previous climbs. The gully, of which this chimney is so noticeable a feature, appeared to run almost from top to bottom of the crag, so we decided to pay the place another visit. We were well rewarded, for an extremely interesting and varied climb was worked out on August 12th, one, indeed, which we think would bear comparison with Moss Ghyll.

This gully we named the Schoolmasters' Gully, for while parsons, doctors, engineers and professors have their special climbs, none has so far been dedicated to the profession to which three of our party belong.

There are two entrances to this gully, of which the right-hand one was taken. The climb starts with about thirty feet of scrambling up a steep triangular patch of heather, ten feet above which there is a small cave, large enough to hold one. Here the climb proper begins, and the rock-work to a small platform ten feet above is by no means easy. The course to be taken, however, is obvious enough—out to the right and then up.

The second pitch follows at once, and is about fifteen feet up a vertical wall on the right. There is a large chock stone in the centre of the pitch, which seems to be supported only from above, and hence very insecurely. The leader, H. Mitchell,

spent a considerable time in unearthing a few minute holds on the wall on his right, and then succeeded in reaching a large sloping grass ledge about fifteen feet above. The next two followed his example, but the last man, since there were no heads to be broken below, used the chock stone, and backed up the pitch. He then further tested this stone from above, and found it perfectly firm.

From this grass platform, which we termed the "Bowling Green," we traversed to the left round a projecting rock back into the centre of the gully, and then worked up the left face to another sloping grass platform, to which we gave the name the "Croquet Ground." This traverse round the projecting rock was the source of considerable amusement. Each of us insisted that the man before him made a ridiculous fuss, and spent an absurdly long time over it. Criticism and advice flowed freely, but each of us modified his opinion when his own turn came. Our difficulty arose from a desire to find a more substantial hold for the left hand than that provided by Faith and Hope. We failed to find one.

The next pitch is up an imposing vertical wall on the left-hand side. We attacked this at a point about twelve or fifteen feet from the top end of the "Croquet Ground." After ascending about twelve feet, we traversed back and upwards to the centre of the gully, and then crossed to a small grass ledge on the right-hand side, where a large belaying pin was found.

The fifth pitch is a fine vertical chimney, narrow and quite sixty feet in height. Rather more than half way up is a small platform, where each man can have up his successor, and so obviate the necessity of running out a great length of rope.

The sixth and last pitch is a short and simple chimney, at the top of which we built a cairn.

This gully will well repay a visit, for after the first thirty feet of scrambling up the heather, the rest is almost all pure climbing, and pitch succeeds pitch practically without intermission. It can easily be identified from the Llanberis Road by means of the long and dark-looking chimney in the upper part. [Climbed by H. M., A. E. B., W. J. D. and G. T. A.]