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## POPOCATAPETL.

By OSCAR ECKENSTEIN.

POPOCATAPETL, according to the new Mexican survey, is 5,452 metres (17,889 feet) high. It is thus the second-highest mountain in Mexico, being only surpassed by Citlalpetel, 5,550 metres (18,209 feet). It is a mountain of special interest to climbers: the first definite record we have of any high ascent is that of Popocatepetl, by Francisco Montaña and five other Spaniards, in 1521.\* It is hardly necessary to add that this was a "guideless" climb; it remained the greatest recorded altitude, on a mountain, till it was beaten by Captain Gerard early last century.

It is curious how this ascent has been overlooked. For instance, at an Alpine Club meeting held in 1897, Mr. Solly remarked that he believed Adyrsu Bashi (14,673 feet) was the highest "guideless" new climb, whereupon Mr. G. P. Baker stated that that record had been beaten, by Mr. Yeld and himself, with Basardjusi, 14,700 feet.† Mr. Baker's record had, however, been beaten, by over 3,000 feet, more than three and a half centuries before!

The illustration annexed is the reproduction of a photograph I took in January, 1901, from the south ridge of Iztaccihuatl.

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\* Prescott, "History of the Conquest of Mexico," Book III., Chapter VIII.

† *Alpine Journal*, Vol. XVIII., page 486.



O. Eckenstein, photo.

Brunner & Co., Zürich, Switzerland

## Popocatepetl