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EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE RECENT EARTHQUAKE IN THE ISLAND OF JAMAICA.—During the recent earthquake our former President, Mr. Haskett-Smith had an unusual and somewhat startling experience. Having crossed the main chain and descended several thousand feet, he was walking along the hillside not very much above the level of Kingston when the great shock came, bringing suddenly down hundreds of tons of earth, rocks and trees from the slopes above him. As the road, here winding almost on a level round the side of a steep hill, split, and threatened to give way, he found it necessary to run the gauntlet of the falling stones for a distance of many hundred yards, the road moreover being in some places completely blocked by mounds of fallen material. Mr. Haskett-Smith, though frequently hit by small stuff, successfully dodged every important missile, and believes that he owes his life entirely to the fact that he was on his own feet, as becomes a member of this club, and not riding or driving.

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THE DEVIL'S KITCHEN. — Mr. Ormiston Chant contributes the following account of his climb on the Devil's Kitchen:—"I first saw the Devil's Kitchen on July 31st, 1903, and I inspected the climb from the top of the huge splinter of rock which leans against the right wall of the gully.

"I got up as far as the start of the traverse on this day, but as I was in the company of several non-climbers, I thought it prudent to descend and help them down the first pitch; also there was a great deal of spray owing to the great volume of the fall, and the rocks were quite slippery.

"A fortnight later I was again up at Twll Du with Mr. Russell Stewart and a large party of his friends, who watched us from below the first pitch. I had 60 feet of rope, and got up some distance before I realised that I would not be able to help Stewart for the first few feet of his climb. Therefore he unroped, and I climbed to the second grass ledge, *i.e.* the point where the traverse starts. The fall was less in volume owing to better weather, and so the rocks were fairly dry.

"My memory is quite clear as to how I stepped on to the corner where the traverse begins. I went as high as possible, and held to the corner of the buttress with my right hand, keeping the left on a high but convenient enough hold hidden in grass.

"Then I took what I consider to be a big step, and the most difficult thing in the climb. When I reached the big block and found it firm—for no amount of prising would move it—I belayed the rope round it, and Stewart followed by climbing as high as possible directly under the stone, tying on and then traversing to the crack. I consider this quite as safe as any tactics with a longer rope; in fact Stewart swung on to the rope twice, and was each time able to regain the crack without descending.

"When he joined me at the block we only had to lift the coils of rope from the block, reverse them, and so make it possible for Stewart to pay off my end coil by coil until I reached the big jammed stone above the fall. Here my companion soon joined me, and we returned to Ogwen with our friends."

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THE DEVIL'S STAIRCASE (CLEFT WEST OF THE DEVIL'S KITCHEN).—We made the complete ascent on March 31, 1907; as far as we know this is the first complete ascent made.

A description of the upper part of this climb is to be found in Messrs. Abraham's book (pages 28 to 32); it is classified by them (page xiii.) as "exceptionally severe."

We do not consider that term applicable to this upper part, under fair conditions; it had been ascended several times by the older climbers before it was re-discovered by Messrs. Abraham and Jones.

The lower part is more difficult. It consists of two pitches, of which the bottom one is the longer. The latter consists of two portions, with a good standing place in between. There are three places which more especially require care — First the beginning of the climb, second immediately above the standing place in the first pitch, third near the top of the second pitch, where there is a good deal of loose material which will probably come away before long.

The climb is to be recommended, as it can be made quite safe for the leader, and can be climbed by him without assistance.—G. Bartrum, O. Eckenstein, W. R. Reade.

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LLIWEDD—SLANTING GULLY AND WEST BUTTRESS.—Climbers generally are agreed that the easiest way up the cliffs of Lliwedd is the well-known Central Gully and West Buttress route.

The next easiest way is probably a route symmetrical to the above. It may be described as the Slanting Gully and West Buttress route.

The route is up the Slanting Gully to the spot where the gully is divided by a projecting rib into two branches. The west branch is much the easier (the statements in Messrs. Abraham's book, page 257, are incorrect); the first few feet of it, which some may find awkward, are easily avoided by a short traverse from the east. At the spot where the two branches unite, an easy horizontal traverse to the east leads to the ridge which forms the east boundary of the Slanting Gully. The way is then substantially along the edge of this ridge.

This route was taken on 26th September, 1906, by Messrs. Backwell, R. and F. Langford James, M. R. Smith and O. Eckenstein.

A good climb, but a little more difficult, is obtained by continuing up the Slanting Gully to the foot of the pitch below the cave. Here a crack runs up diagonally to the left, to a higher point on the ridge mentioned above. This route was taken on 28th September, 1906, by Messrs. R. and F. Langford James and O. Eckenstein.

A new route up the Western Buttress to the east of the Slanting Gully was made in 1905 by Messrs. J. B. Farmer, A. W. Andrews and O. Eckenstein by means of a steep chimney of more than 120 feet. The notice of this ascent was accidentally omitted. As many new routes and variations have lately been made on Lliwedd, it is felt that it would be interesting to climbers to possess a summary of the routes up to date, and an account of the climbs. It is hoped that articles will shortly be ready.

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LLIWEDD. — E. BUTTRESS. — A new route up the E. Buttress of Lliwedd was found by Messrs. H. V. Reade and G. Winthrop Young on 25th March, 1907. The beginning is apparently the same as that of the original No. 2 route up the E. Buttress taken by Messrs. Thomson and Eckenstein, *i.e.*, it starts just E. of the Central Gully, almost within it, up a little chimney which evidently serves as a water-channel at times, and goes straight up slabs with sufficient hold for perhaps 100 feet. It then bears slightly to the left (E.) over a loose block, good enough to stand on, to an excellent semi-circular platform. Here No. 2 route turns well away to the left, towards the conspicuous quartz stone lying on a grass patch; but the new route goes straight up by two difficult cracks. The higher of these develops into a shallow gully, which is fairly continuous to the top of the buttress, and ends in a slight depression a little W. of the cairn. About two-thirds of the way up is a cave, which can be clearly seen from the slopes below the buttress; and the whole gully appears as a dark line, clearing the buttress from base to summit, in the photograph facing p. 190

of "Rock Climbing in North Wales." A short stretch of the gully is grassy, but here there is sound climbing on the E. wall. It can be left at several places, either on the W., where the Central Gully and E. Buttress route may be joined, or on the E. The route is interesting throughout, and in places difficult. It might be ranked, in the classified list of climbs, somewhere between the Horned Crag Route and the No. 2 Route on the E. Buttress. It is proposed to call it the "Shallow Gully" route.

Another new route up this Buttress was made by Messrs. H. V. Reade, G. Winthrop Young and A. W. Andrews on 26th March, 1907. Starting by Reade's variations of route 2 a way was found to the left of the route, and quite distinct from it.

An interesting climb up the Central Gully, of which some part is new, was made at Easter, 1906, by Mr. W. R. Reade, J. B. Farmer, A. W. Andrews, O. Eckenstein and G. Bartrum. The Eastern Buttress was reached, and the new Central Gully and E. Buttress route and a traverse made to the Central Gully, above the unclimbed pitch.

