



This extract from a Climbers' Club Journal contains only articles/photographs where the copyright now belongs to the Climbers' Club.

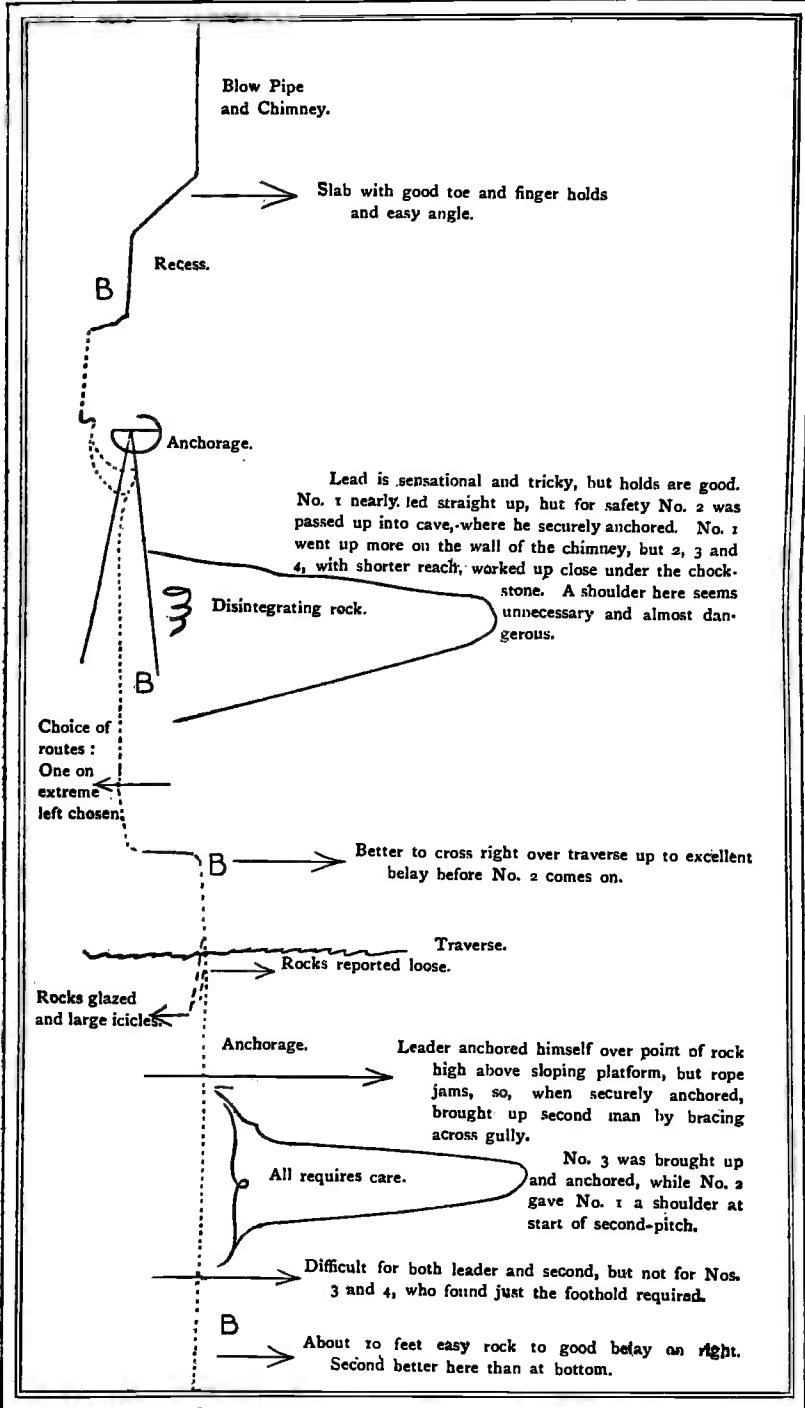
It is provided in electronic form for your personal use and cannot be used for commercial profit without seeking permission from the Climbers' Club.

© Copyright 2010

NOTES ON CLIMBS.

DEVIL'S KITCHEN.—Mr. W. L. Collinson writes: In view of the accident in the Devil's Staircase following on your published account, perhaps it may interest you to know that we climbed it "clean" this Easter, and we think the account is thoroughly justifiable. The lower portion is, in our opinion, the hardest, and agree that there is nothing in the upper portion to justify its inclusion in the "fancy" list.

We climbed in a party of four, and the leader and second man found the beginning of the first pitch very difficult. On the other hand, our third and fourth men found some good footholds which we had missed, and climbing it differently came up much quicker and with comparative ease. None of us noticed any particular difficulty above the standing-place in the first pitch. The second pitch is a wet pitch in summer, but on this occasion the rocks were badly glazed and hung with icicles. The leader took a shoulder here, and was well secured by an excellent belay over a high point of rock that could just be reached from the platform on the right. While the leader took a shoulder the third man made both safe from here. This brought us to the top of the second pitch and on to the grass terrace, thus completing the lower part. We found nothing loose here, no doubt on account of the binding power of the ice. Then follows an easy bit of scrambling for about 10 feet, and above that we went up on the extreme left to the foot of the Chimney Pitch. This is not difficult, and can be made quite safe by passing the second man well up into the cave, wedging him there as an anchor. We saw some disintegrating rock on the right-hand side of this chimney. With the second man properly placed, the left wall can be



Blow Pipe
and Chimney.

Slab with good toe and finger holds
and easy angle.

Recess.

B

Anchorage.

Lead is sensational and tricky, but holds are good. No. 1 nearly led straight up, but for safety No. 2 was passed up into cave, where he securely anchored. No. 1 went up more on the wall of the chimney, but 2, 3 and 4, with shorter reach, worked up close under the chock-stone. A shoulder here seems unnecessary and almost dangerous.

Disintegrating rock.

B

Choice of routes:
One on extreme left chosen;

Better to cross right over traverse up to excellent belay before No. 2 comes on.

B

Traverse.

Rocks reported loose.

Rocks glazed and large icicles.

Anchorage.

Leader anchored himself over point of rock high above sloping platform, but rope jams, so, when securely anchored, brought up second man by bracing across gully.

All requires care.

No. 3 was brought up and anchored, while No. 2 gave No. 1 a shoulder at start of second-pitch.

Difficult for both leader and second, but not for Nos. 3 and 4, who found just the foothold required.

B

About 20 feet easy rock to good belay on right. Second better here than at bottom.

climbed with quite reasonably good toe and fingerholds, and this seems preferable to any attempt to give a shoulder which is not really necessary, and to us, it seemed, would be dangerous.

The next bit, which has been likened to the climb on to the Tennis Court Ledge, we found to be rock at quite an easy angle with good finger and toeholds, while we were woefully disappointed in the Blow Pipe. Perhaps we had expected a dark enclosed tunnel, whereas we found a nearly perpendicular chimney, narrow, certainly, but not extraordinarily enclosed. There was some loose "smalls" at the bottom, but nothing more than ordinary care was needed to avoid sending them down. Four of us took four hours, so that it is about an hour's climb.

All the same, a party of three seemed to do it comfortably in two hours in good weather. We experienced considerable delay owing to cold rocks and the bad condition of the second pitch. Taking the climb as a whole it is most interesting.

It is well defined, there is climbing all the way, and the difficulties have to be met without easy variety routes on either hand. The climbing is interesting and varied, consisting of the lower part which is an open chimney, in which the "backing up" position can be but rarely assumed, while the higher part has a short chimney with a cave pitch and another chimney for "backing up." The belays are conveniently placed, and with proper care there seems no reason why the climb should not be made quite safe and become popular.

We cordially agree that "the climb is to be recommended," but we think the caution should be *not after rain*. Last Easter it was very dry when it was climbed, and this Easter, though cold, it was quite fine and dry.

CRIB GOCH BUTTRESS.—On the 17th April, 1908, W. R. Reade and Geoffrey Bartrum made the direct ascent of the Arête which bounds the Crazy Pinnacle Gully on the east.

The climbing for 150 feet is easy, and the first difficulty consists of about 8 feet of overhanging rock. Good holds

took us over this obstacle, and climbing up a few feet we were able to creep behind a detached leaf of rock directly on the Arête.

We then squirmed up behind this leaf, which is about 10 feet high, and by taking an awkward step to the right were able to reach a narrow crack, which took us up a further 20 feet to the top of a small pinnacle where there is good anchorage. Continuing upwards for 50 feet, and gradually working to the right, we reached a point a few yards west of the cairn marking the finish of the buttress climb, described in *Abrahams' Rock Climbing in North Wales*, pages 302 to 313.

We found the climbing difficult, but the anchorages are so good and conveniently placed that the leader can go ahead with perfect confidence.

The same climbers then descended to Cwm Glas by the buttress climb.

