

## ASCENT OF THE SLANTING GULLY OF LLIWEDD.

BY A. AND G. D. ABRAHAM.

Several different routes are known up the north face of Lliwedd, the magnificent precipice that flanks the south side of Llyn Llidaw, but, so far as we are aware, the steep slanting gully that forms the western boundary of the main or western buttress had never been successfully attempted prior to our ascent at Easter last year.

This gully is easily identified. It is well marked the whole way up, and is the next one to the west of the central gully. It can most readily be approached by coming diagonally up the screes from below the central gully, and then keeping along the base of the rocks of the western buttress. The lower part needs no further description than to say that the climbing is very interesting, and if the right-hand wall (looking upwards) be kept, no difficulty is experienced. At about four hundred feet above the screes we came to the pitch which is such a conspicuous object from below. It consists of a cave, surmounted by a chimney, which gradually narrows towards the top, where it is blocked by some overhanging rocks. Here the most difficult part of the climb commenced. After leaving the bed of the cave, a short climb of about ten feet gave access to a white ledge partly covered with loose grass and moss. Directly above here is a steep slab, where a shoulder gave considerable assistance to the leader, who climbed up about twelve feet higher, until he reached some splintered rocks wedged into the chimney. These rocks afforded a capital hitch for the rope. The second man joined the leader here, and paid the rope out over the hitch, whilst the leader stepped round an awkward corner on to a large foothold out on the face of the slab to the left.

After this the climbing became somewhat easier, and we continued straight up the chimney for about fifteen feet, when it narrowed considerably, and finally became blocked by some overhanging rocks. The leader jammed his right leg into the crack formed by the overhanging rocks and the side of the chasm as long as possible, and succeeded in reaching a sloping hand-hold. He then threw his body out on to the slab, on which the rest of the ascent of this pitch was completed. This is by far the most

difficult part of the whole climb, and it was from this point that Mr. Mitchell (who lost his life while attempting the ascent of the gully in 1894) fell. The exact cause of his fall is scarcely likely ever to be known, but eye-witnesses say that he stopped at this point for above half an hour, all of which time he must have been more or less on the tension, and it seems probable that when he came to swing himself on to the slab he was exhausted.

Above the top of this pitch the gully widens out, and a way might perhaps be found up the steep slabs on the left, but we decided to keep all the way in the main gully, which is well defined. Almost immediately above the pitch just described is an interesting crack about thirty feet high, with stones firmly wedged into it. Then we had to scramble over some scree and rocks till the last pitch came into view. This is formed by a steep chimney with a wedged stone at the top, followed immediately by another wedged stone some ten or twelve feet higher. Both were climbed straight up.

The time taken from the foot of the gully to the cave was thirty-five minutes; from the cave to the top of the cave pitch, sixty minutes; from the top of the cave pitch to the top of the gully, fifty-five minutes; making two hours and a half altogether.

The conditions were perfect, and we found an ice-axe extremely useful.

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## **ASCENT OF TWLL DU.**

BY W. R. READE AND W. P. McCULLOCH.

On Saturday, the 7th May, 1898, we arrived at Bangor from Liverpool at 3.40 p.m., and, hiring a conveyance, drove through the village of Bethesda to Ogwen Cottage, a distance of ten miles, where we arrived at half-past five, and, without any delay, started for Twll Du, reaching the foot of this cleft in forty-five minutes.

Some weeks before, we had made a close survey of the gully, which is a huge cleft in the rocks on the south-west flank of Llyn Idwal. A stream flows through it to the lake below. Roughly speaking, the chasm is about 450 feet long, 300 feet deep, and 18