

a diagonal chimney cut the wall, intersecting the main couloir about half-way up. The night was spent on a relatively sheltered ledge in the lower part of this chimney. After an overhang of bad rock, the rest of the chimney proved easy. From the point of intersection with the couloir, a direct route on rock to the summit ridge was chosen. A subsidiary gully was climbed to a ledge 100 ft. up, whence a traverse to the right led to steep but easy rock. The climb grew progressively harder, and petered out on a great rock buttress. This line had to be abandoned by roping down to a terrace from which a series of faults led to the ridge a few hundred feet below the summit.

The ridge gave interesting climbing to the summit whence the descent was made by the normal route to the glacier.

THE DIVIDAL. The Dividal is the district of Norway least known to Norwegians themselves or to tourists. It is still very inadequately mapped. There is some salmon fishing in the main stream of the Divi below Frihetsli and some of the lower tributary streams and lakes are known to the fishermen of neighbouring townships. It was used occasionally as an escape route to Sweden during the war; but the present inhabitants of Frihetsli, the farmstead highest in the valley where new land is being won from the waste, cannot recall the visit of any Englishmen before this summer. It is less accessible than the Lofoten Islands or the Lyngen which are becoming well known to English climbers, but it is not difficult to approach. Public transport is available from Finnsnes or Tromsø to Øverbygð, and from here a rough summer road has been opened in the last two years as far as Frihetsli, 30 kms. away, where one can see a lorry and tractor and car.

Such maps of the district as are available were made by the Germans in 1940 and these seem to be simply a reissue on a larger scale of the original map of 1872. Local tradition has it that this map was based on sketches made from the valleys, and its general inaccuracy, even about the course of rivers and position of lakes and hills makes the story seem not improbable.

An account of the district may be worth while as travellers may well be attracted there by its remoteness and by its mountains. *Kiste Fjell*, *Njunnes Varre* and *Likka Varre* are among the highest peaks in Arctic Norway. This account is the result of a visit to the district by a party of Senior Scouts of Epsom College in August 1956, led by Mr. C. T. H. Burton. Botanists led by P. D. Orton, now of Reading University, and Geologists led by C. E. J. Dowrick, who were checking certain profiles of the valley given by Dr. K. Petterson, a Norwegian geologist, in 1874, had work to do for the British Museum. Some climbers led by J. P. Walker, A.C., W. E. Radcliffe, A.C., and Dr. J. D. Ogilvie investigated the climbing possibilities of the district.

It should be said at once that the Dividal is no place for the rock climber. *Njunnes Varre* and *Likka Varre* with its great precipices in particular seem to offer a profusion of faces, buttresses, gullies and arêtes of every variety and standard; but the rock is everywhere bad and unsafe. The highest mountains were climbed and the mountain ranges roughly examined within a radius of 15–20 miles south, east and west of Frihetsli and nowhere was any continuous rock route found.

For the mountaineer the district has great attractions. Its mountain scenery is less, perhaps, continuously impressive than that nearer the coast or in the Lyngen or Lofotens, and the general appearance of the countryside sometimes resembles the English fells and is none the worse for that, though the scale is much greater. Good route finding is difficult. There is a bridge over the Divi 10 kms. below Frihetsli and at Frihetsli an old boat, but it can otherwise be crossed only by swimming. The tributary streams rarely offer routes as they run through precipitous gorges for much of their course. Near the rivers are extensive areas of birch thicket where swamp and fallen trees, dwarf willow and juniper bushes make progress slow and difficult. Above, where the pines grow, the ground is less impeded but is often steep and deeply cut by ravines. Great areas of scree made the ridges less attractive routes than they would otherwise have been. The map gives no help; but there is the compensation that one comes quite unexpectedly upon rock scenery, waterfalls and gorges of great beauty and charm.

Most impressive of all is the absolute solitude. In the course of journeys which totalled some hundreds of miles no human being was met, or any sign of human activity except for the tracks made by the reindeer herds of the Lapps and a few rough Lapp shelters.

There were several small herds of reindeer, some flocks of ptarmigan, the occasional track of a wolf and an eagle or two. The weather in August was pleasantly warm during the day, but there were several degrees of frost at night. There is no need to write of the beauty of the Arctic sky at night in late summer; but one camp in particular on the southern shore of *Dodes Vand* revealed the full glories of the reds of sunset and the rich gold of midnight.

Briefly, then, the Dividal will not attract the rock climber; but the fell walker will find long and strenuous and very rewarding journeys.

W. E. RADCLIFFE.

RUWENZORI, 1955–6. T. E. Fletcher, of Amani, Tanganyika, and J. Smith, of Aberdeen, met at Entebbe on December 15, 1955. They reached Ibanda by road on December 17 and arrived at the Mountain Club's hut at Bujuku three days later. Six mountaineering expeditions were made during the eighteen days spent near the snow line. Mount Speke was climbed from Bujuku. Mount Stanley was climbed by two