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FIRST ASCENT OF "STACK GHYLL."

By L. J. OPPENHEIMER.

ON the Warnscale side of the Haystacks, about half-way between the highest point and Green Crag, there are three chimneys, close together, all of them over 400 ft. high. The central one starts as a somewhat insignificant crack, which widens and deepens higher up into a fine fissure; the one to the left might be called a Y chimney, the right branch of which leads to the summit, while the other branch terminates about two-thirds way up the cliff, dividing from it a rock pillar. The most impressive of the three clefts is the one most to the right, which was climbed for the first time on Dec. 31st, 1900, by G. H. Craig, L. J. Oppenheimer, and T. Shaw, and christened by them "Stack Ghyll." The great cave at the foot, being curtained by a waterfall, they circumvented the large boulder over which it poured by climbing out and up on the right wall, and then traversing back into the Ghyll. The whole of the first pitch (about 170 ft.) was climbed to the right of the water, which came for the most part down an inner chimney. Above the first pitch the right wall is broken away for a short distance by a rake leading on to the open cliff. The second pitch was back and knee work up the inner chimney; and the third back and foot—the feet against overhanging rocks on the left. The fourth pitch was climbed on the wall to the left of the stream, which here comes down a mossy crack. Above this, broken rocks lead to the fifth and last pitch, a great crowning chock stone reached by back and foot work. Shaw led up the first, fourth, and fifth pitches, and Oppenheimer up the second and third. The fifth was considered the hardest and the first the most risky part of the climb, which, taken as a whole, was found more difficult than the north route up the Pillar, and occupied four hours. The rock, though a little rotten in places, is of much better quality than that on the part of the Haystacks nearest to Buttermere.