

THE EXPEDITION TO CHOGO RI.—V.

LEAVES FROM THE NOTEBOOK OF ALEISTER CROWLEY.

IT had been decided (very reluctantly on my part) that Eckenstein should stay behind at Paiyu to arrange a flour-dak. Special men were selected for this job who would be willing to go two marches a day and thus effect a saving of time in both senses. Eckenstein and I agreed that the advance party—we had arranged to march in three shifts—must be led either by him or by me, as we could trust no one else in the matter of mountain work; we had already seen too much. Another year's work would perhaps have fitted Knowles to undertake the difficult task of leading; but as it was he had never been on big mountains before, or even the Alps on anything but minor expeditions, and it was out of the question. Also we thought he did not speak Hindustani sufficiently well to remain in charge of the dak at Paiyu. Now though Eckenstein and I were both confident enough to lead an advance party, I cannot pretend to rival his magnificent talent of organisation; and though I was going on this journey more for his sake than my own I felt compelled to assent to his self-sacrificing proposal to remain himself in the anxious and tedious work of supplying the expedition with food until we reached our main camp. The other puzzle was what to do with Wesseley; but we put him with Pfannl and trusted to luck. We had had several times to complain of his striking natives merely because they did not understand his broken English; further, they did not accord to him the respect which the rest of us had

June 24th.—One corner of my tent was loose; all the morning it blew like hell! and I sat on the loose corner for five hours to prevent the whole affair from being blown into the neighbouring crevasse.

June 25th.—More dull doubtful weather; Pfannl ill.

June 26th.—Bad weather.

June 27th.—Eckenstein arrived and almost immediately



SHEEP CARRYING UNDER DIFFICULTIES.

after he came into camp the weather cleared. He was rather ill.

June 28th.—He was still ill. The weather was fine and we held a durbar. It was arranged that Pfannl, the Doctor, and I were to go up to the shoulder of Chogo Ri with one sleighload to establish a light camp, making an attempt on the mountain the day after. Wesseley was very indignant at not being included in the party, and used expressions which ought never to have been tolerated. I did not hear him myself, as I had hurried off to fix up the sleigh, but Eckenstein's illness alone saved the offender from a well-merited thrashing.

June 29th.—In the early morning the wind was so high



OUR SUITE.

won; and we were seriously afraid that very little trouble of this sort on the glacier might lead to a general revolt of the coolies in the party with which he travelled.

It would have been better to have put him with Knowles; but the latter absolutely refused to go under these conditions, for which I do not feel myself able to blame him. On the 8th, after finishing with Abdulla Khan, the final preparations were made for my advance party. I was to take about twenty coolies and on the 9th of June I bade *au revoir* to the others and started on my solitary journey. The course of my advance to Camp 10 (which I propose to call Camp Misery) is given in the diary which I wrote at the time and sent off to our correspondents at home; which I shall consequently reproduce as it stands. I wrote in a very frivolous manner chiefly to show our friends how very absurd it would be to entertain any anxiety over our account. The studied cheerfulness of Knowles was all very well; but if a man can deliberately sit down and write nonsense as I did, it is quite clear that he is not in any discomfort or danger.

June 20th.—Knowles arrived with the Doctor. It was snowing hard all day and Knowles and I crouched together in my tent and discussed the events of the last ten days.

June 21st.—Knowles, the Doctor and myself were all ill and the weather was snowy.

June 22nd.—Doctor and I better. Knowles worse. Weather slightly improving.

June 23rd.—Knowles better: weather fine.



OUR SUMMER LODGINGS.

that we could not start. Knowles was ill as well as Eckenstein. The rest of us took advantage of the lull to go up on ski in direction of the Pass. I had only expected to be out for ten minutes, and had not taken my snow goggles; but the weather got finer and finer and I was tempted to go on—like a fool.

About 4 o'clock a furious wind sprang up. My tent was loose; a violent snowstorm began to rage about half-past