

renounce attempting further difficulties that might have proved insuperable under the circumstances.

The party accordingly retreated, experiencing severe trouble in the ascent of the tooth previously roped down; an ice 'step' of about 100 ft.—the sole possibility—was especially hard. The remainder of the route was accomplished by the line of ascent. Camp was regained at 02.00 on August 23.

KILMETBASHI, 3965 m., *Merzbacher*. August 22. MM. Gaché and Valluet accompanied by the interpreter G. Marietsky.

The summit, a remarkable one, forms the last to the N.E. of the *Breithorn* massif.

Starting at 04.00 the party mounted the glacier moraine for some 1100 yds., followed by the glacier. Soon crossing the latter they steered towards the shoulder lying N.E. of their peak. Thence by ice and rocks, steep at times, they attained the shoulder. Thence following the rocky ridge without serious difficulty—a few obstacles being turned—they attained the twin summits (7 hrs.). Descent by the same route in 5 hrs.

Owing to the injuries sustained by two of the party, the homeward journey was begun on August 26, *via* Bezingi, Naltshik being attained on the 29th.

J. L.

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## REVIEWS.

*Buddhists and Glaciers of Western Tibet.* By Giotto Dainelli. Translated from the Italian by Angus Davidson. With 32 plates and maps;  $9\frac{1}{2} \times 6$  inches. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., Ltd., 1933. Price 18s.

HIS Excellency Professor Giotto Dainelli is one of the greatest authorities on the geology and physiography of the Karakorum, from the earliest epochs up to the recent past. He was a member of de Filippi's great expedition of 1913–15, during which he covered almost the whole of Baltistan and Ladakh on side journeys, often in winter, besides taking part in the exploration of the Rimu Glacier and the sources of the Yarkand river. In addition he is an ethnologist and has made a particular study of the various elements in the populations of both Baltistan and Ladakh. The present volume describes what was essentially a one-man journey to the same country in 1930, initiated and carried through entirely by the author, but with the particular objective of forcing a way up the Siachen Glacier and seeking a passage thence up the Teram Shehr to the head of the Rimu Glacier, a route declared by the Workmans to be impassable. The book is written subjectively almost throughout; but it will do Britons no harm to see the admiration evoked in an



educated and refined Florentine by the crimeless civilization and the incomparable artistry of the Ladakhi people. His praise is discriminating, for it is by no means forthcoming in the case of some other races of High Asia and Hindustan.

The narrative is in diary form, but cleverly split up into sections and chapters, so that it reads well as a continuous narrative. He travelled by Kashmir, Baltistan and Ladakh, to Leh. Then up the Nubra Valley to the snout of the Siachen Glacier. By very fine transport organization, and through his great influence with the Ladakhis, he was able to spend two months 'in the air' on these the greatest glaciers outside the polar regions. He made his pass, the *Colle Italia*, in bad weather on to the Rimu, and thence led his entire caravan down to the source of the Yarkand river. Here his own forethought, and an exactly performed time-table over unknown ground, combined with the very competent aid of his friend Hashmatullah Khan, was rewarded by contact with a relief column at the appointed moment. The whole glacier expedition was a triumph of organization and competent one-man execution. The return journey to Leh and over the Rupshu plateau to Lahaol and Simla is all too briefly described.

The descriptions of scenery, whether of the weird barrenness of Ladakh, or of the ice-world, are beautifully written. His interest in the people is manifest on every page. He has learnt the great rule of travel in that part of Asia—and of all Asia for all we know—dismiss remorselessly, but never strike a servant. The photographs by Miss Kalau are very beautiful, and are well reproduced. The map is adequate, as are the general and personal indexes.

The translation is well done. There are very few slips. On page 7 it is correctly stated that the Duke of the Abruzzi reached 23,460 ft. on Bride Peak: that was his first effort; but no mention is made of his second great climb to 24,600 ft. in 1909—unsurpassed until the second Mount Everest Expedition in 1922. On the same page, possibly it is the translator who is responsible for the statement that Piacenza ascended Nun Kun 23,448 ft. They climbed the peak Kun, 7095 m. (23,245 ft.): a very small slip. Again, on page 122, the date of Longstaff's discoveries on the Siachen is given twice as 1910 and lower down on the same page correctly as 1909. Also the word 'flint' is habitually used in reference to stones on moraines. The transliteration of native words and names is avowedly written phonetically, and not according to the usual English usage. But there is something to be said for the author's stand in this respect. It is the slavish adherence to the English system of the transliteration of Urdu which has given us the authoritatively accepted but utterly incorrect form 'Karakoram' for the well-known Turki name *Kárákórúm*. It is pleasant to see the translator adopting the form 'alluvion' in place of the more usual but ugly word 'alluvium.'

We recommend anyone contemplating a visit to Ladakh to read



this book before they start. If it is their first visit they will see at least twice as much as they would otherwise have done. If they have already travelled there they will appreciate it all the more as a true mirror of a most fascinating country and of a charming people. Those who would explore Himalayan glaciers will learn from this narrative how the problem of transport and supply may be solved even under the most difficult circumstances.

*Im Kampf um den Berg*: spannende Bergerlebnisse. Pp. 189; illustrated. Orell Füssli, Zürich and Leipzig, 1933. Price 6 (Swiss) frs.

As the publisher's notice informs us, this is a collection of short stories of mountain adventure related by different writers. The tales have been chosen from the best of 'many hundreds' submitted.

Nothing can illustrate better the growth of modern mountaineering. As late as the early 'nineties the names of the famous climbers of that date were known, irrespective of nationality, to nearly every beginner in the Alps. We are doing no injustice to the technical skill—still less to the literary powers—of the various contributors to this work, when we state that of the sixteen authors, some declared to be famous, no single name has come to our notice before! This is as it should be: it demonstrates the versatility of present-day mountaineering and the widespread interest it affords. We believe that none of the tales has appeared previously in any of the countless national Alpine periodicals.

Of little or no importance geographically, these narratives dealing with the Pennine, Bernese Oberland, Bernina, but of course still more largely with the Eastern Alps (including also Asia Minor and Corsica), may be recommended to the notice of mountaineers. The fact that many of the tales relate adventures undergone in unjustifiable expeditions; that these 'escapes'—as most of them could more justly be described—are generally of esoteric interest, is as much to be expected in a modern continental work, as that the authors thereof should adopt and even surpass the style of the Romantics of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. When reading German Alpine accounts, we often long in vain for a cold-blooded narrative devoid of hysterics. Not many Germans can approach Dr. Kugy's style, still fewer the flowing grace of a Ramon. Yet nearly all attempt it! They would do better to follow in the straightforward footsteps of Paul Bauer, whose pen is as sharp as his ice axe.

To review briefly those tales appealing most to our interest: Chapter I describes a remarkable ascent, with two night bivouacs, of the W. face of the Totenkirchl (ca. 7000 ft.) in the Wilde Kaiser. A rucksack containing all the provisions and most of the iron-mongery necessary for such acrobaticism is lost, but the party finds another furnished sack suspended on a boss in the abyss, dropped accidentally by their predecessors of two months before! Chapter III describes a terrifying adventure in a Julian Alps' pot-hole.



Chapter V, 'Der Mann im Nebel,' by Alfred Graber of Zürich, is an extraordinary story and the strangest glacier tale we have yet read. The scene lies near the Aiguilles Dorées in the eastern Mont Blanc range. Impressively and simply related, the story is too good to merit desecration by a mere reviewer. All should read it for themselves.

Chapter VI, of interest as describing an ascent in Bulgaria.

Chapter VII, a most gallant rescue by guides and amateurs of a large and incapable party, crag-bound for *four* nights on the southern precipice of the Dachstein in the Styrian Alps. At least three of the stranded party appear to have perished, before and during the rescue, through cold or stonefall. Dramatically told, and one of those too common episodes when good men risk their lives to save lunatics. The accident occurred in 1928.

Chapter VIII, 'Crashed.' The writer describes at great length a fall and his sensations. The height was some 250 ft. and he suffered no lasting injuries.

Chapter XI relates very readably an unpleasant episode on the Goeschener Alp slope of the Dammastock in the Rhône Glacier group. The dangers of this E. side are well known. Chapter XII deals with St. Elmo lights in the Busazza ridge of the Presanella during the war.

Finally, Chapters XIII and XIV contain highly coloured accounts of an ascent in the Bernina, West Wing, and of an irresponsible ski tour on the Gross Venediger in the Tauern Alps.

The print (Roman) is good, the illustrations moderate, while the price is reasonable.

*Die Dolomiten*: ein Landschafts und Bergsteigerbuch. Edited by J. Gallhuber. Pp. 184; illustrated. Munich: Bruckmann A.G., 1934. Price 6½ R.M.

This curious sort of work is no doubt part of the new Alpine propaganda turned out by the kilometre by German publishers. Judging by the text, a Martian landing in the Dolomites would assume, quite naturally, that the district was exclusively Germanic. The sole mention of anything Italian that we have been able to detect is a tale on the penultimate and last pages which good taste should have suppressed. Another curious fact, doubtless to extol still further the 'Deutschland über Alles' *motif*, is the practically total elimination from the text of any mention of mountaineers not of 'Nordic' origin. We grant that the work is not a guide-book, but the Editor should recollect that the young Italian school has accomplished just as many 'new' routes in recent years, as any other. A cryptic notion to publish a work on the Dolomites without mention of its best professionals, Antonio Dimai, Michele Bettega, or 'Tita' Piaz! To quote Captain Farrar—'as well write a treatise on theology without allusion to the Deity.' Moreover, we seem to



recollect the names of Ball, Tuckett, Stephen, Freshfield and Coolidge long before the Teutonic arrivals; followed by Whitwell, Utterson-Kelso, Scriven, West, who left deplorably few new peaks for their followers to conquer. And, in later years, what about Sinigaglia, Phillimore and Raynor? And, in the present century, de Amicis, Beatrice Tomasson, the Baronesses Eötvös, Broome and Corning? We can state unhesitatingly that these vanquished practically all the justifiable sides of all the principal peaks, leaving nothing but the stone-swept overhangs of decaying teeth to be swarmed up by artificially grotesque and unsportsmanlike methods. We allude to the present Tartarin-like practice of rivetting and clipping oneself on to rock or ice slopes—‘beasts of ill-repute nailed to a barn.’ We by no means forget the exploits of Grohmann, Robert Hans Schmitt, von Krafft, Norman Neruda, Louis Friedmann, Zsigmondy and others—but these are all lauded in the text. Quaintly enough the name of the most skilful of all appears to be omitted. Is this because suspicion on the origin of Paul Preuss has been proclaimed lately—in Berlin? The limit of human achievement, without mechanization, had been accomplished years before the birth of the competitive ‘do or die’ school.

Taking the title of the book into consideration, we cannot help feeling that the portrait of more than *one* non-German might have been included even at the expense of ‘Vater Panzer,’ pre-war exploiter of the unpleasant San Martino inns, or the film-star, Trenker? Having uttered our complaint, we gratefully acknowledge the presence of E. T. Compton and a pointless—if pointed—tale concerning ‘Die englische Herren.’

The work is interesting as giving descriptions of some of the most difficult routes. We may remark that the variation—*via directissima*—of the S. face of the Marmolata had been accomplished in 1929 by two professionals together with an amateur belonging to a race not officially popular in a certain country. There is nothing in the text (pp. 89–90) to show that this climb was *not* the first but the third or fourth ascent. We seem to remember the bulk of the tales, mostly by different authors, as reprints emanating from *Der Bergsteiger*, to which, indeed, the format is precisely similar. The best is the introductory chapter by Henry Hoek (pp. 9–15), while most of the ‘Im Kampf’ narratives (pp. 85–131) are of the chronic hair-raising order.

The photographs and portraits are excellent throughout, but the coloured and other prints are far less effective. The price is suspiciously low. Within its very defined limitations, the book is fair value and worthy of perusal.

[The principal criticism is, as the reviewer points out, the ineffective title of the work. Had this been altered to, say, ‘Some Expeditions in the Dolomites,’ the foundations of our reviewer’s grievance would collapse automatically to the ground.—*Editor.*]



*First Over Everest*:<sup>1</sup> the Houston-Mount Everest Expedition 1933. By Air-Commodore P. F. M. Fellowes, L. V. Stewart Blacker, Colonel P. T. Etherton and Squadron-Leader the Marquess of Douglas and Clydesdale, . . . and an account of the filming of the flight, by Geoffrey Barkas. 9½ × 6 inches; pp. xx + 280; illustrations and maps. London: John Lane, 1933. Price 12s. 6d.

IN his Foreword to this book Mr. John Buchan, who is one of the Everest Flight Committee, proposes to make it clear that the purpose of the flight 'was not to perform a feat of daring or endurance, to break a record, or do something for the first time. . . . The true purpose was austere scientific: to show that the aeroplane and the air camera could be made the means of acquiring important knowledge which would otherwise be unobtainable.' But circumstances have a little changed this austere purpose. What was promoted as The 1932 British Flight to Mount Everest became The Houston-Mount Everest Flight, and is now in the book's sub-title The Houston-Mount Everest Expedition 1933, while the element of rivalry is inevitably suggested by the triumphant title 'First over Everest,' and the newer orientation of ideas gallantly shown by the frontispiece.

Early in the year 1932 Major Blacker had submitted to the R.G.S. a plan 'to reconnoitre and to map by air photographs the almost unknown southern slopes of the massif of Mount Everest,' and after careful inquiry the Council had expressed to the Secretary of State for India their opinion that in the event of Major Blacker being accorded permission to fly over Mt. Everest, results of scientific importance were likely to be obtained. The authors of the book lay full stress upon the value of this assurance as a first step towards official approval of their project, and are justified in claiming that the support which the Council of the R.G.S. then gave to the enterprise has been vindicated by the results. The hitherto almost unknown country to the south of Mt. Everest has been reconnoitred and a part of it has been provisionally mapped. The photographs and identifications which were published in the 'G.J.' for July last gave the first results of the reconnaissance. At the Afternoon Meeting of the Society in December Mr. Salt described the plotting of the verticals made on the second flight. And that very much more can be extracted from the oblique photographs will appear in due time.

The greater, then, must be our regret that the perspective is somewhat distorted in the picture which the authors have drawn for the public presentation of their achievement in flying over Mt. Everest. 'In 1932,' they write, 'that awesome crest was still the last stronghold of Nature, her last donjon-keep into which man had never been able to look, and her last penetralia from which he had never been able to rend the veil,' the truth being that in 1924 the third Mount Everest Expedition had reached within 1000 ft.

<sup>1</sup> Reprinted from *G.J.* lxxxiii, pp. 51-3. By courtesy of the Editor.



of the summit ; that Mt. Everest, at least on its northern face, was much better known than any major peak in the Himalaya except perhaps Kangchenjunga ; and that there are hundreds of miles of the great range and dozens of first-class peaks that are not yet known at all. Political objections had hitherto prevented any approach to Mt. Everest from the S. These objections had happily been so far relaxed for the Mt. Everest Flight that permission was given for one, and eventually for a second flight, under severe restrictions of route. One may recognize to the full the enlightened liberality of the Nepal Government in relaxing so far, and yet deplore the tragic waste of opportunity for a really great advance in our knowledge, which the Mt. Everest Flight with its skilled *personnel* and fine equipment might have made if they had been allowed more liberty and more time.

Their photographic results were of three kinds : verticals, obliques and movies. The last have not yet been produced ; how far topographical results may be deduced from the small pictures has not yet been examined in detail. The oblique pictures, many of them very fine, have been widely exhibited and published. Some of the best are included in the book, but almost without comment, and with small use of the identifications available. On the other hand the fine picture facing p. 194 and labelled ' one of the great declivities of Everest ' has never been identified as such. Without the obliques the pictorial value of the flight would have been little, for verticals of high mountain country are mere puzzles until they are viewed in pairs with a stereoscope. Without the obliques we should have learned only the detail of a strip or two, but nothing of the general aspect of the southern face ; and in the obliques there is stored away a great deal of topography that in course of time we shall be able to work out if the negatives are carefully preserved. Hence we cannot agree with the authors that ' the geographical advantages of the obliques by themselves could only be trivial.' We had hoped that the contrary was proved when we were allowed to publish a good selection of them with careful identifications in the July, 1933, ' G.J.' The gloomy opinion may however have been consoling when the observers realized that the Westland machines gave a very poor field of view for the oblique cameras. It was difficult on a straight course to get the desired pictures free of struts, wings and fuselage, and the verticals demanded a straight course ; nor in any case could the pilot afford to slew the machine continually and give the observer a chance to get all the pictures he desired abeam. It is therefore ungenerous to criticize the observers, as some have done, because they did not avoid interference by wings and struts. They had in fact too much to do, in very exacting conditions, and they did very well to get through so much of mutually conflicting programmes.

The most serious failure was that of the vertical cameras on the first flight. The cabled reports from Purnea admitted that some-



thing had gone wrong with them, some failure of the cameras or the operators which was not explained. The book suggests that the failure was due to unusually high dust haze, but the obliques show that this cannot be the explanation. It was the more unfortunate since on the second flight neither machine went over the summit. They had carefully worked out a course far to the W. at first, so as to have less fight against the violent W. wind at the greater heights; but clouds made it impossible to observe the drift which was greater than they allowed for, and instead of coming in from the S.W. over Namche Bazar they came in from nearly due S. just W. of Chamlang—one should read 'eastward' instead of 'westward' in the middle of p. 213—and the vertical strip could not be placed until some detail was identified with detail on an oblique of that mountain. How small was this product of so large and expensive an effort is shown without comment in the diagram inserted opposite p. 219, which has the air of being an afterthought, since it is not included in the list of illustrations.

The authors have left it to Mr. Buchan in his Foreword to assess the result of their enterprise, and he puts it thus:

'The difficulty of taking photographs at such an altitude will be made clear in the succeeding pages, but it is a great thing to have established that it is possible, and that we have a new and effective instrument for the survey of regions that cannot be traversed by the foot of man. It was not to be expected that the flights would reveal any startling new geographical features, but two glaciers, hitherto unknown, have been discovered, and a small high-level lake, which may possibly be hot water.'

This claims both too much and too little. That air photography is an effective instrument of surveying inaccessible country was already well known. Given the power of taking a camera to 33,000 ft., that it would work there is nothing surprising. The technique is interesting, but not revolutionary. On the other hand, the geographical features of Mt. Everest's S. face, now revealed, are startlingly different from those on the known faces. The thin overhanging buttressed southern wall of the western cwm, the magnificent truncated spurs separated by profound couloirs, are unsurpassed. Not two new glaciers but whole fields of them behind Chamlang are now seen for the first time, but the little 'hot lake' is neither so big nor anything like so high nor so near Mt. Everest as was first reported. Let us repeat: the photographs taken on these two flights are of much geographical value in themselves, and not merely as a demonstration of possibilities for the future. But the full value of the negatives cannot be extracted from them at once, and a great responsibility rests upon those in whose keeping they are.

Those chapters in the book which deal with the actual flights are in great part a reproduction of the original messages to *The Times*. The account of the machines and the high-altitude equipment is



full of technical interest, but it is not made clear how much of it is common practice and how much is novel. The two long chapters on the early history of the mountain and the exploration of Tibet are ancient matter extracted from the Record and Reports of the Survey of India, and a little out of scale; they do scant justice to the explorations of the first Mount Everest Expedition. There are some passages which will jar upon the mountaineer and some upon the surveyor, a little fulsomeness, and occasional extravagances of statement; but these do not much detract from the story of a great adventure, well planned and boldly carried through. The book is well produced at a very reasonable price, has many excellent illustrations, and an amusing anaglyph from a pair of verticals, with the necessary green and red spectacles in a pocket at the end.

[As one of the (numerous) 'ungenerous critics,' we venture to point out to the able reviewer that it seems curious that machines undertaking 'an austere scientific flight: to show that the aeroplane and the air camera could be made the means of acquiring important knowledge which would otherwise be unobtainable . . . , should be so constructed that the taking of satisfactory photographs—save by a fluke—proved impossible.—*Editor, 'A.J.'*]

*Letters and Diaries of A. F. R. Wollaston.* By Mary Wollaston, with a Preface by Sir Henry Newbolt. Pp. xvi + 261, with portraits. Cambridge University Press, 1933. Price 12s. 6d.

MRS. WOLLASTON'S selection from Wollaston's letters and diaries over a period of nearly forty years has been welcomed by all his friends—and no man of his day had more friends, or more different sorts of friends. The letters are written mainly to his family and to a very few of the friends, people who had both the luck to receive them—he was an intermittent correspondent at best—and the good sense to keep them. The diaries, besides illustrating, as the editor meant they should, the growth and personality of a born naturalist and wanderer, contain accounts of some of his journeys about which he never wrote at length. Mountaineers and those interested in exploration will naturally turn first to the diaries of the second New Guinea expedition, that of 1912–3. About the first New Guinea expedition he wrote one of the best modern books of travel, *Pygmies and Papuans*.<sup>1</sup> About the Ruwenzori expedition on which, with the most casual and inadequate mountaineering equipment and an inexperienced companion—his companions, usually naturalists, were often inexperienced—he climbed what is now Mount Wollaston; about this he wrote perhaps not quite so well but still delightfully in his first book, *From Ruwenzori to the Congo*.<sup>2</sup> But though he lectured on his second New Guinea

<sup>1</sup> Smith, Elder, 1912.

<sup>2</sup> John Murray, 1908.



journey he never made a book about it. Whether he ever intended to do so or not we are not told. Probably not. He was not satisfied with the results and he was planning another expedition when war came. 'Which reminds me,' as he writes from H.M.S. *Mantua* of the Northern Patrol in December, 1914, 'that William and his friends have another crime to their account. I had more than half made plans for another expedition to New Guinea in 1915-6. Now that will never come off. . . .' (p. 168).

These extracts from the second set of New Guinea journals are an important addition to the literature of travel. One could almost wish that the journals had been printed in full; but as this would have marred the editor's plan—the plan to show what sort of man Wollaston was not, not to 'add to the literature of travel'—this half-wish is out of place. And besides one may assume that the unpublished parts of the diary were the less interesting; though Wollaston's most casual jottings were seldom dull. There is certainly nothing dull about what has been printed. From the up-country journey in Borneo, where he recruited Dayak coolies, to the mountaineering defeat on Carstenz and the struggle back to the sea on which, but for one of those Dayaks, Wollaston would most certainly have been drowned—each incident is worth telling and is well told. When he got to 14,866 feet on Carstenz, in thick weather, with the lowest part of the ridge between its two summits 'not . . . more than 500 feet above the point where we stood,' he was faced by the bergschrund of the ice-cap which lips over the edge and a little down the steep southern escarpment of the tilted 'writing table' of limestone of which, it seems, the ridge consists. 'If we had been three men accustomed to ice we could have gone up, but it was not to be thought of for two, of whom one [Kloss, his Dutch companion] had never been on snow in his life and knew nothing of climbing' (p. 146). That was how Wollaston missed for himself and the Club—and was right to miss—the first ascent of Carstenz. His food too had run out and he was fortunate to get back alive: as it was he lost nearly all his instruments, books, maps, diaries and medicines in the canoe accident from which the Dayak just saved him.

The war diaries are perhaps not the business of a reviewer here. They are uncommonly varied—H.M.S. *Mantua*; British East Africa; a short spell on a monitor bombarding the Belgian coast in 1918; six months of the Naval Intelligence Department properly disposed of in three lines; and a final 'campaign' in the White Sea. There can have been few observers so acute who had so many things to see. And he had been to most of the places before—not to the White Sea it is true, but twice into rather similar country in Lapland. Africa he knew already, North, South, and Central.

The first Everest expedition came when he was already rather old for high mountaineering (he was 46) and he suffered a little from it in later years. But he never thought of refusing the offer



and the extracts from his journal show how wisely he decided. In Everest itself he was less interested than many people; and he did not much like the plains of Tibet. It is 'a fine spacious country . . . I am glad to have seen it and the Himalaya, but it hasn't stirred me as some other countries have' (p. 235). However he adored the valleys—especially the Kama valley which he visited with Howard Bury. He used to tell people afterwards that it was the scenery and the natural history of these valleys, and such mountain views as those of Makalu or that of Gaurisankar, of which he secured a unique photograph, that made the expedition for him. He never depreciated the great assaults; but he had no wish to share in them and would not have had even when a much younger man. He was a naturalist and explorer first; a lover of the mountains as few have been; but only in the second degree a pure mountaineer.

Relatively old as he was he was still hankering after another New Guinea journey in 1922-3. The money could not be raised however. Also he was married in 1923—and ten days later started for a wedding tour in the Sierra Nevada of Colombia. The record of that journey is a paper in the *Geographical Journal* of August, 1925. Here therefore we get only a few pages which suggest that, in some ways, the higher part of the country was a disappointment. The entries—'almost no birds, very few butterflies, and the only conspicuous flower a bright blue Lupin, beginning at about 7000 feet' (p. 254); 'forest poor and dull; no flowers'; 'vegetables mostly dull; one lovely flower' (p. 256) show where any disappointment that there may have been came from. A country short of flowers and birds and butterflies might interest Wollaston; he could not love it.

The last years of his life (1923-30) are passed over in a few pages; and of its close on June 3, 1930, the editor 'can neither write nor speak.' Nor can the reviewer, a friend. He can only say that the record is worthy of the man, which is the highest praise he knows how to give.

*Parole agli Alpinisti.* By Angelo Manaresi. Pp. 150, with 26 illustrations. Rome. Publications of the Italian Alpine Club. 1932.

THE name of the author of this work is well known to British climbers, for he is President of the Italian Alpine Club, and in that capacity has for many months past spoken words of wisdom and encouragement to mountain lovers, in the form of addresses, placed in the forefront of each issue of the 'Rivista Mensile' of that Club. Many of these addresses are reproduced textually in this book, whilst the remainder of the thirty or so different articles of which the work is composed have also already seen the light of day in other publications. Of novelty there is therefore here no question; but nevertheless the book will, as we are persuaded, receive a



general welcome, if only because it bears upon its face the imprint of a true lover of the mighty hills.

There is, however, one marked feature of the compilation which will appear, at all events at first sight, as somewhat strange to British readers. If there is one domain more than another on which books on climbing might be expected to abstain from intruding, that domain is that of politics. Here that is not so, and the whole book may not incorrectly be described as a paean of Fascism and of its leader. The circumstances are perhaps altogether peculiar to Italy. Her rebirth is of yesterday. Much of the spade work which brought it about was done in the mountains by which she is defended on nearly the whole of her Northern frontier. The late war, which gave the finishing touch to her unity and greatness, may be said (so far as she was concerned) to have been won there. It is perhaps not surprising that the feeling of Nationalism, which has been the marked outcome of the war in so many directions, should find, as it were, a vent in these pages. The author again and again points out how, before the advent of the new political creed, the education of youth in muscle had been, somewhat empirically perhaps, completely divorced from its education in spirit: how the reunion was effected as the direct and immediate result of that creed: how much the love of genuine 'sport'—and our English word has now, letter for letter, been absolutely transferred into the Italian vocabulary—had gained by the change; and what an important part the cult of mountaineering has played in this development. Nor does he tire of insisting, in page after page, on the manner in which that sport tends to bring into play many of the finest traits which go to form human character. The prolonged struggle to reach a coveted goal: the sacrifices of ease and comfort which have to be made in order to attain it: the discretion which has so often to be exercised in the face of danger arising to confront the climber: the 'team-spirit' which requires him to subordinate his own individual well-being (and sometimes also his judgment) to the well-being of the whole party to which he belongs—all these considerations, together with many others which will readily suggest themselves, leave beyond doubt a stamp upon character which is not easily effaceable.

A good part of the book is naturally devoted to the C.A.I. and its various branches and associations, especially what may be called the Youth and University groups, to which, under the collective name of *Giovinezza*, strong appeals are made throughout. It contains what is in effect a fairly complete history of the C.A.I., which, as it is perhaps unnecessary to mention, is one of the oldest of the European Alpine Clubs, dating back, as it does, to the year 1863. Its forerunners, besides our own, were those only of Austria and Switzerland, the latter preceding the Italian by not more than a few months. Incidentally, it is somewhat singular that in one of the very latest issues of the '*Rivista Mensile*' (that of November



last) the year of the foundation of our own Club, the parent of them all, is given by our author as 1859, though the real date, as we all know, is two years earlier—December 22, 1857.

It is only necessary to add that the work is presented in an attractive form, and is illustrated throughout by beautiful photographs.

E. F.

*Visioni Alpine* (Third Series). By Ezio Mosna. Pp. 106, with many illustrations. Trent: Rivista Trentino. 1933.

THIS book, though launched with a preface from the pen of the author of the last one, is written with a somewhat different object, and treats of the mountains, their framework and surroundings, from a different standpoint. The scientific element is much more prominent. It contains chapters, for instance, on the fossils of the Alps, on their fungi and other vegetable products, on the birds which fly over them, on the glacial 'pyramids' and their causes, on the making of mountain maps, and on other matters of interest to the mountaineer.

A point much insisted on in this work, not less than in the one already passed under review, is the spiritual gain which is the outcome of the sport of mountaineering when fitly and properly pursued; but more stress is laid here, in the treatment of the subject throughout, on the intellectual development which, as the result of scientific study and observation, forms such an important element in that gain.

The author, however, nowhere allows his scientific ardour to interfere with his cult of the mountains on what may be called the poetic side; and the book contains many striking and interesting passages in which that cult finds fitting expression.

Like the 'Parole agli Alpinisti,' too, not the least of its attractions are the photographs by which it is profusely illustrated.

E. F.

*Pavements and Peaks.* By Anthony Bertram. Pp. 263, illustrated. London: Chapman & Hall, Ltd. 1933. Price 8s. 6d.

THIS small volume affords some very pleasant reading. Two-thirds of the book do not directly concern the Alpine Club. I do not share the author's enthusiasm for the modern type of German architecture—some of the British is worse—and I would like to take exception to one statement which Mr. Bertram makes. His assertion that the young German takes far more exercise than the young Briton is somewhat too sweeping. The writer does not take into account the difference of mentality. The German appears to treat exercise more as a duty than a recreation, whereas with the Briton it is chiefly a matter of obtaining as much healthy enjoyment as possible out of life. I prefer the latter attitude.

The author's accounts of his Alpine experiences are full of humour and give the impression that he would be an entertaining companion. He appears to have begun his climbing on the right lines.



He need not anticipate any 'snubs from the expert mountaineer,' and I hope that his experiences will induce him to continue his activities in the mountains. I venture to give him one little word of warning—to beware of an injudicious use of crampons.

S. S.

*Die Julischen Alpen im Bilde.* By Julius Kugy. Pp. 194—all illustrated. Graz: Leykam. 1934. Price 14 shilling.

THE title explains the work. As the gifted author of *Aus den Leben eines Bergsteiger's* and of *Arbeit, Musik, Berge—ein Leben* points out, this, his third book—for the two former ones contained much in words on the Julian Alps—is what he calls the crown of his Julian labours. He is right, but I trust that he will yet forgo his decision to write no more: 'certain it is that this is the last token that I shall lay on the steps of the Julian Throne.'

The format of the book consists entirely of illustrations of these Alps, together with a very short but well-written description of each peak concerned, on the otherwise blank, opposite page. The picture is described by an expert on the particular district, village, peak, lake, or flora represented. These experts are mostly from Ljubljana (Laibach), Trieste, Udine; etc., while in many cases the photographs have been taken by themselves.

Truly, the experts and Dr. Kugy himself have done their work well. The illustrations are simply superb: I can declare, calling to mind numerous works, that none has hitherto approached the book under review. Mountaineers will pore over these magnificent photographs for hours at a time. It would be invidious to select any particular views; I must be content with the statement that they one and all form the best possible testimony to a region the total British visitors to which can be counted on the fingers of one hand. However, should this work obtain the circulation it deserves, that reproach should be removed very speedily.

The book, or rather the illustrated part, is divided into two sections—East and West Julians. The pictures are nearly all full-page and *without* any margin, following what appears to be rapidly becoming a modern fashion. Somehow, this appears to suit the format and in no way to jar on the reviewer's conservative and would-be artistic sense. The price is extremely low. The book is a worthy companion to *Aus den Leben*—higher praise I cannot give.

*The Naked Mountain.* By Elizabeth Knowlton. Pp. 329, illustrated. New York: Putnam's. 1933. Price 21s.

THIS is an able and eloquently written book with a fine sense of drama. Miss Knowlton's art is so triumphant that she is even able to interest the reader in her steamer journey to Bombay. She had set out on Merkl's German-American Himalayan expedition to attempt the ascent of Nanga Parbat.

Sir Sidney Burrard while superintendent of the trigonometrical



surveys of India described Nanga Parbat as the most isolated and perhaps the most imposing of all the peaks of Asia. Miss Knowlton, however, claims too much when she says that Nanga Parbat is the seventh highest mountain in the world. As far as present knowledge goes, it should rank as low as *ninth* of the world's mountain-tops, or, if Sir Sidney Burrard's allowance of two peaks to the Kangchenjunga massif be accepted, Nanga Parbat will occupy the tenth place only.

The great merit of the mountain for climbers is that it is beyond the reach of the monsoon, but unfortunately it makes its own weather, which is often very bad. On the other hand it seems that perhaps, as on Kamet, there is very little wind. For climbers the chief difficulty is the heavy snow-fall.

It is remarkable that nothing has been written about the mountain either in German or English since the date of the determined onslaught of Messrs. Mummery, Collie, Hastings and Bruce in 1895. Thanks to the explorations of this party, Miss Knowlton and her fellow-travellers were able to make their attempt from the N. side, which alone offers a hopeful approach. This indebtedness to her predecessors is generously acknowledged by the authoress. She is mistaken, however, in saying that two 'coolies' perished in the disaster to Mummery, for the men who died with him were the two Gurkhas, Ragobir and Ghoman Singh, of the 5th Gurkha Rifles.

Probably the authoress's most welcome reward will be the knowledge that her glowing tribute to the memory of Rand Herron, who was killed on the voyage home, will vividly convey to the reader a strong impression of the exceptional character and intellect of this young man as well as of the loss caused to the world by his early death.

The expedition travelled light and yet they carried 8 tons of *bandobast*. They wisely omitted bedsteads, chairs, and even a gramophone. Ice-caves do not seem to have been such a success as these refuges were on Kangchenjunga, perhaps because there were no strong winds to be avoided. Of the avalanches, stone-falls and glacier movements Miss Knowlton says: 'We are never allowed to forget that we are dealing with something alive and menacing. Because of their extreme geological youth and their enormous size and steepness the Himalayas are not unchanging hills.' At another moment she speaks of the climbers as 'sick and dizzy with the poison of the sun.' Also she says that the safety of the expedition is looked upon as 'only relative.'

The failure of this almost overwhelmingly strong and energetic party seems to have been due to several causes: to the theft of the coolies' outfits; to difficulties with the Hunza porters, causing the attack on the mountain to be delayed; to the bad weather conditions on the glaciers during August; and to the astonishing manner in which the crevasses opened during the warm weather.

Even so, the climbers performed prodigies in ploughing their way laboriously through soft snow to the ridge at a height of 23,000 ft.,



where they had climbed comparatively easily earlier in the year. Here, owing to the conditions, further progress became impossible.

A defect of this work in the eyes of the reviewer is that it is not always very easy to discover from the text what are the heights of camps or the dates of events. Moreover, such a good book ought to have a more voluminous index. The illustrations are uniformly fair.

There is a curiously dubious note in Miss Knowlton's reference to the chance of obtaining for a future expedition what she oddly describes as 'the moderately reliable transport of the eastern Himalayan coolies.' This seems to be a reference to the Sherpas who have won such a great name on Mount Everest, and may now be regarded as a corps of professional mountaineers with something of the European enthusiasm and ambition in regard to mountaineering. The relations of these men with employers who are climbers is always a delicate matter. Considering the dangerous conditions prevailing late in the season on Nanga Parbat it is scarcely surprising that the Hunza villagers who were commandeered as porters, although they may not have lost confidence in the very obvious efficiency of their leaders, evidently in course of time began to feel doubts about the prudence of these gentlemen.

Such 'tigers' as the Sherpas or the Bhotias of Garhwal are not necessarily any slower than the Hunzas in learning the nature of an avalanche, nor are they more likely to follow blindly the sort of leader who is evidently willing enough, whenever he thinks it necessary, to stake his life and those of any followers on a rather remote chance of getting to the top of his mountain. It is certainly desirable that British officers in charge of porters imported from the eastern Himalaya, and responsible for the morale and safety of these men, should have a wide experience of Himalayan ice and snow.

In dealing with native porters it is short-sighted policy to trust either to bribery or coercion. On the contrary, the leader should try to inspire the men with a spirit of daring based on understanding, rather than rely on the futile sort of recklessness that proceeds from ignorance or cupidity and is always prone to panic. If a man must imperil his life, at least let him do so willingly, with his eyes open. It is too much to expect that devotion should always be blind. Has the leader any right to risk a disaster which his followers in their innocence may be unable to foretell?

C. F. M.

*Manuel d'Alpinisme.* 2 vols. Pp. 393 + 296. Plates. Chambéry: Librairie Dardel. 1934.

THIS work, published by the 'Club Alpin Français avec la collaboration du Groupe de Haute Montagne,' in two volumes, is probably the most complete exposition of all that is implied by the word 'Alpinisme' in any language. It is a far cry from the little pocket *Manuel* issued by the C.A.F. in 1904 to these two octavo volumes;



yet the substantial blue cloth binding of the former contrasts favourably with the brown paper binding of the latter, which now looks so neat and trim, but which will obviously not stand the rough usage that has allowed the original to show so good an appearance after thirty years.<sup>1</sup>

If we add to this criticism the omission of any indication of price on the cover, as also two serious defects in any book of reference: (1) that it is issued uncut, and (2) worst of all, that there is no index, we have done with all criticism—unless of a few minor details—for the matter contained is in every way excellent. Indeed this could hardly be otherwise, for the geological, meteorological and analogous sections are dealt with by eminent experts, while the general contents ‘forment une œuvre collective’ guaranteed by such well-known names as Escarra, Gache, Henry, Lagarde, Legrand, de Lépiney, Morin and de Ségogne.

Volume I (*Partie Scientifique*, pp. 393) treats of Geography, Topography, Geology, Meteorology, Flora, Fauna, Photography, Snowfields and Glaciers, and has special chapters on the Pyrenees, the Jura, the Atlas and other mountain regions in French controlled areas. These chapters are adorned by a number of photo-plates illustrating the text, some of which are beautiful, and by numerous diagrams and tables. Criticism of these chapters cannot be expected in a short general review; and indeed each section would require a technical expert to deal with it adequately.

Volume II (*Partie Technique*, pp. 296) deals very fully with the practical aspects of mountaineering. General Principles, Equipment, ‘Technique du rocher,’ ‘Technique de la Glace,’ and ‘Dangers’ occupy two-thirds of the volume; while the last hundred pages embrace chapters on medical matters, on camping, and one on winter mountaineering, which, while alluding to weather and snow conditions and avalanches, is largely concerned with the use of ski.

It is of course to the first and main portion of this volume that mountaineers will look for the latest developments of technique, and it may be said generally that while the new and sometimes fantastic uses of pitons, of crampons, and of the ever-increasing modes of descent *en rappel* receive very full treatment, yet old rules of safe climbing, with regard to snow and weather conditions, constitution of the caravan, and precautions generally, are well recognized and recommended by the younger school of experts, some of whom have perhaps not always practised what they preach.

To follow the teaching of these two hundred pages means to read the book. The newer technique is very fully described and is illustrated by many sketches and diagrams, most of which show the methods they are designed to illustrate better than any verbal description could do. This applies especially to rock-grips, to climbing on threaded ropes, to *rappels*, and to the use of crampons,

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<sup>1</sup> It appears that a cloth-bound edition will be issued later in 1934.



though one hopes that the climbers are few who would traverse 'une pente de glace vive' at 60° without cutting steps (p. 182)! The chapter on dangers (16 pages) is a good one. The dangers are divided into two distinct categories: (1) *Objective*—weather and snow conditions, corniches, avalanches, stone-fall and so on; and (2) *Subjective*—which comprises three subsections and commences with 'Incapacité,' inexperience and lack of knowledge, technical and topographical. To comment further would occupy a page of this JOURNAL.

The last chapter in the book is one that *all* should read. It is headed 'Mesures préventives contre les Accidents de Montagne,' and it embraces both winter and summer conditions.

'Skieurs'! be always prudent. Beware of sudden changes of weather, keep in mind the cold, the wind, the fog, the storm, the night and the danger of avalanches. Never go alone, be properly equipped and be sure that the party includes a guide or an expert who has 'l'expérience de la montagne.'

All these rules of course apply also to summer mountaineering. In addition, in a short page and a half, many primary maxims are recalled—be properly trained, be properly clad, allow for a change of weather, don't use old worn ropes, make proper use of the rope and use it too much rather than too little. Never go on snow-covered glaciers unroped. Never yourself leave your party and never leave a companion behind. Beware of bad weather. Turn back too soon rather than too late. Beware of the mountains after a fall of new snow.

'Quelques succès précoces, même éclatants, ne font pas un alpiniste.' 'L'habileté technique, la connaissance approfondie de la montagne, sans lesquelles il n'est pas de véritable alpiniste, ne peuvent être acquises que par une longue série d'expériences progressives sous la conduite de guides ou de compagnons éprouvés.'

Finally, remember that the worth of a mountaineer is made up of intelligence and calm, of courage and of prudence, and 'surtout d'humilité vis-à-vis de la montagne.' 'La puissance des forces de la montagne comparée à la faiblesse de l'homme est infinie.' (p. 291.)

That such teaching as this should follow chapters which may have been skimmed and which are illustrated by somewhat alarming sketches is reassuring. It imprints the seal of the C.A.F. on the sound doctrine, and will help to consolidate world-opinion on the unalterable truths underlying the reasonable pursuit of the mountains.

C. W.

*L'Alpinisme. Guide Pratique.* By E. Brodbeck. Pp. 376, illustrated. Map of Switzerland, with list of huts which are marked on the map. Published by the Société Romande d'Éditions S.A. Lausanne. 1933.

A VERY useful book issued in a small portable form, full of complete information on all subjects connected with mountaineering. A great deal of the information contained in it has already been fully dealt with



in the numerous other textbooks on the technicalities of mountaineering, and there is no need to treat that in detail. For the most part, the advice given runs on very sound lines and is illustrated by excellent diagrams. I do not agree with M. Brodbeck's recommendation of a leather ring fixed on the shaft of the ice axe, as the retention of moisture at this point leads to a gradual rotting of the wood underneath the ring. This was actually the cause of a fatal accident on the Aiguille Verte when the shaft of an ice axe snapped at this point due to such decay. Moreover, the ring is a grave disadvantage when probing. The chapters on the use of the compass, map-reading and weather conditions are well worth study, although in parts somewhat too technical for the ordinary reader. The chapter dealing with the various form of clouds and winds is, I believe, a new feature and should be a valuable help in forecasting weather.

I do not altogether agree with M. Brodbeck that it is always preferable to bivouac rather than make a descent by night. Where it is a matter of a descent on rock, although the advisability of doing this must necessarily be governed by the difficulties to be encountered and the absolute knowledge of the capability of each member of the party, I think that where a slow descent may be safely carried out, it is far preferable to the tediousness of a long night spent sitting on one spot. I speak from experience, as I have made the descent by night of both the Petit Dru and La Meije (to the Val des Étançons).

With M. Brodbeck's criticisms of a certain type of rock-climber in his Introduction (p. 8), I am in entire agreement, and it would be well if many of the young climbers of the present day would take them to heart and recognize that recklessness is the last quality to be desired in the first-class climber.

S. S.

*Mont Blanc Sideshow.* The Life and Times of Albert Smith. By J. Monroe Thornton. Pp. xvi + 255, illustrated. Philadelphia: The John C. Winston Co. 1934. Price 12s.

THIS attractive book is, as the publisher's announcement quite truthfully says, 'the diverting biography of an original member of the Alpine Club who, abandoning a medical career for journalism, had many adventures. Although he died at the age of forty-three, he had ridden in balloons, travelled to Constantinople and the Nile, walked through many valleys of the Alps, and voyaged to China. The first dramatic critic of the *Illustrated London News*, he married an actress, and knew Dickens, Thackeray and P. T. Barnum. In 1851 he ascended Mont Blanc, and fashionable London flocked to listen to the story. His Show ran for more than six years, was presented three times before the Royal Family [in 1852 in London, in 1854 at Osborne House, and in 1856 at Windsor Castle before the Court and King Leopold I of Belgium], and became the most successful entertainment of its time. 'A little pageant of medical



and literary life, of travel and showmanship, against a Victorian background.'

The book is particularly well got up, has some thirty capital illustrations, an exhaustive bibliography<sup>1</sup> and a good index. It should be added to the library of all who are interested in the development of British mountaineering, or in the amusing bye-ways of Victorian humour and showmanship. As to the former, the main points are justly put in the well-known words of C. E. Mathews<sup>2</sup>: 'Smith too was a pioneer. Mountaineering was not then a recognised sport for Englishmen. The ascent of Mont Blanc was regarded by some with growing interest, by others with a contemptuous indifference. Hitherto any information about the great mountain had to be sought for in isolated publications difficult to obtain, in the pages of magazines or in the daily press. Smith brought a more or less accurate knowledge of it to the hearts and homes of educated Englishmen,' both by his Show, and by his well-written 'Story of Mont Blanc' which, in spite of some mistakes, was for its time a very creditable account of the history of the mountain, and can still be read with interest. The entertainment 'attracted the attention of the English public to the new form of sport to be obtained amongst the High Alps, and to that wide area of mountain beauty so soon destined to be known as the "Playground of Europe" . . . Scores of men who afterwards distinguished themselves in the exploration of the great Alps first had their imaginations fired by listening to the story told at the Egyptian Hall.'

Dr. Thorington is able to quote some recollections by Mr. Freshfield. 'As a lecturer he was a success: his Mont Blanc performance was immensely popular, and there was no vulgarity in it to frighten away Victorian parents and their children, or even Victoria herself!

'I was taken to it at the age of about nine. He lectured in a small hall. In front of the screen was a pool of water with metal water-lilies. The pictures [by William Beverley] were small compared with what we are accustomed to. Albert Smith stood in a sort of pulpit on the right and told mildly humorous stories . . . and made the most of the incidents of the climb. I recollect particularly an absurd picture of the Mur de la Côte. I was very much disappointed ten years later by the reality!<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This includes the principal editions of *The Story of Mont Blanc*, but curiously omits to mention the *Mont Blanc* published, shortly after Smith's death, in 1860, with an instructive and touching 'In Memoriam' notice of 20 pages by Edmund Yates (whom Smith had assisted in his youthful literary efforts and who had become one of his closest friends). In Dr. Thorington's preface, however, he says: 'I am indebted for information to the works of . . . Edmund Yates . . . '—presumably his *Fifty Years of London Life and Recollections* which are duly listed in the bibliography.

<sup>2</sup> *Annals of Mont Blanc*, pp. 191, 195, 196.

<sup>3</sup> There is an amusing parallel to this in Smith's experiences when taken as a boy to Vauxhall Gardens. 'The battle of Waterloo was being represented on the fire-work ground, and I could not divest myself of the idea that it was a real engagement I was witnessing. . . . When I stood afterwards on the real battle-field I was disappointed in its effect. I thought it ought to have been a great deal more like Vauxhall.'



'He came forward just at the psychological moment when railways across France had brought the Alps within the Englishman's long vacation. And strange to say he had a genuine passion for Mont Blanc, which fortune or rather his own enthusiasm enabled him to put to profit.<sup>4</sup> He, I recollect, anticipated the modern topical song with one which had the refrain "and Galignani's Messenger, the greatest of them all," and varied with the news of the day which it more or less embodied.'

In his account of the actual ascent, Dr. Thorington omits the more exaggerated passages in which Smith describes the dangers, *e.g.* of the Mur de la Côte. Such exaggerations, however, are excusable when we remember that Smith, though in previous years an untiring pedestrian, had practically no mountaineering experience (unless we count as such the ascents of the Rigi and of Vesuvius, and an excursion to the Jardin!), and in 1851 was utterly out of training. To a friend's remonstrances that he was unfit and rather heavy, he replied: 'Pluck will serve me instead of training, and I haven't the slightest fear,' but of course he found that pluck alone cannot ward off the exhaustion of fatigue. Dr. Thorington does not mention the statement of one of Smith's companions<sup>5</sup> that he intended 'to expose the whole affair as an imposition.' His feelings were probably mixed, and varied from time to time. In his own narrative he says: 'I knew all the danger,' and when he handed his belongings to Beverley (who had come with him from London) to take home if he did not return, he admits that he was afraid his 'attempt to be careless about the matter was a failure.'

Personally we can forgive Smith all his mountain alarms as we read again the modest narrative (reprinted from 'Bentley's Miscellany') of his early trip—carried out with such Spartan economy and such youthful zest and sensibility—from Paris (where he was continuing his medical studies) *via* Chamonix to Milan, or the delightful story of his first Mont Blanc peep-show, with which he entertained the Literary Institutes of Chertsey (his home), Richmond, Staines and other places, whose members 'had seen incandescent charcoal burnt in bottles of oxygen and heard the physiology of the eye explained by diagrams, until any novelty was sure to succeed.' Less familiar,

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<sup>4</sup> Dr. Thorington tells us that in the first two seasons there were 471 performances [? nine a week], and nearly 200,000 paid admission, bringing in upwards of £17,000. It would seem, therefore, that the average audience was about 400, and the average price of admissions rather less than two shillings. When somebody once shouted at Albert Smith, 'Mont Blanc is the monarch of mountains,' Douglas Jerrold, who was present, said: 'Yes, and Albert half-crowned him long ago.' (One of Smith's entertainment jingles ran:

'Mont Blanc is the monarch of mountains;  
They crowned him long ago;  
But who they got to put it on  
We don't exactly know.'

<sup>5</sup> Mr. F. Philips, who, like Albert Smith, was one of the original members of the A.C.



but equally interesting, is the lengthy diary (from his book 'The Miscellany') of the 'grand tour' of 1849, which abounds in such *obiter dicta* as this: 'Almost angry that the Moselle is not more popular; everybody rushes up the cockney Rhine, whilst scarcely anybody turns on one side to see her beautiful sister.'

About the great show itself, with its paraphernalia of Swiss girls in peasant costume, of jingles and topical songs, of St. Bernard dogs (two of which were given to the Prince of Wales, to Queen Victoria's alarm), as well as about Smith's relations with Dickens, Jerrold, Thackeray, the Keeleys, Cuthbert Bede and many others, Dr. Thorington has unearthed and arranged a mass of interesting detail.

He has discovered the dates of Smith's early training—entered Merchant Taylors in October 1826 (aged 10), left from Form V in March 1831, admitted as 'surgeon pupil' at Middlesex Hospital, September 1835, M.R.C.S. 1838. What was he doing for the four years between school and hospital? Perhaps helping his father (a doctor at Chertsey), and preparing for his medical course. But we must dally no longer with our author, but hasten to send our readers to browse for themselves in his pleasant pages.

E. H. S.

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By A. J. MACKINTOSH.

The following works have been added to the Library :—

### Club Publications.

<b>Akad. Alpen-Club Bern.</b> Jahresbericht.	1933
<b>Akad. Alpen-Club Zürich.</b> Jahresbericht.	1932
<b>Akad. A.V. München.</b> Jahresbericht.	1933
(1) <b>Alpenverein Donauland u. Deutsch. A.V. Berlin.</b> Nachrichten.	1933
(2) <b>Alpine Club of Canada.</b> Journal.	1933
(3) ——— Gazette.	1933
(4) <b>Alpine Journal.</b>	1933
<b>Alpine Sports Club, N.Z.</b> Alpine sport.	1933
(5) <b>Alpinisme.</b> Groupe de Haute Montagne.	1933
(6) <b>American Alpine Club.</b> American Alpine Journal.	1933
(7) <b>Appalachian Mountain Club.</b> Appalachia.	1933
(8) ——— Bulletin.	1933
(9) <b>Canterbury Mountaineer, N.Z.</b>	1933
(10) <b>C.A. belge.</b> Bulletin.	1933
(11) ——— Revue Alpine.	1933
(12) <b>C.A.F.</b> La montagne.	1933
——— Annuaire de poche, 1933-34. $6\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{4}$ : pp. 214.	
(12b) ——— Manuel de l'alpinisme, publié avec la collaboration du Groupe de la Haute Montagne. Partie scientifique. Partie technique. 2 vols.: $9 \times 5\frac{3}{4}$ : pls. Chambéry, Dardel, 1934	
(13) ——— <b>Lyon.</b> Revue Alpine.	1933
——— <b>Provence.</b> Bulletin Trimestriel. $8\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ .	1933
(14) ——— <b>Sect. Vosgienne.</b> Revue.	1933