the Godley Glacier. Since then Scott and Alf. Brustad have made the *first* ascent of Mt. Moffatt, the last important Godley peak. The Canterbury mountaineers were very active at Christmas up the Rakaia, and in the Otago district, despite bad weather and more than their usual share of swollen rivers to be forded with gigantic swags.

In the prevailing weather Miss Kate Gardiner, who is at the Hermitage, has secured only one peak, Mt. Lendenfeld. Our first objective for March in the south is Sam Turner's Tutoko; Peter Graham will conduct the expedition. (*Letter* from Captain H. E. L. Porter.)

REVIEWS.

Um den Kantsch: Der zweite Deutsche Angriff auf den Kangchendzönga, 1931. By Paul Bauer. Pp. 191 + 72 illustrations, 2 panoramas and a map. Munich: Knorr und Hirth. 1933. Price 12 marks.

The story of Herr Bauer's 1929 attempt on Kangchenjunga as told in the Journal (vol. **42,** 185–202) has been incorporated into 'Great Travel Stories of all Nations.'[1] His book, relating the same adventure[2] and reviewed in 'A.J.,' **43,** 192–4, is long out of print after undergoing many editions. All these facts indicate that a magnificent expedition has been commemorated worthily by its leader. In *Um den Kantsch*, Herr Bauer gives us the narrative of his last equally gallant but even more unlucky attempt. I use the word 'unlucky' purposely. The expedition gained a height of over 26,000 ft., and then with all the serious difficulties overcome, within 1800 yds. horizontally and 2000 ft. vertically of the summit, saw their hopes dashed to the ground by a wretched patch of bad snow resting on ice only a very few score of feet in height. The fact that this great party was wise and brave enough to retreat has proved how well they understood and respected the ethics of mountaineering. Their members' fame is sealed for ever.

Reading between the lines of the story of 1931, we realise at once in a self-effacing narrative why 'the soldiers of the 10th Legion were devoted to Cæsar.' Sahibs, porters, whether belonging to high altitude parties or to L. of C., seem to have had no idea for personal comfort, providing their efforts could bring the advance nearer the goal. The start from Darjeeling was encouraging, Sherpas and Bhutias from all parts poured in as anxious recruits and, if a short hold-up did occur, this was due to prior events in no way connected with Bauer's party (pp. 15–16). Peace was restored quickly and these first pages of the book form a touching memorial to the relations of Sahibs and porters throughout. Several Sherpas and Bhutias have died since, including Herr Bauer's personal porter,

[1] *Op. cit.* (pp. 893–905). Edited by Elizabeth D'Oyley. London: Harrap, 1932.

[2] *Im Kampf um den Himalaja.* Munich: Knorr und Hirth, 1929.

Gami, one of the three heroes who fought it out high up with their Sahibs to the bitter end.

I have no intention of making a *précis* of this deeply interesting volume: those absorbed in mountaineering and daring adventure will read the story for themselves. But I will add that no one, whatever Herr Bauer may have published elsewhere in Alpine periodicals, can have realised hitherto how terrible and tremendous is an attack on Kangchenjunga pushed right home. And yet the N.E. spur is declared generally to be the only feasible route! Two solid months anchored to a knife-edged and be-pinnacled ridge; never a single step to be taken lightly, never a moment of relaxation of tension and with the ever-present peril of the inevitable Kangchenjunga tempests. A truly glorious adventure and undergone for the second time by many of the party, amateur and professional. The story of the accident (pp. 40–51)—and never was disaster more truly an 'accident'—is among the best-written chapters in the book. No one can read it unmoved: Bauer's unaccountable forebodings, the sick men racked with fever yet striving to find reliefs, the burial in the rocky islet of the Zemu (see the fine illustration facing p. 96), and lastly, prompted by Hermann Schaller's previous words, the great resolve to continue the attack. True, and no wonder, many porters had reached the breaking point; fully half the Europeans were down with chills and malaria, but the remainder of all ranks—the survivors of the fittest—still push on. And all this happening *before* the party had attacked the crest! Soldier-volunteer of 1914, Ober Leutnant of the Somme, lying helpless and wounded by his dying Commander, Bauer proved himself a worthy leader on yet another stricken field.

Pushing over the ice pinnacles—in the literal sense of the word—hacking a gutter-like track through corniche and snowy slab, after weeks of crushing toil, Allwein and Wien on September 18 attain their highest point (7940–8000 m. = *ca.* 26,200 ft.), just below the main N. arête. The attack on the mountain proper had lasted since July 14. Exhausted, defeated—not knowing their leader, breathless, without blankets and alone in a lower camp—but undaunted, they retire. The three splendid porters, Gami, Pemba and Keddar had reached the highest camp, XI.

Of the retreat there is little to say. Storms such as nearly overwhelmed the party in 1929 were due, but Providence proved merciful. The weather held up while the weakened, crippled mountaineers, the machine-gunners of November 1918, fought downwards slowly but surely as ever. On September 30 the long-drawn agony was over.

The diary and appendix contain the movements of the now widely separated members. Some visit the Tibetan border, others the Simvu Saddle and the unknown Passanram Glacier and glen. One, to the great benefit of Himalayan cartography, Wien, surveyed the Zemu Glacier neighbourhood. The narrative of these explorations is not the least valuable in the book.

Of the appearance and general get-up of the volume it would be difficult to speak too highly. The print (Roman) is excellent and the illustrations simply magnificent; the student or expert must seek the best out for himself. I should like to add how much British readers will appreciate Herr Bauer's graceful concession in the matter of reversion to British spelling of place-names (p. 21, footnote). The title of the book is, as the author points out, a concession to popular journalism!

As for the map in three colours, *Karte des Zemu Gletschers*, on a scale of 1 : 33,333 (50 m. contours), a scale to be adopted very probably by the Federal Topographical Bureau for the future great map of Switzerland, it will be sufficient to quote the words of a distinguished Himalayan explorer and surveyor: 'It is a landmark in Himalayan cartography. Its excellence is due to the method of ground stereo-photogrammetry, in which the Continentals are some ten years ahead of our people, owing solely to the conservatism and obstinacy of our own surveyors. I wish Finsterwalder could have seen his way not to put the contour values on some of the glaciers upside down—but apparently it is the German practice to put the values the right way up for a man *ascending* the glacier. But in one place, at least, he has the contour value upside down on the map and also to the man ascending the glacier! However, this is a minor point in a very excellent production.'

In wishing this book the success it deserves and assuredly will command, I can add that student-mountaineers are certain to follow the reviewer's example—and read the volume through at one sitting.

Episodes in a Varied Life. By Lord Conway of Allington. Pp. 275, illustrated. Country Life, Ltd. 1932. Price 15*s*.

WHENEVER Lord Conway favours us with a new book we may depend on a smooth and admirably written narrative. His latest work is no exception to the rule he has set. Of the several episodes we are concerned only with those relating to mountaineering, yet to many persons the other incidents will appeal doubtless still more. 'Mountaineering Days' (Chapter III, pp. 23–35) contains many anecdotes new to our generation of climbers as well as interesting stories of some remarkable coincidences. But as regards the Matterhorn accident of 1865, Lord Conway is in error. When the rope broke Whymper was not 'the last man of the party,' but the last *but one*: young Taugwalder was behind him (p. 29). 'The Alpine Club and the Alpine Journal' (Chapter VI, pp. 57–63) is full of facts in the history of the Club, some of which might be described almost as cruelly humorous. To the short list of the life-long and constant friends of Coolidge should be added the names of Fred Gardiner, W. M. Baker and Claude Wilson. The history of the *Climbers' Guides* started by the author and taken over subsequently by Coolidge is valuable: it was a lead to every Club and Alpine Society in Europe. We do not think sufficient credit has been

apportioned either to Lord Conway or to Mr. Coolidge. The format of all valuable modern *Guides* is precisely similar to that inaugurated, at his own expense, by Lord Conway. In Chapter VIII the author describes the view from near Bungi on the Gilgit road as 'a vision of grandeur almost unique of its kind.' The Grand Cañons of Colorado have, 'one or more of them, a depth of perhaps 10,000 ft.' The Himalayan Indus gorge, from a height above sea level of less than 3000 ft., has on one side Nanga Parbat towering to over 26,000 ft., 'while on the other side nameless mountains of 20,000 ft. and upwards bound the gorge' (p. 79).

Chapters XV to XVII (pp. 191–241) are perhaps the most interesting of all. Concerning one difficult pass crossed by Lord Conway's party, Fuorcla Prievlusa (= pericolosa, *i.e.* 'dangerous,' *not* 'stony'), we can supply the original name as given by Lord Conway's party: *Morteratschsattel* (p. 218). Conway's Alpine nomenclature was always impeccable. As regards the incident described on p. 197, surely Lord Conway's memory is at fault: does he not refer to the second Everest (1922) expedition and *not* to the Kangchenjunga attempt? The reviewer received in return from His Holiness the Pope, through the British Minister to the Vatican, the Pope's gold medal now in possession of the Alpine Club. On p. 212 the (?) Z'mutt arête of the Matterhorn is referred to as the 'Stockje' ridge. The mountain illustrations, from photographs taken by the author himself, Mr. Spencer, or Professor Garwood, are all excellent.

In one respect we are obliged to criticize the book. Lord Conway has been served very badly by his proof readers. The names of two of the author's best 'Alpine' friends, Charles Edward Mathews and Bishop Browne, are misspelt throughout the book: so is 'Kangchenjunga.' On p. 29 the N. face of the Matterhorn is referred to as having been conquered by an 'Austrian' party: on p. 235 we get the true version—a 'German' party. The S. face of the Matterhorn was climbed more than two months *after* the first ascent of the N. face. On p. 28 Michel Croz's name is given correctly; not so on p. 235.

These mistakes and a few others will be rectified, doubtless, in future editions of what is a very charmingly written and entertaining work.

Die Eroberung des Kaukasus. By Carl Egger. Pp. 311 + 25 illustrations and 5 sketch maps. Basle: Benno Schwabe & Co. 1932.

Herr Carl Egger has laid all those who are interested in the mountains of the Caucasus under a deep obligation by the production of this splendid volume.

His earlier book, *Im Kaukasus*, published in 1915, gave a spirited account of his travels and ascents in 1914, but the present work records all the climbs and explorations accomplished in these regions up to date, 1932, gathered from the accounts scattered through many and various journals and publications, British, Russian, German, Austrian, Italian, etc.

This must have entailed an immense amount of labour and research, and the author is to be congratulated on the thoroughness and accuracy with which he has carried out his project. An admirable feature is that the references are given at the bottom of the page, so that further information can be sought, if required.

Since Mr. Freshfield's classic *Exploration of the Caucasus* and Mr. Craufurd Grove's *Frosty Caucasus* were published, there has been no authoritative and co-ordinated record of the various explorations and ascents, and this book was long overdue.

A gracious foreword by the veteran pioneer, Mr. Freshfield, is followed by a short introductory sketch by the author, which gives full recognition to the early British explorers, who opened up the region.

The chain is divided up into groups, starting from the Western end, and the author has had the happy idea, in addition to his own description of the mountains, of giving the actual accounts of the more important ascents by the climbers themselves. Some thrilling adventures are recorded, for this marvellous region has drawn the attention of many of the most distinguished mountaineers of all nationalities, and will continue to do so, for, as Herr Egger shows, there are still many fine mountains to be conquered. These peaks are not easily overcome, and the challenger must be prepared to undergo considerable hardships and to endure cold bivouacs before victory is won. In this connection the discovery of the ice-cave technique by Herr Paul Bauer should prove, and is now proving, of considerable assistance.

There are many beautiful illustrations in the book, mostly from the negatives of Signor Cav. Vittorio Sella, and some line sketch maps. A proper map covering the district would, nevertheless, have added much to the value of the book, and its absence is to be deplored. However, such deficiency is the result of inaction and the incompetence of the present 'enlightened' Government; Herr Egger is *not* to blame! The volume closes with a detailed record of the first ascents, with their dates, which serves also as an index. Herr Egger has earned the gratitude of all mountaineers by his work, and if he can arrange to have his book translated into English, he will add still further to their obligations.

W. N. L.

An Epitome of Fifty Years' Climbing. By Claude Wilson, sometime President of the Alpine Club. Printed for private distribution.[1] 1933.

THIS delightful little book—printed with rare beauty and dignity—is a record of a great climbing career, the end of which is still happily far in the future. With brevity, Dr. Claude Wilson tells us how he came to the mountains—sand-hills as a child, a brother sent to school in Switzerland, a walking tour there, an accidental meeting with

[1] 125 copies of the book have been printed, and two copies, presented by the author, are in the Club's Library.

Frederick Gardiner and the two Pilkingtons, the crossing of the Tschingel Pass on their advice—and then the 'mountain madness' which still defies fifty-five years' treatment with the 'hair of the dog that bit him.' We are also reminded of the origin of that great unguided climbing-party which, with changes in composition from time to time, was to be active for thirty-five years: two guides refused to take four amateurs up Grands Charmoz, so Wilson, Wicks, W. H. Henderson, and Morse (thus put upon their mettle) climbed it without their assistance, made the first 'guideless' ascent of the mountain, and the first of that long list of such climbs.

The author's friendships have been as catholic and widespread as is his list of expeditions, and a chapter is devoted to them—a chapter of kindly but shrewd judgments. We naturally turn with most interest to the lines which describe the chief members of the great 'guideless' party—J. H. Wicks, E. H. F. Bradby, W. A. Wills, T. L. Kesteven, G. H. Morse, Ellis Carr, and others (with Wicks and Bradby, Wilson made 169 and 157 guideless ascents respectively). But many others of Dr. Claude Wilson's actual climbing companions (53 in number) find place in his pages; as also do members of a yet larger group of friends which the mountains have drawn to him, a range including some of the founders of the Club at the one end and all of the present members of the Club at the other. An equally sympathetic and interesting chapter describes the guides whom the author has known well, and those with whom he has climbed—amongst the latter, three generations of the Burgener family. It is not surprising to read on p. 27: 'Christian Klucker . . . I have no hesitation in placing as the best guide I have ever been with.' These all too brief introductory chapters are provided with interesting lists of the author's climbing companions, amateur and professional. A bibliography follows, and then comes the list of expeditions which is the purpose of the work.

At the beginning of the book we are told how it came about; and it is pleasant to record here our gratitude to Mr. H. F. Montagnier for overcoming the author's diffidence, and (that accomplished) to him and Commandant Gaillard for so carefully editing the record of expeditions and preparing the various other lists in the book. Montagnier's fortunate insistence has given us this return to an older, and too rare, fashion of mountain literature—the privately printed personal account. That fashion started (as far as English literature is concerned) with the accounts of the ascents of Mont Blanc in the first half of the nineteenth century. It reached its climax with Moore's *Alps in 1864*, and has since continued spasmodically—Coolidge's list of personal ascents is a comparatively recent example. Members of the younger generation of climbers may well wish that this fashion had been a more vigorous one, and that the present instance may set an example. It is true that we have such interesting records as those in Mumm's *A.C. Register*,

and a few privately printed lists such as that of Coolidge. But some of these are mere colourless strings of names, and what is wanted is just that little additional information which is given in Dr. Claude Wilson's own list.

We all, perhaps, feel so strongly the individual and personal nature of mountain climbing that we forget that even quite simple lists of expeditions may give interest and pleasure to others. The book-lover delights to show his treasures to a friend—the rare first edition, or the small collection in some curious field. When doing so, he thinks, perhaps, only of the interest of the books themselves; and he forgets that you may know a man by his books, and that he is showing his friend more than the volumes—his personal likings, and his range of taste. Even the bare catalogue of books may be a thing of interest in itself. It is much the same in mountaineering. The peaks which a climber adds to his collection are, to him, merely things of beauty and personal memory; but the collection as a whole shows the mountaineer—his peculiar interests and his taste in climbs, the man himself. There are few greater pleasures than to take down a volume of Mumm's *Register* from its shelf, and to read through the apparently dull lists of expeditions; then to try to form an idea of what sort of climber this or that man was.

Dr. Claude Wilson opens his library door to us, and we see his collection of expeditions neatly arranged on the shelves. Many old friends are here—Corno Bianco, the Bregaglia Group, Disgrazia, the Minor Rock Climbs from Courmayeur, the Col de la Brenva, the Ortler, Piz Lagrev, the Aiguilles d'Arves—friends which we have already met in the JOURNAL; but it is pleasant to find them marshalled in their proper places. The collection is a large one—360 expeditions; it was made slowly (perhaps an average of seven or eight in each season, for holidays were short), but with taste and care. It covers a wide field, both in the geographical and in the mountaineering sense, and it abounds in unusual and interesting expeditions. This is no list of merely 'standard' peaks and routes, no library of 'bindings,' but of *books*. A useful table at the end arranges the expeditions in nineteen districts (Norway, with the remainder in the Alps, if that word be used in its widest sense). The nature of the climbs ranges from rock ascents like the well-known attempts on the Requin, the first guideless ascent of Grands Charmoz, and expeditions in the Dolomites and the Bregaglia, to great ice climbs like the second guideless ascent of the Brenva route and the passage of the Col de la Brenva. Of this large collection, no less than 238 expeditions were made without guides—to return to our analogy, the greater part of the library is occupied by 'special editions.' In short, the collection as a whole shows the same wide range and taste as the friendships mentioned in the introductory chapters. Both show us the man himself.

But when we have looked round the shelves, it is a pleasure to browse in the library and take down here and there the fine and

rare 'first editions'—the first ascents—of which there are many, and the 'curiosities.' The *Weissmies* by the S. face (1882); the first ascents in *Norway* (1885); *Monte Rosa* by a new route from the Grenz Glacier, 1888 (when the ordinary route was joined at the 'Sattel,' but the summit itself was forbidden by a snowstorm—we would like to hear more about this expedition); *Aig. du Moine* by the W. couloir (1890); *La Nonne* (1890); the attempts on the then virgin *Dent du Requin* (1890, 1891, 1893); *L'Évêque* (1892); *Aiguille d'Argentière* from lower Col du Tour Noir (1893); *Grépon* (first guideless ascent from 'C.P.,' 1892; first traverse, guideless, S.–N., 1893); *Grands Charmoz* (first guideless ascent, 1889; first traverse, guideless, S.–N., 1893); *Corno Bianco* from Val d'Otro (1894); *Requin* by S. face (1896); *Ciarforon* by E. arête (1897); *Aletschhorn* by S.E. arête (1898); *Aiguille de la Brenva*, traversed S.–N. (1901); *Wetterhorn* by W. face (1902); *Schreckhorn* by S.W. arête (1902); *Aig. de Triolet* by S. arête (1904); *Aig. de Talèfre* by W. arête (1904); *Aig. Rouge de Rochefort* by W. face and N. arête (1901); *Mont Rouge de Gruetta* (1911); *Piz Lagrev* by W. face (1922)—these are some of the new ascents in the collection.

The 'curiosities' of the collection are as interesting as the 'first editions.' Two ascents of the Wetterhorn, Dr. Wilson's first and fifth, separated by fifty years (less one day), the second taking $1\frac{3}{4}$ hours *less* than the first, are surely interesting. That failures may not be lacking, we notice the strange fact that five different attempts to climb the Berglistock were all frustrated by bad weather. A descent from the Col du Géant to the Hôtel Royal in Courmayeur *in* $1\frac{3}{4}$ *hours'* actual going deserves to be recorded. But one of the greatest curiosities to the present hut-pampered generation will be the admirable and weather-cheating habit of climbing peaks direct from the valley. The earliest instance of this practice is the ascent of Grand Combin from and to Bourg Saint-Pierre in the same day—the *first climb* of Dr. Wilson's 1880 season! A later instance of the same method is given by the new ascent of Schreckhorn in 1902—a route strangely neglected for the next twenty-three years. The party descended to Grindelwald on the second of two days spent in exploring the route, and then started off again late on the same night for the actual ascent. Still more remarkable is the traverse of the Col de la Brenva. Georg Winkler (who had not yet visited the Western Alps) was probably the first to propose to try the ascent of the Brenva route without guides. He planned to take two bivouacs, and, had he not altered his plans, he might have made the attempt on the very day upon which he was lost on the Weisshorn in 1888. The first guideless party—Mummery, Hastings, Collie—were forced, as is well known, to take two bivouacs because they tried the sérac wall too far to the left in 1894. Ten years later, in 1904, the second guideless party—Bradby, Wicks, and Claude Wilson—crossed the Col de la Brenva *without any*

bivouac at all, and *from Courmayeur* to the Grands Mulets, in spite of the fact that the state of the terminal séracs forced them to cut across ice from near the top of the Brenva route to the Col de la Brenva. This is perhaps the greatest mountaineering feat in the book, and one of the greatest in any such collection.

Lest too great praise be given, let us look for blemishes. They are hard to find. The Tellispitze has slipped by accident into the Eastern Pennines (in the list given on p. 107) from its proper place in the Oberland. A misprint on p. 17 (line 14 of the text)—'with' for 'which'—merely serves to emphasize the accuracy of the printing. *Einspänner* is misprinted on p. 25, and we read 'Gehen sie Acht' for 'geben' on p. 28. By the way, *when* did Emile Rey visit Edinburgh (p. 26)? Was it not early in 1884? He climbed Arthur's Seat, and the reviewer remembers as a boy hearing the local tradition that Rey estimated beforehand the ascent would occupy the day—a story also told of other Alpine guides on other British mountains. There is a slip on p. 67, of which the author informs me: In the party which climbed Dent Blanche on July 28, 1900, 'T. L. Kesteven' should be substituted for 'J. H. Wicks.'

T. G. B.

Nella Gloria delle Altezze? Impressions and records of ascents in the neighbourhood of Ceresole, Valsavaranche and Cogne. By Dottor Agostino Ferrari. Pp. 353, illustrated. Turin: F. Casanova. 1931. Price 18 lire.

This volume is an attractive record of climbs in the Graian Alps, in the Ceresole, Valsavaranche, and Cogne regions. The author tells us that he is more skilful with the axe than the pen. If that is so, his ice-work must be very good.

The climbs include the Gran Paradiso, the Levannas, the Becca di Monciair, the Ciarforon, the Grivola, the Herbetet, and many others. It is noteworthy that the author claims that no previous record exists of the ridge-traverse of the Monte Morion, Corno Bianco, Monte Barrouard, and Cima della Piccola, from the Colle della Croce to the Forno Glacier.

Every page of the book breathes enthusiasm for the mountains, and a special affection for the author's native peaks.

We sympathize with his constant complaints of the desecration of the Alps by the intrusion of fashionable hotels, with all their paraphernalia of over-dressing, frivolity, and petty gossip.

We cannot, however, agree so wholeheartedly with his obvious satisfaction at the present impediments to free circulation on the Italian frontier (p. 99). These impediments constitute, to our mind, nothing else than a scandal in time of 'peace.'

We regret certain misprints: 'inglese Frehs-field and Joung,' as well as the fact that there is no general index, apart from one giving particulars of first ascents of peaks mentioned in this volume. The shiny paper on which the book is printed is rather trying to the eyes. We appreciate the author's touches of humour—*e.g.* his reference to

certain snorers, who, of course, on the following morning, 'had not closed an eye all night.' Was he, perhaps, one of the sufferers? The reproduction of the beautiful illustrations is very moderate.

J. E. C. E.

Alps and Men. By G. R. de Beer. Pp. 250, illustrated. London: Edward Arnold & Co. 1932. Price 12*s.*

In a preface written with an almost disarming modesty, Mr. de Beer confesses that his present volume is no more than a 'scrapbook' with a not very ambitious aim: his main object has been 'to trace the itineraries of a few tourists from the middle of the XVIIIth to the middle of the XIXth centuries, and to consider where they went, what they did and how they liked it.' The tracing of itineraries is obviously dull work, and Mr. de Beer soon grew tired of chronicling the minor incidents of tourism, its daily budget and its nightly quarters. He first sought relief in anecdotes not always accurate: the extracts of Thomas Martyn may be 'delightful,' but they are not 'new,' the 130-years-old cheese he ate in Meyringen had already been tasted by Ramond. Then Mr. de Beer, finding he still lacked material for his volume, seems to have turned to his desk and drawn out several papers on more or less remotely allied subjects. What claim to be inserted among Tourists' Itineraries can be alleged for the story of the battles fought about the Devil's Bridge and the St. Gotthard Pass at the end of the eighteenth century? The scientists who camped on the Aar Glacier about 1838 can hardly be counted as tourists. Yet, if Mr. de Beer wants to deal with them, why does he leave out all the accounts of the early ascents of Mont Blanc? People like Markham Sherwill, Fellows, Atkins, Tilly, and Mlle. d'Angeville, were actual tourists, in a way. The extensive rambles and scrambles of Töpffer's ill-behaved schoolboys might furnish a page or two, but not a whole chapter. The casual reader of Mr. de Beer's volume will put it down under the impression that he has dipped not into a Student's Scrapbook, but into the waste-paper basket of a versatile book-maker.

We have to note not a little carelessness in detail. Evelyn's companion did not shoot a dog in the Simplon village (p. 26); his dog killed a goat which gave occasion for a local riot. Mme. Vigée-Lebrun went to Chamonix in 1807, not 1808 (p. 82); her *Souvenirs* give a wrong, though easily corrected, date. Châteaubriand did not go to Switzerland for political reasons, but to meet Mme. Récamier (p. 144). The loss of the Chamonix visitors' book is much to be lamented, but not for the sake of a few *émigrés*' signatures: in 1792 they had no time to indulge in that kind of literary composition, and besides they did not care to leave a record of their whereabouts. Ruskin's well-known onslaught against mountaineering, 'You have made race-courses of the Cathedrals of the earth . . .' did not occur after Albert Smith's ascent of

Mont Blanc, which was the thirty-sixth desecration of the mountain, but after Whymper's climb of the Aiguille Verte, a much more heinous crime as it was a *cime vierge* (p. 112). Mr. de Beer has forgotten to deal with several well-known and highly picturesque travellers: William Wordsworth (in 1790), Sénancour, Victor Hugo (in 1825), Balzac, Mme. d'Agoult (Liszt's mistress), Lamartine, Dickens.

Again, Mr. de Beer has neglected to consult many sources of information. Not that he cannot be at times a ready and even an extensive borrower! The greater part of the chapter on 'The Scientists' is an almost literal translation of M. Charles Gos's recent book, *L'Hôtel des Neuchâtelois*, though Mr. de Beer omits precise references. Yet, when the English sentence runs thus: 'Now, he [Agassiz] was accompanied by his faithful lieutenant Desor, and by the naturalist Carl Vogt, Célestin Nicolet and two pupils of Agassiz', Henri de Coulon and François de Pourtales' (p. 160), and the French one: 'Les membres de l'expédition étaient, à part Agassiz, Desor son adjudant, le naturaliste Carl Vogt, Célestin Nicolet, Henri de Coulon et François de Pourtalès, élèves d'Agassiz' (p. 35), any conscientious writer would have quoted the book he translated from.[1] Why does Mr. de Beer not explain how he came across the first engraving of his plate XIV? The original belongs to Mrs. Henry Lee-Higginson, Agassiz's daughter, who allowed M. Charles Gos to publish it.

Alps and Men is well illustrated, but a misprint occurs on plate XII. The figure named 'Louis Agassiz' is really Edouard Desor.

CLAIRE-ELIANE ENGEL.

—*10°*. Quatre-vingt-dix images sur les sports d'hiver. By Samivel. Paris: Delagrave. 1933. Price 25 fs.

THESE delightful drawings, supplemented at times by an equally humorous text, form a worthy companion volume to *Sous l'œil des Choucas*.[2] M. Samivel is not a mere caricaturist: like Mr. Willink, he is a true artist. Every one of his drawings repays close study even with a magnifying glass: he has the rare gift of reproducing atmosphere (see pp. 49, 53, and 57 in particular). Of his purely humorous sketches, 'Snobs d'hiver' (p. 5), 'Accident: la Baronne vient de réussir un télémark' (p. 9), 'Tiens, . . . on ne ramasse donc plus ici' (p. 14) and especially 'La neige parle' (p. 19), and 'Technique de la montée' (p. 40) appeal to one most. 'Le peloton de tête' (pp. 36–7) gives a marvellous impression of speed. Many skiers are stated to be deficient at times in a sense of the ludicrous, so are bob-sleighers, curlers and especially skaters. All these categories, including mountaineers, will discover what their performances really look

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[1] The reviewer has omitted to state that Mr. de Beer has 'borrowed' largely from her own works, without acknowledgment of any kind, save an occasional reference to—Coolidge!—*Editor*.

[2] *A.J.* **44, 371–3.**

like and why fashionable winter resorts are now suffocated with —mocking—onlookers at the expense of mere performers. In one drawing, 'Grande exposition de blanc' (pp. 12–13), we rejoice to have discovered the gifted artist himself, holding his own 'Samivel Schischule' under the notice *Défense de regarder*. He is the most modest and skilful of authors and we thank him for once again affording us many laughs. May he continue to be the Alpine benefactor he now is.

Schönheiten der Alpenstrassen. Three portfolios of lithographs $16\frac{1}{2}'' \times 12\frac{1}{2}''$. Published by the Swiss Postal Administration, Berne.

1. Col du Pillon, Les Mosses, Gr. St. Bernhard, Val d'Anniviers, Val d'Hérens, Simplon, illustrated by Edm. Bille, P. Burckhardt, G. François and Ed. Vallet.
2. Grimsel, Furka, Gotthard, illustrated by Cuno Amiet, M. Bohlen and H. Howald.
3. Klausen, S. Bernardino, Maloja, illustrated by Giov. Giacometti, A. H. Pellegrini, V. Surbeck and H. B. Wieland.

Price: the three portfolios 75 Swiss Francs. Separately 30 Swiss Francs each.

THESE three interesting portfolios of lithographs of Swiss mountain scenery have been kindly presented to the Alpine Club Library by the President, Sir John J. Withers.

Each portfolio contains a charming foreword in German by Herr Heinrich Federer, in French by Monsieur Robert de Traz, in Italian by Francesco Chiesa, and in English by Mr. John Knittel. The last named, although apparently Swiss by nationality, unless we are mistaken, is well known as an English novelist. Monsieur Robert de Traz, we think, gives a somewhat misleading description of the well-known hotel at Gletsch, of which the interior can hardly be said to produce the monastic impression which it seems to have made on Monsieur de Traz. Whatever the attitude of the *concierge* may have been, we feel quite sure that Mademoiselle Catherine Seiler, who manages the hotel to the utmost satisfaction of her Alpine friends, would never show anything but the greatest solicitude for the comfort of any guest making a stay of whatever length.

The pictures contained in the portfolios are lithographs of considerable merit, some of which are perhaps somewhat too modern in style to appeal to all tastes, and we would single out those by A. H. Pellegrini, M. Bohlen, E. Vallet and G. François as being the most attractive.

These portfolios will serve as a delightful souvenir of the country through which these Postal Services pass.

A Century of Swiss Alpine Postal Coaches. Illustrated. Published in French, German, Italian and English by 'L'Art en Suisse,' rue Petitot, 3, Geneva. Price 6 Swiss Francs.

THIS volume, also produced by the same publishers, contains five chapters dealing with the history and progress of the Swiss Postal Services, one of which gives a particularly interesting account of an adventurous crossing of the St. Gotthard for the first time in a vehicle

by Charles Greville. It is illustrated by a series of beautiful reproductions of old prints, tickets and ancient documents in addition to numerous photographs. It also contains some useful information at the end of the volume. The English edition has the advantage of possessing a foreword written by Sir John J. Withers, President of the Alpine Club.

La Montagne.

With its January number *La Montagne*, the organ of the C.A.F., enters upon a fresh stage of development. Since its foundation, twenty-five years ago, it has been edited by M. Maurice Paillon, under whose care it has grown remarkably in size, variety and interest. M. Paillon retires *jam rude donatus*—remaining as Honorary Editor—and M. Pierre Dalloz takes his place as responsible Editor. At the same time *La Montagne* is once more enlarged in format, there are to be ten issues a year instead of nine, and the illustrated cover is to be changed monthly.

The January, 1933, number opens with an impressive copy of the portrait of Dr. Paccard of which a weaker (? badly retouched) photograph was reproduced in Mathews' *Annals of Mont Blanc* (1898, p. 32) and in 'A.J.' **41,** 146. The cliché in each case is from a photograph by Tairraz, but the new version is almost startlingly more effective than the one made thirty-five years ago. Brow, eye, sensitive mouth, aquiline nose (the 'Römerkopf' shown in the profile likeness by Bacler d'Albe, 'A.J.' **41,** 144, which served as the model for the bronze medallion portrait by M. Sylvestre, inaugurated at Chamonix last August), all come out with far more life-like effect. The only fault is that the left side of the face, which is visible in the original painting and in the old reproduction, is lost in the black shadow which contributes to the Rembrandtesque effect of the present plate. The number contains two other Paccard items. Through the kind offices of Signor Commendatore Bobba, the Civic Library of Turin has permitted the reproduction in facsimile of a letter of three pages (mainly on mineralogy) written by Paccard 'au très Révérend Père Hermenegilde, à Milan,' on January 4, 1779, when he was not quite twenty-two years of age. He gives his address as 'au Collège Royal des Provinces à Turin,' and says he is staying in Turin till May. The handwriting is extraordinarily neat and clear, and the careful and precise observations recorded in the letter confirm our belief in Dr. Paccard's scientific interests and clear-headed competence.

Unfortunately, M. Savine's article on Dr. Paccard, which accompanies these instructive reproductions, is quite unworthy of them or of its subject. Indeed, it is astonishing that such a production should have been admitted to the pages of any mountaineering journal. It betrays complete misconception of many of the chief features of the case, and a positively reckless disregard for accuracy of statement and quotation. We can only afford space to point out a few of M. Savine's more serious blunders. He asserts that

Dr. Paccard was Mayor of Chamonix 'durant de longues années,' and was 'borne to the Mayoralty by the popularity of the moment' (*sc.* of his successful ascent of Mont Blanc in 1786). Actually he was Mayor for one year, in 1794. Then it is suggested that political dissensions arising in connexion with his official position may have been the origin of the campaign against him, whereas it is notorious that this campaign began with Bourrit's malicious letter of September 1786. M. Savine quotes from de Saussure 'la recommandation de n'ajouter aucune foi aux écrits et aux palabres de Balmat, surtout à ceux de la fin de sa vie, car, dit-il [*sc.* de Saussure] " celui-ci a vraiment trop varié dans ses récits pour qu'on puisse y ajouter foi." ' We do not believe that de Saussure ever wrote anything of the kind, and we challenge M. Savine to produce any authority for his statement. M. Savine goes on to suggest that the memorandum of Balmat's discovered by M. Gex (see 'A.J.' **21,** 408, and **41,** 99) was known to de Saussure and contributed to the opinion just cited—for, says M. Savine, 'this " carnet " was written at the moment of the first ascent, and must have been shown to de Saussure.' Those who are not familiar with the subject will hear with amazement that whereas de Saussure died in 1799, Balmat's memorandum—it is not a 'carnet'—was certainly not written till 1830, as is shown by the fact that it contains a full list of ascents up to that year. After this we are not very surprised that M. Savine utterly misrepresents the attitude of Bourrit and of Carrier, or that he adduces Durier as one of Paccard's defenders—though it is, of course, well known that Durier was the most obstinate supporter of the extremest claims made for Balmat—or that he declares that it was on Paccard's report (supported by Bourrit!) that the King of Sardinia awarded a 'gratification' to Balmat. The rest of the article is much of a piece with these almost incredible blunders. Two of its statements would be interesting if correct, but cannot be accepted on M. Savine's unsupported assertion—viz. that the Paccard family bore arms, and that the portrait of Dr. Paccard was the work of Joseph Vernet. As the latter died in 1789 (when Paccard was 32) the attribution, though made 'sans doute,' is excessively improbable. Lastly, we must point out that one of the illustrations, stated to represent Paccard and Balmat descending from Mont Blanc, and to be from a contemporary gouache preserved by Dr. Paccard's descendants, is faked from a lithograph by Cuvillier of *ca.* 1850 (which probably depicts de Saussure's party) by omitting all the figures (eight) except two in the foreground, which in any case cannot possibly represent Paccard and Balmat.

With regard to the remaining contents of this number of *La Montagne*, it is a pleasure to say that they have much charm (*e.g.* the letters of Mlle. Henriette d'Angeville; the engraving labelled 'Hôtel Royal' represents 'Hôtel de l'Union') and interest, especially the articles on the spectroscopy of the upper air, and on the routes up the N. face of the Aiguille Verte.

E. H. S.