Room was born on October 21, 1883. He was educated at Highgate, as well as in Switzerland and Germany. His earliest Alpine climbs took place while he was still at school in Switzerland. A little later he joined the Diablerets Section of the S.A.C. and at the time of his death had long been one of its ' veterans.' For many years he was also a member of the Association of British Members of the S.A.C. He was elected to the Alpine Club in 1936, the late General Bruce being his proposer, and Sir Leonard Pearce his seconder.

Apart from climbing, Room was intensely keen on miniature camera photography which he combined with climbing to produce a number of extremely good studies of mountains. He was also an enthusiastic skater and a Fellow of the Royal Microscopical Society. Besides many journeys in Europe he spent some years in Canada. He climbed many peaks in the Bernese Oberland, Valais and Engadine and did a great deal of rock climbing in Wales. His principal Alpine ascents were : Matterhorn, Jungfrau and Monch (in one day at the age of fifty-four), Finsteraarhorn, Wetterhorn, Gross Schreckhorn, Obergabelhorn (by Arbengrat), Monte Rosa, Zinal Rothorn, Piz Morteratsch and Piz Palü. His guides were Hans Bernet of the Oberland and Adolf and Hermann Schaller of Zermatt.

Reginald Room was a keen climber and a delightful companion whom I always enjoyed meeting, both in Switzerland and London. I shall miss him greatly.

S. DE V. MERRIMAN.

ALPINE NOTES

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :	Year of Election
Somers, J. P.	1898
Tattersall, E. S.	1900
Vernon, R. V.	1910
Walker, The Rev. J. C....	1918
Blanchet, E. R.	1922
Ellwood, V. T.	1923
Miers, Lt.-Col. P. R. P.	1928
Room, H. W. R.	1936

HONOURS.—We congratulate Sir John Clapham and Sir Edwin Herbert on their recent distinction of Knighthood.

PRESENTATION.—We acknowledge with gratitude the gift of many slides and mounted photographs, together with some thirty short notes about plans from A. F. Mummery and a set of snapshots—' the only photos Mummery ever took '—formerly in the possesion of Dr. J. N. Collie, by the kindness of Mrs. Benstead ; also of several books from

the library of Mr. G. R. Speaker, details of which are given on page 91 of this number.

ESCAPE TO THE MOUNTAINS.—It is recorded in *The Times* that last February three Italian prisoners broke out from a camp within sight of Mt. Kenya, ascended Pt. Lenana, and then duly returned to camp after hoisting the Italian flag on the summit.

NEW BOOKS.—We learn that two new mountain books have appeared recently :

Friendly Mountains, by R. Peattie, published by the Vanguard Press, New York, and

Les Conquêtes de ma Jeunesse, by André Roch. We hope to receive copies of these in due course.

OBITUARY.—We much regret to report the death at Bern in February last of Mrs. Hasler, the wife of our Swiss member. *Née* Miss Marie Hampson Simpson, she was one of the best lady mountaineers of her time and, together with her husband, made many new routes in the Bernese Oberland in the early nineteen hundreds. Details can be found in the Oberland Climbers' Guide. Many of her climbs were accomplished alone with her husband, on others they were accompanied by Fritz Amatter of Grindelwald. We offer our sincerest sympathy to Mr. Hasler.

RODERICK WILLIAMS, 1857—1942.—Roderick Williams came of a Welsh family which had settled in Liverpool in the first half of the nineteenth century, an era when such settlers were so plentiful as to earn for Liverpool the humorous appellation of the metropolis of Wales. In the '80's he and his brother Tom were pioneers of climbing in Wales. Together they made some first ascents, a few of which are noted in Haskett-Smith's 1895 volume, and in the climbing guides which have succeeded it, whilst others are unchronicled. The merit of the two brothers does not, however, lie in the number of their first ascents, but, as the President of the Alpine Club has well said, in the fact that Roderick and Tom Williams showed the way to gully and buttress.

After a somewhat lengthy period of climbing in the Alps he was elected a member of the Alpine Club in 1893, and for twenty years more he rarely missed a climbing season there, nor an Alpine Club Annual Dinner in London. His earlier range was wide, embracing the Swiss Alps, the Cottians, the Graians. In 1897 he was attracted to the Eastern Alps, and invited me to go with him and be ' chief speaker ' in the German tongue. From then onwards he usually went to Tyrol, which he came to know intimately, both peaks and passes ; and there his climbing was always guideless, as indeed had been much of his climbing in other districts. His companions of various times were J. G. Cockin, Archer Thomson, W. P. Haskett-Smith and G. L. Collins, but in Tyrol his habit was to take with him younger men, whom he coached in

rock and snow craft with great patience. Many of these younger men themselves became presently members of the Alpine Club or other climbing clubs.

He was a fine cragsman. I recall particularly his leading up the Gross Litzner, and I single this out notwithstanding Norman Neruda's curious statement that he had never noticed ' any of the difficulties for which the Litzner is noted.' He was a great ' goer,' and had besides few equals as a pathfinder in the grasslands and lower slopes, where some climbers are oddly deficient.

By profession he was a solicitor, and for some forty years he was Law Clerk to the Hoylake and West Kirby Urban District Council. A widow and two daughters mourn his loss. His only son was killed in a flying accident at a North Wales airfield in November 1941, when on duty with the R.A.F.

W. J. WILLIAMS.

YOUTH AND AGE ON MONT BLANC.—Several years ago M. Paul Payot sent me a rare copy of Venance Payot's *Oscillations des Quatres Grands Glaciers de la Vallée de Chamonix* (1879 edition, which M. Payot says is one of two copies of the only issue he has discovered), in which there is a note (p. 183) that Venance Payot, who accompanied Mr. Nicholson and the Abbé Caux on their ascent of Mont Blanc in 1843, was but sixteen years of age at the time. This is not mentioned in Venance Payot's *Guide-Itinéraire du Mont-Blanc* (1857). While probably true, it is strange when placed beside the statement in Mathews' *Annals*, p. 163 : ' The names of their guides (with the exception of Venance Payot their leader) are not recorded.'

Venance Payot, a naturalist, was the son of Pierre-Joseph Payot, a guide who was present in 1832 at the famous interview between Jacques Balmat and A. Dumas.

It has been supposed hitherto that the youngest men of their time to make the ascent were the American, George Heard, and his Eton companion, Kyrle Alfred Chapman, respectively 18 and 17 years of age in 1855.

Durier records the ascents of other young people : Captain Paget and his wife, in 1861, brought their children Claude (9) and Harold (11) to the Grands Mulets. Armand de Verneuil (15) ascended Mont Blanc on August 17, 1869 ; Horace de Saussure (14) on July 17, 1873 ; Aline Loppé (16) on September 30, 1873 and again on August 18, 1875 ; and Charles E. Rand (15), an American, on July 13, 1874.

At the other end of the scale Durier notes that M. le marquis de Turenne (72) was on the summit at the time of Aline Loppé's second ascent. Henri Brulle (80) accomplished his fourth ascent on August 3, 1933, and died shortly after a fifth attempt, July 27th, 1936, reaching the Tournettes in stormy weather.

J. M. THORINGTON.

With reference to the preceding note from Dr. Thorington, Dr. E. H. Stevens writes :

' The age quoted (16) for Venance Payot agrees well enough with the fact that his father met Dumas in 1832. Mathews' authority is given as T. N. Talfourd's *Vacation Rambles* (1845). But Montagnier in his Bibliography of Ascents of Mont Blanc (*A. J.* 25. 634) refers to a pamphlet by G. C. Savoisien (probably a *nom de guerre* of Abbé Caux), in which the writer names—among the 25 guides, porters and volunteers—J. M. Couttet (almost certainly the leader of the party), Ambroise Simond, Jean and Jacques Devoussoux, Joseph Tairraz and Ed. Simond. The last four names are given in Montagnier's ' Further Contribution ' (*A. J.* 30. 132). It is therefore practically certain that if Venance Payot took any part in the expedition, that part was not a conspicuous one. There being no opportunity to consult *Vacation Rambles*, it is impossible at the moment to clear up the source of Mathews' mistake.'

CORRIGENDUM.—In *A. J.* 53. 404, for Mr. Henry M. Stimson *read* the Hon. Henry L. Stimson.

MT. MCKINLEY EXPEDITION.—With reference to the note given in *A. J.* 53. 388, we learn that Mr. Henry S. Hall was not with the party, and that Mr. Walter Wood was in charge of dropping supplies from the air and did not set foot on the mountain. Those reaching the summit were Messrs. Robert H. Bates, S. B. Hendricks, Terris Moore and Bradford Washburn, of the American A.C., Capt. A. H. Jackson and Mr. E. Nillson, who have since then joined the American A. C., and Mr. Peter Webb, R.C.A.F. Capt. E. R. Gibson, R.C.A., was the member who collapsed at 15,000 ft.— 'a very unusual accident : three of his vertebrae were in effect telescoped, and he lost $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches in height. He is tough (aged 50) and will recover. They are stretching him and keeping him in a plaster cast for 8 or 10 months.'
(Information from Mr. Henry S. Hall, dated December 31, 1942).

BENEDICT SUPERSAXO.—The death at Saas Fee on September 1, 1942 is reported of this well known guide, who frequently accompanied H. M. King Albert I of the Belgians.

ACCIDENT ON THE AIGULLES DU DIABLE.—It is reported that at the end of last August, a party consisting of MM. Villard and Brière, Mme Brière and the Chamonix guides Jean Ravanel and André Dévouassoud, while engaged in the above ascent, narrowly escaped death from the fall of a cornice. Unfortunately this was followed almost immediately by a heavy stonefall, which resulted in the death of Mme Brière and serious injury to all the other members of the party. They were, however, able to reach the new Refuge Alphonse Simond on the Aiguille du Midi (*A. J.* 53. 390), whence they were transported by a rescue

party to Chamonix. The time of the accident is given as 3 A.M., but the locality is not indicated.

LES DROITES, N.E. FACE.—The second ascent of this face was made last August by Mme la marquise d'Albertas, of the G.H.M., in company with the guide R. Lambert and M. André Roch. The passage from the Refuge d'Argentière to the Couvercle took 36 hours; no information is given concerning place of bivouac. Cf. *A. J.* 42. 317.

RUWENZORI.—A party consisting of Messrs. Posnett and Bere have explored the Portal peaks to the N.E. of the main range, traversing ground not previously covered by the expeditions of the Duke of the Abruzzi and Dr. G. N. Humphreys. They made the first ascent of the S. Portal peak (*ca.* 13,850 ft.). The difficulties were all on the lower part of the mountain, in the zone of giant vegetation; the peak itself was an easy scramble.

TITLIS.—A party of three Zürich mountaineers, Herren H. Frelé-choux, H. Sievers and J. Wyss completed the ascent of the difficult N. face, the lower part of which had been first explored by the Engelberg guide Hermann Hess prior to 1914 and once more a few years ago. The party set out from Alp Bödmen, and entered upon the face by a rib which leads to the centre of the cliffs. Unfavourable strata and rainy conditions made progress slow and many pitons were used. At the most difficult point they encountered a bad storm of thunder and hail, but later were able to continue their way over wet and exceedingly steep slabs. An awkward traverse over a smooth rock ravine led to easier ground in the upper portion, which they attained at nightfall. Continuing by lantern light, they made their way to the N. ridge, where they bivouacked at a height of 2600 m. The descent was successfully accomplished next day.

AN EXPEDITION TO SIKKIM.—The following letter has been received from Mr. Basil Goodfellow, dated Calcutta, January 19, 1943:

Of course a fortnight is a hopelessly short time to achieve anything important in the Himalaya. But fortunately Sikkim is very accessible and one can quickly reach the regions where there are good 18,000 and 19,000 ft. peaks which have been passed aside by the more ambitious expeditions. One peak in particular caught our fancy when we studied the maps. This is Lama Anden, an isolated mountain of 19,250 ft. at the extreme end of the eastern spur of Kangchenjunga, beyond Simvu and Siniolchu, and rising above the bend of the Zemu-Teesta rivers. Photographs showed it to be rather like the Rothorn in size and shape, and there was no record that it had been climbed, though it is said that Dr. Kellas may have been up it. G. B. Gourlay attempted it some years ago, but was turned back by bad weather. He happened to be in Calcutta in the summer and helped John Blandy and myself a lot with our plans. So did Mrs. Townend, the energetic secretary of the Himalayan Club.

We had to go in mid-September, which was several weeks too soon, but it could not be helped. We hoped for one of the breaks in the monsoon which one reads about.

The march up the Teesta was straightforward, and we both got fit surprisingly quickly. From Lachen onwards we were in tents, with local porters. It was

marvellous to get amongst people so indefatigably cheerful and vigorous, after the sullen and lethargic Bengalis.

We set up our base camp below the Kishong La at 14,700 ft., according to plan. We allowed ourselves 2 days to climb the peak and return, and that gave us 4 days spare in case of bad weather. So far it had gone so well that we looked around for a second peak to climb. The first morning was bright and clear for the first time since we left Gangtok, and we dried our wet clothes and bedding, and set out to reconnoitre the route and prospect for a high camp ; we did not feel we were well enough acclimatised to go straight at the 4,500 ft. of climbing to the summit from our base camp.

At 16,000 ft. we were in mist and heavy snow, warm and damp like an early winter day in Lakeland. Soon after this we turned back, with visibility nil. We never saw any more of our mountain or of anything else but the camp. We spent 4 days there in pouring rain and mist, and our spare days were used up.

On our way down we passed Smythe (the one in the R.A.F. whom you know, now a Wing Commander, D.F.C.) and another R.A.F. companion, Ford, They went through to a high camp, and climbed Lama Anden the following day. It was, I think, a very fine achievement. They went straight at it without prospecting. They were lucky to have clear weather until they reached 18,000 ft. The climb was not easy, to judge by Smythe's description of it ; there was a good deal of traversing across steep couloirs in bad snow conditions, and of course the upper ridge of pinnacles was in thick mist. Ford had never been on a mountain before.

To me Sikkim was a disappointment. The valleys, winding, steep walled and heavily forested, do not compare in beauty with the Alps, and there are only the rarest of views of the big mountains to be had from their depths. We were robbed of high level views by the weather, so never saw Himalayan snow at close quarters although we were in the midst of it.

A Footnote on the Matterhorn Accident, 1865.—Mr. H. E. Cooke's note on the meeting between Whymper and Dr. Forrest Browne (*A.J.* 53.366) is interesting, among other reasons, as illustrating the curious tricks which memory can play, even upon bishops. Briefly, Dr. Browne relates, in *The Recollections of a Bishop*, how Tyndall and he met at the assembly of a Swiss National Science Society at Geneva in 1865 ; how they there and then heard the news of the disaster on the Matterhorn ; and how Tyndall then borrowed his rope and hurried off to Zermatt, intending to be lowered to the ledge where, as he believed, Douglas' body rested. The facts are these (*Hours of Exercise*, new edition, 1899, pp. 252 sqq.). At the time of the accident Tyndall was with Hirst in the Eastern Oberland. They first heard rumours of the catastrophe at Gadmen. Oddly enough the rumours were that Tyndall was himself the victim. At Imhof ' the rumour became more consistent.' The pair then 'wandered on to Mürren, failed in an attempt to cross the Petersgrat, and travelled to Zermatt by Kandersteg and the Gemmi. Tyndall then sent ' one of the Lochmatters ' to Geneva to buy 3000 feet of rope, and had it carried to the Schwarzsee, intending to make such an attempt as Dr. Browne describes, though he does not seem to have had any particular ledge in mind. He meant ' to scour the mountain along the line of the glissade ' Bad weather prevented him from starting on this enterprise and, after waiting twenty days, he left to keep an engagement to attend the meeting at Geneva.

Claud Schuster.

SAUSSURE, LORD PALMERSTON AND MONT BLANC.—In his masterful biography of Horace-Bénédict de Saussure, D. W. Freshfield has pointed out, Saussure was on friendly terms with several members of the English aristocracy. He had met several of them while they were on their Grand Tour, staying in Geneva to practise their French and plan trips to the *Glacières* in Savoy. In 1763, Henry Temple, 2nd Viscount Palmerston came to Switzerland. He was 24 years old—one year older than Saussure, and had entered Parliament the year before, as Member for East Looe. It is likely, though there is no actual reference to the fact, that he then got acquainted with Saussure in Geneva, before he went to Lausanne where he visited Gibbon. Lord Palmerston came back to the Continent in 1767, together with the painter William Pars. The latter went to Chamonix and made two sketches of the valley which were engraved by Woollett; incidentally, they are the first good and tolerably accurate views of Mont Blanc and the Aiguilles.

In 1768, Saussure went to England with his wife. They often met Lord Palmerston who entertained them, both in London and in his country seat of Broadlands, and gave them introductory letters for several of his friends, so that Saussure was able to gather a good inside knowledge of England and the English. He understood the country much better than most foreigners and dearly loved it. At that time, Lord Palmerston had married the daughter of Sir Francis Poole. He and his wife are often mentioned in the diary Saussure wrote at the time.

Lord Palmerston went again to Switzerland in 1770. Before leaving England, he wrote to Saussure, asking for information about the means of visiting Chamonix and Grindelwald, and inviting Saussure to come with him:

'Londres 30 Mai 1770.

'. . . Notre dessein est de rester 4 ou 5 jours à Genève et ensuite de visiter les Glacières de Chamonix et de Grindelwald . . . Je vous prie de m'adresser quelques lignes chez l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre à Paris pour me faire savoir quand les Glacières commenceront à être accessibles."

Accordingly, Saussure went with Lord Palmerston, but nothing else is known about that trip. This letter—the first of four—and the other I am to quote are preserved in the Saussure archives in Geneva, in the *dossier* M. Thanks to the kindness of the naturalist's great-grandsons, MM. Jacques and Raymond de Saussure, I have been allowed to see and publish them.

When Saussure went to Italy in 1772, it was Lord Palmerston who gave him (on October 8, 1772) letters for the British Ministers in Florence and Naples. The latter was Sir William Hamilton, with whom he was to form a lifelong friendship.

Meanwhile, Saussure was becoming more and more interested in the possibilities of climbing Mont Blanc and he was keeping his friends informed of what was going on in the Chamonix district. Towards 1784, he began to think of actually attempting the climb himself; several of them wrote to him, expostulating and pleading that he ought

not to risk his valuable life in such a dangerous venture : no first class scientist had ever dreamed of attempting anything so full of peril. Of course, Saussure did not give in. When on August 7, 1786, Dr. Paccard and his guide Jacques Balmat reached the top of Mont Blanc, Saussure at once sent the news to his personal friends, doing all he could to get them to subscribe to the book Paccard was about to write. In the Saussure archives (*dossier* M), I have found Lord Palmerston's reply to Saussure's letter :

' Broadlands. December 26, 1786.

. . . ' I received much instruction as well as much amusement from the first volume of your history of the Alps.

' I was more particularly delighted with it as it seemed to carry me back in a most agreeable manner to the scenes and company where I had passed some of the pleasantest hours of my life. I shall read it again, together with the second volume, as soon as I receive it.

' I congratulate you on the conquest of Mont Blanc. I wish you had been the first to have set your foot on its summit, a distinction to which you are so well entitled. I am, however, convinced that we must wait till you arrive there before our curiosity will be satisfactorily gratified. But perhaps, as the surface of Mont Blanc is constantly varying, the route by which M. Paccard ascended may not be open another season, and therefore I hope you will not persevere too obstinately, should the difficulties appear too great. I am convinced none of our aeronauts in this part of the world have attained, and probably ever will attain so great a height as that of Mont Blanc. I am surprised, however, not to have heard of more aeronautic expeditions among the Alps, as I think some new and interesting observations might by that means be made on them.

' I still look forward with pleasure to some occasion which I hope will present itself of revisiting my friends in Geneva ; but being become a married man with a family, I am less master of my plans than formerly.

. . . ' When you happen to see our old Father Huber, pray make my best and kindest compliments to him and his family.'

The lines about the possible landing on Mont Blanc from a balloon stress one of the chief interests of the period ; the brothers Joseph and Etienne de Montgolfier had flown over Versailles in their Montgolfière in September 1783. Since then the public had been passionately excited about similar flights. Saussure was personally acquainted with Joseph de Montgolfier and he warmly welcomed every new discovery. Accordingly, he became an adept of aeronautics, though a Platonic one. When giving an account of his attempt on Mont Blanc by the Aiguille du Goûter to the Prince de Ligne, on September 26, 1785, he had written :

'En gravissant avec tant de fatigue ces rapides rochers, j'enviais le sort des aéronautes qui s'élèvent à de si grandes hauteurs en se tenant commodément assis dans leurs gondoles, et je pensais même que l'on pourrait tenter l'usage de cette voie aérienne pour se transporter sur des cimes inaccessibles, comme celle du Mont Blanc. Mais je crois que

cela serait dangereux, parce qu'on est sujet dans les hautes montagnes à des coups de vent violents et irréguliers, qui pourraient jeter la machine et le fracasser même contre des rocs escarpés ' (Saussure archives, *dossier* J). In his account of the same climb in the *Voyages dans les Alpes*, he used almost the same words. It is very likely that he suggested the same idea when writing to Lord Palmerston. It is typical of Saussure's thorough knowledge of the mountains that he realized so well how dangerous a landing on Mont Blanc might be.

There are no letters from Lord Palmerston about Saussure's actual ascent of Mont Blanc in 1787. It might be interesting to know whether his descendants still possess the presentation copy of the *Voyage dans les Alpes* mentioned in his letter and possibly a copy of the *Relation Abrégée*. Saussure sent several of them to his friends when he published it late in August 1787.

CLAIRE-ELIANE ENGEL.

SIR GEORGE ADAM SMITH.—The note given below has been kindly supplied by Mrs. Michael Roberts.

The Very Reverend Sir George Adam Smith, who died in March of last year at the age of 85, was elected to the Alpine Club in 1886. From 1883 to 1889 he climbed regularly in the Alps; he made one or two visits to the Oberland, but Zermatt was his usual centre. He climbed all the great peaks of the region, and was twice up the Matterhorn. Joseph Imboden of St. Niklaus was his guide on most of these expeditions, and among the climbers whom he looked forward to meeting in Zermatt each summer were J. M. Wilson of Clifton, Professor Marshall of Manchester, Edgar Koecher, Charles Mathews, J. F. Ewing, and especially A. C. Tosswill of Harrow, his usual climbing companion. In 1889 he met his future wife at the Riffelalp; thereafter family holidays in the Highlands took the place of the bachelor's month at Zermatt, but he kept up his interest in the Alps to the end of his life and, long after he had laid aside his ice-axe, his membership of the Club continued to be as great a source of pride to him as many of the academic honours he had received. The following undated letter illustrates well his attitude towards the mountains.

Hôtel du Riffel, Alexandre Seiler, Zermatt.

I have learnt this year how to climb : it is a great art : it is a splendid discipline : it is a glorious risk. To myself it is a great deliverance. All the year round I am in a groove—pretty much mentally and of course so physically. I wish I could afford a horse but I can't ; and my exercise out of the pulpit is mostly confined to the mild mechanics of lawn tennis. Well, in such conditions you feel your manhood oozing gradually out of your fingers ; you get bilious and nervous and begin to feel that it is possible for you to be an old wife before you are 40. Then you go to Switzerland, having locked up all black suits and white ties with the joy of a schoolboy locking down his desk on his books. You put on knickerbockers and a flannel shirt and a coloured tie : a tweed cap and boots shod with iron. You buy the most yellow-backed novel you can find, you stick the choice cigar between your lips— and settle yourself in the corner of the

railway carriage. Your ice-axe and knapsack are on the rack, Baedeker is in your pocket—and you are a boy once more.

That is only the prospect of the hills. But when you are on them, what a health and what a glory it is ! A gymnastic for every muscle in your body, and for anything that corresponds to muscle in your mind : an inspired vision for the eyes at every step.

REVIEWS

Alpine Byways. By F. S. Smythe. Pp. 104, with 47 illustrations and 1 map. A. & C. Black, London, 1942. Price 15*s*. 0*d*. net.

THIS is the sixth of a series of albums of mountain photographs taken by Mr. F. S. Smythe. It begins with a preliminary introduction of seven pages, while each illustration is accompanied by a short descriptive note.

This introduction is written in a pleasant strain but does not call for any particular comment as Mr. Smythe's feelings and reactions to climbing the mountains themselves have been expressed in his other works. I am glad to note that he disapproves of the ' peak bagger,' confessing that he himself once was guilty of that weakness, but he gives sufficient proof of his love of the mountains and mountain scenery in the sentence on page 9 : ' the true mountaineer will ever be one who is content to be among the mountains.'

I am not prepared to agree with Mr. Smythe's suggestion that the newcomer to the Alps should approach them first on foot from a distance. Personally, I am of opinion that to obtain the fullest enjoyment of a distant view of the mountains, it is preferable to make their previous acquaintance close at hand. Some prior knowledge of the peaks adds enormously to the interest of a distant mountain panorama.

The principal feature of the book is naturally the collection of beautiful examples of Mr. Smythe's photographic art. About one third are high mountain views, very attractive to the climber. ' The Matterhorn at sunrise from the Gorner Glacier ' and ' Winter Sunrise in the Alps,' stand out as really delightful pictures. Mr. Smythe's artistic sense, however, is displayed at its best in some of the valley views, as exemplified in ' Glacier Torrent,' a difficult subject, while ' Frozen Stream,' ' Forest Glade,' ' The Frozen Mattervisp ' and ' Windcrust ' are lovely studies of broken light on snow. *Alpine Byways* should be a welcome addition to all Alpine libraries.

SYDNEY SPENCER.

Britain's Mountain Heritage. By Arthur Gardner. Pp. xii, 51, with 128 illustrations. B. T. Batsford Ltd., London, 1942. Price 12*s*. 6*d*. net.

THIS is probably the first time that a book has been written and illustrated with the sole object of making the people of this country conscious of the beauty and desecration of our mountain districts. It is a protest on behalf of all lovers of mountains and a plea to all their fellow countrymen to join in preserving the common heritage for all