and was never seen again, but his companion after six hours' step-cutting with a sheath knife reached the surface and arrived next day in Zermatt.

Whereas in the first world war the Swiss stayed at home and decided to postpone their holidays until peace returned, the Swiss in this world war felt that it was best to spend their money while they had it, and there was a regular travel boom. It was quite as difficult to get a room at Zermatt in the high season as in peace time. The hotel industry was helped by the fact that the Swiss could not leave their own country.

The training of mountain troops has brought many new recruits to the mountains. One result is what Christian Rubi of Wengen described to me as 'collective mountaineering.' He led a party of 150 officers and men from Rosenlaui over the Rosenhorn to Grindelwald and back over the Scheidegg *the same day*, 10,000 ft. of ascent and 10,000 of descent. Not one man fell out.

There is an odd impression in England that Switzerland is a land flowing with milk and honey. Actually the rations in private families are slightly lower than over here. The food in the hotels is, on the balance, distinctly better, though there are three meatless days, but in view of the fact that Swiss neutrality has been an immeasurable boon to Europe, it is ungracious to resent the fact that in some ways they are more comfortably off than we are. One cannot expect the glory which is the reward of our resistance in 1940 *and* the greater comforts of a neutral state. The prestige of this country was never higher in Switzerland than it is today, and it is not the fault of the Swiss that we are, in effect, allowing others to capture the Swiss market. For further details may I refer the reader to the current issue of the *British Ski Year Book*, a copy of which will be found in the Club Library.

Readers may be interested to learn that Contessa Esther Bonacossa, who is three quarters British by race, and whose mountaineering achievements were the subject of a laudatory reference in Colonel Strutt's Valedictory Address, was known as 'the Mother of the Partisans' in Lombardy. She was one of the great heroines of the Resistance.

ARNOLD LUNN.

REVIEWS

Escape to Switzerland. By G. R. de Beer, F.R.S. Pp. 159. Penguin Books, 1945. Price 9*d.*

THIS book is an interesting collection of essays, some of which were published previously and now appear in enlarged form. The subjects cover a wide field, dealing not merely with British visits in early days

to the Alps but with incidents in Swiss history such as the career of that turbulent patriot Jürg Jenatsch and the details of fighting near the St. Gotthard in 1799. The final chapter analyses at some length the part played by Bourrit as a propagandist travel agent, and throws some new light on a figure which is familiar to us mainly in regard to early controversy over the ascent of Mont Blanc. Two chapters entitled 'Alps and Art' and 'Alps and Airs' contain fresh and stimulating ideas. The author is conscious that Alpine scenery has not hitherto brought any great artist. As he says with truth: 'In order to have really great Alpine art, two conditions are necessary; first there must be a great artist, and second he must know and have a passion for the high mountains.' The chapter on the influence of mountains on music is less convincing, though not lacking in interest or originality, as in the suggestion that the outline of the Oberland peaks from Thun may have influenced the composition of Brahms' A minor Double Concerto.

'A book,' writes the author, 'is a very necessary ingredient in a rucksack, and I have written this one, not only to take with me when next I visit Switzerland in the flesh, but to accompany me now in my travels in thought while waiting for that day.' We hope that other rucksacks also will find room for this book, whether in Switzerland or at home.

Lakeland Journey. By W. A. Poucher. Pp. 128, 90 illustrations. Chapman & Hall, Ltd., London, 1945. Price 21*s*.

MR. POUCHER'S latest addition to his series of books of mountain photographs contains as usual a fine array of pictures. While in some of his recent books the wartime exigencies of the publishing trade have detracted from the pleasure that ought to have been obtained from them, in this case these difficulties have been overcome and the result is satisfying in every respect. The book has also benefited by the fact that his journey was made in February during a mild winter. The lack of brilliant sunshine and sharp shadows gives an atmosphere which is particularly appropriate to the Lake District, and the occasional sprinklings of snow add a pleasing variety to this scene; this mild weather which prevented Mr. Poucher from collecting the wintry landscapes for which he had hoped, has produced pictures typical of the Lake District, which will be much appreciated by those who love it. While February has provided subjects for some very beautiful photographs, Mr. Poucher had to be endowed with very great patience in collecting them, as three quarters of the time spent on his journey was wasted by days of rain and low cloud, and February can definitely not be recommended as a good month for the mountaineer. Practically all the views in this book were taken on this journey and as a result there is a commendable unity about them.

A less commendable innovation in this volume is a series of puzzle pictures of cairns; while the solution of one is given in the text, the solutions of the remainder can only be obtained on application to the

publishers. While the correct identification of those of the pictures which were taken on this February journey is possible even without having exact knowledge of the locality, in other cases reference to Mr. Poucher's earlier works or a very recent visit to the actual spot are essential, if the puzzler is to have any chance of success. In the popular press the solution of puzzles is usually given in the same issue on an adjacent page, and the mountaineer who looks at books of mountain photographs for pleasure ought to be treated in the same way.

This book is in other respects as good as or better than any of Mr. Poucher's previous works, and it is one which anyone lucky enough to find a copy should not hesitate to buy.

H. BOOTH.

THE ALPINE CLUB LIBRARY

By F. OUGHTON, Assistant Librarian

The following have been added to the Library :—

Publications of Clubs and Societies

Alpine Club of Canada, Banff, Alberta. The Canadian Alpine Journal. Vol. xxix, No. 1, 1944–1945. 9 × 6. Pp. viii, 176. Illustrations, portraits, sketch maps. 1945

American Alpine Club, New York. The American Alpine Journal. Vol. iv, No. 2 (Issue 13). 9 × 5¾. Pp. 149–321. Col. plate, illustrations, portraits, sketch map, diagrams. 1941

—— Vol. v, No. 1. 9 × 5¾. Pp. 162. Illustrations, portraits. 1943

Appalachian Mountain Club, Boston, U.S.A. Appalachia. N.S., Vol. x, No. 7. 9⅛ × 5⅝. Pp. 271–412. Illustrations, diagrams. June 1945

—— Register for 1945. Part 2. 7¼ × 5. Pp. 150.

Cairngorm Club, Aberdeen. Journal. Vol. xv, No. 84. 8¾ × 5⅞. Pp. 251–310. Illustrations, sketch map of the High Tatra. 1944–45

Fell & Rock Climbing Club of the English Lake District. Journal. Vol. xiv (No. ii), No. 39. 8⅜ × 5¼. Pp. 79–173. Col. plate, illustrations, group portrait, sketch map. 1945

Groupe de Haute Montagne, Paris. Alpinisme : Revue trimestrielle.
Nos. 53–61. Pp. 262. Mars 1939–Décembre 1941
Nos. 62–68. Pp. 136. Mars 1942–Septembre 1943
Nos. 70–71. Pp. 157–196. Mars–Juin, 1944
10¾ × 7¼. Illustrations, panoramas, sketch maps.
Nos. 57–68 and 70–71 presented by Lieut.-Colonel Jean Escarra and M. Lucien Devies.

Harvard Mountaineering Club, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A. Harvard Mountaineering. No. 7. A Wartime Journal. 9⅛ × 6. Pp. 36. Illustrations. June 1945

Ladies' Alpine Club, London. Year Book. 8¼ × 5⅛. Pp. 56. Illustrations, group portraits. 1945

Mountain Club of South Africa, Cape Town. Journal. No. 47. For 1944. 8¾ × 5⅝. Pp. 57. Illustrations, diagrams. January 1945