ALPINE NOTES

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY:	Year of Election.
Rickman, T. A.	1889
Haskett-Smith, W. P.	1890
Harlé, Henri	1895
Ascherson, C. S.	1898
Smith, M. K.	1899
Clapham, Sir John H.	1904
Buxton, Sir T. Fowell, Bt.	1923
Penny, Rev. L. Penrice, D.D.	1926
Schiller, F. P. M., K.C.	1926
Wigram, Dr. E. H. L.	1933
Moggridge, R. C. G.	1936
Brown, R. A.	1943

A PROJECTED MOUNT EVEREST EXPEDITION.—On October 22, 1945, the Committee considered a letter from Mr. Eric Shipton suggesting that preparatory steps should be taken with regard to a British expedition to Mount Everest in the near future, possibly in 1947. The Committee decided that the best course would be to appoint Mr. Shipton, if willing, to act as leader and to be free to select his own team and make all detailed arrangements. This was confirmed at a later meeting on December 10, when Mr. Shipton's willingness to act had been ascertained. Meanwhile, however, the President, who, at the Committee's request, had written informally to the Viceroy, had heard from Lord Wavell that it was unlikely that the Tibetan authorities would grant permission for even a small party in 1946 or 1947.

At the Annual Dinner in December, Mr. G. L. Bartrum, Vice-President, referred to these plans and to the appointment of Mr. Shipton as leader, adding that permission to enter Tibet was being sought, but that it was unlikely that early sanction would be obtained. A report of this part of a speech delivered on a private occasion was published by the Press in the inaccurate form of a statement to the effect that an expedition was definitely contemplated for 1947. This was repeated in the Indian Press and was felt to be somewhat embarrassing by the Government of India. Accordingly, as the result of consultations between the India Office, the Club and Mr. Shipton, the following statement was telegraphed out to India on February 1, 1946:

> Eric Shipton, British mountaineer, who has just returned to England from service abroad, said today that he had read with some surprise statements in the London Press in December which had been repeated to the Indian newspapers, to the effect that plans were being prepared for an attempt on Mount Everest by an expedition under his leadership early in 1947. 'Although it is

true,' stated Shipton, 'that it is hoped at some future date to renew the attempt on Mount Everest, there is no immediate prospect of the requisite permission being sought.'

In the meantime the President had received a second letter from the Viceroy which made it clear that there was no possibility of an expedition to Mount Everest taking place in 1947.

While it is now clear that plans for sending an expedition to renew the attempt to climb Mount Everest in the immediate future must be abandoned, the Committee have nevertheless felt that certain preliminary measures might be taken. With this in view they have arranged for consultations to take place with the Royal Geographical Society to see whether that Society, which has in the past always been actively interested in this venture, would be willing to cooperate again with the Alpine Club in preparing for an expedition to be sent as soon as it again becomes possible to enter Tibet.

COLERIDGE AND MONT BLANC.—In his recent article, one of the best in the ALPINE JOURNAL during recent years, Mr. Dummett implies that it was in one of my books that he discovered that Coleridge had never seen Mont Blanc. As this may also have been news to other members of the Club, it may be as well to give the facts. Coleridge went to Malta by sea, and thence to Rome. He was intending to return to England through the Alps. The following are quotations from De Quincey's *Reminiscences of the Lake Poets*.

'One of the cardinals, he tells us, warned him, by the Pope's wish, of some plot, set on foot by Buonaparte, for seizing him as an anti-Gallican writer. This statement was ridiculed by the anonymous assailant in *Blackwood* as the very consummation of moonstruck vanity. . . . But, after all, the thing is not so entirely improbable. For it is certain that some orator of the Opposition (Charles Fox, as Coleridge asserts) had pointed out all the principal writers in the *Morning Post* to Napoleon's vengeance, by describing the war as a war " of that journal's creation." And, as to the insinuation that Napoleon was above throwing his regards upon a simple writer of political essays, *that* is not only abundantly confuted by many scores of established cases.'

Coleridge sailed for England from Leghorn, and he was never in his life nearer to the Alps than Leghorn. De Quincey writes:

'The *Hymn to Chamouni* is an expansion of a short poem in stanzas, upon the same subject, by Frederica Brun, a female poet of Germany, previously known to the world under her maiden name of Munter. The mere framework of the poem is exactly the same—an appeal to the most impressive features of the regal mountain (Mont Blanc), adjuring them to proclaim their author; the torrent, for instance, is required to say by whom it had been arrested in its headlong raving, and stiffened, as by the petrific touch of Death, into everlasting pillars of ice,; and the answer to these impassioned apostrophes is made by the same choral burst of rapture. In mere logic, therefore, and even as to the choice of circumstances, Coleridge's poem is a translation. On the other hand, by a judicious amplification of some topics, and by its far deeper tone of lyrical enthusiasm, the dry bones of the German outline have been awakened by Coleridge into the fulness of life. It is not, therefore, a paraphrase, but a recast of the original.'

ARNOLD LUNN.

FROM CANADA.—We congratulate our member Dr. J. Monroe Thorington on his election to Honorary Membership of the Alpine Club of Canada.

The old name of Castle Mountain in the Canadian Rockies has now been changed to that of Mount Eisenhower.

This year's summer camp of the Alpine Club of Canada will be held in the Bugaboo region, Purcell Range, British Columbia, from July 14 to 28 inclusive.

A RETURN TO ACTIVITY.—All his friends will rejoice to learn that Kaspar Mooser of Täsch, who accompanied E. R. Blanchet on many of his expeditions, has now so far recovered from his accident, suffered seven years ago while working in a stone quarry, as to conduct a party across the mountains from Täsch to Saas Fee.

CORRIGENDA.—Two names should be corrected in *A.J.* 55. 212: for 'Dhaula Okar' read 'Dhaula Dhar,' and for 'Tola Nala' read 'Tolma Nala.'

REPRINTS.—Librairie Payot, Lausanne, have issued a new and enlarged edition of M. Charles Gos' *Tragédies Alpestres*, admirably illustrated and containing a new chapter on the Jungfrau accident of 1887.

Basil Blackwell, Oxford, will soon be publishing as a further volume in their Mountaineering Library a reprint of Mr. J. E. C. Eaton's translation of Guido Rey's *Matterhorn*, with two additional chapters concerning the recent history of the peak by Mr R. L. G. Irving, who is also editing the book.

CONGRATULATIONS.—We congratulate Mr. G. P. Baker, one of the four remaining members of the Club to be elected in 1882, on the attainment of his 90th birthday. His name will always be remembered as one of the 'Vier Esel' on the Dent Blanche.

M. EMILE FONTAINE.—We regret to learn of the death of this well known mountaineer, whose name is closely connected with the exploration of the Chamonix Aiguilles.

A NEW MOUNTAINEERING CLUB.—We welcome the formation of a mountaineering club in the University of London and wish it every success in the future. The resolution to form such a club dates from 1939, but owing to the war no further steps could then be taken. The club was inaugurated on December 1, 1945, at a meeting held in the Alpine Club rooms.

APPROACH to KAILAS.—Major T. S. Blakeney has sent us the following notes, the result of an expedition undertaken with little opportunity of preparation in August and September, 1945.

I only had a very small scale map, so I cannot give exact heights etc. As a climbing proposition, I think only the E. arête of Kailas is feasible.

The W. ridge forks into a N.W. and a S.W. arête, subtending an unclimbable W. face of about 4000 ft., and I could not see any way of getting on to either of these arêtes. The N. face is terrific (about 5000 ft.), very sheer, and stones fall a good deal. From the Diraphuk Gompa or monastery one can approach the N. face easily enough by a small valley giving on to the moraines beneath the face. This valley lies between two small peaks called, I gather, Jambyang and Chenresi, the latter being furthest west. It might be more useful for reconnaisance purposes to climb Jambyang, but as we had nothing but sleet and mist we saw nothing, whatever we did. East of Jambyang is another peak, Changnadorje, and the valley between can also be ascended, and ahead of it I got a glimpse of a pass that looked certainly easy and should, I estimate, give out on to the lower slopes of the E. arête of Kailas. Normally, pilgrims making the circuit of Kailas pass from the Diraphuk Gompa on the N. to the Zunthulphuk Gompa on the E. by the Dolma La, a pass further N. than the one I could see, but Swami Pranavananda, author of a *Pilgrim's Companion to the Holy Kailas etc.*, and of *Exploration in Tibet*, tells me that Tibetans are allowed, after they have made ten circuits of Kailas, on future occasions to short-circuit the route by what I think must be the pass I saw. If so, then a simple route to the E. arête may lie here, though I fancy it would be better approached by a climbing party straight from Zunthulphuk Gompa, without spending time going round to the Diraphuk.

The only fine day I had was on the S. side of Kailas; above the Gengta Gompa a mild ridge runs parallel to the S. face, but separated from it by a deep valley. Direct ascent by the S. face seems quite out of the question. This parallel ridge is joined by another at right angles that runs northward to merge in the snows of the E. arête of Kailas; this looked practicable, so far as I could see, and I would have liked to try, but my Tibetan guide would not hear of it, and even had he agreed I doubt if I could have braved your Editorial strictures on anyone approaching a substantial Himalayan peak in unnailed boots and armed only with that invaluable asset to monsoon climbing, an umbrella. I do not recommend this route, actually, as I still think direct access is more easily obtained to the E. ridge from the E. flank; but once up on the snows of the lower E. ridge I think a camp could be pitched (we were at approximately 19,000 ft. and, I reckoned, slightly lower than the beginnings of the steep portion of the E. arête) and the summit reached next day. Probably plenty of step-cutting, but Kailas is only 22,028 ft., and there would be barely 3000 ft. to climb.

It is a grand peak; the N. face is usually considered the finest view, but my one fine day on the S. side impressed me greatly. The view from here southwards was magnificent—in the foreground, the bright blue lakes of Manasarovar and Raksas contrasting vividly with the barren hills around them; then the huge mass of Gurla Mandhata (almost a range in itself) and behind, the vast extent of the Zaskar range, from Kamet in the W. to Nalkankar and unnamed peaks of Nepal in the E., with Nanda Devi, Nanda Kot, Panch Chhuli and others raising their heads in the background.

MICHAEL SPENDER.—Michael Spender never considered himself a mountaineer. He was not a member of the Alpine Club. But his record of exploratory survey in mountain country, his work in connection with its development and his friendship with many members of the Club entitle him, I feel, to an obituary notice in these pages.

It was said of Spender that he was too much of an artist to be a great scientist. How far the two are incompatible I am not prepared to say. Their claims certainly conflicted in Spender's career. At the age of eight he began to learn the piano. Within a year he was so advanced that his music mistress had little further to teach him. At Gresham's School his music master, Greatorex, was so impressed with his talent that he urged him to take up music as a profession. However, having won an exhibition at Balliol, he decided instead on a scientific career. At first he did physics, then at the end of his first year he changed to engineering. In spite of this, in the remaining two years he took first class honours in engineering. But nearly all his friends at Oxford were in the musical world, and it seems that the conflict between his artistic inclinations and his chosen course of study may have been partly responsible for the restlessness which marked his university career. Research in the electrical recording of music might have offered scope for both his main talents had he not discovered, after a year of this work, a distaste for commercial methods. He was to find a full measure of satisfaction in scientific exploration.

Spender's first appearance in this field was with J. A. Steers on the Great Barrier Reef expedition of 1928–9. There he spent a year making a very detailed survey of a typical island of the Reef, other surveys over a wide area of coral reefs and islands and a series of accurate tidal observations. On his return from Australia he went to Switzerland to work with the Swiss Federal Survey and to study the latest methods of stereo-photogrammetric survey. He continued his studies under Professor Norlund of the Geodetic Institute in Copenhagen. In 1932 he was invited to join Captain Ejnar Mikklesen's expedition to East Greenland as surveyor. Here he developed new and ingenious methods of exploratory survey which enabled him to make an accurate survey of 120 miles of the Blosseville coast in eleven working days. He then made a fine map of a thousand square miles of Kangerdlugssuak. In 1933 he returned to East Greenland with Knud Rasmussen's expedition. By the extensive use of his short base methods and photogrammetry and with the assistance of air photography he and his assistants mapped the whole of the mountainous area as far as the Ice Cap between Umivik (Lat. 65°) and Kangerdlugssuak (Lat. 68°). So good was this work that a party who travelled 100 miles inland two years later to the Watkins Mountains could find no error in the map or in the determination of heights, although the country that they passed through had never been actually visited by the surveyors.

In 1935 Spender went with the Reconnaissance expedition to Mt. Everest to make a stereo-photogrammetric survey of the mountain and a large area of the surrounding country. In 1937 he went with me again, this time to Shaksgam. On both these expeditions he entered

with great enthusiasm into the spirit of the light expedition, using all his ingenuity to reduce the weight of his survey equipment, denying himself tobacco and other small comforts to cut out the last ounce of unessential personal kit, carrying his full share of weight when necessary, and taking full advantage of every opportunity to widen the scope of his contribution to the work.

One of Spender's most outstanding characteristics was his penetrating interest in every detail of his immediate experience. Travelling through Tibet nothing seemed to escape his notice: the flora, the geology, the agriculture, the architecture, the local customs, every aspect of the country and the people received its share of his remarkably well informed attention. Accompanying him on a railway journey in England one had the impression that one was taking an active part in driving the train; feeling the steepness of the gradient, gauging the weight of the load and wondering if the engine had sufficient pressure of steam to make it. His intense interest in the detail of his environment sprang, not from a desire to acquire knowledge for its own sake, but from a strong zest for living, a flame that found fuel even in the most commonplace surroundings. This attitude of mind is supremely valuable in exploration, where it finds unusual scope both for expression and development. In the Karakoram in 1937 five months of intensive survey work, hard living and heavy physical labour left him straining to project the experience still further into a boundless field. I have rarely seen such reluctance to return to the fleshpots.

Among his wide interests, psychology latterly held a prominent place. This was stimulated by a meeting with Jung in 1937 while the latter was making a tour of India. Later Spender travelled back to Europe on the same ship as the distinguished psychologist, and was fortunate enough to spend much of the time in his company. This contact made a profound impression on Spender. As a student of human nature, it was natural that he should take the keenest interest in sociological problems. His own vivid temperament led him to the conviction that one of the greatest evils of our times was the increasing constriction of the life of most industrial and town workers, which confined their vision to a narrowing sphere, preventing them from mastering the whole of any craft, and removing them further and further from reality, and thus from the fundamental basis of human contentment. It was Spender's overriding desire to contribute in some way to the solution of this great social problem.

His critical intelligence, his habit of giving free expression to his lively imagination, his intolerance of conventional forms made him a most stimulating companion. But these very qualities, combined with a lack of tact, perhaps surprising in one so sensitive, and a quick temper, led to many serious misunderstandings with those who had not had the opportunity or had not troubled to understand his complex nature. This resulted in his making many enemies and roughened the path of many of his undertakings. Some of his acquaintance thought him selfish and overbearing. Superficially perhaps he was both.

But below this surface one found a rare gentleness, a sympathetic understanding of people and a strongly developed power of self-criticism, which was constantly rounding the sharp edges of his character and tempering its defects.

There was no man in whose company I found more pleasure or with whom I would rather have shared the deep and varied experience of an exploratory journey.

E. E. SHIPTON.

RUSKIN AND DR. MELCHIOR ULRICH.—It is well known that Ruskin made ' the first sun-portrait ever taken of the Matterhorn and, as far as I know, of any Swiss mountain whatever . . . in the year 1849,' as he writes in the introduction to *Deucalion*. He refers in one or two other places to this episode, a very remarkable one, owing to the size and weight of the camera which had to be carried to the Schwarzsee and to Riffelberg, as shown by the sketches made after the photographs and published in *Modern Painters*.

I have come across a reference to this Alpine feat in the notes of a very well known mountaineer, Dr. Melchior Ulrich, Professor of Divinity at Zürich, in honour of whom the Ulrichshorn is named. He was one of the founders of the Swiss Alpine Club. In 1849, Ulrich arrived at Saas Grund on August 9 with Gottlieb Studer, Gottlieb Lauterberg, a medical student, and Madutz, his Glarus guide. They went up to Mattmark to meet the Curé Imseng, and on the 9th they crossed the Adler Pass to Zermatt. On the 10th they had a rest day. On the 11th, Ulrich wrote in his dairy that he had the luck to get his barometer repaired through the help of an Englishman who was busy with daguerrotypes and his assistant. There is not the slightest doubt the Englishman was John Ruskin, and his assistant his Chamonix guide Joseph-Marie Couttet, who had become his employer's ' maid of all work.' It is impossible to believe there can have been two Englishmen photographing this still little known mountain at a time when outdoor photography was so difficult a process. Both men remained unknown to each other by name.

Dr. Ulrich's diaries, which contain long and precise accounts of most of his mountain expeditions, are preserved by his grandson, Professor P. Ulrich, a keen mountaineer, who most kindly allowed me to see them and copy all that might interest me.

CLAIRE-ELIANE ENGEL.

A RIVAL TO MT. EVEREST.—Major T. S. Blakeney writes :—

I expect that you noticed reports in 1944 from U.S.A.A.F. pilots that they had discovered a peak higher than Everest somewhere off the India-China air routes. In 1945 I was stationed for some months with an American squadron that had been in China at the time of these reports and who personally knew the pilots making the claim. They said that more than one plane, flying at over 30,000 ft., saw a peak

which they estimated to be quite 1000 ft. above them. All my informants had been stationed at Chengtu, and, whilst confident as to the *general* locality of the supposed peak, were unable to give any exact coordinates.

The nearest I could get to a location was approximately 33° N., 103° E., in W. Szechuan, but this is not necessarily correct to within one or two degrees, and some airmen considered that a position further west might be probable. All, however, were definite that the mountain lay N.W. of Chengtu.

I have had some correspondence with the Survey of India and with the R.G.S. on the matter. The former inclined to the view that Amnyi Machin is indicated as the mountain seen; I believe the coordinates are very approximately (I have no map showing it) 35° N., 100° E., and this agrees sufficiently with the estimate I had from pilots, as explained above.

The R.G.S. thought that a peak in the neighbourhood of Tatsienlu fitted reports better; this, I take it, would suggest Minya Konka. This location, however, is *S*.W. of Chengtu and my informants were confident that *N*.W. was the area.

In the circumstances, I think it most probable that Amnyi Machin was sighted. I believe this mountain is some 25,000 ft., so the pilots' error in estimating the height is large. H.Q. of Air Transport Command, U.S.A.A.F., however, have informed me that they have no factual evidence in support of the unconfirmed pilots' reports, and I believe it is the case that observers from the air tend to exaggerate unconsciously altitudes of mountains in relation to their own flying heights. Further, both altitude and air density may cause errors in aircraft instruments, so no real reliance can be placed on the pilots' estimates of height.

WILLIAM RUSSELL READE.—W. R. Reade was not a member of the Club, but his name is well known to many in view of the wide influence that he had on climbing in Britain.

Born on January 6, 1874, at Blundellsands, his great interest as a boy was in small boat sailing, which rapidly developed, and he became an expert helmsman and racing tactician, and an acknowledged authority on tidal currents and weather lore. He was a member of the Royal Mersey Yacht Club for over forty years. He also delighted in long walks, the record being one of over 80 miles from Windermere to Blundellsands in 1898, on which he was accompanied by W. P. McCulloch, a young friend who shared his sailing interests, and was also a brilliant rock climber. It was with McCulloch that, in 1898, he made the first ascent of Twll Du.

We first met at Easter, 1907, when W. R. joined Geoffrey Winthrop Young's party at Pen y Pass, and our subsequent companionship remained unbroken. This was when W. R. became known to all his mountaineering friends by his initials to distinguish him from that brilliant contemporary rock climber, H. V. Reade, who was usually

a member of the party. For many years he was a constant member of the Easter parties, and his adventurous spirit was always on the look out for new routes.

He was very retiring and reserved, but one of the most unselfish of companions, who was respected and liked by all who knew him, and was always at his best when helping and inspiring the younger generation to develop originality and initiative. This is so well expressed in Winthrop Young's historical notes in the Climbers' Club guide on the Lliwedd group, where he writes: 'Yet another very individual pioneer was W. R. Reade. No one in the school of British climbers has ever remained through a long climbing career so consistent a seeker for and initiator of new climbs. . . . He was solely interested in pioneer work, and in his generous encouragement to others I believe him to have had a more genuine effect on improving the standard of British rock climbing than half a dozen of the meteoric careers and names which are now sometimes cited in our journals as points of new departures in our climbing history.'

We were very close friends and climbing companions for 38 years, and only last January, when he was seventy years of age, we went up Snowdon under almost Alpine conditions. He enjoyed the day enormously, but voted for the easiest line of descent as 'he wanted to come back again,' but it proved to be his last visit. W. R. will be widely missed by many friends who will always associate him with the Welsh hills where his spirit always lived.

G. L. BARTRUM.

COL DE LA DENT BLANCHE.—Under the heading 'Col de la Dent Blanche (now called Col de Zinal),' *A.J.* 32. 62 contains an extract from the Travellers' Book of the Monte Rosa hotel, Zermatt, describing the crossing of the Col de la Dent Blanche by Bonney and Hawkshaw on August 30, 1860. In Bonney's book *The Alpine Regions* will be found what is evidently an account of this expedition (pp. 277–282). It is clear from this account that the pass crossed was in fact the Col Durand and not the Col de Zinal. This is confirmed by Mathews in *Pioneers of the Alps*, p. 154, and by Bonney himself in *A.J.* 31. 20. Bonney's account also gives the information that the guides were Michel Croz and Johann Kronig. The names of the guides are not mentioned in the extract referred to. It would appear that both Mumm's *Alpine Club Register* (I. 44 and 143) and *Guide des Alpes Valaisannes* (Vol. II, p. 71) are in error in attributing the first crossing of the Col de Zinal to Bonney and Hawkshaw, since on this occasion they undoubtedly crossed the Col Durand.

They had met Mathews and Croz at La Bérarde in the middle of August 1860 for a campaign in Dauphiné, and when the party broke up at Turin later in the month Croz proceeded to Zermatt with them and the party made several expeditions in the neighbourhood.

Both the Col Durand and Col de Zinal have been known at various times as the Col de la Dent Blanche. Mathews did not approve of

the name for the Col Durand, and suggested that it should be called Col de Zinal. Tuckett crossed the Col Durand on July 21, 1860, with Victor and Joseph Tairraz, and he too refers to it as the Col de la Dent Blanche.

D. F. O. DANGAR.

AN EXPEDITION TO SIKKIM.—In September 1945, in company with Angtharkay and five Sherpas, I carried out a journey through N. Sikkim. The party had some difficulty on the first stages of the march owing to an exceptional monsoon and the numerous landslides along the Teesta river. Leeches were prominent and unpleasant. From the hut at Mome Samdong we crossed the Dongkhya La (18,030 ft.) and traversed E. to the N. slopes of Pauhunri (23,385 ft.). Two camps were established on the mountain, the summit of which was reached on September 24, under toilsome but not difficult snow conditions. We then crossed the Tso Lyamo plain W. towards Chomiomo, and climbed the peak (20,330 ft.) to its N. Return was made by the Donkung valley and Lachen ; between Lachen and Chungtang a very heavy and awkward landslide had blocked the Teesta. It was this originally which had decided us to try the E. Lachung valley on the way out, and had led to the unexpected ascent of Pauhunri, a summit not visualised as accessible within sixteen days of leaving Delhi.

On the return marches there was still much rain and Gangtok was found to be practically cut off from the outside world.

C. W. F. NOYCE.

FROM SWITZERLAND.—Mr. F. S. Smythe informs us that there have been very heavy snowfalls recently, and that it seems likely that it will be a summer of snow routes in many cases where there is normally ice. 'The Tiefenmattenjoch, for instance, looks like a pleasant snow climb from base to summit, and I have never seen so few crevasses and bergschrunds—they have simply disappeared beneath the enormous quantities of snow that fell in February and March. The mountains are strewn with avalanches, monsters in some cases 300–500 yards wide where they fanned out. . . . The Swiss have been delighted to see Englishmen again—and not for pecuniary reasons. I have never met with so much kindness and helpfulness ; it is really embarrassing when complete strangers will offer you their chocolate coupons and will take no refusal ! '

CYPRIEN SAVOYE.—We regret to announce the death in 1945 of this famous Courmayeur guide, the constant companion on overseas expeditions of the Duke of the Abruzzi. On frequent occasions also he acted with Joseph Croux as guide to Dr. Kugy and Signor Bolaffio in the Mont Blanc range and elsewhere in the Pennines.

WETTERHORN.—Two new routes are reported on the Wetterhorn: Herren Etter and Reiss, on May 20, 1945, climbed the N.E. face direct from the Schwarzwald Glacier, following the left hand edge of the rocks as shown in illustration *A.J.* 41, facing p. 211 (see also *Die Alpen*, June 1945); and on June 24, 1945, Herr E. Krähenbühl with Jakob Pargätzi of Grindelwald followed by Dr. Finzi's 1929 route as far as the point where it makes a long traverse to the E., then took a zigzag course to the base of the W. ridge, and climbed this ridge to the summit of the Scheidegg Wetterhorn (see illustration *A.J.* 41. 405).

REVIEWS

Mountain Holidays. By Janet Adam Smith. Pp. 186, with 32 pp. of photographs and 2 maps. J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., 1946. Price 15*s.*

WE are frequently told that the right use of leisure is one of the great problems of the future; here is a valuable contribution to its solution.

It should prove an excellent textbook for the mothers of prospective climbers; it is written by a mother, and the beginnings, the development and the end are convincingly good examples of the pilgrim's progress when the delectable mountains have been reached. Janet Adam Smith reached them early in life in Arran, the 'April Island' as she calls it; an ideal place for family holidays when the family 'straggled over twenty years.' And she had an ideal mentor in those early years in W. P. Ker; so wise in knowing what could be done and what should be left undone till later, knowing, in fact, that if, in their turn, the young were to find in mountain holidays a never failing source of energy and happiness, 'they must learn the right mountain way.' A mentor so wise as Ker knew that example was a surer instrument than precept, and his pupil writes: 'All my feeling for mountains is coloured by W. P., and yet I cannot remember his talking much about them.' The brief reference to his death at Macugnaga and the enchantment his personality had cast upon the Alps is a fine tribute to his memory.

Subsequent chapters arouse wonder that the first sight of the Meije from La Grave should have left the author content to play tennis with a French boy 'who cheated'; but the delights of the Alps below the snowline were discovered and appreciated, and gave an admirable foundation on which to build the higher pleasures. Moreover, she has at her disposal an imagination which can suspect a romance between Mr. Coolidge and Miss Brevoort and let her dream 'that Professor Joad had fallen off Monte Rosa.'