

REVIEWS

Abode of Snow : A History of Himalayan Exploration and Mountaineering. By Kenneth Mason. Pp. xi, 372. Rupert Hart-Davis, London. 1955. 25s.

THIS is, indeed, a wonderful book. In the making of it Professor Kenneth Mason has lived up to the motto of his (and my) old school : LABOR OMNIA VINCIT ; and no man could have been better equipped for his long-premeditated and exacting task. In early youth his imagination was fired by personal contacts with some of the great explorers and surveyors of the past, including Godwin-Austen, Burrard, and Young-husband, and by reading the annals of the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India, long associated with the name of George Everest. Then followed the severe training and insistence upon scientific accuracy of the Royal Engineers, in peace and war ; and many years of service in the Survey of India, spent mostly in that roughest of mountain country, the north-west Himalaya and the Karakorum. Here survival of officers and men depended upon qualities of endurance, courage, judgment of rock, snow and weather, and topographical sense. Mountaineering ability, one may be sure, developed fast, for—to paraphrase Dr. Johnson—‘ depend upon it, Sir, when a man knows that he is to place a delicate theodolite upon several high stations in a fortnight, it concentrates his mind wonderfully.’ The process continued over many fortnights.

The latest phase of our author’s active work opened with his appointment (the first) to the Chair of Geography in the University of Oxford, in 1932. For twenty-one years his vast specialised knowledge was at the disposal of explorers, mountaineers and students, and he was able to make and retain close contacts with all modern developments.

Now for the book itself. It might so easily have been a mass of uncorrelated detail, ‘ the wood invisible for the trees ’ (to use an exotic metaphor !). It might even have been a kind of Baedeker. It is neither. The scope is vast : historically from the seventeenth century to the present, geographically from the Indus to the Brahmaputra. Clarity on this enormous page is achieved by an ingenious arrangement of chapters, in which time, place and sequence are in proportion, and continuity is never lost. I do not think that any effort, great or small, which has contributed to our knowledge of the Himalaya, has gone unrecorded. Indeed, the book is an encyclopedia in narrative form. Cross-references, the fruit of laborious research, are a great help to the reader.

While rightly critical of inaccuracy, wishful thinking, doubtful aneroid readings, and especially of bull-at-a-gate methods involving loss of life, Professor Mason bestows generous praise on genuine explorers, British and foreign ; even on those whose achievements are quite modest. He never forgets our debt to the old surveyors, and to

men like Martin Conway, Freshfield, Kellas, Dr. Longstaff, the Duke of the Abruzzi, Dr. Visser and Eric Shipton, to name but a few.

The section devoted to weather in the Himalaya is of particular interest. One cannot, perhaps, expect finality in the argument regarding pre- and post-monsoon climbing; and vagaries such as those of that dreadful mountain, Nanga Parbat, are likely to remain unpredictable. After all, great peaks generally seem to make their own weather.

The story ends with the ascent of Everest in 1953—the magnificent climax of an era. A short epilogue records more recent events, not yet fully described.

Four good Appendices supply, respectively, a list of Himalayan and Karakorum peaks above 25,000 ft., fifty in number, stating their height and position; a valuable essay on the determination of Himalayan heights; a chronological summary; and a short but useful bibliography.

By way of piling Pelion on Ossa, Professor Mason has himself compiled a full index which enhances the value of the book; as do the admirable maps and diagrams.

There are twenty-one interesting illustrations; the frontispiece emphasises the formidable character of K2, while anyone seeing no. 2 will understand the feelings of a mountaineer who watches the monsoon advancing upon him from a horizon some sixty miles away.

The dust cover, the author tells me, was prepared from a photograph taken by him in 1909 with a 39-inch focal lens and a home-made box camera 3½ ft. long. It is meant to illustrate the quotation from Edwin Arnold's *The Light of Asia*, on page 1.

All British lovers of mountains will welcome this book; and I hope it will be translated into many languages. Personally, I regard it as a κτῆμα ἑσαεί.

HUGH RUTTLEDGE.

K2 : The Savage Mountain. By Charles Houston, Robert Bates and others. Pp. 192. Illustrations. Collins, London. 1955. 25s. [French edition: *K2, Montagne sans Pitié.* B. Arthaud, Paris.]

It is difficult when reviewing a book about any big expedition not to review the expedition too. This is natural, because the expedition is usually the real creative work of the climbers; the book is but that work's reflection. In a sense the reflection in *The Savage Mountain* is a pale one, not intrinsically so, but pale when seen against the background of what actually happened. It would have taken a great writer, someone like Saint-Exupéry perhaps, to make it otherwise. But there is good writing in the book. Houston's clipped, breathless account of the days leading up to the climax is most effective.

The book is written by several hands. This at first seems unnecessary, merely following the *Five Miles High* [A.ŷ. 53. 180] tradition. But, reading on, one sees that this sharing of the story was necessary. Again, some of the earlier passages, on first reading, seem rather flat. The planning, the packing, the food containers, the journey out. Haven't

we heard it all once or twice before? (And why did every expedition in 1953 equip itself with an umbrella for bathing with?) But when the story gathers momentum its very flatness in the first few chapters seems necessary and right—right in the sense that plains are to mountains. For when you get up high and Gilkey is struck with a fatal illness and the storm goes on and on till they *must* come down, only to get involved in that incredible accident, yet manage somehow to fight through alive, not unscathed but united and with high morale, then you begin to realise that this is one of the great mountain stories.

As in Scott's journey to the South Pole it was neither the success of the expedition, nor the absence of mistakes which makes it a great, heroic story. (There obviously was one serious mistake—the top-heaviness of the expedition when they were almost all up at Camp VIII.) Nor even was it the ultimate survival of the main party, though this is remarkable enough. What shines out splendidly from the book is the spirit of the climbers and of their leader. Their attitude towards each other and to the mountain seems to have a rare nobility.

Even when he was concussed and delirious Houston's kindly chivalry comes through in a passage of grim humour:

Robert Bates is writing: 'Pushing aside the stove and dishes, Houston and I fell asleep almost before we could pull ourselves into the two parts of my sleeping-bag, for Houston's bag, of course, had disappeared in the fall. Drugged as I was by exhaustion, my sleep was fitful . . . for Houston was out of his head again and all night long he kept getting out of . . . his sleeping-bag . . . and crawling about the tent. He was most anxious not to waken me and kept steadily apologising for all the trouble he was causing. "If I can just get out of this warehouse," he would say, "everything will be all right." Then, as best I could in the darkness, I would find the opening to his sleeping-bag and try to get him inside. The next thing I knew, I would be wakened again by Houston crawling round the foot of my sleeping-bag. "I am terribly sorry to bother you," he would say. "If I can only get out of this warehouse . . ."'

It is natural to compare this book with *Annapurna*. The experience of both parties was similar; but an Indus gorge lies between the style of their records. *Annapurna*: highly emotional, dramatic and uninhibited, with individual characters standing out like aiguilles. *The Savage Mountain*: restrained and matter-of-fact ('I shivered, not too hard, for my ledge was narrow'). Here the individuals seem to merge into an apparently monolithic unity like the savage, noble peak which nearly killed them.

There are many fine photographs, though their reproduction is not quite up to the 25s. standard. It is a pity that the lovely colour picture of Masherbrum, seen from a high camp, is reproduced only on the dust jacket. A better map with neighbouring peaks named would have helped serious readers to keep their Karakorum topography straight. But these are small weaknesses in a fine book.

ROBIN A. HODGKIN.

La Conquista del K2, Seconda Cima del Mondo, by Ardito Desio. Published by Garzanti, Milan. 1954. Pp. xx + 250; 77 photographs and 4 maps. Price 1,800 lire.

EACH successive Himalayan and Karakorum expedition profits—or should profit—by the experience of its predecessors. There can be no doubt that the signal success of Professor Desio's Italian Expedition to K2 was mainly due to the highly intelligent and original use of the experience of previous explorers. His book describes the extraordinarily thorough preparations, as well as the actual approach and ascent to the summit of the second-highest peak in the world. An appendix, not yet published, will contain fuller technical details than are given in the book. The scientific results are to be published in five volumes by specialists in the various subjects.

The book is dedicated to the memory of all who have lost their lives on K2. The story of the death from pneumonia of Mario Puchoz, most unexpected since he was one of the strongest members of the party, is simply and very movingly told.

Professor Desio says in his preface that he has written neither a book of adventure nor a complete report of an undertaking, but something between the two. Actually he has succeeded in doing both. Any profits from the sale of the book are to go towards the expenses of this and future expeditions.

In his preliminary survey of the Karakorum, Desio makes use of native names for the mountains which we know better by the names given to them by their original European discoverers; for instance, Baltoro Kangri for Golden Throne, Falchan Kangri for Broad Peak, and so on. The summary of previous expeditions, though necessarily brief, is scrupulously fair to all, and includes that of 1929 in which the author took part, and his reconnaissance in 1953.

The description of the preparations includes a list of members of the party, with a brief account of each. There were eighteen Italians and two Pakistanis. Of these twenty persons, five were scientists and eleven climbers, seven of whom were professional Alpine guides. The special training they all underwent in the Alps before departure and their equipment are interestingly explained and will, no doubt, be further described in the technical appendix.

The journey from Italy to Skardu was greatly facilitated by air travel. The author's previous acquaintance with the region was increased by a flight of 2 hours' duration from Skardu round the peak of K2 at an altitude of 24,000 ft., during which he photographed the terrific North face of K2 which your reviewer had seen from a survey station above Kufelang in the Yarkand Valley in 1914.

The expedition's march to the Base Camp at the foot of K2 was not without incident and is a lively piece of description. Then follows the detailed plan of attack, carefully worked out and actually followed in all essentials, with some modifications due to the exceptionally bad weather encountered. The story of the attack as far as Camp 8 on the upper 'Shoulder' is one of dogged perseverance in the face of incredible

difficulties, surmounted only by the use of every device that had been previously prepared. Fixed ropes practically connected all the camps up to no. 7; in one day alone, 2,300 ft. of rope were fixed under extremely difficult conditions, and the employment of portable windlasses enabled loads to be taken up as far as Camp 4, even in snowstorms, in far less time than it would have taken porters to do it. The porters, Baltis and Hunzas, occasionally gave trouble, but some of them, especially the Hunza Mahdi, come in for high praise.

Chapter 8, 'The Attack on the Summit,' is, of course, the culminating point of the drama; and most dramatically do Compagnoni and Lacedelli describe it. Through their description one not only feels their immense powers of moral and physical resistance, but one realises how the mountaineering instincts of very first-rate guides brought them through it, especially the terrible descent in almost total darkness and when both men were practically worn out. The magnificently successful ascent is certainly worthy in every way of the best traditions of Italian mountaineering.

This was not, however, the end of the expedition's work. After a brief account of the return, four more chapters are dedicated to the subsequent exploration of the Baltoro basin and neighbourhood and a summary of the scientific work. They are all short chapters, but should not be left unread after the excitement of the great achievement. The whole book is, and must always remain, one of the great classics of mountaineering and mountain exploration.

The photographs are excellent, some of them rivalling Signor Sella's best. The sketch maps are clear and more than adequate.

J. A. SPRANGER.

A History of British Mountaineering. By R. L. G. Irving. Pp. 240. 65 illustrations. B. T. Batsford, Ltd., London. 1955. 25s.

SEVERAL books dealing with different aspects of mountaineering history have appeared during the last few years, but apart from the late F. S. Smythe's little volume, *British Mountaineers*, in the 'Britain in Pictures' series, we believe Mr. Irving's book to be the first to be entirely devoted to the history of British mountaineering.

It is time that such a book appeared and Mr. Irving is well qualified to write it; there was a danger that the passing of the years and recent events in the Himalaya and elsewhere might drive into oblivion the deeds of the pioneers and of the founders of our Club, but in this book can be found the story of British achievement in the mountains from the times of Thomas Johnson, who collected flowers in the Snowdon district in 1639, until the day on which Hillary and Tenzing reached the summit of Mount Everest.

The visit of Pococke and Windham to Chamonix in 1741 was a milestone in mountaineering history. Forty-five years later Paccard and Balmat made the first ascent of Mont Blanc and until 1868 British mountaineering was almost entirely confined to the mountains of Western Europe. Mr. Irving gives brief accounts of some of the

expeditions made before and during the 'Golden Age,' including the early ascents of Mont Blanc and Forbes's ascent of the Jungfrau. It is not clear why Mlle. d'Angeville's ascent of Mont Blanc is described at such length; rather should we have had an account of the first ascent by a British woman.

With the formation of the Alpine Club the pace quickened. The alliance of British amateurs and Swiss guides proved its capabilities by making many first ascents and by the end of the 1865 season there were but few major peaks of the Alps that had not been climbed.

In 1868 came the first British expedition to the Caucasus and thereafter British mountaineers were active not only among their own mountains and in the Alps but in ranges in all parts of the world, in the Andes and the Rockies, in the New Zealand Alps, in the Himalaya and elsewhere. The author relates some of their exploits and concludes his story with the history and ascent of Mount Everest, aptly described as 'the culminating event in mountaineering history.'

In writing this book one of Mr. Irving's difficulties must have been to decide what he should leave out; as he himself observes in his Preface, 'there is much ground to cover for British mountaineers have climbed in all parts of the world.' For reasons of space alone there must be some omissions, but a brief paragraph might have been spared for Walter Weston, who did so much exploratory work in the Japanese Alps, and Sir Halford Mackinder's ascent of Mount Kenya deserves mention. Neither must we forget the part played by the British in the development of winter mountaineering, for as early as 1866 A. W. Moore and Horace Walker crossed the Finsteraarjoch and the Strahlegg in mid-winter, and T. S. Kennedy attempted the Matterhorn in January 1862.

A few minor misprints occur and on p. 86 'D. Maquignaz' should surely read 'J. J. Maquignaz'. Daniel Maquignaz was born in 1856 and cannot be classed as a guide of the first period of mountaineering, while his activities were by no means confined to the Italian side of the Matterhorn.

Adverse criticism must be reserved for the index, which gives the impression of having been compiled in haste and without due care; it is not worthy of the book.

The publishers inform the reader that the jacket design, 'The Ascent of Mont Blanc; the Glacier Du Tacconay,' is from a lithograph by George Baxter. Some readers may be interested to know that it is one of a series of four illustrating the MacGregor-Shuldham ascent of 1853, and depicts how the chief guide, Tissay, nearly fell into a crevasse.

Mr. Irving has done his work well and all interested in the history of British mountaineering should buy this book. D. F. O. DANGAR.

To the Third Pole. By G. O. Dyhrenfurth. Translated from the German by Hugh Merrick. Pp. xxvii + 233. 47 photographs, 9 sketch maps. T. Werner Laurie, Ltd., London. 1955. 30s.

THE appearance of this book will be warmly welcomed by all who are in any way interested in the highest mountains of the world, and those who buy it will not be disappointed.

The original German edition, *Zum Dritten Pol*, was published in 1952 and was reviewed at length in *A. J.* 58. 548. The English version has been brought up to date and last year's expeditions to the 'Achttausender' are summarised in a 'Supplement on 1954 Operations,' so that it includes accounts of the ascents of K2 and Cho Oyu.

Professor Dyhrenfurth has some observations to make on the height measurements of some of these great peaks. He considers that refraction is by far the most important factor in possible error, and that in earlier days too great a deduction was the practice. He therefore assigns to Mount Everest a height of 29,160 ft. As recently as May, 1950, the Survey of India was apparently content to accept 29,002 ft. as the correct figure,¹ while last year it was stated that the mountain was 30-40 ft. higher than the official figure.²

Several pages are devoted to the Abominable Snowman and the remarkable adventures of the two Norwegians, one of whom holds what must be the unique distinction of having been bitten by a yeti, will probably be new to most readers of the book. In this connection Mr. Tilman's remarks on p. 296 of this number of the *ALPINE JOURNAL* will be read with interest.

The modern method of arranging the illustrations in groups has its disadvantages in a volume of this kind. Of the nine photographs of Nanga Parbat not one is to be found in the chapter devoted to the mountain, which contains a group of nine illustrations of Karakorum peaks.

The book will be invaluable as a work of reference and in view of the mass of information it contains, and the excellent photographs, is well worth its price.

D. F. O. DANGAR.

Kangchenjunga Challenge. By Paul Bauer. Pp. 202, and 12 illustrations. 9½" × 6¾". William Kimber, London. 1955. 18s.

PAUL BAUER'S book dealing with what may, in fact, turn out to be the world's second highest summit appeared at a convenient season, just as the since successful British expedition was under way. For parts two and three are, virtually, revised editions of his previous narratives and afford the opportunity of comparing the now politically barred eastern approach with the recently opened up south-western. Except for Farmer's rash adventure the latter had not been examined since the tragic Guillardod-Crowley-Pache attempt in 1905. The Swiss in 1949 went further north, on a more exploratory mission. Study of these German attempts seems to indicate that their way was longer and more difficult. Bauer's comments on three approaches are interesting: 'After the experiment [International Expedition 1930] the north-western side had to be written off as impracticable.' 'We had left the

¹ *A. J.* 58. 406-7.

² See *A. J.* 41. 419 for further remarks on the height question.

west ridge out of account because no one could discern whether it was possible to get on it. . . . The Swiss expedition of 1949 was also unable to find any way of climbing the west ridge.' 'In short the north-east spur definitely offers a possibility of reaching the summit; perhaps the only possibility. . . . But it imposes greater burdens on individuals than any other known climb in the Himalaya.'

It should be noted that the Germans had no oxygen. The crucial steep snow slope above their Camp XI which could not be circumvented was of suicidal nature in September 1931, though earlier in the season it might have been surmountable. He remarks that 'at a corresponding season the final slopes of Mont Blanc from the Peterey ridge or those of the Dent Blanche are, on account of new snow no longer practicable.'

At the same season, however, fine ascents were made by Bauer's party of lower peaks in the Sikkim Himalaya, as witness in part four, 'Triumph on Siniol-Chu.' [Incidentally, Siniolchu, 22,600 ft., and Nilkanta, 21,640 ft., may be said to transcend in beauty all other peaks in the Himalaya.]

The first part, 'Bavaria and the Caucasus,' in 1928, is delightful but all too short. It is a pity that politics have prevented him from recounting some experiences when he was training and leading mountain troops in the Caucasus.

H. W. TOBIN.

The Untrodden Andes. By C. G. Egeler and T. de Booy. Pp. 203. Illustrations and maps. Faber and Faber, Ltd., London. 1955. 25s.

IN 1952 Nevado Huantsan (20,981 ft.) in the southern sector of the Cordillera Blanca, was the highest unclimbed 'six-thousander' in Peru, and one which had never formerly been seriously attempted. The principal theme of this book is an account of its successful ascent in that year by a light three-man Franco-Dutch expedition, consisting of the two authors and Lionel Terray. Besides Huantsan, first ascents were made of Nevado Pongos (18,737 ft.) and an unnamed peak in the same group which was christened Nevado Queshque (17,923 ft.). This latter was climbed by the two Dutchmen prior to Terray's arrival.

The Pongos was climbed from a camp at 17,320 ft. by the South-west ridge, which involved some difficult work on steep ice, particularly during the last 600 ft. Terray, who led throughout, accomplished a remarkable feat of acclimatisation, as he had left France only a week before reaching the summit.

The first attempt on Huantsan, made by means of a long traverse up the North-east face to the North ridge, nearly ended in disaster. The ridge was reached only late in the afternoon, and its descent proved so difficult that Terray decided to rope down its western flank in a series of rappels, some of which overhung. In the failing light de Booy missed his footing in landing on the steep slope and fell 300 ft., but miraculously escaped with a severe shaking. Further progress in the dark, however, was out of the question, and the party endured a bitterly

cold bivouac, without tents or sleeping bags, on the steep glacier at 18,000 ft.

Six days later, after a rest at base, de Booy had sufficiently recovered for a new attempt to be made, this time by the two-mile-long North-west ridge and North peak. Camp II was established below the ridge near the site of their forced bivouac: there the party endured a severe three-day blizzard which made a return to base essential. When the weather improved, Camp III was established at 19,350 ft. on the shoulder of the North-west ridge: its technical difficulties, aggravated by the 55-lb. loads now being carried, were considerable, and six hours were required to negotiate 1,000 ft. of very steep and exposed ice. On the next day, July 6, the North summit was traversed to Camp IV, situated at 19,850 ft. on the high saddle between the North and South peaks: the descent to this col from the North summit proved very trying, and their return by the same route had to be carefully consolidated. On July 7, the remainder of the ridge, often heavily corniced, was attacked, and the South summit reached at 1 P.M. As had been anticipated, the most delicate part of the long descent was the section of the North-west ridge below Camp III, and here Terray showed his form by some neat rappel work from ice bollards, and in one instance from a snow mushroom of vast dimensions.

Indeed, the sketches of Terray in action on this formidable mountain are some of the best in a book which also reflects more vividly than most, the personality of its chief author, Egeler. The photographs and line diagrams are excellent and there is a short chapter on the geology of the range. A colour film, which should be of exceptional interest, was also made with special emphasis on difficult climbing sequences. Four local porters accompanied the party for a short distance on the glaciers but were incapable of going high: it would seem, however, from Egeler's account that one or two of them might be susceptible to training as a porter corps, though the process would inevitably be slow. In general, this very light expedition overcame brilliantly all the special hazards of Peruvian climbing, which, apart from the usual acclimatisation, include the carrying of back-breaking loads on very steep ground, the constant worry over incipient frost-bite, the short climbing day, and heavily corniced ridges. Above all there is the gamble on the weather, which for a three-man party, isolated and without support, becomes paramount. As Egeler admits, 'De Booy and I worked out that his fall during the night of June 21 had in all probability saved our lives. If everything had gone to plan . . . we should inevitably have been caught high up the mountain when the blizzard descended on June 28-29th. It was easy to imagine what could have happened . . .' But far more than the luck which they undoubtedly enjoyed, Terray's brilliant leadership and the admirable stamina and determination of the two amateurs, contributed to the success of this excellent further demonstration of United Nations solidarity in the Andes.

T. CROMBIE.

High Adventure. By Edmund Hillary. Pp. 224, with maps by A. Spark and sketches by George Djurkovic. Hodder & Stoughton, London. 1955. 16s.

THIS is not 'just another book about Everest.' The author explains in his preface that it is simply a personal record of his own part in various expeditions, of which the successful effort of 1953 is a fitting climax.

I think most people will enjoy the development from venturesome and sometimes reckless youth to the calculated and responsible acceptance of risks in the Himalaya; all in a period of seven years.

Three things have left an indelible impression on my mind: first, the conclusion arrived at in the terrible ice-fall of the Khumbu glacier, that 'the only way to attempt Everest was to modify the old standards of justifiable risk and to meet the dangers as they came; to drive through regardless . . . the competitive standards of Alpine mountaineering were coming to the Himalayas, and we might as well compete or pull out.'

Second, still in the ice-fall: 'an enormous tilting sérac, but we estimated that, even if it did fall, it shouldn't give the inhabitants of the camp anything more than a bad fright.' This is the optimistic fatalism of very brave men.

Third, the almost incredible powers of mental concentration shown by the author on the final ridge of Everest above the South Col. Without this, he and Tenzing might have reached the summit, but they would not have got down alive.

Hillary writes well, and is generous in his tributes to all his companions; and he does not forget his debt to his great friend, Shipton.

The photographs, maps and sketches are excellent.

HUGH RUTTLEDGE.

The Mountains of New Zealand. By Rodney Hewitt and Mavis Davidson. Pp. 128. A. H. & A. W. Reed, Wellington, New Zealand. 1954. 18s. 6d.

Himalayan Holiday: An Account of the New Zealand Himalayan Expedition 1953. By A. R. Roberts, M. G. Bishop, P. C. Gardner, and G. J. McCallum. Pp. 44. Whitcombe and Tombs Ltd., Christchurch, New Zealand. 1954.

UNTIL recently New Zealand mountaineers have been reticent about their achievements except in the pages of their climbing journals. Without much research it is, therefore, difficult for the outsider to gain a representative picture either of the varied mountains of that country or of the activities of its climbers. For this reason the book by Mr. Hewitt and Mrs. Davidson is particularly welcome. Like many others who have shaped the course of New Zealand climbing they have enjoyed the lesser ranges equally with the high alps, and they have contrived in less than 130 pages to indicate the variety of New Zealand's mountain playgrounds. Forest-clad hills, bare dry mountains, volcanoes snow covered only in winter, and sheer peaks rising above deep fjords come within their scope as much as the great glaciers and summits of the Main Divide. The photographs, numbering over 130,

have been well selected to illustrate this variety and occupy more than half of the book. This has left Mr. Hewitt and Mrs. Davidson with little space to record the general nature of the ranges and those who have taken part in the past decades of alpine pioneering. The text flows easily, avoiding both the arid factuality of a guide book and the effusiveness of a travel brochure. Although the authors have not attempted to produce a reference book their volume has real value in that direction. Anyone wishing to study the detailed history of any group of New Zealand mountains could profitably search the *New Zealand Alpine Journal* and *Canterbury Mountaineering* for articles by the climbers they have named.

Congratulations to the authors should not, however, obscure the limitations of the book. The quality of reproduction frequently fails to do justice to excellent photography and the small size of many blocks increases this deficiency. Equally the brevity of the letterpress fails to do justice to the authors or to their subject. A determination to produce a book of moderate price—and at eighteen shillings it is surprisingly good value—no doubt explains both deficiencies. It is greatly to be hoped that the success of their present venture will encourage Mr. Hewitt and Mrs. Davidson—who are also the authors of an important climbing guide book—to write at greater length and with greater intimacy.

Both in form and purpose *Himalayan Holiday* is in sharp contrast to the *Mountains of New Zealand*. While Mr. Hewitt and Mrs. Davidson have sought to introduce the New Zealand mountains and mountaineers to the outsider, the pamphlet by Mr. Roberts and his companions is the endeavour of a group of New Zealand climbers to tell their fellows of a private expedition to the Central Nepalese Himal. They write modestly, enthusiastically, and with a happy absence of the inhibitions of more formal writing. Though not one of the greatest expeditions it must have been one of the most enjoyed. The reader who wishes to understand why New Zealand alpine training has recently contributed so greatly to the success of Himalayan climbing will find much of interest in this story.

R. SCOTT RUSSELL.

Man of Everest. The Autobiography of Tenzing told to James Ramsey Ullman. George G. Harrap & Co., Ltd. 1955. 18s.

THIS book will, I feel sure, command a world-wide circulation; in the West, because it records the rise from complete obscurity to international fame of a man whose courage, hardihood, honesty, firmness of purpose and clear vision lifted him, literally as well as metaphorically, to the heights; in the East, because to millions Tenzing's success is a symbol of resurgence, of racial and national rebirth, of freedom and equality.

It was entirely right that an American should compile the record of the Sherpa Odysseus; and I feel that Mr. Ullman, keeping himself modestly in the background after an admirable introductory chapter,

has interpreted with sympathetic objectivity the thoughts, aspirations and development of a simple, unlettered hillman raised almost overnight to undreamt-of fame and instantly subjected to the appalling strain of publicity, national, social, and other pressures. Indeed, Tenzing, as the great Duke of Wellington complained, has been 'much exposed to authors,' especially journalists and all kinds of wire-pullers.

Mr. Ullman's task was not easy; an interpreter was needed, and he had to gain the confidence of his subject. Fortunately, Tenzing is a Buddhist and a genuine one; therefore he is, in all essentials, a civilised man as well as a free and independent hillman. Those of us who have known Sherpas will, I think, agree that the real Tenzing speaks in this book. There is nothing synthetic here.

Tenzing's life, from his earliest days, has been one of toil and hardship, throughout which he has seen visions and dreamed dreams. He had the priceless gift of 'quality,' as horsemen say; this carried with it the virtues of courage, constancy, loyalty and fairness; all leading to the honour (and responsible labour) of Sirdar and, on Everest, membership of climbing parties.

His 'battle honours,' in at least fifteen expeditions, include Everest, Nanga Parbat, Nanda Devi East, Kabru, Tirich Mir, Kedarnath, Bandar Punch; and Everest has seen him seven times. To phenomenal physical powers he has, therefore, added much technical knowledge of snow and rock, besides understanding of men; and his travels in Tibet with Professor Tucci must have expanded his mental horizons.

Of all his mountaineering employers and friends he honestly expresses his preference for the Swiss, especially his 'alter ego' Raymond Lambert. We can have no quarrel with that; as for his last triumphant success with the British expedition of 1953, it would ill become a reviewer to comment on certain differences between the official account and his. He has lived under terrible pressure since his return. It may be permissible to use Cromwell's words: 'I beseech you . . . think it possible you may be mistaken.'

We may now salute Sri Tenzing Norkay Sherpa, G.M.; and thank Mr. Ullman for an able and most readable book.

HUGH RUTTLEDGE.

The Innocent on Everest. By Ralph Izzard. Pp. 256. Illustrations. Hodder & Stoughton, London. 1955. 16s.

THIS is an agreeable book by the *Daily Mail* correspondent at Khatmandu in 1953, and is of interest for the light it throws on the Everest expedition of that year as viewed by a rival newspaper to *The Times*, and for its snapshots of events inside Nepal whilst the expedition was in the field.

To those already a little surfeited with Everest literature, Mr. Izzard's final chapter, on affairs in Khatmandu pending the news of the climbing of the mountain, will probably prove the most interesting in the volume.

It strikes one, however, that, like so many other newspaper men who were disappointed in their attempts to break *The Times'* monopoly of news, he is unfair to Mr. Summerhayes, the British Ambassador to Nepal, to whom Colonel Hunt's code message was delivered and who relayed it to London some hours before informing the King of Nepal. Mr. Izzard agrees that it was perfectly proper of *The Times* to safeguard their 'scoop,' and he must be aware, as anyone acquainted with India will be aware (and Mr. Summerhayes assuredly was), that if the information had been sent to the palace in Khatmandu at the same time as it was sent on to London, it would have leaked out and appeared in the press of India before ever it did in England.

This happened in 1938, when a member of the Everest party talked unguardedly, with the result that *The Times* was anticipated by the Indian newspapers, and the expedition forfeited a large sum of money. Having regard to the several hours difference in time between London and India, it was only right to allow a fair lapse of time to occur before notifying Khatmandu of the news, especially as it was in the middle of the night, which is not the best moment for waking monarchs with information about mountain climbs.

By bad luck, the Americans (having the advantage of still more difference in time) got the news on to their radio before Khatmandu had heard from Mr. Summerhayes—but the latter could not be blamed for that.

Mr. Izzard took his defeat in the matter well, and indeed the whole book is a tribute to his sporting nature in the tackling of what he claims to have been the toughest assignment he had ever had.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

Mont Blanc and the Aiguilles. By C. Douglas Milner. Pp. 176, with 69 photographs by the Author. Robert Hale, London. 1955. 30s.

THIS is Milner's sixth book on mountaineering and photography, and its style follows the pattern of his well-known and successful *The Dolomites*.

His *Mont Blanc* covers a great deal more ground than might be expected from the title. This makes the book all the more readable, though one may wonder if the author was quite clear in his aim. He opens with a historical survey, of the ascent of Mont Blanc and of the early exploration of the range. This takes up more than half the book and, as shown by the extensive and valuable bibliography, is the result of a great deal of painstaking research. While following this history Milner has allowed himself to be led down so many byways that the book is no mean contribution to the history and development of Alpine mountaineering as a whole, and a series of lively character sketches of its leading personalities.

The second part is topographical; it describes the district from end to end in guide-book fashion. It tells where to climb from, it lists the principal huts, and describes selected mountain expeditions within

the powers of a competent guideless party. This is ideal for the arm-chair planning of a first climbing season in the area. But the abbreviated descriptions of the routes, in this rather bulky volume, are naturally no substitute for the *Guides Vallot*.

The photographs are what we expect from Milner. They display his high degree of competence, they are often of great beauty and they give an excellent impression of the main features of the district. As a 'one man show' they are something of a *tour de force*. Amongst them is his well-known 'Forbes Arête' (Chardonnet), one of the very few mountaineers' pictures ever accepted by the London Salon, and a photograph which must have stimulated many (including the reviewer) to repeat this most elegant route. Viewed as a collection, however, the photographs have an old-fashioned look about them. This is partly, I think, because nearly all of them are the conventional view of the peak from the valley and the view from the summit. Also they suffer from reproduction in half-tone. Let the reader who doubts my criticism turn to the French series 'Cimes et Visages,' published by Arthaud, and in particular to the latest of this series, *Haut Dauphiné*. Here is a collection drawn indeed from a wide range of photographers, which has in beauty and in poetry a character which no British publisher has yet begun to approach.

At 30s. Milner's book is not cheap; it is more expensive than his more fully illustrated *Dolomites*. But it certainly deserves to be widely read, especially by those who have not yet visited this splendid district and by those who have not hitherto studied its mountaineering history.

B. R. GOODFELLOW.

Introduction to Mountaineering. (The Beaufort Library, vol. iv.) By Showell Styles. Pp. 159. Illustrated. Seeley Service & Co. Ltd. No date. 15s.

THIS is a book written for the novice, to whom it manages to give, in twelve chapters of easy reading, much information at a basic level about the traditions and essential technical practices of mountaineering. The volume is published as one of a series of *Introductions* to various sports, which assumes little or no initial knowledge in its readers and aims to educate them not only in the technicalities but also in 'the spirit, manners and customs' of the sports concerned. Quite a proportion of Mr. Styles' book is therefore devoted to general matters, and this means that, with fairly large print, wide spacing and only 130 pages of main text altogether, the treatment of what the dust-cover (though happily, not the text itself) calls 'technic' is highly compressed. If it follows that many points could be picked on which one would like to have seen less summarily dismissed, nevertheless the beginner will not go far wrong in doing what he is here told. He is told it in the simplest manner, and the advice given is uncomplicated and eminently reliable. The points are illustrated by a number of diagrams and some photographs, which are of rather poor quality by present-day standards.

Both in his technical observations and in his views on the proper approach to climbing, Mr. Styles is an unabashed traditionalist, as in a work of this scope it is no doubt right that he should be. 'The modern confounding of Age with Obsolescence is a dangerous fallacy,' he writes. Thus, although the nylon rope is permitted, and the vibram sole (just), and karabiner and belay loop are recognised as 'customary wear with most mountaineers nowadays,' there is little in the book which could not have been written a good many years ago. The aspirant need not fear that he will be led astray by modern heresies or be pushed by short-cut methods to things beyond his capacities. Mr. Styles' doctrine is that he should enjoy his mountains and attain a reasonable competence on them through gradual apprenticeship. If the book has a hero, it is 'the wise Leader' or 'the moderate all-rounder,' not the 'top-flight mountaineer'; and certainly not 'the Tiger,' who, with his cub 'the intending Tiger,' is tagged with the label of a potentially dangerous species.

There are a few minor errors. The Climber's (*sic* throughout) Club guide to *Snowdon South* has not yet appeared, as is implied (p. 40). Mummery's attempt on Nanga Parbat preceded the German ascent by 58, not 48, years (p. 134). It is not on the East face, but presumably on the East Peak, of Lliwedd that, in a welcome phrase, 'dubious rock and awkward holds provide stiff problems' (p. 39). To the printer rather than the author we owe Crib Gock (p. 124) and the famous cragsman, Leslie Shadbelt (p. 128). These are blemishes which do not affect the value of a book which performs a modest task in a very practical way.

A. D. M. Cox.

Zermatt and the Valais. By Arnold Lunn. Pp. 209. Illustrations. Hollis & Carter, London. 1955. 13s. 6d.

THIS is not a book for the mountaineer but for the traveller whose aim is to explore the Valais rather than to climb the Alps.

The author has not set out to write a guide book but has preferred 'to consider his relation to the reader as that of a travel companion to those who enjoy the contemporary scene all the more for knowing something of its historical background.' He has dealt with subjects as varied as Valais wine and Napoleon's crossing of the Great St. Bernard, with some personal memories and tales of escaping prisoners of war thrown in, and has something to tell us about all the Valais towns and villages likely to be visited by travellers. The stories of some historic climbs and Alpine tragedies are recounted once again.

A few errors have found their way into the book. The Balfrin has been raised to the dignity of a 'Viertausender' with 2,000 ft. added to its height, and it is a pity that, in this its centenary year, the details of the first ascent of the Dufourspitze are not correctly given. 'Stephenson' [R. M.] was not a member of the party, but E. J. Stevenson was;

it is now established that the ascent was made on August 1, a day of some importance for the Swiss, and not on July 31.

Others besides the reviewer may be puzzled by 'Mount McKenzie'; probably Mt. McKinley is meant. The statement that Sir Alfred Wills was responsible for naming the Aiguilles Dorées is open to doubt. Wills himself related that according to Auguste Balmat they were so named by Professor Forbes.¹ But these are trivial blemishes in an interesting little book.

D. F. O. DANGAR.

Mountaineering. By Janet Adam Smith. Pp. 24. National Book League: Readers' Guides, Second Series, 1. Published by the Cambridge University Press. 1955. 2s. 6d.

THIS is a bibliography of mountaineering, designed 'to give the reader some idea of the progress and scope of mountaineering, so that he can trace how it began, how it has developed, where it has spread.' The books selected are those with 'the greatest appeal for the general reader.' Janet Adam Smith can be relied upon to choose well, being an experienced mountaineer and writer herself. She divides her list into headings such as 'Alps and Mountains of Europe'; 'Beyond Europe' (with Everest listed separately); 'Historical and Biographical'; and so forth.

Any selection of titles must reflect the preferences of the individual making the choice. For my own part, I would have thought that Clinton Dent's *Above the Snow Line* might have had a place on p. 10, and G. I. Finch's *Making of a Mountaineer* on p. 13. In the section 'Beyond Europe' (pp. 15-19), I would have included Fitzgerald and, perhaps, Conway under 'The Andes'; the omission of C. G. Bruce's *Himalayan Wanderer* or *Twenty Years in the Himalaya* is noticeable, but even more so is Freshfield's *Round Kangchenjunga*. Benuzzi's delightful book, *No Picnic on Mount Kenya* is hardly appropriate in this bibliography; but Tilman's *Snow on the Equator* might fairly have found a place under the heading 'Africa,' as Walter Weston might have under 'Far East.' Both Mannering and Harper might have been included under 'New Zealand'; and it strikes me as curious that Coolidge is nowhere mentioned.

Girdlestone's book on guideless climbing is scarcely worth including (p. 11); and the Mt. Everest Reconnaissance volume of photographs has, inevitably, been supplanted by later books (p. 20).

In any later edition of this pamphlet, some minor corrections should be made. Blackwell's 1936 edition of Mummery might be noted (p. 11); on p. 17 'Kangchenjunga' and 'Dyhrenfurth' should be so spelt; Irving's recent 'History' is of *British* mountaineering, and Kenneth Mason's book is entitled simply, *Abode of Snow* (p. 23). The pedantic will suggest other minor emendations.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

¹ *Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers.* 1st series, p. 19.

Pilote des Glaciers. By André Guex. Pp. 153. Illustrations. B. Arthaud, Paris. 1955.

DEVELOPMENTS in aviation are constantly raising the question : Is this going to be a blessing or a curse ? As far as the activities of Hermann Geiger, here described by André Guex, are concerned, the answer must be a blessing ; for they have been almost entirely concerned with rescue work or the transportation of supplies to huts above the snowline. Occasionally starving chamois have benefited ; though at first fleeing in panic from the roar of the engine, they were soon regarding it as a dinner gong announcing a feast of hay. An outstanding example of Geiger's courage and skill is the rescue of a skier who broke his leg on the Grenz glacier. Despite the hazards of attempting to reach the scene of the accident in cloudy, snowy weather, the urgent calls of Alexander Graven from the Monte Rosa hut were answered and the injured man actually brought down to Sion, the transport occupying minutes where hours would have been needed on foot. Another wonderful success was the delivery of 3 tons of breakable stuff within 50 ft. of the cabane Rossier at 3,500 m. on the side of the Dent Blanche.

The pictures of the plane used suggest a vast grotesque insect ; its advantages over helicopter or parachute in certain conditions are well described and illustrated by diagrams. The knowledge of snow conditions required, and the need of choosing the one right place and moment for landing on very restricted areas suggest that accidents will be frequent if many attempt what Geiger has accomplished, but he has survived after making nearly 4,000 such landings ! A single sentence does much to convey what many mountaineers will feel to be a menace for the future : ' seule la chanson d'acier du moteur déchire la tranquillité de l'atmosphère et le silence qu'on sent partout.' The thought of crowds landed by air charabanc in the snowy solitudes, where men go to escape from the noise of machines and be alone with Nature's works, makes one hope that certain areas of the High Alps will be prohibited to aeroplanes except for rescue work. Men need and deserve sanctuaries quite as much as animals.

R. L. G. IRVING.

Where the Clouds can go. By Conrad Kain. Pp. xix + 456. Illustrations. Published by C. T. Branford Co., Boston, U.S.A. Agents in U.K., Bailey Bros. & Swinfen, Ltd., 46 St. Giles High St., London, W.C. 2. 1954. 40s.

THIS book was originally published twenty years ago by the American Alpine Club, in a limited edition of 500 copies. It is now reprinted for the general public and will, it may be hoped, despite its price, find a wide circle of readers.

For a review of the book, readers of the *Alpine Journal* may be referred to vol. 47, p. 382. Other guides have published books of reminiscences, but Kain's is likely always to be something of a classic, both for his descriptions of life in his native Tyrol in the early years of this century, and for his varied career in New Zealand, Canada and elsewhere.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

Beautiful Highways : The Dolomites. With 80 photographs, 8 drawings and 5 maps. Thames and Hudson. 18s.

THIS book, the first in a series to illustrate the beauties of famous highways, is primarily designed for the international motorist who wishes to see as much as he can of the Dolomites in the shortest possible time. As such, it takes the form of a photographic description of the linked passes—Tre Croci, Falzarego, Sella, Pordoi—which constitute the famous 'Dolomite Road,' and of its south-eastward spur from Predazzo over the Rolle. There are also adequate sketch-maps of the main features. A fair amount of historical and topographical description is included in the somewhat insignificant text, by way of extended captions to the photographs, and enough is said to lure the more inquisitive motorist, endowed with energy and an eye for mountain beauty, away from the hard highway up the lovely side-glens to the sudden feet of those astonishing walls and towers. The main reference to climbing is a brief mention and sketch of the Grade VI Tissi and Stoesser routes on the Tofana, though it is also recorded that 'the central Vajolet Tower is a fairly easy climb, liable to overcrowding in the high season.' But this publication must be judged first and foremost as a picture-guide to the Dolomite Road and its surroundings, and within those limits a very fine one indeed. The over-all standard of photography—exclusively from local sources—is higher than that found in some more expensive British collections of Dolomite photographs; and the reproduction, as so frequently and regrettably when blocks and printing are produced on the Continent, incomparably finer.

H. A. MEYER.

MOUNTAINEERING JOURNALS

American Alpine Journal, 1954 (vol. ix, no. 1 (28)). R. H. Bates's article on K2 (1953) takes first place in this issue, and rightly. If the decision to push the whole climbing party up the mountain together has been criticised, this in no way detracts from the admiration due to the climbers for extricating themselves in terribly difficult circumstances from a position that might so easily have resulted in a major catastrophe to American mountaineering.

Of special interest is Y. Mita's note on the Japanese attack on Manaslu in 1953. R. E. McGowan describes the reconnaissance of the East ridge of Mt. Logan and the first ascent of Mt. Cook in the same region: on the photograph facing p. 37, the height of 16,200 ft. should be 10,200. A useful collection of Notes on climbing in all parts of the North American continent, plus South America and the Himalayas, concludes the journal.

Appalachia (vol. xxx, nos. 1-3 : 1954-5). Among a large number of articles, some of specialised interest to American climbers only, the following may be noted :—

- p. 10. 'Beyond the Pole,' by Maynard M. Millar, describes a flight over the North Polar basin.
- p. 20. 'The South Buttress of Mount McKinley,' by Bradford Washburn, is an analysis, by the leading authority on the mountain, of a proposed line of ascent that was, in fact, used by Elton Thayer's party (*v. p.* 367 of this issue of *A. J.*).
- p. 45. 'Peaks and Routes of the North Selkirk Range,' by W. L. Putnam, is a useful summary, by an expert on this range, of the ascents he and others have made there.
- p. 161. 'Coast Range, 1954,' by Andrew J. Kauffman II, in the form of two letters, describes vividly a successful season in a region that, he says, puts even St. Elias into insignificance.
- p. 184. Wm. W. Biddle describes his expeditions in the Japanese Alps after the War.
- p. 236. George E. Evans writes of the 'Devil's Tower' (Wyoming), of which he made the thirty-eighth ascent ; the pictures of this fantastic formation are worth looking at.
- pp. 209, 368. Avalanche Research, by Montgomery M. Attwater and others, comprises two learned articles, with photographs and diagrams, that will appeal to specialists.

The usual wide range of 'Notes' that are a characteristic of *Appalachia*, and the customary book reviews, conclude each issue of the journal.

Canadian Alpine Journal (vols. xxxvi-xxxviii : 1953-5). Vol. 36. 'South Georgia' by Walter Roots and articles on King Peak (Yukon) and the Yale expedition to Logan, form a good start to this volume, that is maintained by Fred. Ayres ('The Franco-American Ascent of Salcantay') and other writers dealing with localities nearer home.

Vol. 37. This volume includes 'Reflections on Everest,' by N. E. Odell, mostly directed against excessive use of oxygen at the expense of acclimatisation. P. Schoening describes the American K2 expedition briefly ; and a trio of writers deal with Mount Robson.

Vol. 38. This issue is dedicated to the memory of W. W. Foster and contains a notable tribute to him by A. H. MacCarthy. G. Roberts and D. Sowles deal with the Stanford Coast Range expedition of 1954 (see *Appalachia*, xxx, p. 161) ; whilst Fred. Ayres on the Cordillera Blanca, Peru, and Peter Crosby in 'Clouds over Ecuador,' carry us to regions that it is to be hoped will become better known to British mountaineers.

Climbers' Club Journal (vol. xi, no. 1 (80) : 1955). Anything from Shipton is likely to be important, and his article on 'The Case against Large Expeditions' in the Himalaya deserves careful study. Certainly

there are not lacking others today, not only of Shipton's generation, but of a younger one, who will agree with his views. 'The Frontier Ridge,' by M. J. Ball, might, as a title, mislead one to think of Mont Blanc, but in fact deals with the New Zealand party to the Barun Glacier. D. R. Fisher writes of the C.U.M.C. party to Rakaposhi in 1954; J. Brown, D. Whillans and 'A.K.R.' describe the West face of the Dru; and J. Neill, E. C. Pyatt and J. C. H. Davis are responsible for 'New Climbs and Notes,' dealing with Wales, Cornwall and the Lyngen peninsula.

Mountain Club of Kenya: Bulletin (nos. 29-34: 1954-5). The appeal of these journals is naturally largely limited to those with interests in East Africa. A mountain meet on Ruwenzori is described (no. 30); Shipton discusses the outlook for mountain exploration in 'After Everest' (no. 32); R. A. Caukwell (no. 33) writes on the first ascent of the West face of Mt. Kenya; and extracts from the same writer's letters form the first part of a record of the Kenya expedition to Himal-Chuli in 1955 (no. 34).

Rivista Mensile, C.A.I. (vols. lxxii-lxxiii: 1953-4). It was curious to be told recently by a guide that Italians did not climb mountains very much; certainly, such a statement could not be made after the merest glance at the *R.M.*

Vol. 72 contains so much good matter that a bare selection is all that is possible. A. Desio writes a note on Everest, K2 and Kangchenjunga. A. Vinci contributes three articles on Andean climbs, with particular reference to Pico Bolivar and the mountains of Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador. E. E. Shipton has an article on Bogdo Ola and Hermann Buhl describes a nocturnal (!) ascent of the East face of the Watzmann. It is fitting to find G. Bertoglio shortly after writing a note on Hermann Buhl himself; and the same author is responsible for articles on the second Swiss Everest expedition in 1952, the British expedition of 1953 and the Swiss Dhaulagiri expedition. André Roch also deals with the latter.

Sir John Hunt describes the ascent of Everest; nearer home we have L. Ghigo on the East face of the Grand Capucin; R. Bignani on the North face of Piz Palü; and A. Frati on the Dufourspitze from Macugnaga. There is an analysis of sixty-five fatal climbing accidents in Italy in 1952.

1954 was K2 year and the *Rivista* naturally reflects the triumph (the whole issue for December 1954 is dedicated to this mountain). Hermann Buhl describes his great achievement on Nanga Parbat and Robert Craig writes on the American K2 expedition, 1953. P. Ghiglione has two contributions, on the Andes of S. Peru and on Mount Api. G. Bertoglio devotes two pages to those great Italian climbers, G. B. and G. F. Gugliermi, and R. Cotta has an interesting note on Ferdinand Imsegg.

Rucksack Club Journal (vol. xii, no. 4 (48): 1955). V. T. Dillon describes a 'Return Fixture' with the Dent d'Hérens (see *R.C. J.* 1954 for account of his defeat by the mountain); H. J. Cooke records 'A Short Visit to the Ruwenzori' in 1954; and Allan Stanisby, in 'Some Other Alpinists,' writes of chamois, ibex, marmots and other Alpine fauna, with illustrations by himself.

Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal (vol. xxv, no. 146: 1955). D. J. Fraser writes of 'Photography for Mountaineers'; the Editor is responsible for the interesting note, 'Attempt on Ushba' (1913), from the unpublished diaries of Harold Raeburn. Professor Gordon Manley studies mountain weather under the appropriate title, 'On Disappointing Summers' and concludes that we are only at the beginning of any attempt to forecast trends. 'New Climbs' and 'The S.M.C. Abroad' provide evidence of activity.

Sierra Club Bulletin (vol. xxxix, no. 6: 1954). The Sierra Club has always been very conscious of the threat by hydroelectric and other works to natural beauty, even in the vast areas of the U.S.A. In this issue D. R. Brower, R. K. Cutter and Father J. S. Duryea are all active in argument on the side of the angels and there are some fine photographs in support. 'Class 6 in the Tetons,' by Richard M. Emerson, is a title that tends to speak for itself; we notice that the North face of the Grand Teton (varying from class 4 to difficult class 5) is described succinctly as 'interesting,' which adjective the Editor in a footnote informs us signifies 'a climb one grade higher than you'd care to lead just now.'

Mountain Club of South Africa—Journal (nos. 56, 57: 1953-4). Apart from the many articles and notes primarily for 'home' consumption, we have contributions on the Ruwenzori, the island of Madeira, the Canadian Rockies and Nyasaland (all in no. 56) and on new routes on Mawenzi (Kilimanjaro) in no. 57. The photograph of Bari Rock in Rhodesia underlines the great possibilities of rock climbing on these African kopjes. Mr. Cockburn's party, on returning to earth, were informed by awestruck natives that the baboons had been trying to climb Bari Rock for years!