

## REVIEWS

*The Springs of Adventure.* By Wilfrid Noyce. Pp. 233. Illus. John Murray, London. 1958. Price 18s.

THIS is a work of far wider range than Noyce has previously attempted. For in the compass of one book he has set out to analyse the motives which urge man to seek adventure in the most diverse fields. He studies those, mountaineers and others, to whom adventure is an essential component of the wider appeal ; of the mastery over difficulties, the beauty of setting and the company of chosen friends. He studies the explorers who sought new lands or new peoples for their own sake, or those, like the missionaries to whom exploration became the dominant motive. He examines those who escape from routine to adventure ; those who in adventure seek a livelihood like aircraft test-pilots ; and the old and modern treasure hunters to whom adventure is incidental in their pursuit of wealth. Mountaineering has quite a minor part to play in so spacious a stage, though naturally the author constantly supports his argument with examples drawn from his own climbing career.

The book is a distillation of prodigious reading. Indeed, the Bibliography lists some 140 titles. Perhaps the enforced idleness in camp on Machha Puchhare provided some of the opportunity. Noyce quotes extensively and with excellent judgment from his sources, and it is inevitable that his task, of weaving a continuous pattern from the best that has been written by the masters in all these fields, is a formidable one. Thus this is not an easy book to read, but it is outstanding as a source of reference to those who have written of every kind of adventure and have paused to examine their motives.

B. R. GOODFELLOW.

*Coronation Everest.* By James Morris. Pp. 144. Illus. Faber and Faber, London. 1958. Price 16s.

THIS is an enchanting book. It is beautifully written, with an elegance of touch and an abundance of humour. The writer, who was attached to the expedition as official reporter to *The Times*, who were entitled to exclusive despatches in exchange for their substantial grant, has the acuteness of observation one expects. And he was free from all responsibility except that of getting his reports back to his masters in London as speedily as possible and protected from the risks of piracy on the way. Everyone knows how well he succeeded.

The greater part of the book is concerned with his conscientious application to this duty, and he writes with engaging frankness about

the jackals from lesser journals who snapped around for trifles which might reveal the fortunes of the party far above their reach. The devices by which he outwitted them make good reading.

The mountaineer reader might expect, from a writer unfamiliar with the tradition, some penetrating studies of the characters of those picked to climb above 8,000 metres. There are indeed some splendid scenes, as of Hunt briefing the whole expedition on the assault plan. But these are all too rare, for one had forgotten that the writer was confined by his duties to Base Camp for most of the time, and was only in slender touch by radio with the climbers. Nevertheless he reached Camp IV, which was a notable achievement, and his splendid description of the tension while all awaited the return of Hillary and Tenzing, not knowing if they had reached the summit, adds further lustre to the scene immortalised in technicolour by Tom Stobart

B. R. GOODFELLOW.

*The Bernese Oberland.* By Sir Arnold Lunn. Pp. 215. Eyre & Spottiswoode, London. 25s.

MORE than thirty years ago in *The Mountains of Youth* Sir Arnold Lunn described his boyhood days in the Oberland. Now at the age of 70 in his fiftieth book he returns once again to his favourite haunts. In these pages he takes us with him not only up into the mountains and high valleys of that attractive region but also to some of its cities and towns such as Berne, Interlaken, and Thun, with their historical backgrounds.

The history of the tragic Eigerwand is given a long chapter; and this includes a full account of last year's sensational accident, and the remarkable rescue from the Jungfrauoch of one of the stranded climbers.

Ski-ing naturally takes a prominent place in the book, and in the final chapter the author tells again the story of the first ski crossing of the Oberland from Kandersteg to Meiringen, which he made in 1909 with Professor F. F. Roget.

There is, in fact, something for everyone to enjoy in this pleasant 'travel companion'.

E. BENTLEY BEAUMAN.

## MOUNTAINEERING JOURNALS

*Appalachia* (vol. 31, 1956-7). Oskar Dorfmann writes of the Frankfort Expedition of 1955 to the Chogolungma Glacier in the Karakoram, a region described by the Bullock-Workmans in *Ice-Bound Heights of the Mustagh* (1908). Fritz Wiessner gives the first full account in English of the unfortunate K2 expedition of 1939, which is of particular interest in view of the controversy aroused over the deaths of Dudley Wolfe and

three Sherpas. Ralph H. Wales recounts a visit to the sacred Himalayan lake of Gosainkund in 1956 ; Robert L. Swift describes artificial techniques in use in the Yosemite Valley ; and Wilfred Noyce has a well-balanced article on ' Large and Small Giants of the Himalaya '. As is usual with this journal, there are a number of short articles (maybe only a few pages apiece), covering a wide range of subjects, among which is one of no small interest, Pete Schoening's description of the ice-axe belay he used to stop the fall of five men on the 1953 K2 expedition.

*American Alpine Journal* (vol. 11, no. 1, 1958). The longest essay in this number is Bradford Washburn's magisterial survey of Dr. F. A. Cook's claim to have climbed Mt. McKinley in 1906. This is discussed elsewhere in this issue (p. 251). David Collins and Gilbert Roberts describe the first ascent of Mount Logan, East Peak, on July 19, 1957. Fifty pages of ' Climbs and Expeditions ', all over the world, contain a large amount of useful information.

*Canadian Alpine Journal* (vols. 39-41, 1956-8). Vol. 39 opens with the late Rex Gibson's Jubilee Message to the A.C. of Canada, followed by E. O. Wheeler's outline history of the past fifty years of the Club's activities. Joseph Murphy recounts the Princeton M.C. Expedition to Istor-o-Nal in 1955.

Vol. 40. The longest article is by Geo. W. Whitmore on the Bella Coola Valley, in the Coast Range ; R. L. G. Irving reflects on ' Trends in Mountaineering '.

Vol. 41. The Homathko Snowfield, B.C., is the subject of the leading article here, by A. Morrison and J. C. Ricklidge. Don Monk writes of Mt. Logan, East Peak (see *A.A.J.* above) ; and there is a detailed account of the accident on Mr. Howson by which Rex Gibson, President of the A.C. of Canada, lost his life in 1957.

All three numbers of the Journal contain extensive ' Alpine Notes '.

*The Canterbury Mountaineer* (vol. 7, nos. 25, 26, 1955-7). The majority of articles in these two numbers are short factual accounts of climbs in New Zealand, sometimes only of a page or so in length, but S. Conway's record of the N.Z. expedition in 1955 to Masherbrum is an exception. So, too, is a useful article by J. Ede on Snow Caving, a technique that has been considerably developed in New Zealand in recent times and is tending to replace the traditional tented camps at high altitudes.

*Climbers' Club Journal* (vol. xii, no. 82, 1957). P. S. Nelson, in ' The Skin of our Teeth ', describes his notable ascent of the East face of the Zinal Rothorn in 1956 ; a melancholy interest attaches to R. M. Viney's

article, 'Stakhanovites', found among his papers after his death. C. M. Dixon writes of 'Six Days in the Dolomites' in 1956, and contributes the fine frontispiece to this journal, of the North faces of Tre Cime di Lavaredo. E. C. Pyatt has a useful note on Owen Glynne Jones. 'New Climbs and Notes', in Wales, Cornwall, etc., run to over 20 pages, mostly of ascent made in 1956.

No. 83 (1958). A. D. M. Cox gives us the sequel to the now well-known story of Machha Puchhare, by describing the climbing done in the few days remaining to them after their descent from the great peak. Joselin Winthrop Young takes us to Greece; R. J. Wathen gives us his impressions on Pumasillo; J. A. G. Emery describes the rarely accomplished East face of the Blaitière. A further 20-odd pages of 'New Climbs and Notes' provide details of ascents in 1957, mostly, again, in Snowdonia (with a striking picture of Clogwyn du'r Arddu on p. 247), but extending further afield into Ireland, South Greenland and Central Africa.

*The Fell & Rock Journal* (vol. 18, no. 1, 1957). Kangchenjunga, by J. A. Jackson, is on ground familiar to readers; Tom Price, 'A Season in South Georgia', writes interestingly of map-making in remote regions; and Dorothy Pilley Richards, in 'Mixed Grill', treats of expeditions in areas as far apart as Kashmir and Greece, but primarily in the latter country. To one reader, however, the most attractive feature in her essay was that which evoked nostalgic memories of Adam's Peak in Ceylon, in the rain. (Mrs. Richards may count herself lucky, however, that she only met the rains of February, and not the full blast of the monsoon in July.) 1956 was the Jubilee Year of the Fell & Rock C.C. and this number of their journal justly records their Meets, Dinner, and other aspects of their fifty years.

*Bulletin of the Mountain Club of Kenya* (nos. 37-43, 1956-7). Two features occur and recur throughout these bulletins, the collections for the Arthur Firmin Memorial Hut on Mount Kenya; and notes on the peaks of Mawenzi. The difficulties under which members of the M.C. of Kenya operate can be inferred from the Presidential reports for 1955 and 1956, which show that the Emergency continued to affect mountaineers by restrictions on most of their climbing areas; and the Warden of the Mountain Parks makes the recommendation: 'It is advisable to carry a pistol on the mountain. . . .'

*New Zealand Alpine Journal* (vol. xvii, no. 44, 1957). The longest article deals with new climbs from the Perouse Glacier, by G. E. Hasell and D. J. Elphick. R. K. Irvin tells of the attempt on Rakaposhi, known to us already from Banks' lecture to the Alpine Club; and

C. H. Tyndale-Biscoe writes of climbs in Gilgit. Of some significance, however, is the record of the ascent of Mt. Harmsworth (9,090 ft.) in the Ross Sea Dependency, by A. J. Heine; this may well be a forerunner of a more intensive opening-up of the mountain regions in this part of the Antarctic. An interesting note on Mattias Zurbriggen appears on p. 162.

*Rucksack Club Journal* (vol. xiii). No. 1 (1956). Kangchenjunga (J. N. Mather) and the Rolwaling Himal (E. W. Courtenay of the Merseyside Himalayan Expedition, 1955) account for a third of this issue; the former expedition is by now well-known, but the latter is especially welcome and very readable. Aiguilles, on the other hand, have pride of place in No. 2 (1957), though no-one should miss reading 'The Rules and Practice of Toughmanship', mostly dealing with 'Bragmanship'.

No. 3 (1958) is the most varied of the three numbers. J. Walmsley leads off with a valuable article on the attempt on Masherbrum in 1957, complicated by the death of R. O. Downes, yet which reached 25,300 ft. B. R. Goodfellow treats of the Pyrenees, H. J. Cooke of Kilimanjaro, and David Thomas of 'On and Off', which is aptly named, for he deals reminiscently of some severe places where he has remained on, and of some others where he has fallen off—on the latter subject he claims to be an authority. 'Expedition Diary' by David Briggs is a welcome summary of the attempt on Disteghil Sar by Gregory's party in 1957.

*Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal* (vol. 26, nos. 148, 149, 1957-8). These two issues may be judged together, for not only is one article, 'Evaluation of a Risk' by I. G. Cumming and C. G. M. Slesser, spread over both numbers (it is a technical and mathematical evaluation of belaying), but each issue is indebted to T. M. Patey and to Tom Weir for substantial contributions. Patey deals with the Muztagh Tower and with Zero Gully on Ben Nevis, Weir with the High Atlas, Kurdistan, and Dalness Chasm. As always with the *S.M.C.J.*, 'New Climbs' (Scottish Hills) is very thorough and detailed.

*Wayfarers' Journal* (no. 12, 1956). This is a Jubilee issue and A. G. Spencer properly leads off with a survey of fifty years. Charles Evans's 'Little Journey' is in the Barun Valley. 'Eternity Fjord' has a tragic interest, being (presumably) the last article from the pen of Michael Holland, who died in a blizzard in Greenland whilst the journal was in the press. Dennis Davis has the longest article of all, on the Rolwaling district of Nepal, and K. Warburton deals with South Georgia. The standard of the illustrations is, throughout, well above average.

T. S. BLAKENEY.