

REVIEWS

The White Spider. By Heinrich Harrer. Translated from the German by Hugh Merrick. Pp. 240, 40 illustrations. Hart-Davis, London, 1959. Price 30s.

THIS book is an important contribution to Alpine literature. It is a history of the Eigerwand, from the first attempts on it in 1935 down to the thirteenth successful ascent in 1958. The title is taken from the snow basin high on the Face, spider-shaped and spider-natured, where the climber must dispute his way against the gathering avalanches; to the author it symbolises the whole Face.

Heinrich Harrer was one of the party who in 1938 made the first ascent. The climb changed his life. Because of it he was chosen for the 1939 Nanga Parbat expedition, which took him to India, and so to the wartime internment from which he escaped to the adventures described in *Seven Years in Tibet*. The memory of the Eigerwand climb, he tells us, never faded through all the thirteen years he spent in Asia, and he found it a continuing source of strength, patience and confidence in adversity. It is understandable therefore, if he regards the Eigerwand with an almost mystical reverence, which extends from the Face to its assailants.

This feeling of reverence is evident throughout *The White Spider*, and makes it a highly personal book, even when Harrer is describing climbs other than his own. Here and there one suspects that it colours his presentation. Himself an idealist, he would like to portray all the other Eigerwand climbers as similarly idealistic, dedicated heroes. For instance, the mass assault of 1952, in which Buhl and Rébuffat took part, he would like to show as an inspiring example of international comradeship; but the evidence does not quite support this. The 1957 disaster, in which the Italian Corti, wonderfully rescued by steel cable from the summit, was the only survivor of two Italians and two Germans, is almost the only episode in which he finds grounds for criticism.

This personal slant by no means diminishes the importance or interest of the book. Rather, it enhances it. There has been much criticism of the Eigerwand climbers. It is good to have an answer, and to have it from one of the school of German and Austrian climbers to which the majority of them have belonged. And yet, while much of the criticism has been ill-informed, and much exaggerated, the answer given in this book reveals an approach to mountaineering, a view of its place in the scheme of things, sharply different from that traditional among British mountaineers, and not only among them. Central in

the British tradition is the doctrine of the distinction between difficulty and danger. To seek and overcome difficulty is praiseworthy; but danger is not to be sought. Though objective risk may sometimes have to be taken, it mars a climb. Harrer's view is different. He is the apologist of the Eigerwand, but he makes no attempt to minimise its dangers. Rather, he emphasises and repeatedly warns against them. 'Other climbs, the North face of the Grandes Jorasses for one, may be technically more difficult; nowhere else is there such appalling danger from the purely fortuitous hazards of avalanche, stone-fall and sudden deterioration of the weather as on the Eiger.' For Harrer it is just because of the dangers that the Eigerwand is the supreme and proper challenge to the mountaineer. To have accepted it admits him to a special Valhalla. The achievement of those who succeed is made the more glorious by the fate of those who do not.

This attitude is perhaps the reason why there is so little discussion in the book of the main tactical problem of the Eigerwand, namely, how to reduce the objective dangers to the minimum, and how low that minimum can be made. Perhaps, too, it accounts for the pervading grimness. The tragedies in the story are for Harrer an essential element in the stature of the climb, and they are related in all their sombre detail. But even when we are temporarily away from tragedy it is all terribly earnest. No doubt climbing the Eigerwand is an earnest business. But must it always be so far, far removed from climbing mountains for fun? Photographs of the climbers suggest that at least some of them may have been a bit jollier than they seem from these pages.

The highlight is the account of Harrer's own climb, the first ascent of 1938. How Kasperek and he started up alone; how they met two Germans, Heckmair and Vörg, and two others, who all descended; how they went on and bivouacked; how next day Heckmair and Vörg came up again and overtook them, running up the ice in their twelve-point crampons; the advance together; the further bivouacs; the storm; the avalanche; the final battle up the snow-laden exit cracks to the summit, led by Heckmair drawing on the last reserves of spiritual strength and climbing skill; the meeting with the rescue party on the descent—it is a dramatic story of bold, brave and skilful mountaineering, powerfully told.

After reading this book and studying the fascinating collection of photographs the armchair Eigerwander really can lie back and picture every step of the route. He will realise that to attack it otherwise than from an armchair he will require not only courage and judgment, and luck, in the face of stone-fall and avalanche, but all-round climbing skill of a high order. The technical note at the end of the book cites several rock pitches of V, even without the snow or verglas which many

parties have met. The Hinterstoisser Traverse calls for rope-work *à la Dulfer*. In addition there are the long passages on steep ice, where speed makes so important a difference to the time taken on the climb as a whole.

Most of all the climber of the Eigerwand needs judgment, and again luck, about the weather. To the notoriously uncertain Oberland weather the Eigerwand adds special local storms of its own. The frequency with which parties have been caught on it by bad weather suggests that three fine days in succession must be quite rare. Speed on the climb is therefore of first importance; but so far, only one party, Waschak and Forstenlechner in 1950, has succeeded in climbing the whole Face in one day, bivouacking on the summit. It is a pity that Harrer does not give more details of this, the most efficient ascent of all.

As the list of ascents lengthens the Eigerwand, like other climbs, must in a sense become easier. But only in a sense; it is still a deservedly acknowledged feat. When a British party climbs it, they will surely accord to their predecessors, as they will earn themselves, a respect and admiration in which all readers of this book will concur.

A. K. RAWLINSON.

Because It Is There. By George Lowe. Pp. VIII., 216. Illus., Maps and Plans. Cassell & Co. Ltd., London. 1959. Price 21s.

THIS book is a lighthearted and graphic account of the author's experiences on mountains and in the Antarctic. Out of seventeen chapters, twelve are devoted to the Commonwealth Transantarctic Expedition under Sir Vivian Fuchs, and the preparations for that great adventure. Only one, Chapter III, with the questionable title of 'Easy Day for a Lady' (shades of Mummery!), deals in very brief manner with the author's experiences on the successful Everest Expedition of 1953. This is a pity. Nor do we gather that the very title of the book has any reference to Mallory's immortal dictum concerning Everest, but rather (a) to a flippant¹ remark about the Statler Hotel in Boston, Mass. (p. 44), and (b) that in their crossing of Antarctica, the continent of rock beneath the ice was proved, by scientific means, to be there (p. 208)!

In Chapters I and II we learn, after a late start, of the remarkable rapid advance in mountaineering achievement of the author. From a serious injury in childhood which threatened to keep him a cripple for life, he was already twenty-two when he had his first sight of the higher mountains of New Zealand's South Island; and not till the following year was he able to make his first ascent, and that of the very easy

¹ But splendid.—EDITOR.

volcano, Ruapehu, in the North Island. A few other moderate expeditions, and also glacier-excursions as a student-guide at 'The Hermitage', and he fortuitously fell in with the already experienced Hillary in the 'bus to the Ball Hut. But by Christmas 1950 Hillary, Lowe, Riddiford, Beavan and Cotter had arranged to combine for the rather formidable first ascent of Mt. Elie de Beaumont by the North (Maximilian) ridge. This duly led to plans for the Himalaya, when in the current autumn, after a lecture at Auckland University College, the reviewer met members of this party and strongly advised their going to Garhwal. The result was the highly successful New Zealand Garhwal Expedition, with the pioneer ascent of Mukut Parbat (23,760 ft.) and five other mountains exceeding 20,000 ft. Unfortunately this enterprise is all-too-scantily dismissed by Mr. Lowe in less than a page. Then came the unexpected and dramatic invitation for two of this party to join Shipton's first reconnaissance to the South face of Everest; next the author's participation in Shipton's abortive attempt on Cho Oyu, and subsequently the historic success on Everest. There followed the N.Z. attempt on Makalu, which is lightly treated in Chapter V under the title 'No Obituary', in reference to the tragicomedy of Hillary's crevasse-rescue of Macfarlane, and *The Times* confession of no obituary of the former, when his death had been prematurely reported!

However, it is the Antarctic story of the author's place as photographer on the epic crossing of the continent that, as cited above, claims the bulk of the book. This is on the whole well done, with some perhaps unnecessarily naïve, if not crude, passages of the day-to-day life of a team often under extreme duress. The author does not hold with the tight-lipped reticence that has been conventional. The appalling wintering conditions endured by Blaiklock's advance party at 'Shackleton', with too its interesting ghost-story and its 'hallucinations'; the extraordinary difficulties of navigating vehicles amongst complex crevasse-systems and giant sastrugi—a marvel of skill, are all graphically described. The remarkable, 'enigmatic', powers of leadership of Sir Vivian Fuchs are fully emphasised. And the notorious, if not disgraceful, (Press) 'controversy' between Fuchs and Hillary is given a somewhat new interpretation. Not the least interesting chapter is X, a comparative study of 'Three Leaders'—Hunt, Hillary and Fuchs: 'it was inevitable that I should find myself absorbed in the dangerous but fascinating game of assessing the qualities and psychology of leadership'!

The illustrations of personnel and landscape are excellent, as far as they go, and the maps and plans provided are helpful. There is a useful supplementary chapter, 'Of Interest to Photographers'; but a grave omission is the absence of an index.

N. E. ODELL.

The Last Blue Mountain. By Ralph Barker. Pp. 212. Chatto and Windus, London. 1959. 21s.

Rakaposhi. By Mike Banks. Pp. 238. Secker and Warburg, London. 1959. 25s.

The Last Blue Mountain is an unusual book about the Oxford University Expedition in 1957, led by Tony Streater to Haramosh, since climbed by the Austrians in 1958, written by a non-mountaineer unknown to the members until afterwards, who had access to their diaries, and who was able to discuss every aspect of the expedition with two of the survivors. The book is disturbing, especially in its earlier chapters which read like a novel, but the account of the accident and attempts at rescue records straightforwardly what happened, and the story is not delayed by efforts to portray the feelings of the climbers. Inevitably, in the attempt to describe the character and outlook of the different climbers much is left to be read between the lines, and this may give a false impression of the organisation and conduct of the expedition to the general reader, especially as, quite rightly, the author does not try to judge, or draw a lesson from the tragedy. The book is sympathetically and competently written and the author obviously has vivid imagination, but whether this is the right way to write a book about climbing is open to doubt. Tony Streater set out to climb a mountain, Mr. Barker sets out to write a book—the book, of course, should have come from Streater, who does keep diaries, and puts into them more than notes on logistics and planning; but it is understandable that he could not write it after the anguish of the last days on the mountain. It would then have been a book about a mountain in the first place, and of the thoughts and feelings of the climbers about their plans to climb it. It is difficult to give a 'real' picture even of the Kutwal valley and Haramosh La, from photographs, maps and hearsay description, and even more difficult to write of snow conditions, camp life, and the effects of altitude if one has not been there. Detachment may give a more balanced viewpoint than in books by climbers, but the author cannot share in their purpose and see the mountain through their eyes, until he comes to the account of the accident where the purpose is plain—to get Jillott and Emery out of the snow basin after the avalanche. Then follows the tragic series of falls after safety was so near, and the gallant efforts to climb up again after the shock and nights in the snow. It is surely one of the most heroic incidents in the story of Himalayan mountaineering, and surprising that any survived.

It must be noted that several post-war accidents in the Himalaya have taken place in bad snow conditions, where after the accident the support deployed in lower camps has been inadequate. The danger has arisen when the party has been cut off high up by avalanche, snow conditions or bad weather. All possible eventualities must be

considered when planning the stages of assault, especially on a mountain of the Haramosh and Annapurna II type, where a subsidiary peak is crossed, and a long ridge followed to the main summit. This may make desirable in some cases a larger party than has been customary in recent years.

Mike Banks's *Rakaposhi* is a different type of book—straightforward, light-hearted, and, in contrast to Mr. Barker, the author is not concerned to portray personality, but to tell the story of the two assaults in 1956 and 1958. It is very readable, and the writing is successful and more 'real' in describing the climbers' attitude to the mountain, and their judgments in working out their plan of attack. The writer is strangely Victorian in his convention of drawing a veil over clashes of personality—unlike the author of the previous book—and he takes refuge in jocularly when emotion threatens to raise its head. But one feels the purpose and toughness of the whole team, and the determination of the summit pair, and even something of the concentration of mental and bodily effort, described so succinctly by C. E. Montague, when Banks writes of his mind being in blinkers in the blizzard on the way to the summit. It is a story of a successful attempt, of calculated risk with the weather, and of well-planned support. The photographs are excellent illustrations of the text, and Jimmy Mills's appendix on provisioning gives useful information.

F. L. JENKINS.

The Red Snows. By Sir John Hunt and Christopher Brasher. Pp. 176. Hutchinson & Co., London. 1960. 25s.

THE British Caucasus expedition of 1958 has been the subject of two lectures at the Alpine Club and two articles in the *ALPINE JOURNAL*, as well as other articles in other climbing journals. It is hardly necessary, therefore, to dilate here upon their activities. Nor is it necessary to praise the book; it was a safe bet that one coming from Hunt and Brasher would be readable, even if they had had much less good material to work upon than was, in fact, the case.

Apart from two chapters by Band, on the climbing of Shkara and Dych Tau, and a survey of the history of Caucasian mountaineering by John Neill, the book is largely the work of Brasher, but he has had Hunt's diary to draw upon and Hunt has been consulted all through—as well as contributing a summing-up at the end.

A quarter of the volume deals with the problems that beset the travellers in getting to Russia at all; on and off it had taken them five years to obtain permission. Brasher does not disguise the vexatious delays to which they were subjected, but he also claims that when they had at last surmounted the bureaucracy, 'we found it was worth every hour, every letter, every disappointment'. And he has contrived to

write a book that enables the reader to share their enjoyment, a welcome return to an old tradition of writing, when so many climbers today tend to stress the hardships or dangers. He concludes his narrative with a discussion of the story of a Russian attempt on Everest in 1952, and he gives his reasons for disbelieving it.

It is fitting that the book is dedicated to Eugene Gippenreiter, who had made the whole visit to the Caucasus possible.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

Mont Blanc aux Sept Vallées. By Roger Frison-Roche and Pierre Tairraz. Pp. 267, illustrated. B. Arthaud, Paris, 1959.

YET ANOTHER book about Mont Blanc, and one in every way worthy of its subject, both in the text and in the variety and quality of its 168 illustrations. It is not strictly a book on mountaineering, though the latter pages give us a good summary of the routes up Mont Blanc and something about the recent exploits on its subsidiary peaks and aiguilles. Nor does it deal, as so many books on the subject have done, with the history that ends with 'l'époque des mulets'. What the authors have done is to describe the various attractions which the Mont Blanc Range has to offer at the present day to anyone who has the luck or the wisdom to visit it. For this range, with its supremely dominant summit and the valleys that surround it, isolating it from the rest of the Alps, provides facilities for close approach which no great snow mountain of comparable height can offer.

Three of the seven valleys are in France, two in Italy and two in Switzerland. All the folk who inhabit them speak French. We shall see how they differ in their environment and in the way they live, but all share a feeling of brotherhood in Mont Blanc. Even in the years when France and Italy were most opposed politically, these mountain folk did their best to help each other. Asked about the effect of the tunnel being made from Chamonix to Courmayeur a peasant of the latter place said: 'We shall see more of one another.'

St. Gervais is a good starting point for our tour, with its belvederes Prarion and Mont Joli, its ski-lifts, its téléphérique, its pleasant modernised houses. From there we enter the first of the seven valleys, that of Montjoie, where the motor road ends a little beyond Contamines and the old paved Roman way leads to the three passes of about 8,000 ft. which take us into the next valley, the Vallée des Glaciers. The conical stone heap on the Plan des Dames to which every traveller is expected to add a stone reminds the author of a similar stone-heap in the Hoggar. Side valleys lead to the Col de Miage and the Col Infranchissable, both direct passes into Italy; the former ceased with smuggling to be frequented, the latter has nothing but the name to attract the modern climber.

The Vallée des Glaciers is only inhabited in summer ; its pastures feed cattle said to be the most ' montagnard ' in Europe and to give the creamiest milk. The tiny hotel at les Mottets, ruined in the last war, has not been rebuilt, evidence, we are told, of ' la raréfaction du tourisme alpestre opposé à la vague croissante de l'alpinisme '. Military considerations have probably prevented the making of a road over the easy frontier pass, the Col de la Seigne, where we get a view along the almost straight line of the next three valleys and the magnificent wall of precipice and glacier that towers above them on the north-west side. The vast barrier of the Miage moraine makes two valleys out of one, the bare treeless Vallée de la Lex Blanche and the luxuriant Val Vény ; the photographs show the contrast better than any words could do.

The Courmayeur of today is rather different from the village from which Geoffrey Young and his friends made Alpine history on the ridges of Mont Blanc and the Jorasses. Numerous elegant villas and châteaux, ' boutiques trop nickelées brillantes de toutes leurs néons ', golf and a luxury hotel at Planpansier, téléphériques to the Col Chécrouit and the Refuge Torino, and the perpetual hoot of cars show what a popular centre the place has become. Yet the guides still hold their place in Courmayeur society, though less as mountain guides chosen to lead parties in distant ranges of the world. To earn good money now a man must be a *maestro di sci* able to instruct ' la jeunesse dorée impeccablement sanglée dans des fuseaux de couleurs vives ' which is carried up on fine mornings to practise ski-ing on the snows under the Grand Flambeau. An interview with the veterans Adolphe and Henri Rey gives us a pleasant glimpse of the past which has survived into the present.

In the upper part of the Italian Val Ferret the traveller may have the luck to see chamois and bouquetins come down to drink and join the sheep and goats. About a thousand feet up on the east side of the valley above Gruettaz a remarkably fine view-point is recommended, where, as the photograph shows us, we can admire a 7,000 ft. serrated ridge of the Grandes Jorasses rising temptingly almost from the valley floor. If it is misty as we wander over the Col Ferret, the different coats of the cattle will tell us when we have crossed into Switzerland. Interesting pictures show us the people and ways of life in the Swiss Val Ferret, particularly those of Onésime Crettex and his brother who robbed the famous Maurice Crettez¹ of the first ascent of the Aiguille Javelle. These sprightly octogenarians live in bourgeois retirement at the tourist centre of Lac Champex, the path to which from Praz de Fort takes us through strawberry beds, a new and profitable use of the ground. Of various ways of rounding this northern end of the Mont

¹ Maurice's branch of the family spelt the name with a 'z'.

Blanc Range the Val and Fenêtre d'Arpette is favoured for its beauty and comparative solitude. So we reach our sixth valley, that of Trient, and thence by road or the Col de Balme enter the seventh and much the most important, the valley of Chamonix.

After reading the up-to-date information about the activities of Chamonix and admiring the many photographs of the attractions which have been drawing visitors in increasing numbers for two hundred years one feels the author entirely justified in calling this the greatest mountaineering centre in the world. Its *Ecole Nationale de Ski et d'Alpinisme* and its first-rate guides bring men from distant countries to study mountaineering technique and equipment. It attracts thousands who have no wish to climb; it caters well for those who suffer from what some Frenchman has called 'l'obsession des résultats déchiffrables', with its wonderful téléphérique up to the Aiguille du Midi at 3,842 m., used by no less than 200,000 passengers in 1957, and climbs which go as near as possible to the untouchable grade 7. Attractive to anyone is the description of the upper Argentière glacier, 'paradis des alpinistes, mais aussi des rêveurs et des contemplatifs'. What was a possible nightmare to Samivel was actually witnessed by the author on the Allée Blanche, over which passes the télécabine from the Aiguille du Midi to the Pte Helbronner by the Col du Géant; he saw a party signal for a helicopter to carry it across to the Flégère and embark in it! Pictures of the 'époque des mulets', and a mention of the Pierre à l'Indien scaled by Mummery's guide Venetz show us something of the past. Older readers may be surprised to learn that the Charmoz-Grépon traverse is quite neglected. Not so very many years ago there used to be queues in fine weather waiting to enter the Mummery Crack. Now, I suppose, it would hardly be classed as high as T. D. Chamonix can any fine day now put a 'Q' in front of E.D.; that shows what has been done! Let us hope that the multitudes who make use of all the modern facilities at their disposal will not forget to look up and carry away a lasting memory of what the author calls 'Le grand artisan de ce progrès, le responsable de ce nouvel essor', Mont Blanc itself. One unforgettable experience possible at the beginning of the century will be denied them, the spending of some hours of a fine summer day completely alone on the higher snows of the great mountain, with perfect silence in the vault of sky above. Fortunately it is unlikely they will be conscious of any loss.

There is a map showing all the ski-lifts and téléphériques and there is a reliable index of the photographs. The only misprint I noticed was Enderegg for Anderegg; and I found the Dames Anglaises hard to recognise in photo 41.

R. L. G. IRVING.

Chronique Himalayenne, 1940-1955. By Marcel Kurz. Pp. x, 441; 69 illustrations. Foundation Suisse pour Explorations Alpines, Zürich. 1959. Price £6 6s. (Frs. 75).

MOUNTAINEERS are heavily in debt to Marcel Kurz and never more so than for his painstaking and scholarly labours over Himalayan (which here includes the Karakoram) climbing. At various times over the last quarter of a century his articles have appeared, to chronicle the opening up of the Himalayas from 1933 onwards. The present work covers what he fairly calls the Golden Age, whilst not forgetting the important decade of the 1930s, with which his earlier essays have dealt.

It is superfluous to praise so massive and indispensable a volume; Kurz seems to have read everything and his bibliographies are invaluable, gathering together, as he does, so many scattered articles in so many climbing journals, in several countries. The illustrations, as one might expect, are first-rate. We are fortunate in having in M. Kurz so devoted a historian of this period and field of activity, and in the 'Stiftung' so liberal a body as they assuredly must have been to enable this volume to be put upon the market, though at a formidable price.

T. S. B.

Across the Alps. Kummerly and Frey, Berne. 1959. Price £3 5s. *Sommets.* By F. Germain. B. Arthaud, Paris. 1959. Price £4.

THESE TWO beautifully produced books provide a nice contrast in the angle of approach to the mountain scene and its capture by the camera.

Across the Alps, briefly prefaced by three expert articles—one from Sir Arnold Lunn's admirably nostalgic pen—consists of a wonderful collection of 92 captioned aerial views taken by Werner Friedli, Swiss Air's outstanding photographer.

Full advantage is taken of the wide sweep favouring the airborne camera to provide numerous dazzling 'cinemascope' panoramas denied to the earth-bound climber. Fascinating, too, is the exploitation of the bird-mans' ability to capture unusual and sometimes very beautiful patterns in a more limited field of vertical and oblique photography. Only the colour-plates and the occasional juxtaposition of two unrelated pictures, which look at first sight to be a double-page panorama, seem to me to do the book a slight disservice.

The captions, not always easily followed and sometimes awkwardly divorced from the plates, concentrate mainly on the topographical and geological aspects. Indeed, in spite of the great beauty of many of the pictures, the glossy clarity of the reproduction somehow outlines the scientific rather than spiritual approach in this splendid book, which can only be described as a feast of photographic magnificence.

Sommets, on the other hand, is primarily a well-chosen anthology of mountain prose and poetry selected from many languages and

translated, when necessary, into French. (Some of one's favourite poems and passages from our own rich store at first strike somewhat oddly on the eye in their new guise.) This letterpress is supported by a hundred varied and beautiful mountain photographs from various sources—all Continental—about a half, and many of the best, being from the compiler's own camera.

Except for five Swiss Air contributions, the photographs are mostly taken from points of view involving the photographer in some measure of toil and sweat. Though less opulently magnificent, they therefore reflect more intimately and personally the contact of man and mountain, besides being well aimed at catching the appropriate note of mood and feeling in the extracts they illustrate. This warmer, more human, more poetic approach is enhanced by the smaller format and semi-matt reproduction. Nor is the photography, apart from its limitations of space and place, in any way inferior. Many plates seem to me to be on the highest level of true mountaineering photography; others are rich in the beauty of nature's changing moods and loveliness at whatever altitude.

A minor irritation is that the list of these lovely photographs, which are otherwise uncaptioned, and of their sources, is far away at the end of the book. It may perhaps save the impatient explorer some initial trouble if it is explained here that the references, when hunted down, are to the number of the literary excerpt they accompany, not to page or plate.

HUGH MERRICK.

Rock Climbing Guide to Hong Kong. By J. F. Bunnell. Published privately. Printed in Hong Kong. Available through H. K. Mountaineering Club, c/o J. Bodilly, Esq., Legal Dept., Central Govt. Offices, Hong Kong.

TO ANYONE who has been connected with rock climbing in Hong Kong and with the struggling H.K. Mountaineering Club, the publishing of this little book will appear as the culmination of years of effort to put the Colony on the climbing map. The pre-eminent part played by Bunnell himself, not only in writing and sponsoring the guide, but also in pioneering the majority of the climbs, will, it is hoped, be recognised by later climbers who would otherwise not know that this climbing existed. In fact it may come as a surprise to many in Britain that Hong Kong is in fact a mountain paradise, especially for the walker, remarkably like the Lake District both in area, scenery, and the height of its mountains. It contains a number of good faces whose few routes could be greatly extended by the activities of 'gardeners', and a vast untouched length of sea cliffs awaiting the pioneer with a boat.

Most people reviewing guide books are able to test the author's descriptions on the climbs described. Alas! I can only follow the

directions in memories already eroded by time. On his three main areas—Lamtong Island, Kowloon Peak and Lion Rock he reaches a very high standard, each chapter being preceded by an interesting and sometimes gripping preamble such as the one which describes the struggle for Lion Rock direct. For the lesser cliffs he is often dependent on notes handed on to him by the H.K.M.C. ; if the result is inadequate, I must take the blame as I wrote them myself. If we, the forerunners, don't like his historical chapter, we are also to blame. But in general I like to find a guide book that can be read for its interest like a Baedeker rather than as a bare signpost up a route. Let us hope it will attract climbers away from the flesh pots to the incredible beauty of Hong Kong.

As far as the climbing itself is concerned, the descriptions appear accurate and lucid enough to keep the climber on the right course once the climb has been found. This may be a difficulty, because the vegetation grows with tropical speed and tracks are often wiped out by heath fires. I would have liked some diagrams or dotted lines on photographs. However, it may be unfair to compare this original effort with the British guides which have gone through many rewrites and editions.

In conclusion, I can strongly recommend this book to anyone interested in climbing in Hong Kong, even if from a distance.

A. J. M. SMYTH.

Climbers' Guide to Glencoe and Ardgour. (S.M.C. Vol. 1, Buachaille Etive Mor). Pp. xvii, 99. By L. S. Lovat. S.M.C., Edinburgh, 1959. Price 7s. 6d.

THE second edition of this guide book, first published in 1949, is fully up to the standards that we have learned to expect. So considerable has been the exploration in the last ten years, that the Glencoe and Ardgour guide must now occupy two volumes instead of one. It follows the style of description used by W. H. Murray for the first edition, but the grading is now for vibrams, which has necessitated a good deal of amendment in grades. We wish all success to the publishers.

T. S. B.

MOUNTAINEERING JOURNALS

American Alpine Journal 1959. This issue is full of good things and, as is usual, is supported by fine illustrations. 'Ascent of Hidden Peak', by Peter Schoening, tells of the first American 8,000-m. summit. The outline story is already known to us, and it is good to have a fuller account from one of the two who reached the top. The doings of the North American Andean Expedition of 1958 are narrated by L. Ortenburger; there is a striking picture of Nevado Cayesh, even more fantastic in appearance than Chacaraju, and as yet unclimbed.

Warren J. Harding relates the climbing of El Capitan (2,900 ft.) in Yosemite Valley. Of the 45 days (plus 34 nights) spent in engineering the route, 13 were in July 1957; in the Spring of 1958 were another 9 days, and from September to November 23 days. Six hundred and seventy-five pitons and 125 expansion bolts were used, 90 per cent for direct aid. A footnote adds that 'the mileage of prusiking and rapelling has not been calculated'. Six camps were formed, linked by fixed ropes; a winch helped to haul up food and gear. Two of the original party dropped out, owing to disagreements with Harding, and one other had to descend just before the final onslaught owing to an attack of nerves. With headlamps to guide them and encouragement from a party who had gone up to the summit by the hikers' route, they eventually reached the top on November 12, 1958, the last 90 ft. having required 15 pitons, 28 bolts and 14 hours' hard work. C'est magnifique, mais . . .

William Siri in 'Antarctic Impressions', and an old acquaintance to readers of American climbing journals, was a physiologist during the I.G.Y. year, and writes cheerfully of his work as being a 'single-minded quest for blood and urine', requiring him to wander round to polar parties, with a rucksack full of bottles and test tubes, 'tapping' the travellers. H. Adams Carter writes of the region of Eldridge glacier, east of Mt. McKinley, and F. P. Farquhar has a valuable article on the naming of Alaska's mountains.

Monroe Thornton contributes Part III of his Annals of the A.A.C. (the counterpart of Mumm's *A.C. Register*), covering elections between 1912 and 1918. Bradford Washburn shows sixteen of his splendid photographs of the Alps, taken in 1958. There is a good obituary notice of G. W. Young, by D. A. Robertson, Jr.; and the usual record of Climbs and Expeditions all over the world.

Appalachia. Vol. XXXII, 1958-9. Geo Cochran, 'The Mysterious Plateau', deals with the Homathko Snowfield, B.C., in the neighbourhood of Mt. Waddington; Robert Underhill has an interesting historical article, 'The Whiteness of the White Mountains' (in New Hampshire), discussing the use of the word 'white', which has been applied ever since the early seventeenth century, and might refer either to snow or to the whitish colour of the rocks. Guy L. Shorey, in 'Looking Back a Half-Century', recalls the wintry activities of the Snowshoe Section of the Appalachian Mountain Club, when everyone wore the old-fashioned snowshoe, there were no well-organised camps, but you all carried your own blankets and food, and ladies wore ankle-length skirts. Another article of old memories is 'Shikar in Baltistan' by Mary Ogden Abbott, dealing with a trip over the Zoji La and the Deosai Plains in 1923.

Andrew J. Kauffman II, one of the two men to make the first ascent of Gasherbrum I ('Hidden Peak'), on July 5, 1958,¹ describes the climb in a letter written to a friend some weeks later. The usual collection of 'Notes' that form a feature of *Appalachia* are well in evidence in the four issues that compose this volume, and, as is usual with the journal, the photographs are excellent.

British Ski Year Book. 1959. Sir John Hunt, in 'Rising Forty', recalls his ski-ing experiences (often in the Himalaya) spread over nearly forty years—which makes him sound much more of a veteran than he is. H. Taylor reminds us that *La Haute Route* (Chamonix to Zermatt) is not the only high level ski traverse, and takes us to the Bernese Oberland on a trip from the Grimsel to the Wildstrubel. Lord Glentworth has 'Some Reflections on Ski Touring' both in the Valais and Oberland, and Lt.-Comdr. Stocken describes a Spring tour round (and up) the Grand Combin. Dr. Pugh, in 'Physiological Commentary', turns the attention to ski racing and provides, for those who can understand, a chart showing the 'Changes in eosinophyl count during a winter sports holiday'.

Cambridge Mountaineering. 1957. More than one contributor discusses severe rock climbs, at home and abroad; a more novel theme is J. S. Edwards' 'Alpine Ash-Heaps', by which derogatory name the mountains of the North Island of New Zealand have been unkindly christened by a climber from the South Island. 'Drei Esel', by Simon Clark, is written with his usual light touch and deals with the East arête of the Dent Blanche, climbed in 1954 after bad weather and with an enforced bivouac at the end. G. W. T. Hodges takes us over some snow passes in the Oberland.

¹ This corrects the date given in *A. J.* 63. 242, but see *A. J.* 64. 137.

1958. In an Editorial, Simon Clark (clearly the general utility man of the C.U.M.C., who, having started as Secretary (1956) and risen to President (1957), now ranks as Editor) speaks of the Club's year as having been a little tasteless. In a sense, this is reflected in the journal, where no particular article stands out. An unsigned letter from Tibesti, however, comes from an unfrequented climbing centre and J. C. Rucklidge's note on the Homathko Snowfield (see *A.A.ȝ* above) includes mention of mysterious footprints, which are credited to the Abominable Snowman. A good picture (p. 67) shows the Dragon route on Carnmore Crag, first climbed by G. J. Fraser and M. J. O'Hara on April 22, 1957.

Canadian Alpine Journal. 1959. The A.C. of Canada celebrated 1958 by making the first Canadian ascent of Mt. Fairweather on June 26 and the discussion of this takes first place in their journal. Other 'Canadian firsts' were Mts. Waddington and Alberta, described by C. Schieb and S. Spinkova respectively. There is a useful article by A. W. Duff on Acclimatisation at high altitudes in the Himalayas; his conclusions are conservative.

The Canterbury Mountaineer. Vol. 8, Nos. 27-28; 1957-9. This volume opens in Antarctica, but soon follows the usual pattern of the journal in having a large number of brief notes on a great variety of topics. Among these, the first ascent of La Perouse via Hooker face, may particularly be noted. A long article, by Norman Hardie, provides us with an interesting historical and topographical summary dealing with the Landsborough Valley.

Climbers' Club Journal. 1959. George Band gives us the 'Climbers' Club in the Caucasus', in which he concentrates on the North ridge of Shkara. Simon Clark has a vivid description of a fall of 80 ft. on the Grande Fourche; J. R. Sims takes us to Rakaposhi with Banks in 1958; and C. J. S. Bonington tells of the ascent of the South-west Pillar of the Dru in the same year, a route that he admits called upon all their resources.

Some twenty pages of New Climbs and Notes, by John Neill (now become Editor of the *C.C.ȝ*.) and others, deal with ascents in Snowdonia, Chepstow, Scotland, Ireland and Norway, all in 1958. Some fine photographs are shown, particularly of formidable rock climbs, with the dramatic El Capitan (see *A.A.ȝ* above) taking first place.

Journal of the Fell & Rock C.C. No. 52, 1958. K. I. Meldrum on Pumasillo, T. H. Somervell on Climbing in South India, and Donald Atkinson on 'Antarctic Holiday', certainly provide a wide-flung repast.

Nearer home, H. Drasdo writes of 'Poisoned Glen', Donegal, in so staccato a style as to reduce literary graces to a minimum. The Lakes are catered for by John Lagoë, 'Outward Bound in the Lake District', and E. M. Turner, 'S. T. Coleridge and the Lake District', the latter based upon the new edition of the Letters published by the O.U.P., and designed to show that Coleridge helped to mould public opinion into a more sympathetic appreciation of natural scenery, and mountains in particular. 'Climbs Old and New' and domestic affairs of the F. & R.C.C. occupy a large section of the journal.

No. 53, 1959. Sir John Hunt's 'Caucasus Diary' makes a good start to this number, well supported by illustrations. H. G. Stephenson, in 'The South Face of Mont Blanc',¹ and following a brilliant 1957 season in the Valais, describes his ascents in 1958 of the Aiguilles du Diable and of Mont Blanc by the Peuterey ridge, the latter under bad conditions that got worse and entailed a bivouac in a snow hole on the summit of Mont Blanc de Courmayeur. However, they escaped disaster and deserved their good fortune, and subsequently accounted for the North face of the Dent du Géant and the Route Major. Notes of 'Some Eskdale Rock Climbs' and 'Climbs Old and New' occupy a further twenty pages or so.

Himalayan Journal. Vol. XXI, 1958. The appearance of this number of the *H. J.* in late 1959 results in several of its articles being twice-told tales to readers of the *A. J.*² Nevertheless, the *H. J.* is a valuable record of expeditions during 1957 and 1958 in the regions in which it is concerned, and throws in an account of the British Caucasus Expedition of 1958 for good measure. Kurt Diemberger gives us the story of the ascent of Broad Peak and the attempt on Chogolisa; the latter, it will be remembered, resulted in the death of Hermann Buhl, a life, it would seem, sacrificed to the folly of discarding the rope, even when traversing cornices in bad weather.³ Professor Takeo Kuwabara rounds off the story of Chogolisa with an account of the successful first ascent of the mountain by the Japanese party on August 4, 1958.

Jannu today holds a prominent place among the greater mountains of the world yet to be climbed, and Guido Magnone's record of the 1957 attempt by a small French team is particularly welcome. Of the formidable nature of the mountain we are left in no doubt. Aamir Ali has an admirable note on the climbing of Mrigthuni in 1958, which lies in the 'Inner Sanctuary' of that classic Himalayan region round Trisul and Nanda Devi.

¹ In strictness, the Brenva flank of Mont Blanc and the Peuterey ridge are 'East' as much as 'South'.

² Expeditions to Masherbrum, Rakaposhi, Haramosh and the Imperial College Siachen Expedition have all been described in recent issues of the *A. J.*

³ See *A. J.* 61. 332 (footnote).

Mountain Club of Kenya, Bulletin. No. 44, June 1958. Two pungent notes in this journal draw attention to abuses from which East African mountaineering tends to suffer from visiting expeditions. An editorial remarks upon parties who (a) announce their intentions of doing something which 'has never been done before', although a little elementary investigation would reveal that it *has* been done before—this applying equally to mountaineering or scientific aims; (b) openly state that they have not provided themselves with adequate funds, but intend to sponge on local traders to cover their expenses; (c) after receiving local help, in kind, in money, in hospitality or in advice, never thank their benefactors, either publicly or privately.

The other note heavily criticises a so-called British Kilimanjaro Expedition (January 1958) and distinguishes between what they said they would do; what they said they did; and what they actually did. The distinctions are noticeable.

No. 45, September 1958. John Blacker describes the first crossing of the Firmin Col, between the West ridge of Mt. Kenya and Point Piggott, acting on a hint given by John Howard in *A.J.* 60. 274. An obituary of J. D. Melhuish pays just tribute to the 'Father of Kenya Mountaineering'. A good photograph of the North face of Mt. Kenya forms a frontispiece to this issue.

No. 46, December 1958. D. J. Sanderson describes how, in order to get to Tabora in Tanganyika, he, with an Arab and an African boy, both from schools in Tabora, traversed Kilimanjaro which was between them and the nearest roadhead. Both this issue and its predecessor contain notes on new and severe climbs at Lukenia which, in their scale, their gradings, and their picturesque names (Baboon Traverse Face—route 'Hangover', Very Severe; Cemetery Corner, Egyptian Crag—route 'Sweet Fanny Adams', Very Severe) are reminiscent of our home mountains.

M.A.M. Journal. Vol. III, No. 1, 1956. In recent years several climbers have visited or talked of visiting Corsica, but too many of them leave no record of the visit. For this reason, D. J. Munns' article is particularly welcome; it was spent, as he admits, mostly in camping and walking, but he does give us some useful information about hotels, camp sites, maps, and the weather, plus one or two climbs. R. T. Southall describes some ski-mountaineering trips in the Oetzal, Silvretta and La Haute Route, during the months of March and April. He recommends Austria rather than Switzerland at this time of year, but either will do for those who find the more fashionable ski-ing centres too crowded, and who would see the mountains in comparative solitude.

Vol. III, No. 2, 1958. Martin Allbutt writes of a fortnight's visit

in the summer of 1957 to the Pyrenees, 'the complete traverse of which must constitute the finest journey in Europe'. He succeeds in conveying to the reader his enjoyment; the hot sun tended to dictate their movements, and their participation in a *fiesta* in Pamplona was more exhausting than any day's travelling. For those who would escape the conventional Alps, the Pyrenees are clearly a good alternative. R. L. G. Colledge records a traverse of the Meije the same year, and the late N. J. Cochran contributes three notes on Dolomite climbs.

New Zealand Alpine Journal. Vol. XVII, No. 45, 1958. Pride of place goes to the records of the New Zealanders in the Antarctic in the years 1956-8. W. G. Croll deals with the Geological Survey party at Cape Hallett in Victoria Land, during which time two peaks, Mts. Midnight and Shadow, in the Admiralty Range, were ascended. A team of writers describes the varied activities of the main N.Z. party engaged in laying the trail of camps to meet the trans-Antarctic party under Fuchs, and included side surveys to the Darwin glacier and the Queen Alexandra range, lying to the west of the Ross Ice Shelf.

W. K. A. Berry, in an excellent article on Swat-Kohistan and South-east Chitral (in 1957) catches something of the atmosphere of earlier Himalayan travellers such as C. G. Bruce, for he deals with borderland territories still relatively primitive and unspoiled as compared with the greater and more familiar climbing regions to the north-eastward. Falak Sar (19,415 ft.), the highest peak in Swat-Kohistan, and Buni Zom (21,494 ft.) in South-east Chitral (attempted by J. R. G. Finch in 1938¹) were climbed with C. H. Tyndale-Biscoe; anyone who has only been able to see some of the peaks of these regions from afar off will envy the two climbers their experiences.

The longest single article in this journal is that on the use of the Aeroplane in mountaineering, by B. J. Wilkins. He discusses not only the historical development in the use of aircraft for the transport of climbers and supplies, as well as for rescue purposes, but also the best type of 'plane, the cost, the size, weight and protection of packages that may be dropped (free or by parachute), and, finally, advantages and disadvantages. Although writing primarily with an eye to N.Z. conditions, there is much in the article of interest to all mountaineers, since the aeroplane seems destined to be engaged increasingly in mountain work.

D. G. Herron writes a fascinating paper on the revival of the N.Z.A.C. in 1914, a battle in which A. P. Harper played a leading part and is, inevitably, subject now to some criticism. N. E. Odell and A. R. Lillie, in 'Alpine Geology', deal with the geology of the mountains of N.Z.

¹ *H.J.* XVII (1952), p. 115.

Oxford Mountaineering. 1957. This number is not up to the usual standard of the O.U.M.C.; there are too many very short articles, and nothing that stands out.

In 1958, however, we have several good things, with J. R. Sadler and P. R. Burgess leading off on the Welzenbach route up the North face of the Dent d'Hérens. W. L. N. Tickell describes two ascents (Devil's Peak and Mt. Nivea) made in the South Orkneys, Antarctica: A. D. M. Cox summarises the problems on Machapuchare, and K. I. Meldrum very briefly deals with Pumasillo.

Rucksack Club Journal. Vol. XIII, No. 4, 1959. The main article here is David Thomas's account of the Caucasian expedition led by Sir John Hunt. Eric Byrom recalls memories of rock climbs in Britain before the War, and J. R. Hastings gives his impressions of a first visit to the Silvretta group with the Ramblers' Association, which seems to have turned out better than they probably first feared.

Sierra Club Bulletin. The declared purpose of the Sierra Club being to explore, enjoy, and preserve the Sierra Nevada and other scenic resources of the U.S., it is natural that its Bulletin should deal only incidentally with mountaineering exploits. There is, however, much to read and appreciate in general terms of a love of out-of-doors, whilst everyone will be struck by the brilliance of its illustrations.

In Vol. 41 (1956), Weldon Heald, 'The Proposed Great Basin Range National Park' (i.e. in the Snake Range, Nevada), and Lowell Sumner, 'Your Stake in Alaska's Wild-life and Wilderness', well maintain the journal's tradition. Michael Sherrick writes of 'A New Route on Mount Robson' (the S.S.W. ridge), climbed on August 10, 1955.

Vol. 42 (1957) is almost wholly given over to the Club's struggle to preserve unspoiled Nature. No. 43 (1958) has rather more about mountaineering, including an all-too-brief note on the first ascent, on July 19, 1957, of the East summit of Mount Logan by the East ridge. Twenty days were spent on the mountain, seven of them stormbound. No. 44 (1959) contains an interesting article by Vincent P. Gianella on the crossing of the Sierra Nevada in 1844.

S.M.C. Journal. Vol. XXVI, May 1959. D. J. Bennet, C. G. M. Slessor and K. Bryan combine to write on the Staunings Alps, Greenland. In what is a fairly formal report on an important expedition into somewhat unexplored regions in a comparatively little-visited country, it would be well if dates could be given more exactly (the year—1958—is never mentioned).

W. M. Docharty lists the 3,000-ft. summits of MacGillycuddy's Reeks, and T. W. Patey recounts the first ascent of Rakaposhi with

his usual dry humour. A short (too short) note by W. Wallace tells of the Edinburgh Andean Expedition, 1958, with a list of their ascents, reckoned as five firsts, two seconds, and one tenth, in the Cordillera Oriental and Cordillera Blanca.

A 30-page section gives details of New Climbs in Scotland in the last two or three years. The 'Notes' include an unfortunately long list of thirty-six accidents in Scottish mountains between March 1958 and March 1959, plus a short Commentary, in which Clubs and books on technique are held to blame for teaching novices how to climb rocks or ice by mechanised methods before they have learned simple hillcraft.

Mountain Club of South Africa, Journal. 1958. The longest article is J. J. La Grange's record of his trans-Antarctic journey with Sir Vivian Fuchs. A. R. Willcox writes of the extinct Bushmen of the Drakensberg, a sorry tale of extermination at the hands of Bantu and European alike.

Y.R.C. Journal. Vol. VIII, 1957-8. No. 27. G. B. Spenceley describes his experiences with Duncan Carse in South Georgia. As noted already (see *S.M.C.J.* above), records of this sort ought to be more specific as to dates; the year is never mentioned, but in fact was 1955-6 (cf. *A.J.* 61. 465). It was an important expedition, that completed the survey Carse had made on two previous visits; in Spenceley's words, 'Surveyors will now find South Georgia is a poor field for their efforts. But for the mountaineer the work has hardly begun.'

Geoffrey Brook has a good article, 'Some Letters from the Past', consisting of correspondence from famous mountaineers, from Whymper to Charles Evans, to members of the Y.R.C. Fortunately preserved, these show how much interest may be found in casual letters of a Club, and it is to be hoped that other Clubs (not forgetting the A.C.) will ensure that Club correspondence is preserved and not allowed to be treated as personal property.

No. 28. This issue is devoted to the Y.R.C.'s Nepal Expedition of 1957, which ended with the deaths of C. I. W. Fox and two Sherpas (vividly described by Spenceley, the sole survivor of the accident). Other writers deal with various sections of the expedition's adventures, which included further injuries to members. The full story makes a notable number of the Y.R.C.J.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

Die Alpen. 1959. No. 1. 'Im Banne des Titlis': by P. P. Hartmann. 'La Sierra Nevada de S. Marta en Colombie': by P. Ghiglione. 'Cordes d'assurance et assurance à la corde': by F. Avčín. 'A

pied à travers le Népal': by Colin Wyatt. 'Les oiseaux de la Pierreuse': by F. Manuel. 'Itinéraires dans la chaîne de la Gummfluh': by L-M. Henchoz.

No. 2. 'Au Pays d'Enhaut': by L-M. Henchoz. 'Le Mont Aiguille': by L. Seylaz. 'Au Dru par la voie Bonatti': by H. Weber. 'Jean-Jacques Rousseau au Val d'Anniviers': by M. Liniger. 'Été 1958 dans le Samnaun': by I. Limbach. 'Le Mount Buffalo dans les Alpes de Victoria (Australie)': by G. F. J. Bergmann. 'Die innere Gefährdung des reifen Bergsteigers': by K. Greitbauer. 'Punta Maria Cristina da Nord': by F. Cavazzani. 'Deux ascensions dans la Sierra Nevada': by F. Koblet. 'La paroi nord-est du Pic Chourovski': by V. Abalakov.

No. 3. 'Vegetative Fortpflanzungsmöglichkeiten und deren Bedeutung bei hochalpinen Blütenpflanzen': by H. Hartmann. 'L'adaptation de l'homme aux grandes altitudes': by F. Verzár. 'Vécu au Chalchschijen': by E. Bender. 'Sonnige Tage im Rätikon': by E. Eichler. 'Dans la plus haute fromagerie du monde': by T. Hagen. 'Scheidegg-Wetterhorn, paroi nord': by P-H. Girardin. 'L'Argentine': by P. Jaquet. 'Au Dru par la voie Bonatti' (concluded): by H. Weber. 'Les variations des glaciers suisses en 1958': by A. Renaud. 'En liberté (surveillée) dans les montagnes du Caucase': by B. Pierre.

No. 4. 'Skifahrten im Pfischertal': by P. Thürer. 'Chronique himalayenne 1958': by G. O. Dyhrenfurth. 'A la limite du "skiabile"': by D. Bodmer. 'Aus Tagen im Val Verzasca': by M. Koenig. 'Il y a quarante ans': by H. Roth. 'L'adaptation de l'homme aux grandes altitudes' (concluded): by F. Verzár. 'Die Besteigung des mexicanischen Vulkans Popocatepetl in den Jahren 1519 und 1521': by P. P. Hartmann. 'Haute route Arolla-Argentière': by A. Rime. 'La première cabane des Diablerets': by E. Rambert. 'Une traversée nocturne des Pucelles': by A. Rime. 'Première expédition photographique au sommet du Mont Blanc': by E. Gos. 'A la Dent d'Hérens à ski': by G. Perrin.

La Montagne et Alpinisme. 1959. FEBRUARY. A *via direttissima* on the North face of the Cima Grande di Lavaredo was made in July 1958 and was repeated four times before the end of the season. René Desmaison gives an account of the third ascent by this route, which he made with the late Jean Couzy.

Maurice Lenoir describes the development of winter sports facilities in the Mont Blanc district and Jean Franco writes about the technique and teaching of ski-ing. Marcel Schatz reviews the career of Jean Couzy, one of the greatest of French mountaineers, who was killed on the Crête des Bergers in 1958.

APRIL. An account of the first ascent of Gasherbrum I (Hidden Peak) by the American expedition of 1958 is given by Andrew Kauffman, and Léon Couttet, one of a small party of French climbers who visited the Caucasus in 1958, recounts an ascent of Ushba.

In previous numbers of *La Montagne* there have been articles describing the attractions of various parts of the French Alps from the point of view of the high-mountain skier: the series is continued in this number with 'Ski de haute montagne dans le Vénéon'; by Claude Forget.

Alain de Chatellus pays a moving tribute to Geoffrey Winthrop Young and lists his most outstanding climbs in the period before the 1914 war. Through an oversight 'George' has been substituted for 'Geoffrey' in the heading and opening sentence.

JUNE. The attempt on Jannu in the spring of 1959 is briefly summarised by Lucien Devies and there follows an extract from Gaston Rébuffat's book *Neige et Roc*.

In 'le cirque de Tschierva' Alain de Chatellus describes ascents to be made from the Tschierva hut. There are several inaccuracies in this article. The first complete ascent of Piz Bernina by the Biancograt was made by Dr. Paul Güssfeldt and his guides in 1878 and not in 1889. Alexander Burgener and Karl Schulz are said to have got no further than Pizzo Bianco in the course of their attempt in 1883 whereas, in fact, they made the second complete ascent on August 6 that year.¹

Georges Livanos and Guy Richard discuss the technique of traverses and Jean Denis writes about an ascent of the North face of the Dômes de Miage.

OCTOBER. Jean Franco describes the attempt on Jannu. The next article in is the form of a series of questions put to Marcel Ichac, and his replies, about his remarkable mountaineering film 'Les Etoiles de Midi', in which a number of leading mountaineers were the 'stars'; an ascent of the East face of the Grand Capucin is included in the film. 'Les trois vallées', by Pierre Leroux, describes the ski-ing grounds of the three valleys of Belleville, Les Allues, and Saint-Bon; these valleys communicate with each other by several passes and summits where every class of skier will find something suitable for his capabilities.

DECEMBER. The achievement of a *via direttissima* on the North face of the Cima Ovest di Lavaredo was in recent years the greatest problem in the Dolomites and several parties attacked the face last spring and summer. A French party made the most direct route and an account

¹ *A. J.* 12. 180 and 58. 183.

of this remarkable climb, which necessitated five bivouacs, is given by R. Desmaison.¹

The present state of French ski-ing is reviewed by J. Philippe, and P. Marlier writes about the rapidly developing winter sports centres of the Pyrenees. Although climatic conditions on the Spanish side do not favour good ski-ing, the north-facing French slopes are assured of an adequate snow fall.

'Les lichens des Alpes', by R. Prin, will be of interest to botanists.

A review of the French edition of Hermann Buhl's autobiography affords Alain de Chatellus an opportunity to pay a tribute to the remarkable young Austrian who made by himself the first ascent of Nanga Parbat.

Osterreichische Alpenzeitung. 1959. No. 1303 is devoted to the mountains of Africa and contains articles on the Great Rift Valley and the Kmunke expedition of 1911-12 to Kenya and Uganda, when two of Mount Elgon's summits were reached for the first time. A more recent expedition to Elgon, and other extinct volcanoes is described by Fritz Moravec in 'Im Reiche der Riesenkraters Ostafrikas', an account of the Austrian Africa Expedition of 1957.

Emil Beuge writes of some climbs in the Drakensberg at a meet of the Mountain Club of South Africa. There are notes on the mountains of Abyssinia and Dr. Herbert Tichy describes a first (?) ascent of Kibo by way of the Gredener glacier.

In No. 1304 Bruno Streitmann writes about Mount Olympus, describing the various routes up the mountain with some account of their history. Five sketches with routes marked illustrate the article. There is also a list of the new expeditions made in the mountains of Greece between 1940 and 1958. Climbs on the Kleines and Grosses Petzeck in the Schober group are related by Dr. Heinz Sperka.

The greater part of No. 1305 is taken up by the second and final instalment of Wolfgang Herberg's informative monograph on the Karnischen Voralpen, the first part of which appeared in No. 1298. Eduard Sternbach supplies the answer to a question he himself had raised in No. 1300 with regard to the summit south-west of Mitre Peak in the Karakoram.

In No. 1306 Hubert Peterka recounts the early history of the Zwölferkofel, first climbed in 1874 by Michel and Johann Innerkofler. In attempting the second ascent W. E. Utterson Kelso A.C., met with an accident that might well have proved fatal. One of the early successes of the brothers Zsigmondy and Ludwig Purtscheller, the famous Austrian guideless party whose partnership was only broken by the death of Emil Zsigmondy on the Meije in 1885, was the first guideless ascent of the Zwölferkofel in 1882.

¹ The various routes on this face are shown in the photograph on p. 139 of the October issue.

Sir Arnold Lunn's book, *A Century of Mountaineering*, published on the occasion of the Centenary of the Alpine Club, was criticised in a review in a recent number of the 'Mitteilungen' of the Austrian Alpine Verein on the ground that it did not do justice to the early work of Austrian and German climbers in the Eastern Alps. In 'Eine Lanze für Sir Arnold Lunn', Dr. Paul Kaltenegger takes the writer to task and points out that Lunn has not only paid just tribute to Purtscheller, Blodig, Preuss and others but has also explained and defended the urge that led to so many remarkable climbs being effected by Austrian and German parties between the wars. The general tone of the review, Dr. Kaltenegger states, may be due to an insufficient mastery of the pitfalls of the English language on the part of the reviewer.

In view of the 'Klubtreffen' of the O.A.K. being held at Fischleimboden last September, Otto Lange has a note on conditions in the Sexten Dolomites.

No. 1307, contains an account by Eric Vanis of the Austrian attempt on Dhaulagiri in the spring of 1959. Last year saw the fiftieth anniversary of the first direct ascent of the South face of the Dachstein by the brothers Steiner; Robert Hösch describes the climb, which he himself made in 1949. Gilbert Tassaux gives a list of more than one hundred of the steepest faces in the Alps with the angles of ascent and length of the steepest part, or of the whole face where the angle is uniform.

No. 1308 includes the account of an expedition in 1958 to the rarely visited Cilo and Sat Dag mountains of South-east Turkey. Kelesin (13,681 ft.), the highest summit of the Cilo group was climbed and, among others, the first ascent of an unnamed peak of c. 13,130 ft. was made in the same range. It is hoped that the name of Bobekspitze will be assigned to this peak in honour of Dr. Hans Bobek, the first tourist to explore the group.

Methods of rescuing a climber fallen on the rope on steep rocks are described, with explanatory sketches, in another article and there is a note on the early history of the Erzherzog Johann hut on the Gross Glockner.

A list of new ascents in the Eastern Alps is also to be found in this number.

D. F. O. DANGAR.