

MOUNTAINEERING JOURNALS

Alpine Climbing: Bulletin of the A.C.G., 1967. The West rib of the Blaitière (see *A. J.* 72. 131) is described by A. McKeith (climbing details on a later page). The section 'Climbing Notes 1966' is useful; the Lauper route on the Eiger (climbed in 1965 by J. Clegg and P. Clay) is mentioned particularly and described as superb and comparable to the North face of the Dru with much more difficult ice-climbing. A bare reference is made to a report of the South face of the Matterhorn being climbed in 1966 by B. Nally—one would like to hear more of this.

The Engelhörner and Gran Paradiso groups are the subjects of articles and among new routes the West face of the Aiguille du Fou is illustrated and recorded.

American Alpine Journal, 1967. Of special interest is Brian S. Marts' story of the American Antarctic expedition in 1966–67, when, in addition to climbing Vinson Massif, the highest recorded peak in Antarctica (16,860 ft.), five other first ascents were made, also in the Sentinel Range. A map would have been useful. Boyd N. Everett in 'The West Ridge of Logan' has a notable tale of an ascent of Mount Logan (19,850 ft.) in the Yukon, occupying twenty-seven days in all: something of the scale of these mountains is conveyed in an aside: 'What is the West ridge of Logan? Essentially it is an eight-mile, west-to-east traverse of King Peak followed by a ten-mile glacier walk to the summit of Logan'. The traverse of King Peak (16,971 ft.) was the major accomplishment and involved some severe rock climbing and a 4000 ft. descent to the col between it and Logan. 10,000 ft. of rope were fixed on the route.

'Kichatna Spire' by David Roberts and Richard Milligan deals with those dramatic rock towers in Alaska with which readers of the *A. J.* are now more familiar from Westmacott's article, 'Arrigetch' (*A. J.* 72. 109). Snowpatch Spire (Purcell Range), Mount Temple, North face (Canadian Rockies) and Liberty Bell (North Cascades) are other high-grade rock routes dealt with in this journal, while Yerupaja (West face) and Taya-pampa (Alpamayo valley) uphold the claims of the Andes. Jack Miller writes of Tierra del Fuego, and the section on 'Climbs and Expeditions', all round the world, occupies eighty pages.

Canadian Alpine Journal, vol. 50 (1967). The Pantheon Range, B.C., is the subject of two articles by members of the B.C. Mountaineering Club, and British Columbia figures prominently in this journal, with three

more articles—climbs from the Raleigh glacier; the Albert Icefield; and on Mount Thor. The Peruvian Andes also come in for notice, but in a more general way than in the *A.A. J.* just noticed, although Taya-pampa is mentioned.

Climbers' Club Journal, 1966. R. Prager, 'The High Tatras', gives us an account of the expedition led by Hunt in 1965 (*A. J.* 71. 37), and J. D. C. Peacock, 'Allardyce Crossing', writes of the Combined Services Expedition to South Georgia in 1964, when Mount Paget was first climbed. 'Ball's Pyramid Expedition, 1965', by D. G. Witham, deals with the first ascent of an isolated pinnacle of rock off Lord Howe Island, some 430 miles out in the Pacific from Sydney.

Patey, 'The Greatest Show on Earth', writes of a T.V. exercise, 'Cliff Hangers', on a 400 ft. sea cliff near Holyhead: it need hardly be said that this is good reading and the glossary of climbing terms (pp. 83-86) is gloriously irreverent (if one had to choose, perhaps the derivation of the phrase 'backing up' deserves first place for monstrous ingenuity).

Fell & Rock Climbing Club Journal, 1965-66. Roger Tuftt opens this issue with an account of the Trans-Greenland journey made by Dr. Hugh Simpson's party in 1965. The President, Donald Murray, writes of the Lake District guide-books sponsored by the F. & R. C.C.; James Ogilvie, in his study of Lake District accidents in 1965 declares that one cause of accidents is due to insufficiency of guide-books for ordinary climbers, who may thereby be induced to undertake climbs beyond their capacity because most modern books tend to concentrate on Very Severes or the like. H. Westmorland's recollections of George Abraham can only be condemned for being too brief, but the formal obituary by A. H. Griffin adds something to the record of a pioneer of British rock climbing. Another obituary note of interest is that of Graham Brown by Lord Chorley. The review of Blackshaw's recent book, *Mountaineering*, deserves reading.

Himalayan Journal, vol. 26, 1965. The *H. J.* is always good reading, but it suffers from its contents being usually rather dated. Thus, the present journal, issued in 1967, is for 1965, and most of the expeditions mentioned in it refer back to 1963 and 1964. Inevitably, they tend to be second hand news, having already been described in other journals. Still, M. S. Kohli's 'Nine atop Everest' (1965) is a fine story of a well-managed expedition. Swat-Kohistan, by M. W. H. Day; Gauri Sankar by Ian Clough; and the Kanjiroba Himal, are among other articles that will be familiar in the main to readers. Dr. A. N. Wadia writes of the geology of the Himalaya; Trevor Braham's note on the Kaghan Valley,

once the favourite climbing ground of C. G. Bruce, will be welcomed by anyone who has visited this attractive valley. Professor Kenneth Mason provides a useful obituary notice of R. H. Phillimore, the compiler of *The Historical Records of the Survey of India*.

Mountain Club of Kenya: Bulletin (June, 1966). Apart from notes on miscellaneous climbs made locally, the principal article in this issue of the Bulletin is 'Kenya to U.K.', by Diane Standring. This occupied from February to November, 1965, and was done 'hard class': Ethiopia (enjoyable); Sudan fourth class in trains, not recommended; an effort to travel with a band of camel smugglers was unsuccessful, partly on account of the only interpreter she had with the chief smuggler being the local Superintendent of Police, whereby conversation was strained; Egypt (detestable); Cyprus, Israel, Jordan (tolerable in their different ways); Iraq and Iran (mostly horrid); Turkey (delightful). After so much, a trip by lorry from Athens to England was almost commonplace, but was 'great fun'. As a record of what the weaker (!) sex can stand, this essay is remarkable.

Mountain Club of South Africa: Journal, 1965. This issue commemorates the Club's seventy-fifth anniversary (founded October, 1891) and, appropriately, the first article, by R. E. Anson-Cook, deals with those seventy-five years. Originally called 'The Mountain Club', it altered its name to its present form in 1910: among British mountaineering clubs, it has few seniors.

Three articles in the journal concern the Andes, dealing with the expedition to the Cordillera Blanca, Peru, in 1965; K. Cameron has an interesting article on 'Mountains of Southern Africa on Stamps'. The customary short notes on climbs all over South Africa have their place, and the illustrations, as usual, are excellent.

The longest single article, by W. van Rist, deals not with mountaineering but with 'Canoeing down the Kunene', which, for those who do not know, is one of the only two perennial rivers of South Africa to flow into the Atlantic (the other is the Orange River). The Kunene is 750 miles long and its falls, its rapids, its scorching heat, its crocodiles, all added to the normal problems of a canoeist. It was a fine adventure to have put behind one; not, perhaps, one to undertake a second time.

Pinnacle Club Journal, No. 12, 1965-66. Dorothy Pilley Richards leads off with an account of her presence at celebrations attending the centenary of the first ascent of the Dent Blanche. As one of the successful party to make the first ascent of the North ridge in 1928, she was an honoured guest, and was conveyed by helicopter to the Rossier hut. Other articles

deal with Mount Whitney (California), Morocco, and various climbs at home.

Rucksack Club Journal, 1966. Variety is the mark of this issue; Ian Grant, 'North of Tirich Mir', writes on travel in Chitral (no date is indicated, a failing too often found these days); T. O. Gerrard, in 'Orientations', describes mountaineering in Japan—we hear so much of Japanese expeditions to other parts of the world that it is well to have something written about their home activities; 'Letter from the Atlas' (Roger Whewell) and 'Lightning over the Tetons' (Robert E. Davies) speak for themselves.

Ski Club of Great Britain: Year Book, 1966. For the climber, as distinct from the skier, perhaps the most interesting items in this issue of the *B.S.Y.B.* are the tributes to our late member, C. B. C. Handley, and to Hilti von Allmen. Otherwise, the volume follows the usual lines.

Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal, May, 1967. Tom Patey writes of The Old Man of Stoer, a 200 ft. pinnacle once described in a S.M.C. guidebook as quite unclimbable. This proved not to be so, and Patey can be trusted to write an engaging account of his party's success. But one Patey cannot make a journal, and some of the other writing is lamentably bad—standards in the *S.M.C. J.* have fallen severely in recent times. D. Moore, however, has a readable story to tell of climbing Mount Fairweather in 1958; they were able to fly out from their base in time to avoid being caught in an earthquake.

There are nearly forty pages of New Climbs, Notes and Miscellaneous Notes, including a report on Scottish Mountain Accidents in 1966—fifteen fatalities among them.

Yorkshire Ramblers' Club Journal, 1966. Two articles, 'Fuji-San' and 'The Northern Alps of Japan', by R. Gowing, and no less than seven articles dealing with speleology, form a large part of this journal. L. C. Baume, 'Capers on Stromboli', tells how he fulfilled an ambition to set foot on the summit of a volcano in eruption, and H. G. Watts writes of a journey through Iran early in 1966. Thanks to road and motor developments, it is possible to travel great distances now by bus; one that they joined in Teheran, to go to Erzerum, had as its final destination, 'Munich'.

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