

coast and only 25km from Marseille, the limestone range of Sainte-Baume reaches 1147m at the Signal des Béguines. This guide-book details 144 routes on the buttressing crags, with lengths up to 165m. With the Calanques and the Montagne Sainte Victoire within 25km this adds up to a varied climbing area and moreover one which enjoys superlative weather.

Ecoles d'Escalade Vaudoises (St Loup, Vallorbe, Covatanne) Claude and Yves Remy (Librairie Bauer, Renans, 1975, pp 72, 155F) Descriptions of routes on some local training crags in NW Switzerland.

Guide des Escalades du Baou de Saint-Jeannet M. Dufranc (Ed. Marrimpouey, Pau, 1975) Third edition of a guide-book describing 9000m of routes close to Nice, some up to 200m long.

Scalate nelle Grigne Claudio Cima (Ed. Tamari, Bologna, 1975, 6000L) Guide-book to the well-known rocks above Lecco.

Mont Blanc Range (Trélatête–Mont Blanc–Maudit–Tacul–Brenva) Robin G. Collomb & W. H. O'Connor (Alpine Club, 1976, pp 221, diags, npq) The original 2-volume Mont Blanc guide-book in this series is now being replaced by a work of 3 volumes, of which this is the first. These 3 volumes will correspond with those of the CAF Vallot guide-books, the latter are however more comprehensive; here we have only a selection of routes. The material for this first area has been increased in size by around 40 per cent by the addition of some older routes and many post-1965; descriptions and standards have been revised as necessary. No doubt the users will in due course be turning in details of their personal objections to the facts and opinions expressed herein, but there seems little doubt that this particular series does a tremendously useful service to British climbers. They can readily find the whereabouts of the best climbs and the best competition, while their safety no longer depends on a tenuous memory for school-day French.

AFRICA

ATLAS MOUNTAINS

Hamish Brown sends the following note on a Spring 1976 trip.

Above Oukaimeden a traverse was made from Attar to Tamaskaout, the peak dominating the approach to the ski resort. From the Neltner hut I crossed the Tizi n'Ougane to descend the Agoundis Valley but got lured on to the extensive hill area of the Adrar Tirkout to the S. After descending the Ourika Valley from Tachdirt, Meltzen (3595m) was climbed with 2 bivouacs. A brief ski visit to the Middle Atlas showed an area ready-made for langlauf trips. A tarred road will shortly reach Imlil, and the Toubkal massif is already much busier than a decade ago. The *Alpine Journals* for 1966 still have the best information in English. *Villes et Montagnes Marocaine* is no longer found in Morocco bookshops, but the AC library has a copy. It also has the original *Massif de Toubkal* (1938). Rumour has it that this can still be bought in France. There is now a French series of IGN maps of Morocco; the Toubkal Massif is Feuille NH-29-XXIII-1 *Oukaimeden-Toubkal* 1:100000. In 1:50000 there is *Jbel Toubkal*, virtually unobtainable in Morocco. I have a few for sale. Lastly, *Appalachia* (December 1974) has a good summary of Moroccan hills.

EAST AFRICA

The last 18 months has seen a surge of activity in the mountains of East Africa. On Mount Kilimanjaro (5895m), John Cleare, Bill O'Connor and Ian Howell established a new direct route on the Kersten Glacier. Subsequently, Paul Fatti and John Moss climbed another route which lies between this and the Austrian route. Another ascent of this glacier was made by Iain Allen and party (see p 171). It is felt that there is plenty of scope for still more new routes on this remote S side of Kibo.

On Mount Kenya (5199m) Doug Scott writes that he and Paul Braithwaite made a new direct route up the NE Face via the Gray Pillar (see accompanying photograph) in



102 *New route on Mount Kenya (Photo: Doug Scott)*

15 hours with one bivouac (ED(inf), HVS). They later climbed the Diamond Couloir via the headwall, and continued to the Gate of Mists and on to Batian, descending by Nelion and the Shipton Route in 14 hours. The Ollier Couloir was climbed (grade V) for the first time by Phil Snyder and Rob Collister. On the N Face, the NE Buttress was climbed in its entirety (grade Vsup) by Ian Howell, Phil Snyder and Iain Allen. Another new climb was the Diamond Buttress Route (grade VI) by Ian Howell and John Temple on the S Face; they also climbed for the first time the ESE Face of Nelion (grade VI).

Climbers have also been busy in the Ruwenzori, at Hell's Gate Gorge and on Mount Mulanje (3001m), Malawi's highest mountain, and several new routes have resulted; details are given in *Mountain* 47 12 and 50 11.

SOUTH AFRICA

We are indebted to Michael Scott who has provided us with an Events and Trends review of climbing in South Africa which appears on p 227.

ASIA

The trend towards lightweight expeditions, exemplified by ascents such as Messner and Habeler's of Hidden Peak and Tasker and Renshaw's of Dunagiri in 1975 has been reinforced this season. Some outstanding climbs have resulted—the ascent of the W face of Changabang by Peter Boardman and Joe Tasker represents one of the more spectacular of these.

The previous relaxation of restrictions in the Karakoram and in Garhwal is resulting in