

## Book Reviews

*The Conquest of Everest*, by Sir John Hunt, with a chapter on the final assault by Sir Edmund Hillary, and foreword by H. R. H. the Duke of Edinburgh. XX + 300 pages, 79 photos, including 8 in color, 28 sketches, and 4 sketch maps. New York: E. P. Dutton & Company, Inc., 1954. Price, \$6.00. English edition: *The Ascent of Everest*, by John Hunt. XX + 300 pages, 79 photographs, including 8 in color, 28 sketches, and 4 sketch maps. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1953. Price 25/—.\*

To attain the highest peak in the world after seven previous expeditions had tried and failed, is a proud achievement, and this book is an appropriate account of it.

In his first chapter Hunt says:

The mission we undertook was not, in our eyes, in the nature of some competition on a giant scale in which we vied to outdo the efforts of previous expeditions, dramatic and popular as such a concept might be. Indeed, prolonged attempts to climb a difficult mountain are, or should be, essentially different from those of a competitive sport. A possible analogy, however, might be that of a relay race, in which each member of a team of runners hands the baton to the next at the end of his allotted span, until the race is finally run. The Swiss in 1952 received that baton of knowledge from the latest in the long chain of British climbers and they, in turn, after running a brilliant lap, passed it on to us. We chanced to be the last runners in this particular race, but we might well have not succeeded in finishing, in which case we would have handed on our knowledge to our French comrades who were preparing to take up the challenge.

(p. 6)

These are sentiments that will appeal strongly to American climbers.

The book describes the elaborate and careful preparation of the expedition, the long and well planned approach to the mountain, the painstaking procedure for acclimatization, the difficult transportation of stores to the higher camps, and the final suc-

\*The Club is fortunate in the acquisition of copy No. 7 of the special edition of *The Ascent of Everest*, of which 20 copies were published and autographed by Sir John Hunt and Sir Edmund Hillary.

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cessful assault. The expedition was well planned and well executed, and the party worked harmoniously throughout, which is a tribute to the skill of the leader. They had some bad and some good luck, but were fortunate in having good luck in weather when they really needed it.

There is a thrilling description of the passage of the Ice Fall, which on close acquaintance proved fully as harrowing as it seemed to us from the bottom.

The expedition relied heavily on oxygen, using two types of apparatus, both open and closed circuits, beginning its use at comparatively low altitudes and using it both for sleeping and climbing on the higher slopes. The difficulties of leakage, breakage, and freezing are fully stated, and it is recognized that, if climbers so dependent on oxygen should be deprived of it at high altitudes through accident or storm, they would be in very great danger. Failure of oxygen equipment appears to have been partly or wholly responsible for the inability of the first assault party, Bourdillon and Evans, to reach the final summit. The book therefore still leaves open the question whether the advantages of oxygen outweigh its dangers and disadvantages.

The appendices contain much useful information about equipment, food, and supplies.

OSCAR R. HOUSTON

*The Story of Everest*, by W. H. Murray. 195 pages, 24 photographs, 14 maps and diagrams. English edition: London, J. M. Dent & Sons, 1953. Price, 15/—. American edition: New York, Dutton, 1954. Price, \$3.75.

Murray's book is opportune, not only because of Hunt's later record which concludes the Everest saga, but because a summary of the former expeditions has been needed now that the earlier volumes are difficult to obtain. Neither Younghusband's nor Ullman's summaries are satisfactory.

Murray is an experienced writer and has produced a clear, well-balanced book. Over half of it is occupied by the first three expeditions—1921, 1922, and 1924—which is just, for the expeditions of the 1930's added little that was fundamental to what had been learned on the earlier attempts. In 1936 and 1938 the weather precluded any hope of success.

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The author has not just compiled an anthology; he has re-interpreted the stories in the light of later evidence. He shows (p. 111) how the lessons from 1922 and 1924 were appreciated in 1933; and, equally (p. 181), how the Swiss failed to appreciate them fully in 1952. It may be hoped that the success of 1953 will rub home once more the need for acclimatization that the hazardous victory of the French on Annapurna has tended to obscure. Had the Swiss not underestimated this and other factors in 1952, Everest would very possibly have fallen to them.

Some of Murray's views are controversial; he seems to incline toward the post-monsoon period as being the best for climbing Everest; he is dubious about the need of oxygen. He is unlikely to have many supporters of the first opinion but, in view of the experiences of Houston's party on K2 in 1953, he may have powerful backing in his dislike of oxygen. Still, those last 800 to 1000 feet on Everest may make all the difference . . .

It may be noted that Murray (p. 104) holds that Odell saw Mallory and Irvine at the first and not the second step; and he agrees (p. 120) with the view put forward by Smythe that the ice-axe found by Wager and Wyn Harris marked the site of a slip. He suggests that this was probably on the ascent, not the descent. In this case they would (see the line drawing on p. 126) have fallen before they ever reached the first step and the question of whether Odell really saw them at all is in doubt.

S. B. T.

*The Mountain World*, edited by Marcel Kurz for the Swiss Foundation for Alpine Research, Zurich. 220 pages, 64 illustrations, folding panorama, maps, and sketches. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1953. Price, \$6.00.

This is an important book, attractively published. It is the eighth of a series prepared by the Swiss Foundation for Alpine Research, but the first edition in English. This and the previous seven editions were published in either French or German, or both, under the titles: *Berge der Welt* or *Montagnes du Monde*.

For many years people wondered why so relatively little had been heard from the Swiss in the Himalayas or the other great mountain ranges of the world outside of their own Alps. Be that as it may, they have now appeared in many lands as contenders

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for top honors in the field of exploratory and high-altitude mountaineering.

This book deals largely but not exclusively with Swiss expeditions. There is an opening chapter on the late Gustav Hasler by Othmar Gurtner. Then a chapter by Marcel Kurz, "A Century of History," covers the attempts to approach Mt. Everest and find the best route up the mountain; the author comments freely, expressing some rather bold opinions. A short chapter by Elizabeth Cowles, "North to Everest," records that, in the fall of 1950, an American party organized by Oscar R. Houston, including Charles S. Houston, Anderson Bakewell, H. W. Tilman and Mrs. Cowles, was the first to approach Everest from the south. Charles Houston and Tilman actually reached 19,000 feet on Pumori, only six miles from the summit of Everest.

More than half the book is devoted to the first Swiss attempt on the great mountain in the spring of 1952. The Swiss party was the first to force a way up the Khumbu glacier above the great icefall, up the Lhotse face to the South Col and almost to the South Peak itself, reaching an altitude of about 28,250 feet. There are also chapters on "A Journey to Gosainkind (Nepal)" by Ella Maillart, "Our Climbs in Boliva" by Hans Ertz, "The South Peruvian Andes" by Piero Ghiglione, "Mountain Exploration in Northeast Greenland" by six authors, and on the geology and plants of the Everest region.

As often with books of joint authorship, there is considerable variety of style, but this does not obscure the substantive interest. The writing could perhaps be called more literal than literary, but the end result is good. The illustrations are well chosen and beautifully reproduced. Pocketed in one cover is an interesting folding panorama of the entire length of the Khumbu valley and upper basin. The various sketch maps are adequate. There is no index, a curious omission in such a book.

This is one of the most important current mountaineering works in English. With the succeeding volumes, if published, it will find a place in the mountaineering libraries of most collectors aspiring to completeness. Much of the material will not be found elsewhere in English.

HENRY S. HALL, JR.

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*Everest 1952*, by André Roch. 72 pages of black and white and 8 of color photographs with commentary. Preface by Lt. General E. F. Norton, 9-page introduction by Dr. Edward Wyss-Dunant, map, and end papers. Geneva: Editions Jeheber, 1952.

The members of the magnificent Swiss expedition to Mt. Everest in the spring of 1952 should be proud of this handsome book of pictures which tells their story. The quality of the photographs is high and the book documents the human side of the expedition particularly well. Throughout, it gives the impression of close friendships and teamwork of the highest order. Dr. Wyss-Dunant's introduction gives a clear account of the history of Mt. Everest and comments modestly on some of the accomplishments and discoveries of the Swiss. Though more text would be welcome, this is an important book, for the splendid contribution of the Genevan expedition to the British success in 1953 should not be forgotten. As on other mountains and in life, we climb upon the shoulders of the past.      ROBERT H. BATES

*Everest*, by La Fondation Suisse pour Explorations Alpines. 198 pages, including 136 pages of black and white photographs, 8 of color photographs, and 16 pages of introduction by Othmar Gurtner. Geneva: Jeheber, 1953.

This picture book of the Swiss expedition to Mt. Everest in the fall of 1952 is a superb example of the photo-engraver's art. The quality of reproduction of the black and white illustrations is so extraordinary that artistically this clothbound volume far surpasses *Everest 1952*. Some of the best pictures of the earlier book appear here along with many new ones, especially those of André Roch and N. G. Dyhrenfurth. The close-ups at the end are outstanding, while Herr Gurtner's introduction is interesting for its analyses of closed-circuit and open-circuit oxygen apparatus. Telling a story primarily through pictures and captions, however, has limitations. One does not get the "feel" of the full expedition. Some things cannot be photographed and the true flavor of an enterprise may be lost if one presents it through illustrations alone. *Everest* lacks some of the warmth of *Everest 1952*, but for polished, artistic presentation it ranks among the most beautiful books of mountain pictures.      R. H. B.

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*Avant-Premières à l'Everest*, by Gabriel Chevalley, René Dittert, and Raymond Lambert. Introduction by Dr. Ed. Wyss-Dunant. 304 pages, 36 illustrations, sketch maps, and appendices. Paris and Grenoble:Arthaud, 1953. Price, \$3.50.

This fine account of the great effort of the Swiss to be the first on Mt. Everest brings us the spirit and atmosphere of the ultimate in mountaineering, right from those in whose homeland alpinism came into being. We meet and fall in love with a band of sworn friends who admit that they have long been ravaged by the "alpine virus" and have from childhood made climbing a way of life. When unexpectedly strong backing appears, they set forth for a bold bid for the greatest prize that the mountain ranges of the world have to offer. The consciousness of their being pioneers, with all its drawbacks and its thrills, never leaves them. The splendid progress that they make probably surprises even them. The day comes when the two outstanding men, Raymond Lambert and the Sherpa, Tensing Norkey, make a bid for the summit. But altitude and a poor turn in the weather, chiefly the former, forces their withdrawal before they are overcome by the sort of low-oxygen euphoria which they think may well have affected Mallory on his final climb.

In the fall, before their authorization from the Nepalese government runs out and reverts to the tensely waiting British, they return to the fray. This time they have a heavier and more completely equipped expedition, fortified by fresh blood from the ranks of the most brilliant climbers of Switzerland. And still with them is the brilliant Lambert-Tensing team. Their intention is to take advantage of the clear autumn days and, indeed, they do push forward with splendid speed and with every hope of making a good showing. In the shortening days of November, however, as they approach the heights reached in the spring, inexorable winter closes in and simply freezes the brave expedition to a halt.

More than once credit is given to their predecessors on the southern approach—to Houston in 1950 and to Shipton in 1951—on whose shoulders they are the first to admit they stood. And they swell with justifiable pride at the generous greeting from

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Nepal the following spring when Colonel Hunt telegraphed them "half the glory" of the great British success.

ROGER S. WHITNEY

*Nanga Parbat*, by Ulrich Ling. 52 pages, 24 photographs, 3 maps, and 1 sketch. Munich: Bergverlag Rudolph Rother, 1953. Price, DM. 3.80.

This inexpensive, small paperbound volume was brought out in early August, just a month after the actual ascent of Nanga Parbat was made and at the very moment when the controversy between the members of the expedition was breaking into the press. It gives a summary of all the previous expeditions and devotes the last eleven pages to the successful climb. The summaries are good although somewhat dramatized for the average reader and not as detailed as those found in Dyrenfurth's "Zum Dritten Pol." The final fifth of the book, however, is of more interest since here is found new and somewhat controversial matter. The account suggests that there was no disharmony among the members of the expedition. The disputed permission to climb is reported as readily given by Aschenbrenner, who is said to have urged the climber in best shape to go on alone. There is no mention of the separate starts for the summit; it is merely stated that Buhl climbed faster. Most of the photographs are well reproduced, and although many have appeared already in other books and there are none from this year's expedition, they nevertheless add greatly to this small book.

H. ADAMS CARTER

*Zum Dritten Pol, Die Achttausender der Erde*, by Günther Oskar Dyrenfurth, with contributions by Erwin Schneider. 286 pages, 47 photographs, 2 drawings, 2 geological profiles, and 8 maps. Munich: Nymphenburger Verlagshandlung, 1952.

In a year in which two of the fourteen mountains over 8000 meters in elevation, Everest and Nanga Parbat, have been climbed, and three others, K2, Manaslu and Dhaulagiri, attempted, a book dealing with these very peaks cannot fail to arouse our interest. Dr. Dyrenfurth has for the first time systematically described all the "eight-thousanders" (mountains

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higher than 8000 meters or about 26,000 feet) and the attempts made through 1951 to climb them. The author begins with a discussion of the possibility of other higher peaks and tells how both Minya Konka and Amnyi Machin were for some time suggested as being higher than Mt. Everest. The bulk of the book is devoted, however, to the real eight-thousanders, of which Everest, K2, Kangchenjunga, Annapurna, and Nanga Parbat naturally receive the greatest attention.

The description of each mountain is divided in turn into the five following sections: the name or names by which it has been, or now is, known, its altitude, exploration and attempted ascents (the actual ascent in the case of Annapurna), estimates of possible routes of ascent, and the geology of the region. In the case of Mt. Everest all available data on the "abominable snowmen" are given as well. Also included are three excellent tables which give the name, altitude, altitude reached by climbers, latitude and longitude, region, and remarks on all the eight-thousanders, the seven-thousanders (roughly mountains over 23,000 feet in altitude), and the unsuccessfully attempted seven-thousanders. Dr. Dyrenfurth states that the bibliography is not intended to be complete. The only obvious omission of an important work on the eight-thousanders that I noted was Miss Elizabeth Knowlton's *Naked Mountain*.

Dr. Dyrenfurth has for many years been a careful student of Himalayan affairs. He himself led two expeditions to what he calls the "Third Pole," in 1930 to Kangchenjunga and in 1934 to the Karakoram. He has obviously done an enormous amount of further research which is reflected in this volume. There are few places in which we can quarrel with the facts. However, Paul Petzoldt may be surprised to find himself a German-American. Also, the second ascent of Nanda Devi cannot be definitely confirmed since the ill-fated members of the expedition were not seen after they disappeared above their high camp, heading toward the summit. Moreover, there are details about the 1939 American expedition to K2 which some informed people will deny as factual. To be sure, very little has been published about this climb, and the available information is often confusing, if not contradictory. The author has not presented both sides of

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the question. In general, however, the material is accurately and well presented. In addition to stating fact, Dr. Dyrenfurth does not hesitate to pass judgment on the course of action taken by the various expeditions. Although the author speaks with authority, readers will not always agree with him. For instance, he criticizes the Americans on K2 in 1938 for wasting time on a reconnaissance which had already been completely carried out by the Duke of the Abruzzi. Careful examination of the material published by the Duke's expedition shows that they recommended no route and declared the mountain unclimbable. Though high in his praise of the personnel and organization of the 1938 expedition, he feels that they did not take enough risk with the weather in not pressing on further with the limited supplies they had available. His opinions regarding the nearly fatal Annapurna expedition are of the greatest interest. The climbers did not seem mentally alert and the author attributes their many irrational acts to the Maxiton pills which they took to ward off the effects of fatigue. He rightly criticizes the use of these highly dangerous drugs. I was surprised that he was not critical of the violent massage given the climbers' frostbitten hands and feet, a practice now long condemned.

Here is certainly the most complete, brief record of what is known about the world's highest mountains. Excellently presented, systematic, and useful for reference, it is at the same time highly readable and interesting to the casual reader and the mountain specialist alike. It is well printed also. The many excellent photographs are beautifully reproduced. In short, the book is well worth reading and owning.

H. A. C.

*Seven Years in Tibet*, by Heinrich Harrer, translated from the German by Richard Graves. Introduction by Peter Fleming. 288 pages, 1 colored frontispiece, and 25 black and white illustrations. London: Rupert Hart-Davis, 1953. Price 16/—. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc., 1954, 314 pages, 46 photographs, and 2 maps. Price, \$5.00.

The author was a member of the 1939 German reconnaissance expedition to Nanga Parbat. On the way home he was picked up

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by the British and interned in a prisoner-of-war camp at the foot of the mountains in northwestern India. Escaping in May 1943, he was recaptured and brought back to the prison camp, where he escaped again in April 1944 and ultimately made his way with one German companion to Lhasa where he lived for five years until the Chinese invaded Tibet. This book is an account of how, by a combination of diplomacy, personal charm, guile, bluff and daring escapes over the passes, the author and his companion arrived in Lhasa after 21 months of effort. The book then details their life there for the next five years, where they worked as translators, engineers, sports instructors, etc., and the author became a personal friend of the Dalai Lama.

In his preface the author says, "As I have no experience as an author I shall content myself with the unadorned facts." And this is precisely what he has done. The result is a simple, charming narrative, with no heroics, no metaphysics, no scorn of primitive conditions but a full recognition of the attractive and unattractive parts of Tibetan life. There are accounts of the great New Year's Festival in Lhasa, of other celebrations, of daily life among monks, nobles, and commoners, of habits, dress, and the common occurrences of life. The book seems to me to give a better picture of life in Tibet than any other I know.

In reading books like this and *No Picnic on Mount Kenya* by Felice Benuzzi, one cannot help being struck with the incredible things that men can accomplish in pursuit of Liberty.

O. R. H.

*The Ultimate Mountains*, by Thomas Weir. 98 pages, 76 photographs, and 4 sketch maps. London: Cassell & Co., Ltd., 1953.

Thomas Weir was a member of the Scottish Mountaineering Expedition to Garhwal in 1950 and this brief book is his record of it. Rather like a diary at times, the book is at its best in describing actual climbing. The photographs, some by Douglas Scott, well serve their purpose of illustrating the story. It is certainly a book which should be in the possession of anyone planning or hoping to go to Garhwal, but would prove considerably more useful if it contained a more complete map and an index, and were somewhat longer.

JOHN C. OBERLIN

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*La Conquête du Salcantay, Géant des Andes*, by Bernard Pierre. 193 pages, 15 illustrations, 3 maps, bibliographies. Glossary of Quechua and Spanish expressions by Prof. Theodoro Meneses. Paris: Amiot-Dumont, 1953.

This book is an unqualified "must" for anyone interested in Peruvian mountaineering. The early half recounts the first ascent of Salcantay, northwest of Cuzco. The latter half discusses the problems of *Andinisme*, which is neither *Alpinisme* nor yet *Himalayisme*.

This latter section merits translation and separate publication. There are sections on the geography, exploration, weather, and approaches to the Cordillera de Vilcabamba. There is also a survey of all the other ranges in Peru considered as mountaineering frontiers. A bibliography is given for each range. There are sections on various aspects of mountaineering expedition problems in Peru; there are notes on the future of Indians as porters and on the use of the ice-axe to kill cows. Regrettably, the author feels constrained to offer no more medical advice than "take a doctor." The glossary, by a professor of Quechua at the University of Lima, correlates several hundred Quechua expressions with their French and Spanish equivalents.

The first half of the volume, concerning Salcantay, is good reading. Pierre has written other books, and he has an enthusiastic style with change-of-pace. He is clever at characterization and generous toward his American expedition-mates. He utilizes the Marx-Broennimann incident to good literary advantage. The "competition" of the "rival" parties provides suspense, and the characterization of Marx and Broennimann is interesting in terms of wider issues. The photographic coverage, especially of the route and the summit climb, is excellent.

DAVID HARRAH

*Nelle Ande del Sud Perú*, by Piero Ghiglione. 169 pages, 78 photographs, appendices, and folding map. Milano: Garzanti, 1953. Price, L. 1200.

Despite his advanced years, Piero Ghiglione's abundant energy and enthusiasm are apparent throughout this new book which describes his expeditions and climbs in the Andes of southern

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Peru in 1950 and 1952. Ranges little known, poorly mapped, and difficult of access are penetrated afoot and on ponyback. The author's interests include the flora and fauna, geology, and folklore of the regions visited, as well as the mountaineering possibilities. The descriptions of his climbs on Ausangate, Solimana, Corupuna, and Salcantay and of his explorations in the ranges of Cayangate and Yucai and the Veronica massif are, however, somewhat confusing to a reader not already familiar with such regions. There is no index, but only a table of contents and list of illustrations. Some of the photographs are excellent. An account of the 1952 expedition, carried out in the company of the Austrian alpinist Mathias Rebitsch, the Swedish climber Anders Bolinder, the Peruvian geologist Alberto Parodi, and Felix Marx is included in *The Mountain World*, 1953. Ing. Ghiglione's enterprise has helped to draw attention to a fascinating portion of the great Andean chain where much still remains to be accomplished. M. G. O. and J. C. O.

*The Antarctic Today: A Mid-Century Survey by the New Zealand Antarctic Society*, edited by Frank A. Simpson. 389 pages, 45 illustrations, diagrams, a folding map and index. Wellington: A. H. and A. W. Reed, in conjunction with the New Zealand Antarctic Society, 1952. Price, 47/6.

Here is a book about polar exploration that, with the exception of a couple of chapters at the end, is as cold and impersonal as the great antarctic continent itself. *The Antarctic Today* consists mainly of a series of thumbnail sketches—some large thumbs, however—of the history of the Antarctic and the development of Antarctica's commercialability, which so far has been confined to the bloody but lucrative slaughtering of seals and whales. Many of the chapters were written by New Zealanders and reflect somewhat the fastidiousness one senses in that country as well as in its people. Southern New Zealand lies on the fringe of the cold antarctic waters from which substantial wealth has come, but its northern end is definitely sub-tropical. The conditions in New Zealand are exemplified by the foreword which states, "New Zealand has a strong tradition of interest in Antarctica, but inevitably our agricultural economy and pre-occupation with urban development have caused anything out-

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side the three-mile limit seaward to be regarded as at best a luxury and at worst a nuisance . . . If Government action or lack of it is a reflection of the general attitude of the people it is clear that too many New Zealanders have been unaware of what is going on in the Antarctic and why." *The Antarctic Today* might be a remedy.

In 1923 the British claims in Antarctica were divided into the Australian Antarctic Territory, which takes in about 115° of longitude, from 45° to 160° E. with the exception of a sliver, Adelie Land, ceded to the French; the Falkland Islands Dependencies; and New Zealand's Ross Dependency. In all, this is about 225° of peripheral longitude of Antarctica and, although this great area has since 1923 been "administered" by the countries mentioned, no sacred British sovereignty is acknowledged by other countries of the world and, according to the policy maintained by the United States, Antarctica is politically, as well as physically, still without a master.

In the first paragraph of Chapter One, "Introducing the Antarctic," the size and length of the coastline of the continent are given, then come statements as speculative as many others found in the chapters on glaciers and glacialogy, geology, and sea and air navigation. It is stated, "The greatest elevation of the surface of the Ice Cap occurs close to the South Pole . . ." but as yet less than half of the continental area has been seen by man and, for all we know, super alpine ranges may be found in the area enclosed by longitudes 1° to 150° E., and south of Latitude 72°, and in distances ranging north and south from 700 to 1400 miles.

It is also stated, "In winter the surface of the Southern Ocean freezes and a belt of pack ice up to 30 feet thick and from 100 to 1000 miles wide surrounds the continent from April to December." In fact, while some fragmentary efforts to skirt the edge of the ice pack in winter have been made, there has been no overall observation of the pack ice during the winter season, and as for pack ice up to 30 feet thick, it might as well be said that window panes on edge and three feet long constitute a mass of glass three feet thick.

At the beginning of Chapter Two, the author has chosen to quote the following lines from Milton:

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Beyond this flood a frozen continent  
Lies dark and wilde, beat with perpetual storms, etc.

Delighted as I am with poetic expression, the fact is that a frozen continent "deep in snow and ice" glitters in the sunlight, sometimes 24 hours a day and for days on end, and even the moonbeams and auroral light reflected from the snow and ice inhibit, relatively, such Stygian darkness as is found in the jungle areas of the tropics. If we hope to bring the vast area of Antarctica into the province of man's economic potential, it is time that we turned to facets other than those presented solely by the histrionic adventures in early polar exploration.

Notwithstanding the above, the chapters "Antarctic Glaciers and Glaciology" and "the Geology of the Antarctic" contain a wealth of information and some well-educated guesses, sufficient indeed to stimulate the desires of all those to whom tumbling glaciers, beacon sandstone, and towering *horsts* are hallowed.

In Chapter Two the snowy surface and its isostasy are described and the huge continental glaciers and great glacier arms which debouch from it, as well as large floating ice tongues. Although the greatest ice mass in the world today is about eight times more extensive than that of Greenland, we are left in considerable doubt as to the thickness of the ice cover. There is some evidence that in places it was more than 1000 feet thicker than it is today. Movement of the ice mass is obvious, in some spots at the rate of 100 feet per annum, in others at greater speed.

An interesting phenomenon mentioned is the apparent quite recent emergence, geologically speaking, of certain mountains from the continental ice sheet, with apparent amelioration of climate to allow the formation of lakes. The question as to whether the ice sheet will wax or wane in the future is of great importance to the world, but it seems unlikely that the waning will be so rapid and independent of the atmospheric content as to raise the oceans 50 feet and involve the submergence of all wharves, docks, and warehouses throughout the world.

Actual study of the geology of the Antarctic, an area estimated at between 5,000,000 and 5,058,356 square miles, is as yet hardly begun; even half of the 14,000 mile coastline has not yet been

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in any way explored. Furthermore, while there is only a very small fraction of the surface of Antarctica free of snow and ice, much of that surface is almost vertical and exposed because it is too steep for even the softest falling snow to cuddle. References to mineral deposits are considerable, mainly in respect to coal, but eminent geologists theorize that parts of the Antarctic may carry appreciable amounts of uranium, monazite, gold, iron, and manganese, as well as petroleum. Reading of the chapter "Geology of the Antarctic" might well direct future prospectors to the proper locale for a claim and at least brings one to a realization that Antarctica is no mysterious cold bed, but a normal continent whose past history is closely comparable to that of other continents.

In the chapter "The Seas Between," the author delineates a division of interest. He says, "A physicist, looking for explanations of the temperature and physical property of the sea water in deep ocean basins, for instance, may be influenced by such considerations in contouring a ridge either as disconnected parts separated by channels, or as a continuous barrier. A biologist, on the other hand, thinks of submarine ridges as avenues of dispersal for animals. A geologist looks for continuation in submerged portions of the earth's crust of structures which he has studied on land and contours accordingly." Also in that chapter and the one on marine biology, mention is made of a great many interesting things such as foraminifera, the spectacular flush of phytoplankton, the abundant diatomaceous and globigerina ooze, the negligible quantity of dinoflagella, and glauconitic and radiolarian sediments, but there is nothing in these chapters that will stir memories of pitons and crampons.

The chapters, "Whales and Whaling in the Southern Ocean" and "Seals of the South Ocean," contain some revealing paragraphs such as ". . . additional protection against loss of heat is provided by (the whale's) bulk." This is a matter probably well known to whales since, it is stated, young blue whales put on weight at the rate of 200 pounds a day and finally, when fully grown, equal the bulk of 2560 men. And, "Sperm whales are polygamous; they spit, or rather spout sideways and have tremendous powers of endurance, sometimes diving to a depth of

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3000 feet and staying down for as long as 45 minutes. One wonders if that might be the only means of escape from the family squabbles. The non-polygamous whales, as a rule, stay down for only a very few minutes." The growth of whales, however, is nothing to that of seals. A baby Weddell Seal, weighing 60 pounds at birth, doubles its weight in a fortnight, all this by drinking milk and eating shrimps, products evidently not to be included in a weight-reducing diet.

The description of Antarctic birds is fascinating, notwithstanding the author's reluctance to "anthropomorphize" his descriptions. Yet he, too, nostalgically recounts, ". . . the indescribable beauty of a Snow Petrel winging silently along a maze of leads in pack ice—and the recurring routine of the penguin nesting season with all its evidence of vigorous life adapted to survival in a land where man has yet only experimental tenure."

"Sea and Air Navigation" evidently is written from a seadog's point of view and, although the author states correctly that the exposed portion of icebergs varies considerably, his estimate that "there is generally about six to eight times as much below the surface as above" is not corroborated by estimates made by others referred to in other parts of the book or by his own reference on a later page.

In the discussion of the use of aircraft in the antarctic, together with reference to several epic long-distance flights such as that made by Hollick-Kenyon, piloting and navigating for Lincoln Ellsworth, and Finn Ronne, navigating along the coast of the Weddell Sea, there are these statements, "there can be no doubt that the main use of aircraft in the Antarctic is for short-distance reconnaissances from a ship or a fixed place" and "it cannot be too strongly emphasized that where an airplane is carried, its sole justification is its value as an adjunct in the navigation of the ship." In this writer's opinion, it will not be long before long-range aircraft operating from either aircraft carriers or more stable bases will be busy criss-crossing the length and breadth of the Antarctic Continent in an effort to grid-map the entire area.

In *The Antarctic Today*, meteorology is far too lightly dealt with, but in future treatments it will perhaps be otherwise

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when ionosphere research, which is well referred to in the book, and which is rapidly revealing dependable means for radio or other communication, paves the way for more substantial economic use of the secrets of the weather.

It is in Part Seven and Chapters Seventeen and Eighteen that the casual reader will find human interest at its best, but as admirably stated in the Foreword, "A volume made up of personal narrative and summarized history was first proposed and may yet be prepared, for tradition is a strong bond of enduring value; but the needs for the moment seem to call for something different as a first venture." The "something different" in *The Antarctic Today* is a most praiseworthy example of encyclopedic effort, and every participant in its compilation is certain of hearty thanks both from all who have found interest in the Great White South as well as those who will discover interest in it in the future.

HUBERT WILKINS

*We are much indebted to Sir Hubert Wilkins for writing this review despite the pressure of last-minute details before departure on a U. S. Army research mission to the tropics.—EDITOR.*

*Camps and Climbs in Arctic Norway*, by Thomas Weir. 85 pages, 58 photographs, 4 maps. London: Cassell and Co., Ltd., 1953. Price, 15/—.

Mr. Weir has written a charming account of a mountaineering holiday in Arctic Norway. He describes the climbs he made with his two companions, Douglas Scott and Adam Watson, and includes welcome glimpses of the people and the delightful informality of travel along the coast.

Most American mountaineers have heard of the jagged, glacier-hung peaks of northern Norway but know comparatively little about them. This book is good introductory reading and reveals their rugged character and beauty in text and picture. What may prove surprising to many is the extreme wildness of the area, the pioneering nature of many of the climbs, and the opportunity still extant for first ascents and new routes. Here the mountains rise directly from the shore; all is crag and pre-

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cipice as though sea level were at timberline. It is good to know that such places are relatively accessible in all their unspoiled grandeur.

This is a small volume of only 85 text pages, with maps and beautiful illustrations by the author-photographer. It is essentially a simple story, well-told, informative, and an excellent example of good mountaineering literature. To all who love the mountain scene and would enjoy a glimpse of a spectacular land, it is most heartily recommended.

WILLIAM O. FIELD

*The Victorian Mountaineers*, by Ronald Clark. 8vo., 232 pages with 45 photographic illustrations. London: B. T. Batsford, Ltd., 1953. Price, 18/—.

The author's paper in *Cornhill Magazine*, from which the present volume has been elaborated, was a remarkable one, and there are many courses to the resulting delectable feast. It places the Victorians in a true and surprising light, apart from their caricatures, as the bearded gentleman of family albums, who nevertheless developed the first considerable group of mountaineers. Without them, probably there would have been no Alpine Club, or other British climbing groups, and few of the English books of mountain exploration. The stage was set by the scientific activity of Forbes, by the original thought of Ruskin, and, not least, by the showmanship of Albert Smith. It was a part of the quest for fact, particularly physical knowledge, that drew the Victorian out of his sedentary life. Less complex than a desire for conquest, it was an actual escape, in many instances, from luxury, a revolution against ease. In a period of questioning, the scientist and the clergyman, climbing for the same reason, each sought his own answer in contact with Nature. Only slowly did mountaineering become recognized as a sport; but the Victorian on a summit was from the beginning certain that his adventure separated him from the ordinary mortal. If it did nothing else, it convinced him of his physical hardihood.

You who would live for a moment in the Golden Age will read this book, and many will be the great and lesser names that greet you: John Ball, Charles Hudson, Alfred Wills, John Tyn-dall, Leslie Stephen, C. E. Mathews, Edward Whymper, W. A. B.

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Coolidge, and others. It is indeed a new Tyndall who delighted picnic parties by hanging from his heels from the highest tree to be found, and who would climb floating icebergs in the Märjelensee until they overbalanced and gave him a freezing bath. It is odd to hear from John Ball of American travellers at the Grimsel parting company through dispute on the theory of glaciers. Coolidge, the controversial figure from our shores, "The Boswell of the Alps," will be the subject of a future volume. Will D. W. Freshfield make a satisfying Dr. Johnson? It is a pity that Coolidge's contemporaries have all departed this life, for his biography would (and may yet) arouse as much controversy as did the publication of Whymper's *Scrambles*.

The portraits used for illustration, part of a larger collection shown publicly in London, are of utmost interest. That of Miss Brevoort is the most attractive yet to appear; other of the ladies are less favored. Yet all belie their abilities. It is interesting to note that the courier standing behind young Arthur of Connaught at the Grands Mulets in 1864 is the same Louis Peter who accompanied the American party of the Wilkinsons in the following year.

J. MONROE THORINGTON

*Francis Younghusband: Explorer and Mystic*, by George Seaver.  
391 pages, maps and illustrations. London: John Murray,  
1952. Price, 25/—.

Sir Francis Younghusband came of an old fighting family, with established traditions in the Indian army, but he himself seems never to have been entirely happy as a regimental officer. The phrase "wide open spaces" has today something of a phony ring, suggestive of the worst that Hollywood can produce; yet the draw of such spaces is undeniably felt by many, and in Younghusband may be regarded as the product of his adventurous spirit on the one hand and the strain of mysticism in his character on the other. Such a man might not fit easily into army life, but, with his abundant self-confidence, he was well equipped for exploration in Central Asia and the Karakoram-Himalaya regions at a time when they were almost unknown ground.

The author relates graphically the story of Younghusband's

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great journey from Peking to India in 1887, which he himself described in a fascinating book, *The Heart of a Continent*. Explorations in the Pamirs, Gilgit, Chitral, and elsewhere followed, and in 1904 he commanded the Tibet Mission with patience and judgment. He incurred the disapproval of the then Secretary of State for India by signing the Tibet Treaty, and Dr. Seaver in a useful chapter brings out clearly how justified Younghusband had been and how unfairly he was treated.

The mystical strains in his character found vent in later years in founding the World Congress of Faiths, and he corresponded with philosophers such as McTaggart in his efforts to sift and straighten out his religious convictions which the silences of great mountain regions had for long been etching into his mind. He never lost his interest in mountain exploration, and as President of the Royal Geographical Society and as Chairman of the Mt. Everest Committee he brought all his enthusiasm to bear.

This is a good biography of a remarkable man and very well worth reading.

T. S. BLAKENEY

*The Grace of Forgetting*, by Geoffrey Winthrop Young. 352 pages, with 29 photographs and 5 line illustrations, including 2 maps by Leo Vernon. London: Country Life, 1953. Price, 21/—.

Geoffrey Winthrop Young's latest book is made up of memories—all "pictures in colour," as the author explains—of life at his family's island home on the Thames; of journeys to Mount Athos, among the Aegean islands, across Asia Minor; of service in the first War as a correspondent and then as a member of ambulance units in Flanders and on the Italian front. There are brief glimpses also of life at his "second home" in Ireland and at Monte Fiano, above Florence, and of excursions in the Pyrenees and in Massachusetts. No doubt each reader will remember a different set of "pictures." I have noticed Balfour's "very long brilliantly striped socks," lifted high on the side of the punt in which he reclined; the "blood-red head-scarves" on the "Greek pirates of villainous aspect" who acted (or, rather, failed to act) as crew of a boat chartered at Salonika by the author's

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brother; "the great white wall overhung with vines and the cherry-tree in blossom" at Monte Fiano; "the crash and flare of unintermittent explosion" at Ypres; the golden oriole flashing among green trees at Gorizia. (I observe that the reviewer in the *Times Literary Supplement*, 15 January 1954, has indeed made a different list.) Everyone, I should think, will remember how after Caporetto the author, who had recently lost a leg, coped with an intolerably officious Italian captain: "I vaulted forward on an armswing over the bonnet of my car, caught the captain's wrist, and discharged my most throaty Florentine curses in counterblast to his abusive yelps." *The Grace of Forgetting* has little to do with climbing, but it reveals something of our distinguished Honorary Member and of a way of life. So does his poem "Laughter," in *Wind and Hill*, from which the title of the new book is drawn. To read Geoffrey Winthrop Young is still to wish for more.

D. A. ROBERTSON, JR.

*British Crags and Climbers*, edited by Edward C. Pyatt and Wilfrid Noyce. 235 pages, 16 illustrations. London: Dennis Dobson, 1952. Price, 21/—.

A stated purpose of this anthology is "to illustrate the foundation, the development and the present state of British climbing." Drawing on books and journals that are described as generally difficult for the individual to come by nowadays, the editors have arranged 54 pieces of prose in chronological order, running from Tyndall's account of "A Stormy Day on Helvellyn" (*Saturday Review*, 1859) to the record of a climb on Craig Cwm Silin in 1950. The Lake District, Wales, and Scotland are represented about equally; the last 20 years rather more extensively than the preceding 30 or those before 1900. One reads of the first ascent of the Napes Needle in 1886 and of J. L. Longland's climb on Clogwyn du'r Arddu in 1928. There is a footnote to Dr. Collie's story of the Long Man of Ben MacDhui, and a memorable answer by J. M. Edwards to the question, *How do you climb?* Two Everest men write of mild hills near home—Frank Smythe of the Surrey hills, Wilfrid Noyce himself of the Malverns. Many of the familiar names are to be found—Owen

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Glynne Jones, P. M. A. Thomson, Geoffrey Winthrop Young, W. H. Murray, A. D. M. Cox. The Introduction and the annotated Table of Contents provide historical background and technical information.

The main point is that *British Crags and Climbers* makes good reading and evokes pleasant memories. I hesitate to say much more. The *Journal of the Fell and Rock Climbing Club* has been drawn upon only twice—but perhaps that is because it supplied all of an anthology published in 1948 (*Lakeland Scene*, ed. Mary Rose Fitzgibbon). The special quality of climbing from Pen-y-Pass, not infrequently alluded to in books and essays, might have had some space—but Geoffrey Winthrop Young's chapter in *Mountains with a Difference* and his essay in *The Mountains of Snowdonia* are (one assumes) generally available. Just one other comment: a different selection of pictures would have done more, I think, to bear out the editors' purpose to show how British climbing has developed. Might there not be illuminating differences, for instance, between photographs by the brothers Abraham and photographs by C. D. Milner? Or between a diagrammatic sketch for *Climbs on Lliwedd* (1909) and a drawing by C. H. French or W. Heaton Cooper for one of the guidebooks published in the 1930's? Perhaps this is to ask for another book altogether, an "essay in graphic history." That would be interesting, too.

D. A. R., JR.

*Instruction sur la Pratique de l'Alpinisme et du Ski*, issued by Secretariat d'Etat à la Guerre. 325 pages, including appendices and index, and 259 line drawings. Paris: Editions Berger-Levrault, 1953.

This is a military manual for the training of troops in handling themselves on mountain terrain in climbing and in skiing. It is, on the whole, well conceived and well put together. The entire technique of climbing has been condensed and put into a simple form with little attempt at elaboration or description of alternative methods. This would naturally be expected in a manual of this sort where uniformity in operations was a desired objective. It is understandably more compact and streamlined

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than the very excellent *Manuel d'Alpinisme*, published by the Club Alpin Français in 1934, and as a consequence, will probably be found more adapted for use in the field. Perhaps the most striking thing in the book is the reduction of the number of knots mentioned to the overhand loop and the square knot, neither of which has been considered adequate by most climbers for some years now, and the latter of which has been found decidedly dangerous when used in nylon rope. The only other knot mentioned is the Prusik knot for rescue operations.

The book covers most of the standard climbing techniques and has a very complete section on rescue operations, which will be found useful and interesting by almost all climbers. A praiseworthy deviation from the usual in this book is the attempt at codification of rules for the use or non-use of certain equipment such as crampons, for example, according to the snow conditions and steepness of slope. While it might perhaps lead to generalizations which could be dangerous if followed without the all-important factor of human judgment, the idea has some merits, which might profitably be explored further by those interested in the teaching of mountaineering precepts.

In skiing, of course, the accent is on control and not falling, quite important when laden with a heavy pack. As a consequence some things, such as the use of the poles for braking and turning, which have been omitted from the ski manuals for many years, are mentioned, although briefly.

The appendices cover such things as preparatory physical training, organization of ski races, climbing and ski diplomas, and teachers' certificates. The index is very brief but helpful in a checking of detail. The format is utilitarian and compact, and the size is small enough to enable the book to be pocketed, but large enough to allow good-sized figures in the drawings, which are very clear. A large part of the instruction work is carried by the drawings, and the text is thereby kept at a minimum. The book is not only an interesting illustration of French military mountaineering practice but can contribute helpful hints to experienced climbers as well. KENNETH A. HENDERSON

*Alpiniste, Est-ce Toi?* by Alain de Chatellus. 174 pages, 15 illus-

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trations. Paris and Grenoble: B. Arthaud, 1953. Collection Sempervivum. Price, 690 frs.

M. de Chatellus' subject is that always fascinating one, the psychology of the mountaineer. More particularly, he is concerned with the motives and attitudes of that elite group of climbers who have recently been engaged in conquering the precipices of the Dolomites and the great north walls of the western Alps. His thesis is that for those who undertake such climbs the factor of risk—indeed, of extreme risk—is not only acceptable but constitutes a chief attraction. In developing this idea he makes some interesting distinctions. The English, he thinks, have been least affected by such motivation and consequently have been left behind in the competition for the great Alpine first ascents; the Germans and Italians, while taking most of the climbing honors, have carried matters to pathological excess; the Swiss and French have struck a mean which he approves.

One should not misconceive the tone of the book. M. de Chatellus writes modestly, as one who has not himself accomplished climbs of the sort in question, but who is reporting sympathetically on what he finds among his associates of the Groupe de Haute Montagne. He is a keen and sensitive observer, able to give many striking little pictures of climbers in situations grave and otherwise. The defects of the book stem from an insufficiency of the scientific attitude and method. More evidence would have been welcome in support of the main view, especially in respect to its possible nuances. One wishes, for instance, that M. de Chatellus had exploited his opportunities to cross-examine his friends of the great ascents with regard to their precise feelings and reactions in various situations of stress, and given us, anonymously if necessary, information on what they have been too reticent to confess in their own written accounts. And psychological analysis could have been carried much farther, under the guidance of a more critical standpoint. For instance again, to any reader of this book the question will inevitably occur: How then is mountaineering supposed to compare with war, the typical occasion of risk and danger? G. W. Young, who has had intense experience of both, feels that they

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are poles apart. M. de Chatellus represents the Germans as holding that the two are one. If the French school stands somewhere between, just wherein are war and mountaineering thought to resemble each other, and wherein to differ? A detailed answer to this question should be most illuminating. But M. de Chatellus gives war only a passing mention, on only a few occasions.

In spite of such inadequacies, the book is important and deserves a wide reading. It is effective, I think, in producing a realization that the type of climbing discussed is a characteristic and widespread modern phenomenon which is here to stay, and not just a bit of extremism on the part of a relatively irresponsible few. Sooner or later, in Britain and America, we too shall no doubt have to reckon with this tendency.

ROBERT L. M. UNDERHILL

*Oesterreich: Austria, her landscape and her art*, by Viktor Griessmaier. 60 pages of trilingual text, with 336 full-page photographs. Vienna: Anton Schroll, 1950. Price, \$11.00.

The newest and most comprehensive pictorial work on Austria, this book portrays the landscape in its variety and charm, with its towns and villages, its lakes, rivers and mountains, whose beauty is world renowned. It gives a remarkable idea of this small country in the heart of Europe, especially as regards its castles and dwellings, its rich art treasures and other memorable aspects.

J. M. T.

*Ost-Tirol, Land-Volk-Kunst*, by Franz Kollreider. 46 pages of trilingual text and 120 full-page photographs by Jahn-Dietrichstein. Innsbruck: Der Tiroler Graphik, 1951. Price, \$2.50.

This is the first book dealing exclusively with the country, people, and art of East Tyrol. The text covers this concisely, while the illustrations depict the mountain uplift of the Venediger and Glockner areas, with particular emphasis on the happenings below the snowline. There are exhibits from the museum of peasant art at Leinz, as well as examples of the work of two contemporary artists: Franz v. Defregger and Albin Egger-Lienz.

J. M. T.

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*Kärnten*, by Gabriel Rossmanith. 24 pages of trilingual text and 167 full-page photographic illustrations. Klagenfurt: Verlag Carinthia, 1951. Price, \$2.50.

Here is the most satisfying book on the Austrian province of Carinthia that we have seen, and is understandably now in its second edition. Largely dealing with the countryside, its people, castles, customs and costumes, it yet includes the Gross Glockner and other peaks, as well as alpine flora and fauna.

J. M. T.

*Kärnten and Osttirol*, edited by Eduard Mussger. 200 pages of photographs with interspersed trilingual text. Klagenfurt: Mussger, 1952. Price, \$2.50.

This book initiates a regional series issued under the title of "Sonniges Alpenland," with further volumes on Austria to follow. The history is supplied by Hermann Braumüller and the poetry by Wilhelm Rudnigger, while the photographers bring to one's attention areas of the Eastern Alps, particularly in Carinthia, that are little known to American tourists. The Gross Glockner and the Hochalm Spitze are among the summits depicted; but the castles and churches, such as Hochosterwitz and Maria Saal, near Klagenfurt, should not be neglected by anyone visiting the area.

J. M. T.

*Das Glocknerbuch*, by Oskar Kühlken. 308 pages, with 9 reproductions of period etchings, 12 pen drawings in the text, 2 double-page diagrams of the Glockner massif, and 39 full-page photographs. Salzburg: Verlag "Das Bergland Buch," 1951. Price, \$4.00.

The Gross Glockner is now the highest peak in Austria. In a book worthy of its subject we are given its history, the various routes for climbing, and a symposium on the development of skiing in the region. We learn of the French surgeon, Hacquet, who discovered a feasible route eight years before Saussure ascended Mont Blanc, leading to Cardinal Salm's expedition of 1799, when the Klein Glockner was attained, and the conquest

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of the highest point in the following year. One thrills at the ascent of the north couloir by Pallavicini, where his guide Tribusser cut 2000 steps, followed by the count's tragic death on the Glocknerwand in 1885. This is but part of the mountain's story, leading to its final degradation in the present horror of the Glockner road.

J. M. T.

*Das Buch vom Wilden Kaiser*, by Fritz Schmitt. 328 pages, with 24 illustrations. Salzburg: Verlag "Das Bergland Buch," 1953. Price, \$4.00.

As an example of what a regional book for mountaineers should be, this can scarcely be excelled. These peaks, between Kufstein and Kitzbühel, form a rocky wonderland well known to American climbers. One begins with the prehistory; of a cave on the western slope where the bones and implements of bronze-age men were found, together with one perfect shell from the Mediterranean, to show that they were Illyrians of 4000 B. C. We hear the legend of the peasant who trapped chamois by putting grease on the rocks, only to have the protecting dwarf direct the miscreant's own cattle over the precipice, which is now known as the Fleischbank. This is but preliminary to detailed description of the climbing, most of it of the greatest difficulty, as adequately evidenced by the illustrations.

J. M. T.

*Living Country Customs in Salzburg*, by Prunella C. Pott-Flatz. 64 pages, with illustrations from the author's pen drawings. Salzburg: Karl Gordon, 1950. Price, \$1.00.

This little book, written in English, is sponsored by the Folklore Department, Government of Land Salzburg. It presents the year's round of Salzburg customs, seen with foreign, yet happily understanding, eyes. It begins with the Twelfth Night march in honor of Perchta, the Germanic goddess of nature, and follows the seasons through Palm Sunday and St. George's Day to Corpus Christi and the Riders of St. Leonhard, the Return from the Alp in autumn, and finally Advent and the Twelfth Night Wassail Singers.

J. M. T.

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*Erzherzog Johann, Der Steirische Prinz*, by Viktor Theis. 175 pages, with 6 illustrations. Graz: Verlag Böhlau, 1950. Price, \$2.00.

Archduke John of Austria was born in Florence in 1782 and died at Graz in 1859. In an eventful life he was adored by the mountain peasants, whose interests he in turn protected, and this mutual regard was not lessened by his morganatic marriage to Anna Plochl, daughter of the Aussee postmaster. Although this book deals largely with the archduke's political life, it is well to remember that he was a pioneer in the Eastern Alps. He made the first ascent of the Wiener Schneeberg in 1802 and instigated the first ascent of the Ortler by Gebhard and Pichler in 1804. He ascended Ankogel and Gamskarkogel in 1826, and Hohen Priel in 1829. In 1828 he was one of a party attempting the Gross Venediger from the west side, gaining a point 200 m. below the summit, and only desisting when Rohregger, his leading guide, fell.

J. M. T.

*Südtiroler Volksleben*, by Karl Th. Hoeningner. 104 pages, illustrated from 170 paintings and sketches by Albert Stolz. Innsbruck-Vienna: Tyrolia-Verlag. Price, \$2.50.

Albert Stolz was the artist chronicler of the southern Tyrolese people, his work done primarily in Bolzano, where it is to be seen in frescoes of public and private buildings, in inns and hotels, as well as in galleries and numerous publications. Stolz was born in 1875 and died in 1947, losing his studio and a lifetime of work in the bombing of his city in 1943. Fortunately his major compositions were widely distributed and are still extant, his gaiety recorded in the harvest frescoes for the Villa Defregger, his many studies of peasant life, and even in the remarkable Dance of Death for the churchyard of Sexten, where Sepp Innerkofler lies. The text by Hoeningner is largely biographical, with a full exposition of the artist's recording of his time.

J. M. T.

*Südtirol*, by Josef Weingartner. 170 pages, with 33 color plates,

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100 text illustrations by Robert Zinner. Vienna: Adolf Holzhausens Mfg., 1950. Price, \$5.00.

In a readable text Weingartner describes the Eisach and Puster valleys, the Dolomites, the castles of the Vintschgau, and the areas subtending Bolzano and Merano. But the importance of the book rests in the pictures by Zinner, whose little studio is in the garden of the Hotel Grifone at Bolzano. They bring back memories of the Brenner road and of the pageant of history that has flowed through it and its lateral tributaries, making for splendid recording.

J. M. T.

*Südtirol*, by J. G. Oberkofler. 157 pages of full-page photographs by Hugo Atzwanger, with interspersed sections of text. Innsbruck-Vienna: Tyrolia-Verlag, 1950. Price, \$3.00.

South Tyrol has many names, among them The Land of Mountains and Glaciers, the Land of the Dolomites and the Vineyards. There is a magic in the way it draws one, and a longing to return will sweep over anyone casting an eye through such a book. The views of the central Dolomites, adjacent to the Schlern and Rosengarten, are particularly satisfying.

J. M. T.

*Dolomitenland*, by L. Franzl. 16 pages of trilingual text, with 160 full-page illustrations. Bolzano: L. Franzl, 1948. Price, \$3.50.

This book does not deal with climbing, but contains some of the most magnificent photos of landscape, peasant life, costume, and customs that one can possibly imagine. Many remote corners have been visited, with results that will make the amateur photographer despair. Altogether a good reason for owning it.

J. M. T.

*Aus den Sextener Dolomiten*, by Otto Langl. 191 pages, with 23 photographic illustrations. Vienna: Verlag der Oesterreichischen Bergsteiger-Zeitung, 1951. Price, \$2.00.

The author is a distinguished Austrian climber, whose first and last love for half a century has been the Dolomites of Sexten.

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He has returned to these peaks through a period broken by two wars, and has seen the villages rise again from destruction. His extensive climbing, while excellently described, cannot, in the reviewer's opinion, compare with his charming sketches of the local people he has known, particularly the guides, famous in the tribe of Innerkofler. Among the pictures is the grave of Sepp Innerkofler, as well as the Dance of Death which Albert Stolz did for the Sexten churchyard. The proud and touching verses of the latter are memorable.

J. M. T.

*Dolomiti di Brenta*, by Ettore Castiglioni. 498 pages, with 7 maps, 95 sketches, and 16 photographs. Milan: Club Alpino Italiano, 1949.

*Dolomiti Occidentali*, by Silvio Saglio. 269 pages, with 82 drawings, 28 photographs, and 5 maps. Milan: Touring Club Italiano, 1949. Price, \$3.50.

These two guidebooks are models of their kind, each dealing with a limited region. The first details the climbing between Madonna di Campiglio and Trento, the massif culminating in the Cima Tosa. It does not include the more westerly situated Presanella and Adamello groups. The second book does not offer high climbing but is a pedestrian's guide from refuge to refuge, limited to the western Dolomites: Marmolada, Sella, Pale di San Martino, Sasso Lungo, Alpe di Siusi, Catinaccio (Rosengarten) and Latemar. The Cortina and Sexten peaks are excluded.

J. M. T.

*Bosco Gurin, das Walserdorf im Tessin*, by Tobias Tomamichel. 8vo., 155 pages. Illustrated with 83 pen drawings by Hans Tomamichel, 4 diagrams, and 2 sketch maps. Basel: G. Krebs, 1953. Price, Sw.F. 9.75.

Bosco Gurin, the only German-speaking village of the Ticino, celebrated its 700th year in 1953. The book is written by a native and the artist is his brother, making an authentic document of personal experience. Shortly before 1250, men from the

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Valais, speaking an Alemannic dialect which has persisted, migrated south of the Alps via the Gries Pass to Pomat and recrossed the Swiss border to found Bosco Gurin in the Val Maggia, north of Locarno. Here is the history of a community of 200 inhabitants that for seven centuries has preserved its linguistic and cultural characteristics. The publication is the ninth in the series "Volkstum der Schweiz," issued by the Swiss Folklore Society. The illustrations show, among other things, the unique carving of distaffs, loom-shuttles, and cradle-boards.

J. M. T.

*Der Alpensteinbock*, by Carl Ausserer. 8vo., 243 pages, 11 facsimiles, 13 photographs, and 2 maps. Wien: Universum, 1947. Price, Sw. F. 7.70.

Now in its second edition, this book presents the life-history of the ibex which, despite the conservation attempts by Emperor Maximilian I, disappeared from the Austrian Alps early in the 16th century. Its reintroduction from the Gran Paradiso area of Italy has proved successful, as it has also in Swiss and French areas, so that its perpetuation is reasonably certain. The text evidences thorough research, and the illustrations, particularly those from ancient documents, are of exceptional interest.

J. M. T.

*Austria*, by Monk Gibbon. 8vo., 258 pages with 98 photographic illustrations, index, and 2 maps. London: B. T. Batsford, Ltd., 1953. Price, 18/—.

A companion to John Russell's *Switzerland* (1950), this book offers an excellent general survey of Austria. The wealth of detail, however, is overwhelming, as must be the case with any attempt to convert an abridged Baedeker into readable prose. It is inevitable that one should turn from the text to the well-chosen pictures which make the entire series so attractive. For one who has lived in and written additionally about Austria, it is incredible that the author has confused (p. 109) the mountain-loving Archduke John of Hapsburg (1782-1859) with Archduke Salvator of the Traunsee who, under the name of Johann Orth, vanished at sea in 1891. It is equally odd to find a pre-

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sumably capable writer using interchangeably in the same chapter (IX) such forms as The Tyrol, Tirol, Tyrolean, Tirolese. Goldenes Adler (p. 197) should be Goldener Adler. The background of the Goldenes Dachl (photo 75), Innsbruck, is certainly not the Dolomites.

J. M. T.

*Guide to the Colorado Mountains*, edited by Robert M. Ormes. 188 pages, 32 maps, 34 illustrations, 6 in color. Denver: Sage Books, Inc., 1952. Price, \$3.50.

This is a joint endeavor in which Mr. Ormes and the Guide Book Committee of the Colorado Mountain Club have brought together the knowledge and experience of those most familiar with the Colorado Rockies. Ormes has worked out an excellent method of handling the enormous amount of material so that it is of the most use and interest to mountain lovers, whether they are interested primarily in technical mountaineering or feel the many other attractions of being in the hills. A person interested in a hiking trip receives good general information and directions which will permit him to make the most of his mountain holiday. The climber interested in the more difficult ascents also gets good directions, and the approaches to the major mountain areas are clearly indicated. In this reviewer's opinion, the handling of the route descriptions on specific peaks is excellent and follows the tradition of American mountaineering in which route finding has always been a major—and most satisfying—element. The descriptions are not given in the detail of many European guidebooks but are completely adequate for the climber interested in finding his own way.

This book is a valuable addition to mountaineering literature, and in the breadth of its coverage and the lively spirit with which it is written it will do much to make the Colorado Rockies more accessible and satisfying to all of us.

WILLIAM P. HOUSE

*Peterli and the Mountain*, by Georgia Engelhard. 40 pages, 8 illustrations by Madeleine Gekiere. Philadelphia and New York: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1954. Price, \$2.25.

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This is an unusual mountaineering story, being the adventures of Peterli, a fine red cat with a bushy tail, who felt impelled to traverse the Matterhorn. "Here are a lot of people going to the top of a big mountain. Surely, they must have a reason for doing it . . . I think I'll go along with them . . . Maybe I'll find mice up there." Peterli proves an intrepid climber, as no one will doubt who has ever been followed up a mountain by a cat. In fact, he is the first on the summit!

Peterli, his fond owners in Zermatt, and his great friend the guide Emil are lovingly drawn. His adventures both on the Swiss and Italian ridges are very convincing and should prove exciting to cat lovers of all ages. Madeleine Gekiere's illustrations add greatly to this delightful tale, and the story is founded on truth. The original feline conquerer of the Matterhorn was, however, less loyal to his local valley than Peterli and is said to have remained for ever after, guzzling mice in the hut on the Italian side!

URSULA CORNING

*Island of the Blue Macaws and Sixteen Other Stories*, by James Ramsey Ullman. 320 pages. Philadelphia and New York: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1953. Price, \$3.50.

This collection of seventeen stories, selected by the author from the 40 he has written since 1939, makes good reading. As he says, "Geographically they cover a good deal of ground: from Times Square to the Amazon, the Alps to Hawaii, the Yankee Stadium to El Alamein." All but one have been previously published in magazines.

*Top Man* is a good example of the way Mr. Ullman turns mountaineering into a good story, playing nationalities against one another as in *The White Tower*. Here we have the cautious Briton and the impulsive young American on an unconquered Himalayan peak. In *Mountains of the Axis*, the author deals with dare-devil young Nazi climbers of the war period who brought their new and shocking philosophy to the sport. Another mountaineering story, *An Easy Day for a Lady*, brings a climber back nostalgically to the scene of early climbs.

Mr. Ullman does best when he has nature as a background,

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in the jungle or in the high mountains. Then, in a straightforward manner, his characters move from beginning to end by the shortest course.

EVELYN RUNNETTE

*Knots for Mountaineering, Camping, Climbing, Utility, Rescue, Etc.*, by Phil D. Smith. 24 pages, 5 pages of illustrative diagrams. Pamphlet-bound. Twenty-nine Palms, California: The Desert Trail, 1953.

This booklet covers 55 knots, hitches, etc., each illustrated with one or more drawings by Rodney H. Smith. The presentation cannot be classed as one for the beginner. While the drawings are lucid and well executed, some of the knots require more stages for clarity. Methods of tying are always difficult to learn from a verbal text, and these would be no exception. The author breezes through them in an authoritative but sketchy manner. He assumes a common understanding of such words as hitch, reeve, standing part, loop, bend, bight, etc., terms which in practice require carefully defined meanings. The treatment contains numerous sound points about utilization of the knots and about their comparative virtues.

ROBERT M. ORMES