

couloir. Having scaled the couloir they attained a broad rib, leading in a few minutes without much difficulty to the camp platform. Herren Hartmann and Wien clambered over a by no means hard place; Herr Schaller was about to follow, while Herr Bauer and his 'rope' (Herr Pirchner and a porter) were watching Schaller's progress with a view to following. Schaller proceeded carefully, while his second man, the elderly and extremely steady Passang,¹³ followed at some 2 m. interval. The third man, another porter, Tsain Narboo, was standing on a rock at the edge of the couloir safeguarding the others. Suddenly Passang shot down the couloir, pulling off Schaller at once, who flew over Passang in a great curve. Under the double strain the rope broke immediately, and Schaller and Passang plunged down the fearfully steep gully . . . 'we all felt the wish to follow them.' . . . Bauer secured his porter to the rocks and joined Tsain Narboo, who was still clinging to a boulder with the remains of the rope twice flung over him. The survivors, calling back Hartmann and Wien, proceeded to Camp VIII [?—*sic*]. Thence they all descended; six remained all night on a metre-wide ice ledge on the margin of the fatal couloir. During the following days almost every one assembled on the upper slopes of the Zemu Glacier. On August 11 the bodies of Schaller and Passang were found on the lower slopes of the couloir: they had been killed instantaneously. The couloir plunges downwards for many hundreds of feet from a height of about 20,720 ft.¹⁴ The victims were buried on a rock island in the midst of the glacier at a height of about 5400 m. A great cairn marks the spot.

Another porter, Babu Lall, who had distinguished himself much on the 1929 expedition, died of fever near Camp III on August 3.

From a *communication* from HERR BAUER.

[The Alpine Club expresses its deepest sympathy with the relatives and friends of Herr Hermann Schaller (1906–1931), while the names of Passang and his friend will not be forgotten in the annals of exploration in the Himalaya.—*Editor*, 'A.J.']

REVIEWS.

MOUNTAINS AND MEN.

La Littérature Alpestre en France et en Angleterre aux XVIII^e et XIX^e Siècles. By Claire Eliane Engel. Pp. xi + 285. Chambéry: Librairie Dardel. 1930.

AN enquiry into the character and extent of the impressions left by mountain scenery on human consciousness has of late years been carried on in many quarters by competent critics, both men

¹³ See *A.J.* 42, 196, 198–9.

¹⁴ Camp VIII = 20,737 ft.—*A.J.* 42, 193.

of letters and mountaineers. It has also been illustrated, at the cost of much paste-and-scissors work, by a number of anthologists, some of whom have allowed their flowers to be sadly jostled by weeds!

The volume under review approaches a branch of this discussion under what appear to us to be unfortunate limitations. Its author, Mlle. Engel, is already favourably known to French readers as an able coadjutor of M. Vallot, the historian of Mont Blanc; she is also responsible for a vivacious account of Shelley's and Byron's stay at the Villa Diodati in 1816. In the work under review she sets herself to draw a comparative estimate of the place in the literatures of France and England occupied by works, or articles, dealing with the Alps published between the years 1685 and 1868.

The dates thus laid down render it impossible for any full or final comparison to be drawn; and this for two reasons. During the period indicated the Alps occupied only a fraction of the energies, physical and literary, of English travellers and the Alpine Club. Our members' activities extended over not only the Alps, but all the great ranges of the globe from Alaska to New Zealand. Further, the date 1868 cuts into the middle not only of the Victorian Age but also of the development of British Alpinism.

In the first half of the nineteenth century Alpinism was still unborn: its origins in this country date from the 'fifties; from the 'sixties to the 'nineties was the period of its full development and the later decades were far from being the least fruitful in the quantity and quality of their literary output.

It may be well to cite here a few facts and figures that may serve to justify our contention.

In the 'forties on the scientific side Forbes was carrying out his researches on the Aar glaciers in company with a party of Swiss *savants*. From the literary aspect Byron had lost much of his vogue and Shelley his novelty, while Rogers in his *Italy* had provided a lengthy work which was more of a catalogue than a poem!

It was not till the early 'fifties that the premonitory symptoms of a new birth became visible. The fresh era was heralded by the popular entertainment, picturing an ascent of Mont Blanc, given in 1853 by a brave Tartarin, Albert Smith, in the Egyptian Hall. Two years later the volume of *Modern Painters*, containing Ruskin's famous chapters on Mountain Beauty, was published. In the same year Wills' *Wanderings among the High Alps* caught the public ear, and the Wetterhorn became a rival to Mont Blanc. In 1857 The Alpine Club was founded, and in 1859 its outcome, the first volume of *Peaks, Passes and Glaciers*, won a singular success. It was followed by two more volumes and four years later by the first number of THE ALPINE JOURNAL, now completing its forty-third volume! About the same date Ball's epoch-making *Western Alps* became the pocket companion and friend of every educated traveller, while Baedeker supplanted Murray in supplying the needs of the herd.

The appeal of the new Playground was practically enforced on Englishmen by the progress of railways, which had up to the middle 'fifties been checked by the Jura. Mont Blanc and the Bernese Oberland were thus thrown open to those of our countrymen who could only afford a month's holiday. They were prompt to take advantage of the invitation. The spirit in which they did so is admirably stated and summarized in the early Rules of the Alpine Club. They run as follows:—

'The object of the Club shall be the promotion of good fellowship among mountaineers, of mountain climbing and mountain exploration throughout the world, and of better knowledge of the mountains through Literature, Science and Art.'

The foregoing summary may, we hope, suffice to support our argument—that any comparison between the places occupied by the annals of mountaineering in French and English Literature cannot reasonably be carried out under dates and restrictions such as those here proposed.

Subject to this preliminary protest, we have nothing but praise for the way in which Mlle. Engel has carried out a formidable task. She shows herself admirably equipped for the adventure. To a wide experience gained by serious research in English and Continental Libraries she adds a keen and quick critical insight which makes her pages a series of vivid personal sketches rather than a list of volumes. She is quick to recognize the man behind the style. We are reminded of Tyndall's eager enthusiasm, his physical and intellectual activity; his joy when his watch was after several days recovered from a snow avalanche on Piz Morteratsch. On the same page we meet with a criticism which emphasizes, if it hardly does justice to, the strenuous and dramatic force of the narrative in which Whymper recorded his dour struggle with the fatal Matterhorn and the catastrophe which overclouded its close.

Again most lovers of the Alps will agree with Mlle. Engel in recognizing in Leslie Stephen's *The Playground of Europe* the product of an ideal combination of the Mountaineer and the Man of Letters, of the Humourist who can reproduce the high spirits and shifting moods of a long day on the snows, or a stiff rock-climb, and of the Philosopher to whom the Alps take the place of a religion and the Schreckhorn of a cathedral.

From considering volumes of later date—after 1868—Mlle. Engel is, as we have indicated, debarred by her time-limit. She has, however, picked up a few odds and ends in pre-Alpine times. One of these is the artless Journal of Mrs. Beaufoy (*not* Beaufroy) of a tour in Switzerland just before her husband's brilliant ascent of Mont Blanc, made a few days only after De Saussure's.¹ A more unexpected contribution to Mlle. Engel's list is Mrs. Radcliffe, the

¹ *A.J.* 40.

sensational novelist, who seems to have read and profited by De Saussure's work to add colour to her own pages. She drew from Sir Walter Scott the compliment that she showed herself as competent to copy nature as to indulge imagination.

When we turn to France we find that the chosen examples of Alpinism in literature, with one exception, do not come from mountaineers or travellers. We venture to doubt if many present members of the Alpine Club have studied Ramond, the climber of Mont Perdu and the translator of Coxe's three heavy volumes. His fame, though he introduced Wordsworth to the Alps, has not survived in this country. Rambert, who wrote several volumes on Switzerland, will be a new name to most English readers. Töpffer's *Voyages en Zigzags* is another neglected classic, though Sainte-Beuve paid a handsome tribute to its modest merits. Then we come to a parade of famous names: Michelet's sentimental rhapsodies, too sugared for English tastes: Lamartine's decorative bird's-eye landscapes; Théophile Gautier's eloquent and sympathetic description of the social atmosphere of Zermatt when collected to greet a climber of the Matterhorn. On the other hand we are challenged by Châteaubriand's onslaught on mountain scenery in general and Mont Blanc in particular, and Taine's disgust at the moss-enamelled rocks of a Pyrenean defile.

In a short chapter headed 'Conclusion' we find Mlle. Engel escaping from the time-limits imposed on her in previous pages to express a warm appreciation of THE ALPINE JOURNAL, and at the same time to deplore the severance in her own country of mountaineering records from any pretence to a place among Letters. We might have hesitated to accept so serious a charge, but the witness called on to support it is one of weight—no less than Adolphe Joanne. He is shown to have been quoted by M. Vallot, himself a high authority, as having as long ago as 1875 solemnly pronounced a divorce between Alpine periodicals and literature: The *Annuaire* of the French Club he laid down as 'not a literary Review but a record, geographical, scientific, and statistical, in which facts, observations and figures will henceforth obtain a deserved preference.' We are tempted to contrast this programme with that quoted above as defining the aim and objects of the Alpine Club, objects which under successive Editors this Journal has, through more than half a century, done its best to carry out. It is always pleasant to gain the approval of an independent critic. Mlle. Engel's praise is discriminating as well as sympathetic, and we must give ourselves the pleasure of copying some of the sentences in which it is expressed.

'L'évolution du thème en Angleterre a été fort différente. Périodiquement L'Alpine Journal publiait des récits d'ascensions ou d'explorations lointaines, qui pour être aussi scientifiques qu'il était nécessaire, n'en restaient pas moins dans le domaine de la littérature. . . . D'année en année paraissaient des livres . . .

qui continuent la tradition établie lors des premières de l'Alpine Club : toute l'épopée de la montagne interprétée dans un style aussi simple, mais aussi littéraire que possible. Sans aucune solution de continuité à travers les dernières années du XIX siècle, les premières du suivant, les ouvrages de ce genre se succèdent sans s'effacer l'un de l'autre. La littérature du 'Mât de Cocagne' a eu très peu d'adeptes.'

Mlle. Engel's book is furnished with a full and valuable Bibliography. It has also a dozen monochrome illustrations after Linck, Lory, Cozens and Turner. But the chapters on mountain painting are somewhat sketchy. The writer makes no reference to the efforts made by the Alpine Club to stimulate Art as well as Photography by annual shows. The Preface and Catalogue to the Exhibition in 1894, to which some interesting and well-known artists contributed largely, deserved, we think, at least a mention.

D. W. F.

Hochgebirgsführer durch die Berner Alpen. Vol. IV (2nd Edition.) Published by the S.A.C., Section Berne. Pp. 256 + 46 outline sketches. Berne: Francke. 1931. Price 8 fcs. 50 cents.

A VERY short notice is all that this, the latest of the S. A. C. *Climbers' Guides*, requires. The names of the compilers, MM. Hug, Lauper, Siegfried and Brawand are alone sufficient to guarantee the excellence of the work. The district concerned is bounded by the Petersgrat-Finsteraarjoch-Unteres Studerjoch. The sketches are executed so admirably that not even the fact that every route is outlined as well as described in the text, besides all the numerous variants, can obscure their remarkable clarity. The district is, of course, as well known as any in the Alps, but we were not aware of the vast amount of recent, fine new work accomplished by the skilful young members of the Swiss Academical Clubs. Our ignorance is explained when we read the words 'personal information' before the notice of these routes with often no reference to any other authority. For all the complexity of their many routes and variations, the Jungfrau and Finsteraarhorn are masterpieces of description, so are the Eiger and Mönch—to single out the names of the four best known mountains. We confess we should have liked Mr. Meade's, 1903, descent² of the first named (pp. 95-6), mentioned *with* that of the first, 1911, ascent—as is done in the case of the Mittellegi-Eiger (p. 142), and not tucked away at the end of everything! There are a few doubtless avoidable misprints of British names and the references to 'A.J.' are sometimes given to the *date* of its publication instead of to the number of the Volume, e.g. A.J. '1924' in one place and

² After all the *ascent* of the Jungfrau's N.E. arête had been attempted on numerous occasions before the descent was forced. The case of the Dent Blanche, N. arête, is very different.

A.J. 'XXXVI' in another; this causes needless confusion. These discrepancies, however, in no way mar the value of the text. We are deeply interested to note that Dr. Hug adopts Captain Farrar's conclusive views³ as to the first ascent of the Finsteraarhorn (p. 196), and assigns it to Hugi's guides of August 10, 1829. But it is enough to bring Mr. Coolidge back again to Grindelwald! That lamented mountaineer and historian would be glad, however, to note that full acknowledgement of the use of his and Dr. Dübi's previous *Climbers' Guides* is given in the introductory title as well as in the text. The Section Berne is more particular than the Central Committee.⁴ The coloured reference sheet to the Siegfried map and to the limits of the different published or forthcoming Oberland volumes, at the end of the work, is valuable.

In conclusion we may state that, like all recent S. A. C. 'Guides,' the volume is as near perfection as possible. The contrast afforded by these Swiss works and those 'classifications of hand- and footholds' masquerading as *Climbers' Guides*, and published in some other countries, represents the dividing line between lucidity and confused obscurantism.

Our warmest congratulations are due to editors and Section alike.

Memsahb in Himalaja. By Hettie Dyhrenfurth. Pp. 71. and numerous illustrations. Leipzig: Deutsche Buchwerkstätten. 1931.

WITH the exception of the misspelt title, we have nothing but praise for this charming little book, describing the 1930 attempt on Kangchenjunga. The authoress's letters to her parents and children are written so excellently and clearly that we might almost wish she had been entrusted with some of the dispatches to *The Times*. There is no journalism of any form, all is simple and spontaneous. The gift of spontaneity is especially noticeable in the introductory chapters, describing the journey to India, Indian customs and the *Packfest*, in the management of which Frau Dyhrenfurth had so much to do. She writes with the utmost modesty of her share of the adventure, and nothing is said of her remarkable part in the proceedings. Her crossing of the Jonsong La, alone with two natives and in bad weather, was an extraordinary performance, but, we must permit ourselves the liberty of stating, should *never* have been allowed: the expedition consisted of eight Europeans, besides the British transport officers. The Himalaya are not the Alps—fortunately hill-men are very different from some of the dwellers in cities or the plains.

The book is valuable for German youth, whose fancies are now turning so largely to the Himalaya, and, being such, it is regrettable that no Index is provided. A pretty picture adorns the cover and many of the numerous illustrations are excellent; in one photo-

³ A.J. 27, 263-300.

⁴ *Ibid.* 35, 310; 41, 453.

graph we see the flags on the Jonsong Peak as they really appeared. Altogether, a delightful evening can be spent with this well-printed, unpretentious little volume.

Blodig's Alpine Calendar, 1932. Oxford: Blackwell. 3s. 6d.

THIS well-known calendar is for the second time published in an English edition, though printed in Germany. The excellent views of mountains and Alpine scenery, etc., are taken chiefly from the Eastern Alps. The best are 'Gosau Ridge,' 'Santner and Euringerspitzten,' 'Eibsee and Zugspitze,' 'In the Hinter-Riss.' The coloured prints are moderate; 'A Ravine in the Dolomites' appeals to us most. The letterpress description translated into English accompanies each view and there are five days to each page. The said letterpress is not always as successful as the rest. Under 'N. [really *N.E.*] face of the Königsspitze,' we read 'this ascent is far away more difficult than any excursion [*sic*] ever undertaken over ice before.' This assertion is not only silly but utterly false, although we agree that the 1930 expedition was one of the most unjustifiable on record—from danger, *not* difficulty ('A.J.' 43, 177-8). We thought that Louis Friedmann had exploded long ago the 'Steinberger' myth. The first ascent of the peak was made by Tuckett's party, August 3, 1864.

Under 'Monte di Zocca,' we note that 'its ascent would be as wearisome to describe as it is to undertake.' It is a remarkably *short* and interesting climb!

The translator has also coined a new and dreadful word—'Alpineer.'

Copies may be had at the Alpine Club, postage 5d.

Pierre Dalloz. *Haute Montagne*. Paris. 1931.

THE 88 plates of this work form what is probably the finest collection in any one volume of published photographs of mountain scenery and topography. They deal chiefly with the range of Mont Blanc, but the Meije, Matterhorn, and some others come in. Perhaps the most beautiful is no. 62, a double-page picture of the Aiguilles de Chamonix.

Gilbert Coleridge. *Some and sundry*. London: Constable. 1931.

THIS contains much good description of mountaineering in Skye and the Lake District, and on the pleasures of mountaineering. The following describes a serious incident on Mont Blanc:—

'We were not on a steep slope, but our steps had to be cleared with the axe. Trembling with cold and fatigue, I slipped, and shouted out as I began to slide slowly down. In my opinion there was ample time to have stopped me, and indeed I felt a slight jerk, but I continued going faster to an edge over which I went, turned certainly one, if not two somersaults in the air, and finally landed in a sort of crevasse up to my waist in soft snow. The guide, Simon, then shot past me head foremost, . . . I clutched at the rope and it held. At the same time

the porter fell into the snow beside me. He and his axe acted as a kind of feeble drag on our descent. Together we hauled up Simon, and I burst out into hysterical laughter. But it was no laughing matter, for the guide sobered me by pointing out the roofs of Courmayeur at the base of a precipice of some 5000 ft., and I realised the danger when he began to tell his beads which he wore under his waistcoat, so I kept silence and became no less reverent on my own account as well as theirs.'

For their escape from their position, the reader is referred to the book.

[Owing to pressure on our space, several reviews are held over.]

THE ALPINE CLUB LIBRARY.

By A. J. MACINTOSH.

The following works have been added to the Library :—

Club Publications.

- (1) **American Alpine Club.** The American Alpine Journal, vol. 1, no. 3. 9×6 : pp. 246–428 : plates. New York City, 1931
- (1a) **Appalachian Mountain Club.** The A.M.C. White Mountain Guide. A guide to paths in the White Mountains and adjacent regions (8th edition). $6 \times 3\frac{1}{2}$: pp. xii, 540 : maps. Boston, 1931. \$3
- Register for 1931. $7\frac{1}{2} \times 5$: pp. 148.
- C.A.F.** Guide et porteurs brevetés au Juillet 1931. Région des Alpes. Région des Pyrénées.
- (2) **Canadian Alpine Journal.** Vol. 19. 9×6 : pp. vi, 190 : plates. 1930
- (3) **Club académique français d'Alpinisme.** Annuaire no. 1. $8 \times 5\frac{1}{2}$: pp. 35 : ill. Paris, 1931
- (4) **Groupe de Haute Montagne.** Annuaire no. 5. $10\frac{3}{4} \times 7\frac{1}{4}$: pp. 32 : ill. Paris, 1931
- (5) **D.u. Oe. A.-V.** Alpines Handbuch. Bde. 1–2. 10×7 : pp. v, 495 ; 422 : plates. Leipzig, Brockhaus, 1931
- (6) **Himalayan Club.** Himalayan Journal, vol. 3. $8\frac{3}{4} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$: pp. 172 : maps, plates. Calcutta : London, Thacker, April 1931. 8s.
- Junior Mountaineering Club of Scotland.** Constitution and Rules. $4\frac{3}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{4}$: pp. 7. 1926
- 'Membership shall be confined to those who are not yet qualified for the Scottish Mountaineering Club, and who have reached the age of seventeen.'
- (7) **Ladies' Alpine Club.** Year Book. $7 \times 4\frac{3}{4}$: pp. 62 : plates. London, Vacher, 1931
- Leeds University Climbing Club.** "The Goats," 1931. Rules. p. 1, typed.
- 'The object of the Club is to organise walking and mountaineering, and to encourage the exploration of caves and pot-holes.'
- (8) **Mountain Club of South Africa.** 33rd Annual. 9×6 : pp. 164 : plates. Cape Town, 1931
- National Ski Association of America.** Year Book 1930–31. $10 \times 6\frac{3}{4}$: pp. 86 : ill.
- Ski News, vol. 1. $10\frac{3}{4} \times 8\frac{1}{4}$. 1931
- (9) **New Zealand Alpine Journal.** Vol. 4, no. 18. $8\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$: pp. 145–240 : plates. June 1931
- (9b) **Norsk. Turistfor. Arbok.** 1931
- (10) **Rucksack Club.** Journal, vol. 7, no. 1. 1931