

REVIEWS

The Cradle of Switzerland. By Arnold Lunn. Pp. xiii, 226. Illustrated. Hollis & Carter, London. 1952. 12s. 6d.

The Cradle of Switzerland, by Sir Arnold Lunn, is not a book through which one can hurry. It cannot be quickly read and laid aside like so many light travel books, for it is packed with information referring to the history of Switzerland and life of its people past and present. The writer has obviously delved deeply into the history of this country, which is a very complicated one. He has tried to present to the public a book which will simplify some of its difficulties, so that those who wish to have a connected view of what was certainly a tangled history, may, after reading his book, feel that they have been so enlightened as to possess a panoramic vision which gives them a collected idea of the past history of Switzerland.

Whilst reading the historical portions of his book we sometimes find it difficult to know, however, to which Emperor or King he refers. Undoubtedly he must himself know, but writes upon the assumption that others know also and a book of this type should not take such knowledge for granted. It is a very instructive book historically, but the reader becomes somewhat confused and worried because of the lack of sequence. It circles around the three Cantons which originally formed 'Der Ewige Bund der drei Länder' on August 1, 1291, Schwyz, Uri and Unterwalden, and in so doing the name of his book justifies itself; but he passes far beyond the three Cantons into the general history of Europe. Whilst reading the book, one sometimes passes smoothly along in a sequence of thought and argument, then suddenly finds oneself quite at sea, for new subject matter is being discussed with little relevance to what had just come before, so that one's grip of the whole becomes detached. Then to one's surprise one is referred back to some previous chapter which surely should have been placed in sequence.

Another viewpoint, the religious one, seems to press forward unduly. Perhaps it is difficult to avoid this, for Church and State were undoubtedly much involved and intermixed in an almost inescapable manner in the centuries gone by. The three Cantons of which Sir Arnold Lunn writes have always remained Roman Catholic, but the uninformed might, after reading his book, be under the impression that these three Cantons not only made Switzerland, but are also to-day the backbone of Switzerland. Further, the uninformed reader would almost instinctively come to the conclusion that Switzerland is a Roman Catholic country and that its strength as a nation and influence amongst other nations and the world generally emanates from this fact. Further investigation will convince any unbiased mind that the most enlightened and prosperous parts of Switzerland are Protestant. For instance, Berne its capital; Zürich, its great commercial centre and the largest

city in Switzerland, swayed by the teaching of Zwingli; Geneva, another great religious and literary centre, influenced by the Protestant teachings of Calvin; Basel, the great international centre with its three stations, Swiss, French and German, are all Protestant, not to mention other well-known places such as Lausanne, Vevey, Montreux, Interlaken, Lauterbrunnen, Grindelwald, Thun; Chur the capital of Graubunden, the largest Canton in Switzerland; the Engadine with St. Moritz and Pontresina and the Val Bregaglia. The writer, in his preface, says 'No historian of the Swiss can afford to ignore the social revolution which the tourist invasion of Switzerland has provoked in remote Alpine valleys.' Much more we would say, no historian of the Swiss could possibly omit the enormous benefits of the Reformation to Switzerland. To be an historian (the writer may say he is not one, but practically the whole of the first part of his book is historical, and very much of the second part also), one must give an unbiased presentation of all the facts concerned with the history of the said country.

Sir Arnold Lunn has also written from an entirely different aspect, and that is a philosophical one, when he passes into what might be described as his own private ruminations on subjects quite outside Swiss history and life; he includes a little essay on Wagner (pp. 126-129), and on Shelley (pp. 173-176) which have all but no justification in the book, interesting though the subjects may be in themselves. Again, quite apart from his criticism of Schiller's play 'Wilhelm Tell' he passes into an essay on Schiller (pp. 171-173). The long passage in the book from p. 89 to 98 about Bruder Klaus might be fitted into a volume (with possibly much more about him) written on the subject of Roman Catholic Saints and traditional folklore, but in this book it seems to absorb undue prominence and space.

At the bottom of p. 41 we read that the 'original 'Ewige Bund' was confirmed at Brunnen on December 9, 1315, by the three original Cantons and Lucerne, and we read that in the course of the following year Zürich, Glarus, Zug and Berne followed the example of Lucerne. But Glarus and Zug held their 600th Anniversary of joining the Confederation this very summer in June, 1952. This is a serious inaccuracy on the part of the writer, nor is it the only one.¹ On p. 206 we are

¹ The correct dates are:—

Uri	} Aug. 1, 1291; reaffirmed Dec. 9, 1315.
Schwyz	
Unterwalden	
Lucerne	Nov. 7, 1332.
Zürich	May 1, 1351.
Glarus	June 4, 1352.
Zug	June 27, 1352.
Berne	March 6, 1353.

In another edition a few minor corrections might be made; p. 25, delete 'à' before Becket; p. 43, 'Chiavenna' and 'Novara' are the usual spellings; p. 78, in the quotation from Kipling the third word should be 'that,' not 'all'; p. 172, 'Abgeordneter' is the correct spelling, and on p. 195 'Nufenen' and 'Niedergestelen'; p. 204, read 'bridle' for 'bridge' in line 5. On p. 28 we are told

landed in confusion by the statement that, on hearing of Korsakoff's defeat by Masséna on September 26, 1799, at the second battle of Zürich, Suvoroff 'who was in Italy' [which he was not] marched across the Alps and defeated the French on the St. Gotthard on September 24! This is an experiment with time indeed. The correct sequence of events may be seen in de Beer's *Escape from Switzerland*, p. 108. On p. 219, Gibbon's visit to the Abbey of Einsiedeln should be dated 1755, not 1775.

As a guide-book *The Cradle of Switzerland* will add zest to those who visit the places mentioned in it, but it strikes one that various hotels in various places are so specifically referred to and brought into the limelight that the book is in a small measure the equivalent of an advertisement for the said hotels! This seems quite unsuitable and it would be far better surely for the name of no hotel to be mentioned.

The writer of this criticism appreciates Switzerland as much as Sir Arnold Lunn, and has found the historical portion of his book of great interest, as is also the description of 'Life in an Alpine Valley,' a subject on which most British and Americans who visit Switzerland know nothing, for so many keep themselves to the well-beaten track. No one can read the second part of the book, with its descriptive pages of Swiss scenery, without agreeing with the writer about the marvellously lovely scenery which Switzerland has to offer to those who visit it, and one agrees entirely with his sentence, 'It would be more reasonable to give thanks that there is beauty which even man cannot mar.'

C. F. FOTHERGILL.

Guide du Massif des Écrins. 2 vols. B. Arthaud, Grenoble. 1951. (2nd edition.)

Guide des Alpes Valaisannes. Vol. IIIa, Théodule-Monte Moro. Vol. IIIb, Strahlhorn-Simplon. 1952. (3rd edition.)

THESE volumes, of which fresh editions have recently appeared, are so well known to mountaineers that it is useless to praise them. They are as thorough and painstaking as we have learned to expect them to be; and the names of their editors—in the case of the G.H.M. guides, Messieurs Lucien Devies and Maurice Laloue, and in the case of the S.A.C. volumes, Marcel Kurz—ensure that they are both accurate and up-to-date. To the historian and to the climber alike, they are indispensable.

Escalades au Hoggar. By Bernard Pierre. Pp. 171. B. Arthaud, Grenoble. 1952.

To those whose familiar approach to the summit has been from the fertile valley, through the tree-belt to the glaciers and the lower snows,

that the St. Gotthard Pass was not 'opened' in the twelfth century, as usually stated, but had been known in Roman times, and was merely shortened about 1180-1190. On p. 203 this event is dated thirteenth century, *circa* 1290. It would have been useful to students, we suggest, if a reference had been given for the assertion twice made (pp. 28, 205), that the Romans had used the St. Gotthard.—*Editor.*

the prospect of a stony wilderness as the sole foreground to a mountain may seem strange and unsympathetic.

Yet there is a fascination in the stark grandeur, the violent colour contrasts associated with such a landscape, as I have found in Sinai and the mountains bordering the northern end of the Red Sea. Bernard Pierre has caught the spirit of these arid hills in the Hoggar, and has succeeded in imparting it to his readers in this book.

Reading *Escalades au Hoggar*, one is struck by the veritable 'tour de force' achieved by this small and enterprising group of French mountaineers. In the short space of three weeks they climbed twelve peaks, including nine new routes; of the summits seven had not previously been climbed. In no single case did they fail to achieve what they had set out to do, and at the first attempt. Knowing these people and their quality as mountaineers, there can be no doubt that these facts are remarkable; they speak eloquently for the members of the party. Perhaps particular tribute is due to that very fine rock-climber, Maurice Martin, and to the skill and fortitude of Yvonne Syda, who is, incidentally, mother of three boys.

The book is primarily an account of a climbing expedition, intended as a guide to future enterprising mountaineers. But M. Pierre has happily set his technical accounts of the climbs against a background of history, including that of previous expeditions, and a sympathetic record of the contacts made by the party with the local people during their journeys. The story is told with a vivacity and humour typical of the author.

There is a good supply of sketch maps, boldly and simply drawn; one would have liked to find them placed at the end of the book, and arranged so as to fold out from the margin of the pages. The photographs are adequate, but they come as a disappointment to those who have seen the magnificent colour slides and film taken during the expedition.

JOHN HUNT.

Cordillère Blanche. By Georges Kogan and Nicole Leininger. Pp. 155. Collection Sempervivum 17. B. Arthaud, Paris. 1952.

ON Tuesday, May 13, a lecture was given at the Alpine Club by M. André Mallieux, one of the members of the Franco-Belgian Expedition to the Cordillera Blanca in the Peruvian Andes. Those who attended this lecture will regret that no article or photographs on it have appeared in the JOURNAL, but the volume under review will go far to making up this deficiency and if only on that account it is to be warmly welcomed.

Briefly, the Franco-Belgian Expedition aimed to accomplish the following: to make the first ascent of Nevado Pisco (6,000 m.); to climb Nevado Huascarán (6,768 m.); to make the first ascent of Nevado Alpamayo (6,120 m.), to which was added the first ascent by a purely feminine rope of a 6,000 m. peak, namely the Quitaraju (6,100 m.).

Previous expeditions to the Cordillera Blanca date from 1932 and 1939. In the first a large party of German climbers, under the auspices of the Deutsche-Österreichische Alpenverein, climbed 20 virgin peaks between 16,000 and 21,000 ft. and accomplished much ancillary exploration. The 1939 expedition was also German. In 1948 a Swiss expedition visited the region and among other ascents attempted that of Nevado Alpamayo. It was the fact of their failure and the photographs of what they called 'the most beautiful mountain in the world' that was partly responsible for the attraction it held for the Franco-Belgian Expedition and contributed to stimulating the success which the Swiss had been denied.

On July 7 the members of the expedition assembled at Yungay to attack Nevado Pisco (then unnamed) from the south, by the Quebrada Yanganuco. Three camps were made, the two higher at 4,500 m. and 5,300 m. respectively and the mountain was climbed on July 12 from the 5,300 m. Col. The ascent of the Pisco was intended as a trial run, both for the equipment and for the climbers, for the attempts on Huascarán and Alpamayo. The party suffered from the mountain sickness common in the high Andes. Whatever it is called, whether in Venezuela 'mal de paramo' or in Peru 'sorroche,' the symptoms are the same and it is curious that it should afflict hardened climbers in the Andes in a way that it does not among mountains of similar altitude in other parts of the world.

Despite it, the party went on with their plans. The first two ascents were made by the French party on July 12 and by the Belgian party on July 14. The 650 m. from the higher camp occupied $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours. It was only when the party were united after their success that it was found that the beverage, the Peruvian Pisco, on which they were to rely for the recovery of their spirits, was missing and the mountain was named accordingly.

The second part of this book, 'Histoire d'un Echec,' describes the attempt on Huascarán, first climbed by the indefatigable American Miss Annie S. Peck in 1908 and later by both German expeditions of the 1930's. The Franco-Belgian attempt failed principally owing to a storm of unusual violence which swept Peru. But certain lessons were learned which, turned to account on Alpamayo, led to success there. It was a mistake to have committed the whole party to the attempt on Huascarán at one time, as one would in the Alps. There were no reserves. Siege, not assault tactics are required in the Andes. Success is likely only if men and supplies are tactically disposed against reverse, to allow one party to leap-frog another.

The attempt was made from the Quebrada Yanganuco on the return from the Pisco. On July 17 the base camp was pitched at 4,200 m. beneath the formidable seracs of the Huascarán glacier. Between then and July 23, after a number of comings and goings between four camps, and the defection of porters, the Belgian party was in a position at Camp 4 (5,600 m.) to make the attempt. After two miserable nights, in intense cold and cut through by high winds, the party, by 4 o'clock,

reached within 100 m. of the top (6,768 m.) with all technical difficulties overcome. But the summit might then have been at least an hour away and in that cold there could be no thought of a bivouac. At 4.15 the party turned back to spend a night in Camp 4. In the meantime the French party, which had been deserted by their porters, and had been carrying loads of 12-15 kg. to altitudes of 5,600 m. had spent their energy and most of their food and fuel. Though the night of the 23rd was calm and the next day promised well, all were beyond a further attempt. The camps were struck one after the other and the expedition retreated first to Mancos and then to the luxury of Monterey in the Rio Santa Valley to rest and recuperate.

The main objective of the Franco-Belgian Expedition was the attempt on Nevado Alpamayo (6,120 m.) which gives the chapter the title of 'La Plus Belle Montagne du Monde.' The climb was started on August 4 from the Hacienda Colcas, north of Yungay down the Rio Santa. The caravan consisted of 5 'doctors,' 2 'signoras' and 16 animals. The base camp, dominated by the Alpamayo Glacier, was pitched on August 6, at 4,600 m. Following the directions of the Swiss party the rock peak called the 'Dru' was turned and Camp 2 was established at 5,100 m. on August 8 on the Col du Dru.

The Alpamayo Glacier presents an expedition with 800 m. of problem. Even for the Andes its scale is immense. Its seracs would dwarf the average hotel. Whereas in the Alps the climber avoids whatever a glacier icefall may drop upon him, here exposure was the order of the two days necessary to find a route across it, and the north col was reached on August 10. Here at 5,500 m. was a site for a camp, at the foot of the final arête leading to the summit 600 m. higher. The ascent might have been made the next day. But the party had been on the go for six days and experience on Huascarán indicated that a day's rest at a lower camp was advisable.

The ascent therefore was postponed to August 13. The party of four, Maurice Lenoir, Raymond Leininger, Jacques Jongen and Georges Kogan, on one rope, started at 8 A.M. and the summit was reached at 7 P.M. as night was falling. The 600 m. climb of the north arête was difficult throughout. Rock gave way to ice and snow and many hours went in the fixing and withdrawing of pitons. The actual summit, rising at 65° , was the severe climax of 11 hours of continuous and exacting climbing. But night descended upon the party and the situation gave rise to concern since to spend 12 hours of tropical night at 6,000 m. on an ice ridge exposed to wind was a risk to be avoided at all costs.

The descent was started in darkness with clouds obscuring the moon. Some metres down George Kogan, leading, espied a hole in the snow like an attic window, a cavity in the ice 6 m. deep and large enough to accommodate all four climbers, and it was here that the party spent the night. If, like Louis XI's prisoners in iron cages, they were prevented from sitting or lying, at least they were in safety. The only antidote to cold and damp was the contemplation of their success, a tube of milk, three small boxes of Tonimalt and some cigarettes.

The descent was started at 8 o'clock with the first light, bodies aching, limbs stiff, stomachs empty and minds half asleep. One gathers that it was largely a series of long rappels, one slow ice rappel succeeding another until the lower rocks were reached, a descent of six hours. Whether the party was justified in making the ascent of a peak of this difficulty within a day without a reconnaissance to learn more of the route is a question that may be left in some readers' minds. One recalls the mishaps to recent French expeditions on Annapurna and Nanda Devi and it is legitimate to ask what might have occurred had the party not found the ice hole.

From here the narrative is taken over by Nicole Leininger with an account of the ascent of Quitaraju. Though accompanied by the other members of the party termed the 'cordées masculines' and by their Peruvian porter, Fortunada, carrying the national flag, this was the first time that a 'cordée féminine' had made the first ascent of a summit of 6,000 m.

For the rest let it be said that this book is a pleasure for the foreigner to read. It is a credit to those who participated in the expedition. It is commendably short, and offers great contrast in styles: that of Georges Kogan, full of vitality, terse, humorous with a happy turn of phrase, though there are modern French words which puzzle the English reader; and that of the very different style of Nicole Leininger. There are many beautiful photographs by members of the expedition, and, unusual in a book of this kind, two general and three semi-detailed maps on a scale of 8 km. to the inch. To be insatiable and to ask for more might tempt a publisher to trespass upon the functions of geographical journals and therefore one regrets again that no paper with maps has appeared in the ALPINE JOURNAL. Let this book then be recommended to any who, in the coming winter, would spend an hour or two amongst the Cordillera Blanca of Peru.

A. E. GUNTHER.

The Last Crevasse. By R. Frison-Roche. Pp. 224. Methuen. 12s. 6d.

Translated from the French by Janet Adam Smith and Nea Morin. 1952. GOOD climbing in the Mont Blanc range and an intimate study of the life of a modern Chamonix guide. The hero takes a young Parisian socialite on some pretty stiff courses, and then takes her to wife, a course which is less successful (unlike the 'true story' of the English lady who married a Charlet in the last century). The simple austerities of mountain village life are set in somewhat crude highlights against the dark vanities of the cities of the plain. There is a singular member of our Club who engages the hero for a month at 400 francs a day 'with double pay the days we climb' to wander 'through the Valais, the Grisons, the Bavarian Alps. . . .' The Editor should obtain an account of this tour, with some helpful information on the subject of its finance. Descriptions of mountain scenery are written in vivid detail and appear to have been rendered very competently in this English translation.

H. R. C. CARR.

'THE CLIMBERS' CLUB GUIDES :

Llanberis Pass. By P. R. J. Harding. Pp. 215. 9s. 6d. post paid.*The Carneddau.* By A. J. J. Moulam. Pp. 123. 8s. post paid.

The Cloister Press, Ltd., Heaton Mersey, Stockport.

THESE guide books have been eagerly awaited and certainly they maintain the very high standard set by the earlier volumes in the series. Both are essential for the modern rock-climber in the Snowdon range, enabling him to distinguish the things that differ in all the particulars of difficulty ; for example, between 'very severe,' 'extremely severe,' and 'exceptionally severe,' so that if confronted with the question, 'How camest thou . . . ?' he may happily answer with Bunyan's pilgrim—'By reading this book in my hand.' The Llanberis guide covers an area well endowed with splendid crags for climbing, and if the limelight is stolen by Clogwyn d'ur Arddu and the cliffs on the north side of the Pass, a roving eye is now directed to a dozen smaller crags where good climbs may be found. The reviewer naturally blushes with pleasure to see his account of Lockwood's chimney repeated from the 1925 *Guide to Snowdon*, though perhaps a footnote ought to be added about the tree that used to grow in the crack pitch below the chimney ; it is no longer there.

The Carneddau have never been popular and have less to offer. It is, however, remarkable how many good climbs have been discovered on them in the last fifteen years, several due to the impulse of the guide-book-to-be. Many will now be encouraged to forsake the familiar Tryfan and Glyder playgrounds to set out on the long trail for Cwm Eigiau or Cwm Llafar. The diagrams and photographs are clear and helpful, though some may complain that two of them show too much of the climber and too little of the climb.

H. R. C. CARR.

La Péninsule du Sinai. By Jacques Daumas. Pp. 459 + 8 plates, 46 illustrations in the text, 26 maps and plans. Published by the Royal Automobile Club d'Egypte. Cairo, 1951.

M. DAUMAS deserves the gratitude of all fellow explorers and mountaineers who love the 'Middle East' for this detailed and intriguing guide to one of its least known corners. Leaving the dull steppes of Northern Sinai to the motorist, M. Daumas gives us itineraries for car, camel and Shanks's mare over all the intricate ridges and valleys that cover the peninsula proper of Sinai, the Wilderness of the Wanderings of Israel. The mountains strongly resemble those of Corsica ; but of a Corsica without snow and without *maquis*. The blue fiords of Suez and 'Aqaba take the place of the Mediterranean and the whole landscape is glorified by brilliantly coloured rocks beneath a sky of perpetual turquoise. Thunder in Sinai is rare but violent ; snowfalls rarer still.

Hotels and huts are lacking but the monks of St. Catherine's dispense accommodation (but without provision), in their sixth century Monastery at the foot of Gebel Musa, the traditional 'Hill of the Law' which

one might term the magnetic pole of religion since it is sacred alike to Jew, Christian and Muhammadan.

On the way to the Monastery, from the palm groves of Feiran, the pilgrim catches sight of the red granite range of Serbal, 6,790 ft., where there are leopards and scrambles. One of the lesser pinnacles, Gebel Serabil, is still unclimbed. M. Daumas says, 'il semble d'ascension difficile mais très intéressante.' At the Monastery, there is more scrambling on red granite, described by Brigadier Hunt in *A. J.* lviii., 209-211. But, for serious climbing, one must leave one's car at St. Catherine's and proceed by camel to the Umm Shomar-Rimhan range about 15 miles to the south. The highest summit of Umm Shomar, 8,482 ft., was first climbed by T. E. Yorke and T. J. Prout in 1862. (See *A. J.* i, 205.) But the *bonne-bouche* of Sinai mountaineering is provided by what M. Daumas calls 'Le Clocher Secondaire Oriental No. 2,' the third summit, first conquered by Mme Escher and Dr. Gismann with two guides from Jugo-Slavia on April 29, 1937. M. Daumas and Charles Laroche are, to date, their only successors. (There is a good photograph of this pinnacle opposite *A. J.* xlii, 227.)

The Sinai prospects are grand, for no peak is more than 30 miles from the sea and, from each, one looks over its foot-hills across the gulfs of Suez and 'Aqaba to the jagged sky-lines of Africa and Asia beyond. But, from the next range to the south, Gebel-el-Thabt, 8,035 ft., one has the best panorama of all for, at one's feet, one sees the twin gulfs meet and merge into the broad Red Sea. Its ascent is what Baedeker would call 'toilsome but repaying.'

Below El-Thabt, to the south-east, lies a vast cirque, surrounded by five peaks, all over 7,000 ft. and two of them still unclimbed, Haleifiya and the northern of the two Yithmids. At their feet is Moiyet Luliya, a tiny spring and possible bivouac.

'That a country may be mapped, it must be travelled over' and, to compile such a guide, M. Daumas has travelled and laboured a great deal. Still, it isn't work unless you don't like it and, by that standard, I doubt if M. Daumas counted it work at all.

His maps are skeletonised from the Survey of Egypt official 1 : 100,000 series, still denied to the public by a military ban. The reproduction of his photographs is poor; and even a short bibliography of the more important works on Sinai would have been a helpful addition for the armchair traveller. I have only detected one slip—the same mountain is called Ethmid on p. 452 and Yithmid on pp. 437-439. The maps are responsible for this and I plead guilty to changing the name to the latter form on the new series myself. The R.A.C. of Egypt are heartily to be congratulated on their making the results of M. Daumas' explorations available to his rivals in such compact and useful shape. To all who go to Sinai for amusement, sport or science this guide will be indispensable. What would not Moses have given for an advance copy? Yet, it might have tempted some of his younger men to spend more than forty years in their exploration of the peninsula.

More than forty years have passed between my first Sinai visit and my last and I am still hungry for more. When I was young, I used to whisper to myself 'A day out of Sinai is a day wasted!' I suspect M. Daumas thinks the same. Even though he does spend his holidays at Chamonix. But, in these pages, that is blasphemy.

G. W. MURRAY.

Zum Dritten Pol. Die Achttausender der Erde. By G. O. Dyhrenfurth. (Nymphenburger, Munich.)

PROFESSOR DYHRENFURTH is well qualified to give us a book crammed with information and this latest work is a wonderful testimony to his zeal and industry. He sticks well to his subject, the history of attempts to climb and the prospects of climbing the 8,000 m. peaks of the earth, *i.e.* of the Himalaya. These fourteen giants are dealt with in descending order of height. The name is first discussed, then its claim to be in the highest class, then the summary of history made upon it—wonderfully up to date in these days of difficulty for publishers—then the possibilities and hints for future attempts; and finally a geological note. Some of the *Achttausender* have been the subject of one or more books and the author has done a very valuable piece of work in condensing the essential facts and conclusions into a concise yet readable summary.

He agrees that the name Everest is too well established to be changed; even the Indian Government has repressed its prejudices in this case. The retention of the figure 29,002 ft. surprises the author and understandably so. Not only have later surveys added some 40 m. to its height, but the Assam earthquake of 1950 is said to have given a further uplift of 65 m. Another earthquake might well give us a *Neuntausender*! The familiar story of the expeditions from 1921 to 1938 is accurately summarised. The reasons for supposing that the ice-axe left or dropped by Mallory or Irvine in 1924 marks the scene of an accident are not convincing, especially to those who believe Odell saw the two above this point. We must all agree with the regret expressed that Smythe did not photograph the two kite-balloons he observed during his solitary climb from Camp VI in 1933, and that Tilman was the right leader for the Spartan organisation of the 1938 expedition, members of which told Dyhrenfurth they had never been so hungry in their lives as under this '*antiwissenschaftliche leiter*.' For the final stage of the ascent Dyhrenfurth recommends a camp close to the couloir, so that it can be tackled coming fresh (*sic*) from it early in the morning, and with all the modern climber's ironmongery to give security. The West Cwm approach explored by Shipton's party in 1951 is described in considerable detail. In some final remarks on Everest we read: 'It would be comic if the English had kept Everest from Americans and Europeans to reserve it for the Russians.' Was it actually we or the Tibetans who were responsible for the restrictions on attempts on the mountain? I will not venture to do more than

mention the formidable notes on the geology of Everest and the other *Achttausender*.

We may consider Godwin-Austen as a name to be forgotten for K2. Chigori (Big Mountain) might well replace K2, though we may think Sia Kangri and Baltoro Kangri not so great an improvement on Queen Mary peak and Golden Throne. In the history of attempts that of 1939 is given prominence. Dyhrenfurth considers that the leader Weissner was too severely criticised for the tragic ending and that if the other climbers had been of his calibre, the peak would have been conquered and all would have returned safely. He suggests a light sleeping sack and a shovel to dig an igloo for the night above the highest likely camping site at 7,920 m. None of us will disagree that 'good organisation and leadership, a very tough, capable team, with four expert climbers for the higher camps, some eight first-class Sherpas and good conditions' will increase the prospects of success.

Kangchenjunga is the only 8,000 m. peak that can be seen and admired by the tourist crowd and its name and height are well established. The first attempt to climb it was made by a mixed party under A. E. Crowley, 'an Irish journalist who understood little about mountaineering.' *Missverhältniss* seems an appropriate word for the nature of this party for my dictionary says it can mean both 'unsuitability' and 'unfriendly relations.' Bauer's heroic exploits in 1929 and 1931 are well-known history. Dyhrenfurth has some interesting comments on his own attempt on the West face in 1930, notably their failure to estimate the steepness of the ice-cliffs owing to the high altitude of the sun. Detailed knowledge may be a dangerous thing. In his Alpine experience an ice-cliff lit by the sun at midday on June 21 has a slope of 67° ; on Kangchenjunga it might be 86° ! He considers the possibilities of six routes and concludes that the East spur tackled by Bauer offers the best chance. It *may* be possible. The pre-monsoon period is preferable if—a big if—the top of the spur can be reached by the end of May; the steep avalanchy slope where the spur abuts on the North arête might be shot off with rockets!

The history of Lhotse, Makalu and we might almost add Cho Oyu lies in the future. The North ridge of Makalu gained from the west is perhaps the best chance on that difficult-looking peak. The Northwest ridge of Cho Oyu which is suggested was actually that chosen by Shipton's party in 1952.

Dhaulagiri was found by the French expedition of 1950 to be a most unapproachable giant. After at last solving the enigmas presented by the existing maps and getting a good view of a face like the North face of the Eiger but more than twice as high, they decided to turn their attentions to Annapurna and were amply justified, as we know. The author suggests that the after effects of maxitone tablets was partly responsible for the condition of Lachenal and Herzog after reaching the summit; his exactitude over detail is evident in his recommendation that even in thick fog glasses of 90 per cent. absorption should be worn above 7,000 m.

Nanga Parbat, fatal to so many fine German climbers, is fully treated : the conclusion drawn from the past is that the only routes worth considering are that taken by the four expeditions of 1932-38 with greater care in the selection of camp sites and that from the Diama side up the centre rib to the West face of the North Peak and joining the Rakiot route under the Vorgipfel.

Gleaming Wall and Hidden Peak seem contradictory names to give to K5 (Gasherbrum I), but Prof. Dyhrenfurth says that 'Tibetologists' are not convinced the first is a correct interpretation of Gasherbrum. Bad weather, film making and a strike of porters brought his own International Himalaya Expedition to an end at 6,200 m. on a spur leading to the Urdok Peak and the South-east ridge of Hidden Peak. The French expedition nearly reached a point 7,069 m. at the top of a spur west of the I.H.E. spur. Dyhrenfurth considers the latter slightly easier to make feasible for porters. The ascent of more than one *Siebentausender* was a considerable compensation for failure on the giant.

The conquest of Broad Peak looks a difficult and hazardous affair, judging by pictures 40, 41 and 44. If the difficult lower part below the gap between the middle and highest peaks is overcome, 'minenwerfer might be used to dislodge the avalanche snow above.' Rockets and minenwerfer sound rather formidable additions to the contents of a rucksack !

Gasherbrum II provides one or two fine pictures and what the author believes to be a really good direct route free from objective dangers and comparatively easy to make practicable for good Sherpas : it sounds almost *à vaches* ! He laments he will not be able to try it out himself.

As a concession to users of primitive measures, three peaks of over 26,000 ft. but under 8,000 m. are added to the list of real *Achttausender*. Let us hope another earthquake will secure them their higher certificate. Of the three, Gasherbrum IV is likely to remain longest admired but not climbed.

In a final passage Prof. Dyhrenfurth refers to the impending attack on Everest by the Russians with numerous troops not only trained but drilled and provided with all sorts of new equipment destined to 'plant the Soviet flag where capitalistic attempts have been so often repulsed.' The bibliography, the lists of previous expeditions above 7,000 m. and the index show Teutonic thoroughness, the maps are most helpful showing clearly the glaciers, cols and ridges by which the peaks have been approached. Last and best of all, the collecting of the splendid photographs of all these *Achttausender* is a remarkable addition to a comprehensive and scholarly work.

R. L. G. IRVING.

The Scottish Himalayan Expedition. By W. H. Murray. Pp. xiii, 282. J. M. Dent & Sons. 1951. 30s.

THERE have been a number of light expeditions to the Himalaya since the war. It might be asked why this one should produce a book.

It carried out a journey of five months through little-known, but not unknown, Garhwal. It climbed five of its nine peaks, but only one was over 20,000 ft. It was the first Scottish expedition to the Himalaya; but that is perhaps an artificial distinction. Why then the book?

The answer is given in the writing itself. Murray and his three companions knew that the best in the Himalaya, and therefore the greatest interest for fellow climbers, lies with the small expedition, the expedition which does not go for a high mountain but wins the worthiest pleasure from medium peaks and reconnaissance of new ground; from the forcing of little-known passages, like the Girthi Ganga (a fine feat in itself); from contact with hill people, especially the most lovable of all, the Dotials. Therefore he gives just what those who dream of such expeditions want to know. First, the necessary preparations, stores brought from England, medical equipment, money arrangements, transport arrangements even in detail; all those thousand and one items which the more careless of us lose from memory when we get back. And secondly, a pictorial record. The party did not forget film, sufficient to produce a beautifully illustrated book; a book which brings it all before our eyes, which we desire to possess though we are condemned by our pockets to finger it in libraries.

The people met by the way are all alive. They interest us, from the dancing girls of Milam to the partly fake Swami at Tapoban. But especially the friendly, loyal little Dotials. Murray has fine material here, and they become our friends too, by the end. I wrote once, of the possibility of training the Dotials for high altitude work 'It would be a labour of love, for there could hardly be pupils more lovable.' It is good to see that the training goes on, as well with these Dotials as with the Bhotias from the various villages along the route.

Murray is already a master of climbing narrative, and the climbs here are related so that we are in a pleasing suspense throughout as to whether they will get up; not only on the successful ascent of Uja Tirche, but perhaps still more on the 'failures,' Bethartoli Himal, Hanuman, South Lampak, and Panch Chuli. Especially is his frankness over these climbs engaging. In bad weather on South Lampak 'no hearty curse stimulated the conversation, for that implies a deep personal interest in something that is happening. We just lay, and occasionally wished we were dead.' This frankness does not conceal the fact that a high degree of mountaineering skill and endurance was required on the climbs.

I do not myself feel that further reflections on Eastern religion (only just withheld, one gets the impression) would have been amiss. Murray is deeply interested, and the subject has a bearing on these strange pilgrimages of ours to the snows. It has been helpfully approached, in Marco Pallis's *Peaks and Lamas*. But in the wider sense he does give us of the religious mind. For it is this which makes him say: 'We had to make a choice of values. Mountains (useless lumps, the materialist will say) or money? We chose mountains.' It is this

which gives him, on Jatropani, that 'religious' sense of oneness with the mountain universe around, whose 'name men call God, or the Infinite One, Beauty or Truth, according to the context in which His works happen to be seen.' And it is this which makes him sympathise with men of other races and religions—even the comical figure of the Swami. Therefore the sharing by proxy in the surrender of self to a present 'good life' will draw the reader, rather than any reconnaissance of peaks that may be the material apology for such an expedition.

WILFRID NOYCE.

Een Halve Eeuw Nederlands Alpinisme (A Half Century of Netherlands Alpinism). Pp. 120. 1952.

THE Netherlands Alpine Association celebrated fifty years of its existence last June. In connexion with this Jubilee it has produced a little volume under the above title. The Association was formed in 1902, thanks to the energetic initiative of a young lady climber, Miss Isabella Muller, still a member, who for the first few years acted as secretary to her father, the late Professor P. L. Muller, the first President. In those early days Dutch climbers largely frequented the Austrian Alps, and the Association was in its early years affiliated to the D.O.A.V. But its activities soon spread wider afield in the Alps and beyond. Notable among its oversea climbers and explorers are, of course, Dr. P. C. Visser who with his late wife conducted four successful expeditions to the Karakorum in 1922-24, and has since climbed in Anatolia and South Africa, and Dr. A. H. Colijn for his ascent of Mt. Carstensz in New Guinea. Plans for a Himalayan expedition last year under Dr. Klompe had to be postponed, but an expedition under Messrs. L. G. Egeler and Th. de Booy is now on its way to the Cordillera Blanca of Peru. The Association has also made its useful contribution to the amenities of the Alps by erecting in 1933 the Hollandia Hut in the Lötschenlucke on the ruins of the old Egon von Steiger Hut.

The volume opens with an attractive introduction by Mr. de Ranitz, who has been President since 1946, in which he vindicates mountaineering as a sport and urges the retention of the sporting attitude as against record breaking rashness and over mechanization. Mr. J. S. Schipper, who has been secretary since 1936 and was assistant secretary for ten years before that, follows with a history of the Association's activities, while a series of chapters contributed by various authors deals with early Dutch mountaineering in the 'pre-historic days before 1902,' expeditions outside Europe, guideless climbing, winter mountaineering, etc. The chapter on guideless climbing opens with an amusing discussion as to why one climbs without guides, between five nationalities weather bound in a hut. The Englishman said: 'it's better sport and more fun.' The German: 'to steel one's will and character in the battle with the overwhelming force of Nature.' The Frenchman: 'for the flavour of danger and adventure.' The Dutchman: 'for the

sense of independence and self-reliance.' The Austrian, a youth bred in the mountains: 'well, I don't ask for help when I wash (so why when climbing?)' Altogether a pleasing little volume. We wish our Dutch colleagues another half-century of happy activities.

L. S. AMERY.

'*Ti-Puss*. By Ella Maillart. Pp. 213. William Heinemann, Ltd., London. 1951. 18s.

BOOKS by Ella Maillart are sure of a wide reception, for she has proved herself as a writer no less than as a traveller. Her latest volume is fully up to the standards of its predecessors, though the subject matter is very different. Prevented by the outbreak of the war from pursuing her customary travels, she elected to remain on in India where she was then staying, and set herself to study the religious thought of the country.

Being an ardent cat-lover, Mlle. Maillart very properly provided herself with a kitten as companion during her years of investigation and in the end she learned, perhaps, more from her cat than from the sages of India. 'Wise men of the East' have often proved elusive, though Mlle. Maillart found more than one to her liking, in particular the Maharishi of Tiruvannamalai (lately dead), also known to us from Paul Brunton's books. But to cats have long been attributed unusual gifts of the spirit, even by those misguided persons who do not like them. Mountaineers, at any rate, should be respecters, if not lovers, of cats, for the Matterhorn kitten is surely one of the elect. And if we do not usually burden ourselves on our journeys with a cat (though one distinguished member of the Club has the reputation of having travelled about India and the Mid-East with cats estimated in number up to a dozen!), the answer, presumably, is that in this, as in other matters, we are not Mlle. Maillart's equals.

Readers of her book will learn not only much about cats but a good deal about India, particularly in the south. She travelled round, from Cape Cormorin to Phari Dzong in Tibet and, as we might expect, has much to tell us and tells it well. India's sages seem to have furnished her with unusual gifts in the understanding of cats—but, then, cats are also great yogis (Yeats-Brown, *Lancer at Large*, p. 186)—and it is difficult to think that anyone, after reading the book, will repeat the discredited saying that a cat is not as much a companion as a dog—though in a different way.

In India cats are usually sadly treated and grievously underfed; the Tibetans, as becomes Buddhists, have a greater fondness and care for animals. It is pleasing to read of monks who own (or are owned by) cats, and it can only be hoped, not very confidently, that these minor graces of life will not be lost in Tibet, with much else, under the influence of Communism.

Mlle. Maillart has given us an unusual and attractive book, admirably written.

T. S. BLAKENEY.