

REVIEWS

Great Days in New Zealand Mountaineering. By John Pascoe. Pp. 199. Illus. Bailey Bros. & Swinfen Ltd., London. 1958. Price 21s.

MR. PASCOE has read and digested almost everything that has been written about the mountains of New Zealand, whether in print or manuscript, and he has used his encyclopaedic knowledge to produce a fascinating volume about great days spent among them in the course of the last eighty years. No one could have done it better. Recording as he mostly does in his own words the exploits of others, he has an unerring flair for picking out the gold and discarding the dross. He is, moreover, invariably accurate, and as generous in his appreciation of the deeds of others as he is modest in the telling of his own.

It is interesting to trace the development of Mr. Pascoe's style from the unrelieved staccato of *Unclimbed New Zealand*, through *Land Uplifted High* and *Mr. Explorer Douglas*, to his newest book. It has mellowed with constant practice into a crisp easy-flowing narrative without losing any of its vividness. This is specially noticeable in his chapter on his own greatest day, one of the best in the book, when in his early youth, with like-minded companions, he achieved the first ascent and traverse of the redoubtable Mt. Evans. In it he has recaptured to the life the emotions of fear and pain, exhilaration and ecstasy, experienced a quarter of a century ago. He makes most effective use of monosyllables to convey a feeling of tension at a moment of crisis. To quote one example: 'Our jinx was a bit of a dag', if a trifle obscure, is a most arresting phrase to sum up a desperate situation.

For his nineteen chapters he has selected Ruapehu and Egmont, the North Island volcanoes; five ten-thousanders of the central chain; seven outstanding peaks of the lesser ranges; Aspiring and Tutoko; one virgin pass, one impassable gorge and one amazing feat of rescue, an epic feat of organisation. In presenting this varied fare, he has been able to introduce nearly all the great figures of the past and many stars of the present day, together with a wealth of new material and pleasing character sketches. Each chapter has an ingeniously simplified diagram of the area concerned, an admirable device for enabling the reader to follow the text intelligently. The excellent illustrations are well-chosen and in some cases unique, e.g. Jim Dennistoun in a Westland bivouac and Sam Turner praying on the summit of Tutoko, both from Peter

Graham's great collection. Sir Edmund Hillary, in his foreword, pays tribute to Mr. Pascoe's stature in the N.Z. mountain world. In his own preface the author stresses that he has written the book first and foremost for the layman, but he need have no fear of the mountaineer's verdict. I am confident that the book will have an irresistible appeal to all who enjoy graphic tales of stirring adventures.

H. E. L. PORTER.

Climbing the Fish's Tail. By Wilfrid Noyce. Pp. 150, 25 plates, 2 maps. Heinemann, London. Price 18s.

MR. NOYCE had already given us the outline story of this expedition in our Centenary Number; the fuller account now published makes much more clear what a remarkable climb this was, by a small party further weakened by illness. This is a model of what an expedition book should be.

Major Roberts, who was the only begetter of the expedition, and who had made a reconnaissance the previous year, contributes the opening chapter and two final notes, from the last of which the reader will learn why the *Alpine Journal* has dropped two aitches from our earlier spelling of Machapuchare. The story really starts with the words of Charles Bruce in 1936, which inspired in the youthful J. O. M. Roberts an intense desire to see Pokhara and Machapuchare, forbidden country in those days. In 1950 he saw the mountain from a shoulder of Annapurna II, and, later that year, walked into Pokhara. In 1953 Basil Goodfellow inspected the mountain from the south and south-east and, rather solemnly assessed the prospects. He also took his famous photograph, under a blown-up version of which the present Honorary Secretary is believed to bathe. Interest mounted. Wylie and Roberts, wishing to renew partnership, turned their minds to Machapuchare, and in 1956 Roberts went to look. They recruited Wilfrid Noyce, David Cox and Roger Chorley, and the party was on for 1957.

It turned out to be a difficult climb and a complicated route. Chorley was taken ill at an early stage, and Roberts was absent from the mountain while he escorted Chorley to the British Women's Hospital at Pokhara. Most of the work on the mountain fell to three Englishmen and three Sherpas.

The story of the climb is admirably told, and honestly too. The chairborne reader can readily realise the sordid side of life in high camps and Noyce does not disguise the mood in which he, like all other climbers, hated his mountain. But he loved her, too: 'the steepest, most exciting and alluring mountain that I know'. This familiar

reversibility of attitude is also well put in the poem 'Trams and Trains'.

An index would have helped the reviewer, but probably nobody else.

Mountain Climbing: Teach Yourself Series. By Godfrey Francis. English Universities Press. 7s. 6d.

IN this 'Teach Yourself' book, Goff Francis has quite rightly avoided any attempt to teach in the sense of authoritatively dogmatizing. His very first words are 'I hope that beginners who take to mountain climbing through the ideas in this book will use them as guides only and not as arbiters of climbing lore'. Now that is a very healthy thing to hear said nowadays, when the climbing world is too full of pseudo-pundits laying down the law on what and what not to do, and how, and on what and what not to think—the anti-crampon men, the nails-versus-vibrams men, etc. The outstanding merit of Francis's book is his wide knowledge of different equipments and techniques, and his attempt to be fair to all schools of thought, combined with a careful use of the word 'I' to designate what are specifically his own opinions. Unorthodoxies are hard to find. One likes especially the way in which he has emphasised the supreme importance of hill-walking as a foundation on which to build a good climbing career. In this way rock-climbing is kept out of the book till after page 50, and is soon merged into chapters on a wider Alpine technique. This is sound teaching.

Everyone will of course disagree with minor points of instruction here and there. It is sad, for instance, to find no recognition of the round-the-chest and over-the-shoulders method of joining climber and rope, which is in many ways preferable to the British round-the-waist procedure. It should have been pointed out that pitons which have their eyes parallel to their blades, though excellent for cracks with constricted entries, lack the twist-grip which comes from having the eye and blade at right-angles to each other. And a point about ice-pegs is that, if they are not inserted with the ring horizontal, they are liable to twist under load, unfreeze, and bring disaster in abseiling. Another omission which strikes the present reviewer (and here Francis has failed to improve on Barford, whose B.M.C. book he supersedes), is the almost total ignorance of (or ignoring of) Ireland as a climbing area. Finally, when he states that 'nobody, so far as I know, has come to the point of needing stirrups on ice pegs', events have overtaken the author; one can refer him to Pumasillo in 1957, where Simon Clark's use of this technique was the finest ice-climbing one has ever witnessed.

The very fine chapter on Alpine snow and ice is followed by a salutary one on rescue, which finishes the book.

R. J. WATHEN.

The Mountain World. Directed by Othmar Gurtner and Marcel Kurz on behalf of the Swiss Foundation for Alpine Research. Vols. 1956-7 and 1958-9. English version edited by Malcolm Barnes. Published by George Allen & Unwin Ltd. Price 25s. each volume.

BOTH these volumes record the highest achievements in mountaineering and photography. They show us the astonishing activity that now exists among the highest and what till recently were the most inaccessible mountains of the world. In his short preface to the 1956-7 volume, Othmar Gurtner refers to 'distinction between the most highly developed form of wandering and mountaineering as the overcoming of difficulties for the sake of the achievement itself', and he adds: 'whereas the latter—mountaineering as a sport—remains the preserve of the few, the *classic* form of mountaineering suffers from the overcrowding of the Alps'.

What an excellent illustration that is of the misinterpretation of the English word *sport*, which has been incorporated into so many other languages. Sport, my dictionary tells me, is, 'any of the varied activities indulged in for recreation'. It applies more to the shooting of an occasional bird as a man walks over the moor than to the making of a record bag by the aid of an army of beaters; to village cricket as much as to a Test Match. While we have to agree about the overcrowding of the best known Alps, we know there are parts of the Alps—Cogne, for example—where climbers can still enjoy sport as well as wandering.

In the 1956-7 volume, the Alps still find a place in this great record of achievement. The North face of the Ebnefluh falls to a party equipped with hollow pegs of ashwood, a hand brace and roping-down pulleys; the Torre Venezia, with a face of 2,600 ft., 'a sixer by the easiest route'; the Aiguille du Plan by the steepest face of ice. These are convincing descriptions of the pleasures of achieving climbs by means that would be impossible without them. A failure in 1954 and a success later on University Peak, the 'highest unclimbed mountain in North America' is described by Sheldon Brooks. The party included an Australian, a valuable man on the rope and also in camp, where he introduced tea to milk drinkers and the hitherto unknown word *bloody*, which came into common use. A long chapter with splendid photographs, a map, and plan of routes, is contributed by Bradford Washburn on the Mt. McKinley *massif*; a preface by Othmar Gurtner pays tribute to the immense work done by Washburn through his ascents, one of them with his wife, in 1947.

George Band tells the story of Kangchenjunga, with a double-page picture showing the hazardous route to the ridge. Joe Brown has a hard struggle with the help of oxygen at six litres per minute close to the summit. The last five feet are left unclimbed; let us echo Band's

wish, ' May it remain for ever the Untrodden Peak '. The conquest of Makalu, the reward of ' perfect preparation, perfect training and perfect technique ' is told by Jean Franco, who names it ' The Happy Mountain ', happy in having no history of accident or failure. The photo of Couzy on the summit is a perfect symbol of the happiness of great achievement. ' Two Lofty Summits ' is a modest title for the first ascent of Lhotse and the second of Everest (' the first by Europeans ' is a new kind of *première*). These notable ascents, on which an army of coolies carry several tons of material to base camp, confirm the opinion of a well-known French climber that ' a great Himalayan ascent is above all a question of preparation and installation ' ; and no less meritorious for that ! ' For twenty minutes ', writes Ernst Schmied, ' we had lived on the summit without oxygen . . . unique was the dream and immense the experience. '

Then we come to chapters on the people of Arandu and the peaks of Chogo Lungma. Even an ' easy ' seven-thousander can rudely disturb on the descent a party ' in an indescribable state of happiness over the success . . . ' who felt themselves ' beyond any danger . . . involved in the fatality of Being, part of the divine whole ' ! Any party might be tempted to go out and see, if not to climb, the superb virgin peak on the double-page photo opposite p. 188.

Besides these tales of great achievement there is an article by Robert B. Forbes on Field Research and Expeditionary Mountaineering. Mr. Tilman would probably agree with a view quoted by the author ' no damn science '. And there is a chapter on the Virungas (volcanoes) of Central Africa, with a peak where only gorillas are allowed to climb. Major Jayal tells how Kamet was climbed in 1955, four Sherpas reaching the summit with him.

The 1958-9 volume opens with the tragic story of the two young students who died unrescued on Mont Blanc, after a terrible night on December 25, at 13,800 ft., at the top of the Brenva route, and three days passed in an effort to crawl down exhausted and frost-bitten to the Grand Plateau. Attempts to rescue them by air were finally abandoned on January 3. A party on foot from the Grands Mulets might well have effected a laborious but not risky rescue on December 27. Magnificent photographs, and a catalogue of the various attempts and the seventeen lives lost, illustrate the ' Eiger Myth ' by Othmar Gurtner, with what, I presume, are good geological reasons for avoiding this sinister face. After these two unhappy chapters, we go to America. Mount Logan offers a new route from the east ; Mount Rainier a quite adventurous descent, while Mexican volcanoes give René Dittert a sense of solitude and isolation, an impression of height on Citlaltepetl ' more fascinating almost than that which gripped me on the high Himalayan peaks '. We return to acrobatics and excitement with a

vengeance in South America. On Huagaruncho, three hours on what George Band thought the hardest snow pitch of his life, six hours advancing about 150 ft. across the mountain and 6 ft. up it, a 10-ft. passage in snow up to the neck and a fall 10 ft. down a crevasse. An interesting prelude on the country and its primitive people, by Dr. Heinrich Klier, leads up to great doings on Nevado Jirishhanca and El Toro, requiring in full measure what L. Terray called 'that specific mountaineering skill, which has already grown far beyond the Alpine scale and which finds its appropriate tasks in the Andes'. On El Toro the party had to rope down 1,800 ft. over ice and rock. A German party in the Cordillera Blanca finds plenty to satisfy them, with flag-hoisting on the top of Alpamayo (not the peak climbed by a Franco-Belgian party); 'in order not to put too much weight on the summit, we climbed up one after the other'. Jatunhuma and other formidable peaks were duly beflagged and brought home in the bag.

A break in the tale of achievement comes with a few pages on Olympus; perhaps wandering should be the word for it rather than climbing, but we can agree with Ulrich Mann that 'the mountain hides its inner nature from those who only ask for rock faces and downhill runs'. And he ends: 'He who ascends Olympus should remember that the frontiers of mankind lie somewhere else today than in the early times of our culture, but they are there, eternal and insurmountable.' On Olympus a word or two of 'uplift' is forgivable! We go back to the Himalaya with an Austrian party on Gasherbrum II in 1956, and another on Broad Peak in 1957. We can well imagine what a wonderful memory must be that sunset on the 'Summit of Dreams'. A grievous blow came with the loss of Hermann Buhl on the descent unroped in a fog of a cornice on Chogolisa.

Frances Delany gives a modest and attractive account of a women's party in the Bara Shigri; wandering and exploration among peaks of 20,000 ft., one of the party making ascents that might well be called serious climbs! 'A multitude of summits and glaciers, unnamed and unexplored, and six weeks of perfect weather.' What more could any party want!

Goodfellow's beautiful photographs of Machapuchare showed it to be 'pure snow and ice ferociously uplifted to the twin summits on the north, great twisted strata of vertical rock from the south'. Disregarding this warning to leave it alone, Noyce and Cox were only stopped 150 ft. from the top by the impossibility of getting there in time to give enough chance of a safe return. The Fluted Peak provided a pretty desperate finish without pitons. A large Japanese party with a huge train of baggage loads, that one might take for a queue of lorries on a high, deeply-snow-covered glacier, made the ascent of Manaslu. One Japanese and one Nepali reached the top. This volume ends with a

finely illustrated article on the glaciers and soil of the Everest region.

These grand pictures of mountains, such as those of Cayangate, Jirishhanca, Machapuchare make one feel that Nature has done her utmost to make them irresistibly lovely, yet unclimbable. But man has found means of overcoming the unclimbable, though Nature still retains an adventurous element in the moods in which he is received. We may predict, we cannot yet control, the weather !

It is hard to see how the achievements recorded in these two volumes can be surpassed. The numbering of the photographs in the 1958-9 volume is a great help in following the story in the text.

R. L. G. IRVING.

The Ski Runs of Austria. By James Riddell assisted by Jeannette Oddie. Michael Joseph, London. 35s.

THE *Ski Runs of Austria* is the natural sequel of last year's successful book, *The Ski Runs of Switzerland*. That book filled an obvious gap. Even the experienced skier, looking for new fields on which to practise his sport, cannot rely on the often too optimistic descriptions of the travel brochures for his choice of area.

James Riddell has collected the material about the Austrian runs with the same energy and attention to detail as he did in the Swiss book. He knows how to present his subject. Every district is introduced with a few words which will give the reader a very good idea of what he has to expect of the place. It may be 'a strange little place in a deep valley' or 'it has been one of those names for the last fifty years that are part and parcel of ski-ing language'.

The author divides the four Austrian Alpine provinces into twenty ski-ing areas and describes these districts systematically and thoroughly. The heights and distances of the various runs are given accurately. The degree of their difficulty and their suitability for the more or less advanced skier are described. James Riddell takes the cable cars and ski lifts as what they are : the product of the economic needs of the mountain population catering for the ever growing number of skiers who are no mountaineers at all. Riddell himself, however, is a ski-mountaineer. Where there is the slightest possibility of touring from the top station this fact is mentioned, always with regret that it is impossible within the limits of this book to go into details of these tours.

Freda Nichols has drawn some very fine sketches of the various areas. Even the skier who is not very good at map reading will find his way often with their help.

The photographs are not selected from a pictorial point of view. They rather show the characteristics of the place photographed.

A very useful book for anyone considering ski-ing in Austria.

WALTER KIRSTEIN.

Rock Climbing in Britain. By J. E. B. Wright. Nicholas Kaye. Price 15s.

THE immediate audience for Mr. Wright is clearly those whose introduction to climbing came from the Mountaineering Association. *Rock Climbing in Britain* might be described as 'Polonial', if Shakespeare will permit the word. It treats the subject sensibly, by selecting climbs in the major districts as classics, and using them as a platform. Naturally, Mr. Wright's choice of climbs will not please all readers: nor will his occasional oddities like '... the Severe grading is too high, at least for one who has climbed it more than a hundred times'. I believe an Australian would call that giving us the tom-tits. Nevertheless, the idea is good, and the areas and climbs adequately chosen. There is something disturbing about the style which mars the book and irritates the reader; a muzziness of thought makes many paragraphs so loose and ill-knit that they often completely lack continuity. This weakness of writing spoils what could have been a useful survey of British routes. It is also sad that the leader on the cover is climbing on an overhand knot.

SIMON CLARK.

A Dictionary of Mountaineering. By R. G. Collomb. Blackie & Sons Ltd. 1957. Price 12s. 6d.

IT is arguable whether a dictionary of mountaineering has any justification at all—it seems unnecessary in a sport whose great attraction includes the absence of the over-organisation so irksome elsewhere. However, examining this volume on its merits and allowing its relevance, it has to be admitted that Mr. Collomb has failed. He has failed because the temptation of incorporating his own instruction manual has lured him from the terseness essential to the title. The result is a flabbiness which is not helped by slips such as describing gabbro as a granite, nor by referring to a picture of the Géant as the Dru. Had the dictionary sought to assume the functions of an encyclopaedia—for instance, listing the prices and specifications of all available karabiners—I could recommend it gladly. As it is, one can only sigh.

SIMON CLARK.

The Great Motor Highways of the Alps. By Hugh Merrick. 272 pp. Maps and Illustrations. Robert Hale Ltd., London. 30s.

FOR the motorist who wishes to learn something of the passes of the Alps, Hugh Merrick's book provides a mine of information. Starting

with a broad description of the passes, the river and mountain systems, it traces the approach routes to the Alps from the Channel ports, and describes briefly the main holiday centres in the mountain regions. The author then launches into a most detailed account of each pass, with careful notes of gradients, road surfaces, heights and distances, items of local interest, the history of the pass and of the region, with notes of local customs, all presented in an interesting way.

Admittedly the book is not written for mountaineers, but perhaps the author has not made enough of the possibilities of these passes. It is often not recognised that in reality the great mountain groups are close together in distance and these great highways link them closely in time. Bad weather on the Meije may mean an ascent of the Grivola a day later, or too much fresh snow in the Mont Blanc massif a climb in the Oberland, given a party with a car and that flexibility of mind that can change plans already endangered by the prevalence of bad weather.

But where did the author get his views on motoring? One's first impression was of reading a treatise on Alpine driving written in the twenties. A dreadful picture was created of a reader of this book creeping fearfully down Alpine passes for miles in indirect gears, not daring to touch his brakes lest they smoke, and creeping equally fearfully up them lest, if he went too fast, his car should boil. Somewhere in the text the author claims a descent of 15 miles without touching his brakes—quite possible, but to what end? Somehow this book reflects the subjective approach of so many British motorists to the mountain roads of Europe. One should not overlook the daily use of these roads by the baker and the greengrocer, hundreds of people going about their affairs and driving their vehicles in a normal matter-of-fact way, at speed (and often quite high speeds), as a part of their lives. These cars do not boil and their brakes are used frequently. And they still go on running daily, week in and week out, long after the holiday motorist has departed.

None the less, this is a useful reference work to supplement one's maps when planning a holiday, as it provides much information not readily obtainable from a single source.

L. R. PEPPER.

The Puma's Claw. By Simon Clark. Pp. 223. Illus. Hutchinson, London, 1959. 21s.

THIS is one of the best of recent expedition books. The wicket is, admittedly, favourable: there is a different flavour about Peru; the climbing of Pumasillo was exciting and concentrated, even the summit of the mountain, with a red-clad figure balanced, axe aloft, upon it, provides almost the perfect dust-cover. But it is not every writer who has the skill to do justice to good material. Simon Clark has

described the Cambridge Andean Expedition's achievement, which he himself did much to bring about, in an altogether admirable way. He has written not an official, but a personal story, which is perhaps why he is able to convey what he wishes to convey with such vividness. He mixes his ingredients well, humour not least among them, and—important point—he sticks closely to what is of direct interest. Thus, preparation and tourism are both treated adequately, but at no formidable length. The approach to the mountain, or rather the search for an approach to it, occupies a good third of the book, but legitimately; for getting to the peak was a problem only less awkward than climbing it. Finally, the climb itself is sustained at such a momentum, the whole thing occupying only about ten days, that once one is embarked upon it there is little temptation to put the book down unfinished. The return march is ruthlessly omitted—indeed, one is left wondering what the expedition did with the second mule train of its belongings, which was not due to arrive at Base Camp until nearly a week after the victory banquet with which the narrative concludes. There are no appendices to the book, a point not without merit; and the photographs are excellent.

Attention naturally concentrates on the chapters relating to the actual climb. It is a poor Andean six-thousander which cannot be relied on to produce something bizarre in the way of snow and ice formations; Pumasillo, with its eggs, mushrooms and sugar-loaves, not to mention flutings and bulges, comes well up to form in this respect. Such features made the climbing not only difficult but exotic. The ice climbing on the ridge between Camps I and II, which must have been hair-raising, is brilliantly, and very lucidly, described; nor are some of the places immediately below the summit unexciting to read about. 'I felt like a tightrope walker on his platform; but here you didn't know what the rope was made of, or if it was tied at the other end.' A little further on, the author admits 'I would rather have fallen off than give it up'. One is so much with him at this point that it takes a second or two to register that this is not quite orthodox doctrine; one spares an admiring shudder and presses on again regardless. Yet this was a climb done with every possible technical precaution, and no chances taken other than those which the nature of the mountain made unavoidable. It is not surprising that in the hands of a good writer it makes a good story.

A. D. M. Cox.

Mountains and a Monastery. By Peter Holmes. Pp. 191. Illus. Geoffrey Bles, London, 1958. 21s.

THIS is a book about Spiti—the province of Tibetan character lying to the north of the main Himalayan divide—and its pleasingly named

inhabitants, the Pitoons. Peter Holmes visited this area both in 1955 and in 1956, but it is only with the second of these trips that this account is concerned. The European members of his party on this occasion consisted of himself, his wife and his brother-in-law, and their primary object was survey-work.

The book is clearly valuable for anyone intending to visit Spiti; and presumably of much interest to those who have already been there. It is full of information about local customs, legends and individuals; in fact one particular Pitoon boy becomes almost the central figure for quite a portion of the book. For those who are not interested in local lore and characters, however, it suffers through being something of a hotch-potch. Neither the mountains nor the monastery of the title loom very large. Two chapters, out of sixteen, relate to a short visit to the monastery, and the mountains do not crop up seriously until towards the end of the book. The climbing (which Holmes has described in *A. J.*, vol. 61) concentrates in the present account on one or two fairly dramatic episodes, particularly the crossing of two new passes in difficult conditions at the extreme end of the expedition. The photographs, which are in the main good, are nearly all of the country, the people or the monastery, and are not of much mountaineering interest. On the whole the book will commend itself, as it no doubt sets out to do, more as a travel book than as an addition to climbing literature pure and simple.

A. D. M. Cox.

MOUNTAINEERING JOURNALS

Die Alpen. 1958. No. 1. 'Ascensions nouvelles dans les Alpes suisses en 1957': by Max Oechslin. 'Lasst hören aus alter Zeit': by A. Tschopp. 'Dans le Wilde Kaiser': by W. van Laer. 'Autour de l'Eggishorn: contribution a l'histoire de l'alpinisme': by Louis Seylaz. 'Un événement cartographique: la carte de l'Everest au 1:25,000': by Marcel Kurz. 'Septembre glaciaire 1956': by M. Brandt and A. Voillat. 'Quelques mots sur les naissances des chamois et des bouquetins': by R-P. Bille.

No. 2. 'Voies nouvelles dans un massif inconnu': by M. Brandt. 'Opérations aériennes': by Hermann Geiger. 'Voyage pittoresque au Mont Blanc par le Valais': (unknown). 'Comment meurent les chamois': by E. D. 'Trois fois la paroi sud de la Schüsselkarspitze': by K. Lukan. 'Al Dammastock per la cresta della punta nord': by G. Augusto. 'Ascension du Kilimandjaro': by P. Reinhard. 'Bergfahrten in nordostanatolischen Grenzlanden': by M. Blumenthal. 'La paroi ouest des Drus': by P. Diener. 'Autour du Gran Paradiso': by M. Dörig.

No. 3. 'Chronique himalayenne 1957': by G. O. Dyhrenfurth. 'Dans les Aiguilles du Mont Blanc': by M. Niedermann. 'Varappes au Leutschachtal': by H. Müller. 'Alpinisme et publicité': by R. Schatz. 'I Denti della Vecchia': by G. Ritter. 'Le Doubs des légendes, de l'histoire, et des varappeurs': by M. Brandt. 'Les variations des glaciers suisses 1957': by A. Renaud.

No. 4. 'La face orientale du Petit Clocher du Portalet': by M. Vaucher. 'Au Tibet: faune fantastique et faune domestique': by Colin Wyatt. 'Une semaine de ski en Vanoise': by R. de Kalbermatten. 'Etapas d'autrefois': by Louis Seylaz. 'Courses à ski autour de Fez': by E. Wenzel. 'Randonnée autour du Mont Rose': by P. Schmid. 'Die Lawine in der Sage': by E. Rohrer. 'Fjords bleus et cimes blanches' (Expedition autrichienne 1957 au Groenland): by H. Gsellmann.

La Montagne et Alpinisme. 1958. FEBRUARY. Georges Livanos writes of the experiences of a conjugal rope on some sixth-grade Dolomite climbs. The stupendous efforts needed to effect the rescue of the Italian, Corti, from the Eigerwand in August 1957 are well described by Lionel Terray who took a leading part in the operation. The German climber, Hellepart, equipped with a two-way radio set,

was lowered down the face on a steel cable to find Corti 1,200 ft. below. After superhuman efforts by Hellepart and by those at the other end of the cable Corti was brought to the top, to enquire whether his 'ascent' would qualify as the first Italian ascent of the Eigerwand. One can but hope that all intending climbers of the Eigerwand will read this account before making their attempt. The two other articles in this number are of particular interest to skiers. André Roch describes the conditions governing the fall of avalanches and André Georges writes of the attractions of La Grave as a skiing centre.

APRIL. The first ascent of Mont Blanc is reviewed by Alain de Chatellus, with particular reference to the book on the subject by Professor Graham Brown and Sir Gavin de Beer published at the time of the Alpine Club Centenary. Another legend seems slowly to be taking its place in Alpine history and M. de Chatellus is nourishing its growth. Whymper himself did *not* exclaim 'Who is this Dr. Paccard?' He did suggest, however, that the inhabitants of Chamonix were so ignorant that one of them might well have put the question.¹

The Val Montjoie and its North-face climbs are described by Maurice Lenoir, and J-P. Gardinier writes about the 1958 C.A.F. expedition to the Hoggar.

JUNE. In October 1956 the Refuge de la Brèche de Roland above Gavarnie was inaugurated, and Robert Ollivier summarises the factors that led to the choice of the site for this refuge and the climbs that may be made from it.

Madame Claude Kogan gives an account of Raymond Lambert's Franco-Swiss expedition to the Cordillera Blanca in 1957. The climbs included the third ascent of Pucaranra. The valley of Lauterbrunnen and the great mountain wall to the south are described by Alain de Chatellus; this article may well be read in conjunction with that in *Alpinisme*, June 1949, by Fred. Muller which deals with the same district. Maurice Dodero has an article about various types of climbing ropes and their employment.

OCTOBER. The history of the efforts of the Comité des Stations Françaises de Sports d'Hiver (founded in 1945) to organise the country's winter sports resorts is related by the President of the Committee, Jacques Mouflier, who traces their growth from the days of 1925 when Chamonix and Megève were the only two winter sports centres in France.

Many great ice-men have had their earliest expeditions in the Austrian Alps and in an interesting article Gilbert Tassaux gives an account of the most important ice climbs in the Eastern Alps. Some

¹ See *A.J.* 62. 185.

of these no longer hold their former reputation ; if conditions are favourable, scarcely a fine Sunday passes in summer without the Pallavicini couloir on the Gross Glockner being climbed.² The North-west face of the Gross Wiesbachhorn is not now so difficult as when the first ascent was made in 1924. Others, for example the North face of the Ortler, are so dangerous that very few ascents have been made. The very difficult question of ' form ' is discussed by Robert Gouiran and Micheline Morin describes her climbs on the Cornish cliffs.

DECEMBER. Georges Livanos recounts an ascent of the North-west wall of the Civetta, ' la Paroi des Parois '. Maurice Lenoir gives some statistics of the results of skiing accidents, sufficient in themselves to show how desirable it is that a satisfactory type of ' safety ' binding should be used by all skiers. Several types are illustrated and described in his article.

On November 2 Jean Couzy was killed on the South-west wall of the Crête des Bergers, an unlucky mischance of a kind that has proved fatal to some of the greatest mountaineers. The last climb is described by his companion, Jean Puiseux.

Österreichische Alpenzeitung. In the first number of 1958 Diether Marchart discusses whether the first ascent of the West face of the Dru marked a turning point in the development of mountaineering. Marchart and his companion, it may be mentioned, reached the summit at 3 p.m. on the second day of their ascent, the ninth : the first party made their fourth bivouac on the summit. An account of the 1957 Austrian expedition to the Staunings range of Greenland is given by H. Köllensperger and O. W. Steiner describes an ascent of the North ridge of the Zugspitze.

The second issue, No. 1298, is almost entirely devoted to a monograph on ' Die Karnischen Voralpen ' by Wolfgang Herberg.

No. 1299 contains a short article by Heinrich Harrer on three first ascents in North America, Mts. Deborah, Drum, and Hunter, and Dr. K. Schimke pays a tribute to his companion, the late Dr. Walter Frauenberger, in describing an ascent of the Gosauer Däumling.

In No. 1300 Kurt Maix writes an appreciation of Hermann Buhl, to whose memory Kurt Diemberger dedicates his article about the first ascent of Broad Peak and the ill-fated attempt on Chogolisa. E. Sternbach questions whether the correct height has been assigned to the 5,943-m. peak south-west of Mitre Peak in the Karakoram.

The Austrians have had several notable successes in the Himalayas

² Not long before the outbreak of the last war this famous couloir was climbed by a party of German mountain troops in full equipment.

and Karakoram and the story of one of these, the first ascent of Haramosh, is told by Franz Mandl in No. 1301 which also contains an article by S. Walcher describing ascents in the mountains between the Adige and the Brenta.

No. 1302 opens with an account of an ascent of the Aiguille Verte by J. Prokesch. Dr. G. O. Dyhrenfurth brings up to date his list of ascents of the 7,000- and 8,000-metre peaks which was published in No. 1295 and Fritz Mandl has some observations to make about the Hunza porters and the weather experienced by the successful Haramosh expedition of last summer. The narrative of the Italian expedition to the Cerro Paine in the Patagonian Andes, from the original in *Rivista Mensile*, is recounted by G. Koch.

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