

REVIEWS

Karakoram. By Fosco Maraini. Pp. 320, 108 illustrations, 20 sketches, 4 maps. Hutchinson, London, 1961. Price 63s.

SINCE the war two great expeditions from Italy have entered the Eastern Karakoram—that traditional arena of Italian mountaineering—and both have emerged with conspicuous success. Both have been endowed, not unnaturally, with the spirit which characterises post-war Italy: a combination of impressive industry, hard professionalism and affluence and embodying too, perhaps, the national desire to disprove the legend and efface the image of the two previous decades.

The first of these expeditions was that to K2. The second, in 1958, made the first ascent of that 'masterpiece of a mountain', Gasherbrum IV. It is the story of this expedition which Signor Maraini tells in his remarkable book *Karakoram*.

The immediate impact of the book is made by the photographs and to a lesser extent the numerous excellent illustrations. But it is the colour photographs which hold the eye and create for the reader the world of the Karakoram. They set new standards in the photographic illustration of mountaineering books: they are superb.

Signor Maraini takes his time and 177 pages out of a total of 290 to bring the reader to Gasherbrum IV. The approach march is dealt with in considerable detail, dallying here and there with brief histories of the surrounding peaks. But it never becomes just another wearisome tale of the classic and oft-told hazards of coping with a vast coolie convoy. For Signor Maraini looks upon the people of the Karakoram with the eye of a practised ethnologist and also that of a humanist and he describes them and their country lovingly, and with understanding.

And yet, in spite of the skill with which the march-in is described, one has the feeling of being merely an onlooker during this conducted tour and begins to be impatient for the story and the expedition to get to grips with their mountain. But once at Base Camp Signor Maraini's brilliant evocation of life on a Himalayan expedition lifts the book into a class of its own, far removed from the usual run of dull pedestrian accounts, and the reader is drawn quickly into the centre of the party.

Gasherbrum IV proved to be a mountain of despair: a great looming granite hulk which dominated the party and almost crushed their spirit and their hopes. Blasted by the inferno of ice and sun by day, frozen by night, haunted by the fear of avalanche and goaded by an immense desire for success the party dragged itself upwards. The long, difficult glacier flog was succeeded by a repellent ice-fall and above 23,000 ft.,

on the savage spine of the North-east ridge, they were forced to undertake climbing of a higher standard than ever before attempted at this height.

For a time the supply line between the camps, stretched to the limit, threatened to break. The advance had gone on too fast and too relentlessly. There seemed to be too much to carry up the mountain, perhaps one of the disadvantages of affluence (it had taken 514 porters to carry it all to Base Camp), and for a while the whole great pyramid of effort was in danger of collapse. At one point the author asks, 'Is it a mountain or a nightmare?'

Perhaps the nightmarish aspect, the agonies, the stresses of altitude fatigue and the difficulties, are sometimes a little overstated. Possibly the key to this lies partly in the deep-felt need for success and partly in the nature of the party, for they are professionals almost to a man and very conscious of it. Early on in the book Signor Maraini compares them with the Americans who are going to Hidden Peak. '... Nice, quiet, well-mannered, harmless Americans these. Enthusiastic about everything. . . . My own companions, when I came to think about it, seemed far harder, tougher nuts than these mere youths. . . . But the really telling factor was this: the Americans, to use the word in its purest sense, were dilettanti; they were doctors, schoolmasters, technicians, agriculturalists who had left their desks and offices for a glorious adventure, and a slightly crazy one. Our men were essentially mountaineers, professional climbers: the ice-wall, the glacier, the arête were their whole life, they were career and family, bread and passion.'

The great peaks are no place for amateurish, ill-conceived escapades, but the Italians seemed to lack some of the light-heartedness and the flexibility of mind of the amateur. There is, perhaps, in the story, too much of an air of self-sacrificial dedication about the party, which inevitably pervades the writing.

For all that, Signor Maraini describes his companions well and with feeling. Cassin, the old master; the veteran of so many great climbs, harassed, burdened and depressed by the lonely worries and anxieties of leadership, forcing himself on and recognising sadly that at these heights age is beginning to tell, involving him in a personal defeat. Gobbi, the brain of the expedition; retiring every so often with paper, pencil and figures, to solve the recurring problems of logistics and porters.

The three quiet men, Oberto, Francesch and Zeni, who in their unspectacular way always did what was required of them and were always in the right place. Especially between Camps IV and V, on the fretted rock blade of the North-east ridge, when Francesch and Zeni sustained the summit pair Mauri and Bonatti. These two, exquisitely matched as a climbing team, were the spearhead: the elementally

forceful Mauri and the incomparable Bonatti, striding the heights like a Colossus.

Unfortunately, although Signor Maraini sketches the characters of his companions in strong enough lines to make them stand out clearly as individuals against the background of the expedition, he gives us only brief and tantalising glimpses of their relationships with each other. When is someone going to take a long, deep look into the real heart of a Himalayan expedition—the men who form the party? One feels that Signor Maraini could do it: for he has the courage to write frankly about the almost disastrous misunderstandings and clashes between the Italians and their unfortunate Pakistani liaison officer.

Perhaps the cast was too large and the characters too well-known. At least for once the mountain is not allowed to come between the reader and the expedition.

Karakoram is altogether a memorable story, sensitively translated from the Italian by James Caddell. Signor Maraini is an artist with pen and camera and he has written a book which is unsurpassed in this field of writing. It lifts at last the horizon of Himalayan literature. Its place is assured among the very few classic records of men and mountains.

JAMES MILLS.

White Mountain and Tawny Plain. By Günther Hauser. Pp. 224. Illus. Geo. Allen & Unwin, London. 1961. Price 28s.

As recorded in the *ALPINE JOURNAL* (vol. 63, p. 260), in June, 1957, four members of the Schwaben Section of the D.A.V. reached the South summit of Alpamayo, an outstandingly beautiful peak of c. 20,000 ft. in the Cordillera Blanca of Peru. This feat was the culminating achievement of an expedition led by Günther Hauser with the avowed objects of making surveys in the Cordillera Blanca and the Cordillera Vilcanota, climbing some of the remaining virgin peaks, making ethnological and archaeological studies, taking photographs, making sound recordings of the language, music and songs of the highland and jungle Indians, and collecting insects for the Natural History Museum in Stuttgart. This book is an account of the expedition's adventures, interspersed with an historical summary and some observations concerning Peru and its peoples.

Although the author describes some of the climbs in considerable detail, so that the reader can appreciate the enthusiasm and determination with which they were tackled, he does not aim to satisfy future climbers in the same regions, but rather to convey his impressions of the country to a wider public. In this, however, he seems over-ambitious. Herr Hauser and his companions travelled fairly widely by air, road and mountain trail, and he supplements extensive reading with information

gathered locally, but his observations are apt to be—unavoidably—superficial. For instance, his assertion that 'Peru's future lies in the jungle territory' is debatable. He is reticent about dates—which would have enhanced the value of his remarks about weather conditions—but he does not appear to have spent more than two or three months in the country.

For the mountaineer, the most interesting parts of the book are the accounts of the first ascents of Jatunhuma (19,994 ft.) in the Cordillera Vilcanota and of Alpamayo in the Cordillera Blanca. Unfortunately the photographs give no indication of the routes taken on these formidable mountains, and the 'maps' are no more than diagrams. But Herr Hauser's eagerness to achieve his objectives, and his frank expression of doubts and fears, arouse the understanding and sympathy of the reader and are in refreshing contrast to the bombastic claims of certain German climbers during the Hitler régime.

The story has been written in a pleasantly conversational style and the translation appears (without a sight of the German original) to be good. But there is no Index. Although there are frequent references to the high plateaux, peculiar to the Andes, known as *puña*, their nature is inadequately described and the name is invariably written *puna*. It surprised the reviewer to learn, on p. 119, that the expedition enjoyed camp fires on the *puña*. During many weeks spent on these inhospitable plateaux he never found enough fuel for a camp fire. Perhaps the luxury was a local phenomenon. The picture of the Urubamba valley facing p. 161 is described as 'The Urubambatal valley'—presumably a translator's slip. The translator seems also to be in doubt about the author's christian name, which is spelt in four different ways.

V. COVERLEY-PRICE.

Mischief among the Penguins. By H. W. Tilman. Pp. 192. Illus. Rupert Hart-Davis, London. 1961. Price 21s.

IN this book Tilman describes an eleven months voyage of some 21,000 miles to the mountains of Iles Crozet and Ile Kerguelen. These two island groups, 700 miles apart, are situated in the Southern Ocean, in the Roaring Forties, about half way between the Cape of Good Hope and Australia.

Tilman's description of a previous voyage—'an intolerable deal of sea, so to speak, to one half pennyworth of mountain'—could be even more truly applied to this one. The mountains of Iles Crozet turned out to be a mere 3,000 ft. high and without permanent snow instead of the 5,000 ft. promised in the *Antarctic Pilot*. In Kerguelen a plan to attempt the unknown Mount Ross, 6,420 ft., the highest peak in the islands, was discarded in favour of exploring the unknown ice-cap which

saddles the centre of the island. Some fine weather enabled Tilman and one companion to achieve this. The ice-cap, which extends for about twenty-five miles by eight, has its highest point at 3,300 ft. Mount Ross was seen away to the south, a truly alpine peak and a worthy objective.

The book, therefore, is mainly the story of a long ocean voyage carried out—as all well-planned adventures should be—without notable incident. There were a few minor mishaps, the worst of which were a badly sprung bowsprit and a fire in the galley, both of which occurred when within twenty-four hours of Cape Town on the return voyage. But despite the lack of anything exciting to write about the book never lacks interest. Tilman brings out the problems of fitting out, sailing ship routes and navigation, and the difficulties of living cheek by jowl with five others in a small boat on an empty ocean. (A plan of *Mischief's* internal lay-out, and of her rigging, would have added considerable interest.) He writes movingly of the thrill of making a landfall and certainly there is no landfall like that on a desolate inhospitable coast with snowy rocks rising up into the mist and a heavy swell breaking on uncharted rocks below. He also writes interestingly on the wild life seen and of tough seamen who were wrecked on Iles Crozet over a hundred years ago.

Tilman seems to have been lucky in his weather in that he never had any really bad gales. If anyone feels inspired to carry out similar voyages I would recommend him, before he starts, to read *Once is Enough*, by Smeaton. He describes how he was twice rolled over and dismasted when drifting in a well-found boat with bare poles before severe gales in this same Southern Ocean. There is a photograph in his book, taken from the *Admiral Scheer* in the Denmark Strait during the last war, which shows a sea such as engulfed him. It is a frightening sight. It seems that there are seas which even the most sea-worthy small boat will be lucky to withstand. Perhaps Tilman was disappointed that he met no such challenge.¹ Man can take all possible precautions but ultimately it will be providence that decides his fate. If this were not so, deep-sea sailing and mountaineering would soon lose their charm.

The well-known modesty and humour of the author should not be allowed to blind the reader from appreciating his enterprise, daring and competence which place him amongst the great ocean sailors of our time.

F. R. BROOKE.

¹ It will be recalled that in 1958 Tilman, on his first attempt to reach the Crozets, had *Mischief* so severely damaged by storms that he had to beat a retreat—EDITOR.

Airborne to the Mountains. By James Mills. Pp. 202. Illus. Herbert Jenkins, Ltd., London. 1961. Price 25s.

THIS book is a praiseworthy attempt to answer Winthrop Young's plea for better mountain writing. Mills gives a very frank and full description of the reactions, frustrations, failures and triumphs of four army officers engaged in some tough mountain exploration in Alaska. The party did some very difficult glacier travel and reached two cols and the summits of three high peaks. But these achievements take second place in the book to the story of Mills himself and the personal relationships between the members of the party.

It is very well done, the dialogue and detail ring true to life. This book will give the non-mountaineering reader an excellent idea of what it is actually like to be on an expedition. Yet I doubt whether it will appeal much to the mountaineering reader. In the end I became rather tired of reading of the emotional upsets of members of the party. Do we really think of our companions in this way? Do we really get so irritated with, and rude to, one another? I am prepared to accept the fact that we do, but they are not usually lasting memories. I have been on an expedition (to Rakoposhi in 1958) with both Jimmy Mills and Warwick Deacock and I cannot remember them being short tempered with, or swearing at, anybody. Surely, in practice the irritating actions of our companions and their quick-tempered outbursts are treated as they deserve to be. We know it is only a small portion of our friends' personality that, under the stress of the moment, is voicing these words, so they are cast to the back of the mind and forgotten. What remains in memory is the glory of the mountains and the companionship of our friends. Knowing Jimmy Mills, I am sure this is really what he remembers about this expedition. I do not think the book achieves this emphasis.

Mills' writing, which starts by being fresh and invigorating, tends to be journalistic in the description of mountain action. I would have welcomed a few sober guide book type phrases to lend a sense of scale, both of size and difficulty, to his descriptions. The peaks of Alaska are so far outside my experience that I found it very difficult to form a true appreciation of the mountaineering achieved, and the book raised many questions. Why, for instance, was it necessary to go so early in the year when it seems there might have been easier travelling conditions on the glaciers later on? What were the actual temperatures? Would it not have been better to have had one tent big enough for all four men instead of cramming four men into a two-man tent with all the attendant discomfort? Was Mills satisfied that he had the best equipment for the job? The loads seem to have been very heavy even when only carrying a single tent and a few days' food. Even if these and many other questions could not have been answered in the text an

appendix should have been included, together with the other interesting appendices, giving a true appreciation of the problem of climbing these peaks, especially since, as Mills himself points out, this was the first British expedition to visit Alaska.²

Despite these personal criticisms I have no doubt that the book will be widely read, and it certainly ought to be read by those who are about to go on their first expedition.

F. R. BROOKE.

The Lure of Everest. By Gyan Singh. Pp. 211. Publications Division, Ministry of Information, Delhi, 1961. Price 25s.

THE Indian expedition to Everest in 1960 enjoyed extraordinary success. The word 'extraordinary' would seem justified for at least three reasons: the members of the team were, by European standards, relatively inexperienced; most of the equipment was manufactured in India at short notice; and this was the first Indian attempt on the mountain. Yet three men came within 700 ft. of the top and were turned back only by weather that would necessarily have defeated the summit teams of 1953 and 1956.

Success in reaching 28,300 ft. in these circumstances is worth examining, and Brigadier Gyan Singh's unadorned but frank writing makes the causes plain. From the leader down, this Indian team possessed in full measure the two elements indispensable to achievement in a tough and testing venture—enthusiasm, and seriousness of purpose.

Too much can be made, and too often has been made, of the need of great experience prior to undertaking new enterprises. No one will dispute the value of wide and practical knowledge, but if we stop to examine the records we discover the general rule that the pundits of mountaineering made their great achievements when they were young and relatively inexperienced, not when they were old and wise. They live to become old and wise if they have a basic common-sense and alert minds. Granted these things, men can safely go anywhere. But to get near the top of Everest, they also need what the Indians had.

Such are the lessons to be learned from Gyan Singh's book. The narrative is lively and its seriousness of purpose relieved by what in an Englishman would seem light-heartedness, and which in the Indian appears to be an acceptance of karma: he makes the strongest effort he can and leaves the result to Brahma. In defeat he feels a natural human regret but no need to seek excuse.

² This is not correct. In 1888 H. W. Topham, A.C., took an expedition to Alaska and made an attempt on Mount St. Elias. See *A.J.* 14. 345. Other British climbers have of course visited Alaska as members of American expeditions. Professor Graham Brown took part in the first ascent of Mount Foraker and Professor N. E. Odell in that of Mount Vancouver.

The book is constructed on the orthodox lines, with numerous maps, sketches, photographs, appendices and a foreword by Mr. Nehru.

W. H. MURRAY.

Snow Commando. By Mike Banks. Pp. 192, 14 illustrations. Burke, London, 1961. Price 12s. 6d.

THIS is the first of a new series for boys and girls on Modern Men of Action. Mike Banks has plenty of action to write about. Beach battles in Burma during the war gave him a taste for adventure. Routine regimental soldiering in peacetime did not supply it, so, within one week, he applied to be a pilot in the Fleet Air Arm, to be a parachutist, canoeist, frogman, to join the Sudan Camel Corps or the Somaliland Scouts, to be a Commando cliff climbing instructor, to be a Turkish interpreter. The staff took the hint that he would like a change of job, and he was in fact posted to the Commando Cliff Assault Centre. His training there set him on the road that was to lead to mountaineering in Wales, the Lakes, Scotland and the Alps, including his famous moonlight ascent of Route Major on Mont Blanc; to two expeditions to Greenland; and finally to the Himalayas and (at the second attempt) victory on Rakaposhi. At the end of the book he is leading a party of young sailors and marines up Kilimanjaro.

Some of the material for the book is already familiar to readers of the *A.J.* and Banks' other books, but the manner of the retelling is well suited to the present purpose. The style is simple, the language familiar (occasionally to the point of cliché), and it is all agreeably unself-conscious: when things were difficult or dangerous, Banks rightly says so, thus escaping from the tiresome convention of mountaineers' understatement, which has to be so carefully interspersed with clues so that the knowledgeable will not fail to recognise that it is understatement.

As the archetypal Modern Man of Action Banks has set an admirable example both to other contributors to the series and to his young readers.

A. K. RAWLINSON.

To the Unknown Mountain. By Wilfrid Noyce. Pp. xii, 183. Illus. Wm. Heinemann, London, 1962. Price 21s.

THIS book strikes me as the best that Noyce has written, if readability is the criterion. *South Col* was good, but by the time it appeared we all knew the story of Everest pretty well, whereas the climbing of Trivor, though the subject of a lecture to the Club last year and of an article in *A.J.* 66. 9, is less familiar. And readers of the *A.J.* narrative need not think they thereby know the whole story, for then Noyce deliberately passed over in silence 'the hurdles of plane, jeep and foot-march that had to be taken' before, on July 18, 1960, they reached

Nagar. And subsequent difficulties, which can be summarised under one word, 'Porters', were also glossed over.

In *To the Unknown Mountain*, Noyce gives us the full story, plus numerous reflections on mountaineering in general such as we can expect from him. It is the infuriating difficulties presented by the transport question that dominate the theme of the book in its earlier chapters. Grumbling, thieving, cheating were so much the order of the day with the porters that the reader is apt to find himself hoping (vainly) that at last Noyce will deal with them in the fashion they would best understand, and double-cross the lot of them.

The Nagar porters come very badly out of the tale, and even the six selected high-altitude Hunzas, with one exception, stole from their employers, though they were generously treated. As the *A.J.* had occasion to remark before (vol. 65, p. 52), there have been a number of expeditions in these parts that have been victimised. Noyce had to pay three times the rates paid by the State for labour and had bad service in return; it is a matter discreditable to the authorities on the spot.

The climbing of Trivor is graphically described; ill-health in one form or the other dogged the party, and whilst it was certainly very hard luck for Whillans to be denied the summit by a fleeting touch of polio, after all his work in preparing the route, it was a fine effort by Sadler, with a badly congested throat that rendered eating very difficult, and later with frost-bitten fingers and toes, to reach the top, and a no less remarkable performance on Noyce's part—particularly pleasing, this, after all his worries on the march.

In an appendix, Whillans tells of his journey home overland by motor-cycle, *via* Afghanistan, Persia, Turkey, Bulgaria, &c. This was a good achievement for a man who had so recently, if only for two or three days, had polio; the one thing, indeed, on this expedition that seems to have got Whillans down was Eastern food, particularly rice, which he much disliked. One wishes him more congenial fare and better luck on his present occupation, of trying to climb in the FitzRoy Mountains of South America.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

Annapurna II. By R. H. Grant. Pp. 192. Illus. Wm. Kimber, London, 1961. Price 30s.

ANNAPURNA II is a splendid peak, isolated, formidable, and one that seems to be more than usually subject to bad weather. It is approached through country still comparatively unknown, and full of beauty and interest. Colonel Roberts' expedition climbed Annapurna II, a fine achievement, and twice repeated the ascent of Annapurna IV.

These facts are material for a first-rate book, if the tale were simply

told, but this book does them less than justice. A good deal is included that is irrelevant, and not enough is told of what the climbers saw and did. The map is inadequate, and the topography is little described. It is hard for the reader to make out where the preliminary journeys were made during the period of acclimatisation, and the exact course of the route up the mountain is neither satisfactorily explained, nor shown in the photographs. There is no index, and in the equipment appendix no description of the oxygen apparatus, a part of the equipment about which it would be of interest to know. Moreover, there are many misprints, such as Lachend for Lachenal, and, twice, Marcel King for Marcel Kurz.

The book, however, gains greatly in interest in the last two chapters. Captain Grant's own feats, of reaching the top while carrying a useless oxygen set, and of arresting his own fall and Bonington's on the descent, are memorable; and it is delightful to read of Urkien and Mingma setting out on their own account to climb Annapurna IV on a day off.

R. C. EVANS.

Handbook on Ski-Touring and Glacier Ski-ing. Second Edition. Published by the Ski Club of Great Britain in conjunction with the Alpine Ski Club. Pp. 97. Price 4s. 6d.

THIS useful pocket book has been brought up to date by the Ski Mountaineering and Touring Committee of the Ski Club. The subject concerns the mountaineers amongst the skiers. A wide field is covered in a clear and condensed way. The book tries to show how to avoid the many hazards and dangers of the often severe Alpine winter weather. Avalanches, crevasses, rescue work and first-aid are treated in detail. There is just one minor point about which I am not quite happy. Cords or bootlaces are recommended to the skier using release bindings to secure the ski to the boot. I have seen these cords break in a fall with serious consequences. I am in favour of using the leather straps, made specially for this purpose, and I should like to see these straps used with or without release bindings. In the chapter about 'Bivouacs' nothing is said about the good old Zdarsky bag which was used to provide shelter for three people and weighed only one pound. It appears from the January, 1962, issue of *Mountaineering* that a modern type of this kind of emergency tent is available.

This minor omission diminishes in no way the value of the book. It is based on experiences of well-known mountaineers in the Alps and elsewhere. Changing conditions are considered in detail. I mention as example the addition of 'Air Rescue Signals' to the chapter 'Alpine Distress Signals'.

I regard the book as a 'must' for the skier who starts to leave the

piste for the real mountains, and believe it will make highly interesting reading even for the expert. The leader of every ski-mountaineering expedition would do well, in the interest of the safety of his party, to have a copy of this excellent second edition in his rucksack.

W. KIRSTEIN.

The Swiss Alps. By Vivian H. Green. Pp. 240, 55 illustrations, 10 maps. Batsford, 1961. Price 30s.

DR. VIVIAN GREEN, an historian Fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford, has walked and travelled much in the mountain regions of Switzerland, and recently spent a sabbatical year there. In this book he gives a pleasant and informative survey of each region in turn, commenting on the life of the locality, its history, geography and economy, with an occasional anecdote of his own travels.

Dr. Green is not a climber and his knowledge of climbing appears to be slight. To those who think of the Alps primarily in terms of climbing the mountains his book is a valuable reminder that there is more to them than that. Though climbers will be disappointed that in a book of this title references to climbing should be limited to a few well-known stories once again reproduced, to any of them who find an enforced stay in the valley dull the other interests and pleasures which Dr. Green has found in the Alps should serve as an example and a rebuke.

A. K. RAWLINSON.

The Real Book of Mountaineering. By William B. McMorris. Pp. 192. Dobson Books, London, 1961. Price 10s. 6d.

THIS book for young people was first published in America in 1958 and revised for its London production. It opens with a chapter on 'Why Do Men Climb?' The answer makes it plain that men climb for the fun of it, and also for the challenge of the unknown and difficult. These challenges are then illustrated—Whymper and the Matterhorn (with a sketch of tumbling bodies that would gild even a Horror Comic)—the Himalaya, Everest, the Andes and the Rockies. Interspersed is information on technique, with a final chapter on mechanical climbing and equipment.

The text shows many errors of fact, due more to sweeping statements in the interest of brevity, we must hope, than to ignorance in the author; e.g., the impression is given that no climbing is possible in the Himalaya during the monsoon, and the first reconnaissance and ascent of the Everest ice-fall is ascribed wrongly to Tilman and Houston in 1950. The practical counsel given is good. The book makes dull reading for an adult, but a boy of 12 to 14 might well be stirred if this were his first introduction to mountains.

W. H. MURRAY.

The Great Motor Highways of the Alps. By Hugh Merrick. Revised edition. Pp. 272. Illus. Robert Hale, London. 1961. Price 35s.

THE first edition of this book was reviewed in *A.J.* 64. 145 and it is not necessary to do more than welcome a fresh issue. It has not been possible, the author says, to keep abreast of all the changes in Alpine roads during the last three years. He has made such alterations as he could and invites readers to send him information that corrects any statements that time may have rendered out of date.

T. S. B.

MOUNTAINEERING JOURNALS

Les Alpes. 1961. No. 1. 'Landschaftsformen eines Alpental. Valle del Lucomagno, Ticino': by V. Binggeli. 'Deux itinéraires à travers les Alpes': by A. Hofmann. 'Le premier livre des voyageurs de la cabane Forno': by H. C. Cramer. 'Die Bärengrube': by P. P. Hartmann. 'Dhaulagiri': by M. Eiselin. 'L'arête de Peuterey par la face nord de l'Aiguille Blanche': by P. Diener. 'Venetz et la théorie glaciaire': by I. Mariétan. 'A ski dans les Hautes Alpes françaises': by G. Currat. 'La première du Pilier sud-est du Titlis': by P. Mauron. 'Expédition au Groenland du nord-ouest': by P. Ghiglione. 'Edouard Whymper au Groenland': by P. Bossey.

No. 2. 'Un apprentissage': by E. Pidoux. 'Le Grand Assaly, 3174 m.': by F. Henny. 'Une ascension nocturne du Stromboli': by P. Strinati. 'Les "découpeurs" du Pays-d'Enhaut': by H. Dænzer. 'La Barre des Ecrins et ses satellites': by W. Güller. 'Von Natur und Technik in den Lepontinischen Alpen': by P. Schmid. 'Dans la vallée de Binn par le sommet de l'Ofenhorn': by W. Schmid. 'L'Obergabelhorn par l'Arbengrat': by E. Schlup.

No. 3. 'Dans les montagnes de l'Andorre (Pyrénées orientales)': by M. M. Blumenthal. 'Les cristaux des Alpes valaisannes': by H. Grossglauser. 'Une nuit de bivouac sous le sommet du Badile': by H. Kornacher. 'Le Caucase d'aujourd'hui': by A. von Wandau. 'Face nord du Fletschhorn, 3996 m.': by E. Vanis. 'Gasherbrum IV': by A. Biancardi. 'Retraite aux tours du Bockmattli': by R. Meier. 'Almageller Eindrücke': by I. Limbach. 'Un précurseur oublié de la théorie glaciaire': by L. Seylaz. 'Les variations des glaciers suisses 1959-1960': by A. Renaud.

No. 4. '100 Jahre Einschneien und Ausapern in Andermatt (1860-1960)': by E. Ambühl. 'En bordure de l'Himalaya, une montagne solitaire; le Mankial Peak': by W. Stefan. 'Zwei Formen bergsteigerischer Erlebnisweise': by K. Greitbauer. 'Ascension du Phan-si-pan': by M. Rozehnal. 'Mawenzi': by F. Lœrtscher. 'Ascensions en Dauphiné': by E. Friedli. 'Arêtes neigeuses, arêtes rocheuses dans la région de Kandersteg': by L. Rüttimeyer. 'Histoire inconnue d'un tunnel alpin': by P. Perrin. 'Au centre du Groenland': by A. Renaud.

La Montagne et Alpinisme. 1961. FEBRUARY. Shih Chan-Chun tells the story of the Chinese ascent of Mount Everest, and the attractions of Zermatt as a winter sports centre are described by Maurice d'Allèves.

The very difficult South wall of the Tozal del Mallo in the Ordésa valley of the Pyrenees was climbed for the first time in April, 1957; Patrice de Bellefon gives an account of an ascent in September, 1960, by a route directly up the centre of the face.

APRIL. An article by Georges Livanos tells of the adventures of the Franco-Italian party which made the first ascent of the Sciora di Fuori by the West face and South arête. The West face is some 500 m. high; the climb required two bivouacs, the second as a result of bad weather.

The first winter traverse of the four peaks of the Pic du Midi d'Ossau is described by Jean Puiseux and then Robert Walter takes us to less-known regions in writing about Kap and Rum Siki in the northern Cameroons.

JUNE. The much discussed first winter ascent of the Eigerwand is described at length by Toni Hiebeler, the leader of the party. His account makes it quite clear that the second and final attempt began from the Gallery Window.

Naturalists, in particular, will be interested in R.-P. Bille's article describing his successful efforts to photograph the wild life of the mountains.

Alain de Chatellus writes about the Bergell, or Val Bregaglia, and some of the many attractive expeditions it has to offer to mountaineers.

OCTOBER. 'A la recherche de la perfection', by R. Guillaume, the opening article of this number, is an account of the first winter ascent of the Pilier Bonatti on the Dru.³

The Central Pillar of Frêney of Mont Blanc was much in the news last summer. The first ascent was made by an Anglo-Polish party at the end of August and on the same day a Franco-Italian party was also successful. The fortunes of these two parties are described by R. Desmaison, while the guide Pierre Julien writes of his unsuccessful attempt a few weeks earlier with the Italian climber I. Piussi.

Samivel writes about marmots, his article being illustrated by some excellent 'close-up' photographs of these animals, and Maurice Lenoir has something to tell us of the members of the French ski team and of their achievements in 1960-1.

DECEMBER. 'Automne Himalayenne', by Alain Barbezat, deals with the French expedition to the Rolwaling Himal in the autumn of 1960. The most important achievement of the party was the first ascent of Pigferago, 21,720 ft.

R. Desmaison describes the first ascent of the South face of the East buttress of the Pic de Bure (massif du Devoluy); this route is said to be the most difficult yet achieved in the limestone massifs of the French

³ Guillaume and his companion on this ascent, Antoine Vieille, lost their lives in a storm after an attempt on the Central Pillar of Frêney in July.

Alps and among his own climbs Desmaison ranks it as second in difficulty after the *via direttissima* of the North face of the Cima Ovest di Lavaredo.

Skiers will find much to interest them in André Roch's article about the chief skiing resorts of the Grisons; the runs—and facilities—of Arosa, Davos and Klosters, St. Moritz and Pontresina are described.

In 'Faut-il équiper la montagne?' François Debon inveighs against the mechanisation of the mountains; his protest gives rise to the next article, 'S.O.S.', by Jacques Lancien, who explains the difficulties of the Committee of the C.A.F. in endeavouring to hold the balance between the protection of the beauty of the mountains and their opening-up for the benefit of the multitudes by means of *téléphériques* and other modern aids.

A word of praise is due for 'la chronique alpine', which appears in every number and is as interesting as ever with brief notes on mountaineering exploits in all parts of the world.

D. F. O. DANGAR.

Österreichische Alpenzeitung, 1961

No. 1315. Hubert Peterka has written an absorbing article on the history and exploration of the Fermeda group in the Dolomites, ranging from 1880 up to the middle 1930's.

S. Walcher reviews a German translation of Georges Livanos' *Au delà de la Verticale*, which itself was reviewed in *O.A.Z.* No. 1307.

Nos. 1316/17. The greater part of these joint numbers is taken up with a comprehensive and extremely interesting account of the 1960 Austrian Karakorum Expedition, in the course of which the first ascent of Distaghil Sar was achieved. The summit was not reached until 6 p.m. and, in consequence, the descent was made in almost total darkness. The participants, Günther Stärker and Diether Marchart, suffered from severe frostbite.

Kurt Diemberger reviews Max Eiselin's book, *Erfolg am Dhaulagiri*.

Review by Paul Kaltenegger of Marcel Kurz's *Chronique Himalayenne* and G. O. Dyhrenfurth's *Der dritte Pol*.

Eduard Sternbach in his 'The Panoramas from Broad Peak' gives a comprehensive explanation of the many photographs taken by Kurt Diemberger from the summit, on the occasion of the first ascent of this mountain in 1957. Many sketches and sketch-maps.

No. 1318. First ascent of Mt. Ghent in the Karakorum. This was a solo ascent by Wolfgang Axt, undertaken during the Österreichischer Gebirgsverein of the O.A.V. Karakorum Expedition, 1961.

Karl Schönthaler writes a hair-raising description of an ascent of the North face of the Westliche Zinne, by the so-called 'Swiss Route'.

The whole ascent consisted of one enormous overhang, during the course of which some very remarkable artificial climbing was indulged in.

Ascent of the Stangenwand in the Hochschwab, by Ernst Paulmichl.

No. 1319. This number is almost entirely devoted to an obituary of Dr. Karl Prusik, who died in May 1961, at the age of sixty-five. He was a remarkable man, soldier, climber, explorer, philosopher, musician and poet, and one long and unabridged poem from his pen is included in the article. He will always be remembered by his invention of the Prusik knot and method of extricating a climber who has fallen into a crevasse. His death was indirectly due to the harsh treatment which he received during his internment in a concentration camp in Rumania during the war. An exciting story of an experience which he and a companion underwent while trying out a new route on the Westliche Zinne is also included, entitled 'Rock-fall on the Westliche Zinne'.

No. 1320. Short account of the Swabian Andean Expedition 1961, during the course of which several five and six thousand metre peaks were climbed, one—Nevado Ulta, 5875 m.—a first ascent.

Detailed list of new climbs in the Eastern Alps during 1960.

E. NOEL BOWMAN.