

REVIEWS

Americans on Everest. By James Ramsey Ullman. Pp. xxi, 429. Illustrations. Michael Joseph, London, 1965. Price 50s.

MR. ULLMAN has written several mountaineering books, of which *The White Tower* is the best known. His book *Americans on Everest* is therefore a professional job. Although he did not accompany the expedition beyond Kathmandu, he had been associated with it from the beginning, knew all the members, and from their first-hand experiences has put together a full, fair, intimate account. It is pleasant to record that he pays due tribute to earlier expeditions. The book is meant to have a popular appeal—and one can't quarrel with that—so that those with sober tastes may find the writing florid, over-dramatic, lapsing frequently into *National Geographic Magazine* style. A style, no more than a man, that is popular, cannot be excellent, cannot have distinction, and therefore the publisher's claim that this is one of the classic mountaineering books is as wide of the mark as are most such claims. For the price of 50s. the illustrations are disappointing. There are six untrue colour plates while the black-and-white are not well reproduced and have been crammed together three or four to the page. Two minor points—will any British reader know of 'the late C. B. de Mille' who on p. 55 starts turning in his grave? And is 'by happenstance' the American for 'by chance'?

The fortunes of the various parties at work on the mountain are easy to follow. One of the main difficulties in describing a large expedition, that of showing where everyone is at a particular time, has been well overcome. The author appreciates the contradictions inherent in an Everest expedition—small parties or large, the mingling of mountaineering with science, flag-waving; and having discussed them he inevitably comes down on the side of the apes rather than the angels. The end justifies the means. 'No climber worth his salt', we are told, 'wants to climb in a crowd', but the party numbers twenty. 'Norman (the leader) preferred his mountaineering "straight"', but nevertheless takes with him four scientists. 'Mountaineers are not jingoistic flag-wavers', but Old Glory and the flag of the National Geographic are duly waved.

So much for the book. The expedition itself, like many others, met with mixed fortunes. The fatal accident in the first few days on the ice-fall might well have taken the steam out of a less resolute party. To have to pass repeatedly over the spot where Breitenbach lay buried under the

ice cannot have been encouraging. The changing of the original ambitious plan of mounting simultaneous assaults by the West ridge and the South Col led to trouble, setting up stresses and strains that, but for the good sense and good will of all concerned, might have ended in disintegration. After the establishment of Advanced Base at 21,350 ft. Dyhrenfurth seems to have feared that to allot equal resources to both the West ridge and the South Col parties might jeopardise success. He decided to give the latter priority and in spite of the protests of the West ridge adherents and the bitter arguments that ensued he stuck to his decision, a decision that was probably right and in the circumstances almost inevitable. Had it been a private expedition, answerable to no one, success would have been of less moment and both assaults might have been given equal chances. In which case it is conceivable that the West ridge party might not only have succeeded, as they did, but by having enough Sherpas to establish a camp higher than 27,250 ft. from which to start, might have been spared the night out at 28,000 ft. on the South ridge with its unhappy consequences of frostbite.

The reasons for the ten days of inaction at Advanced Base (21,350 ft.), while the unescorted Sherpas carried to the South Col, are not made clear. This seems to be carrying to an extreme the principle of the conservation of energy and cannot have been good for the morale. Judging by the account, long before the ten days were up, 'cafard' was oozing out of the tents. Our member J. O. M. Roberts, in an entertaining note about the transport problems, also remarks on this long pause.

The author rightly and repeatedly stresses the work of the whole team in getting men to the top. Nevertheless it is hardly possible not to single out Unsoeld and Hornbein, obviously the fittest members of the party, the moving spirits on the West ridge, who from the start chose to be beaten if necessary by that, rather than succeed by the South Col route. In spite of having to make do with the scrapings of the barrel in the way of Sherpas and support parties, they stuck to their resolution through thick and thin and brought it to a triumphant conclusion. It needed audacity to persevere by their route and even more audacity when at a point 800 ft. below the summit at three in the afternoon, with no sure retreat by the way they had come, they decided to push on and descend by what was to them the unknown South ridge. This West ridge climb lifts the expedition to a high plane, a plane level with that of the first ascent of the mountain in 1953.

No Everest book is complete without appendices. Here we have the lot—finance, food, equipment, transport, health, oxygen, photography, communications, geology, glaciology, physiology, psychology, and (God save us) sociology. The tents are highly praised, yet at Camp 4W, 'a broad level platform of snow, and idyllic camp site', three tents, one

with four men inside, were blown fifty yards down the mountain. The butane stoves, too, are given full marks in spite of an explosion at Camp VI which nearly put paid to the second summit party's effort.

That science is madness, if good sense does not cure it, is surely plain when psychologists and sociologists are found accompanying a mountaineering party. Physiologists have been there before. In this case Dr. Siri, after several pages of mumbo-jumbo, arrives at two conclusions, neither of them new—that high on Everest a man has no appetite and consequently is half-starved, and that fresh food is more palatable than processed food. In America, where they invented processed food, the latter may well be news. Dr. Siri remarks that 'No one would argue that without oxygen life at 29,000 ft. could be anything but short'. How short is short? Ten days, a week, a day, or a couple of hours? This reviewer likes to think that one day Everest will be climbed by a small party of really tough men without oxygen. Were it not that for centuries past they have been addicted to going about in hordes, and still do, the Russians or the Chinese would be the best bet. Perhaps a party of Sherpas would succeed. Before they caught the oxygen habit from their employers these men could carry 30 lb. loads to over 27,000 ft. Carrying nothing they might well get unaided to the summit.

On the whole this expedition is better to read about than to have taken part in. How many members of the Alpine Club would consent—as these Americans did—to a session at the Institute of Personality Research (IPAR), and how many would emerge from it unbroken in mind or body? A party of twenty climbers, 900 porters, costing 40,000 odd quid! Having faithfully perused the book to the last appendix your reviewer's thoughts turned reluctantly but sympathetically towards Maurice Wilson. He may have been mad, or as our sociologists put it, 'not fully in touch with reality', but at any rate he had in him the root of the matter. And if he was mad he had probably been reading too many Everest books.

H. W. TILMAN.

Bataille pour le Jannu. By Jean Franco et Lionel Terray. Pp. 293. Illustrations. Editions Gallimard. 1965. Price Frs. 19.50.

IN an interesting preface, Lucien Devies justifies a claim that in the mountaineering achievements of the last few years, the part played by France has been 'capitale'. In the Himalaya, as in the Alps many years ago, difficulty has begun to replace novelty in the choice of peaks to stimulate the supreme efforts of ambitious climbers. And for difficulty Jannu was a good choice, as any reader of this book will agree. Its conquest is fairly claimed to be the most difficult and the boldest feat accomplished up to date in the Himalaya. For Tenzing, one of the first two on the top of Everest, Jannu is 'a fierce giant, who sits on his throne

overlooking the Nepalese valleys, especially the Yamatari; its other slopes are so steep and high that he has nothing to fear; when men or yeti appear, Jannu just puffs and everything disappears'. And that is what very nearly happened on the first attempt.

We are given a gay picture of a very festive evening at the Planters Club at Darjeeling in 1955, at which French and English climbers met after wonderful successes on Makalu and Kangchenjunga. Jean Bouvier and Joe Brown exchange reminiscences of final passages, while Pierre Leroux and George Band do likewise by means of friendly pats on the back. Mrs. Dewar, 'blonde et parfumée, découvrait l'Himalaya'; and the attack on Jannu was born.

The attempt of 1959 was hampered by bad weather and many days' delay by the Bengal customs office; but, as the photographs show, the approach from north and east offers no prospect of success. A fire where the elaborate equipment of the expedition was stored in France added to the worries of the party, but early in March the exasperating demands of the Indian customs authorities were satisfied, porters were engaged, Nepal was entered, and a long column of 320 moved up towards the battlefield. Pictures of the pagoda at Nyapotala and of the monastery at Khunza give some idea of the variety of human existence met with in this country.

Nearly all were experienced climbers over thirty, including five who had ascended Makalu. The dangerous nature of Jannu was shown when an enormous avalanche fell over the route on which it was feared that several of the party were engaged. Luckily, they were not on it that day and the route shown on pages 94 and 290 was abandoned. A very fine piece of leading on the new route was done by Jean Bouvier; no cracks in rock for pitons, and ice so steep that there was at times no room for the oxygen mask between the climber's nose and the slope. Even Terray and the two with him were 'ébahis'. The arête was gained at about 7,300 m.; progress had been continuously difficult—ice-axe in one hand, an ice-piton held like a dagger in the other, with oxygen tube rubbing against the slope, some security gained by the rope around an axe hammered in every 100 ft. Late that evening the four men returned to Camp V exhausted and defeated. Franco, thinking Paragot might have a better chance next day than himself, suggested that he should accompany Magnone. He refused: 'Non, Jeannot . . . le Jannu c'est toi'. The three huddled into a small tent for the night. A blinding pain in the eyes put Franco out of action in the morning. He waited anxiously till evening. He was woken by voices close to the tent: 'Allo Jeannot? Ton Jannu, c'est une vacherie.' That was the end of the attempt. Rightly, it was decided that the risk of a tragedy, if an attempt was made on the morrow, was too great. The party came down leaving some 2,000 m. of rope and 150 pitons to vanish under the ice.

The tale of 1962 is told by Lionel Terray; it is very good reading and there is little that is repetitive. Six of the 1959 party were there, four others replacing Franco and Magnone. One of them combined the professions of mountain guide and Protestant pastor; the youngest, aged twenty-eight, was the only complete amateur, with no experience of mountains higher than the Pyrenees, but amply endowed with the qualities needed for a strenuous expedition. Terray himself was not too fit at the start. He had not really recovered from a bad fall when he broke several ribs; he was exhausted by overwork, had got rather fat, slept badly: for him the getting into training was a 'véritable calvaire'. What he accomplished is all the more wonderful.

The picture of the ice-fall between Camps V and VI gives some idea of the continuous difficulties. As Terray says: the systematic use of fixed ropes has been the key to open up a new field of action in the conquest of the Himalaya. All the ropes and pitons of the 1959 attempt had vanished. Sherpas did a fine bit of work carrying up tree trunks to bridge a chasm on the way up to Camp III. The battle to reach Camps V and VI is illustrated by pictures that are a tribute to the wielders of the cameras.

The description of the final 300 m. is a worthy ending to the tale. Three Frenchmen and one Sherpa fight their way to the top in intense cold and get back exhausted to Camp VI. Next day, Terray with the remaining three Frenchmen and the Sherpa Wongli also reach the top, Wongli carrying a 5 kgr. cylinder of oxygen which he disdains to use. Terray pays generous tribute to the team-work which alone made possible the establishment of a satisfactory sleeping tent at VI and the equipping of the innumerable difficult passages with ropes and pitons.

It is an exciting story: a battle inspired by the challenge of novelty and difficulty that was taken up over a hundred years ago. Greater facility of access and more elaborate equipment may tend in time to diminish the strength of this challenge. Fortunately, the appeal of mountains remains, what they are and what they suggest to us in our quiet moments among them. The call to climb will always be there to listen to and to obey.

R. L. G. IRVING.

Mountaineering. By Alan Blackshaw. Pp. 542. 172 illustrations and line drawings, 4 maps. Penguin Books. 1965. Price 18s. 6d.

I HAVE just enjoyed a February mountaineering holiday, the theoretical part of which consisted of reading Alan Blackshaw's book and recalling the pleasures of sun-baked rock. The practical side was limited to solitary hill-walking in wind and rain; which underlined the necessity for his warnings about conditions. *Mountaineering* is instructive, which it is meant to be, and interesting without pretending to be anything but a textbook. Surprisingly, its predecessor, Barford's *Climbing in Britain*,

was published twenty years ago, and now seems rather antique. Compared, the two give an insight into recent climbing history, but it is a pity that the 1946 price of one shilling is so much increased. Neither book sets out to lure the non-climber to the hills, but the present volume is more attractive to the 'browser' and the general mountain views will tempt him to buy, even if the stark technical detail appals. Thus yet more feet may be set on the mountain trail, safely if our mythical novice (are there any these days?) heeds its contents.

This is not to suggest that he will be able to rush off and do, say, the nearest V.S., but realistically he is urged to begin by scrambling and hill-walking. Often omitted in this 'whizz-kid' age, this basis ensures a continuing interest in hills even after the youthful ability in exciting rock climbing wanes. Equipment, planning and organisation are covered, and there are clear sections on route-finding and weather hazards. Logically enough, the course ignores rock climbing at this stage, and introduces the initial techniques of snow and ice mountaineering as needed in winter hill-walking, and there is valuable advice on avoiding the effects of exposure.

At this point equipment is reviewed in detail, with sufficient discussion of the merits of alternatives to enable a good choice to be made from the surfeit available in Britain's climbing-shops. Many modern climbers are amazed that nails are mentioned at all. That they are, gives an indication of the thoroughness with which the author has fulfilled his task. However, as a one time clinker expert, I quarrel with the statement that they (in rock climbing) 'require a rather muscular technique'. The idea nevertheless has impeccable ancestry, being held by Colin Kirkus, and first appearing in print in *Let's Go Climbing*, the book which did most to persuade me to do so.

Part I ends with a section on living in the British mountains which fairly assumes some general camping knowledge. The differences between camping at an organised site or in a sheltered valley field and in exposed and rigorous positions are well brought out, as is the need for specially designed equipment which is both strong and light. It is recommended here that paraffin or petrol should be kept in polythene containers, but these liquids will swell, weaken and discolour the polythene from which cheap bottles are made. The more rigid types should be sought or, better still, nylon should be used, as it is unaffected by hydrocarbons.

The potted history of rock climbing is not really adequate. The omission of the names of some of the great innovators before 1930 is regrettable, and anyway Edwards was not a major participant in the exploration of 'Cloggy' and the East Buttress of Scafell. His exceptional talents were exercised elsewhere, notably on Clogwyn y Geifr, the Llanberis cliffs and Lliwedd. Sensible comments are made on guide-books,

personal (mental) approach and fitness, but it might also be added that weight training is valuable in winter or for those unlucky enough to live far from the outcrops which give northern climbers the advantage of evening practice.

In general the detail of rock climbing technique is well illustrated and described, but one or two points need comment. First, the myth of the active participation of the fingers in hand-jamming, which is hardly ever necessary, is perpetuated. It is, in fact, far more efficient and restful to rely on the inwardly rotated thumb. This provides an excellent friction grip in the crack between the back of the hand and the ball of the thumb, and allows the fingers to remain relaxed. Next, the 'jamming alone' and 'layback' sequences can be criticised. For the former a steeper crack in a blank face would make the point much more strongly that a smooth crack can be climbed without external holds. Similarly, a much more extreme layback position could have been chosen to demonstrate the technique. A very good point is the inclusion of elementary and advanced methods together, as the sooner all the skills are understood the better. Advanced techniques are useful on even the easiest of climbs.

The greatest contrast between the Barford and Blackshaw texts is that at the end of the war Barford refers to nylon as having shown virtue in the Services. Now, as he forecast, safe climbing is based on the use of such ropes, with manila and Italian hemp relegated to auxiliary tasks such as waist loops and abseil slings. Since 1946 protection techniques with nylon slings on natural running belays have been developed, and now the dubiously ethical device of a jammed nut (even if used for direct aid inexplicably regarded as more sporting than a peg) is described. One cannot learn from a book all the tricks and subterfuges possible to protect a lead, but at least the ideas are here to use as a base for experience. On hard climbs, the ration of three to six slings seems rather meagre when many leaders carry ten or twelve. Advice on the size of rope to use for slings is sound, and the comments on wire slings are fair. The alternative of nylon tape slings (made from seat belt harness and capable of use on smaller spikes) is not mentioned, although, later, tape étriers are introduced. It cannot be too strongly urged that a leader should study carefully the advice on the correct use of karabiners given in this section and the next, as this aspect of safety tends often to be missed.

Artificial climbing techniques are explained and demonstrated in photographic sequences, but I think line drawings would have been clearer. (This applies also to the rock technique photographs, where chimney climbing methods are shown by an admirable sketch.) The easy part of artificial climbing is to understand the process. It is far more difficult to apply it, and yet more difficult to apply it economically, i.e. by using pegs planted only sufficiently well to enable progress to be made. Thus the technical dissertation about the positioning and insertion of

pitons is very valuable, but of course experience is essential to develop the necessary judgement to use the methods quickly and safely.

Equipment for snow and ice climbing is detailed, starting off with a question, crampons or nails? The points for and against are well made, although perhaps more stress should have been laid on the merits of lobster-claw crampons for hard winter climbing in Scotland, such as on Ben Nevis. The difficulty of placing ice-pegs and screws firmly in British water-ice is brought out, and the corollary added that rock or rock piton belays are to be preferred where it is possible to find them.

The British section is concluded on a serious note about accidents. The analysed statistics give food for thought, and the concise account of rescue arrangements should improve the speed with which help can be summoned by people who have read this far. Specialised equipment at the rescue posts is detailed, although a list of the contents of the two standard rucksacks is not. No one surviving an accident will be in doubt what to do, nor indeed are they so likely to be involved if they have digested all that has gone before.

Alpine mountaineering, covered in Part III, is in many ways the best part of the book. The different approach of the British climber from that of the born and bred continental is hinted at, and emphasis is laid on the necessity to move quickly and safely on relatively easy but dangerous ground. This is the biggest single difference, apart from environment, between the Alps and the homeland, and even good British teams are often lamentably slow and clumsy on typically shelving ledges covered with scree and snow. There is tremendous pleasure to be gained in competent negotiation of this type of ground on general mountains (as opposed to those predominantly of rock, snow or ice).

Whether to take a guide or not is an academic question for many impecunious young climbers, but it is true that much more can be achieved in a limited time if one is employed. Local knowledge of routes, weather and conditions means that a party can set off confidently, rather than be tortured by indecision and waste time sitting in valleys or huts watching cloud break up and weather improve, just as it becomes too late to do anything!

Glacier travel, the only specifically alpine skill necessary, and its principles are related to British experience, and the big variations in snow and ice conditions throughout a day are emphasised. Route-finding on rock is probably not so easily teachable, but a knowledge of mountain structure based on reconnaissance is useful, as Whymper found when he realised the easy angle of the Hörnli ridge seen in profile. Rightly, descent is dwelt upon, either by climbing or by abseil, and a warning given that this is the phase of the climb when most accidents occur. Various crevasse rescue techniques are explained, with a conscious effort

to point out the great difficulties involved and the desirability of not having to apply them. Particularly it is necessary for parties to establish the procedure they will adopt *before* the accident occurs.

I have left comment on the sections describing where to climb in Britain and the Alps to the end, as these can be regarded as appendices. They are both comprehensive and include details of guide-books and other sources of information about each area. Although they are short, there are no notable omissions, and the comments about each area are sufficient to indicate what will be found. The true appendices are excellent. They include the full address of almost every organisation (if not all) a mountaineer could conceivably need. Map-reading and knots might perhaps have found a place in the main text; the selected bibliography is well arranged and reasonably complete. The glossary of Gaelic, Norse and Welsh words is interesting, but why not include French, German and Italian as well, if it is regarded as essential!

To summarise, this is an excellent textbook, distilling tastefully a wide experience, gained over nearly twenty years, into an essence of safe mountaineering. It is rather heavy to take at one sitting, but will prove invaluable to the novice and good average climber alike. Indeed, it will benefit even the expert to have the reasons and practices of his sport analysed as well as this.

A. J. J. MOULAM.

Il Monte Bianco: dalle esplorazioni alla conquista (1091-1786). Antologia di Alfonso Bernardi. Bologna: Zanichelli, 1965. 317 pages, profusely illustrated, some plates in colour. Price L. 5,800.

IN spite of its title, this book is not what would be called an anthology or collection of published texts, for many of the chapters appear to have been written expressly for it. The editor is well aware of the facts regarding Balmat's greed, Bourrit's malice, and Saussure's betrayal of the truth, and he stigmatises the Balmat legend as 'questo falso storico'. He ends the argument by giving a transcription (all documents are transcribed into Italian) of Balmat's sworn affidavit that Dr. Paccard arrived at the summit first and that he had paid Balmat for his services. While this is all correct, it does not cover the whole of the evidence which proves conclusively that Dr. Paccard was the victim of injustice and of a conspiracy of silence. Nevertheless, Signor Bernardi's presentation of the case is unexceptionable as far as it goes. But what is one to make of the foreword by Signor Giuseppe Mazzotti, who accepts the fraudulent story of Balmat's four nights on the mountain, lock, stock, and barrel? It is astonishing that such an exploded myth should continue to have any credit, and should be included in a preface to a book which reflects the conclusions of all objective research on this question. Indeed,

Signor Mazzotti makes matters worse when he asks, rhetorically, what does it matter who arrived ten or twenty paces in front of or behind the other? Did the doctor help Balmat? 'La cosa e poco credibile' [=difficult to believe]. Did Balmat encourage and help the doctor? 'Questo sarebbe nell'ordine naturale delle cose' [=this would be in the normal order of things]. If this is the way in which history is to be treated and vulgarised in forewords to popular books, there is little hope of maintaining any standards of accuracy, reliability, or even intellectual integrity at all.

A word should be said about the illustrations. Many of the text-figures reproduce sketches drawn in 1807 by Henri-Albert Gosse and showing Dr. Paccard (two sketches), the Curé of Chamonix, Marguerite Bochat, Jean-François Balmat, Joseph Tournier, Pierre Balmat, Jean-Marie Carrier, and Jacques Balmat's house. These are of such great interest and novelty that it would reasonably be expected that their provenance should be indicated in the legend to each sketch. Not a word is given of their provenance, and the reader is left to surmise that they come from the Archives H-A. Gosse in the Bibliothèque publique et universitaire de Genève, mentioned in the Bibliography without indication of what use has been made of them. Another puzzle relates to the reproduction of the fine oil portrait of Dr. Paccard, facing page 240. Of this the legend says that it was published for the first time by C. E. Mathews in *The Annals of Mont Blanc* in 1898, when it belonged to J. P. Cachat. It was clearly not from that source that the portrait in the present book was reproduced, and it would be interesting to know not only to whom the original now belongs and who supplied the photograph, but also why this information has not been given.

The colour plates are poor; there is no list of illustrations.

One final point of scholarship. Signor Bernardi says, referring to the twenty-four words on the first ascent of Mont Blanc in Dr. Paccard's Notebook (on p. 283), that this is all that the doctor left in writing about his great achievement. 'E null'altro per tutto il resto de la sua longa vita' [and nothing more during the whole of his long life]. Is Signor Bernardi really ignorant of the document, 'Observations sur le Mont Blanc', with a tracing of the level of mercury in his barometer throughout his ascent and indications of the places where he made his readings, and Baron von Gersdorf's thermometer readings at Chamonix, written immediately after the ascent, and of Dr. Paccard's letters to the editor of the *Journal de Savoie*, published in 1823 and 1825? All this information is available in *The First Ascent of Mont Blanc*, which was published in 1957 on the occasion of the centenary of the Alpine Club, and an edition of this book, translated into Italian, was published in Milan in 1960.

GAVIN DE BEER.

Mont Blanc; an Anthology. By Claire Eliane Engel. Pp. 232, 69 plates. George Allen & Unwin, Ltd. London. 1965. Price 54s.

THERE could certainly be few more suitable compilers of a Mont Blanc anthology than Mlle. Engel, who has for many years graced Les Praz for long periods annually, knows everyone worth knowing in the Chamonix valley, has climbed extensively in the massif in the company of such famous climbers as Gaston Rébuffat, and has surely read or heard every story, from the factual to the wildly fictional, which the mountain has evoked. Moreover, alpine knowledge apart, her wider historical and literary researches into the lives of every character she quotes, great or obscure, who has ever come to worship the mountain from its comfortable feet, or to grapple less comfortably with its snowy slopes and the granite of its satellites, render her specially well equipped for the task.

Here then, as we might expect, are the familiar, as well as many newer, pieces from the early days, before and soon after the first ascent; exciting passages from the accounts of recent sensational climbs in the group, some not previously published; a hair-raising glimpse of modern warfare on the rocks of the aiguilles; accidents and disasters, factual and fictional, ancient and modern, though, disappointingly, nothing from the reports of the most notorious of the latter, involving helicopter rescue attempts and much controversy. Here, too, are the few poems which in any way measure up to their subject, though it is something of a shock to learn, thanks to the compiler's erudition, that Coleridge never so much as saw the Alps, and his much-admired 'Hymn before sunrise in the Vale of Chamonix' is simply a skilful adaptation of a poem by an obscure Danish poetess.

It seems a pity that this attractive book should be marred, particularly in the biographical notes at its end, by a considerable number of misprints and, in places, by inaccuracies of fact, some of which are dealt with in an editorial footnote to this review.¹ These can no doubt be eliminated and corrected in any future edition.

In all, the book provides a comprehensive and entertaining collection of the things written about, in praise of, and in antipathy to Chamonix's great mountain complex, at all levels, alpine and literary. It is well produced, pleasant to handle, and illustrated mainly by excellent reproductions of old sketches, engravings and paintings, which may account for the somewhat high price of publication. There are also a number of photographs, a few of them superb, others rather less so.

HUGH MERRICK.

¹ *Editorial note:* A book of this nature, though not history in the strict sense, nevertheless takes on a historical character as it ranges over the years during which Mont Blanc is studied. It therefore is necessary to try and keep it accurate, and more care should have been expended. Space here prevents our recording more than a portion of the slips noticed.

Page 13. The first ascent of Mont Aiguille is, apparently, classed with Noah's ascent of Mount Ararat as something to discard, as though a myth. There seem to be no grounds for doubting the ascent; see Monroe Thorington in *A.A.J.*, 1965, p. 359. A name given on this page should be René le Pays.

Page 13, n. 1. Two books of J. J. Scheuchzer have been confused; the date of one with the title of the other.

Page 23, n. 1. It was in 1754, not 1753, that J-A. de Luc and his brother went to Chamonix, when Rousseau himself was in Geneva. There is no record in Rousseau's *Correspondance Générale* of any letter from them in the earlier year.

Page 49, n. 2. When Dickens refers to 'Georgey', he is speaking, not of his son (he had none named George), but of his sister-in-law, Georgina Hogarth. See p. 225 also.

Pages 74-6. No source is quoted for the long extract from Rébuffat's writings.

Pages 99-100. The transcription of the text as printed by Francis Birrell is very imperfect; words inserted, words omitted, spelling and punctuation modernised.

Pages 100-1. For this anonymous account of the first ascent of Mont Blanc, see de Beer's article in *A.J.* 67. 233-4. The date quoted on p. 101 should be September 18, not 15, and the footnote on the same page is very much open to doubt—*vide* de Beer's comments.

Page 177, plate 62. This is the East, not the South face of Mont Blanc.

Page 193, n. 2. *Les Délices de la Suisse*, Leide, 1714, published under the pseudonym G. Kypseler de Münster, was by Abraham Ruchat. A different book, *L'Etat et les Délices de la Suisse*, Amsterdam, 1730 (many subsequent editions at Basle, Neuchâtel, Paris) was a compilation made by J. G. Altmann, J. R. Tillier and others, out of Ruchat's book and Abraham Stanyan's *An Account of Switzerland*, London, 1714. This last book was published in French translation (made by Sir ? Luke Schaub) under the title *L'Etat de la Suisse, écrit en 1714. Traduit de l'Anglois*, Amsterdam, 1714. The present footnote ascribes one of these books to the wrong author.

Pages 223-32. These notes should be very carefully revised, for errors abound. Thus, Adelbert: Aldebert (pp. viii unnumbered; 19, 85, 223); C. E. Mathews is apt (cf. pp. 18, 223, 228) to get his name misspelt and his initials wrongly given; Wallroth, Bonatti, and Desnoues (cf. p. 193) are also liable to error. Under 'Almer', correct Sesiajosh; Jakob Anderegg did not make the first ascent of the Aiguille Verte, and his employer was not Morsehead. Melchior Anderegg was born 1827 and died 1914. Was Jacques Balmat born in 1764? Hermann Buhl was an Austrian, not a German; Alexander Burgener made the first *descent*, not ascent, of the Mittellegi ridge (which last is misspelt); Goethe went not three, but four times to Switzerland—1775, 1779, 1788, 1797; Sir William Hamilton's dates are 1730-1803, not 1738-1806; the Duke of Hamilton mentioned was the 8th, not the 7th; A. E. W. Mason's date of death is given as 1848, and Mummery's date of birth as 1856. Horace Walker died in 1908 and Sir Alfred Wills in 1912; Wordsworth's visits to the Alps were in 1790 and 1820, not 1792 and 1822.

Some of the books credited to authors could do with a little revision as to titles; Bourrit has three titles misspelt and Buhl one. The titles of Kugy's books also need rechecking, as does Noyce's book on Machapuchare. Winthrop Young's well-known work was *Mountains* (not 'Climbing') *with a Difference*.

In a work drawn from so many sources, it is easy for misprints to occur, hence the more need for meticulous accuracy in checking with the originals. Offhand, pages where extracts might usefully be rechecked are 112, 122, 151, 158, 161 and 210.

History of the Sierra Nevada. By Francis P. Farquhar. Pp. xiv, 262. Illustrations, maps. University of California Press, Berkeley, Calif. 1965. \$10.00.

BY THE nature of things the superb Sierra Nevada mountains in California, almost as far from South Audley Street as a mountain range can be, have always been an American preserve. They stand between the deserts of Nevada and the lush Central Valley of California, where the oranges grow, and it is really their presence, a generous watershed and a rampart against east winds, that makes the 'Golden State' what it is.

A back-handed testimonial, perhaps, but the respect the Americans have shown for this marvellous slab of country should be a lesson to us all. Mr. Francis Farquhar's handsome history of the range is sponsored by the Sierra Club, the oldest of California's mountain societies, and is in effect a record of that respect. The Americans realised from the start the significance of the Sierra Nevada, and in the 140-odd years since the mountains were first crossed by white men, they have carefully mastered and exploited the range, warily tapping its varied resources, and honourably capping it all with a dedicated campaign of nature conservation.

It is a thoroughly American story, and Mr. Farquhar's history must be read as an American book—something specific, that is, within the comity of Anglo-American letters. In that *genre* it is wholly satisfying. It begins properly at the beginning, with the geographical meaning of the range, its fauna, flora and igneous rock. Then the Indians make their appearance, like the housemaid at the start of the first act, to be followed in a swift and easy succession of scenes by Spaniards, trappers, transcontinental immigrants, gold prospectors, soldiers, naturalists, road-builders, railwaymen, tourists, mountaineers and finally, in a happy last act, conservationists.

All is told with a combination of guileless enthusiasm and painstaking scholarship that is very American. The colours are rich. It is true that Mr. Farquhar evades the macabre details of the Donner Pass catastrophe, when a party of immigrants was reduced to eating each other: but we do meet 'Snow-shoe' Thompson, that indomitable stalwart of the Sierra winters, we fight an Indian war or two, we stop off with the prospectors at Yank's in Lake Valley, and we are present at the splendid moment when a hunter called A. T. Dowd first sets eyes on a Big Tree. The book is pleasantly illustrated with photographs and old prints, and complemented with clear maps by Nancy Foucet.

There seems to be scarcely an inch of the range that Mr. Farquhar does not know, and there is certainly hardly a pitch he and his wife have not climbed. His book will give pleasure not only to those deprived thousands who will never see the Sierra Nevada for themselves, but also, we may be sure, to the shade of old John Muir, first President of the Sierra Club, who loved these mountains in just the same way, and whose noble aspiration it was to 'do something for wildness'.

The Cambridge University Press will be publishing this book shortly in England.

JAMES MORRIS.

Alpes et Neige. 101 Sommets à Ski. By Philippe and Claude Traynard. Pp. 108; 101 illustrations. B. Arthaud, Paris, 1965. Price not stated.

THIS IS the type of book that ski-tourers, and especially ski-mountaineers, have been waiting for. Professor Philippe Traynard, President of the Isère section of the C.A.F., and his wife have classified in just the form which one would wish the fruits of twenty seasons of off-*piste* wandering and winter exploration. Their stated aim has been to inspire others to follow them into the winter solitude of the mountains, thereby gaining the desire and the confidence to add to their impressive list of traverses and ascents for the benefit of still others who come afresh.

Three limitations should be noted at once. The text demands the same knowledge of French as would be needed for a summer guide-book in that language: the volume is both too weighty (2 lbs. exactly) and too fine a work of art to slip into the touring rucksack: and, lest Alpine enthusiasts should be disappointed in an eager search to see whether their favourite summer peaks have been included, it should be made clear that the Traynards' ski tracks do not lead outside France.

The authors start with three pages of introduction, giving tips on maps and route-finding and explaining the assumptions upon which their classifications and timings rest. These assumptions appear eminently sensible, inclining always in the direction of prudence. Then follow one hundred and one single-page descriptions of routes, each faced by a fine full-page black and white photograph of the ski ground on the peak or pass in question. No doubt it would offend the purist, but dotted lines on some of the photographs indicating the approximate routes would have been an aid in following the text.

The descriptions of the routes are logical and informative, starting with instructions for the motorist. Altitudes, vertical heights of ascent and descent, timings, references to map sheets, orientation of ski slopes and optimum months for the expeditions are set out in tabular form. The subjective factor is covered by grading the performers as 'skieurs moyens', 'bons skieurs' and 'très bons skieurs'. Little more is required of a member of the first category than that '(Il) doit pouvoir évoluer sur des pentes modestes (20°) en plaçant son virage au lieu qu'il s'est proposé', whereas 'le très bon skieur n'a aucune problème de technique et aborde les pentes très raides et les couloirs étroits avec la certitude d'y trouver un réel plaisir'. Those who feel no such certainty but nevertheless attempt one of these routes should presumably venture late in the season to allow plenty of daylight and choose long-suffering 'très bons' companions. The addition of the word 'alpins' to the classifications

indicates difficulty relating to the mountain itself and is generally reinforced by the recommendation that any or all of rope, axe and crampons are 'utiles', 'nécessaires' or 'indispensables'.

The text falls under the headings: Accès, Montée, Descente, Remarque. It is in straightforward guide-book style. On each page there is a scaled-down sketch-map as an aid to navigation, prefaced by a fearsome general injunction against leaving base without both 1:20,000 map and aneroid. The areas covered will be unfamiliar to many so it is worth listing the groups in full: Faucigny-Aiguilles Rouges-Mont Blanc, Aravis, Beaufortain, Tarentaise, Vanoise, Maurienne, Chartreuse-Belledonne-Vercors, Romanche, Oisans-la Bérarde, Oisans-Briançon, Valgaudemar-Dévoluy-Champsaur, Embrunnais, Queyras, Ubaye, Col d'Allos-Verdon-Col de la Cayolle, Tinée.

The Traynards are far from being altitude snobs. Included amongst their recommendations are some peaks accessible to all—the Pic Saint-Michel, for example, cannot quite attain 2,000 m. and its ascent would occupy a 'skieur moyen' for a mere three hours—as well as such undoubted feats of mountaineering as La Meije Orientale, truly 'une grande course alpine'. Amongst the four thousanders one finds only Le Dôme de Neige des Écrins, already marked by the writer in summer for future winter attention, and Mont Blanc itself via the Grands Mulets and the Vallot.

This book will succeed in bringing skiers to the mountains, especially to the routes in the French Alps (generally dismissed by British visitors to the Dauphiné as 'summer mountains') which it depicts in such alluring terms. It is to be hoped that it will also inspire others to give similar coverage to further mountain groups. There is still plenty of room for ski-tourers in the Alps, except perhaps over Easter or at weekends in the more accessible huts. Summer climbers will know from reference to hut-books that there are few visitors between November and June. The villains who threaten to desecrate the winter solitudes are not the Traynards but the aeroplanes and, worse still, the helicopters. Already they have command of some of the finest ski mountains in the Alps. What about a *cordon sanitaire* before it is too late?

The authors' approach to their work is summed up by the quotation which they have chosen for the flyleaf. 'Grimpez, si vous le voulez, mais souvenez-vous que le courage et la force ne sont rien sans la prudence et qu'un moment de négligence peut détruire le bonheur de toute une vie. Ne faites rien précipitamment, surveillez bien chacun de vos pas et, en commençant une expedition, songez à ce que peut en être la fin'. After double translation some may fail to recognise a well-known passage from Whymper's *Scrambles* which the French language has lifted from its triteness.

GLENTWORTH.

Nepal and the Gurkhas. Edited by Colonel R. G. Leonard. Pp. 158. Illustrations and map. H.M.S.O. for Ministry of Defence. 1965. Price 17s. 6d.

THIS is a revised edition of a handbook intended primarily for the instruction of officers serving with Gurkha regiments. It is based largely on the edition of 1936 which was prepared by the present reviewer when he was a serving officer, but the book has been brought up to date in the light of the changes that have taken place since Nepal ceased to be a closed country. The anthropological information about the various tribes has been retained but Colonel Leonard has discarded the scientific method of transliterating Nepali words which I felt was one of the most valuable features of my edition. The bibliography, which was complete when I compiled it, is now out of date and should have been revised. The sketch-map is of no practical use and one or two of the illustrations are tactful rather than illuminating.

In his introduction the editor expresses the hope that this handbook will have a wide general circulation now that Nepal is open to tourists. In my opinion it is too specialised to be of much interest to the casual visitor since it lacks the sort of practical information he most needs about hotels, prices, and so on. There is no mention of mountaineering in Nepal or of the method of obtaining permission to organise an expedition. Nevertheless the book is a useful introduction for all those who may expect to have dealings with the people of Nepal.

JOHN MORRIS.

Cervino 1865/1965. Fotografia e testi di Mario Fantin. Pp. 155. Tamari Editori in Bologna. 1965. (No price.)

THIS book on the Matterhorn, with a preface by Giuseppe Mazzotti, is but the latest to hand of numerous books produced in the centenary year; but it is, of its kind, one of the best. Primarily photographic, the letterpress is in four languages (Italian, French, English, German), and it depicts the mountain under various headings—the beauty of the mountain; the climbers, dead and living; the routes followed; the books written.

To those who feel that they have seen enough of pictures of the Matterhorn, there will almost certainly be some new impressions to be found; and to those who would refresh their memories of the appearance of the climbers, the section from pp. 74–89, containing 285 photographs of mountaineers, beginning with Whymper and ending, appropriately, with M. and Mme. Vaucher, will be full of interest. How many of us would recognise a picture of Félicité Carrel, who came so near to being the first woman to make the climb, in 1867? The number of Carrels in these pictures is remarkable, starting with Jean-Antoine; one would have

liked a picture of J-J. Carrel, who figured in the early 1860's on the Italian side of the mountain. Victor Carrel (p. 74) looks like a bad-tempered edition of W. A. B. Coolidge.

Inevitably, some of these portraits are disappointing; Johann Petrus (p. 79) who showed the way to Mummery's party on the first ascent of the Zmutt ridge, reminds one of those pictures one sees outside police stations—'wanted by the police'; and J. B. Bich (p. 79) who shared with J-A. Carrel the great climb on July 17, 1865, is not complimentary. E. R. Blanchet (p. 81) is also disappointing; Sir Edward Davidson gets in twice (pp. 79 and 84), which is generous, as after Count Aldo Bonacossa's recent reminiscence of Davidson (*A. J.* 70. 219-20), one feels that he might well have been thrown out altogether. Joseph Pollinger (p. 76, p. 78) also appears twice, as do Klucker (p. 84) and Peter Bohren (p. 78, p. 80), whilst the inclusion of H. L. R. Dent and Arthur Fairbanks (p. 79) would seem to be in error. The Christian Almer shown on p. 74 was Christian II, not the great pioneer guide. Welcome, as probably unfamiliar to many of us, are pictures of Güssfeldt (p. 77), Hans Pfann (p. 84), Ottin and Daguin (p. 86), the heroes of the first direct ascent of the West face of the Matterhorn, and Horeschowsky and Piekietko (p. 86), who made a great attempt on the North face eight years before the Schmid brothers (also p. 86) succeeded.

The two sections, dealing with the routes taken, and liberally illustrated are of great interest, and occupy a good fifty pages. But enough has been said to make it clear that this is a book that anyone can enjoy and that it is a very worthy centenary offering.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

Recueil de Pages Valdôtaines. By G. Tercinod. Pp. 147. Illustrations. Aosta, 1965. (No price.)

THE Matterhorn centenary was an obvious opportunity for producing such a book. Most of it consists of transcriptions into French from articles in the *Alpine Journal*, from Whymper's *Scrambles amongst the Alps*, and from the journal of the Italian Alpine Club. Most interesting and appropriate of these is the account, by the Abbé Amé Gorret, of the first ascent from the Italian side. There are shorter accounts of ascents by Yeld, Finch and others, and there is a laudatory reference to the solitary ascent of the North face in winter by Bonatti, with a query as to whether Whymper could have done it! There are some pages and photographs of inscriptions on chalets and a list of first ascents on Mont Blanc, Monte Rosa and the Grand Paradis in which the expert will without difficulty find gaps and inaccuracies. Those familiar with alpine literature will find little that is new in the text or illustrations of the book.

R. L. G. IRVING.

Tiquimani. By Margaret Griffin. Pp. 164, illustrations. Kosmo Publishers (Pty) Ltd., Stellenbosch. 1965. (No price.)

THIS BOOK tells the story of the South African Andean Expedition, 1963, to the Cordillera Real, Bolivia. The title is that of the principal but by no means only peak they climbed, and they derived the idea of the expedition from Mr. Echevarria's article in *A.J.* 64, p. 51 (though it may be noted that this article does not speak of Tiquimani as 'said to be unclimbable').

In all, the South African party accounted for nine first ascents, plus other climbs; the three peaks of Tiquimani were ascended, but two of these had already been climbed. Perhaps most formidable of all their climbs was Condoriri. The South Africans experienced much difficulty and danger from the snow conditions, and, like other climbers in the Andes, were affected by altitude sickness.

Not least interesting are the early chapters, describing the preparations for the expedition; a number of observations on such matters as food, clothing, tents and travel facilities seem likely to be useful to those who may follow them. The late Sir Roger Wilson, who was patron (and a very active one at that) of the expedition, must have welcomed this book, which he lived just long enough to see. In retrospect, the Mount Everest Foundation and the Mountain Club of South Africa, who found themselves unable to give support to the venture, may incline to think they made a mistake. Certainly, the climbers had some luck on their mountains, but they well deserved it.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

Living Himalayan Flowers. By Sasuke Nakao. Pp. 192. 254 illustrations in colour. The Mainichi Newspapers, Tokyo. 1964. Price, Y. 8,500.

THIS is a charming and evocative book. It is composed of colour photographs of Himalayan flowering plants, many of them taken by Dr. Sasuke Nakao in the course of six botanical expeditions. There is a strong bias towards Nepal, Dr. Nakao being among the first botanists to visit that country after it was opened to foreigners, with smaller contributions by others on Bhutan, Sikkim and the Karakoram. The plants depicted are mostly those of the rain forest and foothills, with much less complete coverage of the higher zones. This is in no sense a field book or work of reference, but it succeeds admirably in illustrating many of the floral delights to be found by the Himalayan traveller.

The author has a nice sense of priorities, for he starts in fine style with the *Meconopsis* (under the heading of Blue Poppies, although he includes some red, white and yellow species), *Rhododendron*, and Primroses. Each picture is identified with the full botanical name of the plant, the location and date when taken. Some indication of the scale would

have been worth while. There is a minimum of text (in Japanese and English), but what there is is to the point.

The pictures are well displayed and reproduced. The author claims that the photographs were taken by amateur photographers using ordinary cameras and colour films available to amateurs, and offers this as encouragement to other travellers in the Himalaya to do likewise. The argument might have been used in apology for the quality of some of the pictures which are excessively dense or 'contrasty'—almost certainly owing to deficiencies in the originals.

The Introduction pays graceful tribute to the pioneering work of English botanists in this field.

This is a book for browsing in at home—the format is too large for the traveller's pocket—and as such it is admirable within its limitations.

F. SOLARI.

Le Ande: monografia geografico-alpinistica. By Pietro Meciani. Fifteen sketch-maps, 48 illustrations. Tamari, Bologna. 1965. Price L. 2,000.

SIGNOR MECIANI is an Italian mountaineer who has climbed in the Alps as well as in some unexplored districts of Greenland. His interest in the history of world mountaineering made him write a detailed survey of modern exploration in the Andes, which he complemented with geographical descriptions of the areas that form the great Andean system; this survey he published in sections in *Rivista Mensile*, organ of the C.A.I., between 1961 and 1964.

Wisely, Signor Meciani did not limit his research to the material he could find in Europe; instead, he enlisted the help of American, Chilean and Argentinian mountaineers, and this proved to be a happy idea, since in the New World there exists information not always available in the Old, particularly short-lived journals, reports not as yet published, or simply obtained through personal correspondence. The result is this monograph, with far more information on the subject than any other similar previous publication. And even this good collection of material is not complete, since new information on the history of Andean climbing has been obtained lately by researchers, and after Signor Meciani had given the final touches to his work.

Le Ande is not only a book of good reading, but also one for permanent consultation. It includes a number of useful illustrations and sketch-maps. Further, its bibliography, although not complete, is very good and most helpful for prospective expeditions. In general, it is one of the most important additions to the literature of Andean mountaineering.

E. ECHEVARRÍA C.

SHORTER NOTICES

No Place for Men. By Peter Mulgrew. Pp. 199, illustrations. Nicholas Vane (Publishers) Ltd., London, 1965. Price 25s.

THE SCIENTIFIC expedition to the Himalaya in 1960-61, led by Hillary, to attempt Makalu without oxygen and to find a Yeti, has been written about so much that it may seem superfluous to have a further book about it. But Mulgrew, who was the greatest sufferer from the expedition (losing both feet and several fingers from frostbite), has succeeded in giving us a fresh, personal account, in which his nightmare journey from about 27,400 ft. on Makalu, to his recovery at home in New Zealand, is the most intriguing part of the work. Kathmandu provided a halfway house, at the Shanta Bhawan hospital run by a Christian mission; it is the fashion nowadays to decry such missions, and Mulgrew's rather shallow comments on religion follow the fashion. However, he admits that he owed a lot to the organisation, and had he been exposed to the squalor, insanitariness and lack of hygiene that generally characterised the country (all of which he also admits), his fate can hardly be in doubt.

The Sherpas who had got him down from the mountain played their usual splendid rôles, and few readers will begrudge a word of praise for the author and his wife, for their courage in facing the adversities that Makalu had bestowed upon them.

Matterhorn Man. By Walter Unsworth. Pp. 127, illustrations, maps. Victor Gollancz, Ltd., London. 1965. Price 18s.

THIS SHORT study of the life of Edward Whymper has much to commend it. Whilst concentrating mainly on Whymper, the author relates his life, and particularly the years 1860-65, to the background of the golden era of alpine climbing. He rightly emphasises the rivalry with J-A. Carrel, whose narrow outlook is made evident. Nor is the wider sweep of Whymper's climbing forgotten, and one can follow him easily through his meteoric seasons in which so many regions of the Alps were visited.

A few errors might be corrected in another printing: (p. 16) the Alpine Club's founding was in 1857 (just), not 1858; (p. 54) the height reached by Whymper and Meynet was 13,460 ft., not 14,460; (p. 60) in 1864 Moore was a Clerk in the India Office, not the East India Company (then dead); (p. 94) Hudson did not climb 'every year in the Alps' from 1855 to 1862, for he seems to have done none in 1856, 1857 or 1860; (p. 112) it was Whymper's nephew, not his brother, who was said to attend lectures to warn him of dropped aitches.

These, and some other slips, are, however, small, and do not interfere with the general reliability of the book.

Climbing Days. By Dorothy Pilley. Pp. xxviii, 352. Illustrations. Secker & Warburg, Ltd. London. 1965. Price 42s.

A new edition of a famous book, issued first in 1935, and now re-published with an interesting and instructive 'Retrospection'.

Climbing Guide to Gibraltar. By A. D. Marsden. Pp. 82. Diagrams. Printed and published for the Joint Services Mountaineering Association by David M. Haynes & Co. Ltd., Yeovil. 1965.

THE PRICE of this guide is not stated, but it is paper-bound and economically produced. Between fifty and sixty routes have been made on the Rock up to date; these are described and graded in the normal British guide-book style, the hardest routes being 'of a fairly easy medium V.S. standard'. Many of the first ascents were made by the author, who makes it clear that much still remains to be done, especially as certain areas are out of bounds to climbers for security reasons. The rock at Gibraltar is limestone, and the nature of the climbing is similar to that in the Avon gorge. Most of the climbs do not exceed 300 ft., but there is one fine girdle traverse of over 1,500 ft. which has not yet been completed in a single expedition. The book should be of great value to climbers who find themselves in Gibraltar.

Combats pour l'Eiger. By Toni Hiebeler. Translated by Monique Bittebierre. Pp. 303. Illustrations. B. Arthaud, Paris. 1965.

THIS BOOK tells of some of the happenings on the Eigerwand in recent years and carries the story to the end of 1964.

Forty pages are devoted to an account of the first winter ascent, in which the author took part; the polemics resulting from 'the ascent that never was' are described at some length, and Corti's own story of the events of August, 1957, also makes interesting reading. The finding of the bodies of Nothdurft and Mayer in 1961 afforded proof that they had completed the ascent and put an end to rumour and speculation.

Other chapters deal with some recent fatalities, solo attempts, and Michel Darbellay's successful solo ascent.

By the end of 1964 one woman and 143 men had completed the ascent and twenty-five lives had been lost, though two of these, Nothdurft and Mayer, died while descending by the West face after having reached the summit.

An unfortunate misprint occurs on p. 283 where it is stated that one Frenchman has made the ascent; the correct number is eleven.

Switzerland: the Traveller's Illustrated Guide. By Alfred Waldis. Pp. 248, with 192 illustrations, 40 double-spread maps, &c. (4th revised English edition). Faber & Faber, Ltd., London. 1965. Price 35s.

THIS is a tourist's guide-book, and whilst it is intended as a practical and comprehensive travel companion, the reader is advised to refer also to the various leaflets issued by the numerous Swiss Information Offices. The book is not meant for the mountaineer, though it tells him how he may get to centres, and there is a useful list of S.A.C. huts.

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By the end of 1964 one woman and 143 men had completed the ascent and twenty-five lives had been lost, though two of these, Notthardt and Mayer, died while descending by the West face after having reached the summit.

An unfortunate misprint occurs on p. 28; where it is stated that one Breichen has made the ascent; the correct number is eleven.