

MOUNTAINEERING JOURNALS

Les Alpes. 1965. No. 1. 'Chronique himalayenne, 1963': by G. O. Dyhrenfurth. 'Eine Besteigung des Fujiyama': by W. K. Rieben. 'Le Stetind—le Cervin de la Norvège': by H. Bierberg. 'Le système d'irrigation d'Ausserberg en Valais': by E. Lautenschlager. 'Un quart d'heure sous le souffle de la mort': by H. Roth. 'Die hochalpine Wanderlandschaft am Lukmanier': by V. Binggeli. 'Le Valpelline': by G. Ritter. 'Ascension du Cathedral Peak dans le Drakensberg': by F. Baumgartner. 'Haute Route valaisanne': by P. Baillod. 'Alpinisme hivernal au début du siècle': by C. Kleinmann.

No. 2. 'Vers Zermatt par les chemins d'autrefois et d'aujourd'hui': by A. Fux. 'La première ascension du Cervin le 14 juillet 1865': by G. Grosjean. 'Edward Whymper et la Faune alpestre': by M. Oechslin. 'Graübunden, Kletterfarhten in geologischer Sicht': by A. von Wandau. 'Monument Valley—Arizona': by R. Legler. 'Erciyas Dag. 3916 m. (Türkei)': by B. Messerli. 'Souvenirs de l'arête de Furggen': by G. de Rham. 'Hiver lapon': by A. Guex. 'L'esprit humain et les montagnes': by G. Finch.

No. 3. 'Le Jura': by A. Merz. 'Haute Route jurassienne': by W. Zeugin. 'Dans le Jura avec Johann Wolfgang Goethe': by H. Kornacher. 'Tage in den kanadischen Rocky Mountains': by F. Largiader. 'Ferien-eindrücke aus den italienischen Meeralpen': by S. Jasienski. 'Chronique himalayenne, 1964', by G. O. Dyhrenfurth. 'Expédition allemande au Gangapurna—1965': by G. Hauser. 'Ascensions dans les Andes vénézuéliennes': by F. Aeberli. 'Cartographes et dessinateurs du panoramas zurichois': by E. Imhof. 'Varappe en Cornouailles': by C. Briquet.

No. 4. 'Groenland. Expédition du Club Alpin Académique de Zurich dans les Alpes de Stauning': by P. Meinherz. 'Les variations des glaciers suisses 1963/1964': by P. Kasser. 'Retour du Vatnajökull': by A. Hofmann. 'Dettifoss und Selfoss in Island': by H. Nünlist. 'Briefe Edward Whympers an der schweizerischen Bergführer Christian Klucker': by H. C. Cramer. 'Voir la montagne...': by E. Pidoux. 'Excursion de Bex à Sion, par le Mont Anzeindaz, en 1786': by D. Ruchet. 'Première ascension féminine de la face nord du Cervin, 14 juillet 1965': by Y. Vaucher.

Österreichische Alpenzeitung. 1965. No. 1339. Mountaineering in California is the subject of an informative article by Dr. Richard Hechtel, with useful notes on the various ranges.

Dr. J. Schintlmeister describes ascents in the Caucasus in the 1930's and the veteran Franz Nieberl, now over ninety years of age, writes of some of his experiences with lady climbers; one young lady, it is pleasing to recall, who arrived punctually for the start of an expedition and even carried her own rucksack, subsequently became his wife.

No. 1340. Kurt Maix's paper, 'Die letzten Höhen der Menschen', read before the O.A.K. in December, 1964, is reprinted in this issue. Heinz Eggert, after a brief note on earlier expeditions, describes an attempt on Diran (Minapin) by himself and a companion in 1964. This great peak, 23,860 ft., a near neighbour of Rakaposhi, has resisted several assaults and is still unclimbed.

Gottfried Gogiatti describes an adventurous journey from the Sticklerhütte to Bad Gastein by way of the Klein Elendtaljoch in the course of which he lost his way and was twice benighted.

No. 1341. A comprehensive survey of the Hindu Kush by Dietrich Hasse contains much interesting information about this range, now the object of so many expeditions, and includes a bibliography, list of maps, and a map showing suggested sub-divisions and the principal passes.

Hans Satték takes us to Yugoslavia with an account of the great traverse of the Slovene Alps from Maribor to Koper on the Adriatic, the 'Transverzala', some 500 miles in length, which crosses some of the best known summits of the country, Triglav, Razor, and others.

No. 1342. This is a special Matterhorn issue and contains a coloured reproduction of an oil painting of the mountain by E. T. Compton. In a short note the President of the O.A.K. recalls the part played by the Austrians in the Matterhorn story, including the first guideless traverse by the Zsigmondy brothers with Schulz and Purtscheller in 1884.

The opening article, translated from the original English, records the achievements of British climbers on the Matterhorn from the first British attempt by the Parker brothers to Mummery's attempt on the Furggen ridge, and Alfonso Bernardi tells of the deeds of Italian mountaineers.

Alfred Horeschowsky describes his attempt, with Franz Pielkielko, on the North face of the Matterhorn, the first to be made, in 1923 and Franz Schmid survivor of the two brothers who made the first ascent of the face, after a brief mention of the award of the Olympic Gold Medal for his feat, describes his early climbing days with his brother Toni, leading up to the final success in 1931.

No. 1343. Dr. G. O. Dyhrenfurth has a note on the world's highest mountain ranges with the highest peak in each and points out that the Hindu Kush ranks fifth in order of height and not second or fourth as has been suggested.

Dr. R. Pischinger writes of the Steirische Hindu Kush expedition of 1964, when two 7,000 m. peaks, Shachaur and Udren Zom, were

climbed for the first time; his article includes a useful map showing many of the highest peaks which were quite unknown a few years ago.

Hanns Schell has an account of the first ascent of Momhil Sar and some hints for future expeditions in that section of the Karakoram.

No. 1344. An account of the Austrian Hindu Kush expedition of 1965 by Kurt Diemberger covers the ascents of the highest peak of the Tirich Mir North group and of Ghul-Lasht-Zom. Harry Rost describes the first ascent of the North wall of Alam Kuh in the Elburz mountains of Persia.

On the occasion of its centenary the first ascent of the Mösele by Freshfield, Tuckett, G. H. Fox and their guides in 1865 is recalled by Hubert Peterka, who also gives some biographical notes about the two first-named.

As usual, much interesting information is to be found in the regular feature 'Von den Bergen der Welt'.

D. F. O. DANGAR.

Alpinismus. 1965. The journal promises to give international information to mountaineers, hill-walkers and skiers. The editor has kept his promise in 1965.

One number about 'climbing gardens' was written especially for rock-climbers, though our English, Welsh and Scottish training rocks were not mentioned there. Britain and British climbing had a special number for which many prominent British mountaineers had written contributions. Herr Hiebeler reports that the reception in West Germany was very good, but the Vienna people found the British story 'not very interesting'. Herr Hiebeler remarks with slight sarcasm that the Austrians, as citizens of a neutral State, may not be so interested in a British-German understanding.

Other numbers deal with 'Hill walking', 'Matterhorn', 'Hautes Routes' and ski equipment. Whatever subject is being treated, every effort is made to get the best experts to write about it. I am not qualified to judge the guiding instructions—in word and photo—for special difficult climbs in the Alps which are enclosed with every number, but I feel sure they are just as carefully prepared and checked as the articles about ski-tours and avalanches, subjects of which I have a little more experience. The editor is very concerned about safety in the mountains, whether it is a new rope technique or an invention to improve and speed up avalanche rescue work. If anything, he is so enthusiastic in promoting new methods that he antagonises some of the more conservative men and associations in the Alpine world. With all the wealth of interesting and important material which the journal brings, it really fills a gap and I should not like to miss it. There are two features, however, which seem to me regrettable. In one number, called 'Errors' the truth of the claims

of some past and present climbers is discussed. I should have liked it better if the discussions could have been kept on a more objective level as far as living mountaineers were concerned. And I do not regard it as quite up to the standard of *Alpinismus* to use a coloured cover-picture of a bikini-clad lady skier for obviously eye-catching purposes.

W. KIRSTEIN.

La Montagne et Alpinisme. 1965. Nos. 51-55. These five numbers make interesting and varied reading, illustrated with many excellent photographs. The C.A.F.'s annual report for 1964 (in No. 53) shows the healthy state of the Club: four new huts built, including the new valley hut at La Bérarde; extensive mountaineering and ski-training programmes, totalling 90,000 and 100,000 students respectively; a good deal of work on equipment and material, usually in association with the U.I.A.A.; and an increase of membership by 1,500 to 48,000. No. 54 has a short report on the successful International Meet at Chamonix in July, 1965, during which some of the Russian climbers did the Bonatti Pillar on the Dru.

All the numbers contain valuable information summaries on mountaineering activities throughout the world and technical notes on climbs. The climbing articles are mostly concerned with the subsidiary alpine ranges, such as the Vercors and the Grande Chartreuse where there is extremely impressive limestone climbing; a major achievement was the first ascent of the Bouclier du Gerbier, overhanging almost throughout its length (No. 55). No. 52 has an interesting, rather subjective description of an ascent of the Innominata ridge on Mont Blanc, while there is a good account in No. 53 of the first traverse of the Meije since the big rock fall at the Brèche Zsigmondy, which necessitated a long traverse on the North face. Desmaison tells of his solitary ascent of the West face of the Dru (July, 1963) in No. 54.

La Montagne is devoting increasing space to technical matters, and there are interesting articles by Pierre Henry (Chairman of the Equipment Committee of the U.I.A.A.) and Robert Paragot, on ropes (No. 52) and climbing helmets (No. 53). The former article, which gives extensive information on the Doderer method of dynamic rope testing, notes that 11 mm. diameter (i.e. about $1\frac{3}{8}$ in. circumference) nylon rope is generally used and recommends a double rope as safer than a single, especially on granite where sharp edges can easily cut a rope. Lengths of 35 m. are recommended for the Western Alps, up to 50 m. for the Dolomites and 70 m. for abseil ropes (usually 8 mm. diameter). It is claimed that for over three years there has been no accident in France, Great Britain or Switzerland caused by a rope breaking. Further work is needed before firm recommendations can be made on types of safety

helmets, but M. Henry strongly urges climbers to use them as protection both against falling stones and against head-first falls.

Of particular interest to the mountain skier is Toni Gobbi's illustrated article in No. 51 about a high level route in the Dolomites from San Martino di Castrozza to Cortina d'Ampezzo, which he commends as the equal in length and quality of the Chamonix-Zermatt route, with over 10,000 m. of ascent (of which 3,600 m. is by *téléphérique*) and descent. The crux, passing the foot of the Torcia di val Grande, is said to be unusually delicate and exposed and a rock piton is recommended for safeguarding the party. There are also interesting articles in No. 55 about mountain skiing in the Massif Central and about the ski huts of the Jura.

Finally, these numbers bear grim testimony to the risks of mountaineering, even for professionals; no fewer than nineteen French guides and aspirant guides were killed in 1964, a calamitous year owing especially to the avalanche on the Aiguille Verte in July which killed fourteen people (see Nos. 48 and 51). No. 54 tells of the deaths of Lionel Terray and Marc Martinetti in the Vercors in September, 1965, another severe blow to French mountaineering.

ALAN BLACKSHAW.