(*Moditse*; 7219m), 3 members reaching the summit on 12 October.

Jannu (7710m) A 16-man Japanese party (Leader: Masatsuga Konishi) made the first ascent of the N Face in May; 13 climbers and 3 Sherpas reached the summit.

Tukche (6921m) A Nepal Police Mountaineering Expedition climbed this peak from the W on 2 October; this was the second all-Nepalese expedition and was outstandingly well organized.

SIKKIM

In May, 2 members of the Mountaineering Club of Bombay, Harish Kapadia and Zerksis Boga, made a high altitude traverse of a little known part of NE Sikkim. They explored the Zemu and Kanchenzonga Glaciers and the area of The Twins, and afterwards crossed to the N, via the Tangchung La and Thieu La, following the route taken by Freshfield in 1899. From Muguthang, they travelled E to the Lachung Valley over the Lugnak La and the Sebu La.

AUSTRALASIA

NEW ZEALAND

Bad weather and accidents were the major characteristics of the 1975/76 summer season; the former curtailed activity in many areas while the latter provided the local press with many sensational headlines. Nevertheless, a number of worthwhile new routes, mostly in the Mount Cook area, where achieved because the big faces tended to remain clear of ice. Details of these climbs can be found in *Mountain 50* 12. The frustrations and tragedies of the season at home were echoed by the experiences of New Zealand climbers further afield. An 11-man team narrowly failed to climb Jannu (7710m) by the difficult NW Face route which involves a 5000ft ice-face. They reached the top of this face, but bad weather dictated retreat with 400m of ridge still in front of them. The death of the outstanding New Zealand climber, Phil Herron, on Torre Egger added to the heavy accident toll closer to home. (The 1975 winter season is dealt with in *Mountain 47* 11.)

AUSTRALIA

Australian climbing is evidently still being developed with great vigour in all the States: as in other areas of the world where rock climbing is extremely popular, standards are being pushed higher and higher and in the process aid is being eliminated from more and more routes. Thus Australia's first grade 24 route, *County Road*, has been climbed by Nic Taylor in Mount Buffalo Gorge in Victoria. Many new routes have appeared here and the same is true of Mount Arapiles, which has been dubbed 'the hardest cliff in Australia'. A new area called The Wafers has been the scene of much activity in Queensland. Unfortunately, Australian climbers contributed significantly to the high number of accidents in the 1975/76 New Zealand season mentioned above. The Gledhill twins were involved in a tragic chain of events on Mount Unicorn which led to the death of Alan. Two other Victorian climbers, Mark Spain and Andy Kelso, were also killed in the Mount Cook area. *Mountain 50* 13 gives further details.

WEST IRIAN (NEW GUINEA)

The Indonesian Mountaineering Club, Wisata Ria Remaja, reports that a national team climbed Ngga Pulu in 1976, which they identify as the highest mountain in what was formerly known as the Carstensz Massif. Following last year's article on climbing in Indonesia by Haryadi Ishak, there appeared an appendix by Evelio Echevarria which gave information about new names and heights for the peaks in West Irian. This was in many respects at variance with the article which preceded it and the Hon. Editor indicated that any information which was available and which helped resolve these inconsistencies would be welcome. An account of the Hong-Kong Mountaineering Club Expedition to this area in 1972 appeared in *AJ 78* 188; the accompanying map recalls their achievements. It also shows the original names for the peaks (where Ngga Pulu is not the highest peak); the height given for the Carstensz Pyramid (17000ft, 5182m) differs both from the figure given in the Indonesia article (5030m) and from the even lower height given in the