

106 Overlord, Baffin Land

on broken ground. There was only 20m of aid on the whole climb.

An arctic dog-sled trek of extreme length (12000km) from Jacobshavn in Greenland to Kotzbue in Alaska has been completed by Naomi Uemura in 313 days. Large sections of the route were over frozen sea. Further details and a map are contained in *Mountain 51* 13.

A list of the highest mountains in the Antarctic has been prepared by Anders Bolinder and appears in *Les Alpes 10* (1976), along with some other interesting geographical data on the Antarctic. The Sentinel Range of the Ellsworth Mountains contains the highest peaks (6 above 15,000ft) which are topped by the Vinson Massif at 5139m. The list contains 18 peaks above 4000m, and many of these are still unclimbed. The highest part of the Antarctic ice-cap is in the 'Zone of Inaccessibility' where it reaches 4270m.

THE BRITISH ISLES

Excellent up-to-the-minute accounts of the British climbing scene are printed regularly in *Mountain, Climber and Rambler* and *Crags*. In future therefore we shall confine ourselves to occasional Events and Trends reviews, starting probably next year.

The following guide-books have been received:

Carneddau Les Holliwell (Climbers' Club, 1975, pp 154, diagrams, £2.60) This third edition of the Carneddau Guide, succeeding Tony Moulam's 2 previous editions, has been completely re-written by Les Holliwell and is dedicated to his brother Laurie who was tragically killed on Craig yr Ysfa. The list of first ascents testifies to the contribution the brothers made on Llech Ddu in particular, and comparison with earlier editions shows how this cliff has come into prominence as one of the principal areas for high-grade climbing in Wales. Two hundred and two climbs are described, of which the majority are on Llech Ddu, Craig yr Ysfa and Ysgolion Duon. Whilst a number of climbs are described on other cliffs, many poorer-quality previously-recorded ones have been omitted, and it is

probably best that crags such as Craig y Dulyn are left to the solitary wanderer in search of remoteness and uncharted rock. One feature of the guide is the illustrations; whilst Brian Evans has been responsible for excellent diagrams in many recent guides, his place has been largely taken here by Ginger Cain with some superb drawings. Those of the main cliff of Llech Ddu and the Lower Amphitheatre Wall on Craig yr Ysfa stand out. The author and publishers are to be congratulated on an excellent guide-book.

Clogwyn du'r Arddu Alec Sharp (Climbers' Club, 1976, pp 105, diagrams, £2.00) Another third edition of a Welsh guide, this time in only 14 years, which is testimony, if any should be needed, to the continuing propularity of 'Cloggy'; 138 climbs are described in all, of which 35 are new since the 1967 edition by Banner and Crew. The author, Alec Sharp, has himself been responsible for some of the moves to eliminate aid on the harder routes and this is reflected in the descriptions; the HXS grade makes its appearance here for Great Wall and Curving Arete. The diagrams, by Brian Evans, several of which are new, are as excellent as they were in the earlier editions, although the lines indicating routes are naturally getting closer together each year. For those hoping to fill even these narrow spaces, there are 6 blank pages for recording their efforts. This is the third volume in the Climbers' Club's new format, which is clear and well laid out, and once again congratulations are offered to all concerned for another excellent guide.

Climbs on North Wales Limestone Rowland Edwards (Cordee, 1976, pp 56, photos, diagrams, £1.00) This 'Interim Rock Climbers' Guide-Book to North Wales Limestone' covers the recent climbs that have been worked out on the Little Orme and Great Orme at Llandudno, and at Craig y Forwyn at Llandulas. It is well illustrated with photo-topos and action shots, as well as location diagrams. Of the 100-odd climbs listed, almost half were first climbed by the author, particularly those on the Ormes, and there is no doubt that the publication of this guide will generate further interest in the area.

Ramblers' Cheviot (Ramblers' Association, Northern Area, 1976, pp 84, maps, illustrations, npq) A revised edition of a guide to 12 walks in the Cheviot Hills, produced in an attractive 'Wainwright' style.

Wicklow Rock-Climbs (Glendalough and Luggala) ed. Pat Richmond (FMCI, 1973, pp 86, photo-diagrams, 60p)

Mourne Rock-Climbs ed. John Forsythe (FMCI, 1973, pp 88, diagrams, 60p)

Antrim Coast Rock-Climbs Interim Guide. ed. Mick Curran, with Calvin Torrans (FMCI, 1975, pp 32 maps, npq) Three guides from the Federation of Mountaineering Clubs of Ireland which bring a breath of fresh air into the guide-book world with their statements of areas of cliff still awaiting the explorer. Glendalough apparently is the only major cliff for which the guide is reckoned as definitive. The Antrim Coast guide contains a number of high grade climbs at Fair Head, and includes a supplement up-dating it to July '76, but this is obviously an area which will see a great deal of activity in the future. The FMCI have also published 3 volumes of New Climbs, 1973, '74 and '75, which show steady activity. The '73 issue includes a list of all Irish climbing crags with grid references.

Mountaineering in Ireland C. W. Wall (FMCI 1976, pp 111, map, npq) A reprint of Claud Wall's guide to hill-walking in Ireland originally published by the Irish Tourist Association in the thirties. As Joss Lynam says in his preface, 'almost all the informaton . . . was still valid', so the text is virtually unaltered—only the illustrations have unfortunately been omitted. The new additions include up-to-date details on accommodation, notes on mountain safety, a select bibliography, and Vandeleur's list of the 2000 foot tops of Ireland, revised by Lynam.

The Island of Skye (SMC District Guides) M. Slessor (Scottish Mountaineering Trust, 1975, pp 192, illustrations, npq) This is the latest version of a work which has seen several rewrites and revisions over nearly 70 years. When formerly it was the sole source of rock climbing information on the Island there were problems of use in the field; now the hold-

by-hold accounts are contained in separate climbers' guide-books and this one can concentrate on more general matters, such as a new systematic coverage of all the hills. It carries out this task remarkably well. The non-quotation of a price seems to align with modern practice. Is the price likely to rise so fast that it cannot be pin-pointed? If so, buy now, for it will never be cheaper. Or is the system designed to enable sellers to charge what the traffic will appear to stand? It would be much more satisfactory if the price were guaranteed for a specified period.

Equipment and Technique 1976

T. M. Connor

The use of chalk, mentioned in these pages last year, still continues to be a subject of debate and a series of letters have appeared in the pages of *Mountain* and elswhere which exhibit most of the possible shades of opinion on this subject. There seems no doubt that its use has to some extent become a fad, so that it is frequently employed when not really necessary. Also, in spite of its protagonists' claims, it can spoil climbs for those following by marking and clogging holds. It also can create a considerable eyesore and rain is evidently not a very effective agent for its natural removal, in spite of claims to the contrary. However, there is also no doubt that chalk is here to stay and that it has been instrumental in allowing aid to be cut on certain climbs. One hopes that a climate of opinion will develop among climbers which will lead to a natural restriction of its use to occasional holds where it is really vital. Overliberal use of chalk should be regarded in the same light as too great a reliance on aid, i.e. as climbing in bad style.

A number of useful reviews of equipment have appeared this year in *Climber and Rambler.* Methods of attaching a rope to a climber using waistlines and the various types of harness were reviewed in the February issue (p. 21). Subsequently there was some correspondence about the use of sit harnesses which some believe can be dangerous, since if a climber is knocked unconscious in an accident he will almost inevitably fall in an inverted head-down position. In fact there is probably no best solution to cover all eventualities and there is no doubt that harnesses have in general considerably improved the chances of survival of climbers involved in falls—one climber was rescued after hanging for 9 hours in mid-air in a harness after a fall on the Main Wall of Cyrn Las. In the March issue (p. 39), Rohan salopettes (which are in fact climbing overalls) were mentioned. These evidently have their advocates: Joe Tasker used them on his ascent of Dunagiri and seemed very pleased with them although he indicated that certain modifications were necessary to allow a practical means of satisfaction of one's natural functions at high altitude. A big advantage is the elimination of heat loss caused through clothes parting at the waist. The October issue (p 25) contains a survey of the various types of sleeping bag currently available.

A note in *Off Belay* (February 1976, p 37) describes some safety tests carried out on a number of lightweight stoves used by mountaineers. It appears that many models produce a considerable concentration of carbon monoxide e.g. 10 parts per million, when the pan is placed over the stove in the position dictated by the design. This could lead to carbon monoxide poisoning if the stove is used in a closed tent; it is suggested that many cases of so-called mountain sickness are in fact caused by such poisoning. It was found that the level of carbon monoxide produced could be considerably reduced if the pan was held in a position about one inch higher than normal. It is suggested that an additional pan support be fashioned out of heavy wire if it is proposed to use such stoves in a closed tent. Stoves using alcohol as a fuel were found to produce large amounts of carbon monoxide irrespective of where the pan was placed.

The International Standards Organization is addressing itself to the problem of standard performance specifications for skis and bindings with the objective of improving the safety of these vital items. Whilst this move will primarily be of concern to piste skiers rather than mountaineers, it is obviously of importance to the increasing numbers of people who like to get away from the crowds and use their skis for touring