

REVIEWS

The Ascent of Everest. By John Hunt. 9 in. × 6 in. Pp. xx, 300. Illustrations. Hodder & Stoughton, London, 1953. 25s.

UNDOUBTEDLY the outstanding mountaineering book of the year is Hunt's account of the 1953 Everest Expedition; it appears, however, too late for detailed review here, hence it must be held over to the next *Journal*. It is remarkable, however, that a book of this size—for it is no mere picture book, but a fully documented record, in the tradition of the earlier Everest volumes—could be produced in the space of two to three months, despite all the other claims (lectures, broadcasts and the like) that have been made upon the author's time. This fact alone will, perhaps, bring home to some the energy and drive of the leader of this triumphant expedition.

Berge Der Welt. 1952 & 1953, Vol. VII. Pp. 304. 66 plates; Vol. VIII. Pp. 224. 64 plates and panorama. Published for the 'Stiftung' by Büchergilde Gutenberg, Zürich. 9½ in. × 7 in. Edited by Marcel Kurz. *The Mountain World*, 1953: edited by Marcel Kurz. 9½ in. × 7 in. George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., London. 25s. 1953.

WITH the latest two volumes *Berge der Welt* maintains its easy leadership amongst those who report mountaineering throughout the world.

Volume VII, for 1952, opens with tributes to Otto Furrer, that most beloved of Zermatt guides. In the absence of any expeditions overseas under the direct sponsorship of the Stiftung, there is room for a wider range of shorter articles. To us the most interesting are the three papers on exploration in South America. The story of the formidable and spectacular Cerro Fitzroy in southern Patagonia is told by Lionel Terray; in his experienced judgment this is technically the most difficult mountain whose summit has yet been reached. The Andes also provide two papers, on Bolivian and Peruvian groups, in Volume VIII, with some fine photographs which show the unfamiliar characteristics of ice and snow formations at high altitudes in equatorial latitudes. A photo of an abseil off the lip of a bergschrund on Huiana Potosi (Volume VIII, p. 165) is as sensational as any we have seen. It is surely time that a serious attempt was made to get permission for a British expedition to the Andes.

'Alpine Rundschau' in Volume VII gives 80 closely printed pages of world mountain news. This includes much news of Soviet climbing in the Caucasus and Central Asia. There is no hint that there was then any Soviet intention to attempt Everest.

Volume VIII reports, to the extent of 120 pages and 34 photographs, the great story of the first (pre-monsoon) Swiss assault on Everest. It is told in many chapters, each contributed by a separate member of the party, and it reaches its climax in René Dittert's account of the attack on the Lhotse face, and in Raymond Lambert's account of the

desperate attempt which he and Tenzing made above their impoverished high camp, without sufficient food, water or oxygen.

Written in this way, the Everest narrative is inevitably disjointed, but in the variety of its personal impressions the story conveys a vivid picture of the hardships they endured and of the determination which drove them forward against the adversary which they had perhaps underestimated.

The Swiss narrative makes a fascinating contrast with the story of the British 1953 ascent, the closely knit account of which we have been privileged to read in the draft of John Hunt's book. It is for future scholars, rather than for a reviewer, to apply themselves to analysing the Everest stories, as they have applied themselves in the past to other great milestones in Mountaineering History.

It is splendid news that *Berge der Welt* is being published in English under the title of *The Mountain World*. The first issue is a translation of Volume VIII, including not only the Swiss Everest story, and Hans Ertl's and Piero Ghiglione's accounts of their climbing in the Bolivian and Peruvian Andes respectively ; but also Ella Maillart's record of her journey to Gosainkund, and a study by a group of scientists of the mountains of North-East Greenland.

B. R. GOODFELLOW.

The Story of Everest. By W. H. Murray. Illustrated with fifteen maps and diagrams by Robert Anderson and with twenty-four pages of photographs. J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd. 15s. net. 1953.

IT is refreshing to find, in the cover of this book, a short description of its contents which really tells the prospective reader what to expect and is entirely innocent of the false sentiment which one associates with the term 'blurb.' The time was ripe for a condensed yet adequately detailed study, in one small volume, of the efforts made since 1921 to reach the world's highest summit ; each effort contributing something to the store of experience to which the splendid and successful team of 1953 has borne such generous witness.

Mr. Murray was indeed well equipped for his task, both as mountaineer and as writer. He knows the mountains of Scotland and of the Alps ; was a member of the Scottish Himalayan Expedition of 1950 and of the 1951 Mount Everest Reconnaissance under Eric Shipton which pioneered the S.W. approaches for the Swiss and British parties of 1952 and 1953. He understands his fellow-mountaineers, European and Sherpa, their problems and their reactions. He knows what altitude can do to men. He has the artist's eye for scenery, and the power to describe it. Lastly, he is able to synthesise the struggles of thirty-two years in such a way that the reader will follow with growing interest the gradual improvement in organisation, in both strategy and tactics, in judgment of weather and snow, in equipment and food, and in the all-important understanding of acclimatisation and deterioration.

Expedition after expedition showed up our national tendency to underestimate the opposition, but also happily our general willingness

to learn ; and Mr. Murray has, without any pompous dogmatism, laid the necessary emphasis on the lessons.

I find myself in full agreement with his opinion that Mallory and Irvine fell while *ascending* in 1924 ; and I think that such evidence as we have indicates inexorably that Odell was mistaken in supposing that he saw them at all.

It is, I suggest, fair to assume that Smythe, Wyn Harris and Wager reached the same height in 1933 as Norton in 1924. I showed Norton Smythe's photograph (the only one ever taken of the buttress across the great couloir), and he said he recognised the well-marked intersection of two scoops in the rock as the place he reached.

In general, I cordially recommend Mr. Murray's book to all who want a good summary of all that preceded this year's magnificent success. The sketch maps and diagrams are excellent, so are the photographs ; and there is a useful index.

HUGH RUTTLEDGE.

Francis Younghusband : Explorer and Mystic. By George Seaver. London: John Murray. 1952. 391 pp. 25s.

SIR FRANCIS YOUNGHUSBAND, who died in 1942, was elected an Honorary Member of the Alpine Club in 1905, after his return from the Tibet Mission. This mission was the crowning event of his Himalayan career which began when, as a young subaltern in the King's Dragoon Guards, he made an adventurous crossing of the Muztagh pass in the Karakoram at the end of his journey from Peking to India in 1887. His explorations in the Yarkand river headwaters, the passes into Hunza and the Pamirs, in Gilgit and Chitral followed, in days when these districts were virtually unknown, and before Conway and Bruce introduced ice-axes and European guides to the Karakoram in 1892. These adventures are well-told by his biographer, who quotes freely from Younghusband's own writings, though there are a few slips when he summarises the details. The story of the Tibet Mission in 1904 is very good : the three chapters devoted to it show Younghusband to be the pattern of what a great leader should be : thorough and patient in preparation, eager and daring in action, regardless of consequences to himself when he felt justified in departing from the letter of his instructions. His action in signing the Tibet Treaty, though disapproved by the Secretary of State at the time, has since been completely vindicated, and in his chapter 'The Aftermath' the author sets out clearly how wise was Younghusband's settlement of the problem.

Younghusband's qualities were the fruit of his adventurous spirit, his mystical character, and his faith in himself. Many of his friends will remember his almost devotional enthusiasm to the Mount Everest adventure in the early 'twenties when he was President of the Royal Geographical Society and Chairman of the Mount Everest Committee, and the leaders of the early expeditions, Howard-Bury, Bruce, Norton and Ruttledge all testified to his encouragement and support. His

biographer traces the mysticism of his character throughout his life and shows how his experiences, and how in particular specific events in his career, influenced his later years.

KENNETH MASON.

SOME MOUNTAINEERING JOURNALS SINCE THE WAR

THERE are many mountaineering journals published to-day and the difficulty of keeping track of the valuable material stored away in their pages is too obvious to need stressing. The following notes are in no way exhaustive but merely indicative; no attempt, for example, has been made to list the innumerable climbs made on innumerable hills in the British Isles and those interested must turn to the journals themselves and, in particular, to the various Notes in which so much of this information is to be found.

Wayfarers' Journal, 1947-1950.

Yorkshire Ramblers' Club Journal, 1947-1952.

Rucksack Club Journal, 1946-1953.

Climbers' Club Journal, 1947-1953.

Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal, 1948-1953.

Journal of the F. and R.C.C., 1947-1952.

Wayfarers' Journal.—H. W. Tilman contributes three valuable articles: 'The Garibaldi Tradition' (No. 8, p. 5; a longer edition of an article that appeared in *A.J.* 55. 158); 'Mustagh Ata' (No. 9, p. 11; a very characteristic essay); and 'Mountains of Sinkiang' (No. 10, p. 5; dealing with his expeditions in 1948 to Bogdo Ola and Chakragil). A. G. Spencer, 'Kulu Trek' (No. 8, p. 25), deals with a visit made in September 1945; C. D. Miller has a useful article on 'The South Wall of the Marmolata' (No. 9, p. 24) with a marked photograph of the route. Ireland, a less common field of mountain effort, is dealt with by W. G. Stevens, 'On Irish Hills 1946' (No. 8, p. 31) and E. W. Hodge, 'More Impressions of Ireland' (No. 10, p. 15); in a lighter vein, W. G. Stevens in 'Shakespeare and the Club' (No. 9, p. 37) pillories good-humouredly the Officers and others of the Wayfarers' Club.

Yorkshire Ramblers' Club Journal.—Perhaps the main articles of non-British interest are two on South Africa, by N. P. Elliott, 'Some Mountains of Cape Province' (vol. vii, no. 24, p. 117), and C. W. Jorgensen, 'Thadentsonyana, Basutoland, 1951' (vol. vii, No. 26, p. 305), the latter recording a journey made in an area unfamiliar to many. Nearer home, R. E. Chadwick, 'A First Visit to the Alps' (vol. vii, No. 25, p. 198), contributes an interesting account of a novice's first impressions of the Alps.

Rucksack Club Journal.—This journal provides a rich variety of reading matter, and, moreover, since it can turn to such experts as

H. P. Spilsbury, B. R. Goodfellow and C. D. Milner for photographs, it need not be said that the standard of illustration is a high one.

Eustace Thomas, 'The South Side of Mont Blanc' (vol. x, 133), recalls his great season of 1928; A. H. Henson, 'The Southern Andes' (vol. x, 152), dealing with Nahuel Huapi district, with an ascent of Tronador, is quite topical to-day, when the Andes are arousing considerable interest in several countries; K. Tarbuck, 'My Technique with Nylon Rope' (vol. x, 234), will be known to many readers from other sources. In vol. xi there are several articles on the Mont Blanc range; G. L. Travis and F. H. Colley (p. 1), in 'Two Aiguilles' describe the East face of the Grands Charmoz, and the Moine ridge of the Verte: W. K. J. Pearson (p. 185), 'From Cloggy to Caiman' and G. S. Bower (p. 285), 'Ascents and Attempts' (1946-50). In the same volume (xi) are articles by C. G. Wickham (p. 198) on 'The Mittellegigrat' and A. Medlycott (p. 218) on 'The Engelhörner.'

The first part of vol. xii is devoted to the Jubilee of the Rucksack Club (articles by G. Winthrop Young, J. Wilding, J. F. Burton and A. S. Pigott). J. N. Mather, 'The Pétéret Ridge' (p. 113), describes the first British guideless traverse of this great Alpine ridge. On p. 168 Wilson H. Hey has an interesting obituary notice of Alexander Taugwalder, killed in 1952.

Climbers' Club Journal.—Like the Rucksack Club, the Climbers' Club also celebrated their Jubilee during this period, and vol. viii (pp. 224-298) provides a fascinating series of articles, by G. Winthrop Young, Bryan Donkin, H. R. C. Carr and others. Earlier in the same vol. (p. 120), F. H. Keenlyside and J. L. Longland in 'The Growth of the Club' argue for and against a limitation of numbers in the Club. Of climbing articles in this volume, R. C. Evans (p. 165) in 'Kinabalu' (British North Borneo, 1946) is, probably, in the territory least-known to his readers; Shipton (p. 299), in 'Wales Revisited' seems almost out of place, though less so to-day than when he wrote; J. H. Emlyn Jones, in 'Alpine Skylines' (p. 330) describes his ascent of the North arête of the Dent Blanche in 1947, and his traverse over the Schallhorn and Weisshorn from the Mountet to the Tracuit hut (see *A. J.* 57. 173).

In vol. ix (No. 1, p. 20), G. Winthrop Young (p. 20) provides in his article on V. J. E. Ryan the 'star turn' of the whole volume; but he has worthy competitors and the range of this volume is immense, running from South Africa to Fontainebleau and from Sinai to Australia, with Grahamland and Alaska thrown in for good measure. For some odd reason, the three numbers that make up this volume are paged individually, and not consecutively, as had been the practice before (and after). Bernard Pierre's articles on Piz Badile and the Aiguille Noire de Peuterey, West face, may in substance be read in *A. J.* vol. 57. (p. 445), as may Odell on Mount Vancouver and Keenlyside on the Teufelsgrat, the latter giving his version of the climb described in *A. J.* 57. 176. G. F. Peaker, 'Some Snow Climbs' (*C. C. J.* ix, no. 2, p. 30), deals with the northern side of the Jungfrau, etc., and M. P. Ward (No. 3, p. 31)

in 'Argentine Weekend' describes the Argentine arête in the Vaud mountains, an area less visited by British climbers than it deserves.

Vol. x is paged consecutively again, and amongst much of interest in the volume we may mention: K. Berrill, 'Abi Gamin' (p. 4); R. C. Evans, 'The Manang Expedition, 1950' (p. 24; the Tilman party in the Annapurna Himal); M. E. B. Banks, 'Moonlight on Brenva' (p. 32—cp. *A. J.* 58. 291); R. M. Bere, 'The Mountain Club of Uganda' (p. 64); Bernard Pierre, 'Light and Peaks of the Hoggar' (p. 175); G. H. Francis, 'The Pillars of Freney' (p. 191); G. J. Sutton, 'An Excursion in the Sierra Nevada' (p. 213); and E. C. Pyatt, 'A Short History of Cornish Climbing' (p. 219).

S.M.C. Journal.—The years 1948–1953 are covered in Nos. 139–144 of the *S.M.C. J.* Perhaps the biggest item throughout is the record of new or notable climbs made on the Scottish Hills. The Scottish Mountaineering Club evidently succeeds much better than the Alpine Club in getting its members to send in annual lists of their activities.

In vol. 24 a particularly attractive article is that by Lord Mackay, 'Vignettes of Earlier Climbers' (p. 169), but it is much too brief, especially in its latter stages. We would welcome a further instalment. W. H. Murray (p. 265) relates the doings of the Scottish Himalayan Expedition of 1950. Alexander Harrison, 'The First Season in the Alps' (p. 288) preaches a counsel of perfection when he urges learning under a guide; in these days of devalued sterling such a course is hardly possible. On pp. 256 and 278 A. L. Cram has some useful notes on mountaineering in Central Africa.

Vol. 25 is still unfinished; the principal article so far is one (pp. 21–34) on 'Norwegian Mountains,' 1951, by J. S. Orr and others. W. N. Ling has an interesting obituary notice of G. P. Baker.

Journal of the F. and R.C.C.—T. H. Tilly (vol. xv, p. 25) recalls wartime climbs in 'A Visit to Kashmir and Ladakh'; W. A. Poucher discusses (p. 143) 'Landscape Photography.' R. P. Mears (p. 188), discusses his favourite theme in 'Old Climbing Ropes,' from which we learn, *inter alia*, that if you bury a Manila rope at the bottom of a compost heap, it deteriorates. One wonders how many mountaineers *do* store their climbing ropes in compost pits, or whether the experiment really needs to be made in order to show that deterioration sets in. Peter Lloyd (p. 196) describes adventures in the Val Veni (cp. *A. J.* 57. 26); an anonymous writer (p. 309), contributes a pleasant and rather comforting article, 'Sixty-Four,' for those who are beginning to think the Alps are getting too much for them. On p. 336, M. N. H. Milne describes a rock climb made in a remote area in the Cameroons.

Vol. xvi is unfinished: W. Greenhalgh (p. 30) has a congenial article on a Swiss trip in 1950 with a party of schoolboys; the basis of their plan of campaign was to climb Mont Blanc from Saas. And they did. Bentley Beetham (p. 127) takes us to the 'Haut Atlas' and Nancy Smith (p. 156) in 'The North Ridge of the Piz Badile' is on ground familiar to many in writing, but not so often in practice.

The New Zealand Alpine Journal, 1946 to 1952, Nos. 33-39.

The Canterbury Mountaineer, 1946-47 to 1951-52, Nos. 16-21.

POSTWAR numbers of the journals of the two principal mountaineering clubs in New Zealand reveal several features which are common to almost all climbing clubs over this period. The end of the war saw not only an older and fully trained generation returning to the mountains, but also the sudden upsurge of a great number of sometimes inexperienced climbers. To the credit of New Zealand mountaineers, virtually each number of their journals records, in addition to 'bread and butter' expeditions and climbs, the results of people venturing into new fields, or re-opening little visited valleys. Ski mountaineering, (in the winter particularly) the use of snow caves, even igloos, and the air dropping of supplies all feature prominently among the new techniques used with varying degrees of success (largely according to the kindness of the weather) in new regions, on virgin mountains, and in achieving new routes up major peaks. On the debit side, the accounts rarely rise above straightforward diary style, crammed full of minutiae of detail. Though undoubtedly of value to the local climber, who in New Zealand has almost no other source of such basic information, this type of article makes dull reading for anyone outside the country. The journals duplicate virtually all major expeditions, and it is only in their members' long standing regional specialisms (Canterbury-Westland ranges for the *C.M.* and Otago for the *N.Z.A.J.*) that they differ greatly in content. In format, however, the postwar *Canterbury Mountaineer* has changed to a larger page size and much more legible type, giving a more pleasing volume than its predecessors, or the *N.Z.A.J.*

The following no more than lists a selection of the more important articles in each journal judged from the viewpoint of an overseas reader wanting to keep up with New Zealand climbing. Articles which are 'duplicated' in both journals, have in general been omitted from the *C.M.* list, which accounts for its much shorter length.

New Zealand Alpine Journal.

1946. Very much an overseas and after-war number. It includes an account of climbing two tropical peaks in Bougainville (R. Rodda), the 1939 Shipton expedition to the Karakorams (R. Scott Russell), a solo escape to Switzerland from French Dauphiné late in the season via the Col du Chardonnet (K. Grinling), and recounts members' war-time climbing in Italy. The party of 97 led by the President to the Wilkin Valley illustrates how one section of the club was attempting to deal with the problem of the partially trained climber. Dr. Irwin's article on the 'History of the Landsborough Valley' is of good value. F. Chapman continues 'A Route Guide to the Mt. Cook District' from previous issues.

1947 marks a change in Editor but little in the journal's character. R. Rodda records 'The First Ascent of Mt. Grave,' a solid effort. A joint account tells of further exploratory work in the Olivines in a

straightforward way. 'A Visit to the Douglas' by H. E. Riddiford supplies a well written and pleasant account of new climbing in the Mt. Cook District. Specialised articles on River Crossing technique (a large producer of fatalities in the New Zealand mountains), the climbing of steep vegetated slopes are worth note—also the account of the Dobson fatality.

1948. E. P. Hillary records the ascent of the last virgin ridge on Mt. Cook, that from the South. Dr. I. Whitehead writes well of work in the upper Arawata headwaters including the climbing of the virgin Ionia. A new route on Mt. Sefton (from the South) and climbs of Burns and Hopkins are told, again competently by Riddiford. P. Powell supplies an article on 'The Technique of Snow Caving.' No one should fail to read the composite account of 'The Rescue on La Perouse'—incidentally a most exciting and revealing story of climbing difficulties in the New Zealand Alps.

1949. The Editor's remarks on 'where do we go from here' make worthwhile reading, posing clearly some of the problems New Zealand climbers need to face up to. Somewhat similarly does the President's valedictory. I. Powell describes the first ascent of Main Royal in the Aspiring region. The seventh ascent of Mt. Sefton from the East is the occasion of a note from B. Gillies. A new ascent of Mt. Tasman (from the Balfour), as well as other novel work by his party, is successfully recorded by Riddiford.

1950 was a 'bad season.' 'Ski Mountaineering in Winter,' by Hillary, reveals how much new ground still waits the competent and resourceful New Zealand climber. Later he writes of Tasman and Dampier ascents. Powell supplies a sound account of the history and explorations of Mt. Tutoko, including his own party's recent work. 'The Arrowsmith's' are a regional feature by M. Glasgow, in which he sums up much of what has already been printed in the *C.M.* Simmons contributes a historical gem on the nomenclature of the Waipawa River. The rights and wrongs of hut building, especially at low altitudes, are worth reading in the Club notes.

1951. Rodda writes of the ascent of Mt. Tutoko by a new route, A. Anderson of his ascent of Wilzeck and Mt. Dampier. A traverse of Malte Brun is written up by B. Gillies and Riddiford again supplies an excellent account, this time of 'Mt. Elie de Beaumont from the Burton.' The debt of New Zealand climbers to the late W. A. Kennedy is well recorded by A. Anderson.

1952. A new Editor, and a new printer are combined; there is the desirable innovation of page size plates, better reproduced than formerly. Once again there is an overseas flavour including the results of the first New Zealand expedition to the Himalaya. The party recount their various activities in Garhwal, culminating in the successful ascent of the virgin Mukut Parbat, following which two members joined the Mt. Everest reconnaissance; of this E. P. Hillary writes. The 1950 Tilman party to the Annapurna Himal is recorded by W. Packard. Home climbing has continued, as Stewart reveals with 'A new route

on Tutoko,' and A. Rattray in 'The west Peak of Haast.' Ski-mountaineering in the Fox is described by N. Hamilton. Pascoe and Heine write knowledgeably about snow huts (igloos), carrying yet further the increasing New Zealand habit of carving one's shelter out of the mountain itself.

The Canterbury Mountaineer.

1946-47 marks a change in size and format. Though typographically much improved, the photographs are poorly reproduced. A. Anderson contributes the first of a series of articles of great value and interest, detailing the history of the early ascents of Mt. Cook. W. Beavan writes well on 'Peaks and Passes in the Landsborough.' N. Hamilton recalls some climbs in Switzerland.

1947-48. D. Hall records a Godley-Wataroa crossing, describing continued valuable exploratory work in that Westland area. Later he writes on 'The Alps Remembered,' an article of interest to all in Britain since it describes a *New Zealand* climber looking on those European ranges with balance and detachment. 'Tasman Valley Climbs' by G. Lowe describes nine perfect days climbing weather during which all opportunities were taken by a fit and resourceful party. D. Morse and R. Logan contribute an article-cum-guide on the Arrowsmith range, one of a series of valuable regional articles which appear from time to time in the *C.M.* Snow Caves have a special paper devoted to their use. Anderson continues his series on Mt. Cook history..

1948-49. L. Cleveland's 'Whitcombe—a minor miracle' records, in good journalistic style, the sort of climbing trip which can be pointed out as a warning to all. Lowe writes pleasingly of continued activity in the Tasman. Anderson completes his major contribution to the history of New Zealand climbing with a final article on Mt. Cook. It is worthy of note that the highest mountain in New Zealand had been climbed seventy-six times and by one hundred and sixty people. A most interesting attempt to fill a lack of topographical information by a regional relief model and annotated guide is recorded by D. Morse.

1949-50. 'The Havelock Valley' continues the series of useful historical topographical articles appearing in the journal. B. Barley writes of the new route made by his party on Mt. Dampier, and subsequently of a traverse of Mt. Haidinger. The club's 25th Anniversary gives rise to some review of its history and early personalities. N. Hardie contributes a valuable piece of work on the history of the ascents of Mt. Sefton. Riddiford writes of 'A visit to the Burton.'

1950-51. A change in Editor marks No. 19 with an irritating journalistic flavour: a change in printer, with certainly the most attractively set up and finished number yet produced by a New Zealand club. 'The Conquest of High Peaks' records with pardonable pride the feelings of a club one of whose members has completed the ascent of all seventeen New Zealand peaks over 10,000 ft., the first person to have done so. L. Cleveland's 'Tasman's West Ridge,' describes one of the major new routes put up since the War.

1951-52. Another change of printer and editor has produced a journal of a little poorer typographical and pictorial quality, but of rather less sensational flavour. 'Barlow Exploration' by D. Parr gives an account of further exploration in a little visited part of Westland-Canterbury ranges. 'The Virgin Southern Summit of Jagged Peak' in the Arrowsmith Range is described by G. Harrow. 'Capers and Catastrophes in the Cook' by J. Lange lightheartedly records a type of expedition which happily is comparatively rare in New Zealand climbing.

Mention should be made of the excellent regional maps which the *Canterbury Mountaineer* produces with almost each issue—these must be invaluable to the New Zealand climber, and are of the highest cartographic merit.

Rivista Mensile del Club Alpino Italiano. Vols. LXV-LXXI. Torino, 1946-52.

THE Club Alpino Italiano resumed publication of the *Rivista Mensile* in January, 1946. These volumes are, as usual, full of varied and interesting matter. Unfortunately, the exigencies of space permit only the following selections:

1946.—P. Ghiglione: 'Dalle Marmarole al Sorapis.' M. Piacenza: 'Spedizione al Caucaso, Persia e Turkestan' (July to November, 1910). M. Zecchinelli: 'La montagna nella poesia di Giovanni Bertacchi.' P. Mascherpa: 'La flora alpina e le sue virtù curative.' V. Fusco: 'Il "Carnet Vert" di Henriette d'Angeville nella letteratura alpina femminile' (see *A. J.* 54. 296-7).

1947.—K. Schaefer: 'Il destino dei rifugi del Cervino.' G. Bertarelli: 'La straordinaria storia dello sci.'; '600 Italiani sull' Himalaya' (six articles by former Italian P.o.w. in India). M. Donadini: 'Il Gruppo del Mangart. Monografia alpinistica della Valle dei Laghi.'

1948.—C. F. Capello: 'Morfologia e morfometria dei ghiacciai della Valle di Rhêmes.' V. Cesa De Marchi: 'I frutti fuori stagione' (climbs in Sardinia). S. Prada: 'Il gentil sesso e l'alpinismo.' G. Bertoglio: 'Il Monviso.' F. Grottanelli: 'In memoria di un alpinista' (Vittorio Sella).

1949.—L. Pozzi: 'M. Maudit (4465 m.)' (first winter ascent by S.E. ridge). G. Apollonio: 'Criteri generali per la costruzione di rifugi alpini.' A. Vinci: 'Auyán-Tepui' (exploration of the Auyán-Tepui massif in S.E. Venezuela). G. Bertarelli: 'La Guida dei Monti d'Italia (CAI e TCI)' (useful information about past, present and future CAI guide-books). A. Corti: 'Fra il Disgrazia e il Bernina.'

1950.—P. Meciani: 'Il primi alpinisti nella regione del Masino.' The same: 'Il sesto grado in Val Masino.' I. Gobessi: 'Per un'igiene mentale dell'alpinismo.' 'Tabella rifugi' (useful list of huts open in the provinces of Bolzano and Trento). G. Mazzotti: 'Dolomiti vecchie e nuove.'

1951.—G. Ravizza: 'Per un centro di studi alpinistici' (highly technical). F. Boffa: 'La nuova carta italiana del Monte Bianco.'

'La prima ascensione italiana del Monte Bianco' (account of the ascent made by the Marchese di Sant' Angelo on August 27, 1840; this was the twenty-fourth ascent of Mont Blanc). S. Michele: 'Alpi Apuane—montagne umili ma umane.' E. de Lotto: 'Matteo Ossi e la conquista dell'Antelao' (it was Matteo (not Giovanni) Ossi (1805-90) who made, alone, the first ascent of the Antelao, c. 1850). The same: 'La conquista del Pelmo' (according to Dr. de Lotto, it was probably the chamois-hunter Belli Battista Vecchio of S. Vito del Cadore (1792-1880) who accomplished, about 1824, the first ascent of the Pelmo).

1952.—G. Mazzotti: 'Del Cervino e d'altri monti.' G. Bertoglio: 'I Rifugi delle Alpi Occidentali.' E. de Lotto: 'La guida Cesaletti Luigi' (1840-1912). The same: 'Tita Toffoli Petoz, conquistatore delle Marmarole.' The same: 'La guida Cicco Orsolina' (1847-1925). S. Mangiapan: 'I Monti del Sole' (see *A. J.* 58. 524-5). G. Brocherel: 'Il Monte Bianco nella geografia.'

One remark. The number of new expeditions described in these volumes are sufficient to put an end to the reproach that the Alps are exhausted, at least as far as the Italian Alps are concerned.

Alpinisme, 1946-1953.

La Montagne, 1946-1953.

Revue Alpine, 1946-1953.

Revue de l'Alpinisme, 1947-1953.

Alpinisme, the quarterly journal of the Groupe de Haute Montagne, is essential reading for all who would keep abreast of current activity in the Alps. Not that it deals only with the Alps. There are important articles on the Himalaya and elsewhere, such as Dittert on Everest (1952), and several on the Annapurna expedition; these have now been superseded by the book, but Herzog's 'Conception Himalayenne' (1950) is still noteworthy. But it is as a record of climbing in the Alps that *Alpinisme* is pre-eminent. Its articles or, perhaps even more useful, its technical notes give details of all important expeditions, both new ascents and others. Naturally it reflects modern climbing fashions: the emphasis is on difficult rock climbing and 'courses célèbres'; the theme, perhaps a little too monotonously, is achievement. Among the more notable articles are: Schmid on the East face of the Zinal Rothorn (1946); de Rham on the South-east ridge of the Bietschhorn (1946); Terray: 'Perdus dans l'Eperon de la Walker' (1947); Cassin on the North-east face of the Piz Badile (1947); Vitali on the West face of the Aiguille Noire de Peuteret (1947); Gervasutti on the East face of the Grandes Jorasses (1947); Comici on his solitary ascent of the North face of the Cima Grande di Lavaredo (1948); Lachenal on the Eigerwand (1948); Rebuffat on the North face of the Matterhorn (1950); Berardini and Magnone on the West face of the Petit Dru (1952). Many English readers will be interested in de Chatellus' 'Zermatt 1949' (1949), and two important technical articles are: Frenedo on classical artificial pitches in the Mont

Blanc range (1947) and Contamine on modern snow and ice technique (1949). *Alpinisme* is sumptuously produced and finely illustrated.

La Montagne is the monthly journal of the French Alpine Club. Its scope is similar to that of *Alpinisme* and it suffers perhaps from the competition of *Alpinisme* for the best material. Nevertheless, *La Montagne* carries some interesting Alpine accounts, such as Allain on the traverse of the Chamonix Aiguilles from Plan to Charmoz (1946); Schatz on the North ridge of the Peigne; Couzy on the South ridge of the Aiguille Noire de Peuteret (1947); Rebuffat and Leroux on the Eigerwand (1953). M. Devies contributes annually a comprehensive survey of the season's achievements. Among other valuable articles are: Frenco on the Austrian rescue equipment (1946); Frenco on modern ski equipment; and a note on the legal status of guides in France (1950). The 1952 volume has Gevri's account of the 1951 Nanda Devi expedition.

Revue Alpine is published quarterly by the Lyons section of the C.A.F. It has generally two or three articles and some notes and reviews. Inevitably the main interest tends to be domestic, but the 1952 volume is internationally important for the articles on the 1951 Nanda Devi expedition, organised by members of the Lyons section.

Revue de l'Alpinisme is the annual journal of the Belgian Alpine Club; publication was resumed after the war in 1947. It has not the importance for Alpine history of the French journals, but there is much pleasant reading. In 1948-1949 Mariner writes authoritatively on the Austrian rescue service and equipment, and in 1947 Maillieux describes his ascent with Rebuffat of the North face of the Petit Dru, when they left Chamonix on the first train at 8.30 A.M. and arrived at the summit at 7.15 P.M. the same day. Bernard Pierre's article on North Wales (1950) is of special interest to Englishmen.