

CANADIAN AND AMERICAN NOTES.

MR. ALLEN CARPE writes in reference to his paper, 'Climbs in the Cariboo Mountains,' in 'A.J.' xxxvii. :

'I am informed that the "Mt. David Thompson," referred to in my paper on the Cariboo mountains last season, was climbed during July of this year by Mr. and Mrs. Munday, of Vancouver. Mr. Munday reports seeing a large snowfield S. and W. of the mountain, from which the North Thompson river is said to head instead of from the valley immediately N. of the mountain as indicated on the sketch map in my paper. There has always been a report among local trappers of an immense glacier at the head of the Thompson, and I was told once that Prof. Holway had a photograph of it, which he obtained from someone in 1916 or 1917. The observation by Mr. Munday is therefore very interesting, and my sketch map would apparently require revision and extension in this particular.'

Mr. Howard Palmer was elected on January 9 President of the American Alpine Club.

The new Hon. Secretary of the same Club is Mr. H. B. de Villiers-Schwab, already well known to us as Hon. Secretary of the Association of American Members of the Alpine Club and as the leader of the guideless party which made in 1922 the first ascent of Mt. Clemenceau.

It is very gratifying to learn that four members of the Committee are also members of our Club.

The Appalachian Mountain Club celebrates its jubilee this year and certainly shows no diminution of energy. The President is Mr. George A. Rust, and it is interesting to note that our Hon. Member Professor C. E. Fay has filled the same office in 1878, 1881, 1893 and 1905. The recording secretary and editor of the admirable journal is Mr. W. P. Dickey. Weekly meetings are generally held and all sorts of joint outings arranged, such as to the Blue Ridge Mountains, Virginia, the Saguenay River, canoeing in Newfoundland and elsewhere. The Club owns a number of club-huts, several large camps, many shelters, mostly in the White Mountains, and maintains an extensive system of trails. Capt. A. H. MacCarthy has just been awarded the well-merited distinction of Hon. Membership, which already includes Messrs. Freshfield, Collie, Bruce, Conway, Longstaff, Montagnier, and Farrar.

Mr. Geoffrey Young paid a visit to the States last autumn and was entertained at lunch in New York by the Association of American Members of the Alpine Club. Present: Messrs. William Williams

(in the Chair), Howard Palmer, Allen Carpe, De Villiers-Schwab, Read, H. S. Hall, Lindley, Nicholls, J. Hall, Seaver, and Judge Puttenham.

Mount Logan Expedition. Captain MacCarthy stated at the Annual Meeting of the Alpine Club of Canada, held on August 5, that Mr. Henry S. Hall, jun., could perfectly well have completed the ascent but stood aside in order to accompany his friend, Mr. R. Morgan, who was so incapacitated by frostbite as to be unable to ascend or descend without assistance.

REVIEWS.

Petra: Its History and Monuments. By Sir Alexander Kennedy. 'Country Life.' 1925. £4 4s.

THE subject of Sir Alexander Kennedy's important and weighty volume may not at first sight seem to have much connection with the interests of our Club and this JOURNAL. Yet its title, 'Petra,' should suffice to suggest a link. Mountaineering has in the past found itself associated with very diverse branches of knowledge—with geology, botany, meteorology, history. Why should it not come to the help of archæology? The Club has of late years shown a marked tendency to specialize in rock-climbing, and it is made clear in these pages not only that Petra deserves its name, but that its remains cannot be adequately explored except by practised cragsmen. Sir A. Kennedy tells us of 'rough climbs—inaccessible summits—a distinctly *mauvais pas*, where much agility is called for.' And these expressions are fully borne out by many of the over-two-hundred photographs to which the text forms an appropriate and illuminating complement.

The site of Petra was marked out by nature for human habitation. Situated on the edge of the desert and at the crossing of two avenues of commerce it combines a relatively abundant water supply with ranges of honeycombed cliffs offering rude shelter in caves in the walls of the narrow wadis or clefts that pierce the sandstone masses. Here, as elsewhere, a primitive race found in prehistoric times homes in the natural hollows of the rocks and added others of their own making. To what extent these caves may have been used as dwelling-places seems obscure. It is beyond question that for many centuries they served principally as tombs, or chambers for funeral or ceremonial feasts, and as places of worship. From an early date the external rock-faces were smoothed and more or less elaborately decorated with architectural features.

A peculiarity of the Petra remains is that the ordinary dwelling-houses of its inhabitants, what we may call the commercial and residential quarters, have disappeared. Of the temples and colon-