

REVIEWS.

THE BRITISH SKI YEAR BOOK, 1934. VOL. VII., No. 15.

The most important article in this number is the third and concluding section of Gerald Seligman's "Examination of Snow Deposits". This deals in a very thorough and exhaustive manner with the subject of avalanche conditions, and extends to 150 pages, profusely illustrated. The subject, naturally, is treated from the point of view of the skier, but the conclusions arrived at are of great value, not only to skiers, but to all who visit the Alps; as, for example, the following warning:—"The higher the temperature after a snow fall the quicker the slopes become safe, and it is for this reason very misleading to place any definite term of days and hours upon the dangerous period after a fall". Or again:—"The practical point to be borne in mind is that one avalanche having fallen does not reduce, but may even increase the danger."

Sir Norman Watson gives a very interesting description of the first crossing of the Coast Range in British Columbia, from Tatla Lake to the Pacific.

Capt. C. Asplin deals with ski-ing in Kenya Colony, the ski-ing ground being a glacier on Mount Kenya, at the foot of the final 1000 feet of precipitous rock. This was the first occasion on which ski had been used within two miles of the equator, and the skiers' performances created much astonishment and admiration on the part of the native porters.

There are several good descriptions of ski-ing tours, not only in Switzerland, but in Norway, North America and the foot-hills of the Himalaya, and one short article on ski-ing near Moscow, where such performances, though taken quite seriously by the authorities, have their humorous side. They consist of "langlaufing" on perfectly flat ground. As a sport this does not seem wildly exciting. It is, however treated solely as a matter of physical culture, and is taken as one of the tests for which the "Ready for Labour and Defence" badge is awarded.

There are in addition a number of articles dealing with theory and technicalities, and descriptions of the more important Race Meetings. The book is well illustrated with a great number of very fine photographs.

E.W.S.

CAMBRIDGE MOUNTAINEERING, 1934.

This Journal appears biennially, and the present number deals with the years 1932-33.

In his introductory notes the Editor remarks that "a club which changes completely every three years is liable to ups and downs". It seems evident, however, when one reads the various accounts of the work which has been done during these two years, that the Club has experienced a decided preponderance of "ups".

The number contains articles dealing with the Himalayas, Greenland, Iceland, Newfoundland, North America and Spitzbergen; and, nearer home, with Norway, the Swiss Alps, Corsica, the Pyrenees and with North Wales, Ireland and Scotland. This is indeed a record of achievement of which any Club may well be proud.

L. R. Wager recounts the ascent of a 17,000ft. peak which was used as a training walk(!) on the way to Everest, and C. B. M. Warren has a note on the Gangotri expedition. N. E. Odell describes his trip to North-east Greenland. The object was largely geological but several fine summits of

8,000ft. or so were climbed, and a first ascent made of the Teufelsschloss, a rock peak of about the height of Ben Nevis, but not otherwise comparable with the latter unless the Càrn Mòr Dearg Arête were cut away and the rocks of the north face carried round the whole circumference.

E. A. M. Wedderburn relates in a very attractive style the adventures of those who attended a ski-mountaineering meet in the Bernese Oberland, and shows how much ground can be covered in a short ten days by an energetic party.

The illustrations are very good, the view of Loch Etive from Bidean nam Bian, in particular, being a delightful study in light and shade. We congratulate Mr. Ramsay on the production of a very attractive number.

E.W.S.

LADIES' ALPINE CLUB YEAR BOOK, 1935.

This Journal is little and good. It is of pocket size, but it contains records of first-class mountaineering achievements the reading of which is calculated to make many male frequenters of the mountains feel that they are, after all, merely rabbits.

Mrs. Underhill (Miss M. E. O'Brien) describes a climbing tour in Western America, principally in the Tetons and the Sawtooth mountains, where, with her husband and a rancher, she made ten first ascents in beautiful but practically unexplored country.

The riding of a horse in this trackless district, though a necessity, is, Mrs Underhill considers, a much over-rated pastime. "They have a way of walking into wasps' nests, and of being afraid of bears".

Miss K. Gardiner deals first with the Canadian Rockies, where she was concerned in the ascent of four new peaks. She then carries us to New Zealand, where Mt. Tasman and many other mountains were climbed, including several "firsts".

"Ladies Only" is a delightfully written account by Mrs. Morin (Miss Nea Barnard) of a guideless climb with two other ladies in the Chamonix Aiguilles. They were fortunately instrumental in putting searchers on the track of a solitary climber who had fallen into a crevasse, in which he lay for a whole week before he was rescued.

The Journal contains appreciative In Memoriam notices of the late Mrs. Aubrey Le Blond, the Club's first President. She was, as everyone knows, one of the pioneers of ladies' climbing, and a truly great character. Her many activities are well described.

The list of climbs and expeditions in 1934 shows a fine record of work done, not only in Switzerland and adjacent countries, but in New Zealand and on the American continent, from Canada in the North to Mexico in the South. The illustrations are clear and attractive, and well produced.

E.W.S.