

Lake District—Fell and Rock Club at Wasdale Hotel; at Thornythwaite Farm, Borrowdale; and at Dow Crag Climbers' Hut, Coniston: in conjunction with the Wayfarers', at the Old Dungeon Ghyll Hotel, Langdale.

North Wales—Climbers' Club at Helyg Hut; Rucksack Club at the Ogwen Youth Hostel; Midland Mountaineers' Association at Pen-y-Gwryd Hotel.

Scotland—The Scottish Mountaineering Club at the C.I.C. Hut*, Ben Nevis; at Clachaig Hotel, Glencoe; and with Mr. MacCrae, Glen Brittle Lodge, Isle of Skye.

The Secretary and Treasurer of the Committee is A. S. Pigott, Hill House, Tenement Lane, Cheadle Hulme, Stockport.

C.P.L.

*The police have authority to obtain the key in emergencies: it is kept by Mrs. Burgess, Grand Hotel, Fort William.

REVIEWS.

CLIMBERS' CLUB GUIDES. CWM IDWAL GROUP.

By J. M. Edwards.

This is the first of a new series of guides to the climbs in North Wales, published by the Climbers' Club.

Dr. Edwards' descriptions of the various climbs are well written, clear and easily understood. Clearness, indeed, is a marked feature throughout. The Guide deals with the climbs on the Idwal Slabs, the Glyder Fawr face, and the Clogwyn y Geifr cliffs, including the Devil's Kitchen, etc. Some short outlying climbs have been omitted to avoid over-largeness, but it is rather surprising to find that no mention is made of the routes on the Gribin Facet. On the other hand, the book shows a perfect network of routes on the Idwal Slabs, and the Holly Tree Wall is fast filling up. Very little new work is recorded on the Glyder Fawr face. Away to the right, the immediate neighbourhood of Twll Du is, of course, classic ground, but Dr. Edwards' explorations of the cliffs on either side opens up an entirely new field. Much of the rock here is rotten, but due warning is given. These climbs should not be treated lightly, but are good practice for those who wish to acquire the art—so useful on many Swiss climbs—of negotiating doubtful rocks with safety.

There are a number of good illustrations and diagrams, but we should have liked to see in addition a few drawings of a type which could more easily be compared with the photographs, to enable the routes to be identified from below. The descriptions are so good, however, that no difficulty should be experienced. Dr. Edwards is to be congratulated on producing a book which fills a long-felt want.

CLIMBERS' CLUB GUIDES—TRYFAN GROUP.

J. M. Edwards and C. W. F. Noyce.

This also is a thoroughly well-written book. The sound knowledge of the district shown by the authors, and the number of new ascents they have to their credit, make them peculiarly fitted to their task. These new ascents are chiefly severe, but the older and more moderate routes receive due consideration.

A short section describing the Heather Terrace is instructive. The many openings at the foot of the buttresses (though not the *total* number of ribs and grooves, which is colossal) are noted. A newcomer to the

district would do well to walk along the Terrace, guide-book in hand (where feasible) checking the details and marking the start—or starts—of the various climbs. One of the latest—the Munich climb—he will not see, as it starts high up the wall. The Munich men were introduced to this climb by J. R. Jenkins during their visit in 1936.

The authors have also made several new climbs on the east wall of the Milestone Buttress, notably the long cleft which splits the face from top to bottom. In the days of earlier exploration this was known as the Long Groove, but has now received the more distinctive, but still less romantic name of Soap Gut. It is described as very severe, which, from a tentative examination in boots some years ago, we can readily believe it to be. Socks or felt-soled scarpetti are suggested.

It is interesting to note that the little outcrop of rock on the east side of Cwm Tryfan has at last been explored, and has yielded several short but good climbs. The name given—Drws Neoddodd—is rather curious, and suggests the old conundrum "When is a door not a door?"

The illustrations have no great artistic merit, but show very clearly the main features of the various rock faces. The admirable diagrams by C. H. French are a very valuable addition.

CLIMBERS' CLUB JOURNAL, 1937. Vol. V., No. 2. New Series.

This number is full of good things. It opens with an account by Dr. T. G. Longstaff of the first, or the first recorded, ascent of the Devil's Thumb, a remarkable obelisk of rock on the north-west coast of Greenland.

S. R. C. Walmsley describes a very successful holiday in the Canadian Rockies, and there is an all too short chapter by N. E. Odell on the splendid achievement of the ascent of Nanda Devi.

A. W. Andrews commences a series of descriptions of the rock-climbing to be obtained on the cliffs of the Cornish coast, which he knows so well. These are, of course, short climbs, but there is a photograph of a corner on the Wicca Pillar which shows in a startling manner something of their quality.

Wilfrid Noyce discusses the possibilities of new rock routes in Wales. One wonders what will happen when the rock faces are so scored with routes that none but the slimmest of climbers will be able to confine his body to any one climb.

There is no lack of humorous articles. There is E. F. Bozman's account of an imaginary climb in Switzerland (or elsewhere) and C. H. French's "Brave new Helyg." Geoffrey Winthrop Young also has some good-natured "digs" at the luxurious appointments of this hut in his "Helyg Rhymes," Dr. J. M. Edwards, commencing in a similar vein with the distressing details of an unpleasant dream, goes on to muse in an engaging manner on the value of mountains and rocks in man's spiritual education.

This is a good number. It was long overdue, but is all the more welcome on that account.

JOURNAL OF THE FELL AND ROCK C.C., 1936-37.

Nos. 30-31 (Combined).

This combined number is a Jubilee issue to commemorate the first ascent of the Napes Needle by W. P. Haskett Smith in 1886, an outstanding event in the history of Lakeland climbing. The number is therefore confined entirely to the Lake District. It is packed with articles—over 200 pages of them—all of great interest, dealing very thoroughly with the district from many points of view. It opens

appropriately with a description by Dr. T. R. Burnett of the Jubilee ascent of the Needle by Mr. Haskett Smith, who himself contributes a paper of reminiscences of the past fifty years in his well-known racy style. C. F. Holland is also delightfully reminiscent, but concerning more recent events!

The history of Lakeland climbing, by H. M. Kelly and J. H. Doughty, is a fine piece of work, and amongst non-climbing articles W. T. McIntire's "Roman Lakeland," Miss M. R. Fitzgibbon's "Packhorse Bridges," and Mrs. Katherine Chorley's "Early Lakeland Fellwalkers" are particularly interesting. There are also good chapters on Bird-life, Flora and Geology.

Ashley Abraham's "What would you have done?" puts a very pretty problem, and C. D. Milner writes a thoughtful article on "What the younger member thinks about climbing," but the only actual description of a climb is an engaging account by Miss M. M. Barker and J. Carswell of the first descent of the Scafell Central Buttress.

Finally, R. S. T. Chorley writes of the National Parks Movement, and there is a valuable contribution by H. H. Symonds concerning the lamentable effect on the Herdwick sheep farms of the schemes of the Forestry Commission.

A great feature is made of the illustrations, of which there are no less than 60. A number of these are by our own member G. W. Lacey. They are all of a high artistic merit, and beautifully reproduced.

The number is issued as a separate volume.

SCOTTISH MOUNTAINEERING CLUB JOURNAL, Nov., 1936.

Vol. 21, No. 122.

The eminently readable quality which one always expects from this journal is here well maintained. G. Graham Macphee continues the comparison of Scottish snow conditions with those abroad, concluding, quite rightly, that experience in Scotland is invaluable to anyone going to the Alps. C. R. P. Vandeleur writes of the spell of Ben Lui, and makes one long to follow in his footsteps. There is a paper by John MacLennan on Beinn Mhor of South Uist, showing that some quite good rock climbs may be found on it. But it is a far cry to South Uist!

G. F. Todd describes the Renfrewshire hills, which make a very attractive walking country within easy reach of Glasgow, and A. C. D. Small gives an account of a new climb—Agag's Groove—on the east side of the Crowberry Ridge on Buachaille Etive, evidently a valuable addition to the climbs there.

There is also much of interest under "Proceedings." The accounts of the Easter meets at Sligachan and Aviemore make good reading, as also do those of members' holidays abroad, and the activities of the Junior Mountaineering Club, a very enterprising organisation, which from time to time provides new blood for the senior club.

The number is, as usual, finely illustrated.

LADIES' ALPINE CLUB YEAR BOOK, 1936.

The contents of this little book show that the members of the L.A.C. are in no way behind the men in the matter of enterprise. The list of Climbs and Expeditions makes one's mouth water. In addition to climbs at home and in the Alps of a high order of difficulty (some of them guideless), many expeditions in other parts of the world, including Sinai, are recorded.

Miss Ruth Hale writes of three weeks in the High Tatra, where living is cheap and the many fine rocks are as difficult to climb as their names are to pronounce.

In the Canadian Rockies a ski-ing tour is described by Miss Una Cameron, and a climbing holiday by Miss Katie Gardiner.

Miss D. H. de Beer, with Miss Cameron, climbed Mont Blanc by the Pétéret ridge (first ascent by ladies), with one night out and one at the Vallot hut; then descended to the Dôme hut, crossed over to the Sella hut, and climbed the mountain by the Rocher on the following day, descending via the Dôme hut to Courmayeur—a fine performance.

Miss M. R. Fitzgibbon describes the first complete traverse of the Eiger Hörnli ridge, made with Joseph Georges *Le Skieur*. This was a difficult climb and something of a triumph.

Miss D. E. Thompson gives an account of an ascent of the Innominata ridge, and also of an exciting time at the new hut on the Col de la Fourche, where her party was held up for three nights owing to snow-storms. (This little hut—the Rifugio Alberico Borgna—is the property of the C.A.A., Turin. It is reached in two to three hours from the Torino hut).

There are a number of good illustrations, including some clever woodcuts by Miss Cameron.

BRITISH SKI YEAR BOOK, 1936. Vol. VIII., No. 17.

SKI NOTES AND QUERIES, December, 1936.

On reading these magazines one cannot help noticing the extraordinary hold which the sport of ski-ing has, in a comparatively short space of time, obtained in almost every part of the civilised world on which snow is liable to fall. Mr. L. S. Amery, in his Presidential Address, gives the strength of the Ski Club of Great Britain in July, 1936, as over 6,000, and steadily increasing, and in the December number of *Ski Notes and Queries* its editor says that this club, compared to other national ski clubs, is *small*. The Year Book gives evidence of the universal character of the sport, with articles on ski-ing in places as far apart as Chile and Afghanistan. Others deal with Norway (of course), Canada and the United States.

Articles concerning Alpine matters are fairly evenly divided between ski-mountaineering and ski-racing. In the former category E. A. M. Wedderburn describes a ski traverse of Mont Blanc, on which the descent by Mont Maudit was decidedly trying, and A. D. Baines an ascent of the Lyskamm by the Zwillings glacier—two fine expeditions.

E. W. A. Richardson gives an account of a night out on the Oberaarjoch in mist and snow, and there is a delightful little paper by Evelyn Williams on a two-day tour in the Silvretta.

The Editor, Arnold Lunn, himself undertakes the descriptions of various competitions—which is as it should be—and he does it well. These are no cut-and-dried accounts, but interesting narratives. The World Championship at Innsbruck was a most exciting affair, where the course was too low and studded with tree stumps, causing a number of hair-raising accidents. This course is not likely to be used again without considerable alteration. The Arlberg-Kandahar meeting at St. Anton however, where the conditions were much better, seems to have been enjoyed by everyone, particularly by members of the Arlberg Club, who scored a double win for the first time.

Arnold Lunn further contributes an interesting article on "Olympics Then—and Now." In the first part he deals learnedly with ancient Greece; in the second he discusses the Olympic Games at Garmisch-Partenkirchen, referring appreciatively to the very efficient way in which they were conducted.

The illustrations, which include several action photographs, are good. Of the "still" views, T. L. Forbes' "Wildspitze" is perhaps the finest.