

REVIEWS.

OXFORD MOUNTAINEERING, 1956

The editor of this record of the year's climbing by the O.U.M.C. laments the scarcity of articles on the "home front." This is well compensated for by several widely spread accounts of members' climbs abroad which include a brief but exhilarating account of the Gervasutti Couloir route of Mont Blanc de Tacul, an exploratory expedition to the Oksfjord peninsula in Northern Norway and climbing from the Schonbiel (why not the more generally recognised Schonbühl) hut. The last includes an ascent of the Obergabelhorn by the Arbengrat with an 8 a.m.(!) start and the traverse in storm via the Wellenkuppe to Trift by moon and torch light. The Aiguille de Fou in a storm by A. K. Rawlinson, Early Days of the O.U.M.C. by K. Nevill Irvine and an airy picture of the overhang on the Button hook route on Kern Knotts complete this slim but adventure-packed edition.

LADIES' ALPINE CLUB JOURNAL, 1956.

No editorial apologies here for deserting the home hills. The accounts of the year's activities by members range far and wide and plunge straight into the "Jugal Himal" by Elizabeth Stark, the Mountains of Morocco by Eleanor Baillie, Central Lahul (Millicent McArthur) and climbing in the Sudan by F. M. Delaney. Truly they must spend their wet days weaving Magic Carpets! Perhaps to counterbalance all this is a delightful article on Family Mountaineering by Nea Morin. The Journal includes a record of members' climbs and expeditions in 1955 of which the ascent of Ruwenzori, Monte Rosa by Marinelli Couloir, Lyskamm North Wall, Grepon by Mer de Glace face, Rosetta W. Wall, Taeschhorn Teufelsgrat are only a few of the outstanding climbs of this active group. A useful list of officers and members is also included.

THE CLIMBERS' CLUB JOURNAL, 1955.

As usual a good 8/6d. worth. Of the greatest interest and much value to rock climbers is the first condensed, if interim, guide to "Snowdon and the South West." Of the wide fields this title suggests J. Neill contributes a guide to the climbs in Cwm Silyn and on the Tremadoc Rocks. The guide to Silyn is timely for those who like their climbs neatly tied and labelled; for some at least it was an outpost where one could get lost in wet mist on apparently virgin routes.

Some thirty climbs are listed in Cwm Silyn and some thirty-six on the several cliffs of the Tremadoc rocks. Botanists, ornithologists and insectologists please note they are "rich in flowers and

infested with adders and other beasts...populated by spiders and woodlice...wood pigeons and ravens," but above "splendid pitches, sensational but not excessively difficult" for the rock climber who has been able to eschew the distractions of the approaches.

In an editorial Eric Shipton states the case for and against "large expeditions" in the Himalaya. A. J. J. Moulam describes developments in the Llanberis valley and M. J. Ball an expedition to the head of the Barun Valley. An attempt on Rakaposhi and a successful ascent of the West face of the Dru make good reading. "Climbing in Devonshire" by K. M. Lawder is in the vein though less lightheartedly of "Rock Climbs round London" and suggests that a collected climbing guide to London, South and West is long overdue! With the C.C.J. in hand those so minded will find a wide assortment of problems amongst the major and minor Tors. How much climbing traditions owe to Haskett Smith is well shown in E. C. Pyatt's biographical sketch. As usual the journal includes a long list of new climbs mostly in Snowdonia but also in the Arrans, Radnor and Cornwall and several routes in the Lyngen peninsula. Succinct reviews of current "literature" complete a particularly useful issue.

THE CAIRNGORM CLUB JOURNAL, No. 90, 1956. 5s.

This is not an easy Journal to read and the heavy atmosphere of layout and type does not belie the contents. To find an interest for bowed back and averted eyes horizon-bound to a few yards on either side of the track has much reward and the detailed survey of flowering plants in the Cairngorms will be welcomed by botanising mountaineers and ignorami (your reviewer for one) alike. Work on the club's two climbing huts has kept members well occupied, invective apparently as usual being the mother of invention. Several new climbs are listed.

THE RUCKSACK CLUB JOURNAL, 1955.

This is, as usual, an excellent six shillingsworth. There is an inimitable atmosphere about the journal which reflects the personalities of this active Club whether its members be gathering apples in Kentish orchards or beating down the highest Himalaya. V. T. Dillon excellently describes the Ryan-Lochmatter route up the Dent d'Herens with two fine pictures of the ice climbing. Any one in training for a traverse of Welsh three thousanders should read and follow Philip Brockbank's week-end walk—98 miles from Fort William to Aviemore, with a total height of

13,100 feet. H. J. Cooke writes on a short visit to Ruwenzori, enlivened by lightning and elephants. Several new climbs are listed, three in Wales and two on Gritstone at Lad's Leap.

There is a most useful index.

J.S.B-G.

CLIMBERS' CLUB JOURNAL, 1956.

This, the Eighty-first issue (Volume XI. No. 2, New Series), is, I think, one of the finest journals which the Climbers' Club have yet produced. The modern climbing book can offer nothing so interesting as the varied articles which appear within these pages, and reading these one realises that there is scope for a monthly or quarterly magazine on similar lines, which would be available to the enormous climbing public at large, and following in the footsteps of the old "Mountaineering Journal" of pre-war years. It is a pity that the British Clubs cannot get together and produce such a magazine!

This issue of the C.C. Journal is worth reading if only for A. S. Piggott's appreciation of Wilson H. Hey. Moreover one is impressed with Tony Moullam's reflections of his magnificent first ascent of Mur-Y-Niwahl, surely one of his best efforts.

"Northern Limestone," by Don Roscoe, offers a vivid comparison to Henry Bishop's "Climbs on Mountain Limestone" which will be found in a C.C. Journal somewhere around 1910. What Bishop (a very fine overlooked climber from Sheffield), preached then is now coming to pass. What will the next 46 years see? The future of limestone climbing in this country is terrific. Already Kilusey Crag has been conquered by two climbers of the Mountain Club, from Stafford.

The Himalayas are represented by George Band, who reveals interestingly those final hours which saw himself and Joe Brown reach the top of Kangchenjunga—Africa with accounts of Ruwenzori and Mount Kenya—Cornwall by Mike Banks—Skye by L. G. Shadbolt—Wales and "Yr Eiff" by G. W. S. Piggott (most interesting)—and excellent articles on modern technical climbs on the continent by H. G. Nichol and R. O. Downes.

The list of new climbs and notes by J. Neill and others is as prolific as ever. One is interested to note that the Climbing Machines of the "Rock and Ice" Club have run out of names. This is hardly surprising!

There remains but one thing to add—the illustrations are as interesting as the articles.

Eric Byne.