

EDITORIAL

It is to be hoped that those of us who attentively read our newsletters will not have passed over certain items in the Spring Newsletter as being not really applicable to the M.A.M. In particular the article *Prospect of Snowdonia* which, though anonymous, is written in that familiar style that leaves us in little doubt of its authorship, needs to be pondered by all, and the problems it raises probably placed on the Committee's agenda as a permanent item as well. And on the very next page the tale is continued; a telephone, vital to those rescuing the injured on Craig yr Ysfa, is placed out of bounds to mountaineers, camping in the Pass is still causing endless friction, a Peak District crag has been dynamited (this method appearing to be superior in effect to the boiling pitch used elsewhere), and finally a complaint from Mr. Williams, Gwern y Gof Uchaf, against self styled climbers who cannot be bothered to use the stiles he has intentionally erected to avoid damage. Everyone knows that Mr. Williams is a tolerant man and a friend of the M.A.M., and this creates a responsibility for the M.A.M. to help him fight his battles against the uncouth and vandalistic and so restore the fallen image of the climbing fraternity in the eyes of the "get tough" farmers.

There is enough in *Prospect of Snowdonia* to cause despondency in the most hardened mountaineer. The prospect of being limited to a few "access routes", of never being quite sure what an access route is, of being subject to streams of Welsh abuse, of being compassed about by wardens and other officials, and generally being treated like gypsies, is pretty dampening. Nor is there much evidence that things are likely to improve—the question is, then, how to break the vicious circle?

If ever we succeed in attaining our hut in Central Wales, this is going to be one of the very first problems to tackle. Merionethshire has more fences than the North, and already one has to be very wary of the local farmers. It would seem that we should be wise, in this situation, to talk first and climb afterwards, to declare our intentions freely and openly to local farmers, to reach agreement over points of access, and to accept cheerfully whatever reasonable conditions they would wish to make; and if all this can be done in Welsh, so much the better. To do what we can to repair the situation is the only course left to us in Ogwen, but if ever we come to be established in Merioneth we can do a lot right from the start in seeing that the same deplorable situation is not created there also.