

REVIEWS.

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE ORDNANCE SURVEY LARGE SCALE AND SMALL SCALE MAPS. Published by the Director-General at the Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton. Pp. 20 and

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS. 32. 6*d.* each.—Mountaineers are greatly indebted to the Ordnance Survey maps, and so cannot fail to appreciate these two little pamphlets which, in very brief compass, give a historical account of the

Survey and an outline of the work it has accomplished. The Survey Department is not yet a century old—the first Survey map, that of Ireland, was published in 1840, and the first map of England followed in 1846—but it has done uncommonly good work in the time it has been in existence. No other country, we are told, is so well surveyed and mapped as the United Kingdom, and no other country possesses a series of maps at all comparable with that of the Ordnance Survey. As is well-known, there are “large

scale” maps, on the scales of 6 inches and 25 inches to the mile, while the principal “small scale” maps are those on scales of 1 inch, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to the mile. The 1 inch map, by the way, is the original standard map of the Survey, and its merits as a walking or cycling map have long since been recognized—universally, one might well say. It is in no need of commendation to-day, for it is the invariable and invaluable “stand-by” of every walker and mountaineer. It and the other small scale maps may be had in various forms of mounting and at varying prices, and either plain or coloured. In addition, a new series of 1 inch maps, fully coloured, is in course of publication, each map being designed to cover the

whole of some district noted as a tourist resort; among the sheets already published is one of Deeside. A new $\frac{1}{4}$ inch map is also being published, which is perhaps the most useful motoring map produced by the Survey, as it is thoroughly up to date and embodies the results of the revision that is now being carried on. Formerly, the large scale map was revised every twenty years and a new edition issued, based on the revision. Recent Parliamentary Retrenchment Committees, however, suggested that, in order to effect economy, the non-revision period should be lengthened, and a compromise has been arranged. The twenty-year revision will be carried out in populous counties only, those counties which have a population of less than 100 per square mile being revised only once in forty years. Thus the greater part of Scotland and the mountainous parts of Wales will remain unrevised for forty years

but, judging from a diagram presented in one of the Descriptions, the Aberdeenshire Highlands—up to the Perth and Inverness-shire borders—will come under the twenty years revision.

The Descriptions are, in their way, guides to the whole series of maps issued. They embody specimens of the various sizes of maps, and furnish detailed explanations of the conventional signs and symbols employed; and by the aid of index diagrams the intending purchaser can have no difficulty in selecting what he wants. Accompanying the Descriptions we received what, coming from a Government office, was a decided novelty, but none the less pleasing—a tastefully printed and beautifully illustrated poem, "The Making of a Map." It was apparently issued as a Christmas souvenir from the Southampton office, and was designed to commend—we hesitate to use the bald and business term, "advertise"—the Survey maps. The author is Mr. Alfred Oscroft, who presumably combines rhyming with plan-making, rivalling as a rhyming eulogist of the Ordnance Survey map "Touchstone" of the *Daily Mail*, whose lines were quoted in our last issue. He cleverly sets out, in eight verses, how a map is made, traced, examined, photographed, printed, and distributed. Here are the two concluding verses:—

"With all due speed, by rail or road,
By post, by hand, by varying mode
The maps are sent, to be a guide
To men who walk, to men who ride:
Peasant or Prince here see displayed
The country's face, with skill portrayed.

Long may the map of service prove—
Your faithful ally when you rove!
Whether on foot, or wheel, or car,
From Salisbury Plain to Lochnagar,
On it you always may depend—
Your Guide, Philosopher, and Friend!"

THE BERNESE OBERLAND. VOL. II. By Arnold Lunn (The Alpine Ski Guides). Published on behalf of the Federal Council of British Ski Clubs by Messrs. King Hutchings, THE ALPINE Ltd., Uxbridge. Pp. xxvi+169.—Many years ago SKI GUIDES. Mr. Lunn published Vol. I of the *Alpine Ski Club Guide to the Bernese Oberland*, dealing with the western wing of the Oberland. The Club always intended to continue the series, but the increased cost of printing since the war has forced the various British Ski Clubs to combine for all purposes of ski-ing publications, and the present volume is therefore published by the Federal Council of British Ski Clubs. Any profits that it may make will be handed over to the Federal Council and

ear-marked for the publication of future guide-books. Mr. Lunn's own work has been given gratuitously. The volume deals with the country between the Gemmi and the Grimsel, and also includes the ski-ing expeditions in the lesser ranges that border on the Oberland glaciers. As a guide, it appears remarkably complete and satisfactory. Mr. Lunn writes enthusiastically of ski-ing and appreciatively of the scenery which meets the ski-runner's view; and he evidently writes with knowledge and experience. A noticeable feature of the book is the caution constantly tendered: descents that are dangerous and to be avoided are carefully pointed out. We are disposed to classify the little volume as a most reliable guide-book.

THE BRITISH SKI YEAR-BOOK FOR 1920. Published by the Federal Council of British Ski Clubs, Edited by Arnold Lunn and Captain H. C. H. Marriot. Pp. 187. 3s. 6d. net.—

"BRITISH SKI YEAR-BOOK." This is the first issue of what is designed as the official organ of the Federal Council of British Ski Clubs, and it takes the place of various Club publications which appeared annually up to the war. It is replete with information relative to ski-ing and the Alpine resorts where it can be best prosecuted. There are many articles descriptive of personal experiences, and a large section of the book is devoted to new or to little-known ski expeditions, the intention being that this section shall serve as the raw material for future ski-ing guide-books. Valuable practical advice is given in an article on "Rudder-Action in Ski-Steering," by Vivian Caulfeild and in a symposium on "The Use and Abuse of the Stick." Numerous photographs of snow-fields are a feature of the book.

MR. F. S. GOGGS has retired from the editorship of the *Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal*, and the April number opens with

an appreciation of his eleven years' labours in that

"SCOTTISH MOUNTAIN-EERING CLUB JOURNAL." capacity, contributed by Mr. George Sang, the Hon. Secretary. Mr. Goggs is succeeded as editor by Mr. Eric P. Buchanan. The principal article of the number is one on "The Dubhs and Sgurr Alaisdair from Coruisk" by Mr. J. H. Bell. The party whose

climb is described had a rather unique experience. When they reached Loch Coruisk, the wild scene, owing to clouds and driving rain, had "all that sombre and gloomy grandeur for which it is famous." In ten minutes' time, the north wind had blown the clouds away, and the party viewed the scene in its beautiful aspect—"the loch was sparkling blue, and the rain-washed cliffs glistened in the sun, while a rainbow spanned exactly over Coruisk from Dubh to Druim nan Ramh." The next article, "A June Night in the Mountains," by Mr. Walter A. Smith, is noticeable for its lack of precise specification, but it is not difficult for one

acquainted with Speyside to identify the places disguised by the general terms employed. The party—who set out at 9.30 p.m. and got home, *via* the Thieves' Road, by 8 in the morning—evidently ascended Sgoran Dubh. The "Peak of the Winds" (3,658 feet) is Sgor Ghaoith; "The Speckled Brae," which "loomed across the deep narrow glen," is Braeriach; and "the wild loch . . . some 2,000 feet below"—of which an illustration is given—is Loch Eunach. In "The Menace to Rights-of-Way" Mr. Sang—very timeously—sounds a warning note as to the dangers that lurk in the Grampian electric-power scheme. Public roads and tracks will be submerged by the contemplated widening and deepening of certain lochs, and, apparently, no provision is made for the substitution of alternative paths.

THE *Climbers' Club Journal* is conspicuous for its weighty and authoritative articles on mountaineering, and the 1920 number is noticeable for contributions from two prominent "CLIMBERS' CLUB JOURNAL." English climbing men. Mr. G. Winthrop Young furnishes a very graphic account of his first ascent of the Nesthorn, in the Alps, and Mr. W. P. Haskett Smith describes a number of "Home Climbs"—in the Lake District and in North Wales. Several other articles deal with Alpine ascents, and are accompanied by excellent photographs. Mr. G. S. Bower writes on "A Climbing Tour of the Highlands," devoted to an ascent of the cliffs of Ben Eighe, in Ross-shire; and a naval officer, on patrol duty between North Rona and the Sound of Jura, tells how, one day, he climbed the pinnacles of Askival, in Rum. The editor, Mr. George Mallory, has an interesting and instructive article on Mr. Winthrop Young's new book, *Mountain Craft*.

MR. YOUNG, in the letter referred to in the first of our Notes in this number, says the editors of the Club Journals are finding it always harder to collect new material and new writers, but the statement receives remarkably little support in "FELL AND ROCK CLIMBING CLUB JOURNAL." the *Journal of the Fell and Rock Climbing Club* for 1920, in which the letter appears. With an issue running to 235 pages and containing eight articles besides other matter, the *Journal* can hardly be reckoned on the down-grade. Two of the articles describe climbing tours in the Highlands—the climbs described (and illustrated by a number of excellent photographs) were chiefly in the Skye and Ben Nevis regions. In "Lake District Fell Walking" Mr. Ashley P. Abraham gives an account of a remarkable "record" made by Mr. Eustace Thomas last year—a round from Keswick back to Keswick by way of Scafell, Bowfell, Langdale Pikes, and Helvellyn, accomplished in 21 hours, 25 minutes, the distance covered being 59 miles, over an ascent of about 23,500 feet.

THE *Rucksack Club Journal*, like the organ of the English Lake District, shows no falling off in the number and variety of its articles or in their quality. There are accounts of

“RUCKSACK CLUB JOURNAL.” as remote as Corsica and the province of Quebec.

Mr. Eustace Thomas writes on the fell walk just mentioned, but his account, titled “Mountaineering Endurance,” is devoted mainly to the system of training he adopted. He mentions incidentally that he is fifty-one years of age, and modestly adds that his feat “may be an encouragement to many people.”

THAT the Mountain Club of South Africa continues to flourish and to actively prosecute climbing on Table Mountain and elsewhere is abundantly demonstrated by its *Annual* for the past

“SOUTH AFRICAN MOUNTAIN CLUB’S ANNUAL.” year, which is replete with interesting accounts of Club and individual excursions, accompanied by admirable photographs and sketch-maps. Climbing evidently does not exhaust the energies of the Club or the interests of its members, for we have a continuation of the paper on “Birds of the Cape

Peninsula,” noticeable for its detailed and precise information, and also a paper on butterflies observed within a fifteen-mile radius of Simon’s Town. More striking even than these, perhaps, is a suggestion that the schools should be affiliated to the Mountain Club, if only on the principle that “a living nursery of young mountaineers is necessary to the vitality of the Club,” and that the schoolboy is “the mountaineer in embryo.” The idea seems capable of application elsewhere.

WE have received from the Swedish Touring Club a copy of their Year-Book for 1920. It is a volume of 326 pages, has a great variety of articles, and is profusely illustrated. Lack of

“SWEDISH TOURING CLUB’S YEAR-BOOK.” acquaintance with the Swedish language prevents us from expatiating further on the book. A series of twenty-five plates, however, presents us with some of the more striking natural features of the country, and these plates are usefully supplemented by the

abundant illustrations in the text. We have a note from the secretary of the club, saying that if at any time any member of the Cairngorm Club would like to make acquaintance with Sweden, the Touring Club will be glad to supply any necessary information.