

## REVIEWS.

*The Alpine Journal*. No. 235, November, 1927. 10/6 net. A protest against Fascist action in the past summer in closing the Italian Alps is given prominence in this number.

THE ALPINE JOURNAL. The protest is made, not from a political, but purely from a mountaineering point of view. "British travellers," it is stated, "both men and women, mountaineers and local guides, have been not only turned back summarily and without warning but arrested and detained, and even in some cases deliberately aimed and shot at by bands of youths describing themselves as 'Local Guards' or 'Fascist Militia.'" The facts, the Editor adds, are not open to question. Some thirty instances, authenticated by thoroughly trustworthy evidence, of interference with travellers have been brought to his notice, and he has himself had personal experience of others. This protest will be endorsed by all mountaineers, who will share the Editor's hope that "that very competent body, our ancient ally, the Club Alpino Italiano" may be trusted to see to it that the Italian Alps are not permanently excluded from *The Playground of Europe*. Amongst a budget of most interesting articles, special mention may be made of "With the Shaksgam Survey Party—1926," by the late Major H. D. Minchinton, M.C. The resulting map (here reproduced) fills in some 1200 square miles of hitherto unexplored country. An account of "Mount Tasman and its Satellites," by Mr. H. E. L. Porter, is illustrated by some specially fine photographs, and a delightful paper on "Illusions" is contributed by Mr. Geoffrey E. Howard. It is full of good things, and, amongst many, we cannot resist quoting the following :

It was the English, with their infinite capacity for the incongruous, who set the example of creating one of the most absurd but productive illusions in the Alps. Realizing the timid and unimaginative temperaments of our great middle-classes, whose vision is bounded alternatively by their native suburb and Gleneagles, Bournemouth or Sheringham with an occasional wild and dangerous dash to Dinard, some ingenious persons conceived the idea of luring young men and maidens to the alarming pinnacles of the centre of Europe by creating an almost perfect illusion of home life in the winter hotels. Nervous and diffident, these young persons begin to set forth on the novel experiment in little coveys, to discover to their delight that the hotel, the band, and the

company are an exact reproduction of their own Wimbledon, Edgbaston, West Didsbury, and all the rest of the dwelling-places of the more solid portions of Britain's vertebrae, with an American bar thrown in. Free from the painful necessity of speaking a foreign tongue or mingling with foreigners, they begin to venture outside into the snow. They come to jazz, they stay to ski, and in many cases, gripped by that strange and exquisite spell which the mountains know how to weave round the hearts of their votaries, return again and again, winter and summer; and in a constantly increasing band of enthusiasts, constitute one of the most fertile recruiting grounds for mountaineers. For do not let us foster another illusion, namely, that skiing and mountaineering have little or no connection. On the contrary there is often a true love match between them, and there are few who really mountaineer or ski who are not equally enthusiastic summer climbers. That again is the inevitable spell of the mountains.

Ski-running is the subject of a lively correspondence, and full accounts are given of "Accidents in 1927" which indeed make "sad reading." "The modern craze among amateurs for climbing in bad weather" is put down as the cause of many fatalities.

*The Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal*, No. 104, November 1927. 2/6 net. In this number an interesting account is given

by Mr. James A. Parker of the erecting of the mountain indicator on the summit of Ben Nevis. S.M.C. JOURNAL. The President of the Cairngorm Club has put all Scottish mountaineers under a deep obligation to him for the work he has done in this matter of mountain indicators. First Lochnagar, then Ben Macdhui and now Ben Nevis. The Ben Nevis indicator is of the same type as the two previous ones. Once *in situ* it may seem a very simple affair, but behind the apparent simplicity lies a great deal of planning and organization. Members of the Cairngorm Club know what this has meant in the case of the two Deeside indicators, and the same thoroughness and meticulous regard for detail have been devoted to that on Ben Nevis. Two excellent photographs and a reduced copy of the indicator illustrate the article. An *In Memoriam* notice of Mr. George Buckland Green, editor of *The S.M.C. Journal* pays tribute to his love of the mountains and his sound knowledge of mountaineering literature. Three very readable articles deal with "Almost an Ascent," "A Fortnight in Wester Ross," and "A Day on the Rocks," and Club news and the doings of the Junior Mountaineering Club of Scotland are adequately recorded. Some very fine photographs are contributed by "G. S.," initials which thinly veil an identity not unknown to our own Club members.

*Harvard Mountaineering*, Vol. I., No. 1, June 1927. Modestly described as the first issue of an annual pamphlet, this publication of the Harvard Mountaineering Club (The University Press, Cambridge, Mass. 32 pp.) is to be cordially welcomed. The Club is now in its fourth year. "Active membership is limited to those who have had at least some real mountaineering experience in the Alps, Canadian Rockies, or equivalent regions," and there is also a system of "qualifying membership." It is interesting to note that the Club is primarily an undergraduate organization, and members are urged to put "boys going from the schools to Harvard, who have climbed or are interested," in touch with the Club, and thus, not only help the Club, but help the boys to come in contact with those in college whose tastes in this respect are similar to their own. The Canadian Rockies are an obvious attraction to the Harvard climbers and offer the prize of first ascents. Lake Louise seems to be a favourite centre and anyone who has been there will endorse the opinion of the writer of an excellent article on "The Lyell Peaks and Mount Forbes" that "a more interesting or enjoyable location is hard to imagine" than the region covered by the article. Those who heard Mr. Sang on the Dolomites at the Annual Club Dinner last November will appreciate "Impressions of Dolomite Climbing," by Mr. Lincoln O'Brien, the Secretary of the Harvard Club and echo his conclusion, "May I meet you in the Dolomites!" A valuable contribution is a sketch map showing the principal peaks at the headwaters of the Clearwater and Siffleur rivers, Alberta, Canada, compiled by Mr. Osgood Field from official sources and personal observations made during the summer of 1925. Well printed and with some really fine illustrations, we look forward with pleasurable anticipation to further issues of this latest recruit to the ranks of mountaineering periodicals.

*The Call of the Pentlands.* By Will Grant (Edinburgh: Robert Grant and Son—7/6 net.) Much has been written about the Pentlands, "a land of glamour and romance," as Mr. Grant's sub-title has it. In this book he has presented the enduring charm of the district in a most fascinating manner. Historical and legendary lore are blended with topographical detail in a way that makes the book really indispensable to the lover of the hills. Those who think they know the Pentlands will probably be willing to admit that Mr. Grant has opened up much that is new to them, and, in any case, he is a welcome and most inspiring guide. There is a charming coloured frontispiece, as well as many excellent photographic illustrations.