

REVIEWS.

Hills and Highways. By Katharine C. Chorley. Pp. 232. With wood engravings by Margaret Pilkington. (London: J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., 1928-6s.) This is a collection of

WYFARING delightful wayfaring essays, written, and cleverly
ESSAYS. written, by one who is manifestly a keen lover of the mountains. The first essay, "Vagabond Holiday Makers," strikes the key-note to the rest of the volume, which deals with rambling in districts ranging from the Cairngorms to the mountains of Switzerland. The English Lake District is evidently the author's happy hunting ground, and the chapter "An English Humorist", which is a life-like sketch of Will Ritson, is specially delightful.

"Spring in the Cairngorms" describes two excursions in our playground and will appeal to all members of the Club; although it is doubtful if any of us have ever tried to give a brew of hot Oxo or its like "a fine tang of the earth" by "stirring the pot with a root of heather", as the author did in the Larig. We all know—"The swinging walk down the Pass and then through the pine groves and green clearings of Rothiemurchus made a worthy finish to our ten hours of great life," and "Presently our moorland track made into the woods. The pillars of the fir-trees were dusky rose in colour, and between them the distant hills to the westward glowed like amethysts. There was a scent of resin in the air."

The Alpine Journal, No. 236, May, 1928. No. 237, November, 1928, 10/6 net each. It is impossible, within the limits of a notice that must be brief, to do justice to the wealth of

THE ALPINE mountaineering lore that is gathered together with-
JOURNAL. in the covers of the *Journal* of our premier mountaineering club. The two numbers for the current year, which make up Vol. XL., are full of interest. What will strike the reader is the very attractive manner in which the material is presented. There is nothing "heavy," even in highly technical articles. Humour is allowed judicious scope and

maps, sketches, portraits and a rich collection of very fine photographs, magnificently reproduced, are of the greatest value in helping towards a clear understanding of what is written. Some idea of the wide variety of the contents may be gathered from an enumeration of some of the subjects of the articles. The European Alps, of course, are dealt with in many aspects. There are articles on Kilimanjaro (with an animated correspondence as to claims to the first ascent by a woman), Mystery Mountain, Iceland, Crete, the mountains of Morocco, the mountains of Israel (by Rev. W. T. Elmslie) and Mount Olympus. Two useful articles on "Knots for Climbers" are very clearly illustrated. Mr. Amery contributes "Off Days on an Empire Tour," describing climbs in the Drakensberg and in the New Zealand Alps, and explaining, incidentally, how a whole expedition ran the risk of being held up "by the deliberate mischief of an old parrot." Mr. Edgar Foa's paper on "The New Frontiers in the Alps" is of special interest in view of the trouble mountaineers have had with the Italian authorities. In regard to this subject, it is recorded that the President of the Club Alpino Italiano brought to the notice of Signor Mussolini the Alpine Club's protest as contained in the article in No. 235, entitled "Closing the Italian Alps" and the hope is expressed "that any regulations which may have incidentally hampered the movements of foreign mountaineers . . . will be suitably modified." In this connection it may be recorded that the Geneva correspondent of *The Times* reported on October 24 that "an agreement has been reached between the Swiss and Italian Governments about frontier traffic regulations. The Italian Government will allow the crossing of the frontier by persons provided with a regular passport or a frontier pass, or a tourist card in cases where they reside in the frontier zone of Canton Ticino." This was the sequel to the notorious Rossi case. Apparently this agreement does not imply any desire to meet the complaint of the Alpine Club, because, in his latest number, the editor of *The Alpine Journal* says "We regret to be unable to report any modification in the lamentable—and vexatious—regulations exposed by the Italian Government last year. . . . For the present the Italian Alps must be considered—like Tibet—a forbidden land for mountaineers." In a review of accidents in 1928, it is stated that the season was "the finest that we can remember, surpassing even that of 1911," and yet in some ways it has proved a disastrous one. A brief account is given of some of the worst accidents and the general comment is made that "it seems that the young French mountaineers of the 1919-28 school have gone ahead too fast." No serious accident occurred to any member of the Alpine Club. An account is given of the search on Aconcagua for Captain Marden who was attempting

the ascent in midwinter, alone and on ski, "an act of sheer insanity meeting its inevitable reward." The search party followed his footprints up to 3,800 m., and shortly after, in view of the conditions, decided to return. It has since been reported (December 21) that his body has been found.

The Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal. No. 105, April, 1928 ; No. 106, November 1928. 2/6 net. each. Mr. Parker contributes

an interesting article on "Beinn Dearg, Ross-shire, S.M.C. and Seana Bhraigh." The five hills in this group,

JOURNAL. he says, have hitherto received scant notice in the *Journal*, "doubtless due to the remoteness of

the hills from civilisation, and also to the fact that they lie in closely guarded deer forests." Our President, however, managed to spend a week there and his story must whet the appetites of climbers. There is obviously plenty to do and to see, and this is confirmed by three really excellent photographs. A reminiscent paper on "Sail Garbh : its Barrell Buttress," comes from another well-known mountaineer, Lord Mackay who succeeds in conveying the thrill of rock-climbing as experienced by himself eighteen years ago in the company of two such masters as Messrs. Raeburn and Ling. Among other contributions are "The Glencoe Road," by Sir John Stirling Maxwell, "The Cairngorm Disaster," by Professor Gregory, and "Some Memories of Braeriach," by Mr. A. W. Russell. The Proceedings of the Club and of the Junior Mountaineering Club of Scotland are amply recorded and the numerous illustrations reach the usual high standard. With these numbers Mr. Jack MacRobert makes his bow as editor and he is to be congratulated on the result.