

REVIEWS.

Climbs and Ski Runs. By F. S. Smythe. Pp. xx and 307. 74 illustrations. (Edinburgh: William Blackwood & Sons, 1929—

21s.) This is a very delightful book, descriptive of the author's climbing adventures in the Dolomites, Corsica, Switzerland, and, above all, in the region of Mont Blanc. The contents are arranged chronologically and lead up from simple work to thrilling descriptions of three of the most difficult climbs in the history of mountaineering, namely, the east face of the Aiguille du Plan, and the author's two new routes up the Brenva face of Mont Blanc. The graphic descriptions of the two latter bear striking evidence of Mr. Smythe's skill both as a mountaineer and as a writer. The 74 photographs which illustrate the book are all excellent; but one feels the want of a good photograph of the east face of the Aiguille du Plan showing the route followed. The author's use of the term "green ray" sunrise in Chapter VII is a misnomer, as *the* green ray, seen sometimes at the instant of sunrise or sunset, is a totally different phenomenon from the green-coloured sky which is described. We cannot but feel that it would have been better had the somewhat harrowing description of the Montanvert Railway accident been omitted, as it is not very pleasant reading and is quite unnecessary. Besides the sudden change of subject (on page 226) from the description of the destruction of the passenger coach to the words beginning the next paragraph, "The weather was now perfect," is, to say the least of it, unhappy. There is no index to the book, and one would have added much to its value. These, however, are minor faults which detract but little from what is one of the most thrilling books of mountaineering adventures which has been published in recent years.

The Alpine Journal, No. 239, November, 1929. 10/6 net. This is a very interesting number which fully maintains the high standard set by its predecessors, and contains 191 pages,

60 illustrations, and two maps. The articles and notes contain references to practically all the mountain regions of the world, with the exception of South America. The principal articles of general interest are those by Mr. W. Rickmer-Rickmers on the Pamirs, a beautifully illustrated article on the New Zealand Alps by Mr. H. E. L. Porter,

an interesting paper by Mr. A. E. Gunther on the Sierra Nevada, California; and Mr. Strumia's article on the Maligne Lake district in the Canadian Rockies, which is of especial interest in view of the Summer Camp of the Canadian Alpine Club to be held there this year. The most interesting papers, from the purely climbing point of view, are that descriptive of the east Arête of the Eiger, which has evidently now been "tamed" very drastically by fixed ropes, and Mr. Williamson's paper on ascents of the Hohberghorn and Stecknadelhorn. Mr. W. N. Ling contributes an instructive paper on "Technicalities," which reminds one strongly of the style of the late Harold Raeburn. The illustrations are excellent, the frontispiece being a beautiful reproduction in colours of an old print of the Lake of Geneva.

The Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal. No. 108, November, 1929. 2/6 net. The first place in this interesting number is very appropriately given to an account of the Charles Inglis

S. M. C. Clark Memorial Hut on Ben Nevis, which has been erected JOURNAL. at the foot of the northern cliffs. The hut is a substantial structure and has been adequately, even luxuriously, furnished, the equipment including a writing-desk and small library. Mr. J. A. Parker, following up the articles which he contributed to Nos. 66 and 68 of *The Cairngorm Club Journal*, describes very fully, in "Beinn Tarsuinn and the British 'Threes'," how he verified the fact that that mountain is actually a "Munro," bringing the total number of British "Threes" up to exactly 300. Mr. Garden writes on "Blair Atholl to Aberdeen *via* Beinn a' Ghlo," an expedition which involved an absence from the Granite City of just 33½ hours. All the usual features of the journal are in evidence, and the illustrations are both numerous and excellent.

SOME copies of Mr. Parker's photograph of "The Forest Primeval," which formed the frontispiece of No. 68, showed

A a serious printing flaw in the lower right-hand corner.
 DEFECTIVE If any reader who may have received a defective copy
 PHOTOGRAPH. will send a post card to the Editor, he will be glad
 to arrange for a good copy of the photograph to be
 sent to replace the defective one.

ERRATUM.

On page 57 of No. 68, for "Vol. XIII" read "Vol. XII."