

REVIEWS.

The Alpine Journal, No. 240, May, 1930. 10/6 net. The principal articles on climbing in this issue are those describing the ascent of the north-west face of the Scheidegg Wetterhorn and the south face of the Bietschhorn. The interest of the former article would have been greatly increased had one of the routed photographs been lettered to show the points mentioned in the letterpress or a diagram given, as has been so well done in the second article. Mr. L. S. Amery's article descriptive of a month's journey from Banff to Jasper in the Rockies is delightful. It is a pleasant contrast to that describing a descent of the Furggenrat of the Matterhorn, which may be gymnastics but can hardly be called mountaineering. Probably the most interesting article in the issue is that describing briefly the 1929 attempt on Kangchenjunga. The *Journal* is, as usual, very well illustrated, a special feature being the frontispiece, which is a reproduction of a colour print of the Wetterhorn.

No. 241, November, 1930. 10/6 net. This issue includes a large number of valuable articles, of which the two of greatest interest are undoubtedly Dr. Paul Bauer's "The Fight for Kangchenjunga, 1929," and Mr. F. S. Smythe's "The Assault on Kangchenjunga, 1930." The former is undoubtedly, as the Editor states, "the narrative of a feat without parallel perhaps in all the annals of mountaineering." Both the articles are superbly illustrated, the double page telephoto of the North-east face of Kangchenjunga, by M. Piacenza, being magnificent. Other interesting articles are "Climbing in Greenland, Petermann Peak," by Mr. J. M. Wordie; "Eiger and Hörnli," by Mr. S. Matsukata; and "The South-west Arête of the Wetterhorn," by Mr. S. Uramatsu. The authors of the last two are amongst the keenest Japanese climbers of the present day. Mr. Hans Laufer contributes an excellent paper on the Bietschhorn, and other important articles deal with the Grand Teton in Wyoming, and the Caucasus. This issue of the *Journal*, which concludes Vol. XLII, contains 210 pages, 70 illustrations, and a couple of maps. The coloured frontispiece is a reproduction of a Swiss coloured print of Mont Blanc, from the collection of Mr. R. W. Lloyd.

The Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal. No. 109. April, 1930. 2/6 net. A very interesting number containing an extraordinary variety of subjects, varying from severe rock climbing

S.M.C. for pleasure ("The Misty Ridge of Stob Dearg," by JOURNAL. Alex. Harrison and L. St. C. Bartholomew) to the same thing for the business purpose of catching crag-bound sheep ("Memories of the Hills," by Alastair C. McLaren). Mr. G. R. Speirs has an article describing in feeling terms the joys(?) of mid-winter Saturday night camps in the Highlands; while Mr. J. Dow in "Day Trips by Rail" shows much the same thing can be done more comfortably by catching the early trains from Edinburgh or Glasgow. Mr. William Douglas contributes an interesting article on "Bird Life on the Bass Rock" in which he describes some of his adventures thereon with the late Mr. Harold Raeburn. There are two poems—both good—"Song without Dance," by G. Sang, and "The Bottle," by Dr. John Fergus. The number contains the usual notes of the proceedings of the Club and of the Junior Mountaineering Club, and has eight good illustrations.

No. 110, November, 1930. This is a large number, containing no less than 88 pages and 16 illustrations. Most of the articles deal with the mountains of the North-west Highlands; Ben Dearg group (two papers, one of them by our Ex-President), An Teallach, Ben Loyal, and Mam Soul, the last being by the late Mr. George Sang. Particulars of the regrettable fatal accident on Buchaille Etive Mor are given by Messrs. Harrison and Jeffrey, who were Mr. Mowbray's companions. Mr. J. Dow contributes an article on the roads near Braemar. His arguments as to the closing of the Derry Road may apply to the use of the present *narrow* road during the stalking season, but do not justify the road being closed for the rest of the year. Among the Notes there is an interesting one by Mr. A. G. Hutchison describing an unsuccessful attack on the Mitre Ridge of Beinn a' Bhuird, illustrated by a very striking photograph of the Ridge. Fourteen pages of the *Journal* are devoted to the doings of the Junior Mountaineering Club of Scotland, and we note that that enthusiastic Club has started a Perth Section.

Scottish Ski Club Journal, 1930. Published by the Scottish Ski Club. 2/6. The Scottish Ski Club, which was a flourishing organization up to the War, was dormant for about a dozen years, but has now wakened up again to some purpose, and one sign is this excellent number of the revived *Journal*. It gives full information about the Club, whose membership is drawn from all over the country. There are local conveners in Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Perth. Snow reporters have been appointed in various centres, and arrangements have been made for publishing their reports. A

feature of this issue is the very practical "Notes on Equipment." The doings of the members are recorded and there are many fine illustrations.

The Ramblers' Annual, 1930. Pp. 100. 1/-. This is the first issue of the Official Handbook of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Ramblers' Federation. It is an extremely interesting publication, and gives a good idea of the activities of the Ramblers in the Glasgow district. Full particulars are given of the objects and constitution of the Federation and its associated Rambling Clubs and of the work done by the Federation during the year. There is a large number of interesting short articles, the nature of which may be indicated by the titles of a few taken at random: "From the Clyde to Mull, A Tramp in May"; "My Walk through the Gloomy Pass"; "The German Youth-Shelters"; "National Reserves"; "Scotland's Need—A Nature Reserve." The volume concludes with useful notes on maps and books, and lists of camping sites, railway walking tours, and catering establishments. The last list contains particulars of about sixty places, mostly in the vicinity of Glasgow, and all with reasonable charges. The Federation is evidently a very live body. We congratulate it on its *Annual* and wish it every success. The 1931 issue (pp. 80, 6d.) has now appeared, and more than maintains the high standard that has been set up. Particulars are given of 64 rambling and field clubs throughout Scotland, and of the youth movement on the Continent.

Tenth Annual Report of the Forestry Commissioners. Year ended September 30, 1929. Pp. 69, 7 diagrams, and 12 maps. 1/3 net. This is a most interesting publication containing full particulars of the extensive work carried out by the Commissioners during their first decade of working. The maps are especially interesting. A set of ten small scale maps shows by black dots the progress of the acquisition of forest units in England and Scotland during the decade. The two larger maps show the positions of the Forest Units in England (87) and Scotland (65) as at September 30, 1929, with relative lists.

The Deeside Field. Fifth Number. (Aberdeen: The Rosemount Press. 3/6.) Issued under the auspices of the Deeside Field Club, *The Deeside Field* has become established as an indispensable organ of the Club. The Club itself is a remarkable growth of the last decade, and its summer excursions, often attended by over 200 members and guests, are notable outings. It obviously ministers to a felt want, and the admirable efficiency with which it is conducted

is an important factor in its success. This is nowhere more marked than in the production of the *Field*, edited by Mr. J. Bentley Philip, who has mobilised a notable band of contributors. Thirty articles, six poems, and forty illustrations—that is the mere statistical position; but a bare enumeration of the contents would fail to do justice to the interest, the variety, and the charm of the magazine. "The main object," as the editor says, "is to deal with the life and scenery of the Dee Valley (and to some extent also of adjacent parts) as well from a scientific as from a general point of view. In pursuit of this aim, we have been fortunate to secure articles or poems from almost every district from Braemar to Aberdeen. Welcome help has also come from Donside, and for the first time from overseas." The result is a feast of good things. We warmly commend the *Field* to all lovers of the countryside and offer Mr. Philip our congratulations on a very fine achievement. A special word of praise is due for the tasteful manner in which the magazine has been produced. The illustrations are beautifully clear. A delightful sketch in colour, by Lady Aberdeen, of the Howe of Cromar is the frontispiece, and a very attractive picture of the House of Cromar is the work of Lady Pentland.

In *The Scottish Geographical Magazine* (Vol. XLVI, No. 6, November, 1930) Mr. William Hossack's article on "The Geography of Trotternish, Skye," is of special interest to mountaineers. The illustrations and diagrams add much to its value.

The Yorkshire Ramblers' Club Journal. Vol. VI, No. 19, 1930. (Leeds: 10 Park Square. 4/- net.) The excellence of the photographs is a prominent feature of this number.

THE Y.R.C. They include two of mountains in Corsica, by
JOURNAL. Mr. F. S. Smythe, of Kangchenjunga fame, one from
South Uist, and two fine pictures from Glen Nevis.

The contents are of wide range, and apart from dealing with Club and local matters, cover such diverse subjects as "Corsica in May," "The Outer Hebrides," and "Some Notes on the Sauerland," a district of Westphalia which, "although practically unknown in England as a holiday ground, is extremely popular in Germany and also with the Dutch." A very interesting account is given of an exploration of Lost Johns' Cave. The magazine makes a strong appeal to mountaineers.

The Hills of Peace. By Lawrence Pilkington. (London: Longmans, Green & Co., Ltd. 2/6 net.) Mr. Pilkington is a poet of the hills and mountains. Technically he is well equipped,

POEMS. but that is only the machinery, not the essence of poetry, and we have the essence throughout these pages. Here is the descriptive power, the imagery, and the inter-

pretative power of the poet. To quote is tempting, especially as several of the poems deal with familiar scenes in Scotland. "Think ye that June's soft breeze and long-drawn day will last?" he asks of the Cairngorms. Or take the following:—

Oh for the Hills of Skye!
 With storm-wracked cliffs on high;
 Where sunset's streaming fire
 Drapes Sgurr-nan-Gillean's spire;
 Where climbers gladly greet
 Rock safe for hands and feet,
 On which dear life to trust
 However fierce the gust.
 Oh for the Hills of Skye!
 Dark Coolin Hills of Skye.

and in a different vein:—

The rope's all out, scant footing yet,
 The rock is sheer, iced black as jet;
 The stones are falling down below,
 We're nearly up—that pitch must go—
 Hold tight although your fingers flay,
 That rock is loose!—Belay! Belay!

"In Memoriam, W. C. S." is a worthy tribute to a great mountaineer—

Such natures show
 The peace of nations is no empty dream
 Beyond the reach of our humanity.

This little book should find a place in many a rucksack.

ERRATUM.

No. 69, p. 177, line 22, for "3754" read "3574."