

REVIEWS.

The Alpine Journal, No. 244, May, 1932. 10/6 net. Of special interest in this number is a translation of Paul Bauer's "Kangchenjunga, 1931: The Second Bavarian Attempt." This THE ALPINE is rightly described by the Editor as an "absorbing JOURNAL. narrative," and he adds "that for skill, endurance, cold-blooded courage, and especially for *judgment*, the expedition will stand as the classical model for all time." That is very high praise, and we believe that mountaineers generally will endorse it. The thrills of mountaineering are plentiful in this article, but they are no less prominent, if of different quality, in Mr. E. Noel Bowman's account of the ascent of the North Face of the Matterhorn by Franz and Toni Schmid, two young engineering students of Munich, both in the early twenties. What they did on Friday, July 31, and Saturday, August 1, 1931, was to solve one of the last great unsolved problems of the Alps—the North face of the Matterhorn. When we read of the rope, "frozen stiff like a steel hawser," of a boulder, on which Toni was standing, breaking clean away, leaving him clinging to a bulge of rock until his brother contrived to pull him up to fresh footholds, and of the extraordinary way in which they spent the night tied on to a sloping boss, with the lights of Zermatt more than 8,000 feet below, we can have some appreciation of what was accomplished. "There are some," says Mr. Bowman, "who will deprecate such ascents, but as regards the North Face of the Matterhorn it is, at any rate, not a case of a variation deviating from another line of ascent by a metre or two, but of an entirely new route on a hitherto unclimbed face. These young Germans are not of the 'record-breaking' type, as I am able to testify by reason of a prolonged conversation which I had with them at the dinner given in their honour by Dr. Seiler at the Hôtel Mont Cervin." This testimony is interesting, in view of the protest of a correspondent in No. 243 (*C.C.J.*, Vol. XIII, p. 57), and of Mr. Ling's paper in this number on "Accidents" and the discussion which followed. The numerous illustrations are up to the usual high standard, and specially valuable is the new Kangchenjunga map.

The Rucksack Club Journal, Vol. VII, No. 2, 1932. 4/- net. The opening article is an account of an ascent of the Lhonak Peak by Mr. W. Eversden—the fulfilment of an ambition to climb in the Himalayas, midst what Dr. Kellas has described as RUCKSACK "the most stupendous mountain barrier in the World." JOURNAL. Careful preparation and grit and determination brought success—"those few panting minutes on the summit—a reward how brief, yet how sufficing, for those weeks of hard endeavour." In "The Pillar Girdle," Mr. M. Linnell describes the

Girdle Traverse of Pillar, a notable rock-climbing achievement, containing "several very severe parts." A detailed description of the actual route is given, shown on excellent photographs. Mr. B. R. Goodfellow writes "On Mountain Photography," and his conclusions may be usefully compared with those in Mr. C. Reginald Ward's article on "Photographic Mountain Explorations" in our *Journal* (*C.C.J.*, Vol. XIII, p. 25). Another article, full of useful points, is that on "Club Huts," by Mr. V. J. R. Ashton. There are some pungent comments by the Editor on the attitude of *The Alpine Journal* towards "the proletariat," and, summing up the argument, he expresses the hope "that clumsiness rather than snobbery was at the bottom."

Cambridge Mountaineering, 1932. Cambridge: S. G. Marshall and Son. 2/6. This is the sequel—modestly described as "a little stepson at the end of a great family"—to

CAMBRIDGE *Oxford and Cambridge Mountaineering, 1928-MOUNTAINEERING.* 1929. The editor says that "a university mountaineering club is not expected to produce world-shaking first ascents, but to train mountaineers; and that in our humble opinion is best done by going up well-scratched climbs and enjoying them, even if they have been described once and for all by Whympers or Abrahams, and then wandering about the world trying to find your own delectable mountains, which may be in the Arctic Circle or in the Equator or much nearer home." This is sound doctrine, and the varied budget of articles served up here shows that excellent results can be obtained. There is an account of the British Arctic Air Route Expedition to Greenland, 1930-31, by Mr. A. Stephenson, St. Catharine's, illustrated by a fine photograph of the view from Mount Forel. The summit of this peak was not quite attained, but much useful work was done, and the C.U.M.C. is to be congratulated on its share in a notable expedition. It will be remembered that Mr. Courtauld was snowed up in Ice Cap Station, where he had been left alone for four months, and when he was found, we get the matter-of-fact statement that he "was perfectly fit and was soon dug out." In "The Black Coolin," Mr. J. A. Ramsay advances the opinion that the Coolin is an ideal nursery for the uninitiated, for which he gives some quite good reasons. Among other articles we may note specially "A North Wales Bird Diary," by Mr. C. W. Benson.

The Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal, No. 113. April, 1932. 2/6 net. The principal articles in this issue deal with rock climbs in the Glencoe district, Stob Coire an Lochan, by J. H. B.

S.M.C. Bell, and Stob Coire nam Beith, by A. Harrison. There *JOURNAL.* is a long paper on "Aneroids and Munros," by J. R. Corbett, which is perhaps rather on the long side. There is a paper descriptive of a new method of forming a Middleman's

Knot by means of a separate length of rope attached to the main rope by a splice and a bowline. Personally we should not like to be attached to the main rope by the knot, or to be dependant on a middle man who was. The contributors of the article are evidently in ignorance of the papers on "Knots for Climbers," by Messrs. Wright and Magowan in Volume XL of *The Alpine Journal*. Mr. J. Y. Macdonald contributes a paper on "The Secondary Tower Ridge, Ben Nevis," and the number concludes with the usual Club Proceedings, Notes and Excursions, and the doings of the Junior Club. The J.M.C.S. appears to be thriving, and had an attendance of 48 at its New Year Meet at Crianlarich.

The Yorkshire Ramblers' Club Journal, No. 20, 1932. 4/- net. An interesting and well-illustrated number. The principal article deals with ascents in the Adamello and Brenta Groups. THE Y.R.C. The other foreign articles relate to Saas Fee, Northern JOURNAL. Rhodesia, and The Giant Ice Cave of Austria, evidently a pretty complicated place. Mr. Riley contributes an appreciative article on the Cairngorms, and there is a very amusing article entitled "More about Nowt," by the late C. E. Benson. The activities of the Club underground are apparently still being actively pursued, and are described in four pages of letterpress.

Scottish Ski Club Journal, 1932. 2/6. An attractive miscellany of articles and some excellent photographs make up this number.

It is full of interest and will appeal to all who want SKI CLUB to know about ski-ing. A strong effort was made JOURNAL. last winter to develop Braemar as a ski-ing resort. "The preparations for winter sports," we are told, "made by the local committee were—for a first winter—very good. Bridges were thrown over the larger burns up the Cairnwell Valley to suit various expedition routes: all arrangements were made for hot coffee, etc., at many cottages: wire was lifted to form nursery slopes. Close to the village, curling and skating ponds were cleaned out and huts erected at each: a huge run was prepared: the services of a Swiss instructor were obtained to give lessons in ski-ing." Tribute is also paid to the excellent hotel preparations. The only trouble was the weather, though people from England were astonished to find a fall of three inches of snow lying for three days, when they had been doubtful of seeing any at all. The average temperature at 2,000 feet, at 8 a.m., between December 25 and February 1, was 36°, as compared with 30.8° the preceding year. If the temperature goes down, the ski-ing possibilities of Braemar are great, and it is to be hoped one warm winter will not discourage the local people.

The Scottish Ramblers' Year Book, 1932 (6d.), edited by Tom S. Hall, is correctly described as a collection of THE RAMBLERS' ANNUAL. useful information for wayfarers. Scottish topics are very fully dealt with, and the book is also a guide to the youth movements of Europe.

WE have received the first four numbers of Vol. XLVIII of *The Scottish Geographical Magazine*. Of special interest to MAPS. mountaineers is Mr. John Mathieson's article on "The New One-inch to a Mile Ordnance Survey Map (Popular Edition)." Many improvements have been introduced, notably in the contours. Mr. Mathieson also calls attention to the new edition of the Cairngorm Map. We fully endorse his well-deserved praise.