

REVIEWS.

The Complete Scotland. London: Ward, Lock & Co., Ltd. 7/6 net.
A new guide to Scotland is welcome. There is room "SCOTLAND." and need for it. It is always difficult to keep up to date, as changes and developments never stop, and it is the very latest about roads and paths and hotels that is needed in a good guide-book. Judged by this test, we have here a book that must satisfy the most exacting critic. All concerned in its production deserve warm congratulations on the result of their labours. The book is well described as comprehensive, surveying the country as it does from the Border to the Shetlands, and from Aberdeen to St. Kilda. Professor Mackie contributes an authoritative historical chapter, and Dr. T. M. Finlay gives an illuminating account of the geology and scenery of the country. These are excellent preliminaries to the detailed descriptions of the various routes. The point of view is mainly that of those who see the country from the roads, and consequently emphasis is put on the hill-paths and walking routes, while the motorist will also find the sort of information he wants. Numerous maps and plans add greatly to the value of the book. They are admirably produced in five shades, and a most valuable adjunct is the ingenious index map which is duplicated inside the front and back covers. It is to be noted that the walking and climbing routes have the authority of our Past-President, Mr. James A. Parker, and that is the best guarantee of their accuracy. Compact and most attractively produced in every way, this guide must make a wide appeal.

The Alpine Journal, Nos. 245 and 246, November, 1932, and May, 1933, 10/6 each. Two bulky and well illustrated THE ALPINE issues dealing, as is now usual, with almost all parts JOURNAL. of the world. Of the principal articles in No. 245 possibly the most interesting is that by the late Mr. H. G. Watkins, describing the British Air Route Expedition to Greenland, of which Mr. Watkins was the leader, and towards the end of which he lost his life. The second article describes the German expedition to Nanga Parbat in 1932 which, after establishing a camp at about 22,650 feet, with every prospect of success, had to retreat owing to bad weather and snow conditions. Another interesting article by Mr. Rickmers describes the little known mountains of Cantabria in the north of Spain. No. 246 opens with a 34-page article on the apparently never-ending controversy, Paccard v.

Balnat. The 1932 D. & Oe.A.-V. Expedition to the Cordillera Blanca of the Andes is described by Herr P. Borchers, Mr. H. N. Pallin's article on the mountains of West Patagonia makes interesting reading, as does also that by Mr. R. Schomberg on the Central Tien Shan. Mexico and Africa receive attention with papers on Ixtacihuatl and Popocatepetl and the Atlas Mountains. There are of course articles and notes in both issues descriptive of European mountains, possibly the most striking of which is Herr Hans Lauper's article on "The North Faces of Jungfrau, Mönch, and Eiger." Both numbers have coloured frontispieces.

The Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal, Nos. 114 and 115, November, 1932, and April, 1933, 2/6 each. *The Mountains of Harris and Lewis*, by J. A. Parker, will be considered by many as

S. M. C. the most interesting contribution to these two numbers. The principal heights are admirably described and the details of the routes owe much to the observation of an experienced mountaineer. Eight excellent illustrations are from Mr. Parker's photographs. Alastair L. Cram writes on *April-Climbing in Skye*, "a time when, apparently, the weather is a more than usually disconcerting factor." Skye comes up again in a short paper by James Drever, who points out that Skye weather is not as bad as has been supposed and accommodation is better than it used to be. The varied contents include many interesting notes and the illustrations are of a high standard. Tribute is paid to the work of Mr. MacRobert as Editor, who has an obviously highly competent successor in Mr. Charles W. Parry.

Scottish Youth Hostels Handbook, 1933. 6d. This is the official year-book of the Scottish Youth Hostels Association. It is edited

S. Y. H. by Messrs. John Francey and Alan Fothergill and has the distinction of a foreword by Sir J. M. Barrie, who HANDBOOK. remarks "that it has for so long been in the Scottish character to tramp alone or with one companion that I doubted when this scheme was first contemplated whether our youth would take to these gatherings in the gloaming with others who were mostly strangers to them . . . Such doubts were quickly dissipated, as the movement's immense success, while still a child, has proved." Full details are given of the work of S.Y.H.A., the facilities it offers, and the arrangements at each of the hostels. The short articles, descriptive or historical, are delightful. Last year's *Handbook* recorded 15 hostels, and this year's 31. Since publication there has been further progress, as will be noted from Mr. Moir's article in this issue of the *C.C.J.* The *Handbook* is evidence of the keenness which characterises the hostel movement in Scotland, and deserves the widest circulation.

WE have received Nos. 5 and 6 of Vol. XLVIII. of *The Scottish Geographical Magazine* and also the very full and most useful index of this volume. An interesting note calls attention to the fact that Sheet 22 of the Popular Edition of the ST. KILDA MAPPED. 1-inch Ordnance Survey Map, published last year, shows as an inset the St. Kilda group, this being the first appearance of the group on an Ordnance Survey Map. The first four numbers of Vol. XLIX. have also reached us. Among the numerous excellent articles, we may call attention to "Developments in Soil Science and Recent British Contributions to its Literature," by Dr. W. G. Ogg, of the Macaulay Institute for Soil Research, Aberdeen, and to "Kilimanjaro and Kenya Mountains," by Rev. Dr. John W. Arthur.

WE acknowledge with thanks receipt of *The Rucksack Club Journal*, Vol. VII., No. 3, 1933. 4/-.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"THE SCOTTISH ALPS."

[To the Editor of *The Cairngorm Club Journal*.]

SIR,—Has anyone ever encountered the phrase "The Scottish Alps"? I find it used by a French writer of the sixteenth century in a rather interesting passage. This is in Belle-Forest's "Cosmographie Universelle," a book published in Paris in 1575. That author's words, which are rather quaint in spelling, are as follows:—

Aupres d'Aberdon sont les Alpes d'Escosse, qui sont inaccessible aux gens de cheual. Aux piedz des montagnes il y a de grandes forests, ou on pense que autresfois a esté la forest de Calidonie, & y a és dictes forests une multitude incroyable de cerfs & dains. Aberdon a esté autresfois la cité royale des Escossois mais aujourdhy cest Edinbourg.

(Near Aberdeen are the Scottish Alps, which are inaccessible to people on horseback. At the foot of the mountains there are great forests, where it is thought the Caledonian forest formerly was, and in the said forests there are an incredible multitude of stags and does. Aberdeen was formerly the royal city of the Scots but now it is Edinburgh.)—Yours, etc., W. M. A.