

REVIEWS.

The Alpine Journal, Vol. XLIX., Nos. 254 and 255.

With the completion of this volume, the Editorship passes from Col. Strutt to Mr H. E. G. Tyndale, M.B.E., and a tribute to Col. Strutt is justly due for his excellent services since he became Editor in 1927.

The ascent of Nanda Devi by Messrs H. W. Tilman and N. E. Odell will surely ever be looked upon as a marvellous exhibition of mountaineering skill. That mountain is the highest in Garhwal, and indeed in British territory. It is interesting to note that, in this British-American expedition, Mr Tilman concludes his article by stating that "As nations, the Americans and ourselves do not always see eye to eye, but when it comes to doing a job of work together, as, for example, in the late war, or in more serious affairs like climbing a mountain, we seem to pull together very well. We worked united in the will to put any two of our members on the top—the team accordingly deserves the credit."

The German Sikkim Expedition of 1936, conducted by Paul Bauer, which culminated in the ascent of the magnificent peak of Śiniolchum by Messrs Göttner and Wien, must thrill and inspire every mountaineer.

In the Western Hemisphere an interesting and graphic account is given of the first ascent of Mount Waddington, by Fritz Wiessner, who says that, as regards the route taken by his party, it is difficult throughout, and extremely so in the upper parts, but it can be climbed safely when all precautions are applied by a competent two-men rope.

Chomolhari (23,997 feet), one of the holiest mountains in the Buddhist world, has fallen to the attack of Mr F. Spencer Chapman, along with his native porter, Passang, who had been with Bauer in 1929.

Mr R. L. G. Irving's "Relativity in Mountaineering" is the first paper read in the new Rooms of the Club, and it is a cleverly expressed opinion of mountain climbing, from a graded scale of difficulty point of view.

Both numbers of the *Journal* are profusely illustrated with photographs of the usual high order.—W. G.

The Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal, Vol. XXI., No. 124 (November 1937) and No. 125 (April 1938).

"Defeat," the tale of a December night on the Crowberry Ridge, is a most entertaining account of an unsuccessful attempt on Garrick's Shelf route under winter conditions—a climb successfully completed the following March—and deservedly occupies first place in the November number. Incidentally, the party concerned appear to specialise in working in the dark, as we find them, in the next issue, spending "Fourteen Hours on the Observatory Ridge" during February.

The fourth and fifth articles in the series on Scottish Mountaineering and its Relation to Mountaineering Abroad concern "Rock Climbing," by E. A. M. Wedderburn, and "Scenery and Photography," by H. Gardner. The former is a very practical description of the similarities and differences one must expect to find when attempting rock climbing in the Alps or elsewhere on the Continent. That on Scenery and Photography, while of rather less practical value, is accompanied by a magnificent set of photographs contrasting Alpine and Scottish scenery. Those showing a Swiss Alp and a Scottish sea loch deserve special mention. It is perhaps a pity that, at a time when many more cameras are being taken into the hills and interest in the science is increasing rapidly, the opportunity was not taken here to give the technical data for the prints reproduced—camera, stop, exposure, filter, and sensitive material employed, with some indication of weather conditions and time of day. Such information teaches much more than pages of descriptive matter.

Not only Mr Gardner's photographs but also most of the others are of a very high standard and excellently reproduced. Carn Dearg, in the November number, is a particularly good example of a well-rendered snow study.

A Guide Book article on the "Galloway Hills," by John Dow, and "Under the Western Horizon," by E. W. Hodge, an account of a trip to the islands on the west coast, provide accounts of parts of the country which are less frequently visited for climbing purposes. R. M. Gall Inglis brings his series on old numbers of the *Journal* up to date, completing an interesting review of the first twenty volumes. While such series as this and that on Mountaineering Abroad are most welcome, it seems a mistake to break into parts articles such as "Recent Rock Climbs in Coire Ardair," more especially when it is found impossible to complete it in the following number.

"The Friendly Road" reminiscences, by T. Ratcliffe Barnett, and the usual features on New Climbs, Reviews, and the Proceedings of the Club, complete two numbers which can be read with profit and enjoyment by all who have an interest in the hills.—R. L. M.

The Yorkshire Ramblers' Club Journal, Vol. VII., No. 23, 1938.

This is an informative and interesting *Journal*. It deals in great part with the sport of pot-holing, which, for the benefit of the uninitiated, means the exploration of subterranean caves. Such caves abound in Yorkshire, Derbyshire, and in parts of Wales and Ireland. Roughly, half the *Journal* is devoted to detailed descriptions of excursions to these places. Anyone who wishes to learn more about pot-holing will find in this *Journal* a mine of information about routes, climbs, methods, and equipment. In the present reviewer's opinion, pot-holing does not seem to lend itself so well to description in the *Journal* as the more orthodox forms of climbing. "I to the hills will lift mine eyes," cried

the Psalmist, and I, too, am of the opinion that more inspiration is to be found in the high places.

But the *Journal* is not concerned only with pot-holing. There are two very good descriptions of yachting expeditions up the West Coast of Scotland, and "An artless story of a day spent in climbing the Aiguille du Géant," which is written with that rare art which conceals itself. These, along with an interesting article on the Susten Pass buttress my opinion that scaling the heights is more conducive to good writing than plumbing the depths.—J. S. C.

The Rucksack Club Journal, Vol. IX., No. 1, 1938.

Of the many ways of presenting the charms of a mountain district, it may be difficult to single out a best. It is not so hard, I think, to find a worst. The bald, topographical thesis finds no place in these pages. The narrative is lively with incident and comment, and a model to budding essayists who would steer a clear course between the Scylla of technicalities on the one hand and the Charybdis of trivialities on the other. One may miss that master of the polished phrase, the late J. H. Doughty, but his humanising influence does, and will, persist.

This number is remarkable for its wide variety, touching the Caucasus, Lofoten, the Alps and Dolomites, Corsica, Scotland, and the underworld of England. We granite dwellers appear to have no burning desire to share in the Stygian activities of the pot-holers, but *Th' Ole* is a vastly entertaining piece of work and persuades one that pot-holing has all the thrills of exploration above ground, plus a number of added difficulties and dangers and an entirely different and more elaborate equipment.

E. W. Hodge, speaking of Inverey in winter, says, in *Winter Diaries*, that no one would take him in except upon his promising not to go on the hills. Is this attitude of the people the result of recent misadventures in the Cairngorms? Or is it possible that Mr Hodge fell in with Maggie Gruer in one of her mock-serious moods? The author's interest ranges wide and his observation is acute.

G. Alan Deane's party in Lofoten had the unusual experience of spending sixteen days there with only an hour or two of rain. Only on three days did mist touch the peaks at any time. From the descriptions and photographs the Lofoten peaks appear to offer something like the Cuillin on a bigger and yet steeper scale and, normally, an even heavier rainfall!

The articles reach a high level of interest and the illustrations are in keeping.—W. A. E.

In addition to the above, we have to acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following:—

The Scottish Ski Club Journal, 1937.

The Scottish Geographical Magazine, Vol. 53, Nos. 4-6;

Vol. 54, Nos. 1-3.