

REVIEWS.

British Hills and Mountains. By J. H. B. Bell, E. F. Bozman, and J. Fairfax Blakeborough. (Batsford Press. 8s. 6d.)

In recent years we have seen more than a score of guides to Scottish hills and English crags, but until now no single volume devoted to the mountains as a whole. The authors' difficulties in dealing with such a vast array of peaks are great, but they have within the limits of their space compiled a remarkable store of information. Dr Bell, of necessity, makes his survey of the Scottish mountains a very general one, but enriches his narrative with references to personal experience and with much practical advice. The authors of the England and Welsh sections can proceed at a more leisurely pace and delineate their mountains in rather greater detail. All succeed in portraying well the chief characteristics of their mountain groups and are ably backed up by the photographers. The collection is a magnificent one, the Scottish ones superb. (On the whole, Scotland comes well out of this!) At 8s. 6d. the book is a bargain.

English Lakeland. By Doreen Wallace. (Batsford Press. 8s. 6d.)

This book is written primarily for the motorist, although visitors to the lakes, whatever their purpose, should find in it much of interest, for Miss Wallace casts her net wide. I could have wished for something more of the topography, something less, perhaps, of the Herdwick sheep and other matters, and for an occasional amble farther than the bonnet of the car. For the author knows and loves her Lakeland, although her interests are centred in the dales and she has little to say to the climber. Her opening chapters are crammed with information of a most interesting and varied character, while the later chapters are devoted to much more restricted fields of human activity. Apart from this lack of balance, the book is a most interesting and informative one, and the photographs are quite up to the Batsford standard.

Always a Little Further. By Alastair Borthwick. (Faber & Faber. 7s. 6d.)

The first part of the book tells of the author's early adventures, and misadventures, on the hills; the next introduces a variety of characters encountered on the roads and moors, providing some fine pen-pictures and some strange adventures; in the final section the author has graduated to the more difficult rock courses, but his ascents are still packed with incident.

The adventures which stand out are the hunger-march from Broadford

to Glen Brittle, via Camasunary, on a meal of brambles and the amazing predicament of Hugh on the Buachaille. Pounded well up the Chasm, this stoic read and slept until he was rescued by two Glasgow bakers in dancing pumps! This episode is the highlight of the book, which, if not all mountaineering, is all interesting.

The Alpine Journal, Vol. LI., 1939; Vol. LII., 1940.

The arm of the Editor of *The Alpine Journal* is long; articles range from Greenland to Tasmania, from Alaska to Himalaya. 1938 saw several expeditions at work in the latter; H. W. Tilman writes on the attempt on Everest, and there are accounts of other national expeditions to K2, Nanga Parbat, the Gangotri district, and to the Karakoram. Problems of high-altitude climbing are dealt with by Peter Lloyd (Oxygen) and by C. B. M. Warren (Mountain Sickness and Physiological Problems).

André Roch recounts the experiences of a Swiss expedition in Greenland, and Bradford Washburn a first ascent of Mt. St Agnes (13,500 feet) in Alaska. Other interesting articles deal with a ski ascent of Mt. Sanford, Alaska; with Lofoten and with Jan Mayen (the Beerenberg).

The Alps and their history remain, for the writer, of more absorbing interest than any other group, and both Vols. LI. and LII. have something outstanding to offer—Professor T. Graham Brown's history of climbing on the south faces of Mont Blanc; C. F. Meade's estimate of J. J. Blanc, le Greffier, in "A Great Guide"; "The Almers and their Führerbücher" also recalls the golden age of Alpine mountaineering.

Vol. LII. presents as noteworthy a feast; Professor T. Graham Brown follows up his article on the Brenva face with a short history of some early attempts from the Innominata basin, and there is promise of more to come. Of the other Alpine articles, "In and Out of Saas" by some of the less ordinary routes makes most appeal.

New expeditions are fewer, but there is an account of Shipton's interrupted visit to the Biafo and Hispar Glacier regions of the Karakoram and, on the American continent, A. E. Gunther describes a visit to the Andes of Venezuela, and Walter A. Wood discovers some unclimbed peaks in Colombia—19,000 feet high and within 30 miles of the Caribbean coast. There is the unusual story of the hoisting, and hauling, of the Nazi flag on Illimani.

Articles of a more general character include "Sketching in the Alps," by Cecil W. Hunt; "The Poetry and Humour of Mountaineering," by Michael Roberts, and, an outstanding contribution in these days of upheaval, "Should the Mountain be Brought to Mahomet?" by Geoffrey Winthrop Young. Mr Young discusses some modern trends in mountaineering, but one wonders whether his own fine philosophy would find any sympathetic understanding in those lands where mountaineering has become an international competition.

The Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal, Vol. XXII., Nos. 128, 129, 130.

No. 128 continues the "Short History of Scottish Climbing" commenced in the Jubilee issue by H. MacRobert. E. A. M. Wedderburn contributes the history of the post-war period, the two forming a valuable and interesting record. J. Gall Inglis writes on the Monadh Liath Munros; E. B. Bailey on the Geology of Glencoe, and G. G. Elliot on Winter Camping in the Cairngorms. New climbs chronicled include Sgòran Dubh (No. 1 Buttress), Lochnagar (Parallel Buttress and Tough-Brown Ridge), and Ladhar Bheinn, to say nothing of an extended version of the Cuillin Ridge.

In No. 129 the Editor himself sets the ball rolling with "Valhalla," a highly interesting account of climbing on the Tower Ridge. E. A. M. Wedderburn begins a new series, "Nights Up There," reminiscences of nights out in the Alps and on Scottish hills, and E. W. Hodge contributes yet another delightful article on the Hebrides. "A Crowberry Commentary" is well timed, for the rapid development of the Rannoch Wall climbs was leaving the distant spectator a little bemused.

In the In Memoriam section Stair A. Gillon pays a noteworthy tribute to the late Lord Tweedsmuir.

No. 130 contains a guide to rock climbs on the Cobbler, well illustrated and with useful diagrams. (This has been reprinted in booklet form for the benefit of those who may want to use it "in the field.") W. H. Murray continues the "Nights Up There" series with an account of a Hogmanay spent on Ben Nevis, and J. F. A. Burt has a delightful article on "The Inferior Mountains" and answers, satisfactorily, I think, the question, "What makes a mountain?" Among new climbs noted are one or two in our own area, the north-west gully of Creag an Dubh Loch, and a more direct route on Eagle Buttress, Lochnagar.