

REVIEWS.

The Alpine Journal, Vol. LII., 1941.

Although temporarily restricted in size and scope, *The Alpine Journal* continues to provide articles of lasting interest. Accounts of new expeditions are, naturally, notably fewer, but there is an account of the 1939 Polish ascent of Nanda Devi East Peak. Nevertheless, the story of the early attempts on the great Alpine peaks makes an even greater appeal to the reviewer, to whom Professor Graham Brown's history of Mont Blanc has been fascinating. It is brought all too soon to a conclusion in the November number (No. 263). Colonel Strutt records his impressions of some well-known Alpine guides in the May number, while G. A. Hasler recalls a few climbs with Christian Jossi in the November issue. "Rock Climbing in North Wales," by A. D. M. Cox (a sign of the times?), "Tribute to Partnership," by J. R. Jenkins, and "The Road to Roundabout," by J. L. Longland, are the other main articles in a volume which, if dealing chiefly with things past, still achieves variety.

Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal, Vol. XXII., Nos. 131, 132 (1941).

The concluding portion of W. A. Smith's "A Visit to the Cairngorms in 1875" and "Some Climbs in the Clova District," by J. G. Ferguson and G. S. Ritchie, are the articles of most direct interest to Club members. "Electric Storms," by J. H. B. Bell, is of general interest. Three instalments of "Nights Up There" and a "Guide Book" article on "The Lowther Hills," by J. Rooke Corbett, make up the remainder of a journal which is maintaining its standard despite present difficulties.

An article which supplements the S.M.C. Guides to the North and West Highlands appears in the November issue (No. 132) and fills a want evident in several of the guide books. In the guide to the Cairngorms, the many cross-country routes and Mounth roads were fully described, and now A. E. Robertson's "Old Tracks and Coffin Roads and Cross-country Routes in the North-west Highlands" provides valuable information on the rights-of-way in the area around Loch Ewe and Lochaber.

J. H. B. Bell, in "A Ben Nevis Constellation of Climbs," describes a series of new vertical and horizontal traverses and propounds a system of nomenclature which presupposes an elementary knowledge of

astronomy in any climber who desires to follow him. The problem of identification of climbs on the more popular faces becomes more and more insoluble. Two articles bring the series "Nights Up There" to an end, whilst C. R. Steven, in "Since War Began," records climbs snatched during periods of army leave.

R. L. M.

The Climbers' Club Journal, No. 67, 1941.

"Ski Tour in the South Tyrol," by J. A. Martinez, covers country which the reviewer has seen only from afar and by a means of which he has no experience—it tempts him to make the acquaintance of both at the earliest opportunity. "A Great Effort," by J. M. Edwards, and "Opportunities," by John Hunt, relate in entirely different vein the tales of uncompleted climbs. The former has a freshness too seldom encountered in climbing journals to-day.

The difficulty of interpreting mountain names seems just as difficult in Wales as it is in Scotland, judging by "Notes on Some Welsh Place Names," by Rudolf Cyriax. The inevitable corruption of native names appears to have occurred, and it is suggested that the Ordnance Survey is not without guilt in this respect.

The widespread membership of the Club provides a long list of names of members on active service, and there is a deplorably long Obituary section.

R. L. M.

The West Highlands and the Hebrides. A Geologist's Guide for Amateurs. Alfred Harker. (Cambridge University Press. 8s. 6d.)

Dr Alfred Harker, who specialised in the complicated geology of the West Highlands and Islands, died in 1939 and left the uncompleted manuscript of this book. Dr J. E. Richey, of H.M. Geological Survey, Edinburgh, with the co-operation of other noted geologists, prepared the manuscript for publication and provided such additions as were necessary to complete it. Dr Richey has done his work well, and this book, presenting as it does an epitome of the West Highland geology and an interpretation of the scenery, should form a useful companion to those with an inquiring spirit whose journeyings take them to the hill country of the West. Specially welcome will be the panoramic sketches and the brief descriptions accompanying them.

H. D. W.