

the tower. Follow the crest, which is sharp and has a series of towers. Rough, clean rock.

*Consolation Gully, Garbh Choire, Beinn a' Bhùird.*—400 feet (V.D.). J. Tewnton and K. Winram, July 30, 1950. The second definite gully to the left of the south-east gully (Mitre Ridge). A moderate pitch over slabs and piled blocks is climbed before the gully is entered. The first pitch is wet and mossy and the holds are not too reliable. The second starts with a 20-foot chimney, with a good stance on top, from which a mossy chokestone is climbed on the left. The third pitch is easier but about 100 feet long. The rock again tends to be loose. Belay below the chokestone. No great difficulty to summit.

*Flake Buttress, Coire Sputan Dearg.*—First winter ascent, April 10, 1950 W. D. Brooker and S. McPherson.

*Pyramus Gully, Coire Bhrochain.*—*Idem.* April 12.

#### NEW CLIMBING BOOKS.

- “Rock Climbs: Glencoe and Ardgour.” S.M.C. Guide; 1949; 7s. 6d.
- “The Southern Highlands.” S.M.C. Guide; 1949; 15s.
- “The Cairngorms”; 3rd Edition; S.M.C. Guide, 1950; 18s.
- “A Progress in Mountaineering,” by J. H. B. Bell. (Oliver & Boyd, 1950; 25s.).
- “Undiscovered Scotland,” by W. H. Murray. (Dent, 1951; 18s.).
- “Cairngorms on Foot and Ski,” by V. A. Firsoff. (Hale, 1950; 15s.).
- “The Mountaineer's Week-end Book,” by Showell Styles. (Seeley Service, 1951; 12s. 6d.).
- “Mountains beneath the Horizon,” by W. Bell. (Faber, 1950; 8s. 6d.).
- “Mountaineering Handbook,” S.A.C. (Paternoster Press, 1950; 8s. 6d.).
- “La Nature Alpine,” by R. Godefroy. (Press Univ. de France, 1948).
- “Le Cervin I, II,” by C. Gos. (Attinger, Neuchatel, 1948).
- “Climbs of My Youth,” by A. Roch. (Lindsay Drummond, 1949; 12s. 6d.).
- “First on the Rope,” by R. Frison-Roche. (Methuen, 1949; 10s. 6d.).
- “One Green Bottle,” by Elizabeth Coxhead. (Faber, 1951; 10s. 6d.).
- “Subterranean Climbers,” by P. Chevalier. (Faber, 1951; 16s.).

The three new S.M.C. guides will, for most members, occupy pride of place in the above list of new books, all of which have been added to the library through the generosity of the publishers. We must record our appreciation of this generosity, and regret that we have not space to deal adequately with them.

The first edition of the guide to the Southern Highlands, covering the area south of a line from Loch Rannoch to Loch Awe, and including in particular the Glen Lyon, Crianlarich, and Arrochar groups, has been long awaited. The rock climbs in the area are included in an

appendix, but the plan in the Cairngorms guide of incorporating these into the body of the work seems preferable, as, to cite only one advantage, it draws the attention of the hill-walker immediately to the routes where he is liable to be involved in climbing or scrambling. The new Cairngorms guide still rests on secure foundations laid by Sir Henry Alexander, and remains the best-written of the guides. Much new matter has been added, particularly in the sections dealing with rock climbs, but the changes need not be detailed, as most members will no doubt already have a copy. The general demand for W. H. Murray's guide to the Glencoe and Ardgour rocks may not be so wide, but scarcely a roped party is now to be encountered in Glencoe without a copy in the leader's pocket. Without giving a hold by hold description of each route, the adequate and clear information provided should enable any capable climber to choose and follow a route suitable for the capabilities of his party.

The S.M.C. guides are detailed descriptions; J. H. B. Bell's book is a handbook of climbing, particularly in Scotland. It tells, clearly and concisely, how to climb and what to climb, backed by all the authority of Scotland's most experienced rock climber. There is an atmosphere of competence and adequate knowledge and feeling for the subject about this book of Bell's—an atmosphere which the reviewer found lacking in V. A. Firsoff's rather pedestrian account of the Cairngorms. East of the Lairig an Laoigh the treatment is scant; the spelling often tends to be heterodox; and one gets the impression that the author's acquaintance with the area is somewhat superficial. Mr Firsoff does not appear to appreciate the distinction between a club hut, a hostel, and a bothy: his remarks about Miss Adam Smith's Corour suggestion (the reference to which is erroneous) and his comments thereon are thus pointless, as recent action at Corour indicates. But one could find on almost every page such lack of contact with reality (the typical Granite tors referred to continually as Egyptian rocks for instance!) Really good books about the Cairngorms are unfortunately few and far between. But W. H. Murray has done it again so far as Scotland as a whole is concerned. "Undiscovered Scotland" approaches the standard of "Mountaineering in Scotland." No more need be said.

A well-produced 400 page book for 12s. 6d. is uncommon nowadays, and when the contents comprise an excellent collection of mountaineering facts, hints, and extracts, it is a bargain indeed. Such is the "Mountaineer's Week-end Book"—something to dip into when there is nothing fresh on the bookshelf.

"Mountains beneath the Horizon" is a collection of the verse of W. Bell, who was lost on the Matterhorn in that bad summer of 1948. Modern poetry is a matter of individual taste and we can only suggest that members form their own opinion of these mountain poems.

There are five books, of quite different types, dealing with Alpine subjects. "Mountaineering Handbook" is an English translation of the standard Swiss Alpine Club handbook on technique, and as such

should be studied by those intending to visit the Alps. An addendum on Tarbuck's Nylon Rope Management is included. R. Godefroy's book is an excellent account of the physical geography of Alpine regions, with adequate sections dealing with snow and ice. The third Alpine book, also in French, is Gos's picture of the Matterhorn—almost entirely an anthology of quotations from both well-known and unusual sources. "Climbs of my Youth" is a series of accounts of early ascents by one of the best known Swiss climbers, and bears some resemblance to W. H. Murray's recent Scottish books—which is to say it is well above the usual run of books of this type. The last Alpine book is a novel dealing with climbs on the Dru and Aiguille Verte, technically correct, as we have here a novel written by a climber, not a novelist writing about climbing. The same atmosphere of realism pervades Miss Coxhead's novel of hostelling and rock climbing in North Wales; there is scarcely a false note sounded when the characters are among the hills—about what happens in the valleys one may not be quite so sure.

Finally, there is a book about what is perhaps not quite the negation of climbing, for P. Chevalier's book is not, despite its subtitle, "Twelve Years in the World's Deepest Chasm," an account of pot-holing as we tend to think of it, but is, in fact, the story of the exploration of the interior of one of the limestone mountains of south-east France. Some of the entrances to this 6,777 feet peak, the Dent de Crolles, are indeed near its summit. The atmosphere of exploration is well sustained, but the rendering of technical terms appears occasionally to differ somewhat from climbing practice, as does the use of mechanical aids, some of which recall the ladders of early Alpine travel.

There have been other additions to the library by purchase, but these need not be detailed here, as it is hoped shortly to issue to members an up-to-date and comprehensive library catalogue. R. L. M.

#### CLIMBING JOURNALS.

- Alpine Journal*, Nos. 277-281.
- Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal*, Nos. 140, 141.
- Climbers' Club Journal*, Nos. 74, 75.
- Rucksack Club Journal*, Vol. XI, Nos. 2, 3.
- Midland Association of Mountaineers Journal*, Vol. II, No. 2.
- Yorkshire Ramblers' Club Journal*, Vol. VII, No. 25.
- Fell and Rock Climbing Club Journal*, Nos. 42, 43/44.
- Moray Mountaineering Club Journal*, 1950
- Etchachan Club Journal*, Vol. I, Nos. 1, 2, 3.
- Cambridge Mountaineering*, 1948, 1949.
- Ladies' Alpine Club Year Book*, 1950.
- American Alpine Journal*, 1949, 1950.
- Iowa Climber*, 1949, 1950.

*Journal of the Mountain Club of South Africa*, 1948, 1949.

*New Zealand Alpine Journal*, 1949.

*Der Bergkamerad*, 1949, 1950.

*Wierchy (Polish Tatra Society)*, 1949.

We have to record our indebtedness to the many clubs who exchange journals with us. The above list is so long that it is impossible even to mention the many important contributions. All are available in the Club Library and a regular perusal of the current journals is the only way of keeping up-to-date regarding new climbs. No one can get the best from a trip, be it to the Cuillins, to Wales or to the Alps, unless the more recent as well as the classic articles dealing with the areas in question in the journals of kindred clubs be consulted and digested. Conditions in the valleys change, as do the hills themselves, and valuable hints on accommodation and routes seldom reach the guide books in time to be of use.

Reminiscence, too, is aroused by the accounts in these journals—those friendly parties at the Schönbühl were, we learn, successful in their ascents of the Zmutt and Ferpeclé ridges—that unassuming rope on Nevis had just done something quite worthwhile—such details gleaned from the journals add to their interest.

We must, however, despite shortage of space, find room to welcome the Journal of our nearest neighbour, the Etchachan Club. While it is in itself modest and unpretentious, the policy behind the venture is, we consider, the proper one in that it fosters the individuality of the smaller clubs, rather than the merging of their literary output into a single journal as is suggested in some quarters. The articles are mainly of local interest, with accounts of a number of excellent new climbs, particularly on Ben Macdhui and Beinn a' Bhùird. Articles dealing with our area are also to be found in the S.M.C. Journal, in particular, an account of the first ascent of the Black Spout Pinnacle direct by two of our own members.

Our sets of several club journals are reasonably complete, but we lack *Climbers' Club Journal*, new series, Vol. I, No. 1 (1912) and Vol. III, No. 1 (1926) as well as some of the old pre-1912 series; the *Fell and Rock Climbing Club Journal*, No. 41; and the *Rucksack Club Journal*, Vols. I and II, Vol. IX, No. 4 (1941), and Vol. X, Nos. 1 and 2, in order to complete our sets. The Librarian would be glad to know of any source of these missing numbers.

R. L. M.