

Jura, Mull, and Rum to the Sgùrr of Eigg, to Ailsa Craig, and Handa and the little islands that lie at the mouth of the Firth of Lorne. He has many a good tale to tell and the manner of the telling is such that we would all want to go with him the next time he closes his office door in Glasgow at 5 P.M. on a Friday and land with him before the sun is up next morning on one of the Western Isles.

J. E. B.

CLIMBING JOURNALS

- Alpine Journal*, Nos. 289, 290.
Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal, No. 146.
Climbers' Club Journal, No. 80.
Rucksack Club Journal, No. 48.
Fell and Rock Climbing Club Journal, No. 48.
Cambridge Mountaineering, 1955.
Oxford Mountaineering, 1955.
American Alpine Journal, 1954, 1955.
Iowa Climber, 1954, 1955.
Appalachia, Vol. XXX, No. 2, 3.
New Zealand Alpine Journal, 1954.
Journal of the Mountain Club of South Africa, 1954.
Club Alpino Italiano, Sez. di Milano, Boll. Mensile, 1954, 1955.
Wierchy, 1954.

A pile of journals more than a foot high cannot be reviewed adequately in the limited space which can now be spared in the journal of most climbing clubs. The printers' bills have made the reviewers' job much easier, or is it more difficult? But as last year we evaded the issue entirely, an attempt must now be made to pin-point a few outstanding items in the current batch. Once again we record our thanks to all the clubs who exchange with us and draw our members' attention to the availability of the journals in the Club library.

The *Alpine Journal* gives us an opportunity of reading at leisure the talk by Dr Frauenberger and Hermann Buhl on Nanga Parbat, which many of our members have already heard. The accent is on the Himalaya in both numbers, bringing the K2 story to its culmination with accounts of the 1953 American and 1954 Italian expeditions, describing the 1954 reconnaissance of Kangchenjunga—possibly we should say preliminary reconnaissance, since the 1955 reconnaissance finished the job off—and the 1952 Scottish Nepal and 1953 Creagh Dhu expeditions, which at least make us feel a little nearer home. Perhaps the same might be said of the account of the exploration of the Api and Nampa group. There is the story of the ascent of the south face of Aconcagna in No. 290. Alpine articles cover the Peuterey ridge, the east face of the Petit Dru, the Führerbuch of young Peter Taugwalder, some notes on A. F. Mummery, and Sir Arnold Lunn on Human Nature in the Valais. There is an account of the technique of artificial climbing in which the method of using the etrier, or rope stirrup-cum-ladder, which recently made its appearance on Lochnagar, is described. Finally, it seems worth while drawing attention to the consolidated index to Vols. 39 to 58 of the *A.J.* covering the period 1927-52, which will facilitate the search for specific items of information.

The *S.M.C. Journal* is a thick number, but then it has an article by Professor Manley on Disappointing Summers, and British Weather in general, about which much can be said! D. J. Fraser writes on Photography for Mountaineers, and illustrates his points with two excellent snow scenes, in an article which details the equipment and accessories available and discusses lighting and composition. Coireachan Ruadha has been further explored by C. M. Dixon, there is a previously unpublished account of Raeburn's attempt on Ushba, and Dr Maitland writes with authority on First Aid and Mountain Rescue.

In the latest *Climbers' Club Journal* Eric Shipton stresses again the advantages of small Himalayan expeditions, Michael Ball tells of the 1954 expedition to the Makalu area, and Dr R. Fisher describes an attempt on Rakaposhi. Nearer home we read of climbing in Devonshire and a guide-book article on Cwm Silyn and Tremadoc. These climbing articles, together with a few of more general character, go to show the activity of the Club and provide an excellent journal on which the new editor is to be congratulated.

The highlight of the *Fell and Rock Journal* is John Hunt's Letters from Everest, but in another field the names of Alf Gregory and Douglas Milner indicate the quality of the illustrations. Some of the pictures catch our eye, too, in the *Rucksack Club Journal*, particularly the snow scene frontispiece of V. T. Dillon, who writes engagingly of an ascent of the Dent d'Hérens. Then there is the story of a week-end walk from Fort William to Aviemore, taking in all the Scottish 4,000-ers *en route*—98 miles and 13,100 feet!

The journals of the university clubs record the organised and unorganised meets of their members—covering often the same ground as the journals of the more senior clubs. Limits tend to be pushed a little further, a clue to the approach being found in the remark that in northern Scotland “one tends to climb below one's best because not assured by nail scratches that a route will go—which is perhaps a bad thing.” It is perhaps a bad thing that many young mountaineers are initiated through clubs in which there is little opportunity to learn by precept the traditions of the craft.

We should also acknowledge the receipt of the bulletins and handbooks of numerous other clubs, including those of the Grampian Club and the Etchachan Club.

Among the overseas journals there are interesting accounts of K2, Makalu, and the Japanese on Manaslu in the *American Alpine Journals*, and of climbing in Japan in *Appalachia*, in addition to many articles dealing with the American continent. The *New Zealand Alpine Journal's* list of authors includes the names of Hillary, Lowe, and Odell, while in the *Journal of the Mountain Club of South Africa* we read of winter climbing in Scotland “where climbing is truly mountaineering.” We may point out to members that it is in periodicals such as the *Bolletino Mensile* of the Milan section of the Italian Alpine Club that details regarding alpine huts can be found, and in this connection may we also mention that *Die Alpen*, the Swiss Alpine Club journal, is presented to the library by our President, E. W. Smith. It does not reach the library immediately after publication, but any member desiring to consult current numbers for details of hut bookings and similar information should apply to the Librarian.

Finally, there is the Polish *Wierchy* with an article on the Himalayan Sherpas. But we are anxious to find a reviewer qualified to deal with this journal!