

To the beginner or a less serious climber a first glance through the book may appear rather intimidating because of the high grading: no fewer than 41 Very Severe, 36 Severe, some employing artificial technique and pitons! Coming down the scale a little the less highly-striped Tigers will be relieved to find that there are 37 Very difficults, 9 Difficults and 13 Moderates. Those from south of the border, not accustomed to the length of many of the climbs, would do well to note this factor, especially during our short winter days.

"Rock Climbs in Arran," by J. M. Johnstone. S.M.C. Guide, 1958, 4s.

The Arran Guide, which differs from the others reviewed in having soft covers, satisfies a genuine need in the list of rock climbing guides. It may not be long before it, too, will need a revised edition, for it is set out clearly and concisely with excellent diagrams. It cannot but lure many experts to these charming pocket-edition mountains.

Again, grading is for Vibram soles. The reviewer especially likes the adoption of the continental system of numbering the routes in text and diagram, making it very easy to identify and follow a climb.

There are again hard climbs needing artificial support, but there is plenty for the average climber. The usual subtle distinctions are made between the more difficult climbs in that we have 6 Very Severe, 5 Hard Severe, 12 Severe and 2 Mild Severe. Some of these vary because of their length or lack of it, and consequent exposure. In the lower grades Very Difficult and Difficult include 48 routes, Moderate and Easy 19 routes.

Generally speaking, the routes are shorter than the average Scottish climbs, but the keen types can always make up for this by doing a succession of climbs. Perhaps nowhere else in Scotland are so many different routes on different peaks to be found for so little walking.

A. F. G. CORDNER

## CLIMBING JOURNALS

- Alpine Journal*, Nos. 294-301.  
*Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal*, Nos. 148-151.  
*Rucksack Club Journal*, Nos. 50-53.  
*Fell and Rock Climbing Club Journal*, Nos. 51-54.  
*Cambridge Mountaineering*, 1957-60.  
*Oxford Mountaineering*, 1957-58.  
*M.A.M. Journal*, 1956-60.  
*Yorkshire Ramblers Club Journal*, Nos. 27-30.  
*Pinnacle Club Journal*, No. 8.  
*Ladies' Scottish Climbing Club Journal*, No. 4.  
*Ladies' Alpine Club Year-book*, 1958-60.  
*American Alpine Journal*, 1957-60.  
*Appalachia*, Vol. XXXI, No. 3 to Vol. XXXIII, No. 1.  
*New Zealand Alpine Journal*, 1956-59.  
*Journal of the Mountain Club of South Africa*, 1956-59.

The *Alpine Journal* centenary number (No. 295) and the following number recount the development of mountaineering during the lifetime of the Alpine Club, and describe the events celebrating its hundred years of service to climbing. The Cairngorm Club had the honour of being represented by its President, Mr A. Leslie Hay, at the Centenary Dinner in the Dorchester Hotel, a full account of which is given in No. 296. Other functions included a Centenary Meet and Alpine Dinner in Zermatt, an Exhibition of paintings, photographs and items of historic interest, and a Reception in the Hall of Lincoln's Inn which Her Majesty the Queen and H.R.H. Prince Philip graced by their presence. At all these functions, a number of our own members were fortunate enough to be present, either as A.C. members or as guests, and the *Alpine Journals* present a full record of these historic occasions. The centenary number is remarkable in being the only one of those reviewed which is devoted almost entirely to alpine subjects. The tendency in all the other numbers is for the principal articles to describe exploration among unmapped peaks in the Himalaya, Africa or the Andes, and to present large-scale maps of the areas prepared by the parties whose expeditions are described. Mention must therefore be made of Tom Patey's account of Post-War Winter Mountaineering in Scotland in No. 301. Despite the detailed study which most of the classical ascents have already received, information of historical importance still comes to hand. The publication of the account by "Young" Peter Tangwalder of the first ascent of the Matterhorn, discussed in No. 294, is an example of the excellent work of the *Alpine Journal* in this field.

There has been a major change in the *Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal*, as in 1959 Dr J. H. B. Bell retired after twenty-four years, and has been succeeded as editor by Dr G. J. Dutton who, in No. 151, has produced a journal which is the same as before, yet different. Dr Bell's last three numbers are well up to his usual high standard, and round off adequately a distinguished editorship. He has been supported by regular contributions from several capable writers, notably Tom Patey, who has been on Mustagh Tower, Rakaposhi and Zero Gully; Tom Weir, whose subjects include the High Atlas, Peaks and Passes in Kurdistan, and Dalness Chasm; and C. G. M. Slessor, who describes climbing in Greenland and in Coire Ardair and, jointly with I. G. Cumming, discusses the dynamics of rope work. Other articles of particular interest are by John Nimlin on Pitons, and Bill Brooker on the Black Spout Pinnacle in No. 149, and Bill Wallace's account of the Edinburgh Andean Expedition in No. 150. Dr Dutton has persuaded Tom Patey and Tom Weir to continue their contributions, and in No. 151 the latter writes on Lochnagar. In all numbers are extensive lists of new climbs, including many in the Cairngorm area.

Emphasis in the 1957 *Rucksack Club Journal* is definitely on the Aiguilles, with articles on the Requin and Diables, on Noire de Peuterey, and a third—Mixed Climbing on the Aiguilles—which roams from summit to summit in rather uncertain weather. The chief article in the 1958 number describes the Manchester Himalayan Expedition to Masherbrum in the Karakoram, an attempt which failed in bad conditions a few hundred feet from the 25,660 foot summit. Unfortunately, the deputy leader, R. O. Donnes, collapsed and died at Camp 6. The Pyrenees and Kilimanjaro are among the other subjects discussed, while in a reminiscent article David Thomas describes, among other things, his Clachaig

Gully exploits. In the 1959 number he gives an account of the Caucasus Expedition which he described to us at a recent Annual Dinner, while the 1960 number has an interesting article on post-war developments in British Alpine climbing. The *Rucksack Club Journal* is always worth reading, and we look forward to learning of the Club's progress under Frank Solari's presidency.

The Fell and Rock Climbing Club continues to issue well-produced journals with varied articles as well as adequate reports of club affairs. The first two numbers under review describe activities in the Antarctic, the Himalaya, and the Andes as well as many of the more remote parts of Europe. No. 51, with an account of the 1955 ascent of Kangchenjunga, reminiscences by Dorothy Pilley Richards and a poem by I. A. Richards, opens on a standard which few journals can hope to maintain; but No. 52, in taking us to Pumasillo and Antarctica and giving T. Howard Somerville the opportunity to reminisce, bids fair to compete. Both issues also contain a wide selection of British and alpine supporting articles, while No. 53 features Sir John Hunt's Caucasus Diary and two Scottish articles. In No. 54, there is another article by Dorothy Pilley Richards, an interesting description of some novel knots, and an account of some ascents on Nevis.

In addition to a number of articles of more local interest to members of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club, the 1957 Journal has a short account of the hill birds of Britain, together with a description of Praraye in the Valpelline, a note on the Old Brenva Route and a description of an expedition to South Georgia. The 1958 number is devoted to accounts of the Club's ill-fated 1957 expedition to the Himalaya, in the course of which the leader, C. I. W. Fox, and two Sherpas were overwhelmed by an avalanche and buried in a crevasse. The 1960 Journal reminds us that much of the activity of the Club is directed to pot-holing and caving, but there are also interesting accounts of a traverse of Eiger and Mönch, and of a Pyrenean journey.

The 1959 number of the *M.A.M. Journal* opens with another account of the Lahul Expedition described elsewhere in this number but written by another of our members, Frank Solari. The widespread range of his connections is illustrated by the fact that he is President of the Rucksack Club, has a note in the latest issue of *Appalachia* and often finds himself in the Alps with the Editor, who appreciates the courtesy of the *M.A.M.* in making available the block on page 167. The 1956 number includes an account of the Rough Bounds and their inaccessible Ladhar Bheinn as well as a description of the climbing possibilities of Corsica. The 1960 Journal finds the Club traversing Gulvain in the course of an Easter Meet at Fort William.

The most important contribution to the 1958 issue of *Cambridge Mountaineering* is the interim guide to the Carnmore area, north-east of Loch Maree. Is it too late even now to hope that a more specific name be given to this district where numerous good climbs are being explored? The present description covers thirty-six pages of closely printed material and will prove valuable to all going to the area. An impression of the type of rock gymnastics now popular on the Carnmor (as they prefer to term it) crags is found in an article entitled *Temerity in Oxford Mountaineering* for 1958. It is sad to learn that five members of the O.U.M.C. died during

the twelve months covered by the Journal. *Cambridge Mountaineering* for 1959 has articles on various Scottish climbs as well as the usual alpine notes, as has the following number, but here again, we read of the grievous loss of five members of another University Club in one year.

It is good to be able to record another issue of the *Pinnacle Club Journal*, covering the period from 1951 to 1958. It contains a number of well written articles, generally quite short but describing ascents of full Pinnacle Club standard including the Younggrat, Les Dames Anglaises, and expeditions to the Pyrenees, Scandinavia and Himalaya. The Journal of the Ladies' Scottish Climbing Club also appears irregularly—as indeed does the *C.C.J.* these days—but the 1959 issue is notable as it marks the celebration of the Club's Fiftieth Anniversary in 1958. It includes many short but excellent accounts of the exploits of members during the past six years, including a number of first ascents in the Alps and Himalaya. We extend our belated congratulations and best wishes to the L.S.C.C.

The annual publication of the Ladies' Alpine Club describes the widespread activities of the members, who nowadays range from the East Indies to the Rockies, as well as gathering for an alpine meet each summer. This, perhaps more than any of the other subjects of review, is truly a club journal, but at the same time it contains many items of practical interest to the alpine visitor which are lacking elsewhere.

The *American Alpine Journal* continues to provide a very readable account of mountaineering expeditions throughout the world, as well as informative articles on specialised topics and guide book articles and historical reviews dealing with American mountaineering. But we feel a little aggrieved when the Cairngorms are described as a peak—under 4,000 feet! We have recently been fortunate enough to complete our set of this Journal, which is not read by our members as widely as it should be. In the 1957 number there are accounts of Tilman's traverse of the Patagonian ice cap, the Swiss Everest-Lhotse Expedition, and some New Zealand and Icelandic ascents, as well as articles on Rakaposhi, Pumasillo and the Ojos del Salado. The more general articles include a well documented climbing history of Mount Rainier, I.G.Y. glacier studies and an interesting report on Medicine on the Mountain. The 1958 Journal includes articles on snow blindness and crevasse patterns in glaciers, as well as a long report on Dr Cook's claim to have ascended Mount McKinley in 1906. The evidence still suggests that the claim was false, but was it necessary to include the obviously posed, and therefore incorrectly captioned Plate 163? In this number the remaining articles deal with various other American mountains. The Americans got their eight-thousander in 1958, the ascent of Hidden Peak in the Karakoram being described in the 1959 Journal. At the same time there was a very successful North American Expedition in the Andes of Peru which climbed several 20,000 feet summits and made two first ascents. This number also includes an interesting account of the mountains of Alaska. The articles on mountain exploration in the *A.A.J.* are invariably well illustrated, notably so those in the 1960 issue describing first ascent of the Western Rib of the South Face of Mount McKinley, the North American Andean Expedition, 1959, and some ascents in the Bugaboo Group in British Columbia.

*Appalachia* is of much more local interest, dealing in the main with the mountains of Eastern U.S.A. and with the expeditions of its members elsewhere. The activities of the Appalachian Mountain Club include all aspects of mountaineering from simple hill or trail walking to rock and ice climbing, and there is always much of interest in the Journals. In particular, general articles on such topics as Mountain Leadership, Winter Climbing and Camping, and Trail Times discuss subjects of wide interest. There is always a full discussion of any mountain accidents in the Eastern United States, and often of others elsewhere.

Among the many articles in the thick *New Zealand Alpine Journals*, mainly dealing with the Southern Hemisphere, may be mentioned one on the Transantarctic Expedition in the 1958 issue. The Journals of the Mountain Club of South Africa also concentrate mainly on their own peaks, but are none the worse for that, and our members are fortunate in having available long runs of these overseas Journals should their travels take them to the areas concerned. The 1958 number incidentally tells its members of the English Krantzes which somehow include North Wales and Scotland, placing our own mountains in the far north-west!

R. L. M.