

experienced climbers. It is impossible in a few lines to detail the topics covered in the 500-odd pages—they range from equipment and technique, through advice on where to climb, to a glossary of mountain names and a short bibliography of climbing books. There are odd remarks that might be misconstrued. For instance, there is in fact, as stated, access for cars to the Zermatt camp site—but there is still a prohibition on taking a car beyond St Niklaus without permission! But this is scarcely a climbing matter.

The descriptions and explanations of the procedures recommended in different circumstances are clear and comprehensive, and the equipment needed is adequately detailed. It was good to read that climbing nails “have certain advantages over the vibram sole on greasy rock or on hard snow or ice, and their value must not be overlooked, particularly for Scottish conditions”. Most accidents in the hills arise because of inadequate adhesion!

### CAIRNGORM GUIDE-BOOKS

THE third edition of the S.M.C. guide, *The Cairngorms*, Sir Henry Alexander's classic, revised in 1950 by W. A. Ewen, has been out of print for some time. A new edition is in preparation and will be published by the Scottish Mountaineering Trust, who have taken over responsibility for all the guide-books from the Club. There are, however, still available the two volumes of the *Climbers' Guide to the Cairngorms Area* by Malcolm Smith. Those members who did not buy Vol. 1 (The Cairngorms) and Vol. 2 (Lochnagar, Broad Cairn, Clova) when they appeared in 1961 and 1962 under S.M.C. auspices will find that they now must pay 20s. and 18s. respectively, some 10s. more each than the original prices.

These pocket-size guides provide a complete introduction to the worthwhile climbing and scrambling in the Cairngorms Area. It would probably astonish the pioneers to find that of the 337 pages of route descriptions, only 70 deal with Lochnagar.

The stimulus given to climbing in the area by the author's achievement in producing such excellent guides and meeting an obvious requirement is illustrated by the number of new routes described in the S.M.C. Journals since they appeared. In the May 1968 issue, over 30 new climbs are listed and a revised edition will undoubtedly be called for as soon as this one is exhausted.

### CLIMBING JOURNALS

WHILE this *Journal* has failed to meet several publication deadlines over an unfortunately long period, there has been piling up on the reviewer's desk—and the Library shelves—such an accumulation of Journals of Kindred Clubs that it has become manifestly impossible to find space even to mention them, far less refer to their contents. We can only express our thanks to all the clubs who have sent us their publications.