

ber of 17,500 avalanches fall each winter in the Swiss Alps, the author concludes with brief paragraphs on the damage caused by avalanches and preventive measures being carried out in Switzerland. A folding map of Switzerland is appended upon which the author has tried to indicate as far as possible each avalanche gully in the country. As the map is published on a small scale, it fails to give a satisfactory picture of the factors physiographic, geologic or cultural which contribute to avalanche formation and only a general idea of distribution.

W. A. W., JR.

*Devil: The Life Story of a Chamois in the Austrian Alps*, by Waldemar Schmidtman. Translated by the author. 214 pages, with numerous drawings by W. von Freyschlag. New York: D. Appleton-Century Co., 1936. Price \$2.00.

As a small boy the reviewer vividly recalls excursions in the Bavarian foothills, and especially days spent on the alplands of the royal hunting preserves near Kreuth. It might be a misty morning when one stepped out of the forest glade, no sounds save rushing water and the pattering of falling pebbles. The mist might lift and one would see an old buck chamois high on a point of rock, sentinel for those below; a sharp whistle and away they would race. Sometimes by chance one might encounter them at close quarters, and they would dash across the trail with all the rushing power of an avalanche. In later years we knew them in the Zillerthal and other Austrian valleys, silhouetted on little pinnacles against the rising sun; and there are recollections of a quiet evening in the Bernese Oberland, when a lonely buck stood besides the Strahlegg hut and would not go away.

Those who know their *Theuerdank* (1517) will be well aware of the adventures with chamois of Emperor Maximilian, and those who are fortunate enough to see publications of the Gesellschaft Alpiner Bücherfreunde (Munich) will recall their reprint of Adam Lebwald's *Damographia* (1750). In recent years, however, Baillie-Grohman and others have noted that, aside from Charles Boner's *Chamois Hunting in the Mountains of Bavaria* (1853), there are not half a dozen books in the English language dealing with the chamois. Schmidtman's book, translated by himself from his well-known *Der Alte vom Steinernen Meer*, is the thing we have been waiting for.

Born in England, the author was brought up on his father's estate in the mountains of Salzburg, and he has chosen to tell the life story of Teufel, lord of all he surveys, from the time of his birth among the rocky fastnesses until he meets a noble death at the hands of the hunter. How skillfully this has been done the reader will easily discover, for here is the mountain world re-created, with its beast, bird and human inhabitants, presented simply and with sympathetic feeling. The illustrations are utterly charming.

J. M. T.

"*Ces Monts sublimes.*" *Les Ecrivains a la Montagne*, by Claire-Eliane Engel and Charles Vallot. 8 vo.; 304 pages, with bibliography, index and 8 illustrations by Samivel. Paris: Librairie Delagrave (15 Rue Soufflot), 1936.

This volume is the second and concluding of the anthology reviewed in *A. A. J.*, ii, 309. The period covered in 1803-95, and fifty-four authors, French, English and German are represented. They are poets, historians, philosophers and geographers, writing at a time when contact with the mountains was expressed in terms of spiritual exaltation, a common characteristic which has led to the use of "sublime" in the title of the present volume. Although the descriptions are restricted to the mountains of western Europe, one meets the authors in diverse localities: Lamartine at Milly, near Macon; Gautier in the Spanish sierras; Hugo on the Rigi; Durier on the Brevent; Schrader at Gavarnie. For the Alpine historian, however, these literary extracts will be of less value than the numerous biographical sketches of the various writers. Samivel, as usual, has furnished impressive illustrations.

J. M. T.

*Les Batailles pour L'Himalaya*, by Claire-Eliane Engel. 8 vo.; vii + 157 pages, with 16 full-page illustrations, 3 outline maps, 2 diagrams and bibliography. Paris: Flammarion, 1936.

This is an historical rather than a geographical approach to the Himalaya, and covers the period 1783-1935, approximately corresponding with the time of the first ascent of Mont Blanc in the Alps down to the present. Following a brief topographical description of the range, the early travellers and first climbs are discussed, and then in order the major expeditions from the time