

A Climber's Guide to the Rocky Mountains of Canada, by J. Monroe Thorington. Revised edition (fifth printing). 12mo; xxii + 345 pages. The American Alpine Club (113 East 90th St., New York 28, N. Y.), 1953. Price \$4.00, postpaid.

The fifth printing of this work evidences the demand for a manual that, for more than thirty years, has attempted to keep pace with new climbs in the Canadian Rockies. The total number of peaks included now approaches 800, while more than 650 routes are outlined. Passes, nearly 100 in number, are described and indexed. Since the revision of 1943, first ascents numbering about 50 and an equal number of new routes have been added, a considerable part of the data not appearing elsewhere in print. Additions to the introductory material include a list of the huts belonging to the Alpine Club of Canada, their locations and approaches.

W. S. C.

Scenic Guides, by Weldon F. Heald. Susanville, California: H. C. Johnson. Price, \$1.50 each.

Scenic Guide to Oregon. 100 pages, with photographs and maps. 1951.

Scenic Guide to Nevada. 80 pages with photographs and maps. Revised edition, 1952.

Scenic Guide to Colorado. 100 pages with photographs and maps. 1952.

These are the three most recent publications in this useful and attractive series of paperbound guidebooks to the West. The Nevada guide is a thoroughly revised edition of the first in the series, originally published more than six years ago. With many new illustrations, some in color, it is greatly improved. Guides to Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah are temporarily out of print. New improved editions will be out soon. Guides to Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana will follow.

For anyone contemplating trips of any sort in our Western states these books will be invaluable. They are suggestive and intriguing to read when planning a trip, and when it is under way, they are compact and easy to carry in the car or even in a pack. Weldon Heald knows every foot of the country he writes about,

and he takes the traveller into many unusual and out-of-the-way places. Although points of historical and scenic interest, and opportunities for outdoor recreation, are the chief concern, cities and towns with their notable features are included.

There are several arrangements which simplify the use of the guides. All the major scenic areas and points of interest, including the photographs and maps, are alphabetically arranged. Place names printed in bold-face type indicate cross references on maps and in the text, and there is a good index. Besides the fullsize state map, there are a number of detail maps of regions of special interest. A unique feature in the Nevada guide is a "Travel-Time" map showing the best time of year to visit each part of the state. The Colorado guide informs the rockhound of the many fine gem fields. But most alluring in the Colorado, and in the Oregon guide too, are the descriptions of the mountain areas; how to get to them, and what is to be found there.

HARRIET T. PARSONS

Appalachia. Index to Volumes 11-25, 1905-45, Magazine Numbers 41-100, compiled by Benton L. Hatch. 95 pages. Boston: Appalachian Mountain Club, 1952.

Fifty-Seven-Year Index, Sierra Club Bulletin, 1893-1949, compiled by Dorothy H. Bradley and George Shochat. 138 pages. San Francisco: Sierra Club, 1952.

An index to anything is a godsend if done tolerably well, and these indexes are. They make these periodicals come alive, and save time and frustration for many searchers. Indexes of climbing journals are usually labors of love rather than professional jobs, and so not to be criticized too closely. Some casual checking not only showed up no important errors or omissions, but gave me the feeling that, as indexes go, these are excellent. I say "as indexes go," for indexing is a difficult business and subject to limitations. Really complete indexing costs too much. The compiler has to decide what to omit and hope his decisions will annoy the few rather than the many. Numerous items can properly be entered under any of several different catchwords. The compiler must pick one and hope the majority of users will do the same.