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mit climb, for example, is indeed recounted, but it is seen as Noyce saw it, awaiting Hillary and Tenzing on the South Col. The format is excellent. The many fine photographs are well reproduced. A. J. Veilhan's drawings well catch the spirit of the climb. Here is a book well worth reading and owning. If you have been in the Himalaya, it brings back pleasant moods and memories; if you have not, it lets you imagine that you have.

H. ADAMS CARTER

Alone to Everest, by Earl Denman. 255 pages, 13 photographs. London: Collins, 1954. Price, \$2.38.

An Innocent on Everest, by Ralph Izzard. 318 pages. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., 1954.

When some great achievement, book, or play, has attracted great public interest and acclaim, one may expect a spate of works of lesser merit on the same subject. These two books fall within this category. However, anyone who wishes to read everything that has been written about Everest will want to read them.

Mr. Denman's book is divided into two parts; the first is an account of the ascent of eight volcanic peaks of the Virunga range. This is the area of equatorial Africa in which Carl Akeley studied gorillas and has now become the Albert National Park, a game preserve intended primarily to protect the animals. The author made all his ascents accompanied only by local porters and at a minimum of expense, thus carrying the doctrine of the "small expedition" to its logical extreme.

The remainder of the book is devoted to his expedition in 1947 from Darjeeling, following the route of the earlier British expeditions through Tibet to the Rongbuk Monastery and thence up the glacier to the North Col. At Darjeeling he was fortunate in securing the services of Tenzing (later one of the conquerors of Everest) and Ang Dawa. He had no permission to enter Tibet, so the expedition had to proceed secretly. With the exception of one threatening encounter, however, he was not interfered with and, accompanied by his two able sherpas, succeeded in getting part way up the North Col and returning safely to Darjeeling. The book contains much rather naive alpinism and even more naive philosophy, but it has an interest as a

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demonstration of what one man without help or money can do if he has sufficient determination.

Mr. Izzard is a reporter on the staff of *The Daily Mail*. The 1953 British Mount Everest Expedition had sold exclusive rights to the story of the expedition to the London *Times* and the competitive spirit of journalism inspired *The Daily Mail* to send Mr. Izzard to "gate-crash" the trip. With a hastily organized scratch party, he trailed the Hunt expedition from Katmandu to the Khumbu glacier at the foot of the icefall and then returned to Katmandu while the expedition was at the higher altitudes on the mountain. He supplied *The Daily Mail* with very readable articles from time to time on the way up and down, and apparently succeeded quite well in "scooping" the *Times'* exclusive story. The book has all the merits and demerits of journalism. It is written with a facile pen and dwells particularly on personal adventures and human idiosyncracies. It repeats all the standard statements about the people and the country, and sometimes makes categorical statements on questions which have been the subject of debate for years.

The ninth chapter is devoted to a review of all that has been said and written about the Abominable Snowman. Since the book was written, Mr. Izzard in 1954 headed a second expedition to the Everest area on behalf of *The Daily Mail*, to pursue the Abominable Snowman to his ultimate lair. This doubtless presages a second book.

OSCAR R. HOUSTON

Everest: The Swiss Expedition in Photographs, compiled by the Swiss Foundation for Alpine Research. XV pages of Introduction, 6 plates in color and 144 full page illustrations in black and white, and various sketches. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., 1954. Price, \$7.50.

The Picture of Everest, by Alfred Gregory. 43 pages of colored illustrations with brief explanatory text. Great Britain: Hodder and Stoughton, 1954.

Since the recent improvements in photography and the reproduction of photographs, it has become customary to publish a picture book of every important expedition (sometimes two of