

times beneficent, sometimes horrific, unseen by man—at least by any man who survived—living where nothing else can live and known only by tracks which may run forward or backward, and which, when followed, have led nowhere.

Mr. Izzard set out to find the facts. Under the auspices of the Daily Mail, he organized a full dress expedition, of nine members and nearly 300 porters, and spent four months, February to May, in and around Namche Bazar, and the area about Everest. The accomplishments? He saw many tracks which the Sherpas identified as Yeti tracks, accumulated many more stories (often contradictory) and saw two fur ceremonial caps, said to be 300-year-old Yeti scalps.

It is a merry book, full of humanity and may be recommended for a pleasant evening's reading.

It is open to two criticisms: the two pictures of Yeti tracks are worthless, which is surprising as the expedition included a professional photographer and two assistants. There is no map, so it is impossible to understand the topography or follow the route unless one is personally familiar with the country or has access to a map in some other book.

OSCAR R. HOUSTON

*The Sherpa and the Snowman*, by Chas. Stonor, with a foreword by Sir John Hunt. 206 pages, 38 pictures. Hollis & Carter: London, 1955. Price, 18 s.

To those serious students of the Himalayan mystery this book may not contain much that is new. Many of us have regarded reports about the Yeti (as the Sherpas call it) as not very subtle spoofing. Even the appellation "Abominable Snowman" suggests an attempt to be other than serious. However, the Tibetan name "Metoh Kangmi" literally translates as "a repellent manlike creature whose home lies in the higher snow ranges"; hence the popular name is really not an effort to be funny.

In the winter of 1953/4 an expedition was sent from London to investigate the abominable gentleman in his own stamping ground which fringes and overlaps the habitat of the Sherpas on the approaches to Everest. It is in the environs of the Sherpa villages and above their yak grazing alplands that the Yeti has most often been reported. The author is a biologist and anthropologist, the party included a zoologist, a doctor and an American naturalist-traveler. Their approach to the verification or disproval of the snowman seems at all times to have been open-minded and scientifically sound. As one who was a complete skeptic, this reviewer underwent a

growing fascination as the investigation unfolded. Tracks were found and photographed, excreta analyzed, the eye and ear witnesses cross examined and cross checked. There is no question in the Sherpa mind about the existence of the Yeti, and the expedition itself concludes with the conviction that some unknown and highly intelligent form of ape maintains an elusive and precarious foothold in the Alpine zone of the Himalayas.

The foregoing is, however, only a part of the book's worth. There is no excitement, no climax; the book at times plods along at a gentle pace enlivened now and then by restrained humor as when the scientist and the monk-doctor compare medical notes and their competing cures for migraine to malaria. This book obviously was written by a sincere lover of nature and humanity. The bases of the Sherpas' economic, spiritual and social life are vividly depicted, as well as (to this reader) some startling items such as the flight of yellow billed crows that are seen airborne at 26,000 feet.

Those who have an interest in the Himalaya for climbing or any other reason should add this book to their libraries. They will find here intelligent and objective observation, honest and competent writing.

LAWRENCE G. COVENEY

*Land der Namenlosen Berge*, by Dr. Herbert Tichy. 221 pages, 33 photographs, including 4 in color, 4 sketch maps. Vienna: Ullstein and Company, 1954.

Motivated more by a desire for exploration and its wider variety of adventure than for climbing peaks *per se*, Tichy shows himself amply capable for solitary travel through the nameless peaks of western Nepal. From Kathmandu, he follows (in the autumn of 1953) Tilman's 1950 route to the headwaters of the Marsyandi, but soon enters a region previously unvisited by European explorers. Accompanied by three Sherpa companions, Adjiba, Gyalsen, and the experienced Sirdar Pasang, he visits the Sisne, Saipal, and Mustangbhot ranges, near the border of Tibet. They climb a number of peaks over 5,000 meters, and turn back on a few more without excuses or misgivings.

Tichy presents a colorful, intimate interview with the people of Nepal who are observed by his understanding eyes. He writes simply, with humor and warmth: a very pleasant, though rare combination. Like Tilman, Tichy is the solitary wanderer who travels with a light commissary, but with a strong stomach. Mountaineering literature is richer because of this man.

ALLEN STECK