

*Cimes et Visages du Haut Dauphiné*, by Felix Germain. 185 pages, including 110 photographs in black and white, 16 in color, and 17 vignettes, one map and a circular panorama with key. Paris: Arthaud, 1955.

An excellent picture-book of Dauphiné, with appropriate text, this volume (24th in the series "Belles Pages, Belles Couleurs") presents a cross section of an area that has been almost neglected by American mountaineers. Almost two-thirds of the pictures deal with high-level mountaineering or skiing, but the valley scenery, peasant life, villages and flowers are amply included. It is a more barren area than one finds in the chain of Mont Blanc, but no one can deny the majesty of its peaks as shown in the magnificent views of La Meije and Les Ecrins. The color-plates are unusually good, but the explanatory text of the illustrations (because of their bled edges) is in the back of the book, making it awkward for reference.

J. MONROE THORINGTON

*The Mountains of Ireland*, by D. D. C. Pochin Mould. 156 pages, 48 photographs and 1 map. London: B. T. Batsford, Ltd., 1955. Price, 21 s.

Climbers who insist on having their mountains lofty and glacier-hung will view the subject of this book with a scornful eye. Webster's bald definition, "Any part of a land mass which projects conspicuously above its surroundings," would satisfy few mountain lovers, who each has his own more subtle interpretation of "mountain." We know that there is a character, independent of elevation, to be found in true mountains, an essence, not to be constrained, that speaks to every mountaineer. Though of these Irish summits the highest is but 3,414 feet, and many are below 2,000, it is clear from text and pictures that here is real mountain country, wild, striking, and varied.

Around the rim of the island rise these eight mountain groups, diverse in formation and verdure but alike in their nearness to the sea. Here is some rock-climbing and much fine tramping terrain, though the old forests are largely gone, and bare rock or flowered turf form the track. Their story is told with insight and enthusiasm by a climber who is also geologist and archeologist. An unusual feature of these regions is the frequency of relics of man: Megalithic cairns, prehistoric forts, Celtic church sites, and reminders of the troubled times of Ireland. This history is vividly woven into the tale of the modern landscape.

A study of the numerous photographs shows a striking similarity to the New England scene; almost every view has its local counterpart—it may be in the Berkshires, the White or Green Mountains, or the Camden hills.

But the story proves this likeness to be illusory. The differences appear not only in the lower elevations, but more saliently in the cultivation of the valleys, man's marks on the heights, the pervading presence of the sea, the types and profusion of flowers, and especially in the absence of forest cover. The place names are strange and meaningful (some clue to their pronunciation would have pleased the American reader).

By no means a stark guidebook, *The Mountains of Ireland* is, nevertheless, informative as well as pictorially graphic. The author knows all phases of her subject. Her general descriptions of history and location are supplemented by accounts of actual trips she has made over the highlands during which an observant and appreciative eye has noted details of route and beauties of scene for a skilled pen to record. Aided by the map showing the whereabouts of the several groups—clear but on too small a scale for trails or roads—it would be no difficult matter to retrace her steps, and surely a delightful one.

On completing this book, the reader will be convinced that Ireland's mountains present a convenient region, unfrequented and full of charm, most rewarding to visit, not, perhaps, when one is full of vigor and ambition, but for the times when leisurely hill tramping seems an appealing recreation.

MARJORIE HURD

*Leuchtende Berge*. A book of colored photographs of the Alps, by Jos. Jul. Schaetz. 72 pages, 28 colored photographs. Munich: F. Bruckmann, 1954.

This is a very fine collection of colored photographs of the Alps by the writer and others. The pictures are imaginative and beautifully reproduced. They range from studies of flowers, waterfalls, peaceful lakes and mountain valleys, to excellent pictures of high peaks, glaciers and rock faces. "Suitable" captions accompany many of them, and Schaetz has written a short preface about mountaineering enthusiasts from Petrarch to the skiers and mountaineers of the present day.

URSULA CORNING

*High Sierra Country*, by Oscar Lewis. 291 pages, map end-papers. Duell, Sloan and Pearce, New York; Little, Brown and Company, Boston, Toronto, 1954. Price \$3.50.

A glance at the title would lead one to believe that this book is about the alpine regions and high peaks of the country's greatest single mountain range. But actually, the mountains themselves serve largely as a backdrop for man's kaleidoscopic activities. Being the twenty-seventh volume of the