

pages, 51 photographs, 9 maps and sketches. London: Faber and Faber Ltd., 1954. Price, 25 s.

Egeler and de Booy have climbed together in the Alps. Together they dreamed, as they learned to climb, of a journey to a distant land and a great untrodden mountain. The dream unfolded as they formed a Dutch geological expedition to Peru, and it was fulfilled when with Lionel Terray they reached the summit of Nevado Huantsan.

The ascent of Huantsan was not an easy one, and considering the difficulties of the mountain it was quite a feat for such a small party. The authors state that their success was largely due to Terray's skill and drive. Luck also played a part when de Booy fell 300 feet and stopped unhurt. Storms battered them; routes did not work out, and it was not until the third assault that they were successful. All in all it was a pretty exciting show.

The authors have chronicled their experiences well, both in words and photographs. The story of this expedition will hold your interest throughout, from its humble beginnings in Holland to its triumphant conclusion in Peru.

RICHARD K. IRVIN

*Du Kenya au Kilimanjaro*, by Roland Truffaut. 251 pages, 2 maps, 2 sketches, 16 pages illustrations. Paris: Rene Julliard, 1953. Price bound, Fr. Fcs. 1090.

This little book is the story of the small French expedition of 1952, which visited Africa and climbed both Kenya and Kilimanjaro. Of the party of eight, two members, Maurice Martin and Roger Rangaux, succeeded in making the first ascent of the north face of Batian, the highest point of Kenya Mountain, under difficult conditions. The story of this ascent is the highlight of the book, although it occupies but little of the total account.

The party apparently had a very good time aside from the disappointing weather conditions on the mountain itself, and much of the space in the book is devoted to the approach and return, the trip to Kilimanjaro, and the wild life encountered. From the standpoint of the climber the most interesting part of the book is the chapter devoted to the 10 days spent at the upper end of the Mackinder Valley. Several attempts to force a route up the north face were shattered by the daily afternoon storms. In fact, it was only after the party had been scheduled to leave that one more attempt was made, by two instead of the four originally intended, and the climb finally completed. The account of the climb itself is written largely from the point of view of the onlookers. The ascent of Kilimanjaro, afterwards,

comes somewhat in the nature of an anticlimax and was quite obviously made to complete the record and bring home a 6,000-er.

Although the author gives a quite complete list of the ascents of the various summits of Kenya, which would indicate a familiarity with the literature, his lack of knowledge of English causes him to make many errors in spelling throughout the work. The text is well-leaded with good margins, but a better grade of paper would have improved the appearance of the book. The pictures, although well reproduced, are small with three or four to a page. This is a very readable account of a pleasant trip and an outstanding climb.

K. A. HENDERSON

*The Mountains of New Zealand*, by Rodney Hewitt and Mavis Davidson.

128 pages, with 136 photographs and 2 maps. Wellington, New Zealand: A. H. & A. W. Reed, 1954. Price, 18s 6d.

Unfortunately, the American mountaineer has had too little contact with New Zealand, one of the world's most mountainous countries. Few Americans have climbed there, and it has been difficult to learn about its mountains from any one reading source, owing to the limited number of books available on the subject. But now, in this single, relatively short and inexpensive volume, one may be fully introduced to the amazingly large number of mountains "down under."

In their broad survey the authors have provided a readable, profusely illustrated account of the ranges, peaks, valleys, and flora and fauna of North and South Islands. The coverage of peaks is most extensive, although details of the guide-book variety must necessarily be lacking in so short a space. More thorough indexing of peaks rather than ranges only, would be of help to the reader. The photographs, though not of the best quality in every instance, nevertheless give a fine impression of the varied mountain landscape. This contribution from two of the country's veteran mountaineers will surely attract many appreciative readers, to whom the mountains of New Zealand will now seem much less remote.

FREDERICK O. JOHNSON