them short of time and food, but before doing so Jillot and Emery wanted to go to a bump on the ridge a few hundred feet ahead. An innocuous slope avalanched under them, and the remainder of the book is devoted to the gallant rescue which was so nearly successful. Four were involved for four days and nights without food or water at over 20,000 feet and at the end two were dead. Jillott walked over an ice-cliff, too weakened by the avalanche and exhaustion to realize, and Culbert fell back exhausted by frost-bite. It is an unbelievable story of heroism and human endurance. Barker tells it well, clearly and with restraint.

This tragedy makes grim reading. But anyone who is interested in the heights to which the human qualities can rise in a tough situation should read the book.

ROGER CHORLEY


A casual glance at the frontispiece suffices to attract the climber to an afternoon with this short, well-written book. The view shows the very impressive skyline of Machapuchare, which translated means the Fish’s Tail, so named because of the shape of its twin summits. It is immediately clear that the route was technically difficult, and that the party did well to get Wilfrid Noyce and David Cox within 150 feet of the higher 22,958-foot summit. In a most pleasant manner one is led chapter by chapter through the evolution of this difficult ascent, from its inception in the mind of the expedition’s organizer, James Roberts, to the final summit attempt from Camp V. For a difficult Himalayan ascent this was certainly a small party, the only other two expedition members, besides porters, being Charles Wylie and Roger Chorley. One enjoys reading of the informal, yet very effective, planning which, with support from the Everest Foundation, materialized in an expedition to Nepal in the spring of 1957. Moreover, in his easy flowing style Noyce conveys the feeling of mutual stimulation with which a small, compatible mountaineering party, bolstered by three fine sherpas, is sparked towards its objective. In fact, this group was inspired to the extent of stringing a half-mile of fixed rope, and they apparently enjoyed doing it.

The book is accompanied by very good and well-chosen photographs and even includes a brief appendix on arranging expeditions to Nepal. It is certainly a worthwhile addition to mountaineering literature.

FRANZ MOHLING