editor of The Alpine Journal from 1880-89, and spent his last 30 years in Switzerland.

During his lifetime Coolidge made more than 1200 mountain ascents and apparently had at least as many quarrels; but, far more important, he became the greatest of alpine historians and a superb editor of alpine guidebooks. Ronald Clark gives us insight into how some of these developments occurred, but even he cannot explain this odd character. An important influence on Coolidge throughout his life was his aunt, Miss Brevoort, who introduced him to mountain climbing and with whom he made many early ascents. Miss Brevoort, her nephew’s senior by 25 years, not only climbed Mont Blanc in 1865, when she was 40, but even danced a quadrille on the summit and sang the Marseillaise. The third member of the “climbing team,” a large beagle named Tschingel, was given to Coolidge in 1868 by his guide to soften his disappointment after verglas had turned them back on the Eiger. Both Coolidge and Miss Brevoort dearly loved this mountaineering dog, who by the end of her career had “carried out 66 grandes courses and 11 first ascents!”

This climbing trio was broken up in 1876 by the untimely death of Miss Brevoort. Although considerably shaken by his aunt’s death, Coolidge continued the climbs in the Dauphiné and the winter mountaineering which he and his aunt had pioneered. Year after year he visited more peaks, until he knew the Alps more intimately than any climber of his day. Despite the efforts of Ronald Clark, these later years of the expatriate American are less interesting than the earlier ones. We hear that Coolidge was “studiously rude,” and would take personal offense at the smallest point. There was, of course, the quarrel with Davidson that threatened to split the Alpine Club; and there were many others.

In this biography the “medieval ferocity” of this eccentric is more in evidence than his “kindly aid to all who sought it.” Ronald Clark has not written a popular book, but he has contributed to alpine history by telling the story of its greatest historian, a mountaineer who loved the Alps passionately, but never climbed in England, in Scotland, or in any other area.

ROBERT H. BATES

In the summer of 1957 a lightweight German expedition of the Swabian section of the Deutsche Alpenverein made 12 difficult first ascents in the Cordillera Blanca and the Cordillera Vilcanota in Peru. (A.A.J., 1958,
Their leader, Günter Hauser, gives an excellent account of their climbing and travels in this book, the title of which might be translated Ye Mountain Gods, People and Peaks in the Land of the Incas. In his introduction Hauser points out that he does not intend to write a "chronological account of an expedition or a kind of worked-over diary but rather attempts to mirror a foreign country, its wealth and poverty, its history and future, to show something of its fullness and beauty from the depth of the steaming jungles to its icy summits." Half of the book is devoted to mountaineering and the other half to archeology, history, sociology and politics and to accounts of interesting side trips made to the jungles where the Amazon begins, to archeological sites and to friendly haciendas. In undertaking so broad a task, an author runs the danger of slight misstatements. I shall not quibble here with one or two historical facts about the conquest of Peru and shall limit myself to correcting two points in mountaineering history: the first ascent of Salcantay was not made by the Swiss, as Hauser states, but by the Franco-American party in 1952; Campa I was a fourth and not a third ascent, the Germans apparently being unaware of a Peruvian ascent after the Austrian one and before the Harvard one.

This book will be of particular interest to members of the American Alpine Club, many of whom have now had the pleasure of knowing the cordilleras of Peru at first hand. And too, members of our Club play a part in this story. Ted Achilles joined the Germans while they climbed in the Cordillera Vilcanota. It was there that the Harvard Andean Expedition, made up largely of A.A.C. members, was discovered by the Germans. Both parties were unaware of the plans of the others. Hauser describes amusingly how they divided up the peaks amicably among them.

This is a well written and interesting book. Both parts will hold the reader's attention. Of course climbers will be particularly drawn to the descriptions of such difficult ascents as those of the Pirámide de Garci1aso, Jatunhuma and Cayungate I. To give a real climax to the end of the book, the author has removed the ascent of Alpamayo, the "most beautiful mountain in the world," from chronological sequence and reserved it for the last. There are other excellent features as well. The photographs are beautifully taken and well reproduced. There are several sketch maps of regions not otherwise well mapped; the excellent topographical map inside the back cover is the best of the Cordillera Vilcanota known to the reviewer. There is also a good bibliography. Here is a book of the mountains of Peru well worth owning.

H. Adams Carter