Gurung, is also appended; and “A Select Bibliography” lists books, journals and maps that concern the mountains of Nepal. For certain readers, a second appendix, “Aspects of the Snowman”, complete with its own bibliography, will attract special attention. Dr. Gurung mentions that... “the natives believe that the Sahibs are also scared of Yeti; otherwise, why should they be carrying such lethal weapons as ice-axes and crampons?” Although the author shows skepticism about the existence of the Snowman, he suggests keeping an open mind because “things that persist may or may not exist.” A modest, charming little reference book of value to anyone with an interest in Nepal’s mountains. Dr. Gurung is a member of the International Himalayan Expedition, 1971.

ROBERT H. BATES

Geschichte und Sozialordnung der Sherpa, by Michael Oppitz. Innsbruck-Munich, Universitätsverlag Wagner Ges. m.b.H., 1968. 170 pages, 21 photographs (one full page colored), 11 schedules and charts, 6 genealogies, 2 maps.

History and Social Structure of the Sherpa is the first part of Professor Friedrich W. Funke’s work on Sherpa Research. “Sherpa Research”, in turn, is part of Khumbu-Himal, a research work on Nepal Himalaya sponsored by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation under the authorship of Professor Dr. Walter Hellmich of Munich.

An introduction by F.W. Funke to the entire work as well as Michael Oppitz’s book relates the research of Everest and the Sherpa that had been carried on up to the year 1961 and subsequently through the years 1965 to 1967 when the field work of his Nepal-Himalaya research team began. The team was composed of a group of scientists specializing in various fields, topography, medicine, hygiene, anthropology, psychology among others. The author, Michael Oppitz, was the youngest member of the team covering the sociological aspects of the project. The author’s particular assignment was the anthropological study of the Sherpa.

In the course of their work members of his team discovered important documents, the oldest dating back perhaps 400 years, which led them to certain conclusions regarding the origin of the Sherpa, their subsequent migrations and final settlement in the Solo-Khumbu area. The author describes the social structure of the Sherpa clan, customs and rules governing marriage, inheritance, divorce. A selection of legends and stories follows which provide some lighter reading. There is also a bibliography, a
general index and an index of names in Sherpa-Tibetan language. A seven-page comprehensive summary in English is of particular help to the reader unfamiliar with the German language. The book is full of information and of great value to the student of Sherpa history. The reader will be impressed by the thoroughness of the research work on which the book is based.

HORST VON HENNIG


"The Alps are the best-known and most written-about mountains on earth, and anyone planning an Alpine vacation should have little trouble finding a great deal of information." So begins William M. Bueker's chapter on the Alps in his handbook for climbers and hikers entitled Mountains of the World. This pocket-sized, soft-covered manual is presented as a quick reference guide for the hiker or non-expert mountaineer. In fact, it is neither a guide nor a reference text but a collection of brief descriptions of the highest peaks in the mountain ranges of the world. Included are 43 sketch maps which give the reader a rough idea of the relationships the peaks bear to one another, and to the nearest town in a given locale. Reference is intermittently made to guidebooks about a mountain area, but there is no bibliography to aid the reader in further investigating a subject, and there are no pictures to enliven an unexciting text. If this handbook has any virtue it lies in answering the question, "What is there to climb in so-and-so anyway?" In this reviewer's opinion, obtaining the answer does not justify purchasing the book. Taking Mr. Bueker's own words a bit out of context, "Anyone planning an alpine vacation should have little trouble finding a great deal of information" . . . elsewhere.

SAMUEL C. SILVERSTEIN, M.D.


Dr. Gene Mason, specialist in anesthesiology at an Everett, Washington, hospital, writes this personal account of his ascents of the highest points of three continents: McKinley in North America, Aconacagua in South America, and Kilimanjaro in Africa. The book describes ascents by the