proportionally in the higher grades. I could find only one F11 listed in the text, but in reality many climbs of this difficulty exist in the area.

My greatest criticism of this guide is more one of style than substance. I found it much too clinical and dry. The authors apologize for excising the "exquisite prose" of Errol Morris which appeared in the earlier East Bluffs guide. It seems to me that most of Errol's descriptions could have been retained without a significant increase in the length of the book. The authors include a fine section on the geology, natural history, and general history of the area by Patricia Armstrong. I wish they could have included an equivalent section on the Park's climbing history and atmosphere. Devil's Lake is isolated from the mainstream of climbing activity and has often had a climbing society of unique individuality. With such characters as the Stettner brothers, John Gill, Dave Slinger, the Terrible Trio, and the Racine Crag Rats there is more than enough material for a fascinating story which would bring more life to the guidebook, especially during Wisconsin's long winters when most climbing is of the armchair variety.

However, as I indicated above, this omission is merely one of style. As far as the main purpose of any guide, to locate and describe the climbs, is concerned, this book does a fine job.

ALAN RUBIN

Rock Climbing, by Peter Livesey. Seattle: The Mountaineers, 1979. 116 pages.

After several readings by non-climbers, it was determined that *Rock Climbing* does indeed answer many of the questions asked by those unfamiliar with the sport. It was interesting, according to these individuals. They found it objective, much like a short text.

Rock Climbing is a compendium of techniques and ideas on how to go about learning the sport of rock climbing. The author shows us how to tie knots and set up belays and rappels; tells us how to get out of trouble and how to lead a pitch. In 116 pages, he manages to note just about everything concerned with free climbing, which brings up a point. Livesey isn't interested in aid-climbing, ice climbing, alpinism or mountaineering, it seems, but that's all right, as the title of the book is *Rock Climbing*. What is espoused here is free-climbing, with all of its merits, as well as all of the rules and regulations that have become part of the game. Everyone's goal, says Livesey, should be to lead, and to lead hard. The reader buys this. We all want to progress. Now for the regulations: as to the matter of over-protecting, the author notes that "Nuts placed above the head give a great deal of confidence, but do turn the lead into a sort of 'top-roped' ascent." One learns, likewise, that "cheating" occurs

when "the climber has run out of strength and is resting on his own protection nuts." I was unable to tell if it is Livesey who is shown cheating on a Yosemite wall (one is usually able to spot him by his large socks).

Livesey can't be faulted for putting forth the current morality in climbing. He is simply stating fact. The problem is that he is talking about the hard climbing that's being done. The climber for whom this book is written will fall, cheat and grovel more than just a few times on his or her way to XS or 5.11. Not many 5.4 climbers around are too concerned with grabbing pegs. To survive is enough.

Comparisons with such a book are probably unavoidable. Some people tell you how to do it better than others, and Royal Robbins, some years ago, told us about all we wanted to know about the technicalities of getting up rocks, and then some after that. His two books, *Basic* and *Advanced Rockcraft,* pretty much covered the subject. Livesey probably knew that and thus chose to take a different tack, that of the overview. Less a "how-to" book, it is more a "what-is" affair. With a few good pictures and some basic text, Livesey gives the uninitiated an idea of what the sport of rock climbing has become, how it's done (briefly), and if you want to learn how to contact the British Mountaineering Council. They'll have some ideas.

It's tempting to find fault with the book, but the book does, however, serve a purpose in answering the what-is, what-if, and how-to questions. The problem remains, though, that one can't just read a book, buy a rack and go out and climb. But that's left unsaid.

So what to do with it? The next time someone asks you, "How do you get the rope up there in the first place?" you can tell them to go read *Rock Climbing.*

BURTON LEE

The Ice Experience, by Jeff Lowe. Chicago: Contemporary Books, 1979. 211 pages, with photographs. $6.95.

After writing much of Yvon Chouinard's ice book, I was naturally curious to see what Jeff Lowe would do with the subject. But before I would see the book, I had a chance to climb ice with Jeff last spring on Ama Dablam. Jeff spoke ambivalently about his book as a first effort written in a hurry, but his climbing piqued my curiosity. He was so relaxed on steep ice, quite simply the best ice climber I have ever seen. At the end of the expedition when the rest of us were wiped out, he confirmed that impression by returning to the summit, blazing a fine new line up the southeast face in the process.

Lowe's *Ice Experience* comes in three parts: history, technique and guidebook. By sticking to North America, Jeff's ice history is quite complete and complements Chouinard's world overview. Here the tone is established with what turns out to be an easy, flowing style, swapping