

The Everest Years: A Climber's Life. Chris Bonington. Viking, New York, 1987. 256 pages, 160 photographs in color and black-and-white, maps. \$24.95.

Chris Bonington has done it again. *The Everest years: A Climber's Life* is his tenth book and his third autobiographical story. And as always, Chris has written a book that the reader cannot set down. The reviewer picked the volume up and did not stop reading until he had gone through the whole in one sitting.

The Everest Years covers a fifteen-year period, from 1972 on when Chris' party first attempted the southwest face of Everest. It covers the successful but tragic climb three years later when Mick Burke kept on alone toward the summit, never to be seen again, and the 1982 expedition to the incredibly difficult northeast ridge when Joe Tasker and Peter Boardman were lost. His final Everest expedition was a Norwegian one, which he joined, not in his usual role as leader. At the age of fifty, he finally reached the summit of Everest and held the record for the oldest man to get to the top until Dick Bass broke it a week later.

As for me, I was easily as interested in his other climbs. There was the breathtaking drama of the Ogre, where Doug Scott broke both his legs descending the first pitch below the summit and had to crawl off the peak, heroically assisted by his companions. Bonington had a nearly fatal fall, broke a number of ribs and suffered pneumonia during the harrowing six-day descent in a raging blizzard. The tragedy of the west-face K2 expedition, the Kongur success and the ascent of the highest point of Antarctica, the Vinson Massif, all come vividly to life in these pages. The reviewer was naturally interested to read about the first ascent of the southwest summit of formidable Shivling since he was of the party that accompanied Chris and Jim Fotheringham to Base Camp. His personal and family life and climbs on British crags are not slighted.

The book is amply illustrated by some 160 photographs in color and black-and-white. The color pictures and most of the others are beautifully reproduced, but for some reason, the photos showing routes are invariably washed out. The fault obviously did not lie with the originals (one of the reviewer's photos is shown and the original is clear-cut), but this is a small quibble in this magnificent and fascinating book.

ADAMS CARTER

Norman Collie: A Life in Two Worlds—Mountain Explorer and Scientist, 1859–1942. Christine Mill. Aberdeen University Press, Aberdeen, 1987. XIII+197 pages, black-and-white photographs, maps, appendices. £14.90.

In *Norman Collie: A Life in Two Worlds*, Christine Mill gives a measured account of the dual career of John Norman Collie, distinguished mountaineer and scientist. A chemist by profession, he both taught and conducted research at a time when chemistry was not held in particularly high esteem in academic circles. After a brief stint teaching at Cheltenham Ladies' college, in 1887 he moved on to University College, London, where (except for a period of six years) he spent the rest of his professional life, becoming the first Professor of

Organic Chemistry.

A man of many parts, Collie was also a collector. His jade was the envy of many a museum. He was fascinated by gemstones. His interest in color led him to be among the first to take up color photography. In 1896, he took the first X-ray to be used for surgical purposes. He also blew his own laboratory vessels. He was attracted to the mystical and the magical, believing “emphatically in the Loch Ness monster” and proposed Aleister Crowley for membership in the Alpine Club in 1895.

His climbing career, which began in 1886 on the island of Skye, took him to the far reaches of the globe in the company of such mountaineering luminaries as Alexander Mitchell Kellas, Albert Frederick Mummery, William Cecil Slingsby and Hugh E.M. Stutfield. With Kellas, to whom he suggested the possibilities of the Himalaya, he climbed in Scotland. With Mummery, he first climbed in the Alps; in 1895, they went to Nanga Parbat. Although Mummery died on the mountain, their extensive reconnaissance of the peak would serve subsequent expeditions well. With Slingsby, the “father of Norwegian mountaineering,” he climbed on Lofoten Island in 1903 and 1904; together they made numerous first ascents. He may be best known, however, for his exploration of Canada’s then unknown Rocky Mountains. Between 1897 and 1911, he made a total of six trips, two of them (1898 and 1902) with Stutfield.

He was the author of two books, *Climbing on the Himalaya and Other Mountain Ranges*, published in 1902, and *Climbs and Exploration in the Canadian Rockies*, which he wrote with Stutfield, in 1903. His love for the mountains continued until his death, in 1942, on his beloved Skye.

In this book, Christine Mill provides a sensitive and thoughtful assessment of the life of John Norman Collie—a pioneer in two worlds. She has written a biography that both holds one’s attention and enriches one’s knowledge.

PATRICIA A. FLETCHER

A Dream of White Horses. Edwin Drummond. Diadem Books, Cheshire (England), 1987. 224 pages, black-and-white photographs. £10.95.

Once in a while something happens that takes your breath away. A stunning physical attraction, a taste of exquisitely prepared food, a blend of classical stringed instruments, an unclimbed route of heroic proportions, a plunge into ice-cold waters, hot sex. Ed Drummond’s *A Dream of White Horses* is all of these, and more.

Combining previously published pieces with new work, this collection of autobiographical writings reduces the readers to grains of sand on a beach, alternately pounded by the passion of Drummond’s high tide and caressed by his ebb. There aren’t many works of which this can be said, especially in climbing literature.

These are “autobiographical writings” in the broadest sense. Drummond’s work isn’t easily categorized by the genre, except for the poetry. The