

ment of Penn State University through the daily use of electronic mail via our laptop computer and a suitcase-sized satellite phone provided by COMSAT; and the testing of a high-altitude pressure bag for the emergency treatment of acute mountain sickness. This last device, first thought of by Dr. Charles Houston in the 1930s, is both simple and obvious. It weighs only seven pounds. The flexible fabric bag needs no artificial oxygen. It is pressurized with a foot pump to simulate a lower altitude. It was employed to good effect by expedition MDs to treat a number of serious cases of pulmonary and cerebral edema and it seems likely that at least one fatality was prevented by its use. Tragically, a French expedition to Cho Oyu on an acclimatization walk to our base area suffered the death of an experienced climber from pulmonary edema. Having left Paris eight days earlier, his ascent to 5180 meters was extremely rapid. He perished overnight quite near our simple apparatus which might have saved his life if its presence had been known.

DAVID PADWA

*Everest, Kangshung Face Attempt.* In the post-monsoon season, we were a small team with no support personnel or porters, although we had 43 yaks and a small group of family and friends who accompanied us to the Kharta and then the Kama valleys as far as Pethange and some as far as Base Camp before returning to civilization. The seven climbers were Andy Politz, Ed Viesturs, Dr. Gary Troyer, Jan Schwartzberg, Donnie Mims, Joe Dinnen and me. We chose a line up the left side of the buttress directly below the South Col because the right side, done brilliantly a few months before by Ed Webster and his team, was no longer an option due to daily and sometimes twice-daily avalanches. The route on the left offered an only slightly more protected line up a gully, with a traverse out onto the face itself. The climbing was steep but quite straightforward. Lying at the junction of Everest and Lhotse, one was in the path whenever either mountain avalanched. After fixing ropes and placing most of the necessary food and equipment at Camp I at 19,500 feet, we experienced a large avalanche, which carried away much of the equipment and food. Fortunately, no one was hurt. It was by then too late to try another route and time and supplies were running out. We decided reluctantly to turn back. A word to save others some of the headaches we encountered. The Chinese Mountaineering Association liaison officer spoke only Chinese. Our interpreter spoke Chinese and English and so it was not possible to speak with the Tibetans. Neither man actually went farther than the roadhead at Kharta. Also, take precautions that nothing is stolen. The yak drivers seem to have developed a help-yourself attitude toward gear, clothing, food and fuel.

RICHARD W. TYRRELL

*Everest Attempt by a New Route.* Canadian Barry Blanchard and I attempted a new route on the north side of Everest without fixed rope, camps or supple-