

climbs; we will be remembered for how intact we leave these mountains as places of opportunity for the next generation.”

The antecedent Messner—who was hero worshipped by a generation—would have disavowed the race to climb the 14 biggest and focused instead upon the overlooked difficulties of the 6000- and 7000-meter gems. Nonetheless, he could surprise us again. His recent advocacy of protecting the “White Wilderness” and his secretive search for the Yeti might eventually show us more of the original goods.

More than a dozen years have passed since the author shared his finest philosophy, not only with the mountaineering community at large, but with some Boy Scouts on their first expedition. I’ve had 13 years to work up a riposte to Messner’s parting shot on the Kahiltna.

“What is it about us that disgusts you, Reinhold?” I’d ask the next time.

“You are gross, self-indulgent, technophile and materialistic,” he might reply.

“Alas, Reinhold, that sums up your latest book.”

JONATHAN WATERMAN

The Price of Adventure: Mountain Rescue Stories from Four Continents. Hamish MacInnes. The Mountaineers, Seattle, 1987. 192 pages, black and white photographs. \$15.95.

The Price of Adventure contains stories of rescues on ten different mountains on four continents, South America, North America, Africa and Europe, plus New Zealand. For some mountains, the Petit Dru and Beinn Achaladair, for example, more than one rescue is recounted. A few of the stories are told by MacInnes himself, an experienced rescuer and mountaineer who pioneered new rescue techniques and equipment, but most are told either by a climber or a rescuer, or both. They are personal accounts, with considerable human drama, occasional triumph, and often tragic despair. Events are told with sufficient technical detail that climbers can follow exactly what happened in both the climb and the rescue operation, but not so tediously that nonclimbers would not enjoy the excitement and drama of the event.

This volume is MacInnes’ second collection of rescue stories: the first, *High Drama*, was published by The Mountaineers in 1980. *The Price of Adventure* is slightly shorter than its predecessor and, in my opinion, not quite as good. The descriptions in *High Drama* were somewhat richer in detail, but more importantly *The Price of Adventure* lacks the historical development found in the earlier volume, which begins with accounts of rescue attempts during the early years of climbing in the Alps and follows the development of rescue techniques as climbing became more technical. The collection of stories contained in *The Price of Adventure*, while no less compelling and exciting, are organized in a more hodgepodge fashion.

Though subtly portrayed, you find a bit more of MacInnes in this volume

than in the previous one. He shares his own experience on the Dru where, after fracturing his skull, he successfully completes the route and descends. His accounts of rescues are more personal, reflective, and reminiscent, particularly those taking place in the Scottish Highlands.

KEVIN N. WRIGHT

Outdoor Emergency Care. Warren D. Bowman. The National Ski Patrol, 1988. 466 pages, profusely illustrated. \$19.95 (paper).

Commissioned by the National Ski Patrol as a textbook for courses in Winter Emergency Care, this splendid book will prove valuable for much wider use and is an excellent refresher for anyone involved in management of injured persons some distance from a hospital. There is a brief chapter on medical emergencies and short sections on injury due to heat, cold and altitude—even a chapter on childbirth—but this is primarily a book on trauma. Excellent appendices deal with legal aspects of emergency care, transport of the injured, appropriate medical kits, a glossary and a “module” summarizing the rest of the book. There is a good index and hundreds of excellent line drawings. This is a wonderful book with which to sharpen up your skills—a bit large to carry on a trek—but a must for anyone involved in an accident far from medical care.

CHARLES S. HOUSTON, M.D.

The Arctic Grail: The Quest for the North West Passage and the North Pole, 1818-1909. Pierre Berton. Viking, New York, 1988. 672 pages, illustrations, maps, bibliography. \$24.95.

Pierre Berton, Canada's sixty-eight-year-old popular historian, brings history to life and portrays the conquest of the lands and seas beyond the Canadian North in this carefully-researched book.

It would be niggling to find flaws in this delightful opus because, despite a few minor inaccuracies, this book is the finest piece of Arctic literature that I have read. Berton places the explorers—many of whose personal names are on landmarks all about the polar regions—in the context of their times, noting their foibles, strengths and weaknesses, virtues and vices. From Sir John Barrow, the bigoted British bureaucrat who never went near the north, to the best analysis I've read on the celebrated Cook–Peary controversy, this book is in keeping with the fine yarn-spinning that we have come to expect of Berton.

Several of the Arctic explorers mentioned in this opus were founding members of The American Alpine Club and their achievements well known. But one of Berton's more noteworthy accomplishments is the credit he gives to the “heathen ” InnuIt, whose labors and assistance brought success to the few explorers wise enough to recognize their talent.

Quite a story—well written and great reading.

WILLIAM L. PUTNAM