

SELKIRK MOUNTAINS—A brief and inadequate article. "Their outline is rounder and less serrated than that of the Rockies. . . . They do not rise much above 10,000 ft." The Selkirks contain 40 peaks above 10,000 ft., four of which rise above 11,000 ft.

CANADIAN ROCKIES—Also a short and quite insufficient article. It gives Mt. Robson a height of 12,975 ft. (possibly misprint for 12,972) and speaks of all the other Canadian ranges (including even the Coast range) as "adjoining groups."

A. C.

*Bradford on Mt. Fairweather*, by Bradford Washburn. Putnam's, 1930. Pp. ix, 127; 31 photos, 3 sketch maps. \$1.75.

This book for boys, detailing the experiences of a band of youthful adventurers on the skirts of Mt. Fairweather, may be noticed here on account of current interest in this giant of the Alaskan wilderness. It is the story of a month's arduous back-packing in relays from Lituya Bay over glaciers that bound the westerly base of the mountain. While older heads must shake dubiously at the sheer audacity of these young neophytes, they will accord unstinted praise for manful perseverance in the face of heavy odds, both of weather and terrain. Although a height of about 6700 feet was attained on a westerly spur, no real attempt to climb the mountain was made. One discovers a number of errors due to superficial acquaintance with earlier work and literature. The historic "Grand Plateau Glacier" is called throughout "*Great Plateau Glacier*," and the original connotation of the name is considerably extended. The book is well illustrated, one picture by the U. S. F. S. Aerial Survey being particularly informative.

*Edward W. D. Holway: A Pioneer of the Canadian Alps*, by Howard Palmer. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, Minn., 1931. Pp. ix, 81. Map and 8 illustrations. \$1.50.

Mountaineers will find in this little volume the authentic account of the ascents in the Canadian Rockies and Selkirks which made the name of E. W. D. Holway so well known to the climbing fraternity not many years ago. Readers who may never have seen a mountain will enjoy the book simply as the true tale of a remarkable man who

gave up commercial pursuits to become a professor of botany and an explorer of little-known Alpine ranges.

The book is composed largely of Mr. Holway's intimate letters and diaries which tell his story with an engaging touch that continually makes light of the dangers, difficulties and hardships inseparable from pioneer work. The trials and tribulations of "back-packing" are graphically portrayed by the author. The book was designed to cover, as a part of a well-rounded biography, the mountaineering experiences of its subject. We think that the task has been well done and commend the work to the attention of readers interested in the Canadian Alps.

Mr. Palmer's book, with an introduction by the late Professor J. Arthur Harris, former head of the Department of Botany at the University of Minnesota, is enriched with illustrations of many of the peaks referred to in the text. It is very well printed and attractive in format.

## NEW EXPEDITIONS

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### THE MIDDLE PALISADE—FIRST ASCENT FROM THE NORTH

One of the noblest peaks of the Sierra Nevada is the Middle Palisade. From the south it presents a couloir-furrowed rampart surmounted by numerous serrate pinnacles; from the north it is even more imposing when viewed either from the deep gorge of Big Pine Creek or from nearby mountains. Among California mountaineers it enjoys the distinction of being one of the most difficult peaks in the range. Until the past summer all of the few ascents made had been up the south face, and the opinion was current that the summit was in all probability inaccessible from the north, that side having an appearance of forbidding sheerness.

For several seasons the writer had surveyed this formidable front of the mountain, speculating as to whether it might not be scaled. But partly on account of its negative aspect and partly on account of the difficulty of access to it (there being nothing more than a suggestion of a trail in the gorge of Big Pine Creek and none whatever in the upper basin), I had indefinitely deferred any attempt on the mountain from this direction. Early last June, however, I decided to make the venture.

Leaving a lodge at an elevation of some 8,000 ft. above sea-level, I knapsacked up to a lake at 10,500 ft. and there made camp. The following morning I began to trudge up a steep slope to the south of the lake and in the direction of the Middle Palisade. Soon I came upon a long, narrow and remarkably straight lake, shut in by