

the age of nine, heard the lecture and remembered the "absurd picture of the Mur de la Côte. I was very much disappointed ten years later by the reality." Dr. Thorington carries us through these last years, making the show vivid by the remarkable accumulation of material industriously assembled and cleverly selected.

*Manuel D'Alpinisme.* Two volumes, 8 vo. Chambéry: Librairie Dardel, 1934.

With the evolution of Alpinism rapidly going on, the technic of mountain climbing is progressively more complex. It is natural then that new books on Alpine craft should appear periodically and, as a matter of fact, they do.

The "Manuel D'Alpinisme" is the latest such presentation and comes as a joint product of members of the C. A. F. and the G. H. M. The principle of collaboration, laudable if not new, adds to the value of the book, and explains at the same time some obvious inequalities in the manner of treatment and intrinsic value of the various chapters.

In Vol. 2 which covers the technical part, the general principles of climbing are dealt with profusely, although occasionally such important topics as the scale of difficulty (at least for the use of the Alpine guide-books) receive little more than passing remarks. Every phase of equipment is adequately covered with the possible exception of the question of water-proof clothing and bivouac equipment. This important topic is also vaguely dealt with in the chapter on hygiene. In both volumes one feels the need of more and better pictures in place of prolix verbal descriptions.

The technic of rock-climbing is minutely described; in fact even overdone, as in the case of the amusing mathematical consideration of the adhesion of the sole of the shoes related to the inclination of the holds. The part dealing with special procedures and artificial means of rock-climbing would hardly satisfy a Dolomitic acrobat, but is more than sufficient for a beginner. The description of ice technic is concise but clear and complete. The chapter on the dangers of the mountain is fortunately shorter than in similar publications and does not appear (as such topics often do) as a long obituary list. The few pages on ski technic are wholly insufficient and useless either for a skier or mountaineer

and should be completed or omitted. The pages on food and food preparations are a precious contribution to the culinary science, if we forgive the author the undeserved denunciation of fats as poor food in the mountains. Some of the recipes have the long-forgotten flavor of the solitude of mountain huts that one could enjoy in the days when the flood of tourists and would-be climbers had not yet gone above the limit of vegetation.

Vol. I deals with the scientific part and is generally very good. It is a collection of various data on geology, glaciology, mineralogy, meteorology, topography, photography and geography as applied to climbing, related in a clear and interesting way. It is a most valuable addition to the literature of mountain technic.

M. M. S.

—10 . . . *The Sports of Winter*. Ninety plates by Samivel. 4 to. Paris. Delagrave, 1933. Price Fr. 25.

The author, who has already depicted the pleasures of Alpinism in a nerve-shattering volume, now turns his attention to the social and technical aspects of winter sport. Several prominent skiers, members of the American Alpine Club, were approached to review his latest book, but report, after having seen it, that they are under physicians' care for convulsions. Overcome by laughter, these experts fail to see that Samivel is in deadly earnest. No one before him has used an air-brush to make snow look so soft and harmless, but there is lurking peril nevertheless, at least for our old friends, Baculot and Samovar, who have for the season deserted the hazards of rope and axe for the giddy swoopings of skis and skates. It is not nature in the raw that troubles them, for that is mild enough, but these beginners are constantly in difficulty from the various fauna, human and otherwise, that crosses their path. That is Samivel's message. Only when his heroes are alone with their perfect snow and powdered trees does their adventuring reach happy climax.

Now you will have to see this for yourself; but meanwhile what are we to do with our fellow club members who have nearly perished in mirth? H. S. K., the old ski-maestro of Minneapolis, is one of these, else this book would have been reviewed by him instead of by

J. M. T.