

beauty of light ;
beauty of the colors ;
beauty of everything ;
presence of death ;
constant presence of death ;
have pity on us ! protect us !
O Beauty of Living, may your power within us raise us
to the summit.
Accept our solitary struggles as the purest pledge of our
faith."

G. I. F.-G.

Alpinisme Anecdotique, by Charles Gos. 8 vo., pp. 320. Neuchâtel: Attinger, 1934. Price Fr. 3.50.

Here is a volume that should prove a welcome addition to the library of every mountain lover, whether or not he has ever set foot upon the Alps. Here are the traditions of the mountain climber in history and in legend. Beyond the cold page of factual record, M. Gos catches and revives the ancient challenge of man to mountain, and from mountain to man. From the hardy Ligurian mountaineer of the year 120 B. C. leading a surprise attack on a cliff-bound citadel, and including the most notable climbers of the Middle Ages, Petrarch, Leonardo da Vinci, the author reviews the romantic period of de Saussure, the first accident, and the conquest of the great peaks.

The second part of the book may be said to be dedicated to M. Gos's friend and guide from St. Niklaus, Franz Lochmatter, killed on the Weisshorn in the summer of 1933. It contains Geoffrey Winthrop Young's panegyric of Franz, reprinted from the *Alpine Journal*; and a commentary on the hierarchy of the Lochmatters and their cousins, the Pollingers, François Devouassoud of Chamonix, and that unlucky but chivalrous guide of Annie S. Peck, Rudolph Taugwalder, now guardian of the Zermatt museum.

It is well known that M. Gos is an ardent student of the conquest of the Matterhorn. He visited the little museum of Zermatt where are piously conserved the grisly remains of the tragedy of 1865. He examines, handles, and reveals his discoveries and conclusions. This volume ends with the publication for the first time in book form of a most sensational document, the interroga-

tion of the survivors, so deeply moving in its stark simplicity, which had remained sealed in the judicial archives of the Canton of Valais. To the mountain lover, "L'Alpinisme Anecdote" is far more fascinating than fiction.

G. I. F.-G.

Pour Miss Cynthia, by Charles Gos. 8 vo., pp. 186. Neuchâtel: Attinger, 1934. Price Fr. 3.50.

A negligible storiette with a climax that would tax the credulity of even a non-climber. Far better reading is an article comprising the last third of the volume, which concerns the filming of a 'movie' on various parts of the Matterhorn. Mountain climbers who do not know the Alps, and whose ascents have been confined to the Californian climate of the Sierras, cannot in the least imagine the difficulties, discomforts and dangers, not to say disappointments, of bad weather conditions which may last a whole season, in the Alps. There, under such circumstances, every ascent is verily a march stolen on the mountain. If the Himalayas have their guardian deities, the Alps have also their avenging demons. M. Gos knows his mountains. A more fitting description in more graphic language we have not found anywhere.

G. I. F.-G.

Men Against the Clouds, by Richard L. Burdsall and Arthur B. Emmons. With contributions by Terris Moore and Jack Theodore Young. 8 vo.; xiii + 292 pages, with 65 illustrations and eight maps and diagrams. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1935. Price \$3.50.

In the rooms of the American Alpine Club hangs an American flag, which once flew on the summit of Minya Konka, 24,891 ft., the second highest peak ever ascended by any expedition. The story of this mountain adventure is told by the four men who accomplished that remarkable and hazardous feat. Beyond the great red basin of Szechwan in Western China and the high Tibetan grasslands stands a range of gigantic snow-clad peaks, of which Minya Konka is the culmination. Shrouded in mystery for centuries it stood unconquered until its challenge was met by the Sikong Expedition in 1932.

The men spent a month in measuring Minya Konka and its range. They explored the wild, jungle-filled valleys and the