

Most of these are in the library of the American Alpine Club, have been reviewed previously, and are worthy of the attention of all readers whose knowledge of German permits them to unlock this treasury.

J. M. T.

*Fünfhundert Triglav*, by Julius Kugy. 8vo.; xi + 378 pages, with 48 full-page illustrations. Graz: Leykam-Verlag, 1938. Price RM. 11.50.

The Triglav is not merely a mountain, it is a kingdom: the realm of Zlatarog, the white chamois, whose golden horns are the key to the serpent-guarded treasurer of the Bogatin.

Kugy's monumental anthology begins with the early history of the peak, its name and location appearing in boundary delineations of the fifteenth century (1452), and carries on down to the modern ascents of the present day. In 1777, nine years before the conquest of Mont Blanc, attempts were first made to attain its summit. Few mountains have such ancient and impressive history, and out of the dim past of centuries the Triglav assumes majesty before our eyes.

English-speaking readers will be enticed to the original account (*A. J.* 4, 345) of the first British ascent, following Howard, Tuckett and Christian Lauener in the wandering thither in 1869; and one will read again the pages of Gilbert and Churchill, of whose "Dolomite Mountains" one learns that a German edition, now most rare, was published at Klagenfurt in 1865.

Kugy presents in a vivid panorama the epic of his well-loved peak, monarch of the Julian Alps, the last great eastern mountain as the range subsides in the foothills of the Adriatic. The illustrations do full justice to their theme. Longstaff remarks on the almost Tibetan character of certain valleys and, indeed, the Triglav in new snow, towering through banks of clouds (p. 368), differs only in scale from Everest itself.

J. M. T.

*Lettres de H.-B. de Saussure à sa femme*, edited by E. Gaillard and H. F. Montagnier. 8vo., pp. 127, with frontispiece and notes. Chambéry: Librairie Dardel, 1937.

With climbers what they have become, these letters are sweeter than mountaineering widows are apt to get in these days, when

postcards with quotations from the current state of the barometer are about all the girls can expect.

Saussure, although making greater use of geological hammer than of alpenstock, could never allow either to interfere with his correspondence in the grand manner. "Ton adorable lettre, mon bon ange" (his typical expression of endearment), "m'est parvenue au plus haut col du Mont-Cervin dans le moment où, seul, le marteau à la main, j'étudiais la structure d'un rocher." Geology comes out a poor second, as well it should.

This slender volume contains transcripts of sixty-three letters written between 1767 and 1792, chiefly during his summer excursions in the Alps. Saussure had the advantage of living at Geneva, never venturing further afield than adjacent districts of the Central or Western Alps. In his day, however, these areas were unfrequented, and consequently his epistles form a charming record of a lavender-scented era, an example for errant wanderers, and a welcome commentary on the young Geneva scientist, whose banner bore (device now strange) his heart.

J. M. T.

*Le Chemineau de la Montagne*, by Jacques Dieterlein. 16 mo., pp. 272, with 16 illustrations. Paris: Flammarion, 1938. Price 22 fr. 50.

Mountaineers everywhere are acquainted with the extraordinary ski courses made by Léon Zwingelstein in 1933 and 1934. In February of the earlier year he went from Grenoble to Nice, returning by another route and traversing the entire Western and Central Alps from the Maritimes to the Tyrolese side of the Silvretta and back to Grenoble. The dates are interesting: Grenoble, February 1st; Nice, February 7th-12th; Mont Genève, February 17th-22nd; Chamonix, February 27th-March 2nd; Zermatt, March 4th-23rd; Brigue, March 26th-27th; St. Moritz, April 5th; Galtür, April 7th; Brigue, April 14th; Bernese Oberland traverse, April 22nd-May 1st. Zwingelstein lost his life on the Pic d'Olan, Dauphiné, in the summer of 1934 at the age of thirty-seven. Jacques Dieterlin has edited his friend's literary remains and done what was possible to preserve the memory of an engaging personality.

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