

climbing, analyze techniques on rock and snow, and yet concentrate on the more eventful experiences of a rich climbing career. Smythe is not a person who can complain that "nothing ever happens to me"; too often there is an unseen being on his rope or he feels that there is some ghostly presence near him. He is also fully aware when he does a good thing. And he does good things; many of them. We hear of the route he and Dr. Brown made up the Brenva ridges of Mont Blanc, of the International High Altitude Expedition to Kangchenjunga, and of his part in the 1933 Everest expedition when he reached 28,000 ft. More sensational are his description of being pulled from a belay on the Grohmannspitze, being struck by lightning on the Schreckhorn, falling 50 ft. in an ice gully during his spectacular ascent of the Aiguille du Plan with J. H. B. Bell, and being swept *over* a big crevasse in the grip of an avalanche on Kamet. Ho, hum, wonder what he will do next?

*Mountaineering Holiday*, by Frank Smythe. 8 vo.; 229 pages, with 24 illustrations and a map. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1940. Price 12/6.

This book describes the Alpine vacation and guideless climbing of two experienced English mountaineers. The book is appealing both because it describes people and places familiar to the average alpine climber, and because it clearly pictures people and places we may now revisit only through books. Smythe and Gavin in the summer of 1939 did classic routes and easy climbs as well as hard ones; and like all climbers they had good and bad days. The discomforts of crowded huts and windy bivouacs were compensated by the Chamonix pâtisserie, successes on Mt. Blanc and Mt. Blanc de Courmayeur, and the good fellowship of other climbers on the way. As we read Smythe's account of the guides and the huts, the guided and the guideless, we again see that real mountaineers of foreign countries are instinctive friends, people with a common bond that transcends petty nationalism. Let us hope that when this war is over, Germans and British, French and Italians and Americans will again mingle on summits in the Alps with the same friendliness and generosity as before.

No dull "guidebook type" ascents mar *Mountaineering Holiday*. The illustrations are good, and the style, if too leisurely, moves pleasantly along.

R. H. B.

*Baltoro*, by Prof. Dr. Günter O. Dyhrenfurth and others (Hettie Dyhrenfurth, Hans Ertl, André Roch). 194 pages, 202 photographs; 3 drawings: accompanying folder containing 4 panoramas, 50 sketches, 4 maps. Basel: Bruno Schwabe & Co., 1939.

For the mountaineer and the student of Himalayan geography alike this book is a valuable asset. Written in German, it presents a compendium of most of the available information on that section of the Karakoram encompassed within the watershed of the Baltoro Glacier. The publication is divided into four parts; the first devoted to sections on Nomenclature, Historical review, Geology, Glaciology, Orographical description of the Baltoro Muztagh, The altitude of Sia Kangri (Queen Mary Peak), Bibliography and a glossary of about 300 Hindustani words useful in expeditionary work.

Part Two, some 90 pages, comprises an abbreviated recital of the information already contained in *Dämon Himalaya*, Prof. Dyhrenfurth's earlier (1935) description of the International Himalayan Expedition, 1934; and Part Three is devoted exclusively to 202 photographs which are divided into four groups: 1, Ten portraits of "Baltoro Pioneers"; 2, Srinagar-Baltoro; 3, The Baltoro region; 4, Little Tibet.

A separate folder contains Part Four which consists of four panoramas, two by Vittorio Sella and two by Prof. Dyhrenfurth; fifty transparent outline sketches corresponding to selected photographs in Part Three; and four maps.

As stated above the book is avowedly a compendium, and as such it attains its greatest merit. To the German-speaking peoples it will have its fullest value for, to the reviewers of knowledge, nowhere else is translated into German much of the geographical and mountaineering information here compiled. To American readers the greater part of the book's information will not be novel for we have the work of Younghusband, Conway, Eckenstein, de Filippi, Desio, Mason, de Segogne, Shipton and Bates already printed in English. However, mountaineers of all nationalities and tongues have happily one common medium of expression which all understand, that of photography, and most appropriately *Baltoro* is dedicated to Vittorio Sella and contains a number of his unrivaled photographs which, though not new,