

character, Hine, whose fate, following the ascent of Mont Blanc, was left in doubt by Mason, into a new romantic ending.

The third book is a small one, but contains six rare documents bearing on the first ascent of Mt. Blanc by Paccard and Balmat in 1786. The first of these, (1) a portion of the diary of Baron von Gersdorf, has never before appeared in print, and is a confirmatory account of considerable importance, recording von Gersdorf's personal observation of the ascents as well as his subsequent interviews with Dr. Paccard. The other items are well-known to Mt. Blanc historians: (2) Saussure's notes given to him by Paccard fourteen days after the ascent (the German translation from the French edition of Freshfield's biography, Geneva, 1924); (3) German translation of the prospectus for Paccard's unpublished book; (4) Bourrit's pamphlet of September 20th, 1786 (the German translation in Höpfner's *Magazin für die Naturkunde Helvetiens*, 1787, being here reprinted); (5) Balmat's accusation of October 18th, 1782; (6) The 1787 Dresden translation by von Gersdorf of Bourrit's letter to Miss Craven.

When, however, the author claims that both Paccard and Balmat are entitled to equal credit for the successful ascent of Mt. Blanc, one cannot agree. This might be true of the physical effort, but certainly not of the scientific and intellectual preparations, which were Paccard's alone (see Carl Egger in *Die Alpen*, April, 1941).

The closing paragraph of the author's introduction mentions the placing of the Paccard plaque at the Hotel de Ville of Chamonix in 1932 (largely through the efforts of the American Alpine Club), the book itself being a minor supplement to Dübi's *Paccard wider Mont Blanc* in upholding the convictions of confirmed Paccardists.

*Führer durch das Alpine Museum in München*, by Hermann Bühler. 8 vo., 114 pages with illustrations. Munich: Bergverlag Rudolf Rother, 1941.

Since 1938 Dr. Bühler has been director of the museum of the German Alpine Club, a project originated in 1909 and carried on by a membership which now is in excess of 200,000, the collections being amply housed in the three floors of an old exposition building on the Praterinsel in Munich. Space will not permit even a brief outline of the diversified fields here represented; indeed, it is a

source of amazement to most mountaineers to note the tremendous realms of human knowledge engrafted on a once simple sport. Certainly, however, such a museum will be examined with interest and followed as a model by all clubs having a similar objective in view. The American Alpine Club, with this in mind, need have no misgivings as to its own potentialities provided the relative scale of membership be considered and the length of time required for its fulfillment. In fact, there is scarcely a field touched by the German museum whether it be in art, science or other subject, in which our own club does not have some few items which could serve as a nucleus. This is encouraging and presages much for our future. A museum requires financial backing; do not forget it.

J. M. T.