

The Tatra Mountains, by V. A. Firsoff, 8 vo.; 128 pages, with 65 illustrations from photographs and a sketch-map. London: Lindsay Drummond, 1942. Price 10/6.

This is the first book in the English language dealing with the Tatra, the alpine portion of the Carpathians, on the borders of Poland and Czechoslovakia. The name originally meant "waste," and has nothing to do with the Tartars, who avoided the mountains when they burned Cracow in the 13th century. The Tatra is barely 30 miles in width and 15 across, the highest peak being Gerlach, 8737 ft. Igneous rock forms the core of the system, making for sound climbing. There are even two minute glaciers. An Englishman, Robert Townson, made the first authenticated ascent of Lomnica (then thought to be the highest summit) in 1793, and John Ball took Lodovy, the third elevation in 1843.

Zakopane is the Polish center, distinguished from the smaller but more fashionable resorts, such as Smokovec, on the Czechoslovakian side. A funicular runs from Tatranská Lomnica to the summit of Lomnica. There are many huts.

Rainfall is considerable in August, and readers should consult excellent articles in *A.J.* 47, 310 and 48, 15, where German place-names will be found.

Meeting the Mammals, by Victor H. Cahalane. 8 vo., ix + 133 pages, with 52 illustrations from drawings. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1943. Price \$1.75.

Those interested in wild life will find this one of the most useful and interesting books that has yet appeared, and its modest price should be noted. The author is in charge of the section on National Park Wildlife, Department of the Interior, and adds a light touch to the text without sacrificing the necessary scientific information. The cast of characters ranges from the moose to the meadow mouse, the inside cover affords a good map of the National Park system west of the Mississippi, and the book concludes with tables for each of these parks and the mammals found there. There is also a comprehensive bibliography. The pictures are everything one would wish for, the artist, Walter A. Weber, having been chief scientific illustrator of the museum section, National Park Service.

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