

BRIEFER MENTION

Komm mit mir ins Wallis, by Walter Schmid. 4to., 248 pp., 112 illustrations from photographs by the author. Bern, 1947: Verlag Hallwag. Price, 12 frs. (Swiss).

This book, deservedly in its third edition, has only recently become available in this country. It is the finest publication dealing with the Rhone Valley and its lateral tributaries between its glacial source and the Lake of Geneva. The text treats of the land and its people, the fruitful earth and the struggle for water. The higher levels are given due attention: Zermatt, Saas Fee, the Aletsch Glacier, Zinal, Evolena and Arolla. Pedestrian routes mentioned include the Gemmi, the Bella Tola, glacial throughfares from Saas Fee to Zermatt; ascents of Monte Rosa and Matterhorn are described. Historical chapters cover the thirteenth-century emigration from the Valais, the fate which eventually brought all districts under single jurisdiction, and finally the story of the Napoleonic regime. But one would want this book for the pictures alone, for as a collection they yield to no other in depicting the fascination of this splendid country.

Mountaineering In Scotland, by W. H. Murray. 8vo., xii, 252 pp., 31 photographic illustrations, 5 maps. New York, 1948: The Macmillan Company. Price, \$4.50.

None of the Scottish mountains rises much above 4000 feet, and their average elevation is considerably less; there are certainly a dozen summits in our Appalachians that top the loftiest of them by a thousand feet and more. But they are unmistakably mountains from the climber's point of view; their precipitous slopes and serrated ridges afford an endless variety of routes to test the accredited expert's skill and mettle. Such are the routes, followed in summer and in winter, with which Mr. Murray is concerned, and the American climber whose home is east of the Rockies may well envy his British cousin their easy accessibility. Mr. Murray's descriptions are detailed and lively; his is primarily a book for climbers, for great attention is paid to technical matters, to the means employed to overcome the formidable obstacles which the Scottish mountains present at all seasons, but most especially in winter, when snow and ice add Alpine, even Himalayan, complications to