

times, may be the cause of this limitation. The list of articles planned for the 1949 annual shows a wider range. These are very interesting volumes. There is every indication of a serious effort toward a high standard. The present reviewer makes no attempt to assess the quality of the work, or the accuracy of the statements. He merely reports that those articles which he read he liked.

NATHANIEL L. GOODRICH

Alpine Tragedy, by Charles Gos. Translated from the French by Malcolm Barnes. 282 pages, illustrations. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1948. Price, \$6.00.

Malcolm Barnes' spirited translation of Charles Gos' story of fatal mountain climbing accidents in the Alps is strangely fascinating. Though the accidents are very real, there is nothing macabre about the story of 24 separate disasters, many of them well known to climbers for three-quarters of a century and covering the period from Dr. Hamel to Alexander Burgener. The author's exhaustive research, shown by numerous footnotes, does not affect his piquant style.

Though some readers may object to the imaginary conversations of the main characters, to me these seem justified by the color and reality which they bring to the individual narratives. The stories emphasize what can happen even to the finest climbers through lack of technique, carelessness, or mischance. The misadventures have been selected from a great number and are varied. For instance, there is the death of the Knubel brothers in a fall through a cornice on the Lyskamm, the fate of unroped Julius Elliott on the Schreckhorn, the strange disappearance of the Count of Villanova on Mont Blanc, and the sensational adventure of courageous F. W. Hill on the Dent Blanche after his companions had fallen.

I know of no other book which, with similar thoroughness, restraint and absence of moral reflections, treats so effectively these famous and sobering misadventures. It is sad to have to add that Charles Gos died at Martigny on 14 April 1949.

R. H. BATES

Henriette d'Angeville au Mont-Blanc, by Émile Gaillard. 159 pp., numerous illustrations. Chambéry, 1947: Collection le Roc et l'Eau, Éditions Lire.

When Henriette d'Angeville gained the summit of Mont Blanc in 1838, little more than 40 years had passed since the first ascent by Dr. Paccard, and the adventure was regarded as a hazardous one, not to be confused with sport. It was a sensational thing to do. Marie Paradis, a peasant girl of Chamonix, had preceded Henriette, who was of a distinguished French family; but the attitudes of the two women clearly differed. For Marie, the ascent established a notoriety useful with tourists; for Henriette, ever afterwards known as the "Bride of Mont Blanc," it was the climax of a love of mountains for their own sake. That the love did not die was made evident by her ascent of the Signal de Retord on snowshoes in February 1852 and of the Oldenhorn, her 21st and last summit, in August 1863, when she was 69 years old. In the following year she made excursions to points from which Mont Blanc, the joy of her life, was visible. She died on 13 January 1871, in her 77th year.

Commandant Gaillard, in an entertaining book based on her diary and album, has allowed Mlle. d'Angeville to tell her own story. She sketched the principal events of the ascent and, on her return, commissioned the best Genevan artists of the time to render finished pictures. These delightful illustrations, here reproduced, surpass in graphic quality all earlier drawings of climbers and their equipment. There are vividness and honest reality in the faces of guides and porters, who are armed with halberd axes and chamois-horn alpenstocks and laden with such odd things as bellows and a cage of pigeons. One can but admire the intrepid woman's marvelous costume, complete with bloomers, bell-skirt and boa. Yet one sees that she leaped crevasses lightly, walked erect on crests of ice, and deserved the tribute of her guides, who lifted her above the summit that she might be higher than Mont Blanc.

J. M. THORINGTON