

But the author has not proofread proper names, and he is not a profound mountaineering historian. Among misprints of names one finds Stabler for Stabeler (p. 11), Fulsom for Folsom (p. 59), Bancroft for Barcroft (p. 172), Mourad-Aas for Monrad-Aas (p. 173), Coutlet for Couttet (p. 369), Fall for Hall (p. 387), Zerbrüggen for Zurbriggen (p. 402) and Lorch for Lord (p. 427). In the field of climbing history, the mistakes are worse. It has long been known that Kinney and Phillips did not reach the highest point of Mt. Robson (p. 96). The Columbia Icefield is not solely in British Columbia (p. 152). The author has confused Andreas Hofer, of the Tyrol, with Arnold von Winkelried, the Swiss hero of 1386 (p. 207). The summit of the Jungfrau is 1834 ft., not "a few hundred feet," above the Jungfraujoeh (p. 212). The Engadine is a valley, not a range (p. 346). The account of the ascent of the Matterhorn (p. 363) is, as the publisher suggests, "unforgettable"—but largely, as the publisher does not suggest, on account of its inaccuracy. The author has no comprehension of the part taken by Dr. Paccard in the first ascent of Mont Blanc (p. 386). Josias Simler was born in 1530, not in 1672 (p. 417). The latter year was that of Dr. Scheuchzer's birth.

The illustrations are magnificent, being chiefly from the American Alpine Club's Sella Collection.

J. M. T.

Steve Mather of the National Parks, by Robert Shankland. 326 pages, 24 illustrations, with an introduction by Gilbert Grosvenor. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1951. Price, \$4.00.

There are really several books within these covers. First, there is the authorized biography of a great public benefactor who has been insufficiently appreciated outside a relatively narrow circle. Stephen Mather's vision and energy were largely responsible, as must now be realized more widely, for making many of our most important mountain ranges so accessible. Second, there is an authoritative history, from the earliest days to the present, of our National Park Service. The author has had access to a wealth of documentary material, much of which seems never before to have been revealed to the public. Third, there is a fascinating account of high-level politics in Washington, and of the struggles waged by conservationists—particularly Mather himself—against the pressures exerted by repre-

sentatives of various special interests. The author, whose style is as clear and bracing as good Western air, tells numbers of interesting anecdotes about men of eminence in the Washington scene and about picturesque figures of the West. One exceptionally dramatic story is of an Arizona politician's protracted efforts to keep the Grand Canyon out of the public domain. Much of Mather's success was due to his gift at enlisting in support of the National Parks such public-spirited citizens as Mr. Rockefeller. Fourth, there is an illuminating account of the borax industry, which gave to Mather the personal fortune that enabled him to dedicate himself, in the best years of his life, to the preservation for our citizens of many of our country's natural beauties.

Like all true Californians, Mather grew up to be a lover of rugged skylines. For most of his adult years, he was an active member of the Sierra Club. In 1904 he visited Switzerland, and in 1905 he climbed Rainier. From that time on, most of his summer vacations were spent in the Sierras or the Rockies. Though his record of ascents may not have been spectacular, it was long and continuous, and included many peaks of 10,000 ft. or more. In any case, his record of public service is such that climbers in this country owe him an eternal debt of gratitude.

HENRY E. MILLS

Scholar Mountaineers, by Wilfrid Noyce. 164 pages, with 12 full-page illustrations and wood-engravings by R. Taylor. London: Dennis Dobson, 1950. Price, 12/6.

What does the title *Scholar Mountaineers* lead one to expect? Maybe a series of essays about dons who have climbed, or an account of the climbers who have written scholarly works on the history and literature of mountaineering. Instead of either of these, Wilfrid Noyce has given us, under this title, a dozen brief, informal studies of figures whom he describes as "Pioneers of Parnassus": Dante, Petrarch, Rousseau, De Saussure, Goethe, William and Dorothy Wordsworth, Keats, Ruskin, Leslie Stephen, Nietzsche, Pope Pius XI and Captain Scott. Each of them is studied "simply in relation to mountains"; each is considered as having made "a peculiar contribution to a certain feeling in us." Such is the author's interest in them (and, of course, in mountains) that a reader is soon prepared to suppress the little question that nags at first: How many were "scholars," and how many were "mountaineers"?