

compete in "national" expeditions among the great mountains, whose beauty and magnificence far transcend man's silly struggles. Yet this very summer we may watch a competition on the S. side of Everest between the Swiss* and the British—and the huge, 150-man Russian expedition on the N. *O tempora, O mores!*

CHARLES S. HOUSTON

Abominable Snowman. Again the abominable snowman has caused a furore. Eric Shipton, leader of the post-monsoon British reconnaissance expedition to the S. side of Mount Everest, brought back excellent photographs of what his Sherpa porters declared were "yeti" tracks. They appeared to show "three broad 'toes' and a broad 'thumb' to the side." This "snowman" had jumped crevasses during its progress down a mile of snow-covered glacier. When he saw these tracks, one of Shipton's Sherpas described to him a "yeti" he once saw, a "half man half beast, about five feet six inches tall, covered with reddish-brown hair but with a hairless face." Shipton's photographs brought immediate publicity and all sorts of legends, such as the one that snowmen leave strange tracks because "their feet turn backward to make mountain climbing easier." Others claimed that the snowmen were missing links. But despite these exotic surmises about the "thing," the tracks of Shipton's abominable snowman look abominably like those of some abominable Himalayan bear.

Panch Chuli. Heinrich Harrer was one of two well-known German mountaineers who escaped from an Allied prison camp during the war and took refuge in Tibet. During the summer of 1951 Harrer, with New Zealander Frank Thomas, two Sherpas and minimum equipment made a serious attempt on 22,650-ft. Panch Chuli in the Almora District of northern India. Base camp on this peak, previously attempted by several expeditions but never climbed, was established at 13,500 ft. Above this point avalanche danger,

*The members of the Swiss expedition, led by Dr. Wyss-Dunant, are André Roch, René Dittert, René Aubert, Raymond Lambert, Léon Flory, Jean-Jacques Asper, Dr. Gabriel Chevalley, Ernst Hofstetter, Prof. Augustin Lombard (geologist) and Albert Zimmermann (botanist). They have long climbed together. Their equipment is reported to include double tents lined with swan's-down, inflated rubber sleeping bags and oxygen apparatus, weighing 22 lbs. per man, "for the final assault on the mountain." A report of 3 June 1952 from Katmandu indicates that both the Swiss expedition to Everest and the British expedition to Cho Oyu have been cut short by bad weather.—Ed.

caused by heavy snows, was considerable; and the party was in a critical position more than once before establishing camp on a plateau at about 20,000 ft. The snow was in poor condition; during the unsuccessful attempt to reach the summit from here, two minor slips occurred. On the descent to base camp Harrer and a porter were carried down by a snow slide, but all four reached base camp safely. More than 400 different flowers were collected in the area by a member of the Forest Research Institute in Dehra Dun, who accompanied the party.

Trisul. The third ascent of Trisul (23,260 ft.) was made by R. D. Greenwood and Gurdial Singh of Dehra Dun on 25 June 1951. Greenwood, who is an instructor at the National Defence Academy, later climbed Ratanban (20,000 ft.) and also reached a point only 500 ft. below the summit of Mrigtuni Peak (22,490 ft.). Trisul had been climbed previously in 1897 and 1933.

Mukut Parbat. Anderson Bakewell, S. J., reports that a New Zealand party led by H. E. Riddiford climbed Mukut Parbat (23,760 ft.) in July 1951.

Narayan Parbat. A report from Naini Tal, also in July 1951, tells of a three-month journey by two Swiss mountaineers in the Badrinath area. Bad weather prevented exploration of many high peaks; but the two, who used no porters the entire time, succeeded in climbing Narayan Parbat.

Cosmic Ray Research in the Himalayas. According to a clipping from the *Statesman* of 22 July 1951, an international party consisting of Dr. L. F. Curtiss, of the National Bureau of Standards in Washington, Dr. P. S. Gill, and Mr. Basir Khan, of Aligarh University, have been studying slow neutrons in cosmic rays on 13,600-ft. Mount Apharwat and other high points near Gulmarg.

NEW ZEALAND

A. P. Harper and the New Zealand A. C. The accompanying photograph of Arthur P. Harper, Honorary Member of the A. A. C., was taken by N. E. Odell at The Hermitage, hotel at 2500 ft. in the Southern Alps of New Zealand, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary meeting of the New Zealand Alpine Club, 2 June 1951. Mr. Harper founded the N. Z. A. C. in 1891. He is now 88 years