

BOOK REVIEWS

La Conquête du Salcantay, Géant des Andes, by Bernard Pierre. 193 pages, 15 illustrations, 3 maps, bibliographies. Glossary of Quechua and Spanish expressions by Prof. Theodoro Meneses. Paris: Amiot-Dumont, 1953.

This book is an unqualified "must" for anyone interested in Peruvian mountaineering. The early half recounts the first ascent of Salcantay, northwest of Cuzco. The latter half discusses the problems of *Andinisme*, which is neither *Alpinisme* nor yet *Himalayisme*.

This latter section merits translation and separate publication. There are sections on the geography, exploration, weather, and approaches to the Cordillera de Vilcabamba. There is also a survey of all the other ranges in Peru considered as mountaineering frontiers. A bibliography is given for each range. There are sections on various aspects of mountaineering expedition problems in Peru; there are notes on the future of Indians as porters and on the use of the ice-axe to kill cows. Regrettably, the author feels constrained to offer no more medical advice than "take a doctor." The glossary, by a professor of Quechua at the University of Lima, correlates several hundred Quechua expressions with their French and Spanish equivalents.

The first half of the volume, concerning Salcantay, is good reading. Pierre has written other books, and he has an enthusiastic style with change-of-pace. He is clever at characterization and generous toward his American expedition-mates. He utilizes the Marx-Broennimann incident to good literary advantage. The "competition" of the "rival" parties provides suspense, and the characterization of Marx and Broennimann is interesting in terms of wider issues. The photographic coverage, especially of the route and the summit climb, is excellent.

DAVID HARRAH

Nelle Ande del Sud Perú, by Piero Ghiglione. 169 pages, 78 photographs, appendices, and folding map. Milano: Garzanti, 1953. Price, L. 1200.

Despite his advanced years, Piero Ghiglione's abundant energy and enthusiasm are apparent throughout this new book which describes his expeditions and climbs in the Andes of southern

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Peru in 1950 and 1952. Ranges little known, poorly mapped, and difficult of access are penetrated afoot and on ponyback. The author's interests include the flora and fauna, geology, and folklore of the regions visited, as well as the mountaineering possibilities. The descriptions of his climbs on Ausangate, Solimana, Corupuna, and Salcantay and of his explorations in the ranges of Cayangate and Yucai and the Veronica massif are, however, somewhat confusing to a reader not already familiar with such regions. There is no index, but only a table of contents and list of illustrations. Some of the photographs are excellent. An account of the 1952 expedition, carried out in the company of the Austrian alpinist Mathias Rebitsch, the Swedish climber Anders Bolinder, the Peruvian geologist Alberto Parodi, and Felix Marx is included in *The Mountain World, 1953*. Ing. Ghiglione's enterprise has helped to draw attention to a fascinating portion of the great Andean chain where much still remains to be accomplished. M. G. O. and J. C. O.

The Antarctic Today: A Mid-Century Survey by the New Zealand Antarctic Society, edited by Frank A. Simpson. 389 pages, 45 illustrations, diagrams, a folding map and index. Wellington: A. H. and A. W. Reed, in conjunction with the New Zealand Antarctic Society, 1952. Price, 47/6.

Here is a book about polar exploration that, with the exception of a couple of chapters at the end, is as cold and impersonal as the great antarctic continent itself. *The Antarctic Today* consists mainly of a series of thumbnail sketches—some large thumbs, however—of the history of the Antarctic and the development of Antarctica's commercialability, which so far has been confined to the bloody but lucrative slaughtering of seals and whales. Many of the chapters were written by New Zealanders and reflect somewhat the fastidiousness one senses in that country as well as in its people. Southern New Zealand lies on the fringe of the cold antarctic waters from which substantial wealth has come, but its northern end is definitely sub-tropical. The conditions in New Zealand are exemplified by the foreword which states, "New Zealand has a strong tradition of interest in Antarctica, but inevitably our agricultural economy and preoccupation with urban development have caused anything out-