

## VARIOUS NOTES

Sarapo (20,160 feet) on July 25th (Bachmann and Lugmayer), Jirishanka chico (17,928 feet) by the east ridge on July 29th, and Ninashanka (18,495 feet) on July 30th.

In the Cordillera de Carabaya, June 6, 1954, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Francis and P. B. Fisher climbed the Nevado de Japuma (18,186 feet). They were members of a geological expedition.

Peruvian climbers were also active during the past year. On the Nevado Vallunaraju (18,700 feet), May 12, 1954, Elena Morales Arnao established an altitude record for Peruvian women. Hugo Vargas, Antonio Ramos, Manuel Díaz, and René González made a new route by completing the ascent of the same mountain on the north face on June 5th. On June 10th a detachment of the Andean Police made the first ascent of the 150-foot lower east peak, to which they traversed from the main peak. Other important ascents include the following: Nevado Urus (18,028 feet), April 3, 1954, by César and Alberto Morales Arnao, 1st ascent, made from Ishinca Valley above Paltay up south face; Nevado Churup (17,700 feet), August 5, 1954, by Alberto and César Morales Arnao, Aurelio Palacios, Fernando Canaval, Juan and Romelli Thomas, Alfonso Miró, Ricardo Bonnemaïsson, Jorge Fernández, Carlos Escudero, and Augusto Márquez, 1st ascent of central peak, made from Acoshcocha by north face; Nevado Ucro (17,060 feet), August 6, 1954, by Alfredo del Arroyo, Arturo Soriano, and Hugo Vargas, 1st ascent, made from Acoshcocha by south face; Nevado Pucaranra (20,158 feet), July 23, 1954, by Victor López, Carlos Sánchez, and Máximo Guimaray, 2nd ascent, made from Lake Tullparaju up the west slope; Pico Rasac Norte (18,370 feet), November 29, 1954, by César Morales Arnao, Eugenio, Victor and Emilio Angeles, 1st ascent, made from Lake Solterahanca along the north ridge.

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## NEPAL

*Mt. Everest, solo attempt.* In the spring of 1952 a Dane, Klaus Bekker Larsen, with four Sherpas, traveled from Darjeeling to Namche Bazar and climbed to the Lobujya Khola between Nuptse and the Lho La. After they were forced back from there,

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they crossed to the Rongbuk Monastery and followed the old English route on Mt. Everest to within 300 feet of the North Col. Lack of equipment prevented further progress, although the weather continued favorable.

*Annapurna IV.* The post-monsoon Japanese expedition in 1953, under the leadership of T. Imanishi, came close to reaching the top of its 24,688-foot objective. The route up the south face they felt impracticable for porters; so on October 10th they turned their efforts to the north face. They reached base camp at 14,750 feet on October 16th and placed camps at 16,400, 19,000, 20,350, 22,300, and 23,600 feet. On November 3rd, Imanishi, Fujihiri, and Sherpa Da Namgyal were stormbound at Camp 5 but ready for a bid for the summit. When their tent gave way on the morning of the 4th, they had to retreat.

*Manaslu.* Fourteen Japanese climbers returned in high hopes to Manaslu but at Sama at the foot of the mountain in early April, 1954, they faced the hostile inhabitants of the valley and their lamas who refused them permission to continue. They declared that the Japanese had violated that holy mountain the year before and the local people were being punished by misfortunes. An avalanche had destroyed a lamasery, killing three lamas; typhus had struck; a smallpox epidemic had already killed 13 of the villagers; drought was destroying crops. The Japanese had no choice but to change their objective. Himalchuli (25,801 feet) was ruled out as too difficult. They turned to Ganesh Himal (24,299 feet), where they failed to find a practicable route.

*Dhaulagiri.* After the Swiss failed to climb Dhaulagiri (26,811 feet) in 1953, Andre Roch declared, "Success on this peak seems a nearly hopeless undertaking. Dhaulagiri appears climbable, yes, but the risks are much too great." The Argentines, however, under Francisco Ibáñez, came within the narrowest margin of climbing the mountain. They followed the Swiss route up the Mayangdi Khola Gorge where they placed their base camp at 12,000 feet. Their next camps were established in about the same places as the Swiss: Camp 1 at 14,750 feet, Camp 2 at 16,400 feet, Camp 3 at 18,375 feet, Camp 4 at 19,700 feet, and Camp 5 at 20,700 feet. The Swiss could find no adequate campsite on the