

## VARIOUS NOTES

*Makalu.* The French expedition to Makalu left Jogbani on August 21st and encountered the most trying conditions on their approach to the Barun Valley because of the severe monsoon. During a very difficult river crossing over the Dubi, where a bridge had been carried away, two Nepalese porters were drowned. Base camp was finally established on September 15th at 15,900 feet on the right bank of the Barun Glacier. The transport officer, Dilli Bahadur Werma, fell sick with pneumonia there and died after a week's illness. Despite the most unfavorable weather, which prevented their attacking the main peak (27,790 feet), Jean Franco, the expedition leader, Lionel Terray, and two Sherpas reached the summit of Makalu II (25,460 feet). Other members of the group were J. Bouvier, J. Couzy, P. Leroux, G. Magnone, Dr. Jean Rivolier, and l'Abbé Bordet, geologist.

*Barun Valley.* In 1952 Shipton, Evans, Hillary, and I reached the Barun Glacier and descended it. Makalu was then unexplored and the lower Barun was of great beauty. We planned to return. The New Zealand Alpine Club was fired by our descriptions and gained permission and funds to send a party to the Barun Glacier in 1954. Led by Sir Edmund Hillary, it included Charles Evans and me, who had had Himalayan experience, six climbers from New Zealand, Bill Beaver, Norman Hardie, Jim McFarlane, Colin Todd, Geoff Harrow, and Brian Wilkins and a doctor, Michael Ball, from England. Three of the party were competent surveyors and completed a detailed survey of the area with three photo-theodolites.

The party approached the Makalu area by following the Arun River, then split into three groups and penetrated, mapped, and climbed in or around the Chayang, Iswa, and Barun valleys. Twenty-three peaks were ascended, nineteen of them over 20,000 feet, including Baruntse (23,570 ft.), Unnamed (22,560 ft.), Petangthtse (22,080 ft.), Nau Lekh (21,445 ft.), and three others of 22,000 feet at the head of the Barun Glacier. Makalu was reconnoitered on the north side to a height of 23,000 feet, when the illness of Hillary forced a retreat.

Early in the expedition a crevasse accident occurred in which McFarlane and Wilkins were involved. McFarlane was hurt

## VARIOUS NOTES

badly in the fall and spent the night in the crevasse, 16 hours in all. He was severely frostbitten and has lost part of his feet and fingers. Wilkins cut his way out and returned to the rescue with Hillary. The New Zealand party received great help from the California party, who were attempting Makalu at the time. We wish to express our thanks for this. They were a grand bunch of chaps and we had the happiest of times in their company.

Baruntse was an ice climb of the greatest severity and was climbed by Todd and Harrow on May 30th and by Beaver and Lowe on June 1, 1954. Six of the party crossed the mountains to the Everest valleys and so to Katmandu. Four other members descended the Arun River.

GEORGE LOWE

## INDIA

*Garhwal.* During June and July, 1954, Gurdial Singh and Lav Kumar climbed Lama Surjang (16,860 feet) (near Niti), Point 17,550 feet, and Silakang (both on Indian-Tibetan frontier), and failed on Rata Pahar (17,220 feet) (west of Gamsali).

*Lahul Himalaya.* Capt. R. G. Platts and Mr. N. W. Wollaston spent six weeks in this region in August and September 1954. From a base camp in the Sissu Nala they climbed Peak 18,930 feet, eight miles southeast of Kyelang. From a 17,000-foot camp on September 4 they reached the summit of Gepang Goh (19,259 feet).

## PAKISTAN

*Rakaposhi.* Under the leadership of Mathias Rebitsch, veteran of the 1938 Nanga Parbat and 1952 Peruvian Expeditions, six climbers and five scientists from Austria and Germany left Gilgit on May 26, 1954, for the Hunza Valley. The scientists planned to map, study the glaciology, zoology, and botany of the region, as well as investigate the nutrition and physiology of the Hunza people. The climbers had as their primary objective Rakaposhi (25,550 feet), which had already been reconnoitered by the Swiss, Gyr and Kappeler, and the Britishers, Tilman and Secord, in 1947. Thanks to these previous explorations, they entered only the Dianor Valley, which immediately seemed hopeless, and the