

VARIOUS NOTES

tempt on Mt. Everest. When Sir John Hunt was in Moscow recently to give a lecture, he received the Order of Mountaineer—1st Class.

Iran. A group of French and Iranian climbers under the leadership of our member Bernard Pierre explored and climbed in the Elburz range. They made several first ascents, including the relatively easy east ridge of Demavend (18,605 feet), which was climbed by M. Pierre, Louis Dubost, Paul Genre, Claude Mailard, François Prévost, Georges Stouvé, and two Iranians, the south ridge and east face of Chane Kuh (14,100 feet), the first west—east traverse of Alam Kuh (16,900 feet), and the first complete south—north traverse of the Takht-i-Suleiman (15,100 feet). They also made the second and third ascents of the north spur of Alam Kuh.

Turkey. A Swiss scientific expedition climbed Mount Ararat (16,916 feet) on August 15, 1954. The summit party consisted of Prof. Eduard Imhof, Leader, Prof. Emil Egli, and Dr. Hans Keller.

MOUNTAINEERING HISTORY

The Mountaineering of Emperor Hadrian. The Greeks believed that Mt. Etna was either the mountain with which Zeus crushed the giant Typhon, or the workshop of Hephaestus and the Cyclops. The later Romans had begun to explain it through natural causes. Seneca recommended the ascent, and the Torre del Filosofo, a ruin near the present observatory, is a Roman structure dating from his time (ca. 50 A. D.).

When Hadrian was returning from Greece in the late summer of 126 A. D., he broke the voyage at Sicily. He was then 50 years old, and Mt. Etna (10,870 ft), the highest volcano of Europe, rose before his eyes. It is more than possible that he knew of the mountain from reading Empedocles, whose reputed disappearance in the crater was legendary. Certainly he was aware of the writings of Seneca, like himself of Spanish origin. In any case, others who had preceded him to the summit spoke of the curious dawn on the Ionian sea, "a medley of many colors, like the rainbow," and Hadrian decided to see for himself. Neither science nor conquest was in his mind; he went up for no other reason